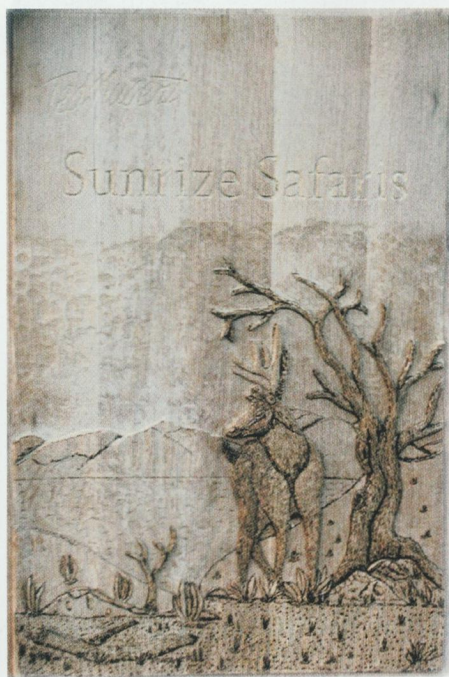




Two pictures of the relief in progress.



doorsman, and author Ted Nugent; the inspiration for this wildlife scene comes from my personal experience as well as the descriptive nature of Ted's many writings and speeches. The whitetail was selected as it remains his most cherished game, a favorite we have in common.

This piece is actually the first one that I formally titled, previous works being furniture or scenes carved within bar fronts, chests, or other functional forms. The title comes from the obvious whitetail deer, Sunrize is derived from "Sunrize Safaris" which is the Nugent family's hunting

guide and expedition service.

The pattern is a composite modified from a Laura S. Irish sketch, which is a common practice within our shop. We employ various components from different patterns, especially the wildlife and detailed trees, with our own backgrounds to scale the scene to fit the desired panel size. The pattern is the key to a carving's outcome; spend as much time in this phase as it takes to develop your scene. Recreate the scene multiple times, change subtle items in the background and the foreground, adjusting it until it feels right.

I can also offer some advice for carving scenes: Select your material first, lay out the planks, but don't glue anything together right away. Lay your pattern on the material; watch the flow of the grain and the natural patterns within the wood. Adjust the order of your planks and the layout of your pattern until you find a match. Don't rule out swapping out planks until you get the right grain pattern.

You'll find natural flows for water, clouds, streams, mountains, and sunsets or sunrises within the natural flow of grain. Take advantage of knots and other "defects" in the material that may actually turn out to help develop the carving. Think about it, what better to make an old crooked tree look real than an actual natural feature of the wood panel?

The material is solid quarter sawn white oak for the panel with a solid American black walnut frame. The relief is approximately 1/2" at the deepest point. Tinting is acrylic wash, golden oak stain, with a tung oil finish.

My fiancée Theresa and I presented the panel to Mr. Nugent at his 58th birthday hunt in December of 2006 at the YO Ranch in Mountain Home, Texas. The presentation was in thanks for his work in wildlife preservation, education of young people, and efforts to preserve our rights and freedoms as Americans.

Our Web site www.artisansofthevalley.com features Whitetail Sunrize in our Woodcarving & Sculpture section under Wildlife Carvings. ■

For information regarding Sunrize Safaris and Ted Nugent, visit www.tednugent.com.

For patterns by Lora S. Irish, go to Web site www.carvingpatterns.com.

Holiday greens

It is a long-established custom to decorate homes in anticipation of the holidays. Evergreens play an important part, adorning entrance ways, dining areas, or mantles. Creating a personalized front door wreath by hand-wiring greens to a frame does not generate a rush in everyone. Farm stands or supermarkets sell ready-mades at fair prices. Selecting one and popping it into last year's hook is a quick fix. Purchased wreaths benefit from a good water misting.

In wreath design, a theme focus is helpful. Hand-carved colorful Santa Clauses coupled with candy canes might work together on a wreath welcoming children. Hand-carved birds, angels, stars, and soldiers also provide excellent ideas. Proper placement is key. In an overall or circular design, leave at least a pencil space between figures. The "12, 3, and 7 o'clock" focal points offer challenges in balance. Wreath design is a learned experience. Take care in ribbon choices, and spend the extra.

