

# The Curling Chip September-October 2020

FLICKERTAIL WOODCARVERS

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It is really enjoyable getting back to Whittle-Ins with carving projects and social interaction. Eileen headed up the first return session in September which featured carving hearts for the Cancer Society. In addition, carvers participated in the Cancer Heart Challenge. Larry Graf was the top contributor, ably assisted by his wife Ruth, they produced 60 hearts for the challenge. Larry was also the lead on the first October Whittle-In. His Eagle Head project contained all the components in a baggie including paint to finish the carving. Extra kits were quickly scooped up by Bob F to give to beginning carvers at his winter

retreat in Arizona. Tom & Diane's project was a pumpkin girl just in time for Halloween. And Bob P and Warren arranged a wonderful display of spoons at the library. Thanks to all the Flickertail members who helped out and took photos with this newsletter. For questions or future articles send your info to Tom/Diane Turck at [tdturck@bis.midco.net](mailto:tdturck@bis.midco.net).

Good Carving! Newsletter Team: Tom Turck and Diane Lehman Turck



NORTH DAKOTA COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

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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](http://www.flickertail.org)

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 ??, 2020	Christmas Party – _____ Coordinators
December 15, 2020	Whittle-In, 7-9 PM Project by Doug Smith
January 2, 2021	Monthly meeting 8:30-10:30 AM Project by Eric Gaasland
January 19, 2021	Whittle-In, 7-9 PM 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
March 6, 2021	Monthly meeting 8:30-10:30 AM 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
April/May, 2021	Spring Carving Class by Rick and Cathy Brereton
May 1, 2021	Monthly meeting 8:30-10:30 AM Project by Becky Barnes
May 18, 2021	Whittle-In, 7-9 PM Project by Alvin Braunagel

### **Past Events**

June 16, 2020	Whittle-In, Sertoma Park, shelter <b>5</b> , 5:30-8 PM Sack lunch – Public is invited
July 21, 2020	Whittle-In, Sertoma Park, Shelter <b>5</b> , 5:30-8 PM Sack Lunch – Public is invited
August 18, 2020	Whittle-In, Sertoma Park, Shelter <b>5</b> , 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 Heihm
October 3, 2020	Monthly meeting 8:30-10:30 AM Project by Larry Graff

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### *September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Whittle-In*

This is the first Whittle-In since March 7<sup>th</sup>. The room had tables but the chairs were stacked at the sides of the room. We took down 14 or so, as many as there were people. Everyone started out wearing masks and there were four or fewer people to a table. Becky B came prepared with sanitizer and cleaner, which she used at the end of the meeting on several of the tables. There had been a meal in the room before we arrived, and some of the tables were still sticky. We all had distancing and being careful on our minds.

Eileen's project was Cancer Hearts. The club likes to do a heart based project one or two times a year to remind members that we donate hearts to the Cancer Society, and they are always in need of more. Many Flickertails create hearts on their own time. Eileen brought blanks of several sizes and shapes along with a couple of different types of wood. She also had a number of hearts she had completed showing a variety of color and style. People took a heart and started to work on it or began their own projects. Eileen was fashioning a small cross to go with the hearts.



**Eileen's Finished Hearts**





**Gathering Spoons in the back, carving Hearts and a table of Templates in front**

Warren was set up at a far table to take the spoons folks had made for the library display. The exhibit will be in the front windows by the entrance for the public to see. They will be available for about three months, from October to the end of the year. That would have coincided nicely with our Annual Fall Show which has been cancelled due to the corona-virus. Warren asked that each spoon was labeled with the carver's name and then numbered in sequence in order to return it to the rightful owner.

At least five people at the meeting turned in spoons. I may not have gotten all of them photographed, but they will be available for viewing at the library. Warren and Bob P are in charge of getting the spoons and other materials to the library for the librarian to form the presentation and they wanted the items being lent turned in by tonight's meeting.



