

NorthStar Scrollers

Minnesota's Scroll Saw Artists
Meets 1st Saturdays September through May
9:30-11:30.

www.northstarscrollers.org
Member of S.A.W.



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February 2013 Newsletter

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Next Meeting March 2, 2013 at 9:30am – KC Hall – Lower Level

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi Scrollers

This will be a fun meeting. Don't forget to bring your wearable wooden art. When you get to the meeting we will assign you a number and then put your item on display. We will have our judges review all of the entrants and decide the winners. Make sure you come to the meeting even if you don't have something to enter into the contest so that you can help choose the People's Choice Award.

See you at the meeting.

John

Next Meeting: 9:30 AM at the Knights of Columbus Hall – 1114 American Blvd., Bloomington 55420 – Lower Level

March Meeting Program

Wearable Wooden Art
Let's Have Fun!

What's it Gonna Be?

March 2nd 2013

The Mystery will unfold.

Dave Halvorson will be presenting the high points of judging for competitions.



Who's Gonna Wear it?

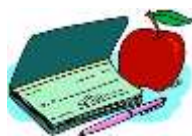
Who's Gonna Win?

Before your very eyes!

NorthStar Scrollers Membership Dues should be paid by April 6, 2013.

Bring \$20 in exact change or write a \$20 check made out to **North Star Scrollers**.

Checks can also be mailed to:



Donna Zibley
15867 Eastbend Way
Apple Valley, MN 55124

Welcome New Members!

Dave Fait and Sandy Masterman

January Feature Presentation

DENNY'S WONDERFUL WORLD OF WHIMSY

By Donna Zibley



If all of our other woodworking, with its precise lines and perfect fit, were compared to the carving of Whimsical Houses – it would be like comparing an individual snowflake (with all its geometric intricacies) to that of a cloud (with its soft, willowy shapes). Denny Schuster is a master of carving Whimsical houses out of Cottonwood Bark. In fact, if you go online and research bark houses ...you can see for yourself that Denny's style is a definite step-up from what others are doing.

The beauty of working with the Black Cottonwood bark that Denny uses is that it is easy to carve. These pieces of thick, un-remarkable bark are turned into fabulously interesting fantasy structures in Denny's skilled hands. The softer, lighter pieces of bark carve the easiest, while the harder, heavier pieces of bark are more difficult to carve but allow for the artist putting greater detail in their work.

Denny is known for special details in his carvings: really deeply undercut eaves on his structures and always having either a path or staircase to upper cabins/rooms. Denny does this because he looks at things from a truly artistic perspective – he's always looking to insure proportion and to add shadow and interest to his works. Denny's bark houses are carved in such a way as to draw you to look "into" his works. As the houses are also carved out from the back, they are "see thru" and so very light and airy.

There are 3 main stages to the carving process:

- **ROUGH-OUT STAGE:** waste (unneeded) wood is removed, leaving behind carveable masses of material
- **SHAPING STAGE:** rough shapes are carved where such things as dormers, chimney, support posts, and walls will be
- **DETAIL STAGE:** shingles, siding, boulders, trees, window grids, etc. is done. Also other finishing cuts such as texture.

Cottonwood bark grows in tissue-like layers, none of which has much cohesion to the next layer. This makes for sometimes flaky material, especially nearer to the actual outside bark. This makes the use of Super Glue a carver's best friend. If something flakes off – put a drop of glue on it and when all is done no one will ever know.

A whimsical structure is one in which nothing is straight and there are no flat planes. It is one of smooth curves and uneven lines. This all makes for a wonderfully unique, fantasy look to the structures.

The most important tools for a bark carver are a pencil (design tool), knife, and a gouge. There are never any patterns to follow. In fact, you don't tell the bark what you want to



make of it ... it kind of tells you based on where the natural splits are. Whimsical houses can have doors and windows that are either opened or closed. Their chimneys have wonderfully crooked shapes that are covered with lopsided bricks. The chimney caps are even scorched so that they look like old, used chimneys. The stairways on these houses take the house to another level, both literally and figuratively. They can be winding, come in from the front, side or back. Whimsical bark carving can be used to make houses, cabins, outhouses, churches, castles, lighthouses, etc. The typical whimsical house is 3-sided but it is also possible to make a 4-sided house using Denny's special techniques. "Evolutionary Design" is Denny's term for how he carves. The wood tells you the maximum width but you decide where such things as the roof peak and the foundation is to be found.



Denny is a fellow member of the North Star Scrollers but is also the outgoing President of the Viking Woodcarvers. In addition to leadership, Denny is also a fantastic teacher. His style is relaxed and stress-free. He will first guide you through the proper and safe use of carving knives. He will also guide you artistically. Denny doesn't make you carve exactly like him. Instead, he gives you the guidance you need to carve his way but in your own unique style. Having carved, under Denny's guidance for about a year I can tell you that a class with Denny is fun, relaxed and a great learning experience. Denny has the unique ability to critique your work honestly (like when my first carved boulders looked to him like "turds on a wall") but in such a way that you all end up laughing about it. If you get a chance to take a bark carving class from Denny, please do so. He's a great woodworker, teacher and friend. Our club benefits greatly from having one such as Denny Schuster in our midst.

