



Carving Newsletter

May 2022



Hello Carvers,

I want to encourage you to attend two things - the May 10th annual meeting of the Oregon Carvers Guild and the Gathering of the Guilds show in Portland.

The annual meeting will be at the beginning of the scheduled monthly program on carving comfort critters.

This is the official announcement of the (short) annual meeting, where you elect your board of directors. It will be at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, May 10 on Zoom, and the agenda is:

- » Vote for Board of Directors
- » Recap of Gathering of the Guilds
- » Review Opportunities
- » Financial Status
- » Q&A

The board nominees are the current members with the addition of Tom Rich as Secretary. The slate is:

- » Larry Wade, President
- » Roger Crooks, Vice President
- » Tom Rich, Secretary
- » Diana Groseclose-Larabee, Treasurer
- » Terry Burnside, Webmaster
- » Jim Spitzer, Sponsor Coordinator
- » Tom Siep, Newsletter Editor

Current Board of Directors

[Larry Wade](#), President

[Roger Crooks](#), Vice President

[Terry Burnside](#), Secretary and Webmaster

[Diana Groseclose-Larabee](#), Treasurer

[Tom Siep](#), Newsletter Editor

[Jim Spitzer](#), Sponsor Coordinator

The bylaws allow up to 12 board members. Please consider taking on one of the important roles and joining the board. Areas may include Programs, Education, Youth Carving, Librarian, and Community Projects. Voting will occur at the meeting, but the board is allowing ballot via email up to 24 hours after the meeting. A quorum consists of 20% of the members, so please make an effort to sign up ([click here](#)), even if you can't stay for the entire program.

The Gathering of the Guilds will be over Mother's Day weekend, Friday-Sunday, May 6-8. Take the mothers in your life to this event as a destination outing. Be inspired by fabulous carvings. It's at the Oregon Convention Center, opens at 10:00 am each day, but closes at different times (7:00, 6:00, and 4:00 respectively).

We've designed a Carving Store within our large booth. Wonderful carvings are there for you to see and buy. As part of that store we added a demo station. In addition, Jerry Boone is displaying and selling his prize-winning ship's masthead of the Nannie Dee and giving half the proceeds to benefit Ukrainian relief. Thank you Jerry for setting this example.

This will likely be one of three shows for us this year. The other two are Multnomah Days in August and Art in the Pearl over Labor Day weekend.

For members, thank you for your continued support. If you aren't a member, please consider joining.

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Our Mission: Encourage carvers at all levels through education, fellowship, and mentoring

Remembering Jim Hall



In early April, Oregon lost one of its most talented artists and overall dynamic individuals. Jim Hall was a retired corporate counsel/Realtor/Developer that was an artistic wood turner with over thirty years experience. He was also a founding member and officer of the first wood-turning club in Portland.

Over the years Jim was a mentor to many of us. He excelled in wood turning and was a leading local expert in the use of a very specialized type of turning tool called a *Rose Engine*. Jim was one who took every project as a challenge. In his own words:



"I have always been intrigued by the beauty of wood. Developing art from wood is different than with most any other art medium. Wood is from a living entity and has a story to tell. The character of each piece is distinct, and it's important to recognize these qualities. Illustrating the individual beauty in each piece is a challenge. As a result, each art piece that I make is unique."

He was never happy with the status quo and pushed himself and others to always go one step farther. Jim was also no shrinking violet and was of the mind that you can't make something better by ignoring it.

"I produce many different large and small objects, no two are ever alike. The beauty of many has been enhanced with dying and/or hand carving. On occasion, a defect in the wood, such as a worm hole, is enhanced with brass or natural stone."



Age was not a barrier to Jim. Well into his eighties, he encouraged others and himself to push their artistic envelopes. At an age when others might be slowing down, Jim chose to try new art forms, such as Asian enamel painting, relief carving, and bird carving. He excelled in those art forms, as usual.

Jim participated in numerous art groups and contributed his art to many charitable organizations. He will be missed both by those who knew him and those who know him only through his art.



Gathering of the Guilds

Examples of Offerings at the Show



Masa Nitani



Elise Miller



Sherry Klein



Terry Burnside



Judy Caldwell



Puddy Atkinson

Upcoming Programs

Numerous Ways to Make Comfort Birds and other objects (FREE)

MAY10, 7:00pm. [Click here to register](#)



We've learned a lot while making comfort birds and related animals for the Gathering of the Guilds. The main lesson is that there are many ways to make them. This program will review options for carving by hand or with power or with both. We'll review finishing options (oil, film finishes, buffing), look at a variety of birds and animals, talk about woods, and learn firsthand from the experiences of other clubs, and maybe even from the son of the

originator of the idea. These lessons should translate to making a variety of small carved things, not just those in the "comfort" category.



