

Featured Carver – Kathy Webster

Kathy began carving in 1995. Her husband Darwin enrolled her in an adult education class at a Community College in Maryland. Her first instructor was Pearl Carpenter who had learned from the wellknown Jim Sprankle. That's all it took to get her hooked. The first time Kathy came to Coastal Carvers she was using a most unusual knife. It was hard to believe she was doing such wonderful work with a small chip carving knife. Her method was to choke up on the blade by keeping her thumb under the curve and making tiny chips. She made very smooth cuts, symmetrical, no gouging or chopping. (I don't know if anyone else went right out and got one of those knives, but I did. Alas, the results are not even close.)

Kathy, her Mom, and sisters ran a successful craft business called " Off Season Elves". Her skill with power tools and her painting ability enhanced the products created by the family team. She has always been able to develop her own patterns and to modify patterns used by others. She has a depth of understanding about various paints, brushes, finishes and techniques.

Her career path has been the Navy and nursing. She has traveled all over the world and has experienced the diversity of many cultures. She lived for a time in Japan and that influence shows in her work. She has the ability to bring out the essence of a bird, animal or person. She captures the spirit as well as the likeness.

She is always willing to share her expertise and gives freely of her time, leading projects or in collaboration with other leaders. She generously offers suggestions and guidance to fellow carvers. Her Habitat seminar was full of exciting ideas - painted paper leaves, plaster rocks, coffee grounds cat o' nine tails and wet curled veneer grasses. We had great fun! She makes her mounts unique.

Her work has earned recognition at very prestigious shows. She has won awards at the 2007, 2008 and 2009 the Ward's show.

2007 - gunning decoy

2008 - black duck

2009 - third for miniature woodduck on top of duck house with baby duck looking up at her

It pleased Kathy to be invited to Bowdoinham by Doug Hiserodt for Ducks Unlimited. She went with Gordon Harde, Ed Beach, Dave Brown and Rick Thompson. She won Best of Show with her Bufflehead hen duck decoy. The decoy flips and self rights. The award is extra special because it was judged by hunters.

Kathy is a truly talented artist and it's always a pleasure to view her work. She has an innovative style that is often whimsical. One can feel the joy she finds in creating her pieces. She is captivated and intrigued by the unusual and delights in making an idea work.

She plans to have patterns and materials to augment her show demo. Get ready to enjoy her paddle toys. They are a bear robbing the honey comb, a mother bear and drumming cub and a knitting fox.

Kathy offers these suggestions:

1. Don't be afraid to try something different.
2. Appreciate what you can do.
3. Put yourself into your work.
4. Try creating your own patterns.

We're glad you are our featured carver, Kathy.

Submitted by Carol Durgin, Profiler

This article was in the KJ and I wanted to send it to all the people who belong to MWCA that don't get the Kennebec Journal



[enlarge](#) Staff photo by Joe Phelan

MAKING FRIENDS: Loyd Clark, of Windsor, carved these gnomes and other bearded figurines from wood. He and other woodcarvers were set up in the Barton Barn on Tuesday at the Windsor Fairgrounds. "The heads fit in a 35-millimeter film canister," said Loyd Clark, of Windsor, who sat in the shade of the barn and whittled a mouse from a piece of basswood. When completed, the mouse will be able to sit on the lip of a cup.

"I always say you can carry it around with you. And if you have a bad day, you can take it out and always get a head."

The wood carvers were set up in the Barton family barn -- moved to the Windsor fairgrounds piece by piece in 1990 as part of an 1800s village.

Clark, a retired state chemist who likes to make jokes, said he became interested in whittling as a child. But it wasn't until 20 years ago -- after he joined the Maine Wood Carvers Association -- that he mastered the skill. Clark has since formed a local wood-carving group with his friend, George Gunning, called Capital Carvers.

Marcia Berkall, of South China, sat next to Clark and chiseled out the face of a lobsterman in a knitted watch cap on an antique buoy. She said wooden buoys are hard to come by. They've been replaced by Styrofoam ones. "I was lucky I was able to get a bunch of them several years ago," Berkall said. "I knew someone who knew an old fisherman who had some." Her interest in whittling started with a drawing course. Both her sisters were artists, and she said she wanted to do something different. Berkall said she picked up a book about the sculptor Henry Moore and fell in love with the idea of carving wood. She sells her work online and by word of mouth, teaches and gives demonstrations. "People are interested and like to see the process," she said.

The group provides free hand carved eagle-head canes to veterans who have been injured. She said that project has gotten a good response.

Across the way, Joe Washburn, of Windsor, a retired Maine Department of Transportation employee, was busy roughing out the edges of an eagle head with his detail knife. The eagle head was initially shaped by a band saw.

"My specialty is the country folk collection," Washburn said. "Each one of these characters have a name. I like coming here and doing this. It's fun. People like to ask questions about carving wood. We really enjoy it."



