



Carving Newsletter

January 2024



Hello Carvers,

The eight pillars of wood carving?

Carousels, Caricatures, Realistic Animals, Indigenous, Whittling, Architectural, Chip, Relief.

In the heyday of carving between 1970 and 2000, there were large carving sub-groups focused entirely on one of these pillars. Can you identify even more categories? All these artistic disciplines still exist of course, but they have fewer active participants. Some of us get started with and stick with one type without trying the others. As a club we're going to continue to explore these forms by highlighting past and present practitioners.

The way I see the eight pillars is:

Carousels - Carvings range from life-size to miniatures. They provide entertainment for all ages and are monuments to carving, painting, and mechanics. We hope to have a program on carousels at one of our monthly meetings.

Caricatures - Small and large, human and not—these carvings are an outlet for creativity without the stress of being realistic. Visit [Caricature Carvers of America](#) for a mind-blowing tour. See their [books](#).

Realistic Animals - These may be birds, mammals, fish, or humans. Our January monthly program features Rick Pass from Astoria, with a tour and talk about his ten-year carving journey.

Indigenous - Examples of this carving style go beyond Northwest Pacific Tribal to works from all cultures.

Whittling - Using one (or more) knife(s), they range from simple to complex and practical to whimsical.

Architectural - Decorating furniture, houses, or buildings, these carvings serve a function, sometimes religious.

Chip - Slicing into wood is simple to execute (but not always), and has repetitive geometries (but not always).

Relief - Carving the illusion of depth on mostly flat surfaces—shallow to deep.

A good way to explore is to take a day trip for the 30th annual [Coastal Carvers show in Lincoln City on January 13th or 14th](#) (MLK weekend). It's a great place to see a wide variety of carvings and carvers. We'll have two tables and a demo area. If you want to sell a few carvings at our tables, let me know.

I love the big playpen we inhabit, and I hope you do too.
Let's explore more in 2024.

Happy New Year,

Larry Wade
lpwade@gmail.com



Coastal Carvers Show Jan 2023

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OUR MISSION: Encourage carvers at all levels through education, fellowship, and mentoring

Monthly Evening Programs

January 10th Program ([click here to register](#)) Bird and Power Carving with Rick Pass

This program will be on Zoom only and will be on a Wednesday this month instead of our more normal Tuesday. Dr. Rick Pass is a serious bird carver and the muscle behind the Columbia Flyway and Wildlife Show in Astoria. We'll spend an evening with Rick to tour his shop, hear about his carving journey, and learn some of his techniques using power carving tools. He will be with us live, and we'll show video clips of an interview and shop tour that we'll do with him ahead of time. No, the "Dr." is not a PhD in bird carving - he was the superintendent of two school districts in the Lower Columbia River area before he retired.



Rick Pass



Monthly Evening Programs

Bird and Power Carving with Rick Pass (continued)



Our monthly programs are usually on the second Tuesday of each month from 7:00 - 9:00 pm. All Zoom programs are recorded and posted to our website, and you can see past programs by [clicking here](#), or navigate to Galleries/ Video Galleries.

These programs explore the breadth and depth of carving topics and expose us to new ideas, techniques, persons, or resources. While most of us carve wood, it isn't the only material we use. Occasionally we might consider carving gourds, stone, foam, food, ice, linoleum, and whatever else will carve.

Many of us work primarily with gouges, but others work primarily with knives, power carving, or pyrography. For some, carving is one of many hobbies, but for others it is *the* hobby. Many of us wish we were better painters, designers, or photographers—better with art as well as craft. Some people like carving big things, tiny things, totem poles, carousel animals, or Japanese netsuke. Some have the patience of Job to carve and paint realistic birds and mammals, while others need to finish projects in hours, not months or years. Spoons anyone?



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Monthly Classes & SIGs

Sharpening for Beginners – in-person (repeats monthly)

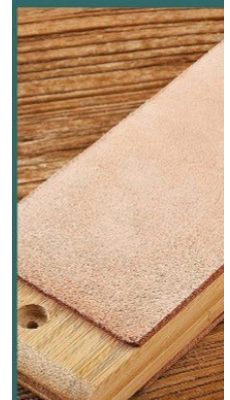
Taught by Roger Crooks or Larry Wade

Click one date to register, [Jan 10](#), [Feb 21](#), [Mar 13](#), [May 8](#)

Sharpening is critical. While there are many articles and videos online, they are often contradictory. For a beginner with few tools, figuring out how to start sharpening is daunting.

Our philosophy is to start with good tools and keep them sharp with stropping. This beginner's class delivers information with a handout, a video, and hands-on coaching. There is a fine line between getting an edge sharp and making it duller by rolling it over.

