

The Curling Chip January/February 2022

FLICKERTAIL WOODCARVERS
PO BOX 7473
BISMARCK ND 58507



Our beginning students have been coming to our Whittle-Ins and that's gratifying to see. The **Winter Celebration** was very enjoyable. Some came for the Whittle-In as well as the Pot Luck. Making whisk brooms was fun and the Pot Luck delicious. Thanks to Dale and Jen for letting us use their house. There was also a gift exchange for carvers and non-carvers and games. Thanks to Becky B and Eric G for help on February 12th when I couldn't be there, and also Becky W for her assistance. And congratulations to Becky B, for having a carving class at BSC. Becky's article makes a better fit in this newsletter rather than waiting for March/April. We

hope you enjoy the newsletter. 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/>

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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 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Bismarck

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

- **Website** - <https://flickertailwoodcarvers.org/>
- **Facebook** - @Flickertailwoodcarversnd
- **Twitter** - @FlickertailND
- Instagram** - @flickertailwoodcarvers
- Pinterest** - @flickertailwood
- Email** - flickertailwoodcarversnd@gmail.com

March 5, 2022	Monthly meeting 8:30-10:30 AM Project by Ed Ryen – Photo Editing
March 15, 2022	Whittle-In, 7-9 PM Project by Cliff Orgaard
April 2, 2022	Monthly meeting 8:30-10:30 AM Project by Bob Pedigo – Knife Sharpening
April 19, 2022	Whittle-In, 7-9 PM Project by Becky Barnes – Sweater brooch
April 29 – May 1	Red River Valley Wood Arts Festival – Fargo Air Museum
May 6-8, 2022	Spring Carving Class – Dennis Houle. Woodcarving / Cultural lesson / Art class
May 7, 2022	Monthly meeting 8:30-10:30 AM Project by TBD
May 17, 2022	Whittle-In, 7-9 PM Project by Mike Knudson - Norwegian Independence

June 21, 2022	Picnic at Sertoma Park 6-9 PM
June 24-26, 2022	Wahpeton Carving Weekend
July 19, 2022	Picnic at Sertoma Park 6-9 PM
July 30, 2022	Blue Grass goes Pink, Cross Ranch State Park
August 6-7, 2022	Capital A'Fair
August 16, 2022	Picnic at Sertoma Park 6-9 PM
August 21, 2022	Corn Fest, Buckstop Junction
Oct 6-9, 2022	Flickertail Woodcarving Show Bismarck Public Schools Career Academy
January 18, 2022	Whittle-In, 7-9 PM Project by Eric Gaasland – Lighthouse
January 22, 2022	Winter Celebration and Monthly meeting Held at Dale & Jennifer Heglund's home Carving day, project by Becky Weisgerber, whisk broom or small handle broom Potluck dinner, gift exchange and tall tales by Eric
February 5, 2022	Elections - Monthly meeting 8:30-10:30 AM Project by Bob Pedigo – Love Spoons
February 15, 2022	Whittle-In, 7-9 PM Project by Marlene Moser - elephant

Becky's thoughts on the new BSC Beginning Carving class.

Multiple times per year BSC sends out its enrichment catalog, filled with new things to learn. How to cook, how to sew, tie-dying, meditation, computers, dog obedience – the list is daunting, and changes over time depending on instructor availability. The Flickertails had contemplated a Beginning Carving class

through BSC, in addition to the normal post-Annual-Show winter Beginner Carving, and this year we finally made it happen.

Most of the participants who sign up for the winter class are people who attend the Annual Show – people who already know about the Flickertails, or who were interested in wood arts. Our hope with the BSC catalog was to engage with people who did not know about local carving opportunities, or to give a different timing schedule-wise than what the winter course offered.

We capped the class at 12 slots, to ensure good instructor-to-student ratios – and this class wouldn't have been possible without the help of volunteer carvers. Since this was the first time trying out this new method, we also severely trimmed down the number of classes to 3. Participants would get a tool set, wood blanks, and introduction to basic cuts and safety. All our beginner classes (winter or spring) start off learning the "Practice Stick" which emphasizes safety, the stop-cut, paring cut, and push cut, as well as paying attention to wood grain direction. If they enjoyed the sessions, then they could continue with projects at club Whittle-Ins, or sign up for the Winter Beginning classes à la carte.

