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## August NEWSLETTER 2022

Our Mission: to educate and promote woodcarving, wood sculpturing and whittling as an art form to all members and to the greater community.

### President's Message

Greetings all!

How quickly time has passed this year. It's almost time for the Spirit of Wood Show and Competition again! I am so looking forward to seeing everyone again, this year in Woburn, Massachusetts. I hope you are working diligently on some spectacular carving projects to enter in the competition, whether you are a novice or an experienced carver. Another aspect of the SOW is the opportunity to take a class or two with a more experienced carver or to be the instructor in a class of very appreciative learners. We have had requests for people who have the following skills and knowledge: perspective drawing; modeling in clay; painting/finishing techniques; wood burning; relief carving; repairs – how to and what to use. If you have expertise, or know someone with expertise, in any of these areas, please contact your president or vice president. You'll find their contact information on the website: [www.newc.org](http://www.newc.org).

I'm looking for volunteers around New England who have always wanted to be on television. We are planning a number of local public access televisions spots to promote the SOW. We also want to use the media to encourage folks who might have thought about woodcarving but never got started. I met a very talented woodcarver (Pete LeClair) but was reluctant to ask about how to get started because he was so-o-o-o good and I could never hope to be that good. However, had I known about the great group I now carve with, I wouldn't have been so hesitant. Be that person who wants to share this fabulous hobby and volunteer to be a NEWC TV star! Contact me: [Jan@newc.org](mailto:Jan@newc.org) A "script" with talking points will be provided. Just love your hobby and the rest comes naturally.

In addition to television promos, we'd like to begin using social media as well. Are you on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok or any other platform young people populate? We will be preparing hints on how to use these as a means to interest the under 30s in what we do. Do you have experience in social media marketing? We could use you on the marketing team we are building to create a brighter future for NEWC. Message me, please!

And, finally, I'm always interested in articles for the newsletter. They can be announcements of club activities, personal stories of carving successes, recommendations for profiles of deserving carvers. Whatever you think may be of interest to others, write it up as a Word document or send it to me in an email body and I will do my best to print it in the next newsletter.

Sharp edges and clean cuts, see you in September and at the SOW Show and Competition!

Jan LeClair

### September Member Meeting

September 17, 2022  
9 A.M. to 1 P.M.  
St. Thomas Church  
Villanova Hall  
126 Middlesex Street  
Wilmington, MA

Agenda  
Open Carving 9-10  
Business Meeting 10-11  
SOW update  
Show and Tell 11-Noon  
Bring a project to share  
Speaker Noon - 1 P.M.  
TBA

### December Member Meeting

December 10, 2022  
9 A.M. to 1 P.M.  
Franklin Senior Center  
10 Daniel Mccahill Street  
Franklin, MA 02038

This is our annual holiday meeting which will be mostly fun and food!

If you plan to attend, and we hope you do, bring along a finger food to share. It could be cookies, veggies, hors d'oeurves, cupcakes, or something surprising!

We will also try to have great speaker. Any suggestions? Contact [Jan@newc.org](mailto:Jan@newc.org)



### Franklin Senior Center Woodcarvers

#### Franklin Senior Center Woodcarvers

Recently the Franklin Senior Center Woodcarvers held a program in the lobby of the center.

The members of the Woodcarving class displayed some of their carvings – birds, reliefs, chip carving, Scandinavian animals, miniatures i.e. chest set, carvings in the round of animals, scroll carvings, love spoons, etc. In addition to the showing of various pieces of art, discussions with the various artists took place. Techniques and skills were explained as well as tools used for the creations.

The Franklin Woodcarvers meet weekly on Friday mornings from 10 a.m. till noon. We are looking forward to having this show an annual event.

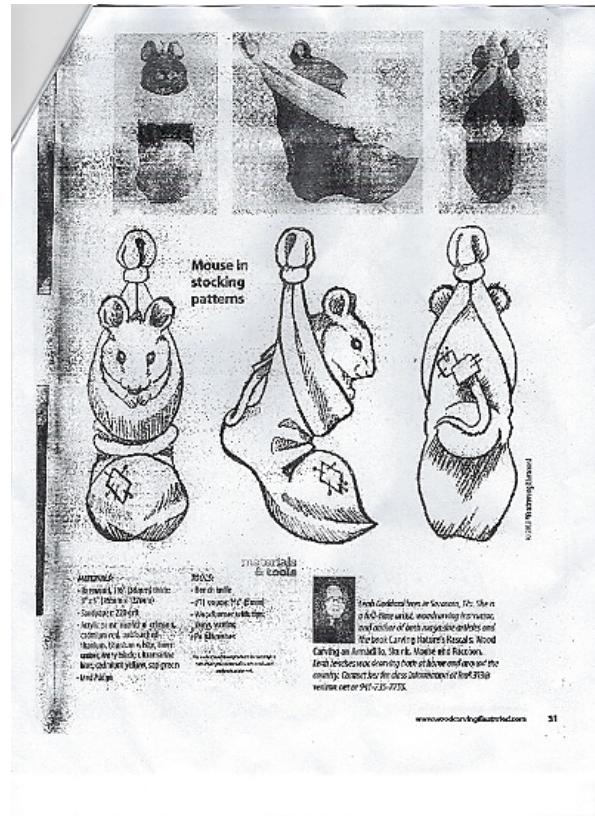
### Franklin Senior Center Class Project

Would you like to make a Mouse in a Stocking Ornament? Students in the Franklin Senior Center class are working on this project. Our instructor is Dick LeBlanc, a true artisan and excellent, patient teacher.

