

# IDAHO WOODCARVERS GUILD

March 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.**

### MARCH MEETINGS

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

**National Craft Month** March is National Craft Month, a month-long celebration created in 1994 by the Craft & Hobby Association to promote the joy, creativity, and mental health benefits of making handmade items. It encourages beginners and experts alike to learn new skills, such as sewing, painting, knitting, scrapbooking, and woodcarving. People celebrate by attending classes, purchasing supplies, and sharing projects online. March also features major observances like Women's History Month, St. Patrick's Day (March 17), the Spring Equinox (March 20), and Daylight Savings Time. Other key dates include International Women's Day (March 8), Pi Day (March 14), and various cultural or culinary days such as National Oreo Day (March 6) and Holi (March 3). In other words, there are many opportunities in March to embark on a themed carving project.



## IWG Meeting Highlights — February 12, 2026

**Treasurer's Report** The treasurer's report was presented on behalf of treasurer Nate Meeks, who was unable to attend. No questions were raised.

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### Idaho Artistry in Wood (IAW) Show — Coming Up Fast!

The IAW Show is just around the corner, and there are plenty of ways to get involved. Here are the key dates and details to keep in mind:

- **Setup begins** at 10:00 AM on Friday, March 20
- **Registration** is open 12:00–5:00 PM on March 20
- **Dinner reservations** must be made by March 13 — don't miss the deadline!
- **PBS Spring Fundraiser volunteers needed:** Sunday, March 8, 5:00–8:00 PM. The IAW will be featured during the broadcast and volunteers will help answer phones. Contact us if you'd like to participate.
- **Volunteer at the show:** If you can help out, please reach out to John Greener.

The show committee has printed name signs for each group, and John Greener will provide clamps to affix them to our shelves. The advertising budget has been directed toward social media this year, with hopes of drawing a larger audience.

Show Chair Annie McCutcheon paid us a visit to walk through all the details and remind us of upcoming deadlines. Annie and Bill also collected several donated items from our woodcarvers for use in the raffles and silent and live auctions — thank you to everyone who contributed!

**A note on submissions: we are currently very low on carving entries.** We strongly encourage every carver to submit a piece. Let's make a strong showing!

*PBS Prize Package:* The IAW is assembling a special prize package to be auctioned during the PBS Spring Fundraiser. Each member group is contributing a piece, with a **kitchen theme**. John Greener has already carved a beautiful set of salad forks for our donation.



## Meeting Minutes Continued ...

### Looking Ahead: Elections in May

It's not too early to start thinking about our May elections! We need dedicated members willing to step up and keep the guild running strong. At minimum, we know we'll need to fill the **President**, **Vice President** and **one Trustee** position. More details will follow as we get closer — but if you're interested, we'd love to hear from you.

