



# WOODCARVING

<b>ONLINE REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MONDAY, JULY 14, 2025</b>		
ENTRY FEE	AGES	SKILL LEVEL
One-Time \$25 per Exhibitor	13 & Up	Amateur & Professional
Exhibitors will be allowed entries throughout all the Erie County Fair Competitions. A promo code redeemable for three (3) admission passes will be emailed to the exhibitor on Monday, July 28, 2025.		
PREMIUMS FOR DIVISION #1, 2, 3, 6, & 7:		
1 <sup>ST</sup> PLACE BLUE - \$50	2 <sup>ND</sup> PLACE RED - \$30	3 <sup>RD</sup> PLACE YELLOW - \$20
<b>Entry Arrival:</b> Friday, August 1, 2025 between 12 - 7 PM or Saturday, August 2, 2025 between 12 - 6 PM		
<b>Entry Removal:</b> Monday, August 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2025 between 11:00 AM and 7:00 PM.		

**Please call the Competitive Exhibits office at 716-649-3900 ext. 6407 or email at [ceoffice@ecfair.org](mailto:ceoffice@ecfair.org) with all questions.**

The Erie County Agricultural Society and Southtowns Woodcarvers present the 35<sup>th</sup> International Woodcarving Exhibit. The intent of the exhibition is to promote interest and competition of the carving art by local and international carvers. Both amateur and professional carvers are invited.

Various carving classes have been established consisting of figures, birds, wildlife, housewares, lettering, decoys, and miscellaneous subjects. Cash prizes and ribbons will be awarded based on the rules. A participant ribbon will be presented to each entrant.

Informative carving demonstrations will be presented daily by the Southtowns Woodcarvers and the Western New York Woodturners.

**Woodcarving Rules:**

1. Please read and abide by all The Erie County Fair and Creative Arts Department rules and regulations.
2. **All entries must be registered by Monday, July 14, 2025.** Entries not registered will not be accepted. For more information see the Important Entry Information page at [www.ecfair.org](http://www.ecfair.org).
3. This exhibit will be on display in the lower grandstand. The building is alarmed and secured.
4. Entries must be in place by Saturday, August 2, 2025 at 6:00 PM.
5. Entries may only be picked up on Monday, August 18, 2025 from 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM.
6. Amateurs, professionals and novice are eligible to enter. All are welcome.
7. **No** Open Class judge will be allowed to enter competition in the same year that they judge. Judges for Intermediate and Novice may enter competition, but only in open. Judges for Intermediate and Novice must come from Open Section participants only.
8. Each entry must be the work of only one individual and signed by that person.
9. Any carving the committee decides as inappropriate will be removed from the exhibit.
10. Power tool carving is allowed. No chainsaw carving.
11. If a piece is wood-burned and clear coated, it is considered natural. If there is any visible evidence of coloring no matter how small, it is considered painted.
12. The term "carving" is a general heading and embraces sculpture and whittling unless otherwise stated and vice versa. The term "relief" means drawing and molding with gouge, knife, or chisel in order to decorate a generally flat surface to give the illusion of depth. The term "in the round" means shaping a free standing, three-dimensional form or forms.

