

IDAHO WOODCARVERS GUILD

June 2025

Newsletter

Guild Officers

President: Cathy Carson

Vice President: Phil Kelly

Treasurer: Nate Meeks

Secretary: Nate Meeks acting

Trustees:

- Jairus Taylor

- Issac Bradfield

- John Greener

Newsletter:

- Jerry Robertson

IAW Reps:

- John Greener

- Issac Bradfield

Websites:

- Eric Owens

- Michael Chamberlain



MEETINGS

Summer Break Notice Our regular business meetings are on hiatus for the summer, and will resume in September. However, open carving sessions will continue throughout the season! Join us at **Woodcraft on Thursday evenings** and at the **Meridian Senior Center on Tuesday afternoons** to keep the creativity flowing.

Enjoy your summer, and happy carving!

Election Results

Election of guild officers took place in May with the following results:

President	Cathy Carson
Vice-President	Phil Kelly
Treasurer	Nate Meeks
Secretary	Open – temporarily filled by Nate Meeks
Trustee #1 (Finance)	Jairus Taylor
Trustee #2 (Elections)	Issac Bradfield
Trustee #3 (Show-n-Tell)	John Greener

A big thank-you to outgoing president Eric Owens and secretary Thekla Owens for their service to the Guild.

Meet your new Guild president

Greetings Members of the IWG!



I am Cathy Carson and I am your newly elected President. Your new Executive Team is fired up and already planning for fun Guild events for the 2025-26 year! Please watch your email for the monthly newsletter and opportunities to represent the Guild around the Valley!

Due to my work, I have not previously attended the Tuesday group, so I have been asked to write a short bio about myself. My first introduction to wood carving was in 2018 when my husband and I took a class from Eric Owens. We had so much fun we decided to join the IWG. We soon became regulars at the Thursday evening carving sessions, enjoying the mentoring, stories, and camaraderie. We have been members ever since, even meeting via zoom during covid. We have volunteered at the fair and the Idaho Artistry in Wood Show many times. While Dave became a very good carver, I am still very much a novice. I have a hard time "seeing" the image in the wood, and I am often heard gasping as I take off bigger chunks than I planned! ;) But I enjoy the group very much and am happy to serve to help it continue.

In my non-carving life, I teach math at the College of Western Idaho, try to not "mother" my college-aged kid too much, walk my dog, read mysteries, and spend time with my friends and family.

Over the next few months we will introduce the other members of the Executive Team. Please reach out if you have ideas you would like us to consider. Happy Woodcarving!

Cathy

John Greener and Norm Sullivan Inducted into the Hall of Fame:



The Idaho Woodcarvers Guild is proud to recognize the outstanding contributions of John Greener and Norm Sullivan. In appreciation of their years of dedication and service, the executive committee has unanimously voted to induct them into the prestigious IWG Hall of Fame.

This well-deserved honor grants them lifetime membership in the Guild, ensuring their legacy remains a cherished part of our community. Please join us in celebrating John and Norm for their remarkable impact. Congratulations to both!

Mark Your Calendar



The IWG annual picnic is tentatively planned for Saturday, September 20. The time will be 6:00 pm. More details including the location to be announced later.

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.

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

FESTIVAL OF TREES

For 41 years now the Saint Alphonsus Festival of Trees has kicked off the holiday season in the Treasure Valley. This year the Guild has announced our participation in the festival. 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.

Cathy has collected about 20 ornaments but about 100 ornaments are needed. You can submit your completed ornaments to Cathy Carson or Jairus Taylor before November 1st. 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. [Click here](#) for some additional ornament patterns.

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



John Lee



Phil Kelly



Our monthly project for May was presented by Michael Chamberlain at Woodcraft. The topic was Flat Plane Carving. As his example, Michael used a small penguin character. Shown below are the stages of developing the character and the final product.



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



- Start carving with the largest tool you can. ~ Will Hayden
- Don't hesitate to try out a new idea when carving, painting or finishing. Remember that each carving is just practice for the next one. ~ Will Hayden
- Go deeper. ~ Waldo



I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. It's impossible to put down!

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/>