Master Solo Sculptors

Delayne Corbett

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Delayne Corbett is an internationally recognized ice, snow and sand artist who often travels abroad to work on large projects. He grew up in Canada, where an abundant natural landscape and such readily available raw materials as wood, stone, ice, snow and sand guided him onto a creative path early in life.

Corbett began sculpting at age 19, when he picked up a hammer, a screwdriver and a piece of wood and created an incense holder.

“My passion is working with stone to create sensual abstract forms,” Corbett said. “I study sculpture through in-depth self-guided research, superb mentorship, and by attending workshops, symposiums, and competitions.”

Corbett’s home time in Vancouver is consumed by either working in his studio or teaching workshops and demonstrating sculpture at a wide variety of public events.

Website: delayne.ca

Paul Hoggard

Bulgaria

A sand artist since 1991, Yorkshire-born Paul Hoggard made his first sand sculpture on Baga beach in India. He has been working together with his sand woman, Remy Hoggard, since 2003. Their company, Sandartist Ltd., produces, organizes and creates sand sculptures for events at art galleries, festivals, promotions, television, books, magazines and advertising campaigns all over the world.

In 2000, Hoggard was commissioned by the Royal Cornwall show to create a sand sculpture for Her Majesty, the Queen of England. He created a farmyard scene of pigs and piglets, which he presented in person to Her. She enjoyed it very much.

Hoggard and his work have been profiled by several TV agencies. His work has appeared in international newspapers, magazines and books.

Website: sandsculpture.co.uk
Master Solo Sculptors (cont.)

Remy Hoggard

Bulgaria

Remy Hoggard is a leading figure in the sand sculpture world. A sand artist since 1999, she has sculpted all over the world. Texas is one of her favorite places, and she has many friends here.

Hoggard specializes in female human figures. An engineer by profession, she is well known for her use of forced perspective and depth in her sculptures. The human faces she creates out of sand seem to be alive.

She is also known for her owl inspired sculptures, and often sculpts wise and shamanic owl ladies. Her family name (from mother’s side) is Owl, due to the owl shaped noses that run in the family. She seems to find owls all over the world during her travels. She and her English sandman, Paul, live on a rustic farm in Bulgaria with owls under their roof.

Hoggard is passionate about Yoga and natural health remedies.

“You have to be fit and healthy to be a professional sand sculptor,” Hoggard said.

Remy and Paul Hoggard’s company, Sandartist Ltd., produces, organizes and creates sand sculptures all over the world. Each of their sculptures is made with heart and soul, and they consider themselves lucky to have such a dream job.

Website: sandsculpture.co.uk

Carl Jara

Cleveland, Ohio

Carl Jara has won 13 World Championship medals, as well as dozens of medals from various competitions.

“What can I say about sand sculpture,” Jara said. “It is real. It is an impossible feat, often under impossible conditions, by people with impossible talent. Made for you, right before your eyes. It’s not a magic trick, or a special effect, or 3-D computer graphics. There’s no internal lattice, special additives or mirrors.”

"Like music, or dance, or theater, or dinner, you are here, now, with us, and we are giving you something you cannot imagine, that we can’t explain, and that you will never forget."

“By the way...Hi...I’m Carl...and I make stuff.”

Website: artcleveland.com/sandhome.html
Master Solo Sculptors (cont.)

Damon Langlois

Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

Damon Langlois, who has won numerous solo and team Canadian and World Championship titles, has been sculpting in sand since 1992. He also holds a record for building the world’s tallest sandcastle in 2015. Langlois won 1st Place Solo at Texas SandFest in 2019 for his sculpture of Abraham Lincoln, *Liberty is Crumbling*.

“Winning is nice but it’s not what sand sculpture is about for me,” Langlois said. “It’s about performing this extreme art, pushing personal boundaries, and exploring the world meeting up with this international tribe of sand people.”