There's one class left – we've finished the first two. Here are my takeaway thoughts so far:

1. 12 people is a good number – I wouldn't increase the class size and risk upsetting the instructor-student balance.
2. Having 3-4 instructors all wandering around, looking for hazards, assisting, and guiding made a huge positive impact.
3. I may look into trying to find a different classroom next year. The current one, while it had space for everyone, wasn't terribly accessible (no elevator, removed parking).
4. BSC asked if we wanted to do a Summer or Fall course as well. I can't lead any in the Summer (work), and I believe having the normal multiple-instructor-run Fall course with the Annual Show allows us to have more teaching styles and projects, which is a good thing. So at this point...
5. Keep BSC an option for Spring. As long as we can continue to have as much club-support instructing as we did this first run, we can make it happen.

Thank you for joining us on our adventure!

Becky Barnes

January 18th, 2022 Whittle-In

At the locked church door this time was Becky B, in a dinosaur face mask. Downstairs there were about 10-12 adults and 8 children. Eric G had the project, a lighthouse. Lighthouses, for many centuries, were towers that used to emit a beacon of light as a navigational aid. It warned ship's pilots of danger and alerted them to safe harbor in calm water or during storms. In the past lighthouses were plentiful along seas' shores or inland waterways. Now many lighthouses are phased out because of satellite and GPS technology. Some in existence use solar panels to power the light. Canada still has 50 staffed lighthouses under a law that protects them.

Famous designers and builders of lighthouses before the Civil War include engineer Lt. George Meade who worked around the Atlantic and Gulf coasts and later became the General who won the Battle of Gettysburg. And Orlando Poe, an engineer, who fought under Gen. Sherman, but was known originally for lighthouses around the Great Lakes.



A completed lighthouse with a template in the background



A cross section of people at work and visiting



Eric helping Ethan with his carving



Gabe and his uniquely finished lighthouse



Vince's staircase spirals up two sides of the lighthouse



Alyse is almost done with her carving

Adult members were well spread out. The kids worked together between two tables. Ethan, the oldest boy, cut himself, and his mother, Sadie, got a band-aid from Becky B. Ethan, however thought he could use the blood to color the lighthouse. Another of the boys had made a lighthouse gouging the outside tower to give it texture.

A guitarist, Lanney, who had been practicing in the church, was curious about our group and stopped by. He and Kelly struck up a conversation. Most of the adults were working on the lighthouse project. Alyse was finishing up the heron from the student classes and Becky B was working on the Santa faces from the class at the Fall Show. She said she hadn't been able to get back to them since October. Warren brought two snakes that looked a bit like cobras. Most of the snakes for the school project have been gathered. They were put in the back room until they can be picked up. If they can't be used this year, they will be a start on next year.

Annual Winter Celebration, January 22nd, 2022

Dale and Jen Heglund's Home

A Great Thanks to Dale and Jen for letting us use their home again this year! Becky W arrived at Dale and Jen's house in the morning complete with material called broomcorn to make two types of brooms. Any of several varieties of sorghum, millet or other grain plants can be classed as broomcorn. Sorghum, which seems to be more commonly used, is tall and has a long stiff flower stalk. The top of the stalk is the grassy or straw like section that forms the sweeping part of the broom, and the bottom is used to manufacture handles for the broom. Becky W got her sorghum from Etsy, although she says a larger supplier is Caddy.

While the later potluck will take place in the house the Whittle-In part of the day was stationed in the garage. Work tables and chairs were set up toward the front part of the room. Early on, Dale worked on a whisk type broom while Jen made a regular broom. Dennis and I were at the garage at different times in the afternoon and got involved in crafting whisk brooms. Becky had two nylon ropes for tying the brooms, one with shades of red, from very dark down to pink, and the other with blues, greens and yellows.

For the whisk brooms, Becky W had you take a width of broomcorn. You divided it in half then subdivided one of the halves by two and three a number of times. You started with one small bundle and wound the rope around it, adding the other small bundles in turn, with the rope spaced apart for each segment. Finally, you added the beginning half. Now you have what looks like a whisk broom, about 18 inches long. You can tie it off there and trim the bottom or fashion a handle.

For the handle, soaking are strips of the stem part of the broomcorn. They are about a centimeter wide and maybe 5 inches long. Folding them over at the base you weave them lengthwise around the whisk broom. In order to have a neat over/under weave you should have an odd number of strips, say 13 plus or minus. Tie off the top and bottom of the handle, trim the top of the strips and the bottom of the broom and you have a whisk broom.

