



# CARVE 'N TALK

Nova Scotia Wildlife Carvers & Artists Association

**October 2008**

## President's Column

by **Tom Marshall**

Welcome back fellow carvers to another exciting carving year, and also a warm welcome to any new carvers who are joining us for the first time this year.

The first seminar of the season (carving and painting a dovekie by **Ralph Maclean**) is now well under way and all participants, myself included, are enjoying the expert tuition and guidance being provided to us by Ralph.



Ruby-throated Hummingbird carved by Tom Marshall

The Thursday evening seminars are one of the mainstay activities of the Club, so I encourage anyone who would like to run a seminar to let me, or **Shaunna Newell**, know as soon as possible. It would be nice to see some seminars being run by new faces, rather than relying on the same people all the time.

As was stated in the last newsletter, entries in the 2008 Show were down from last year. Let's see if we can turn that around for the 2009 Show. We still have seven months of carving ahead of us before the Show next May, so get those knives sharpened, and get busy carving...

In closing, let's try and have lots of fun and laughs in the carving year ahead.

## Competition Report

by **Sheila Young**

Preparations are now underway for the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Atlantic Wildlife Carving Competition. This will be held on **May 8, 9 and 10, 2009**. We have brought the show back to the Halifax area – namely **St Agnes Church Hall**, Mumford Road, Halifax, NS. Hopefully, returning to the Halifax area will bring up the numbers of competitors – we can only hope.

So far, we have made no commitments regarding having a raffle piece – we will not be attending any exhibitions where we would be allowed to sell tickets. Also, this year we have lost one of our major sponsors (Bowater) – since their merging with Abitibi, they have had changes to their corporate donation programmes. As a

result of these two situations, we will all have to work much harder to bring in items for the Silent Auction, which is a big fund-raiser for the Club. I will continue to dwell on this subject throughout the year, so get to work now, please.



Ring-necked Duck (hen) carved by Earl and Sheila Young

The Theme Bird for 2009 is "**Any Shorebird**". Make sure you know whether the bird you are carving is a shorebird – a list has been included at the end of this newsletter, using the designated list of shorebirds according to Sibley's Bird Book. I wouldn't want to have someone go to a lot of work and have it disqualified because it is not a shorebird.

The Judge for 2009 will be **John Leeder** (see John's bio later in the newsletter) and he will be putting on seminars on Friday – he has indicated several different subjects (one for the morning and a different one for the afternoon), and I'll let you know later on the subjects and fees for each.

## Silent Auction & Raffle by Lenora Zahn

The Silent Auction this year was a great success, and brought in **\$1798.00** for the Club. I would like to thank everyone who gave to the Silent Auction in 2008. Now it is time to start thinking about contributions for the 2009 Silent Auction.



Sanderling carved by Lenora Zahn

If anyone knows of an event at which we could sell tickets on a carving, or pass out information about our Club, please contact Lenora at **832-4841**.

### PEI Show and NB Show

Full details of the PEI and NB Shows are not yet available. Here is what is known so far. Further updates will be provided in subsequent newsletters.

The PEI Show will be held in **July 2009** (exact dates not known at this time) at:

**Stratford Town Hall**  
Shakespeare Drive  
Stratford, PEI

The theme bird for the PEI show is not known at this time.

The NB Show will be held in **August 2009** (exact dates not known at this time) at:

**W. C. O'Neill Arena**  
St Andrews, NB

The theme bird for the NB show is a **saw-whet owl**.

### Inter-Provincial Competition

The results of the 2008 Inter-Provincial Competition are as follows:

#### Nova Scotia Show

NS = 33 points  
PEI = 13 points  
NB = 15 points

#### PEI Show

NS = 24 points  
PEI = 21 points  
NB = 21 points

#### New Brunswick Show

NS = 24 points  
PEI = 3 points  
NB = 24 points

#### Total

NS = 81 points  
PEI = 37 points  
NB = 60 points

So **Nova Scotia** takes the Trophy for 2008.