To really show off your art, a carved reindeer placed inside the wreath's circle, just off center, sets the stage for a woodland scene. Carefully selected and placed add-ons around the curved base could visually move the reindeer center stage. Cones, pods, berries, beech florets, and even cinnamon sticks are worth a try. Design principles apply.

Wreaths using valued artwork are best displayed in enclosed porches or on hallway doors.

Freshly cut frosty-cold evergreens brought indoors emit an intoxicating fragrance when immersed into very warm water, sending some designers on a "memory trip." Cobwebbed visions of fun times with loved ones of youth and family come alive in the mind's eye. Pictures grow more vivid, if only in the moment ... a tear or two sparkles in candlelight.

— Phyllis Miele, Watertown, Mass.

Eagle carving with Paul White

Paul White Woodcarving Studio, 295 Rt. 6A, East Sandwich, MA 02537, offers a three-day eagle carving course October 10-12. Cost is \$950, half of which is due with the application. Phone (508) 888-1394 for more details; or e-mail pwcarving@comcast.net.

'Whitetail Sunrize'

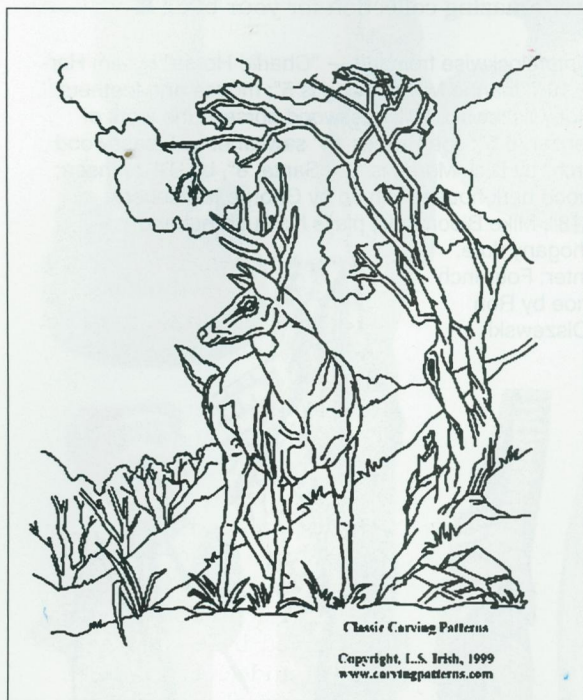
By ERIC M. SAPERSTEIN

HOW do you capture the essence of a moment, a feeling that takes hold during a specific point in time when time actually feels like it stops? This is quite the common creative artistic goal; painters, photographers, sculptors, sketch artists, and carvers all can work towards achieving a freeze frame of reality.

