



April 2023 Newsletter

By: Ron O’Kray – Secretary / Treasurer

President Greg Wirtz called the meeting to 6:30 PM.

Minutes from February 2023 Meeting: Motion made by Jerry Meid and seconded by Mahala Earnhart to accept as sent. All in attendance approved.

Sunshine Report: Marion O’Kray reported that she sent Sympathy cards to Becky Engstrand & Bobbi O’Shasky of the loss of their mother. She also sent a Sympathy card to Chet James on the loss of his son. Get Well cards were sent to Jerry Uher and Gerald & Jan Lesch. We hope that Jerry, Gerald, and Jan are feeling better.

Membership: We have (68) memberships paid for in 2023. Gregg & Becky Thompson of Wichita, KS, Karen Schultz of Stevens Point, WI, and Kyle & Kayla Mallek paid their dues. Steve Heinrich of Nekoosa, WI joined the club. Steve is retired from accounting work. He has been carving off and on again from the mid 90’s. He enjoys the outdoors (Fishing, hiking, and sightseeing nature’s beauty). He moved to Nekoosa from Illinois 2 ½ years ago. Welcome to all.

Treasurer’s Report:

- **Income:** Floyd Rhadigan Seminar 2024, John Overby Seminar, John Engler Carving & Painting seminar, and Dues 2023,
- **Expenses:** Printing of March newsletter, Paper for computer printer, Rent of Lincoln Center for April 2023, Refund for John Overby seminar, Rent of the Lincoln Center for Floyd Rhadigan seminar, and Floyd Rhadigan for seminar.
- A motion was made by Adam Wechorek and seconded by Tom Kissner to approve the treasurer’s report. All in attendance agreed.

Old Business:

- **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. It was agreed to proceed with rummage sale. More information to follow.

- **Summer Picnic:** President Greg Wirtz asked if there was interest in a picnic. Overwhelming response was yes. Chet James checked with Wood County; the shelter is available on Wednesday July 12, 2023 for a rental fee of \$200.00 per day. Wood County changed their policy and only rents by the day. Mark your calendar for that date. More information to follow.
- The **Floyd Rhadigan** seminar was a success.
- No Other **Old Business**

Upcoming Seminars

- **John Overby** of Fifield, WI is a Wisconsin River Woodcarvers member. 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.* The seminar will be held at the Lincoln Center is Stevens Point, WI on **Friday & Saturday May 19 & 20, 2023**. Cost is \$100.00 plus cutout(s) for Wisconsin River Woodcarvers members and & \$110.00 plus cutouts(s) for Non-Members. Class size minimum of (8) with a maximum of (12). The projects are band sawed and cost between \$10.00 and \$15.00. Pay John for cutouts at start of class. Tools needed are a 1 ½” to 2” sharp knife. We have **(10)** carvers already paid. John has a choice of (10) cutouts. You must determine what cutout(s) you want before the class, so John can get the correct amount. See Ron O’Kray for pictures of projects.
- **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. 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 **(9)** carvers already paid.
- **3rd Annual Floyd Rhadigan Seminar** will be held at the Lincoln Center is Stevens Point, WI on **Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday April 3, 4, & 5, 2024**. 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.

Club Meeting Dates:

- **April 18, 2023** Lincoln Center, Stevens Point, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **April 19, 2023** 1st Congregational Church, Wisconsin Rapids, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **April 26, 2023** 1st Congregational Church, Wisconsin Rapids, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **May 2, 2023** Lincoln Center, Stevens Point, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **May 3, 2023** 1st Congregational Church, Wisconsin Rapids, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **May 10, 2023** 1st Congregational Church, Wisconsin Rapids, 5:30 to 8:30 PM

New Business

- The students in the 2023 Floyd Rhadigan seminar had such a great time that it was decided to have Floyd back in 2024.
- Marion O’Kray & Delores Zakoski volunteered to be in charge of Summer Picnic.
- Randy Hartjes asked what are we going to do with money in checking account, since we are getting older and in a few years most of us will be gone. Ken Brzezinski said we should spend the money and enjoy it. Becky Engstrand said one option would be to be to pay tuition for members who attend carving classes that are held at the ADRC (Aging and Disability Resource Center) in Stevens Point. Ron O’Kray stated that he felt the money should be left for the future of the club. Most of the money was made from having a show. The money that we receive for dues not meet our expenses. Dues were set at \$24.00 per year when the club started in 1995 and not been raised. President Greg Wirtz ended the discussion no consensus.
- Chet James said that everyone benefits when one of our members attends a seminar. The member that attends a carving seminar uses his or her knowledge to help other in the club.

