



## December 2025 Newsletter

By: Ron O'Kray Secretary / Treasurer

President Greg Wirtz called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM on December 17, 2025.

**Minutes from November 2025 Meeting:** Motion made by Clark Snyder and seconded by Dick Fleisner to accept as sent. All in attendance approved.

### Income and Expenses Since November Newsletter

Expenses	Description	Income	Description
\$50.00	Judy Shepard (Loss of Spouse)	\$10.00	Sale of Club Patches
\$337.59	Office Supplies	\$775.00	Tables @ 2026 Show
\$76.28	November Newsletter	\$264.00	Dues 2026
\$476.86	CCA Stickers for Show Flyers	\$216.00	2025 Christmas Party
\$9.42	Cookies for club Meeting	\$150.00	Floyd Rhadigan Seminar 2026
\$13.45	Add Larry Shepard name to Memorial Plaque	\$270.00	Jan Jenson Seminar 2026
\$30.70	Mailing of Show flyers	\$505.00	John Engler Seminar 2026
\$60.00	Rent of Lincoln Center October & November 2025	\$239.00	Reimbursement of 1/2 Cost of CCA Stickers
<b>\$1,054.30</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$2,429.00</b>	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>

**Membership:** We have (107) memberships paid for in 2025. April Bird of Madison, WI joined the club. Nancy Barthelmess of Stevens Point, WI joined the club. Nancy is new to Stevens Point and wants to **reengage** in art. Dewey Coerper of Onalaska, WI joined the club. He states: "*I really enjoyed life when I retired from teaching at WWTC Tech School. We have traveled a lot since 2016. My hobbies are playing golf and of course carving. I enjoy caricature carving and relief carving.*" Lindy Vruwink of Wisconsin Rapids, WI joined the club. Welcome to April, Nancy, Dewey, and Lindy. (39) Carvers have paid their dues for 2026. **2026 Dues are \$24.00 and are due January 1, 2026.**

**Sunshine Report:** Our Sunshine person Sophie was in the hospital. Richard Zakoski of Stevens Point, WI is in the Portage County Home in Stevens Point. Sophie sent a "Thinking of You" card to Richard Zakoski, a "Get-Well" card to Stan Carlson on his knee replacement, a 'Sympathy" card to Libby Wirtz on the loss of her brother, a "Sympathy" card to Greg Wirtz on the loss of his grandson, a "Get Well" card to Harol Mohr on his tractor accident, and a "Sympathy" to Judy Shepard on the loss of her husband Larry. If you know of a club member that is sick, contact Sophie Kubisiak at 715-340-4045.

#### Old Business:

- Becky Engstrand & Bobbi O'Shasky have agreed to be in charge of the Christmas Party this year. Ornament Exchange only this year. The Christmas Party will be on Wednesday January 14, 2026 at Smiley's, 4020 County Road R, Plover, WI. Happy Hour is at 5:00 PM with Supper at 6:00 PM. The cost to members will be \$24.00. Sign-up form is attached. We have (17) people signed up for the Christmas Party. We have to let Smiley's know by January 7, 2026 the number of attendees.
- **30<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMERATIVE KNIVES:** We have a few knives available. Cost is \$60.00. Contact Ron if you are interested.
- Russell Scott of St. Paul, MN posted a 1 hour 27 min. video of our 2025 show. To view:

You Tube  
International Woodcarvers Assn.  
Woodcarving Show in Stevens Point in Wisconsin 2025  
[https://youtube/-20NI6L\\_BUw?si=eFZbsK3j-1Sddkwt](https://youtube/-20NI6L_BUw?si=eFZbsK3j-1Sddkwt)

- A motion was made by Ron O'Kray and seconded by Dick Fleisner to not meet on December 24 & 31, 2025. All in attendance agreed.
- **No Other Old Business**

#### Upcoming Seminars

- **Jan Jenson** will teach a (3) day class for the Wisconsin River Woodcarvers on April 13, 14, & 15, 2026. Jan Jenson teaches "Old World Style Chip Carving". The cost for the class would be \$90.00 for Wisconsin River Woodcarvers members and \$100.00 for Non-Members plus the cost of Projects which range in price from \$1.00 to \$20.00. Minimum number of students is (6), with maximum at (12). If you are interested, a registration form is attached to this newsletter. We have (4) carvers already paid.

