



**My Fellow Woodcarvers,**

I get a sense of optimism as the list of activities in the calendar grows. And some CWCA members report that they are getting together for impromptu 'carve-ins'. There is even a possibility of in-person club meetings resuming this summer!

So get your vaccine, sharper your knives, and

Be well . . . Mike Schulde

**Calendar:**

**CWCA April Club ZOOM Meeting** 5/2/21 10:00 a.m. Click this link to get in:

<https://zoom.us/j/94270826566?pwd=Wm9lUnhKS2o3dEdudG1DTDRUVVROQT09>

**CWCA Carve-in** 5/8/21 – location TBD

**CT Duck Decoy Show & Carving Competition** – At Westbrook CT Elk's Lodge May 15.

**Flanders Festival** – May 22 10a – 4p outdoors at corner of Flanders & Churchill. Possible demo and sale - outdoors. Details to follow.

**Renaissance Faire** – June 26, 27 & July 3, 4 10 & 11, 2021. Warsaw Park Ansonia.

**White Memorial Nature Day** – Sept. 25. Demo & sale – outdoors. Details to follow.

**New England Wood Carvers Show** - October 2021. Details to follow.

**Mystic Woodcarving Retreat** - Ender's Island Mystic CT – August 26 – 29, 2022.

Currently Serving CWCA Officers:					
President	Leo Hein	860-675-5473	Secretary	Dan Holiday	860-620-2255
V. President	Michael Audette	860-388-7874	Treasurer	Bob McVety	203-288-3161
Membership	Mark Austin	860-283-2177			
Newsletter	Mike Schulde	860-379-5805	mikeschu62@gmail.com		

**TIME TO 'RE-UP'!** Please send \$15.00 to Mark Austin to renew your membership For 2021. checks should be made to CWCA and mailed with following form to: **CWCA Membership, 258 Campville Road, Northfield, CT 06778**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ New Member?  Yes

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**The best ways to delay self-inflicted carving wounds**

Summer is wood carving season. The time of year that you can enjoy carving outside and avoid making a mess inside. If you were to suddenly have the opportunity to introduce the craft of wood carving to someone this summer, it makes sense to think about safety precautions in advance. The right PPE can give confidence to teacher and learner alike.

It also doesn't hurt to take precautions for yourself - mistakes happen even for an experienced carver - especially if you are busy gabbing as you carve.

So here is basic safety gear to consider for your self or a newby:

1. Gloves – Even cut-resistant gloves don't guaranty that the user will not get cut; but it makes it harder to do real damage. Detractors feel that this approach gives the user false confidence; and they do reduce dexterity. Work gloves and slip-resistant gloves can provide some (reduced) level of protection, while reducing wear and tear on the hands. While they can be uncomfortable to wear for extended periods, slip-resistant gloves can reduce fatigue.
2. Safety tape – This is the wood carvers' version of duct tape. It reduces damage to most at-risk body parts, and increases slip resistance (and therefore reduces fatigue). But it takes away your ability to satisfactorily scratch your head. So you can find that you are having to re-apply it frequently. And the sticky glue gathers donut sugar like crazy.



3. Finger guards – Basically just the finger portion of a glove. The sheer variety of designs and materials, combined with the low cost, invites experimentation. And when you find a type that works it can be sweet! Easy on and off, basic protection, reduced wear and tear to at risk digits, and maybe even slip resistance.

4. Prayer, and
5. Respect with a tinge of fear – these last two can be easily combined with any of one thru three above. I personally make it standard practice every time I sit down to carve, to recall a prior time when I cut myself. It's easy because a solid self-inflicted wound makes enough of an impression to overcome short term memory disfunction.

So don't be afraid of damaging your macho image, and set a good example for would-be carvers.



Images from the April club Zoom meeting . . .



Message from the Pres,

Looking forward to May, a month of blooming. Let us hope that Covid 19 somehow takes a sharp plunge into a wasteland of lost happenings and disappears...wishful thinking. So, with that said, keep your knives sharp, your cuts clean and everything you don't want cut, out of your way.

Happy carving,

The Prez



M. Schilde, 126 Goose Green Rd., Barkhamsted, CT 06063

