

HAWC Newsletter

April 2026
Volume 18, Issue 4

Houston Area Woodcarvers
(HAWC)

President's Message

Spring has sprung! The days are getting longer, and the March winds have been "cleaning" our trees. We have an over-abundance of sticks in the yard that need to be picked up. As I have been picking up sticks, I can't help but think the ones with moss on them would make good habitat for carvings. I was reminded of the amazing wood spirit that Randy O'Neal brought to Show & Tell last month. Randy had found a stick that after he carved the spirit face looked like a "stick man". Randy said he carved it on his lunch hour. What a great break from the work day. Carving materials and ideas can come from anywhere, at any time. What has inspired you lately?

I had challenged Ronnie Boston's February class to bring in their bunny magnets for Show & Tell. Nancy Ustin, Bill Todd, Randy O'Neal, and Fred Childers accepted the challenge and brought in their bunnies. Neil Busso said he didn't finish his class bunny so he brought a rabbit that he had carved. We keep telling everyone that Show & Tell projects don't have to be finished projects. To prove it, I brought my unfinished class bunny. After seeing all the other bunnies, I'm going to tweak mine some more. Look for her at April Show & Tell.

Lance Rath's class on tool sharpening was well attended. Thank you Lance. Ronnie Boston will be bringing the April project.

The Christmas in July carving contest blanks have been ordered and hopefully will arrive by the April meeting. The blanks are 5-inch hearts and stars. They have a pattern on them, but the pattern doesn't have to be followed — it's just to give you ideas. It was decided to have a donation basket to help offset the cost. Contributions are appreciated.

Several of our members will be attending the Texas Woodcarvers Guild Spring Round Up in Kerrville. It is a great opportunity to meet carvers from Texas and neighboring states and learn new carving skills. The class lineup this year sounds great. We'll be looking forward to hearing about the Round Up and seeing their projects at our May meeting.

See you April 18.

Carolyn Smith

Monthly Project (Mini-class)

This month's class (April) will be another of Ronnie Boston's fun projects. Ronnie, where do you get your ideas/inspiration? "Mr. Sunshine" will be a fun carve.



In May, Carolyn Smith will share tips on painting caricatures. You will need to bring a carving that has been "sealed", either by spraying with spray lacquer or boiled linseed oil. A #4 or #6 flat paint brush and a liner brush are also needed.

A volunteer is needed to bring a project for June.

Crosses for Faith Lutheran

The first group of crosses was delivered to Faith Lutheran on March 25. About 50 crosses and 1 angel were given. The pastors and facility coordinator were very impressed with the crosses and happy to get them. Lance Rath, Gail Plunkett, Charlie Holden, and Preston and Carolyn Smith delivered the crosses. We learned that the crosses will be hung on the wall of the main corridor of the administration building (also houses the fellowship hall), about a 30-foot wall. We promised them more crosses!

Quarterly Donation Table

The first Donation Table Day was a success. Books, supplies, tools – a good variety of items were brought. The donations were very generous. But most of all, unwanted items found new homes. The next Donation Table Day will be in June.

Fall Show

The search is on for instructors and class type for the Wednesday-Friday before the show. **Save the Dates! – October 14 – 17!** Your help is needed to make it successful.

We have our first show sponsor – Kendrick Brothers Air Conditioning. Thank you! A request has been sent to *Chip Chats* and *Wood Carving Illustrated* magazines to list our show in their upcoming events both online and in print.

It's not too soon to start/finish your entries for the competition. Plan now to have a display table and enjoy sharing your art. The show will be **October 18**.

Sunshine Corner

Thank you Gokul for coming to the March meeting. We're looking forward to seeing you in April.

Helen Havemann is recovering from her foot injury but isn't able to drive yet. We miss you, Helen.

Prayers are needed for Fred Stratton and his wife. She is recovering from two strokes.

Provenance

Charlie Holden

Within the past year, I have received several wood carving pieces without a signature or date while attending the monthly HAWC meeting. It is a shame not to know who carved the artwork I have been given. I now understand the importance of signing and dating our work no matter the skill level. If you have ever watched the PBS Antique Road Show, you have heard about the provenance of the item. Knowing who crafted the artwork and the date enhances the value of the piece to the recipient. I have become friends with many folks at the monthly meeting. I want to know who gave a piece of their artistry to HAWC to be passed on to other wood' carvers. We know how much time and effort we have put into our woodcarving, so we know the importance of the piece. It also helps to track your improvement. I think anybody who receives a piece of art wants to know who did the work. Please make a point of signing and dating your woodcarvings, so people will know, not just the first recipient, but all the others afterwards.

Photos from March 2026







The Houston Area Woodcarvers meet this month from
9am-2pm on the 3rd Saturday, March 21, 2026, at the
Faith Lutheran Church Day School Community Center,
4600 Bellaire Blvd., Houston, TX

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