



# NEWSLETTER

TEXAS WOODCARVERS GUILD



The 2024 Spring Round-Up was held in Kerrville, April 13th - 19th. As usual our members put on a show full of talent and skill. Multiple clubs were represented, as well as individual carvers showing off their best work.

This year featured the return of our favorite vendors, Moore Rough Outs and George Vaughn. Various members also had their rough outs and band saw cut out available for purchase.

Our new instructors this year were Michael Duhon teaching Beginning Carving; Kent Young teaching Spoon Carving; Sherry Burgon and Jasmin Nebeker teaching Wood Burning.

We were excited to welcome back Ronnie Reed and Robert Miles!

And, of course, we loved seeing all of our amazing returning teachers who help keep the show running year after year!



The Whittling Competition is held on Sunday afternoon. Contestants are given an hour, a block of wood, and a theme. The previous year's Open category Whittling Champ decides the size/shapes of the blocks and the theme This year Jerry McNulty chose the wood and the themes.

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## **SCOTT SHELBURNE**

*2024 TEXAS STATE WHITTILING CHAMPION*

For the Open category, contestants were given an 1-1/2" square block. The theme was Self Reflection.



## **Don Bays**

*Intermediate*

For the Intermediate category, contestants were given an 1-1/2" square block. The theme was something you find in a Texas truck stop..



## **LUPITA RANGEL**

*Beginners*

For the Beginners category, contestants were given an 1-1/2" triangle block. The theme was Christmas Ornament.



## Charlie "C-MAX" Winstead Memorial Award

Charlie was the first Charter Member of the Guild. He developed the concept and guiding principles for the TWG. Each year we present the C-Max Memorial Award to an outstanding member of the Guild, someone who embodies a spirit of service and friendship.

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### HELEN HAVEMANN

I am honored to be selected as a C-Max award winner. It is humbling to be in the company of such great people.



I was introduced to wood carving in 2007 by my partner Shelley Key. She was carving several Christmas stars as gifts for her family. After carving a few cutouts I was hooked. I took a class at TWG with Tom Sarff in 2007 or 2008. This was not like any class I had ever taken. Tom presented tons of good information and worked directly with each one of us, all the time talking non-stop with various stories and jokes. By the time the class was over, my ears and my brain were exhausted, but I went home with a completed carving.

In the years that followed I took many different classes: Chip Carving with Claudie Adkins, Canes with Don Hartt, Caricature with Gary Batte, Relief Carving with Don Gifford, Caricature carving with Stev Prescott, Santas with Lem Smith, Animals with Johnny Stevens, and Animals with Cal Stewart. All who have now passed on. Other classes I enjoyed were with Carolyn Holbrook, Adair & Patty Rucker, Pat Moore, Tom Sarff, Joe Perkins, Jimmy Stewart, Hoyt Hutchinson, Stu Martin, Donna Menke, David Borg, Dave Stetson, Beckie Stover, Fred Carter, Ron Davis, Leah Goddard, Charley Phillips, Lance Rath, and Wanda Reichert.

In 2016, Marion Stewart, the Secretary at the time, asked me if I would consider taking the Secretary position on the Board. I was not sure about this but told her I would try if she trained me. Marion and the board members were very helpful and fun to work with, and I learned the job. Then Dee Holbrook said he was retiring from handling the website, the COVID pandemic arrived, and Round-Up was cancelled. We needed a new website. With the leadership of our President Dan Gillen, and work of Dee Holbrook, Adrienne Palmiere, Vice President Donnie Stephenson, and the Board, we were able to design, test, and activate the new website in time for the next Round Up. No pressure!

Now that we have a new Secretary, Dolores Gonzalez, I will enjoy socializing, taking classes, and assisting the Board as needed. If you have not volunteered for the Board before and want to try a position, I highly recommend doing so. You will work with great people and support the growth of TWG into the future.



