

## **12th Annual Woodcarvers Retreat in New England Oct 10th-13th 2008**

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; 10, 11, 12 and 13 October 2008. 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 \$190 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 an 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, the relief class and Jack Miller's Kestrel 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 2008 and Specific classes/activities offered on Saturday and Sunday are:**

**1) Rip Stangroom – (New England Wood Carvers) -** This year's subject is a **Santa Caricature**. Rip will instruct students on Flat Plane Carving. Students will learn the Scandinavian style of Flat plane carving and should be able to complete this carving including painting in 2 days. Max 10 students, blank cost should be just under \$10.00. Rip has been instructing at our retreat for the past 11 years.

**2) Claire Ruch – (Staten Island Woodcarvers) –** Claire is back again this year and will give students choice of **Wren, Chickadee or Goldfinch**. This includes feather layout and burning. Students will need a knife, sandpaper and wood burner, eyes provided are glass, max 12 students, blank cost about \$15. Claire is an excellent bird carver and will take students from the roughout to the final burning of feathers and painting. She will have feet and eyes available to students as well.

**3) Pete LeClair – (Member of Caricature Carvers of America) –** Carving a **Caricature Bust Figure**. An excellent carver Pete will take students through the basic layout of the face with a lot of step by step carving instruction on eyes, nose and mouth expressions. Pete is well known throughout the carving world and has traveled all over the US, England and Australia to instruct his carving style. Blank cost about \$10, which includes handouts. Max 12 students.

**4) Mary- Ann Jack- Bleach- Relief Carving (3 Day Class)** ( Award winning Canadian Carver) Will do a Relief Carving of “**interesting landscapes**”. Carving since 1979, Mary-Ann is a judge, instructor and author of many magazine articles. She will take students through steps of relief carving offering techniques and some valuable tips. She will have several designs to choose from. Basswood Blank cost \$15.00. Max 10 students

**5) Jack Miller – (Hanover, PA) –Carving a Sparrow Hawk (Amer. Kestrel) (3 Day class)-** Blank cost \$20. 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. Students who finish in 2 days may elect another class or carve another subject with Jack.

**6) Chris Howard - (Gatlinburg, TN) – Realistic Face Carving** from a rough out of your choice. Chris will have a good selection of rough outs, mostly Indian and Western style figure busts will be available to choose from. He has been instructing at our retreat for the past 2 years and does an excellent job in instructing students on face and eye carving. Blanks costs vary usually about \$25-\$30. Chris for the last 5 years has been a professional realistic sculptor, from Gatlinburg, TN. He has worked in Europe and currently teaches at several of the Woodcarvers Roundups. Chris’s website is <http://www.gatlinburg-artist.com/>

**7) Floyd Rhadigan- (Saline, MI) Caricature Figures-** Floyd is a 2007 inductee to the Caricature Carvers of America, Floyd was featured on the cover of all 3 major woodcarving magazines and took best of show, First and second at the 2006 CCA show held at Dollywood. He will have many blanks available from which you can pick one or two and he will provide guidance on that project, prices from \$8-\$20.

**8) Tony Erickson- Bark in the Round Whimsical House-** Using 2 closely matched pieces of Montana Cottonwood bark. Handout will be provided for lighting your project with LED lights. Tools needed are knives, assorted gouges, superglue, Titebond II wood glue Deft or Krylon semi gloss sealer. Max 12 students, \$30 for the 2 pieces.

**9) Group Project- Life Size Canada Geese Wall plaques (3) to be mounted in the entranceway hall, requested by URI-** In addition to the above classes, again this year we will have a group project lead by **Ray Johnson**. We will be working as a group from roughouts which will require carving details of the geese, feathers etc. with hand tools (individuals may bring power tools if desired). 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. Those attending this workshop will be partially subsidized by URI and will only pay **\$50** for the weekend vice \$190. It will be necessary for some students to work through Monday to complete this project

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 -Rip Stangroom will do a small Nisse flat plane carving.

Monday all day -Claire Ruch will do feather carving and burning techniques

Monday all day- Pete LeClair will do face on corner block

Monday all day- Floyd Rhadigan – a small caricature of students choice

Monday all day – Chris Howard – “Carving Eyes”

Monday all day- Tony Erickson-Hummingbird Feeder- see Carving Magazine #21

Would you be **interested in being an instructor at the Woodcarvers Retreat in 2009**? 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@ct.metrocast.net](mailto:wcvray@ct.metrocast.net)) or write to his attention Mystic Carvers Club, PO Box 71, Mystic, CT 06355 or e-mail Jim O’Dea ([jeodea@aol.com](mailto:jeodea@aol.com))

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

# 2008 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 **\$190**, payable to Mystic Carvers Club (or \$50 vice \$190 if taking the URI group Geese 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 **\$130 vice \$190**. 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@ct.metrocast.net

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.

**Rip Stangroom** on Sat and Sun - "**Santa Caracture**" flat plane style, blank cost is about \$10.00----- \_\_\_\_\_

**Floyd Rhadigan** on Sat, Sun -" **Caricature Figure** blank cost is about \$8-\$20 ----- \_\_\_\_\_

**Claire Ruch** on Sat and Sun -"**Carve a Wren, Chickadee or Goldfinch** blank cost about \$15----- \_\_\_\_\_

**Pete LeClair** on Sat and Sun -"**Caractature Bust**", blank cost about \$10----- \_\_\_\_\_

**Jack Miller** on Sat ,Sun and Mon "**Carving a Sparrow Hawk (Amer. Kestrel)**", blank cost \$20 ----- \_\_\_\_\_

**Mary Ann** on Sat, Sun and Mon "**Relief Carving interesting Landscapes**" Blank Cost \$15. ----- \_\_\_\_\_

**Chris Howard** on Sat and Sun "**Carving Realistic Face** rough outs \$25-\$50 , ----- \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Ray Johnson -Group Project** on Sat, Sun, &Mon- group "**3 Canada Geese**", 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 2008. 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.**