

IDAHO WOODCARVERS GUILD

April 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.

APRIL MEETINGS

The next monthly meeting will be Thursday, April 9, at 6:00 pm at Woodcraft in Boise. The meeting for the Meridian group will be the following Tuesday, April 14, at 12:30 pm at the Meridian Senior Center.

April is National Woodworking Month It is also National Welding Month, making it a great time to celebrate all things made by hand. Major observances include Easter, April 5 for Western Christians and April 12 for Eastern Orthodox Christians, as well as Passover beginning April 1 and Earth Day on April 22, with National Park Week running April 18–26 and free entrance fees at all National Parks on the 18th. Other key dates include April Fools' Day (April 1), World Book Day on April 23, and Arbor Day on April 24. Food holidays this month include Burrito Day, Deep-Dish Pizza Day, and Peanut Butter and Jelly Day. In other words, there are plenty of opportunities in April to carve an Easter scene, a woodland creature for Earth Day, or a favorite tree in honor of Arbor Day!



IWG Meeting Highlights — March 12, 2026

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report was read. There were no questions.

Idaho Artistry in Wood (IAW) Show

- Reminder of time, location, volunteer opportunities, submission and show information was all given.
 - Feedback on IAW members participating at the PBS spring festival was given. Participants enjoyed their experience. Great visibility for the show – Annie and Ernie were interviewed and featured multiple times throughout a 2-hour time period. Items clubs created to have auctioned off went quickly. Everyone agreed it was a good opportunity that gave the show lots of visibility and we will hope to participate again in the future.
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Elections in May

Positions that will need to be filled are President, Vice-president, secretary, and trustee. Please consider filling a position as we need participation of all members to have a successful organization. A brief description of each position follows:

- President – leads guild meetings May – Sep, works with executive committee to oversee guild activities and operations, official contact person, member of guild executive committee which meets approximately every other month from September – May
- Vice-President – arranges project or lecture for each guild meeting Sep -May, arranges outreach opportunities, assists President, member of guild executive committee which meets approximately every other month from September - May
- Secretary – takes notes at each meeting and submits to newsletter author, member of guild executive committee which meets approximately every other month from September - May
- Trustee – oversees guild elections, once a year, April-May time frame, member of guild executive committee which meets approximately every other month from September - May



Meeting Minutes Continued ...

Show-and-Tell

There was no show-and-tell.

Guild Project

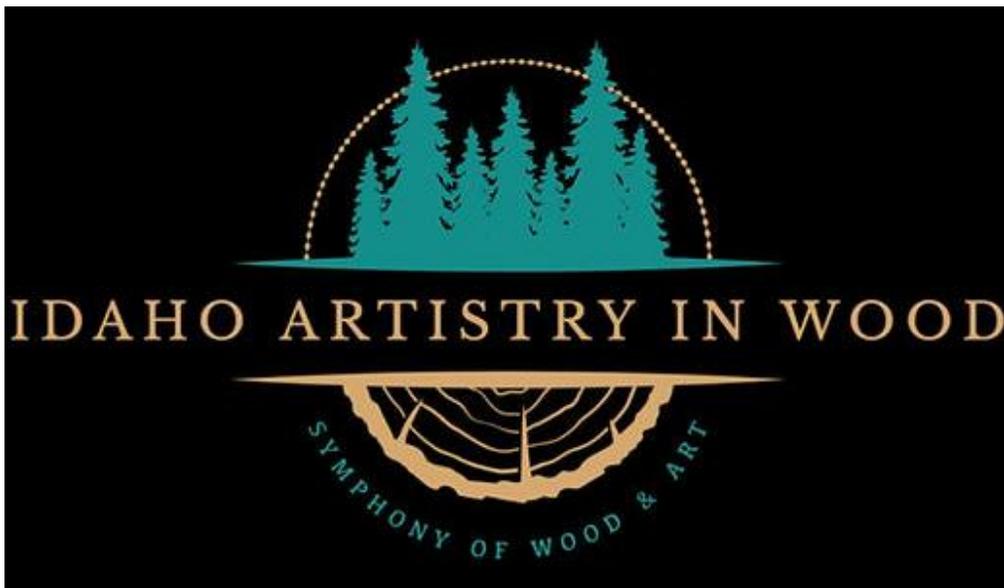
Two members, Eric and Michael, tackled the “little man” project created by Larry.

