

The Curling Chip January/February 2021

FLICKERTAIL WOODCARVERS
PO BOX 7473
BISMARCK ND 58507



Meetings have been fairly well attended with participants wearing masks and keeping socially distant. Vaccinations will make meetings even easier. Bob Petigo will teach the spring class on May 15th/16th at the Heritage Center. Featured will be a complete bison in butternut. See February 6th notes for more detail. Our March 6th meeting will be moved to March 13th due to Church business. Be sure to read Doug Emerson's reminiscences on Memory Hearts. Thanks to Dale, Doug E, Becky B and Eric G for their contributions and assistance. For questions or future articles send your info to Tom/Diane Turck at tdturck@bis.midco.net. Good Carving!
Newsletter Team: Tom Turck and Diane Lehman Turck



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DAKOTA WEST ARTS COUNCIL
Leads, advocates, and advances the arts and culture in North Dakota's Capital City

Flickertail Woodcarver projects are supported in part by grants from the North Dakota Council on the Arts, which receives funding from the state legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts. They are also supported by grants from Dakota West Arts Council and Montana Dakota Resources Group.



Event Calendar

Meetings and Whittle-Ins are held in the Fellowship Hall at Trinity Lutheran Church in Bismarck

Summer – June, July and August at Sertoma Park, Shelter # 5

www.flickertail.org

January 2, 2021	Monthly meeting 8:30-10:30 AM Project by Eric Gaasland
January 19, 2021	Whittle-In, 7-9 PM Library Spoons Return Eagle Feather Project by Dale Heglund
February 6, 2021	Monthly meeting 8:30-10:30 AM Project by Bob Pedigo, love spoon
February 16, 2021	Whittle-In, 7-9 PM Project by Troy Frieze
February 27, 2021	Virtual Party Everyone is invited
March 13, 2021	Monthly meeting 8:30-10:30 AM New Date Project by Cliff Orgaard
March 16, 2021	Whittle-In, 7-9 PM Project by Becky Weisgerber
April 3, 2021	Monthly meeting 8:30-10:30 AM Project by Dan Bauer
April 20, 2021	Whittle-In, 7-9 PM Project by Bob Pedigo, knife sharpening
April ??, 2021	Fargo Carving Show

May 1, 2021 Monthly meeting 8:30-10:30 AM Project by Becky Barnes

May 15-16, 2021 Spring Carving Class Buffalo in Butternut at the ND Heritage Center By Bob Pedigo

May 18, 2021 Whittle-In, 7-9 PM
Project by Alvin Braunagel

Past Events

June 16, 2020 Whittle-In, Sertoma Park, shelter **5**, 5:30-8 PM
Sack lunch – Public is invited

July 21, 2020 Whittle-In, Sertoma Park, Shelter **5**, 5:30-8 PM
Sack Lunch – Public is invited

August 18, 2020 Whittle-In, Sertoma Park, Shelter **5**, 5:30-8 PM
Grill and Potluck – Public is invited

September 5, 2020 NO MONTHLY MEETING
Enjoy your Labor Day Weekend!

September 15, 2020 Whittle-In, 7-9 PM TURN IN SPOONS
Project by Eileen Heihn

October 3, 2020 Monthly meeting 8:30-10:30 AM
Project by Larry Graff

October 20, 2020 Whittle-In, 7-9 PM
Project by Tom & Diane Turck

November 7, 2020 Monthly meeting 8:30-10:30 AM
Project by Warren Schlecht

November 17, 2020 Whittle-In, 7-9 PM
Project by Doug Emerson, snow snakes

December 5, 2020 Monthly meeting 8:30-10:30 AM
Project by Doug Emerson, snow snakes

December 15, 2020 Whittle-In, 7-9 PM
Project by Doug Smith

Monthly Meeting Minutes for Flickertail Woodcarvers

January 2nd, 2021, Trinity Lutheran Church

Eric Gaasland called the meeting to order. There were 9 people present.

Thanks to Eric Gaasland for the Swedish tomte project.

Guest: Todd's son from South Carolina, Garrett, is visiting. He seems to know a thing or two about carving as well.

Show and Tell: Doug E brought a carving that was from a template he bought from Dale Green titled "Trail Boss."

Bob P showed a photo of the French Bull Dog he created for his friend's daughter.

Eric G had a blue Dala Horse.

Secretary's Report: A draft had been sent out. The Zoom Holiday get together and Ray Branch who was interested in the club were mentioned. Cliff motioned and Bob P seconded.