A graduate of Carleton University, Damon owns and operates Codetta, an industrial engineering company based in Victoria, British Columbia. Along with seven patents, Codetta received the 2011 Spark Pro Silver Award, a Best Products of 2002 by Business Week and USA today; and a Red Dot Design honorable mention.

Website: damonlanglois.com

Todd Pangborn

Jamestown, New York

Todd Pangborn’s passion for sand sculpting began on a family vacation to Virginia Beach in 1997, where he started building sand sculptures as a way to entertain both himself and his family. His wife and two daughters were mesmerized as he made his first sand sculpture.

Since that day Pangborn has worked tirelessly to learn everything possible to improve his art. A mechanical engineer who designs ultrasonic cleaning systems by trade, he entered his first amateur competition in 2011.

After a few quick amateur wins and three consecutive advanced amateur 1st place finishes, Pangborn competed in his first Master competition in 2014. Now his wife and daughters aren’t as easy to impress. They’ve seen it before.

“Living in New York, you would think I would be more into snow or ice sculpting rather than sand,” Pangborn said. “I prefer sand because flip flops just don’t keep my feet warm in the snow.”

Facebook: toddpangbornsculptures
Master Solo Sculptors (cont.)

Bruce Peck

Brandenton, Florida

Bruce Peck, who has competed at Texas SandFest in the Semi-Pro division for several years, will be competing this year in the Master Solo division.

Peck was born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri. Studying architecture at Kansas scared him far away from the arts and into a lifelong career as a CPA. His career allowed him to travel extensively and live in such beautiful places as Halifax, Nova Scotia, Portland, Oregon, and California.

When an opportunity arose to relocate, it wasn’t by accident that Peck ended up on the Gulf Coast of Florida, close to several of the best beaches in the United States. By then he had stumbled upon a passion for sand sculpting during family beach vacations.

Peck’s family and friends, who had no idea where his hidden talent came from, encouraged him to enter his first amateur competition in 2014. Since then, he has won awards at several competitions.

“The camaraderie and festival atmosphere have kept me coming back ever since,” Peck said.

Jeff Strong

Tacoma, Washington

Jeff Strong is drawn to the improbable magic of sand sculpture. He sees art in nature and employs his love of science in making art. His work often emphasizes open space and artistic form.

After graduating from the University of Puget Sound with an art degree, Strong went to work as a full-time computer programmer at the university. He retired in 2018, after 38 years.

Strong’s early attempts at sandcastles were unsatisfying. In 2001, he met some master sculptors and joined their team. They taught him techniques that allowed his sand creations to stand tall and strong.

In 2005, his classic sculpture of a dragon arching its neck to devour a sand sculptor went viral on the Internet, and still turns up when searching Google for Sand Sculpture. Since then, his gravity-defying works have continued to receive awards at the highest levels of competition.

Strong treasures the friendships he’s made through sculpting sand, and he struggles to up with the many talented artists on the beach.

“A challenge,” he adds, “that is a lot of fun.”

Website: strongsand.com
Master Duo Sculptors

Team Ted Siebert and Fred Dobbs

Ted Siebert

Chicago, IL

An artist by background and training, Ted Siebert is a World, North American and Canadian Champion, and holds titles as U.S. National and Canadian National Champion. As co-captain of the competitive team, Totally in Sand, he has helped set eight world records, as noted by Guinness World Records.

Siebert is a graduate of the University of Washington with a degree in creative writing. He has published several titles as an illustrator, and is the author of the acclaimed, “The Art of Sandcasting” and “Sandcastle in a Box.”

Siebert sculpts in sand, wood and clay - and is also a fine art painter. He has taught sculpture at Savannah College of Art and Design and has been recognized as one of 288 leading contemporary living sculptors in the book, The Sculpture Reference.

He lives in the Chicago area with his wife, Laura, and their family, Danielle, Nicolas, and Gus.

Website: sandsculpting.com

Fred Dobbs

Victoria, Canada

Fred Dobbs has been sculpting for most of his life. In fact, his desire to sculpt was kindled at the tender age of five by his father, who was simply doing what dads do — playing in the sand with their children.

