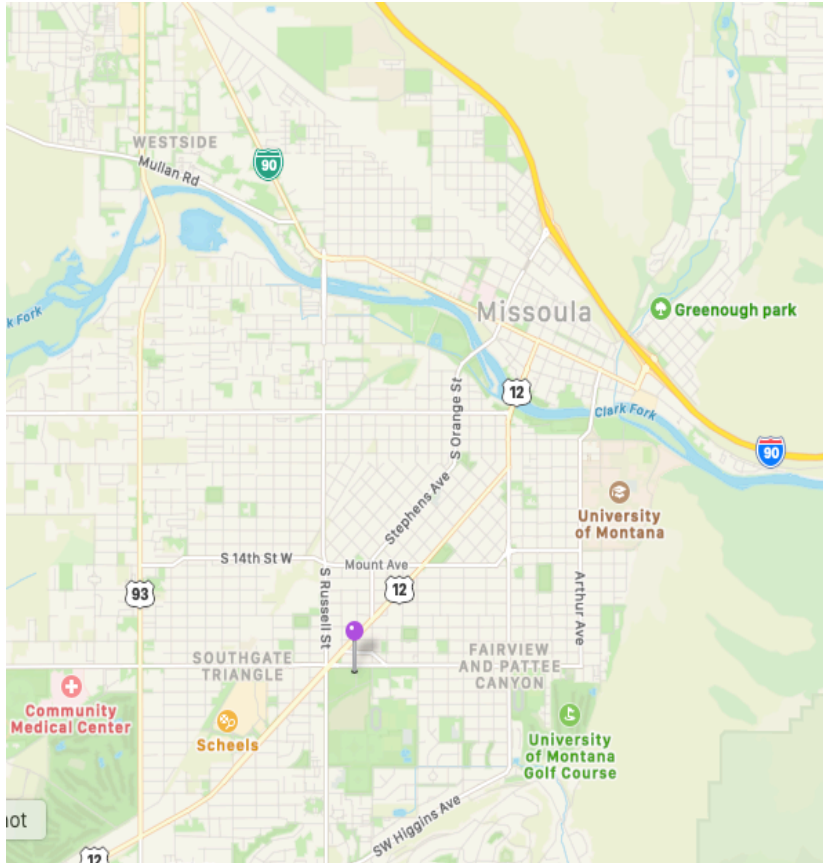


Location:

**Missoula County Fairgrounds
1101 South Avenue West
Missoula, MT 59801**



**Ron Crowder
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rcrowder503@aol.com

Doug Stinger

(406)231-3546

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Montana Woodcarvers Association Show May 1-3 Missoula County Fairgrounds



**Show Location: Missoula County Fairgrounds
1101 South Avenue West
Missoula, MT 59801**

Montana Woodcarvers Association Show

Welcome to the carving, turning, burning and scrolling wood show hosted by the Montana State Woodcarvers Association. As you browse through this brochure notice there are various divisions and various TYPES. This show's philosophy is focused more on critique and comment than competition. The goal is to help you become better at what you do, and to encourage more people to get involved. As the show progresses from year to year, we hope to refine this process. Your feedback is welcome.

General Information

This year's wood show will be held May 2 and 3, 2026 at the **Missoula County Fairgrounds**. Set up will start at noon on May 1 and should be finished by 6:00 pm.

Entries may be checked in starting at 2:30 and ending at 5:30 PM. Judging will begin by 7:00 PM.

The show will be open to the public on

Saturday, May 2, from 9:00 to 5:00 and Sunday, May 3, from 11:30 to 4:00. Admission is \$5 per adult, children under 12 (when accompanied by an adult) are free. Carvers with registration stub - no charge.

Vendor Information

Vendor tables are available for **\$25 each**. Items offered should be carving or wood related. Table coverings are the responsibility of the vendor.

Virtual Wood Crafting Show (cont'd)

* The entries are judged only by what is submitted. The better the photographs, the better chance of a higher judging result. *

Use the regular entry form for VIRTUAL entries, the following information is required to be judged and to properly give credit to the artist:

- Contact Information
- Skill Level
- Type of Entry (Carving, Turning, Pyrography, etc.)
- Division & type of Wood

The same judging criteria is used for judging the photographs as for judging the carvings (turnings, burnings, etc.) as in the ACTUAL Show.

All show rules (see pages 4 through 6) apply to the virtual show. An entry in the actual show is not allowed in the virtual show. Any one artist may enter both the actual and virtual show, but any one entry may only be entered in one show or the other. Duplications will be disqualified.

Only VIRTUAL ribbons will be awarded for the VIRTUAL SHOW.

Photograph Publication Permission

All entrants and entries submitted to both the Actual Show and Virtual Show, by registering, give permission for the Montana State Woodcarvers Association to use photographs of the entrants and entries for display and publication on and in the Association's formats for promotion and display.

