

IDAHO WOODCARVERS GUILD

December 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.

DECEMBER MEETINGS

The next monthly meeting will be Thursday, December 11, at 6:00 pm at Woodcraft in Boise. The meeting for the Meridian group will be the following Tuesday, December 16, at 12:30 pm at the Meridian Senior Center.



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.

* There are more details in the meeting minutes on the next page below.

Two of our members are hosting booths at various craft fairs over the holiday season. If you find yourselves out shopping, stop by to say hello!

Julia Koch will be at the Boise Christmas Show, December 5–7 at Expo Idaho, 11 -7 F/Sa, 11-4 Su. Eric and Thekla Owens will be at the Sons of Norway event, December 6 at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 9–3. Eric and Thekla will also be at the 2C Cowboy Christmas, December 20–21 at O'Connor Fieldhouse in Caldwell, 10–7.



November 13 & 18 2025 Club Meeting Minutes

- **Treasures Report:** The treasurer's report was presented to the members in attendance. Please contact Nate Meeks if you have any questions.
- **IAW:** John Greener advised the members there is 18 weeks until the show, scheduled for March 21-22, 2026, at JUMP. The details of John's report can be found in the November Newsletter. An additional item was presented by Issac Bradfield. The IAW committee is requesting each of the clubs in IAW to offer feedback on the possibility to participate in a PBS March telethon to raise money and/or provide publicity for the IAW show as well as raise awareness of the various activities of each of the clubs. John will share our feedback at the IAW meeting.
- **Christmas Party Announcement:** The Christmas party is scheduled for Saturday, December 20, 2025 at 3:00 – 5:00 pm at Hillview United Methodist Church located at 8525 W Ustick Road, Boise, just west of N Milwaukee Street. The event will be a holiday sweet treat potluck. The club will provide paper plates, utensils and napkins along with water and lemonade. There will be a show-and tell for those who bring a recently completed carving. There will be a gift exchange. Those who wish to participate can bring a handmade gift. It can be a carving, food, or other special handmade item. The format will be a steal-a gift, to be frozen on the second steal.
- **Name Tag Competition:** All club members are requested to carve a name tag to bring to the Christmas party. Eric has donated 3 carvings as prizes for the top three judged name tags.
- **Club Vests:** This is an ongoing discussion to select a club vest to be presented to members along with a club badge. Specifics are still in discussion by the Executive Committee for presentation and approval by the club.
- **Saint Alphonsus Festival of Trees:** The Festival Gala is the evening of November 25, 2025, followed by General Admission, November 26 – 30, 2025. We have pictures of the IWG entry that were shared at each of the club meetings. The tree is too heavy and large to fit in a car to display at our club meeting and it needs to be delivered Saturday, November 15, 2025. There are a number of ornaments that did not fit on the tree. It was determined a smaller tree would be decorated and presented to the Women and Children Alliance. Amber Hoid will coordinate the donation.
- Thursday night carving will be dark on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.
- **Project:** Larry Crist presented this month's project. He brought a number of various shaped pieces of tree bark for carving. A good time was had by all.