Winner Name

Carving Name

### BEST OF WINNERS

Best of Show - Grand Champion	Andy Mayer	Tree House
Best of Show - Runner Up	Aaron Mayer	Secret Life of P.I.
Best of Intermediate	Steven Smith	Tree House
Best of Novice	April McNulty	Chip Carved Circle
Peoples Choice	Andy Mayer	Cottonwood Cathedral

### MERIT AWARDS

Novice Merit	Maydean Tilton	Illusion Plate
Intermediate Merit #1	John Hart	Stylized Bison
Intermediate Merit #2	Jasmin Nebeker	Rooster on Mirror
Open Merit #1	Jerry McNulty	Flight School
Open Merit #2	Rita Ryser	Herons in Flight
Open Merit #3	Jo Ann Elliott	Card Holder

### TABLE AWARDS

Best Club Table	Alamo Area Wood Carvers
Exhibitors Table Award	Patty & Adair Rucker



# President's Message

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Hello Woodcarvers!

Exciting news! The TWG newsletter is being brought back. Hope that all of you find this as a sign of great things to come. Our newsletter is your chance to catch up on what's going on in our carving world.

There will be news and updates from our various affiliated clubs. If you have ideas, tips, etc., please be sure to submit them for inclusion in future newsletters.

Don't forget to keep an eye on the TWG Website for news, videos, items of interest, etc.

I'd like to suggest that each and every one of you reach out to someone that is interested in carving and try to get them to come to the TWG Spring Roundup. Remind them that there are also activities for noncarvers to enjoy, so friends, spouses, etc. can feel free to come and share in all of the fun and fellowship. There are also a lot of members of affiliated clubs that have never been to the Roundup or haven't been in a long time. Encourage them to come and see what they're missing! Keep on Carvin'.

*Alan Heuston*  
President TWG

# Visit Fort Worth Woodcarvers

We welcome all carvers. New and experienced. We are a friendly bunch. Bring anything you're working on and come carve with us. If you don't have a project, no problem, we will find you one. There is no fee to join us. Once a year everyone contributes to the wood fund for the club. If you visit often the Thomas Center you will ask you to join them.

We meet at the **Thomas Place Recreation Center, 4737 Lafayette Ave., Fort Worth, Texas**  
 We meet **each Thursday morning** unless the building is closed for a holiday.

The hours are:

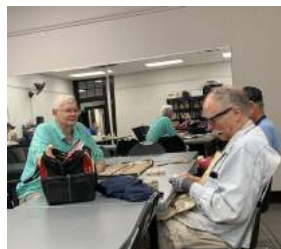
June – August: 8:00am – 11:00pm

September - June: 9:00am – 12:00pm

Contact: Frances Winter: 817-988-8172 or Ron Davis: 817-249-6242

Ron is a lifetime member of TWG and has been instructing for many years. Ron is good about coming up with a project theme each year for us and he welcomes any suggestions for projects. Ron also teaches at the Veterans Center in Fort Worth. During the Club meeting, he will teach the following projects this year:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Height</u>	<u>Artist</u>
08/15/24	Amish Man	5"	Harley Refsal
09/05/24	Hillbilly	5"	Mike Shipley
09/19/24	School Teacher	7"	Harley Refsal
10/05/24	Lumber Jack	5"	Harley Refsal
11/07/24	Chef	5"	Jack Price
11/21/24	Slob	5"	Jack Price
12/19/24	Grandpa	5"	Jack Price



Ron makes all the cut-outs and go-by's for us; if you plan to join us for one or all projects please contact Frances Winter at 817-988-8172 or email: [marfranwinter@gmail.com](mailto:marfranwinter@gmail.com) so we can be sure Ron has enough cutouts available. There is no fee to carve the project.

Many of our follow carvers also go to the senior centers and other surrounding clubs. Mike Donnelly, a TWG member started a group at the Hurst Senior Center





## Chapel Chippers

We got started back in 2005, how time flies. It all started when I donated three pieces of a Nativity Scene to White Bluff Chapel. Each year as I added pieces to the scene and people would approach me to learn to carve. I would loan them three basic tools, a glove and a strop. I would furnish small blanks. They could take the tools home and use them, if after 3 months they stuck with it I told them where they could purchase tools and they gave me mine back. Before I knew it in the first year I had 15 carvers.

