



March 2026 Newsletter
 By: Ron O’Kray Secretary / Treasurer

President Diane Swiggum called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM on March 11, 2026.

Important news: Our March 17th meeting scheduled at the ADRC in Stevens Point has been moved to March 24th because a number of club members will be in Springfield, MO. Starting time 5:30 PM.

Minutes from February 2026 Meeting: Motion made by Echo Keller and seconded by Jerry Trzebiatowski to accept as sent. All in attendance approved.

INCOME & EXPENSES SINCE FEBRUARY 11, 2025			
--	--	--	--

Income	Description		Expenses	Description
\$240.00	Dues 2026		\$138.01	Office Supplies
\$625.00	Tables @ 2026 Show		\$81.42	February Newsletter
\$90.00	Jan Jenson Seminar		\$50.00	Loss of Spouse
\$1.00	Donation to Show			
\$160.00	Floyd Rhadigan Seminar			
\$495.00	Banquet Meals			

\$1,611.00

\$269.43

A motion was made by Clark Snyder and seconded by Echo Keller to approve the Treasurer’s Report. All in attendance agreed

Membership: We have (96) memberships paid for in 2026.

New Members: Brenda & Mike Lodermier of South Haven, MN joined the club. Welcome Brenda & Mike.

Sunshine Report Sophie sent Get Well cards to: Ron Peters, Jim Willner, David King, and Vicki Neuman. We hope that all carvers who were sick are recovered. She sent a Sympathy card to Clarence Thurber on loss of his wife Julie and a sympathy card to Mary Willner on loss of husband Jim. If you know of a club member that is sick, contact Sophie Kubisiak at 715-340-4045.

Old Business:

- **30th ANNIVERSARY COMMERATIVE KNIVES:** We have a few knives available. Cost is \$60.00. Contact Ron if you are interested.
- The Wisconsin River Woodcarvers has reserved the “Red Sands Beach Open Shelter” at the South Wood County Park in Kellner for our **Annual Picnic on Wednesday July 8, 2026. We need a volunteer(s) to be in charge.**
- **Any 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 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.** We have **(12)** 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. **(13)** carvers have paid for the seminar and **(5)** 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 **(134)** Tables sold for at the 2026 Show. Moore Wood has asked for **(8)** tables in 2026. Three carvers each have told me that “The check is in the mail for **(1)** tables each.” This means that **(145)** tables out of the **(149)** that we have are accounted for already. Do not be disappointed, get your table early. We only have **(4)** left. The Holiday Inn layout was changed slightly to get (149) tables instead of the (145) we had in 2025.
- 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.
- 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**. If you trouble making a reservation at the Holiday Inn, contact Ron O’Kray @ 715-570-2534.
- 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.

- Wisconsin River Woodcarvers will **not** have a “Carving Contest” in 2026 but the Caricature Carvers of America will. The “CCA Themed Category” for 2026 will be “Cheeseheads and Characters”. For more information on the CCA Carving Contest <https://cca-carvers.org>.

New Business

- Received a call from Nancy Wagner. Her husband passed away and she has some carving tools and books for sale. If interested; her address is 2610 Little Chicago Road, Stevens Point, WI or 920-257-8104.
- Received a call from Alex Hewitt of the Olio in Wisconsin Rapids, WI. They will be having a show from August 20th thru October 17th. They are looking for pieces for sale. They will take a 30% commission on sales. Drop off dates August 11, 12, & 13, 2026. For more information call 605-359-9979.
- Received an E-mail from Brad Crandall of the Rock River Valley Woodcarvers. They are sponsoring a Rich Wetherbee carving class on April 14, 15, & 16, 2026. Seminar will be held at “Raven’s Wish” in Janesville. Hours are 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Cost is \$85.00 per day, plus cost of roughout. (Payment to Rich Wethebee cash or check). Rich will work anyone interested in working clay sculpture. Price of class would be the same plus cost of clay. Contact Brad Crandall @ 608-931-0188 or bwkcrandall@gmail.com.

Any other New Business?

- There being no other business President Diane Swiggum asked for a motion to adjourn. Clark Snyder made the motion and seconded by Echo Keller All in attendance approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM

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 ⁴ | 715-310-9900 | Jerald6@gmail.com |



Gary Kaltenbach - Longhorn



Chet James – Weiner Dog



Nancy Olson – Scottish Highland



David King - Owl



Diane Swiggum – Club President



Mai & Dawson Thurber – 1st Time Carving

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:

- **March 18 2026** 1st Congregational Church, Wisconsin Rapids, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **March 24, 2026** Lincoln Center, Stevens Point, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **March 25, 2026** 1st Congregational Church, Wisconsin Rapids, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **April 1, 2026** 1st Congregational Church, Wisconsin Rapids, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **April 7, 2026** Lincoln Center, Stevens Point, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **April 8, 2026** **Show Committee Meeting** 3:00 PM @ 1st Congregational Church
- **April 8, 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 **Capitol Carvers of Wisconsin & Badger Wood Turners** will be holding their 35th Annual Show & Sale on Sunday October 25, 2026 at the DeForest Area High School, 815 Jefferson Street, DeForest, WI. Show hours are 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Any questions call, April Bird, CACW President, 608-320-9217.
- The **Waupaca Area Woodcarvers Club** will be holding "Artistry in Wood" Show, Sale, & Competition on Sunday November 1, 2026 at the Waupaca Recreation Center, 407 School Street, Waupaca, WI. Show hours are 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Admission for Adults is \$5.00, Children (Age 1 -16) free. For more information contact Harold Mohr 715-281-4923.

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