



# Geppetto Woodcarvers

PARKERSBURG WV

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March 2026

News Letter

[Geppettowoodcarvers.org](http://Geppettowoodcarvers.org)

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## Message From the President

One of the main things the club tries to provide is a project on the second Saturday of the month based on what club members have requested. Last year we were lucky to have a class on boot carving by Larry Mills. All members that participated enjoyed this project. With great sadness one of our life members (Larry Mills) passed away on Thursday February 26, 2026, our prayers go out to Larry's family. See full obituary below.

The past two months the club had two great projects; the first was Large Size Carving by Guy Tessum and the second; small red bird by Dale Lott. In order to continuing having the projects we need input from all the club members to see what type project you would like to see and maybe even lead. Therefore, think about what you would like to see or lead and contact one of the officers to get the project scheduled until we can get someone to assume the Project Coordinator position. If you would like be the Project Coordinator, please contact one of the club officers.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the March 14, 2026 business meeting.

Roy Holliday President

## From the Secretary – Treasurer

The club uses email for general communication. This reduces the cost of printing the newsletter and the cost of postage sending it to our members. I recently sent a test email to the club's distribution list and requested a reply that you received. I had a good response. Thank you. I will follow up with members and newsletter recipients that did not reply. Occasionally emails I send will not be received by the recipients. When this happens, I will receive a "bounce" notice. There are various reasons outside of the club's control for this. Most email clients have a way of identifying email addresses you receive as trusted. If you can do that with your email system for the club's email that will help. Club email will be sent from my [pwentzel@patrickwentzel.com](mailto:pwentzel@patrickwentzel.com) email address. Please see me if you are having trouble receiving the newsletter for any reason.

We still have a few delinquent members who have not paid their membership dues. If you have questions or concerns about your membership or membership dues for any reason, please contact me.

Pat

## Larry Mills Obituary



Larry Waide Mills, 88, of Parkersburg, passed away on Thursday, February 26, 2026, at The Willows Center.

He was born in Jackson County on August 30, 1937, to the late William Arthur and Opal DeLong Mills.

Larry was a retired member of the Sheet Metal Workers Local Union 33 in Parkersburg. He was also a member of the Geppetto Woodcarvers Club of Parkersburg where he hand-carved numerous birds, fish, flowers, and sets of cowboy boots that were mailed to several states and Denmark. His true passion was carving engraving flintlock black powder rifles with various German silver inlays and carving powder horns. Larry spent many hours in the basement tinkering around making guns and gadgets and playing with his train sets.

He is survived by his loving wife of 66 years, Betty Westfall Mills; son, Lorne Mills (Lori); daughter, Belinda Haynes (Troy); grandchildren, Bradley Bryan (Kay), Mark Bryan (Alexis), Ethan Mills, Levi Mills (Elizabeth); great-grandchildren, Sophia Mills, Brooklynn and Savannah Bryan, Elliot Himes, Elena and Callie Bryan, and a great-grandson on the way; sister, Zana Gemmer; sister-in-law, Barbara Fields (Charles); and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Larry was preceded in death by brother and sister-in-law, Lyle Alvin Mills and Dorothy Mills; sisters-in-law, Kay Hague (Bob) and Pauline Williams (Vic); and brother-in-law, Charles Gemmer.

Funeral services will be conducted 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at Vaughan Kimes Funeral Home with Pastor Don Yeager officiating. Military honors will be offered by American Legion Post 15. Interment will follow at Sunset Memorial Gardens. His family will receive friends from 11:00 a.m. until service time at the funeral home.

Vaughan Kimes provides an online guestbook for individuals wishing to extend condolences or share memories with the Mills family. This guestbook can be accessed on Carroll's webpage at [vaughankime.com](http://vaughankime.com).

## Carver Spotlight



**Richard Ward**

This month we are introducing a relatively new carver, Richard Ward. Richard has been working with wood most of his life. Even as a young man he worked for a huge vegetable farm where he pounded in thousands of wooden tomato stakes. This farm used to grow fields of tomato plants as far as you could see. In this job, Richard learned the joy of picking splinters out of his arms. But that did not deter him in his working with wood. He was a carpenter for many years, both as a job and at home where he built the kitchen cabinets in his house and other projects. But the job he had the longest was a 38-year career at Syensquo (formerly Solvay) where he was an operator, shift manager and production specialist. He retired from there in March 2025.

Sometime in the early 2000's Richard enrolled to take a class at Woodcraft and made a very cool face carved into a walnut log. (Picture below) So he got the carving "bug" over 25 years ago.

