



# NORTHERN VIRGINIA CARVERS

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

**FEBRUARY 2024**

**Issue 2024- 2**

**FROM THE PRESIDENT**

**JOYCE SPIELER**

Happy Valentines' Day. Treat yourself for sure. I am not one for candy or flowers. It would be good to receive a nice dinner out or maybe a new carving tool.

The focus of this month's letter is to discuss expectations. Whether you are thinking about carving the perfect caricature or spoon... Perfection is in the eyes of the by-stander viewing the piece. If you are the creator... The creator knows all the imperfections. But, please do not tell. Let your audience enjoy your master piece.

Enjoy the process and the learning stages. No matter what your level of knowledge is whether a beginner or advanced carver, your vision is not the same as the carver sitting next to you. Be open to share the carving in the process with other carvers.

If you see my Moravian star carving photo above, I have marked areas that I wanted to improve. The star is a nice star as it is for the moment. I made the decision to continue on with improving the shape.

Ideas for evaluating your carving piece:

Turn your piece backwards

Turn your piece upside down

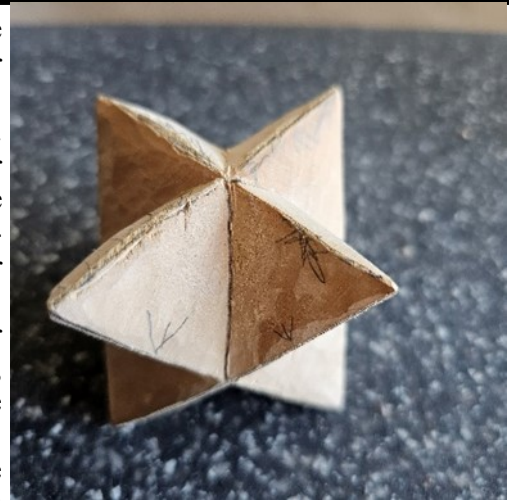
Is your piece level and balanced – not always necessary (does your piece need the kelter for personalization or balance).

Let your eyes take a rest from the piece. Look at it the next day.

Have plenty of light in the surrounding area

Take a picture from different angles

Have someone else take a look



As the artist the biggest decision is at what point are you satisfied with the carving. Art is a process and always changing. Be HAPPY WITH THE JOURNEY.



My finished Moravian Star.

As president and club members of Northern Virginia Carvers we are continually working on a new and improved club. Feel free to e-mail me any suggestions to continue the journey of the club.

Thank You,

Joyce Spieler

President – Northern Virginia Carvers

**Your Thoughts Needed**



First, I would like to thank those that attended the business meeting last Monday. Along with those that were ready to support the club. The vote taken for a dues of \$25.00 was passed.

Second, NVC want and need your opinion on reverting back to the meeting at the Packard Center starting at 3:00 pm for carving. Then go to dinner to be followed by short business meeting, show-n-tell to finish up with a club presentation/project. Feel free to text me, e-mail me your thoughts. Or you may share with any of the board members. The goal is to bring the afternoons and the evening carvers together at least once a month.



**DATES TO KEEP IN MIND  
SCHEDULE CHANGES MAY OCCUR**

APPOMATTOX March 2024 see article in Feb newsletter

PARKTAKES March 10, 17, 24 – Colvin Run, Sundays, 1-4 pm Projects – Mushroom & Worry Birds

Volunteers Needed

COLVIN RUN OPEN CARVING (PUBLIC INVITED THROUGH EVENTBRITE WEBSITE Starts in April 2024

Volunteers Welcome ( come and carve with friends, also)

ARTISANS UNITED PUBLIC CLASSES – Packard Center, April 20, Saturday, 10 am to 1 pm, Project TBD

Volunteers Wanted

CARVING SHOW & COMPETITION – TBD – Oct. 2024

CHRISTMAS PARTY – TBD Dec. 2024

## TRADITIONAL DECOY CARVING CLASSES

Anyone interested in trying traditional decoy carving or improving their decoy carving skills should sign up for Ed Morrison's Decoy Carving Workshop.

The class will be held at the Holiday Lake 4H Club near Appomattox, VA

From 3-7 March (Sunday through Thursday).

The class is a bargain at \$375.00,

Which includes room (spartan but comfortable) and board, a duck decoy blank, paints, and supplies.

First time attendees typically carve a canvasback duck, which is a beautiful, distinctive bird and straightforward to paint.

