

41st Annual Elk Festival
2025 Chainsaw Carving Competition
Michigan's Premiere Carving Event

Friday - September 26

Masterpiece Carving = if time allows (due to set-up) carving until 10 pm

Saturday - September 27

Masterpiece Carving = 8 am - 10 pm

Quick carve = 11 am - Noon

Quick Carve Auction = Right after Quick Carve, in the Arena

Carver with the highest \$\$ @ Quick Carve Auction wins a prize (Sat. only)

Sunday - September 28

Masterpiece Carving - 8 am - 2 pm

Quick Carve = 11 am - Noon

Quick Carve Auction = Right after Quick Carve, in the Arena

Masterpiece Winner announced: 3:30 pm @ Chamber Office

Masterpiece Auction (optional for Carvers, reserve allowed) - 3:30 pm

Prizes

1st Place = \$2000 2nd Place = \$1000 3rd Place = \$500

(Remaining contestants = \$100/Carver that finishes their Masterpiece)

If you would like to be a contestant, Please complete the form below and mail in or email to
woodworkerclint@gmail.com (20 Carvers MAX to be selected)

Our Theme for this year's 41st Annual Elk Festival is "not yet titled"

Your masterpiece carving does not have to follow our theme

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email address: _____

Avg. carving space is approx. 20'x30' - larger is available - Campers welcomed

Please email a short Bio and 3-5 Pictures

Signature: _____ - (agrees to rules/terms** page 2)

Set-up Time: Friday evening after the parade (6:00 pm-ish) - Sept 26th (can carve until 10 pm)

Note: 1 @ 24"(+)x8' (Masterpiece) and 2 @ 16"-18"x4' (Quick carve) logs provided for each contestant.

Please register by Sept 1st. or you may have to provide your own logs.

**** Completion of this Registration Form serves as release of any and/or all liability to The Atlanta Michigan Chamber of Commerce and/or Briley Township for any/all reasons.**

atlantamichiganchamber.com - Facebook - Mailing address: PO Box 410, Atlanta, Mi, 49709 * (989) 785-3400



40th Annual Elk Festival

2024 Chainsaw Carving Competition

**** Rules/Terms: Please Read - Sign & Mail or Email Registration Form**

Masterpiece Judging at 1:30-2pm on Sunday, Sept. 28th

(winner announced @ approx. 3:45 pm)

Rule #1..... Let's have FUN!!

- * Set up time: Friday after the 6:00 pm Parade - Staging @ Tribune parking lot.
All carvers set up downtown in the street, as it is closed for the Festival
- * Log Selection: Friday (Noon-7pm) -East of Chamber of Commerce Office - Pick your log, mark your number on it.
- * **Masterpiece carving times: Fri. til 10pm after carvers pick location / Sat. 8am-10pm / Sun. 8am-2pm** - Carvers may carve anytime you wish within these allotted timeframes
- * Yes, Carvers may add pieces* to their Masterpiece, but only from wood that was cut from their original Masterpiece log. Screws/Nails/Glue/Dowels are allowed on all carvings
- * Burning/Sanding/Grinding/Tools/Add-ons* are allowed on all carvings.
- * **Paint is only allowed AFTER the judging of the contestants Masterpiece - 2pm**
- * **Optional*** - Carvers may sell their Masterpiece on Sunday @ our 3:30pm auction, *with or without a reserve price.* **Carver's keep 100% of the sale from their Masterpiece.**
- * A 3 Judge Panel will decide the winning order of Masterpiece Carvings. Their decision is final!
Judges will be local elders with woodworking/artisan experience.
- * Quick Carve: Saturday and Sunday from 11am - Noon in the Quick Carve Arena
- * Masterpiece: 24"+ (8' log) - ****Quick Carve: 16"+ (4' log)**
- * ****2 planks** may be used for *Quick Carve*, as a substitute for the 4' log. (use 1 or both) *May also combine planks with log. Anything goes! Let's see what you've got*
- * Quick Carve Auction proceeds to be split 50/50 between each Carvers and The Atlanta Mi. Chamber of Commerce. Auction times listed on registration form.
- * Each Carver is responsible for providing, and using, proper Personal Protective Equipment. Carvers must provide their own scaffolding. No stilts allowed.
- * Yes, you may sell carvings at your Masterpiece carving site.
- * Only the registered carver is allowed to carve/change any appearance on the masterpiece log. Assistant may only sharpen/fill saws during masterpiece carve time.
- * Carvings are not allowed to be offensive/vulgar. All carvings must be family friendly!
- * Registration fee: Optional, but definitely appreciated, as it helps this event grow.
One carving, per registered Carver, donated to the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce.
ANYTHING small or large - *your choice* - Item will be used to raise money for future competitions
- * Carvers must have the road area cleared by 5:45 pm Sunday, as we'll need to open the road by 6pm. Assistance may be provided, if available. Tractor will clean up the sawdust/scraps.
- * Please email a short Bio and 3-5 Pictures

