



***Have you ever  
wondered  
where the  
wood carvings  
on the golf  
course came  
from...***



- Smokey the Bear carving  
gifted by Bob & Margie  
Cordray in memory of Frank &  
Madeline Walton located  
behind the #1 green.



- Coyote carving gifted by the  
Roadrunners located to the  
side of #6 teeing ground.

2002 article in the Arizona Republic newspaper.

# **Chain Saw Bob's Arrrrrrrrt! Wood Crafter in Chandler Creates a Buzz**

**Chips off the old blocks...**

**Lifelong Chandler resident Bob Jordan has literally carved out a niche in the local art scene - with a chain saw.**

**Known around the state as Chain Saw Bob, Jordan crafts intricate wood sculptures with chain saws and wood sanders. The quiet, witty 53-year-old picked up his first saw four years ago after losing his commercial drivers license because of a back injury.**

**"People see us on the side of the street and swing by," he said. "That's the only advertising we do."**

**Jordan looks as if he stepped right out of a rodeo.**



**- Old Man Scottish Golfer carving donated by Joan & Gary Thompson - Jan & Jon Torkelson in memory of Orv Chapman (1941-2005) located behind the #18 green next to the parking lot**



**- Teddy Bear carving gifted by Fred & Judy Sickau located just off the #10 teeing ground.**



**With his signature cowboy hat and Arizona tanned skin, he is the spitting image of the Marlboro Man.**

**Towering over a 3-foot-high block of pine, he stares deeply, contemplating his first cut. Within hours, as sawdust and wood chips fly, Jordan transforms the lifeless block into a sculpture of a bear.**

**He will use three chain saws on the piece, including a 10-inch saw to carve out the tiniest of details. His largest saw is 18 inches long, small by comparison with those seen in horror movies.**

**'You don't need anything real big because you have to hold it up all day,' Jordan said.**

**He sculpts most of his work at Tiki Man Studios, a lot near Higley and Williams Field roads. The half acre is filled with his creations, including Western benches and figurines of alligators, bears, eagles and other Arizona wildlife.**



**- Gecko carving gifted by Fred & Joan Garmeson located #9 right side fairway in front of the water hazard.**



**- Kentucky Thoroughbred carving gifted by Walt, Nancy & Paula Ratermann in 2006.**

**Wood crafter Mike Minor, who owns the studio, said Jordan fit in perfectly.**

**"He's the best out there," Minor said. "Of course, he's also the only one out there."**

**Jordan also showcases his work in festivals throughout the state. His pieces sell from \$100 to \$600, although recently he sold a life size sculpture of a Native American chief for \$2,000.**

**In the summer, Jordan spends time in Northern Arizona to collect fallen pines. When he is in the Valley, he scopes out palms.**

**"Pine is the junk wood of the forest," he said. "Palm is the junk wood of the city."**

**Jordan's popularity has risen recently with his work showcased at Sun Bird Golf Course in Sun Lakes. After last summer's monsoon season, the course was littered with dozens of decapitated trees. Instead of pulling them out, the**



**- Indian carving gifted by George & Janet Richardson and Bart & Hazel Paul located at #3 green.**



**- Eagle carving gifted by Earl & Jane Ferguson located between #5 green and the street.**



**course manager called on Jordan to turn the tree stumps into art.**

**Soon after, customers began to call on him for his chain-saw mastery. Now, Jordan is looking to create a website.**





**As the sawdust and wood chips fly, Chandler resident Bob Jordan transforms the lifeless wood block into a sculpture of a bear. Jordan uses three chain saws on the piece, including a 10-inch saw to carve out details.**





**"Pine is the junk wood of the forest. Palm is the junk wood of the city."**  
Chain Saw Bob Jordan, Chandler wood sculptor

## 'Chainsaw Bob' to the fore



Photos by James Carreno/The Republic  
Dead trees become stump art at Sunbird Golf Course in Chandler, where Gary and Joan Thompson sponsored a statue of a Scottish golfer carved by artist "Chainsaw Bob" Jordan near the 18th green. It honors a golfing friend of the Thompsons who passed away.