Virtual Wood Crafting Show

Entry Fee: \$2.00 each

Using all of the TYPES, Divisions, Skill Levels, and Categories in this booklet, the VIRTUAL show will be conducted via EMAIL and the results will be posted on the Montana State Woodcarvers Association website

www.montanastatewoodcarvers.com.

All **VIRTUAL** entries should be submitted to this email before 4/20/26: dstinger1117@gmail.com.

Entry **Fees** should be submitted to: **Una Schlaebitz** 3100 Kossuth St, Butte MT 59701

Each entry requires 5 photographs:

- 1) front view
- 2) back view
- 3) right side view
- 4) left side view
- 5) top view

EXAMPLE:



Vendor Information cont'd

For table reservations contact Ron Crowder 406-564-9940. Set up will start at noon on Friday, May 1st. Vendors must stay until the show is over on Sunday. **\$25 each table.**

Entry Registration

Registration will be open until 6:00 Friday afternoon. But, early/pre-registration is encouraged and forms can be sent by mail prior to April 20th. Please use the registration form enclosed (copy as necessary). Remember to use a separate form for each TYPE [Carving, Turning, Burning, Computer Assist, etc.]. Carvings must be hand delivered since we cannot be responsible for safe return by mail. If you cannot attend please try to have someone else bring your work. **NEW ADDRESS: mail pre-registrations & fees to Una Schlaebitz, 3100 Kossuth St, Butte Mt 59701**

PRICING: Fees are \$5 for the first entry, then \$2 each for all subsequent entries **for each TYPE** (see registration form). Youth entries and display only entries are \$2 each.

note: each different TYPE must be on a separate registration form. (this means \$5 for the first entry for each TYPE). All entries must remain on display until close of show on Sunday, then must be picked up no later than 5:30 PM. For additional show information or if you have any questions, contact Ron Crowder or Doug Stinger.

Used Tool/Carving Sale Table

20% commission will go to the State to help offset costs of the show. The table will be staffed during the entire show. Carvers must purchase the tools for their own use (not for instructors or sale). Any and all exceptions must be approved by a State Board Member or the Show Coordinator.

Raffle Donations A fundraising raffle will be held Sunday afternoon. Tickets will be available for sale during the show and all proceeds will go to offset costs. Anyone wishing to donate a carving or other item is encouraged to do so during check-in.

Ornament Tree: This year the Montana State Woodcarvers Association is hosting a Christmas Ornament Tree. These ornaments will be displayed and sold at the Show. Proceeds will go to the association to [offset](#) the expenses of the show. Please carve new ornaments and gather up those already carved to donate.

This project will also raise interest in carving for the visitors as well as allowing them a souvenir.



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Demonstrations: Saturday AM & Saturday

To be announced at a later date

ASSOCIATION MEETING Sunday 10:00 AM
(come to comment and vote).

Montana State Library

Our new librarian is Michelle Grothen. You can reach her at 406-240-9367, mtlarix@gmail.com or mailing address is 419 Whispering Willow Way, Corvallis, MT 59828.

Our library is a great resource, please see our Library list on the Association website. Please remember when you check out books, videos or patterns you have them for 1 month and then they need to be returned so others may check them out.

Michelle is looking for suggestions for new books or videos to add to our Library. Please let Michelle know if you have any suggestions.



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**STONE, BONE(ANTLER), METAL,
COMPUTER ASSIST (Display Only)**

Division 38 - Stone or Bone This includes carving, sculpting, etc.

Division 39 - Metal This includes, bronzes, welded sculptures, etc.

Division 40 - Computer Assisted This includes, CNC machines, computer directed lathes, lasers, etc.

Show Rules

1. A participant may enter as many items as they choose. All items should have been completed within the last 2 years.
2. No item shall be entered which has been previously entered in the Montana show (except "display only" items).
3. Items shall be entered in the name or names of all who worked on the piece.
4. All entries must be at the same skill level unless they are of different TYPES. Example: an advanced level carver must enter all carvings in the advanced level. However, that same carver may enter a wood turning in novice if they meet that definition of skill level.
5. You may challenge one skill level up, but if you receive a blue ribbon, then you must remain at that skill level for future shows. If a person receives **3** or more "Best of Division" or a "Best of Class" then they must advance TO THE NEXT SKILL LEVEL.
5. The show chair may make changes in division, skill level, or category when deemed appropriate or when requested by a judge.
6. An entry which has techniques that encompass more than one division or category definition shall be entered in the one which is most dominant.
7. Seminar or class pieces may be entered at any level, but must be noted on the entry form. These entries will be judged, but are not eligible for Best of Division or higher awards.

