

Interview with Richard Teter

Carver: How long have you been carving? Richard: Since 1994, about 13 years. I first got the desire to carve when I wanted to carve a custom made neck for a banjo. I didn't have the nerve to attempt the banjo carving without being taught. That's when I heard about the club and got started carving.

Carver: How much time do you usually spend carving? Richard: I don't carve very much now. Because of how long I have carved, I have done a lot. One thing that I haven't carved is a bird. Right now I am trying to finish a carving that I started about three years ago. I guess maybe I carve 3-4 hours a day. Another thing that I am working on is to try to carve curly hair on a little girl bust.

Carver: Do you have a special carving room, area, separate? Richard: Yes. We have a utility room that was 6'x22' that we closed in. There was enough room left over for me to have a carving place. We also built a 24'x30' garage. So, if the temperature is right, I carve in there.

Carver: What sort of things do you carve? Richard: I guess that I've tried about everything. I've carved relief carving, chip carving, and carving in the round. I have carved many, many chip carved crosses.

Carver: Do you have a favorite tool or tools? Richard: I would say that my favorite is a roll of Flexcut detachables. In my opinion they are the highest quality. They are versatile. In my roll there are 17 different tools.

Carver: What is your favorite brand of tools and why? Richard: I think that my favorite is primarily Flexcut. I have Swiss mallet gouges that I like. I have Ralph Long knives and some Dockyards.

Carver: Do you wish that you had others, same brand or different? Richard: No. I guess that I've carved long enough to have seen them all. I have bought what I feel matches my desires.

Carver: What plays the biggest roll for you in buying a tool? Cost? Past use? Recommendation? Richard: I think that the deciding factor for me is steel quality. That quality is what gives the tool longevity. If it is tempered right, you don't have to spend half of your time sharpening it. It is important that a tool will remain sharp for a reasonable period of time.

Carver: How do you sharpen your tools? Richard: I made myself a four wheel machine a lot like the Burke (like the Club owns). I don't use it that much any more. I mainly use the honing wheel and the buffing wheel. For knives, I use a coarse diamond and a fine diamond sharpener and then Wayne Barton ceramic stones. For gouges, I made a sharpening fixture to use on a belt sander and then strop with pig skin on a stick. I don't believe that a person can hold a gouge steady enough or accurately enough on a belt or wheel to get good sharpening. If one of my gouges is nicked, I go to the sander. I have made some of my own knives and gouges. I made some out of an old hedge clipper and I have also use a cut nail to make a small gouge.

Carver: Are you satisfied with how sharp your tools are? Richard: Sure.

Carver: What carver(s) have had the most influence on how you carve and how you want to carve? Richard: When I first started in the carving club there was a member by the name of Bob Moore. He was a phenomenal carver. He was a great inspiration for me when I was just starting out. Also, there is a fellow by the name of Fred Cargelow who appeared in Chip Chats numerous times over the years. I have always followed and enjoyed his carving activities in that magazine.

Carver: What carving classes have you taken? Richard: I took a class from Larry Rogers three times. He is great with anatomy. I have also taken a class from Wayne Shinlever. I took a class from Pete LeClair and found him to be a great teacher and just a fine person.

Carver: Who is your favorite carver? Richard: Fred Cargelow.

Carver: Do you know of any carving instructors that you wish our club would bring in for a workshop? Richard: Pete LeClair.



Some of Richard's home made tools.



Interview with Lila Gilmer

Carver: How long have you been carving? Lila: I played around with it some when I was a child. When I found out about the club many years ago, I went there and found out things about different kinds of wood, tools, etc. I think that I actually got started carving because my mother was a sculptor in clay. I always have liked shapes and forms and have been attracted to that.

Carver: How much time do you usually spend carving? Lila: It is very changeable. Sometimes it'll be all day long. Other days, I won't carve at all. Before I carve, I get a lot of planning done about what I'm going to do in my head.

Carver: Do you have a special carving room or separate area? Lila: Anywhere that there is no carpet. Anywhere, no special place.

Carver: What sort of things do you carve? Lila: I have carved a lot of different things—people, animals. I like to carve realistic, or as realistic as I can get it. I also don't have a preference between power and hand carving. I like to use what works.

Carver: Do you have a favorite tool or tools? Lila: Yes, a 1" palm gouge. I do the majority of my wood removal with it. I have had it for a long time. It was one of the first tools that I got.

Carver: What is your favorite brand(s) of tools? Lila: I like the new Flexcuts. I don't have to make any changes with them to get the bevel that I want.

Carver: Why do you like those more than the others? Lila: Because they already have a fine bevel on them.

Carver: What brands do you own and are you happy with them. Lila: I guess I have a little bit of everything. I use most of them, depending on the situation. Actually, when it comes to tools, I really don't have any needs.

Carver: What plays the biggest role for you in buying a tool? Lila: My particular needs at the time. It is just going to be realizing that I need something specific.

Carver: How do you sharpen your tools? Lila: I have a Wayne Barton sharpening set. I have medium and fine ceramic stones. I don't know how I would get along without it. On rare occasions, I buff as part of my sharpening.

Carver: Are you satisfied with how sharp your tools are? Lila: Well, I am satisfied now. I think that sharpening is an art form. It takes a lot of experience and practice to become really good at it.

Carver: What carver has had the most influence on how you carve and how you want to carve? Lila: I would say Granger McCoy and Greg Woodard. They both are realistic carvers and carve very detailed wild life.

Carver: What carving classes have you taken? Lila: I have only had a couple of classes and that was 15-17 years ago. I took a class from Orchid Davis on feather carving. I took a Jerry Preston painting class and a Wayne Barton chip carving class.

Carver: Who is your favorite carver? Lila: Greg Woodard.

Carver: Do you know of any carving instructors that you wish our club would bring in for a Workshop? Lila: Yes, Orchid Davis for woodburning.