NorthStar Club Elections

NEW OFFICERS TO BE ELECTED AT THE APRIL MEETING:

Some of our current officers have been leading the organization for the past 4 years. It is time for new blood to get involved in club leadership. Donna and Swede will definitely NOT continue their positions. This makes for 3 separate position openings: Treasurer, Secretary and Program Director.

Please make the board aware of nominations for the following positions:

- Treasurer Position:
 - Handles club finances as stated in the By-Laws.
 - Makes deposits and writes checks.
 - Keeps the roster up to date.
- Secretary Position:
 - Takes Meeting Minutes at the nine monthly meetings per year.
 - Sends typed minutes to the officers each month.
 - *NOTE: Although Donna's wonderful articles are an important part of the newsletter, the new secretary is NOT required OR expected to write articles!!!!*
- Program Director:
 - Handles public relations.
 - Schedules speakers and/or trainers for monthly meetings.
- President:
 - Serves as an ambassador for the club, holds and directs meetings.
 - Leads the Board of Directors.
- Vice-President:
 - Serves in the absence of the president.
 - Assists board members as needed.

Future Meeting Programs

- APRIL: Have you considered participating in some art show, but felt you lacked the confidence to enter or the knowledge to sell? At our April meeting Swede will present: **"What Are the Ingredients to Selling?"** Selling is just like Grandma's apple pie. The first piece is **so good** you keep going back for more. Swede will show you how to keep the customers coming back for more.
- MAY: Google SketchUp is a free, intuitive 3D-modeling program with many tools to let you create 3D models of woodworking projects. You can add contours, textures, wood grains, etc. to

your model, and design with dimensional accuracy. Bill Browning, Katie McBride's husband, will demonstrate some of its capabilities and provide information on how to take the next step for those interested in learning how to use the program.

TLC Toys



Keep those toys coming for this awesome cause. www.TLCToys.org

Show and Tell February 2013

Click [slide show](#) for
more pictures



S.A.W.



SCROLLSAW ASSOCIATION OF THE WORLD

- [WATCH S.A.W. GROW!](#) Our very talented Swede Bengtson has been appointed as the Coordinator of the U.S. Local Chapters for this International Scroll Saw Organization. Congrats Swede!!!
- NSS members are encouraged to join SAW for a handful of reasons but especially because it provides our club with insurance
- Sign up at www.saw-online.com/SawPages/JoinSawNow/WaysYouCanJoin.asp. Please note on your application that you heard about SAW thru Minnesota's North Star Scrollers!

Coming Attractions

- [NATIONAL INTARSIA ASSOCIATION:](#) This is a new organization that has a gathering in Cedar Rapids coming up March 8 & 9th. Contact John Engler or Swede Bengtson for more details.
- [AMERICAN CRAFT COUNCIL:](#) See some incredibly stunning craft displays at the St. Paul River Centre on April 19 – 21
- [SWEDE'S BOWL MAKING CLASS:](#) More details to follow.

Club Merchandise



LOGO MERCHANDISE

- New NorthStar "Artistry in Wood" sweatshirts are available. Call Swede: 952-723-4346
- \$15 t-shirt; \$12 hat; \$6 mug. Proceeds go to our club and the advertisement goes a long way!
- Don't forget the thousands of items available to us with the NSS logo. Clothing, mugs, coasters, framed photos – you name it – they've got it available. Check it out at www.taylormadespecialties.com Remember, NO MINIMUM ORDER REQUIRED.

Interesting Links

- Jack Hauser sends "How to make a Windsor chair" by Warren Chair Works – YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=endscreen&v=yQ6Qu1qP6X8&NR=1>
- Jack also sends, "The Ultimate challenge in furniture making." High End Furniture Design and manufacturing: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wgggg7epWJc>

Reminders



- Newsletter Deadline: The 15th of the month. Kmcb2006@comcast.net .
- Send your buy/sell items and interesting links.
- Send your own article for publication in the newsletter.
- Send a picture of a recent project.

Executive Committee News

THE NSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Because so many NSS-S.A.W. members voted, our very talented Swede Bengtson has been appointed as the Coordinator of the U.S. Local Chapters for this International Scroll Saw Organization. Congrats Swede!!!
- **By-Law Updates:** Your Scroller Board members met last fall to discuss needed changes/updates to our club by-laws. All changes were discussed and approved by membership.

- The board asks all membership to work on recruiting new NSS members. Be creative. Bring a friend to a meeting. You never know who might be interested.

Club Discounts

VENDORS GIVING 10% GUILD DISCOUNTS WITH NSS MEMBERSHIP:

- Just show your NSS membership card!

Woodcraft
 9125 Lyndale Ave South
 Bloomington, MN 55420
 952-884-3634
Minneapolis-retail@woodcraft.com

Rockler Woodworking
 2020 W. Cnty. Rd. 42
 Burnsville, MN 55337
 952-892-7999
www.rockler.com/retail/burnsville-minnesota-hardware-store.cfm

Rockler Woodworking
 1935 Beam Avenue
 Maplewood, MN 55109
 (651) 773-5285
www.rockler.com/retail/maplewood-minnesota-hardware-store.cfm

Youngblood Lumber
 1335 Central Avenue Northeast
 Minneapolis, MN 55413-1514
 (612) 789-3521 www.youngbloodlumber.com

Forest Products Supply, Inc.
 2650 Highway 61 North
 Maplewood, MN 55109
 651-770-2834 www.forestproductssupply.com/