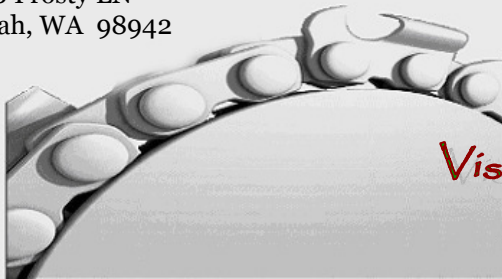


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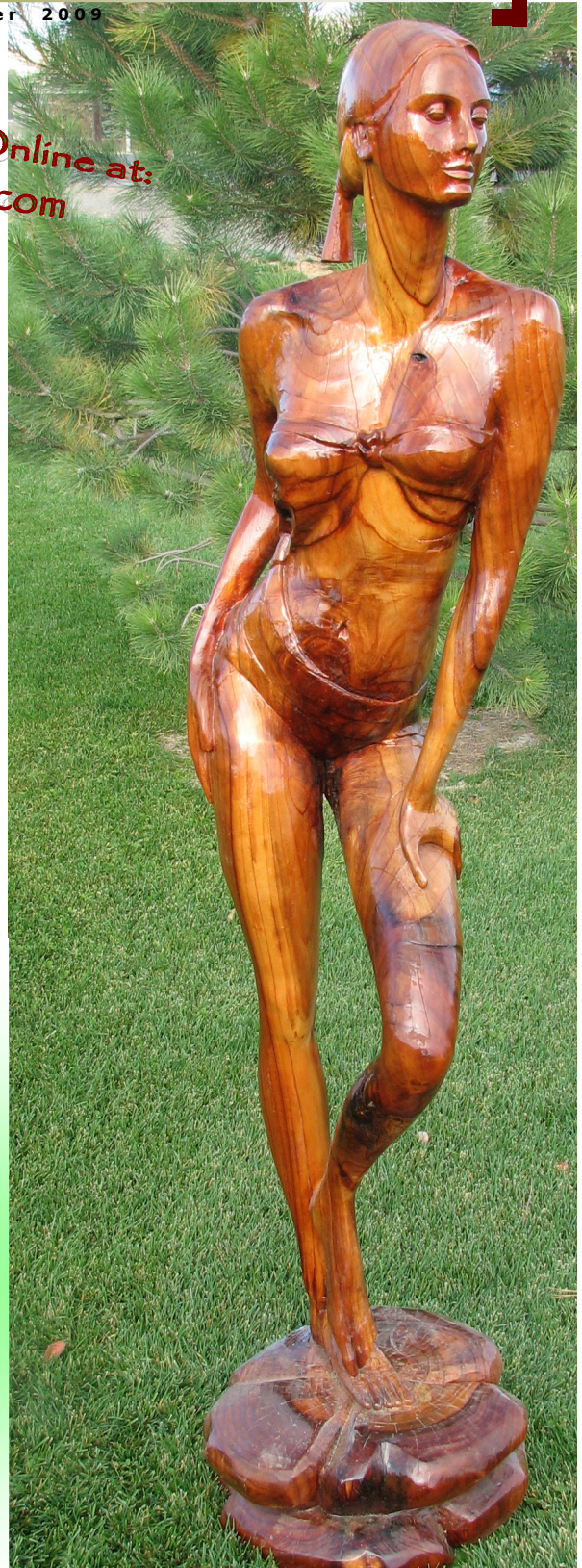
# The Cutting Edge

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Carving by Fabian Bruske of Italy, picture by Amy McEntire

## Tales of an International Starving Artist - Sedro Wooley 2009 by Thor

As my world tour continues, I find myself in Sedro Wooley, Washington, a beautiful logging town in the Northern Cascade Mountains, for the 75th Logger Rodeo and 12 Man Invitational Chainsaw Carving Competition. I arrive clean and tired and alive after a 60 mph front drivers side tire peel out on the way back from Ocean Shores, 60 to shoulder in 6 seconds. Luckily handling saw kickbacks has sharpened my reflexes.

