



April 2026 Newsletter

By: Ron O’Kray Secretary / Treasurer

President Diane Swiggum called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM on April 8, 2026.

Minutes from March 2026 Meeting: Motion made by Tom Kissner and seconded by Dick Fleisner to accept as sent. All in attendance approved.

INCOME & EXPENSES SINCE MARCH 10, 2026

INCOME	DESCRIPTION	EXPENSES	DESCRIPTION
\$1,000.00	Placemat Ads	\$284.18	Letters to Show Exhibitors
\$670.00	Tables @ 2026 Show	\$30.00	Rent of Lincoln Center March 2026
\$670.00	Banquet meals	\$12.21	Cookies for club Meeting
\$300.00	Floyd Rhadigan Seminar	\$1,960.00	Refund for Floyd Rhadigan Seminar
\$60.00	Sale of Commemorative Knife	\$91.63	Office Supplies
\$169.00	Dues 2026	\$91.63	March Newsletter
\$11.00	Donation to 2026 Show	\$30.75	Commemorative shirt
\$35.00	Sale of Commemorative Shirt		
\$90.00	Jan Jenson Seminar		
\$3,005.00		\$2,500.40	

A motion was made by Bobbi O’Shasky and seconded by Tom Kissner to approve the Treasurer’s Report. All in attendance agreed

Membership: We have (103) memberships paid for in 2026.

New Members: Dawson & Maly Thurber joined the club. Dawson is the grandson of longtime club member Clarence Thurber. Maly likes to knit while Dawson likes to read. **Welcome.**

Sunshine Report Sophie reported that she did not send any cards out during the last month. If you know of a club member that is sick, contact Sophie Kubisiak at 715-340-4045.

Old Business:

- **30th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE 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**. Diane Swiggum & Bonnie James volunteered to be in charge.
- 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 Wetherbee 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.
- Those carvers that attended the **15th Annual Ozarks Woodcarving Seminar** had a great time. Missed the big March snowstorm.
- **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, contact Ron O'Kray for registration form. We have **(7)** carvers already paid.

The **5th Annual Floyd Rhadigan Seminar** was cancelled because Floyd's wife is undergoing Chemo.

- 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 **(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 will have **(149)** Exhibitor tables at the 2026 show. **We are completely sold out.** We have a waiting list of **(9)** tables.
- We have **(20)** 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>.

No New Business

- There being no other business President Diane Swiggum asked for a motion to adjourn. Dick Fleisner made the motion and seconded by Tom Kissner 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 | 715-310-9900 | Jerald6@gmail.com |

Club Meeting Dates:

- **April 15, 2026** 1st Congregational Church, Wisconsin Rapids, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **April 21, 2026** Lincoln Center, Stevens Point, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **April 22, 2026** 1st Congregational Church, Wisconsin Rapids, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **April 29, 2026** 1st Congregational Church, Wisconsin Rapids, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **May 5, 2026** Lincoln Center, Stevens Point, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **May 6, 2026** **Show Committee Meeting** 3:00 PM @ 1st Congregational Church
- **May 13, 2026** 1st Congregational Church, Wisconsin Rapids, 5:30 to 8:30 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 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.



Lumberjack by Tom Kissner of Plover, WI

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

- 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.
- The **Northeastern Wisconsin Woodworker’s** Guild will be having their 43rd “Artistry in wood” show at the Denmark high School, 450 Wall Street, Denmark, WI 54208 on November 14 & 15, 2026. Setup Friday November 13th from 5:00 – 9:00 PM & Saturday November 14th from 7:00 to 8:45 AM. Show Saturday November 14th from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM and Sunday November 15th from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. **NO EARLY TAKESOWNS.**