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.



Tribal Carving with Adam McIsaac — Interest list only

DATES/TIMES/LOCATION - all to be determined. [Click here](#) to register interest



Adam is a serious professional carver in the style of the tribes of the Columbia River Basin. He often teaches and conducts workshops at his studio north of Vancouver in La Center off I-5 near exit 16.

This interest list is not a class, it is simply a way for you to put your name on the list to be contacted later and to see if there is enough interest to create a tour, class, workshop, or other activity.

Flat Plane Caricature Carving — Interest list only

Taught by Eric Owens, [Click here](#) to register interest



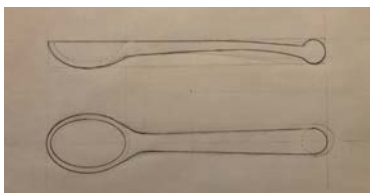
Eric Owens is a very experienced caricature carver from Boise and will be visiting Oregon. We have a chance to schedule a two-day class to tap into his wisdom on the last weekend of July or the first weekend of August. We need a minimum number of students to justify the class. It will be an intensive two days to experience carving one of a few models that he will prepare. The focus is on beginning caricature carvers but Eric is able to work with those with some experience who want to go farther.

The cost will be \$200 plus about \$20 for materials. Students will need to provide tools but some will be available to borrow.

Beginner Spoon Carving — Interest list only

Taught by Al Plasch. [Click here](#) to register

This is a class for beginners to learn the basics of carving spoons. Everyone will carve a simple shape first, then have options for exploring variations. Two Basswood blanks will be used with options to try a harder wood. Students are welcome to provide their own wood. Loaner tools are provided (knife, spoon gouge), but students are encouraged to purchase a hook knife (Morakniv 164 or similar) and a knife (Flexcut detail knife or Morakniv 106).



Upcoming Classes

Stropping for Beginners

Taught by Roger Crooks.

Click a date to register [May 11](#), [June 8](#), or [July 13](#). Wednesdays, 10:00am - 12:00pm

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, an on-line demo, and hands-on coaching. There is a fine line between getting a sharp edge and rolling over the edge making it duller. Correcting stropping technique in real time will start carvers on the right path to building muscle memory for sharpening. The class repeats monthly. A handout is available [here](#). Also, be sure to check out the [video](#)!



Leather Strops

Weekly Open Carving – Kitchen Utensils – on-line and in-person

Coordinated by Larry Wade. [Click here to register](#), Tuesdays, now through June, 2:00 to 4:00 PM

These sessions are not a formal class, instead they are a time for like-minded carvers of all levels to carve the kitchen utensil they want. These may be spoons, spatulas, spreaders, spurtles, bowls, or whatever. There appears to be a lot of interest in carving spoons, but that is not a requirement. You might decide to work on the same project with others or pursue your own interests. Some wood is available for free. Some tools might be available to borrow, try, or rent. We'll meet weekly through May and decide later whether and how to continue. If Covid becomes a problem again, we'll revisit the in-person options. Weekly attendance is not required. Since we learn from others, please be prepared to make things and share your experiences.



Incised Carving Class (free) — online and in-person

Saturday, 1:30-4:00pm To register, click on the desired date: [May 21](#) or [June 18](#)

This one-session, 2-1/2 hour class is for those new to carving or those who want to try incised carving.

The incised style carves lines into the surface of wood and can be done safely with one tool. This workshop is for those who have never carved or for carvers who have no incised experience. Students will be provided with free basswood, a loaner tool, patterns, and a carving mat. This workshop will be taught on-line with Zoom for now. Up to two in-person students (if fully vaccinated) are possible.



Dogs Welcome Sign

Students will carve the Dogs Welcome sign shown, then a second project will at least be started. Students will use a parting (V) tool and will be shown how an Xacto knife or equivalent can also be used.

Small Bowls in Four Woods — online only

Taught by Larry Wade.

[Click here](#) to register, four Wednesdays: May 10, 17, 24, and 31 2:00 - 4:00pm

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, Alaska Yellow Cedar, Alder, Maple). The inside of the bowl will 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.



Comfort Birds Project

COMFORT BIRDS PROJECT by Larry Wade

We are making a lot of Comfort Birds for the Gathering of the Guilds, and you can pitch in.