Because we carved in White Bluff Chapel, we call ourselves the "Chapel Chippers". We are primarily a retirement community with not too many younger people. We have lost some due to health (age), death and leaving the community. We diehards are still there but we are about down to 9 members and 5 are very active. I manage to bring 1 or 2 with me to TWG.

We meet at the **White Bluff Chapel, 1072 White Bluff Dr., Whitney, TX**

We meet on the **second Thursday and fourth Tuesday** evening of each month from 6:30pm - 8:30pm.

By the way, there are 30 pieces in the nativity scene carved by me, and each carver I taught got to carve a sheep to add to the scene. We have so many sheep I had to carve another Shepherd.

I can be reached at 254-694-7206, [rxwood61@yahoo.com](mailto:rxwood61@yahoo.com)

~Harry Seurkamp

# Visit *Houston Area Woodcarvers*

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Hello from the soggy gulf coast. We hope that by now everyone has their electricity back on and there was no or only minor damage from Hurricane Beryl. We were without electricity and water for two and a half days – not long compared to others. A downside to private water wells is that when you don't have electricity, you don't have water. Thankfully the only damage in our area was fallen tree limbs and wooden fences. Now if only pine sticks were good carving material, we'd have several years supply!

The Houston Area Wood Carvers club has been trying new things to attract and retain carvers. We have updated our club tri-fold brochure – modernized it to include a QR code hoping to attract the “paperless population”. We have also created a single sheet flyer (with QR code) to place in businesses such as WoodCraft.

Due to scheduling issues, HAWC is now meeting on the **Fourth Saturday of each month**. In October we will not have a regular club meeting. Also new in 2024 is monthly raffles at our meetings. Tools, books, supplies, etc. are raffled. The idea is to generate both interest in and income at the monthly meetings. After a few trials, it was decided that tickets would be placed in bags by the item the person would like to win. This seems to be working well and creating some excitement.

Plans are underway for our 54th Annual Show and Competition. This year the show will be at Baker Ripley Gulfton Sharpstown Community Center. **The show and competition will be October 19 and classes will be October 16-18**. Instructors will be announced later along with competition categories and rules. Please Save the Date – we'd love to see you there!

Carolyn & Preston Smith  
Vice President & Webmaster  
Houston Area Wood Carvers Club  
[www.houstonareawoodcarvers.com](http://www.houstonareawoodcarvers.com)





# Alamo Area Woodcarvers

## Beginning Carvers Class

The Alamo Area Woodcarvers Club in San Antonio started a beginning carving class, free of charge, during their Tuesday club meetings. We asked Joe Davis to share his idea for the class and any advice to other clubs that may want to start a similar program.



Thanks for your inquiry about how we started a beginning carvers class. I mentioned to Stan Richards how I was planning on starting a class for beginning carvers at a local senior center.

“Why not teach it here?” he said.



Our weekly meet up is at the Parman Library. We discussed our plan with the lady in charge, and she agreed to place a sign on the counter in the Library. We had two beginners in the first class, and nine is the most so far. We have only been teaching this class for a few weeks, but I think we have four or five students who will go on to become members of our club. Some people showing up will not come back. New ones are a common occurrence so be ready for a class with different skill levels.

My suggestion to anyone teaching similar class is to help the student feel that they are the most important person, just like our members made me feel when I first showed up about seven years ago. If you want a flawless start up, make sure to have plenty of small projects for them to start off with. Make sure you have at least a sharp knife and a glove for each student. Encourage them to invest in their own quality carving tools.



## Classes

Members of the Guild teach classes throughout the State. If you teach and would like to be added to our Newsletter, please email [mrsaprilmcnulty@gmail.com](mailto:mrsaprilmcnulty@gmail.com)

<u>Where</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Date</u>
Woodcraft	Austin	Basic Figure Carving	Joe Gallio	Thursday, August 8th
Woodcraft	San Antonio	Intro to Woodcarving	Jerry McNulty	Saturday, August 10th
Woodcraft	Austin	Spoon Carving	Joe Gallio	Thursday, August 22nd
Woodcraft	Austin	Spoon Carving	Joe Gallio	Thursday, August 26th
Woodcraft	San Antonio	Knife Only Figure	Jerry McNulty	Saturday September 21st
Woodcraft	Austin	Spoon Carving	Joe Gallio	Thursday, October 3rd
Woodcraft	San Antonio	Intro to Chip Carving	April McNulty	Saturday, October 12th

# SHOW

## Mineola League of Arts

On June 7th and 8th of this year I had the pleasure of judging the Mineola League of the Arts Wood Carving Show in Mineola, Texas. If you haven't attended this show, you are missing out. Such great hospitality, accommodations, and the food was to die for.



