



CWCA NEWSLETTER

March 2023

Connecticut WoodCarvers Association

Upcoming Events

CWCA Club Meeting – April 2, 10 am to 2 pm. (usually 1st Sunday of month). Novice project is comfort bird & sharpening.

Open Carving Night – April 20, 5-8 pm at Bristol Carousel Museum (usually 3rd Thurs.)

Barkhamsted Nature Day - April 30 12:30 - 5:00 p.m. at Peoples State Forest Pavillion. Demo & sell. Some walking sticks. BYO table, tent, & chair.

Flanders Annual Festival – May 20, 10:00 - 4:00 p.m. Demo & sell. Some walking sticks. BYO table & chair, and tent if you think you need one. Van Vleck campus, in studio area by pond.

Decoy Show - May 20-23 Westbrook CT. More details to follow.

Five Points - Torrington campus 6/3 & 4. Demo & sell. More info to come.

Wood Carvers New England Retreat – Sept. 15-18 at Retreat Center, Litchfield, CT. This is new generation of the Mystic Carvers retreat. Mark your calendar. Details to follow.

White Memorial Earth Day - Sept 23, 10-4. More info to follow.

Bird Carving Event - Sept 30 all day at CFPA facility. 8am—8pm. Will make complete Sandpiper. \$50 all material & instruction with professional bird carver. Contact Paul Edwards @ (203) 578-0699.

Spirit of Wood & Ct WoodCarvers Annual Show - 10/18-24 more details to follow.

Spirit of Wood Show - 10/21-24 more details to follow.

For additional info on a calendar events, check club web site.