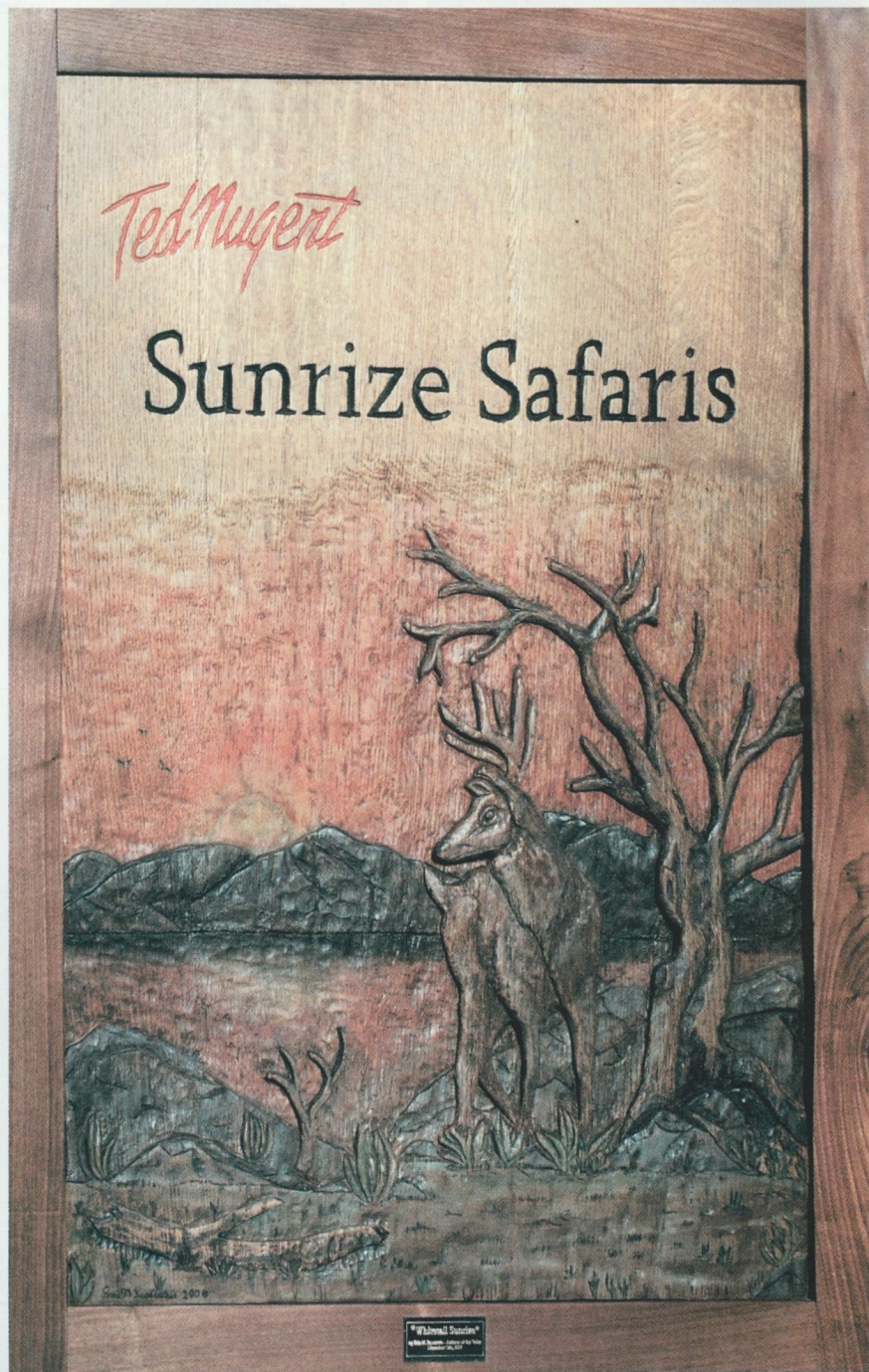
The goal of this carving was to capture a hunter's morning, the timeframe just before sunrise, almost every-

thing is seen as a silhouette, until one point in time (that you may not even perceive took place) all of the sudden color appears, often a golden hue. Anyone who has spent time in a blind knows that this is often when that amazing buck you were watching for the past 15 minutes suddenly and magically morphs itself into a bush with a fallen branch as antlers; but every now and then the transformation doesn't take place and what stands before you actually is a mature, defined, and majestic creature. This is a point in time relished by every hunter — man, woman, and youth alike — whether it is the first time, or even for those with a lifetime of experience.

This piece is a birthday present for musician, out-



Lora Irish pattern used as basis for the carving.



Ted Nugent at his ranch in Mountain Home, Texas. Also visible in the photo is a theme walking stick carved by Stanley D. Saperstein. "Sunrize Safaris" relief is the work of Eric Saperstein of Artisans of the Valley in New Jersey. The white oak panel is framed in American black walnut; acrylic wash and golden oak stain provide the coloring, and tung oil was used as part of the finish.

