

The Spirit of Wood

May-June 2006
Newsletter

New England Woodcarvers, Inc.

★ June 4th NEWC Meeting Special Guest Speaker ... 3

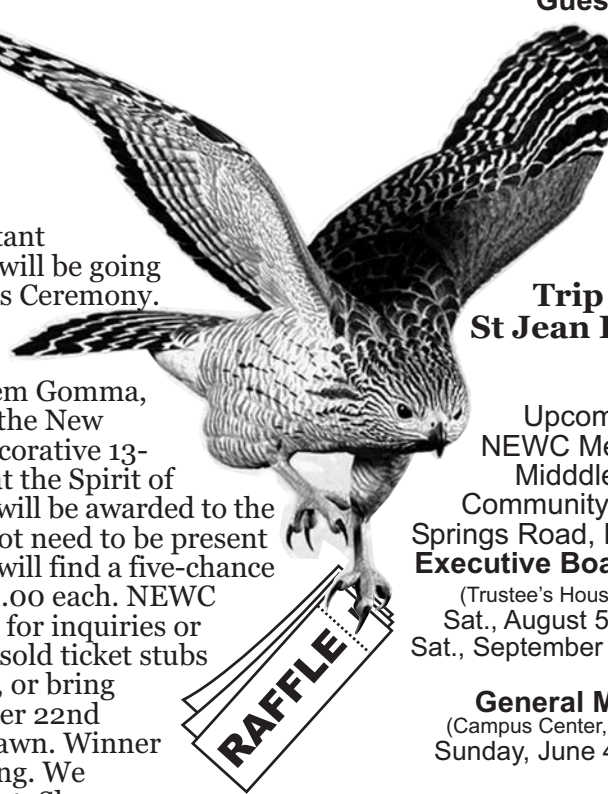
NEWC Meeting Sunday June 4th, 2006

Middlesex Community College
Bldg. 8, park in Lot D, Bedford, MA

Our June meeting is our biggest and most important meeting of the year. The usual 9 a.m. workshops will be going on followed by the noon time Luncheon & Awards Ceremony.

Spirit of Wood Show Raffle

The hawk you see to the right was carved by Hatem Gomaa, who has generously donated a similar carving to the New England Woodcarvers, valued at \$5,000. This decorative 13-inch life size broad wing hawk will be raffled off at the Spirit of Wood Show October 22, 2006. Additionally, \$50 will be awarded to the person who sells the most raffle tickets. You do not need to be present at the drawing to win. Inside your newsletter you will find a five-chance booklet worth \$20.00. Single sold tickets only \$5.00 each. NEWC members are listed on the back of this newsletter for inquiries or acquiring more tickets to sell. You can send your sold ticket stubs along with a check to the addresses noted as well, or bring them to the next members meetings or the October 22nd Spirit of Wood Show where the winner will be drawn. Winner will be posted on the website following the drawing. We encourage each member to sell at least one booklet. Show your support for this great organization. Good luck and **THANK YOU!**



Trip to St Jean Port Joli..... 3

Upcoming
NEWC Meetings
Middlesex
Community College
Springs Road, Bedford, MA
Executive Board Meeting
(Trustee's House, Bldg. #4)
Sat., August 5th, 9:00am
Sat., September 23rd, 9:00am

General Meeting
(Campus Center, Building # 8)
Sunday, June 4th, 9:00am

Spirit of Wood Show Planning
(Trustee's House, Bldg. #4)
Saturday, August 26th 9:00am



Hatem Gomaa handling a live hawk.

Ever since I was a kid, I've always had a fascination with raptors. Captivated by their beauty and elegance, and intrigued by their lack of remorse towards their prey. Never could I have anticipated at the time that one day I would be able to transition my vision through wooden sculptures of these formidable creatures.

