

IDAHO WOODCARVERS GUILD

August 2026

Newsletter

Guild Officers

President: Issac Bradfield
Vice President: Eric Owens
Treasurer: Nate Meeks
Secretary: Nate Meeks acting

Trustees:

- Jairus Taylor
- Sheryl Tolliver
- John Greener

Newsletter:

- Jerry Robertson

IAW Reps:

- Jairus Taylor
- Nate Meeks

Websites:

- Michael Chamberlain
- Eric Owens



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.

MEETINGS

Summer Break Notice With many of our members traveling and away for the season, we have taken a break from regular business meetings until September. But the carving doesn't stop! Open carving sessions continue all summer, so come join us at Woodcraft on Thursday evenings or the Meridian Senior Center on Tuesday afternoons to keep those chips flying.

Enjoy your summer, and happy carving!

August carries that late-summer blend of sunshine, harvest hints, and quirky celebrations—perfect fuel for carving creativity. It's National Watermelon Month, Family Fun Month, and National Golf Month, each offering playful motifs from carved fruit slices to miniature golfers mid-swing. Major observances include International Beer Day on the first Friday, International Cat Day on August 8, and National Aviation Day on August 19, honoring Orville Wright. August also marks World Honeybee Day—a perfect excuse to carve bees, hives, or sun-drenched flowers. Food holidays like S'mores Day, Filet Mignon Day, and Banana Split Day bring whimsical options for carving sweet treats or picnic scenes. With warm evenings, ripening fields, and a touch of back-to-school nostalgia, August invites carvings of cats, airplanes, honeybees, golfers, summer produce, or even a cozy campfire moment before autumn arrives.

IWG Heads to Ellensburg: A Recap of the Northwest Carving Academy

Every July, carvers from across the region pack up their tools and head to the Kittitas Valley Event Center in Ellensburg, Washington, for one of the premier carving events in the Northwest. This year, three of our own guild members made the trip, and they came home with new skills, a few sore hands, and — in one case — a serious award.

Five Days, A Floor Full of Chips

The Northwest Carving Academy runs as a full five-day event, with a complete day of instruction and carving each day (Friday wraps up a bit early to give folks heading home a reasonable drive). This year's academy drew **85 students** from around the region, all working alongside **eight instructors** teaching a wide range of disciplines: caricature carving and painting, Native art, basket weaving, birds and animals, architectural relief, and spoon carving. Whatever corner of the craft you're drawn to, there's a class for it.

Beyond the carving benches, the week had its own rhythm of community events — a fundraising raffle to support the academy, an ice cream social with entertainment for everyone to unwind after a long day of carving, and the always-popular People's Choice competition, where attendees vote on their favorite pieces.

Santa Comes to Ellensburg

All three of our members signed up for **Pat Moore's** class on carving and painting a Santa figure. By the accounts we've heard, it was a week of patient detail work — coaxing a face, a beard, and a coat full of character out of a block of basswood, then bringing it to life with paint. The results speak for themselves.



A People's Choice Win for the Guild

The highlight of the week for our guild came at the ice cream social, when **Jairus Taylor** took home the People's Choice Award for his striking snake-wrapped walking stick. It's always a proud moment when a familiar name gets called out in front of 85 fellow carvers, and we couldn't be happier for Jairus. Congratulations!

Already Looking Ahead

Our members returned with new techniques, a few ideas for next year's projects, and — if you catch them at the next guild meeting — plenty of stories about the week in Ellensburg. If you've never made the trip yourself, it's worth considering for next July. You can find class offerings, instructor bios, and registration details at nwcarvingacademy.com.

A big congratulations again to Jairus, and thanks to all three of our members for representing the guild so well this year.



When the Chips Are Flying

The carving room is all abuzz,
With knives that hum instead of whirr.
A dozen carvers lean and grin,
As wooden curls begin to stir.

The basswood yields to practiced hands,
Each careful cut reveals a face.
A feather here, a beak, a smile,
Each chip falls gently into place.

But soon "gently" is not the word—
The pace picks up, the shavings fly!
Like autumn leaves in playful winds,
They drift and dance and pile high.

They tumble off the carving bench,
They cling to sleeves and shoes and knees.
One lands inside a coffee cup,
Another rides the slightest breeze.

A laugh erupts across the room:
"Who made that chip fly clear over there?"
No one knows, but everyone smiles—
There's wood confetti everywhere.

The floor disappears beneath the curls,
The wastebasket has long since lost.
The only thing that's truly clear
Is every carving's worth the cost.

For every chip that flutters down
Marks one more lesson, one more try.
A block of wood becomes a dream
When patient hands let chips go by.