Then one day a couple of years ago he and his wife Roberta stopped at Woodcraft in Parkersburg to "window shop". He had seen a sign or heard about the woodcarver's group that met there and before they left, he wanted to get more information. Roberta went to the car and said she would wait there. The Woodcraft employee told him Geppetto Woodcarvers were meeting there at that time and showed him the way to the classroom where we meet. I'm guessing it was Pat who greeted him because according to Richard, he spent about 45 minutes chatting about woodcarving. I'm sure Roberta must have thought he had been abducted by aliens. No, Roberta, just by chatty woodcarvers. But that conversation re-sparked his interest in woodcarving again.

So, Richard started carving on Wednesdays and really enjoys it. He likes making Santa Clauses and is currently working on a beautiful cross for Easter. He enjoys the projects that are

introduced and created at the monthly club meeting and would like to have an all-day or all weekend class working on a project and getting additional carver training and helpful hints. Richard and Roberta have 2 adult children, a son and daughter, who live in Columbus. In their spare time they like taking sightseeing trips on their Harley Trike with Richard at the wheel and Roberta taking pictures with a fast action camera behind.

Richard is a great addition to the club. His ready smile, quiet demeanor and helpful attitude make him a great team member. Below are photos of Richard and his carving projects.

Marcia Holschuh



## Club Shirts

I will place an order for club shirts in the next couple of weeks. A reminder for new members or members that may not have ordered their first shirt. One of the club's benefits is paying \$10.00 toward your first club shirt. Shirts range from \$25 - \$35 depending on the type of shirt. I will take orders from club members wanting to purchase additional shirts. See Pat Wentzel for more information or to order a shirt. Club members look sharp at club events all decked out in Geppetto Woodcarvers Blue.

We have one (1) XL and one (1) 2XL polo shirt available for sale. The price is \$20.00 each. Contact Pat Wentzel if you are interested in purchasing these shirts.

## Club Luncheon

Geppetto Woodcarvers held their monthly potluck at Woodcraft in Parkersburg WV on February 18th, 2026 of course with Chef Pete Yakob at the helm. It was a perfect month to have a soup luncheon. Three soups were served. They were Bean Soup (or soup beans depending on where you grew up), broccoli cheese and sausage potato soup with kale. Of course, all the extras were served including Pete's radicchio salad with homemade croutons. And as always, lots of delicious desserts. Check out the photos and join us for the next potluck on March 18 when the theme will be Pasta Galore. Lots of pasta dishes. Bring your appetite and join us!

Marcia Holschuh



## Quilt project

The 2025 quilt is scheduled to be on display at the following locations through October.

WesBanco Bank – March 2<sup>nd</sup> through March 31st  
415 Market Street, Parkersburg

Carving on the Porch Woodcraft – May 2<sup>nd</sup>

Senior Citizen's Building, St. Mary's, WV – July 1<sup>st</sup> through July 31<sup>st</sup>

Please contact Patrick Wentzel if you know of a location where we can securely display the quilt. We want to display the quilt in Mid-Ohio Valley as much as possible to show the craftsmanship of club members and to advertise Geppetto Woodcarvers.

Quilt blocks will be available for purchase at the March meeting. Blocks are \$2.00 each.

### Long Time Carver



Long time carver, Fred Myers is currently at Harmar Place Rehabilitation in Marietta, OH. He was a long time Geppetto Woodcarver member of nearly 20 years. He really misses carving, so the club worked with the social worker there to bring some carving to him. This year's quilt made for the Blennerhassett Quilt Show was set up in the lobby from Feb 15-28, 2026. Fred was able to share his knowledge of carving and show off the quilt to Harmar Place employees, other patients, and visitors to the nursing facility. It was fun to interact with Fred and he was happy to have carving visitors.

If anyone would like to visit Fred or send him a card he is at:

**Harmar Place  
401 Harmar Street  
Room 305  
Marietta, Ohio 45750**

## Angel Tree Project

It is time to start thinking about Christmas ornaments, comfort items (birds, hearts, crosses, and ?), and other small projects needed for the Angel Tree sales this coming Fall. I will need additional ornaments for this year. There are many books and magazines in the library that have good patterns. A quick internet search will discover hundreds of wood carved ornaments for ideas. These designs can be modified. Patterns are easily made and transferred to wood. Learning to make your own patterns is worthy skill a woodcarver should develop.

I suggest the club sponsor five children for 2026. We budgeted \$175.00 per child for the past several years. I believe we can go with this amount again for 2026. A tip of my Santa hat to the Geppetto Woodcarvers elves that helped with ornaments and rounding up gifts for the 2026 project. I hope we can count on you again.