**Sign up now to save your place and give Ed time to make your blank.**

The workshop is held in the spring and fall with many regular attendees, including Mike Connors, BJ France, and Marc Tranchemontagne from NVC.

See the Holiday Lake website for more information:

<https://www.holidaylake4h.com/decoy-carving-workshop>



## February Meeting Information

Monday, February 5th, 2024 OPEN CARVE

Woodcraft 3 to 6pm

Ravensworth Shopping Center,

5248 Port Royal Rd, Springfield, VA 22151

Monday, February 12th, 2024 OPEN CARVE

Woodcraft 3 to 6pm

Ravensworth Shopping Center

5248 Port Royal Rd, Springfield, VA 22151

\*Monday, February 19th, 2024 \* OPEN CARVE

Woodcraft store is open for carvers 3 to 6 pm

## Federal Holiday

Ravensworth Shopping Center,

5248 Port Royal Rd, Springfield, VA 22151

\*Artisans United Zoom meeting – ask Joyce if interested

Monday, February 26, 2024 – OPEN CARVE

Richard Byrd Library 3 to 6pm - Conference room.

7250 Commerce Street, Springfield, VA

Monday –Feb 26, 2024 EVENING – OPEN CARVING – short business meeting

( program may change as well as the time may be earlier -TBD)

Fred Packard Center, 6:30 to 9:00 pm

4022 Hummer Rd, Annandale, VA 22003

Thursday – Zoom - Montgomery County Carvers

**February 15, 2024. MCC program** “Carving Knives – Perspectives, Options and Making Your Own Carving Knife Workshop Offering” with Bert Bleckwenn

**February 17th and 18th, 9:00-Noon each day. Carving Knife Workshop** at Bert Bleckwenn’s workshop (enrollment during MCC January and February Meetings)

Thursday – February 22, 2024 NVC Zoom – project night 7-8 pm

## NORTHERN VIRGINIA CARVERS MEETING LOCATIONS

Woodcraft Springfield, Ravensworth Shopping Center, 5248 Port Royal Rd, Springfield, VA 22151

Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Rd, Burke, VA 22015,

Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St, Springfield, VA 22150

Zoom – ask for link from [moonbeam4mj-carver@yahoo.com](mailto:moonbeam4mj-carver@yahoo.com)

Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Rd, Great Falls, VA 22066-1834

Fred Packard Center, 4022 Hummer Rd, Annandale, VA 22003

American Legion Post 176, 6520 Amherst Ave., Springfield, VA 22150

## A Point to be Made

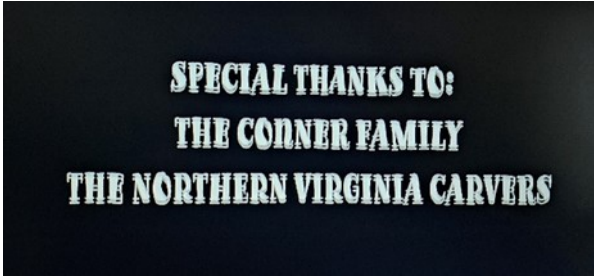


### SWEET MEDACE

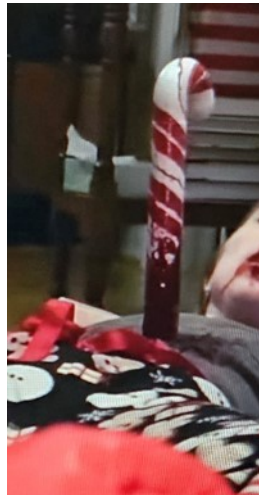
A few days before Christmas, a Lake Braddock High School student called to see if anyone from the Northern Virginia Carvers could help her make a prop for a short film she was producing for a high school project. It was a Christmas horror film. Chelsea and her father had seen our flyer at the Woodcraft Store and called Marc Tranchemontagne—not sure why they chose the longest and least pronounceable name on the list—and asked for help shaping a dowel into a fine point. Chelsea had attempted carving but soon found she needed assistance. The film, *Sweet Menace*, was to be a Christmas slasher flick and they needed a “pointed candy cane” the killer could use as a weapon. Since they were beginning production that evening and because sharpening sticks is within my carving repertoire, I agreed to knock it out that afternoon. They brought a length of oak closet pole which I shaped using a drawknife and spokeshave on my shaving mule and then had my daughter Clara—as lapsed NVC member—smooth them out on the belt sander. You can see the short at <https://youtu.be/C7DKkdM49Yk?si=HWK0RmgD1zvC0K6H>. The film is nicely done—suspenseful, scary—and NVC gets a thank you at the end.