“Sculpting started for me that summer, on a beach, in my native Ireland, where I was buried waist deep in sand,” Dobbs reflected. “On that day, my father and I created a convertible sand car with me in the driver’s seat fashioning a steering wheel, while my father built the body and wheels.”

After his family moved to Canada, Dobbs studied fine arts at the Victoria College of Art, and commercial art at Camosun College.

In the 1980s, he re-discovered sand sculpting and began the competitive circuit, successfully winning in Canadian, U.S., and World Championships. By the early 1990s, he began sculpting professionally. Fred was part of the 1993 and 2015 and Guinness World Record team.

In addition to sand, Dobbs works with such fine art mediums as wood, concrete and cold cast bronze, concentrating on public and private art, architectural displays and furniture.

Website: sculptorfred.com
Master Duo Sculptors (cont.)

Team Morgan Rudluff and Abe Waterman

Morgan Rudluff

California

Morgan Rudluff is a born an’ raised California girl. She likes beaches, flowers, avocados, fruit, and bare feet. She stumbled into sand sculpting in 2007. By 2011, she was traveling the world, appearing on television shows, giving media interviews, professionally competing, and spreading general joy through art and creativity to people far and wide.

Rudluff considers herself to be quite fortunate and rich in many ways that are hard to quantify.

“There have been medals won and there have been articles of success written.” she added. “However, there have also been many long days, many callouses and many sunburns to float it all along.”

Since 2018, Rudluff has worked as a massage therapist in San Francisco, where she spends most of her sculpting hours shaping the many muscles and connective tissue fibers of the human body.

Artistically, Rudluff pursues snow and ice sculpting, clothing and costume design and construction, creative writing, kitchen witchery, scrap paper doodling, street theater, global backpacking, martini-infused philosophizing, and rocking out on her ukulele.

Abe Waterman

Prince Edward Island, Canada

Born and raised in idyllic Prince Edward Island, Canada, Abe Waterman says he has been producing artwork since he was “old enough to hold crayons and use each of his diapers as a fresh canvas.”

Waterman uses ephemeral materials in his sculptures, such as snow and sand, and only occasionally creates more permanent works in wood and stone. He has traveled from coast to coast in Canada and the U.S., competing and exhibiting his art, for which he has won awards at numerous events.

For Texas SandFest 2020, Waterman says he will be leaving nothing behind, including a “snarling, double fanged, two nostrilled, cross eyed, pouty lipped attitude.”

“Keep an eye peeled for my patented leaning on a shovel technique, my carve-everything-three times habit, my disgruntled grunts, my sighs of defeat and my wild finish as I try to win over audiences and judges alike on his ever arduous, but mostly spastic, trail to glory,” Waterman said.

Website: abewaterman.com
Master Duo Sculptors (cont.)

Team John and Laura Cimador Gowdy

John Gowdy

Castelfranco Veneto, Italy

John Gowdy is a professional sand and marble sculptor and performance painter who sculpts and paints for audiences around the world. Originally from Atlantic City, New Jersey, he majored in both Fine Art and Physics at Stockton State University. He served 27 years as a firefighter in Atlantic City, retiring as captain in 2006. He now lives in Castelfranco, Italy, where he relocated to pursue his interest in art.

Gowdy has been sculpting sand for more than 25 years and manages and organizes professional and amateur sand events around the world. His company is Sand Sculptures by John Gowdy & Company LLC.

He has won many national, international, and world 1st place awards, including: two-time World Champion by people’s choice in British Columbia, Canada; five-time American Champion in Fort Myers, Florida; four-time North American Champion in Virginia Beach; and International Champion in Quebec, Canada and Jesolo, Italy.

Additionally, Gowdy performs a show known as Flying Colors, during which he paints large portraits of famous people on a spinning canvas to the sound of music. The paintings are then sold for charity. He has performed this painting show in five countries: Italy, Britain, Singapore, Canada, and the USA.

