

2025 Competition Rules - Genesee Valley Woodcarvers

Five Divisions: Bird, General, Working Decoys, Youth, and Special.

Bird Division:

The Bird Division is divided into Classes: **Novice, Intermediate, and Advanced.**

Each Class is sub-divided into Categories, A through L:

A. Waterfowl: Brants, Coots, Ducks, Geese, Grebes, Loons, and Swans.

B. Sea, Shore, and Wading: Anhinga, Auks, Boobies & Gannets, Cormorants, Frigate birds, Gulls, Jacanas, Jaegers, Skua, Long-legged Waders (Heron, Egrets, Bitterns), Pelicans, Rails, Shearwaters, Shorebirds, Skimmers, Storm-Petrels and Terns.

C. Prey & Upland Game: Raptors, Owls, Pheasants, Quail, Partridge, and Woodcock.

D. Songbird: Any bird in the Order Oscine Passerines.

E. All Other: Anis, Budgerigars, Cuckoos, Doves, Hummingbirds, Kingfishers, Nightjars, Roadrunners, Pigeons, Swifts, Trogons, Woodpeckers, and any bird not in Categories A through D above.

F. Decorative Smoothie: Any bird done in a smooth manner and must be a literal representation with finely detailed painting. Painting detail will be the major consideration in judging. Delineation of feather groupings, bill detail, raised primaries and combing are permitted. Burning is not permitted. Stick birds permitted.

G. Primitive or Antique Smoothie: Any primitive or antique style bird with only basic details painted on the bird. Painting will be a minor consideration in judging. Modeling paste, combed or uncombed, may be used. Delineation of feather groupings, bill detail, raised primaries and combing are permitted. Burning is not permitted. **Stick birds and stick bird decoys permitted.**

H. Interpretive Sculpture: Any bird or portion thereof, except single feather carvings, done in an interpretive or non-literal style and may be finished in any manner. Major judging considerations are artistry, interpretation and originality. Detailed decorative techniques are discouraged.

K. Miniature Bird: Entries must be ½ life size or smaller and not exceed 8" overall length from base of bill to end of body, beak and tail excluded. The wingspan and/or height of the bird and habitat may exceed 8".

L. Miscellaneous Bird: Any Bird carving not in Categories A through K. Includes non-wood and single feather carvings

Note: Categories A through E must be carved in a realistic manner and referenced to the "Official Species Designations" per the Ward World Championships. Burning or texturing plus detailed painting are encouraged. **All entries in categories A through F must be life-sized.**

General Division:

The General Division is divided into Classes: **Novice, Intermediate, and Advanced.**

Each Class is sub-divided into Categories, M through W.

Painted or natural finish is allowed in each category.

M. Caricatures: Any carving done in a carefully exaggerated, humorous or intentionally mis-proportioned manner, including human, animal, bird and marine subjects. Judged in four separate categories:

MA – animals: Single animal subject.

MB – busts: Single human subject showing only the head and shoulders.

MC –full figures: Single human subject.

MD – multiples: Any combination animals and/or humans.

N. Human Figures and Busts: Realistic correctly proportioned human adults or children.

O. Animals: Realistic correctly proportioned carvings of land dwelling animals.

P. Marine Life: Realistic correctly proportioned carvings of aquatic life such as fish, whales, and dolphins.

Q. Holiday/Mythical: Any holiday-themed carving, in realistic, caricature, old world, primitive or other style.

R. Bark: Any carving made exclusively from tree bark.

S. Relief: Engravings carved on the front of a flat wooden surface. The back should be left un-carved.

U. Miniature General: The entire carving including the base must fit within a 3" cube.

V. Miscellaneous General: Any General carving not in Categories M through W, including carousel figures, chip carvings, and non-wood carvings.

VC. Canes and Walking Sticks: Canes and Walking Sticks.

W. Stylized Carvings: Any carving done in an interpretive or non-literal style and finished in any manner. Major judging considerations are artistry, interpretation and originality. Detailed decorative techniques are discouraged.

WD. Working Decoy Division: Single Class and single Category.

This is a gunning decoy contest where carvings have the sole purpose of attracting birds. Profile and appearance are of primary consideration. Entries must be sturdy enough to withstand rough treatment during hunting.

