

IDAHO WOODCARVERS GUILD

February 2026

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.

FEBRUARY MEETINGS

The next monthly meeting will be Thursday, February 12, at 6:00 pm at Woodcraft in Boise. The meeting for the Meridian group will be the following Tuesday, February 17, at 12:30 pm at the Meridian Senior Center.

Valentine's Day is just around the corner, making it the perfect time to create heartfelt gifts straight from your workbench. Whether you're carving delicate hearts, intertwined initials, or classic love spoons in the Welsh tradition, hand-carved wooden pieces carry a warmth and personal touch that store-bought gifts simply can't match. The natural grain and texture of wood add organic beauty to romantic designs, and even simple projects like carved keepsake boxes, decorative hearts for hanging, or personalized ornaments can become treasured mementos. This year, consider reaching for your knives and gouges to create something truly meaningful for the special people in your life—after all, nothing says "I love you" quite like a gift you've poured your time, skill, and care into creating.



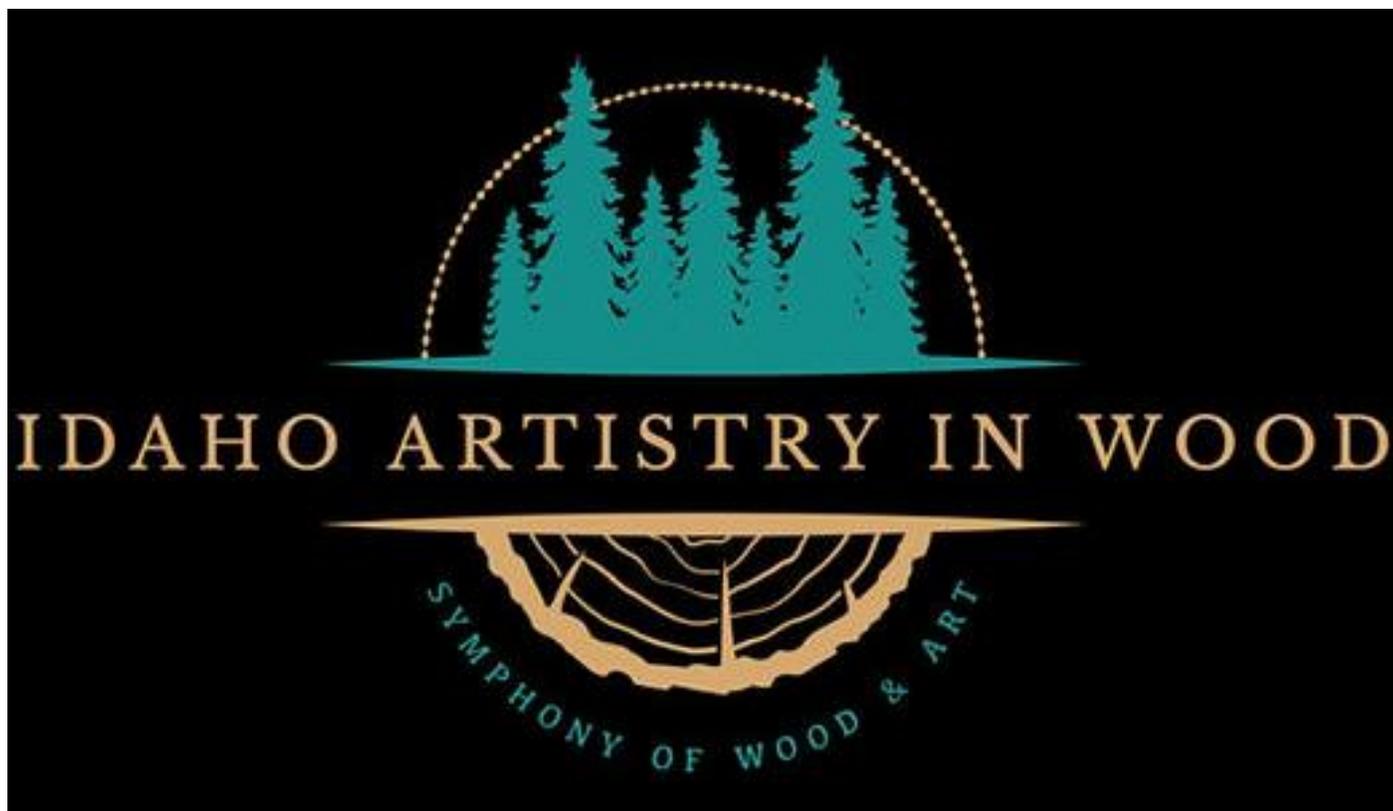


January 8 & 13, 2026, Club Meeting Minutes

1. Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was presented to the members in attendance. Please contact Nate Meeks if you have any questions.
2. IAW Report and Updates
 - a. New Information - John and Issac – John advised the Show is 10 weeks away.
 - b. IWG needs to donate: 5 items for silent auction, 5 items for live auction, many small items for hourly raffles. Please let Cathy or Nate if you have any carving that can be donated.
 - c. IWG needs to provide volunteers for the following assignments.
 - i. Friday: Registration, Setup begins around Noon followed by pizza and drinks. Judging starts around 6:00 PM and will need judge clerks and ribbon runners. Probably 2 people for each.
 - ii. Saturday: Security will need 2 per 2-hour shift of the 2 doors. We will need carvers for Carving Demos at the IWG station and the Makers Space.
 - iii. Sunday: Security, Carving Demos for similar times. Each club will have volunteers to assist entrances to pick-up their items at the end of the show. IWG will need volunteers to clean up following removal of entries.
 - iv. IWG will provide parking passes for volunteers on workdays.
 - d. Encourage entries – Please finish up your projects for entry into the show. We need as many entries as we can get. The deadline for submitting free entries is March 16, 2026.
3. Festival of Trees 2026
