

The Curling Chip September/October 2021

FLICKERTAIL WOODCARVERS

PO BOX 7473

BISMARCK ND 58507



Happy Halloween. In this issue are the first four weeks of the wood carving class. Although it fell on November 2nd, it made sense to put it here, so people would have some news of it. Our beginning class is going quite well with about 20 students for the second half. In addition, there are articles by Becky B and Cliff and articles on Apple Fest and our annual Flickertail show. We are honored and pleased with our three show instructors Vic Hood, Rick Sauge and Pam Vukelic. We are postponing our monthly January meeting, which would fall on January 1st, to January 8th because of the holiday. Thanks to Flickertail members

Becky B, Eric G and Dale for photos. Remember Winter Celebration will be all day January 8th. For questions or future articles send your info to Tom/Diane Turck at email address tdturck@bis.midco.net.

Good Carving!

Newsletter Team: Tom Turck and Diane Lehman Turck



Website: <https://flickertailwoodcarvers.org/>

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/flickertailwoodcarversnd/>

Pintress - <https://www.pinterest.com/flickertailwoodcarvers/>



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

- Website: <https://flickertailwoodcarvers.org/>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/flickertailwoodcarversnd>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/FlickertailND>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/flickertailwoodcarvers/>

Sept 4, 2021	Whittle-In 8:30-10:30 (approx), pumpkin project By Becky Barnes, 116 Sunflower Drive, (bring folding chair)
Sept 21, 2021	Whittle-Inn 7-9pm
Sept 25-26, 2021	Apple Fest at Buckstop Junction 11-5 Sat, 11-4 Sun For Cancer Society
October 2, 2021	Monthly meeting 8:30-10:30 AM
October 7-10, 2021	Flickertail Woodcarvers Show 7-8 8am-5pm with Vic Hood, 9-10 8am-11:15am Dick Skaug and Pam Vukelic classes 12-4:30pm public is invited
October 19, 2021	Whittle-In, 7-9 Open carving, Beginners class, Mike will have snake blanks
November 6, 2021	Monthly meeting 8:30-10:30, Project by Dale, hearts
November 16, 2021	Whittle-In, 7-9 Beginners class, Project by Mike K, snakes
December 4, 2021	Monthly meeting, 8:30-10:30, Project by Becky W, Christmas trees
December 21, 2021	Whittle-In 7-9, Project unknown
January 8, 2022	Whittle-In all day. Project by Becky B or bring your own. Supper potluck (Tell Diane what you would like to bring)

Past Events

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
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

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
June 15, 2021	Whittle-In, Sertoma Park, shelter 5 , 5:30-8 PM Sack lunch – Public is invited
July 20, 2021	Whittle-In, Sertoma Park, Shelter 5 , 5:30-8 PM Sack Lunch – Public is invited
August 17, 2021	Whittle-In, Sertoma Park, Shelter 5 , 5:30-8 PM Sack lunch – Public is invited

September 4th Carve in at Becky B's She-Shed

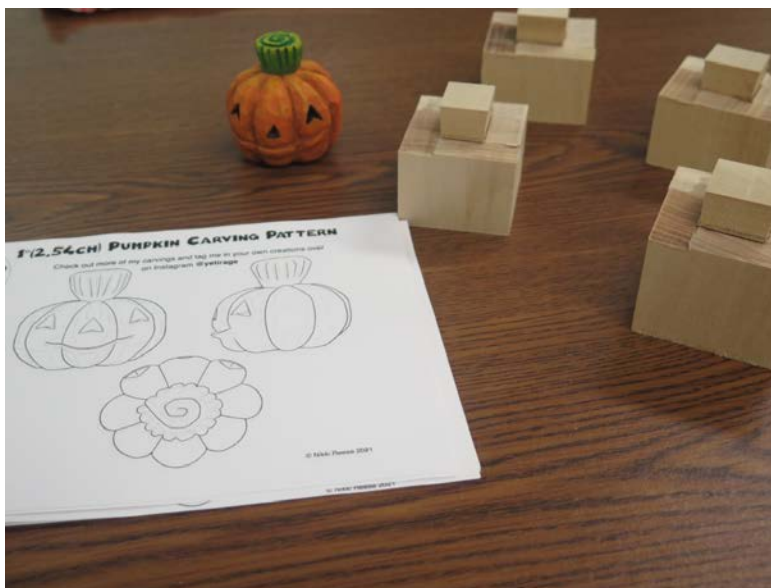
With Labor Day weekend coinciding with what should have been the first Flickertail meeting post-summer, I wasn't sure how many people would be in town. I'm sure with the perfect weather, people could hear the call of the lake or river! No official carving project was listed, so instead I invited anyone who wanted to come over and carve an opportunity to do so in my carving shop – my “she-shed.”

A little background – when I first started working with wood, I had a space “carved” out of the garage. It was spacious enough for my scroll saw (at the time my only real woodworking power tool)... but darn it was cold in the winter! I couldn't woodwork in the summer due to my job, and that often stretched into spring and fall as well. That only left warmer winter days. Eventually we moved my slowly growing accumulation of tools and wood into a room in the basement. Ohhh, it was niiiice! Warm, spacious, access to caffeine right around the corner... but for some reason my husband wasn't thrilled with me powering up a table saw or belt sander right next to his computer Work-From-Home room. Huh. Strange.

As my husband Bryan came out to briefly chat with us – he recalled how at first, I was reluctant to this whole construction of an outbuilding. *HOW* much was it going to cost?! He assured me there would be a dedicated Becky-Space for all my tools and wood, which was *heated* during the winter. Well... ok then.

Cliff O. was the first to arrive, followed by Warren S. and Vince B. Bob P. arrived shortly after. Clara Y. brought a binder of historical minutes and photos for me to peruse, and Becky W. swung by briefly to hand out more raffle tickets. Everyone took a peek in the 1/3 of the building that is my shop area – sorry it wasn't more picked up. I'm still trying to figure out better ways to store sanding belts and whatnot... and branches and logs were strewn about... but it's where I make the dust fly. Throw on some music, and get cutting!