Patrick Wentzel – Chair  
Geppetto Woodcarvers Angel Tree Project

## March Project - Carving Support Ribbon

<b>PROJECT TITLE:</b>	Support Ribbon
<b>PROJECT LEAD:</b>	Larry Hershman
<b>BRIEF DISCRIPTION OF PROJECT:</b>	Carving a support ribbon for someone who has or who had some form of cancer.
<b>MATERIALS NEADED:</b>	Wood of your choice [3/4" X 1 1/2" X 3 3/4"], hand drill or drill press, 5/8" drill bit, sandpaper thru 220.grit paint of your choice and your favorite carving knife. Pattern and glue.
<b>MATERIALS SUPPLIED BY CLUB:</b>	None
<b>MATERIALS SUPPLIED BY PARTICIPANTS:</b>	Carving knife and sandpaper of your choice for in-class project.
<b>NOTE:</b>	All materials for this presentation will be supplied by the project lead. Except as mentioned above.

## Facebook

Steve Miracle has been posting pictures of the club activities on Facebook if you would like to see these pictures go to the club's group on Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/geppettoewoodcarvers>

## Club 50/50 Raffle

Tickets are being sold for the 2026, 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 50/50 raffle. See Steve Miracle, raffle chairman, if you are interested in purchasing 50/50 raffle tickets. Tickets are also available for purchase by non-club members. The 1<sup>st</sup> quarter drawing will be at the **April 11, 2026** meeting.

## Club Auction

Our next quarterly auction will be held at the **March 14, 2026**, meeting. All proceeds from your donated items will go toward the operation of the club. These quarterly auctions are an opportunity for you to clean out your extra carving items or whatever. These are always fun events.

### Board of Directors

Roy Holliday – President	(740 978-0108)	<a href="mailto:rtho2014@gmail.com">rtho2014@gmail.com</a>
Dale Lott – Vice President	(304 375 2465)	<a href="mailto:dalelott58@icloud.com">dalelott58@icloud.com</a>
Pat Wentzel – Secretary–Treasurer	(304 428 3544)	<a href="mailto:pwentzel@patrickwentzel.com">pwentzel@patrickwentzel.com</a>
Jeff Lang – Trustee	(304 532-8611)	<a href="mailto:jmlang1958@gmail.com">jmlang1958@gmail.com</a>
Pete Yakob – Past President	(304 481-0398)	<a href="mailto:pjyakob@gmail.com">pjyakob@gmail.com</a>
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Program Chair –		
Librarian – Pat Wentzel	(304 428 3544)	<a href="mailto:pwentzel@patrickwentzel.com">pwentzel@patrickwentzel.com</a>

## February Meeting Attendees:

Roy Holliday, Pat Wentzel, Dale Lott, Ron Leisure, Richard Ward, Sharon Dye, Steve Miracle, Pete Yakob, Fred Williams, Guy Tessum, Marcia Holschuh, George Prout, Valerie Prout, Vivian Prout, Betty Boot.

Marcia Holschuh won the door prize.

## Birthdays

Happy Birthday and Belated Birthdays to our members

Fred Willams - March  
Jerry Yancey - March

Steve Miracle - February  
Fred Myers - February  
Sandi Scott - February

If we have missed anyone, please contact the secretary.

## New Members

We have two new members that have joined the Geppetto Woodcarvers family. Dave and Jake have been attending Wednesdays and our business meetings. Reach out to them and welcome them.

Dave Grant – Cambridge, OH  
Jake Ziggafos – Marietta, OH

## Geppetto Club Projects Schedule

<b>Monthly Meeting Date</b>	<b>Monthly Project</b>	<b>Project Leader</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>March 14, 2026</b>	Carving Awareness Ribbon	Larry Hershman	
<b>April 11, 2026</b>	How to finish Carvings	Sharon Dye	
<b>May 9, 2026</b>	Nothing Scheduled	None	
<b>June 13, 2026</b>	Green Wood Carving	Guy Tessum	
<b>July 11, 2026</b>	Name Tags	Marcia Holschuh	
<b>August 8, 2026</b>	Wood Burning 101	Roy Holliday	
<b>September 12, 2026</b>	Christmas Ornaments	Pete Yakob	
<b>October 10, 2026</b>	Chip Carving	Fred Esker Fred Williams	
<b>November TBD, 2026</b>	No Project	All	Club meets at Blennerhassett Museum for the quilt show
<b>December 12, 2026</b>	Nothing Scheduled	TBD	
<b>January 9, 2027</b>	Nothing Scheduled	TBD	
<b>February 13, 2027</b>	Nothing Scheduled	TBD	