Hatem Gomaa

<http://www.pbase.com/gomaasculptures>

President's Message

A CALL TO ACTION

This issue of the newsletter has been designed into 4 pages rather than the customary 12 pages you have been receiving. The size has been reduced to make room for the Spirit of Wood brochures. It is important that we draw early membership attention to our annual show scheduled for October 22, 2006. The brochures are self-explanatory so there is no need to repeat the same information here. What is important though is our desire to call the membership to action. Since January of this year the Planning Committee has been hard at work making the

necessary plans for the show. Committee members are doing their part to make the largest woodcarving show in New England a success. We are now at the stage where your support becomes critical to the show if it is to go over with a bang. Besides being a part of the show in some capacity, which is certainly important, we call upon your generosity to help us with the raffle. There will be two types of raffles in the 2006 show – our regular raffle and a special raffle made possible by the featured carver, Hatem Gomaa. Based on past experience, the regular raffle is more successful when we can offer woodcarving prizes made by a member. This type of a prize is

(Continued pg. 2)

(President's Message continued)
 more sought after by people buying a chance or chances and allows the Association to bring in a greater income. Therefore we ask that you seriously consider making a woodcarving and donate it to the regular raffle. The special raffle is a first for this show. We may have a once in a lifetime opportunity to substantially improve our treasury. The prize – a decorative 13-inch life size broad wing hawk with a value of \$5,000.00. It was donated free of charge to NEWC so it could be raffled off on the day of the show. Our hope is for every member who receives a booklet to purchase all five chances or make the effort to sell every chance in the book. The Planning Committee and other volunteers have been generous with their time and effort toward working to make the 2006 show even better than last year. Today we call upon the rest of the members to come together in a spirit of solidarity to strengthen our Association by being mindful of our CALL TO ACTION.

Roger R. Melanson
 President

Just a FEW of the many items on the Show and Tell table at the April meeting. Thanks to all who shared! Nice Work



A collection of items by Lenny Chaisson
 feathers, antler and wood turning.



Show and tell item by Edsel Johnson...
 Ed, you 'crack' us up!

At Our Last Meeting

We had the distinct honor of a visit from long time member, Rita Galvin. Rita holds membership number 25, and has been a member since 1969! Thank you for the visit, Rita. We hope to see you again real soon!



Chet Blay instructing his morning workshop at the April meeting.

You are Special

New England Woodcarvers are special people. Over the past few years members have come forth to give workshops at our regular bimonthly meetings. The members who give these classes are all talented and willing to share their expertise. Nationally known caricature carver, Pete LeClair is one of these. So is Chet Blay, who, though only carving a few years, has developed a technique that is comparable to any long standing member. The dynamic duo of Ed Johnson and Gary Filiault have come up with session after session to produce treasured objects for members to carve. Others who have shared and given of their time and expertise include :

Ken Campbell, John Marino, Bob Landry, Lorne LaGoy, Len Hill, Bob Ryan and Bob Doucette.

Surely there are others who have come and shared. For most of us who come to meetings, even if not actually participating in a workshop, it is still a learning experience.



M. Paul Ward

M. Paul Ward

June Meeting Morning Workshops

The members doing workshops at the June 4th NEWC meeting include:

Larry Sinclair - a spoon with figure on handle or a figure on a pin.

Chet Blay - will carve a small stylized duck.

Edsel Johnson and Gary Filiault - will again work together on carving a seasonal pin.



Larry Sinclair



Edsel Johnson

Dues

On April 29 the Executive Board voted unanimously to increase the dues to \$15.00 effective October 1, 2006.

The dues have remained constant for the past ten years while price increases have been steadily creeping up. Now they are beginning to hurt. We have experienced increases in postage, printing, storage, guest speakers, and all supplies associated with administrative activities and show materials. In addition, Middlesex Community College has requested a larger donation be made to the student scholarship fund in the next fiscal year. We will shortly see another rise in the postal rates, and we can expect the energy crises will cause prices to keep rising for the foreseeable future.

Your support is certainly needed to provide the Executive Board with the means to carry out the responsibilities of this Association year after year. Assure it maintains a healthy financial position. And supply the resources that will give new and existing members a variety of opportunities they have come to expect.

With gratitude for your past and current support, I thank you on behalf of the Executive Board. May the future of the New England Woodcarvers be as bright as the past 41 years by moving forward in the great mission we participate in and serve together.

Roger R. Melanson
President

Membership

Annual dues are currently **\$10**, and may be paid to:

Membership Secretary
886 Salem Road
Dracut, MA 01826-1659

Please note
Membership Secretary's
NEW ADDRESS

Guest speaker for the June 4th meeting of NEWC will be **Tony Erickson**, who works predominantly in cottonwood bark. Tony will display some of his carvings and discuss his beginnings in the world of carving which began decades ago. He first began carving cottonwood bark back in the mid 1970s.