I had a few blanks of a pumpkin designed by @YetiRage (on Instagram), otherwise known as Nikki Reese. As an aside, she also published a cute book titled “Carve A World Of Gnomes” through Fox Chapel Publishing. Some grabbed a pumpkin blank, others worked on the bison Bob taught during the Spring Carving Class, and others chatted. It was a delightful morning, and I'm so happy people were cheerful.



An example of blanks and directions for the pumpkin carving pattern

September 21st, 2021 Whittle-In

The church doors were locked, so Eric G was there to let people in. Eventually there were a dozen. Marlene had a book of tickets to turn in and her raffle prize; a beautifully made cheese dish. The outside ring has two sets of mice on either side of a piece of Swiss cheese. She and I were sitting with Becky B who had made a black Halloween cat in a purple witch's hat. Halloween is her daughter, Nuala's, favorite holiday. Becky is working on a dinosaur tail that is segmented with pieces of leather glued into the partitions of the tail allowing the tail to swerve back and forth.

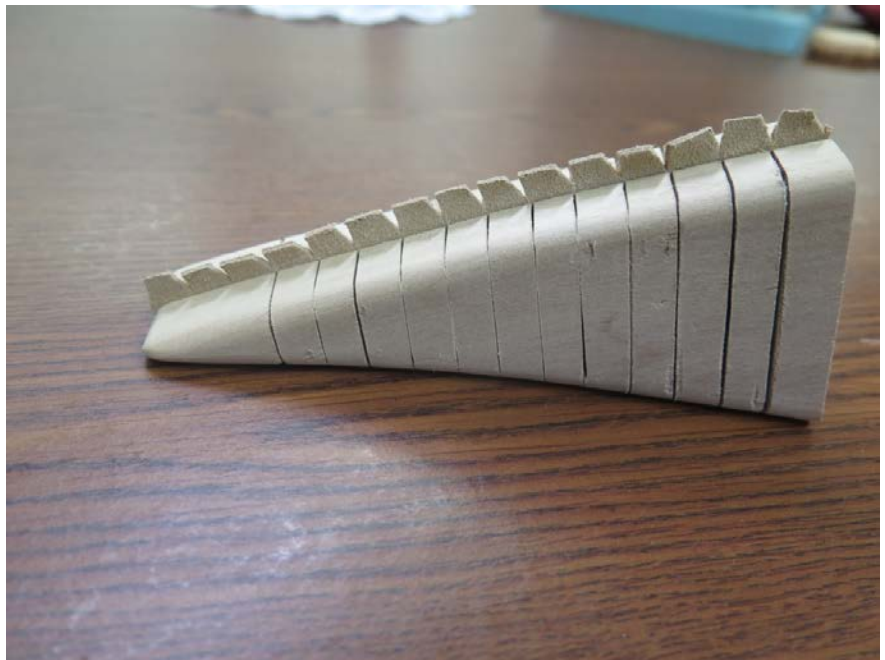
Eileen and some of the others picked up the pumpkin templates from the Instagram pattern that Becky had presented at the last Whittle-In. She was also creating a heart made in box elder. Hearts were the common theme of the Whittle-In, and Eileen and Cliff brought some to Doug E for the Cancer Society. Doug was cutting the edges of a heart and Warren is practicing on making bison from Bob P's Spring Class.



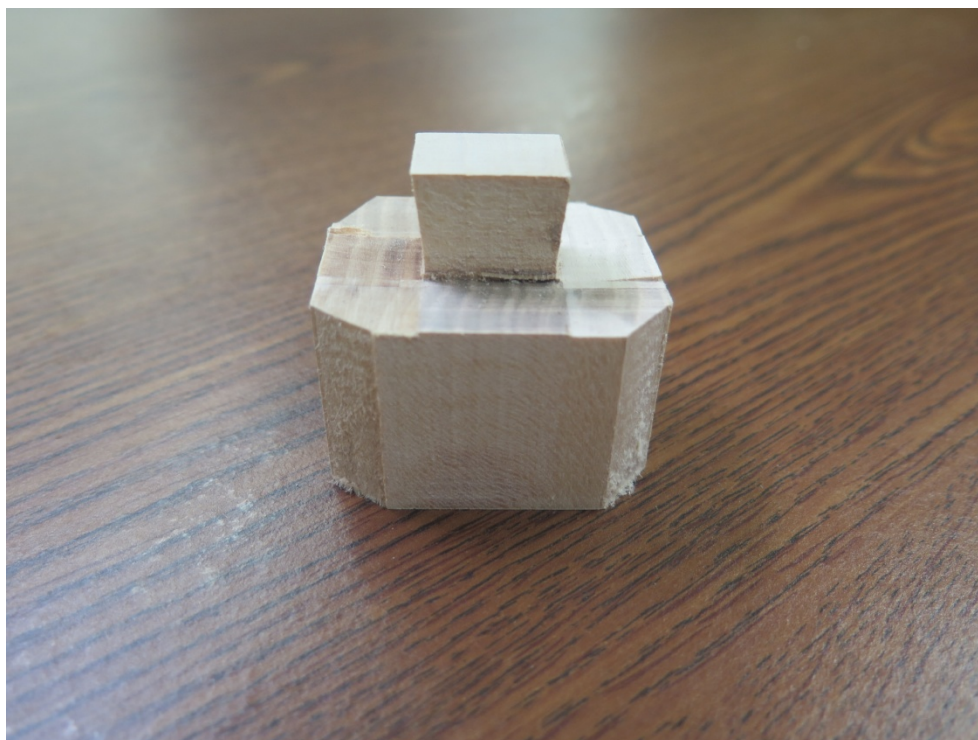
A cheese plate complete with mice and cheese



