



# Spirit of Wood

<http://www.newc.org/>

New England Woodcarvers, Inc | Facebook

December Holiday Mem-  
bers' Meeting

12/11/21 9am

Westminster Community  
and Senior Center

Westminster, MA

Surprise Guest



## Spirit of Wood

New England Woodcarvers, Inc.

P.O. Box 538

New Boston, NH 03070-538

The Mission of the New England Woodcarvers, a cultural and educational organization, is to promote woodcarving, wood sculpting, pyrography, whittling and other forms of wood art to all its members and to the greater community.

## Newsletter

November/December

2021

Volume 6-Issue 5

## President's Message

WE DID IT! And by we, I mean you. The Spirit of Wood Show and Competition 2021 was an absolute success. The number of competitors and the number of entries showed that impressive carving was happening around the region during the past two years. Some of it was traditional and some was unusual. Gary Gemino, Connecticut Woodcarvers, earned our hearty congratulations for his Best of Show win for an incredibly complex, family themed piece. This was his first time at a NEWC SOW and he loved it! Congratulations, also, to James Norton of South Portland, Maine for a piece that stumped the category team for a minute. His Archeopteryx just enchanted your president from the moment it came through the door and won the President's Choice Award! Congratulations to NEWC Past President, Laurie Farrell, whose Kingfisher wowed the public and garnered the People's Choice Award. I have not forgotten all the competitors who were the winners of Best of Level and Best of Category within each level, thank you and to all the experienced and novice carvers who shared works with their colleagues and the public. You did a wonderful job. Welcome, especially, to the group of Youth carvers from Merrimack, NH who came and showed how much talent is coming up. They showed some fabulous work and we were duly impressed. The future of NEWC and the Spirit of Wood appears to be bright. Soon, you can find photos of all competitors on the NEWC website under photos of all competitors on the NEWC website under *photos and videos* at [www.newc.org](http://www.newc.org).

*President's Message continued on page 2*

I want to be sure to mention all the volunteers who gave so much of their time to create an amazing experience for everyone who came to SOW 2021. First, Neil Gallagher, the chairperson, who told me as the show was closing that he had never been to one before, but took control of organizing the event from his first day on the NEWC Board. Neil brought together a team of people with years of firsthand knowledge to ensure that we all had a positive experience: Ken Wagner, judging; Laurie Farrell, venue, vendors and Bucket; Joe Marshall, set up and special advisor at large; Leo Lambert and Justin Gordon, competition registrars; Leo and George Ford, check out; Robin Patten, Neil's assistant, Mary Chouinard, memberships, new and renewed; Paul Crowley, money management; Kim Rhault, technology; Rick Boyer, Tree of Hope and so many others I didn't get to meet I'm relying on the Board members who recruited them to help to pass my gratitude on to them. Thanks also to CJ at Fieldhouse Sports for accommodating NEWC.

I want to encourage clubs to take on an ornament carving project for the Tree of Hope. Many of you are veterans yourselves or are parents of veterans. The sale of carvings you donate allows NEWC to provide funds to agencies that are important providers of assistance to veterans in New England. If every NEWC carver can donate one carved ornament, that's more than 300 new ornaments for the Tree. Let's make it happen!

My final words for this month are words of encouragement to those carvers and clubs who were not able, for a variety of reasons, to attend the SOW this year. Keep carving! Find some way to meet again; masks and social distancing are working for other groups. It's hard but the contact with your friends and fellow carvers is worth the effort. And share your talents with local high school students, especially the woodworking students at Voc Tech schools.

And one final, final word: the December, 11 holiday members meeting will be held at the Westminster Community and Senior Center in Westminster, MA beginning at 9am. It's just off route 2 about a quarter of a mile east on West Main Street. I hope we see many of you there. If you have a carving you'd like to bring to show, or one to bring for a swap, please do so. The swap items will need to be wrapped. There will also be an auction of wood donated by Ken Laney in honor of his father, Ken, who was a former member of NEWC. And a special guest is planned!

President, Jan LeClair

## **Tree of Hope**





## Obituary



William J. Schnute, high-relief wood carver and owner of Oak Leaves Studio, died on October 4, 2021 at age 78.

Born in Ann Arbor, Michigan, he grew up in Chicago and LaGrange, Illinois. He attended the University of Iowa, graduating in 1966 with a B.S. in General Science.

He began work as a research assistant in the Pharmacology and Toxicology laboratory at the University of Iowa in 1967. Drafted into the military in 1968, he served until 1971 at the Nike Hercules Air Defense System in San Francisco, California. He returned to the university's Pharmacology and Toxicology laboratory in 1971 as a research associate and stayed until 1974.

