



February 2026 Newsletter

By: Ron O’Kray Secretary / Treasurer

Immediate Past President Greg Wirtz called the meeting to order at 6:23 PM on February 11,2026.

Important news: Greg Wirtz has resigned as Club President. *“I’m sending you this note of resignation of President of the carving club and show committee. With what medical and physical problems I’m having, I am unable to serve. It has been a good 30 years, but all good things have to come to an end.”* **A large round of applause was given to Greg for his years of service.**

Minutes from December 2025 Meeting: Motion made by Echo Keller and seconded by Mahala Earnhart to accept as sent. All in attendance approved.

INCOME & EXPENSES SINCE DECEMBER 10, 2025

Income	Description	Expenses	Description
\$2,215.00	Tables @ 2026 Show	\$45.00	Rent of Lincoln Center
\$1,177.00	Dues	\$190.63	Office Supplies
\$576.00	Christmas Party	\$68.08	December Newsletter
\$950.00	John Engler Seminar	\$479.52	Website License
\$450.00	Floyd Rhadigan Seminar	\$31.34	Cookies for club Meeting
\$14.00	Donation to 2026 Show	\$150.00	Loss of Members
\$45.00	Overpayment	\$1,014.12	Christmas Party
\$100.00	Electricity @ 2026 Show	\$502.00	Insurance
\$90.00	Jan Jensen Seminar	\$45.00	Overpayment Refunds
		\$31.65	Add names to Memorial Plaque
		\$250.00	Rental of Shelter for Club Picnic
		\$7.45	Mailing of Lamp part

\$5,617.00

\$2,814.79

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

Membership: We have (87) memberships paid for in 2026. **2026 Dues are \$24.00 and were due January 1, 2026.**

New Members: Lynn Braun of Waupaca, WI joined the club She has been a member of The Waupaca Area Woodcarvers for 1 ½ years. Don Swartz of Lancaster, PA joined the club. Don will be an exhibitor at our 2026 show. Cade Larson of Plover, WI joined the club. Cade just graduated from UWSP with a degree in Natural Resources. Pete Thiesen of Stevens Point, WI joined the club. Pete is retired, married, and has (3) grandchildren, Terri Hall of Plover, WI joined the club. She heard about the club through Bill Ferg and attended our 2025 show. Dave Filter of Wautoma joined the club. Dave is the father of Terri Hall and heard about the club from Bill Ferg and attending the 2025 show. Joel Kubish of Custer, WI joined the club. He joined the club with his son Liam. Liam Kubish of Stevens Point, WI joined the club as a Youth member. Liam is in 9th Grade at Ben Franklin Junior High and got into carving so he can make his own fishing lures. Briareos Yang of Stevens Point, WI joined the club. Briareos is in 9th Grade at Ben Franklin Junior High and got into carving with his bet friend Laim so they could make their own fishing lures. Both Liam and Briareos are avid fishermen. Terry Laib of New London, WI joined the club. He is retired and a member of the Waupaca Area Woodcarvers. Terry restored historic homes and buildings in Wisconsin and Michigan for a living.

Welcome to all new members. We had (7) new members join the club at Stevens Point, WI on February 4, 2026.

The following carvers were members in 2025 but have **not** paid their dues for 2026. **This will be your last newsletter unless dues are paid.**

Charlei Arnold	Glen Auer	Ashten Brown	Warren Clauss
John Engler	Tom Fisher	Kay Gabriel	John Gehrman
Karen Henderson	Steve Hofer	Mike Hughbanks	Bill Jacobs
Donna Leffel	Charlen Lynum	Harold Mohr	Randy & Patty Moore
Dave Pilon	Al & Sue Pilsl	John Raisbeck	Roger Scheff
Karen Schultz	Tom Stram	Bob Strelczyk	Tom & Gerri Taylor
Gregg Thompson	Jerry Trzebiatowski	Mark Vetter	John Walker
Katherine Wechorek	Mina Willis	Libby Wirtz	Klauss Zunker

Sunshine Report: If you know of a club member that is sick, contact Sophie Kubisiak at 715-340-4045.

Old Business:

- Becky Engstrand & Bobbi O'Shasky did a great job on the Christmas Party. Thank you.
- **30th 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

or www.wisconsinriverwoodcarvers.org.

- On Monday February 9th, The Wisconsin River Woodcarvers did a carving class for the **Rudolph 4-H**. We had (26) students and worked on a Christmas ornament depicting a child on a sled. The students were divided with youngest group K thru 3rd Grade. That group did not use any carving tools, only painted; but the remainder of students used a “V” tool. No injuries. The class started at 6:00 PM and ended by 7:30 PM. What enthusiasm the students showed. One student carved and painted (5) ornaments in that time frame, while in the K – 3rd Grade group one student completed (6) ornaments. A special thank you to all club members who helped teach and to Greg Wirtz for cutting all the blanks. We had a great turnout of club volunteers.

