

HAWC Newsletter

August 2026
Volume 18, Issue 8

Houston Area Woodcarvers
(HAWC)

President's Message

July was a quiet month. Several of our regulars weren't able to come because of family reunions and summer vacation plans. We missed you and are looking forward to hearing about your adventures. School is starting in the next week or so and it will be Fall before too long. As you get back into your Fall routine, we hope you'll include HAWC. We all learn and grow as we share ideas, how-to tips, successes and, yes, even failures. We want to celebrate them all with you – it takes a few failures to learn and improve our skills. There are days when it is very obvious and I know that I have a lot more to learn! And I'm thankful to have you to help teach me.

One of the things I am wanting to learn is how to make my own band saw blanks. I see many patterns that I'd like to try (I'm not one of those talented people who can draw their own) but don't know how to make the cut-outs. Preston has taught me how to use the scroll saw but so far I'm not "band saw trained". Oh well, one day. Ladies, I'll let you in on a secret: If you know how to use a sewing machine, the scroll saw is just as easy. You have to watch your fingers with both!

What's on your wish list of things to learn? Maybe it can be a topic for one of our monthly classes in 2027 or at the Fall Show. Do you know of a carving-related event we could attend as a group? Let me or one of the other officers know; we'll see if it can be arranged.

Lorraine Lewis' brother sent a nice thank you note for the trees we had planted in her memory. See below. We also got an email from Charles Sapp, President, National Wood Carvers Association, telling us about programs available to help clubs and the Christmas Share and Care Campaign. It's attached to the newsletter. They are a good resource and publish the magazine *Chip Chats*.

*A very Special thanks from our
family for your generous donation
from the Houston Area Wood Carvers Club
in memory of Lorraine Lewis
Ralph Rojas
and Family*

I'm looking forward to a day of fellowship, sharing and carving on the 15th. See you then!

Carolyn Smith

Monthly Project (Mini-class)

Ronnie Boston's Christmas ornament elf was a challenge for me. Ronnie made us draw the details on the blank. AND CAROLYN CAN'T DRAW! Everybody else's elves looked great. We all had a good time carving them. Thank you, Ronnie, for bringing the project and for making me get out of my comfort zone to draw the details instead of tracing them.

Carolyn Smith will be bringing a wood burning project for August. The design is being finalized and will be Fall/Halloween themed. (Deadlines are wonderful 😊).

In September Neil Busso will bring the project, an owl, which can be a magnet or hanging ornament.



Christmas in July Contest

You out did yourselves! The ornaments were so creative and cute. No one used the suggested patterns that came with the blanks. I thought that was very interesting. Most of the entries were carved on both sides. There were 10 entries by 7 carvers. Last year we had a 2-way tie for third place. This year there was a 4-way tie for third place! Carvers in the 4-way tie were Lance Rath, Randy O'Neal, Carolyn Smith and Jamie Frontiera. There was a quick run-off vote to decide the winner.

Congratulations to the 2026 winners:

First Place: Bill Todd

Second Place: Carolyn Smith

Third Place: Jamie Frontiera





These and any other ornaments you'd like to contribute will be sent to Chip Chats in October for the 3rd Annual Holiday Ornament Share & Care Campaign.

Sunshine Corner

After sending out the Fall Show registration packets I got an email from Christine Wiegman. She has moved to West Virginia.

Donna and Dallas Deege are in need of our prayers. The last update received was that Donna was going to be transferred to a rehab facility in the near future.

Fall Show

Registration is now open. Registration forms will be at the meeting on the 15th for those who don't have computer printers. **Save the Dates! — October 14 – 18!** We hope you'll take classes, have a display table and enter the competition. Come and support your fellow carvers as they display their art and compete in the whittling contest and general competition. We can always use hecklers for the whittling contest!

Classes will be Wednesday – Friday, **October 14-17** and the show will be **October 18**. Mike Duhon and Gene Messer will be teaching the classes and Jerry McNulty is in charge of the Whittling Contest. It will be a fun four days — learning to carve little characters, cowboy bolo, wood spirit, and Santa and then sharing our carvings with show visitors and friends. Don't forget the friendly competition on show day. It's not too soon to start/finish your entries for the competition.

Plan now to have a display table and enjoy talking about your art.

Community Service Projects

Don't forget our two community service projects — Faith Lutheran's Wall of Crosses and comfort crosses/birds/animals for Faith House Ministry (at Faith Lutheran). All sizes and styles are appreciated. If you have a pattern or can make blanks to share, please bring them to the meeting. Several caring crosses were brought to the July meeting. Thanks!

Photos from the HAWC Meeting July 2026





The Houston Area Woodcarvers meet this month from
9am-2pm on the 3rd Saturday, August 15, 2026, at the
Faith Lutheran Church Day School Community Center,
4600 Bellaire Blvd., Houston, TX

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