

IDAHO WOODCARVERS GUILD

June 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 Our regular business meetings are taking a recess for the summer and will resume in September. However, open carving sessions will continue throughout the season! Join us at **Woodcraft on Thursday evenings** and at the **Meridian Senior Center on Tuesday afternoons** to keep the creativity flowing.

Enjoy your summer, and happy carving!

June is National Great Outdoors Month, making it a perfect time to celebrate carving inspired by nature, camping, fishing, and wildlife. It is also National Homeownership Month and National Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Month. Major observances include Flag Day on June 14, Father's Day on June 21, and Juneteenth on June 19. Summer officially begins with the Summer Solstice on June 20, bringing the longest day of the year. Other notable dates include World Environment Day on June 5 and National Donut Day on June 6. Food holidays this month feature Cheese Day, Corn on the Cob Day, and Strawberry Parfait Day. In other words, June offers plenty of inspiration to carve patriotic themes, woodland animals, fishing scenes, garden produce, or even your favorite summertime treat!



IWG Meeting Minutes — May 14 & 26, 2026

- **Treasurer's Report:** Nate presented the April 23, 2026, treasurer's report to the club.
- **IAW Report: by John & Issac** – Julia Koch has accepted the two-year chair position for the IAW Show. There was a brief discussion regarding a featured artist for the 2028 show. There were a few names mentioned. The new executive committee will nominate an artist early in the 2026/2027 term for selection. Jairus Taylor agreed to be one of the IWG representatives for the IAW Show Committee. Nate Meeks volunteered to be the second representative. The show committee has requested 8 auction items for the 2027 show. The IAW Show Committee will determine which item will be selected for the 3 live auction items and the 5 silent auction items. Since the Show is scheduled for Feb 19-21, 2027. The items will need to be submitted to the Show Committee early in 2027.

Calendar Dates

- **Demonstrations at the Western Idaho Fair:** Issac Bradfield will coordinate the volunteers for the fair dated Aug 21 – Aug 31.
- **Fall Picnic:** The Fall Picnic will be Saturday September 19, 12-30pm. More information to come. We need a coordinator.
- **Maker's Expo:** hosted by Woodcraft, will be October 3-4. We need a coordinator for this event.
- **Christmas Party:** Saturday December 12, 12-3 pm. Need coordinator for this event.
- **Elections:** Issac was at Woodcraft May 14 and the Senior Center May 26 to conduct elections. Since the senior Center was closed for activities May 19 due to the facility being used as a polling place, our guild election day was delayed a week.
- **Project:** Eric Owens presented carving eyes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nate Meeks



2026/2027 IWG Election Results

Issac Bradfield is the new President.

Eric Owens is the new Vice President.

Nate Meeks has been reelected as Treasurer.

Sheryl Tolliver has been elected as Trustee.

With the election results in, we want to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude to those who have served and those transitioning into new roles.

A special thank you to Phil Kelly for his dedication as Vice President over the past several years, and to John Greener for his many years of service as an IAW club representative — your contributions have meant a great deal to this guild. We also want to recognize Issac, who served both as Trustee and IAW club representative this past year before stepping up to take on the presidency — thank you for your continued commitment.

To those carrying on in their roles: thank you. Nate Meeks, your years of service as Treasurer — and your unofficial work as Secretary this past year — have not gone unnoticed. Jerry Robertson and Michael Chamberlain, thank you for keeping us connected through the newsletter and website. And to Jairus Taylor and John Greener, thank you for your service as Trustees.

Finally, thank you to everyone who participated in this election. Your engagement is what keeps our guild vibrant and strong.

Meet your new Guild president



Greetings Carving Members of the IWG!

I am Issac Bradfield and I am your newly elected President

Your new Executive Team is fired up and already planning fun Guild events for the 2026-27 year!

Please look at your email for the monthly newsletter and opportunities for you to represent our Guild around the Valley!

Biography

I previously taught as a high school science teacher and worked many years prior to that in the fine jewelry trade. Since retiring I have been a regular member of the Thursday group at Woodcraft for the last three years. The best part of our meetings is seeing what other carvers have created, learning carving tips and techniques from others, and the camaraderie of sharing stories and bad “Dad jokes”. My artistic background is in stone carving, but I have come to really like creating creatures and projects in wood. While I may not be an expert in all the forms of carving, I believe if it is fun and rewarding to the artist, then it is worth the effort.

