



CWCA NEWSLETTER

December, 2025

Connecticut Wood Carvers Association

Upcoming Events

Dec. 14 - * **CWCA Club Meeting & Holiday Party** 10am-2pm at Carousel Museum in Bristol.

Note that this is not the usual date & location! See below for info on Holiday Party.

Dec. 18 - * **Evening Carving Night** 5-8pm - at Bristol Carousel Museum (usually 3rd Thurs.)

Jan. 4 - * **CWCA Club Meeting** 10am-2pm location to be announced later (usually 1st Sun.).

Jan. 15 - * **Evening Carving Night** 5-8pm - Bristol Carousel Museum (usually 3rd Thurs.).

Feb. 1 - * **CWCA Club Meeting** 10am-2pm at location to be announced (usually 1st Sun.).

For additional info on a calendar events, check club web site. **Novice projects - C page 2.**

Letter from 'The Prez'

Greetings Fellow Carvers,

With the passing of Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving we are closing in on the CWCA Holiday Gathering Party to celebrate the season of renewal. Winter is a great time to hone the skills that carving requires like vision in the mind's eye, perception, symmetry, balance and proportion. If it does not look right, check it again in all directions and remember it might start as a whale and end up as a snail or start as a penguin and wind up as a mushroom! Remember any starter can morph into something that was not the beginning thought that only you may know. So surprise yourself with a totally new carving that leaves you with a sense of pride that even you weren't aware of. Change is where Art comes in going back to the mind's eye. What we see when we start may not be the same as when we finish. Doing the best that we can is where improvement happens. So whale or penguin might still be that whale or penguin. It all starts with that first chip. Some carvings stay on course, others might take a turn that is totally different.

And as always....Remember sharp tools, clean cuts and safety!!

Have a safe and Happy Holiday Season!!

PS: Remember our December 14 meeting, is also our annual Holiday Gathering (**being held at the New England Carousal Museum, 95 Riverside Ave**) and there will be a Gift Swap! Bring a wrapped "nice -to-receive" item, then pick a number and see what a surprise awaits you! Remember you **need to bring a gift to get a gift**. Also we will have a potluck food table so **bring a food item** to share, whatever your fancy is, and share the great refreshments and carving company!! Just a second reminder, Dues are due!!

President	Leo Hein	860-675-5473	Secretary	Kristian Wake	860-328-2412
VP	Rick Johnson	860-798-9104	Newsletter	Mike Schulde	Mikeschu62@gmail.com
Treas. & Membership	Mark Austin	860-283-2177	Web Liaison	Lynda Zibbideo	203-686-1207



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Member Projects

Earlier this year we expanded our novice project offerings to provide more opportunities to learn and try new things. We are continuing to offer our novice projects concurrently from January until May. This way, if you have not finished a project or would like to make another, you are welcome to continue! We will also be providing another multi month project so you can challenge yourself on another project. We are looking forward to spring with various projects. Some of new projects are:

- Quick Carve Snowman
- Hummingbird and Crane ornaments
- Stylized Shorebird and chickadee
- Wonky Whittled Ladybugs
- Flag Pin
- Shelf sitting cat

For December, we are continuing the fall **Novice projects**. If you would like us to keep these available for a couple of months, let us know and we will bring the blanks and instructions.

- Folk Art style Bird – simple bird pattern similar to a comfort bird
- Pumpkins – this is a fun 3d carving that can be very simple or complex
- 5 minute Owl – simple carving to illustrate carving techniques
- Retro Christmas lights – old fashioned incandescent Christmas lights can be very simple or complex if you choose to add a face
- Wood burned tags or ornaments
- Name Tags – we encourage all of you to create your own nametag (or more than one)

Multi-Month Projects

Non-traditional Gnome – we have all seen the basic pattern for a gnome, which we will have from a pattern put out by Wood Carving Illustrated (book too). There will be step by step directions. We will also have examples where the carver has gotten tired of the traditional and has gone off on a tangent. This includes changing (the carving) from male to female, then going crazy with skeleton themes, wizard themes (with a dragon and eye on his hat)

Blank costs will vary based on the size of the wood (eagle project blanks are \$25, \$35, and \$45) and typically run from two for a dollar (wood disks), to around \$5 each if the blanks have extra scrolling to remove extra wood. Most of these projects come from Wood Carving Illustrated and there are basic copy costs for directions which will vary depending on how many pages.

Each month, we will continue to have knife making classes with Chuck and Mike Salvatore each month. If you want to make your own knife, the cost is around \$3 to \$5 each (at cost for the blade, handle material, and the epoxy) or they might have a few finished ones for between \$10 to \$15 each.

We are looking for a large project for the spring. Any suggestions?

New England Wood Carvers – club challenge!

NEWC has issued a challenge to the carving clubs of New England.

New England Woodcarvers is proud to support veterans through our Tree of Hope program. Members and non-members have donated countless ornaments and other small wood carvings to the Tree over the years. The Tree of Hope travels to various craft fairs and carving shows, selling the donated carvings to raise money for programs that support veterans. ALL of the funds raised by the Tree of Hope go directly to the benefit of the veterans.

As of mid-November, Connecticut has created 23 carvings so far with Maine very close with 20 carvings. We have been doing great and can do better! If you can create a small carving for them to sell for the Tree of Hope, please use the above website for where to submit the carvings.



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Images from Berlin Library & Carousel Museum