Tony Erickson has mastered the technique of carving in cottonwood bark. His experience carving in this medium began over 25 years ago. He has become the foremost expert in this field, teaching workshops to carve items like whimsical houses at various places around the country. His last seminar in the New England area was at the Columbus Day Woodcarvers retreat last October.

Guest Speaker



Tony Erickson

*Upcoming **Tony Erickson Seminar** in June....*

Tony Erickson will lead a Seminar to carve a whimsical house in cottonwood bark. The class will run from 9 a.m. to mid afternoon. The cost of the seminar is \$65 per student which will cover everything including blanks and use of tools if anyone needs tools. There will be no other cost to students. The \$65 will include Coffee, tea and pastry all day and lunch.

There are spots available for the Tony Erickson Seminar **Friday, June 2, 2006** at the **studio of Carver's Plus** in Leominster. The cost of \$65 covers everything. Please call to reserve your spot. Contact Lorne & Maria LaGoy- 978-537-1805 or carversplus@aol.com Carvers Plus, 141 West Street, Leominster, MA 01453

Also, there are still a few spots open for the Tony Erickson Seminar **Saturday, June 3, 2006** at the **studio of Paul Ward**, in Chelmsford. The cost of \$65 covers everything. Pay at class. Prospective participants contact M. Paul Ward - 4 Freeman Rd., Chelmsford, MA 01824 (978) 256-6391 or paulward@comcast.net

Trip to St Jean Port Joli, Canada

NEWC is considering a trip to the woodcarving town in Canada, most likely in late August – with a two night stay at Benoi Deschenes' chalets and cabins. See them at:
<http://pages.globetrotter.net/chaletsansesauvage>

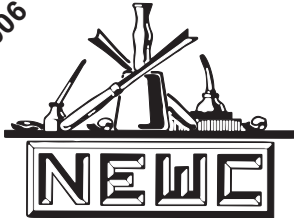
Benoi will schedule a sight seeing tour, boutiques, woodcarvers shop, museum, exhibitions and an evening lecture, demonstration in woodcarving at his school.

Bus will be large and air conditioned with lavatory.

We need to know how many would want to come on this trip as the more that come the less the cost. Rough estimate now for everything except meals (depending on numbers) is between \$100 and \$200.

Please call or email Paul Ward if you are interested.
978-256-6391, or mpaulward@comcast.net.
or see him for more information at the June 4th meeting.

SOW
Newsletter
May/June 2006



New England Woodcarvers, Inc.
P.O. Box 561
Lexington, MA 02420-0005

www.NEWC.org

**Carver of the Year
& Awards Ceremony**
June 4th, MCC Bedford, MA

Raffle
Tickets
Enclosed!

That's the Spirit!



Officers of NEWC Fiscal year 2005-2006

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Treasurer: Leo Lambert
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Tyngsborough, MA
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Director at Large: Maria LaGoy
141 West St.
Leominster, MA
Phone- 978-537-1805

Past President: Joseph Olson
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Randolph, MA 02368
Phone- 781-963-8632

Raffle Tickets: to contact, send in tickets or inquiries, note persons indicated with raffle tickets...



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The annual Spirit of Wood Show
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Hospitality – Maria LaGoy
(978) 537-1805 email - Carversplus@aol.com

Meeting and Show Raffle – Paul Durant
9 Roy St.
Rochester, NH 03867
(603) 332-3247
email - pgdurant@metrocast.net



Library and Website – Bob Sisson
0915 email - sissonrd@verizon.net

Show Raffle – John Yurka
63 Cranberry Rd.
Dracut, MA 01826
(978) 454-3879



Area Representatives

Western Mass - Robert Anderson (413) 247-5071
Connecticut - Warren Blessing (860) 742-3253
New Hampshire - Lenny Chaisson (603) 224-2607
Rhode Island - Dan Elkins (401) 246-1087
Cape and Islands - Elsie Jacobson (508) 477-9333
Maine - Peter Barenco (207) 685-0928
Vermont - Floyd Truitt (978) 597-2868
Mid New York - Paul Stuewer (845) 242-3231

Join us
June 4th
for the
**New England
Woodcarvers
MEMBERSHIP
& ANNUAL
AWARDS
MEETING**



Noon Time Awards Luncheon
Food platters, organized by the board members, will be shared with all who attend.

If you are interested in bringing items of food to share with the morning coffee, please do.

Thank you!



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