I look forward to seeing what you are creating and getting assistance to those that need some guidance.

I look forward to hearing your input on some of the Guild projects for this next year!



Ted Smith | 1938–2026

Ted Smith passed away on Friday, May 29, 2026. Ted spent more than three decades transforming wood into life. A proud member of the Idaho Woodcarvers Guild and an inductee of its Hall of Fame, he was widely regarded as one of the finest bird carvers of his generation — an artist whose patience and precision elevated the craft to fine art.

What set Ted apart was his attention to the whole story. He didn't simply carve birds; he built entire worlds around them — the rocks they rested on, the flowers growing at their feet, the quiet details that made each sculpture unmistakably his own.

His talents earned recognition far beyond Idaho. In 2012, his carving of a Western Grebe competed at the World Wildfowl Carving Competition in Ocean City, Maryland, where it took Best of Division honors in the Lem & Ward Smoothie Waterfowl category. He continued to compete in this competition as recently as 2026 where he was honored for moving from the open skill class to masters. As a Featured Artist, his work was shown across Idaho, Oregon, Washington, California, and Maryland. He appeared on the 2004 Idaho Wildlife Art Show poster and served as an Artist Representative for the Northwest Carving Academy in Ellensburg beginning in 1999. Ted has competed in various waterfowl competitions across the northwest and has always done exceptionally well. One of his favorite competitions was the Columbia Flyway which for many years was held in Vancouver Washington. He was once honored there as the featured artist.

Ted was also a builder of community. He played a founding role in both the Idaho Wildlife Art Show and the Idaho Artistry in Wood Show, helping give other artists the stages he himself had earned.

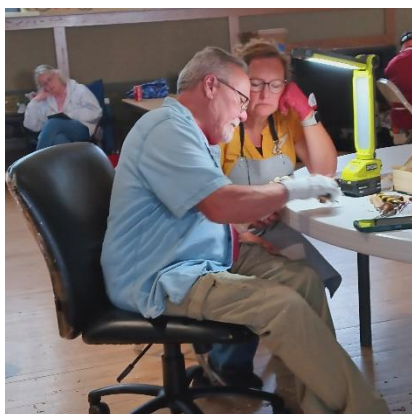
He signed his work in lowercase — a small, humble mark on pieces that were anything but. That signature can still be found today on wildfowl carvings in private homes and corporate collections across the United States, Canada, Mexico, New Zealand, and Switzerland.

Ted will be remembered in every piece he left behind.



Several IWG members made the trip to last week's Rocky Mountain Carvers Roundup in Midway, Utah, including John Lee, Eric and Thekla Owens, and Mei Wang. The group enjoyed the carving classes and took part in the many activities the event had to offer. Photos from the weekend are shown below — it was a wonderful gathering to be a part of! ~ Eric Owens







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

[Kitsap Carvers – Artistry in Wood show](#) in Bremerton, Washington

June 13 & 14 at Sheridan Park Community Center

680 Lebo Blvd, Bremerton, WA 98310

Treeline USA – Ryan Olsen Class

June 30- July 1 - 1221 East 1120 South, Provo, UT 84606

Contact Dennis Trotter (801-592-8982) or Gary Heaton (385-329-5442)

The 2-day carving class is limited to 12 people and requires a \$100 deposit. The total cost for the class is \$200 per person.

[Creede Woodcarvers Rendezvous](#) in Creede, Colorado

July 11-15, cost varies based on courses taken

[Northwest Carving Academy](#) in Ellensburg, Washington.

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

[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.



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 brown background and a black border. The banner has a ribbon-like shape with folded ends. The text "IWG Scholarship Program" is written in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font in 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



When painting the glint on the eyeballs, Vic Otto said he prefers to use a very small brush rather than a stylus. A brush provides a small slanted "dash" rather than a dot. The glint should be placed above the equator of the eyeball with both glints being in the same relative position on the eyes. ~ Vic Otto



My goal for this year was to lose 10 pounds. I only have 14 to go.

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/>