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13. Materials other than wood may be included in the general presentation of a carving, provided such materials are necessary and in a subsidiary manner. Commercial models/kits are not permitted.
14. Every hanging carving should be submitted ready to hang, with strong hooks, loops or wire. No saw tooth hangers or T slots are allowed.
15. Each participant may submit no more than four (4) entries per class, however there is no limitation on the total number of entries. Only two (2) ribbons will be awarded to an entrant in each class including honorable mention ribbons.
16. The Southtowns Woodcarvers Club or the Erie County Agricultural Society cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage due to conditions beyond their control. The carvings will be handled numerous times during the judging and building setup. They must be strong enough to withstand this handling. All pieces should be securely attached to the carving and the base.
17. A blue ribbon won in open section &/or woodburning will automatically eliminate that piece from competition in this event (Woodcarving). However, a blue-ribbon piece in novice can be entered in intermediate the next year. If it wins another blue ribbon in intermediate, it can still be entered in the open section the third year. If you win two (2) or more blue ribbons, not with the same piece, in novice, you must compete in intermediate the following year and thereafter. You may enter ONLY one (1) level, Open Class, Intermediate, or Novice.
18. The Exhibit Committee reserves the right to change any carving to the appropriate class for the purpose of judging. In the absence of competition in any section, judges will award only such ribbons or trophies as they deem the exhibit merits.
19. Ribbons and cash prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places in open, rough-out, woodburning, and wood turning. There will be ribbons only for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each class in intermediate and novice. Honorable mention ribbons in the open classes, may be awarded at the discretion of the judges, but are limited to two (2) per class. There is no limit to honorable mention ribbons in the Novice or Intermediate classes.
20. If the Agricultural prize is won anytime, that entry is not eligible to win the Agricultural prize in the future.
21. The Erie County Agricultural Society prize must be chosen from the Open Woodcarving classes. Open best of show and second best of show are not eligible for the Erie County Agricultural Society prize.
22. Rough-outs and class projects may only be entered in rough-outs, intermediate and novice. In the open section, if a rough-out is part of a group scene, the whole carving will be deemed a rough-out and must be entered in rough-out. This does not apply to intermediate and novice. Rough-outs are not eligible for merit awards or Best of Show.
23. All pieces must have some unique title and if the exhibit consists of multiple pieces, they must be contained (even if temporary) on a common base. This aids the judges and the secretaries in proper identification when placing awards.
24. Pieces that are 90% chip carved may only be entered in 'Open Woodcarving-1 #35" as a chipped item.
25. No furniture will be accepted.
26. There will be no sale of pieces in the building with the exception of the Make-A-Wish tables. Demonstrators and exhibitors will not be allowed to make sales, if someone is interested in purchasing a piece, you may give them your information and the sale may be completed after the close of the fair.

## JUDGING CRITERIA

The criteria for judging will be based on four (4) values:

**Craftsmanship** - refers to the technical skills, finishing techniques and the size of the carving with relationship to the amount of skill required to execute the project.

**Artistry** - refers to the originality and design, composition, finishing or painting and the ability to convey the emotion or action of the carving.

**Complexity of the carving** - consideration must be given to the intricacy of the project. Giving attention to details such as feathering, fingers, fur, flower petals, clothing folds, etc. also to complicated shapes portraying action, posture, etc.

**Accuracy of the carving** - involving the correctness of the piece, not appropriate for stylized, abstract, etc.

**There are seven (7) sections in which a carver may enter:**

Open Woodcarving

Rough-outs

Woodburning

Intermediate Woodcarving – open to any carver that has not won a blue ribbon in the open division \*\*

Novice Woodcarving – **open to carvers of all ages. Any carver that has won two (2) or more blue ribbons in this division must enter in the open, rough-outs or intermediate division. \*\***

Wood Turning

Intarsia

\*\* Contact the Competitive Exhibits Office to waive your entry fee (only for the ones asterisked)

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## CLASSES

### OPEN WOODCARVING - 1

*Open: Open to any carver who wishes to enter this section.*

1. Carved human figures - over 12" (measured from head to foot-excluding the base if used)
2. Carved human figures - under 12" (measured from head to foot-excluding the base if used)
3. Carved human bust
4. Caricature carving, human, 1 figure
5. Caricature carving, animal, 1 figure
6. Caricature carving, multiple figures (two (2) or more figures – people &/or animals, etc.)
7. Fantasy or Spirit carving, **NO** bark carving
8. Songbird carving, painted or natural finish
9. Shore bird carving – realistic, upland game bird carving
10. Bird of prey carving
11. Decorative waterfowl - natural finish (ducks, geese, brants, swans, loons, pelicans)
12. Decorative Waterfowl - painted finish (ducks, geese, brants, swans, loons, pelicans)
13. Decorative waterfowl - one half life-size or smaller, subject to measurement
14. Working decoy
15. Dog or domestic cat carving - natural or painted finish
16. Carving of domestic animal - cow, sheep, rabbit, horse, etc. **(NO DOGS OR CATS)**
17. Bark carving - houses, castles, structures. (Bark carving cannot be entered in any other class.)
18. Bark carving - any other subject. (Bark carving cannot be entered in any class)
19. Wildlife carving - natural finish (no birds or marine life)
20. Wildlife carving - painted finish (no birds or marine life)
21. Aquatic life carving - includes reptiles and amphibians - natural and painted finish
22. Native American/Western Lore (no caricatures)
23. Carousel carving - any item connected to a carousel (figures, shield, rounding boards, etc.)
24. Any holiday carving (6" or under in height – including base)
25. Any holiday carving (over 6" in height - including base)
26. Relief carving - lettering, crest, logo, etc.
27. Relief carving human or animal figure
28. Relief carving landscape scene, flowers, etc.