A colorful black Halloween cat



A moveable dinosaur tail



A blank for the Instagram pumpkins



Starting work on a box elder heart



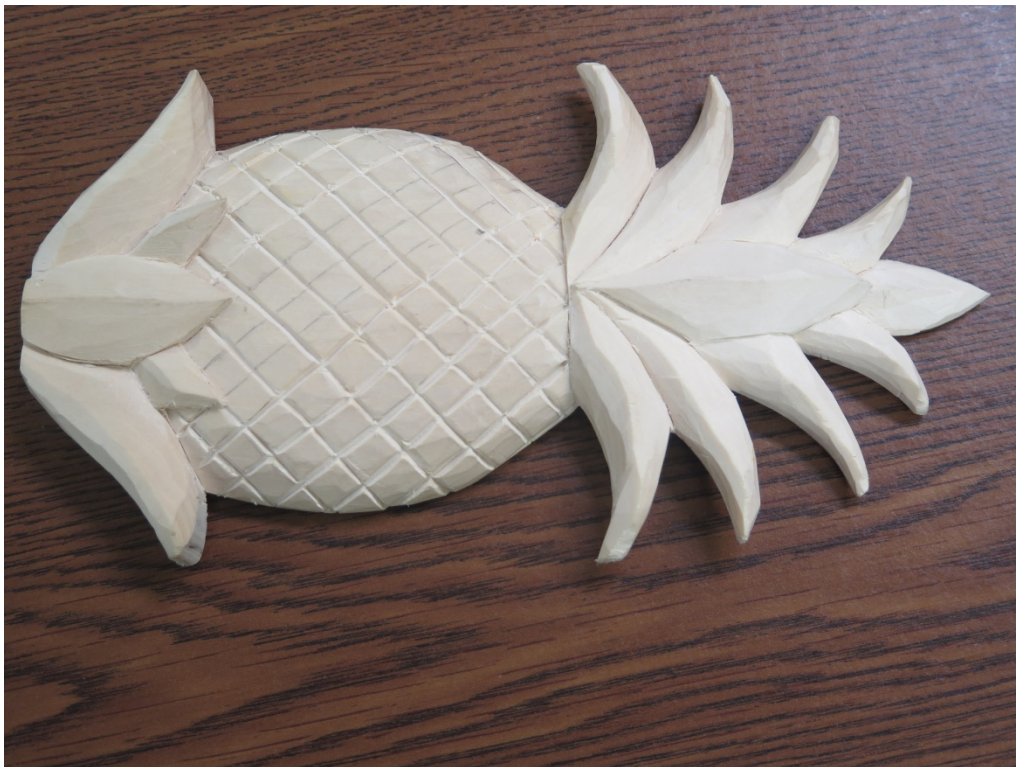
Hearts for the Cancer Society



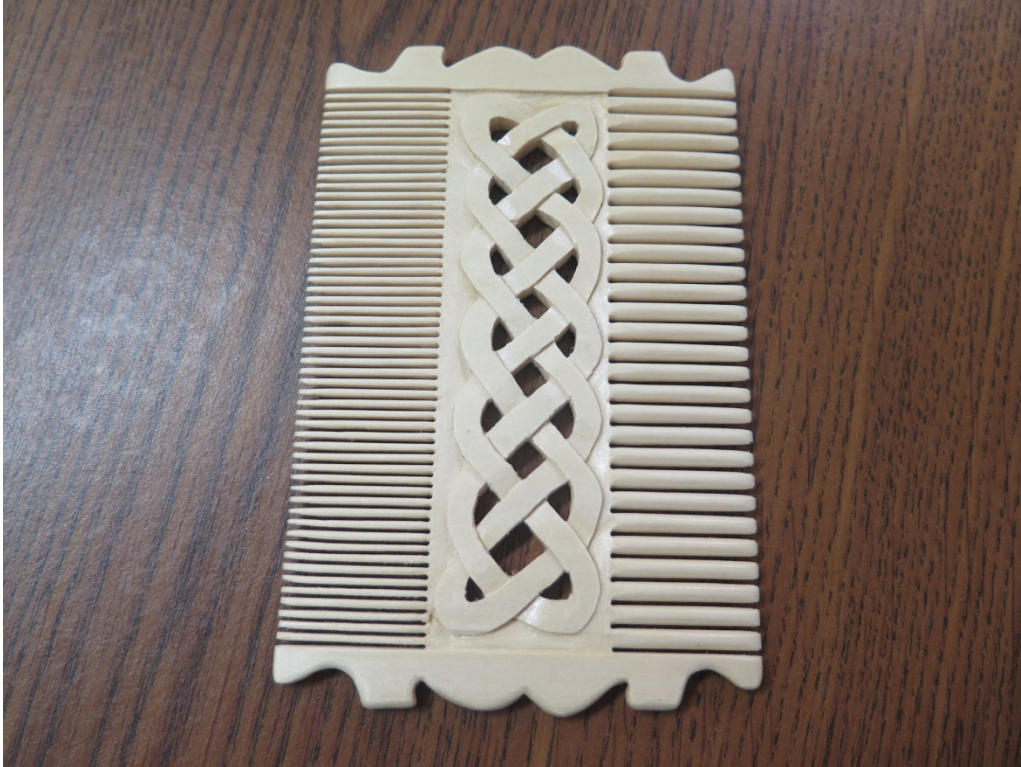
One of Warren's bison



Larry and Vince deep in conversation and carving



Eric's raffle prize pineapple



A very artistic comb



A yearly anniversary present

Vince and Larry were chatting and carving at one table and Eric G was using knives and V-tools to cut lines in the pineapple that will be his raffle prize. Cliff brought in a delicate comb with two sides, teeth for thicker hair and finer hair. It was quite lovely. Mike came in after a while. He had a small plaque with the number “47” carved into it. It was for his anniversary. He makes one every year for his wife.

Apple Fest, September 24 and 25

Instead of being set up next to the Blacksmith Shop as usual, we were on the opposite side and in a somewhat more convivial spot. The weather was exceptionally nice on Saturday. On Sunday it started to get a bit too warm, but Eric remembered that the booth had a back wall and he and Clara attached it. The shade it offered made all the difference. There were a lot of people of all ages stopping by on both days. A pretty constant flow most of the time. We sold and gave away raffle tickets. Over the course of the weekend about a dozen members volunteered time at the booth. And we received a fairly positive response to our asking if anyone thought about learning woodcarving. Some adults, and a lot of tween aged children who would need parental commitment to attend were interested in finding out more about the classes. The booth’s staff highlighted the carving of Cancer Hearts by the individuals in the club along with other interests. In fact, Bob F dropped off a number of hearts he had carved and his wife painted for Becky W to pass along to Doug E for the Cancer Society.