Treasurer's Report: Warren gave the information to Eric G since he couldn't be here. There is \$8,899 with accounts up to date. Church rent from Sept-Dec has been paid. Diane motioned and Doug S seconded.

Membership: Doug S said a little less than half have paid so far. A few have dropped out. He will be sending out a reminder soon.

Property: Vince was unavailable.

Library: Cliff has put some new titles on the website and has extra Woodcarving Illustrated magazines for give away.

Publicity: Becky W was unavailable.

Historian: Clara was unavailable.

Facebook: Eric G and Becky B are working on it.

Website/Instagram: Becky B suggested that we could have [virtual tables to exhibit our carvings](#) to the public, contact her if you are interested. (repeat)

Buckstop Junction: Mike was unavailable.

Annual Woodcarver's Show: Was not held last year due to Covid-19. Nothing about this year's is known.

Programs: The [Spring class](#) in May, 2021 will be held, but it has changed. It will be taught by Bob Pedigo from our club. There were insurmountable problems bringing Rick and Cathy Brereton, expert carvers from Canada to the states, and Cathy has been ill. Instead of a loon, the class will learn to carve a bison. More details will be at the next meeting, which is January 19th. (Please see the Announcement at the beginning of the last newsletter. At least 6 people have signed up, so sign up soon).

Snow Snakes: Done.

Old Business: 1) Elections for Property Manager, Program Manager and Treasurer are coming soon. The [Election Committee](#), Eric T, Bob P, and Dale, have found that Becky W will serve as Property Manager if elected. Program Manager is unknown at this time, but Dale is considering it. Warren may remain as Treasurer, but is having health issues and may be unable to continue in that position.

2) [Virtual Carving Classes](#). Something to think about. (repeat)

3) A **Christmas/Holiday Party** was discussed. Instead of having it at a location, we decided to have a virtual party on Zoom. It will be held as "Flickertail February" on Saturday 6th, 20th, or 27th. (Missing is the 13th for Valentine's Day). Contact Becky B or Eric G if you have a preference, or a day you can't make. People can drop in and toast each other and visit for awhile. This way, we can connect with members who travel south for the winter as well as those still in the area, and share a drink or appetizer in our own homes.

4) The [Bismarck Public Library](#) is presenting the Spoon exhibit for October, November and December. It looks very good; visit if you haven't. We have 71 articles, including posters. Thanks to Bob P and Warren for all their hard work.

Our exhibit will be replaced on January 11-14th. Bob P will bring the items to the next meeting on the 19th.

5) The display at the **Heritage Center** was dismantled. Please call them if they have not contacted you to pick up your property. Becky B has some of the removed things in her trunk.

In addition 1) We have 25 Travel mugs (\$15) and 1 Knife (\$35), numerous Patches (\$3), and Stickers (\$1) for sale. Further, we have really cool business cards with Flickertail Facebook pictures on the back for free! (Free advertising and they're interesting as well).

Anyone having information for the newsletter, email it to Tom Turck or Diane Lehman Turck at tdturck@bis.midco.net.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by *Diane Lehman Turck*, Secretary

January 2nd, 2021 Whittle-In

Eric Gaasland came with a crowd of tomte templates. He's been studying them for awhile, and enjoying the process. He's even gotten to play with his band saw. The pieces he's removed to shape the hats may be fashioned into hearts for the Cancer Society. As I mentioned before, in the last newsletter, a tomte is a Swedish gnome. They are mostly hat, usually red. Their nose and beard stick out from underneath the hat's front for men, or hair down a woman's back, but not much else. Some have no clothes down their backs. Of course, some representations do have arms, much like there are snowmen that have arms, but infrequently. Those are usually ones made of cloth. Eric's wooden ones have evolved to sometimes having shoes.

Tomte are creatures that come from myth or folklore as household spirits who protect farms and lands dating from when the farm was first built. They help with small tasks around the house. It is said they don't like change, rather, they appreciate tradition. They demand respect. They welcome a bowl of rice porridge

on Christmas. Santa Claus in Sweden is Juletomte since Santa is sometimes thought of as a type of gnome himself.

Becky B created her tomte with the face at a corner instead of a side of the square. That was a good idea. We made a Santa with his nose and hat emerging from a chimney corner last winter. Carving the nose and beard seemed somewhat easier at a corner than from the front.

We didn't have many Show and Tell items this meeting. Doug E completed a cowboy he carved from a rough out entitled "Trail Boss" by Dale Green, who taught the Master Class at the Fall Show awhile back. Besides teaching carving he brought a number of different rough outs for sale, and Doug purchased this one. Not only did he do an excellent job fashioning the man, but the paint job including the patterned bandana was quite professional.

