



The Curling Chip

May 2022

Happy summer everyone! May's newsletter is stand alone followed by June/July/August. This newsletter contains information for the summer's activities. The first picnic was a real success. The other two are July 19 and August 16 from 5:30-900 pm at Sertoma #5. Bring a sack lunch and enjoy the comraderie. Remember Bob P is collecting past project items for the library display. Some from years ago may be interesting to recollect. Sign-ups for summer demonstrations should be available. The fall annual Show in

October is coming and the May minutes have some information on that. Thanks to Becky B, Eric G and Dale for help with the finished product. 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**



NORTH DAKOTA COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

**FLICKERTAIL WOODCARVERS, PO BOX 7473
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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/>

Instagram - @flickertailwoodcarvers

Facebook - @Flickertailwoodcarversnd

Pinterest - @flickertailwood

Twitter - @FlickertailND

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 #5, 5:30-9 PM
June 24-26, 2022	Wahpeton Carving Weekend
June 26, 2022	Museum Alive, Walsh County in Minto
July 19, 2022	Picnic at Sertoma Park #5, 5:30-9 PM
July 30, 2022	Blue Grass goes Pink, Cross Ranch State Park
August 6-7, 2022	Capital A'Fair, Capital grounds
August 16, 2022	Picnic at Sertoma Park #5, 5:30-9 PM
August 20-21, 2022	Corn Fest, Buckstop Junction
September 3, 2022	Monthly meeting 8:30-10:30AM Project by TBD
September 20, 2022	Whittle-In, 7-9PM Project by TBD
September 23-25, 2022	Applefest, Buckstop Junction
October 1, 2022	Monthly meeting 8:30-10:30 AM Project by TBD
Oct 6-9, 2022	Flickertail Woodcarving Show Bismarck Public Schools Career Academy
October 18, 2022	Whittle-In 7-9PM Project by TBD
November 5, 2022	Monthly meeting 8:30-10:30AM Project by TBD
November 15, 2022	Whittle-In, 7-9PM Project by TBD
December 3, 2022	Monthly meeting 8:30-10:30AM Project by TBD
December 20, 2022	Whittle-In, 7-9PM Project by TBD

December/January

Winter Celebration

unknown day

Spring Class, May 6th-8th
Carving, Culture and Art with Dennis Houle

On Friday May 6th, ten Flickertails and some interested public assembled in the garage of Dale and Jen Heglund for a class with Dennis Houle, recognized Lakota/Dakota artist, for a class in carving, culture and art. The room was set up with tables so that each member had enough room to do the various tasks.

Dennis was a good and knowledgeable teacher, and he came with examples of what the students were going to make. Each person could choose the items they wished to construct.

Some of the things that were available to create were a horse dancing stick, a gunstock war club, a general war club, a bison and a quirt (a short-handled whip with a braided leather lash).

Most of the projects started with carving and then sanding to get the shape right. Then some, like the horse dancing stick, required adding tufts of hair along the



Cliff early in the process of a dancing horse stick

mane line. Finally, you could add reins with beads, other accoutrements, and coats of paint. While most of the other items being made didn't have the range of things you could add, they had some elements like paint and leather strips that would make them distinctive.

As with most of the Spring and Fall classes, there were lots of treats and Jen kept the crew well supplied with food. Sometimes, it was warm and sunny enough that the group worked outside in the driveway. About five people came and visited including the Pedigos and Ruth. Everyone seemed to be having a fun time putting the carvings together.

Dennis talked about the importance of the horse to the Native culture. It represented the freedom to move. Lakota/Dakota peoples traveled throughout the year. The horse facilitated transportation of households. It made hunting easier. It allowed the tribe to make war against their enemies.



Jeani and Dennis working on completing a horse dancing stick



Matt painting a gun stock. Some class and visitors in the background



Jen working on her creation



An amusing moment



Completed horses and gunstock

There was a great amount of symbolism on the painting of a warrior's horse. An arrow on the hoof or lower leg was to encourage speed. A circle around the eye was for better sight. Some marks were painted on the horse's shoulders and some symbols were to tell that the horse had originally been stolen.

Bison were essential to the people of the Plains. They used every part of the animal. They ate the meat, tanned the hides for clothing and shelter, and used the sinew for many tasks. The bones made beads, ornamentation and gaming pieces, and some tribes converted the scapulae into hoes.



The Class Picture

Monthly Meeting Minutes for Flickertail Woodcarvers

May 7th, 2022

Call to Order by President Becky Barnes

Saturday May 7th, 2022

6 Members present

Secretary's Report

Last month's report and future ones can be folded into a regular email to the membership.



Treasurer's Report

Approximately \$10,000.00 in account but we haven't paid for the Fall Show bills and Dennis Houle hasn't been paid.

Committee Reports

Project – None scheduled.

Membership (Doug Smith): we're sitting at around 60 members. Becky B recruited a couple others from her class through BSC.

Programs The surveys sent out in April were answered with 37 responses, giving a clearer idea of what participants want to learn.

