



CWCA NEWSLETTER

September, 2025

Connecticut Wood Carvers Association

Upcoming Events

Sept. 7 - * **CWCA Club Meeting** 10am-2pm at CFPA (usually 1st Sun.). **Novice proj. - C page 3.**

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

Sept. 27 - **White Memorial Nature Day** More info later.

Sept. 27-30 - **Woodcarving Retreat of New England.** Info on web site: <https://ctwoodcarvers.org>

There's still time to register!!!

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.

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.).

For additional info on a calendar events, check club web site.

letter from 'The Prez'

Greetings Fellow Carvers, Young and Advanced in Age too!

With the march of the digital age and your educated thumb, carving should be less of a problem unless of course you are a power carver in which case, the power tool and the thumb might have a conflict that would not be a problem with using a knife!

The youth of today are very adapt with the use of their thumb and I have found working with this younger group, that they manage to grasp the technique very quickly and progress at an amazing rate, most often after just one session. They are off on their own with their own ideas and visions to follow. What's too young?? Well, Florian Koch was four, when he started carving and became a master carving at twenty one and is now president of Koch Carving in Germany today.

So let's help our youth get started!!!

Remember.....safety first, sharp tools, clean cuts, let the chips fly and let your imagination run wild!!!

Your pres

P.S. At this time, I, on behalf of the members of the CWCA that were able to attend our annual picnic, would like to thank Mr. & Mrs. Gemino for their hospitality at their home. In their park like setting, the weather was the best we've ever had in a long time. Also a thank you to all involved in the setting up, bringing food and beverages and of course to our grill master! Again, it was a great day, great company, some carving with the main interest on the food even with plenty of leftovers!!

Dead Dolls of Edinburgh

Bookmarking projects for this coming Halloween? Interested in carving collectables? Maybe this story from *Atlas Obscura* will give you some ideas.



On display at National Museum in Edinburgh, Scotland, this strange set of dolls was discovered by schoolboys atop a popular hiking spot named *Arthur's Seat*.

The discovery came nearly a decade after notorious "*Anatomy Murderers*" William Burke and William Hare were apprehended in 1828, a decade after the notorious murders.

Between 1827 and 1828, William Burke and William Hare lured in and murdered their

lodgers in a scheme to provide fresh bodies to the local anatomy school.

The crimes were exposed when another lodger discovered the body of a previous tenant and reported it to the police. Burke and Hare were apprehended but evidence was not truly damning until Hare turned on Burke and gave a full confession. William Burke was hanged and his body was handed over for dissection – a fitting sentence the locals thought. His skeleton is housed at the *Anatomical Museum*, which is part of Edinburgh's medical school.

Four inches tall and carved delicately of wood, each of the 17 dolls were nestled quietly in their own miniature coffin. The mute dolls haven't told the secret of their creation (*Who had made them, and their purpose, was never proven*), it was suggested that the tiny figures could be effigies for the murder victims a decade earlier.

It was also suggested that the dolls might have been memorials to sailors lost at sea who hadn't received a proper burial.



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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. Any sugges-