Idaho Woodcarvers Guild

October 2026 Newsletter

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.

October Meetings: The next monthly meeting will be Thursday, October 8, at 6:00 pm at Woodcraft in Boise. The meeting for the Meridian group will be the following Tuesday, October 13 at 12:30 pm at the Meridian Senior Center.

October is a carver's dream month, with autumn colors, harvest traditions, and a little Halloween mischief providing inspiration around every corner. It's National Carving Month, National Pumpkin Month, and National Apple Month—perfect excuses to carve pumpkins, apples, gourds, or a colorful harvest basket. Columbus Day arrives on October 12, while Halloween on October 31 opens the door to witches, ghosts, bats, black cats, jack-o'-lanterns, and all sorts of spooky characters. Fall foliage is at its peak in many places, making colorful leaves, squirrels, owls, foxes, and other woodland creatures natural subjects for your knife. October also brings Oktoberfest celebrations, football season, and the familiar sights of hayrides, corn mazes, and scarecrows. Whether you carve something spooky, something silly, or simply capture the beauty of autumn, October offers plenty of opportunities to turn a block of wood into a seasonal favorite.

Annual Club Picnic Brings Members Together

On Saturday, September 19, club members gathered at Hillview United Methodist Church for our annual picnic. Dinner was served at 6 p.m., with the club providing hamburgers, hot dogs, and all the necessary cutlery. Members filled out the meal with an impressive assortment of side dishes and desserts, giving everyone plenty of delicious choices to enjoy. More than just a meal, the picnic was a great opportunity to relax, visit with fellow carvers, and enjoy an evening of good food, good conversation, and great company. It was another wonderful reminder that our club is about more than carving wood—we enjoy being part of a community of friends who share a common interest.

Membership Renewal Reminder

It's time to renew your guild membership for the coming year. **Please renew your membership by October 31** to remain an active member of the guild.

A **membership renewal form is attached** to this newsletter. Please complete all of the requested information so we can confirm that we have your current contact information. Return the completed form to our treasurer, **Nate Meeks**, along with your annual dues payment.

If you joined the guild anytime during calendar year 2026, you do not need to renew at this time. Your membership is already paid through September 2027.

If you joined **before 2026** and would like to continue your membership, please complete the renewal form and submit it, along with your dues, to Treasurer Nate Meeks.

Please remember that **memberships not renewed by October 31 will be removed from active membership in the guild.** We encourage everyone who needs to renew to take care of it soon.

Click here for the membership renewal form.

This month we are catching up on some photos that didn't make it into previous issues.

Nate Meeks John Lee

Kemp Letts

Joyce Swiech

Tony Sciascia Vick Haight

Chips From the Editor

Did you ever ask yourself why people carve wooden spoons?

People carve wooden spoons because they hit a perfect sweet spot between usefulness, tradition, creativity, and the simple joy of working with wood. The real reasons go deeper than "it's a beginner project."

The core reasons people carve wooden spoons

1. Practical usefulness: A carved spoon isn't just decoration—you can cook with it every day. It's satisfying to make something that becomes part of your kitchen routine.

2. Skill-building: Spoon carving teaches grain reading, safe knife grips, shaping curves, hollowing bowls and finishing techniques. It's a compact project that builds real woodworking fundamentals.

3. Tradition and heritage: Spoon carving is ancient. Nearly every culture has its own style—Scandinavian, Welsh lovespoons, Appalachian camp spoons. People carve spoons to connect with that lineage.

4. Meditation and relaxation: Carving a spoon is rhythmic and calming. Many carvers describe it as "quiet time with a piece of wood."

5. Creative expression: A spoon can be rustic, elegant, sculptural or whimsical. It's a small canvas for big creativity.

6. Gift-giving: A handmade spoon is personal, warm, and meaningful. People carve them for weddings, holidays, and family heirlooms.

7. Low barrier to entry: You don't need a shop—just a knife, a hook knife, and a stick of wood. It's one of the most accessible woodworking crafts.

The deeper reason

Spoon carving gives people a way to slow down, make something real, and feel connected—to nature, to tradition, and to their own hands.

IWG Calendar

Save these dates

Date	Event
Oct 3–4	Woodcraft Makers Expo
Dec 12	Christmas Party

Regional Workshops / Shows

October

Northwest Carvers Association's Artistry in Wood 45th Annual Show

Waller Road Grange, Tacoma, WA

October 10-11, 2026

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.

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

Get the carving blocked out before you start carving details. Pencil in reference marks to provide yourself with a road map. As you carve the marks away, add new ones to show any change in course. Do not do any undercutting until you complete all details, know when to quit.

Wife: "There is trouble with the car. It has water in the carburetor."
Husband: "Water in the carburetor? That's ridiculous."
Wife: "I tell you the car has water in the carburetor."
Husband: "You don't even know what a carburetor is. I'll check it out. Where's the car?"
Wife: "In the pool."

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/