



Greetings fellow carvers!

I hope this finds you well and in good spirits. And most importantly hope you all had a good time with family and friends with the help of the Easter bunny that hides eggs for eager young ones to run from here to there in search of another treasure egg!! There is less worry, if all the eggs were carved from wood, that way if they weren't found, they will be safe for next year!!

May will be a busy month including: May 1st CWCA meeting, Mother's Day (Happy Mother's Day) and the 2nd Wednesday carve-in at the Carousel museum. Then there is the decoy show in Westbrook on May 21st. Enter your carving or volunteer to help and enjoy the day with like-minded carvers and maybe if you enter you might surprise yourself with a prize that you thought was out of reach. Think positively!!! Involvement is the key to your success and the success of the show!

The Walking Stick Program is back!! Fifty sticks will be awarded upon completion of this year's Hiking Trail Program. The award program is at the end of December. So remember..... Safety first, sharp tools and clean cuts!!!!

The Pres



## Calendar:

**CWCA Club Meetings** – May 1 & June 5 – at CFPA, 16 Meriden Rd, Rockfall, CT - 10am-2pm.

**Open Carving Night** – May 11 and every second Wednesday 7-9 pm at Bristol Carousel Museum.

**Flanders Family Day** – in process of scheduling.

**Westbrook Woodcarving & Decoy Show** – May 21, 9-3. **CMCA's club competition. Volunteers needed.**

**Annual Club Picnic** – in process of scheduling.

**Mystic Carvers Retreat at Enders Island from Aug. 26th - August 29th, 2022. Registration April 1.**

**White Memorial Family Day** – in process of scheduling for 9/24.

For additional information on a calendar events, check the club web site at [www.ctwoodcarvers.org](http://www.ctwoodcarvers.org).

### Currently Serving CWCA Officers:

President	Leo Hein	860-675-5473	Secretary	Dan Holiday	860-620-2255
V. President	Michael Audette	860-388-7874	Treasurer	Bob McVety	203-288-3161
Membership	Mark Austin	860-283-2177	Web Liaison	Lynda Zibbideo	203-686-1207
Newsletter	Mike Schulde	860-379-5805			

**TIME TO 'RE-UP'!** Please send \$15.00 to Mark Austin to renew membership For 2022. **Failure to renew membership will mean that you will be dropped from the mailing list.** Checks should be made to 'CWCA' & mailed with form to: **CWCA Membership, 258 Campville Rd, Northfield, CT 06778**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ New Member?  Yes

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

## Know Your EMC to Stay Squared (EMC = equilibrium Moisture Content)

Everyone who works with wood needs to understand how wood interacts with moisture in the environment. Wood is hygroscopic, so it gains or loses water in response to humidity in the surrounding air. When the wood neither gains nor loses moisture, we say that the wood has reached its Equilibrium Moisture Content (EMC).

Humidity levels vary with season, location, temperature, air movement, etc. The type, age, and size of a piece of wood you are carving are also factors. No matter how old a piece of wood is, it will still change with respect to its' environment, causing expansion/shrinkage, warping, cracking, buckling, diminished wood strength, peeling of finish, corrosion of fasteners, and even fungal growth. I've worked hundred year old chestnut on my lathe and found that the changes were huge as well as devastating to the structure of fibers, which had become brittle over the years.

A friend who spent most of his career managing in aerospace industry, took a job running a furniture manufacturing operation. His learning curve was steep and long. When touring his operation 6 months after he took over, he said: "I thought advanced metals were hard to control, they're nothing compared to wood."

So, what to do? Industry experts suggest getting the wood to within two percentage points of the relative humidity of it's eventual environment before you work it. Once your carving is done, apply an appropriate finish to slow the response of the wood to moisture in it's environment. That way you can expect that it is the average humidity that must be predicted – and stress less over the very short term fluctuations in humidity. Just know that wood, no matter how it is finished will still reach EMC and can change for the worse as a result.

Humidity of the in-use location	Moisture content of the in-use location
19-25%	5%
26-32%	6%
33-39%	7%
40-46%	8%
47-52%	9%

If an interior location has an average relative humidity of 40-52%, wood placed there will have an average EMC of 8-9%. Based on common guidelines, the acceptable moisture level for wood objects used indoors is 6-8%. This is based on a chart in *Wood Handbook: Wood as an Engineering Material*.



# Easter Bunny - Seasonal Favorite



M. Schulte, 126 Goose Green Rd., Barkhamsted, CT 06063