**Eileen's set of spoons**



**Ron's spoons. The one at the top has a rosemaling decoration**





**Vince's spoons. The red streaked one is box elder.**



**Eric G's spoons. A variety of woods, the purple is lilac.**



**Eric T's silverware set of knife, fork and spoon**



**Two feathered salt cellar spoons and squirrels climbing a spoon's stem**



**Ron's rooster**





**Fall leaves and Halloween decorations**



**Skulls with Messages**

Ron and Becky B came with show and tell items. Ron had a handsome, colorful rooster that would be the talk of the barnyard chicks.

Becky B had seasonal intarsia items, two autumn oak leaves, an owl and skulls with associated ravens. Each skull is addressing its raven. The one with the raven in its face is saying, “Get out of my eye”!, and the one with the raven sitting on him is pleading, “Don’t poop on my head”!.

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### ***Monthly Meeting Minutes for Flickertail Woodcarvers***

***October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, Trinity Lutheran Church***

Becky Barnes called the meeting to order. About 8-10 people were present.

Thanks to Larry Graf for the two eagle heads. One is for a magnet and the other for a pin. They came with everything you would need to assemble the magnet and pin as well.

**Guest:** Becky B’s daughter, Nuala, came with Becky.

**Show and Tell:** Becky completed an intarsia bat. Donna is working on several hearts that she will finish for the Cancer Society. She also had a leaf-man with veins on its back that was part of an older Whittle-In.

**Secretary’s Report:** The last meeting was in March. Diane did not bring the minutes.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Warren said there is approximately \$9,000 in the account.

**Membership:** Doug S was unavailable.

**Property:** Vince was unavailable.

**Library:** Cliff dropped off the keys to Warren.

**Publicity:** Becky W wasn’t present, but there was a discussion about whether she ordered the raffle tickets for the show that was cancelled. Warren said she had, he thought, because she paid for them. Bob P said that if any of the

tickets were sold, according to Bismarck regulations, we would need to hold a raffle.

**\*Note:** Becky, when e-mailed, said she had paid for the license to hold a raffle, but had not ordered the tickets. She is willing to store the prizes she had collected, and will ask whether the license fees can be applied to next year.

**Historian:** N/A.

**Facebook:** Eric G is working on it, but is self quarantining. He was exposed to someone with Covid-19.

**Website/Instagram:** Becky B suggested that we could have [virtual tables](#) to exhibit our carvings to the public, especially since there is no Fall Show. We could have a main photo with a table containing a number of pieces, and then added photos of specific items that we want to explain. Becky would be able to walk anyone through the process and it would be easy and straightforward. That would give us and our club more exposure.

We could also do much the same thing if anyone wanted to sell an item. That way we could do it from our site instead of paying some other group a user fee to sell for us.

**Buckstop Junction:** Mike was unavailable.

**Annual Woodcarver's Show:** Not being held this year due to Covid-19.

**Programs:** The [Spring class](#) in May, 2021 will be taught by Rick and Cathy Brereton, expert carvers from Canada. They will take us through how to carve a loon.

**New Business:** 1) The [Bismarck Public Library](#) is presenting the Spoon Exhibit for at least October, November and December and may extend it a bit longer. Bob P said it was up on Friday and looks very good. We have 71 items, including posters. Thanks to Bob and Warren for all their work hard.

2) A [Christmas/Holiday Party](#) was discussed. The Harvest Grill and Ramada Motel across from the mall were mentioned as possible locations.



**Old Business** 1) The display at the Heritage Center is still up and drawing visitors. They requested we allow it to be in place for awhile longer. There were no objections.

2) Warren said the church reminded us about leaving chips that needed to be cleaned up. They said it was merely a reminder, we are doing just fine.

**In addition:** 1) Warren has extra tube covers for knives for anyone that wants some.

2) We have 25 Travel mugs (\$15) and 2 Knives (\$35), numerous Patches (\$3), and Stickers (\$1) for sale. In addition, we have really cool business cards with Flickertail Facebook pictures on the back for free! (Free advertising and interesting as well).