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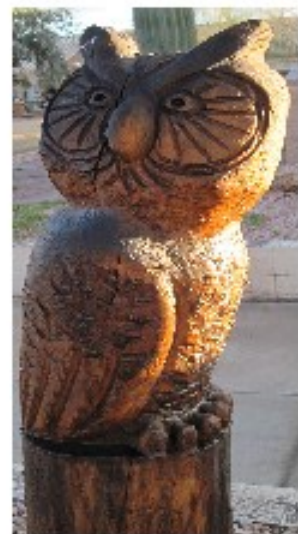
passed away.



A howling coyote on the 10th hole at Sunbird is among works by "Chainsaw Bob" carved on stumps of monsoon victims.

## **Golf Course Tree Casualties Turned to Stump-carving Art**

### **Trees Don't Stump 'Chainsaw Bob'**



Backyard  
carving



**Every year, Sunbird Golf Course manager Leo Buries looks forward to the summer monsoon season. But after this year's strong summer storms tore through, the course was left littered with dozens of felled trees.**

**Instead of pulling the stumps and turning the trees into firewood, Buries turned a completely opposite direction. He hired Chandler chainsaw artist Bob Jordan to turn the dead trees into sculptures.**

**"We looked at the trees and many of them had some pretty good stumps," Buries said. "It was going to cost \$200 to pull them out, so we figured why not do something different."**

**In the past three months, Jordan, known as "Chainsaw Bob" in the artist community - has sculpted a dozen into animal figurines like coyotes, roadrunners, eagles and other desert wildlife.**



**- Eagle carving gifted by John & BJ Schermerhorn located in the Garden Club project between the 9th hole and the clubhouse.**



**- Minnesota Loon carving gifted by John & Bonnie Kane located to the side of #6 teeing ground.**



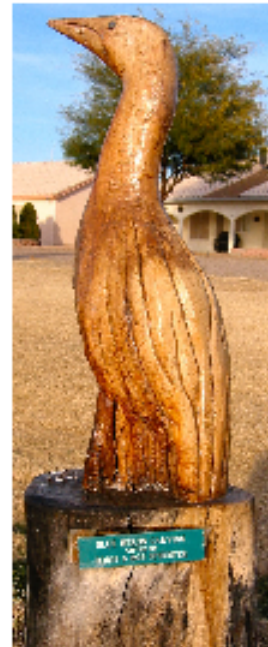
However, his most prized piece is on the 18th green where golfers are met by a 4-foot tall sculpture of a Scottish golfer, complete with club, baggy knickers and knee-high socks.

Buries and others watched in amazement as Jordan recycled the dead pine tree stump into a life-like sculpture in three days.

"Sometimes you'll see him chopping away at a stump and wonder what he's doing," Buries said. "But after a couple hours, you know where he's going with it."

Along with another couple, Gary and Joan Thompson paid \$400 for the Scottish golfer, which they plan to dedicate to a friend who recently died.

Buries didn't have to thumb through the phone book to find the 53-year-old Jordan. Chainsaw Bob used to sell his artwork on Riggs Road near the course. Buries contacted



- Blue Heron carving gifted by Doris & Bob Schuster located on #4 right side fairway.



- Howling Coyote carving gifted by Don & Betty Watkins located off the #10 teeing ground near the road.



him about his project just before a widening project along Riggs displaced Jordan.

"It was a great idea," Jordan said. "It's good for me because I get some work and they get something that most golf courses don't have."

For the first pieces, Buries paid Jordan \$100 to \$200 each. But as the retired residents of the Sunbird Golf Community saw what was going on, they wanted a cut of the action.

Buries said other pieces will soon have dedication markers, as well.

"The residents just love them. But I think they really like watching Bob work."

While most of the pieces are scattered throughout the fairways, some of Jordan's future projects are along the streets and near the clubhouse. As Jordan and his work gain popularity, Buries wonders what is in store for the future.



- (2) Roadrunner carvings gifted by Sunbird Roadrunners located behind #17 green.



- Kokopeli carving gifted by Ken & JoAnn Mattheis located between #16 and #18 near the bridge



**"My only worry is that people will come out to the course just to look at the carvings," he said with a laugh. "We are still a golf course after all."**



**- Eagle carving gifted by Frank and Shirley Robertsen located on right side of #4 green.**



**Backyard carving**



**- Sitting Eagle carving gifted by Dave & Kay Koos and Anne Petersen on #4 left side fairway.**



**Backyard carving**

***...and now you know!***