



# The Curling Chip

## January / February 2023

As winter snows and blows around us, we turned our thoughts to warmer subjects like whale and mermaid tails brought by Eric Gaasland, acorns for spring growth by Eileen Heihn, and of course Love Spoons by Bob Pedigo. The Winter Celebration combined a scrumptious potluck, and an adorable Book Worm spring carving class taught by Warren Schlecht.

For questions or future articles, send your info to Tom/Diane Turck at: [tdturck@bis.midco.net](mailto:tdturck@bis.midco.net)

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FlickertailWoodcarvers

### 2023 Leadership

President: Cliff Orgaard  
Past President: Becky Barnes  
Programs: Eric Gaasland  
Treasurer: Warren Schlecht  
Secretary: Diane Lehman Turck  
Librarian: Todd Engelstad  
Historian: Clara Sherman Yonker  
Membership: Doug Smith  
Annual Show: Eric Gaasland  
Property: Becky Weisgerber  
Publicity: Becky Weisgerber  
Buck Stop Gallery: Mike Knudson, Dale Heglund  
Pinterest: Cindy Roth  
Facebook: Eric Gaasland, Becky Barnes  
Mastodon: Becky Barnes  
Instagram: Becky Barnes  
Website: Becky Barnes



# *Monthly Meeting Minutes for Flickertail Woodcarvers*

*January 7th, 2023*



**Call to Order** by President Becky Barnes  
12 members present

## **Secretary's Report**

The Secretary's December report was distributed earlier, and several small changes were made.

## **Treasurer's Report**

\$8,390 in checking with all bills paid. Some money is coming in as memberships are due.

It is now possible to pay your membership using PayPal. Warren and Becky B developed it as another way to pay for dues and merchandise besides cash and checks.

## **Committee Reports**

**Project** (Eric Gaasland): Flukes, both mermaid and whale. Cool.

At the Winter Celebration on January 28, Warren will lead a class on The Bookworm Through a Book. Cost will be \$10 per person and there is no limit to the number of participants. The second part of the project will be during the February 21 Whittle-In, with painting instructions.

**Membership** (Doug Smith): Some dues are already in. Try to get your dues paid in the beginning of the year. They are \$15.00 for a person and \$25.00 for a family.

**Programs** (Dale Heglund, Bob Pedigo, Doug Emerson, Becky Barnes): Dale has been talking with the Briertons. If we can get some problems straightened out with wood acquisition, they should be able to teach the loon for our Spring Class.

Our Winter Celebration will be held January 28 at the Hillside Aquatic Complex. The room is reserved from 8am to 11pm. As with other years you can come and go as you wish. In the morning and afternoon Warren will be teaching a special class on the Bookworm through a Book. In the evening we'll have a potluck supper.

**Publicity** (Becky Weisgerber): No changes.

**Property** (Bob Pedigo Eric Gaasland): With the new sharpener, we'll try and have it out during Whittle-Ins for people to use.

**Library** (Todd Englestad): Anyone looking at old Chip Chats, please check and see if we (Flickertails) have articles in the magazine. Becky B will post them. (repeat)

**Historian** (Clara Yonker): N/A

**Facebook** (Eric Gaasland): up to date.

**Website** (Becky Barnes, Eric Gaasland): up to date.

**Twitter** (Becky Barnes): Twitter is dying - we'll give Mastodon a try. Right now Facebook is our best option for reaching local people.

## **Old Business**

**Memory Hearts** (Doug Emerson): Becky W brought several hearts to give to Doug for the Cancer Society.

## **New Business**

**Library Display** (Bob Pedigo): The library is requesting that we arrange for another display with them. We should decide soon if we want to do bark houses or chip carving.

**BSC Class** (Becky Barnes): Through the Enrichment Catalogue, Becky is heading up a 3-session beginner's class which will be held on the Saturdays of March 11, 19, and 26. That will make it possible for people from out-of-town to attend. Last year several Flickertails came to her course and helped out. She is hoping that will happen this year as well. It facilitates the instruction and makes it a better experience. (repeat)

**Nominations:** This year nominations are open for Treasurer, Property, and Programs. The elections will be next month. (repeat)

**Products** (Becky Barnes): No change

## **Show and Tell**

Becky B brought an interesting, elongated carving that she and her family got at Reptile Gardens in Rapid City, South Dakota with a lizard on top and a face on the bottom. She also made a comfort bird using six different types wood. Finally, she is crafting a dead fish with a fluke for a tail.

Spud, a friend of Doug's, and a newer member of the Flickertails, shared some of his woodturned bowls with Doug to embellish with woodcarving techniques. Doug has only really worked on

one of them so far. One is turned from box elder and another has an attractive grain. The one that Doug has worked has altered the outside of the bowl by taking flakes out of the surface and woodburned the rim in a cross hatch decoration.

As mentioned, Becky W carved a several hearts for the Cancer Center.

**Meeting was adjourned.**



Above: Becky B brought in a wooden mask from New Guinea, purchased at Reptile Gardens in South Dakota.