 - a. We need volunteers to oversee IWG participation in the event.
 - b. The theme for our tree is Santa's Workshop.
4. Show & Tell – John
5. Project - Phil

Respectfully Submitted,

Nate Meeks, Secretary/Treasurer.



Annual Idaho Artistry in Wood Show Returns to the JUMP Center

Mark your calendars for the Idaho Artistry in Wood Show at the JUMP Center, our guild's premier annual event. For more than 15 years, this celebrated show has showcased the finest woodworking craftsmanship in the northwest.

The show offers artists the chance to compete in a judged competition while sharing their work with the public. Visitors can enjoy the competition entries, special displays, live demonstrations, and opportunities to purchase wood art. The event also features vendors, raffles, and auctions, culminating in a special dinner with a live auction.

Guild Members: Enter Your Work!

Idaho Woodcarving Guild members are encouraged to submit their carvings. The first five entries are free when you pre-register online by March 16. Carvers of all skill levels are welcome—whether you're just starting out or have years of experience, participating offers valuable learning opportunities while giving attendees the chance to see the progression of carving skills.

Meet Our Judges

We're pleased to announce our judges for this year's show. Susan Hendrix and Mary Dame will evaluate the animal categories, while Ryan Olsen, a member of the Caricature Carvers of America, will judge both the human realistic and human caricature categories.

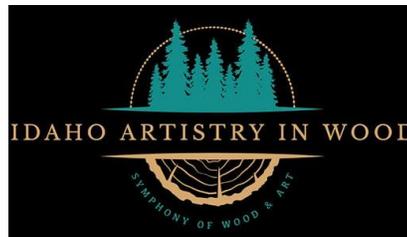
2026 Idaho Artistry in Wood Show

Show Representatives - February Report

by John Greener

Registration Details.

- 6 Weeks (77 Days) 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.



How you can help with the show.

Please let me or Issac Bradfield know if you are willing to help by volunteering. We will have volunteer signup sheets with us for the weekly carving groups. We need people for the following.

- Volunteers to man the doors during the show Saturday and Sunday.
 - Watch for wrist ban on people entering through the door.
 - Provide information and answer questions from 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 during the show Saturday and Sunday.
 - 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 to collect their pieces.
 - Tear down of the guild's display shelving.

A large collage of numerous small photographs showing various people and scenes from wax guild events, including group photos, individuals working, and social gatherings.

