

# November 2025 Newsletter

By: Ron O'Kray Secretary / Treasurer



President Greg Wirtz called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM on November 12, 2025.

**Minutes from October 2025 Meeting:** Motion made by Bobbi O'Shasky and seconded by Becky Engstrand to accept as sent. All in attendance approved.

## Income and Expenses Since Last Newsletter

Expenses	Description	Income	Description
\$35.86	October Newsletter	\$19.05	Reimbursement for Mailing Raffle Prizes
\$25.85	Mailing 2026 Show Information	\$1,290.00	Tables @ 2026 Show
\$448.90	Printing of 2026 Show Information	\$150.00	2026 Floyd Rhadigan Seminar
\$8.52	Supplies for Home School Kids	\$398.00	Dues 2026
\$15.60	Stamps	\$380.00	2026 John Engler Seminar
		\$50.00	Electricity @ 2026 Show
<b>\$534.73</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$2,287.05</b>	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>

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

**Membership:** We have (103) memberships paid for in 2025. Aiden Rolling of Stevens Point, WI joined the club. Aiden is a Forestry Student at UWSP. Lilly Webb of Custer joined the club. James Guthrie of Amherst, WI re-joined the club. Welcome Aiden, Lilly, and James. (26) Carvers have paid their dues for 2026. 2026 Dues are \$24.00 and are due January 1, 2026.

**Sunshine Report:** Larry Shepard of Wisconsin Rapids, WI passed away on November 6, 2025. His funeral will be Friday November 14th at 9:00 AM at the Herman-Taylor Funeral Home in Wisconsin Rapids, WI. If you know of a club member that is sick, contact Sophie Kubisiak at 715-340-4045 or [ckuby@charter.net](mailto:ckuby@charter.net)

**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 January 14, 2026 at Smiley's, 4020 County Road R, Plover, WI. Ken Brzezinski made a motion that the club pick up the tax and gratuity associated with the meal. Motion passed. The cost to members will be \$24.00. Sign-up form is attached.
- **30<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMERATIVE KNIVES:** We have a few knives available. Cost is \$60.00. Contact Ron if you are interested.
- **Election of Officers:**

OFFICE	PERSON NOMINATED	PERSON MAKING NOMINATION	PERSON SECONDING NOMINATION	APPROVED
PRESIDENT	GREG WIRTZ	KEN BRZEZINSKI	DIANE SWIGGUM	UNAMIMOUS
VICE-PRESIDENT	DIANE SWIGGUM	KEN BRZEZINSKI	ECHO KELLER	UNAMIMOUS
SECRETARY	RON O'KRAY	BECKY ENGSTRAND	TOM KISSNER	UNAMIMOUS
TRESURER	RON O'KRAY	BECKY ENGSTRAND	TOM KISSNER	UNAMIMOUS
WEB MASTER	KYLE MALLEK	KEN BRZEZINSKI	ECHO KELLER	UNAMIMOUS
SEMINAR CHAIRMAN	CHET JAMES	GREG WIRTZ	ECHO KELLER	UNAMIMOUS
HISTORION	STAN CARLSON	RON O'KRAY	ECHO KELLER	UNAMIMOUS
SUNSHINE PERSON	SOPHIE KUBISIAK	KEN BRZEZINSKI	DICK FLEISNER	UNAMIMOUS
LIBRARIAN	BILL JACOBS	RON O'KRAY	TOM KISSNER	UNAMIMOUS
HOSTESS	ECHO KELLER, BECKY ENGSTRAND, & BOBBI O'SHASKY	ECHO KELLER	BECKY ENGSTRAND	UNAMIMOUS
FACEBOOK ADMINISTRATOR	JERRY TRZEBIATOWSKI	RON O'KRAY	TOM KISSNER	UNAMIMOUS
SHOW CHAIRMAN	JERRY TRZEBIATOWSKI	RON O'KRAY	TOM KISSNER	UNAMIMOUS

- 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)

- 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). Ron O'Kray, Mahala Earnhart, Diane Swiggum, Jerry Trzebiatowski, and Gary Kaltenbach showed interest. If you are interested, a registration form is attached to this newsletter. We have (2) 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 in 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 (6) 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 in 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. (8) 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 a signed contract with the Holiday Inn for 2026.
- We have renewed the Raffle license for 2026.
- John Engler will be featured Carver.
- We have (48) Tables sold for at the 2026 Show.
- 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.

- Moore Wood will be back in 2026.
- Stadtlander Woodcarving LLC will be back in 2026.
- We have (3) prizes donated already for the 2026 Show.
- Competition Categories have been increased from (36) in 2025 to (41) in 2026.
- We are working on a plan to put a sticker on the back of the Wisconsin River Woodcarvers small show flyers with the CCA information on it.
- Wisconsin River Woodcarvers will not have a "Carving Contest" in 2026 but the Caricature Carvers of America will.
- 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.



## SHOW AND TELL



Eyeglass Holder and Santa Face by Gary Kaltenbach of Nekoosa, WI.



Relief carving by Greg Wirtz of Wisconsin Rapids, WI



Ice Fisherman by Larry Hiadilek of Waupaca, WI

# **Caricature Carvers of America**

## **2026 Caricature Carving Competition**

**In Conjunction with**  
**Wisconsin River Woodcarvers, Inc.**

**September 19-20, 2026**

- \*Competition**
- \*CCA Carving Display**
- \*Silent Auction**
- \*Live Demonstrations**
- \*Whittling Competition**
- \*School of Caricature Carving**



## New Business

- No Carving on November 26, 2025 because of Thanksgiving on November 27<sup>th</sup>
- No other New Business

## Guest Carver

- **Fred Cogelow** of Willmar, MN stopped in to visit as he and his wife Doris were passing through the area. He gave a little talk on how he got into carving due to a third grade teacher telling him that he would never make a Wood carver.

## 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:

- **November 18, 2025** Lincoln Center, Stevens Point, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **November 19, 2025** 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational Church, Wisconsin Rapids, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **November 26, 2025** **No Carving**
- **December 2, 2025** Lincoln Center, Stevens Point, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **December 3, 2025** 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational Church, Wisconsin Rapids, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **December 10, 2025** Show committee Meeting 3:00 PM
- **December 10, 2025** 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 and seconded by Gary Kaltenbach. All in attendance approved. Meeting adjourned at 6:25 PM.

#### UPCOMING CARVING EVENTS:

- **KARVE IN 10** will be held at the Westby High School, 206 West Avenue S, Westby 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 **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 **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: [robert.schulz@uni-muenster.de](mailto:robert.schulz@uni-muenster.de)

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

AMOUNT ENCLOSED **\$ 6**

**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:  
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

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

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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**