



May 2026 Newsletter

By: Ron O'Kray Secretary / Treasurer

President Diane Swiggum called the meeting to order at 6:20 PM on May 13, 2026.

Minutes from April 2026 Meeting: Motion made by Mahala Earnhart and seconded by Echo Keller to accept as sent. All in attendance approved.

- Treasurer's Report**

INCOME & EXPENSES SINCE APRIL 7, 2026			
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INCOME	DESCRIPTION	EXPENSES	DESCRIPTION
\$280.00	John Engler Seminar	\$50.37	April Newsletter
\$34.00	Sale of WRW / CCA Commemorative Shirt	\$280.00	Refund John Engler Seminar
\$75.00	Tables @ 2026 Show	\$46.80	Office Supplies for 2026 Show
\$60.00	Sale of 2025 WRW Commemorative Knife	\$690.00	Jan Jenson Seminar
\$250.00	Placemat Adds	\$45.00	Books for Club Library
\$360.00	Banquet Meals	\$109.99	Office Supplies
		\$50.00	Loss of Husband
		\$462.10	Credit Card Machine
		\$65.00	Non-Stock corporation Report
		\$14.24	Add Name to Memorial Plaque
		\$1,565.04	2026 Show ribbons
\$1,059.00		\$3,378.54	

A motion was made by Clark Snyder and seconded by Sophie Kubisiak to approve the Treasurer's Report. All in attendance agreed

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

Sunshine Report Sophie reported she sent sympathy cards to the Ron Peters family & the Richard Zakoski family. 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**. Diane Swiggum & Bonnie James volunteered to be in charge. The picnic is open to carvers and spouses. The club will provide the meat. Bring a dish to pass and beverage of your choice. Rummage sale @ 3:00 PM, Happy Hour @ 5:00 PM, @ Supper @ 6:00 PM. We need count of people attending so we can have enough meat. Contact **Diane Swiggum 715-459-3221** or **Bonnie James 715-451-8924**.
- Those carvers that attended the Jan Jenson seminar learned a Lot about “Old World Style Chip Carving’. Ron O’Kray made a motion to have Jan Jenson come back in April 2027 for another seminar, seconded by Mahala Earnhart. All in attendance approved.
- **No Other Old Business**

Upcoming Seminars

- 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 **(6)** are on the waiting list. **THE CLASS IS FULL** A motion was made by Sophie Kubisiak and seconded by Tom Kissner to have John Engler come back for a seminar in 2027. All in attendance approved.

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 **(150)** Exhibitor tables at the 2026 show. **We are completely sold out.** We have a waiting list.
- We have a number of prizes donated already for the 2026 Show. We need more.
- 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>.
- We will have Wisconsin River Woodcarvers / CCA Polo shirts and Sweatshirts for sale. Form attached. See website www.wisconsinriverwoodcarvers.org for color chart and samples.

New Business

- Chet James was contacted by the **Alexander House** if we wanted to exhibit from August 27 – October 12, **2027**. There was interest in displaying, but the consensus was to see if we could do it in April instead of January. Diane Swiggum will follow-up.

- We have been contacted by the “**Rudolph Old Tractor Show & Cruise In**” if we wanted to exhibit at their show. Date is Saturday August 8, 2026 from 9:00 AM 5:00 PM. Setup after 7:00 AM on Saturday. This is an outdoor event, rain or shine. Cost to rent a space is \$20.00. You have to provide your own tent. Tom & Lynne Kissner, Gary Kaltenbach, and Ron O’Kray volunteered to man the club booth.
- **Floyd Rhadigan** had to cancel the April 2026 Seminar because of his wife’s medical condition. A discussion was held on getting Floyd back in 2027. Ron will follow-up with Floyd.
- Missy Wachuta said the **Wisconsin Rapids Public Library** is having a Renaissance Fair on Saturday June 6, 2026 from 1:30 to 4:00 PM. They are looking for carvers to demonstrate old time skills. David King volunteered. If anyone else is interested, contact Club President Diane Swiggum for more details.
- A motion was made by Echo Keller and seconded by Tom Kissner to not meet on Wednesday July 15, 2026 at the 1st united Church of Christ because of Vacation Bible School. All in attendance approved.
- We were asked by the 1st United Church of Christ if there any modifications we would like to the area we use for carving. The consensus was, we need a clock in the room that is able to be read by older members.
- **No Other New Business**
- There being no other business President Diane Swiggum asked for a motion to adjourn. Sophie Kubisiak made the motion and seconded by Echo Keller. All in attendance approved. Meeting adjourned at 6:45PM

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 |
| • Show Chairman | Jerry Trzebiatowski | 715-310-9900 | Jerald6@gmail.com |

- **SHOW & TELL**



Christmas Ornaments carved by Greg Wirtz



Larry Hiadilek Comfort Cat



Larry Hiadilek Carving of a troll waterboarding on a Crocodile, steering with a fish.



