



## May 2024 Newsletter

By: Ron O’Kray - Secretary / Treasurer

**President Greg Wirtz** called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM May 8, 2024.

**Minutes from April 2024 Meeting:** Motion made by Marion O’Kray and seconded by Tom Kissner to accept as sent. All in attendance approved.

**Sunshine Report:** Marion O’Kray reported that she sent a “Get Well” card to Charlie Dutter of Cammeron, WI. We hope that Charlie is feeling better. If you know of a club member that is sick, contact Marion at 715-341-2214 or [ron.marion@charter.net](mailto:ron.marion@charter.net).

**Membership:** We have (74) memberships paid for in 2024. Mark & Sue Vetter of Stevens Point, WI joined the club. Mark is a novice carver. Dan Hochleutner of Freedom, WI joined the club. Met Dan at the Oshkosh carving show. He is interested in the John Engler seminar. Welcome to all new members.

### INCOME AND EXPENSES SINCE LAST NEWLETTER

EXPENSES	INCOME	DESCRIPTION
	\$450.00	Floyd Rhadigan Seminar April 2025
	\$48.00	Dues 2024
	\$280.00	John Engler Seminar August 2024
\$42.74		Printing of April Newsletter
\$12.88		Stamps for Mailing of April Newsletter
\$2.66		Printing of Pictures for Club Scrapbook
\$7.33		Cookies for Club Meeting
\$25.00		Annual Non-Stock Corporation Report
\$30.00		Rent of Lincoln Center April 2024
\$18.98		(500) “Save The Date” Business Cards
<b>\$139.59</b>	<b>\$778.00</b>	

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

### Old Business:

- If you have pictures of recent seminars or carvings that you have completed, contact Ashten Brown to get them on Facebook, Kyle Mallek to get them on the Webpage, or Stan Carlson to get them in the Club Scrapbook. Their contact information is listed below with all the club officials.
- 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.** It was agreed to have a Rummage Sale again this year starting 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. **Contact Marion O'Kray @ 715-341-2214 or [ron.marion@charter.net](mailto:ron.marion@charter.net) to let her know who will be attending and what you plan on bringing.** The location of the picnic is in the shelter at South Wood County Park, 6411 South Park Road, Wisconsin Rapids, WI.
- Just a reminder. The Wisconsin River Woodcarvers is sponsoring a "**Cash Class Award**" at AWC in Maquoketa, IA with \$50.00 to 1<sup>st</sup> Place, \$30.00 to 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, and \$20.00 to 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in **Group C Class 309** (Treenware)
- 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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, 1<sup>st</sup> Runner up, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> Place in all categories. The fair will run from August 20<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> with judging on Tuesday August 20<sup>th</sup>. The address of the Fairgrounds is 513 East 17<sup>th</sup> Street; Marshfield, WI. Wednesday August 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

- Jerry Trzebiatowski stated that he would like to have a drawing class (preferably caricature). Ron is working with Kate of the ADRC of Portage 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 the March 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
- 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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. Ken Brzezinski has already donated a bowl.*
- **Karve in 8 at Westby, Kettle Karvers Show in Sheboygan, and Mid-Wisconsin Chippers show in Oshkosh are behind us.** Those of us that attended the shows had a great time. Many old friendships were renewed.
- The room we normally meet in at the 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational Church is being remodeled. They have installed electric cord reels on the ceiling, removed the partition wall, and will be working on the floor, so cleanup will be much easier. Next week we will meet at the Church but in the southwest corner on the same floor.
- **No other Old Business**

## Upcoming Seminars

- **The 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.johnenglerwoodcarving.com). John needs minimum of (9) students and maximum of (13) students for carving and (10) students' maximum for painting. We have **(13)** carvers already paid. The class is full with one carver on the waiting list.
- The carvers that attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Floyd Rhadigan seminar had so much fun that they decided to have another seminar in 2025. The **4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.wisconsinriverwoodcarvers.org)**. We have **(8)** 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 [jerald6@gmail.com](mailto:jerald6@gmail.com) with your comments. The Show Committee will report back to the membership before any contracts are signed.

**Greg Wirtz, Jerry Trzebiatowski, and Ron & Marion O'Kray attended a meeting at the Holiday inn with Michelle Sedlak on Tuesday April 30, 2024. The dates for the show would be Friday September 19, 2025 for setup with the show being on Saturday and Sunday September 20 & 21, 2025. After the meeting, Michelle sent us a contract. In 2021, we paid \$950.00 to rent the EXPO Center. In 2025, our price to rent the EXPO Center would be \$1,000.00. Table Rental fee in 2021 was \$35.00, in 2025 Table Rental would be \$35.00. Guestrooms in 2021 was \$119.99, in 2025 it would be \$119.99. Food and Beverage minimum in 2021 was \$1,750.00, in 2025 it would be \$2,000.00.**

Received the following comments from club members: Ted Lauf (longtime club member from Madison, WI) writes: ***My thoughts on having a show? from long distance and "over the hill" "You've set a very high standard for organization and execution-- "I "successfully" led multiple national meeting (in the 80's) for professional groups. My greatest advantage was having a "strong bench" which was always there when needed -e.g. fogged in airports for presenters/participants---etc. I believe you have laid that out well so there ought not be any surprises about the risk going forward.*** Howard Mohr (President of the Waupaca Area Woodcarvers) writes: ***I think having a show again is a great idea. I also mentioned it to our club and everyone agrees. Hope you can make it happen.*** Kyle Mallek (Webmaster) wrote: ***Just wanted to say I'm all for the show again. I'll help as much as I can. I think it would be a great way to get new members.***

At the Mid-Wisconsin Chippers Show in Oshkosh, WI , we talked to a lot of carvers about a show in 2025 and received no negative comments. This show cannot move forward without volunteers.

