



## November 2022 Newsletter

By: Ron O’Kray – Secretary / Treasurer

In the absence of the club president, **Vice President Diane Swiggum** called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

**Minutes from October 2022 Meeting:** Motion by Marion O’Kray and seconded by Echo Keller to accept as sent. All in attendance approved.

**Sunshine Report:** Marion O’Kray reported that she sent a “Thinking of You” card to Jim Balzer.

**Membership:** We have (88) memberships paid for in 2022. John & Christy Hay of Shawano, WI and Mike & Cheryl Hay of West Bend, WI joined the club. Lee & Susan Halverson of Iola, WI rejoined the club. Welcome to all new and returning members. (7) members have paid dues for 2023. 2023 Dues are due January 1, 2023.

### Treasurer’s Report:

- **Income:** Reimbursement for shipping costs related to Debbe Edwards seminar, Dues, Debbe Edwards seminar, and John Engler Carving & Painting seminar,
- **Expenses:** Printing of October newsletter, Stamps, Coffee & Paper plates, Debbe Edwards seminar, Rental of Lincoln Center for Debbe Edwards seminar, Rental of Lincoln Center for October 2022, Shipping of Debbe Edwards roughouts to members who requested them, and computer paper.
- A motion was made by Chet James and seconded by David King to approve the treasurer’s report. All in attendance agreed.

### Old Business:

- The students in the Debbe **Edwards** seminar had a great time, learned a lot, and are working on the painting of their animals. Debbe Edwards sent an E-mail saying “I enjoyed everyone that took the class tremendously, was a good group”.
- **Christmas Party:** Ken Brzezinski report that (25) people have signed up. A form for the Christmas party is included in with the newsletter.

**WISCONSIN RIVER WOODCARVERS 2022  
CHRISTMAS DINNER**

**DATE: January 11, 2023**

**Time: 5:00 pm Social - 6:00 pm Dinner**

**Place: Smileys Bar & Grill  
4020 County Rd. R  
Plover Wisconsin 54467**

**Menu: Delicious "Polish Buffet"**

**Cost: \$22.50 per person  
(Includes: Dessert, Tax and Gratuity)**

**Ornament exchange: if you bring an ornament you get  
to choose an ornament as in the past.**

**Make checks payable to WRWC (Wisconsin River Wood Carvers).**

**Send or call in your reservation to Ken Brzezinski.**

**Send your checks no later than January 3, 2023 to the  
Treasurer.**

Christmas Party Chairman  
Ken Brzezinski  
8311 State Hwy. 13S Unit #3  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI. 54494  
920-622-5958

- Those members of the Wisconsin River Woodcarvers that attended the 1<sup>st</sup> ever **Waupaca Area Woodcarvers** show on November 6<sup>th</sup>, had a great time. Good crowd, nice venue, reasonable lunch, and wonderful comradery. There were a number of raffle items won by club members.
- 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](mailto: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 Wisconsin River Woodcarvers has supplied judges for the **Mid-Wisconsin Chippers** show for many years. Most clubs that have judging have carvers who are not part of the sponsoring club do the judging. In a conversation with Cedric Richeson, he asked if we had someone in our club that would be willing to mentor or intern with the judges so that they would have some new judges. If interested contact Cedric @ 920-420-1225 or [richeson@thechieftain.us](mailto:richeson@thechieftain.us). **Please consider helping out the Mid-Wisconsin Chippers.**
- Elections of Officers: Vice President Diane Swiggum opened the floor to nominations.

Ken Brzezinski nominated **Greg Wirtz** for **President**, seconded by David King. Passed  
 Ken Brzezinski nominated **Diane Swiggum** for **Vice President**, seconded by Echo Keller. Passed.  
 Marion O’Kray nominated **Ron O’Kray** for **Secretary**, seconded by Clarence Thurber. Passed  
 Echo Keller nominated **Bobbi O’Shasky** for **Treasurer**, seconded by David King. Passed.  
 Tom Kissner nominated **Kyle Mallek** for **Webmaster**, seconded by David King. Passed.  
 David King nominated **Chet James** for **Seminar Chairman**, seconded by Ken Brzezinski. Passed.  
 Echo Keller nominated **Stan Carlson** for **Historian**, seconded by David King. Passed.  
 Chet James nominated **Marion O’Kray** for **Sunshine Person**, seconded Kyle Mallek. Passed.  
 Dick Fleisner nominated **Bill Jacobs** for **Librarian**, seconded by Kyle Mallek. Passed.  
 Bobbi O’Shasky nominated **Marion O’Kray** for **Hostess**, seconded by Echo Keller. Passed.  
 Randy Hartjes nominated **Missy Wachuta** for **Facebook Administrator**, seconded by David King.  
 Passed.

