



# Spirit of Wood

<http://www.newc.org/> New England Woodcarvers, Inc. | FACEBOOK

Next meeting will be held at Middlesex Community College,  
Bedford, MA

on April 13, 2019 from 9:00am to 3pm

The guest speaker will be Sumner Misenheimer



## Spirit of Wood

New England Woodcarvers, Inc.

P.O. Box 561

Lexington, MA

The Mission of the New England Woodcarvers is to educate and promote woodcarving, wood sculpturing and whittling as an art form to all its members and to the greater community

## Newsletter

March/April

Newsletter

Vol 4-Issue 4

## President's Message

Greetings fellow woodcarvers. Well it's mud season again, so that means that spring will be here soon, right? Two Board meetings had to be cancelled this year but we were finally able to meet on March 9<sup>th</sup>. The meeting lasted an extra two hours. Janice LeClair attended the meeting and after discovering that she has many good ideas and experience with other groups and a willingness to help the board, we quickly appointed her a Director at Large. Welcome Janice!

We have been trying to find ways to make NEWC better and more interesting so we have added another board meeting dedicated to just that. In the last newsletter, I asked the members to take a little time to share some of their thoughts about the club. The results reminded me of a line by Henny Youngman, "I know you're out there, I can hear you breathing". Except all I heard was crickets. The question was probably too broad and too vague so we're working on another approach. If the test works, members will be sent an e-mail and asked to respond to "Survey Monkey". This isn't spam, it will be only a few short, specific questions that could provide the board with valuable information. The Board of Directors is working hard to improve NEWC in any way they

*Continued on Page 4*

**SOW 10/20/2019**

# NEWC TREASURER'S REPORT

1/5/19-4/5/19

## Opening Balances

Checking	\$18,301.30	
Savings	\$0.00	
<b>Total</b>		\$18,301.30

## Income

Auction	\$72.00	
Donations	0.00	
Earned Income	31.00	
Membership	0.00	
Misc. Income	0.00	
Seminars	0.00	
Spirit of Wood (SOW)	0.00	
Tree of Hope	0.00	
<b>Total</b>		\$103.00

## Expenses

Gifts and Donations	\$0.00	
Insurance	0.00	
Membership Expenses	0.00	
Misc. Expenses	0.00	
Newsletter	458.46	
Seminar Expense	0.00	
Spirit of Wood (SOW)	0.00	
Speakers	0.00	
Storage	0.00	
Tree of Hope	700.00	
Web Expense	0.00	
MCC Scholarships	0.00	
<b>Total</b>		\$1,158.46

## Ending Balance

	17,245.84	
(Tree of Hope Available Funds)	\$ 4,489.81)	
(NEWC Available Funds)	12,756.03)	

# Meeting Dates



General Membership Meetings

Held in the Campus Center

Building 8

Saturdays from 9am-3pm

**04/13/2019      09/21/2019**

**06/08/2019      12/07/2019**

# SOW

Change of Date-Change of Venue

Will be held at the:

Woburn Senior Center

144 School Street

Woburn, MA 01801

**Set Up 10/19/2019**

**Show 10/20/2019**

Board of Directors Meetings

Held in the Henderson Hall

Room 308, Building 3

Saturdays from 9am-12pm

**05/04/2019**

**09/07/2019**

**11/02/2019**



## Members Meeting April 13, 2019

- ◆ Member of the Year Ballots are due– be sure to vote
- ◆ Gary Filiault will be offering a 15-20 minute gouge sharpening workshop
- ◆ The guest speaker will be Sumner Misenheimer

### Josh Guge carving course

I am exploring interest in having Josh Guge come to New England in October to teach a 5 day class of a blue bird. In order to make this cost effective for all, we need 10 people , at a cost of about \$400 per person. The class would run 5 days from Monday, October 21 ( the day after the S.O.W.) through Friday, October 25. The tentative location would be in Paxton at Louis Dennis's home.

If anyone is interested, please contact me. I need a verbal commitment from 10 people by the end of May. Following that, I would need a deposit of \$200 by the end of June. The balance could be paid at the class or earlier. If all 10 deposits are in by the end of July, the class is a go. Once confirmed, Josh will get tickets, etc., so the deposit would be nonrefundable.

Please contact Laurie Farrell by email or phone or at the April meeting if interested!

My phone is 603 938-2226

My email is [doclaf@earthlink.net](mailto:doclaf@earthlink.net)

Josh is a world class carver, but even more important, an excellent instructor.