It wasn't much of a project--sharpening two sticks--but it was fun to do and Dad and daughter were appreciative. They even gave NVC a shout out in the credits. The 8-min flick is well done.

Marc



**SPECIAL THANKS TO:  
THE CODNER FAMILY  
THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA CARVERS**





## Types of Meetings Offered by Northern Virginia Carvers

**Mondays** Woodcraft Springfield at Ravensworth Shopping Center

1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays (Schedule comes out every three months)

Open carving

3:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Mondays Library 4<sup>th</sup> week 3-6 pm TBD month to month

**Mondays** at Packard Center – Evening Carving session

4<sup>th</sup> Monday –

Open carving

6:30 pm to 9:00 pm

**Thursday** Zoom NVC

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday = Open meetings members and invited guests

Bring your carving project, questions, suggestions and share  
a good time with fellow carvers

4<sup>th</sup> Thursday = Project night

Newsletter announced

Various projects to be reviewed and carved

**Thursday** Zoom MCC (Montgomery County Carvers)

1<sup>st</sup> Thurs – Open carve on Zoom

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday – Project night – watch for e-mail listings

Calendar put out by MCC (forwarded by NVC)

**Sunday** at Colvin Mill Run

Various 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> – **DOES NOT START UNTIL APRIL 2024**

12:00 noon to 3:00 pm

Come early to set up and help close.

See future Newsletter for specific dates

Open carve

Open to public teaching session

**If there are any corrections needed notify Joyce**



**TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2024**

Membership in the Northern Virginia Carvers runs from January to December. Please mail your dues, which are \$25.00 for a single membership and \$5.00 for each additional family member along with the filled out renewal form, to Robert Simoniz, Membership Chairman, 6819 Rock Creek Court, Alexandria, VA 22306. Make check payable to NVC.

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 the database.

**NORTHERN VIRGINIA CARVERS  
RENEWAL  
FOR JAN-DEC 2024**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Receive Newsletter by E-Mail?

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

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

Membership Fees Per Year:

Single \$25.00

Family: \$25.00 + \$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

**DEADLINE FOR MAR. NEWSLETTER ARTICLES: THURSDAY FEBRUARY 29**

**DIRECTIONS:**

**Woodcraft Supply** — Ravensworth Shopping Center, 5248 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22151. 703-912-6727. **From I-495** take Braddock Rd Exit 54A west. Ravensworth Shopping Center is at the intersection of Braddock Road

**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** — 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                                 | Joyce Spieler        | Chairs General Meetings and Board Meetings   | Moonbeam4mj-carver@yahoo.com | 703-915-3239 |
| Vice-President                            | Mark Tranchemontagne | Vice Chair of General Meetings and Board Meetings                                  | mgtranch@yahoo.com           | 703-531-9912 |
| Treasurer                                 | Kristen Gaulin       | Manages Finances   | kgaulin1983@gmail.com        | 813-526-1851 |
| Secretary                                 |                      | Keeps Minutes and Maintains NVC Archives   |                              |              |
| Past President                            | Phillip Simpson      |  | eightb1045@aol.com           | 703-360-9575 |
| Colvin Mill Coordinator                   | Joyce Spieler        | Coordinates Carving Instruction Program at Colvin Mill Park                        | Moonbeam4mj-carver@yahoo.com | 703-915-3239 |
| Show Coordinator                          |                      | Coordinates the Annual Show & Competition  |                              |              |
| 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 Chairman                          |                      | Develops New Programs for the Club   |                              |              |
| NVC Web Site                              | Joyce Spieler        | www.northernvirginiacarvers.org  | Moonbeam4mj-carver@yahoo.com | 703-915-3239 |
| Member-at-Large                           | B J France           |  | bjinarl@aol.com              | 703-538-4143 |
| Member-at-Large                           | Jerry Donahoe        |  | jrdsriding@aol.com           | 703-327-4022 |
| Member-at-Large                           | Michael Wine         |  | mdwine55@gmail.com           | 703-368-2282 |

**NORTHERN VIRGINIA CARVERS**  
 6819 Rock Creek Court  
 Alexandria, VA 22306