Sedro Woolley goes all out to welcome us in grand fashion with breakfast, t-shirts, programs and banquets. This year saw us sponsored by John Diamond whose help made it an unforgettable 4th of July. Many thanks go out to Nyal and Jeannie who despite battling cancer hosted our Canadian guests and were essential in this years' t-shirt design, sponsorship and naming of Sedro Woolley as the chainsaw capital of Washington state.

It seems we made the news before we began with the disappearance of a 700 lb. 8ft long cedar competition log. 1st time for everything, I hope they slipped a disc moving it. Another was found and the show continued on with publicity you couldn't buy.

One by one we drew our logs out of a hat and talked with them to see what they would be (well I did). There was a one horse town sheriff, a collage of 11 animals, a bigfoot coming to celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup>, some bears climbed a tree, a cowboy with a guitar, a horse shyly looking over a fence, eagles in a nest, bears with fish, a man battling a bear with a chainsaw, a bear carving a man carving a bear, an eagle on a limb, an old school native American raven looked sweet, and animals surrounding an Indian chief. All were great and I'm glad I'm not a judge.

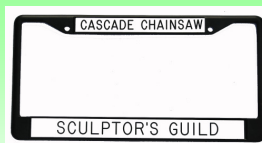
I bathed in a glacier fed river; it was that hot and that cold. Someone said I looked like someone who'd carve a strawberry, so I did. My 1st but not last and when asked if I was ready for my free massage I could not pass. That's where I was when the awards came. Can't say I'll ever be the same.

So many thanks to all, J.B., Dave, Emily, Lizzy, Nyal and Jeannie, John and Elizabeth Diamond, Strawberry traveler, the carvers, Eva, and the town and people of Sedro Woolley. I hope I'm there next year. On to Deming and the East Coast and Europe for more creation with chainsaw in hand...

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*Congratulations  
to Gene Davis of  
Prescott Valley  
AZ he is the  
winner of the  
CCSG Give Away*



*License Plate  
Holder!*

## Letter from the Editor

by Amy McEntire

The busy summer season has come to an end and the kids are now back in school. Now it's time to take a quick breather before jumping into the busy Christmas season. Are you looking for ways to supplement your income? Well, the guild is in need of a good grant writer to help secure grants for the guild. The CCSG has voted to pay a commission/fee on all secured grants. If you're interested in writing a grant please contact us to get the ball rolling.

Elections for the guild will be coming up in the Spring of 2010. If you want to make a difference in how the guild functions, this would be the time to speak up and get involved! We are always looking for motivated people. One way to get involved is to submit articles and tips or ideas to the newsletter and participate on the CCSG forum as much as possible. If there is an area in which you feel you can help let us know.

We'd like to do a series of articles on how to prepare for winter, if you have a story or have any tips please send them in, we'll be sure to include them. We are also looking for stories concerning restoration of old carvings. If this is an area in which you are knowledgeable, please send in your advice, it'll certainly help many carvers.

Right now we are in the middle of our 2nd Mask Challenge so be sure to submit your mask photos to be the next one to win the \$100! The complete rules are on page 6. You can see the mask submit from the previous contest at:

[www.theccsg.com/mask.htm](http://www.theccsg.com/mask.htm)

This issue features many of Thor's traveling experiences, I hope you enjoy his whimsical writing style as much as I do, he has a light hearted way of seeing the world and they always seem to bring a smile to my face and I hope yours as well!

### The Cutting Edge

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Amy McEntire - Editor

Jack McEntire - Coeditor

The Cascade Chainsaw Sculptors Guild exists to foster support for the art and craft of chainsaw carving by encouraging communication between carvers through every means possible, including newsletters, websites, forums, meetings, demonstrations, mutual support and the preservation of our history.



