

IDAHO WOODCARVERS GUILD

November 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



Founded in 1980 as an Idaho nonprofit corporation, the Idaho Woodcarvers Guild, Inc. is dedicated to fostering and advancing the craft of woodcarving, along with complementary artistic techniques such as pyrography and other wood-based art forms.

NOVEMBER MEETINGS

The next monthly meeting will be Thursday, November 13, at 6:00 pm at Woodcraft in Boise. The meeting for the Meridian group will be the following Tuesday, November 18, at 12:30 pm at the Meridian Senior Center.

Pacific Northwest Woodworking and Maker Expo

Woodcraft sponsored the *Pacific Northwest Woodworking and Maker Expo*, held October 4–5 at the fairgrounds. Throughout the weekend, our dedicated guild volunteers welcomed attendees, shared our passion for woodcarving, and helped spark interest in the craft among visitors of all ages.



John Greener and Cathy Carson



Save the Date

The annual IWG Christmas Party will be December 20 from 3-5 PM at Hillview United Methodist Church in Boise. The location is 8525 W. Ustick Rd, between Milwaukee and Maple Grove.



St. Al's Christmas Tree

The ornament collection is complete - thank you to everyone who contributed! A small group of club members will now decorate the tree, which includes wiring all ornaments to the tree to ensure safe travel. Once complete, the tree will be presented for Show-and-Tell at both the Thursday evening group (November 13) and the Tuesday afternoon group (November 18). An email announcement will be sent prior to the meetings so members can plan to attend and see the finished display!



Name Tag Competition!

It has been tradition for club members to wear a hand carved nametag on their club vest at meetings and outreach activities. However, not everyone has a nametag, especially newer members. To ensure everyone has a name tag for the Christmas party in December, the club is sponsoring a name tag competition with prizes! More information will be sent soon - members should watch their inbox for details!



October 9 & 14 2025 Club Meeting Minutes

- Approve Previous Minutes: None to approve
- IAW Report: Show scheduled for March 21-22, 2026. Applications will be on-line. Club will assist members with online applications. IWG will continue providing Show Security. There will be sign-up sheets in the spring for both Security Volunteers and for IWG demonstrations. The Club will begin a search for IWG Judges.
- Report on Fair & Expo, any other outreach: The club was successful covering the demonstration times for both the Western Idaho Fair and the Woodcraft Northwest Expo thanks to a few members that covered a lot of timeslots.
- Report on Picnic: The Fall Picnic was well attended with lots of good food and fellowship.
- Last Call for ornaments, would like at least one from each member, must give to club by last week of October: The last day to submit ornaments for the Christmas Tree fundraiser is October 30, 2025, at the Woodcraft Carving Session. The tree will be decorated over the next week and will be brought for display to the Tuesday afternoon group, either Nov 11 or Nov 18, and to the Thursday evening group Nov 13.
- Vests: It used to be standard practice for members to wear a vest with the IWG patch on it to carving sessions and all outreach activities. If you are an active member and do not yet have a patch, we will provide one. The club is considering providing carving vest for members along with an IWG patch. We are searching for an economical vest with a neutral color. More information to come. All club members need to carve a name tag for their vest.
- Policy for Reimbursement: The club is working on a policy statement for reimbursement of expenses that benefit the club. More to come.
- Show and Tell: Please bring completed carvings to club for show and tell. We all learn from one another, and it is fun to get inspired by one another's work!
- Project: Each month we will have a club project. Eric will present this month's project.
- Newsletter: Jerry Robertson requested pictures and activity content for the Newsletter.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nate Meeks, Secretary/Treasurer

October Project: Mastering Low Relief Carving



October's guild project introduced members to the fundamentals of low-relief carving through a 5-inch square design. Under the expert instruction of Mr. Eric Owens, carvers at both our Woodcraft and Senior Center locations explored this classic technique using Chinese kanji characters as their subjects.

About Kanji

Kanji are logographic Chinese characters adopted into the Japanese writing system. Each symbol conveys meaning rather than sound, representing complete words, concepts, or grammatical elements. A single kanji can have multiple pronunciations depending on context, making them visually rich subjects for carving practice.

The Low Relief Technique

Low-relief carving is characterized by its shallow depth—typically just 1/8" to 3/16" between the raised design and the background (called the "ground" in traditional carving terms). Despite this modest depth, the technique creates a surprisingly light and elegant effect.

