



Stan Saperstein with his realistically carved Hybrid Clematis.



Closeup of the delicately carved full-size Hybrid Clematis.

— Photographer: John Trafford

## Furniture carver expands interest to flower carving

By JOHN HAGENSICK

**T**HE flower selected for this issue is a Hybrid Clematis by 45-year-old Stanley D. Saperstein of Pennington, N.J. He has been a member of National Wood Carvers Association since 1972. Stan was trained as a professional 18th century furniture maker and woodcarver, taught by C. N. Grinnell whose family has been woodworking since 1618. He has written several articles for *Chip Chats* on furniture carving.

Like most woodcarvers, Stan likes to carve for relaxation. Making small flower petals with a knife while sitting on the back porch or in front of the TV helps him to relieve stress.

Seeing articles on flower carving which have appeared in *Chip Chats*, and also the Boehm porcelain flowers collected by his wife, Cindy, inspired Stan to resume some artistic carving which he had not done for the past 10 years.

Being a professional woodcarver, Stan likes to keep up with what's being carved and likes the challenge of being able to "do it as well." He also states that reading the book *Carving Realistic Flowers* gave him the basic technique, and he took it from there."

As another hobby, Stan cultivates hybrid perennial flowers in his back yard. The lavender iridescent clematis was his first choice for flower carving. He chose this flower because it

was in bloom when he needed a model. The flower is a purple Clematis which is a brushwood vine climbing type of plant in the Crowfoot family.

The Clematis in the photograph was carved using basswood. Stan selected this wood because he finds that it is easy to carve and he can go in any direction without being concerned about the grain. He first carved the eight petals individually which were then attached to an inverted button shaped disc. They were fastened together with pegs (small dowels) and glue.

The stamen in the center of the flower was made of approximately 50 toothpicks. These were then glued into pre-drilled holes that were the same diameter of the toothpicks. This assembly was gessoed and a red-purple acrylic wash was painted on the tips.

Leaves were cut to a thickness of 1/16 of an inch with a bandsaw. Stan sanded them until he could see light through the wood. He wet the leaves to give them some curl, but most of the curl came out when the leaves dried. He does not like this method as well as carving the actual folds and curves in a leaf, but it was a time-saver.

Stan found the color of this hybrid flower to be very difficult to reproduce; the flower being an iridescent purplish-pink type of lavender. The color changes with the light or angle at which it is viewed. He experimented with various pink,



# Lake Bronson woodcarver's festival draws 5,500 spectators

The Seventh annual Woodcarver's Festival was filled with a little rain, warm sunny weather, wood chips and lots of carvers at Lake Bronson State Park, August 3 and 4.

The event is co-sponsored by Lake Bronson Lions Club, Hughs Funeral Home, Pepsi Cola Bottling Co., Kennedy Lions Club, Friends of the Park and the Lake Bronson (Minn.) State Park.

A total of 25 carvers from throughout Minnesota, North Dakota, Canada, Colorado and Wisconsin displayed their artistry with approximately 23 other carvers also present. Several woodcarver supply dealers were also present.

A flea market and crafts sales were held with a variety of items displayed and sold Saturday and Sunday. Free ice cream cones were provided to visitors while the Red River Valley Fiddlers played Sunday afternoon.

Attendance figures were above last year's with more than 5,500 persons attending, according to Garry Barvels, park manager. "Overall, the annual event was a great success," said Barvels.

Categories included game birds, non-game birds, realistic animals, artistic animals, fish, animal caricatures, human caricatures, relief, furniture and miscellaneous.

Best-of-show ribbon was awarded to Larry Vanderhyde of Winnipeg, for his mallard drake carving. People's Choice award went to Russell Klemz of St. Cloud, Minn., for his fighting elks; he also won the Manager's Choice Award competition for the best carved wolf. Russell was presented a door harp made by park manager Garry Barvels. The Manager's Choice Award category for 1992 will feature a sharp-tail grouse.

Dr. Walter Wrolson of Warren, carver of the miniature drake mallard duck which was raffled was on hand to present the carving to Marie Vick of Blue River, Wisc. Proceeds from this drawing will go toward next year's Woodcarver's Festival.

Gary Larson of Moorhead, Minn., carver of a Santa Claus, awarded the carving to Foster Hudson of Bemidji; Victor Curry of St. Malo, Manitoba, Canada, was the winner of a carving donated by Jen Jensen of St. Cloud.

Winners in the carving categories were:  
 Game Birds — First, Larry Vanderhyde, Winnipeg; second, Bill Palmer, Winnipeg; honorable mention, Merrilee Green, Winnipeg.

## Furniture carver expands interest

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white, and purple acrylic wash coats to achieve the color that he wanted. Final result is a realistic iridescent flower that changes color depending on the angle viewed.

Stan should be congratulated for his fine work. There appears to be a growing interest in carving flowers throughout the country. I am very interested in receiving photographs of carved flowers from other woodcarvers.

For those of you, either beginners or intermediate carvers, who would like to be introduced to the art of carving flowers in the round, my book *Carving Realistic Flowers* is available. It features a series of photographs and step-by-step instructions on how to carve a daffodil, morning glory, sunflower, and orchid. It is available through L/C Publishing Co., 531 Thatcher Rd., River Forest, IL 60305, phone (708) 366-6791. Cost: \$14.95 plus \$2.50 postage and handling. ■



Park manager Gary Barvels, left, presents People's Choice award to Russell Klemz for his fighting elk carving.

Non Game Birds — Dave Hiller, Baudette, Minn.; Maurice Geddes, Pilot Mound, Manitoba; Dick Pillmore, Fort Collins, Colo.

Realistic Animals — Russell Klemz, St. Cloud, Minn.; Gary Larson, Moorhead, Minn.; Dick Pillmore.

Artistic Animals — Maurice Geddes received honorable mention for a stylized cardinal.

Fish — Tom Mruz, LaCrosse, Wisc.; Russell Klemz; Don Voorhees, Morris, Minn.

Animal Caricatures — Maurice Geddes; Ron Prigge, Drayton, N.D., and Sheyna Jensen, Crookston, Minn., all received honorable mention ribbons.

Human Caricatures — Gary Larson; Russell Klemz; Bob Gow, Winnipeg.

Relief — Elaine B. Stenman, St. Cloud; Romeo Patry, St. Malo, Manitoba; Fred Stenman.

Furniture — First, Dick Hanson, Valley City, N.D.

Miscellaneous — Gary Larson; Larry Lamoureux, St. Anne, Manitoba; Dave Hiller, Baudette, Minn.; Don Voorhees.

Judging team included Tom Perdue, Grand Forks, N.D.; Peter Kostiuik, Pembina, N.D., and Carlos Spindler, Hines, Minnesota.

Next year's International Woodcarver's Festival has been set for August 1 and 2. For information, write to: Woodcarver's Festival, Lake Bronson, Box 9, Lake Bronson, MN 56734. ■

## New Book

### Country Elegance: Projects for Woodworkers

Have you been looking for ways to add a cozy country look to your home? If so, this is just the book you need. Filled with a wide range of unique project ideas for crafting furniture in a country theme, *Country Elegance: Projects for Woodworkers* provides you with a treasure trove of original project plans for every room in the house.

Syndicated woodworking columnist Edward Baldwin includes easy-to-follow illustrated instructions that show you how to build small knickknacks to large furniture pieces.

*Country Elegance: Projects for Woodworkers*, 244 pages, 7 1/4 by 9 1/4, softcover, sells for \$14.95 and is available from Tab Books, Inc., Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17294-0850.