Correcting stropping techniques in real time will start carvers on the right path to building muscle memory for sharpening. The class repeats monthly, and requires students to read our [white paper](#) and watch our [video](#) ahead of time so you can concentrate on practice and technique.



Leather Strop

Incised Carving Class (free) – in-person (repeats monthly)

Days and times vary. To register, click on one desired date: [Jan 20](#), [Feb 17](#), [Mar 16](#), [Apr 13](#), [May 18](#)

This one-session, in-person, 2-1/2 hour class is for those new to carving or who want to try incised carving. The class repeats most months.

The incised style carves lines into the surface of wood and can be done safely with one tool. Students will be provided with everything needed - wood, V tool, patterns, and a carving mat. The class is taught in-person carving a Dogs Welcome sign. The tool can be borrowed for up to a month afterwards.



Dogs Welcome Sign

Carving Special Interest Group (CSIG)

We meet monthly, and you can attend either evening or daytime. Each session is two hours long, with an optional hour before the meeting to eat, work, or chat. Register your general interest using a link below for the respective time, even if you attend sporadically. Monthly email reminders are sent to those on the interest list.

- » **EVENINGS** at Guild of Woodworkers Studio (third Thursdays), 7-9pm, [click here for the evening series](#)
- » **DAYTIMES** at Woodcraft in Tigard (1st Thursdays) 1-3pm, [click here for the daytime series](#)

Focus Topics for upcoming CSIG meetings

January 4th and 18th - This will be a sharpening workshop with a few short demonstrations of the Drake and Burke power sharpeners, but most of the time will be spent with you practice sharpening your tools or those in the Tool Library. Experienced coaches will be available to help. Review the sharpening [white paper](#) and [video](#) ahead of time.

February 1st and 15th - Nancy Girard will give a talk and demo on the basics of pyrography, explaining burners, tips, and techniques. You will work hands-on to burn a coaster. Wood and patterns provided; several wood burning sets available but bring yours if you can. Review our earlier pyrography [program](#) and look over its [handout](#) for a refresher ahead of time.

Interest Lists

Afghanistan Style Chip Carving by Ahmed Rauofi

The October Carving SIG meetings focused on the topic of Afghanistan Style Chip Carving, demonstrated by Ahmed Rauofi, a 27 year old relatively recent arrival to Portland and to America.

Ahmed studied woodworking and carving for three years in Kabul where he learned a wide variety of skills.



Their chip carving technique uses just one mid-size single-bevel carpenter's chisel and is held mostly vertically. This style is known as Nuristani Chip Carving, named after the province in the eastern part of the country. The carved forms are typically geometric but are a variety of straight and curved lines, where the patterns are typically drawn with a compass and ruler right on the wood.

The photo of the wood plate is one he carved on—one he recently bought at a discount at Ross for Less.

Ahmad has his own YouTube Channel where he has several examples with accelerated videos demonstrating his techniques, [click here](#).

With enough interest, he will teach a class. To express your interest [click here](#).



Walking Sticks & Wood Spirits — Interest list only

Taught by Terry Burnside. [Click here](#) to register interest

Terry will teach this class once there is enough interest. Add your name to the list if this is a future possibility for you. No obligation.



This class is designed for those not familiar with carving a wood spirit or face carving in general. Terry developed his techniques over 25 years, incorporating the methods of several well-known carving professionals.



Caricature Carving with Terry Moss — Interest list only

[Click here](#) to register interest

Terry Moss will teach this weekend class once there is enough interest. Add your name to the list if this is a future possibility for you. No obligation.



View from the Left



View from the Right

Poinsettia

by Mack Sutter From the OCG Collection

Call for Pictures of Your Carvings

One of the highlights of face-to-face meetings is doing a *show and tell* about carvings we have done. Each month we will include a brief narrative with pictures of members' work. When you send photos of your work to [OCG 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) parallel to your work
- » Use natural light (sunlight) if possible
- » The only shadows you see should be in the work (not you)
- » Use a high contrast background so your work stands out



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Upcoming Events

JANUARY

Coastal Carver Artistry in Wood Show

Lincoln City, Jan 13 - 14 2024



This annual January carving show is a fixture in the state and well worth attending. With the success of their post-pandemic 2023 show, the Coastal Carvers are planning their 2024 show for Martin Luther King weekend. Check their [website](#) for current information.

APRIL

Idaho Artistry in Wood Show

2024 Wood and Gourd Art Show



Jack's Urban Meeting Place, Boise, ID. Tentative date: April 6 - 7, 2024
The Idaho Artistry in Wood 2024 Wood and Gourd Art Show will be held Saturday, April 6, 9:00am to 5:00pm and Sunday, April 7, 10:00am to 4:00pm at Boise's premier exhibition hall located on the 5th floor of JUMP (Jack's Urban Meeting Place,) 1000 Myrtle St., Boise, ID 83702
Competitors from all skill levels (Novice to Expert) may submit their wood carving, turning, scroll work, fine wood working, CNC creations, gourd art, and pyrography entries for public display and judging. The show will feature demonstrations, vendors, raffles, an auction, and banquet. It also is an opportunity for artists to sell their work. Their [website](#) will have more details soon.

