



# NORTHERN VIRGINIA CARVERS

Web: [www.NorthernVirginiaCarvers.org](http://www.NorthernVirginiaCarvers.org)

**April 2022**

**Issue 2022-4**

**FROM THE PRESIDENT**

**Phil Simpson**

Hello carvers,

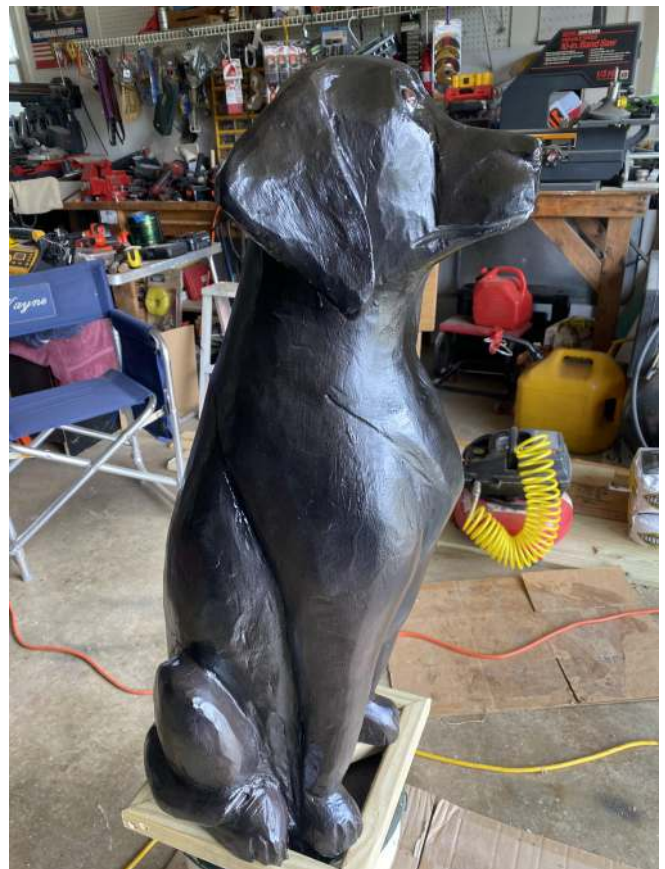
Well, it's April and it is time for the give a way of Gary Lewis's carving tools. This will happen at 6:45 thru 7:00 on April 13, at the Packard Center. Below please see a list of the tools, divided into various lots.

1. Ryobi set of two carving tools in a factory container:
  - a. Detail carver with bits
  - b. Rotary tool with bits
  - c. Complete instructions
2. Detail Master IV Sabre controlled woodburning system, with 5 pens and extra tips
3. Smiths' hard Arkansas sharpening stone in wooden box
4. One dozen small no name detail gouges
5. Three small leather knife strops
6. Leather strop for gauges
7. Fine detail hacksaw
8. Set of 3 marking tools for leathercrafting
9. 14 very small detail carving gouges/knives/implements
10. 7 no-name small detail carving gouges
11. Heavy wooden carving mallet
12. Dremel corded Moto0tool model 245
13. Small hacksaw
14. Craftsmen two-speed battery operated rotary tool (probably obsolete)
15. Cigar box full of popsicle sticks
16. Assorted paint brushes
17. Bruning electric rotary eraser tool
18. 6: coping saw with extra blades
19. Magnifying glass with tweezers
20. Set of dental tools
21. Rainbow color selection wheel
22. Carving knives
  - 5 X-acto handles with assorted Warren knife blades
  - 1 Veritas knife handle with assorted blades
  - 6 dedicated carving knives
23. 9 Lee Valley small gouges
24. 5 Little Mountain palm gouges
25. 1 Craftsman small gouge
26. Instructional "face stick"
27. Various cigar boxes
28. Miscellaneous small pieces of wood and half-finished carvings

Hope to see everyone at the Packard Center, and good luck in receiving the items of you might be hoping for.  
We wish to thank the Lewis family for their generous donation of these items to the Northern Virginia Carvers

Phil Simpson  
President

Wayne Simmons latest chainsaw carving of a black lab for a marine veteran at the VFW who has traumatic brain injury from an explosion while he was overseas





Editor's Note:  
Glad to see you back doing chainsaw carving. Great job

# Ed Morrisson's Duck Decoy Carving Workshop

by Marc Tranchemontagne

Ed Morrisson held his semi-annual, four-day, duck decoy carving workshop 13-17 March at the Holiday Lake 4-H Center near Appomattox, Virginia. Over the years, many Northern Virginia Carvers have taken the course, but this was my first time. BJ France and I drove down together.

Most attendees were regulars who have taken the workshop many times. For the regulars, each workshop is a reunion. Many are accomplished carvers who attend for the fellowship in addition to the carving. Some bring their own blanks, tools, and paints, and they carve a variety of ducks and shorebirds. The carvings I saw included mallards, buffleheads, golden eyes, cinnamon teals, coots, a laughing gull, a kingfisher, an oystercatcher (with a real oyster), and a snowy egret. If you don't want to carve waterfowl, Ed will cut you out a Santa Claus blank, which is what BJ carved. Ed's wife, Glenda, attends, as do several other spouses.

The Holiday Lake 4-H sponsors other workshops as well as decoy carving. While we were there, another group was assembling colonial-era black power rifles, which involved a lot of fine carving with chisels. Also, BJ is a regular at a weaving course. I heard talk of banjo making.

If you go...

The program is a "workshop" rather than a "class." There is no set schedule: you work at your own pace. Most attendees start carving before breakfast and carve throughout the day and well into the evening. In my case, I carved all day under Ed's supervision and produced both a canvasback drake and hen. The course fee includes one blank, but you can order additional birds and Ed brings a few extras for purchase. All the tools and paints you'll need are available to use. Most first-time attendees carve a canvasback since the drake has attractive plumage that is straightforward to paint. Ed's patience, enthusiasm, and low-key manner of teaching guarantee success.