Eric G showed a "Dala" horse painted in a blue wash. Its body was long so a child could hold it there and make it "go like a horsey."

Bob P had some pictures of the French bulldog he had finished for his friend's daughter. He was working very hard before Christmas not only to make the dog look like a bulldog, but paint it to represent the animal in life.



A male and female tomte



The backsides of the tomte



Everyone masked and socially distant



The “Trail Boss” ready for the next drive



A child’s Dala “horsey”

**Bob P's French bulldog
for his friend with
lifelike painting from
photographs**



January 19th, 2021 Whittle-In

Dale Heglund arrived with a chainsaw feather, and numerous smaller ones to use as templates for his project. We were, of course, making the smaller feathers. I'm not sure the church would welcome the use of chain saws in their gathering space. There was a larger crowd of people this Whittle-In, 16, but everyone was spaced and wearing masks.

Dale had a series of templates to show the stages of carving the feather. Some of cottonwood bark examples Dale had were made still had vestiges of bark on them adding texture and making them look attractive in a different style from the others. At least one had wood burned lines. He also had a graph paper drawing of the feather and tracing paper for everyone. People got right down to defining the stalk of the feather first. Then they began to take down each side with gouges. Dale came around to make sure people at all of the tables understood how to proceed.

Several members brought items to the meeting. Eric G has been working on tomte from the last Whittle-In and had a small cadre of them at the meeting. One had a hat quite far down his back, some had shoes or different color hats and clothes. One was fashioned as a hill-billy. Wood burning was evident in beards and hair.



Note the four stages of completeness to the smaller feathers



A feather with definition wood burned into it



Kelly talking with Larry and Doug E. Note the feathers on the table

Marlene is creating a mask. Although she is not yet done, it seems to be related to a green man genre, and is already expressive in perform construction. The type of wood she used adds to its overall appearance.

Eric T has been busy. He has finished the back end of the elephant, and now mama and baby are complete.

The newest project he is working on is two cheetahs playing or perhaps fighting. They are positioned like a pair of acrobats doing summersaults in the air. One has his back paws on the ground, and the other is diving over him. Eric is drawing and cutting out the template in wood from a picture.

He also has a diorama on a piece of drift wood with mushrooms in various states of maturity, a couple of little people and little creatures. It is well put together and looks like the men are checking the surroundings for something. The problem Eric has is that there is no room in his home for it. Mike came to the rescue. It would be a lovely piece to show at Buckstop Junction, and so he took possession of it.



