

## *June 16<sup>th</sup> Picnic*

Although the picnic wasn't supposed to actually start until 5:30, there were already about 8 people on site ten minutes early. In all about 16 people showed up which is the equivalent of our normal Whittle-Ins. Everyone was pleased to see each other. We broke up into about 4 tables, each under a different area of the shelter. Those sitting at the various tables were not exactly 6 feet apart, but somewhat spaced with two to six people at a table. Many people ate before they came, but there were sandwiches from Country Deli and Einstein Bagels, and drinks from Caribou Coffee and McDonalds as well as from home. Vince had blueberries, chocolate chip cookies and pudding besides his sandwich. Picnics should always be heavy on the treats side.

Some of the early arrivals brought carvings they have been working on. Eric T had one he's been modifying for awhile. It has a workman from a number of centuries ago carving a knight in armor, putting on the finishing touches. A second carving, about 8 inches to a foot tall shows a shower of cascading hearts leaning against a



**Crafting a knight**



### **A cascade of hearts**

thin strip of supporting heart. At the top is many-petaled flower. The third piece Eric had involved spoons. In August, the library is going to showcase an exhibit from the Flickertails highlighting spoons, so several of the carvings tonight were spoons. Eric's spoon was leaning in a spoon stand and had two squirrels playing around the stem.

Larry, another early arrival, brought a number of items to show. Two small penguins were sliding on their stomachs. One of them can stand upright as well. A small precisely made turtle is part of his coterie and a delicately painted rabbit. A delightful angel with arching wings, a hymnal and wearing a head veil has a texture of stained butternut. Not exactly a carving, Larry exhibited a measuring model that helps you keep the dimensions of carvings straight. He also had a highly glossed African grasslands ungulate and a Mountain Man named Jeb that is one of his grandson's favorites. In addition Larry had a finely made love spoon. The grain in the bowl just naturally created a series of concentric hearts making it more special. The stem involves grapes and their entwined leaves.



### **Squirrels gathering acorns on a spoon stem**

Eileen had an inventive basswood spoon. Smooth outside, the bowl was the inside part of the guitar, and the carving itself was the guitar. Simple and good looking.

Marlene has been working on three Scandinavian carvings. Done in the style of Jay Haavik the Master Carver from last October's show, two are birds and one is a decorative piece. Not quite finished, they are still powerful.

Clara has been cleaning out old repositories of "stuff." She has been finding things she had forgotten about. One small thing was a carving made by Telle Rudser. When she had scraps of wood with knots in them, she would create pieces she called knot heads, and Clara has one.





**Two penguins sliding down the table**



**A well made turtle**



**A carefully painted rabbit**



**Praying angel**





**Larry's homemade measuring tool**



**Some of Larry's collection including "Jeb" and a red African grazer**



**Love spoon with grape leaves and fruit, and concentric hearts in the bowl**



**Eileen's spoon guitar**





**Three Scandinavian carvings**



**Telle Rudser's knot head joke**





**Eric G upon emergence from self-isolation**



**Members visiting**

Dale carried a grinder in with him to get someone interested in its purchase. He must have a new one, and this is extra.

Eric G's Facebook friend today is a red Dala horse. Eric has been hibernating in his home for the pandemic and has an unkempt look that would go with a mountain man and his pack horse, or maybe a Scandinavian Lapp herdsman.

Conversations were varied, of course, and covered a range of normal subjects from old cars, ping pong, and Veterans discussion to the price of meat being high, the pandemic and the protests. Nothing deep and everything genial and low key. The picnic was a nice, somewhat spaced interlude. It was enjoyable to see people again, and the July one should be anticipated.