### Membership News

#### New Members

Michael Hartnet      N.Eastham, MA

Sharon Netzley      Haverhill, MA

#### Editor in Chief

Gay Gawron

[glgawron@gmail.com](mailto:glgawron@gmail.com)

#### Editor's Coordinators

Joe Marshall

Mary Chouinard

Gary Filiault

Martin Truit

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### Members of the Executive Board

President-Open

Acting President-Martin Truitt

President Elect-Open

Secretary-Martin Truitt

Membership Secretary-Mary Chouinard

Treasurer-Gary Filiault

Newsletter Editor-Gay Gawron

Webmaster-Joe Marshall

#### Directors at Large

Tree of Hope-Rick Boyer

Hospitality-Open

Social-Janice LeClair

Workshop Coordinator-Open

Consultant-Sumner Misenheimer

Historian-Paul Ward

Tree of Hope-Rick Boyer & Scott Arsenault

SOW-John Earley

*President's Message continued from Page 1*

can. Please take just a few minutes to help. It will make our job much easier. We're not trying to invade anyone's privacy, just gather information to help us make better decisions.

A few more things: At the February meeting Gary Filiault taught a sharpening class that was very well attended, so we're bringing him back (like we could keep him away) for a class on sharpening gouges. The speaker for the April 13<sup>th</sup> meeting will be our very own Sumner Misenheimer, live and in person! (my spellcheck is going crazy). The member of the year election starts with this newsletter, the official ballot is included. Remember to vote early and often. Seven people to choose from so you should find someone you like. Thank you to all who submitted nominations. Lastly, in case you haven't heard, the Spirit of Wood show will be on October 20, 2019 at the Woburn Senior Center. More details to come as they solidify. Hope to see you at the meeting.

Martin Truitt, Acting President

## WEBMASTER WANTED

I will be stepping down as the NEWC webmaster at the end of June 2019. If someone does not step forward NEWC will no longer have a web site. I created and maintain the site using an online web page site called Wix. Using Wix you can create a very nice web page without knowing any computer programming. I will train anyone who wants to assume responsibility for the page. I estimate the job requires less than one hour per week. Some weeks I spend several hours on the site and plenty of weeks I don't have to do anything. Anyone interested in the position may contact me at: [joseph.f.marshall@comcast.net](mailto:joseph.f.marshall@comcast.net)



## Tree of Hope



By Rick Boyer



Hello fellow Carvers and Veterans. Spring is just around the corner, an exciting time of year for the "Tree" and me. We start making money for our Veteran's projects. My booking agent, Scotty, has been busy booking a lot of shows, so, and I'm sure more to come. I'll keep you posted on dates and places in the next Newsletter. We always love seeing our friends dropping in to see us. I would like to Thank Costas Kouletsis and Gerald Kottmann for the bunch of carvings you donated to the "Tree", as always, they are appreciated. It's friends like you that make this work. So, I thought I would let you know some of the groups that helped to help veterans. In 2018 we donated so the Vets at the Bedford Veterans Center get some entertainment. We, also, have donated to the VFW and USO which I looked forward to each month when I was in Korea....a real morale booster. We have given to a Veterans Memorial being built in Pepperell, MA, the Wreaths Across America in Central MA and the American Legions Lady's Auxiliary Post #325. I love these ladies so much.... It is so amazing how much they do for our Veterans. They are so dedicated to their mission. I had the opportunity to put wreaths on Veteran's graves for Christmas and Flags on Veteran Graves for Memorial Day with these Ladies. They are so remarkable! I don't care how cold it got or how hot it got, they did not leave until every grave was marked and double checked. If any of you ever get the opportunity to do either one of these.... The feeling you get is rewarding! Always remember "American Freedom Because of the Brave".



## **Featured Carver Janice LeClair**



As a carver, Jan LeClair considers herself a novice. Having done some chip carving in her twenties, she was familiar with that aspect of woodcarving but not with the art of carving caricatures. She joined the Central Mass Caricature Carvers in April of 2018, having seen Pete LeClair (no known relation) and some of the other guys in the group at various events around the Greater Gardner, MA region. She decided to give it a try but not until two or three years later. Member Frank DeSorbo, a former colleague at Mount Wachusett Community College, convinced her to come along one Tuesday night and she was hooked.

She says the hardest thing about this type of carving is the first few steps in planning out your piece of work. It's finding the spirit in the wood that wants to emerge. Sometimes what you think is the spirit turns out to be something else entirely when an accidental slip of the very sharp knife changes the profile or character of the piece. But that's half the fun as long as the slip of the knife is not into a finger!