Spring class is currently being taught by Dennis Houle, at Dale and Jen's home. Eric G brought in a variety of items that were being completed including a horse dancing stick and a bison. Cultural lessons are incorporated into the class. The people involved are having a great time. And Eric reports a lot of good food besides.

****Classes** for the Fall Show in October are going to be oriented somewhat differently. There would be two separate sessions. We would have two learning sessions on Friday and two different projects on Saturday and Sunday mornings. Aaron and Andy Mayer, brothers, would each teach half

the participants on Friday and the other half on Saturday and Sunday. They are Masters in cottonwood bark carving. Each specializes in a particular style. One is more realistic such as the tower at Pisa While the other is more into Whimsey. They even fashion tree houses.



Andy and Aaron Mayer cottonwood bark creations

Publicity & Property (Becky Weisgerber): NA

Library (Todd Englestad): is working hard on the inventory. A few volumes are missing and seven are checked out.

Historian (Clara Yonker): NA

Facebook (Eric Gaasland, Dale Heglund): up to date. Photos from this Saturday are already posted. We are still receiving messages and Facebook visitations.

Website (Becky Barnes): up to date.

The Fargo show saw about 400 visitors on Saturday and Sunday each.

The Wahpeton Woodcarving Weekend (June 24-26) has 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**. Please check your Spam folder/Junk Mail.

Old Business

Show signs We could use about 20-30 signs advertising the Fall Show to be placed in visible locations.

Woodturners Possibly have a table for the Woodturners at the Fall Show if they agree.

Library Display (Bob P): 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. Please remember to bring items to the June and July picnics for Bob to take to the library so that the librarians will have a chance to arrange them in the front cases in the library.

New Business

The Parks and Recreation people have allowed us to reserve shelter #5 at Sertoma Park for the third Tuesday of June the 21st, July the 19th, and August the 16th from around 6 pm to 9pm. The occasion is a Whittle-In with a brown-bag dinner, and the public is invited.

The 4-H Club at St Anthony has invited Bob P to come and teach them the basics of carving sometime in September or October.

Coming shows for demonstrators: Sign-ups at the picnics

Blue Grass goes Pink: Cross Ranch State Park July 30

Capital A'Fair: Capital grounds August 6-7

Corn Festival: Buckstop Junction August 21

Applefest: Buckstop Junction September 23-25

Show and Tell:

Eric G brought a series of spoons and some examples of what if being done at the Spring class.

And two yellow hearts were there to give to Doug E for the Cancer Society.

Meeting was adjourned.

******The minutes for the Fall Show of classes have been revised. The topic will be a Whimsical Tree House which you can see in the picture. Of course all of them will look different. The Mayer brothers will still be leading the class with all materials included, the class size will be 14, and the cost will be \$100 per student.

Eric Gaasland will have the Sat/Sun project of a Dala Horse for 10 students with a payment of \$30.

Becky Weisgerber will teach the non-carving session on Sat/Sun of a broom. Two brooms will be completed. As with Eric's course the total number of people can be 10 and the price will be \$30.

Bob Pedigo will take registrations.

May 7th, 2022 Whittle-In

It was a quiet Saturday. Only six people came; there was no set project. People visited and worked on their own projects.

This weekend the Spring Class is being held at Dale and Jen's home. Eric G, who is the class, came and showed some of the work that is being accomplished since

the monthly meeting starts before the Spring Class. He had a finished horse dancing stick, another type of horse stick and a bison.

Todd is working on library inventories.

Eric G also brought in a set of three spoons and there were two deep yellow hearts to give to Doug E for the cancer Society.



Examples of work being done at the Spring Class



A spatula and two spoons from Eric's collection



Two hearts for the Cancer Society



Todd getting help from Eric and Doug on the library files

May 17th, 2022 Whittle-In

By Becky Barnes

There were quite a few people in attendance! People were milling about, but I want to say about 20 people showed up. Mike K. brought along his tulips for people to work on - each tulip came with a head, stem, and a leaf pre-bagged for easy grabbing. His wife made some Norwegian krumkakes for sampling, which were scrumptious.

There were enough people there that we took an informal vote for Bob Pedigo to update the motor on the sharpening rig to a variable speed setup, which everyone

was unanimously in favor of. He said he would see about picking it up and working on it over the course of the summer.

Cliff O. dropped off some class project pieces for the Library display.

Mike K. also suggested perhaps updating some of the Buckstop Junction carving displays to include more than the current caricature selection. Perhaps by using some of the pieces that will be on loan to the Library this fall, depending on if people are willing to loan their items for longer.

Becky W. began drumming up interest in summer activities, and had a sign-up sheet available for the Capital A'Fair demonstration table.



Krumkake, tulips and Norwegian carvings

The pattern for the tulips is from Sweden. Before 1905, the people of Norway were subject to the King of Sweden!

The May 17th Constitution Day goes back to 1814, when the Norwegians were freed from Danish rule. In the wars of 1814, Denmark was allied with Napoleon. When he was defeated, Denmark had to give Norway to Sweden. In 1905, Norway got its freedom from Sweden, but Constitution Day is still celebrated.



Tulips



**Little Norwegian
caricature**



Norwegian carving