1. Decoys will be tested in water. They must be self-righting, (diving ducks from their backs, puddle ducks from their sides), properly balanced, and float correctly as per the species. Anchor attachment points are required on floating decoys. Keels and weights are optional.

2. Painting must represent fall plumage with no fancy brushwork or shading. Combed texturing is permitted. Painting must be done in a manner that could be easily executed by the hunter.

3. Entries must be constructed of wood or cork. No raised wings, carved-in wing or tail feathers, undercutting, delicate bills, detailed carving or burning are allowed.

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YD. Youth Division: Single Class and single Category.

Carvers must be 18 years or younger. They are not required to be members of GVW.

SP. Special Division: Bottle stoppers – these are carvings of any subject mounted on a bottle stopper.

Judging and Awards

1. The judging will be done by groups of three Judges.
 2. First, second, and third place and one or more honorable mentions may be awarded in each Class and Category.
 3. Best of Class winners will be chosen from the first place winners of Novice, Intermediate, and Advanced classes of the Bird Division **and** General Division.
 4. Best of Show winners will be chosen from the Best of Class winners in the Bird Division **and** General Division.
 5. First, second, and third place and one or more honorable mentions may be awarded in the Working Decoy, Youth, and Special Divisions.
 6. Prize Money and Special awards may be designated for various Divisions, Classes and Categories.
 7. Awards or disqualification of entries will be the decision of the judges. With approval of the Show Committee, the judges may subdivide any category and move any entry to a more appropriate Division, Class or Category.
- Note:** The Show Committee may introduce new Divisions or Classes to encourage interest in a carving type or style.
8. **Judging Criteria: Craftsmanship** (technical skill and execution), **Accuracy, Artistry** (design and composition), **Creativity, Presentation, and Essence.**
 9. **People's Choice: One AWARD** chosen by popular vote of all club members and show attendees. Each is allowed one vote.

General Rules

1. Genesee Valley Woodcarvers members who have paid their dues for the current fiscal year (September 1 to August 31) are eligible to enter or display carvings. Entry fees are set by the Genesee Valley Woodcarvers Executive committee. For the 2025 Show and Competition there is **no entry fee** for GVW members and **no limit** on number of entries.
2. Non-members may become eligible to enter carvings by joining the club. Competitor show-day memberships will expire August 31, 2025.
3. A carver must enter all carvings in the same Class (Novice, Intermediate, or Advanced).
4. Carvings done by a "team" are permitted if all contributors are GVW members.
5. Carvings must be entered by the carver or their representative during the registration time unless prior arrangements are made with the Show Chairperson. No mail-in entries will be accepted.
6. Carvings must be completed within two years of the current GVW competition. Carvings must be completed before entry. Carvings entered in a previous GVW Show may not be entered in competition again. **NOTE: Other shows may not allow carvings to be entered if completed more than 1 year before a show.**
7. After winning a Best in Class the carver is *encouraged* to move up to the next higher class. After winning a Best of Show in a GVW competition, the carver *must* move up to the next higher class. After entering a higher class, a carver *may not* move down to a lower class.
8. The name of the artist must not be visible on the entry until judging is completed. Supplemental materials, other than reference data, may not be exhibited with entries.
9. Entries must be made entirely of wood excluding eyes, delicate elements, paint, structural and habitat. Entries not made of wood must be entered in the appropriate Miscellaneous Category.
10. In the Bird Division, eyes, legs, and feet may be non-wood. Cast legs and feet are allowed.
11. Machine duplicated rough-outs are allowed.
12. Carvings completed under the supervision of an instructor or as part of a carving or painting class may be entered in the appropriate Bird or General Divisions (Novice, Intermediate, or Advanced). **NOTE: Other shows may not allow carvings of this type to be entered in Bird or General Divisions.**
13. The Show Committee consists of the Chairperson, President, and Vice President. Questions related to the Division, Class, or Category assigned at registration, interpretation of the rules, or any other matters will be resolved by the Show Committee. Simple problems may be solved by a single committee member. Complex problems will be resolved by a majority decision of the entire committee. These decisions are final.
14. **NO CARVING MAY BE REMOVED FROM THE SHOW PRIOR TO CLOSING.**