Mike McVay on one of his benches.  
Picture from [www.whidbeystore.com](http://www.whidbeystore.com)

## Message from the President

by Mike McVay

If there were a standard paragraph for resigning an office it might read, "I've done my best. Now it's somebody else's turn."

As of the end of this year, I will be ending my association with the Guild, so you'll need to fill a few spots by electing a new President and Treasurer.

There are a lot of thoughtful people to choose from, and hopefully many new faces will get involved. Though much has been done, much remains and it is my hope all of you will find the means and inspiration to carry on.

Thanks for everything and good luck to you all.

—Mike McVay

## Happy Retirement!

Thank you Mike for everything you have done for the advancement of chainsaw art and for carvers everywhere. You are truly an inspiration!



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## Tales of an International Starving Artist - Deming by Thor



Thor arriving in Deming in his convertible truck.  
Picture by Amy McEntire



Shrek carving was carved by Mark Harrington at a previous venue.  
Picture by Amy McEntire

Driving in a day late, I travel even farther North making the mistake of leaving near rush hour turning a 3 hour freeway drive into 5.5 hours of stop and go. Tired and feisty I arrive to a hero's welcome and remember why I do it. I love my chainsaw family.

Deming is almost on the Canadian border, nestled in the Cascade Mountains by Mt. Baker. It's hosted by Frank Cain and family, while Lynn Backus and family set up an event as only they can do. Not a competition per say, but a chance to relax and let our saws play. We eat and drink and auction at the end of the day and party the night away. My new friend Strawberry was there and all had something to share. My magic 8 block was a big hit with all asking questions of it. Do aliens exist?... Yes. Are we their food source?... -No. Will I find love?... Yes. Will it be today?... No.

Shrek came and partied too and then disappeared with only a ransom note and severed ear left behind. Why was not clear but we looked far and near. Some thought it was funny, others did not. Someone was stirring the pot. We continued to carve and gave it all away, so we'd have room to carve another day. When it was done we'd had our fun and said our goodbyes and made a friend or 2 and Shrek reappeared out of the blue. As did the rain to wash everything new. With my west coast tour complete, I head East to New York and Pennsylvania and Europe to compete. Keep smiling Thor...



Judy McVay and a couple of her beautiful benches at the Deming Show 09'. Photo by Amy McEntire

## Welcome to Whidbey Island and a Bit of Guild History

by Pat McVay

In 1991, 14 carvers came together to carve the beautiful "Welcome to Whidbey Island" sign and a giant Umpire for the park. Here is how it happened:

The early days of the carving competitions go back to 1986. There were very few events then and they were far between.

After a few years, most of the carvers felt as if they were getting a raw deal from a couple of the big fairs. To be in the typical contest, the artists were charged an entry fee of \$150. After the event, the fair would keep the top three carvings and pay prizes up to \$350 for first place. They would then auction off the rest of the carvings and split the take with all of the contestants. A month or so later, you would get a check in the mail for about \$150. Things just didn't add up too well.

We formed a guild and looked for other ways to get together and carve. We decided that we should have competitions run by carvers instead of fair managers. Many events were born this way.

Another idea that I had was to team up on a project and try to do a series of works to leave a lasting legacy of work in various communities.

We went to a local Chamber of Commerce meeting to propose a few ideas. First on our list was for a tall totem pole depicting the history of our island. The second was an historic wall mural. The third idea was for a sculpture of Orca whales which live here. The next idea was for a playground sculpture that children could play on. The last idea was for a "Welcome" sign and this was the one that was seized on.

After six months of planning and fund raising, we had a giant five day work party. Carvers here were joined by others who came from afar. Cedar and other materials were donated and volunteers from the community helped with every aspect of the project. The sign was gifted to the community and installed on the hill overlooking to ferry dock.

In addition to the sign, a 10' sculpture of a baseball umpire was created and donated to the park.