Accommodations are basic but comfortable. Most regulars stay in two-person pods, each person with their own room. I stayed in an eight-person bunkhouse with one other carver. You bring your own towels and bed linens. Meals are included; the food was good and the portions ample. Some people bring wine to go with dinner, an afternoon happy hour, or a discreet evening drink.

Appomattox is in rural Virginia about three hours south of the beltway. The Civilian Conservation Corps built the 4-H camp in 1937 to house workers building the dam that created the 150-acre lake. The camp is nicely situated overlooking the long axis of the lake and it is a short, pleasant walk to see the stone dam. There are no major towns nearby, so bring what you'll need. The camp's Wi-Fi is slow and only works in the dining room, and the nearest cellular service is a mile and a half up the road. But, you're there to carve not play candy crush.

**The next workshop begins on September 18, 2022. You can sign up on line: <https://www.holidaylake4h.com/decoy-carving-workshop.html>**



**BJs Santa**



**Marc shaping a tupelo canvasback roughout with a micro-plane rasp**



**Ed Morrisson with Marc's canvasbacks**

**Note from BJ:** It was fun travelling with Marc. I especially appreciated him doing the difficult driving in heavy rain. He jumped right into the spirit of the workshop. His technical work on his birds was excellent, including the shaping, the details and the painting. He fit right in amongst the “regulars” and was a great addition to the event

**TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in the Northern Virginia Carvers runs from January to December. Please bring your dues, which are \$20.00 for a single membership and \$5.00 for each additional family member, to the Carving Center or Packard Center on Thursday nights, give to or mail to Robert Simoniz, Membership Chairman, 6819 Rock Creek Court, Alexandria, VA 22306. Make check payable to NVC.



The NVC Board would like to have your suggestions for future topics at the Packard Center and also classes or workshops you would like to see offered. Write your suggestions on the renewal form or email to Les Thomas, Lmthomas1264@gmail.com email address if you can receive the newsletter by email. This will save the club a great deal of money. Some clubs are now charging members who get mailed copy a higher amount for dues. NVC does not currently do this, and does not wish to start, but we do try to keep the mailed copies to a minimum.

If you have changed your email, please let us know. If you used to get the newsletter by email, but recently have received mailed copies, then something is wrong with the email address we have on file for you, and your email copy bounced back. Please contact Bob Simoniz at [rsim2193@verizon.net](mailto:rsim2193@verizon.net), so he can correct

**NORTHERN VIRGINIA CARVERS  
RENEWAL  
FOR JAN-DEC 2022**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Receive Newsletter by E-Mail?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Fees Per Year:

Single \$20.00  
Family: \$20.00 + \$5.00  
each additional member

Additional members names:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Suggestions for Programs or Classes

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO NVC  
AND MAIL TO:**

Robert Simoniz, Membership  
NORTHERN VIRGINIA CARVERS  
6819 Rock Creek Court  
Alexandria, VA 22306

**DIRECTIONS:**

**American Legion Post 176 (carving classes)**— 6520 Amherst Avenue, Springfield, Virginia 22150. **From Springfield driving East** on Old Keene Mill Road to Springfield Blvd. just past Veterans Bridge, turn right and proceed to the Post parking lot on the right. **From Springfield driving West** on Franconia Road, passing under I-95 to Bland Street just past Shoney's Restaurant, turn right onto Bland Street and proceed to Amherst Avenue. Turn right onto Amherst Avenue and proceed over Veterans bridge. The Post is on the right, before Kay Jennings Toyota at the foot of the bridge.

**Packard Center (2nd Wednesday of each month) 3:30-9:00 PM, meeting at 7:00** — 4022 Hummer Road, Annandale, VA 22003. From I-495 take Little River Turnpike East and turn left at the first light onto Hummer Road. Just past the small shopping area less than 1/4 mi on the left will be signs for the center. Turn left into the drive and bear right when it forks. The evening entrance for meetings is on the side of the building on the parking lot side. The meeting area is in the conference room in the basement.

**NVC Contacts**

President	Phillip Simpson	Chairs General Meetings and Board Meetings	eightb1045@aol.com	703-360-9875
Vice-President	Grace Mock	Vice Chair of General Meetings and Board Meetings	gracemock@gmail.com	703-451-4473
Treasurer	Pete Ward	Manages Finances		571-236-3958
Secretary	Mark Tranchemontagne	Keeps Minutes and Maintains NVC Archives	mgtranch@yahoo.com	703-531-9912
Past President	Joyce Spieler		Moonbeam4mj-carver@yahoo.com	703-915-3239
Colvin Mill Coordinator	Joyce Spieler	Coordinates Carving Instruction Program at Colvin Mill Park	Moonbeam4mj-carver@yahoo.com	703-915-3239
Show Coordinator	BJ France	Coordinates the Annual Show & Competition	BJinARL@aol.com	703-538-4143
Membership Chairman and Newsletter Editor	Bob Simoniz	Maintains membership database and collects dues Edits and publishes NVC Newsletter	rsim2193@verizon.net	703-768-1087
Program Coordinator	Mike Connors	Develops New Programs for the Club	Mikecarver66@gmail.com	703-486-9635
NVC Web Site	Joyce Spieler	www.northernvirginiacarvers.org	Moonbeam4mj-carver@yahoo.com	703-915-3239
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Member-at-Large	Jerry Donahoe		jrdsriding@aol.com	703-327-4022
Member-at-Large	Michael Wine		mdwine55@gmail.com	703-368-2282

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