On Saturday, the lumber building was open for visitors to walk through. The exhibits in the entire building seem better lit and more organized. The floor was portioned into sections. The Flickertail division was over in a back corner. Our displays contain artifacts from previous demonstrations, many from years ago and some newer ones. The cases given by Dale and Jen in which the pieces are arranged added to the overall integrity of the structure. Clara’s donation of Telle’s horse and Roosevelt marionettes are a wonderful contribution. Telle and her students took the home made marionette productions all over North Dakota during the depression.

Not many people know of Satchel Page's involvement in Bismarck baseball, so Mike's presentation of the player was a surprise to many, I imagine.

The building was locked on Sunday, which was unfortunate. At the side of the building were a number of appliances that hadn't fit into the shows other groups were highlighting. About five stoves were sitting next to the wall waiting to be recycled elsewhere.

There were a lot of hay rides around the little town and the venue for the bands was good. The acoustics seemed better than before. The model railroad in the basement of the hotel was running, and upstairs the hotel was selling root beer on Sunday having run out of sarsaparilla earlier. Mike said there were a total of about 3,000 guests during the two-day event which was a good number.



Some of the volunteers on Sunday afternoon



Vince, Becky B, and the Ferderers



You can see Theodore Roosevelt's Horse on the Left Side

Flickertail Library News

By Cliff Orgaard

The Flickertail Library gained many additional books during the 2021 Annual Woodcarvers Show. Most of these were donated by the family of Ron Torgeson. He was a long-time member who passed away this summer. Below is a listing of the books by topic. Be sure to check them out during our next meeting.

Bark Carving

Carving Weathered Wood

Carving Found Wood

Carving Twigs and Branches

Beginning Wood Carving

How to Carve Wood – A Book of Projects and Techniques

Chip Carving

The Complete Guide to Chip Carving

Chip Carving Starter Guide

Christmas Carving

Santa Carving

Flower Carving

The Revised Edition of Carving the Rose

Easy-to-Do Flower Patterns for Woodcarvers

Human Feature Carving

From Good to Great in Woodcarving

How to Carve Pretty Faces

Miscellaneous

Carving Totem Poles and Masks

Painting

Decorative Painting, Folk Art Style

Rosemaling Handbook

Relief Carving

Step-by-Step Relief Carving

Magic Relief Carving

Georg Keilhofer's Traditional Carving: Basic Relief Carving

Decorative Woodcarving

Scandinavian Carving

Ornamental Woodcarving in the Norwegian Tradition

Celtic Carved Love Spoons - 30 Patterns

Carving and Whittling - The Swedish Style

Woodcarving in the Scandinavian Style

Wildlife (Animal) Carving

Carving Carousel Animals

Horse Carving

Monthly Meeting Minutes for Flickertail Woodcarvers

October 2nd, 2021, Trinity Lutheran Church

Becky B called the meeting to order. Fourteen members were present.

Guests: Earlier, Bobby Lindseth, her son Robert and 2 granddaughters visited with donations of several bags of shirts including Wahpeton Weekend, Winnipeg Carving, Flickertail shirts, and a vest of Jim's. Laid out on a table, some were claimed today and the rest will be available at the Flickertail Fall Show this coming weekend.

Sad News: Ron Torgeson died on Tuesday. His health problems stemmed from a car accident a number of years ago. Dale and Ron's son Mitch (Torge) are on the same hockey team. Torge wanted to score a goal for his father and in the last part of the game managed to do just that.

Show and Tell: Warren created a life-like nuthatch. He is positioned walking down a piece of wood from boxes donated by Bob Matzke's wife, Diane.

Becky W came with several things. She had her family of crocodile clothespins that is almost finished. The little ones were attached to crocodile's mother's mouth. When there is danger the babies swim into the mother's mouth. Next, she created a little Christmas tree that will be the project in December. Now, she is carving a face in an elm branch to be named Elmer that will be part of a broom. And finally, she bought a banana shaped tool that opens into a sharpener for gouges.

Bob F gave a set of hearts to Becky B that he made and his wife painted. They were presented to Doug E for the Cancer Society.

Troy had to leave early, but he fashioned three spoons out of caragana. The colorful pattern of the wood produces an interesting quality.

Mike was carrying a box with an orange art deco cat emblazoned on the top.

Secretary's Report: Diane reported that a draft from May had been sent out. No changes were noted.

Treasurer's Report: Warren gave information that there is \$10,855 in the account with bills paid. Today, some members gave him checks for the show. We have received \$250 for a memorial for John Opp.

Membership: Doug S was unavailable. Warren reported last meeting that we have a few new members.

Property: Becky W reported we have an accurate count of property.

In checking the back room in preparation for the show, we found six 50th anniversary knives that can be used as gifts, as well as mugs, patches and stickers. Mike received a knife and a patch for the display at Buckstop Junction.

In addition we have 25 shirts of various sizes and colors, and seven hats in tan, yellow and black.

Library: Cliff oiled the wheels to the library cart. Yea!

He has comprised a catalog of all the reading and imagery materials we have in the library and divided them by topic, author and media including books, DVDs, sticks and VHS Videos.

He reminded us that when we finish with a source, we should return it.

Publicity: Becky W will put meeting times in the newspaper.

Historian: Clara is working with Becky B, showing her old CDs and past newsletters.

Facebook: Eric G is keeping up with current events. Dale and Becky B add information as well.

Eric G recently turned in a grant request to the Dakota West Arts Council (DWAC) for the Flickertails.

Website/Instagram/Twitter: Becky B is also keeping up with current events. Right now! She is the only one of us on twitter, but that may change since members know it's available.

Buckstop Junction: As mentioned, Mike took a 50th anniversary knife and a patch for the display at the lumber building.