The regular broom's height depends on the length of the stick you use to attach the broomcorn. Becky's first stick was not very long. It was an elm with a carved



Broom creation participants, Becky's holding Dennis' whisk broom

face which she christened Elmer. Jen, and later Nuala, used a branch about 2.5 or 3 feet long. You tie the broomcorn around the stick, trim it next to the branch and you have a broom. As with a whisk broom you can get more elaborate as Jen did, and create a handle, and you can use longer bundles of broomcorn to make a fuller, longer broom. Then you section it off in smaller bundles like the whisk broom and tie it like an old-fashioned straw broom. Nuala enjoyed her broom the rest of the evening sweeping floors throughout the house.

Matt H, Alyse, Eric G, Becky B and Nuala her daughter also came to the Whittle-In part of the day. Except for Nuala, they were working on projects of their own. Alyse was working on the egret or heron from the beginners' class. In the later afternoon, more people began to arrive for the potluck. First, they met in the garage, but eventually that got to be crowded, and we all went into the house.

We congregated in the lower level of the house for drinks and snacks. It was nice and cheery. We occasionally saw the two cats, Tiger and Lily. Lily had a run in with a feral cat out at the farm, and needed one leg amputated, but she gets around just fine without it.

There were card tables in the middle level of the house for supper, along with the table off the kitchen and the chairs in the living room. The food was delicious, of course. Jen had made a pork loin and potatoes, which was very kind, and everyone brought a dish to add to it. There were salads, vegetables, fruits and dessert. Quite a bit of variety. Matt H, who cooks a lot for his family, made two desserts. One was a similar recipe to someone else's, but both had $\frac{3}{4}$ gone by the time the evening was done. Dennis and others were taking the Norwegian krumkake and filling it with berries for something different.



Gift exchange contributors posing with their presents

After dinner Eric G and I gave everyone tickets for our drawing. I had two \$20 gift certificates from Barnes and Noble, Rough Rider Hardwoods, and JoAnne Fabric each. I had thought that the other certificates would go first, but both Barnes and Noble cards were claimed before the others. Those have to be used soon since the store will be closing in about a month. They will reopen in the Kirkwood Mall, however, hopefully until a new building can be constructed. Eric G even obtained a gift award from JoAnne Fabric, and I got the little broomcorn pot scrubber that Becky donated.

There were six people who brought items for the gift exchange. Three for the carving, and three for the non-carving. For the non-carving gifts, Karen P received a French press from Jen, who got a War Pony Stick from Dennis, and Dennis in turn collected Macadamia nuts and other items from Karen and Bob P's trip to Hawaii. In the carving category, Becky B obtained a Love Spoon from Bob P and he accepted a chain saw carved feather from Dale. Dale received an intarsia bat in a lovely pouch. Everyone was quite happy with their gifts. The War Pony would go nicely with the décor in the bedroom in which our coats were placed, for instance. Everyone pitched in to clear the trash and put the house in order again.

Monthly Meeting Minutes for Flickertail Woodcarvers

February 12th, 2022

Call to Order by President Becky Barnes

Saturday February 12th, 2022

13 Members present
1 visitor (Troy's son)

Treasurer's Report

\$7225.01 in account
PO Box cost has risen to \$182 per year
A knife and 2 shirts were just paid for; the total above does not reflect this income.



Committee Reports

Project – thank you to Bob Pedigo for providing basswood cutouts of Love Spoons for the group. He also had a suggestion for making your own foam-backed sandpaper. Take one of the sticky-backed foam sheets available at a craft store, adhere them to your plain paper-backed sandpaper, and viola! One flexible, durable, foam backed sander.

Membership (Doug Smith): we're sitting at around 60 members, 15 of whom haven't paid their 2022 dues *yet*, but who probably will.

Programs (Dale Heglund): (sent via email) Spring class will most likely be taught by Dennis Houle, with the class holding a trio of projects. War Pony, Eagle, and Club. Cost, class size, and time yet to be determined.

Publicity & Property (Becky Weisgerber): NA

Library (Cliff Orgaard): nothing new

Historian (Clara Yonker): NA

Facebook (Eric Gaasland, Dale Heglund): up to date. We are still receiving messages and Facebook visitations.

