



## June 2023 Newsletter

By: Ron O’Kray – Secretary / Treasurer

**President Greg Wirtz** called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM Wednesday June 21st.

**Minutes from May 2023 Meeting:** Motion made by Chet James and seconded by Tom Kissner to accept as sent. All in attendance approved.

**Sunshine Report:** Marion O’Kray sent Get Well cards to Sue Uher, Jane Zunker, and Alan Wechorek. We hope that all are feeling better. If you know of a club member that is sick, contact her at 715-341-2214 or [ron.marion@charter.net](mailto:ron.marion@charter.net).

**Membership:** We have (70) memberships paid for in 2023. Allen Bostwick of Stevens Point, WI joined the club. In his word: *Growing up my father was always working in his shop. He taught me at a young age how to use scroll saws, sanders, Dremel’s, drill presses etc. The idea he told me that there is a certain level of “power” in the ability to visualize and create anything that comes to mind. I take pride in my ability to conceptualize and create anything. As an adult my visions take shape in the form of wood. Natural elements depicting human form.*

### Treasurer’s Report:

#### INCOME AND EXPENSES SINCE LAST NEWLETTER

EXPENSES	INCOME	DESCRIPTION
\$40.00		Rental of Lincoln Center for John Overby seminar
\$1,300.00		John Overby seminar
\$29.16		Printing of May Newsletter
\$90.00		Rent of Lincoln Center for April, May, & June
\$10.12		Pictures for club scrapbook
\$13.70		Lockout Device for Burke Sharpener
\$25.20		Stamps
\$9.78		Foam trays & Plates for club picnic

	\$100.00	John Overby seminar
	\$270.00	John Engler seminar
	\$20.00	Downpayment of Floyd Rhadigan seminar
	\$24.00	Dues 2023
\$1,517.96	\$414.00	
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>INCOME</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>

- A motion was made by Clarence Thurber and seconded by David King 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 the Summer Picnic. Start thinking about what you have (books, magazines, tools, etc.) that you could sell to a fellow carver or give away. Rummage sale will start at 2:00 PM on Wednesday July 12, 2023.
- **Summer Picnic:** Marion O’Kray & Delores Zakoski volunteered to be in charge of Summer Picnic. Happy hour is at 5:00 PM with meal at 6:00 PM on Wednesday July 12, 2023. The club will provide the meat, paper plates, plastic flatware, and coffee. Bring a dish to pass and beverage of your choice. Contact Marion O’Kray about what you are bringing. The picnic is for Wisconsin River Woodcarvers **members, spouses, or significant others** only. We need an accurate count of those attending in order to have the proper amount of meat. At the present time, we have (52) signed up for the picnic. The location of the picnic is in the shelter at South Wood County Park, 6411 South Park Road, Wisconsin Rapids, WI.
- **AWC** at Maquoketa, IA is over for 2023. Those club members that attended saw many unique works of art. This year at Maquoketa was the largest amount of woodcarving supplies for sale in one place since Artistry in Wood had their last show in 2017. Plans are under way for AWC 2024.

**Upcoming Seminars**

- **3<sup>rd</sup> 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 **(6)** 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. Cost of the seminar, Carving only - \$200.00 members and \$215.00 non-members. Cost of Carving & Painting - \$270.00 for members and \$290.00 for non-members. 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 **(11)** carvers already paid. Only (1) space left.

#### Club Meeting Dates:

- **June 28, 2023** 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational Church, Wisconsin Rapids, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **July 4, 2023** **No meeting at Lincoln Center in Stevens Point (Federal Holiday)**
- **July 5, 2023** 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational Church, Wisconsin Rapids, 5:30 to 8:30
- **July 12, 2023** **No meeting at 1<sup>st</sup> united Church of Christ (Club Picnic)**
- **July 18, 2023** Lincoln Center, Stevens Point, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **July 19, 2023** 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational Church, Wisconsin Rapids, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **July 26, 2023** 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational Church, Wisconsin Rapids, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **August 1, 2023** Lincoln Center, Stevens Point, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **August 2, 2023** 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational Church, Wisconsin Rapids, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **August 9, 2023** 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational Church, Wisconsin Rapids, 5:30 to 8:30 PM

#### New Business

- Missy Wachuta (**Facebook Administer**) will be leaving the Central Wisconsin area at the end of June and will be doing service work in Peru and then in Tennessee for the next year or two. We wish her the best in her new endeavors. We are in need of someone to take over the position of Facebook Administer. Contact Greg Wirtz if you are interested.
- Greg Wirtz has talked to **Carol Leavy** about doing a class in carving Christmas ornaments. Carol is a member of the Caricature Carvers of America. The cost of the class would be \$50.00 per day per student. Six carvers at the meeting showed interest. It was decided to do either a two- or three-day class. Greg Wirtz will check with Carol as to her schedule and pictures of projects.
- When we were down at **AWC**, one thing that we that we noticed was they had no competition class for carved spoons. Would the Wisconsin River Woodcarvers be interested in sponsoring a competition class at AWC 2024 in Treenware. Definition of Treenware is: household utensils, dishes, etc., made entirely of wood. A motion was made by Clarence Thurber and seconded by Tom Kissner to allocate \$100.00 for a Cash Class Award in Treenware. All in attendance approved. Ron O'Kray will follow-up with AWC.
- We received an E-mail from Kate Giblin of the **ADRC of Portage County** that they wanted to get three sets of cornhole games made for seniors to play during the summer and fall and to have a tournament. There budget is very tight so Kate was wondering if anyone would be interested in helping the to make them. Tom Kissner of Plover, WI volunteered.