Apple Fest was on September 25 and 26. A lot of people visited and the weather was comfortable, although a bit hot on Sunday. A good number of volunteers showed up to help. Those who have got to see the new exhibit at the lumber building on Saturday can attest to the magnificent job that has been done. Wandering through the bright and fresh set-up there are new and old things at which to be amazed. The cases show off the artifacts from the past demonstrations and Clara's contribution of Telle's horse and Roosevelt are wonderfully posed. Mike's presentation of Satchel Page is a surprise to many, I imagine. Dale and Jen's cases help the overall effect.

Mike reports an old post office from Regan, in Burleigh County, may be the next building to come to the town of Buckstop Junction and the Flickertails may be able to set up a woodshop display in part of it.

Summer Events: It should be included in the minutes that all four demonstrations in which the Flickertails participated were fun and successful. Three, Blue Grass goes Pink, Capital A'Fair, and Corn Fest are in summer months and Apple Fest is listed above. Each time, our volunteers enjoyed the day, interacted with the crowd, sold or gave away raffle tickets and interested people in joining the club.

Annual Flickertail Woodcarver's Show: Will be held on October 9-10 of this year at the Career Academy. Presenters are allowed their tables at no expense, and are permitted to sell their wares. Set-up begins at 7:30am on Saturday. The public will be welcomed from noon until 4:30pm both Saturday and Sunday.

The Master Carver is Vic Hood, who will lead a class through carving a realistic bust of a mountain man, Indian chief, sea captain or cavalry person etc. His class will start on October 7th and 8th from 8am to 5pm at the Great River Energy Office at 1611 E. Century Ave., suite 200. On the 9th and 10th, it will be with the other classes at Bismarck Public Schools Career Academy from 8-11:15am. Wood vices are provided so bring longer hand tools if you would like to use them.

Dick Skauge will conduct the weekend class. It will be held on October 9th and 10th at the Career Academy at the same time as Vic Hood's class. His project will be a Santa face. It will give practice in carving faces. He has been here before and is enjoyable to work with.

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. The place and time are listed above. (All above are basically repeat from other minutes)

The raffle prizes are quite nice. Many tickets have been sold or given away, but there are still more available. This is one of our fundraisers, and our tickets are only \$1. It helps to advertise us to the community. Knowing some of the amazing and unique prizes being offered encourages people to buy the tickets.

Come to the pot luck on Friday, October 8 at 5pm at the Quality Inn in Room E. Lots of food, good conversation and a chance to meet people you haven't seen in awhile.

Note: There is a change in the Saturday, October 9th banquet at the Depot in Mandan from that listed. The social is from 5 to 5:30pm and the dinner begins at 5:30pm **not** 6:30pm. Vic Hood is the guest speaker. Incidentally, he is looking for some cottonwood bark to carve for projects.

As before, a carving exchange will take place at the banquet. Bring something, throw your name in the hat and get something different in exchange.

We will have a silent auction table set up in the back of the room to sell things like selected pieces of wood from the Bob Matzke and other donations, and tools or books that members wish to donate.

Shirts donated by Bobby Lindseth from Jim will be part of a free will offering.

Further, we will be selling our old Flickertail shirts in various colors and sizes for \$10 apiece as we transition to a new style of shirt. Caps and anniversary mugs will be sold at \$15 apiece. Patches will go for \$3 and stickers for \$1.

Programs: The [Winter Celebration](#) will be on Jan 8. Dale has offered his home. No Whittle-In will take place on Jan 1. As with the last celebration, it is an all-day event starting at 8:30 in the morning and going through to an evening potluck. Come for the whole day or part of it. There will be a carving exchange after the potluck. Becky B will have a project for those who wish to do something different, or bring hearts or something else you're working on.

The **Spring Class** in May could be the **loon** that Rick and Cathie Brereton were scheduled to instruct two years ago. They are willing to do it, but of course it depends on travel restrictions from Canada and other contingencies. If that turns out to be too difficult, Josh Epping, now teaching classes, would be willing to lead a session for us.

For next autumn, Dale has contacted Roger Bean, who is a character carver. He may be interested in conducting our four-day session for the **Flickertail Woodcarvers Fall Annual Show**, while his wife could do the weekend lessons in woodburning.

Becky B has assembled a **Fall Carving Course** which may appeal to a wide variety of people. It can be taken as an eight-week course or a four-week course. In addition, it can be taken ala carte. It begins October 12th, and continues each Tuesday through November 30th from 7:15-9:00pm. Becky has instructors for each class but could use extra people to help out.

New Business: Becky B will be teaching a session of three classes found in the Enrichment Catalog for Continuing Education.

Old Business: 1) **Virtual Carving Classes.** Something to think about. (repeat)

2) The Bismark Veterans Memorial 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. (repeat)

In addition: Further, we have really cool business cards with Flickertail Facebook pictures on the back for free! (Free advertising and they're interesting as well). (repeat)

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 L Lehman Turck*, Secretary

October 2nd, 2021 Whittle-In

A good crowd was assembled in the church basement. If you count Bobby Lindseth, her son and two granddaughters there were 18 of us. Everyone was either working on a project or helping to prepare for the Annual Fall Show next weekend. A few people were just chatting. Bobby had bags of Jim's shirts from Wahpeton Weekends going back probably 10 years as well as shirts from Winnipeg Carving and our own Flickertail T shirts including a button-down shirt and a vest. These we laid out on a table for anyone to take, and what was left will be available at the Annual Show October 9 and 10.

Becky B, Dale, Bob P and Doug E, for the most part, were finalizing details on the coming show, working on the beginners' class and the coming year. Tom and I, and Becky W and Eric G got items that would be needed for the coming Show from the back room. There were boxes of paper plates, napkins and silverware, bags of sheets, a cylindrical gaming wheel and several other things needed mostly for the potluck, the raffle etc. In addition, there were mugs, patches and stickers that can be sold at the Show, and knives that can be special awards at other functions. Mike received a knife and a patch for the exhibit at Buckstop Junction.

In the back room we also found 25 shirts with the "on the cutting edge" logo and seven baseball style hats. The shirts were mostly dark blue with some red and green ones and in various sizes from XL to S. The hats were tan, yellow and black also touting the Flickertail Woodcarvers. We are planning to change our shirt picture. The new one will have a flickertail finishing a carved flickertail. In it, the carver is holding a gouge and the two animals are pointing at each other. Becky B has been wearing the new design and it looks great. At the Show we will sell the old shirts for only \$10 apiece to begin making room for the new ones.