- Because of all the fun that we had, we will be having the **5th Annual Floyd Rhadigan Seminar**. It will be held at the Lincoln Center is Stevens Point, WI on **Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday, April 28, 29, & 30, 2026**. 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 2026. 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 available on the club website [www.wisconsinriverwoodcarvers.org](http://www.wisconsinriverwoodcarvers.org).** We have (7) carvers already paid.
- Because John Engler will be our featured carver in 2026 and the fact the John Engler Seminar is always full, we will be having the **4th Annual John Engler Seminar** to be held at the Lincoln Center is Stevens Point, WI. There will be a (3) day woodcarving class (**Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday, September 14, 15, & 16, 2026**) and a (1) day painting class (**Thursday September 17, 2026**). 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). A form is attached to this newsletter. (10) carvers have paid for the seminar. John will take a maximum of (12) students.

## 2026 Show

- **Show Committee** consists of Jerry Trzebiatowski, Greg Wirtz, Ron O'Kray, Mahala Earnhart, Tom Kissner, and Diane Swiggum. We would like to have (7) members on the show Committee. If you are interested, contact Greg Wirtz. Jerry Trzebiatowski will be Show Chairman. Jerry Uher, Ashten Brown, and Libby Wirtz are advisors to the show committee.
- We have renewed the Raffle license for 2026.
- John Engler will be featured Carver.
- We have (61) Tables sold for at the 2026 Show. Stadtlander Woodcarving LLC has asked for (10) tables, Moore Wood has asked for (8) tables in 2026. This means that (78) tables out of the (145) that we have are accounted for already. Do not be disappointed, get your table early. We only have (66) left.
- We have (3) prizes donated already for the 2026 Show.
- Competition Categories have been increased from (36) in 2025 to (41) in 2026.
- Club members and non-members have been working on adding 6,500 stickers to the back of our 2026 small show flyers with the CCA information. Thanks to all who participated in this endeavor.
- Wisconsin River Woodcarvers will **not** have a "Carving Contest" in 2026 but the Caricature Carvers of America will.

- Guests can book their reservations online 24 hours a day by using the following link: [Woodcarvers Assn](#)

Holiday Inn Hotel & Convention Center

Rate: \$124.00 Standard Rate

If your guests decide to make reservations over the phone, please call 715-344-0200 and press #1. When making reservations, we ask that you please reference the group name for Woodcarvers Assn or the Group Block Code: **CRV**.

Your group rate will be available until **August 18, 2026** or until the block is full. On this date, any remaining rooms in your block will be released for general reservations at the hotel's prevailing daily rate, which may be higher than your group rate. So please encourage your guests to book by **8/18/2026**.

- The CCA has reserved the Woodland/Trillium rooms to hold a carving class on September 21, 22, & 23, 2026. The instructors will be Jim Hiser, Terry Moss, and Rich Wetherbee. Class cost will be \$250.00 per person. Do not have a registration form from the CCA at this time.
- The CCA will be holding a "Silent Auction".
- The CCA will release their new book "Splitting Hairs" at our show.

## New Business

- **No carving** at the 1<sup>st</sup> United Church of Christ on December 24 & 31, 2025 because of Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.
- **No Business Meeting in January** because of Christmas Party on January 14, 2026.
- Michelle Hartjes of the **Rudolph 4-H** asked if the club would put on a carving demonstration / class for up to (41) 4-H members on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month of our choosing at the Rudolph Elementary School from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Ages would be from 5 to 18. After discussion, the Wisconsin River Woodcarvers is interested. More discussion and logistics to be worked out.
- No other New Business
- There being no other business President Greg Wirtz asked for a motion to adjourn. Clark Snyder made the motion and seconded by Tom Kissner. All in attendance approved. Meeting adjourned at 6:25 PM

## SHOW AND TELL



Jerry Uher's 2025 Christmas Ornaments



Larry Hiadilek's Gnome



Ron O'Kray and UWSP students at ADRC on Tuesday December 17, 2025



Greg Polacheck & Jerry Trzebiatowski working on a carving at the ADRC on Tuesday December 17, 2025

## CLUB OFFICERS:

• 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	Sophie Kubisiak	715-340-4045	<a href="mailto:ckuby@charter.net">ckuby@charter.net</a>
• Librarian	Bill Jacobs	715-421-4962	<a href="mailto:williamjacobs@charter.net">williamjacobs@charter.net</a>
• Hostess	Echo Keller	715-421-5597	<a href="mailto:erkeller@wctc.net">erkeller@wctc.net</a>
• Hostess	Becky Engstrand	715-435-3766	<a href="mailto:engst@wctc.net">engst@wctc.net</a>
• Hostess	Bobbi O'Shasky	715-457-5887	<a href="mailto:bobbioshasky@gmail.com">bobbioshasky@gmail.com</a>
• Facebook Administrator	Jerry Trzebiatowski	715-310-9900	<a href="mailto:Jerald6@gmail.com">Jerald6@gmail.com</a>
• Show Chairman	Jerry Trzebiatowski	715-310-9900	<a href="mailto:Jerald6@gmail.com">Jerald6@gmail.com</a>