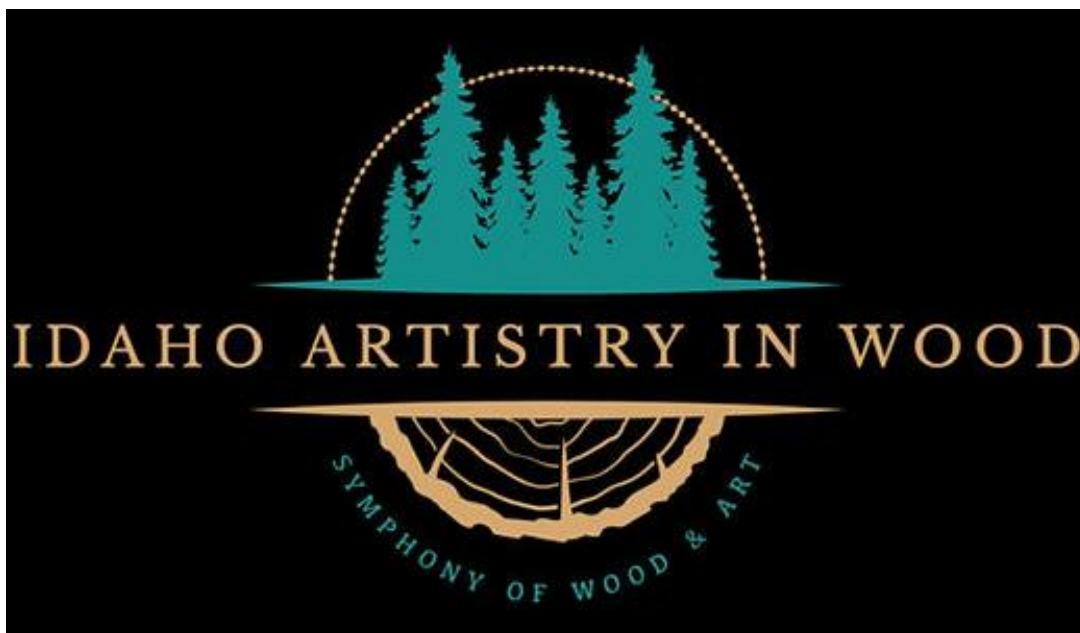
The process involves two key skills: "setting in" the edges of your design and "grounding out" the background. Whether you're carving kanji characters, Western letters, or pictorial designs, these fundamental techniques remain the same. The bold, varied strokes of kanji characters proved particularly effective for teaching carvers how to navigate curves, straight lines, and sharp transitions.

Several students put their own spin on the project by choosing Celtic symbols instead of kanji—demonstrating how these universal low-relief techniques adapt to any design style. The guild provided all materials, making this an accessible introduction to a versatile carving method that opens doors to countless future projects.

Show and Tell

Please plan to bring your Kanji carvings to the next club meeting (Nov 13 and Nov 18) for Show and Tell!

2026 Idaho Artistry in Wood Show



Show Representatives - November Report

by John Greener

- Next year's show
 - Saturday March 21, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
 - Sunday March 22, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
 - Entry registration/drop-off, Friday March 20, 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm
 - Pickup, Sunday March 22, at 4:00 pm
 - Admission: \$5 *12 and under free
 - Located on the 5th floor of the JUMP building in downtown Boise
- Website to be updated and accessible soon. Target date is in mid-November.
 - Website address is: <https://www.idahoartistryinwood.org/>
 - Registration for the competition will be done through the website.
 - First 5-pieces with advance registration are free, additional pieces are \$5 each advance. At the door entries are \$10 each.
- Carvers oversee security at the show; we will be looking for volunteers to man stations at the doors.

Scam Alert: “Special Invitation” Emails Targeting Guild Members

We want to alert you to a recent email scam that has affected several members of our carving community. The message arrives with a subject line like *“Special Invitation”* or *“Private Event Just for You”* and appears to come from a fellow guild member or a trusted organization. It may even include your name or reference our carving events to seem more convincing.

Here’s how the scam works:

- The email invites you to a “special event” or “exclusive opportunity,” often with vague but enticing language.
- It may include a link to RSVP or view details. Clicking the link can lead to a fake login page or download malware onto your device.
- Some versions ask you to confirm your attendance by replying with personal information or even payment details.

Red flags to watch for:

- Unfamiliar sender addresses that don’t match the person or group they claim to be from.
- Urgent or overly flattering language (“You’ve been specially selected!”).
- Links that don’t match the supposed destination (hover over them to check).
- Requests for personal info, passwords, or payment.

What to do if you receive one:

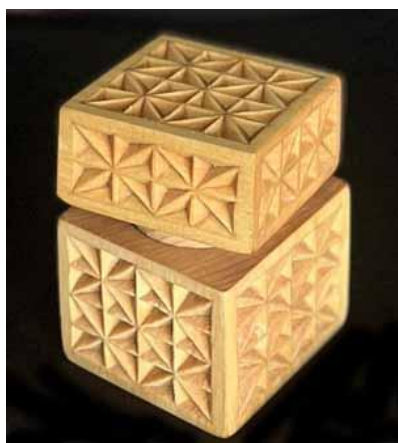
- Do not click any links or download attachments.
- Do not reply to the message.
- Report it as phishing in your email client.
- Let a guild officer know so we can alert others.

We’re a close-knit group, and scammers are counting on that trust. Let’s stay vigilant and look out for one another. If you’re ever unsure about a message, reach out to a fellow member or guild leader before taking action.

Stay safe and keep carving!



Attendees at the Senior Center session on October 21 are busy working on their kanji relief carvings.



Jerry Robertson

Dave Colliver shared his most recent Santa. This time it is a cowboy Santa!





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. 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. Please submit this application to the treasurer to initiate the approval process.

Application for IWG Scholarship

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Course, class or program attended: _____

Provider: _____ Location: _____

Brief description of instruction received:

Sum of dues paid: _____ Year applicant joined IWG: _____

For Board Use

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

Date awarded: _____

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



- Your wood carving knife should not be used for digging or flicking wood chips out of the cuts you have made. Doing this will lead to blade damage. Any wood carving knife can be damaged if misused. ~ *Helvie*
- When carving hair on a female figure, use a small deep gouge. It creates a softer look than a V-tool. ~ *Harold Enlow*



Whittle by whittle, it gets better.

Media

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

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

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

Newsletter Archive: <https://iwgresources.com/>