**Maine Wood Carvers Association
Membership Application**

New Renew

Applicant's Name _____

Street _____ Apt _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Home _____ Work _____ Cell _____

E-Mail address: _____ Occupation _____

Check area(s) of carving interest: Birds Decoys Fish Wildlife

Caricature Chip Folk Relief Canes/walking sticks Inlay Chainsaw

Other _____ How long have you been carving? _____

Please list special skills (other than carving), that you would be willing to share with MWCA. (e.g., photography, graphic arts, writing, computer skills, teaching, etc.) _____

What do you hope to learn from your association with MWCA? _____

Yes, I would like to attend classes/seminars ♦ Yes, I am interested in joining a MWCA chapter.
I have already joined chapter _____ (give name of chapter, please)

The newsletter is available "on-line". If you are able to read your newsletter via the internet address below, please do so, saving our organization postage costs.

I do not have access to the internet. Please mail my copy of the newsletter to me.

Date _____ Signature of applicant _____

Dues Schedule, payable by September 1, each year:

Individual membership	\$15.00
Family membership	22.50
Junior member, age 12 to 16	10.00
New member joining after February	8.00

Maine Wood Carvers Association
c/o Wilma Sarna, Treasurer
336 Harpswell Islands Road
Harpswell ME 04079

For more information and both current and back issues of the newsletter, go to our web site:

www.mainewoodcarvers.org

Please return completed application, with your check, made payable to "Maine Wood Carvers Association" or "MWCA" to:

Notice of publication*The Maine Carver* is published monthly by the Maine Wood Carvers Association, a non-profit 501 (C)(3) organization dedicated to the education, promotion, and advancement of artists who express themselves in wood.

Please submit all material for *The Maine Carver* before the 25th of the month for the next month's publication.

Membership Fees: Individual Member: \$15, Family \$22.50, annually. All membership fees are due and payable by September 1.

The Maine Carver accepts advertisements without making any guarantees implied or otherwise as to the quality of products or services advertised, or delivery of these products/services. The Maine Wood Carvers Association shall not be held accountable for typos and other errors appearing in *The Maine Carver*.

Advertising in the MAINE CARVER

Members (non professional) are permitted one free 1/8 page advertisement in any month.

ALL other advertisements are charged according to the following schedule:

½ page ad = \$20 per month - \$240/yr

¼ page ad = \$10 per month - \$120/yr

⅛ page ad = \$5 per month - \$60/yr

½ pg = 3.25" x 9.5" or 6.5" x 4.75"

¼ pg = 3.25" x 4.75"

⅛ pg = 3.25" x 2.25"

[A non-professional does not sell carvings]

A ⅛ page ad approximates a business size card]

Payment for advertising, made by check made out to Maine Woodcarvers Association, must be received in advance by;

Barbara McCutcheon, Editor
13 Liberty Street
Fairfield, ME 04937

**Maine Wood Carvers Association
Quick Info/Contact List**

Membership in the Maine Wood Carvers Assoc. runs from September 1, and ending September 1 the following year.

All members receive a newsletter, *The Maine Carver*, on a monthly basis. However, occasionally a double month issue is printed, e.g., during the summer when there is little news or the post-show issue. If you do not receive the newsletter, contact our Newsletter Editor, Barbara McCutcheon at 13 Liberty Street, Fairfield, ME 04937 or call (207) 453-6048 or email barb72@hotmail.com

Chapters

CAPITAL CARVERS

*Every Thursday, 6:00–7:00 p.m.
George Gunning Workshop, Legion Park Road, Windsor ME
FMI: (207) 445-2688 or 445-2078

CARVER STREET CARVERS

*Every Tuesday, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Seton Village Senior Center, 1 Carver Street, Waterville ME
FMI: Barbara McCutcheon (207) 453-6048

CENTRAL MAINE CARVERS

Unkown

COASTAL CARVERS

*4th Saturday, 1:00 p.m.
D & L Printers, Route 1, Newcastle ME,
FMI: Jim Wade, (207) 563-2034

POLAND SPRING CARVERS

3rd Saturday, 1:00 p.m.
Richer Memorial Library, Main Street, Poland ME
FMI: Chuck Friis, (207) 998-2436

SOUTH COAST CARVERS,

*4th Tuesday, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Wal Mart Plaza, Woodcraft, Woodbury Av, Newington NH
FMI: George Calef, (603) 664-2813

STREAKED MOUNTAIN WOOD CARVERS

*2nd Saturday, 1:00 p.m.
FMI: Bob Perry, (207) 388-2472

TOP OF MAINE CARVERS

Tom Cote', 8 Summit St., Limestone ME 04750,
FMI: (207) 325-4258

**Check for possible changes in schedule.*

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<http://mainewoodcarvers.org>

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PROGRAM - If you would be willing to loan books, magazine articles, video tapes, study casts or anything else related to carving and painting, send your list to browndav@roadrunner.com

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HIGHLIGHTS !

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