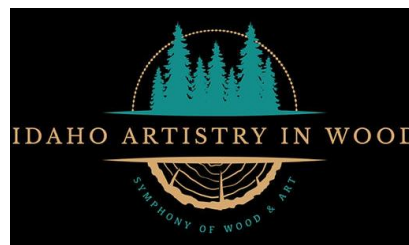
Respectfully Submitted by,

Nate Meeks, Secretary/Treasurer

2026 Idaho Artistry in Wood Show

Show Representatives - December Report

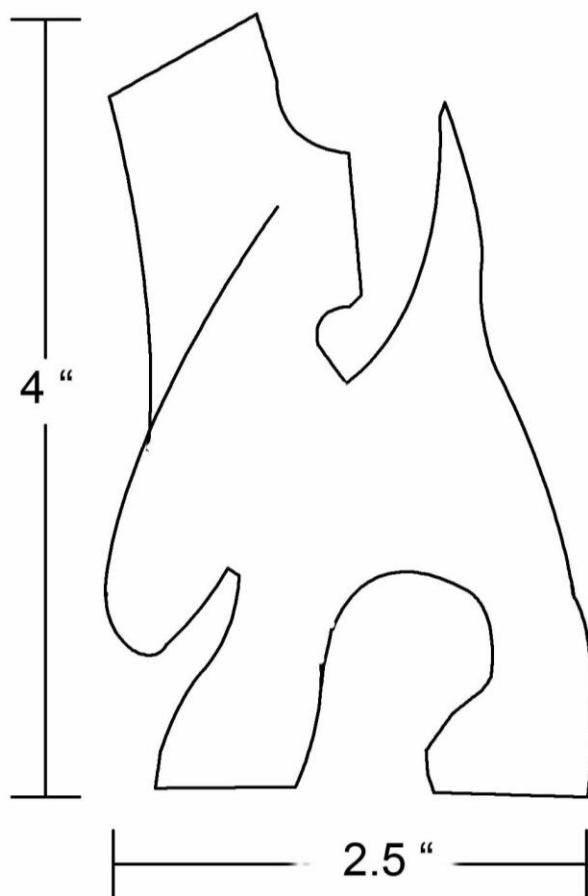
by John Greener



- 16 Weeks Until Show Time!
- This 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 has been updated and accessible now for registration.
 - 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 are in charge to oversee security at the show; we will be looking for volunteers to man stations at the doors.
 - Watch for wrist ban on people entering through the door.
 - Provide information and answer questions of attendees.
 - Watch to make sure no one walks off with a competition piece.
 - Remind people not to touch the display pieces.
- Carving guild booth volunteers.
 - Provide carving demonstration
 - Answer questions about the guild
 - Remind people not to touch the display pieces.
 - Watch to make sure no one walks off with a competition piece.
- Volunteers to help Friday with check-in and judging.
 - Help set up the guild's display shelving.
 - Help people with registration of pieces at the door.
 - Assist with pre-registered check-in
 - Running pieces back into the display/judging area.
 - Recording judging results.
 - Assisting judges with ribbons.
- Volunteers to help Sunday after the show.
 - Escort competitors in to collect their pieces.
 - Tear down of the guild's display shelving.
- This year the "Artisan Booth" at the show will be open craftsmen and artisans to sell their works.

Hound Dog Pattern

Thanks to Eric Owens for this cute hound dog pattern. He said he once used it for a class.



4 x 2.5 x 1



A selection of some of the relief carvings from last month's kanji project.



Issac Bradfield
"Ankhh, Djed Pillar, and Was Scepter"



Abra Bradfield
"Dragonfly"



Julia Koch



Tom Henscheid

These are the four sides of our St. Als Christmas Tree.



Our tree, as presented at the show, with blue ribbon attached. To watch a YouTube video with closeups of the ornaments, [click here](#).



“Thank you to every woodcarver that donated an ornament for our tree! We received first place in our division! Everyone I have spoken with has admired the work and marveled at the talent that created it. Give yourselves a pat on the back! Thanks again for promoting our craft and our club!” ~ *Cathy Carson*

Tony Sciascia shared photos of his latest project.



Michael Chamberlain shared photos of his latest project – a work in progress.



1. Working on a "Keystone Cop" hand puppet head (woodcarving) Pics are of final carving & after sanding and adding eyes. Now, working on separate hat and whistle to go with it.

2. Also working on a 'turned' & carved Jim Henson 'Beaker' (Muppet) - This is my very first piece turned on a lathe, so having fun with that.

[Fun Fact: Jim Henson created the word "Muppet" as a combination of the words "Marionette" & "Puppet"; although Muppets in general were not marionettes, he simply liked the sound of the word]

A brown ribbon banner with a black outline and decorative folds at the ends. The text "IWG Scholarship Program" is written in yellow, bold, sans-serif font in the center.

IWG Scholarship Program

The Idaho Woodcarvers Guild is pleased to offer educational scholarships to our members, funded by proceeds from our successful shows and exhibitions.

Program Details:

Current members in good standing may apply once per calendar year for reimbursement of up to 50% of eligible educational expenses. This includes classes, seminars, or workshops that enhance your carving, painting, or related artistic skills.

Eligibility and Limits:

- Must be current with club dues
- Reimbursement cannot exceed total dues paid since joining the Guild
- Recipients are encouraged to share what they learned at a future meeting

How to Apply:

Submit your application to the treasurer at any time during the year. The Executive Committee will review and approve requests on a rolling basis, with annual funding limits set to maintain the Guild's financial health.

This scholarship program reflects our commitment as a non-profit educational organization to support the continued growth and development of our members' woodcarving skills.

If you are reading this online you can [click here](#) to view or print the scholarship application.

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



- Learn how to carve many different eyes and expressions.
- Create action in all your carvings.
- Learn different techniques from several people you admire to create a style of your own.
- Try different styles of painting till you find one you like.

~ Phil Bishop



My knife collection is so vast;
I really have a cutting-edge
sense of style!

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/>