



Carving Newsletter

October 2022



Hello Carvers,

Not too bad. We went from zero to 90 members during the pandemic. We are cash positive and have a substantial reserve. We can be proud of our board, website, newsletter, monthly programs, classes, library, and large collection of tools. We have a diverse membership, ranging from beginner to professional, young to old, local to remote. We exhibited at three significant shows in the last five months and started a Comfort Birds community service program. A few of our members are from elsewhere in Oregon, California, and a few other states. We are fortunate to have our three corporate sponsors with Woodcraft, Woodcrafters, and Rockler. Not too bad.

Many of us are looking forward to doing more things in-person as we navigate the hoped-for ending of the pandemic. Some of our classes and programs are hybrid, some are in-person, and some remain on Zoom. We live in a complex world, but we have the talent to handle the challenges.

For the past 20 months, a small group meets on Zoom each Monday from 9:00 to 10:00am in what we call "Carving Conversations". Topics are all over the map. You can join us, regularly or sporadically, by sending me an [email](#) to get the Zoom link.

We have an exciting year coming up. Mary May is coming back in May for a week. We are in conversations with experts Masa Nitani, Monica Setziol-Phillips, and Chuck Rinehart to teach classes. Thanks also to Adam Mclsaac, who is holding the first of what we hope to be several Native Columbia River Art carving workshops.

A club needs a lot of volunteers to make it work. Please consider how you can help. No one wants to get over-committed, especially with a hobby, but you can make a difference even in small ways. Contribute to the monthly newsletter with a long or short article, photos of your work, photos of public carvings you find, titles of books and videos that float your boat. You can take a class, teach a class, be the librarian, join the Comfort Birds Hatchery team to make hundreds of birds or animals so we can benefit the needy. How about helping with the website, sharpening some club tools, being the club historian, photographer, or videographer, or researching notable carvers?

Thanks for being part of our community. I appreciate it. So does the club.

Larry

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

Upcoming Classes

Stropping for Beginners (small fee) — in-person, optionally online

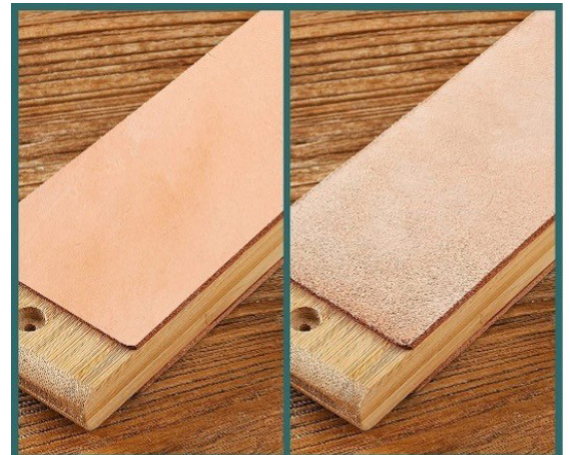
Taught by Roger Crooks or Larry Wade

Click the desired date to register, [October 12](#) or [November 9](#)

One of our main charters is to preserve the art of carving and to do so requires teaching beginners. We all know sharpening is critical. There are many articles and videos on-line, and they often show contradictory ways to sharpen. 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. Reshaping tools, power sharpening, and using stones will be taught in future classes.

This beginner's class delivers information with a [handout](#), a [video](#), and hands-on coaching. There is a fine line between getting a sharp edge and rolling over the edge making it duller. Correcting stropping techniques in real time will start carvers on the right path to building muscle memory for sharpening. The class repeats monthly, and can be attended either in-person (preferably) or via Zoom.



Leather Strops

Incised Carving Class (free) — in-person, optionally online

Saturday, 9:30am - noon. To register, click on the desired date: [October 15](#), or [November 12](#)

This one-session, 2-1/2 hour class is for those new to carving or who want to try incised carving. This 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 Basswood, a loaner tool, patterns, and a carving mat. This workshop will be taught in-person, unless Covid prevents it, or can be taken via Zoom.



Dogs Welcome Sign

Students will carve the Dogs Welcome sign shown, and wood is provided for a second project afterwards. Students will use a parting (V) tool.

Native Columbia River Art Workshop with Adam McIsaac

November 18 & 19

Adam is a serious professional carver in the style of the tribes of the Columbia River Basin and conducts workshops at his LaCenter studio north of Vancouver.