In 2018, Gowdy and his wife, Laura Cimador-Gowdy, presented Pope Francis with a sand sculpture depicting the San Jose des Flores Parish, the pontiff’s hometown church in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The Gowdys were chosen by the Vatican to present the pope with a gift before an audience of 17,000.

Website: johngowdy.com

Laura Cimador-Gowdy

Castelfranco Veneto, Italy

Laura Cimador-Gowdy loves fine art and has taken painting instructions from the famous Italian painter, Angelo Gatto.

Gowdy is an elementary school teacher in her hometown of Castelfranco Veneto. She has a master’s degree in Modern Languages and is fluent in Italian and English.

In 2005, her interest in the arts led her to the beaches of Jesolo, Italy, where she fell in love with sand sculpting. She also met her husband, John Gowdy. After communicating for many years, they married on the beach in Fort Myers, Florida, in 2011.

In 2018, the Gowdys were invited to the Vatican to personally meet Pope Francis and present a sand sculpture carved inside Saint Peter’s Basilica to him.
Master Duo Sculptors (cont.)

Laura Cimador-Gowdy (cont.)

The Gowdys have teamed up in the competitive world of sand sculpture and have won many awards as a two-person team in world class sand events. In 2011, they won the nationally televised Sand Wars professional sand sculpting competition in Siesta Key, Florida.

Team Lucinda Wierenga and Emerson Schreiner

Lucinda “Sandy Feet” Wierenga

South Padre Island, Texas

Lucinda “Sandy Feet” Wierenga has won a modest amount of international fame with her sandsculpting skills, competing at major events all around the world since 1987.

She has taught tens of thousands of people how to build a better sand castle — and has reached untold numbers more with her best-selling book, Sand Castles Made Simple.

Wierenga is the co-founder and producer of Sand Castle Days, founder and the curator of the South Padre Island Sandcastle Trail. She has organized large scale sculpture projects in San Antonio and South Padre Island. She is owner/keeper at the The SandBox Inn, a unique and spacious vacation rental/sand castle academy.

In her spare time Wierenga plays rock ukulele in two different bands.

Website: sandyfeet.com

Emerson Schreiner

Grand Rapids, Michigan / Galveston, Texas

Emerson Schreiner is back at SandFest again this year, competing with his favorite partner, and aunt, Sandy Feet. He has been sculpting in sand since 2012. In recent years, he’s been fortunate enough to compete in at the master’s level next to some of the finest sculptors around, by whom he is constantly inspired.

A graduate of the University of Michigan school of Art and Design, Schreiner is a talented painter and sand sculptor who splits his time between Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Galveston, Texas. In the summer, he works for Sandy Feet Sand Castle Services in Galveston, teaching legions of eager folks how to build better sand castles.

Master Duo Sculptors (cont.)

Team Amazin' Walter McDonald and Christy McDonald Atkinson

The Amazin' Walter McDonald

South Padre Island, Texas

Possibly the oldest sand sculptor in captivity, the Amazin’ Walter McDonald has made a reputation for himself building castles and is best known for his soaring towers and impossible arches.

McDonald and his creations have been featured in print, television and movies. He has accumulated so many awards that he has lost count.

His competitions and commercial work have carried him to the far reaches of the world, including China, Japan, Belgium, Holland, Mexico, Canada, the Bahamas, Costa Rica, and many places in the U.S.

A native of Orange, Texas, McDonald traces his interest in building sand castles back to when he was sitting on the edge of Cow Creek at Boy Scout camp and one of his friends took some wet sand and started dribbling the sand into a pile that became a sand castle.

McDonald is a serious photographer, musician and fisherman. In addition to sand, he carves bone, antler, wood and stone.

Most of all, McDonald likes to have fun.

Facebook: facebook.com/amazinwalter

Christy McDonald Atkinson

South Padre Island, Texas

Christy McDonald Atkinson got her start playing in the sand alongside her dad, the Amazin' Walter McDonald.

