



Steele Ozone & Kidder County Press

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Flickertail Woodcarvers gathering

Diane Lehman Turck

On Saturday, members of the Bismarck/Mandan Flickertail Woodcarvers gathered at Jerry



Pan fish in their habitat

Gengler's Workshop for an early Labor Day potluck and carving session. The Woodcarvers exchanged their regular first-Saturday-of-the-month meeting to enjoy the holiday at the Gengler place. As they drifted in by ones and twos, Jerry showed them his workshop and garden with ripe raspberries ready for tasting.

Normally, at their two scheduled monthly meetings, one of the members presents a simple project that the carvers can choose to work on, or they can continue with a project they have already begun. There is always someone to help visitors or newer members with carving problems or questions. With a session like this everyone brings their own work. It is always interesting to listen to

all of the conversations, and one can either sit peacefully cutting into their wood, or participate in the various discussions and laughter going on around them.

Group member Clara Yonker



Some of Clara's hearts

brought some carved hearts. She is working on one of the Flickertail community projects, hearts for cancer survivors for the Cancer Society. She is painting quilt block patterns on the hearts and was looking for suggestions on color and other patterns.

Most of what the club does is dry carving, but several members went to a class out-of-state that taught wet carving, which is basically self explanatory. Eric Gaasland and Luci Snowden have been working on spoons, spatulas and butter spreaders done with that technique and in a variety of woods. Lilac wood actually has lavender streaks.

Those and the modified plesiosaur (dino-



The lilac wood spoon is in the lower left

saur age) that Becky Barnes is constructing will be displayed at the Heritage Center later this year. Barnes had fun showing us all, including Gengler's granddaughters Leah and Gabrielle, how the tail wiggles because she glued (See "Flickertails" on Page 11)

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A plesiosaur in progress with a bendable tail

Flickertail...

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leather inside the joints.

Other types of carving in

progress were a relief carving, a chip carved trivet, a Santa ornament, a realistic bison and an owl in the shape of an egg. In addition, some of the

members brought completed carvings for Show and Tell. Clara brought a bear with his head in a log, a shoe carved in pine, and the beginnings of a whimsical cottonwood bark house.

Ron Torgeson brought swimming pan fish and a laughing Santa.

Labor Day lunch was hot dogs and sausage, baked beans, a variety of salads and cookies, and homemade moist brownies with nuts on top. People continued talking and carving, some into the early afternoon. Gaasland started and got most of a sumac spoon finished. Bob Pedigo's bison, which he's been working on for a while, is mostly completed as well.

Flickertail Woodcarvers is always looking for people interested in finding out more about their club and their



Clara's carvings



Leah and Gabby examining the flexible tail



Santa ready for Christmas

activities. About 90 carvers are members, of which about 25 come to meetings. Not all of the same members show up each time. Some members come to every meeting, but some members can only come rarely. It's the kind of organization where you can work on things in a group and share a camaraderie, or carve items by yourself and join in when you can. If you are interested in finding out more, go online to Flickertail Facebook page at www.facebook.com/flickertailwoodcarversnd/, or go to the group's main website at flickertailwoodcarvers.org. Anyone local can contact Jerry Gengler at jerrygengler54@gmail.com or phone 320-5023. He will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Photos for the article were taken by Becky Barnes and Diane Turck.



Roughed-out staghorn sumac spoon



Bison getting ready to roam