He is teaching a new class focused on using traditional tools — adze and crooked knife — to make a ceremonial ladle.

However, registration for this class is limited to those currently on the Interest List, but you are welcome to add your name ([by clicking here](#)) for future classes by Adam, or in case there is an opening in this one.





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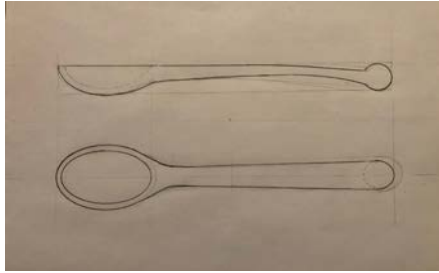
October 2022



Beginner Spoon Carving (small fee) — November 10 and 17, 10:00 - noon (Hybrid)

Taught by [Al Plasch](#). To register [click here](#)

This is a beginner’s class on the basics of spoon carving. Everyone will carve a simple spoon first, then have options for exploring handle and bowl variations. Two Basswood blanks will be provided. Students need to supply two tools: a hook knife such as the Morakniv 164 and a sturdy straight knife such as the Morakniv 120 or Flexcut KN14. If you have similar tools already, talk to the instructor ([click here](#)) so we can see if you can use what you already have. They need to be sharp, so plan on putting in the effort ahead of time to strop them. The instructor will teach from his shop near Los Angeles, but students can be in-person at Larry Wade’s shop near Beaverton or attend via Zoom.

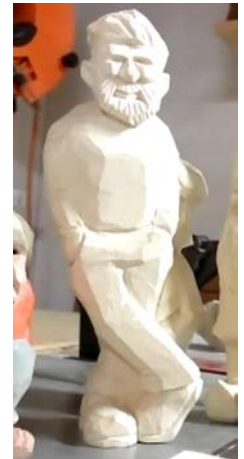


Flat Plane Caricature Carving — In-person only in Tigard

Taught by Terry Burnside.

[Click here](#) for information and to register, two Sundays, November 13 and 20, 12:30 - 3:30

This is a class to learn the basics of Flat-Plane carving using a single knife. The subject will be a human figure (shown). The class will be two four hour sessions, in-person, a week apart.



Small Bowls in Four Woods (small fee) — Hybrid (in-person & Zoom)

Taught by Larry Wade.

[Click here](#) to register, four Saturdays: February 4, 11, 18, 25, 10:00am to noon

This is a class for beginners to learn and practice carving small (4”), shallow bowls and experience a variety of soft and hard woods (Basswood, Butternut, Alder, Walnut). The inside of the bowl can be round or oval, shallow or deep. The outside of the bowl can be round, square, rectangular, or shaped. Learning to hold the work safely provides many lessons, and skills are transferable to spoon carving.



Carving Special Interest Group

The Carving Special Interest Group (SIG) is a forum for the discussion, demonstration, and education about carving. The SIG is a subset of the Guild of Oregon Woodworkers (GOOW), plus the membership of the Oregon Carving Guild (OCG). Participation is open to both OCG and GOOW members, but physical meetings held in the GOOW shop are limited to GOOW members for safety reasons.

The Carving SIG has begun to hold free in-person monthly meetings to expand its scope and facilitate member's ability to do some carving in a cooperative setting. Since there are different schedule preferences, we created two meetings per month: an evening session and a daytime session. Space is limited in each so you must preregister. Since not everyone can or wants to meet each time, you must register separately for each session.

The evening sessions of the Carving SIG meets on the third Thursday at the GOOW shop in Multnomah Village. This meeting is limited to GOOW members, since it is held in their well-equipped shop. Their safety policies require that anyone who enters the shop must be a member and go through their extensive safety training.

The daytime sessions of the Carving SIG meets a week later on the fourth Thursday at Woodcraft in Tigard. This session is open to members of either guild, and visitors are welcome.