Tomte with various colored clothes, burnt beards and shoes



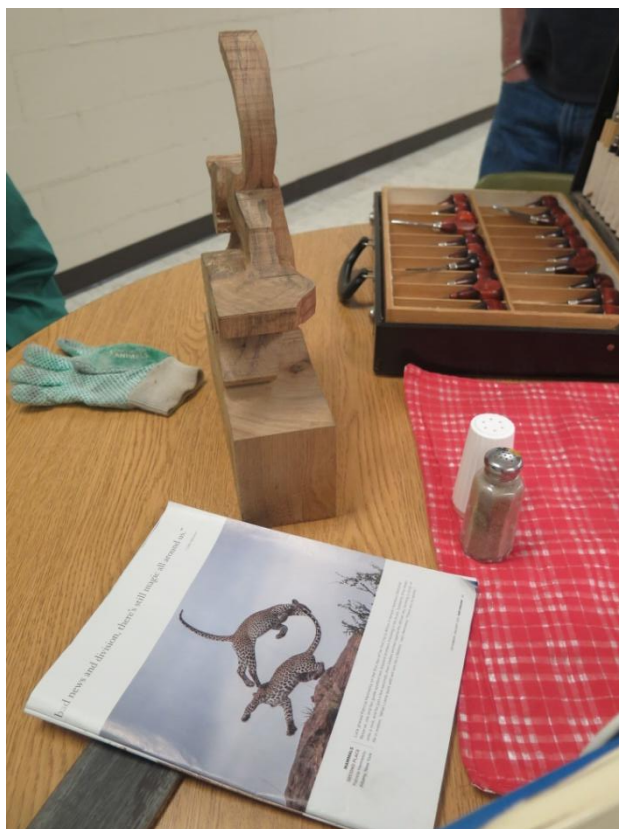
A tomte with a long, protective hat



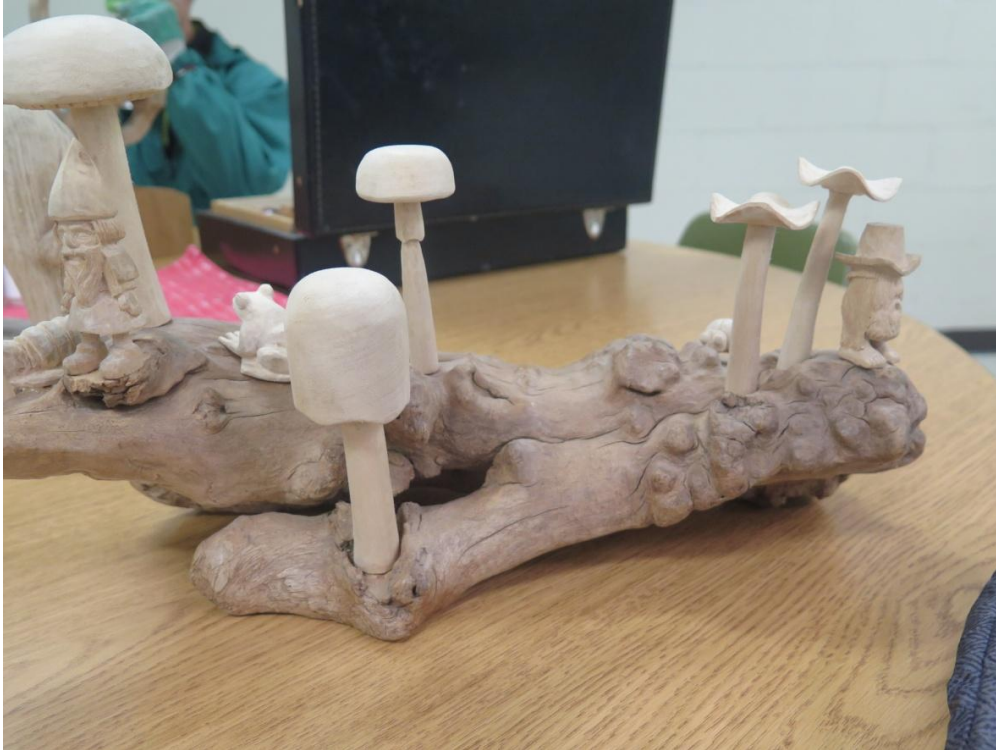
An interesting mask



The elephant and baby are ready for safari



Using a picture of cheetahs to conceive an idea for their carving



A fairyland tableau

Bob P's project for the next Whittle-In will be Love Spoons, which we do every year around Valentine's Day. Particularly seafarers in the past brought spoons to their sweethearts to show them and their fathers that they could provide for a wife. He brought one with chip carving on the handle as an example. If that's the one he decides to use it will be simple and elegant.

Dale plays on several hockey teams, and one of them, the Mandan Menace, came in first in their league with a record of 13-3-4. Dale brought a hockey stick and trophy that the Mandan Menace had won (and filled it with granola bars for everyone). He explained that hockey sticks are not rigid pieces of wood, but bend for control. The top or handle is used for stability and some control by the non-dominant hand. The shaft is flexible permitting the player different levels of torque in passing and shooting. The last parts of the stick are the heel and toe of the blade which also play a part in manipulating the puck. When purchasing a hockey stick choosing the right flex for your weight, how you play, and personal preference is important.



An example of what our love spoon may look like



Dale with the Mandan Menace trophy and his hockey stick

Monthly Meeting Minutes for Flickertail Woodcarvers

February 6th, 2021, Trinity Lutheran Church

Dale Heglund called the meeting to order. There were 12 people present, but Eric G had to leave.

Thanks to Bob Pedigo for the Love Spoon project.

Guest: None.

Announcement: Our Saturday, March 6th Meeting and Whittle-In is postponed until the 13th. The church needs the Fellowship Hall on the 6th.

Show and Tell: Bob P brought a crucifix which had belonged to his recently deceased mother-in-law. The cross was originally from Bogotá, Columbia and has hung in her bedroom for many years. A lot of thought and skill was put into carving it.

He also had a couple of bison examples in butternut similar to the ones he will be teaching in May.

Doug E has a story that happened to him regarding one of the Memory Hearts we make for the Cancer Society. His write-up of the incident follows these minutes.

Secretary's Report: A draft had been sent out. The Zoom Holiday get together was mentioned. Bob P motioned and Ron H seconded.

Treasurer's Report: Eric G gave Warren's information to Dale since he had to leave and Warren couldn't be here. There is \$8,892.53 with accounts up to date. Doug E motioned and Diane seconded.

Membership: Doug S was unavailable.