Dick has made the Mouse in a Stocking Ornaments and asked our class if we might be interested. Dick secured the blanks and diagrams. This woodcarving was originated by Leah Goddard and published in Woodcarving Illustrated.

Through Dick's skill and encouragement, he enlightens his students and empowers us to succeed in our creations. Some are more talented, work faster and will have their ornaments completed soon. Others of us are more contemplative, but will eventually achieve a completed stocking.

See the photo at the right for details of the project design. Franklin is ahead of the season but, in the carving world, staying ahead of the season is the norm! Thanks for sharing this design, Mary Chouinard, with the rest of the New England Woodcarvers. This little guy would make a lovely ornament for the Tree of Hope.



# TREE OF HOPE

Hello everyone. Hope your summer is going well! I had the opportunity to attend the Sailfest Festival in New London, CT

I myself enjoyed the weekend there. Although I was a bit disappointed with the carving community's lack of participation; we only had 6 carvers that entered carvings in the competition. I realize it was our first year doing this so If we participate next year I would hope more carvers would be interested.



I'm with the Tree of Hope most Saturdays on the common In Barre, MA from 9am to 12:30 pm. until the last weekend in October. If you're in the area stop in and say hello!! Every once in a while we do travel to other craft fairs. I know we have one in Hubbardston, MA on the 17th of September and another one in December. (I'll keep you posted)

The poor economy has really put a damper on the sales, but I try to keep optimistic. New carvings are always welcome..... even with gas prices I am still willing to pick them up anywhere in New England or you can bring them to general meetings or SOW. Thank You in advance.

"Remember some gave some, some gave all and some are still giving"  
God Bless America .....And let's all support our Veterans  
Rick Boyer

**Sailfest 2022**  
Kimberly Rhault

The Granite State Woodcarvers (Bob schwinger, Kimberley Rhault, Robin Patten) had a wonderful time joining in to represent New England



Woodcarvers at Sailfest. We set up a tent and tables to demonstrate carving all day that Saturday and Sunday in July. The people from the Thames River Gallery who coordinated the event (John, Liv, and Susan) were beyond helpful and extremely welcoming. Many people were very impressed at the level of detail in our work, and we directed them into the Thames River Gallery to view more finished pieces. By far, the most common question was "How long does it take you to carve one of these?!" It's a question with no real answer. It depends on the carving, it depends on the artist.

One of the best takeaways from the weekend was an interaction we had with a little girl, her mother, and aunt. The little girl's nickname was Chickadee and she was excited to see a picture of a chickadee one of our members had carved. She was very shy, but clearly interested in carving. Kimberly gave them some advice on starting with soap carving and suggested checking YouTube for tutorials for kids. Robin offered to give her the sculpture if the little girl could guess one of the three animals in his mahogany interpretive piece. She overcame her shyness to say "Shark!" and she happily went home with her prize. Afterwards we received a lovely email from mom thanking us and letting us know that her daughter was so excited about carving, she chose to skip the incredible fireworks show that night in favor of working on carving some soap found around the house. They made a heart, a triangle, and the letter N. She's planning to carve the whole alphabet before she takes her shot at carving her own bird. Nothing could feel more gratifying than knowing we inspired a new young carver to take up the craft.



Rick Boyer was set up across the way all weekend with the Tree of Hope along with some of his own work in the gallery, and the Mystic Carvers had a tent and table on Saturday. Directly to our right was Christopher LaMontagne working on a magnificent chainsaw carving of the New London Harbor Lighthouse.

Sailfest was a fun time and a great experience with wonderful people. Everyone from the gallery, and Granite State Woodcarvers plan to annualize this event and return next year for Sailfest 2023! We hope NEWC members from far and wide will join us!

Many thanks to Neil Gallagher for initiating the collaboration between Thames Gallery in New London, Connecticut and New England Woodcarvers. Also, thanks to Rick Boyer, Central Mass Caricature Carvers, and Ed Ertel, Mystic Carvers, for the hours spent with Neil and the Gallery folks planning this event.

Ray Johnson, Mystic Carvers, is proud to tell everyone of his first place award for his contribution to the exhibit (below).



## **Obituary**

John Yurka    Dracut, MA

The passing of John Yurka is sadly noted. John was an excellent carver and sincere, friendly gentleman. He was an active member of the New England Woodcarvers and diligent worker and participant at the Spirit of Wood shows. John will be missed.

NEWC has gratefully accepted the donation of wood from John's wife.

**DONATIONS are needed for the BUCKET RAFFLE at THE SOW. Please consider making a donation of a carving, a turning or other wood art piece that would attract both carvers and the public. Let Laurie know at [Laurie@newc.org](mailto:Laurie@newc.org). We thank you for your support.**

### ***Spirit of Wood***

#### ***Show and Competition 2022***

Open to wood artists in all categories!

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

for the most up-to-date information.

**October 15-16, 2022**

Woburn Senior Center

144 School Street

Woburn, MA

Opens to the public on Sunday 10/16 at 10 a.m.

***Admission Fee for the PUBLIC on 10/16 - \$5.00***

***Under 16 FREE***

#### **Competitor Registration**

<http://www.newc.org>

Saturday after 2 pm

Sunday 7 am to 9:30 am

**Vendor space available.**

Contact Laurie at [Laurie@newc.org](mailto:Laurie@newc.org)

To access the Competitor Entry Form, you can click the link in the notice above or you can click

the button below. It will take you to the form on the NEWC website. If you get your newsletter via the post office, you will find the forms attached in your mailing.

### Competitor Entry Form

To access the Club/Vendor Registration Form, click the button below.

### Club/Vendor Registration Form