Website (Becky Barnes): all past Curling Chip newsletters have been redacted (addresses and phone numbers removed) and are now available under the "Archives" section of the website.

The Fargo show (April 29-30 and May 1), and the Wahpeton Woodcarving Weekend (June 24-26) have been placed on the website.

Gmail has been having some trouble with the large number of recipients that we send notifications to, so we've switched over to **MailChimp**. Check your junk or spam folder if you didn't receive the announcement for the meeting. All replies will go back to our standard Flickertail Gmail account, and individual emails will still be sent from there. MailChimp makes for a cleaner look and adds more privacy to the members sent to. Plus – if recipients decide they no longer wish to receive notifications, they can unsubscribe at the bottom of the email.

Old Business

Library Display (Bob P): Eric G suggested and the club voted on August as the preferred display month, to give a plug towards the fall Annual Show. He also thought we could have the 50th Anniversary plaque in the presentation. The display will center around past projects – classes, beginner projects – anything that's done or in progress, to show the variety of subjects and skills in the group. A limit of 5 of each project will be imposed, so that more recent classes don't take over the case.

New Business

Bismarck State College Beginning Woodcarving Class upcoming! Instructors to assist, especially with the first class, are welcome. The class will be on BSC campus, Werner Hall, room 140, March 3, 10, 17, from 6-8pm. A BIG THANK YOU to Joe Jewett who donated wood to be used for project blanks!

Elections: The nomination committee has put forward the following candidates for the positions open. An absentee ballot was sent out to club members by email, with votes returned.

President elect: Cliff Orgaard

Secretary: Diane Lehman Turck

Membership: Doug Smith

Librarian: Todd Englestad

Newsletter Editor: Tom Turck

Bob Pedigo motioned to accept the candidates as listed.

Eric Gaasland seconded.

Motion carried – please welcome our new officers!

Trinity Lutheran Church upcoming events: Wednesday, March 9th the church is holding a chili cook off and silent auction. They're looking for

any small donations (i.e., carvings) that the carvers might be willing to provide.

Saturday, February 26th, 7:30pm, there will be a “Bluegrass Mass” concert at Trinity, including the local band Cottonwood, and the BSC choral group.

Show and Tell: Becky B brought in some carving examples to be used in the second BSC class – little bearded faces. Some were painted, others not.

Eric T brought in a woman’s face he’s been working on, as well as a Greenman with oak leaves and acorns crafted from cottonwood bark.

Cliff O brought in a bag of Comfort Hearts, made from various hardwoods.

Meeting was adjourned.

February 12th, 2022 Whittle-In

Bob Pedigo has a yearly project in February of Love Spoons. The time coincides with Valentine’s Day. It’s a rather nice project; Bob P always has something a little different and we look forward to it. This time his spoons have a new twist, literally. The handle is twisted from the bowl to the decoration at the top of the utensil. He arrived with basswood templates and examples of spoons in basswood and butternut. Everyone was well-spaced two or three to a table.