Upcoming Shows

Victor Haight shared information about the 2026 Montana Woodcarvers Show. This year it is May 1-3. Stated he has gone previously and that it is a really nice show. The information page states there are classes offered in addition to the show. Information can be found here: [2026 Montana Woodcarver's Show](#)

https://www.montanastatewoodcarvers.com/upcomingevents/upcoming_events_and_shows.htm

2026 Idaho Artistry in Wood Show



Show Summary

By Cathy Carson

The Idaho Woodcarver's Guild had a strong showing at this year's Idaho Artistry in Wood Show. Entries were up from last year, with a total of 118 carvings entered. It is always exciting to have a large number of entries, as there is something for everyone to enjoy. And it helps us gain new members - Nate Meeks registered at least two new members while at the show! And at least 14 guild members volunteered throughout the three-day event - helping with setup, take-down, carving, interacting with the public, and performing door security! Thank you - we couldn't do it without you!

The People's Choice Award was given to Mick Williams for his American Spotted Owl. Mick is long-time carver but rarely enters his work. He was persuaded to enter by one of our guild members, and we hope Mick will join our guild as part of his ongoing carving journey. Congratulations Mick!

A special moment was when Judge Ryan Olsen, a member of the Caricature Carvers of America, presented Eric Owens with a Special Merit Award from the CCA, for his Ferrier Cowboy carving. Congratulations Eric!

We had several members of the Kitsap, Washington Carving Club attend and enter items. They have extended an invitation to us to attend their show the second weekend in June, stating we could have a table of our own for display and carving demonstrations if we would like. Information about their club and show can be found at [Kitsap Carvers - The Artistry in Wood Show](#). If you are interested in attending, contact Cathy Carson, who will help coordinate the plans.



Here are a few snapshots from the recent Idaho Artistry in Wood show. More pictures will be published in a future newsletter.



Ryan Olsen awarded Eric Owen's Farrier Cowboy carving a special achievement award from the Caricature Carvers of America



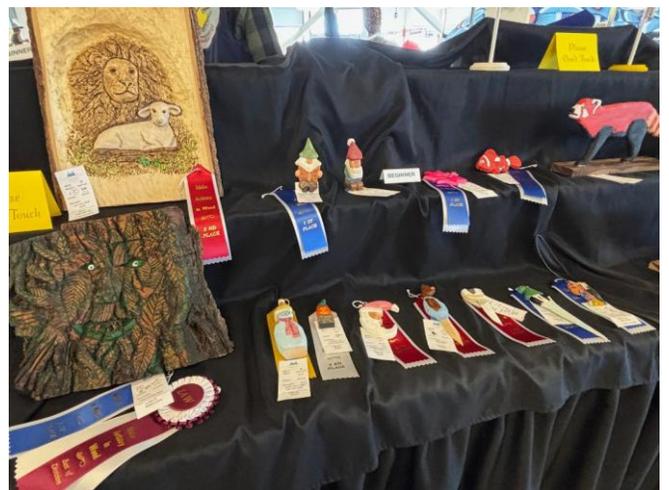
The judges for carving were Mary Dame, Ryan Olsen and Susan Hendrix



People's Choice award winner by Mick Williams.



Norm and Michael. Two of 14 or more volunteers from IWG.



A decorative banner with a brown background and a black outline, featuring the text 'IWG Scholarship Program' in yellow. The banner has a ribbon-like appearance with folded ends.

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 decorative banner with a wood-grain texture and a black outline, featuring the text "Open Carving Opportunities" in a yellow, sans-serif font.

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 decorative banner with a wood-grain texture and a black outline, featuring the text "Regional Workshops / Shows" in a yellow, sans-serif font.

Regional Workshops / Shows

[Rocky Mountain Woodcarvers Roundup](#) in Midway, Utah.
May 18 - 22, 5 days of carving for \$400

[Northwest Carving Academy](#), in Ellensburg, Washington.
July 13 - 18, cost varies based on courses taken, \$75 - \$490

[Creede Woodcarvers Rendezvous](#) in Creede, Colorado
July 11-15, cost varies based on courses taken

The [2026 Montana Woodcarver's Show](#) will be held from May 1-3 at the Missoula County Fairgrounds. Content includes wood carving, wood turning, wood burning and scroll saw works. The contact for the show is Doug Stinger at 406-231-3546.

The [Kitsap Carvers – Artistry in Wood show](#) will be June 13 & 14 at Sheridan Park Community Center, 680 Lebo Blvd, Bremerton, WA 98310

Before You Go



The most important ingredient in a caricature carving is not action, or clean cuts, or a fine paint job. All of those can help, but the most important ingredient is always humor. A caricature carving without the humor is like a rum and coke without the rum.

~ Chris Hammack



What do you call a realistic prankster?
A practical joker.

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/>