8. The Montana State Woodcarvers Association, its officers and members, are not responsible for any loss or damages from any causes at or during the show or set-up or takedown.

9. Entrants, at their discretion, may offer any entered item belonging to them for sale. They are solely responsible for such sale and collection of amounts due. Any item sold must remain on display until the show closes.

Skill Levels

Youth - age 14 or under, all entries are included in one group.

Novice - beginning artists just developing their skills. Anyone earning 3 Best of Division or a higher award must enter at a higher skill level.

Intermediate - artists who have developed their skills beyond basics. This is a good entry level for carvers who have been carving for awhile, but have never entered a show. Artists who have 3 Best of Division or a higher at this level must enter at the next highest skill level.

Advanced - work at this level shows a high level of skill. Usually seen is more originality, difficulty, and excellence of workmanship. Artists who have earned 3 Best of Division or higher awards at this level must compete as Expert.

Expert - this is the highest skill level for those who have mastered the techniques of their field. Work here reflects overall excellence and artistic interpretation usually attained by years of application.

TURNINGS

Division 31 - Bowls and Plates Includes all bowls, solid, segmented, etc.

Division 32 - Hollow Vessels Includes hollow forms and vases.

Division 33 - Other Includes other turned items such as, rolling pins, pens, handles, etc.

SCROLL SAW AND PYROGRAPHY

(woodburning)

Division 34 - Scroll Saw Includes intarsia, fretwork, etc. May be painted or natural finish.

Division 35 - Woodburning This includes any work where the primary technique and emphasis is woodburning. Items which have incidental woodburning, such as feathers on a bird or fish scales, should not be entered here. No Scenes or People.

Division 36 - Woodburning Scenes This includes any work where the primary technique and emphasis is woodburning. No People.

Division 37 - Woodburning People This includes any work where the primary technique and emphasis is woodburning with people. No Scenes.

Division 26 - Floral Includes any floral carving in the round, including trees.

Division 27 - Native Art Includes masks, rattles, plates, anything else reflecting native art.

Division 28 - Gourds includes pyrography and/or carving to enhance the medium.

Division 29 - Chainsaw Carving Includes any subject carved with a chain saw.

Division 30 - Any Other Carvings This would include carousel animals and any other carving not included in other Divisions.

Division - UFO (unfinished objects) - This includes any carving (not previously entered) which is unfinished. Special award division.

Division - MC (Montana Challenge)- This is a special award division for a unique type of carving, different each year, which represents something about the State of Montana. **For 2026 the theme will be "Fishing in Montana" so start planning now.**

Judging Criteria

Workmanship (Execution & Skill) - demonstrated by clean cuts, proper and well fitting joints, solid mounts, etc.

Creativity (Originality) - demonstrated by original design or concept, complexity, and/or adaptation of an established pattern.

Anatomy & Shape (Design) - demonstrated by proper proportions, anatomically correct, symmetry, placement of eyes, wings, etc.

Detail & Finish (Artistry) - demonstrated by clean surfaces, and good use of texture, paint, finishes, and effective use of wood qualities.

Presentation - demonstrated by the overall appearance and interpretation of the subject. Includes appropriate habitat and display.

PLEASE TALK TO YOUR JUDGE TO LEARN MORE



Competition Prizes

Ribbons will be awarded which reflect, in the judge's opinion, the level of accomplishment of the piece being judged. Each piece will be judged on its own merits, and not in competition with other entries in the same category. Best of Division, Best of Class, and Best of Show awards will be awarded based on competition with other pieces.

Blue Ribbon- Excellent This award reflects a piece which meets or exceeds, in all areas, what the judge expects from an entry at that level. Any flaws or areas needing improvement are barely noticeable.

Red Ribbon-Very Good This award reflects a piece which meets or exceeds most of what a judge expects from an entry at that level. These pieces will need improvement, or perhaps a more glaring issue.

White Ribbon-Good This award reflects a piece which is basically sound, but has some significant or highly visible areas needing improvement.

Green Ribbon This means the piece has several significant areas needing improvement. Pay particular attention to the judge's comments, and if possible visit with the judge.

Best of Division This is the first award which reflects competition. It is awarded by the judge for the best piece in each division. The judge is not obligated to award a ribbon for each division if in their opinion there is no entry deserving or if the number of entries are too few.

Best of Skill Level This is awarded to the piece judged best overall in each skill level, by TYPE. It is selected from all the Best of Division awards in each skill level in that TYPE. Recipients must advance to the next skill level

Best of Show (for each TYPE) [Carving, Turnings, Scroll Saw, Gourds, Pyrography] From the Best of Skill Level winners, one will be chosen as Best of each TYPE.

Other Awards From time to time other special awards may be available, including some cash awards. These will vary from show to show.

Division 15 - Relief Caricature. This includes any configuration, human and/or animals.