Anyone having information for the newsletter, email it to Tom Turck at [tdturck@bis.midco.net](mailto:tdturck@bis.midco.net).

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by Diane Lehman Turck, *Secretary*

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### ***October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 Whittle-In***

It was a crisp Saturday morning. Larry Graf brought in packets containing his project. There are two bald eagle blanks, several small amounts of paint in little plastic cups, two paint brushes, two silver beads for eyes, a magnet and a pin all in baggies stapled to an instruction sheet. One eagle was for a pin, the other for a magnet. The bald eagle was chosen by the Second Continental Congress in 1782 to represent the USA as our emblem. It expresses the love of freedom, is regal in appearance, long-lived and has great strength. In addition, it was believed to exist solely on this continent when it was named.

As with the first Whittle-In, everyone had on masks and was socially distanced. Cliff came in to give Warren the keys to the back room and library. He can't stay. Eric is self-isolating having been exposed to the virus, and could not be here. Becky B will run the meeting later. This was a smaller

group than last time. People aren't as ready to get up early on a chilly Saturday, I expect. There were only about 8-10 members.



**Larry's baggies with entire project**



**A “convocation” of eagles assembled on the table**



**Working from the directions and discussing eagles**

Not only did Larry's bags contain the entire project, but he had a progression of eagles laid out on the table to show how you could advance from step to step. People started laying out the instructions and drawing the beak and eye fold.

With less people, there were not many Show and Tell items, but Becky B brought a well-executed intarsia hoary bat. He looks friendly. The upper part of his wings is a lighter tan to represent the bat's lighter-tipped fur, where he gets his "hoary" name. Becky created the design.

Donna was working on several hearts for the Cancer Society. She had started them at the last Whittle-In with Eileen, and was in the process of sanding them down. Two were basswood. Bob F mentioned that he thought someone at a picnic told him we were no longer collecting hearts. We said that actually Doug was still taking hearts to the Cancer Society, and anyone could probably drop them off with a note that they came from the Flickertails. Donna also had a leaf-man from an earlier Whittle-In; I think with Mike doing the project. She had modified the front to look like a man with a hat, and the back is veined.



**A cute Halloween bat**





**Sanding in the top of a lid to catch the debris**



**Donna hasn't yet finished his eyes**



**The veined back of the leaf**

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***The Display of Spoons  
In the Library  
October-December, 2020***

Over the last several years Flickertail Woodcarvers have had a couple of exhibits in the glass cases at the entrance to the library. There were the bird carvings in 2016, and carvings from Cultures around the World in 2018. The theme for this autumn is spoons. Over the last couple of years, carvers have had a lot of fun detailing spoons in different ways. Our original spoon carving was based on love spoons that sailors created for girls back home they wanted to marry. Now there are books regarding spoon carving and ways to make them and spreaders from dry wood or wet wood, lilac, black walnut, basswood, butternut and more, all appearing in different shapes and forms.

Bob Pedigo and Warren Schlecht gathered the spoons and other artifacts and posters to loan to the library. The librarian said she had never had an easier time arranging a presentation. There were lovely stands to place the spoons upright for better viewing. Such a delightful variety, there's even a Paul Bunyan size spoon.

Take a few minutes the next time you're in the area to discover this impressive display. Visit with a friend or stop in to take out a book.











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### ***October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Whittle-In***

We have to apologize for being late to our own project. I told Tom the evening started at 7:30, when it starts at 7pm. Although we arrived at 7:20, by then some people had been there for half an hour or more. I didn't figure it out until the next day when I was looking at the Flickertail site. I am sorry for anyone who was waiting and do sincerely apologize for our lateness.