## Club Meeting Dates:

• December 24, 2025	No Carving
• December 31, 2025	No Carving
• January 6, 2026	Lincoln Center, Stevens Point, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
• January 7, 2026	1 <sup>st</sup> Congregational Church, Wisconsin Rapids, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
• January 14, 2026	<b>Show Committee Meeting</b> 4:00 PM @ Smiley's; Plover, WI
• January 14, 2026	<b>Christmas Party</b> Happy Hour 5:00 PM @ Smiley's, Plover; WI
• January 14, 2026	<b>Christmas Party</b> Supper 6:00 PM @ Smiley's, Plover; WI
• January 20, 2026	Lincoln Center, Stevens Point, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
• January 21, 2026	1 <sup>st</sup> Congregational Church, Wisconsin Rapids, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
• January 28, 2026	1 <sup>st</sup> Congregational Church, Wisconsin Rapids, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
• February 3, 2026	Lincoln Center, Stevens Point, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
• February 4, 2026	1 <sup>st</sup> Congregational Church, Wisconsin Rapids, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
• February 11, 2026	<b>Show Committee Meeting</b> 3:00 PM @ 1 <sup>st</sup> Congregational Church
• February 11, 2026	1 <sup>st</sup> Congregational Church, Wisconsin Rapids, 5:30 to 8:30 PM

## UPCOMING CARVING EVENTS:

- John Engler presents the **15<sup>th</sup> Annual Ozarks Woodcarving Seminar** March 16 thru March 20, 2026. We have assembled the finest professional wood carving instructors to teach their style of wood carving. We have an outstanding facility with excellent lighting, close parking, and an exceptional caterer serving both breakfast and lunch. For additional information call John Engler at 417-209-6842 or E-mail [john@johnenglerwoodcarving.com](mailto:john@johnenglerwoodcarving.com) . Please check out our website at [www.ozarkwoodcarvingseminar.com](http://www.ozarkwoodcarvingseminar.com) for project descriptions, project photographs, and additional information on carving classes.

- The **Lancaster County Wood Carvers** will be holding their 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Woodcarving Show, Sale, & Competition on March 14 & 15, 2026 at the Student Memorial Center, Millersville University, 108 Shanks Ave., Millersville, PA. Saturday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM & Sunday 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Admission \$5.00. For more information contact: Bob Hershey@ 717-951-5569 or [bzcarvn@ptd.com](mailto:bzcarvn@ptd.com).
- **KARVE IN 10** will be held at the Westby High School, 206 West Avenue S, Wesby Wi on Saturday April 11, 2026 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Multiple drawings for carvers, Free Admission, Donation accepted. For more information contact: John Sutton at [lbarnfarms@gmail.com](mailto:lbarnfarms@gmail.com) or Steve Michaels at 608-769-8498 and [stevemichaels@westby-norse.org](mailto:stevemichaels@westby-norse.org).
- The **Kettle Karvers** will be holding their 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Wood Carving Show on Sunday April 19, 2026 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the Emil Mazey Hall, 5425 Superior Ave., Sheboygan, WI. Free Admission – donations appreciated. New carvers Welcome. Tables \$25.00. For information contact: Stuart Thiel 920-698-1206, [stuthiel2@gmail.com](mailto:stuthiel2@gmail.com) or Jim Rooker 920-918-8512, [jrooker49@gmail.com](mailto:jrooker49@gmail.com). Website: [www.kettlekarvers.org](http://www.kettlekarvers.org)
- The **North Arkansas Woodcarver's 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Woodcarving Show** will be held on Saturday & Sunday May 2 & 3, 2026. For more information call Sandy Smith @ 870-431-8070 or E-mail [webmaster@northarkansaswoodcarvers.org](mailto:webmaster@northarkansaswoodcarvers.org).
- The **Mid-Wisconsin Chippers** will be holding their 50<sup>th</sup> Annual "Artistry in Wood" will be held on Sunday May 3, 2026 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at The Oshkosh Convention Center, 2 North Main Street, Oshkosh, WI. Admission is \$5.00. Ages 12 and under are free. For more information checkout their website [www.midwisconsinchippers.weebly.com](http://www.midwisconsinchippers.weebly.com)
- The **International Woodcarvers 2026 AWC Congress** will be held in Maquoketa, IA from June 15 to June 20, 2026 at the Jackson County Fairgrounds. Contact Diane Colley @ 630-335-4850 or [www.woodcarverscongress.org](http://www.woodcarverscongress.org) for more information.
- The **Creede Woodcarvers Rendezvous** will be Celebrating 35 Years on July 11 – 15, 2026. Register Mid-January Online @ [www.crdedwoodcarvers.com](http://www.crdedwoodcarvers.com).
- The **Rock River Valley Carvers of Wisconsin Inc.** will be holding their 20<sup>th</sup> annual Show and Sale on Saturday, September 12, 2026 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the Rock County Fair Grounds "Craig Center" 1301 Craig Ave. Janesville, WI. Feathered Carver is Brad Crandall. Free Admission, donations accepted. Contact Brad Crandall @ 608-931-0188 or [bwkicrandall@gmail.com](mailto:bwkicrandall@gmail.com) or John Raisbeck @[jkraisbeck4@gmail.com](mailto:jkraisbeck4@gmail.com). for more information.
- **Wisconsin River Woodcarvers Show, Sale, & Competition September 19 & 20, 2026**
- The **Waupaca Area Woodcarvers Club** will be holding their show on November 1, 2026.