- **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 **(6)** 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**. We have **(10)** 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. **(13)** carvers have paid for the seminar and (4) are on the waiting list. **THE CLASS IS FULL**

2026 Show

- **Show Committee** consists of Jerry Trzebiatowski, Ron O’Kray, Mahala Earnhart, Tom Kissner, Chet James, and Diane Swiggum. We would like to have (7) members on the show Committee. If you are interested, contact Show Chairman Jerry Trzebiatowski. Jerry Uher and Lynne Kissner are advisors to the show committee.
- We have renewed the Raffle license for 2026.
- John Engler will be featured Carver.
- We have **(115)** Tables sold for at the 2026 Show. Moore Wood has asked for **(8)** tables in 2026. Two carvers each have told me that “The check is in the mail for (2) tables each.” This means that **(127)** tables out of the **(145)** that we have are accounted for already. Do not be disappointed, get your table early. We only have **(18)** left.
- We have **(30)** prizes donated already for the 2026 Show.
- Competition Categories have been increased from **(36)** in 2025 to **(41)** in 2026. Information can be found on website www.wisconsinriverwoodcarvers.org.
- 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. If you want to sign up, use the following link:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cca-caricature-carving-school-tickets-1981018360243?aff=oddtcreator>
- 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 1st United Church of Christ on February 18, 2026 because of Ash Wednesday.
- The Wisconsin River Woodcarvers has reserved the “Red Sands Beach Open Shelter” at the South Wood County Park in Kellner for our **Annual Picnic. We need a volunteer(s) to be in charge.**

No other New Business

- There being no other business Immediate Past President Greg Wirtz asked for a motion to adjourn. Ken Brzezinski made the motion and seconded by Echo Keller. All in attendance approved. Meeting adjourned at 6:51PM

SHOW AND TELL



Carving by Larry Hiadlek
Of Waupaca, WI
“Skunk in Flower Patch”
(41) Flowers



Relief Carving by Tom Kissner
of Plover, WI



Face Carving by Gary Kaltenbach
of Nekoosa, WI

CLUB OFFICIERS:

• President	Diane Swiggum	715-459-3221	mrschips48@gmail.com
• Immediate Past President	Greg Wirtz	715-424-0471	gswirtz@outlook.com
• Vice President			
• 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	Sophie Kubisiak	715-340-4045	ckuby@charter.net
• Librarian	Bill Jacobs	715-421-4962	williamjacobs@charter.net
• Hostess	Echo Keller	715-421-5597	erkeller@wctc.net
• Hostess	Becky Engstrand	715-435-3766	engst@wctc.net
• Hostess	Bobbi O’Shasky	715-457-5887	bobbioshasky@gmail.com
• Facebook Administrator	Jerry Trzebiatowski	715-310-9900	Jerald6@gmail.com
• Show Chairman	Jerry Trzebiatowski	715-310-9900	Jerald6@gmail.com

Club Meeting Dates:

- **February 17, 2026** Lincoln Center, Stevens Point, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **February 18, 2026** **No Carving, Ash Wednesday**
- **February 24, 2026** 1st Congregational Church, Wisconsin Rapids, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **March 3, 2026** Lincoln Center, Stevens Point, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **March 4, 2026** 1st Congregational Church, Wisconsin Rapids, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **March 11, 2026** **Show Committee Meeting** 3:00 PM @ 1st Congregational Church
- **March 11, 2026** 1st Congregational Church, Wisconsin Rapids, 5:30 to 8:30 PM

UPCOMING CARVING EVENTS:

- John Engler presents the **15th 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 . Please check out our website at www.ozarkwoodcrvingseminar.com for project descriptions, project photographs, and additional information on carving classes.

- The **Lancaster County Wood Carvers** will be holding their 51st 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.
- **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 or Steve Michaels at 608-769-8498 and stevemichaels@westby-norse.org.
- The **Kettle Karvers** will be holding their 33rd 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 or Jim Rooker 920-918-8512, jrooker49@gmail.com. Website: www.kettlekarvers.org
- The **North Arkansas Woodcarver's 46th 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.
- The **Mid-Wisconsin Chippers** will be holding their 50th 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
- 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 for more information.
- The **Creede Woodcarvers Rendezvous** will be Celebrating 35 Years on July 11 – 15, 2026. Register Mid-January Online @ www.creddedwoodcarvers.com.
- The **Rock River Valley Carvers of Wisconsin Inc.** will be holding their 20th 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 or John Raisbeck @ 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).

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 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

BANQUET SIGN UP

WISCONSIN RIVER WOODCARVERS, INC. SHOW, SALE & COMPETITION
HOLIDAY INN; STEVENS POINT, WI

SEPTEMBER 19, 2026 6:00 PM

PLEASE PRINT

NAME: _____

SPOUSE OR HELPER _____

COST

Number of people for Banquet dinner _____ @ \$45.00 each _____

I am enclosing: \$ _____

The banquet meal will be **CHICKEN SALTIMBOCCA** (*Chicken breast stuffed with slice prosciutto, sage, rosemary, garlic puree, & Swiss cheese*) and **BEEF SIRLOIN** (*Classic 4 oz. char-grilled beef sirloin steak*). Each dinner includes dinner salad, mashed potatoes with sauce, teriyaki green beans, and freshly brewed regular & decaf coffee. Dessert will be cake.

The show committee has worked hard to keep the price as low as possible. Price includes tax and gratuity.

There will be a "Cash Bar" that opens at 5:00 PM.

Make checks payable to: **WISCONSIN RIVER WOODCARVERS, INC**

Return this **registration form** with the proper fee to:

Wisconsin River Woodcarvers Inc.
Ronald O'Kray
Secretary / Treasurer
1449 Sunny Crest Drive
Stevens Point, WI 54482

Questions call: 715-341-2214
or **E-mail:** ron.marion@charter.net