The sign was designed by Tim Howell and Whidbey Island carvers who participated were Pat McVay, Steve Backus and Boaz Backus with six months of planning as well as carving. Judy McVay carved and led the sign team. Lynn Backus, Dexter Lewis, Mike McVay and Charles Koch all helped greatly.

Rob Chalk was fresh from Australia and Dave Sipe came all of the way from Minnesota to carve the umpire.



Pictured is the Whidbey Island sign that overlooks the ferry dock and was created by a group of 14 carvers in 1991. Photo by Pat McVay



10' sculpture of a baseball umpire that was created by a group of 14 carvers in 1991 and donated to the local Whidbey Island park. Photo by Pat McVay

Don Etue and Don Kieffer came from the east side of the mountains and Jack Livingstone from the southern part of the state to lend their talents.

Susan Miller came from Oregon and was a great help in every way. Recently, our island received a grant to install new metal signs. There was a plan to move the wood sign and put it elsewhere. They said that it was in disrepair and that it would have to be taken away for restoration. It was just an excuse to replace it. I said that repairs to the back of the sign could be done in place and there was no need to tear it down. When word got out, there were letters to the newspaper, petitions and a general public outcry. I called in a couple of National Park Service wood restorers and two local film makers volunteered to create a couple of short 3 minute films. This did the trick.

I am happy to say that the sign is going to stay where it is. It was scheduled to be torn down and removed last week!

Pat McVay, Whidbey Island, Washington

You can view the 3 minute films Pat referred to at:

[www.screencast.com/t/ka7Ow9ZSkU01](http://www.screencast.com/t/ka7Ow9ZSkU01)

[www.screencast.com/t/dd1IXJkDXN](http://www.screencast.com/t/dd1IXJkDXN)

## Tales of an International Starving Artist - East Coast Bound by Thor

Completely spun around, I'm surprised when my feet left the ground. I've left it all behind, so much so it boggles my mind.

Logs, furniture, dishes and bed all gone and left for dead. Running an hour late, my plane was delayed so I sat down and ate.

Wondering about my fate, I was heading to the east coast on the run, hoping for some fun. I parked my truck and put my life in storage, and cast off my moorage, Seattle, to San Francisco, to Washington DC, Johnstown to Altoona to see my brother waving me in.

Time for my next adventure to begin, from Odd Fest in New York then onto Cherry Springs, PA. They wait for us to be on our way. With rain on our heels we spin our wheels and head to Amsterdam, New York for Jim and Christen's Oddfest with stops on the farm and ice cream sundaes.

We only miss one exit by 8 miles, no harm. We arrive to a warm welcome in a forest retreat, with a fire pit, drum circles and nearby creek. We select our logs the next day and start carving right away. Tim sold his frog before it was done and my kayaker was having fun. For 3 days we carved in the heat, Jim, Tim, Link, Lynn and Thor, selling in the street who could ask for more? When it was time we were sad to go. It's such a cool place where creativity flows. The Wizard of Odds, Oddfest in New York you gotta go.

On the way back to PA Tim says, "let's stop at the family fort on the way", Fort Klock, New York. It seems his family owned a valley and this fortified homestead during revolutionary war times. Here we were treated like long lost family come to visit again. It was preserved by a guy named Skip, it was well worth the trip.

Our next stop takes us to Cherry Springs, PA for the woodsman show and Frank Russell to see. We once again select our logs and decide what they

will be. It's chainsaw only and 9 hours to compete, no time to sit on your seat. Tim camps on site as his tent only fits one and I'm a guest at Frank's for family fun. A nice place where we're fed well and next to the east coast Grand Canyon with stories to tell. His cats and kittens all have 7 toes, I could have had one but I'm off as the wind blows. Tim creates an original bear seat, Scott's eagle fighting a snake was sweet, and Ed's debarker couldn't be beat, a creative man who once sparred with Ali. Pat Holbrook was there with an Indian beyond compare. Mad Jack's lions were on the attack. Buzzsaw Bob brought eagles to flight and Frank's flying eagle bench was all right. A bear with a telescope stole the show, as the park was an observatory where a lot of people go. I carved a 10 ft chainsaw with a gloved hand and traded it for a husky 346xp that ran. Tom carved a totem pole with a unique style, while the rain came down for a little while.