### OPEN WOODCARVING - 1 cont.

29. Religious carving
30. Stylized or abstract carving
31. Miniatures - entire carving including base must fit in a 3" cube, as displayed. Multiple piece carvings will be measured as a whole. (excludes jewelry)
32. Jewelry
33. Functional household item
34. Carved shoe or boot
35. Chip carved item
36. Walking stick or cane
37. Miscellaneous carving, any **NOT** listed above

### ROUGH-OUTS/CLASS PROJECTS - 2

*Open to anyone who wishes to enter in this section; Rough-outs are not eligible for merit awards or Best of Show.*

1. Human Realistic
2. Caricature
3. Relief, any subject
4. Animals and birds, Realistic or Caricature
5. Miscellaneous, not listed above

### WOODBURNING - 3

*Open to anyone who wishes to enter in this section; Woodburning: any flat picture (not wood carved) drawn with a burning tool. Burning **MUST** be prominent; Please refer to the rules for exhibitors for the Woodcarving exhibition as they apply to this section as well; Every wood burning must be submitted as free standing or ready to hang with strong hooks, loops or wire. No sawtooth hangers allowed*

1. Wildlife - any animal (e.g. birds, fish, horses, dogs, cats, etc.) no color
2. Scenery - any pictorial scene, (e.g. mountains, buildings, etc.) no color
3. Human figures - realistic or caricature, no coloring
4. Miscellaneous - no color
5. Wildlife - any animal (e.g. birds, fish, horses, dogs, cats, etc.) including color
6. Scenery - any pictorial scene (e.g. mountains, buildings, etc.) including color
7. Human figures - realistic or caricature, including color
8. Miscellaneous, including color



# CLASSES

## INTERMEDIATE WOODCARVING - 4

**Intermediate:** Open to any exhibitor that has not won a blue ribbon in the Open Woodcarving Section. You may compete in Intermediate forever if you choose to, but if you move to the Open Section and win a Blue Ribbon, you cannot go back to Intermediate or Novice. If you win Best of Show Intermediate, you **MUST** move to the open section.

1. Human figure or bust includes caricature
2. Bird carving includes decorative duck or swan carving
3. Domestic or wild animals
4. Aquatic life carving
5. Relief
6. Stylized
7. Chip carving
8. Woodburning, with or without color
9. Miscellaneous – not covered above

## NOVICE WOODCARVING - 5

**Novice:** Open to carvers of all ages. Once a carver in the Novice Section has won two or more blue ribbons they must enter in the Intermediate Section.

1. Human figure or bust, includes caricature
2. Bird Carving
3. Domestic or Wild Animals
4. Aquatic Life
5. Relief
6. Miscellaneous, including woodburning and anything not listed above

## WOOD TURNING - 6

Open to turners of all ages. Majority of item must be created using a lathe. Space may be limited for display.

1. Functional Piece
2. Decorative Piece

## INTARSIA - 7

Open to carvers of all ages. No furniture pieces. Space may be limited for display.

1. Any piece 12" x 12" and under
2. Any piece larger than 12" x 12" with a maximum size of 30" x 30"

## AWARDS

### AWARDS FOR OPEN WOODCARVING BEST OF SHOW

IN LOVING MEMORY OF EDDIE BLOWERS  
\$100.00 cash and plaque from the Erie County Agricultural Society

### SECOND BEST OF SHOW

\$75.00 cash and plaque from the Erie County Agricultural Society

### AGRICULTURAL PRIZE

Best Farm Animal or Farm Scene - \$100.00 cash & plaque

### MERIT AWARDS

\$25.00 cash and plaques. Merit awards will be selected from all 1st place winners in Open Woodcarving

### AWARDS FOR ROUGH-OUTS BEST OF ROUGH-OUTS

### AWARDS FOR WOODBURNING BEST OF WOODBURNING

AWARDS FOR INTERMEDIATE WOODCARVING  
INTERMEDIATE DIVISION PLAQUE for the Best of Section, Second Best of Section

AWARDS FOR NOVICE WOODCARVING  
NOVICE DIVISION PLAQUE for the Best of Section, Second Best of Section