

# Connecticut Woodcarvers Association September 2018

My fellow woodcarvers,

Welcome back from our summer vacation! We are off to a busy start this carving season!

Leo.... Mr. President



## CWCA Calendar

Meetings at Connecticut Forest & Park 16 Meriden Rd, Rockfall CT

September 8 <sup>th</sup>	CT School of Woodworking Open House Manchester 9am
September 9 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting (August no meeting 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday Labor Day)
September ??	Collecting Sticks for White Memorial (see Leo & Michael)
September 22 <sup>nd</sup>	White Memorial Nature Day Litchfield CT 11am
September 29 <sup>th</sup>	Parkerville Wood Products Open House Manchester CT 8am
September 29 <sup>th</sup>	Brooksvale Fall Festival Brooksvale Park Hamden 11am
October 5-8	<b>Mystic Carving Retreat Exeter RI</b>
October 7 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting
November 4 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting
November 10 <sup>th</sup>	Bizarre Bazaar New England Carousel Museum 10am 4pm
December 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Club Meeting "Grab Bag & Goodies"
January 6 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting Project: Fishing Lures



### Currently Serving CWCA Officers

President	Leo Hein	860-675-5473
Vice President	Mike Audette	860-388-7874
Secretary	Dan Holiday	860-620-2255
Treasurer	Bob Mcvety	203-288-3161
Membership	Mark Austin	860-283-2177
Newsletter	Grant Lauer	860-584-0283
Events Director	Jennifer Castonguay	860-539-7346
CWCA Show	Jennifer Castonguay	860-539-7346

Membership 2018 Yearly dues- Please see Mark Austin to get your 2018 membership!  
 \$15 for 2018 calendar year, and checks should be made to CWCA and the following mini form mailed to: CWCA Membership 258 Campville Road Northfield, CT 06778

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

All newsletters will be emailed. No email? Check box for a mailed copy.

# Connecticut Woodcarvers Association September 2018

Thank you to Jennifer & Andre for hosting our Club Picnic, the food was great the weather cooperated for most of the day- thanks for keeping us aware of the approaching storm and getting everything put away before the showers started!



Flanders Forest Fairies & Woodland Wizards Festival 2018 a good time was had by all...

# Connecticut Woodcarvers Association September 2018

## OUR 20<sup>TH</sup> CWCA SHOW IS OVER AND DONE WITH-

There is no easy way to say it... the public attendance for the 20<sup>th</sup> CWCA Show was **76** people compared to the previous year's attendance of **151** people. Coupled with none of the other Carving Clubs attending, and a surprising lack of participation by our own club members.

- What changes should we make to the Annual Show?
  - Do we change the date, or the place of the show?
  - Do we want an annual show?
  - Do we now focus on Membership, demonstrations and teaching the next generation of carvers?
- Please be ready to discuss at our September meeting.**

A recent history regarding other Woodcarving Clubs...

**Monson Ma "Woodhackers"** had their last show in May 2017. There are no plans for a future show.

**The Mystic Woodcarvers**- after deliberating whether or not to have a show, made changes to their annual show- they moved it from the "Apple Orchard" in July to the Columbia Senior Center in May.

The Mystic Woodcarvers seem happy with the results.

**The New England Woodcarvers** also struggle with declining membership, Getting volunteers for their show, reduced number of entries and smaller attendance to their annual show. (See letter below).

## An Important Notice From The NEWC Executive Board

An open letter to the New England Woodcarvers group from its Executive Board.

After a lengthy assessment of the present situation, it is with a heavy heart that the Executive Board has voted to cancel the 2018 Spirit of the Wood Show (SOW). It is our hope that the show will return next year in a grand form.

This decision has been the result of many interlocking factors. Historically, the downward shift in membership numbers has left the group with a much smaller pool of volunteers to run the many aspects of daily and long-term duties necessary to complete the functions associated with the structure and running of NEWC. At the June annual meeting, Martin Truitt put forth a challenge to the membership to step forward to fill in the many openings that have been left empty in leadership positions. The response to this plea was minimal. That lack of response placed pressure on those already doing their volunteer jobs, and pressure on those individuals that had wished to step back after years of involvement in SOW. All individuals involved were further faced with a breakdown brought on by several changes in leadership very close to the deadlines necessary to put the show on. The SOW committee was faced with time limitations and unsurmountable problems. The committee, faced with too much work for too few people and a lack of experience, placed the future of SOW before the Executive Board.

On Sunday August 19th, the Executive Board had an emergency meeting that lasted for near two hours. The only topic of discussion was the NEWC Spirit of the Wood Show. As the meeting progressed, it was clear that three questions faced the board. Could a quality show be achieved in the time interval left? Was it fair to the individuals left to be responsible for the large load of SOW work that needed to be completed? How do we help the membership realize the possible limited future of the New England Woodcarvers existence?

There was extensive discussion and many points of opinion. Not all members were in complete agreement on all points. The result of the Executive Board deliberation was that SOW be cancelled. The feeling was that there was not enough time, people, and club membership interest to put forth a show that represented NEWC's past quality show history. This was not a hasty or easy decision.

The NEWC Executive Board

# Connecticut Woodcarvers Association September 2018