PHOTO GALLERY



John Lee



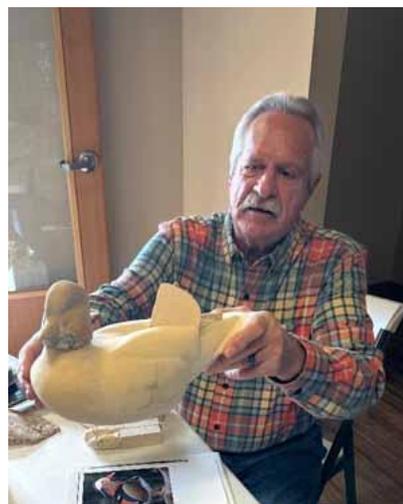
Darrell Tolley



Tom Henscheid



Tom Henscheid



David Colliver



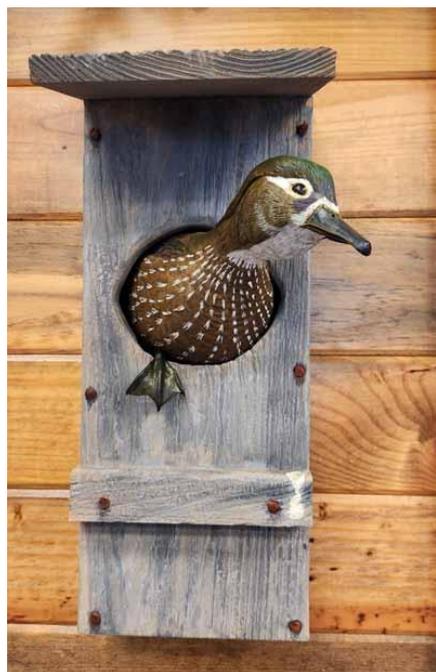
David's Chickadee

Bill Splaine's Cowboy





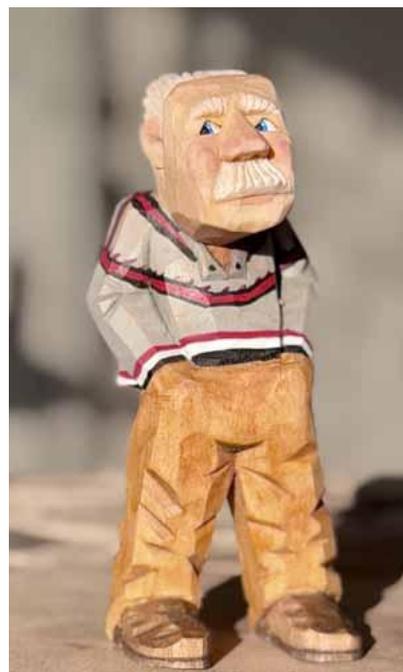
Tony Sciascia - This mallard will be auctioned at the Artistry in Wood show.



Tony Sciascia



Jerry Robertson



Jerry Robertson



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. Join us Tuesday afternoons from 12:30-3:30 p.m. at Kleiner Park (1920 N Records Way, Meridian). Club leaders offer instruction for beginners, while experienced carvers are welcome to work on their own projects. A donation of \$2 for members or \$5 for non-members helps cover senior center expenses.



Regional Workshops / Shows

Rocky Mountain Woodcarvers Roundup in Midway, Utah.

May 18 - 22, 5 days of carving for \$400

<https://rockymountaincarverroundup.com/>

Northwest Carving Academy, in Ellensburg, Washington.

July 13 - 18, cost varies based on courses taken, \$75 - \$490

<https://www.nwcarvingacademy.com/>

Creede Woodcarvers Rendezvous in Creede, Colorado

July 11-15, cost varies based on courses taken

<https://www.creedewoodcarvers.com/>



To repair a broken carving, apply a thin coat of carpenter's glue to both surfaces to be joined, then add a small drop of Super Glue. Move quickly when putting the pieces together, since you will have only 10 to 15 seconds before the Super Glue sets. Wait for the carpenter's glue to set before applying pressure to the break.

~ Bob Travis



Ageing is like flying a helicopter.
I don't know how to fly a helicopter.

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/>