**** By signing the registration form, the Carver, and their associates, agree to release any and all liability, for any and all reasons, to the Atlanta Michigan Chamber of Commerce, Briley Township, and MDOT, and that you have read & agreed to all the Rules/Terms.**

Questions/info? Contact Clint: @ woodworkerclint@gmail.com

41st Annual Elk Festival 2025 Chainsaw Carving Competition



JUDGING CRITERIA & SCORING

The total score will be out of 50 = 5 categories x 10 points each

Carver number: _____

Categories

** The highest score for each category is 10 **

Initial Impression & Originality ----->	<input type="text"/>
Creativity & Artistic Composition/Advanced Techniques ----->	<input type="text"/>
Proportion/Symmetry/Scale/Balance/Accuracy/Precision of Detail →	<input type="text"/>
Degree of Difficulty/Utilization of log ----->	<input type="text"/>
Completion of form and appearance----->	<input type="text"/>

Total Points:

DETAILED CRITERIA

Initial Impression/Originality - When examining the whole of the carving, what is conveyed from the artwork? - Are the parts of the carving harmonious with each other? - Does the carving have a dramatic profile? - Does the carving move you in any way or have a "Wow" factor? - Is there beauty and grace in the form?

Creativity and Artistic Composition/Advanced Technique - Carvers are encouraged and will receive higher scores for creative, new and innovative designs. Repetitive use of a design is also not seen as creative. - How creative is the subject matter? - How original is the idea, theme, or technique? - Has this been carved before? - Is this an exact duplicate of another artist's work?

Advanced Techniques & Craftsmanship - There are a multitude of tools and techniques that one can use to manipulate the log to bring out its natural beauty. Each tool and technique used correctly will allow the carver to produce a high-quality carving and receive high marks in this category. However, a carver does not need to have a bunch of tools, just the right ones with the proper techniques. Details of the carving will be evaluated. - How crisp is the detail? - Is the size of detail consistent? - How fine or intricate are the details? - Are the details life-like? - How do the details compliment the carving? - Are there various types of details or textures? - What methods are used for joining the log? Handsaw, nails/screws, peg and notch etc.. - How clear are the fuses? - Do the fuses detract from the overall design? - Is the carving 3-Dimensional or extremely larger due to fusing techniques?

Proportion, Symmetry & Scale - Determine what type of carving you are looking at. - Is it realistic, stylized or abstract? - For parts that are the same, are they equal in length and thickness? - Are the parts in proportion to the whole of the carving? - Is the anatomy of the carving or the design correct?

Accuracy and Precision of Details - When incorporating details to a carving, are they uniform, consistent and appropriately placed according to the design? - Do the details compliment the carving or design? - Has the carver used a variety of details and textures on their carving?

Degree of Difficulty - Is the design or subject matter easy or difficult? - Are there complex procedures in the design, the stacking or fusing? - Was there an inherent amount of risk to the design? - Are there elements of perfection, fragility, balance, and counter balance?

Utilization of log - How much of the log is used and what did the sculptor get out of it? - Is the log broken down into components and re-attached? - Are the fuse lines incorporated into the design?

Completion of Form and Appearance - Does the carving look complete? Now figure in the complexity of design - Are there visible tool marks? - Can you see a template paper or magic ink still left on the carving? - Are all the elements of the carving finished to an equal standard of craftsmanship? - Has the carving been blown off, torched, sanded? - Is the piece completely finished from a 360 view, not just from the front? Is there paint on the carving (not allowed until after the judging)?

Additional Information

Registration Deadline: Registrations must be received by March 1st, 2025. Only 20 Carvers will be selected. Registrations received after March 1, 2025 may be put on a waiting list. You will be notified if we have openings.

Confirmation: All Carvers will be notified by March 7th, 2025 whether they are selected for this year's event, or not.

Lodging: We are working on getting discounts (or possibly free) lodging for carvers. If we are able to get free lodging, it would include the carver +1 only. As we get information, we will update all carvers. Also, if free lodging is provided, we ask that all carvers update us immediately if they cannot attend the Festival.

Selection: If you are selected as one of the carvers, please be courteous and let us know if you have a change of plans. We would like to know as soon as possible so that we are able to fill your spot with another carver.

Update: 12-28-24 = Must place in the top 5 to be guaranteed into the following year's competition.