Property: Vince had a duplicate list of all property to give to the new property manager, Becky W.

Library: Cliff has nothing new.

Publicity: Becky W was unavailable.

Historian: Clara was unavailable.

Facebook: Eric G is working on it.

Website/Instagram: Becky B suggested that we could have [virtual tables to exhibit our carvings](#) to the public, contact her if you are interested. (repeat)

Buckstop Junction: Mike was unavailable. Doug E made a motion that the remaining knife and one of the cups from the 50th anniversary be put on display at Buckstop. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

Annual Woodcarver's Show: Will be held in October this year at the Career Academy. The Master Carver will be Vic Hood, who will lead a class through carving a realistic bust of a mountain man, Indian chief or cavalry person. Rick Skauge will conduct the weekend class. He has been here before and is enjoyable. The non-carver for the weekend class will be Pam Vukelic, a Certified Zentangle drawing teacher. Zentangle creates structured patterns that mimic mosaics or other expressions.

Programs: The [Spring class](#) is Saturday and Sunday, May 15 and 16 at the Heritage Center. Originally, Rick and Cathy Brereton were going to teach carving a loon, but travel restrictions prevent citizens from Canada and the US from crossing the border. In addition, Cathy has been ill with cancer and recently underwent surgery. Instead of a loon from the Breretons, the class will learn to carve a complete bison. It will be taught by Bob Pedigo from our club for \$30.00. There is room for 12 participants and it will be taught from 9am-4pm each day at the Heritage Center. Sign-ups are available now through Doug E at dd_emerson@msn.com, 217 Toronto Loop, Bismarck, ND 58503, 701-425-8226. The check should be made out to Flickertail Woodcarvers.

Old Business: 1) [Elections for Property Manager, Program Manager and Treasurer were held today](#). Our thanks to the [Election Committee](#), Eric T, Bob P, and Dale, for their hard work.

A) They have found that [Becky W](#) will serve as Property Manager if elected. She was, and Vince has turned property lists over to Dale to give to her.

B) Doug E doesn't want the Program Manager assignment again. He's been in that position for a long time. It's a lot of work, even with help. Dale finally agreed to undertake it, but then is counting on some assistance from others. Doug told him that much of this year's work has been started, and there are information sheets telling you what needs to be done. People in the club have some contacts and ideas as well. Bob Lawrence may be a good source for instructors, as well as Caricature Carvers of America for the future.

C) Warren was unsure if he could remain in the treasurer's position, but his health issues are improving and with Bob P's help in signatures, he could remain as Treasurer. Further, that will give the club an additional person with signature power, which would be helpful. Donna had said, if needed, she would run for treasurer. On a raised hand vote, Warren was retained as treasurer.

2) Virtual Carving Classes. Something to think about. (repeat)

3) A **Christmas/Holiday Party** date was decided. Instead of having it at a location, we decided to have a virtual party on Zoom. It will be held as "Flickertail February" on Saturday the 27th. More information will follow in an e-mail. People can drop in and toast each other and visit for awhile. This way, we can connect with members who travel south for the winter as well as those still in the area, and share a drink or appetizer in our own homes.

4) The **Bismarck Public Library** Spoon exhibit has been removed and Bob P returned everyone's items.

The library wondered if we would like to arrange another display in 2022. Some ideas for a theme were suggested in common with the Spring and/or October classes.

In addition 1) We now have 24 Travel mugs (\$15) and 0 Knives (\$35), numerous Patches (\$3), and Stickers (\$1) for sale. Further, we have really cool business cards with Flickertail Facebook pictures on the back for free! (Free advertising and they're interesting as well).

Anyone having information for the newsletter, email it to Tom Turck or Diane Lehman Turck at tdturck@bis.midco.net.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by *Diane Lehman Turck*, Secretary

A PERSONAL STORY ABOUT MEMORY HEARTS

Two years ago, I carved and gave a Memory Heart to a friend of mine who had completed her cancer treatment several years ago. She was visiting with another lady the other day about the special heart that she received from me. The lady then pulled out of her pocket and showed her the heart that she just received. The lady's Memory Heart was carved by Ron Holtz, and was one of the Memory Hearts that I just dropped off at the Cancer Center a few weeks ago. She said that she loves it and that she carries it in her coat pocket every day.

The Memory Hearts that the Flickertail Woodcarvers carve and give to the Bismarck Cancer Center are spreading hope, happiness, and love throughout the community. Memory Hearts that you carve can make a big difference to a cancer patient. Keep up the great work.

