

32nd Atlantic Carving Competition and Show

Competition Rules – 2024 (Updated 19 January 2024)

Theme bird -Barn Swallow (Must be carved in the round)

Theme fish – Atlantic Whitefish (Must be carved in the round)

Purchase Awards

- **\$500.00** -Full Size Cardinal, Male or female or Pair (Must be carved in the round).
Sponsored by the Nova Scotia Wildlife Carvers and Artists Association.

Date/Time/Location

The Nova Scotia Wildlife Carvers and Artists Association (NSWCAA) will host the 32nd Atlantic Carving Competition and Show, held on the 4th and 5th May 2024. at Cole Harbour Place, 51 Forest Hills Parkway, Dartmouth, NS.

Registration

Registration will be held from 1:00 to 5:00 pm Friday 3rd May 2024 and from 9:00 to 11:30 am Saturday, 4th May 2024. Carvings must be at the competition registration desk, no later than ½ hour before judging begins. Judging will commence at 12:00 pm on Saturday 4th May 2024.

Entries (Carvings)

All Entries for the competition must not have been entered in a previous NSWCAA competition, no repeat carvings from previous entries will be accepted or judged. A carving that was entered at a previous NSWCAA competition and show and has been modified or tweaked, does not qualify to be considered a new entry. All entries must remain at the competition site until closing of the show, approximately 3:00 pm on Sunday 5th May 2024.

All entries must be carved and painted by the registered carver or by a designated team. A designated team consists of two individuals, e.g. - carver and painter, who worked together on a particular carving. Individuals can only belong to one designated team and members of a team can only enter in one level in the competition – Youth, Novice, Intermediate or Open. Should designated team members be of different carver levels, their entries will be entered at the highest carver level. (eg. An Intermediate level carver and an Open level carver will enter in the Open Level.)

It is the responsibility of the entrant to select the correct category for their work and to check all confirmation slips to ensure their carvings have been correctly registered. The competition committee will offer any assistance required in clarifying entries. In case of controversy, the Competition Committee will make the final decision.

Carvings are to be handmade and be predominantly of wood, however, carvings in other mediums such as bone/stone/antler are eligible for entry. Other materials may be used for habitat, eyes and structural purposes such as foil, metal rods for strengthening and wood filler, are allowed. Driftwood can be used if it has been re-worked, treated, or painted. Painted castings are not allowed in any level. Pewter cast feet and cast antlers may be used in Youth and Novice levels only. Upon a carving being entered, it cannot be touched up or altered in any way.

In the event of there being less than 3 entries in a category, the Competition Committee reserves the right to group them in another category. Floating Decorative for Open and Intermediate will be judged in the water tank. Floating of Novice decorative is not mandatory and the judge will consider the workmanship, accuracy and essence of the species when judging.

“In the round” is described as round bodied/three dimensional carvings and would not include a flat, two-dimensional carving. In the round would, however, include waterfowl that have a flat bottom.

Controversial Entries

A controversial carving is a piece of work that is considered controversial by member(s) of the NSWCAA or the general public. A controversial carving could be a piece that is inappropriate, ambiguous, insensitive to a group or person, obscene, carved in bad taste and/or not in line with the general intent of the NSWCAA Competition and Show. Any carving(s) identified that may be considered controversial, will be brought to the attention of the Competition and Show Chairperson. A decision will be made by the Chairperson to allow the carving to be registered or have it removed from the Competition and Show. The Chairperson’s decision is final.

Awards

The Judge reserves the right to award 1st, 2nd, 3rd place, or Honorable Mention in all categories. Should a carving not meet the level in what the Judge would consider credible workmanship for that category/level, the Judge at their discretion may award no 1st, 2nd, 3rd, place, or Honorable Mention in that category.

First Place in the Open Level will be Best of Show.

All carvings entered in the Competition and Show will be judged and eligible for award.

Complaints

Complaints are to be addressed directly and only to the Competition Chair.

Entry levels

YOUTH - under 15 years of age.

NOVICE - Considered to be at the entry level in competition.

INTERMEDIATE - One whose work has established them at a level beyond Novice.

