



June 2026 Newsletter

By: Ron O'Kray Secretary / Treasurer

President Diane Swiggum called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM on June 10, 2026.

Minutes from May 2026 Meeting: Motion made by Tom Kissner and seconded by Hope Bemowski to accept as sent. All in attendance approved.

- Treasurer's Report**

INCOME & EXPENSES SINCE MAY 6, 2026

Income	Description	Expenses	Description
\$250.00	Placemat Adds	\$107.89	Wristbands for 2026 Show
\$160.00	Floyd Rhadigan Seminar 2027	\$149.45	Office Supplies
\$315.00	Banquet Meals	\$64.64	May Newsletter
\$180.00	Sale of 2025 Commemorative Knives	\$20.00	Rudolph Old Tractor Club
\$40.00	Table @ 2026 Show	\$6.53	Jan Jenson Seminar 2027 Forms
\$32.00	2026 Commemorative Shirts	\$6.53	Floyd Rhadigan seminar 2027 Forms
		\$12.39	John Engler Seminar 2027 Forms
		\$108.00	Printing forms for 2026 Show
		\$29.70	Lamp Parts for 2026 Show
		\$60.00	Rent of Lincoln Center April & May 2026

\$977.00

\$565.13

A motion was made by Clarence Thurber and seconded by Tom Kissner to approve the Treasurer's Report. All in attendance agreed

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

Received a letter dated 5/1/2026 from Ken & Sue Brzezinski. *Please accept this letter as notification that I am resigning as a member of the Wisconsin River Woodcarvers. I have truly enjoyed my time with the group and am thankful for the opportunity to have carved alongside such talented individuals. I plan on resuming my pen making and bowl turning, a place where I feel my skills are and the pleasure, they bring me. I wish the group all the best in its future projects.*

Sunshine Report Sophie reported she sent Get-Well cards to Ann Carlson & Nancy Olson. 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**.
- We have been contacted by the “**Rudolph Old Tractor Show & Cruse 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, Ron O’Kray, Hope Bemowski, & Diane Swiggum volunteered to man the club booth.
- 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 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.
- **Interesting Facts about 2026 Show**
 - a. We have (106) carvers exhibiting from (20) States with Wisconsin having (68) and Minnesota having (6).
 - b. There will be more exhibitors after we get the list of who will be on the club tables.
 - c. (6) carving clubs from Wisconsin will have tables at the show.
- **Items of concern:**
 - a. We have a Christmas tree but no ornaments. Contact Jerry Trzebiatowski or Ron O’Kray if you have ornament(s) to donate.
 - b. Commemorative shirt sales are down. Forms on the website.
 - c. Lamp blocks are slowly coming in. We have two lamps completed for 2026; we had four in 2025.
 - d. We need to have more carvers attend the banquet. We have a \$2,200.00 minimum food bill at the Holiday Inn.

New Business

- 2027 Seminars
 - 1. **Jan Jenson** will conduct a (3) day “Old World Chip Carving” Seminar in Stevens Point, WI on April 12, 13, & 14, **2027**. Registration forms are available from Ron O’Kray or on the website www.wisconsinriverwoodcarvers.org.
 - 2. **Floyd Rhadigan** will conduct a (3) day “Caricature Carving” Seminar in Stevens Point, WI on April 28, 29, & 30, **2027**. Registration forms are available from Ron O’Kray or on the website www.wisconsinriverwoodcarvers.org.
 - 3. **John Engler** will conduct a (3) day carving and (1) day Painting Seminar in Stevens Point, WI on September 13, 14, 15, & 16, **2027**. Registration forms are available from Ron O’Kray or on the website www.wisconsinriverwoodcarvers.org.

- Chet James brought the idea of having Wisconsin River Woodcarvers business cards with information about when the club meets. They would be given to individuals that show interest. After discussion, Chet made a motion to proceed with business cards, seconded by Tom Kissner. All in attendance approve. Diane Swiggum & Ron O'Kray will work on the design.

No Other New Business

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

CLUB OFFICERS:

• 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	Sarajane Snyder	715-325-3489	ironcreekschool@yahoo.com
• 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

• Club Meeting Dates:

- **June 16, 2026** Lincoln Center, Stevens Point, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **June 17, 2026** 1st Congregational Church, Wisconsin Rapids, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **June 24, 2026** 1st Congregational Church, Wisconsin Rapids, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **July 1, 2026** 1st Congregational Church, Wisconsin Rapids, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **July 7, 2026** Lincoln Center, Stevens Point, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **July 8 2026** **Show Committee Meeting** 3:00 PM @ South Wood County Park
- **July 8 2026** **Rummage Sale** 3:00 PM @ South Wood County Park
- **July 8 2026** **Happy Hour** 5:00 PM @ South Wood County Park
- **July 8 2026** **Picnic** 6:00 PM @ South Wood County Park
- **July 15, 2026** **No Carving** Vacation Bible Week
- **July 21, 2026** Lincoln Center, Stevens Point, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **July 22, 2026** 1st Congregational Church, Wisconsin Rapids, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **July 29, 2026** 1st Congregational Church, Wisconsin Rapids, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **August 4, 2026** Lincoln Center, Stevens Point, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **August 5, 2026** 1st Congregational Church, Wisconsin Rapids, 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **August 12, 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.

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			

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