Dual Spice box by Ron O'Kray



Gnome by Gary Kaltenbach

Club Meeting Dates:

- **May 19, 2026** Lincoln Center, Stevens Point, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **May 20, 2026** 1st Congregational Church, Wisconsin Rapids, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **May 27, 2026** 1st Congregational Church, Wisconsin Rapids, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **June 2, 2026** Lincoln Center, Stevens Point, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **June 3 2026** 1st Congregational Church, Wisconsin Rapids, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **June 9 2026** **Show Committee Meeting** 3:00 PM @ 1st Congregational Church
- **June 10, 2026** 1st Congregational Church, Wisconsin Rapids, 5:30 to 8:30 PM

UPCOMING CARVING EVENTS:

- 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.
- **Ada Klute** of the **Capitol Carvers of Wisconsin** is organizing a fundraiser for **United Special Sportsman's Alliance**. They provide outdoor experiences for special needs children and Veterans. Ho-Chunk Gaming of Black River Falls, WI is hosting the event on June 26 – 28, 2026, giving us great venue to have this chainsaw exposition, plus local carving clubs there too. 'Livin the Dream' is a carve and sale fundraiser. For more information, checkout club website.
- 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.
- 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.**

WISCONSIN RIVER WOODCARVERS CARICATURE CARVERS OF AMERICA

2026 COMMERATIVE SHIRTS

To commemorate the Caricature Carvers of America returning to Stevens Point for our 22nd Annual Woodcarving, Show, Sale, & Competition, the show committee has decided to have special shirts made. The shirt will have a club patch sewed on the left side with “the CCA logo, Stevens Point, WI, and 2026 embroidered on the right side. You can see color pictures of the products on our website www.wisconsinriverwoodcarvers.org. All orders for shirts and sweatshirts **must be paid for by August 15, 2026**. The shirts can be picked up at the show on September 19 & 20, 2026. If you want your shirt prior to the show, we will ship it to you but we ask that you pay for shipping. (We will bill you for shipping). All prices include sales tax. The shirts are “Silk Touch” 3 button polo (5-ounce, 65/35 poly/cotton pique).

MEN’S POLO SHIRTS without pocket

Shirts are available in: Banana, **Black**, Bright Lavender, **Burgundy**, Charcoal Heather Grey, Clover Green, Coffee bean, **Cool Grey**, **Dark Green**, Deep Berry, Gold, Hibiscus, Kelly Green, **Light Blue**, Light Pink, Lime, Maroon, Maui Blue, Mediterranean Blue, **Navy**, Orange, Purple, **Red**, **Royal Blue**, **Steel Grey**, **Stone**, **Strong Blue**, Sunflower Yellow, Teal Green, Texas Orange, Tropical Pink, Turquoise, Ultramarine Blue, & **White**. **Tall Sizes are only available in “Bold”**.

SIZE	PRICE	COLOR	QUANTITY	COST
EXTRA SMALL	\$32.00			
SMALL	\$32.00			
MEDIUM	\$32.00			
LARGE	\$32.00			
XL	\$32.00			
2XL	\$32.00			
3XL	\$34.00			
4XL	\$34.00			
5XL	\$34.00			
6XL	\$34.00			
LARGE TALL	\$34.00			
XL TALL	\$34.00			
2XL TALL	\$34.00			
3XL TALL	\$34.00			
4XL TALL	\$34.00			

POLO SHIRTS with POCKET

Shirts are available in: Black, Burgundy, Cool Grey, Dark green, Navy, Red, Royal blue, Stone, & Ultramarine Blue.

SIZE	PRICE	COLOR	QUANTITY	COST
EXTRA SMALL	\$34.00			
SMALL	\$34.00			
MEDIUM	\$34.00			
LARGE	\$34.00			
XL	\$34.00			
2XL	\$34.00			
3XL	\$36.00			
4XL	\$36.00			
5XL	\$36.00			
6XL	\$36.00			

WOMEN'S POLO SHIRTS (No Pocket)

Shirts are available in: Banana, Black, Bright Lavender, Burgundy, Charcoal Heather Grey, Clover Green, Coffee bean, Cool Grey, Dark Green, Deep Berry, Gold, Hibiscus, Kelly Green, Light Blue, Light Pink, Lime, Maroon, Maui Blue, Mediterranean Blue, Navy, Orange, Purple, Red, Royal Blue, Steel Grey, Stone, Strong Blue, Sunflower Yellow, Teal Green, Texas Orange, Tropical Pink, Turquoise, Ultramarine Blue, & White.

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EXTRA SMALL	\$32.00			
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LARGE	\$32.00			
XL	\$32.00			
2XL	\$32.00			
3XL	\$34.00			
4XL	\$34.00			
5XL	\$34.00			
6XL	\$34.00			

TOTAL ENCLOSED	
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NAME	
STREET	
CITY	
TELEPHONE	
E-MAIL	

Make check out to **Wisconsin River Woodcarvers.**

Circle one:

I will pick my shirt(s) up at the show.

Please ship my shirt(s) to me.

Mail check to: Ronald O'Kray

Secretary / Treasurer – Wisconsin River Woodcarvers

1449 Sunny Crest Drive

Stevens Point, WI 54482

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