The focus for the first few months will be on carving sharpening systems and methods. In the future, the general ideas are that:

- » Each meeting will have a focus topic
- » Topics will vary, depending on the interests of attendees
- » A short demo, talk, or video on the topic may be presented
- » There should be open time to try things out or to do some of your own work
- » The hour before the scheduled meeting will be for eating (brown bag), networking, or working
- » Likely not everyone will attend every time
- » Regular attendees are encouraged contribute to the meetings

The SIG recently held the inaugural two meetings and focused on the two powered sharpening and honing systems that the we owns. One is a half speed motor system popularized by Gil Drake of Drake Knives, augmented by a 1" belt sander for removing serious steel when necessary. The other is the small Burke system that many clubs have used over the last twenty years and is the favorite of Chuck Rinehart. We also have access to a Work Sharp.

	OCT	NOV	JAN
Evenings	click here	click here	click here
Daytime	click here	none (Thanksgiving)	click here



Drake System



Burke Tote Sharpening System



Work Sharp



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Woodcarving Class at the Beaverton Elsie Stuhr Senior Center through the Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District (ages 55 and above), tuition varies

Taught by Nancy Girard

Tuesdays January 2023. Weekly classes are from 10:00-11:30am.

Classes continue year round. New carvers pay a start-up fee of \$20, which includes a safety glove and thumb guard, three projects, and use of instructor's tools for the term along with instruction.

Experienced carvers get new projects and/or help for their own projects. All get the company of fellow carvers, which is vitally beneficial. More information at THPRD.com or contact Nancy Girard at Girardaccessories.com.



Hyacinth by Mack Sutter
In the OCG collection

Upcoming Programs

October Monthly Program on Zoom

October 11, at 7:00pm

[click here](#) to register

This program will focus on the many ways to stay safe when carving with hand or power tools.

Mostly we think of getting cut, but other dangers lurk as we seek to protect:

- » SIGHT (glasses, magnifiers)
- » LUNGS (dust, fumes)
- » EARS (noise, deafness)
- » SKIN (cuts, abrasions)
- » JOINTS and BONES (arthritis, crushing)

We have a relatively safe avocation, but there are lots of examples of little and big ways we can get hurt. Besides the typical nicks, other things can happen. We want to be mindful of protecting our health for decades and not have our body parts wear out prematurely.

We'll also cover different work holding options to keep us safe, and we have a few experienced teachers and leaders who will share their best practices. We'll include using power carving tools to reduce wear and tear on body parts and the ways to stay safe.

This program is part of a club goal to create a core safety curriculum for new carvers and will also serve as a refresher for those more experienced. We want to develop a compact video that will be a good resource. If you know of existing videos or articles, please let us know. Share your knowledge.



creativesafety.com



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Upcoming Events

TRANSFORMATIONS: The George and Colleen Hoyt Collection of Northwest Coast Art Hallie Ford Museum of Art, Salem OR, September 17 – December 17, 2022,



Over the last thirty-five years, Oregon collectors George and Colleen Hoyt have amassed one of the finest private collections of contemporary Northwest Coast Native art in the United States.

Among other activities held in conjunction with the exhibit, there is a free carving demo by native carvers on October 8th. For more information see the [exhibit website](#).

JANUARY 2023

Coastal Carvers Artistry in Wood Show Chinook Winds Convention Center, Lincoln City, January 14 & 15, 2023



This annual January carving show is a fixture in the state and well worth attending. Although they had to cancel the 2022 show, they will have their normal show this year. Admission is FREE. Check their [website](#) for current information.

APRIL 2023

Idaho Artistry in Wood Show 2023 Wood and Gourd Art Show Jack's Urban Meeting Place, Boise, ID. April 1 - 2, 2023



The Idaho Artistry in Wood 2023 Wood and Gourd Art Show will be held Saturday, April 1, 9:00am.to 5:00pm and Sunday, April 2, 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 as well as the opportunity for artists to sell their work. Their [website](#) will have more details soon.

Capitol Woodcarvers – Salem, OR



Their annual April carving show is well known, but it had to be canceled for 2022. More information and entry forms for the 2023 show are to be posted on their [website](#) soon.



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APRIL 2023

Oakhurst Woodcarver's Rendezvous

Community Center in Oakhurst, Ca. April date TBD



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. [Website](#).

The Gathering of the Guilds

Oregon Convention Center, Portland, April 28 - 30, 2023



Oregon
Convention
Center

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](#).

NOTE: The Oregon Carvers Guild will have a large booth and encourages all members to consider offering their worthy creations for sale at the show. Also, if you can help at the Gathering, please let [Larry](#) know.

