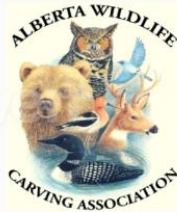


[View this email in your browser](#)



## Fine Feathers

Newsletter of the Alberta Wildlife Carving Association

# I

## From the Presidents Workbench

*Can you believe it's almost Christmas again? Our Wednesday evening classes, at the Ottewell Barn, are well underway as they near the Christmas break. In addition, Brenda's day class, at Country Haven, is close to being finished. Brenda will be starting up her new Barn Owl class at County Haven in the new year.*

*The Board of Directors would like to extend a warm welcome to all our new carvers who have joined us this year! Thank you to our instructors, the backbone of our club, for all their preparations for this year's classes. We appreciate the countless hours you have spent on class preparation and after class help to carvers.*

### **Christmas Party**

After much discussion, the AWCA Board of Director's, at its November 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, decided to cancel this year's Christmas Party due to ongoing Covid 19 concerns/requirements around large gatherings where food is served. Hopefully life will return to something close to normal for our Year End BBQ that will be held in conjunction with our annual Images of Nature Show.

### **Annual AWCA Raffle**

Our annual raffle is a very important fund raiser for the club and helps us keep our costs down and supports our annual Images of Nature Show and the club in general. Members have historically done a great job of selling the tickets. Most of the books have been given out to members but we still have a some left – just for you. Talk to our head raffle carver, Kathleen.

### **Images of Nature Show 2022**

AWCA's "Images of Nature Show" will be held April 29 – May 1st, 2022, at Whitecroft Community League. We will continue to update our [website](#) and will further inform you as we get closer to the show dates. This will be an excellent opportunity for AWCA carvers to enter their Covid – Carvings and have them judged by experienced judges. Carvings from 2019 – 2022 will be accepted at next year's Images of Nature Show. Hope to see you there!

### **Carving in the Park 2022**

AWCA's "Carving in the Park 2022" will be held June 7 – 12, 2022 at Whitecroft Hall in Strathcona County. Carving in the Park 2022 classes include:

- 1) Dennis Drechsler - [two Common Dolphins with Base](#),

- 2) Jeff Krete – [Miniature flying King Eider](#) and
- 3) Pat Godin – [Painting a Blue Winged Teal Drake](#).

This is a fantastic opportunity for all AWCA members to improve their carving skills with some tremendous instructors. If you are interested, contact me at [cbsteele@telus.net](mailto:cbsteele@telus.net) or visit our website. There are still some spaces available. Please check the [AWCA website](#) for ongoing updates regarding next year's show.

### ***AWCA Members Survey***

A big thank you to the members that completed and submitted the member survey. It has provided a lot of information for the Education Committee to consider and make recommendations to the AWCA Board meeting which is scheduled for January 11.

**Bob Steele**, President AWCA

## **Thoughts for Consideration**

Michelle Thevenot is a professional chainsaw artist resident in Saskatchewan. She, like many artists, has faced the challenge of determining the value, of her work. Below is her thoughts on the subject. I have taken these thoughts from her Facebook page with her permission. Very good food for thought.

**"The truth about the time and effort that goes into art.**

**What many people don't realize is there's so much more that goes into an artwork beyond just the physical creation phase. This is why it's difficult or impossible to answer the question, "How much time did that take you to make?"**

**Yes, I do keep track of my time put into the creative process for my own reference, but creation time alone doesn't accurately reflect the whole picture and it certainly doesn't reflect the whole value of the piece.**

**One mistake I made in the beginner stages as an artist was to price an artwork based solely on the physical creation time. Even if items sold, it just wasn't enough to cover my inputs and costs, and**

---

when I broke it down in numbers, I was actually making less than minimum wage. That's not fair, right, or sustainable.

One very surprising thing I learned about art is this...

In reality, the creation stage is less than half of all the time an artist may spend in their art business to bring an artwork full-circle to a new owner! That was a shocking and eye-opening discovery that justified approaching art just as any other business would.

For the artists out there... yes, you should absolutely earn a healthy, liveable wage for your work. But don't just stop at your hours of creation! You have to take into account the other aspects around art besides just creation. If you break it down to an hourly rate, it WILL and SHOULD look like more than an average wage of someone employed under an employer. Your hourly rate is beyond a wage - it is an entire business.

Think of it this way... you take your vehicle to an automotive shop and their services are available at an hourly shop rate of \$110-\$130/hr. No, the mechanic does not get paid \$110-\$130/hr in wages. Some of that goes to costs of administration, building overhead costs, tools, utilities, office supplies, marketing, management, maintenance, etc.

As an independent artist or creative business owner, there's usually one person in charge of ALL those aspects - YOU. It's up to you to make sure all the bases are covered and that there's still enough leftover at the end of the day to earn a decent wage. Your art is your business!

### **Clean those Burs**

Recently I was doing some carving on Maple Burs and found that my aggressive Tungsten Carbide burs became very gummed up. They were, to say the least difficult to clean, and I thought I might have to throw them away. Not a great option for someone with a Scottish heritage. In researching various wood working sites I found several that mentioned CMT Formula 2050 as a great product for cleaning burs and blades. I found the product at Canadian Woodworkers on 99th street here in Edmonton. I put a small amount of the solution in a glass jar and dropped in

---

several burs. In about an hour or so, I took them out and voila shiny, clean burs. I can highly recommend this product to clean your carving tools. Note that I did not test the product on other carvers like rubies or diamonds.

---