CWCA NEWSLETTER

Nov.. 2026 Connecticut Wood Carvers Association

1976-2026
50TH ANNIVERSARY

Upcoming Events

Nov. 1 - **CWCA Club Meeting** 10am-2pm - @ CFPA (usually CFPA on 1st Sun.).
Nov. 14 - **Berlin Peck Memorial Library Makers Event** with turners & scrollers 10am-3pm setup 9am
Nov. 19 - **Evening Carving Night (turkey class)** 5-8pm - at Bristol Carousel Museum
Dec. 6 - **CWCA Club Meeting, 50th Anniversary, and Holiday Party** 10am-2pm - @ CFPA. Gift swap and raffle. Families invited.
Dec. 17 - **Evening Carving Night** 5-8pm - at Bristol Carousel Museum
Jan. 3 2027 - **CWCA Club Meeting** 10am-2pm - @ CFPA (usually CFPA on 1st Sun.).
May 22 2027 - **White Memorial** 10am-2pm - at White Memorial – class
Sept. 10-13 2027 - **Carving Retreat** at Wisdom House in Litchfield

Check the club calendar for updates & more info. Hold *control* & right click**:** Calendar

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President's Report – November 2026

As we come to the end of the year, we would encourage you to come to our meetings for ideas for projects for the up coming holiday. We will be doing trees as our novice project during our November class on Sunday November 1st. Don't forget to fall back with the clocks.

Thank you Darren for coming down and presenting the Acorn novice project in October. We were also able to see Leo Hein receive an award from the New England Wood Carvers for donating over 20 carvings to the Tree of Hope (to be sold for veterans causes by NEWC).

We had a strong showing at the Spirit of Wood Show with three awards. Jen and Paul took first place ribbons in their class and Mark received an honorable mention. We provided a walking stick class/demonstration and gave out around 40 sticks and one stick donation to the church.

Remember, in December is our Annual Holiday Party. We are celebrating our 50th anniversary! We are inviting EVERYONE to come. Please bring your families. We will have raffles, the annual gift swap (bring a gift – hand crafted is always the best choice – and get a gift), pot luck lunch (please bring a dish to share). We will not be doing an official novice project but we encourage you to come and carve. We will likely have some past projects available.

We hope to see you soon!

Mark

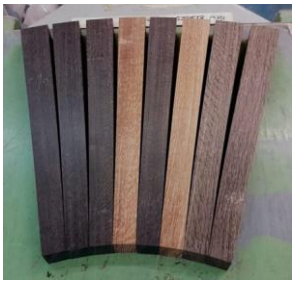
Working with Thousand Year Old Oak

Bog Oak is ancient oak wood that has been preserved for hundreds to thousands of years in peat bogs, riverbeds, and other waterlogged, oxygen-poor environments. It has undergone a slow chemical transformation that darkens, hardens, and densifies the wood. It's different than million year old petrified wood that has completely turned to stone. You can actually work with it



Sometimes referred to as *Morta*, this is regular oak that fell into a bog and gradually turned jet black due to reactions between tannins in wood and iron in surrounding soil and water. It becomes very dense and hard as minerals like silica and calcium carbonate slowly infiltrate the wood. Yet it still retains its grain, giving it a dramatic, elegant appearance prized in fine woodworking, knife handles, musical instruments, smoking pipes, small sculptures, and jewelry.

Bog oak is most commonly recovered in Europe and Scandinavia: and it's actually not difficult to get small pieces to turn into a pen as a special gift.





Since no other wood comes anywhere near tannin levels found in oak, no other common tree species undergoes this type of transformation. Oak is also suited to this transformation due to tight, thick dense fibers and high lignan content, which makes it resistant to fungi, bacteria, and insects.

Bog oak formation requires millennia, not centuries. It is workable after 1,000 years of age. The oldest usable bog oak ever found was dated to 4344-4066 BCE.

- 0–100 years → waterlogging
- 100–1,000 years → partial preservation
- 1,000–3,000 years → early bog oak
- 3,000–6,000+ years → true morta (black, mineralized, stone-like)

Working bog oak does have some special challenges since oak's tannins bind with minerals, which slowly replacing organic material and mineralized wood. This can cause it to dull tools more quickly, so carbide tools are sometimes used when turning wood. It can also be brittle at the surface, and uneven in hardness depending on mineralization. But it is tough and stable once shaped.

After shaping, sanding transforms the look of a piece made from bog oak. Finished to 1000–2000 grit, it takes on a stone-like sheen. Finishing is commonly done with: oil, wax, or shellac.

If stabilizing is necessary as the wood is shaped, you can use resin or CA glue. Bonding can be done with epoxy, CA glue, or polyurethane glue. Dust safety measures are important because silica dust is produced while sanding.

It is interesting to note that timber companies have a practice of storing logs short-term in ponds, but it's very different from bog transformation described above. Ponds are used because they keep logs fresh, stable, and millable, while leaving wood in bogs breaks wood down before eventually mineralizing it over millennia.

Timber companies store & monitor freshly cut logs in large water ponds to keep them from drying out too quickly. This prevents splitting, insect and fungal decay. Pond storage keeps them pristine, but is short-term preservation only.

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Upcoming spring classes/monthly projects:

- Tree / Snowperson - November
- Penguin - January
- Heart - February
- Fish - March
- Elephant - April
- Mushroom - May
- Banana - June





- Multi-month projects: snowperson and pumpkin person.

Highlights from October meeting at CFPA











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CWCA Facebook page Connecticut Woodcarvers Association | Facebook
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Chapter mailings notice

Our treasurer has done a quick study and found that we are paying more in mailing costs of the newsletter per person than the $25 membership fee can cover. It currently costs $31/member/year, and costs are certain to continue going up. In this age of technology, all members should be able to reach the newsletter online via our website. If an individual absolutely wants a paper copy, their dues will have to increase to $55.

This newsletter is intended only for members of Connecticut WoodCarvers Association web site: www.ctwoodcarvers.org and https://www.facebook.com/groups/CWCA?