

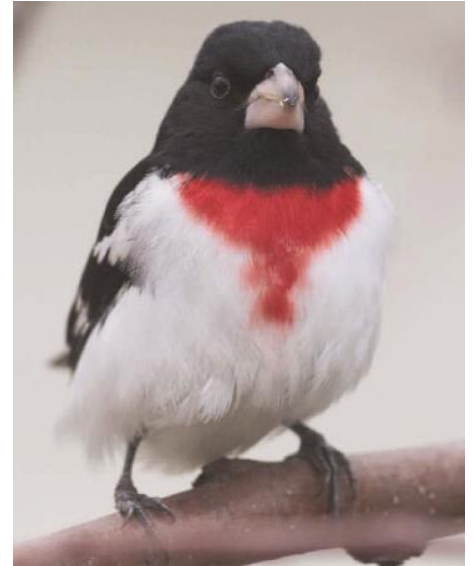
## Shuswap School of Carving and Arts – September 18-23, 2016

Held at Sorrento Retreat and Conference Centre, 1159 Passchendaele Road, Sorrento, BC V0E 2W0 [www.sorrento-centre.bc.ca/](http://www.sorrento-centre.bc.ca/)  
Registration Forms are available at [www.bccarvingschool.com](http://www.bccarvingschool.com) or can be obtained by emailing [Kathy.Les@telus.net](mailto:Kathy.Les@telus.net) or phone at 250-573-2277

### POWER or HAND TOOL CARVING: CARVE AND PAINT A ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK with Cam Merkle

\$390 for five 7.5-hour  
days of instruction

With a splash of brilliant rose-red on its breast, the male Rose-Breasted Grosbeak is a breathtaking visitor to much of North America. To the carver the Rose-Breasted Grosbeak poses several challenging aspects: its large and distinct bill, the nearly black back and, of course, the beautiful rose-red breast. Starting with a tupelo wood blank, you will be guided through every step needed to accurately carve, texture and paint a realistic Rose-Breasted Grosbeak. Cam's extensive experience with carving all types of birds, his concise and frequent demonstrations, along with one-on-one time with each student throughout the class, will ensure that you get help in the areas where you need it the most. Skills that you can learn (or improve on) will include: creating accurate shapes with rotary tools, proper layout of feather groups and individual feathers, preparing the carving surface for realistic texture, creating depth in the feathers, setting and creating realistic eyes, paint-friendly feather texturing using a variety of techniques including stoning and wood burning with multi-line burning tips, preparing the surface for painting, and painting realistic feathers using acrylic paints and artist brushes (air brushes will not be used in this class). There will be a demonstration on making feet and habitat using brass and epoxy, as well as discussions on composition considerations when mounting the bird on its base. **All skill levels welcome.**



**Tools & Materials Fee:** A fee of \$35 paid to Cam in the class will include a tupelo blank, pattern, reference photos, glass eyes, brass for making feet, and all glue, epoxy and paint needed to complete the project. A life-size Bob Guge study cast of a Rose-Breasted Grosbeak on a stump is optional at a cost of \$50 (tax included); cast availability may be limited at the class but pre-ordering by August 31<sup>st</sup> will guarantee one for you. Also available for purchase will be extra wood blanks, cast pewter feet, a selection of carving burs and paint brushes - if there are any specific carving supplies you want Cam to bring for you, please contact him as early as possible before the class. A complete carving supply catalogue is available by contacting Cam or at [www.razertip.com](http://www.razertip.com). **Otherwise, Cam asks you to bring:**  a power bar  a portable lamp and magnifying visor/glasses (highly recommended) to help you see the fine detail easily  Rose-Breasted Grosbeak reference material  a base (optional) on which to mount your bird, ie driftwood, branch, carved rock, etc.  good quality pencils  pencil sharpener  dividers  callipers  scissors  eraser  several long straight pins  a few round toothpicks  120 and 220 grit sandpaper (Garnet or Swiss type)  fine woodburning tool with small to medium skew tip, small to medium round skew tip and quill-making tip (Razertip Feather Former TM tips are recommended but not essential)  rotary grinding tools – ideally both a micromotor and flex-shaft tool like a Foredom AND  a dust collector (loaner dust collectors can be arranged in advance by contacting Cam)  carving bits for the rotary tool - bring what you have – recommended are ruby or diamond carvers #15, 16, 19, 25; several stump burs (carbide highly recommended), bud-shaped coarse from 4mm to 8mm diameter; cushion sander; split mandrel and sanding cones; texturing stones and/or ceramic sticks (300 and 800 grit)  if you like using hand tools, bring what you have – at minimum you will need  a large knife,  a small detail knife,  one or two small gouges and a small 60 degree “V” tool,  sharpening equipment,  hand protection and  band aids (the School provides First Aid Kits, but you'll have to buy donuts for everyone in the class if you cut yourself); those using hand tools  will still require a rotary tool for some steps of the project – arrangements can be made with Cam in advance for a loaner rotary tool  any extra little tools or jigs you have and find useful. Paint will be supplied (we will be using mostly Jo Sonja's Acrylic Gouache and Atelier Free-flow paints and mediums) but bring  a painting stick (dowel with a screw in one end) and stand for the painting stick  one or two very fine paint brushes (Robert Simmons E51 size 10/0 or equivalent),  two or more small round brushes (size 2, 3 or 4) that hold a good point,  two or more medium (1/4 – 3/8" w) flat or bright brushes for blending and washes,  two or more (1/2" or larger) flat or bright brushes for blocking in and washes  plastic water container  brush cleaner  slop towel  apron  paper towel  palette paper, palette or Styrofoam plates for a palette.

**About the Instructor:** Carver, photographer, inventor and author Cam Merkle has had a life-long passion for birds. He has been teaching bird carving for over 30 years. In 2009 he placed second in the World for his “moonlit” pair of miniature Great-Horned Owls. In 2010 he became only the second carver from Western Canada to achieve “Wildfowl Master Artist” status when he placed third overall in the Ward World Championships Master's class, Decorative Life-Size Division. Portrayal of light figures prominently in all of Cam's major pieces. Cam keeps busy running Razertip Industries, a manufacturer of pyrographic (woodburning) tools and portable dust management systems, photographing birds, writing, teaching, speaking, judging, and working on his own carvings. He has over 40 photographic reference books in print, including two pattern and photo books. Cam and his wife, Lori, live north of Martensville, Saskatchewan, on 80 acres that they have designated as “protected wildlife habitat” with the Water Security Agency of SK. Both avid photographers, they love spending time outdoors kayaking, snowshoeing and going for walks. **Cam can be reached at home at 306-242-8598, work at 306-931-0889 or by email to [info@razertip.com](mailto:info@razertip.com).**