

13th Annual Woodcarvers Retreat in New England Oct 9th-12th 2009

We will have **8** formal classes this year and have reserved the same URI facilities as in past years for Friday night through Monday afternoon 4pm; 9, 10, 11 and 12 October 2009. This is Columbus Day weekend. This facility is a 2200 acre woodland and ponds at the W. Alton Jones Annex of the University of Rhode Island, conveniently located a few miles off I-95 at exit 5B in RI.

Our objective is to provide a place where wood carvers from all over can gather to carve, socialize and improve their skills with room and board provided at affordable rates, a total of **\$205** for the weekend. The fact that you will witness first hand the "changing of the colors" of the New England woodlands is an added bonus. All instructors and organizing staff are volunteering their time for this event. All blanks needed for the classes can be purchased directly from the instructor at the start of the class.

On Friday when you arrive there will be a self serve meal available. At 7pm Friday night we will have introductions and sign up for the informal evening classes. We will be happy to accommodate anyone else wanting to make announcements or give a talk. **Please bring along a carving for the show and tell table** in the main dining room.

On Saturday and Sunday nights, several of the attendees will have volunteered to instruct informal classes. We will not know until we arrive on Friday night all the informal evening classes that will be offered, but as an example in past years' Ed Ertel has taught carving wood spirit faces, Joe Johnson carving spoons, John Ziegler did Gold Leaf demo, Harold Griffin did a Eagle Head Bolo and Peter Benson gave sharpening lessons and carved a small mouse Christmas ornament. **If you could teach a class please volunteer on the registration form.**

We will once again have a carving contest so practice up, last year we had carvings from various eggs and spoons.

There will be separate cabins for men and women. The cabins while rustic, are new with nice showers and comfortable twin size bunk beds. Although bunk beds are standard in the cabins, only the lower bunks will be used unless someone volunteers to use an upper bunk. We anticipate using all the lower bunks this year and may have to turn people away unless they volunteer for an upper bunk. Each cabin has 9 bunk beds, no individual rooms exist. Some cabins can become quite loud at night (for those that don't snore) so bring ear plugs. **Bring your own sheets, pillow, blankets/sleeping bag, soap, towel, shower shoes, Band-Aids and flashlight. It is highly recommended that students bring a table/desk lamp. If you have a electrical plug strip bring that as well.**

The dining hall is open 24 hours a day with soda, coffee, tea, milk, fruit, and cookies continuously available at no additional charge. Meals are very good, food plentiful. We can accommodate Vegetarian meal requests. There are numerous picnic tables outside which can be used for carving weather permitting. Numerous walking trails exist through the woods.

Our general format for classes has been to have one subject for Saturday and Sunday and then have students switch instructors on Monday for a different one day class. There are exceptions again this year due to the complexity of the group project, Hollis Price's fish class Ernie Hill's Eagle and Peter Benson's Netsuke class which in order to complete may require students to work all 3 days on it. Classes on Monday continue through 4 pm, no evening meal is provided on Monday. Assignment to classes are first come first served (by mailed date of registration form)

Instructors in 2009 and Specific classes/activities offered on Saturday and Sunday are:

1) Angela Schofield – (New England Wood Carvers Leomanstar, Ma)- Animal Carver. Ange will lead students in carving an animal of students choice in a large goose Egg. Besides the regular carving tools, knife, palm gouges students should bring a woodburner for detailing hair/fur. Some acrylic paints and brushes for painting animal fur. Egg cost about \$5.

2) Len Hill – (New England Woodcarvers) –Caricature Carver Len will be instructing students in putting action into the carvings by titing the head to left/right and or up/down. Len has won several awards with his caricature carvings. He teaches regularly at NEWC. Blank cost about \$10

3. Hollis Price- (Uncasville, CT.) Fish Carving. (3 Day Class) Hollis will lead a class on carving a Bluegill. Students will need a knife, palm gouges sand paper, #9 pencil (hard) Hollis is a long time member of the Mystic Carvers and has won numerous ribbons with his fish carvings and marine animal habitats. Blank cost \$25. Eyes will be available.

4) Jack Miller – (Hanover, PA) –Carving a miniature Great Blue Heron or miniature Long-Billed Curlew. Tools required are a knife, various palm gauges, vee tool, sand paper, paints, brushes and hair dryer. Those desiring to do detail should bring a dremel and carving stones, also a wood burner and skew tip. Max 12 students. Jack has won 13 ribbons at the Ward Worlds competition. Blanks cost \$18.

5) Mike Bloomquist – Rome, NY “Figure Carving (Flat Plane Style)” You can Choose from Santa’s, Tomten (Swedish gnomes), or Swedish Trolls. (Beginner to intermediate) Only a knife is required capable of detail. May also use small gouges. Blanks will run \$5. - \$15. depending on the figure chosen. Mike has been teaching for several years at various clubs in NY, PA area including the Woodcarvers roundup in Honesdale, PA.

6) Tony Erickson- Bark houses in the round- Using 2 closely matched pieces of Montana Cottonwood bark, no pattern used, shape of bark determines house style. Tools needed are a 2”knife, 9” ¾ #2 gouge helpful, assorted gouges, superglue, Titebond II wood glue Deft or Krylon semi gloss sealer. Max 12 students, \$30 for the 2 pieces.

