

HAWC Newsletter

January 2026
Volume 18, Issue 1
Houston Area Woodcarvers
(HAWC)

President's Message

It's here! 2026 has arrived. We hope your New Year's celebrations were happy and safe. Are you ready for more carving adventures? Now that the hurriedness and deadlines of the holidays are over, we can slow down and learn and share new techniques, challenges, and ideas. We've had suggestions for topics for our monthly mini-classes — relief carving, painting caricatures, carving miniature people. Are there others? Charlie Holden will be sharing her skills in carving miniature people this month. Carolyn Smith will be sharing tips on painting caricatures. Can someone share techniques for relief carvings?

We'll be continuing to participate in community service projects. The crosses for Faith Lutheran are ongoing. The Texas Wood Carvers Guild is collecting carvings that haven't been painted to donate to the Kerrville veteran's hospital to use in their therapy program. No word yet, but the National Wood Carvers Association will probably be having their charity Christmas ornament program again. Do you know of other opportunities to share some carving happiness? Please let us know if you do.

We want to thank all of you for being a part of HAWC and helping make 2025 a fun year. With your help — by coming to meetings, sharing your ideas/skills, telling friends (and complete strangers) about wood carving — 2026 can be an even better year.

Carolyn & Preston Smith

It's Election Time!

We will elect our 2026 officers at the January meeting. It is exciting that we have candidates for all four offices:

President – Carolyn Smith
Vice President – Lance Rath
Treasurer – Charlie Holden
Secretary – Matt Brueggeman

Additional nominations will be taken at the meeting. Come vote for and support your 2026 leaders!

Sunshine Corner

The Christmas party was a lot of fun. Lots of laughter and good food! Shen Liang won the Christmas card toss. There were many wonderful carvings in the carving exchange including a beautifully painted egg. Thanks to all the cooks and elves who made the party possible.

Monthly Project (Mini Class)

January - Charlie Holden will teach a class on carving miniature people. Charlie is focusing on new carvers, but experienced carvers will like this project also.
February – Ronnie Boston will be bringing one of his famous, fun projects.
March – open
April – open
May – Carolyn Smith will share tips on painting caricatures.
June – open
July – open
August – Carolyn Smith will teach a class on pyrography (that's a fancy name for wood burning)
September – open
October – Fall Show & Classes
November – Jamie Frontiera will teach a class on chip carving.
December – Christmas party

Ronnie says he will teach two classes. So, we need four more volunteers.

2026 Club Dues

Dues are due in January. At the November meeting it was decided to increase the dues to **\$30** per year per family – carver and spouse; parent(s) and children under age 18.

Crosses for Faith Lutheran

We are trying to arrange a time in January to give the first group of crosses to Faith Lutheran. It will be exciting to see how the church will display them. Making crosses for them will be an on-going project in 2026. We need medium to large crosses – any style of carving or wood burning.

Looking for a Weekly Woodcarving Group?

HAWC has a weekly woodcarving group that meets on Thursdays at Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet St, Houston, Texas, from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM in the main building, room number 9. For more information, see Shen Liang or Kevin Lawson.

To help grow our community and reach even more potential woodcarvers, Bayland is working to include support for our group in their upcoming budget. In the meantime,

we kindly ask for your help. If you have any spare carving knives or other tools that you would be willing to donate or lend, they would be greatly appreciated and put to good use during our Thursday meetings by any newcomers.

Thank you for helping us to expand and support our woodcarving community! We look forward to seeing new and familiar faces at our upcoming sessions. We will inform the newcomers to the Bayland group about HAWC's monthly third Saturday meetings at Faith Lutheran Church, 4600 Bellaire Blvd., Bellaire, Texas.

Carving Miniature People with Charlie Holden



Charlie Holden will teach a class this Saturday on carving miniature people. The class is great for beginner carvers, but all are welcome. Come and join us. It should be fun!

Scenes from December 2025







The Houston Area Woodcarvers meet this month from 9am-
2pm on the 3rd Saturday, January 17, 2026, at the Faith
Lutheran Church Day School Community Center, 4600 Bellaire
Blvd., Houston, TX

See us on the Web: houstonareawoodcarvers.com

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