



CWCA NEWSLETTER

Dec. 2023

Connecticut Wood Carvers Association

Upcoming Events

- Dec. 3 **CWCA Club Meeting** 10 - 2 at CFPA. Walk' stick ass'y. Pot luck & grab bag (your work).
- Dec. 21 **Evening Carving Night** 5-8 pm at Bristol Carousel Museum (usually 3rd Thurs.)
- Jan. 7 **CWCA Club Meeting** 10 - 2 at CFPA. Project: relief carving & lettering.
- Jan. 18 **Evening Carving Night** 5-8 pm at Bristol Carousel Museum (usually 3rd Thurs.)
- Jan. 12-14 **Big E woodworking show.** Setup 11th. Need stick collection volunteers.
- Feb. 4 **CWCA Club Meeting** 10 - 2 at CFPA. Project: relief carving & lettering contin.
- Feb. 15 **Evening Carving Night** 5-8 pm at Bristol Carousel Museum (usually 3rd Thurs.)
- Apr. 20 **Goodwin Nature Center.** Walking sticks. More info later.
- Apr. 28 **Barkhamsted Nature Day** More info later.
- May 3 **Decoy Show** More info later.
- June 1-2 **5 Points Big Ink demo & club meeting.** More info later.
- Sept. 27-30 **Woodcarving Retreat of New England.** Wisdom Retreat House. More info later.
- Oct. **Spirit of Wood** at the Carousel Museum. More info later.

Greetings

With the Holiday season of Joy and Giving fast approaching, may the caring and love be passed to all in your presence.

With that in mind, we are looking forward to the CWCA Holiday Party, including a Pot Luck Buffet and a Gift Swap which includes any of your favorite munchies and a swap of a self carved item or a carving related item. And let's not forget we need to finish "The Sky's The Limit" walking sticks for the Ct Walking Program, before we get to enjoy our party time!!

As always, the New Year is shaping up to be a busy and productive year with our regular meetings and our community involvement. We have already scheduled the Springfield Big E Woodworking Show, a bird carving seminar scheduled for April 20th, and then there's Barkhamsted Nature Day, all with excellent public exposure!! The Annual Decoy Show is still a question.

Woodcarvers can have many influences and involvement in different types of shows like the "Big Ink" - an art exhibition. Chip and Relief Carving has been and still are functioning part of Art and Printing. Long before the technology of today, these carving styles were how lettering and Graphics Art was completed and still is produced for special artistic effects. Although new technologies have taken over, as with the program "Paper" and duplicating of our works, the human is still the main source of Originality. Artificial Intelligence is trying to replace the human mind with Robots actually doing the work! In the end, will a robot be able to capture a painting on canvas or a carving in 3-D that we humans produce without the aid of A-I? Give it some thought with your next carving.

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

Happy carving.....Your prez

Holiday Themed Wood Carving



Just after carving pumpkins at Halloween, wood carvers shift to santas, holiday trees, and other figures that are near and dear to many in the December holiday season. But these are certainly not the whole story of holiday lore.

There are other scary counterparts to the feel-good items which have a large place in holiday tradition - like Krampus.

He is half-man, half-goat who comes around every year to chase naughty children and maybe even drag them to hell. European folklore in Austria's Alpine region have told stories for hundreds of years which feature mythical characters who dole out punishment to frighten children and amuse adults. To present times on Krampusnacht, Austrian men get drunk and run through the streets dressed as the fearsome Krampus creature. Krampus' popularity in the U.S. arguably peaked with the 2015 feature film *Krampus*, which shouldn't be confused with the many other low-budget Krampus movies.



In Iceland, instead of getting a visit from Santa Claus on Christmas Eve, 13 Yule Lads (Jólasveinar) descend from their mountain home to wreak mischief in the nights leading up to Christmas (Jól).

The Yule Lads are said to be sons of hideous trolls Grýla and her husband, Leppalúði. Grýla is especially horrible as she has an appetite for the flesh of naughty children, who she likes to put into a large pot and make into stew. While the original Yule Lads were pranksters who went about stealing food and causing havoc, in modern times they have become the Icelandic version of Santa Claus, leaving children daily gifts.



Every night, starting on December 12th, one Yule Lad will visit the home of every child, placing a toy or a piece of candy into shoes that children leave on their window sills...that is, as long as you were well behaved that day! Since if you misbehaved that day, the Yule Lads are not subtle in expressing their disapproval, and they'll fill your shoe with rotting potatoes.

On 12/15, **Pvörusleikir** – Spoon Licker likes to sneak into houses and lick wooden spoons used to scrape pots and pans.

Askasleikir - Bowl Licker visits on 12/17. In the past, Icelanders ate from wooden bowls with a hinged-lid that were sometimes kept under the bed for a midnight snack. Bowl Licker likes to hide under the bed, and when someone puts their bowl on the floor he'll grab it and lick it clean.

Altogether they are 13 mischievous pranksters who harass the population and all have descriptive names that convey their favorite way of harassing. The others are:



- **Stekkjastaur** (Sheep-Cote Clod) tries to suckle yews in farmer's sheep sheds.
- **Giljagaur** (Gully Gawk) hides in gullies and sneaks into cowsheds to steal foam from milk buckets.
- **Stúfur** (Stubby) steals food from frying pans.
- **Pottaskefill** (Pot-Scraper) steals unwashed pots and licks them clean.
- **Hurðaskellir** (Door-Slammer) slams doors loudly at night, keeping everyone awake.
- **Skrygámur** (Skyr-Gobbler) has a great appetite for skyr, a type of Icelandic yogurt.
- **Bjúgnakrækir** (Sausage-Swiper) steals sausages that are being smoked.
- **Gluggagægir** (Window-Peeper) looks through windows and steals things he sees inside.
- **Gáttapefur** (Doorway-Sniffer) has a large nose and a keen sense of smell, which he uses to locate laufabrauð, a type of Icelandic bread.
- **Ketkrókur** (Meat-Hook) uses a hook to steal meat.
- **Kertasníkir** (Candle-Stealer) follows children and steals their candles.

I have visited the place Yule Lads call home. Given that they live in cold lava caves, their penchant for mischief is not at all surprising!



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Event to consider to showcase your inspired work:

- Tree of Hope project: <https://www.newc.org/tree-of-hope-sales>