Tim tried his hand as the auctioneer, and was a natural with a possible new career.

When the awards ceremony came around, I was with the cute blonde saw shop owner, smiles all around. While the judging left some debate, the time we had was truly great. My many thanks to all involved, hopefully next year that will be resolved. Keep Smiling Thor, next stop European Open, Art in the Open Forest, the English Open and Carrbridge Scotland. ----

## Tales of an International Starving Artist—Europe by Thor

To travel Europe by chainsaw is an amazing experience that takes planning, timing and money; I'll have to remember that next time.

My many thanks to all who helped make this lifetime adventure real. You know who you are as does the universe, which I find myself saying yes to more.

It begins with the realization that Altoona to Newark is a 14 hour roundtrip. So with the help of my eastern brothers I get a plane ticket to LaGuardia and a bus ride thru New York City where the girls are pretty. It looks like a lot of fun, too bad I had to run. After we drive past the largest cemetery I've ever seen, I make my connection to Sweden and lose my boarding pass to Hamburg there. No problem, another is printed out and I'm on my way to the European Open Chainsaw Sculpting Competition in Steinbeck Germany, August 2009.

The event was hosted by Michael and Maria Knüdel and the town of Steinbeck and the Grube Company. Along with many others, we are welcomed with open arms and warm beers. Toschi from Japan was there along with Bob and Cindy and Dennis and Shirley. Soon Nansi, Simon, Andy and Simon and Liz were there; a grand gathering of talent beyond compare.

Germany is like coming home for me. I love the people and food and culture. The European Open is an amazing event, well worth the time spent.

Arriving early, I ask if I can help. I'm given a 4ft saw and directed to a log pile with the advice cut to size and that the chain needs sharpening. The statement, 'I'm a professional I can get it done', will come up several times. Later the next adventure begins but the machines rebel against me again. Luckily Toschi gets it to start and we slice and dice them apart. It's hard to decide what to do, being a simple cartoonist without a clue. We carry on and get it done, as the rest are at the lake having fun.

When it's done it's a sight to see: a horse shoe ring layout in a field with a 100ft climbing pole sharing the center along with 2 logging trucks and a dozen plus logs between to eat under and escape the saws thunder. The quick carve arena was around the pole. All the vendors and food were in the middle with the carvers filling in the outside of the shoe providing easy access to everything for everyone.

A first rate show with sculptors assembled from around the world to everyone's awe and wonder. Sweden, Russia, Italy, Germany, and Japan, the USA, Austria, Holland, Denmark, Wales and England all came to play. We were well provided for, from steaks under the trucks to ice cream whenever you wanted.

I went for some and bought a new axe. It was worth the price, and the look on the x-ray techs face on my way home was priceless. The crowds came and no 2 carvings looked the same. They included everything from a deer and fawn, to a rising horse, sleeping dragon princess and frog, girl with a lamb, boars, fisherman, otters, owl, modern bench, eagles, alligators, logging truck, fishing troll, owl bench, elk, wizard, mystical face and more.

A chainsaw juggler was extraordinary and Roland carved ice without a care. The crowds gathered around when the quick carve made its sound. We carved with all our might, such an impressive sight. Michaels' auctioning skills made it right.

I experienced everything from wood fired hot tubs to great food to warm friendly people with smiling eyes. We even carved in the rain to everyone's surprise. As usual we got it done and celebrated with great dinners and had much fun. Everyone who was anyone was there as we conga lined without a care. All the sculptures were amazing to see and will soon be out on a new DVD. It's always hard to say good bye. Hopefully next year we'll give it another try. Next Europe by chainsaw 2!

