



# CAPITOL WOODCARVERS

November 2020

NEWSLETTER

capitolwoodcarvers.org

## Club Board

### **President**

Don Fromherz

### **Vice President**

Terry Moss

### **Past President**

Denis Miller

### **Treasurer**

Reed Barker

### **Secretary**

Barb Fromherz

### **Newsletter Editor/ Webmaster**

Bob Curtis

### **Librarian**

Bob Fisher

### **Members at Large**

Everett Carter

Ray Weekly

Jack Dalton

## President's Message

### A Comforting Tale.

I retired in June of 2015 and started carving in September of that year. Now, I know that most of you seasoned (I've learned to never say old) carvers, have forgotten more about carving than I've learned (or can remember) since I embarked down this road paved with chips and great folks. Regardless, I would like to share some background about Comfort Birds.



After starting with the Dave Disselbrett's "heart" and "Boot" projects, one of my next creations was this little bird I saw Janice Basing working on at Everett Koontz's carving studio. Later, Mary Davis introduced me to acrylic painting in one of Jim Harris's classes at Center 50+, so

that little bird became a Holiday Ornament. I didn't give too much thought to these little birds until sometime later when I met Dick Skelton, a Capitol Woodcarver from Lincoln, California. I was manning a display table in our Club's Booth at the State Fair, along with several Club members. Dick was in the area visiting family, so he spent a few hours with us at our booth as well. Dick had a few of these little birds he had carved, sanded super smooth, and finished with clear gloss lacquer. I thought they were really beautiful, but didn't understand their significance, until this happened.

A caregiver from one of the local retirement centers brought a woman by our booth. She was quite compromised & wheelchair bound. Dick showed her the "birds" he had on display, which she

truly admired. When I saw the look on her face & the tears in her eyes after Dick gave her one, I knew there was more to this than just making pretty birds. I asked Dick about this, and he told me about Comfort Birds, and why he loves to carve and give away these little beauties. Subsequently, I did a bit of research and came across an article in a past issue of Woodcarving Illustrated that tells "the rest of the story". Check it out in this link:

[http://woodcarvingillustrated.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Comfort\\_Birds\\_164328917.pdf](http://woodcarvingillustrated.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Comfort_Birds_164328917.pdf)

I have since given Comfort Birds to my grandson and granddaughter when they underwent knee surgeries to repair sport injuries, and to my daughter, who was super stressed over the ordeal. A cancer patient, the sister of a friend, also received one. It sure made me feel good, giving each of them some comfort.

If you want to feel really good during these stressful times, why not make a Comfort Bird, and share it with someone who needs a little boost. There are carving instructions and a pattern for you to use, in the linked article, or if you contact me, I might be able to get a band saw cut out to you.

Stay safe, healthy and of course,

STAY CHIPPER

Don Fromherz

## Election of Board Officers

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### Election of Board Officers:

As stated in the October Newsletter: "The current elected officers: Don Fromherz, President; Terry Moss, Vice President; Barb Fromherz, Secretary; Reed Barker, Treasurer, have agreed to place their names on the ballot for 2021. Nominations from the "floor" can be made via email to [capitolwoodcarvers.org](mailto:capitolwoodcarvers.org). The final slate of nominees will be posted in the November newsletter."

There have been no nominations from the "floor".

The slate of nominees for elected offices in Capitol Woodcarvers is: Don Fromherz, President; Terry Moss, Vice President; Barb Fromherz, Secretary; Reed Barker, Treasurer.

Since all nominees are running unopposed, they will be deemed elected to their respective offices and will continue to serve one more year.

## Meet Dick Skelton

### Meet Dick Skelton



When I turned 70 and retired for the second time, my wife and I moved to Sun City Lincoln Hills, California. Her request was that I join a club so she could have some time to herself. With 72 clubs I had quite a choice. I luckily chose the Woodcarving Club which met every Wednesday afternoon. I had carved (whittled) back in Boy Scouts but not since. Being in a club with friendly people wanting to share their craft was the start of the last 8 years of enjoyment. After 2 years, I

became President of the club for 4 years because I believe in giving back. This gave me the desire to learn and see as much as I could to share with the club.

I have traveled to carving shows throughout Washington, Oregon, California, and Arizona, meeting carvers and seeing the beauty they create. I also have gone to many State and County Fairs. It was at the "Artistry in Wood" show in Lincoln City several years ago that I met members of the Capitol Carvers and took a class from Dave Disselbrett. I have been to 2 of Capitol's Rendezvous and last year participated in the Oregon Fair with the club. I have also carved with the Central Point Carvers. I got to visit the National Woodcarver's Museum when it was in South Dakota and have seen several carousels around America.

Most of my carvings have been stylized animals, with the comfort bird being the most prolific. I have made and given away well over 100 to many individuals and organizations. I love seeing the beauty of the wood and seeing the pleasure they bring to others.

Hopefully, one day soon we will be moving back to the Northwest and I will get to club meetings and activities more often. In the meantime, I have enjoyed keeping up via the great club newsletter.

## Quote

### Quotable Quotes

Wood carving is such an amazing skill and very underrated; once you cut it, it's hard to go back. -- Jonathan Anderson

## A Funny Thing Happened ...

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On the way to wood carving classes!