It was a small show, 15 tables, and mostly people I knew. The talent was great. There were 10 - 12 bird entries. It took some time to judge that many. Especially using 6 judging criteria. There were also several woodburings entered that took some time not as many criteria to judge just lots of detail.



But when it came down to Best of Open, which I knew would also be Best of Show, I was torn between two pieces. Both originals, both creative, the execution on both were outstanding and the finishes performed in great fashion. I had to find just one thing wrong with one of the pieces. After what seemed an hour, I found one small thing on one that could have been improved. I made my choice, the Relief carving by Yvette Sirka from Longview. The winning piece was a relief with such detail and imagination. The execution was right on. No wood fragments. The painting was in washes, giving it an antique look for the old time subject matter.



The other carving was a Santa seated on a snail, depicting snail mail. I told the artist of that carving, what kept the carving from winning was the nostrils on the Santa. (And I am a Santa man at heart).

The criteria which disqualified most of the carvings were anatomy and execution (leaving wood fibers). I tell my students that is not how fast you finish your piece but how well you carve it. Be patient, clean as carve.

If you think judging is easy, and you wonder why your piece didn't win. It may come down to one teensy little thing. Hard part, you can't pick two pieces and split the plaque.

# SHOW *Houston Woodworking Show*

The Houston Woodcarvers Club participated in the Houston Woodworking Show June 21–23. The show was held at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds. Several wood working related clubs were there. There were demonstrations and displays of new equipment. HAWC members took shifts at our display table demonstrating and visiting with interested people. Pete Reitinger even gave an impromptu lesson!





# National Woodcarvers Association

## HOLIDAY ORNAMENT SHARE & CARE CAMPAIGN

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The National Woodcarvers Association announced their first ever Holiday Ornament Share & Care Campaign to showcase the creativity and generosity within our carving community.

### **NWCA Holiday Ornament Share and Care Campaign Rules**

**Cash Prizes:** 1st place - \$200; 2nd place \$100; 3rd place - \$50.

**Additional Prizes:** Every entry, except the top three winners, will be entered into a drawing for other prizes such as hats, cups, pins, gift cards, and carving accessories.

**Deadline:** Ornaments must be received by **November 1, 2024**.

**Charity Donation:** Our committee will select multiple options for children's hospitals or care centers to donate the ornaments to in early December 2024. We will request that the charity provide a press release or photo of the donation for public relations purposes.

For a complete list of the rules, please visit:  
<https://chipchats.org/Holiday-Ornament>





# 2025 Spring Round Up

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Preparations for the 2025 Spring Round Up are in full swing!

When the Round Up started it was about seeing old friends, making new ones, and learning something along the way. Our 2025 Spring Round will take us back to those roots. We are building the foundation of the show on the camaraderie between our members and clubs through new events and bringing back past favorites.

## **FRIDAY NIGHT MEET-UP**

For those Members who come in on Friday for the event, we've arranged for an informal gathering at Pint & Plow Brewing Company. Stop in to see friends, meet the teachers, grab a drink, or even a light dinner.

## **COMFORT OBJECT DONATIONS**

Our members are some of the most caring and service-oriented people we've ever met. We want to put your heart and hands to good use to give something back to the Kerrville community as a thank you for hosting us every year. Comfort objects are the perfect small project that any member can carve and that we can donate locally in Kerrville. Please find a moment to carve a small smooth comfort object of your choice and bring to the Show on Saturday and Sunday. A basket will be located on the registration table for your donations.

## **BALL ROLLING COMPETITION**

Is the Whittling Contest just a little bit overwhelming? Do you want to participate in the events more but aren't sure where to start? This is the perfect event for you! Each contestant will be given a small square block of wood and a time limit to make the roundest ball possible. All balls will be rolled through a tube, and whoever rolls the furthest wins!