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### Show & Tell

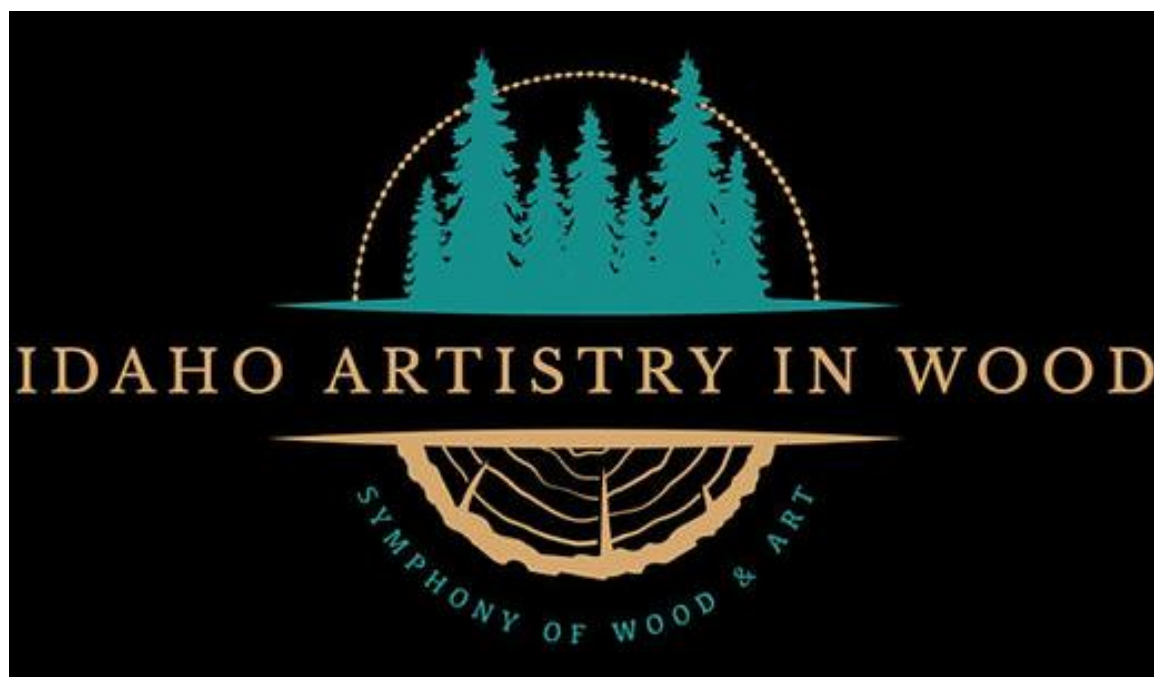
Eric Owens wowed the group with a wonderful collection of carvings, with the standout being a man and woman he created after attending a course last summer. John Greener also shared the salad forks he carved for the PBS auction donation.

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### Guild Project

Eric Owens led the group through a fun and accessible project: the **5-Minute Wizard** — a quick, beginner-friendly carving that makes a great introduction to the craft. A perfect activity for new and experienced carvers alike!

## 2026 Idaho Artistry in Wood Show



### 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 are 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.



"I haven't had much time for carving while on our mission in California, but once in a while I get a little break I can use for some creativity. Here are front and back pictures of a napkin holder I recently completed in Avocado wood." ~ Doug Rose



Each month this newsletter includes pictures of member's work along with a brief narrative. When you send photos of your work to the IWG Newsletter Editor, please let us know some details, such as:

- Wood used
- Size, including thickness of stock
- Finish, including coloration, if any
- Special techniques or considerations, if any
- Any other information of interest

A few tips on taking photos:

- Position your camera (or phone) level with your work.
- Lighting from the side is better than lighting the subject head-on.
- Use natural light if possible.
- The only shadows you see should be in the work (not you).
- Use a high contrast solid background so your work stands out.

Send your photos to Jerry Robertson at [glrobertson@yahoo.com](mailto:glrobertson@yahoo.com). If you are prompted to reduce the file size, please send a large file.

## Fun with AI

I have been having some fun with AI, in particular Google's AI chat bot – [Gemini](#). I submitted photos of some of my characters to Gemini with a simple instruction such as, "Place this character in a baseball stadium." See the tip on the last page of the newsletter.

~ Jerry Robertson



A wide, horizontal banner with a brown background and a black border. The text "IWG Scholarship Program" is written in yellow, bold, sans-serif font in the center. The banner has decorative, folded ends on both sides.

## IWG Scholarship Program

The Idaho Woodcarvers Guild is pleased to offer educational scholarships to our members. The scholarship program is 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.

A brown ribbon banner with a black outline and decorative notched ends. The text 'Open Carving Opportunities' is written in yellow, bold, sans-serif font in the center.

## 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.

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## 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/>



When carving a caricature, imagine you are the person in this ridiculous situation so you can capture what he is feeling. In other words, get to know him the best you can and talk to him if you have to.

~ David Boone



My mechanic told me, "I couldn't repair your brakes, so I made your horn louder."

## 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/>