There were a number of show and tell items today. Warren carved a realistic nuthatch climbing down a tree. The tree part is from the boxes donated by the Matzkes. More of his wood, carving wood and blanks will be available for silent auction and free will offerings at the Annual Show.

Becky W is completing her family of crocodile clothespins for the raffle. There is a large mama, a wide regular size clothespin, two normal ones, a small one and a baby size clothespin. They are all gripping a fancy green ribbon.



Getting ready for the Annual Show



Talking about the Annual Show and Raffle



Visiting



An inquisitive nuthatch



The crocodile clothespin clan – a raffle prize

Also on her table is a Christmas tree that she created at least a year ago. Very cute. They can be used as ornaments or as earrings. The tree will be the project for the December 4th Whittle-In.

Presently, she is making a face in the midst of an elm branch a little more than an inch in diameter. Naming him Elmer, she states he will be part of a broom at the Annual Show.

Lastly, Becky W has an interesting, funny tool. The outside is shaped and colored like a banana. Inside one half is a sharpener for the inside of a gouge. The other half contains a sharpener for the outside of a gouge. It appears a quite handy tool to have.

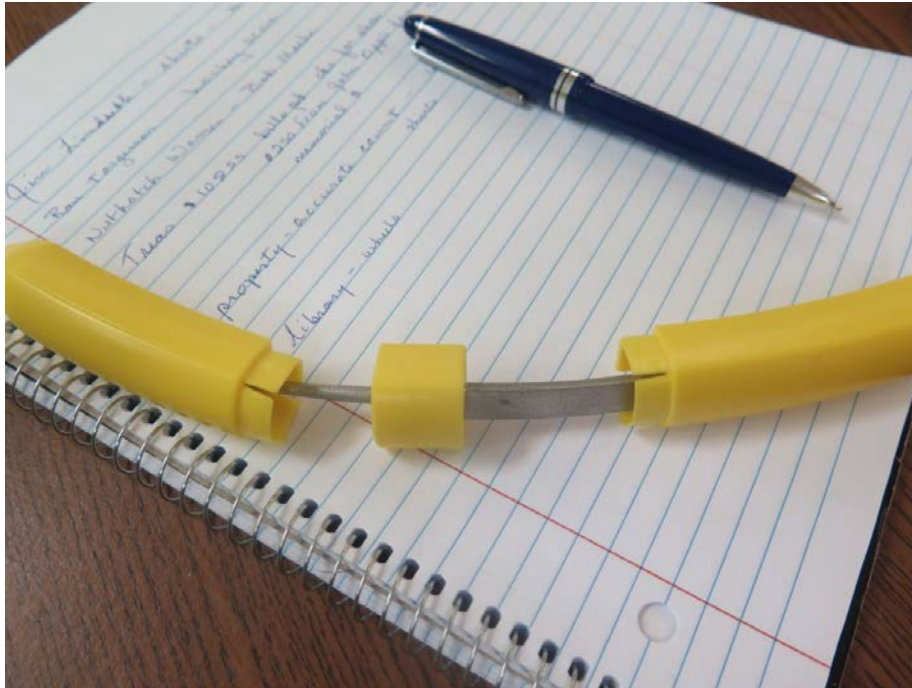
Bob F visited the demonstration booth the Flickertails had at Apple Fest and gave about 20 hearts in several different styles to Becky B. She is giving them to Doug E, who will transfer them to the Cancer Society. Bob had carved them and his wife had painted them. All distinct they will be a welcome gift.



A future Christmas project



Elmer, soon to be a broom handle



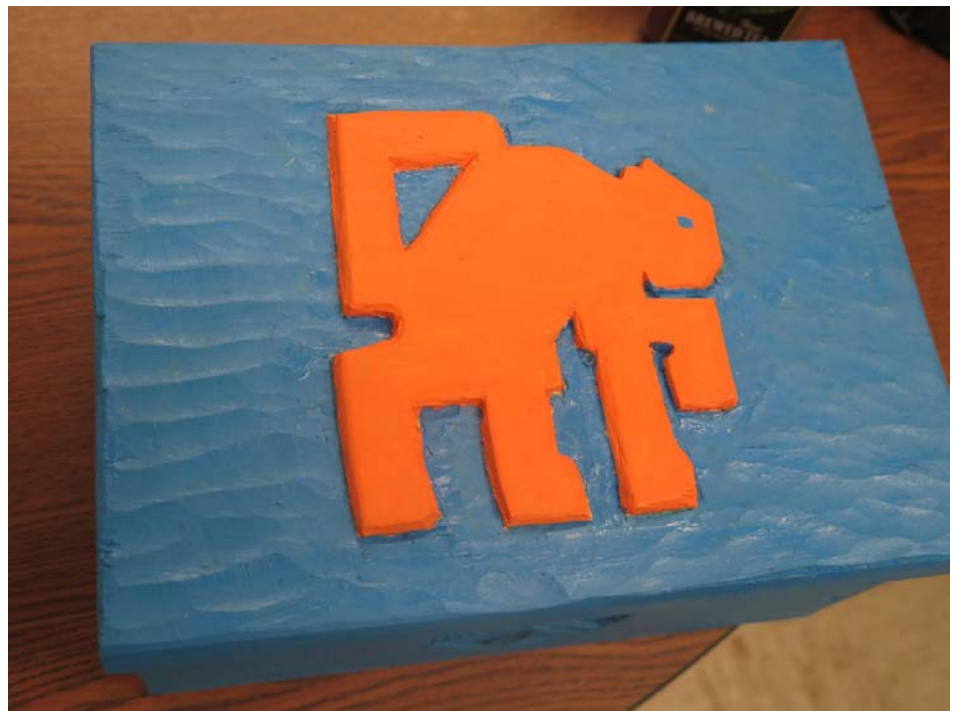
A gouge sharpening gadget



Hearts for the Cancer Society



Three spoons made of caragana



An interesting box with an orange art deco cat

Troy was present for most of the Whittle-In, but the meeting started about the time he was due home. Before he left, though, he showed some of us three spoons he had fashioned from caragana wood. All were dissimilar with handles and bowls unlike each other. The light and dark colors of the wood added to the unique way each looked.

