



September 2022 Newsletter

By: Ron O'Kray - Treasurer

President Greg Wirtz called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM.

Minutes from August 2022 Meeting: Motion by Jerry Meid and seconded by Tom Kissner to accept as sent. All in attendance approved.

Sunshine Report: Marion O'Kray reported that she sent Get-Well cards to Diane Swiggum & Klaus Zunker. We hope that they both are doing better.

Membership: We have (85) memberships paid for in 2022. Dorothy Jochims of Friendship, WI rejoined the club. Welcome back Dorothy.

Fred & Elaine Stenman of Stoughton, WI joined the club. Almost 40 years ago, Fred & Elaine started to develop their own unique style of relief woodcarving. The idea grew out of one of the many art and craft skills that Elaine had become proficient at while a co-owner of a small craft store.

Fred took a class on simple country relief carving. Fred enjoyed the class, but Elaine really fell in love with relief carving. Elaine spent lots of time developing her carving skills. Initially most of the designs were simple and derived from pattern books etc. But at an early stage original Stenman designs were worked into the carvings.

A division of labor was also set early on. Elaine continued to grow as a carver and Fred drew more and more of the designs.

Today, each individual carving starts with one or more main points of interest that are relieved. These consist of wildlife such as loons, geese, bear, moose, etc. or buildings like barns, cabins or possibly an old water mill. The background details are drawn on each carving taking into consideration the knots, unusual wood grain or board shape. All of the details are then wood burned. Each piece is then painted with very thin acrylic paint and a halo of burnt umber stain is applied. There are four to six coats of hand rubbed varnish on each piece.

Welcome to the club Fred & Elaine.

Ashten Brown of Wisconsin Rapids, WI rejoined the club. Ashten is the granddaughter of club president Greg Wirtz. She is starting a new business "**Badger State Blades**" and will be making custom woodcarving tools. Denny Neubauer has been her mentor. Welcome back Ashten and good luck on your new business. More information on her tools as it becomes available. *I own one of her carving knives and found the blade to be of excellent quality.*

Treasurer's Report:

- **Income** Dues 2022 / 2023, Debbe Edwards seminar September 2022, Floyd Rhadigan Seminar April 2023, and John Engler Seminar August 2023.
- **Expenses** were for: Printing of August newsletter, stamps, hasp for Storage Cabinet, rent of Lincoln Center August 2022, refund for Debbe Edwards seminar, And shipping of roughouts..
- A motion was made by Jerry Meid and seconded by Dick Fleisner to approve the treasurer's report. All in attendance agreed.

Old Business:

- **Christmas Party** - Ken Brzezinski said he will have all information at next month's meeting.

Upcoming Seminars:

- **Floyd Rhadigan Seminar** The seminar will be held at the Lincoln Center in Stevens Point, WI on Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday April 5, 6, & 7, 2023. Cost is \$150.00 plus roughout(s) for Wisconsin River Woodcarvers members and \$160.00 plus roughouts(s) for Non-Members. Cost of roughouts is between \$15.00 and \$40.00. Pay Floyd or roughouts at start of class. Forms are available from Ron O'Kray or on the website: www.wisconsinriverwoodcarvers.org. We have (3) carvers already paid.
- **John Engler** of Battlefield, MO will be conducting a (3) day woodcarving class and a (1) day painting class. On August 22, 23, 24, & 25, 2023. John has been carving full time since 1983 when he graduated from Southwest Missouri State University with a BFA degree. He is very active in teaching relief carving and watercolor painting throughout the U.S., as well as operating the John Lee Engler and Associate design studio. He specializes in medium relief woodcarving finishing them off with watercolors. Blanks would cost between \$40.00 and \$45.00. Pay John for blanks at start of class. Check out his website www.johnenglerwoodcarving.com. John needs minimum of (9) students and maximum of (13) students for carving and (10) students' maximum for painting. Forms are attached or available from Ron O'Kray or on the website: www.wisconsinriverwoodcarvers.org. We have (6) carvers already paid

Upcoming Shows in 2022:

- **"Carvin The Rockies CCA"** will be held September 24 & 25, 2022 in Colorado Springs, CO. More information @ www.cca-carvers.org.
- **Gathering of Woodcarvers** will be held at the fairgrounds in Sandwich, IL on September 30 thru October 2, 2022. Vic Hood, Roger Stegall, Linda Langenburg Curtiss, Dylan Goodson, Susan Hendrix, and Steve Rogers will be the instructors. More information on the club website or www.Gatheringofwoodcarvers.com.