Jan is retired from 30 years as a community college administrator but works part-time as an office manager for a college planning agency and as a library assistant in her home town of Westminister, MA. She is also the President of her chorus, Surround Sound Chapter of Harmony Incorporated, and totally enjoys singing 4-part harmony a cappella. She enjoys being active in her retirement and is a willing victim (oops!) volunteer when the need arises.



## **SOW**

**by John Earley**

Just to let everyone know, the 2019 SOW is materializing nicely. This year I and the board have made a rather big change in the hopes of including the public. This has been a little hard to do in the past because our show has for many years taken place in Bedford and there is a limited population center there. This year the show will be held at the Woburn Senior Center where there is a very large population center and also it will be quite accessible by most of us because of its excellent location which makes use of the great highway systems contained in our state of Massachusetts. I believe this will be very convenient for most of us. We would like to capitalize on attracting more of the public to our show for a number of reasons. One being to show off our great work and another to help define who we are and what we do as a club. We are hoping to attract enough people to help support our costs of this show for us and the center alike. They, like us, do wonderful work. We might even be able to show some profit. For them this could help contribute towards the purchase of a new van for the seniors. I am happy to chair it. Thank you all for giving me this opportunity. We have most of our volunteers already signed, however we still have need for at least 2 more judges, 6 more recorders, 6 more people to help direct parking which in many cases will be on the grass. Parking will have 3 groups of 3 people in each group. The groups will be called as needed. We need probably 2 to 3 people for admission, 1 to 2 for security and at least one more person to be a runner for Sunday a.m. check-in. Please let me know. [earlyj@hotmail.com](mailto:earlyj@hotmail.com) Thank you.

# NEWC Member of the Year 2019

Schedule:

## **March-April**

1. Ballots will be published in the March-April Newsletter (below). Bring your ballot to the April 13 meeting OR mail it by May 1 to: Martin Truitt, Acting President, New England Woodcarvers, Inc. 97A Townsend Street, Pepperrell, MA 01463. Ballots will also be available for voting at the April 13, 2019 membership meeting.
2. NEWC members in good standing are eligible to vote. One vote per member.

## **May**

1. Deadline for balloting is May 1, 2019

## **June**

1. Award will be presented to the 2019 NEWC Member of the Year by the President at the Annual Meeting on June 8, 2019.
2. A letter of acknowledgement and appreciation will be sent to all nominees and nominators.

**Ballot: Seven Nominees for “Member of the Year” (check one)**

**This year we are fortunate to have seven deserving nominees for Member of the Year.**

**Rick Boyer (Membership # 3070)**

Rick has served on the Board for a number of years, attending all board and member meetings. He volunteers for special projects, i.e., SOW - security, set-up and break-down, etc. Rick promotes NEWC and CMCC at craft shows. He chairs the Tree of Hope project – collects, and sells ornaments then distributes funds to veteran groups. Rick is an active member of Central Mass Caricature Carvers.

**Louis Dennis (Membership # 2195)**

Louis is a master carver. He built a workshop in his home to provide a facility for NEWC workshops. He teaches woodcarving. Louis has made numerous carvings, many birds, which he sold and generously donated the proceeds to NEWC. He was awarded Member of the Year in 2010.

**Ed Ertel (Membership # 2630)**

Ed promotes woodcarving and NEWC. He is an active member of the Mystic Carvers. Ed leads a couple of carving clubs and is a willing helper whenever called upon.

**Joe Marshall (Membership # 1141)**

Joe has served as Treasurer and webmaster to NEWC. He has enhanced the NEWC.org website. Joe has assisted at SOW from renting a truck to move items from the storage to and from the show to many other tasks. Joe conducts woodcarving classes in his home.

**Martin Truitt (Membership # 3222)**

Martin “stepped up to steer the ship” describes how our acting President took over through our crisis. He represents NEWC at numerous crafts shows. Martin presently is carving the Member of the Year trophy, a tradition which his father began.

**Paul Ward (Membership # 135)**

Paul has served NEWC on the Board for a number of years. When he was stepping down, Paul’s job description consisted of 21 tasks. He wrote for ChipChats for forty years, provided speakers for NEWC meetings to name a few of his contributions. Paul was awarded Carver of the Year in 1984. He is a life member of NEWC.

**John Yurka (Membership # 2420)**

John is an excellent carver who is willing to assist others in learning the craft. He helps with his knowledge and patience. John’s presentation at the NEWC membership meeting was excellent. John has helped with SOW for a number of years.