The Gathering of the Guilds

Oregon Convention Center, Portland, April 19 - 21, 2024



Six Portland-area guilds with over 200 artists will join forces to exhibit and sell art and functional products. All of which are unique and of exceptional quality. Details on the [Gathering of the Guilds website](#).

Capitol Woodcarvers — Salem, OR

Details TBD.



This annual two-day show is a great hit. Members of Capitol Woodcarvers display their carvings to other carvers and the public. The show typically includes vendors, breakout sessions, auction, raffles, classes, demonstrations, contests, and a lot of sharing of techniques. More information and entry forms for the 2024 show are to be posted on their [website](#) soon.

Oakhurst Woodcarver's Rendezvous

Community Center, 39822 Rd 425B, Oakhurst, Ca. April 14-20



This special week of carving is guaranteed to be fun for the whole family, and they are extending a special invitation to you to come and join in. They generally have several different carving classes lined up. Classes range from Relief carving, power carving, bark carving, jewelry boxes, stepping stones, gourds and pine needle baskets, scroll saw, and others. One registration fee will allow you to attend as many classes as you like, or you may choose to spend the whole week in just one class. All classes will be on a first come first served basis. Check their [Website](#) for updates.

Comfort Birds Flown the Coop

70 Comfort Birds have Flown the Coop

By Julie Niemeyer

The Comfort Bird collaboration between the Oregon Carvers Guild and the Guild of Oregon Woodworkers has made its first large donation of 70 beauties. Jim Spitzer, Larry Wade, and I met with Lorna Day, the founder of the Sam Day Foundation in November to hand over the birds in their velvet bags.

They will be added to 70 Wellness Boxes which she gives to young patients of childhood cancers in the Portland/Vancouver area throughout the year.

Recently, 20 boxes traveled to a southern Oregon hospital for children there. One bird was delivered to an adolescent patient in Beaverton with a reoccurring, stubborn, and rare sarcoma which doctors cannot eradicate. Lorna reports that her face just lit up when she received her Comfort Bird.

While we were happy to be adding comfort and care in the Wellness Boxes, we were profoundly humbled by the information that over 65 children in one year alone, in our area, have been diagnosed with pediatric cancers and received the boxes. Additionally, that nationwide only 4% of cancer research funding is allocated for childhood cancer research.

The Sam Day Foundation has now committed to raise and donate \$1,000,000 per year, for the research of pediatric cancers.

The Comfort Bird project has over 75 people working on it in some manner. We can all be proud and happy to be truly making a difference.

I personally extend my deepest and heartfelt gratitude to everyone working on this project. When we meet people like Lorna Day, it's a reminder of why we do what we do.

Thank you all!



Excerpt from The Sam Day Foundation website:

The Sam Day Foundation started as a group of people who loved Sam Day and were compelled to fight for him and other young people dealing with the brutality of childhood cancer. While Sam was still alive, friends came together and raised over \$350,000 for Ewing Sarcoma research through another organization. But Sam was never able to benefit from that research.

With his passing in 2016, his circle of support felt a profound sense of loss, anger and sorrow. We have become keenly aware of the devastating effects of cancer and the need for better treatment options. In 2018, we decided to launch the Sam Day Foundation.

What started as a proactive effort to save Sam and other young people battling Ewing Sarcoma, has grown into a strong community of compassionate philanthropists and advocates of all ages advocating for young people dealing with those brutal and forgotten cancers. Today, our hope is to generate enough attention and resources to promising research so that one day, kids with cancer can survive and live well.

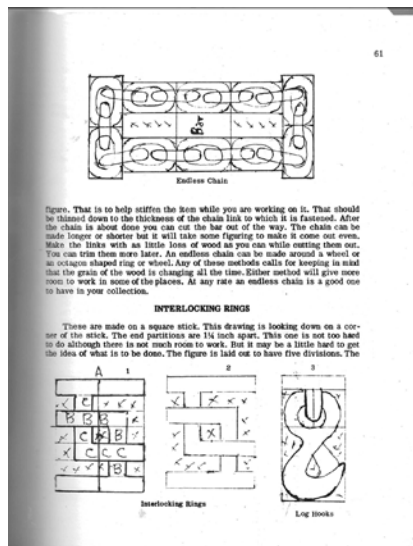
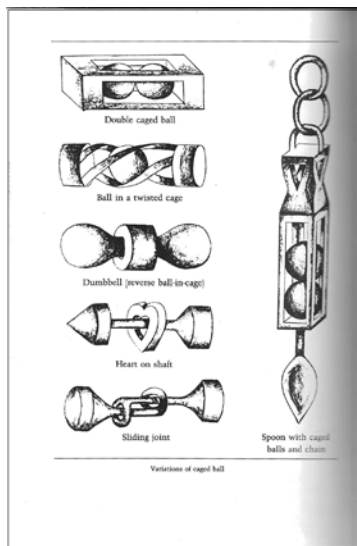
Since the Sam Day Foundation launched in 2018, more than \$1.5 million has been committed to research, and multiple projects continue to be vetted for additional funding.