Comfort Birds are small stylized birds intended to comfort those in need by touch. The idea was created by Frank Foust in 1982 and popularized in print by an [article in *Woodcarving Illustrated*](#).

Many clubs make, sell, or give birds to local individuals and organizations. For the Gathering of the Guilds, our goal is to sell Comfort Birds in our Carving Store as a fundraiser. Afterwards, we plan to continue the process and make enough to continually give away to the needy.

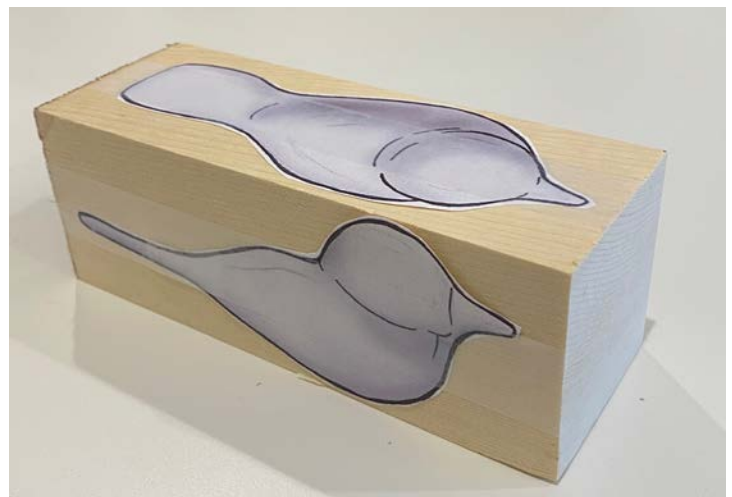
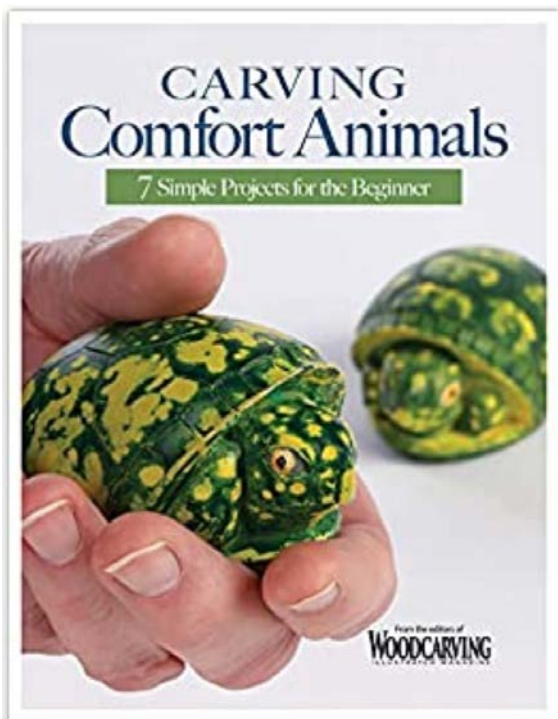
The idea has expanded beyond birds to other animals. Again, *Woodcarving Illustrated* popularized these in a small publication called [Carving Comfort Animals](#).

We would like to ask our members to help make them and later to help find good homes and distribute them.

If you are willing to help make them, [click here to join the Interest List](#), and someone will contact you. They are very satisfying to make, take about an hour once you get going, and can be done efficiently when several are processed at once.

The woods we have so far are walnut, mahogany, limba, yellow cedar, an African hardwood called Ohia, holly, ebony, paduk, alder, and others. The varieties are endless, and it is a great way to use small blocks of mostly waste wood.

If you need wood and/or need to have the bandsaw work done, we can provide assistance.



Comfort Fish

Power-Carving a Comfort Fish

By Tom Siep

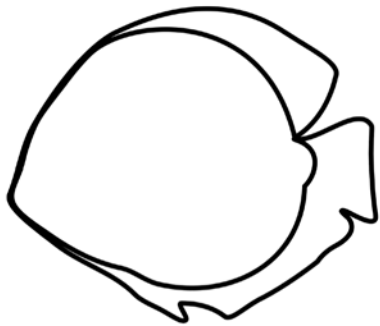
In the March/April Carving Newsletter I used hand tools exclusively to carve a Comfort Slug. For this article, I decided to go to a very different style of carving: using power tools to shape the work. In the spirit of continuing to do something different, I decided to power carve a Comfort Fish.

Setting up

The first thing to do was to determine what the Comfort Fish should look like. Fish come in many shapes and sizes as do the other comfort critters. As a contrast to the long, pointed, and triangular Comfort Slug, I chose a fish called *Cichlid*, whose shape was round and flat.



