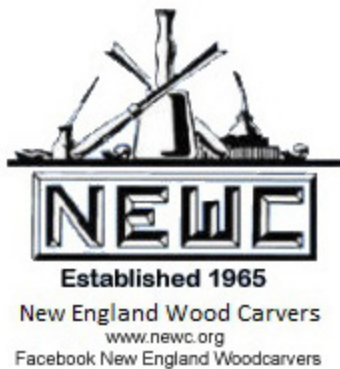


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**SPIRIT OF WOOD SHOW AND
COMPETITION
SPECIAL EDITION
NOVEMBER 2023**

TOP PRIZE WINNERS

Drop this edition in your local senior center, doctor's office, library, and other places populated by young and old to share the good news about wood carving with others!



Beautiful Dancer
BEST IN SHOW
Best in Open
Best in Category
Wayne Smith



Cobbler
President's Choice
Best in Masters
First Place in Category
Nicholas Andronica



Woodworker
Best in Intermediate
First in Category
Dave Miner



Chickadee
Best in Novice
First place in category
David Dircks



Bluebird
Peoples' Choice
Eythan Perry
(proud dad in the background)

THE FUTURE CARVERS OF NEW ENGLAND

It was great to see the Soap Carving table busy during the the show on Sunday. Darren Boehm, SOW Chairperson, spent a good amount of time helping these young men and women learn the basics of carving with plasticware and bars of Ivory soap.



The ability to create something from a bar of soap or a block of wood is an amazing process. Those who don't carve often ask "How do you know what to do with a given piece of wood?" Many times carvers will tell you that there is something just waiting to be found in that block or that branch or that tree. You just have to find it. Whether the question comes from an adult or a young person, the answer is the same. Sometimes models help but other times a simple cut of the knife enables the image to emerge. Ethan, the young man pictured earlier as our People's Choice winner this year, is well on his way to becoming even better and scoring more ribbons. I wonder if one of the youngsters sitting, above, with Darren will one day be the winner of and SOW Best of Show award.



Bucket Raffle and Silent Auction

While we don't have a complete list of all the raffle winners, we do have some really nice stories about some of the donations and some of the winners. Our thanks goes to every donor, especially those companies like Flex-Cut, Diffenbacher, MDI, Wooden Apple, Goosebay Lumber, Greg Dorrance, Woodcraft, Heineke, Rockler, Tom Mikulis, and so many others, large and small, who support our annual event. Included in that group is Norton, Inc of Worcester, MA. NEWC member Lee Perron, obtained that rotating three stone sharpener which received a lot of attention. That item was won by raffle chairperson and NEWC's Secretary, Linda Parviainen (no fix there). Shortly after she took possession, Leo Hein came over to the table to ask if we had an information source for one that he could research and purchase. I pointed out the winner was sitting next to me. Leo lit up and sped over to speak to her. Leo's dream came true! Linda sold the item to Leo and donated the proceeds to the Tree of Hope, a sizable sum and a wonderful gesture.

Lots of smiles were shared by many happy winners on Sunday, but some of the biggest came from raffle item winners, none broader than that of Joe Marshall. He was the lucky recipient of the Heineke Wood bundle. He didn't say what he was going to do with all that wood but I'm sure he'll make good use of it. We can't wait to see what carvings you do, Joe.

Sometimes people donate when asked and sometimes it's spur of the moment. Justin Gordon brought in a scroll saw he picked up at a yard sale to sell at his table. He watched us setting up the raffle items and brought the scroll saw over to donate to us. What a guy! The same can be said for John Earley who gave us four of his carvings for the raffle. He was one of the many donors who offered their work to us months ahead. John has been a solid supporter of the Spirit of Wood show, offering his help in many ways, including moving tables during set up and take down. Much appreciation goes to all who helped with those efforts.