## WISCONSIN RIVER WOODCARVERS

### Jan Jenson “Old World Style” Chip Carving Seminar

**CARVING:** Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday, April 13, 14, & 15, 2026

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

**WHERE:** Lincoln Center (Workshop)  
1519 Water Street  
Stevens Point, WI 54481

**COST:** \$90.00 FOR Wisconsin River Woodcarvers members and \$100.00 for Non-Members (Plus project) Projects range in price from \$1.00 to \$20.00. Need “Chip Carving Knife “which range in price from \$35.00 to \$50.00

Meals are **not** included.

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Jan lives in Eau Claire, WI and Pharr, TX. This allows Jan to belong to two carving clubs. She loves to teach chip carving, and make boxes, and create original designs. She has just finished her third book.

***Even More Blue Ribbon Chip Carving***, Her other books include ***Blue Ribbon Chip Carving*** and ***More Blue Ribbon Chip Carving***.

**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

### 5th ANNUAL SPRING FLOYD RHADIGAN SEMINAR

**CARVING:** Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday April 28, 29, & 30, 2026

**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:** **\$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**

# WISCONSIN RIVER WOODCARVERS

## 4th ANNUAL JOHN ENGLER SEMINAR 2026

**CARVING:** Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday, September 14, 15, & 16, 2026

**PAINTING:** Thursday September 17, 2026

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

**WHERE:** Lincoln Center (Rooms A & B)  
1519 Water Street  
Stevens Point, WI 54481

**COST:** **CARVING ONLY** - \$210.00 for Wisconsin River Woodcarvers members and \$225.00 for Non-Members (Plus roughout)

**CARVING & PAINTING - \$280.00 for Wisconsin River Woodcarvers members and \$300.00 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 Greg Wirtz (715-423-0471) or Ron O'Kray (715-341-2214).

Name (please print)

Address

City State Zip

Phone

E-mail: [roberto.silva@uol.com.br](mailto:roberto.silva@uol.com.br)

I wish to pay my **2026** Dues at this time \$24.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**AMOUNT ENCLOSED** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** If you cancel the class more than (30) days prior to the class, your entire registration will be refunded.

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.

Make checks payable to:  
Mail completed form to:

# **Wisconsin River Woodcarvers Inc.**

**Ronald O'Kray – Treasurer  
1449 Sunny Crest Drive  
Stevens Point, WI 54481**

# **WISCONSIN RIVER WOODCARVERS**

## **CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**WHEN** Wednesday January 14, 2026

**HOSTS** Becky Engstrand & Bobbi O'Shasky

**HAPPY HOUR** 5:00 PM

**SUPPER** 6:00 PM

**WHERE** Smiley's, 4020 County Road R, Plover, WI

**MEAL** Chicken, Beef Tips, Potatoes & Gravy, Vegetable, Rolls, Coffee, Milk

**COST:** \$24.00 per person

**WHAT TO BRING:** Ornament for Exchange

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For additional information or questions contact Becky Engstrand ((715-435-3766) or Bobbi O'Shasky (715-457-5887)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse / Significant Other \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Mail completed form to:  
Ronald O'Kray – Treasurer  
1449 Sunny Crest Drive  
Stevens Point, WI 54482-9431