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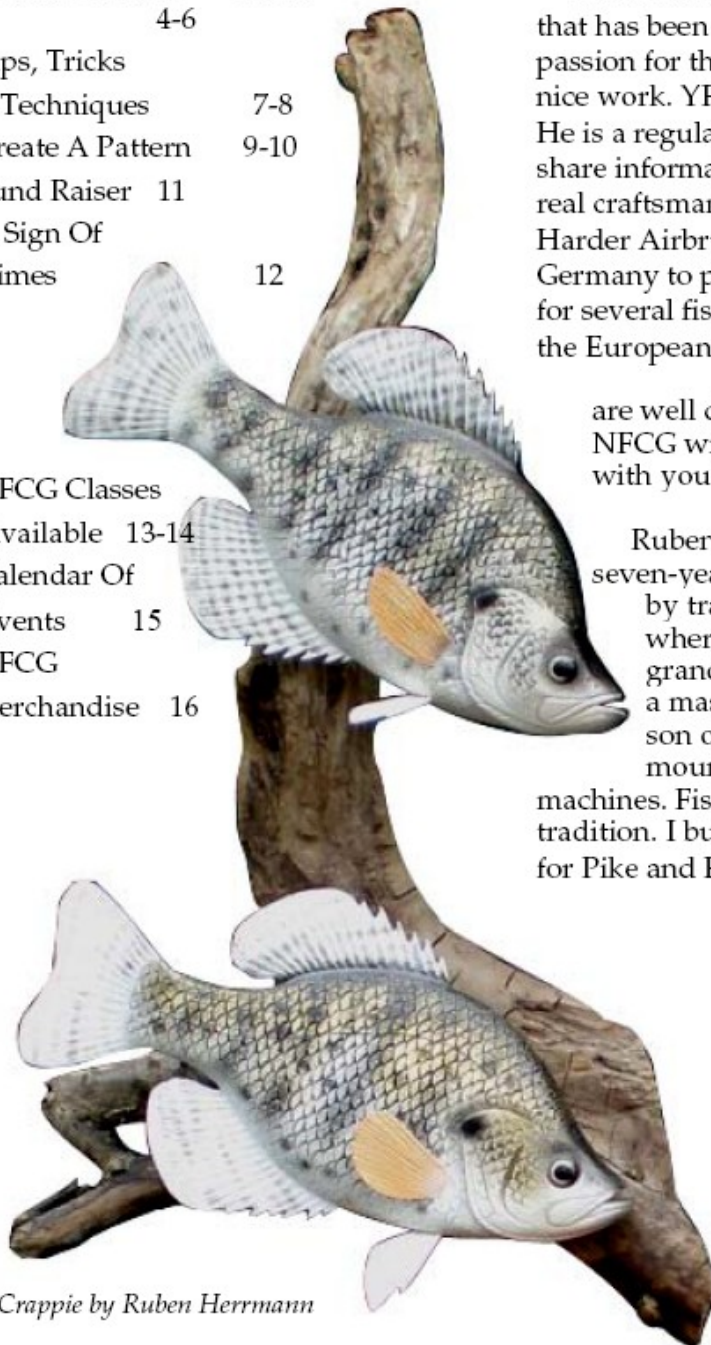
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## Ruben Herrmann, Featured Artist From Germany.

Ruben Herrmann is a NFCG member from Germany that has been carving fish for about five years. He has a passion for the art and has been turning out some very nice work. YF2 members may be familiar with Ruben. He is a regular online visitor who is more than willing to share information. Not only does he carve well, he is a real craftsman with the airbrush. He has teamed up with Harder Airbrush Company based in Hamburg, Germany to produce a series of airbrush paint schedules for several fish. I've seen the schedules he has done for the European Perch, Brown trout and Brook Trout. They

are well done and professionally produced. The NFCG will share some of Ruben's paint schedules with you in the very near future.

Ruben is thirty-two years old, married and has a seven-year old daughter. "I am a mortgage banker by trade. I was born in the Harz Mountains where I lived until I turned twenty-two. My grandpa was a joiner/carpenter and my dad has a master degree in machine construction. As a son of a handcrafter family I grew up between mountains of saw dust and hand cutting machines. Fish carving is my way to follow the family tradition. I build my own fishing rods and enjoy fishing for Pike and European Walleye."



*Crappie by Ruben Herrmann*



*Sockeye Salmon by Ruben Herrmann*



After eleven years of conventional fish taxidermy, Ruben began looking for something new to challenge his creativity. Carving fish had always interested him, but he wasn't quite sure how to get started. Without any previous knowledge, he began carving fish in 2005. At first it was just for fun to find out if he could create a fish from wood. Now Ruben says, "The most important thing for me is to discover new things and to improve my skills. My measure of success is to show improvement from one carving to the next. The result, by far, is not yet perfect. However, it has convinced me to keep carving and to perfect my work."

Ruben has an inquisitive mind and enjoys trying different techniques, woods and other materials. After seeing the NFCG "Natural Fish Carving" journal by Bill Bishop, he was inspired to carve some "naturals." They are pictured here with his comments.



I used birdseye maple for this six-inch Trout. The smooth, steady grain and the hard, dense structure of the wood allowed for good detailing of the head and fins.



For this seven-inch Tiger Trout, I used a maple burl which increased the level of difficulty.



For this six-inch Green Sunfish, I chose cottonwood. It's very light weight and easy to carve, but difficult sanding to a smooth finish.



Brown Trout by Ruben Herrmann

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To date Ruben has used 17 different kinds of wood for his carvings. He also tested several urethane foams and discovered how the individual characteristics of each wood or material influence the results of his carvings. For very small details he prefers to use pear wood because it is quite hard and has a consistent structure. Most of his work is done with power tools so the hard woods are not a problem. For detailing, he uses an Otto Ruettgers OR scalpel.

I asked Ruben about fish carving in Germany.

“There are only a few fish carvers in Europe and no carving competitions that I’m aware of. My only contact with other fish carvers is through my NFCG and YF2 memberships. I launched my website to help introduce and promote the art of fish carving here in Germany. I hope to find others who might have the same passion for the art. Fish carving offers me a good balance to my job in the bank. It’s challenging, stimulating and never boring”

You can view more of Ruben’s work by visiting his web site

<http://www.fishcarver.de>



Rainbow Trout by Ruben Herrmann



Zander by Ruben Herrmann



Brook Trout by Ruben Herrmann