

IDAHO WOODCARVERS GUILD

April 2025

Newsletter

Guild Officers

President: Eric Owens
Vice President: Phil Kelly
Treasurer: Nate Meeks
Secretary: Thekla Owens

Trustees:

- Cathy Carson
- John Greener
- Open

Newsletter:

- Jerry Robertson

IAW Reps:

- John Greener
- Johnny Siwula

Websites:

- Eric Owens
- Michael Chamberlain



APRIL MEETINGS: The next monthly meeting will be held Thursday, April 10, at 6:00 PM at Woodcraft. The meeting for the Meridian group will be on the following Tuesday, April 15, at 12:30 PM at the Meridian Senior Center.

Annual Elections and Call for Volunteers

This May, the guild will hold its annual officer elections. Phil Kelly has graciously agreed to continue serving as Vice President, and Nate Meeks will remain as Treasurer. Two trustees have also committed to staying on; however, the Trustee position overseeing elections remains open. Additionally, both the President and Secretary roles are currently vacant and require volunteers.

The continued success of the IWG relies on the active participation of its members. We encourage you to consider stepping into one of these critical positions to help drive our organization forward. Alternatively, there are other meaningful ways to contribute—whether by taking on specific responsibilities, supporting our efforts in a smaller capacity, sharing your expertise, or simply staying engaged. Remember, even the smallest contribution can make a significant impact.



MONTHLY PROJECTS

The Guild is dedicated to fostering and promoting the art of woodcarving, pyrography (wood-burning), and other wood artistry forms. Our weekly open carving sessions are an excellent opportunity for beginners to learn about tools, safety, basic techniques, and the types of wood used.

Guild leaders are available to provide an introduction to woodcarving. Our open carving sessions are held weekly at the following times and locations:

1. **Thursday Evenings:** 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Woodcraft. This session is ideal for those who work during the day or live in the eastern part of the valley.
2. **Tuesday Afternoons:** 12:30-3:30 p.m. at the Senior Center at Kleiner Park, 1920 Records Way, Meridian. The Senior Center requests a donation of \$2 for members and \$5 for non-members per session to help cover costs. This session is perfect for those who prefer daytime gatherings or live west of downtown Boise.

Each month, we plan a project to help novice carvers try new techniques and improve their skills. An experienced member will lead the project and provide one-on-one assistance as needed. Loaner tools are available, and materials will be provided whenever possible.

Upcoming Projects:

- **April:** Spoons
- **May:** Chip Carving or Relief Carving

We look forward to seeing you at our sessions and helping you develop your woodcarving skills!

FESTIVAL OF TREES

The Guild has announced our participation in this year's Festival of Trees. We will be contributing a tabletop tree, and we need your creativity to make it shine.

We encourage all members to craft hand-carved ornaments, each within a 3–4 inch size limit. There's no designated theme, so let your imagination run wild and create designs that truly inspire you.

You can submit your completed ornaments to Cathy Carson or Jairus Taylor at any time throughout the year. If you need pattern ideas, Cathy is more than happy to assist. The Guild will provide the wood for your creations. Eric will provide cutouts for the Thursday group. Larry Crist will provide cutouts for those attending sessions at the senior center.

Thank you for your creativity and support in making this event a success! Let's make our tree the talk of the festival.



IWG Scholarship Program

Thanks largely to the proceeds from past Idaho Woodcarvers Guild and Idaho Artistry in Wood shows, the Guild has some surplus funds available that should be used in keeping with our status as a non-profit educational organization. With this in mind, the IWG provides a scholarship program that allows club members to apply for partial reimbursement of money spent on a class, seminar or workshop that helps them improve their carving, painting or other artistic skills used in producing wood carvings. Members who are up to date with their club dues may apply once each year for a scholarship to reimburse them for up to ½ the cost of a course they have completed. The amount approved cannot exceed the dues paid by the member since joining the Guild. Those who receive this support should plan to share what they learned with others at a future meeting. Scholarship applications may be submitted at any time during the calendar year to be reviewed by the Executive Committee for approval. The Board may limit scholarship funding each year to maintain sufficient reserves to keep the club in a healthy financial position.

Application for IWG Scholarship

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Course, class or program attended: _____

Provider: _____ Location: _____

Brief description of instruction received:

Amount paid: _____ Year: _____

For Board Use

Executive Committee action: Approved: _____ Not approved: _____ Date: _____

Date awarded: _____



Eric Owens (from Rich Wetherbee roughouts)



Jerry Robertson (inspired by Rich Wetherbee). Family of comfort birds. [\[pattern\]](#)

Open Carving Opportunities

Boise

Open Carving at Woodcraft is held on Thursday evenings from 6-8 p.m. with Eric Owens in charge. Bring your own project and enjoy the fellowship. We are working on making some carving projects available for those who are new to woodcarving.

Meridian

Open Carving at the Senior Center is held on Tuesday afternoons from 12:30-3:30 p.m. in the center at Kleiner Park, 1920 N Records Way, Meridian. Club leaders provide instruction for new carvers. Experienced carvers can bring their own projects. The Senior Center asks participants to make a donation when they sign in of \$2 for members, \$5 for non-members to help cover their expenses.

Tips from the Experts



- Always strop your knife before you carve eyes. - *Jim Hiser*
- Use centerlines. - *Jim Hiser*
- Add a wrinkle wherever there is a straight line more than one-half inch long. - *Chris Hammack*



**Broken pencils
are pointless.**

Media

Website: <http://idahowoodcarversguild.org/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSYHBkob1WFSPgMaydZ7Yfw>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Idaho-Woodcarvers-Guild-254983304512338/>

Archive: <https://jerryrobertson.com/iwg/>