### **New Business:**

- **John Overby** of Fifield, WI (Wisconsin River Woodcarvers member) was at the Waupaca Area Woodcarvers show. John Teaches “Flat Plane carving”. Definition: *The **Scandinavian flat-plane style of woodcarving** is a style of figure carving. The figures are carved in large flat planes, created primarily using a carving knife. Tool marks are left in the carving and very little (if any) rounding or sanding is done.* John would do either a one-day or two-day class. Cost for a one-day class would be \$75.00 per student. Cost for a two-day class would be \$100.00 per student. Class size minimum of (8) with a maximum of (12). The projects are band sawed and cost between \$10.00 and \$15.00. Tools needed are a 1 ½” to 2” sharp knife. John is still working 4 days a week so class would be better on a Friday / Saturday. If you interested contact Greg Wirtz. Ron O’Kray checked with the Lincoln Center in Stevens Point and we can do either a Friday or Friday / Saturday class. See some attached pictures of John Overby’s carvings. More pictures of Website and Facebook page.

- **Rummage Sale:** An idea was brought up about having a “Carving related rummage sale”. The thought was to have the sale in conjunction with Summer Picnic. More discussion at next month’s meeting.
- **Update on the Website:** by Kyle Mallek, We have a low number of “hits” on our website. Please check out our website [www.wisconsinriverwoodcarvers.org](http://www.wisconsinriverwoodcarvers.org).

#### 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 for roughouts at start of class. A form for the Floyd Rhadigan seminar is attached. We have (4) carvers already paid.
- **John Engler** of Battlefield, MO will be conducting a (3) day woodcarving class (**Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday August 22, 23, & 24, 2023**) and a (1) day painting class (**Friday August 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](http://www.johnenglerwoodcarving.com). John needs minimum of (9) students and maximum of (13) students for carving and (10) students’ maximum for painting. A form for the John Engler class is attached. We have (8) carvers already paid

#### 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 @ [stevemichaels@westby-norse.org](mailto:stevemichaels@westby-norse.org) or John Sutton @ 608-634-4396 or [lbarnfarms@gmail.com](mailto:lbarnfarms@gmail.com).
- **The Mid-Wisconsin Chippers** will be holding their 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Show, Competition, and Sale on Sunday May 7, 2023 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the “Oshkosh Convention Center, 2 North Main Street, Oshkosh, WI. Admission in \$5.00, Ages 12 & under are free. More show information is available @ [www.midwisconsinchippers.weebly.com](http://www.midwisconsinchippers.weebly.com) or from Paul Wolters (920-727-2139).
- **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](http://www.woodcarverscongress.org), or Facebook: Affiliated Wood Carvers
- 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 next year’s show for September 16, 2023

**WISCONSIN RIVER WOODCARVERS  
FLOYD RHADIGAN SEMINAR**

- CARVING:** Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday, April 6, 7, & 8, 2022  
**TIME:** 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM  
**WHERE:** Lincoln Center (Rooms A & B)  
1519 Water Street  
Stevens Point, WI 54481
- COST:** **Wisconsin River Woodcarvers Members: \$150.00** plus roughout(s). Pay Floyd for roughout. Cost of roughout between \$15.00 and \$40.00  
**Non-Wisconsin River Woodcarvers Members s: \$160.00** plus roughout(s). Pay Floyd for roughout. Cost of roughout between \$15.00 and \$40.00  
Meals are **not** included.
- WHAT TO BRING:** Quality and sharp hand tools and knives

**BIOGRAPHY:** I entered the world of woodcarving in 1970, with the help of a family friend, Smokey Joe Briemuiller. He was one of those characters who fascinated me as a child. He carved small animals, Indians and Hill People. He had the aroma of wood and cigar smoke about him.

Smokey Joe showed me the basics- how to make a pattern, how to cut out a blank on a band saw, and how to make a knife from a straight razor, the most important how to was to keep that knife sharp. I used that knife and a box of patterns, and began to carve as much as I could. In those early days, there were very few tools on the market. A person could find full size mallet tools but little else. So I relied on my homemade carving knife.

In 1973, I bought my first carving book, "HOW TO CARVE CHARACTERS IN WOOD" by H.S. "Andy" Anderson. This really opened my eyes to the type of carver I wanted to become. I carved every project in the book. This made me thirst for more.

Then Harold Enlow came into my life, with his book "CARVING FIGURE CARICATURES in the OZARK STYLE." I thought I had died and gone to heaven. Harold not only carved the way I wanted to learn, but he also introduced me to palm tools. They were what was missing!

Harold came out with more books, each as exciting as the first. I carved every idea in his books. I started to develop my own style, a mix between Ozark and Flat Plane Scandinavian carving.

I began to teach my style of carving in 1976 for the city of Mt. Clemens, MI Adult Education Program. I moved to Warren, MI and started to teach for the Warren Parks & Rec. Dept. In 1991, I moved to Saline, MI where I started teaching a weekly class and began participating in wood carving shows around the state, As my work became known, my teaching increased. I started to teach at the two major woodcarving seminars in Michigan, "Creative Woodcarving Seminar" in Cadillac, MI (which I now run) and the MWCA (Michigan Wood Carvers Association) in Midland, MI. I now instruct annually at the Wood Carvers Round Up, in Evert, MI and the North East Carvers Round Up, in Honesdale, PA. I was honored to teach in Twin Falls, Idaho, with the CCA. I am excited about returning in May.