Doug Emerson



Ron Holtz' Memory Hearts

February 6th, 2021 Whittle-In

Bob Pedigo arrived with the club's yearly love spoon carving project. He always makes such attractive products. This year the handle sports a woven pattern. Bob had a sheet describing steps to carve the Celtic weave he used, first cutting the central squares, then the triangular sections along the inside of the pattern and then the outside edges of the pattern. At the end, he makes a two sided cut, only 1/16 inch wide, over the little black lines in the pattern to present the impression of weaving. He also gave us a self gluing paper piece that can be attached to the handle in order to follow each stage. Of the spoon examples he brought some of the handles were flat and one was curved. The tips of the handles had triangular sunburst designs and crosses, but Bob encouraged us to use our imaginations with that area. The bowls and shoulders of the spoons were plain. Two of the five spoons were made from basswood and the other three were a different wood with more grain visible. He explained that once he is finished, he sprays the spoon "with three thin coats of clear lacquer, sanding lightly with fine grained sandpaper between coats." With the darker grained spoons the design was much more visible. The basswood ones almost reminded one of porcelain.



The variety of spoons Bob brought to serve as examples



A close-up of the darker spoons



The basswood spoons, the top one has a curved handle

Everyone settled in to carving their spoons. As is usual with our meetings these days, people were masked and socially distanced among the tables. There were nine members present for most of the time.

For Show and Tell, Bob P brought a very well carved cross from Bogotá Columbia that his mother-in-law had hung in her bed room for approximately 50 years. It was something she prized very much and her daughters remembered it growing up. Since she had recently passed away her children were going to decide who would inherit it. It is a family treasure. The crucifix has Christ shown more realistically than many representations. You can tell he is in distress from his expression and there is blood running down from the wound in his side.

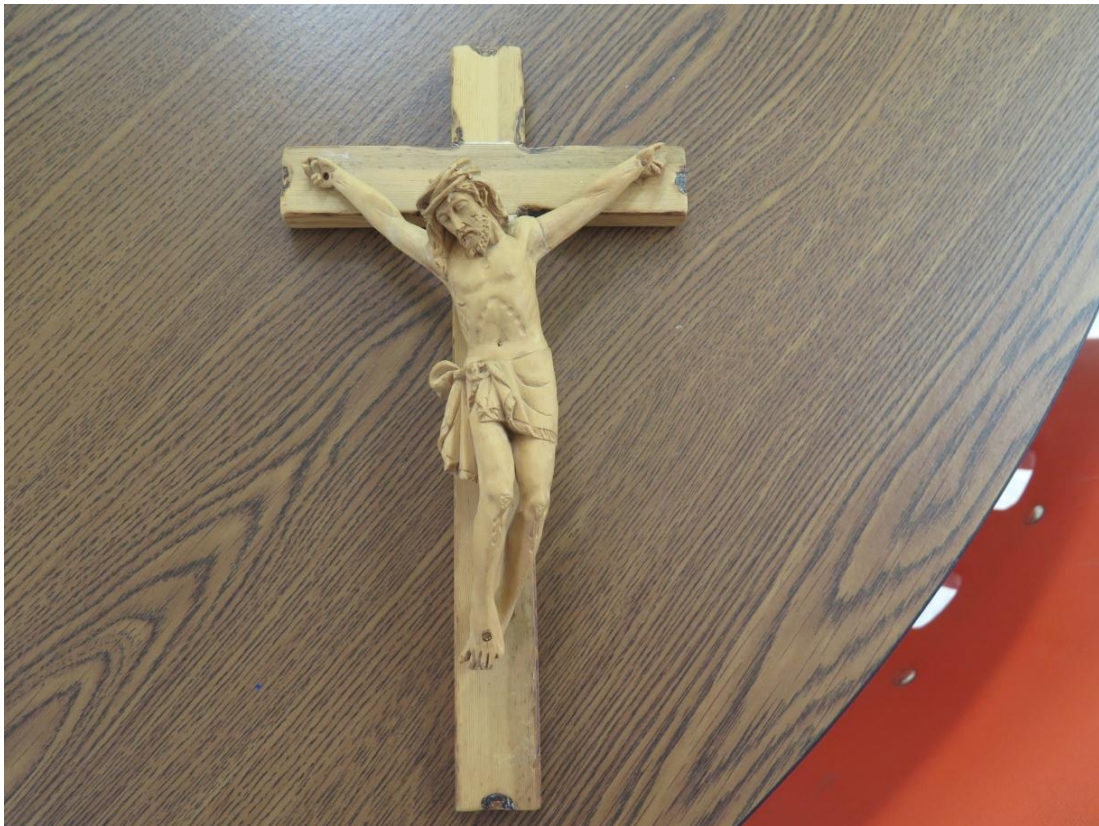
Bob also had two bison which show the type of style he will be using for his class in May. It will be a typical animal with longer hair on the front than the rear half, short curved horns and a beard. He is standing or perhaps walking along. Bob has made a number of these and is an expert carver.