NW Carving Academy, Ellensburg, WA

Kittitas County Fairgrounds Event Center, July 10 14, 2023



This is a long-established, week-long educational opportunity with multiple instructors from around the region and country. The classes that are offered include hand and power carving, pyrography, painting and design, and baskets. Additionally, special interest classes are offered for spouses and partners.

For registration begins in November 2022, For more information, [click here](#).



Interest Lists

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.



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
- » Any special techniques or considerations, if any
- » Background on why the subject was chosen
- » Time it took to carve (if you remember)

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

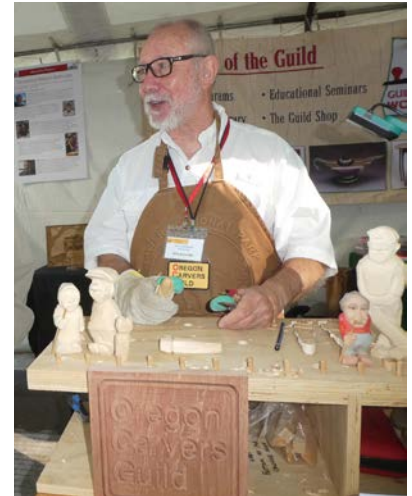
In case you missed it...

The September monthly program recording and related handouts can be [found here](#).



After a ten minute annual report by Larry Wade, Terry Burnside gave a one hour presentation and demo on flat plane carving, which will also be the basis for a class now scheduled for mid-November ([click here](#)).

His handout includes an extensive set of resources that many will find helpful. Flat-plane carving in its purest form is done with one knife, leaving clearly visible facets that are not sanded or rounded.



Jerry Boone gave a half hour presentation on his 18-month project carving a large, scale-model of the figurehead for the Cutty Sark, a Scottish clipper ship and the fastest ship of late 1800s. The figurehead was named the Nannie Dee, after a witch in a famous Robert Burns poem. The slides Jerry used are in the link above.

This program was hybrid and in two locations—maybe a trend for the future. Terry and one other were in his shop, creating (if you will) a NE Portland cluster. Jerry and three others were in Larry's shop, creating a Westside cluster. We would like to explore expanding these ideas rather than trying to do one big in-person meeting at a central site that is convenient to few. How about several clusters around the area where small groups can be together without the hassle of commuting during rush hour? Maybe there will be more than one speaker, and everyone can choose how and where to attend in-person, or to stick with Zoom.



Carving Tips

Wood Micro-mosaic by Dr. Matt Miller

The technique of making pictures with tiny squares of wood was big in the Victorian day. Tunbridge Ware used natural wood colors. Sorrento Ware used dyed veneers.

What was once tourist souvenirs are now being sold as collector's items. This art is now sometimes selling for over a thousand dollars.

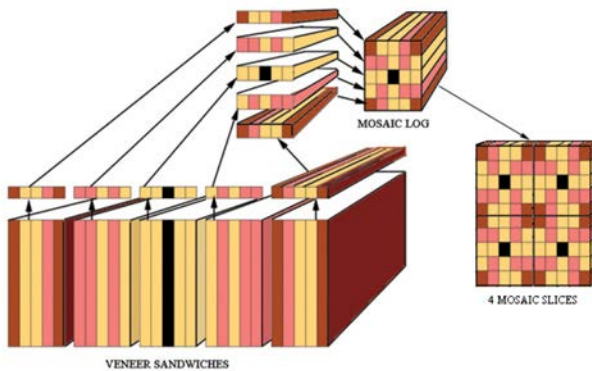
Today, the technique used to make these pieces is usually limited to the sound hole of classical guitars.

However, you can revive it! This article tells how to make a simple mosaic with clamps, glue, and a saw.

Unlike the Tunbridge and Sorrento designs, we will make a simple, regular, geometric pattern.



Tunbridge Ware



Method for creating a regular, symmetric geometric appliqué



Sorrento Ware

First, make a design on graph paper. For a regular, symmetric geometric pattern, there should be an odd number rows and columns. Assign a color to each square that corresponds to the wood to be used in the design. This will be the primary unit of design that could be repeated as a border in a larger work. In this case, it will become a component of a secondary unit of design that will incorporate four of the primary units.

To make the primary unit, first glue pieces of veneer into a sandwich that corresponds to the horizontal of colors in the basic unit. Square off this laminated block and clean up its edges. Do this for each column of colored squares in the basic unit, making one block per column.