- The **Northeast Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild** will be having their 39th Annual “Artistry in Wood” show at the Denmark High School, 450 North Hall Street, Denmark, WI on Saturday & Sunday October 8 & 9, 2022. Saturday hours are 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM and Sunday’s hours are 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM. Admission is \$5.00 for those over the age of 12. More information on website: www.wisconsinriverwoodcarvers.org. Tables are still available for the show.
- The **Waupaca Area Woodcarvers** will be having their first woodcarving show on November 6, 2022 @ 407 School Street, Waupaca, WI. More information available from Harold Mohr (715-281-4923) or Kathy Brehm (920-740-1986) & website www.wisconsinriverwoodcarvers.org. The Wisconsin River Woodcarvers will have (2) club tables at this show. Tables are still available for the show.
- The **Piedmont Wood Carvers Club** invites you to “The best and upcoming woodcarving show in the Southeast” in conjunction with an elite artist fair. The 33rd Annual Woodcarving Competition and Show will be held on November 11 – 13, 2022 at the Simpsonville Activity & Senior Center in Simpsonville, SC. Free Admission and free parking. More information @ www.piedmontwoodcarvers.com. Carol Leavy and Greg Wirtz will be the judges at the show.

Upcoming Shows in 2023:

- **Karve In 7** will be held on April 22, 2023 at Westby Elementary, 122 Nelson Street, Westby , WI. This is a new location. Free admission. Contact Steve Michaels @ stevemicheals@westby-norse.org or John Sutton @ 608-634-4396 or lbarnfarms@gmail.com.
- **AWC Congress** will be held in Maquoketa, IA from June 10 to 17, 2023. Competition, Seminars, and Show. More information from Ron O’Kray, the website www.woodcarverscongress.org, or Facebook: Affiliated Wood Carvers
- The 47th Annual **Mid-Wisconsin Chippers Woodcarving Show, Competition, & Sale** “The Oldest Annual Woodcarving Show in the State of Wisconsin” will be held Sunday May 7, 2023 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the Oshkosh Convention Center, 2 main Street, Oshkosh, WI. Admission is \$5.00, Age 12 and under free.
- The **Rock River Woodcarvers** will be holding their show on September 9, 2023.
- The first **Carve in On the Chippewa** was a success. They are planning on next year’s show for September 16, 2023.

New Business:

- Have you ever wondered what it would be like make your own knife? Now you can! Experience a mini version of “Forged in Fire”. We will make knives out of allen wrenches, drill bits, garage door springs, car coil springs, etc. Contact Denny at **Forest City Forging** neubauer.dennis@yahoo.com to make arrangements. This is a one-day experience for the low cost of \$55, plus a propane and materials fee of \$10. Class size from 1 to 6 persons at the same low price per person.
- The **Debbe Edwards seminar** was scheduled to be held on Monday Tuesday, & Wednesday September 12, 13, & 14, 2022. She called Ron on Saturday September 10th and she said that a close family member had passed away and she would have to cancel or postpone the seminar. We do not have any additional information at this time.

Show and Tell:

- Mahala Earnhart showed a small Santa ornament that she had carved.
 - Richard Zakoski showed a turtle that he carved.
 - Ashten Brown showed examples of her carving knives.
 - Randy Hartjes showed an Old-Word Santa that he carved.
 - Tom Kissner showed an Old-World Santa that he carved.
 - Becky Engstrand showed a Feather that she carved and woodburned.
 - Greg Wirtz showed an Old-World Santa and small Santa ornament that he carved.
- There being no other business President Greg Wirtz asked for a motion to adjourn. Ken Brzezinski made the motion seconded by Jerry Meid. All approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.

CLUB OFFICIERS:

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|--------------------------|---------------|--------------|--|
| • President | Greg Wirtz | 715-423-0471 | gswirtz@outlook.com |
| • Vice President | Diane Swiggum | 715-459-3221 | mrschips48@gmail.com |
| • Secretary | | | |
| • Treasurer | Ron O’Kray | 715-341-2214 | ron.marion@charter.net |
| • Webmaster | Kyle Mallek | 715-323-6390 | kyle.mallek@gmail.com |
| • Seminar Chairman | Chet James | 715-347-0234 | chtbon@solarus.net |
| • Historian | Stan Carlson | 715-341-3695 | scarlson@uwsp.edu |
| • Sunshine Person | Marion O’Kray | 715-341-2214 | ron.marion@charter.net |
| • Librarian | Bill Jacobs | 715-421-4962 | |
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