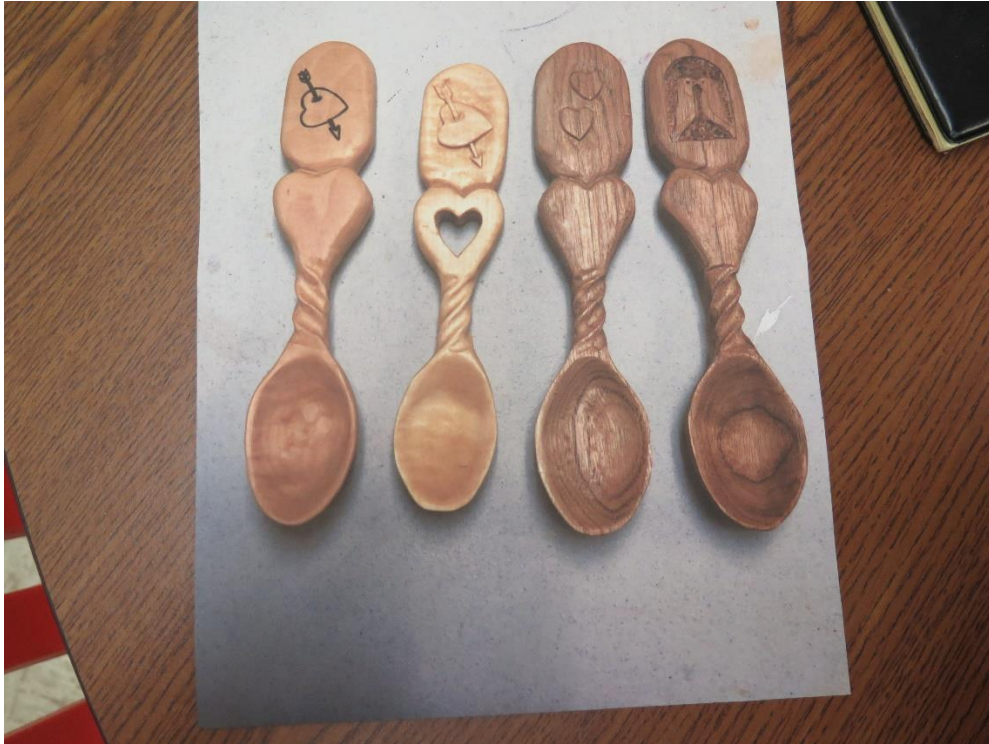
Besides explaining his spoon designs, Bob P had also developed an idea for making foam-backed sandpaper. As discussed in the meeting notes, buy sticky-backed foam sheets from one of the craft stores and adhere a piece of paper-backed sandpaper to it. What you have is flexible, durable, has a bit more structure and is easier to use.

Show and Tell highlighted items from several people. Becky B, who is teaching a carving class at Bismarck State College, showed how one simple pattern can be



Bob P describing how to make the spoon handle twist, and preparing a sandpaper backing with sticky-backed foam





Examples of the decorative styles of Bob P's spoons



Becky B's project for the second week of her class at BSC



Eric T's carving of a woman's face

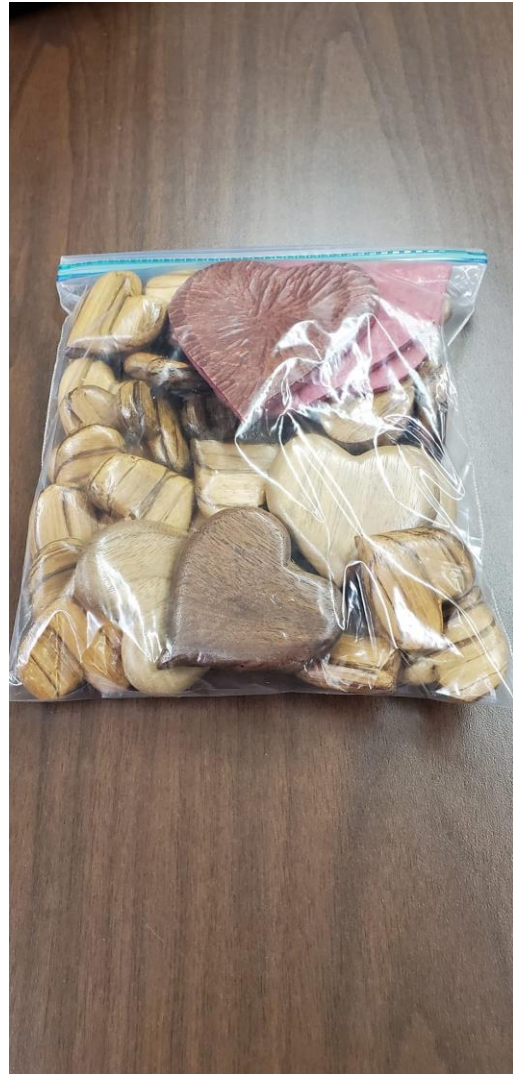
modified to create a variety of faces. Some were painted with eye hooks and some were not painted.

Eric T brought two projects he's been working on. First is a woman's face with past shoulder length hair and a simple costume with a stitched neckline. She was created in butternut. Then is his Greenman out of cottonwood bark. Quite detailed, his mustache, beard and hair are composed of a style of white oak leaves interspersed with acorns.

Cliff used different woods and stained them to manufacture a bag of hearts to give to the Cancer Center.