Now here is a tale of coincidence. Remember the NEWC clock that was part of the Silent Auction? A young lady came over to the table to buy tickets and noticed the clock. She said, "My father took the pictures for that clock!" She went running off to find her dad, who was checking out the show. When they returned to the raffle table, her dad was kind enough to sign and date his work. Before that day, we didn't know who had made the clock, only that

the estate of Paul Ward had donated it. Now, Gary Filiault, winner of the clock, can point out to all who ask that the maker of the piece is Mr. Ed Chapin who created it circa 2012.

One special item in the Silent Auction was a carving of a gyrfalcon, the last piece we may see by the great carver, Louis Dennis. The young lady who bid on it happens to be a nature photographer. She went home happy with her very special prize. Perhaps we can give her some information about Louis to add to the piece.

One final story that includes another smile is that of the Armand LaMontagne print. NEWC Treasurer, Steve Berard, was carving a Native America figure and mentioned that the print would be a great addition and model for his work. He didn't want to put a bid on the item without talking to his wife and he became too busy to find her and have a conversation at that time. Well, Suzanne happened by the Silent Auction. Linda told her of Steve's interest in the piece, why he was interested and why he hadn't bid yet. What a lovely wife Suzanne is! She immediately put a bid on the print, won it but then graciously let Steve carry the sizable artwork home!

We can't list all the donors and all the winners here as there were 30+ items in the bucket raffle and six items in the Silent Auction but we can say:

"Thank you to the donors for the incredible number of items we had, and to the many people who bought tickets. You gave NEWC a wonderful opportunity to raise over \$1,000 dollars to support our programs for the coming year."

Shoutout to More SOW 2023 Staff



Justin Gordon and Leo Lambert hold down the competitor registration table. Membership Secretary, Mary Chouinard, was set up close by to check on memberships and to sign up new folks. There were lots of folks behind the scenes helping with the actual competition, setting up for the show, running incoming items, donating to and organizing the donations, taking official photos for the website and posting everything to the webpage.



Chief of Judges, Robin Patten, taking break. This is not the day of the 2023 show. i don't think he had time for a break! Thanks to all the judges and helpers for taking on the difficult task of getting everything judged in a short period of time.



HOLIDAY MEMBERS MEETING

December 16, 2023
Senior Center
69 West Main Street
Westminster, MA 01473
9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Please bring something to share for a finger food snack.

After free carving time, **Leo Hein** will speak on "**Found Wood**" as in "That's a great piece of wood. Now what can I do with it?"

We will be sharing snacks while individuals can share carving projects, notes about events coming up, and anything else you want to tell or announce to the membership. We will close the day with a gift swap for those who care to participate. The only guideline is the question, "Would you enjoy getting this item if you were the recipient?" Let that be your guide! Let's get lots of participation for a fun afternoon.

Eastern States Exposition The Woodworking Show Springfield, Massachusetts January 12, 2024 through January 14, 2024

New England Woodcarvers will partner with the Connecticut carving clubs to have a strong presence at a show dominated by the woodworker trades. While their tools are bigger, heavier and more powerful, nothing is more powerful than the skills and talents of those who are able to create beautiful art objects with sharp, small, handheld, knives and chisels. If you have a few hours to share your time to promote the art of wood carving, please consider volunteering for a shift to cover the spaces shared by NEWC and the CT clubs. Admission is free for those working at the tables. Advertise your club as well as NEWC. The hours of operation are noted here:

January 12 Noon to 6 pm

January 13 10 am to 6 pm

January 14 10 am to 3 pm

If you can give even three hours on one of the days, please contact Ed Ertel at erteled@yahoo.com with a cc to Jan@newc.org to let him know which time slot you would like. Mention that you are there as a member of NEWC. You can tour the show if you have someone with you at the table. There are plenty of vendors with supplies that can be used by carvers.

Also, if you would like to offer a skill class to adults or young people, let Ed know. It's been rumored that Darren Boehm will be doing a young people's class; Can you help him? Or do one of your own?

Please check the website, newc.org, for the dates and locations of member meetings to come in 2024!

