

SOAP CARVING CONTEST

Superintendent: James Yawn, Bonaire

DIVISION 23501

CLASS 1.....YOUTH AGES 6-10
CLASS 2.....YOUTH AGES 11-15
CLASS 3.....ADULT (AGES 16 AND UP)

LIVE CONTEST: Sunday, October 6, 1:00 PM, **CHECK-IN:** 12:45 PM
at Miller-Murphy-Howard Building

Note: Walk-up participation is encouraged, but **only pre-registered contestants** (plus one adult with minor child) **will be allowed free entry into the Fair for the competition.** All others must pay Fair admission. Pre-registration deadline: online registration completed by Oct. 3.

PREMIUMS IN EACH CLASS

1st Place.....\$50 and GNF Rosette
2nd Place.....\$30 and GNF Rosette
3rd Place.....\$20 and GNF Rosette
Georgia National Fair Participation Ribbons to all carvers.

Soap carving can be an interesting pastime, a hobby that can be enjoyed by both the young and the old. During the 1920s and 1930s soap carving was so popular that a national annual competition was sponsored by the Proctor and Gamble Company. In 1935 there were 4,000 entries. Soap carving is very safe for young children, as no sharp knives or dangerous tools are required.

1. **All exhibitors are required to read and abide by the Georgia National Fair General Rules And Regulations. PLEASE NOTE...IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO READ AND UNDERSTAND THE RULES. If you have questions, you may certainly e-mail us at contests@gnfa.com. Please help us prevent entry disqualifications.**

2. This contest is open to Georgia residents in the age divisions listed above.

3. Contestants will need to check in by 12:45 PM. Contest will be limited to the first 20 to register for each class, or a total of 60 contestants.

4. From 1:00 PM until 1:15 PM, materials will be given to contestants and questions regarding the contest and soap carving techniques will be answered by James Yawn.

5. The contest will begin at 1:15 PM and finish at 2:15 PM. Judging will then take place and awards will be presented immediately after judging.

6. All contestants will be provided with a large (bath size) bar of Ivory soap, a plastic soap carving "knife", pencil, and popsicle stick. Youth contestants may be accompanied by an older person who may give VERBAL instructions, but NO hands-on advice.

7. Contestants may also provide their own "simple" hand made tools. However, **NO DANGEROUS** cutting edge or sharp metal tools will be allowed.

8. The subject to be carved will be left to the contestant. Patterns may be used as reference during carving.



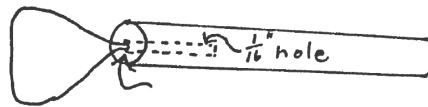
SOAP CARVING WITH ERNIE MILLS

Soap carving is an enjoyable hobby and it can be done safely by people of all ages. No sharp knives need to be used.

The following are some suggestions and hints that can help you get started. Let your imagination guide you.

- Use a soft type of soap. The best is “Ivory”. A bar of Ivory will be provided to each carver for the contest. When practicing at home, place newspapers to catch the soap carvings. Be careful not to get them on the carpet or floor. If you do, clean them up before you step on the shavings.
- Keep your project simple. Do not try to carve subjects that have small, thin parts that project from the main part of the carving. These are easily broken. Try to pick a subject that has a smooth, streamlined shape.
- Use a plastic knife (file off the ‘teeth’ for a smooth edge) to rough-shape your carving. Other tools such as popsicle sticks, pencils, or homemade tools can be used for finer details. Ceramic or clay-shaping tools can be bought in craft stores (get the less expensive plastic or wood types). Homemade tools can be made from wood dowels and stiff wire. An example is:

Other wire shapes
can be made.

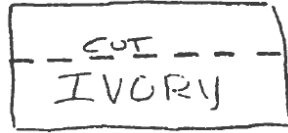


Glue with ‘5 minute’ epoxy glue.

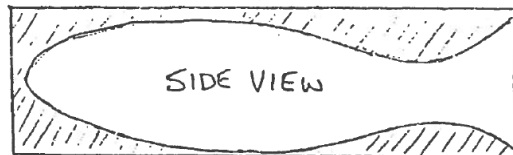
This simple soap carving project will help you to get started.

“This Fish”

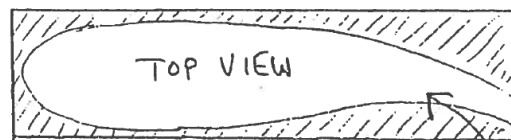
1. Use a “bath size” bar of soap “Ivory” soap - cut it in half lengthwise. This will give you 2 pieces big enough for a fish.



2. Draw the side view on the soap with a pencil. Using your plastic knife, scrape away all the shaded parts, leaving the side view shape of the fish. Do not try to scrape too much at a time, use thin shavings.

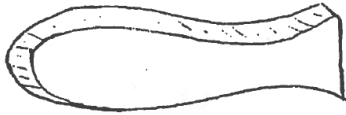


3. Trace top view pattern on soap with a pencil. Using your plastic knife, scrape away all the shaded parts. Do not get the tail area too thin.



Be careful - do not scrape the tail area too thin.

4a. After shaping the side and top views, you should have a shape that looks like a fish, but with square sides.

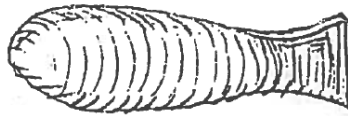


Square sides

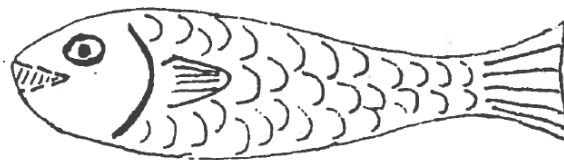


Front view
after rounding

4b. Using your knife or wire tool (if you have one), round off the edges of the fish to make it round and streamlined. Do not round tail.

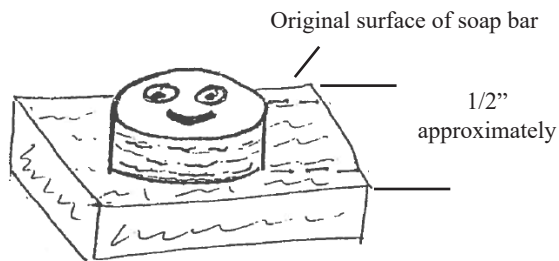


5. Add details to the rounded shape, using the sticks or pencil point. Being very careful, cut in mouth.



Soap Carving Patterns and Ideas

A deep relief carving can be made instead of a full round item. Trace pattern on soap and using the tip of the knife, scrape the soap away from edge of pattern. Raise figure about 1/2" above the remaining surface.



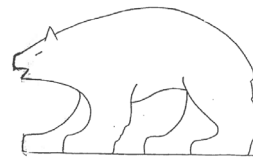
Some interesting possibilities are: pumpkins, cats, eggs, baby chicks, mice, turtles, bears, fish, trees, cabins, boats, heads, Christmas tree ornaments, Santa Claus, etc.



Mouse



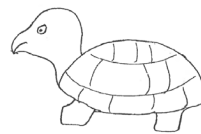
Pelican



Bear



Fish



Turtle