Cinnamon Teal (drake) carved by Otto Zahn

## John Leeder - Our 2009 Competition Judge

John Leeder received an honours degree in wildlife biology from the University of Guelph. He worked as a bird of prey trainer, and a wildlife biologist for several years, and in 1996 turned his bird carving hobby into a full-time career.

To date he has won over 20 Best of Show titles. In 2006 he qualified for the Master's class by placing 2<sup>nd</sup> Best in the World Miniature Division at the Ward World Championships. A two-time Canadian National Champion (2003 & 2006), John gladly accepts assignments to judge at major shows throughout North America.



American Wigeon (drake) carved by Chris Marchand

His sculptures were juried into the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum in Wisconsin, as part of the 1999 and 2003 Birds in Art exhibit. In addition to exhibitions, his wildlife sculptures are displayed in several art galleries in Canada and the US, and each year at the Easton Waterfowl Festival.

With over 25 years of experience, he shares this knowledge as an instructor at the Haliburton School of Fine Arts, college art programs, and various private studios.

## Seminars

Ralph's dovekie carving & painting seminar is now well under way and should be wrapping up at the end of October.



The dovekie - Ralph Maclean's current carving & painting seminar

Starting on November 6 (or as soon as Ralph has completed his dovekie seminar), **Dick Bone** will be offering a relief carving seminar. The plan is to carve a miniature common loon in relief. Dick will provide the wood (basswood or pine). Participants need their carving tools and a clamp to hold the wood in place. Cost is **\$25**, which will go to the Competition fund. Please pay **John Murphy** on the first night of the seminar.

If you would like to offer a seminar, please contact **Shaunna Newell**.

You can email Shaunna at:

**anewell@hfx.eastlink.ca**  
or phone Shaunna at **453-5932**

## Our Truro Chapter

The Truro carvers have also started their activities for the year with a 7-week seminar carving a bobolink.



A male Bobolink

The Truro Club also held a Silent Auction of carving tools and equipment belonging to the late **Jimmy Stewart**. They raised **\$286**.

## A Reminder

As we start up Club activities for another year, don't forget to pay your dues for the 2008/2009 carving year. Members who have not paid their dues by the start of 2009 will be dropped off the newsletter distribution. Please get your membership dues (only **\$20** for the full year) to the Club Treasurer **John Murphy** as soon as possible.



The experts confer

## List of Shorebirds

Taken from the Sibley Guide to Birds, which is considered to be the authoritative book on North American Birds:

Sandpipers  
Godwits  
Yellowlegs  
Dowitchers  
Phalaropes  
Curlews  
Willet  
Woodcock  
Snipe  
Plovers  
Lapwings  
Killdeer  
Oystercatchers  
Avocets  
Stilts  
Jacanas  
Red Knot  
Turnstones  
Dunlin  
Surfbird  
Stints  
Sanderling  
Whimbrel  
Tattlers  
Redshank

If in doubt, ask **Sheila Young**, or **Dave Fowler**, or any of the other knowledgeable bird people in the Club.



Piping Plover carved by Frank Randall

## NSWCAA Contacts

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**Annual Membership \$20**

**Due September 2008**

(for the 2008/2009 season)

Website URL

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Seminars

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Events Co-ordinator

**Lenora Zahn**

Phone: 832-4841

The **NSWCAA** meets every  
Thursday, from mid-September  
to mid-May, at 7:00pm at:

NS Museum of Natural History  
1747 Summer Street, Halifax

We hold our monthly Business  
Meeting at the museum at  
7:30pm every third Thursday of  
the month.

The Truro area carvers meet  
every Wednesday, from mid-  
September to mid-May, at  
6:00pm at:

Room 321, Forester Hall  
NS Community College  
36 Arthur Street, Truro

## Our 2008 Show Sponsors

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