After much discussion, Mahala Earhart made a motion, seconded by Jerry Meid to have a show in 2025. It was unanimous to proceed with a show in 2025.

1. Greg Wirtz then officially appointed Jerry Trzebiatowski as Show Chairman for 2025.
2. In anticipation of the club having a show in 2025, Jerry Uher contacted Sun Printing in Wausau, WI for a price on printing 25,000 placemats for use in restaurants in the Stevens Point area. Sun Printing had been our printer in the past because they had the lowest price. Sun Printing would take a spot on the placemats. A question was asked if we needed that many. Jerry Uher pointed out that in the past we probably could have used 35,000 placemats but we stayed at 25,000 because then the price per add would have to be increased. Echo Keller asked if we could get a competitive bid. She said she would give Jerry Uher the name of a printer in Wisconsin Rapids, WI.
3. After some discussion, it was determined that we needed a Show Committee. The following members volunteered: Jerry Trzebiatowski, Greg Wirtz, Ashten Brown, Libby Wirtz, Jerry Uher, Ron O'Kray, and Marion O'Kray.
4. We need to determine a **Featured Carver**. If you have someone that you think would be a good candidate for Featured Carver in 2025, **contact Jerry Trzebiatowski @ 715-310-9900 or [Jerald6@gmail.com](mailto:Jerald6@gmail.com) before June 12, 2024**. After that, a ballot will be included in your June newsletter for all members to vote for Featured Carver in 2025.
5. A motion was made by Ron Peters and seconded by Sophie Kubisiak to keep the price of admission at \$5.00 for attendees 12 and older for the 2025 show. All in attendance agreed.
6. Need to determine show vendors. A motion was made by Chet James and seconded by Ken Brzezinski to let the Show Committee determine show vendors. All in attendance agreed.
7. The Show Committee will determine the price of show tables rental.

- **No Other New Business**

**SHOW AND TELL**



**Phillip Chatman**



**Phillip Chatman**



**Phillip Chatman**



**Phillip Chatman**



**Jerry Uher**



**Ron O'Kray**

### Club Meeting Dates:

- **May 15, 2024** 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational Church, Wisconsin Rapids, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
  - **May 21, 2024** Lincoln Center, Stevens Point, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
  - **May 22, 2024** 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational Church, Wisconsin Rapids, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
  - **May 29, 2024** 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational Church, Wisconsin Rapids, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
  - **June 4, 2024** Lincoln Center, Stevens Point, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
  - **June 5, 2024** 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational Church, Wisconsin Rapids, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
  - **June 11, 2024** Lincoln Center, Stevens Point, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
  - **June 12, 2024** 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational Church, Wisconsin Rapids, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- There being no other business President Greg Wirtz asked for a motion to adjourn. Ken Brzezinski made the motion seconded by David King All approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 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 | <a href="mailto:williamjacobs@charter.net">williamjacobs@charter.net</a>       |
| • Hostess                | Marion O’Kray       | 715-341-2214 | <a href="mailto:ron.marion@charter.net">ron.marion@charter.net</a>             |
| • Facebook Administrator | Ashten Brown        | 715-697-6010 | <a href="mailto:orders@badgerstateblades.com">orders@badgerstateblades.com</a> |
| • Show Chairman          | Jerry Trzebiatowski | 715-310-9900 | <a href="mailto:Jerald6@gmail.com">Jerald6@gmail.com</a>                       |



## **Future Carving Shows in 2024**

Maquoketa, Iowa — June 10 thru June 15, 2024

International Woodcarvers Congress, Diane Coley 630-335-4852 [dragonness77@comcast.net](mailto:dragonness77@comcast.net)

Janesville — Saturday, September 14, 2024

Rock River Valley Carvers of Wis 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Show & Sale

Brad Crandall, 608-931-0188, [bwkicrandall@gmail.com](mailto:bwkicrandall@gmail.com)

Eau Claire, WI—Saturday, September 28, 2024

3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Carve-In on the Chippewa hosted by West Wisconsin Wood Carvers Guild

Charlene Lynum 715-497-6296 or [thelynums@gmail.com](mailto:thelynums@gmail.com)

DeForest – Sunday October 27, 2024

Capitol Area Carvers of Wisconsin & Badger Woodturners – 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Show and Sale

Cindy Potthast, 608-712-2989, [cynthia.potthast@gmail.com](mailto: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 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Artistry in Wood" Show

Randy Hendricks 920-676-6466 or [show@newwg.org](mailto:show@newwg.org)

More information and forms for registration for upcoming shows are on the club website  
[www.wisconsinriverwoodcarvers.org](http://www.wisconsinriverwoodcarvers.org).

## **Future Carving Shows in 2025**

Westby — Saturday, April 19, 2025

Karve In-9, Steve Michaels, 608-634-0107, [steve.michaels@westbynorse.org](mailto:steve.michaels@westbynorse.org)

Oshkosh - Sunday, May 4, 2025

Mid-Wisconsin Chippers 49<sup>th</sup> Annual "Artistry in Wood" Show

Paul Wolters,

920-903-4215, [www.midwisconsinchippers.weebly.com](http://www.midwisconsinchippers.weebly.com)

**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)

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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