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The Voice of Downriver

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Nature turns art

20-foot-tall eagle carved from tree stump

BY RENE CIZIO
THE NEWS-HERALD

ALLEN PARK — Sometimes, cutting down a tree can be a heart-wrenching decision.

But it can be easier for some people when that tree becomes a lasting work of art.

Chris and Debbie Lee recently had an old maple tree in their front yard transformed into a near 20-foot-tall eagle.

The eagle looks like he's about to strike a squirrel that's a few feet away ... and also happens to be carved from a tree stump.

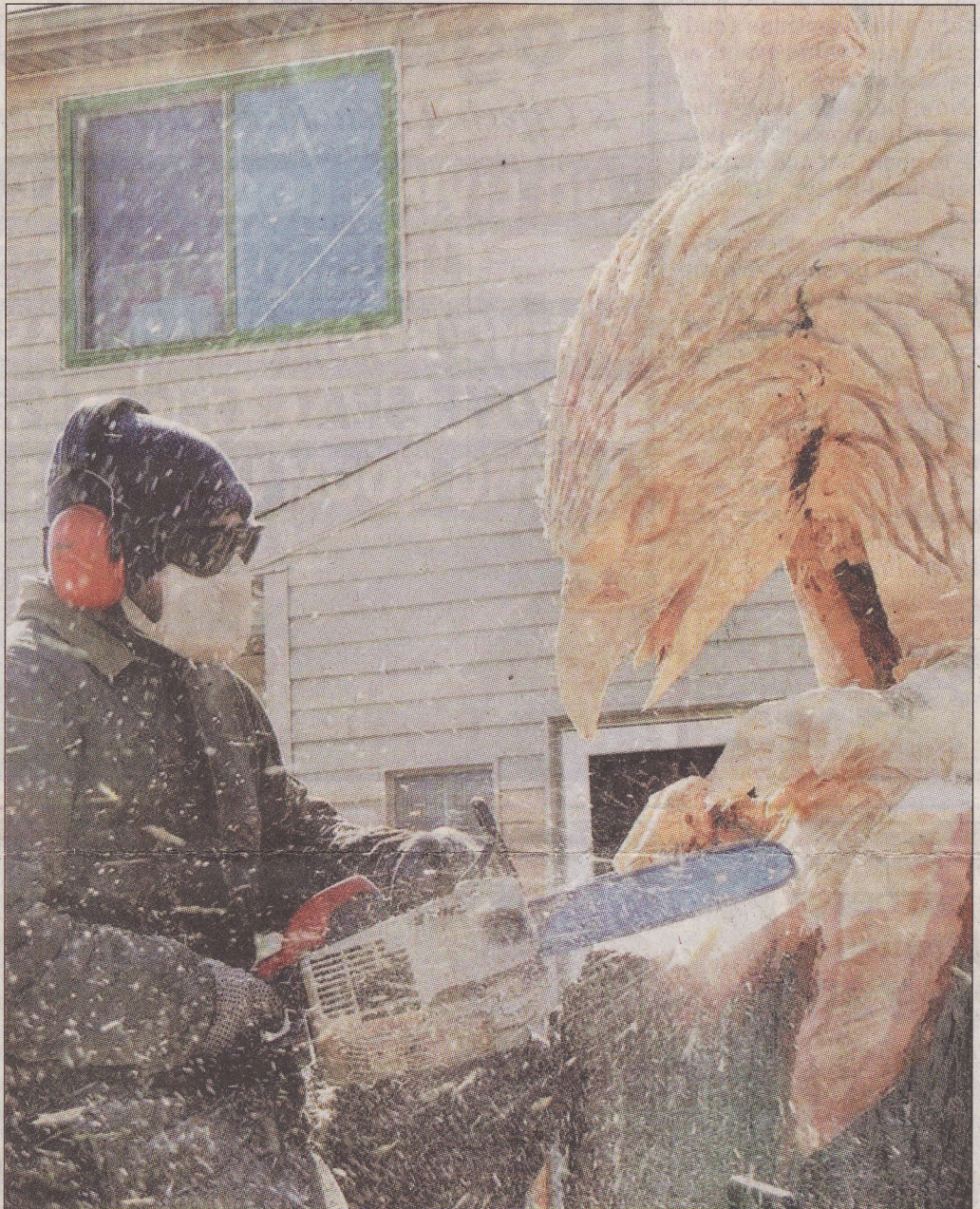
"He's getting ready for lunch," Emil Szkipala said of the eagle.

Szkipala, aka the "Chainsaw Man of Michigan," carved the squirrel last year. This year, when the Lee's maple tree was starting to die, they called him back.

The only tools Szkipala uses to create his detailed tree carvings are an assortment of chain saws.

Szkipala, a native of Romania, studied wood-carving and fine arts before he immigrated to the United States in 1991.

In 1993, he became partners with Kenneth Boshell, the original "Chainsaw Man of Michigan."



Photos by Rene Cizio

Emil Szkipala, aka the "Chainsaw Man of Michigan," carved this eagle out of a 100-year-old maple tree in front of a house in the 15000 block of University. Szkipala, who works entirely with a chainsaw, said he spent about 28 hours on the project.