



CWCA NEWSLETTER

July, 2026

Connecticut Wood Carvers Association

1976-2026
50TH ANNIVERSARY

Upcoming Events

- July 16 - **Evening Carving Night** 5-8pm - at Bristol Carousel Museum
July 25 - **Paint and Glue Bats** at White Memorial RSVP - see calendar on web site
Aug. 8 - **Portland Library** maker event 4-6 RSVP - see calendar on web site
Aug. 20 - **Evening Carving Night** 5-8pm - at Bristol Carousel Museum
Aug. 22 - **CWCA picnic** @ Lynda's house: 53 Mayflower La., Meriden
Sept. 13 - **CWCA Club Meeting** 10am-2pm - @ CFPA (usually CFPA on 1st Sun.).
Sept 17 - **Evening Carving Night** 5-8pm - at Bristol Carousel Museum
Sept. 18 - 21 - **Woodcarving Retreat** at Wisdom Retreat House in Litchfield.
Sept. 26 - **Family Nature Day at White Memorial** More info later
Sept. 27 - **SoCCA Dragonfly Event** Southington, Ct
Oct. 3 - **Walking Stick Demo—Family Wildlife Day** Watertown, CT
Oct. 4 - **CWCA Club Meeting** 10am-2pm - @ CFPA (usually CFPA on 1st Sun.).

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

President's Report – July 2026

Thank you all for your support. We have accomplished so much in the last year:

By partnering with Central Connecticut Wood Turners, we started holding Maker's Events to illustrate turning and carving to help everyone realize that here are other activities other than playing on your electronic devices. We have also partnered with the Southern New England Scrollers for a trio of presenters. This event has significantly grown to our largest event on Saturday June 27th, where we will be joined by around six other crafters and craft clubs at the Meriden Library. We have new members from these!

We have approached the previous partners and event locations to see if there are other partnership opportunities:

White Memorial, where we have been active at their annual Nature Day, is planning on having us back for stand alone classes.

The New England Carousel Museum, who hosts our monthly carve in sessions on the third Thursday of each month, has asked us to hold classes during the open carve sessions. Leo has been instrumental in creating this relationship.

Southington Community Cultural Arts has partnered with us to hold a carving class on September 27th to make a dragonfly. They were so impressed with our work, we created this project just for them to support their theme this year of dragonflies in honor of an important member. Lynda and John Webber created the original opportunity and Rick came up with the great idea.

The Connecticut Forest and Park Association is exploring class opportunities and is asking for donations of simple walking sticks and comfort birds which we have provided in the past. This helps keep our annual room rental low. Mark is continuing to work with the group to create more opportunities.

Creating new opportunities:

We are always looking to create more opportunities to show off carving and attract people to the craft. If you have an idea or an event we can try to demonstrate for, please let our Education Committee know and we will reach out to the group.

We are so excited to continue to provide more projects and opportunities over time. Please help us with your ideas, and maybe, one or two **small** tasks on our committees! The more volunteers, the more value we can provide.

Keep chips flying and cover your beverage. (oh, how many times I have done that!!)

Mark

This newsletter is intended only for members of Connecticut WoodCarvers Association



Strengthening a Fragile Carving

A conversation with Jen at a recent carving event reminded me about a very useful solution for repairs, fabrication, and construction of carving projects. You may have heard of this before, but it can be easily forgotten if you haven't had a need for it in a while.

Adding baking soda to cyanoacrylate (CA) glue creates a rigid, rock-hard composite that bonds to and strengthens wood almost instantly. Baking soda (sodium bicarbonate) introduces hydroxide ions and greatly accelerates polymerization while thickening the CA. The result is a rigid composite (acrylic polymer chains of polycyanoacrylate ester) that can be sanded, drilled, or shaped like hardwood. It is often stronger than the surrounding wood, and can even be built up in layers to make features on a carving (or replacement parts for small repairs around the house). Here are some possible uses:

- ◇ Dripping thin or medium CA onto a line of baking powder where you need a brace, will create a rib which adheres to the wood surface you placed the line of baking soda on to.
- ◇ Spreading baking soda over a surface and then adding ca will provide a layer of support.
- ◇ Putting baking soda into a void and adding CA will instantly make a repair – although in this application you can also add a CA accelerant or just leave the CA to harden in time if it is not going to run or soak into the wood.

Keep in mind here that there are instances when you want to penetrate and harden deep in a piece of wood. When the need is to penetrate deeply and harden a porous piece of wood or bark, there are actually a number of alternative substances which you can use. (see note below)

Some important considerations when deploying this fix:

- Heat: The reaction gets hot—avoid touching while reaction is underway.
- Fumes: CA fumes can irritate eyes and lungs - ventilate!
- Finishes: Baking soda can etch or discolor some finishes, so test on scrap wood first.
- Wood species: Softwoods absorb more; hardwoods give cleaner results (best to roughen the surface).
- Visibility: The cured composite is pale; it may show through clear finishes unless tinted. So if you are not planning to paint the article under construction, you may want to use a colored CA glue, or add tint to CA or to an epoxy.

This method can also be useful to fabricate or repair plastic parts, reinforce screw holes or stripped threads; and it will adhere to many materials besides wood (with the exception of polyethylene (PE), silicone, rubber, Teflon, and oil or grease covered surfaces).

Note: Products which penetrate and internally stabilize soft or punky wood:

- *Minwax* Wood Hardener — solvent-based hardener
- *PC-Petrifier* — water-based hardener
- *System Three*, *RotFix*, or *Abatron LiquidWood*
- Generic epoxy and resin-based wood hardeners

Volunteers Needed

The club is in need of volunteers for various new committees as new opportunities are finalized for shows and events. We are looking for people who can meet occasionally on Zoom, and can also help with various tasks at our meetings. .

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
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CWCA Facebook page
CWCA Web Site
CWCA email address

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