Mike was at the meeting. He had a box which appeared to be for holding sets of papers, or maybe a little larger. It was gouged horizontally and painted a sky blue. On the top was an orange art deco cat with a blue eye. Mike said he likes cats and he and his wife have an orange one.

Annual Flickertail Woodcarving Show

October 9th and 10th, 2021, Bismarck Public Schools

Career Academy

Although the show is listed as the 9th and 10th of October, it began two days earlier with the Master Class taught by Vic Hood. He taught a subject based human bust about ¾ size or so. Vic enjoys being an instructor and making his classes interesting and informative. He was *Woodcarving Illustrated*'s Carver of Year for 2011. The first two days were at the Great River Energy Office with a bank of windows on one side of the room. Then they had to 'break camp' to reorganize on Saturday morning at the Career Academy. During the first days, the students chose their butternut blanks and mounted them. There was a problem with Bob L's blank splitting, but it was resolved. Then everyone figured out what type of individual head they wanted to carve. Vic gave group lessons and personal instruction to the class.

The Quality Inn personnel set up Room E for us to hold our Friday potluck dinner before Saturday and Sunday's show. It is a good time to interact with members from Bismarck, who brought the food but also with people coming from outside Bismarck, who shared it. In one corner of the rectangular room was a main table holding coffee and tea, next to two other tables going into the corner and two tables down the wall. They held the main dishes, side dishes, salads and dessert.

Perpendicularly, down either long wall were three tables having 6 chairs each. Before the party was over, all of the chairs were taken and then some. People sat around the tables or stood in small groups. Some of the visitors included Vic Hood and his wife Candy, Cindy Roth, Charlene and Kim Lynum, Bob Lawrence, and Herb and CJ Johnson. I have to say, the food was plentiful and delicious and the conversations were engaging. Everyone contributing did a wonderful job. Darlene and Ron H, and Karen and Bob P helped with setting up and they and others helped with packing the leftovers up for people to take home. The staff at the Quality Inn, too, were helpful in getting extension cords and other items placed for easy use.



Master class at the Great River Energy Office



Going through the line

The next morning, at 7:30am, a large number of flickertails swept into the huge room where we were holding our Annual Show. We were following the weather. It was raining torrents outside and chilly. Tables formed two rectangles with chairs on the inside for demonstrators to sit and wide walkways on the other side for visitors to progress. Inside one of the rectangles, stations for people working with Vic Hood were set up around some tables. The other rectangle held a smaller rectangle of tables with the center holding a chair for Dick Skauge to instruct the people carving Santa faces on the other side. The opposite side of the walkway at the front of the room was set up with the raffle prizes and the wheel holding all the sold tickets. Towards the end of the walkway, was a third workstation for Pam Vukelic to teach Zentangle drawing. There were wide passages around the other three sides of the room and one between the two large rectangles. Adjacent to the wall on one side was Joe Jewitt selling wood and Bob L selling tools. On the back wall was Dennis Houle with his art projects, including hockey painted pucks, and Herb and CJ Johnson offering knives, antler artifacts, books, a tool sharpener and other interesting items. Across from Dennis, on one of large rectangles, was the

location for Charlene and Kim Lynum. Kim manufactures trivets and boxes and other items for applying chip carving. Charlene makes chip carved pieces for sale



Vic Hood giving Guidance to his Students

and has a new book she wrote on chip carving. The last wall held a station for auction and free will items, as well as lunch at 11:30am. Further down that wall was a tool sharpening station set up for Vic Hood's students.

All morning, from 8:00-11:15am, the three classes worked on their projects. Vic and his students worked together on their carvings. Becky W said he told lots of stories, mostly funny, incorporating the students' names into them. Some of the stories were funny or embarrassing. Vic gave advice on how to proceed with each carving. He could look at their works and arrive at a fresh perspective. With minor cuts or alterations, he could change the way a piece looked. His suggestions were always well thought out.

Vic, himself, was sculpting a bust out of camphor. A native species of Asia, camphor trees have been naturalized to some areas of the US, particularly in the

southeast, although it is also found in California, Texas and Hawaii. It is an evergreen and competes against native trees. Florida considers it an invasive species. The wood is pungent and smells strongly of *Vicks Vaporub*, which is a main ingredient in the sav.



Vic working on his own bust of camphor

Rick Skaug took his students one or two at a time and explained each step to them. He had a half dozen completed ornaments to use as examples. The blanks he used were triangular. He started with cuts above and below the nose. Then a sort of 'S' and backwards 'S' defining the area around the nose and near the eyes with a gouge. A V-tool was next to delineate the facial boundaries. Rick was very patient and explained carefully all the stages that we were completing.

Pam took her class through a number of different designs. The structured patterns are called tangles. They use simple basic steps. Creativity comes through relaxing



Rick showing Becky B the next steps to take



Getting instruction from Pam



Marilyn inking patterns on a white pumpkin

At 4:30 everyone settled what they were doing to leave for the evening. The weather had deteriorated again and was proceeding to rain. All of our booths and carvings could stay where they were and we would return in the morning. Many of the members were heading from the Career Academy to the Depot in Mandan for supper. The supper was catered by the Harvest Grill across the street.

We couldn't have the party there because a wedding supper was previously booked. The part of the building we were in was interesting, but not much room. Tables were set for eight. There were two main courses and vegetables, salad and dessert. Everything was well presented and good. The two caterers were very nice. Dale and Becky B made presentations about how well things were going in general and how good we are managing with the show. There was also a gift exchange. A few of the gifts were at the show and would be chosen in the morning.



Working on faces; Dennis' paintings are in the background



Vic helping on a carving



Intent on making progress

The next morning, we all reassembled by 8am for classes. It was raining. Vic continued to assist the students with their busts and relate yarns. Todd E said the next time he came, when he told tales, could he not use his name in them. At one point the group got together and Vic critiqued each piece to rounds of applause.