Together, the duo has competed and placed in several master level contests around the United States and Canada, including the Neptune Festival in Virginia Beach; The World Championships in Harrison Hot Springs, Canada; Expo Quebec in Canada; Sand Blasters 3 in San Diego, California; Sand Castle Days in South Padre Island; the Siesta Key Classic and the American Sand Sculpting Championships in Florida; and of course, Texas SandFest.

Atkinson lives in Franklin, Texas, where she makes homemade jelly and creates one-of-a-kind costumes and custom clothing. She is happily married to Darren Atkinson, the love of her life.

She is self-employed, creating art and helping others have fun as Christy the Clown, Ruby the Pirate Queen, and other characters.
Sculptors - Texas SandFest 2020

Master Duo Sculptors (cont.)

Christy McDonald Atkinson (cont.)

“I have had some great jobs,” Atkinson said. ”From working at Disney World to working as a clown for Ringling Bros. Circus. I love entertaining people. Sand is just another way to bring smiles to everyone.”

Team Jon and Heather Woodworth

Jon Woodworth

Leander, Texas

Jon Woodworth is a Master sculptor, who has been crowned Sand Dad by his four children. He has been sand sculpting since 1991 and began entering amateur contests in 2000, eventually moving into the Master’s division in 2006.

Woodworth began sculpting full time in 2010. He keeps busy with commercial projects, fairs and charity events around the U.S. He enjoys the competition of sand sculpting and is blessed by all the friends he’s made through it.

Heather Woodworth

Leander, Texas

A second-generation sand sculptor, Heather Woodworth began sculpting sand at the age of four. In 2001, she started competing at the age of seven in the Texas SandFest Youth Divisions, finishing 1st and 2nd.

Following in the footsteps of her father, Jon Woodworth, she enjoys sand sculpting at various events, such as the Warrior’s Weekend in Port O’Connor, TX.

In 2014, Heather was the youngest person to have entered the Master Division at Texas SandFest, and since then has enjoyed competing alongside her dad.

Woodworth graduated from the University of Texas with a bachelor’s degree in studio art. In her spare time, she plays various instruments, enjoys kayaking adventures with her dog, Arya, works on her art portfolio, and practices her zombie slaying moves.

The oldest of four children, she believes she will most likely survive the zombie apocalypse and rise to become Ruler of the New World. As such, she will spare all those who vote for her and grant Margarita Mondays for her loyal subjects.
Semi-Pro Sculptors

Dale Andrews

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Two persistent nieces dragged a reluctant Dale Andrews to a local sandcastle competition in 2008, where the family team took home 2nd place. That day, Andrews also took home a love for sand sculpting.

In 2013, Andrews ventured out on his own. He has since advanced through the ranks, taking home several People’s Choice awards and first place finishes across North America.

Awards he has won include: 1st Place Professional and People's Choice awards at Sauble Beach SandFest in Ontario, Canada; two 1st Place awards and a People's Choice award at the Sandcastles Festival; 2nd Place at Blue Water SandFest in Michigan; 3rd Place at Texas SandFest; 4th Place and People's Choice awards at Lake Worth, Florida; and 4th Place at the Florida State Championships.

Andrews has created several castles for YTV Canada. His work has also been seen on an episode of The Amazing Race Canada, where he helped producers design a sand sculpting challenge.

His goal is to make the audience think, smile and see the story behind every detail in his sculptures.

Amanda Buldoc

Maine

Born and raised in Maine, Amanda Buldoc graduated with a degree in psychology from the University of Maine at Farmington. She served more than 12 years in the Army and ended her career as an officer in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. She now devotes her time to her three children as a homeschooling mom and runs a homeschool co-op with more than 30 families.

Buldoc’s interest in sand sculpting began after seeing the American Sand Sculpting Championship during a vacation in Fort Myers Beach, Florida. She entered the amateur division with her mother in 2006 and has never looked back.