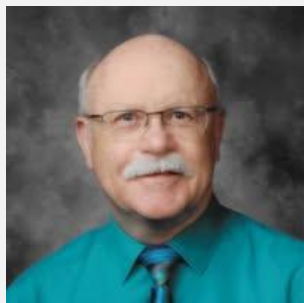
So here's to friends around the table,
To stories shared and skills refining.
For there's no finer sight to see
Than happy hearts... and chips still flying.





Here is a sample of projects underway at Woodcraft in July





The Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest in Idaho has been selected to provide the 2026 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree to the west lawn of the Capitol and we need your help! They are looking for 10,000 handmade ornaments from our local communities and partners to decorate the main tree with larger ornaments and the accompanying smaller trees for D.C. federal offices with smaller ornaments.

The IWG realizes the due date on this national project is very short for woodcarvers, but if you have the means and time to create an ornament for this Idaho tree to be displayed at our nation's Capitol. I encourage you to do so.

If you are planning to contribute to the Christmas ornaments for the DC Capitol tree the first collection will be Tuesday August 18th at the Meridian Senior Center carving meeting at 1:00 pm to Kemp Letts. Thanks to Kemp for volunteering to make this delivery! The second set of collections will be August 20th Thursday at the Woodcraft meeting and Tuesday August 25th at the Meridian Senior Center. Be aware of the specific parameters for these ornaments in size ranges and paint finish. Here is the link to the official website for the ornament collection.

<https://www.uscapitolchristmastree.com/make-an-ornament/>

We are still needing volunteers for the Western Idaho State Fair here at the Boise Fairgrounds from Friday August 21st continuing until Sunday night August 30th. I plan to be distributing free admission passes to all volunteers at the Meridian Senior Center and Woodcraft meetings the week of August 10th. Please use the attached link to sign up for your time slot(s):

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1TZn5YzxZfnRfal8MdtepkR5ZeZMp0F5RtCQELCQcs14/edit?usp=sharing>

Thanks,

Issac Bradfield

 IWG Calendar**Save these dates**

Date	Event
Aug 21–30	Western Idaho Fair (Carnival Theme)
Sept 19	Fall Picnic
Oct 3–4	Woodcraft Makers Expo
Dec 12	Christmas Party

Regional Workshops / Shows

August

[Western Idaho Fair](#) in Boise, Idaho

August 21-30, woodcarving entries fall under the **Open Class → Hobby Craft Department**. The official handbook lists 10 **classes (categories)** you can enter your carvings into.

September

[Spokane Carvers' Association Show](#) - The HIVE in Spokane, WA

[Arts of the Terrace Juried Art Show](#) - Mountlake Terrace, WA

[Clash of the Carvers](#) - Libby, MT

October

[Northwest Carvers Association's Artistry in Wood 45th Annual Show](#)

Waller Road Grange, Tacoma, WA

October 10-11, 2026

WISCONSIN RIVER WOODCARVERS, INC.

22ND ANNUAL WOODCARVING Show, Competition & Sale

Saturday, Sept. 19th, 2026
9am-5pm

Sunday, Sept. 20th, 2026
9am-4pm

"Largest Woodcarving Show in Wisconsin"

FEATURED CARVER
John Engler

Demonstrations Throughout Both Days!

Multiple Vendors

Holiday Inn
1001 Amber Ave., Stevens Point, WI 54482
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
\$5 ADMISSION
(12 & UNDER FREE)

For more information, contact:
www.wisconsinriverwoodcarvers.org

Ron O'Kray 715-341-2214 Cell 715-570-2534	Greg Wirtz 715-423-0471 Cell 715-383-5332	Jerald Trzebiatowski 715-310-9900 jeraldtd6@gmail.com
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Caricature Carvers of America

2026 Caricature Carving Competition

In Conjunction with
Wisconsin River Woodcarvers, Inc.

September 19-20, 2026

- *Competition
- *CCA Carving Display
- *Silent Auction
- *Live Demonstrations
- *Whittling Competition
- *School of Caricature Carving

New Location!!!

Same Events!!

Holiday Inn Steven's Point - Convention Center
1001 Amber Avenue
Stevens Point, Wisconsin 54482



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.

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

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.

Before You Go

 TIP!

When starting a carving project, don't be in a rush to start carving wood. Take time to visualize the piece. Determine what areas will need extra wood like a hat, or tie blowing in the wind, so you don't end up carving off wood that is needed.



My wife called to me from upstairs. She called, "Do you ever get a shooting pain across your body? Like someone has a voodoo doll of you and they're stabbing it?"

"Ummm... no. Why?" I asked.

She said, "How about now?"

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/>