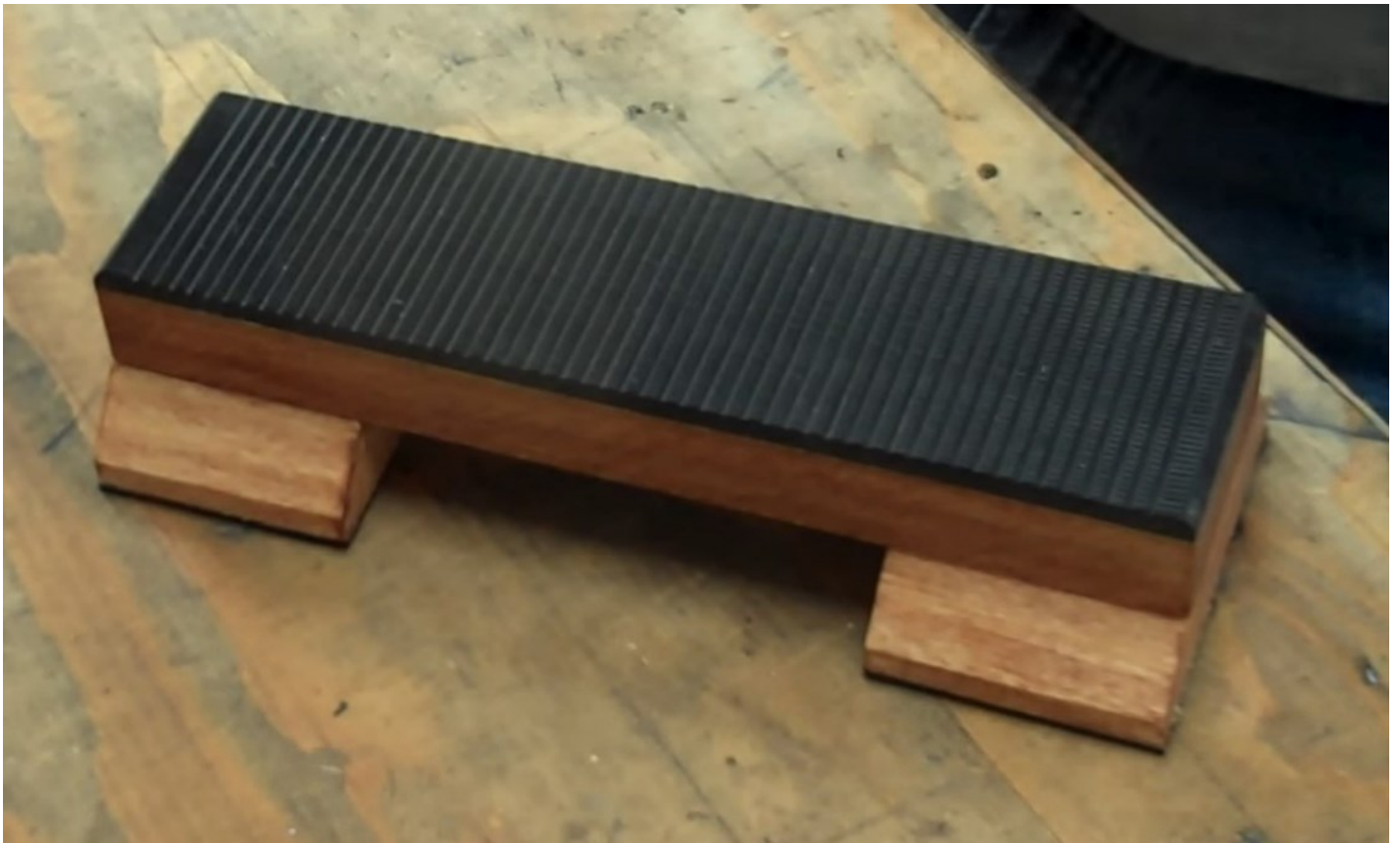
Message from the Prez,

Greetings!

The Art of the woodcarver doesn't always have to be the creation of Art, as birds, spoons, walking sticks, etc. With that in mind, a trip to the local tool outlet for a replacement handle may be greeted with "we don't carry that or they don't make that anymore" and so on. Now with that in mind and your skill at woodcarving, it is off to your wood stash to see what there is. Maybe some pine, bass, cherry or not so good a piece of hickory just barely the size to fit with your careful layout, it might work. Now rough it out with a saw, clean up with the spokeshave and fit with this new handle, made to fit your hand perfectly!! What more could you ask for? An old friend resurrected for a new life!

So remember....Safety first, sharp tools, clean cuts and..

Happy carving, Your prez



A Good Idea, Largely Forgotten: The Washboard Sharpening System

I have often observed CWCA members stropping tools while carving - to maintain a keen edge. It seems like a good way to avoid lengthy tool sharpening sessions. But while that approach works for the most part, you may eventually round over the tool's bevel, and wind up with an edge that makes you work harder. Then you face a more lengthy session to re-shape the bevel. **Or**, you may decide that you need to purchase a new favorite tool (not that this would necessarily be a bad decision :-).

I recently came across a sharpening system that is efficient at shaping an edge AND maintains an edge at optimal shape – all that while being both portable and inexpensive. It's called the *Washboard Sharpening System*. It was invented by a *Blade Forums* member and sold thru the Forum to members from 2015 - 2017.

The Washboard system was named after it's core idea – which was to strop on a hard acrylic plate which features a grooved surface. The regular and uniform grooves dramatically increase abrasive action of compounds on it's surface. Plus those ridges and grooves provide tactile and auditory feedback so the user can tell if they are on the bevel, the shoulder, or if they are riding (& rounding) the cutting edge.



Washboard, *continued*



The 'washboard' can be wrapped with sandpaper, abrasive films, or paper which has a compound on it. Or it can be used with plain paper to burnish the steel. Shims hold films / paper against the acrylic surface. It is not much bigger than a bench oil or water stone.

By stepping thru grits, you can reshape the edge. Once that's done, you can use plain paper and compound to hone as you

Carve, and you have a portable way to maintain edge **and** the shape of your bevel.

As far as I can tell the system is no longer available anywhere; but judging from the rave reviews, it's disappearance was not because it didn't work. I suspect it's mostly because it could not generate sufficient profit for a seller – the components can be shop made, and the supplies are everywhere for little expense.

It can be used to polish larger areas and to maintain overall blade geometry during maintenance sharpening. It can touch up battered edges, crisp the edge on V bevel, convex, Scandi grind, etc. - all with a minimum of steel loss, and burr formation. Perhaps best of all, it is less hampered by loading, glazing, & contamination, because the grooves collect particles - and because changing the film / paper is inexpensive and easy.

A few other notes:

- The recommended paper is ordinary copy paper.
- Best to not use water-based abrasive on the plain paper - it will disintegrate quickly.
- Remove debris from sandpaper with an eraser or crepe rubber.
- For maintaining edges, paper with compound is all that should be required.

Some chats are still accessible on Blade Forums, and videos still remain on youtube. Here's one that you can view:

[Washboard Tutorial Plus - YouTube](#)



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The February 7 Monthly Meeting