Above: Some of the modifications on a wood turned bowl.



Above: The same bowl as above, viewed from the top, with another globular bowl inside it.



Above: A wonderfully turned box elder bowl.



***January 7th, 2023***  
***Mermaid and Whale Tales***  
***By Eric Gaasland***

While Eric G was in charge of the project, he could not be there. His blanks were, however. He had whale tails and mermaid tails, and you could tell the difference. Whale tails are composed of two flukes (lobes), a left and a right, with a v-shaped notch in between. Unlike a fish tail which moves side to side to glide it through water, a whale's tail moves up and down. The side of the fluke closest to the whale's body is the leading edge, while the outside edge is called the trailing edge. There is a tip where the two edges meet away from the body. Different species of whales have distinct flukes and some flukes themselves are so individual they can be used to identify specific individuals like fingerprints.

Mermaid tails have veins running down the tails, in Eric's version of mermaids. The tail's color usually matches the dominant color of the mermaid's suit. Like a whale's tail it moves up and down and not sideways. Given the size of the mermaid, the length from tip to tip is not as wide as a whale tail usually, and the width is not as robust.



Eric's Mermaid & Whale tails

Some of the people at the Whittle-In carved tails. Some worked on other projects. Becky B was painting the finishing touches on a dead fish. It is composed of seven parts, and

when hung will be a mobile. For being a dead fish, it is rather cute. The tie with the lesson is that it has a small fluke for a tail.



Becky also brought two things for Show and Tell. The first is a comfort bird of the type that Larry makes. The difference is that this one on comprised of six slices of four different woods glued together in horizontal stripes. It is unique and will fit comfortably in someone's hand. The second item was from a trip that Becky's family took to Reptile Gardens in Rapid City, SD. The Gardens have a number of masks from New Guinea. The mask they bought is about two feet long and in a lozenge shape. The bottom half has a face with protruding eyes while the top half has a lizard crawling on it. It is carved in a dark brown ebony (previous page).



Becky B's multi-wood bird

Doug E had three turned bowls on loan from Spud. He wants to augment them with carved designs. Only one has been modified as yet. It has cross-hatching around the rim and grooves cut into the sides of the bowl. A second bowl has been shined and has a small aperture at the top. It is a beautiful box elder. The third, like the first, is not shined and is a globular shape (photos in Meeting Minutes page).

Finally, Becky also brought some cute and fantastical hearts for the Cancer Society.



### *Winter Celebration, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

The Winter Celebration was great fun! The day, like most of this winter, was very cold, but we were inside all day. It was held at the Hillside Aquatic Complex Community Room at 1719 E. Boulevard Avenue. Warren Schlecht had offered to carve the Bookworm in a Book. It is a cute project and hasn't been done for many years. Because of the scope of the assignment and the size of the room, as many people as wanted could work on the plan for a nominal cost of \$10.

One of the tables was set-up with paints to cover the book and methods were discussed on making the pages appear like the interior of a book. Book titles had all sorts of whimsical names, like "Hobbit," "Bookworm Illustrated" and "Grimoire" in various scripts. The covers

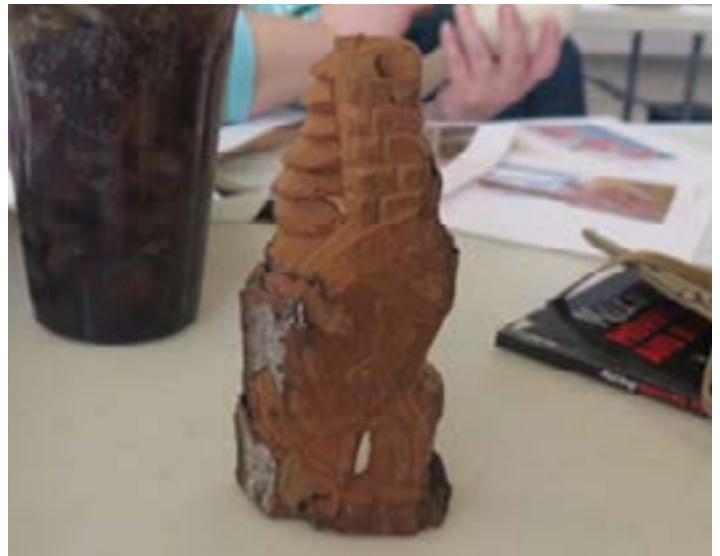
were green, red, and brown. Most of the carvers had arrived about 10am although some came closer to 8am. Around noon, we broke for lunch. Most of the participants had their books set and were ready to start on their worms. People brought their own lunches or grazed on the snacks and treats that various participants furnished.

Over lunch, there was lots of discussion concerning what a nice place Hillside was. It was a single large room with a working refrigerator and stove, and was spacious enough that two classes could be held at the same time. The grounds and the pool were pleasant as well from what we could see out of the windows.