Rip each of these blocks into strips that are the same width as the original veneer. Each strip will have color sequence that corresponds to a horizontal row. This will yield a stack of identical strips that will be used in an array of laminated blocks to make the primary unit.

Stack and glue the various horizontal strips into a rod so that they follow the vertical pattern. The primary design will

appear on the end of these stacks. Make sure that the dots line up on both ends of this block before you tighten the clamps. Square off these primary blocks and clean up their sides.

For this design, glue together four of the primary blocks to make a full pattern for use as an appliqué. Once again, square off the blocks and clean up their sides. This enlarged block will be the basis for the secondary design element.

Cut 1/8" slices off the end of the secondary laminated block, like slicing a salami. Each slice will have the entire design in a format that will be easily used in your project.

Assuming an 1/8" thickness for the original laminate, the 1/4" laminated block can yield more than 90 appliques from a 12" length of material. These can be archived to use as needed. They can be laid edge to edge to produce repeating borders, or all-over "tilings."

Larger designs can be built up from several of these mosaic design units.

By stacking up your veneer sandwiches higher and making more of them, you can produce one laminated block big enough to yield many copies of one mosaic the size of a box top.

You will be mass-producing wood art, for every copy is an original. That's the Tunbridge way!



Two of my tilings, with very different texture effects



Tunbridge Ware mosaic box top.



Sorrento Ware commonly used colored-veneer mosaic borders on a marquetry box-top.

Pictures of other people's work are from <https://www.worldcollectorsnet.com/articles/tunbridge-ware/>, or for sale on [ebay](#) and [livemaster](#).

I copied the graphic of the process from an on-line source many years ago —I don't know now where I got it.

See also <http://www.redbridgemarquetrygroup.org/tunbridge%20ware%20tutorial.html>.

OCG at Art in the Pearl



We've had woodworking demonstrations at Art in the Pearl since 2014, but this was only the second year with a dedicated carving presence.



Thanks to our demonstrators John Wheeler, Tom Rich, Jerry Boone, Terry Burnside, and Jim Spitzer for their diversity and creativity. All were effective, as were the variety of styles. Some demonstrated standing, some sitting while making eye contact with wee folks and dogs.



Thanks to our "greeters" Julie Niemeyer, Bob Chiavarini, and Larry Wade for being the connectors with our visitors - distributing literature, answering questions, and helping out.





We had a wide variety of loaned carving art examples. Special thanks to Jerry Boone for letting us use his female torso, displayed on a rotating platform. Thanks also to Jerry for making twenty five-minute owls ahead of time to hand out to kids, a good model for what we could do in the future.



The Comfort Birds story board and their touch-me aspects worked very well. They continue to reinforce their importance and value as a community project. The need is huge.

The fast-motion carving video proved itself again.



Oregon Carvers Rendezvous



The Capitol Carvers resumed their annual Oregon Carvers Rendezvous, held at Canyonview Camp 3 miles South of Silverton, Oregon. The turnout was about 40 people, down slightly from their last rendezvous in 2019.

The four-day gathering featured many classes including character carving, pyrography, hummingbird carving, pelican carving, and making walking sticks.





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Clubs and Guilds

Coastal Carvers — Lincoln City

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

Capitol Woodcarvers — Salem

For information, [click here](#). Their annual April carving show is well known, but it had to be cancelled for 2022. However, on their website, they announced that there will be a 2022 Virtual Show and Auction. More information and entry forms are to be posted soon on their website.

Vancouver / King's Way Carvers — weekly on Thursdays

Thursday evenings 6:00 - 9:00 PM (summer 9:00 - noon). Contact Jim Mather at jimmatherxx@gmail.com or 360-931-0079. 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, 8:00 - 11:00am 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 a group of carvers in and around Bend, for information, contact Scott Beyer at dxdevolt@gmail.com.

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 owwg.org/blog.

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 clubs throughout the state and has a very long and deep history. Local clubs produce a variety of notable shows and events, while CCG produces a comprehensive newsletter called *The Log*, and trains judges for shows. Click here for their [website](#).





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Educational Opportunities

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, there are 2 woodcarving classes and a pyrography class. You can check out the classes at the [Sitka Center website](#).

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The Rockler logo icon, a stylized wood grain swirl.

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