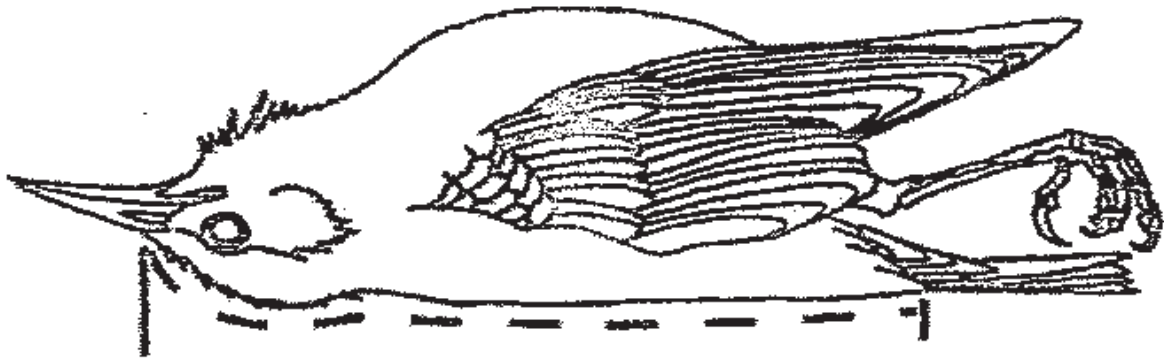
OPEN - Generally considered as having attained top ranking in competition.

Level advancement

There is a mandatory advancement for those that have won two First Place, Best of Level Awards at the NSWCAA Competition and Show (an Intermediate Level carver who wins two First Place best of Intermediate at the NSWCAA Competition and Show, must move to the Open Level at the next competition). A competitor cannot go back to a lower level once they have entered at a higher level at the NSWCAA Competition and Show. A competitor can however enter at a higher level at the time of registration if he or she so chooses. If members of the Competition Committee feel the carver should be entering in a higher level, the carver has the right to accept or decline their suggestion providing he/she has not previously won two, First Place, Best of Level Awards in that level and has not entered a higher level previously.

Miniature wildlife (Includes All wildlife, - birds, mammals, fish, animals.)

The scale is half size or smaller with a maximum of eight inches or 20.32 cm in length, which must fit between 8" calipers, measured from base of beak to end of tail coverts (see below).



Champagne waterfowl (Includes all waterfowl categories – Ducks, Geese, Swan, Loons, Grebes, and Coastal Seabirds.)

1. Entry must fit in 3 ½ inch or 9 cm circle.
2. Entry must float properly but is not required to self-right.
3. Entry may be flat bottom or have a keel.
4. Entry must be a smoothie. Groups of feathers may be defined, such as tertial, scapulars, side pockets etc.
5. No texturing allowed.

Gunners and/or working decoys

1. All entries are to be made of materials normally considered suitable for working decoys, ie. wood, cork, etc.
2. Decoys (in all levels) will be floated and must self-right from any position. Geese, swans, etc. must self-right from their side. Keels are optional.
3. No burning or other fine texturing allowed. No undercutting of feather groups. Combing, blending and scratch painting are acceptable. Bill and eye detail is optional. Raised primaries acceptable but no undercutting.
4. Decoys will be judged with emphasis on those species normally made as working decoys and best portraying the essence of the species.

Antique Style Decoys

1. Must be based on an "Old Decoy" but may be inspired by a geographical area or style.
2. Must be made to look old by the manner with which they are carved, painted, and finished.
3. Shorebirds and Wading Birds must be mounted on a dowel and have a simple base.

Purchase Awards

The NSWCAA sponsored purchase award winner will be chosen by the competition and show committee and/or the NSWCAA executive.

All other purchase award winners will be chosen by the purchaser who sponsored the award.

Should the sponsor of a purchase award, not identify a carving that is suitable and does not meet their expectations, no purchase will be made.

Photography

Photographs of carving entries may be taken from time to time during the competition with the intent, to use these photographs on the NSWCAA social media sites, to help promote carving and the competition. Video or Photographs may also be taken by various invited news Media to promote the show.

Notes

While all reasonable care will be taken with entries, NSWCAA will not be responsible for loss or damage to entries. All entrants are responsible for the insurance of their entries at their own expense. There will be no storage of boxes and/or packing material at the competition site.

A registration sheet is provided to competitors upon registration, and it must be shown to collect your work at the end of the competition and show. All carvings are to be verified by the owner and a NSWCAA member, prior to departing the venue at the close of the Completion and Show.

Code of Ethics

Carvers may have their entries critiqued by the judge on Saturday (after the Judging has been completed) and on Sunday, time permitting.

Carvers are to accept the Judge's critique and comments courteously.

Carvers are responsible to enter their carvings in the appropriate category and skill level.

Carvers shall not communicate with the judge(s) at any time during the judging process.

Carvers shall always remain at a respectful distance from the Judge(s) and administrative team during the judging Process.

Carvers are to respect the work and skill of other carvers.

Carvers are encouraged to share and promote their knowledge and learn from others.

Carvers are encouraged to promote carving and be ambassadors of their craftsmanship.