Mining The Mallet for Gold

Mining The Mallet for Gold

By Larry Wade

The Mallet was a monthly magazine published by the National Carvers Museum in Colorado until they ceased operation in 1990 and disappeared. The publications featured a lot of timeless carving articles and columns that are worth exploring. This article is about a classic whittling topic - carving chains and balls in cages. Some carvers dove deeply into these techniques, and I wonder if they fed their obsessive compulsive tendencies.

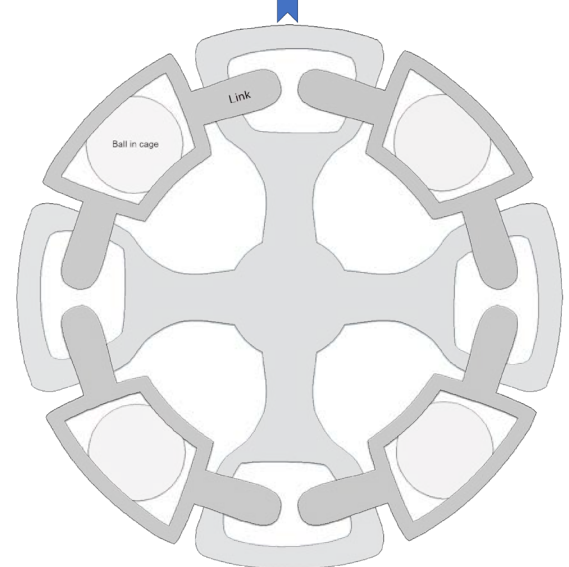


Cecil W. Houlton wrote a book (now out of print) that documented most everything he learned and did: *Whittling Wood Variety Chains*. The excerpt from The Mallet on the next page was originally from this book.

Simon J. Bronner was an academic historian who interviewed many whittlers in Indiana and Kentucky who mastered chain carving. The book is unique in its 17-page bibliography (how could anything so simple be so deep?). The photos on the right are from that book. What is not shown is a carver whittling a chain link from an old-fashioned wood matchstick.

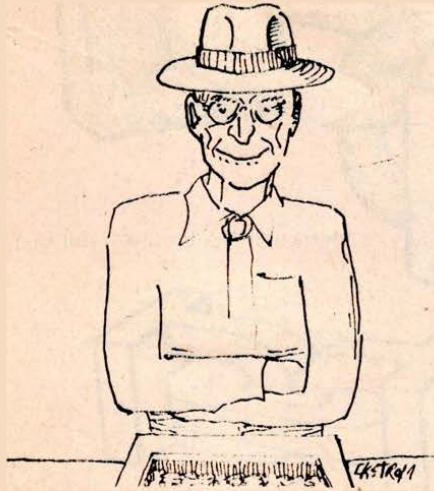
Citations:

- The Mallet, Vol 7 No. 8, August 1989, pages 14-16 and centerfold insert
- Chain Carvers, Old Men



Redrawn from Original Mallet Magazine sketch

"WHITTLING WOOD VARIETY CHAINS" By Cecil W. Houlton



Cecil Houlton at the 4th Anniversary Celebration.

"WHITTLING WOOD VARIETY CHAINS" was written, illustrated and published by the late Cecil W. Houlton in 1972, and went through two printings. In 63 pages, it is the most concise and complete book on carving chains by one of the greatest masters of the art. The National Carvers Museum carried the last several copies of this book in its bookstore until only a few months ago, when they finally sold out. Now this splendid little book is only a collector's item.

Cecil Houlton attended the NCM 4th Anniversary in 1978, demonstrating his chain carving and showing some astonishingly intricate chains, similar to the ones he has on display in NCM. He died just a few months later. In a letter to the museum, Rebecca, his widow living in Alamosa, Colorado, said:

"Cecil came as a young boy to Eastern Colorado, 20 miles south of Holly to a prairie government claim, with his parents, so was raised with a reverence for wood. Later when he moved to the San Luis Valley, with the mountains full of splendid wood, he really enjoyed it.

"His heart was wrapped up in his carving work - and anything that would further the well-being of the Museum.

"Every day that goes by, I am grateful for his uprightness of character, and our 58 good years together."