## Quote Submitted by Jim Haskett

*"It costs so much to be a full human being that there are very few who have the enlightenment or the courage, to pay the price... One has to abandon altogether the search for security, and reach out to the risk of living with both arms. One has to embrace the world like a lover. One has to accept pain as a condition of existence. One has to court doubt and darkness as the cost of knowing. One needs a will stubborn in conflict, but apt always to total acceptance of every consequence of living and dying."*

—Written by Morris L. West in the book *Shoes of the Fisherman*

### The 'Cutting Edge' Mask Making Challenge is Back!

The CCSG is proud to announce that we will be holding another Mask Challenge. Masks have been created by human hands throughout the history of humankind. They serve many purposes ... for ceremony, for status, for fun ... or to convey feeling, to disguise, to mask ones self if you like. Whatever their role, masks have an undeniable presence in our world.

#### Winner gets \$100!

Entry is open to all.....The rules are as follows ...

- Deadline is **December 31st, 2009!**

- Only current paid members of the CCSG will qualify for any prizes.

- A chainsaw must be used in your masks creation, but all tools are allowed.

- Bling is allowed, ie: feathers, leather, etc, but not too much. Carving must be visible.

- Paint is allowed.

- We require 3 images ... 1 frontal image, 1 side image (or 2 side images if each side is uniquely different to the other), and one image of the mask concealing the face of an adult human being so as to allow for an idea of scale.

- Your mask can be of any scale of your choosing.

- CCSG Board Members and Officers do not qualify for any prizes but are free to enter.

- Only one entry allowed per participant.

- The work submitted is to have been created by the individual making the submission.

- The results will be published in 'Cutting Edge' and on the guilds website.

- Please do not put pictures of your mask online until after publication of the 'Cutting Edge' as that will result in your mask being disqualified.

Please send all entries and/or questions to jacknamy@charter.net by the deadline.

**We look forward to seeing the results of all your mask creations ... Happy Carving!**

## Upcoming Events

Events listed here are not endorsed by the CCSG. To list an event send info to [ammy@charter.net](mailto:ammy@charter.net)

Detailed version of events when available are online at: [www.theccsg.com/Events.htm](http://www.theccsg.com/Events.htm)

**January 30<sup>th</sup>  
Ocean City WA  
Burning Bear Bon Fire  
Team Competition  
Wolf Pack vs. Cunning Rouges**  
Contact: Steve Backus  
360-579-3574  
[bigshot@whidby.com](mailto:bigshot@whidby.com)

**February 20<sup>th</sup>—27<sup>th</sup>  
Ridgway PA  
Ridgway Rendezvous**  
Contact: Rick & Liz Boni  
814-772-0400  
[info@chainsawrendezvous.org](mailto:info@chainsawrendezvous.org)  
[www.chainsawrendezvous.org](http://www.chainsawrendezvous.org)

**May 21<sup>st</sup>—24<sup>th</sup>  
Mulda/Sachsen/Germany  
German Open Invitational**  
Contact: Andreas Martin  
[sauenseger@aol.com](mailto:sauenseger@aol.com)  
[www.huskycup.de](http://www.huskycup.de)

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## Port Gamble by Amy McEntire

The Port Gamble show was held September 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>. There were 2 teams of 5 guys each, the Wolf Pack and the Cunning Rouges. The two teams competed for an extra 10% of their auction sales. The Wolf Pack consisted of: Jack McEntire (as captain and team member), Dave Tremko, Jason Smathers, Jerry Heneger, and Trace Breitenfeldt along with 2 alternates Jeb Glore and Marty Smith. The Cunning Rouges captain was Steve Backus with team members: Nyal Thomas, Dexter Lewis, Steve Orne, Tomas Vrba, and Chris Myers, with alternate Layton Kiblinger.

After 3 days of carving and 2 auctions, one on Saturday and one on Sunday, the Wolf Pack had beaten the Cunning Rouges and took their bonus home.

