



CWCA NEWSLETTER

April, 2026

Connecticut Wood Carvers Association

Upcoming Events

- Mar. 21 - **Parkerville Wood Maker Event** - 9-2 580 Parker St., Manchester, Ct, BYO chair, table
Mar. 28-29 - **Woodworker Showcase** - at Saratoga Springs N.Y. 9-4
Apr. 12 - **CWCA Club Meeting** 10am-2pm - at CFPA. (Moved due to Easter. Usually 1st Sun.).
Apr. 16 - **Evening Carving Night** 5-8pm - at Bristol Carousel Museum (usually 3rd Thurs.)
Apr. 25 - **Berlin Peck Memorial Library** maker event 10-2 RSVP - see calendar on web site
Apr. 26 - **Barkhamsted Nature Day** more information later.
May 1-2 - **Fine Woodworking Show** CT School of Woodworking more information later.
May 3 - **CWCA Club Meeting** 10am-2pm - @ CFPA (usually CFPA on 1st Sun.).
May 16 - **Carving Competition & Decoy Show** Westbrook CT More info later
May 21 - **Evening Carving Night** 5-8pm - at Bristol Carousel Museum (usually 3rd Thurs.)
June 7 - **CWCA Club Meeting** 10am-2pm - @ CFPA (usually CFPA on 1st Sun.).
June 18 - **Evening Carving Night** 5-8pm - at Bristol Carousel Museum (usually 3rd Thurs.)
June 27 - **Meriden Library** maker event 9:30-3:30
Aug. 8 - **Portland Library** maker event 4-6 RSVP - see calendar on web site
Sept. 18 - 21 - **Woodcarving Retreat** at Wisdom Retreat House in Litchfield. More info later.

Check the club calendar for updates & more info. Hold *control* & right click: [Calendar](#)

Novice projects - page 3

Signing off by Leo Hein

Greetings my fellow Carvers!

Art from the edge has been a part of my life since I can remember. Whether it was a jackknife or some other tools that were handy. My youth was continuously about creating objects, both useful and some for pleasure. My carvings became more prolific as my skills advanced.

As years went by, I had many adventures in my search for additional like-minded carvers. My memories of some of the new people I encountered stand out as I go down my memory lane. One lucky weekend in the 1970s, I ran into a group of elderly men at a park. It was then I learned about the many carving competitions in the region, including Cromwell Decoy Show, Canadian National Carving Expo, and Connecticut Woodcarvers Association. In the 80s, another name became known to me. When chosen to find a special guest to talk at a dinner function I met David Esterly, a nationally known author, carver, and a restorer of works by Ringling Gibbons. Mr. Esterly kindly accepted the offer to speak.

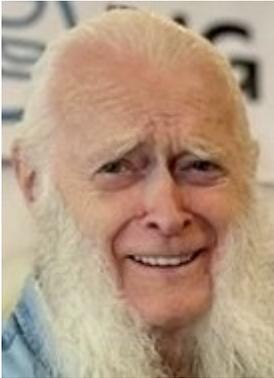
Another pair of men I became familiar with were Ritchie and Finkelstein. They were part of the group restoring carousel pieces with dreams of turning it into more. The New England Carousel Museum was born. Basically, since the museums' inception in 1990, CWCA and I have been working together to grow awareness for the museum, and to educate on the importance wood carving plays in creation and repair of carousel pieces. (*continued on page 2*)



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Signing off by Leo Hein *(continued from page 1)*



It wasn't too long before I was asked to assist in starting regular wood carving shows. We held shows and competitions at the museum for many years. It was shortly after that I became president of the CWCA joined by Bob McVety as club treasurer.

Our club has grown popularity with countless groups and businesses that let us demonstrate various functions to share our craft. These include Wesleyan College, Wadsworth Estate, New England Carousel Museum, Woodworking Show at Big E, Flanders Nature Center Nature Day, White Memorial, Goodwin Nature Center, Barkhamsted Nature Day. While this is a partial list of places we go, these are fundamental cornerstones of what Connecticut Woodcarvers is about, sharing our love and knowledge of wood carving. Like when we gather to harvest sticks, so a child can pick just the right

one, parents at the ready to see their child hop on a shaving horse with an eagerness to learn, they then strip a stick in the blink of an eye, the proud poser with a stick - but a problem. It's too long. But a quick cut, and now the new crafter of their very own stick struts with it like a proud peacock.

Sometimes as we met at Carousel Museum, we faced other challenges. Once we had the opportunity to have a class with a Master Carver using the new upstairs venue. It was August a hot one and no AC! But we bit the bullet so we could experience time with such an accomplished artist for a class.

The once in a lifetime opportunity gave all that attended a look at a true master. We received our blank and carved a grape leaf with grapes, using our instructor for questions and advice. Not only did he assist all who wanted it, but over span of that two day class, he himself made several shallow relief carvings with dimensions of 12 x 16 and just 3/16 inch in depth. Did I mention it was August, without air conditioning. Since that time, many instructors have taught hundreds of carvers and dozens of shows and competitions have happened at Carousel Museum. I am grateful and happy to have been a part of growth of not just the museum but also of this club.

During my time as your president, I have been fortunate to have worked with countless carvers of all skill levels, some of them with national notoriety. These experiences have given my journey as your leader, many emotions, from frustration to feelings of being fully rewarded. My interest has always been to make everyone the best carver they can be regardless of what subject you chose for your art.

Thank you for many years of memories, and for listening to my summary.

I wish you all God speed. Don't forget..... safety first, sharp tools and clean, cuts!!!!

Signing off..... your pres.....Leo

Club Election of Officers

Annual election of officers took place at March 1st meeting. CWCA may still need a Secretary. President: Mark Austin; Vice President: Camille Westfall; Treasurer/Membership: Lynda Zibbideo; Secretary: open; Newsletter: Mike Schulde; Website: Lynda Zibbideo.

Upcoming spring classes/monthly projects:

- Quick Carve Snowman – we have a small one for night carve, a larger for stand-alone class
- Hummingbird and Crane ornaments
- Stylized Shorebird and chickadee
- Wonky Whittled Ladybugs; Flag Pin; Shelf sitting cat

President President Elect	Leo Hein Mark Austin	860-675-5473 860-309-2227	Secretary Sec Elect	Kristian Wake —	860-328-2412
VP VP Elect	Rick Johnson Camille Westfall	860-798-9104 Puffdraon247 @gmail.com	Newsletter	Mike Schulde	Mikeschu62 @gmail.com
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