Division 16 - Christmas Carvings This includes any type of Christmas carving, including caricatures, ornaments, nativity scenes.

Division 17 - Santa Carvings This includes any type of Santa Claus, including caricature, Santa with others.

Division 18 - Religious. This includes any configuration, human, animals, and/or religious items.

Division 19 - Chip Carving Includes chip carving on any format, including bowls, boxes, plates, etc.

Division 20 - Canes and Walking Sticks Includes carved or natural wood sticks.

Division 21 - Functional Items Includes utensils such as spoons and ladles, ornaments (non Christmas), jewelry, plaques, etc. May be painted or natural.

Division 22 - Whimsical This includes chains, ball-in-box, Celtic knot, etc.

Division 23 - Bark This includes any carving from bark. No Dwellings or Faces.

Division 24 - Bark - Houses This includes any form of dwelling.

Division 25 - Bark - Faces This includes any type of face (animal or human).

Division 5 - Wild Animals Other This includes busts, miniatures, etc. except caricatures and relief.

Division 6 - Domestic Animals in the Round Includes animals individually or in groups, except caricatures.

Division 7 - Domestic Animals Other Includes busts, miniatures, etc. except relief and caricature.

Division 8 - Reptiles and Amphibians This includes snakes, lizards, frogs, etc, except caricatures and relief.

Division 9 - People in the Round This includes full body, busts, groups. Does not include caricatures.

Division 10 - Caricature People This includes full body, busts, and groups.

Division 11 - Caricature Animals This includes full body, busts, and groups.

Division 12 - Caricature Mixed Groups This includes groups of people and animals where neither is the dominant feature.

Division 13 - Relief People and/or Animals This includes individual or groups of people or animals or combination. Includes pierced relief and flat backed (relief) carvings. May be painted, burned, or natural finish.

Division 14 - Relief Landscapes, Floral, or Architectural This includes landscapes which may include animals or people, but the emphasis is obviously landscape. Includes pierced relief and flat backed (relief) carvings. May be painted, burned, or natural finish.

Artistic Merit Award

Each Skill level will be awarded an Artistic Merit Award.

Our judges will evaluate all of the entries - all TYPES included - at each skill level and award one entry with an Artistic Merit Award. We hope to encourage you to expand your creativity and incorporate various the aspects of good art.

Note about Judging The true value of judging is not the ribbon attained, but the communication with the judges. All entrants are encouraged to visit with one or more of the judges. Ask specific questions about your entry and listen to the response. We hope to make this a learning experience for all. The decisions of the Judges are final.

Entry Categories and Definitions

Realistic Entries in this category will show great detail, will be accurate anatomically, and may be fully painted. Exceptions may be allowed for habitat, bases, etc., which are not an integral part of the piece. (A flat bottomed duck, goose, etc. that otherwise meets the definition of realistic shall be entered in this category).

Suggestive Entries in this category will show enough detail to easily identify the subject. Painting should be accurate, but can be less detailed. Not every part needs to be painted.

Stylized Entries in this category should show enough definition or detail to identify the subject. Great liberty can be used in finish, in proportion, etc. Paint may be used, but is not required.

Use of non-wood or non-carved materials

Glass eyes, wire, natural branches, brass, leather, etc. may all be used in minimal amounts without penalty, unless a judge feels such use overpowers or otherwise detracts from the piece.

Entry TYPES-

Carving Entries in this category reflect all or mostly all carved surfaces, may be painted or natural finish, and may be artistic or practical.

Turnings Entries in this category are designed on a lathe, and may include some carving or burning as enhancements.

Pyrography Entries in this category use woodburning as the principal technique. It may be applied to carvings, flat work, or turnings, but is still the main area of emphasis.

Scroll Saw Entries in this category are created using a scroll saw and include intarsia, fretwork, etc. They may include limited amounts of carving or turning techniques.

Gourds entries in this category use either pyrography, painting, and/or carving to enhance the gourd.

Entry TYPES - cont'd

Stone, Bone(antler) and Metal Entries in this category can be carved, sculpted, welded or whatever the artist chooses. This category is for *display* only and will not be judged.

Computer Assisted Carvings Entries in this category use a computer to assist the actual carving. Examples are CNC machines, computer directed lathes, lasers, etc. This category is for *display* only and will not be judged.

Entry Categories

CARVINGS

Division 1 - Birds in the Round (carved on all sides) This includes all bird carvings, individual or groups, except caricatures.

Division 2 - Birds Other This includes busts, mini birds, feathers, or other parts of birds. Does not include relief

Division 3 - Fish and Water Mammals This includes all fish, groups of fish, whales, sharks, dolphins, etc. Does not include caricatures or relief.

Division 4 - Wild Animals in the Round This includes all wild animals, individual or in groups, except caricatures.