A self-taught carver, he began when he was 7 years old, and from childhood on he honed his skills through trial and error. His first studio opened in Iowa City in 1974 and ran in that location until 1987. It then moved to Carmel Valley, California and remained there until 2004. A trip to New England in the fall of 2003 led him to its present location on the grounds of Frye's Measure Mill and its owners Pam and Harley Savage to whom William and Robin will always be grateful. Each studio location afforded him the opportunity to produce a prolific body of work that he hoped would "stand the test of time"

In addition to his studio work he was proud to be a participant in the following endeavors.

- "The Natural World in High Relief" solo exhibition at Fruitlands Art Museum in Harvard MA in 2016 under its Chief Curator Michael Volmer.
- The opportunity to create his last major commission piece "Cesar's Watch" for Amy and Cesar at LaBelle Winery in Amherst, NH in 2015.
- Participating in "Sculptural Visions" at Saint Gaudens National Historic site in Cornish, NH for eleven years..
- Being on the faculty of Yestermorrow Design/Build School in Warren, VT and Sharon Arts Center School in Sharon, NH for six years.
- He held juried Membership in the Carmel Art Association, the Society of Animal Artist and the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen.
- Author of the 1985 book High- Relief Wood Carving.

He leaves behind many loving and supportive people in his life.

William's love of nature and all things living will indeed stand the test of time in the carvings of Flora and Fauna he so masterfully created.

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### OBITUARY

**RICHARD MATCHIE** **LONDONDERRY, NH**

### NEW

**SALLY ABRAHAMSON** **CUMBERLAND, ME**

**GARY BERGERON** **MARLBORO, NH**

**LEE BURKHARDT** **MANCHESTER, NH**

**ED CHAPIN** **EXETER, NH**

**DAVID CIELIECZKA** **KITTERY, ME**

**DON COMBS** **AUBURN, NH**

**JIM HIGGINS** **ELIOT, ME**

**JIM LUCKERN** **MANCHESTER, NH**

**JAKE SKIDMORE** **CHICHESTER, NH**



Mike DiMaggio, a member of the Guild is trying to restock a carving teacher with hand tools. He is looking for old hand tools or ones that may be broken, etc. to repair and send to the instructor. If anyone has any hand tools/chisel etc. that they no longer need. Please contact Laurie Farrell or bring them to the December members meeting.

### Editor in Chief—Gay Gawron

*glgawron@gmail.com*

### Editor's Coordinators:

Mary Chouinard

Laurie Farrell

Jan LeClair

Linda Parvianinen

Kim Rhault

## **Members of the Board of Directors**

### **Executive Board**

President– Jan LeClair

Past President– Laurie Farrell

Vice President– Neil Gallagher

Secretary–Linda Parviainen

Membership Secretary– Mary Chouinard

Treasurer–Paul Crowley

### **Directors at Large**

Newsletter– Gay Gawron

Webmaster– Kim Rhault

Tree of Hope– Rick Boyer

Hospitality– Open

Workshop Coordinator– Open

### **Historian**

Paul Ward

### **Tree of Hope**

Rick Boyer and Scotty Arsenault



## **Renew Your Membership**

**\$20 for online Newsletter**

**\$25 for hardcopy Newsletter**

**Make check payable to Membership Secretary and mail to:**

**Mary Chouinard**

**4 Cross Street**

**Medfield, MA 02052**

### **Treasurer's Report**

Opening Balance \$6,976.63

#### ***Income***

Direct Public Support-Individual Contributions	\$230.00
Membership Income PayPal	\$39.21
Misc., Revenue	\$.01
Program Income-Membership Dues	\$886.00
Raffle Sales	\$809.00
SOW Competition Income	\$1,261.84
SOW Income	\$645.50
Tree of Hope	\$337.00
Vendor Booth Payments	\$380.00

**Total Income \$4,888.56**

#### ***Operating Expenses***

Banking Fees	\$27.26
Office Supplies	\$104.12
Other or Non-classified Expenses	\$23.88
Printing and Reproduction	\$335.76
Reimbursement to Members	\$250.00
Rent Expense/Storage	\$402.00
SOW Cash to Cash Box	\$700.00
SOW Reimbursement for Hodges Badges	\$768.94
SOW Table Rentals	\$949.00
SOW Reimbursements	\$824.82
Taxes-Corporate Taz	\$18.50

**Total Operating Expenses \$4,404.28**

**Ending Balance NEWC**

**Tree of Hope**

## **NEWC MEETING DATES**

### **BOARD MEETINGS**

All meetings are via Zoom at 5pm unless otherwise announced

January 15	May 7
March 12	August 22
November 12	

### **MEMBER MEETINGS**

All meetings begin at 9am; locations to be announced

If any member would like to arrange to hold a meeting at their usual carving club location, please contact Jan LeClair, NEWC President.

February 12	September 17
April 9	October SOW
June 18 Annual Meeting	<u>date and place to be announced</u>

December 10 Holiday Meeting

ALL MEETINGS ARE SUBJECT TO STATE AND LOCAL COVID REQUIREMENTS