Carving Club Notes and News

The Old Chippers Need You

The Old Chippers is a small group of, mostly, retired carvers who meet at the Hunt Senior Living Community in Nashua, NH, we meet every Friday from 9:00 till noon. Currently there are 5 members who carve caricatures, relief, birds, and various bench carving items. We would love to expand our group with any carvers in the area. Anyone interested in joining us please contact Joe Marshall at joseph.f.marshall@comcast.net or call me at 603-233-7536, please leave a message if I don't answer I will get back to you as soon as possible

Central Mass Caricature Carvers

This club continues to grow thanks to the constant exposure at craft fairs and farmers' markets. And they meet three times a week, allowing those who prefer mornings to join them on Tuesdays and Thursdays A.M. and those who prefer evenings to come Tuesday later in the afternoon. Excellent relationships with local senior center and the director enable the club to meet in great facilities with lots of parking and a high level of accessibility. More seminars with carvers the likes of Roger Stegall and Kevin Applegate are planned for the coming spring/summer. If you are interested in signing up for these three-day seminars when the presenters are announced, contact Gerald at gfkottmann@charter.net to be put on a wait list. Only serious applicants should make the contact as seating is limited. Housing is on your own; several quality motels/hotels are within 10 miles of the site. The first seminar is anticipated to be in early June.

Connecticut Wood Carvers Association

CWCA has a busy schedule ahead for 2024. In addition to their usual carving nights, they will be at the Woodworking Show at the Big E in January. Interested clubs can share a common area with NEWC, CWCA and Mystic clubs. CWCA will also be carving more walking sticks and participating in the 5 Points Big Ink demo and the Woodcarving Retreat of New England at Wisdom House again.

CWCA's President noted in their recent newsletter that "Woodcarvers can have many influences and involvement in different types of shows like the "Big Ink" - an art exhibition. Chip and Relief Carving has been and still are functioning part of Art and Printing. Long before the technology of today, these carving styles were how lettering and Graphics Art was completed and still is produced for special artistic effects. Although new technologies have taken over, as with the program "Paper" and duplicating of our works, the human is still the main source of Originality. Artificial Intelligence is trying to replace the human mind with Robots actually doing the work! In the end, will a robot be able to capture a painting on canvas or a carving in 3-D that we humans produce without the aid of A-I? Give it some thought with your next carving."



Peabody Carving Club

Every Wednesday from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. at the tourigian Senior Center in Peabody, MA, our carving group of 14 to 16 seniors get together to share our interest in creating a little magic from wood. We have carvers of all levels from experienced to new carvers who have an interest and hope. Andy Fay, pictured below, is one of our skilled relief carvers with one of his typical projects. We have a great time. Hope to see you.



Pictured here is George Ford with his Green Heron. George is happy to report that he took first place in category for Intermediate Decorative Lifesize waterfowl. He also received third place in Species for a Cinnamon Teal. George keeps busy with projects and classes at two carving groups, the Brewster Senior Center and the Yarmouth Senior Center both on Cape Cod. Annie Rappaport, Brewster Activities Director is looking for teachers for classes there. If you are interested, you can contact her or George. June Noll teaches private lessons which George has attended weekly for the last 12 years. Now that's dedication to his craft! Joan Ford volunteers to keep the carving groups on the Cape up to date on activities and encourages members of those groups to join NEWC as well. She also assists Membership Secretary, Mary Chouinard, at the annual Spirit of Wood Show. We love her spirit.

YOU ARE THE FUTURE OF CARVING AND OF NEWC

It is December (or will be in a couple of days) and we must prepare for the future. At the end of this organization year in June, many of your officers will be retiring. New volunteers must be ready to begin the next year as of July 1, 2024. If you have administrative experience and can lend some time to NEWC to continue the efforts in place or bring new ideas to help spread the joy of carving, talk to one of the current officers or let a fellow member know so you can be nominated at the member meeting in June, 2024. All Board meetings are held via Zoom so no travel is necessary unless the Board members decide otherwise. You can find additional information on the website at newc.org.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO EVERYONE! AND TO ALL A GOODNIGHT!