The event was held alongside the logging show and carnival. There were abundant fireworks, BBQ's, and campfire pow wows. There was an added spark as the 2 teams competed after sundown with some fire technology displays. The first night there was a burning bear demo. On Saturday there was a competition with the Wolf Pack presenting a dragon head, carved by Trace Breitenfeldt, versus a creature with a snarly slithered tongue carved by Nyal Thomas. By public acclamation the dragon head was declared the winner.

*Continued on page 8*

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CCSG Membership  
PO Box 934  
Langley, WA 98265



Picture of the Fire Techno Demo Competition on Saturday night at the Port Gamble Show with carvers that attended the event, from left to right is: Chris Myer, Marty Smith, Steve Orne, Tomas Vrba, Dexter Lewis, Trace Breitenfeldt, Mike, Jack McEntire, Jerry Heneger, Jeb Gloor and Nyal Thomas. Picture by Amy McEntire

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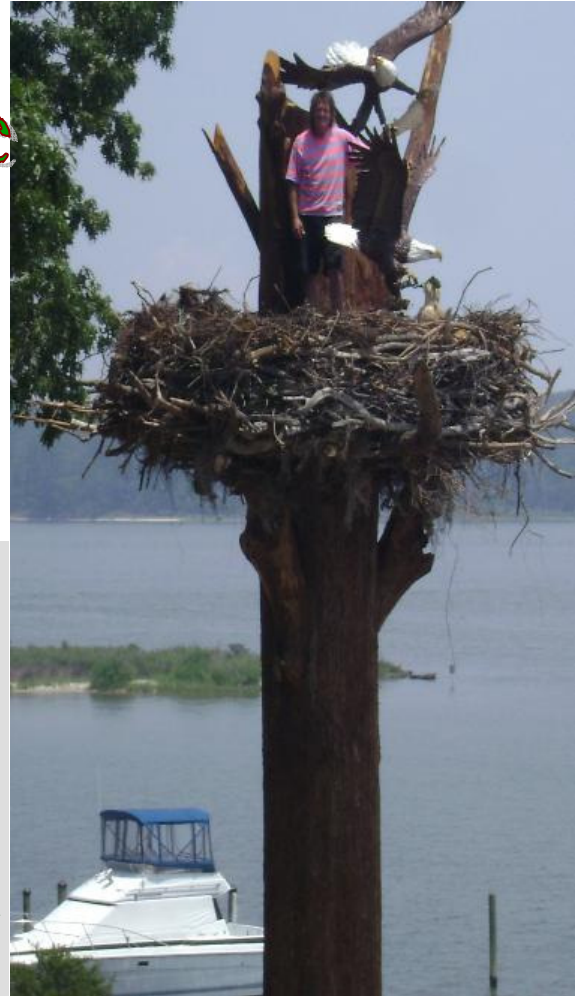
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Eagle  
Eye  
View

'Eagle Eye View'  
Pictured is Tommy Winn of  
Oxford NC, standing on his 50'  
tall Cypress Tree with a huge  
15' wide span and over 6000  
lbs of weight eagle nest made  
from drift wood creation.  
Two bronze eagles now find  
their home here in their new  
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[www.3ddriftwoodart.net/eagle-eye-view.html](http://www.3ddriftwoodart.net/eagle-eye-view.html)  
Photo courtesy of  
[www.3ddriftwoodart.net](http://www.3ddriftwoodart.net)



**Port Gamble** by Amy McEntire (Continued from page 7) There were lots of carvings created during the show including this gang carved bench pictured below. It was carved by Nyal Thomas, Dave Tremko, Jason Smathers and Marty Smith, then auctioned off with the proceeds being donated to the guild. Thanks guys! This was a unique show and team carving seems to be a very promising way to advance our truly unique art form.



Gang carved bench at the Port Gamble Show  
Photo by Amy McEntire