Awards she has won include: 1st Amateur, American Sand Sculpting Championship, Fort Myers Beach, Florida; 1st Advance Amateur, American Sand Sculpting Championship, Fort Myers Beach, Florida; 1st Camden WinterFest Snow Sculpting Competition, Camden, Maine; 1st Advance Amateur and People’s Choice Award, U.S. National Advanced Amateur Championships, Fort Myers Beach, Florida; and 2nd Amateur, 1st Annual Siesta Key Crystal Classic, Siesta Key, Florida.

Buldoc’s sculptures are geared toward telling a story. Her goal is to move the audience and transport their imaginations into a new world of humor and intrigue.

“I love that a simple grain of sand brought together into billions of one cohesive form, can move people into awe, laughter and reverence,” Buldoc said. “Not only is sculpting therapeutic, but through sand, I can dive into the onlooker’s sense of curiosity, enabling me to create emotion through sand. This above all, is why I loves sculpting.”
Semi-Pro Sculptors (cont.)

**Joaquin Cortez**

Stephenville, Texas

North Texas artist, Joaquin Cortez, attributes his interest in sand sculpting to the Amazin’ Walter McDonald, who gave his family a lesson on how to make sandcastles while they were on vacation on South Padre Island in 2014.

Cortez went to the Art Institute in Dallas to learn animation and how to build 3D computer models. He says he has been an artist for most of his life.

Drawn by the new medium of sand sculpting, he immediately started traveling and training to become a sand sculptor. After thousands of miles of travel from beach to beach and encouraged by public reactions to his creations, Cortez has found a new career carving sand. Already having experienced interviews on national TV and front-page news stories, he is realizing a childhood dream of inspiring the public with meaningful art projects.

Website: joaquincortez.com

**Mitch Guerrero**

North Port, Florida

Mitch Guerrero was raised in an artistic household. His mom was an art teacher at a private school in Arvada, Colorado. He grew up surrounded by her art, as well as his grandfather’s art.

He began sand sculpting in 2015, after he was bitten by the sand sculpting bug.

“I have always loved to draw and create and sand sculpting just seemed to be a natural fit,” he said. “Once I caught the bug, I researched and learned as much as I could about the art.”

In 2016, Guerrero entered his first amateur contest at Siesta Key.

“This first competition was a huge eye opener, and I learned more in those four hours competing against other amateurs than I could have learned in years of trying to figure things out on my own. After the competition on Siesta Key, I was 100% hooked.”

This is a passion for Guerrero, who enjoys every second he can spend playing in the sand and trying to learn more about the art.
Semi-Pro Sculptors (cont.)

Eric Hawley

Tacoma, Washington

Eric Hawley was introduced to sand sculpting as a spectator at the World Championship in Harrison Hot Springs, British Columbia. Since then, he has been playing in the sand as a solo or team competitor.

Hawley was invited to his first true master sand sculpting competition in 2014, and has been involved in many amateur, pro-amateur and exhibition sculpting events since then.

A full-time elevator mechanic for the University of Washington, he spends his time outside the sand box sculpting pumpkins, wood and fruit. He also loves fishing and riding motorcycles.

Hawley’s ambition is to continue to rub shoulders with the best sand sculptors in the world, learn from them, take on bigger challenges and become one of the best.

“I am happiest when my toes are in the sand,” he said.

Albert Lucio, Sr.

Corpus Christi, Texas

Albert Lucio, Sr. has been sand sculpting since 2005. He started with his son, Albert Jr., as a team at C-101’s C-sculptures. The Lucios continued to compete as a team until 2007. Since then, they have shared a fun family rivalry, competing against each other.

Lucio has won awards in duo and solo categories at C101 C-Sculptures, Sandcastle Days and Texas SandFest.

He is also a martial arts instructor and a proud grandfather of eight grandchildren.
Semi-Pro Sculptors (cont.)