- Ashten Brown of **Badger State Blades** was at the meeting with some of her patriotic knives. The knives sell for \$40.00 each and will be made until Veteran's Day November 11, 2023. \$5.00 will donated to the VFW for every knife sold. If interested contact her @ [orders@badgerstateblades.com](mailto:orders@badgerstateblades.com) or 715-697-6010.

- Show & Tell**



**Carved & Painted by Tom Kissner**



**Carved & Painted by Greg Wirtz**

- There being no other business President Greg Wirtz asked for a motion to adjourn. Ken Brzezinski made the motion seconded by Echo Keller. All approved. Meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.

**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			

## Sharing stories through carvings

By **Barbara Dixon**  
Friends Newsletter Editor

If you've followed the Friends of Schmeckle Reserve annual arts contest, you have no doubt noticed the carvings submitted each year by Tim Swiecki. This year's entry, a woodsman sadly regarding a tree lost to oak wilt, took first place in the art category. Every detail of the carving is exact: the perky tail of the grey squirrel, the black and white pattern of the woodpecker, the downturned mouth of the woodsman.

Here's how Tim explains his process:

"A walk on the Green Circle Trail or around Lake Joanis while

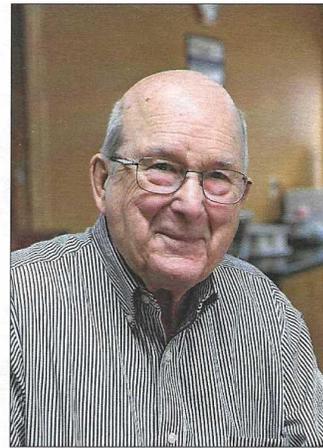
watching people gives me the inspiration for my next carving. Once I have the idea, I need to draw a side and front view, rough out a piece of bass wood with a band saw, carve it, paint it, and fix it on a presentation base."

Tim also takes his in-progress work to the weekly meetings of the Wisconsin River Woodcarvers club, as well as to his wife, Marilyn, for suggestions for refinements.

After retiring from nearly half a century's work as a Stevens Point veterinarian, Tim and Marilyn joined the Peace Corps and headed for Ukraine. Tim taught English, finding conversation the most effective

approach. Their time abroad was cut short by the illness of parents, but has left them with a heightened awareness of the people of Ukraine.

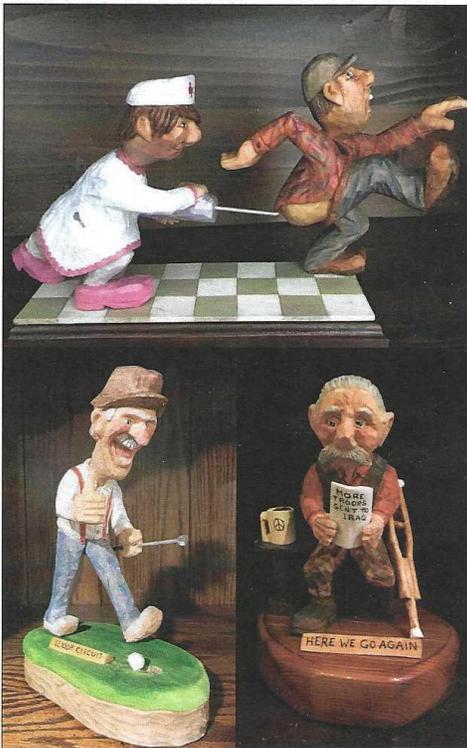
Back home, Tim took up both walking around Lake Joanis and wood carving. He reflects that he enjoys "carving caricatures about people and life events that tell a story and make you smile." Most of Tim's carvings do just that: one of a grandfather with a child between his knees, ice fishing, beaming joy. One of a couple polkaing, laughing. One called "Shorty Loves to Dance" with a very tall woman rolling her eyes at her waist-



Tim Swiecki

high enthusiastic partner. Some, though, evoke serious reflection, like this year's woodsman, or one called "Here We Go Again," of a somber man, left leg amputated at the knee, holding an announcement of "more troops sent to Iraq." A specialty of Tim's is the carving of "comfort birds." These are small birds carved of different kinds of wood, finished with a glossy surface, just right for holding in the hand, which are given to help console someone who is very ill or in crisis.

Giving his caricatures to friends and family pleases Tim enormously. Sometimes, though, it's hard to tell how they respond. Once, Tim made a caricature of a friend, a carving of the friend golfing. The gift was received with a "that's nice, thanks," no more. Years later, Tim attended the memorial service for this friend and discovered his caricature next to the urn at the front of the room—it had been one of his friend's dearest possessions.



A selection of Tim'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 54482-9431

**WISCONSIN RIVER WOODCARVERS**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> 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 Briemueller. 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).

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

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