



April 2024 Newsletter

By: Ron O’Kray - Secretary / Treasurer

President Greg Wirtz called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM April 10, 2024.

Minutes from March 2023 Meeting: Motion made by Marion O’Kray and seconded by Ashten Brown to accept as sent. All in attendance approved.

Sunshine Report: Marion O’Kray reported that she sent a “Get Well” card to Howard Jeske of Marathon, WI. Howard suffered a mild stroke but he says he is recuperating nicely. If you know of a club member that is sick, contact Marion at 715-341-2214 or ron.marion@charter.net.

Membership: We have (72) memberships paid for in 2024. Dave & Sue Pilon of Weston, WI Joined the club. Dave is a retired mechanical engineer from the paper industry. In retirement he carves, volunteers at Habitat for Humanity, Ramp up Marathon County, and Gospel Transitional Living Center. He has been married for 43 years. Debbie Klug of Wausau joined the club. Debbie is retired, a homemaker, mother of three adult sons, gardener, and Christian. Donna Leffel of Wausau, WI joined the club. Dave, Debbie, and Donna all are registered for the John Engler seminar. Welcome to all new members. Gregg and Becky Thompson of Wicita, KS rejoined the club. Welcome back Gregg and Becky.

INCOME AND EXPENSES SINCE LAST NEWLETTER

EXPENSES	INCOME	DESCRIPTION
	\$5.00	Sale of Club Patch
	\$101.00	Dues 2024
	\$840.00	John Engler Seminar August 2024
	\$160.00	Floyd Rhadigan Seminar April 2024
	\$500.00	Floyd Rhadigan Seminar 2025
\$130.00		Cancellation of Floyd Rhadigan Seminar because of Health
\$13.60		Stamps for mailing of March newsletter
\$11.97		Cookies for Club Meeting
\$60.00		Portage County Treasurer (Rent of Lincoln Center February & March 2024)
\$1,950.00		Floyd Rhadigan Seminar

\$120.00		Rent of Lincoln Center for Floyd Rhadigan 2024 Seminar
\$2,285.57	\$1,606.00	

- A motion was made by Chet James and seconded by Dick Fleisner to approve the treasurer's report. All in attendance agreed.

Old Business:

- Ashten Brown brought up the idea of chartering a Lamers bus to go to **AWC 2024**. The cost would be \$1900.00 for a (36) passenger bus. Cost per person would be about \$53.00 per person. If you wish to discuss pro or con of this idea, contact Ashten @ 715-697-6010. Unless there is more interest, this will be the last time for publication in the newsletter.
- If you have pictures of recent seminars or carvings that you have completed, contact Ashten Brown or Kyle Mallek to get them on Facebook or the Webpage. Their contact information is listed below with all the club officials. Greg says there are many carving pictures on Facebook.
- Ron Peters, Greg Wirtz, Diane Swiggum, Tom Kissner and Ron & Marion O'Kray met with Dale Christiansen, Executive Director of the **Central Wisconsin Fair** at 10:30 AM on Wednesday April 10th about making the carving portion of the fair much larger in 2024. The Fair Board is eager to have the Wisconsin River Woodcarvers and other carving clubs be a part of the fair. The entry fee is \$25.00 per person. This would allow free admission for the length of the fair. This would allow you to enter one piece in any category, not limited to woodcarving, but woodworking, flowers, sewing, knitting, crocheting, vegetables etc. Greg Wirtz will judge Department 22 which includes woodcarving. Ron O'Kray will judge Department 25 which is the Senior Woodworking/ Woodcarving area. Competition rules for the Central Wisconsin Fair has no timeline on when the carving was completed but only that the carving was never entered into competition at the fair previously. The woodcarvings will be displayed in the Hockey rink building. Ribbons and nominal prize money are paid for Best of Show, 1st Runner up, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Place in all categories. The fair will run from August 20th thru August 25, 2024. Pickup of carvings will be on Monday August 26, 2024. Carvings can be delivered to the Fairgrounds anytime on Monday August 19th with judging on Tuesday August 20th. The address of the Fairgrounds is 513 East 17th Street; Marshfield, WI. Wednesday August 21st will be Senior Day with only \$5.00 admission. The Wisconsin River Woodcarvers will provide demonstrations at times to be determined. The Wisconsin River Woodcarvers will have a area in the same building that we can display other carvings, show and club information, carve and meet with friends and prospective new members. Electricity will be provided for power carving, pyrography, and additional lighting if needed. Any questions contact: Ron Peters @ 715-435-3162. A copy of a page from the show booklet is included so you can see what the competition categories will be.