Source: <https://animalsake.com/cichlid-species>



The first step in the process of turning a picture into a comfort critter is to abstract the shape – or in this case – the shapes needed. The fish itself is pretty thin and flat, but the fins are even thinner. Two silhouettes were needed.

Since the two shapes were nested, I used a coping saw to cut out the body shape and used a rotary tool to extend the hole left in the thin plywood to be the overall outline of the fish.



I chose walnut for the comfort fish, since I had some 1/2" stock on hand. I positioned the body outline template so that the grain matched the direction that the fish would travel. In this case the template wound up being at about a 25 degree angle to the board.



A yellow marking pencil helped me to accurately bandsaw the blank. FYI, I got the 1/2" walnut from the cut-offs bin at one of our sponsors, [Woodcrafters](#).



Once the fish was cut out, I used the yellow marking pencil to trace the center line, so that I could make sure to keep the fins in the center of the fish's back and underside.



It seemed like all the interesting parts of the fish were going to be at the tail end, so decided to drill a 1/8" hole to represent the eyes and provide a point of interest.



I liked the position of the eye, but it was clear even before carving that a hole just was not enough.



It would have been possible to use a contrasting wood dowel to make the eye, but since I had some brass rod of the right size on hand, I went with that. I coated the brass rod with thick CA glue.



Once the CA glue was set, I cut the brass rod with a multitool. You might notice I used a woodworking blade on the brass. Brass is soft enough that it did not damage the blade. I would not try the same thing with a nail!



Preliminaries done, I used a Freedom flex shaft rotary tool for the power carving. I used Kutzall burs bits for the initial shaping and silicone polishing wheels.



Because of the size of the fish, I did not use the coarse or extra coarse Kutzall bits. The "original" version did cut the walnut really well and did not seem to be bothered by chipping away at the brass inset.



First, I carved out the outline of the fins, then rounded the body. Once the fins were revealed, curving the body of the fish was quick and easy.



The comfort fish, ready for a needful person.

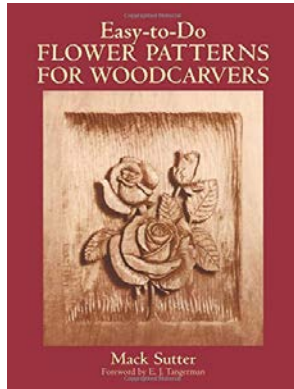
Mack Sutter Photo Archive

The Mack Sutter Photo Archive - Part 2

By Larry Wade

Last month, carvings from Mack Sutter’s first book¹ were featured. This month features photos of carvings from his second book².

Photos of the 21 carvings from the second Dover book are now available on-line. They are organized in the table to the right by the page number from the original publication. Photos from the first Dover book can be accessed using the link at the end of this article.



Dover printed only one front view photo of each carving in black and white. These new photos provide five views in high resolution color.

The five views of each carving are: front, top, bottom, left, and right. The last four are taken at a steep angle to show the deep undercutting. To achieve this level of deep relief Mack designed specialized tools, which were made by Ramelson Tools. Several sets of these tools were donated by Mack Sutter’s estate and reside in the club’s tool library.

Each of the carvings was photographed by serious Portland photographer Jim Schoeffel with assistance from John Sutter, one of Mack’s adult children. We are incredibly grateful for their time to do all this work.

We hope these collections inspire you.

Both Dover books are readily available in libraries and the books are still in print. Used copies are easy to buy.

OCG’s pictures can be found at: [Dover Book 1 - 1985 - all flowers](#)
[Dover Book 2 - 1990 - all flowers](#)

Photos of Carvings	Location in Book
Thanks a Bunchberry	6
Trillium - an Herbal Plant	8
The Colorful Gazania	10
The Pretty - and Useful - Sunflower	12
The Daffodil - A Poet’s Flower	14
Flower of the Gods (Mexican Sunflower)	16
Phlox - The Flower Everybody Knows	18
The Dogwood - a Popular Tree	20
Beware the Spanish Dagger (Yucca)	22
A Rose I Bring You ...	24
A Lobster Claw - Botanically Speaking	26
The Blue Columbine Grows Wild	28
The Modest, Fragrant Violet?	30
Clematis - Queen of the Climbers	32
The Camas Caused a War	34
The Elegant Water Lily	36
Catch a Bird of Paradise	38
Poinsettia - the Christmas Flower	40
The Now-Familiar Easter Orchid	42
The Hyacinth - A Familiar Friend	44
The Aromatic Wild Ginger	46

1 Sutter, Mack. *Floral Wood Carving: Full Size Patterns and Complete Instructions for 21 Projects*, Dover Publications, Inc. 1985.
 2 Sutter, Mack. *Easy-to-do Flower Patterns for Woodcarvers*, Dover Publications, Inc. 1990.