Show and Tell:

- Becky Engstrand showed a Painted Woodburning of Goldfinches that she created.
 - Greg Wirtz showed three projects that he carved in the Floyd Rhadigan seminar.
 - Tom Kissner showed five “Little People” that he carved and painted.
 - Richard Zakoski showed two Christmas ornaments that he carved.
 - Echo Keller showed a Woodburning of Diane Swiggum’s cat.
 - Bobbi O’Shasky showed a Painted Woodburning of a girl with umbrella that she created.
 - Ron O’Kray showed two projects that he carved in Floyd Rhadigan Seminar. He also showed a scene with two “Teddy Bears” that he carved and painted with his Novice carvers at the ADRC.
- There being no other business President Greg Wirtz asked for a motion to adjourn. Dave King made the motion seconded by Ken Brzezinski All approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

CLUB OFFICIERS:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|--------------|--|
| • President | Greg Wirtz | 715-423-0471 | gswirtz@outlook.com |
| • Vice President | Diane Swiggum | 715-459-3221 | mrschips48@gmail.com |
| • Secretary | Ron O’Kray | 715-341-2214 | ron.marion@charter.net |
| • 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 | |
| • Hostess | Marion O’Kray | 715-341-2214 | ron.marion@charter.net |
| • Facebook Administrator | Missy Wachuta | 608-633-5648 | melissa.wach07@gmail.com |

**WISCONSIN RIVER WOODCARVERS
JOHN OVERBY SEMINAR**

CARVING: Friday & Saturday, May 19 & 20, 2023
TIME: 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM
WHERE: Lincoln Center (Workshop)
1519 Water Street
Stevens Point, WI 54481

COST: **Wisconsin River Woodcarvers Members: \$100.00** plus bandsaw cutout(s). Pay John for cutout(s). Cost of cutout between \$10.00 and \$15.00
Non-Wisconsin River Woodcarvers Members s: \$110.00 plus bandsaw cutout(s). Pay John for cutout(s). Cost of roughout between \$10.00 and \$15.00
Meals are **not** included.

WHAT TO BRING: Quality and sharp knives

- **John Overby** of Fifield, WI is a Wisconsin River Woodcarvers member. 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.* 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. You will have to determine what you want to carve prior to the class.

For additional information or questions contact Greg Wirtz (715-423-0471) or Ron O'Kray (715-341-2214).

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

**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. 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

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

WISCONSIN RIVER WOODCARVERS
3rd ANNUAL SPRING FLOYD RHADIGAN SEMINAR

- CARVING:** Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday, April 3, 4, 5, 2024
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.

If there is anything in particular throughout you would like to see Floyd bring to the seminar, contact him @ 734-649-3259.

The cost of the seminar is same as in 2022 and 2023.

For additional information or questions contact Greg Wirtz (715-423-0471) or Ron O’Kray (715-341-2214).

Name (please print)

Address

City / State /Zip

Phone

E-mail

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Stevens Point, WI 54482**

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. The Wisconsin River Woodcarvers will have a club table. Tom Kissner, Mahala Earhart, and Diane Swiggum volunteered to main the club table.
 - The **Kettle Karvers Klub** is again Holding its' "Artistry in Wood" carving show on Sunday April 23, 2023 at the Emil Mazey Hall, 5425 Superior Ave. Sheboygan, WI from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. For more information contact Bob Lawrence at 920-458-4947 or Email Bob at bob.kettlekarvers@att.net. You may also visit the club website at www.kettlekarvers.org. Information also available at www.wisconsinriverwoodcarver.org.
 - **The Mid-Wisconsin Chippers** will be holding their 47th 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 or from Paul Wolters (920-727-2139). Ron O'Kray has forms if you are interested.
 - **Floyd Fest** will be held June 19 – 23, 2023 in Evart, MI. For more information contact Floyd Rhadigan @ 734-649-3529 or rhads134@comcast.net. Information also available @ www.wisconriverwoodcarvers.org.
 - **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 **Rock River Woodcarvers** will be holding their 17th Annual Show on Saturday September 9, 2023 at the Rock County Fair Grounds , 1301 Craig Ave, Janesville, WI from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Free Admission. More information available from Brad Crandall 608-931-0188 bwkicrandall@gmail.com or John Raisbeck jkraisbeck@gmail.com.
 - The first **Carve in On the Chippewa** was a success. They are planning next year's show for September 16, 2023.
 - The **Capitol Carver of Wisconsin & Badger Woodturners** will be holding their 32nd Annual Show and Sale on Sunday October 29, 2023 at the DeForest Area High School, 815 Jefferson Street, DeForest, WI From 9:00 Am to 4:00 PM. Free Admission. More information @ www.cacw.clubexpress.com or www.bwt.clubexpress.com.
 - The Second Annual **Waupaca** Woodcarving Show, Sale, & Competition will be held Sunday November 5, 2023 at 407 School Street, Waupaca, WI. Hours are 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Admission is \$4.00. Ages 6 – 16 \$2.00, and under 2 free. Tool and Wood vendors, Art for Sale, and Demonstrations.
- The **Northeast Wisconsin Woodworker's Guild** will be holding their 40th Artistry in Wood show at the Denmark High School in Denmark, WI on November 11 & 12, 2023. Admission \$5.00, 12 and under Free. For more information contact www.newwg.org/annual-show, Kristin @ 920-420-8999, or Randy @ 920-676-6466.



"Diehards" from the Floyd Rhadigan seminar.



Christmas Ornaments by Richard Zakoski



Painted Woodburning by Bobbi O'Shasky



Painted Woodburning by Echo Keller



"Fight Ready" by Ron O'Kray



Painted Woodburning by Bobbi O'Shasky



Five Little People by Tom Kissner



Cowboy by Greg Wirtz

PONDERINGS BY Ron O’Kray

One of our greatest President’s (John F. Kennedy) once said:

“Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country”.

I think is time we ask ourselves:

Ask not what your carving club can do for you, but what can you do to make our carving club better.