In February, we were excited about showing our carving and wood burned creations, getting ready for our first show at Keizer Art Association's show for the Month of March. Had a great opening, and suddenly we were basically quarantined because of the Covid virus. It's been quite a trip over the past seven or eight months!

We found ourselves filling time at home with work around our place. We worked, and worked, and worked! We missed seeing our carving/burning friends, and found we were not making time to be creative. John periodically carved a few smaller pieces: animals, lady bugs, comfort turtles, alligators and more. I had ever-present coasters to complete and when they were all finished and put away, I hit a dead end for a while. When I did find a pattern to burn, got off to a slow start. The slow start came to a screeching halt when I decided to antique it without sealing it first. Bad! It's now being resurrected after sanding most of the picture away. The word "kindling" passes through my mind.

We have greatly missed the fellowship and contact with all of the club members, hard to believe how long we have all waited to be reunited. We were fortunate to join a small group who met weekly at what I came to call Picnic in the Parking Lot! We ordered in, but retreated to our camping chairs in a circle in the parking lot. That helped with the contact but felt like just the beginning.



As of now we are not free from concern about spread of the virus, but continue to be careful, and keep our larder full. Been a very long time since we ate at home so much, but it's been good. Ate

lots out of our garden, picked raspberries and blackberries, made many jars of jam and passed the time. Hoping that we may find a new normal soon! We are looking forward to gathering with everybody in a better time, resuming contact with friends and finding our dedication to our carving and burning interests. Hope to see everyone soon!

*Article submitted By Donna Cereghino*

## “Big Drip” Award

## “Big Drip”

The following article was published in the October Keizer Art Association Newsletter.

### The Big Drip Award...“Congratulations, Bob Curtis!”

At the last KAA board meeting, our board member, Bob Curtis, was presented the first Big Drip Award by John Cereghino of the Capitol Woodcarvers Association. The award was signed by Don Fromherz, Chairman of the Capitol Woodcarvers. Bob is a member of the Woodcarvers and he coordinated the February KAA show, “Art in Wood”. Lore Christopher, KAA President, spoke last year at the Woodcarvers Association. At that time, she referred to Bob as a leaky faucet who is always “dripping” out new ideas. The Big Drip Award was then created and John decided he would carve a leaky faucet to present to the award winner. John Cereghino presented the award saying that Bob was given the award for his incredible work of promoting local artists.



Bob Curtis and John Cereghino



Although Bob, Capitol Woodcarvers member, was the recipient of the “Big Drip” award, the success of the Capitol Woodcarver’s Show at KAA was because of all the participants. The quality of the entries was outstanding and the participation of Club members was truly amazing. Our Club members were responsible for what many consider to be the best show ever held at the KAA Gallery. They have been hosting 12 art shows every year for over 40 years.

John and Donna Cereghino created a dripping faucet to reflect and capture the words of Lore Christopher, KAA Board Chairperson, at the Woodcarver’s Show Reception. Thank you John and Donna.

## Blast From The Past

## Blast from The Past

George Goetzelman at the 2011 Capitol Woodcarver's Show



## Empty Bowls Event

## Empty Bowls Event

The sale of the empty bowls is to be held on Saturday Nov. 21, 2020, at the State Fairgrounds in the ceramics area. All Covid precautions will be in effect. Hours will be 9 AM to 5 PM.

Capitol Woodcarvers are invited to participate by manning a table displaying and selling the spoons we donated. We will have the opportunity to demonstrate carving. A carving table will be supplied. The potters will be participating as well.

This is an opportunity for some of our members to volunteer to man the table or demonstrate carving. Those wishing to participate may contact me, Denis Miller, [denmil@comcast.net](mailto:denmil@comcast.net).

*Article submitted By Denis Miller*

## Carving Classes

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## Center 50+ Carving Classes by Jim Harris

Hello fellow woodcarvers;

Marilyn Daily at Center 50+ wants to try to get a carving class going again at Center 50+.

Here is the format for the class as I know it right now:

- Class would be from 10 - Noon on Wednesday mornings
- Class would be limited to 8 participants
- Masks must be worn at all times
- Social Distancing guidelines are to be followed
- Location would be the same as previous classes - the craft room
- Sanitizing will be done prior to and after each class by the Center
- Preregistration online is required
- Classes to start the first Wednesday of November

If you think you may be interested in attending these classes please let me know via email at [spirits02@comcast.net](mailto:spirits02@comcast.net) so that I can let Marilyn know if we have enough interest to proceed.

Thanks. Hope to see you soon.

*Article submitted By Jim Harris*

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## Check us out on Facebook

Kathy Dalton is doing a fantastic job keeping our Club Facebook page current and interesting. If you have not been to our page please come see us: <https://facebook.com/capitolwoodcarvers>



## Capitol Woodcarvers on Facebook

## Club Supporters

(Please check out our supporters. They really help in making our annual show a great success.)

## Club Supporters

### Capitol Woodcarvers thanks these generous supporters of our Club.

Please thank our supporters by visiting their websites and making a purchase.



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## Stay Safe

## Stay Safe and Healthy

- **Keep active**
- **Carve and share your work**
- **Let us know what is going on**
- **Have fun**
- **Stay in good spirits**

Hopefully we'll be getting together for carving sessions soon.