DEPT. 22 Woodworking
Superintendent - Ron Peters 715-435-3162
Asst. Superintendent - Randy Hartjes
Asst. Superintendent - Ron O'Kray
Asst. Superintendent - Marion O'Kray

- LOT#
- 1 Caricature Carving Human
 - 2 Caricature Carving Animal
 - 3 Realistic Carving Human
 - 4 Realistic Carving Animal - Wildlife
 - 5 Realistic Carving Animal - Domestic
 - 6 Game Bird Carving
 - 7 Waterfowl Carving
 - 8 Song Bird Carving
 - 9 Bird of Prey Carving
 - 10 Religious Carving
 - 11 Chip Carving
 - 12 Pyrography - Natural Finish
 - 13 Pyrography - Colored Finish
 - 14 Fish Carving - Fresh Water
 - 15 Fish Carving - Salt Water
 - 16 Holiday Carving (to include but not limited to: Santas, Snowmen, Easter Bunny, Halloween, Leprechauns, New Years, and Valentines).
 - 17 Treenware (to include but not limited to; Utilitarian Spoons, and Bowls that are carved not turned.)
 - 18 Decorative Spoon Carved
 - 19 Carved Ornaments
 - 20 Relief Carving
 - 21 Decoys
 - 22 Bark Carving
 - 23 Miniature Carving
 - 24 Accessory for the Home
 - 25 Toy(s) or Games
 - 26 Article for garden or yard (no bird feeders or bird houses)
 - 27 Bird Feeders or Bird House
 - 28 Sign
 - 29 Lathe Work Utilitarian (Spoons, Bowls, etc.)
 - 30 Lathe Work Decorative (Candle Holders, lamps, etc.)
 - 31 Any other item not listed.

- Received the following E-mail from Steve Michaels of **Karve-In-8**:

Welcome to Karve In! Welcome to Westby! Welcome to our High School!

The idea for this carving event came from John Sutton who regularly attended three different carving groups all within 35 miles of each other. These groups were not always aware of what other groups were doing. So, this event was started to bring people interested in wood carving together to learn, trade ideas, share techniques, etc.

- Food is available for purchase until sold out. This area is on the other side of the gym.
- Generally, there are vendors along the West side of the gym and our carvers are on the East side of the gym (although, many of our carvers also have items for sale).
- Please also check out the soap carving project done by our 4th graders in the Westby Area School District.
- We invite you to find a spot at a table and to join in some carving!
- We depend on donations to support this annual event. All donations are appreciated and the jar is on the registration table as you entered.

There is a raffle that will close at 12:00 noon. Tickets are available for \$1.00 and you must be present to win. Drawings will happen every 30 minutes or so starting at 12:30. There is a drawing for registered carvers only that will take place at 3:00.

Please ask questions and enjoy your time with us!

- The Wisconsin River Woodcarvers has (3) tables at **Karve In-8** at Westby, WI on Saturday April 20, 2024. **Ron & Marion O’Kray and Tom & Lynne Kissner have volunteered to man the club tables.** If you want to be part of the club tables, contact Ron O’Kray @ 715-341-2214 or ron.marion@charter.net. If you want your own table, contact Steve Michaels, 608-634-0107, steve.michaels@westbynorse.org
- The Wisconsin River Woodcarvers has reserved the shelter at South Wood County Park in Kellner for the **Club Picnic** on Wednesday July 10, 2024. We have the shelter for the entire day. **Marion O’Kray, Bonnie James, and Delores Zakoski volunteered to be in charge of the picnic.** Last year we had a rummage sale that started at 2:00 PM. It was agreed to have a Rummage Sale again this year but start at 3:00 PM. Happy Hour will be from 3:00 PM to start of meal at 6:00 PM. The club will provide the meat, paper plates, plastic flatware, and coffee. Bring a dish to pass and beverage of your choice. 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. The location of the picnic is in the shelter at South Wood County Park, 6411 South Park Road, Wisconsin Rapids, WI.
- Jerry Trzebiatowski stated that he would like to have a drawing class (preferably caricature). Ron is working with Kate of the ADRC of Poratge County to see what can be done. Greg Wirtz, Ron O’Kray, Tom Kissner, and Jerry Trzebiatowski showed interest in attending a drawing class. If you are interested in a drawing class, contact Greg Wirtz.

