



CWCA NEWSLETTER

Jan. 2024

Connecticut Wood Carvers Association

Upcoming Events

Events for 2025

Jan. 5 - * **CWCA Club Meeting** 10 - 2 at CFPA. Novice projects are: Heart & Snowflake.

Jan. 16 - * **Evening Carving Night** 5-8pm - Bristol Carousel Museum (usually 3rd Thurs.)

Feb. 3 - * **CWCA Club Meeting** 10 - 2 at CFPA (usually 1st Sunday). Novice projects are:
Cottonwood Bark & Bellamy Eagle.

Feb. 20 - * **Evening Carving Night** 5-8pm - Bristol Carousel Museum (usually 3rd Thurs.)

Mar. 2 - * **CWCA Club Meeting** 10 - 2 at CFPA Novice projects are: Cottonwood Bark.

Mar.13 - * **Evening Carving Night** 5-8pm - Bristol Carousel Museum (usually 3rd Thurs.)

April 27 - **Barkhamstead Day**, People's Forest State Park. More info later.

Sept. 27-30 - **Woodcarving Retreat of New England**. More info later.

Sept. 27 - **White Memorial Nature Day** More info later.

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

* Denotes CWCA sponsored and run event.

Letter from 'The Prez'

Greetings,

With the Holidays passing and we entering the 2025 New Year, we may wonder where did 2024 go!! Well, it went with monthly meetings, Wood Working Show (Big E), Barkhamstead Nature Day, Westbrook Decoy Show, the NEWC Carving Show, Big Ink at Five Point Art Center, Annual CWCA Picnic, Carving Retreat, White Memorial Family Day, NE Spirit of Wood Show, our Holiday Carve-in. For all of you that took part in or helped make these events happen that was because of your support so....Thank You!!

With the new year, let's see what will be happening to make THE CLUB? more of a success and let's see what changes will occur. Remember with your input, things may or may not happen!

Just a reminder...with the new year dues are due. Let's keep the club going and with your support make it even better!!!

As Always... Keep your tools sharp, your cuts clean and safe and happy carving!!

Your pres

p.s. Remember I'm at the NECMuseum the third Thursdays of the month!!



Determining Knife Edge Sharpness

Paper test

The paper test is the most common and best way to test a knife's sharpness. It involves cutting through paper with your knife. The sharper the blade, the cleaner and smoother the cut.

The best paper to use for the test is a simple piece of office paper.



Hold the paper in your left hand by its corner, with the paper perpendicular to you. Holding it at a 90-degree angle ensures that the paper doesn't slip as you cut through it.

Make sure your knife is in a comfortable position. The handle should be facing toward your body, and the blade should be pointing downwards at a 90-degree angle.

Gently place your knife against one of the long edges on the corner of the paper, with the blade facing away from your body.

Slowly pull the knife across the length of the paper until you cut through it.

Fingernail test

The fingernail test is a simple yet effective way to determine the sharpness of a knife. The technique is straightforward. Place the blade on your fingernail, preferably your thumbnail, and allow the blade to rest there.

If the knife is sharp enough, it will bite in and not slide easily, whereas a dull knife will slide over your nail without leaving a mark. Remember not to apply any pressure on the edge.

Dubious tactile tests

I avoid sharpness tests that involve risk of physical mutilation in a quest to impress your friends. Some examples are: shaving hair off your body, or running fingers or tongue along the edge of the blade.

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TIME TO 'RE-UP'! Please send \$25.00 to Mark Austin to renew your membership For 2024.

Checks should be made to 'CWCA' and mailed with following form to: **CWCA Membership, 258 Campville Road, Northfield, CT 06778**

Name _____ New Member? Yes

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Determining Knife Edge Sharpness *(continuation)*

Visual inspection

Visual inspection test is the easiest way to tell if your knife is sharp enough for use. Hold the blade edge under a bright light, and look for a thin reflection line on the edge. If you can see a thin consistent blue, black, or silver line, then you have an absence of nicks / dents in the blade. Inconsistency, nicks, or dents means the edge requires repair and re-sharpening. Unfortunately, this technique cannot provide assurance that the blade is sharp.

There are other ways to assure your knife's sharpness visually:

Magnifying Glass or Loupe can help you get a closer look at the edge. Look for smooth, symmetrical ridges if sharp, and jagged, uneven edges if dull.

USB Microscopes provide a more detailed examination very effectively. They are small, affordable, and can be connected to your computer or smartphone. They provide a very close-up view of the knife edge, allowing you to see the shape of the bevel and any imperfections.

Visual inspection is a great way to know if you have reached a point where stropping has rounding over the edge, or if your stropping technique may be prematurely rounding the edge. BTW: Use of a polarizing filter on your magnifier or microscope can help reduce glare and make it easier to see details of the edge.

December Meeting at CF&P



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