### **On going Projects**

Eagle head Sticks  
Angel Tree Christmas Ornaments  
Quilt Blocks

### **Future Projects that need a project leader and Scheduled**

Toy Soldier  
Snowman  
Relief Carving

## Geppetto Club Activities

Date	Activity	Comments
<b>March 14, 2026</b>	Club Auction	Woodcraft
<b>April 11, 2026</b>	Club Raffle	Woodcraft
<b>May 2, 2026</b>	Carving On Porch	Woodcraft
<b>June 13, 2026</b>	Club Auction	Woodcraft
<b>July 11, 2026</b>	Club Raffle	Woodcraft
<b>July 18, 2026</b>	Club Picnic	Tomlison Park, Williamstown WV
<b>August 2026</b>	Nothing Scheduled	
<b>September 12, 2026</b>	Club Auction	Woodcraft
<b>September 26, 2026</b>	Barlow Fair	Intersection 339 and 550 Barlow OH
<b>October 10, 2026</b>	Club Raffle	Woodcraft
<b>TBD</b>	Parkersburg Art Center ArtOberFest	
<b>October 17, 2026</b>	Carving in New Matamoras	
<b>November 7, 2026</b>	Warren Craft Show	Warren High School, Barlow, OH
<b>November TBD, 2026</b>	Quilt Show/Quilt on Display/Carving Demo	Blennerhassett Museum
<b>December TBD, 2026</b>	Christmas Party	King's Buffet & Grill 1302 Garfield Ave. Parkersburg, WV
<b>December 12, 2026</b>	Club Auction	Woodcraft
<b>January 9, 2027</b>	Election of Officers	
<b>January 9, 2026</b>	Club Raffle	Woodcraft
<b>February 2027</b>	Nothing Scheduled	

In order to ensure all members knows the date and place for events, the following schedule has been developed. If you have any questions, please contact one of Officers. We hope all members can attend these events.

<b>March 2026</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>
2/4/2026	10:00 AM to 4:00 PM	Carving at Woodcraft	4420 Emerson Avenue Parkersburg, WV
2/10/2026	6:00 PM to 8:00 PM	Carving at Blennerhassett Museum	137 Juliana St Parkersburg, WV 26104
2/11/2026	10:00 AM to 4:00 PM	Carving at Woodcraft	4420 Emerson Avenue Parkersburg, WV
2/14/2026	10:00 AM to 1:00 PM	Business Meeting at Woodcraft	4420 Emerson Avenue Parkersburg, WV
2/18/2026	10:00 AM to 4:00 PM	Carving at Woodcraft	4420 Emerson Avenue Parkersburg, WV
2/18/2026	12:00 PM to 1:00 PM	Woodcraft 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday Luncheon	4420 Emerson Avenue Parkersburg, WV
2/24/2026	6:00 PM to 8:00 PM	Carving at Blennerhassett Museum	137 Juliana St Parkersburg, WV 26104
2/25/2026	10:00 AM to 4:00 PM	Carving at Woodcraft	4420 Emerson Avenue Parkersburg, WV

## April 2026

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>
4/1/2026	10:00 AM to 4:00 PM	Carving at Woodcraft	4420 Emerson Avenue Parkersburg, WV
4/8/2026	10:00 AM to 4:00 PM	Carving at Woodcraft	4420 Emerson Avenue Parkersburg, WV
4/11/2026	10:00 AM to 1:00 PM	Business Meeting at Woodcraft	4420 Emerson Avenue Parkersburg, WV
4/14/2026	6:00 PM to 8:00 PM	Carving at Blennerhassett Museum	137 Juliana St Parkersburg, WV 26104
2/11/2026	10:00 AM to 4:00 PM	Carving at Woodcraft	4420 Emerson Avenue Parkersburg, WV
4/11/2026	10:00 AM to 1:00 PM	Business Meeting at Woodcraft	4420 Emerson Avenue Parkersburg, WV
4/15/2026	10:00 AM to 4:00 PM	Carving at Woodcraft	4420 Emerson Avenue Parkersburg, WV
4/22/2026	10:00 AM to 4:00 PM	Carving at Woodcraft	4420 Emerson Avenue Parkersburg, WV
4/22/2026	12:00 PM to 1:00 PM	Woodcraft 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday Luncheon	4420 Emerson Avenue Parkersburg, WV
4/28/2026	6:00 PM to 8:00 PM	Carving at Blennerhassett Museum	137 Juliana St Parkersburg, WV 26104
4/29/2026	10:00 AM to 4:00 PM	Carving at Woodcraft	4420 Emerson Avenue Parkersburg, WV