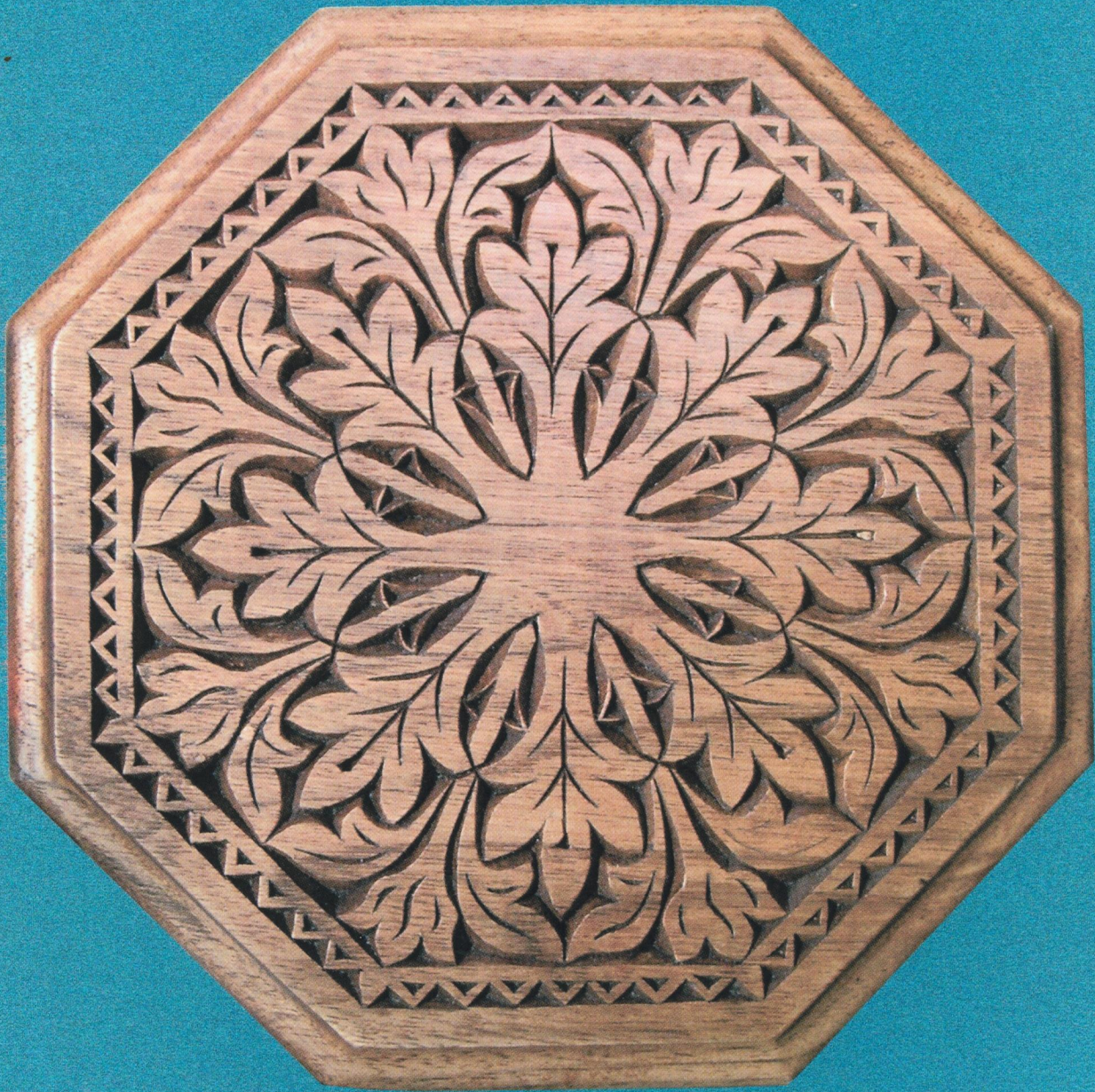
"Some carve their careers; others just chisel"

CHIP & CHATS

NATIONAL WOOD CARVERS ASSOCIATION

Volume 56, Number 1

January-February 2009



Top view of octagonal box chip carved by Wayne Barton (see page 3)