7) Ernie Hill- 33 inch Bellemy Style Eagle –(3 Day class) Ernie will instruct students in the carving of a Bellemy Eagle with the use of hand chisels (not palm gouges) John Bellemy was a well known eagle carver in the 1800’s and carved a lot of ships eagles. Students have the choice of painting their eagle or keeping a natural finish. Material cost \$40. Max 10 students

8) Peter Benson- Netsuke Carving (3 Day Class) Peter is the Chairman of the British Woodcarvers and past instructor for us. He will hold a class on Netsuke Carving. Student will start out we designing their carving in clay then transfer their idea to a 2 inch square block of basswood. A Netsuke is small ornament type of carving used by Orientals on their robe sash. Students will need a knife, some small gouges. Blank cost about \$5.

9) Group Project- Alton Jones figure (3 Day group project) Ol’ Don Bourgdorf will lead the group in this almost life size caricature in environmentalist. Those attending this workshop will be partially subsidized by URI and will only pay **\$65** for the weekend (vice \$205.). This carving will be donated to the URI EEC which operates the facilities we will be staying in and will be displayed at the facility. Ol’ Don is a caricature carver and is a regular contributor to the various carving magazines. Most of the carving work will be accomplished with mallet and chisel as this figure will be about 5’-6’ tall.

If you complete your class in two days, you may **attend a different demonstration/carve along on Monday:** Sign-up sheets will be posted for these classes at the retreat.

Monday all day –Angela will carve animals in a hens egg

Monday all day –Len Hill will instruct in carving caricature faces

Monday all day – Mike Bloomquist- Carve a Native American Flute, Flute kits will be \$30.

Monday all day- Tony Erickson- Little Houses from Basswood, cost \$15.

Monday all day- Jack Miller will do a miniature curlew.

Would you be **interested in being an instructor at the Woodcarvers Retreat in 2010?** If so bring along an example of your proposed 2 day and 1 day projects and talk to Jim O’Dea and Ray Johnson at the Retreat. Instructors are unpaid volunteers, they receive free room and board at the retreat. Should you have further questions please feel free to call Ray Johnson at 860- 848-8194, wcvray@hotmail.com or write to his attention Mystic Carvers Club, PO Box 71, Mystic, CT 06355 or e-mail Jim O’Dea (jeodea@aol.com)

Jim O’Dea Co- Chairman, Ray Johnson Co-Chairman

2009 Woodcarvers Retreat in New England Registration Form

Name: _____ Phone # _____ Sex: Male _____ Female _____
(required for cabin assignment)

Street: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____ e-mail _____

Emergency contact person _____ Phone# _____

Vegetarian Meals requested? Yes _____ No _____

Do you want early riser cabin (before 6:30 AM _____ or late riser cabin after 6:30AM _____.

I volunteer to teach an informal evening class:

subject _____; blank cost _____; # nights _____

Enclose a check for **\$ 205** . payable to Mystic Carvers Club (or **\$65 vice \$205** if taking the URI group class) and mail to Mystic Carvers Club, PO Box 71, Mystic, CT 06355.

Local people not wanting to sleep over at URI or those desiring to get local motel accommodations may pay **\$145 vice \$205**. There is space available for a few self-contained RVs, call Jim or Ray to discuss this option.

Any blanks used can be purchased directly from the instructor during the class. A map, directions and CHECK-IN information will be provide with the acknowledgment of your registration.

Assignment is first come first served (by mailed date). If you would like to see which classes are still available call Ray Johnson at 860- 848-8194 or e-mail to wcvray@hotmail.com

Please indicate your preference of class/activity to attend with the numbers 1,2,3. We expect you will be assigned to one of your 3 choices, if none are available we will contact you by phone to resolve your selection.

Angela Schofield on Sat and Sun - " **Carving Animals in a Goose egg** Egg cost about \$5. _____

Mike Bloomquest on Sat, Sun -" **Figure Carving in the Flat Plane Style**" blank cost is about \$5-\$15 _____

Hollis Price on Sat ,Sun and Mon -"Carve a Bluegill" blank cost about \$25. _____

Len Hill on Sat and Sun- " **Carve a Caricature Head**" blank cost about \$10 _____

Jack Miller on Sat ,Sun **Carve Minatures "Blue Heron or Long Billed Curlew "**, blank cost \$18. _____

Ernie Hill on Sat , Sun and Mon "Carve a 33 inch " **Bellemy style Eagle**" Blank cost \$30 _____

Peter Benson On Sat, Sun and Mon "Netsuke Carving" Blank cost about \$5. _____

Tony Erickson on Sat and Sun " **Bark Houses in the Round**", blank cost about \$30-----

Ol' Don Burgdorf- Group Project- on Sat, Sun and Mon " **Alton Jones Caraciture**" carving donated to URI, ----

On my own (work on your **own project**), may attend impromptu evening classes & Monday sessions)-----
Monday Carving sessions - no need to indicate preference, just show up.

Refund Policy: Full refund if we are notified by 26 September 2009. After that date a refund should not be expected, but some portion may be able to be refunded depending on our finding someone to fill your spot.

Survey question: how many times previously have you attended the Retreat? _____

If you have any wood cutouts, "those projects you intended to do some day" but never got around to and would like to donate

them for our door prize's, please bring them along . Perhaps someone can make use of them.