



CWCA NEWSLETTER

October, 2025

Connecticut Wood Carvers Association

Upcoming Events

Oct. 5 - * **CWCA Club Meeting** 10am-2pm Carousel Museum in Bristol (usually 1st Sun.).

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

Oct. 17, 18 & 19 - **Spirit of Wood 126 Middlesex Ave.**, Willmington, MA. www.newc.org

Nov. 2 - * **CWCA Club Meeting** 10am-2pm at Carousel Museum in Bristol (usually 1st Sun.).

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

Dec. 7 - * **CWCA Club Meeting** 10am-2pm at CFPA (usually 1st Sun.).

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

For additional info on a calendar events, check club web site. **Novice proj. - C page 3.**

Letter from 'The Prez'

Greetings Fellow Carvers,

Change is in progress and leaves are in full fall mode. Birch are in the yellow stage and dropping their leaves. Maples are in the normal varied state of color change with more of the older trees stressed and unfortunately dying! As you travel around you may not think too much about all the dead trees, but what will happen to our wood supply for carving or our declining oxygen level that trees help to maintain our earth. With that said, trees may not verbally speak although without a tree's presence, we would not have the beautiful fall colors that prepare us for the cooler days and the dark cold winter nights and days ahead. Without our trees, wood carving will be an ART of the past!!

And always remember to pay respect to Mother Nature and the trees that give us their show of color and the wood for our Art.

So let's all plant trees!!!

Sticks for White Memorial Family Day were cut with four of our members, Paul, Andre, Gary and Leo. In a few hours we were able to claim many sticks for White Memorial. Thank you for all the work that was put in to complete this endeavor! And now let's hope for good weather!

As always, Safety first, sharp tools, clean cuts, and keep the chips falling,

Your Pres

Are Woodpeckers Good for Trees?

Woodpeckers can actually be quite beneficial to trees—though it depends on the context. Here's a breakdown of their impact:



Benefits of Woodpeckers

- **Pest Control:** Woodpeckers feed on insects like beetles and larvae that burrow into trees. By removing these pests, they help protect trees from infestations and disease.
- **Natural Pruning:** Their pecking often targets dead or decaying wood, which can help trees shed unhealthy parts.
- **Habitat Creation:** Nesting cavities made by woodpeckers in dead or dying trees become homes for other wildlife like squirrels, owls, and bats.
- **Minimal Harm to Healthy Trees:** Most species, especially those that nest in heartwood (already dead tissue), don't significantly damage healthy trees.

Potential Risks

- **Sapsucker Damage:** These woodpeckers drill rows of holes to feed on sap, which can girdle branches or trunks if done excessively, potentially harming the tree.
- **Disease Entry Points:** Holes can expose trees to pathogens, especially if the tree is already stressed or unhealthy.
- **Structural Damage:** In rare cases, repeated pecking can weaken limbs or trunks, especially in ornamental or fruit trees.

Should You Intervene?

Generally, if your trees are healthy, woodpecker activity is not a cause for concern. However, if you notice excessive damage or suspect sapsucker activity, protective measures like mesh wraps or deterrents may help—though it's important to avoid harmful substances that could injure the birds.

So yes, woodpeckers are often good for trees, especially in natural settings. Their ecological role as pest controllers and habitat creators outweighs the minor damage they might cause.



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Expanded Program Projects

As we started this past spring the club is looking to expand our novice project offerings to provide more opportunities to learn and try new things. This fall we are offering all of our novice projects concurrently from September until December. 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 will be providing the following projects:

Novice projects

- 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 – our previous December class has been a great way to use up old walking sticks
- Name Tags – we encourage all of you to create your own nametag (or more than one)

Multi-Month Projects

- Bellamay Eagle – we will continue the session from the spring in case anyone else wants to create one as well as those of us who still need to finish the first one.
- 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 from male to female, then going crazy with skeleton themes, wizard themes (with a dragon and eye on his hat), and an inspiration from cypress knees which also relies on painting for multiple themes!

The 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 also looking forward to the spring with various projects. Some of the projects coming are tentatively:

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

We are looking for a large project for the spring. Suggestions?