"WHITTLING WOOD VARIETY CHAINS" by Cecil Moulton contains the following headings: "Whittling Who? Why?" Wood. tools. Breakage and Repair Work. Preparing the Stick. Laminating. Discussion and Suggestions. Photographs and Listing of Chains. What to do and How to do it. Links. Ball in a Cage.

16 /Me *Mal/e/August '83*

Grills. Sliding Box. Swivel. Ring around a neck. Slip Links. Bird House and Boy. Dumbbell in Two Cages. Two Cone Shaped Cages. Ball in Cage on Half Links. Sliding Spool. Hinge Joint. Wheel and Axle and Ring Around a Bar. The Miller Boy. Block Ends With a Link. Universal Joint. Cross Over Links. Wheel. End less Chain. Interlocking Rings. Log Hooks. Spraying. Books That May Give Help or Information.

WOOD

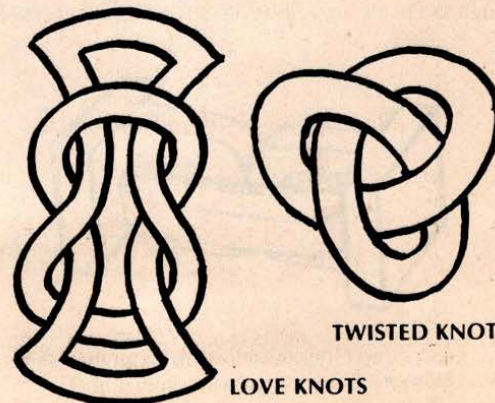
Sugar pine is the easiest to whittle, it is easy to get and has a pleasant color when completed. White pine is about as nice. Black willow also is good; its color is a nice variety bin is a little harder to see what you are carving. Yellow poplar was a favorite in years gone by. Magnolia is a substitute. Red Cedar is all right except for the splitting; however it glues well. Brown cedar, alerce, mahogany, African vermillion or padauk, goldwood, cypress, and Spanish cedar are also good chain woods.

TOOLS

'A" drill, power carver, hook knives, small pointed carving knives, "screwdriver knife", icepick chisel, small skew and bent chisels, little gouge, 'A" & 1/2" carpenter chisels, hacksaw blade with narrow blade end, axle boring tool, broken glass, clothes pin sander, band saw, table saw, disc sander, hacksaw hooks, operating table, file, spring clamp pliers, 1" & 2" clamps, slim nose pliers, stick with needle point in it, splints, ruler, masking tape, glue, sandpaper, a rasp.

SCREWDRIVER KNIFE

Another type knife can be made from a screwdriver with the blade cut off to about an inch and 3/8 long. This one is a little different shape and is used in only a few places. Grind it flat on both sides. Then grind it with a little bit of an arc. Sharpen it on the inside of the arc for about 1/2" and on the outside of the arc for about 'A". This knife is used to cut out the ring around a neck and in cutting loose the neck of a swivel.



CHAIN PATTERNS By Cecil Houlton.

Whittling Wood Variety Chains, by Cecil W. Houlton, 2nd printing,
Copyright. Cecil W. Houlton,
probably self-published

Netsuke Exhibit

Carved Masterpieces in Miniature: Netsuke Exhibit at Portland's Japanese Garden

By Jim Spitzer

In the West Hills of Portland, next to the Rose Garden overlooking the city with majestic Mount Hood on the horizon, is a treasure—The Portland Japanese Garden. The garden is, by many accounts, the finest in the United States. If you haven't been to the Garden in years, you will be in awe of the new structures and other improvements that complement what was there. As always, the old growth forest still seamlessly transitions into the formal gardens.

My wife and I recently attended the opening reception for an exhibit of miniature Japanese carvings called Netsuke. The exhibit runs until March 4th, 2024. I can only touch on the theme and a few of the exhibited works.



Netsuke are a portal to experience Japanese culture from the Edo Period (1603-1868). During this period Japanese men and women wore elegant but practical robes, known as kimonos, held together with a sash. One drawback was that the robes lacked pockets to hold small things. So much for practicality!

The women's kimonos typically had sleeves that were wide at the end, but had a small opening for their hands. That allowed women to be able to tuck small objects into their sleeves. However, the men's sleeves were open. As a result, the men would carry small objects in a sack with silk cords passing through a netsuke and around the sash of the kimono.

The first netsuke were simple, but they evolved into portable art and expression of one's personal chic style, as well as being a good luck charm. The rising merchant class fueled the demand for netsuke masterpieces of exquisite design from expensive materials such as ivory. A few photographs from the exhibit follow.



Here is a link to the Garden's website: <https://japanesegarden.org/>

My only unmet desire of the exhibit was that it did not include information on the tools and techniques to craft such intricate, small objects.



