

New England Wood Carvers April 7, 2005 Meeting

Held at the Monroe Community College, off Rt. 3 in Concord, MA

General Attendance: at its max, about 80 people

Time: 9 am to 3 pm

Workshops included:

Ken Campbell: Instructions on carving a fish, with samples and a lot of knowhow on actual fisherman lure history and craftsmanship details.

Bob Landry: A Moon or a Lilly pin were available to carve, with sample progression examples for those attending to reference while they carved.

Edsel Johnson & Gary Filiault: April Fool Jester on the corner of a 2 x 2 x 4" piece of wood. Examples and ideas on carving the comical carature face(s) were available for reference and study. Examples provided included solid blocks with faces carved on them , as well as a few train whistles with carature faces carved into them.

Kathy Savage: Prepared to demonstrate photographing carvings for presentation on the web, but not enough interest for her to give her demo. Perhaps she will entertain this idea at a future meeting? Have a sign up list?

Raffle Table:

Handled by: Ken Brannock

Money raised: \$85.00

Donated Items: Books, cut-out shapes, a piece of railing and miscellaneous wood pieces

Show and Tell Table:

Ginny Alekshun: Star Sun Catcher

Rip Stangroom: Carature carving 'The Hunter'

Lenny Chaisson (Granite State Wood Carvers): Large Sun relief carving

Charlie Frizado (Southe Shore Woodcarvers): Driftwood Wood Spirit

Ken Campbell: Bass Fish Carving

Adah (Magnolia, MA): Fance Walking Sticks

Refreshments Table:

Joe Olson: Fresh coffee and donuts and other items were available, with a donations collection on an honor system, and was available throughout the meeting.

Vendors:

Carvers Plus: Lorn and Maria LaGoy were on hand selling many items from their catalog, including tools, wood cut-outs, knives and much more.

Connecticut Valley Woodcarving: Warren Blessing Jr. displayed dozens of excellent books for sale, and also some wood-working tools and supplies as well.

Meeting and Speaker:

The 1:00 sit down meeting/speaker included first, a few words from our president, Joe Olson, reminding us all of the importance of pitching in to help out where ever members can. The folks who held the morning workshops were thanked, and upcoming events were reviewed, including the Topsfield fair, the Down East Wood Carving Show, Connecticut Wood Carvers at the Carousel Museum (the Saturday before the next NEWC meeting in June), the Green Mountain Wood Carving Club, The Mystic Show in July, and the Monsoon Woodwackers Show in Hatfield, MA.



Robin Trudel – Ice and Snow Carnival of Quebec, Canada

Robin Trudel, past NEWC president, had a fascinating slide show from his recent trip to Quebec, Canada. His slide show included pictures of their annual Snow Carnival, including the unbelievable Ice Hotel, carved completely out of ice and snow. He described the crystal clear ice blocks they use to create ornately sculpted pillars and walls, which when the sun beams through during different times of day, would cast from a blue to an orange glow throughout the rooms. There was no heating, making for an ambient temperature of 28 degrees Fahrenheit inside. People could rent rooms in this Ice Hotel, and for \$1,000.00 a night, they would shave down the walls and sculpt whatever custom theme you desire. There was a church, with its crystal pews, and ice block pillars acting like fiber optics, radiating the outdoor's sun throughout the room. There was also a historic museum, a 'Diamonds are Forever' James Bond theme room, and many more very interesting indoor and outdoor sculptures to see as well. A bar was open, sponsored by Absolute Vodka, displaying a towering crystal clear bottle and stocked bar. For tools, the sculptors used shovels, chisels, machetties and screens, to smooth out areas. The Quebec Winter Ice and Snow Carnival runs 17 days in January/February, and at the end, the entire creation is bulldozed over until the following year to begin all over again. The Ice Hotel has been a tradition for Quebec for 50 years. To find out more, visit their website for more information: <http://www.carnaval.qc.ca>

A question and answer session followed Robin's slide show. Many thanks to Robin for this most interesting demonstration, keeping his audience entertained till the very end.