

Tri-City Wood Carver's 2007 Annual Competition

Tri-City Wood Carvers Club of Mid-Michigan hosted its 20th annual Carving Competition and Art Show on September 23, 2007. It was held at the Bay Valley Resort and Golf Club, centrally located in the Tri-City Region of Mid-Michigan. It is located on Interstate 75 between Bay City and Saginaw.

This year's featured carver was Phil Westendorf, an accomplished local carver and canoe builder. Phil displayed a collection of his carvings and a recently completed 16 ft. Cedar Strip Canoe at the Show. The 16 ft. Peterborough Stripper incorporated several types of wood including: Western Red Cedar, White Ash, Aspen and Philippine Mahogany. It featured two realistic relief carvings in the Mahogany Decks of the canoe; they are a Loon and a Brown Trout.

Just outside the resort's main entrance was a chain saw carving demonstration featuring Tom Gillman, Bay City, MI. Tom demonstrated his work and had several of his carvings on display and was enjoyed by all. Of particular interest was a 6 ft. tall Moose.

Top Winners Were:

Master Class:

First Place; a Life size Male Brook Trout by Dave Arndt, Saginaw Township, MI.

Second Place; a Bust of a Buck Whitetail by John Blank, Jackson, MI.

Third Place; a pair of Buck Mule Deer also by John Blank.

Best of Show: A Caricature Bust of a Cowboy by Bob Thurston, Chesaning, MI.

Second Best of Show: A stylistic Turtle Scene by Orlando Villarreal, Hudsonville, MI.

Third Best of Show: A Caricature Foursome of Golfers by Edward Hak, Saginaw, MI.

Open Class Blue Ribbon Winners are:

Bob Thurston, a Bust of a Viking Warrior; Ron Richards, Saginaw, MI a Chicken on a wheeled Cart; Gene Gubbins, Saginaw, MI, a Black Crappie; Jake Kolleth, Saginaw, MI, Crucifix; Butch Urban, Saginaw, MI, a Dove with Olive Branch and an Airplane; Andrew Luckhardt, Saline, MI a Relief carving of a Cabin on Wood Box; Bob Thurston, Chesaning, MI a Walking Stick; Gene Gubbins, Burt, MI, a Bark Carving; Gordon Ford, Flushing, MI, Santa; Jean Barber, Bay City, MI, a Stone Bear Carving, Ron Richards, Saginaw, MI Turtle, Tom Geiermann, Bay City, MI, Wooden Bowl; Ben Donaghy, Saginaw, MI, a Blue Jay and Miniature; Ed Reynolds, Byron, MI a Loon and Mythical Indian Spirit; A. Snuverink, Ann Arbor, MI a Chip Carved Plate, Wood Burning of an Otter and Mouse; and Bob Thurston, a Friendship Cane.

Intermediate Class Blue Ribbon Winners are:

Al Stoutjesdyk, Grand Rapids, MI a Large Mouth Bass and Wood Duck; and Mike Mielens, a Chickadee;

Novice Class Blue Ribbon Winners are: Vince Roslowski, Saginaw, MI a Horse in Relief; Margie Gillman, Bay City, MI a Wood Burned Bear; Tom Gillman, Bay City, MI a an Eagle on Bark;

Gene Leonard, a Titmouse and Bluebird; and Wayne Dehate, a Wood Duck; Ed Kimbrue, Caro, MI a Walking Stick, and Beaver.

Youth Class Blue Ribbon Winners are: Ben Donaghy, a Pink Flamingo and Skunk

The show was another great success for the Tri City Carvers, the participating vendors, and the carving competitors. The number of carvings entered in competition was down slightly but the quality was very good.

Many nice comments were made regarding the location and the facilities at Bay Valley Resort. The show was held in the Royal Troon Conference and Ballroom, a beautiful facility. We plan to make 2008's show an equal or greater success. We wish to thank all the Participants, sponsors and the people who worked hard to make this show a big success. Our 2008 Art Show and Carving Competition is scheduled for September 21, 2008. Mark it on your calendar, we hope to see you there.

Ed Hak
2007 Show Chairman

Phil Westendorf
Competition Chairman