As a farewell to 2023 and well-wishes for 2024 here is a link to one of my favorite poems; Lord Alfred Tennyson's Memoriam Ring Out Wild Bells: <https://poets.org/poem/memoriam-ring-out-wild-bells>



Incomplete Leroy Setziol Carvings

Carvings that Leroy Setziol did not Complete by Doug Carlson-Swanson

Here are some Leroy Setziol carvings that I saw in a Portland commercial storage basement, last month. Josh, the owner, was a Setziol student, knew him personally, and worked with him at his studio in Sheridan. Josh gave us permission to post these photos.

Josh was in the process of moving and was clearing out the lumber at discounted rates, but the carvings are going with him to Georgia.

Josh said that the bigger carving was created late in Leroy's carving career when he didn't spend as much time sharpening his gouges, chisels, etc. The carving does show some tear-out. Josh also said that Leroy did the smaller carvings too.



Remembering Janet Clemens

Janet Clemens, November 12, 1945 – October 19, 2023 by Kelley Stadelman

Our friend and fellow woodcarver Janet Clemens passed away October 19, 2023. We will miss her but will always be grateful for having known her with her calm demeanor, joyful laugh, and love of woodcarving, music, and knitting.

Wood carving really clicked with Janet from the very beginning in 1994. She took advantage of every class offered in the Portland area by local and nationally known artists. As her skills developed she found her own style and designed many delightful Santas, Snowmen, and bunnies—all with happy faces. She shared these projects with others in her workshops.

Her role in the woodcarving community for almost 30 years was that of student, artist, and teacher. She taught weekly classes and all day workshops at Heritage Arts Studio in North Plains for 8 years. Janet also taught/volunteered at Franklin High School to Industrial Arts students. Being a prolific carver she did commissioned pieces for collectors and at least 100 ornaments for her family. Many found the joy of carving through Janet.

Janet was an active member of Western Woodcarvers Association (OCG's original name) where she often shared her work. She became a committee chairperson for WWA elections. Janet participated in many bi-annual woodcarving shows at the Forestry Center and was the recipient of various awards.



In 2008, Janet suffered a stroke but eventually made her way back to woodcarving and continued her passion into the pandemic years. What an amazing woman! With love from her fellow creators in wood and countless students, our deepest sympathy and warmest regards go to her family, friends, and loved ones.

Mack Sutter Archive

Mack Sutter - Oregon Historical Society Donation By Larry Wade

This photo commemorates the end of an eight-year journey by John Sutter and his twin sister Judy Boyd. Their father, Mack Sutter, was the lead founder of four people who started our club in 1973. Mack was multi-talented, but he was most well-known for his deep relief floral carvings. He created over 70 of them. Forty of those carvings were documented in two Dover books. Our guild further archived his work in high-resolution photos, which you can see on our website [here](#).

The Oregon Historical Society has accepted the core physical carvings for preservation. Getting to that point was quite a journey.

John's journey started in earnest in 2015 when he approached our club to explore options for preserving Mack's carvings. We had few members, no storage space, and it wasn't clear whether the club would survive. That made us unable to be an option for preservation of Mack's work.

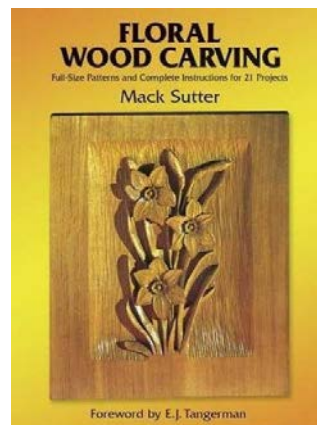
John had no other possibilities when he contacted us. His need languished until the summer of 2020, when we were rebuilding the club. I love the humorist Ashleigh Brilliant who coined the witty aphorism, "I discovered by accident that nothing is ever discovered by accident." While I was scanning boxes of archival papers I discovered, by accident, a short mention by Jim Hall in the June 2015 newsletter that John Sutter had called him to request a show-and-tell with the club. I didn't know John at the time, but I did know Jim Hall, called him, and got the scoop, which led to seeing photos by Tony Rizzutto from a 2015 meeting. That led to my connecting with John, which led to a three-year journey to explore preservation possibilities, the final one being the Oregon Historical Society.

John and Judy have a large extended family and created and distributed memento kits to further preserve Mack's memory. They have given me one, which included a spare deep-relief floral carving, as a thank you.

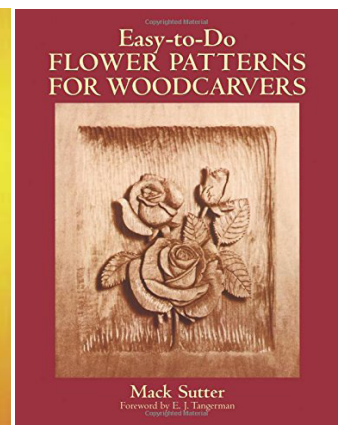
Thank you too, John and Judy, for all the efforts you made to preserve your dad's legacy.