Members working and visiting



Bob holding the Crucifix above



The Crucifix



A splendid animal in butternut

Doug E shared a personal experience he had with meeting a woman who had received a Memory Heart from the Cancer Center. He noted how important they are to cancer survivors and encouraged us to keep the supply going. His story is written in an article between the Meeting Notes and this Whittle-In article.

February 16th, 2021 Whittle-In

Troy Frieze reached back towards Christmas to introduce us to chip carved bells that could be ornaments or decoration. Several years ago, we had an expert carver named Jan Jensen from Wisconsin who taught an Old World method of chip carving. Her friend, Charlene Lynum, from the same area, who does regular chip carving, came with her. She was pleasant and helpful to Jan while we learned a more difficult style of carving. Charlene wrote the article in December's Woodcarving Illustrated that Troy used.

Troy had transfer paper on the blanks to easily chip out any of the three designs. He had them assembled in sets of three or single ones if you preferred one or other

style. They were simple 3 inch x 3 1/8 inch pieces of basswood, which seems just a bit larger than Christmas ornaments we chip carved several years ago, and a little more complex. It could be my memory, however. Troy suggested a wipe on polyurethane such as Deft for the finish. He came around and visited the 10 people, nicely distanced and masked, to check on progress and answer questions



Two sets of three bells ready for carving



How the bells look once they are carved



A closer view of one of the bells

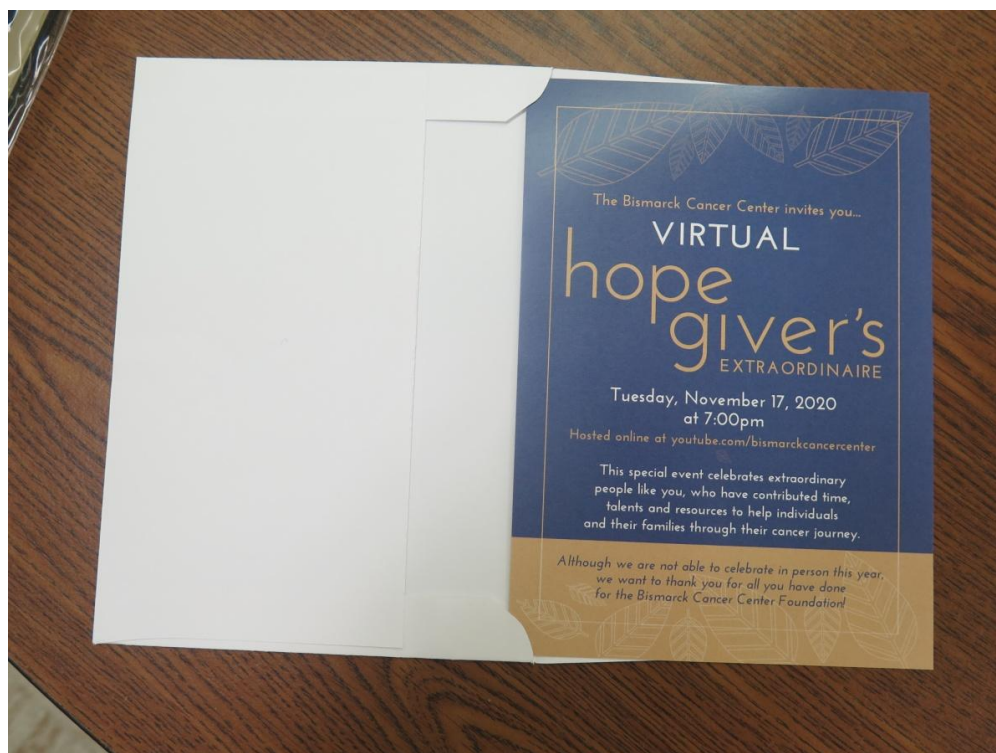
We had a couple of things for show and tell. Troy brought a chip carved cross with a straightforward design, but it had an added halo around the intersection with a hammered metal look to it. Made of basswood, it is very graceful. Troy said he had begun it at a Wahpeton Weekend and finally finished it when we were all isolating with Covid.