A challenge to everyone had been to carve hearts for the Cancer Society the previous weekend. That would have been the time of our Annual Fall Show. Since the show wasn't being held, the idea was to see how many hearts could be carved instead. I don't know who met the challenge; Doug E had collected a lot of hearts it appeared. He said that Larry had made 60. His wife Ruth helped with sanding. Eileen turned her hearts into the Cancer Society earlier, after she had finished the batch she created for her project a month ago. She said the lady at the door who took them in was very pleased to have them. Ron had probably come with hearts as he left early, about the same time as Doug. Troy left a little later.



**An example of hearts for the Cancer Society**



When Tom and I came into the meeting room there were eleven people present. A few others may have dropped off hearts and left. The last two to leave early were Eileen and Kelly who had just come to pick up the project. They were worried about the covid-19 cases in Bismarck rising so quickly, and they didn't want to stay in an area with too many people.

Tonight's Whittle-In project was a little pumpkin girl. We set out the blanks for people to choose one for themselves. We had xeroxed the pages from Woodcarvers Illustrated for everyone, and I had a couple of rulers and pencils. In the instructions, the first measurements given were from the bottom up instead of the top down. The last one, at the top, defined the stem area of the pumpkin. Using a nickel on the top to guide the stem dimensions was a good idea. The directions as Larry pointed out said to angle towards the top from the 1  $\frac{3}{4}$  line, or the head and the stem. I misread and only worked the stem at an angle, making the head spherical. I would have done the stem and head separately anyway. If I had followed directions, the little girl's head would have come out much flatter than the example. Larry is a good carver, and can make the head and stem correctly.



**The Little Pumpkin Girl**



The stem of the pumpkin forms her ponytail hair which is sporting a ribbon. She is wearing white coveralls and a bright yellow shirt. Her hands are in her side pockets. There is a heart on the front of the outfit and it has a pocket shut with a button on the front. Since she is from a farm, she is wearing brown boots. Some of the colors the creator of the girl used, such as squash blossom for her head, and dark chocolate for her stem and boots, were unavailable. Eventually, in Michael's and Hobby Lobby I found summer squash and chocolate brown which were close in color, but both were hard to find.

Larry brought a box of the sets of eagles from his project earlier in the month to ask if anyone wanted one. Bob F said that would take them all. He'd been thinking about the asking for the eagles to use for people in the complex he stays at down South over the winter. They have a new room that will be good for wood carving, and Bob thinks those kits that Larry assembled would be a perfect way to introduce the members at the complex to carving. The kits come with directions, paints and brushes, and a magnet or pins for backing.



**Larry and Bob F socially distanced; note box on Larry's table**



**Tom carving with instructions**



**See the bow in Bob F's Pumpkin Girl**

Pumpkins are a type of winter squash. They grow on vines and are considered a fruit. They have both male and female flowers and are fertilized by bees. In the past, this was usually done by the squash bee, but due to their decline, probably by pesticide, honeybees are now used, which means the honey can then be sold. In some places gardeners have to hand pollinate.

Most often what we call a pumpkin is round with slightly ribbed, smooth skin that ranges in color from deep yellow to orange. It is grown for its seeds and its flesh along with its use in holidays. Domesticated as early as 7,500 to 5,000 BC in Mexico and the southern US, pumpkins as pie are an integral part of Thanksgiving meals, and carved as jack-o'-lanterns are used at Halloween. The most common cultivar used for jack-o'-lanterns is *Cucurbita pepo*, but other cultivars are used in canned pumpkin for pies. White pumpkins made their first appearance in 2005. Marketing the flavor began with Starbucks' pumpkin spice latte in 2003. Now everything that can has pumpkin spices this time of year in spite of the fact that whole pumpkins are rarely bought to eat.



**Becky 's pumpkin with a bow in her hair**





**Donna drew the cuts she needs to make on the blank**

An Irish myth about Stingy Jack has him carving a turnip into a lantern. By the mid 1800s North Americans were using pumpkins because of their larger size and ease in carving. Their carving was at first associated with harvest time in general rather than Halloween. The early ghost story of *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* by Washington Irving has the headless horseman using a pumpkin for a head. And the children's story *Cinderella* uses magic to change a pumpkin into a grand coach.