

Birds in Art

A trip to Wendell Gilley Museum

October 1, Karen Knowles, Wilma Sarna and Carol Durgin went to the Wendell Gilley Museum. It was a rare opportunity as the traveling exhibit appears just every 5 years. In addition to the traveling exhibit, we were able to see Mr. Gilley's carvings and were pleased to see several copies of *The Maine Carver* in the workroom area. We were able to watch resident carver Steve Valleau and his student, Ron Cohen from Dallas, Texas, working on a Gannet shorebird. Mr. Cohen showed us the progressive carving of a chickadee (near bottom of photo left.) Lastly a stop at the lovely gift shop for purchasing a few items.

Photos, this page, by Karen Knowles



The paintings and carvings were awesome. The museum is very nicely set up. Wendell Gilley was a prolific carver and a forerunner in miniature and decorative carving. This was a wonderful visit.





Photos Karen Knowles



Photo above Carol Durgin



Photos Karen Knowles



Karen knows Acadia very well and showed some beautiful sites to Wilma and me. We went to the Asticou Terraces and Gardens. It was a long, long way to the top to view everything but well worth it. We could see so far and it was a splendid experience.

Wonderland Beach was special, so secluded and vividly beautiful; it made a wonderful picnic spot.

Written by Carol Durgin



Photos Karen Knowles



Inventory of birds owned by Maine Wood Carver's Association, as of April 2005

Study skins:

Scarlet Tanager
Broad-winged Hawk
Evening Grosbeak
Flicker
Catbird
Blue Jay
Hairy Woodpecker
Grouse
Veery
Woodcock

(Note: The list in December 2000, compiled by Ed Hawkes, also included a Baltimore Oriole. Since becoming Curator, I have never seen *(the oriole)*, nor had it in my care.) *Note by Julie Babb*

Mounts:

Great Horned Owl
Barred Owl
Saw-Whet Owl
Loon
Great Blue Heron, immature
Kingfisher
Grouse (2)
Bobwhite (2)
American Crow

(Note: Again, according to Ed Hawkes' list from December 2000, Maine Wood Carvers also owned mounts of a Pileated Woodpecker, another Barred Owl and an Osprey. Since becoming Curator, I have never seen them, nor had these mounts in my care.)
Note by Julie Babb

Transferred to Marie Arnold, May 9, 2005 (signed by Julie Babb and Marie T. Arnold)

In addition, on September 10, 2005, a mounted flying Grouse and a mounted, perched Woodcock were donated to the Maine Wood Carvers Association, in the name of John Sarna.

These study skins and mounts may be borrowed by any member in good standing. Contact our Curator of Birds Marie Arnold. See Page 11 of this newsletter for contact information. *Ed.*



Students of the Polar Bear Seminar, instructed by Peter Benson for MWCA. Rumor has it that Peter would like to return next year. Perhaps we can schedule a class (or two) in other parts of the state so that others may have an opportunity to meet Peter. Benson is an excellent carver and instructor and I would highly recommend that you sign up, should he be available next year. *Ed.*



Pat and Sharon Miller



Photo Carol Durgin

Pat is Sharon's mother-in-law and mentor. When I first met Pat and Sharon, they had a studio in an old mill in Biddeford. Since then they have acquired a new home in Shapleigh at 288 Hooper Road. They welcome visitors and like to share their work with others.

After her husband died, Pat was looking for something to occupy her evenings. She tried knitting, leather work, painting, and finally, in 1989, found woodcarving – her niche at last.



When she first began, she started with the well-known hillbilly on a nag with his jug. She laughs about how she worked so long and hard to clear away the wood by the hillbilly's feet instead of drilling holes.

She took a 6 week carving class in Amarillo, Texas at a Community College. Later, Pat went back to Alaska and taught basic woodcarving at the University of Alaska.

One of the keys to Pat's success as a carver is research, research. By careful study and observation, Pat is able to modify patterns to get what she wants. Often times, she uses a different pose. Her attention to detail and her painting skills enhance her work.

Selling is a secondary consideration for Pat. She is pleased to sell enough to buy the tools and wood she wants. She wears the woodcarver's slogan on the back of her shirt. *"When I get a little money, I buy wood and tools and if there is any left over, I buy food and clothes."*

Sharon is Pat's daughter-in-law. Sharon credits Pat with getting her interested and guiding,



teaching and encouraging her. Sharon has only been carving 3 ½ years. Both of them have moved up in carving level this year; Sharon from Novice to Intermediate and Pat from Intermediate to Open.

Sharon enjoys putting a humorous twist to her work. Her animals are delightful. I especially enjoy her donkey, rabbit, bear and horse pieces. Her new challenge is painted relief.



Pat likes anything that "trips her trigger". Pat and Sharon share their home, workspace and interest in creating wonderful carvings.

Carol Durgin
Profile Editor

Caving photos Karen Knowles



**More Downeast Show
Competition Entries**

Top left, Brian Barber's Golf
Ball Dolphins

Top right, Relief Carving
entries

Far left center, Dave
Peatfield's Boxer Dog

A best of CATegory for sure
by Allan Damon, Buxton, ME



Left,
Marcia Berkall's life-
size Newspaper
Delivery Boy's Cap

Right,
Gary Cornwell's
Madonna and Child

- IF YOU THINK NOBODY CARES, TRY MISSING A COUPLE OF PAYMENTS.
- HOW MANY OF YOU BELIEVE IN PSYCHO-KINESIS? RAISE MY HAND.
- OK, SO WHAT'S THE SPEED OF DARK?
- HOW DO YOU TELL WHEN YOU'RE OUT OF INVISIBLE INK?
- IF EVERYTHING SEEMS TO BE GOING WELL, YOU HAVE OBVIOUSLY OVERLOOKED SOMETHING.
- WHEN EVERYTHING IS COMING YOUR WAY, YOU'RE IN THE WRONG LANE.
- CHANGE IS INEVITABLE, EXCEPT FROM VENDING MACHINES.
- GET A NEW CAR FOR YOUR SPOUSE. IT'LL BE A GREAT TRADE!
- PLAN TO BE SPONTANEOUS TOMORROW.
- ALWAYS TRY TO BE MODEST, AND BE PROUD OF IT!

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This publication has attempted to include something for everyone. Errors are strategically placed through the document because some folks get a great deal of enjoyment in finding mistakes.

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2006 DOWNEAST SHOW COMM.

TBA

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Bird studies available for loan to members.

RESOURCE LOAN 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 browndd@adelphia.net

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