At Rick's station, he gave the last directions on forming the hats and gouging the hair. Then he instructed everyone in how to carve the back of the blank away leaving the Santa Claus face. He said he'd be there the remainder of the day to expedite any difficulties anyone was still having.

The women in the non-carving class, the Zentangle class, held their yearly Show and Tell about the crafts they have been doing since last fall. Pam came with some new tangle ideas and the everyone tried doing those. As with yesterday afternoon, some of the women, including Candy and Darlene, worked on craft projects of their own after lunch.

The weather had cleared. After a good meal from Dan's, we gave out door prizes such as gift cards for wood from Joe or tools from Bob L. Clara gave stipends for some of the door prizes. Someone also got a lovely box that Al made. At the



Gouging at Santa's face



Two versions of the Santa face carvings



Learning about the various tangles



Darlene sewing an afternoon project

beginning of the afternoon, the room was open to welcome visitors. Again, we sold a fair number of raffle tickets at the door. Media people came and talked to Clara, Becky B and Dale. A number of visitors took information regarding beginners' classes, and several signed-up. While some were adults, a number of those requesting instruction are young teens. There may have been a few less guests on Sunday, but there were enough that the afternoon passed quickly.

Individuals came to the front table with money for items that were free-will donations. Cliff took the magazines to see if they would be useful for the library. At the end of the afternoon, several members helped Joe, Vic, Bob L, and others with a lot of heavy items load their trucks and vans. Most of the public were gone. At about 4:30, Becky W and Eric G drew names for the raffle prizes. A couple of the donations were won by members or family. Most were won by strangers. There were several that will need to be mailed. I remember one went to Minot, and another to Dickinson which aren't that far. Joe won the attractive cheese plate with mice and cheese around the outside rim. It was something he had wanted, so that was perfect. Money from the auction items came up to the front table. Becky W and Eric G tabulated all the money from the raffle, auction and free will offerings to give to Warren, the treasurer.

Everyone packed up their demonstration artifacts and put away their tools. Everything was removed to peoples' cars. In no time at all, the room looked almost as bare as we had found it Saturday morning. The Career Academy employees came in right as we were leaving to clean the room.



Vic and his class



Rick and his class



Pam and her class

October 19th, 2021 Whittle-In

The church doors were locked, but various people let others in. Many of the tables were taken up by beginners. Their project for this evening was carving Christmas trees. Becky W, Becky B, Eric G, and Eric T went around and helped the students. Other members helped as well. About six adults and a number of children were learning.

Some 10 members were present. Mike came with a pile of wooden lengths to make into snakes. Another instructor wants to copy the lesson that two other schoolrooms have been doing with Native American culture. It's one of those sets of lessons that you remember doing long after you're older just because you had so much fun while learning. The children experience Native American customs and games, they get to paint and create their snakes and then they get to race them down a hopefully snow-covered hill. I can't remember for sure, I think last year we needed 50 snakes, so this year we'll probably need about 75. If the corners are rounded off decorating them doesn't take too long.



Eric T helping kids carve; Cliff and Todd E in the background with snakes



Becky W showing a knife position to one student



Two more people working on Christmas trees



One of the father and son teams



Scottie dogs, the finished one bedecked with a ribbon

The students were attentively working on their trees. The people helping were making the rounds and assisting where there were problems. Some of the kids were performing as conscientiously as the grown-ups. The family group with several children was performing well. The one boy just needed a glove to protect his hand from being cut. One woman needed a better thumb guard.

The members were working on their own projects. Bob P was creating his third Scottie dog. The finished one had a tartan ribbon around its neck. According to Wikipedia, Scotties are one of five terriers from Scotland originally developed to hunt vermin on farms. They are territorial, feisty and brave. Small, compact and a wiry top coat, they have erect ears and tail, and short legs. Their ears should feel velvety. In coloring, their coats can be black to grayish black, brindle to white. Their expression is bright and piercing with small, almond-shaped eyes. The Scottie is a popular Monopoly game piece.

Fall Beginning Carving Class – the first four weeks

We decided to try something a little different this year with the beginner carving class. Instead of nine Tuesdays of carving which stretched into December, we shortened things by one week down to eight classes. Painting and Finishing was removed, because learning all about different ways to paint, seal, and finish your project(s) would take more than the two-hour time block for each class. The project topic was also moved around a little, as we attempted to begin with easier projects, and end with more challenging ones.

Another change included how people could sign up. People have different schedules, and different levels of carving experience, so we attempted to accommodate some of that. This year, participants could sign up for the whole eight-week course, the first four weeks, the last four weeks, or just take classes à la carte. All the partial options would also have the opportunity to sign up for more classes, if later on they decided they had the time, or it was something they wanted to continue to pursue. The beginner class started off with 14 participants, and by the end of the first four weeks was at 20 participants!



Kelly F Practice Stick and Set of Trees



Mike M's Spiral Tree ornament



Jace and Jesse N's Christmas trees



Mike M cottonwood bark Heart



Jace and Jesse N carved Hearts

Week 1 started off with safety, grain direction, types of cuts, and of course the “Practice Stick.” The stick, while not a flashy project, helps new carvers understand the most common types of cuts they would be making on future projects: stop cut, push cut, and pull cut.

Week 2 was led by Becky W., with an emphasis on stop cuts. The project was a spiral evergreen or Christmas tree.

Week 3 was led by Dale H., and consisted of comfort hearts, working with bark, and handling a wood burner. We’ll have to bring the wood burners back again, as people were having fun with those tools.

Week 4 was led by Bob P., with his otter letter-opener. The blanks were crafted from butternut, which gave participants yet another wood to sample. He had plenty of examples, as well as thin slabs showing grain directions in the otter – which was a great asset for remembering which way to move your blade.

We’re looking forward to another awesome 4 weeks of carving starting November 9th – some of our participants have already extended their initial 4-week experience into the whole 8 weeks! Thank you to all our assistant carving instructors – Eric G., Eric T., Cliff O., Becky W., Vince B. – your help wandering through the class answering questions and giving guidance is priceless.



An Otter letter opener by Kelley F



Jace and Jesse N Otter letter openers



A finished Otter by Mike M

Becky Barnes