Judy Sutter Boyd, Larry, and John Sutter



Sutter, Mack. *Floral Wood Carving: Full Size Patterns and Complete Instructions for 21 Projects*, Dover Publications, Inc. 1985.



Sutter, Mack. *Easy-to-do Flower Patterns for Woodcarvers*, Dover Publications,

The OCG Tool Library

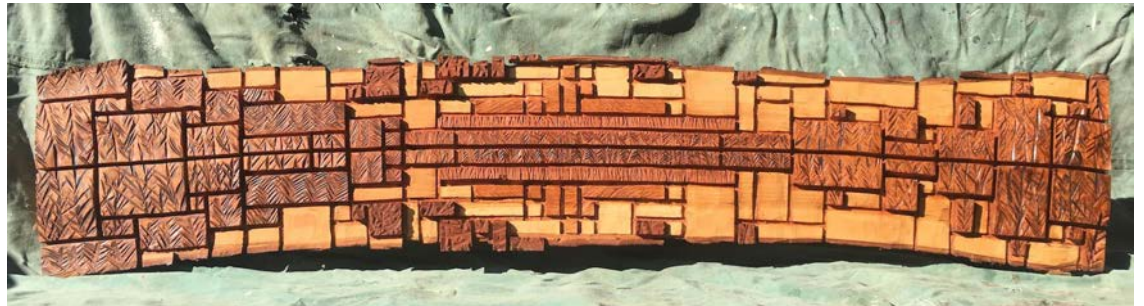
The OCG Tool Library By Wayne Harrel

I discovered the Oregon Carvers Guild (OCG) while wandering the 2022 *Art in the Pearl Festival*. I looked the guild up online, paid my membership fee, went to my first meeting, and learned I'd joined the Guild of Oregon Woodworkers, instead. The GOOW let me stay, and I joined the OCG afterwards. My first meeting was on tool sharpening, led by Larry Wade, and he mentioned that the OCG had a collection of sharp, professional gouges available for members to try and rent. I was interested.



Owl Totem

For the past year, I'd been banging on scavenged wood with a hammer and three dull carpenter chisels. I was inspired by Northwest Coast carving, and my first two pieces were totem-like tributes. Then I upped my tool chest with a guard-less angle grinder, wonky Black & Decker router, and garage-sale drill press and carved some vague nature scenes and even more abstract work.



Trillium Lake



Oneonta Gorge,
with my brother and sister

One fateful day - August 27, 2022 - two different, unrelated friends said, "I'd like to buy one of your sculptures." Pick me up off the floor.

I've been a writer and director for corporate and educational communications since the late '80s. My brother and sister are beautiful painters, but I've always been the word guy. I love visual art and galleries - sculpture, especially - and have dabbled here and there through the years, but never once considered myself a serious, nor sell-able, artist. Then, boom, two sales in one day.

Next month, I discovered the Carvers and Woodworkers guilds, just five minutes from my woefully under-tooled garage. In January, they said, "We'll have a booth at the 2023 Gathering of the Guilds if members would like to put some pieces on display." I said I was interested. Then they said, "We also have one full 10'x10' booth to rent" and I said, "...yes." This gave me four months to create 20 show-worthy pieces. I called Larry.

The OCG Tool Library (continued)

Larry invited me to his house and we rummaged through trays of estate sale gouges to assemble my own 10-piece carving set at the exorbitant price of \$1/month/tool. Such a deal! He also loaned me a mallet and tool pouch, sold me some strop leather and sharpening compound, and coached me on the honing process. The gouges were spectacular. And sharp! The first day I used them, I cut myself three times.



I soon carved my quota of new artwork, presented it at the Convention Center, received tons of compliments, sold four pieces, and covered my expenses. I also met some seasoned booth pros, Guild members and future mentors Ellie and Ron Purvis, John and Donna Harden, and Kevin Jesequel. They encouraged me to apply to other shows, which I did, and I've since presented in Corvallis (compliments mostly, plus a last-minute sale), Seattle (seven items sold), and the Multnomah Arts Center (more compliments, plus many "ooo, I could make that" remarks from fellow Guild members). And I'm halfway through four commissions for the year. I've learned many things about art, business, and life, and as 2023 ends, it's a wondrous surprise to say that I am now a professional sculptor. Whodathunk?

The 10-piece gouge set from the Oregon Carvers Guild has been with me throughout. I used it every working day and their fine edges have beautified artwork that now lives throughout the northwest...and especially in my garage...pending future shows in 2024. (Queries and commissions welcome anytime; I'm just a few minutes from Multnomah Village.)