An exquisite Greenman



Hearts for the Cancer Society



Members working on different project

February 15th, 2022 Whittle-In

At the locked church door Becky B and Eric G were waiting when I came in with the boxes of paper and plastic supplies from the Winter Celebration. Marlene had the project, a delightful elephant. For some of her final pieces, Marlene had used something other than basswood. She had carved a Disney pink elephant for her granddaughter. Others were caparisoned, with regalia made by burning lines and dots on their backs and heads, one even had decoration continuing up his trunk. None had tusks. Both species and genders of African elephant adults have tusks as do male Indian elephants. Only adult female Indian elephants are tuskless, but these little fellows could be babies whose tusks are not yet growing. There were basswood templates and a picture of how the elephant should look when finished.

People were spaced among a variety of tables and visiting while carving. Cliff and Becky B had spoons from Bob P's lesson of love spoons last week. And Todd was working on a pair of them. Cliff had one that looked like a spoon Bob P had



A pink and caparisoned elephant



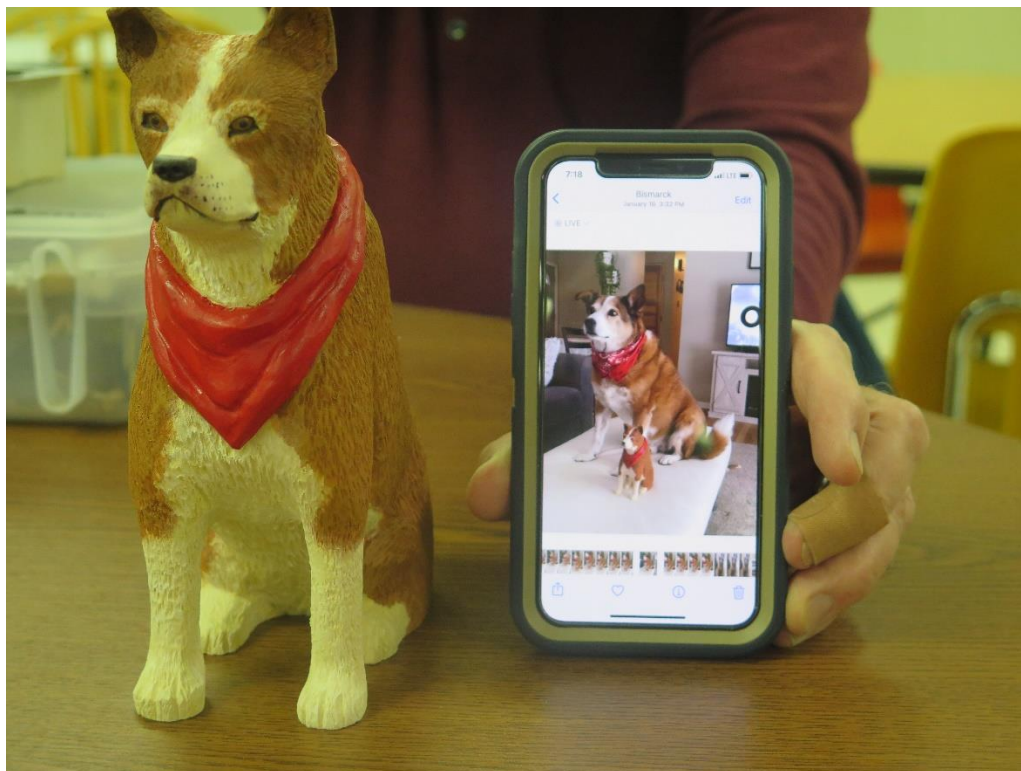
Marlene's elephant blanks

Cliff and Becky B's creations from last week





Todd's spoons will be quite lovely



Bob P's realistic looking dog with a neckerchief



Todd, Doug E and Warren visiting by the library



Another of Marlene's elephants caparisoned with regalia



Larry's initial drawing, defining where to cut



Andrew's initial cuts

modelled, while Becky B had crafted a trilobite onto her handle. Todd was carving one with a flower and one with two hearts intertwined and wedding bells on top. Bob, himself, had a dog carving that was very realistic. He was using the picture of the real dog to copy for someone.

Most of the 11 members present had taken an elephant blank and were on their way to having a small pachyderm of their own. Two new people were sitting with Doug E. Sheri Johnson had been a member more than 15 years ago and was looking to rejoin. She knew Frank and had been in the club before it used Trinity Lutheran as a meeting place. Accompanying her was her adult son Andrew. They seemed to know their way around a carving knife, and had made good inroads into making an elephant by the time the session was ending.

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