- At last month's meeting, Ashten Brown brought an idea about doing a five-day program where we would bring in five instructors. She checked with the 1st United Church of Christ (where we have our Wednesday night meetings) to see if this possible. The church agreed to let the Wisconsin Rivers Woodcarvers proceed. The church requested that we pay a \$50.00 per day cleaning charge. Ashten will check with the Church to see what time period in 2025 would be best. The Church is close to hotels and eating establishments. Ideas for seminars were; Caricature, Chip Carving, Pyrography, Christmas Ornaments, and John Engler Relief and painting class.
- Received an E-mail from Harold Mohr of the **Waupaca Area Woodcarvers**. They made a mistake on their show registration form with the date for the show. The correct date is Sunday November 3, 2024
- Just a reminder. The Wisconsin River Woodcarvers is sponsoring a "**Cash Class Award**" with \$50.00 to 1st Place, \$30.00 to 2nd Place, and \$20.00 to 3rd Place in **Group C Class 309** (Treenware) at the **AWC** in Maquoketa, IA. Treenware is defined as wooden kitchenware. This is a new class for 2024. For more information check out the website or talk to Greg or Ron.
- Received an E-mail from Gregg Hansel who is on the steering committee of **Empty Bowls of Portage County**. The following information is from their website. *Empty Bowls is a community project to raise money for local hunger prevention efforts. For \$11.00 (payable at the door) you get to choose a bowl created by local potters, community members, and students. These bowls are unique and a great keepsake. After choosing your bowl, you get to choose from a variety of soups donated by 40 local restaurants, served in disposable bowls. The meal includes bread, beverage, and dessert. The event features a raffle, marketplace, and entertainment. Funds raised at this event go to support the Hunger and Poverty Prevention Partnership, Giving Gardens, Mobile Pantry, and Rent Ready programs as well as education and advocacy initiatives. This is their 24th year. The event will be in late October. Last year's event was held at SPASH in Stevens Point. Gregg is asking if any of our members would be interested in making and donating bowls. He would be glad to come and meet with us or send any additional information. Ron O'Kray will meet with Gregg Hansel on April 16th for more information. Greg Wirtz, Ron O'Kray, Katharine Wechorek, Tom Kissner, and Ken Brzezinski volunteered to donate a bowl. If you are interested in donating a bowl, contact Ron O'Kray for more information.*
- **No other old Business**

Upcoming Seminars

- **The 2nd Annual John Engler Seminar** will be held at the Lincoln Center in Stevens Point, WI. There will be a (3) day woodcarving class (**Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday, August 26, 27, & 28, 2024**) and a (1) day painting class (**Thursday August 29, 2024**). He specializes in medium relief woodcarving finishing them off with watercolors. Cost of the seminar, Carving only - \$210.00 members and \$225.00 non-members. Cost of Carving & Painting - \$280.00 for members and \$300.00 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. John needs minimum of (9) students and maximum of (13) students for carving and (10) students' maximum for painting. We have **(12)** carvers already paid.

- The carvers that attended the 3rd Annual Floyd Rhadigan seminar had so much fun that they decided to have another seminar in 2025. The **4th Annual Floyd Rhadigan Seminar** will be held at the Lincoln Center in Stevens Point, WI on **Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday, April 28, 29, & 30, 2025**. Cost is \$150.00 plus roughout(s) for Wisconsin River Woodcarvers members and \$160.00 plus roughouts(s) for Non-Members. The cost for the seminar has stayed the same from 2022 to 2025. Cost of roughouts is between \$15.00 and \$40.00. Pay Floyd for roughouts at start of class. **Registration form is attached to this newsletter or on the club website www.wisconsinriverwoodcarvers.org**. We have **(5)** carvers already paid.

