



July 9-11, 2010

ECHO Carving Team Members at the Great Performers of Illinois 2010 Festival

Chicago is celebrating the best in Illinois performance entertainment this summer at Millennium Park. ECHO Chain Saw Carving team members, including Mike Bihlmaier from Marengo, IL and multiple champion Bob King from Edgewood, WA, will be on hand to demonstrate their Full Throttle Art for the public at this year's Great Performers of Illinois 2010 festival, July 9-11.

The carvers will create several works including smaller pieces every day while also working on a larger 'Master-piece' to fit within the festival theme of "Spirit of Illinois."

Other events and attractions at the Great Performers of Illinois event include a marketplace of Illinois artisanal crafts and local foods and products. There is also free wine tasting from Illinois vintners at the Park Grill on the Plaza.

See the map on the reverse side for the carvers' exact location in Millennium Park and for more information about the two carvers. Become a fan of the entire ECHO Carving Team by visiting their fan page: facebook.com/echocarving or their official website: echo-usa.com/carvingteam.



CARVING FACTS

Wood

Mike and Bob will be carving logs ranging from 3' to 4' tall, 24" to 30" in diameter and weighing around 200 pounds.

"Blocking the Wood"

The carving begins with the largest saws used – there's no mistaking the sound of a running chain saw. The carvers begin with 'blocking' their pieces, which involves making large, initial cuts to determine the integrity of the wood and if it is sound enough to execute the carver's intended design. If surprises develop, the carver must have the talent to modify or even switch designs during the competition.

Number of Saws Used by High End Carvers

This is totally dependant on the carver's choice. In most instances you will see very large chain saws used for initial cuts and than a movement down in size as the design evolves. Six to four chain saws are typical. Most carvers use "carving bars" instead of stock bar and chain. Finishing tools are allowed in the final stages to bring out the tiny details of the sculpture.



DAILY EVENT SCHEDULE

Friday, July 9, 2010: 11:00am - 6:00pm
 Saturday, July 10, 2010: 11:00am - 6:00pm
 Sunday, July 11, 2010: 11:00am - 6:00pm





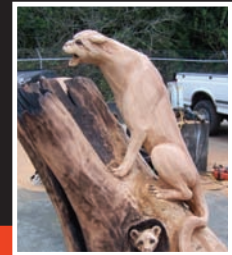
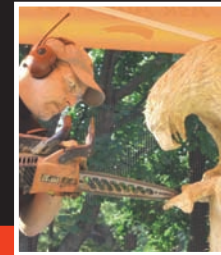
BOB KING

After eight years in the U.S. Air Force, and then working for Boeing as a non-destructive testing specialist, Bob took "a leap of faith" and decided to get into chain saw carving full-time. What Bob loves most about his chosen profession is he "loves his profession!" "How many people get to do what they love and create on a daily basis?" he asks.

Bob has two favorite carvings... a Viking warrior holding the severed head of a conquest and "Saved by Grace" which depicts a man being lifted by the hand of God and lead by an angel. Bob's inspiration comes from capturing a slice of everyday life and by God's creatures. His advice for inexperienced carvers is to just give it a try and carve what you like. And if you don't like what you carved, you have some fancy firewood: burn it and just start again.

Bob's favorite saw is an ECHO CS-530. What does he like about ECHO saws? "I'm a consumer. I want the best bang for the buck. ECHO saws do just that. Professional grade saws, best warranty, fuel efficient and I work them to death but they keep running."

Learn more about Bob online at:
www.echo-usa.com/king



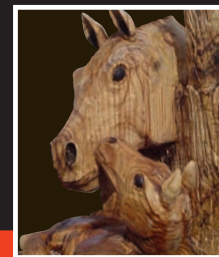
MIKE BIHLMAIER

Watching competitions at state fairs inspired Mike on the road to competitive chain saw carving. Mike started out whittling and working with clay when he was approached to try snow sculpting. After getting hooked on large sculptures a neighbor asked to carve their tree and the rest is history. As a self-taught artist, Mike started carving late in life but has been able to make great strides in the carving community in a relatively short timetable.

A favorite carving of Mike's is a 25' tall sculpture that took many days to complete including two days to set up scaffolding. The piece includes native Illinois animals: foxes, raccoons, and deer as well as the owner's family crest and a "magic door" at the bottom. Mike's favorite reason for carving is creating a piece of art that will make a lasting impression and will withstand time if treated properly. Mike's tips for up-and-coming carvers are to plan out pieces as much as possible, put safety first and spend time with other carvers checking out their work and watching their techniques.

Mike's favorite saw is an ECHO CS-680. What does he like about ECHO saws? "Longevity....gas, oil and an occasionally cleaning keeps them running."

Learn more about Mike online at:
www.echo-usa.com/bihlmaier



Event Map



www.echo-usa.com/illinois

Follow ECHO and
the Carving Team

facebook

twitter