Wood Carving has opened many doors for me and I have met the greatest people in the world. I had the honor to win Best of Show in the 2005 CCA Carving Competition. The biggest honor in my career was to become a member of the club all my heroes belong to, the Caricature Carvers of America.

I have a lot more to learn on this journey. May we meet and carve together along the way.

For additional information or questions concerning the **Floyd Rhadigan Seminar** contact Greg Wirtz (715-423-0471) or Ron O’Kray (715-341-2214)

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Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City / State /Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** If you cancel the class more than (30) days prior to the class, your entire registration will be refunded. If you cancel (8) to (30) days from the start of the class, your registration fee minus \$20.00 will be refunded. If you cancel (7) or fewer days prior to the start of the class, no money will be refunded.

Payment due at time of registration.

Make checks payable to: **Wisconsin River Woodcarvers Inc.**

Mail completed form to: **Ronald O’Kray - Treasurer  
1449 Sunny Crest Drive  
Stevens Point, WI 54481**



Pictures are samples of John Overby’s carvings.

## WISCONSIN RIVER WOODCARVERS JOHN ENGLER SEMINAR 2023

John Engler of Battlefield, MO will be conducting a (3) day woodcarving class and a (1) day painting class. 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](http://www.johnenglerwoodcarving.com). John needs minimum of (9) students and maximum of (13) students for carving and (10) students' maximum for painting.

**CARVING:** Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday August 22, 23, & 24, 2023

**PAINTING:** Friday, August 25, 2023

**TIME:** 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

**WHERE:** Lincoln Center (Workshop)

1519 Water Street

Stevens Point, WI 54481

**COST:** **CARVING ONLY** - \$200.00 for Wisconsin River Woodcarvers members and \$215.00 for Non-Members (Plus roughout)

**CARVING & PAINTING** - \$270.00 for Wisconsin River Woodcarvers members and \$290.00 for Non-Members. (Plus roughout)

Meals are **not** included.

**WHAT TO BRING:** Hand Tools and Bench Knife. Paint brushes if painting. John will furnish paint. For additional information or questions contact "Seminar Chairman" Chet James 715-347-0234 or E-mail [chtbon@solarus.net](mailto:chtbon@solarus.net)

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Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**AMOUNT ENCLOSED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** If you cancel the class more than (30) days prior to the class, your entire registration will be refunded. If you cancel (8) to (30) days from the start of the class, your registration fee minus \$20.00 will be refunded. If you cancel (7) or fewer days prior to the start of the class, no money will be refunded.

Payment due at time of registration.

Make checks payable to: **Wisconsin River Woodcarvers Inc.**

Mail completed form to: Wisconsin River Woodcarvers  
Ronald O'Kray – Treasurer  
1449 Sunny Crest Drive  
Stevens Point, WI 54482-9432



**Show and Tell:** Diane Swiggum showed a Raccoon that she carved & woodburned in the Debbe Edwards class. Tom Kissner showed a Bear Cub that he carved and woodburned in the Debbe Edwards class.

- There being no other business Vice President Diane Swiggum asked for a motion to adjourn. Tom Kissner made the motion seconded by David King All approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.
- **Addendum:** At the end of the evening Bobbi O'Shasky informed Vice-President Diane Swiggum that she would not be the club Treasurer. Later in the evening after a telephone call to club President Greg Wirtz, Greg appointed Ron O'Kray to be the club treasurer.

**CLUB OFFICIERS:**

|                          |               |              |  |
|--------------------------|---------------|--------------|--|
| • President              | Greg Wirtz    | 715-423-0471 | <a href="mailto:gswirtz@outlook.com">gswirtz@outlook.com</a>           |
| • Vice President         | Diane Swiggum | 715-459-3221 | <a href="mailto:mrschips48@gmail.com">mrschips48@gmail.com</a>         |
| • Secretary              | Ron O'Kray    | 715-341-2214 | <a href="mailto:ron.marion@charter.net">ron.marion@charter.net</a>     |
| • Treasurer              | Ron O'Kray    | 715-341-2214 | <a href="mailto:ron.marion@charter.net">ron.marion@charter.net</a>     |
| • Webmaster              | Kyle Mallek   | 715-323-6390 | <a href="mailto:kyle.mallek@gmail.com">kyle.mallek@gmail.com</a>       |
| • Seminar Chairman       | Chet James    | 715-347-0234 | <a href="mailto:chtbon@solarus.net">chtbon@solarus.net</a>             |
| • Historian              | Stan Carlson  | 715-341-3695 | <a href="mailto:scarlson@uwsp.edu">scarlson@uwsp.edu</a>               |
| • Sunshine Person        | Marion O'Kray | 715-341-2214 | <a href="mailto:ron.marion@charter.net">ron.marion@charter.net</a>     |
| • Librarian              | Bill Jacobs   | 715-421-4962 |  |
| • Hostess                | Marion O'Kray | 715-341-2214 | <a href="mailto:ron.marion@charter.net">ron.marion@charter.net</a>     |
| • Facebook Administrator | Missy Wachuta | 608-633-5648 | <a href="mailto:melissa.wach07@gmail.com">melissa.wach07@gmail.com</a> |



Pictures are samples of John Overby's carvings.