Sadly, though, Larry called in my gouge set rental. "You're launched," he said. It's time for others to put them to use - like you, dusty reader? - and for me to buy my own blades. And I can, now, with confidence in their function and cost, because I've spent the year chasing ideas, fixing mistakes, and creating work I'm very proud of thanks to these exceptional tools. I kind of miss them, actually. Time to visit Woodcraft.

Wayne Harrel www.wayneharrel.com Instagram @whinkwayne





Educational Opportunities

Carving with Nancy Girard Elsie Stuhr Center

The new round of classes taught by Nancy Girard is coming up soon and the sign-ups are going on right now. It's for 55 and over only. It takes place on Tuesday mornings, from 10:00am - 11:30am. Elsie Stuhr Center is located at 5550 SW Hall Blvd, Beaverton, OR, 97005, between 9th street and 12th street. For more information go to the Tualatin Hills Parks & Recreation [website search page](#) with the search requirements "55+" and "Arts & Crafts", and it will be the last one on the 2nd page.

Wilsonville - Charbonneau Golf Club's Activities Center

New weekly carving classes are Monday mornings from 9am to noon. The drop in rate is \$15 per session. Bring your own project or get one from instructor Nancy Girard for a fee. New carvers are welcome also and can borrow Nancy's tools in class for the first month. Join us for some carving time. For information send an email to Nancy at girard.accessories@outlook.com.

Wildcraft Studio

A multi-arts non-profit that frequently has carving classes—[click here](#) for their website then scroll through their calendar. Rose Holdorf frequently teaches carving classes on the Scandinavian Dala Horse, spoons, and kitchen utensils. Their classroom is now at 50th and SE Division, Portland, OR.

Port Townsend School of Woodworking

A very important regional resource that frequently has visiting carving professionals, including Mary May. For information, see the [Port Townsend School of Woodworking](#) website.

Sitka Center for Art and Ecology

Among the many workshops the Sitka Center offers are two woodcarving classes and a pyrography class. You can check out the classes at the [Sitka Center website](#).



OCG's You Tube Channel

[HERE](#)



Carving Newsletter

January 2024



Clubs and Guilds

Coastal Carvers — Lincoln City

The club meets at the Lincoln City Seventh Day Adventist (SDA) School. Monthly meetings are usually held the first Sunday of October through May, at 1:30pm. Club members also meet weekly on Tuesday evenings, from 6 - 8pm for unstructured carving. For details, [click here](#).

Capitol Woodcarvers — Salem

Meets on the last Tuesday of each month, except the months of August and December. Meetings are from 7 - 9pm. Meetings are held at the Salem Center 50+ located at 2615 Portland RD NE, Salem, OR. For more information, [click here](#).

Vancouver / Kingsway Wood Carvers — weekly on Thursdays

Thursday evenings from 6 - 9pm (summer 9am - noon). Contact Dan McMurry at mcmurry530@gmail.com. This group has been meeting since 2007 in a first class art room at a large private high school at 3606 NE 78th in Vancouver (Hazel Dell). The facility is locked so call ahead for the access code. They are a friendly and experienced group of carvers with a variety of interests.

Milwaukie Woodcarvers — Milwaukie

This established group has recently restarted in-person carving sessions weekly on Wednesdays from 8 - 11am at the Milwaukie Center. Drop-ins welcome for a small fee of \$1 or \$2 fee per session. Support for beginning carvers is provided. The address is 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Dr, Milwaukie, OR 97222 (off Hwy 224 near Rusk Rd).

Central Oregon Wood Carvers — Bend

Central Oregon Wood Carvers is group of carvers in and around Bend. For information, contact Scott Beyer at dxdevolt@gmail.com.

Madras High Desert Carvers — Madras

Meets weekly on Thursdays from 4:30 - 7pm, drop-ins welcome, 224 SW 5th Street Madras, OR 97741. For more information, contact Sharon Miller, madrasnana25@live.com, 541-550-6355, or Royce Embanks, royce@btstys.org, 541-325-1586.

Olympia Woodworkers Guild— Olympia

They occasionally have interesting carving presenters for their monthly meetings. For information contact Bill Cogswell at info@owwg.org or see <https://arbutusfolkschool.org/woodworking-guild/>.

Idaho Carvers Guild

This is a long-established group of carvers in and around Boise that have some meetings online and some in person. For information, contact Eric Owens at idahowoodcarvers@gmail.com.

California Carvers Guild (CCG)

This statewide umbrella organization supports over 40 local clubs throughout the state and has a very long and deep history. The local clubs produce a variety of notable shows and events. The CCG produces a comprehensive newsletter called *The Log*, and trains judges for shows. Click here for their [website](#).





Carving Newsletter

January 2024



Contact Us

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