Member Carvings



Carved by Terry Burnside



Carved by Allan Willis



Carved by Tom Rich



Carved by Tom Siep

Call for Pictures of Your Carvings

One of the highlights of face-to-face meetings is sharing the carving work we have done in the past month or so.

We would like to extend that sharing to our newsletter.

Please send photos of carvings, past and present, to:

[OCG Newsletter Editor](#)

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



Carved by Fred Lieu

You may have missed...

The April Oregon Carvers Guild meeting "Tools with Edges" organized by Larry Wade



Larry Wade

In our meeting, we had several presenters display the the tools they use to carve wood. This program and a handout (and all past ones) are on the Galleries/Video Galleries page, [click here](#). The video is the best way to get the information, but the following are some highlights of the talk.

I began it with an overview of tools and addressed the question that beginning carvers ask: "what tools should I buy?" The short answer is "what do you want to carve?" The rest of the program had various members describe what tools they use to do what kind of carving.



Terry Burnside spoke about knives, which he used at first for whittling and then woodworking in general. He explained the core group of whittling knives: roughout, medium detail, and small detail. He also discussed some specialty knives: chip carving; curved detail; cottonwood bark; hook; slöjd; micro-knives; and the Flexcut Carving Jack, among others. He also demonstrated some knife carving techniques.



Heidi McNamee talked about the various tools she has acquired, mostly for palm-tool and mallet-tool use.



Chuck Rinehart talked about his experience in developing his skills and tools to do his relief carving and furniture making. Introduction to classical carvings



Tom Siep shared his collection of Kestrel tools , which are inspired by Northwest indigenous peoples. He also showed the tools used to fashion bowls: froe, ax, and adz. Tom also showed the Kestrel crooked knives.



Roman Chernikov went over the attributes needed for folding knives. The most important was that they have locking blades. He then showed several different kinds of skew knives that are used in chip carving. Swiss, Russian, US, Japaneses, and many more versions were explained. The fruit carving knife was probably the most unusual knife Roman showed.



Tom Rich discussed his experience with Master Carver tools and palm tools. Limited sizes of Master Carver tools is made up for by their price.

A general discussion of carving tools followed the presentations. Lots of details are in the video.

The next monthly program on May 10th ([click here to register](#)) will be an interesting set of vignettes on various ways to design, roughout, refine, and finish comfort animals. These techniques should apply to a variety of carvings you might tackle. It will also be a recap of our carving presence at the Gathering of the Guilds, and a brief official meeting for board elections.



Carving Newsletter

May 2022



Upcoming Events

MAY

Capitol Woodcarvers – Salem, OR

Virtual Show -- May 1, 2022



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

The Gathering of the Guilds

Oregon Convention Center, Portland, May 6-8, 2022



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 are on the [Gathering of the Guilds website](#).

NOTE: The Oregon Carvers Guild has purchased a large booth area and encourages all carvers to attend.

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Carvers selling products: | » Terry Burnside | » Kelley Stadelman |
| » Puddy Atkinson | » Judy Caldwell | » Elise Miller |
| » Jerry Boone | » Sherry Klein | » Masa Nitani |

JUNE

Kitsap Artistry in Wood Show and Sale 2022

Sheridan Park Community Center, Bremerton, WA, June 11-12



A Woodcarving and Woodworking Juried Competition. NW Artisan's fine Wood Art for sale. Contact: [Mark Campbell](#), Show Chair. [Show website](#)

JULY

NW Carving Academy

Ellensburg, WA July 11-15, 2022



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 information, [click here](#).

SEPTEMBER

Columbia Flyway & Wildlife Show



Clatsop County Fairgrounds in Astoria, September 30, Oct 1 and 2

This is a significant local show featuring nationally known bird and animal carvers, scheduled at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds in Astoria.

Contact [Randy Martin](#) to exhibit; save the dates and monitor the [website](#) for updates.

JANUARY

Coastal Carver Artistry in Wood Show

Lincoln City, January 2023



This annual January carving show is a fixture in the state and well worth attending. Although they had to cancel the 2022 show because their venue was not taking reservations for group events, they hope to have their normal show in 2023.

Check their [website](#) for current information.



Carving by Mack Sutter



Carving Newsletter

May 2022



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](#).





Carving Newsletter

May 2022



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. [Website](#).

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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