## **SIT & WHITTLE**

Monday and Tuesday night, after classes, we will host an informal meet-up in the main hall of the center for anyone who wants to sit & whittle for a couple of hours. Bring your dinner and your carving supplies. It's time to spend with friends, new and old!





# 2025 Spring Round Up

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## **CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT EXCHANGE**

Staying for the week? After our membership meeting on Wednesday night, we are hosting a Christmas Ornament Exchange! Carve your best Santa, Elf, or other Holiday themed ornament, wrap it up and bring it to the meeting to participate.

## **DONATIONS FOR THE RAFFLE AND AUCTION**

We are always looking for donations for our daily raffles and the show auction that is held during the Banquet on Thursday night. Please do not contact companies on our behalf. If you have anything you would like us to include, please contact Jennifer Laughlin, [woodcarverette@gmail.com](mailto:woodcarverette@gmail.com).

**REGISTRATION FOR THE 2025 SPRING-ROUND UP WILL START  
OCTOBER 1st. WATCH YOUR EMAIL FOR ADDITIONAL  
INFORMATION IN THE COMING MONTHS.**



# 2025 Spring Round Up

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## CLUB CONTEST

The Club Contest is back! The **2025 theme is Disney**. Entries need to be received no later than 9am on Saturday April 5th. Not in a club, check out the Affiliated Clubs page on the TWG website to find the closest one to you!

This competition was established to help build camaraderie within our individual clubs. Participation in this competition is limited to TWG Member Carving Clubs.

**The 2025 theme is DISNEY.** Each club interprets how to best represent the theme with an array of carvings and a cohesive display. Individual Club members may carve one but no more than two carvings specifically for the competition.

This competition will be judged by Guild members and visitors to the Show.

All carvings will be returned to the clubs at the completion of the event.

# Affiliated Clubs

<b>City</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Days</b>	<b>Time</b>
Aransas Pass	Coastal Bend Woodcarvers	Every Tuesday	9am - 12pm
Amarillo	Golden Spread Carvers	1st & 3rd Saturdays	
Austin	Central Texas Woodcarvers	3rd Thursday	6:30pm - 9pm
Beaumont	Southeast Texas Woodcarvers	1st Monday	7pm
Brazoria	Brazoria County Woodcarvers	2nd Saturday	9am - 2pm
Cleburne	TX Woodcarvers Guild Museum	3rd Wednesday	9am
Cleburne	Nolan River Chippers	2nd Thursday	6:00pm - 8:30pm
Denton	Cross Timbers Woodcarvers	Every Tuesday	3pm - 6pm
Fort Clark Springs	Fort Clark Woodcarvers	Monday mornings, Thursday evenings	
Forth Worth	Forth Worth Woodcarvers	Every Thursday	9:30am
Glen Rose	Comanche Peak Tri-County	Every Tuesday	9am - 11am
Georgetown	Georgetown Woodcarvers	Monday Evenings Tuesday Mornings	6:30pm - 8pm 8:30am - 11am
Harlingen	Chip-O-Texas Woodcarvers	Every Tuesday	9am - 4pm
Houston	Houston Area Woodcarvers	4th Saturday	9am - 2pm
Kerrville	Kerr County Carvers	Every Monday	1pm - 3pm
Midland	Mustang Draw Woodcarvers Club	3rd Monday	6:30pm
Mineola	Mineola Carvers	Every Monday	10am - 12pm
New Braunfels	New Braunfels Woodcarvers	Every Wednesday	12:30pm - 3:00pm
Pharr	Rio Grande Woodcarvers	October - March, Every Thursday	8am
Rowlett	Lake Ray Hubbard Woodcarvers	Last Saturday	9am
San Antonio	Alamo Area Woodcarvers	1st & 3rd Saturdays Every Tuesday	10am - 2pm 12:30 - 3:30pm
Sherman	Texoma Woodcarvers	2nd and Last Tuesday	6pm
Whitney	Chapel Chippers	1st & 3rd Thursday	6:30 PM