Marc Mangia

Columbus, Ohio

At a young age, Marc Mangia started working with his hands assembling and taking apart “anything and everything.” When he was a teenager, he began working with his dad as a carpenter in construction. Today, he runs the business and continues to work as a carpenter.

“My love for building sandcastles began on family vacations,” Mangia said. “After many years of playing in the sand, using my carpentry skills, talking with some of the Masters, and watching how they work the sand, my love for sand sculpting has grown.”

In 2012, Mangia entered his first competition at the Fort Hisers Beach American sand sculpting championships, where he placed first in the amateur division. Among his subsequent awards are 1st Place at the 2016 SandFest, 3rd Place at the 2014 American Championships and 1st Place at the 2014 Blue Water Sand Fest. He won 2nd Place at the American Championships in 2013.

Mangia plans to keep honing his skills, learning and having fun playing in the sand!

Website: sandmangia.blogspot.com

Darrell O’Connor

Wilmington, Delaware

Darrell O’Connor has been playing in the sand since he was a teenager (many, many years ago). In the mid-80s, he entered his first sand sculpting contest, which was at Rehoboth Beach in Delaware. Even though he didn’t place, he was hooked, and went on to win the Rehoboth contest nine times.

In 2013, he stopped competing in the Rehoboth Contest, opting instead to give free lessons the Friday before the contest and to lead the creation of a community castle the day of the event.

O’Connor is a computer software consultant who works with large corporations that use Enterprise Software from the German software company, SAP. His summer weekends are spent in Dewey Beach, Delaware, with his wife of 35 years, Carol. Until recently, his two sons, Daniel and John, spent summers in Dewey Beach.

Highlights of O’Connor's 30+ years carving sand include: 1st Place Adult Solo, American Sand Sculpting Championships, Fort Myers, Florida; three-times 1st Place Pro-Am, Wildwood Crest Sand Sculpting Festival, Wildwood Crest, New Jersey; 1st Place Pro-Am, Siesta Key Crystal Classic, Siesta Key, Florida; and 2nd Place Adult Solo, Blue Water SandFest, Port Huron, Michigan.

O’Connor has also lent his skills to local fundraisers, festivals, beach weddings and marriage proposals, and has been featured in articles in Delaware Today Magazine, Delaware Beach Life Magazine, The Delaware State News, The Cape Gazette and the Wilmington News Journal.

Facebook: facebook.com/dewey.castles
Sculptor Coordinators

Albert Lucio, Jr.

Austin, Texas
Semi-Pro and Amateur Coordinator

Albert Lucio, Jr. is a native son of Texas who carved his first five-gallon bucket of sand in 2005. Interestingly, this occurred approximately one week before his very first sand competition, C-101 C-sculptures, a grueling 25 hour straight-through-the-night event. Once the competition was finished, he went home, applied ample amounts of aloe vera to his severely sunburned skin, took a long nap and welcomed a new adventure into his life.

He has been sculpting ever since and has won several awards competing in open, solo and duo categories from amateur to advanced competitions in Texas and across the United States.

Lucio believes that competitive sculpting has a zen like quality that just happens to mix in a lot of blood, sweat and tears.

When Lucio is not sculpting, he’s doing stuff like working at his job, mowing his lawn and showing card tricks to his dog, Charlie.

Website: albertlucio.com

Suzanne Altamare

Daytona Beach, Florida
Master Sculptor Coordinator

Suzanne Altamare began sculpting sand in 1982. Taught by her late husband, Marc Altamare, she specializes in soft sand sculpture. Over the last decade she has been working quite a bit on sand event organization (including the World Championships) and works very often as sculptor coordinator (aka cat herding). She has appeared on Sand Blasters and Sand Wars on the Travel Channel.

Altamare also loves carving compacted sand. Her favorite carving subjects are antique motorcycles, sea creatures, anything showing movement — and even architecture.

Her hobbies are gardening, boogie boarding, and cat rescue/adoptions.

Website: justplainsand.com