

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Sarah Nyhan, Communications and Administrative Director

League of NH Craftsmen

snyhan@nhcrafts.org 603-224-3375 x 117

May 2, 2023

**The League of NH Craftsmen Welcomes a  
Whimsical Deer for 36th Annual Ornament:  
*Through the Thicket***

*New Hampshire Craftsman showcases the beauty of wood*

**CONCORD, NH** – The League’s 36th Annual Ornament is a nod to ingenuity and the innate beauty of natural wood. Segmented blocks of wood are hand-assembled and shaped by Franklin wood worker and artist Kevin Turgeon, to create a tiny reindeer with a winsome turn of the head.

“I was inspired by an image with an optical illusion that gave a wooden sculpture the appearance of being turned at an angle,” says craftsman Kevin Turgeon, “and it got me thinking of ways that I could actually make the angle a reality.” Turgeon uses seven different species of woods in the blocks he creates as a first step in the ornament process. “I use African Mahogany, Ash, Cherry, Hickory, Maple, Red Oak, and White Oak. Six reindeer are crafted from each block and while you may find a few twins in the mix, they are largely unique in their appearance.”

The 2023 League ornament comes gift-boxed and sells for \$26. This annual offering is an important fundraiser for the League that supports local artists and affiliated League Fine Craft Galleries. The ornament is a thoughtful keepsake to mark any special occasion, milestone or holiday. Each of these turned wooden ornaments, which feature seven different species of wood, is hand finished and inscribed by the artist with his signature and the date.

Annual ornaments are sold exclusively at the League of NH Craftsmen Fine Craft Galleries, located in Center Sandwich, Concord, Hooksett, Littleton, Meredith, Nashua, and North Conway; in the League’s online store; at League Headquarters in Concord,

and at the Annual Craftsmen's Fair August 5-13 at the Mount Sunapee Resort in Newbury, NH.

For decades, juried League members have participated in a yearly call for work to be considered for the Annual Ornament. Managers of the League of NH Craftsmen Fine Craft Galleries review the submitted pieces and select a winner.

### **About the Maker: Kevin Turgeon**

Kevin Turgeon used to fight against being labeled as an artist. He preferred being called a woodworker because woodworkers make useful things. Grudgingly he has come to accept that he is more artist than woodworker. He feels his best attributes are creativity and patience and prefers to work with an improvisational approach. He finds enjoyment in discovering how a piece works out and feels he is at his most creative in the middle of the project. At times Turgeon refers to his work as the war against straight lines and flat surfaces.

### **About the League of NH Craftsmen**

Our mission is to advance, cultivate and champion excellence in fine craft. The League pursues that mission through educational programming, leadership initiatives, marketplace strategies and support services.

**League of NH Craftsmen Fine Craft Galleries where the ornament can be purchased. Find gallery locations online at [nhcrafts.org/gallery-locations](https://www.nhcrafts.org/gallery-locations)**

- Center Sandwich, 32 Main St., 603-284-6831
- Concord, 36 North Main St., 603-228-8171
- Hooksett, I-93 Northbound Rest Area, 530 West River Rd., 603-210-2509
- Littleton, 81 Main Street, 603-444-1099
- Meredith, 279 Daniel Webster Hwy., Rte. 3, 603-279-7920
- Nashua, 98 Main St., 603-595-8233
- North Conway, 2526 White Mountain Hwy., Rte. 16/302, 603-356-2441

For more information about the League of NH Craftsmen's Annual Ornament, visit <https://www.nhcrafts.org/annual-ornament/>.

To purchase the annual ornament online, visit <https://www.nhcrafts.org/webstore/>