The other item was from the Cancer Society. As you know, the club carves Memory Hearts for any patient who has gone through therapy. Doug E estimates that the Cancer Society needs about 50 hearts a month. It is one of the community activities we undertake. Read Doug's articles about our Memory Hearts in the last newsletter and this one. When you have time, craft a few hearts for Doug to take to the patients. This activity contributes to our grant requests as well.

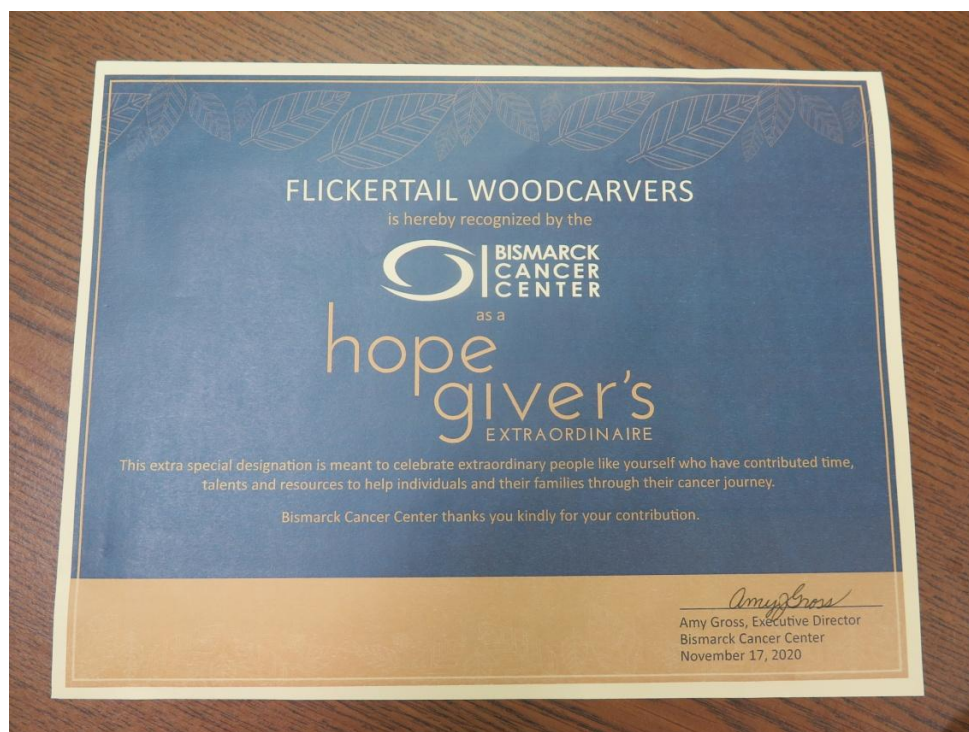
At their virtual Hope Givers extraordinaire last November, the Cancer Society recognized the Flickertails with a special designation for our contributions to helping those on their cancer journey.



Troy's Cross



The Invitation



The Acknowledgement document

Holiday Zoom Get-together

On Saturday, February 27th at 7pm, the Flickertails held a Zoom party. While only seven of us attended, we had a nice visit. Originally advertized as a venue where we could toast each other with a drink and virtually share appetizers, the only person I saw with a glass was Cliff, and he could have had water rather than alcohol. People were much more interested in chatting. We did have a few walkthrough visitors, Becky B's calico cat, her dog and her daughter, Nuala, all dropped in as did Tom and Diane's cat, Cloudy.

Becky is homeschooling Nuala right now, although some kids are back in school. Things change so rapidly between in-school, hybrid learning and homeschooling that the continuity of keeping her home is working well. Besides regular schoolwork, and they are crafting Viking/Saxon lyres. Becky's will use walnut for the body, birch for the soundboard and have a claro walnut neck. Nuala wants more color and will have birch and walnut but more exotic camatillo, which is purple, and bocote. While Becky didn't have a lyre in her vicinity, there was a strumming musical instrument from Finland called a kantele. She even played us a melody.

Two Canadians, Bob D and Wilbur were part of the Zoom group. We got to see a relief carving of Wilbur's made through carving, and the same composition made with wood burning. Both were well-done rural scenes, and while the same, very different in perspective from each other. There were other wood burned pieces that we could see in the background on his walls.

There was discussion among Wilbur, Bob and Clara concerning some of the men who bring wood to sell at various events. Clara mentioned the problem with getting good butternut lately. She has been kept in Bismarck all winter. This is the second year she has not been able to go south. Her home needs some repairs. She is looking forward to going next year. Conversation covered a good number of topics and lasted over an hour before anyone decided to call it an evening.