New Business

- Jerry Trzebiatowski stated that he is newly retired (Shop Teacher at Amherst High School) and had missed our **Annual Woodcarving Show** very much. He had been an on again, off again member of The Wisconsin River Woodcarvers for years but could not be as active as he wanted because of job constraints. He would volunteer to be the **Show Chairman** if there was enough interest in reviving the show and Ron O’Kray would work closely with him the first year. Much discussion followed. It was decided for Jerry and his team to pursue having a show in 2025 and the size of the show was to be comparable to what we had in 2021. It was noted by members at the meeting that is what carvers and attendees would expect from the Wisconsin River Woodcarvers. Contact Jerry @ 715-310-9900 or geraldt6@gmail.com with your comments. The Show Committee will report back to the membership before and contracts are signed.
- **No Other New Business**

Club Meeting Dates:

- **April 16, 2024** Lincoln Center, Stevens Point, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **April 17, 2024** 1st Congregational Church, Wisconsin Rapids, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **April 24, 2024** 1st Congregational Church, Wisconsin Rapids, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **May 1, 2024** 1st Congregational Church, Wisconsin Rapids, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **May 7 2, 2024** Lincoln Center, Stevens Point, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **May 8, 2024** 1st Congregational Church, Wisconsin Rapids, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- There being no other business President Greg Wirtz asked for a motion to adjourn. Ashten Brown made the motion seconded by Chet James. All approved. Meeting adjourned 8:05 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 | williamjacobs@charter.net |
| • Hostess | Marion O’Kray | 715-341-2214 | ron.marion@charter.net |
| • Facebook Administrator | Ashten Brown | 715-697-6010 | orders@badgerstateblades.com |

SHOW AND TELL



Gnome with Christmas Tree
By Richard Zakoski



Viking by
Jerald Trzebiatowski



O. G. Wotasnozzle
Popeye Cartoon Character
By Ron O'Kray



King Blozo III
Popeye Cartoon Charter
By Ron O'Kray



Caricature
by Greg Wirtz



Caricature
by Greg Wirtz



Farmer Randy
BY Bobbi O'Shasky

There was a beautiful relief carving by Tom Kissner that was unable to be retrieved from cellphone. Sorry Tom.

Future Carving Shows

Westby — Saturday, April 20, 2024

Karve In-8, Steve Michaels, 608-634-0107, steve.michaels@westbynorse.org

Sheboygan — Sunday, April 28, 2024

Kettle Karvers 31st Annual Show, Bob Lawrence, 920-458-49471 www.kettlekarvers.org

North Arkansas Woodcarver's 44th Annual Woodcarving show will be Saturday & Sunday May 4 & 5, 2024. Contact Sandy Smith @ 870-431-8070 or webmaster@northarkansaswoodcarvers.org for more information.

Oshkosh - Sunday, May 5, 2024

Mid-Wisconsin Chippers Artistry in Wood Show

Paul Walters,

920-727-2139, www.midwisconsinchippers.weebly.com

Maquoketa, Iowa — June 10 thru June 15, 2024

International Woodcarvers Congress, Diane Coley 630-335-4852 dragonness77@comcast.net

Janesville — Saturday, September 14, 2024

Rock River Valley Carvers of Wis 18th Annual Show & Sale

Brad Crandall, 608-931-0188, bwkicrandall@gmail.com

DeForest – Sunday October 27, 2024

Capitol Area Carvers of Wisconsin & Badger Woodturners – 33rd Annual Show and Sale

Cindy Potthast, 608-712-2989, cynthia.potthast@gmail.com

Waupaca – Sunday November 3, 2024

Waupaca Area Woodcarvers

Harold Mohr 715-281-4923 or Kathy Brehm 920-740-1986

Denmark, WI Saturday and Sunday November 9 & 10, 2024

Northeast Wisconsin Woodworker's Guild 41st Annual Artistry in Wood" Show

Randy Hendricks 920-676-6466 or show@newwg.org

More information and forms for registration for upcoming shows are on the club website www.wisconsinriverwoodcarvers.org.

WISCONSIN RIVER WOODCARVERS

4th ANNUAL SPRING FLOYD RHADIGAN SEMINAR

CARVING: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, April 28, 29, & 30, 2025

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

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