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Conewago Carvers August Newsletter

As I write this Newsletter I have 11 large 18 wheelers lined up on the road in front of my house. Each one is heavily loaded with huge concrete slabs. Our new bridge has arrived. I live on a narrow, wooded road that is a challenge to many drivers and yet the truck drivers were able to negotiate the curves and hills and various garbage cans (garbage day today too.) and every single mail box for over a mile. Large trucks do not use our road and driving one on such a narrow road is a challenge but these guys not only did it well BUT they did it by backing those trucks for more than a mile. I was very impressed.

Why do I tell you this? Well it is just like negotiating 2020. It is not easy but we are doing it.

In our club room we have moved tables around to help with social distancing. We are following the state orders to wear masks while in the building and we keep everything clean and sanitized. We have moved our day time carving to Thursday morning which allows the room to be empty for 36 hours between Tuesday night and Thursday morning.

The center keeps the doors locked so they can monitor those entering the building. Conewago Carvers now has our own doorbell located to the left of the regular door. When you come you will need to mask up then ring the doorbell and one of us will run up the steps to let you in. Hours are Tuesday 6 – 8 and Thursday mornings 9 – noon. Hope to see some of you soon.

Sunday Business Meeting

We had our regular business meeting Sunday July 19 with 13 present. We were surprised by the arrival of Ivan Snyder who drove down from Long Island for the meeting. He said the traffic was light and he didn't have anything else to do. It was good to see him.

Phyllis Stone had a very nice presentation about internet friendships through carving. She was able to bring along a nice selection of carvings she has acquired from friends around the world. Thank you so much Phyllis for sharing. It was really nice to see what other people are doing.

The Toilet Paper Tube Carving Challenge had 7 entries. The rules were simple. The carving needed to slip inside an empty toilet paper tube. Some entries were emailed to me and some arrived in person. There were several small figures, a dog, a spoon, a carved roll of toilet paper and a weasel. The viewer's choice prize went to Gerry Pitts for his little guy with toilet paper stuck to his shoe and second prize went to Ivan Snyder for his little guy. Thank you to all who entered. It was fun and good to see all the entries.

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The Conewago Carvers participated in the EBACC Garden tour. It was a very nice day outside sitting in the shade and carving while talking to visitors about our club. Connie Hoover and I had a nice display and a lovely afternoon.

We've had 2 seminars this summer: Don Karnis taught Advanced Chip Carving class with 4 students. And Bruce Stake had a class on carving faces.

Seminar Report:

Don Karnis: Beginner Chip Carving August 15th.

There are openings for this class. If you are interested get in touch with Mike right away at: Michael Nowakowski at conewagoseminars@gmail.com

If you were signed up for a seminar that canceled you will receive an email from Mike and a check for the return of your payment from Dave Parker via regular mail. No money will be carried over. Many of the teachers have agreed to move their classes to 2021. If you were signed up for a seminar that canceled you will have an opportunity to sign up for the 2021 class.

Are you carving?

Many carvers have told me they did not do any carving since the shutdown. Other carvers say they just lost their mojo and a few tell me they don't know what to carve, no class or inspiration or Tuesday night programs to give them direction. So for those of you stuck trying to find direction, and until we can return to a more normal time, we are presenting a quarterly challenge. This brilliant idea came from a conversation and a large box of cutouts that arrived in the clubroom.

The new challenge is called "The Conewago Carvers Woodchuck Challenge."

The first challenge will be to carve something from a cutout. The club has been gifted a large box of cutouts. No patterns were provided but we all see something different in a cutout and therein lay the challenge. After our July meeting everyone was allowed to choose a cutout from a large range of sizes and shapes. Perhaps it started out to be a Santa but you may decide it looks more like a hippopotamus. Then carve the hippopotamus. You may want to trace your cutout first so we can see what you started with. If you live far away and cannot get to the club room to get a cutout, have a dig through your scraps and see if you can come up with something interesting. This challenge will be due October at our business meeting Sunday the 18th.

Points will be awarded to participants for participation and for first and second viewer's choice. Four challenges will be presented over the next 4 quarters of the year. Points will be added up and an overall winner will be announced in July 2021. If you cannot make it to the October meeting take a photo of your finished item and email it to me. Please choose a plain white background so we can see the item clearly and save a bit of ink when I print it out for the meeting.

Conewago Carvers October Show:

Kyle Gable, as chairperson of the Show Committee, has made the tough choice to cancel the 2020 show.

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Current guidelines limit the total number of people allowed in the building space and we would need to limit the number of visitors as well. Kathy Overcash, our feature carver, canceled due to health concerns. Many of our members did not feel comfortable hosting a table. Our vendors canceled due to concerns too. With all of that happening the committee decided to cancel this year's show. It was a tough process and one that was well thought out and discussed before the hard decision was made. We will try again next year. (Note: refer to my story at the beginning of the newsletter about backing an 18 wheeler full of concrete bridge parts down a mile of curvy and hilly country road.)

August Meeting

Our August meeting will be on the 16th at 2:00. We are keeping our meetings low key and safe. Masks are required to cover both your nose and mouth. Our room will handle 14 safely and I will have the option available to move us to a larger room if we need more space.

Our Program will be "First and Latest". Bring along your first carving and your latest carving. It will be fun to see how you have progressed.

Finally, thank you very much for all your good wishes, your support, and your unfailing help by wearing your mask and your social distancing. We, as a club, are slowly moving forward. Yes we canceled our show. Yes we canceled many of our seminars. But we did not cancel them forever. We are trying to figure a way for everyone to join the carving times, or the meeting, on line in real time. If you have any thoughts on how we could do that please let me know. So we move forward.

Keep carving and stay safe.

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