The afternoon saw many of the people gathering in small groups to talk or sitting at

tables fashioning their bookworms or other projects. Marlene was finishing a maple leaf in butternut. Becky W was attempting a life-like cardinal and I think Mike was finishing a cottonwood bark villa. Becky B was completing a spoon for her tripartite soup bowl and Eric was having fun with an “F bomb.” By the end of the afternoon, there were no fewer than nine bookworms of individual styles and types, and a couple not yet attached to their books.

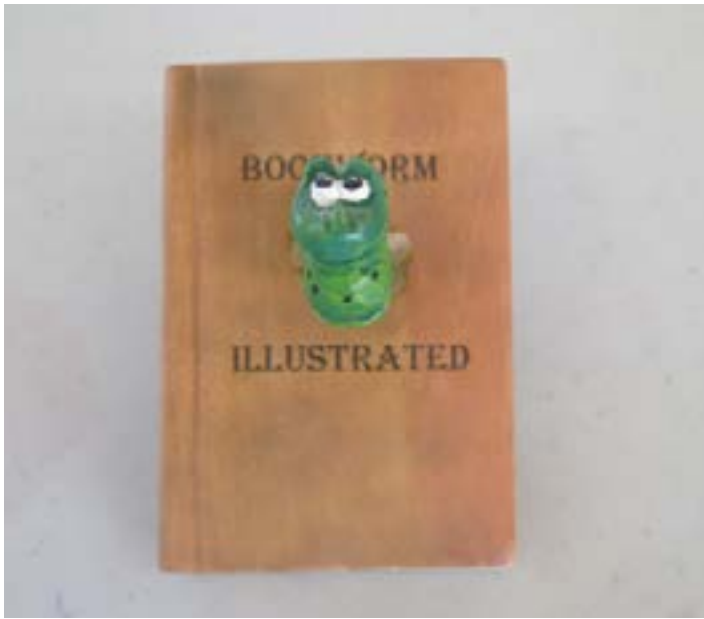
As the day faded into night, everyone was ready for the potluck supper. A few people who had been carving during the day left for home, and a few others came for the meal. It was similar to our potlucks for the fall show, with a couple of different dishes. A number of individuals went back for seconds, mostly for desserts. The day broke up after we had cleaned up the room and kitchen .



Above: Marlene's maple leaf, and Becky W's cardinal.

Above: A playful cottonwood bark house. A soup spoon to go with the tripartite bowl. One of many bookworms!







***January 17th, 2023***  
***Acorns by Eileen Heihn***

In preparation for her acorn project, Eileen Heihn brought regular acorns, acorns she made and rectangular blocks of wood to use in creating our own acorns. There were 7 people at the Whittle-In, and almost everyone took a block and began to chip off wood to get the general shape of an acorn. According to several computer sites, the only oak species found here, bur oak or burr oak, grows throughout North Dakota except for the northwest corner of the state and enjoys ravines along the Missouri River. Its species name is *macrocarpa* signifying its large acorns, and so is important for feeding wildlife. Its leaves have rounded lobes rather than pointed ones, putting it in the white oak grouping of trees. And it is sometimes confused with them. When full grown it can be about 100 ft in height, and 10 ft in diameter with a canopy spread of some 60 ft. Slow growing normally, it can grow 12 inches a year when young, making it a faster growing tree for North Dakota. Commonly living 200-300 years, it can get to be 400 years old.

Becky B was working on her partitioned soup bowl. Made from a cottonwood tree burl, she is gouging it into three paisley shaped sections. It will be perfect to hold three bowls of different soups. The Heritage Center where she

works has a yearly soup and chili contest. This way she can try several dishes at once without going back each time for more.

In addition, Becky showed two wonderful butterflies, one in browns and one in blues to present to Karen Pedigo. Karen asked Becky to fashion a name tag for her to wear at the Flickertail gatherings. Karen can choose either. And Eileen had hearts to give to Doug E for the Cancer Society.

Most everyone worked on the acorns. Some people brought worms for the bookworm project. Some looked more like dragons or other creatures. Bob exhibited the Love Spoon we will have as a project on February 7th. It is quite attractive.



Above: Forming an acorn, and the roughed out acorn.





Above: Becky B's three-part bowl - a lesson in patience.



Right top: Two intarsia butterfly magnets by Becky B - the one at right is headed to Michal S's fridge.



Right middle: Comfort heart by Eileen H.



Right bottom: Love Spoon preview by Bob P.



## *Monthly Meeting Minutes for Flickertail Woodcarvers*

*February 4th, 2023*

**Call to Order** by President Becky Barnes  
19 members present

### **Secretary's Report**

None to report

### **Treasurer's Report**

\$8515.47 in checking with all bills paid; some deposits to add (bookworm & carving classes)

### **Committee Reports**

**Project** (Bob Pedigo): Bob's design this year for his Love Spoon was inspired by North Dakota's State Flower, the Prairie Rose. It consisted of multiple flower heads and leaves.



**Membership** (Doug Smith): Dues are due – cash and check (\$15), or PayPal (\$15.46) are accepted

**Programs** (Dale Heglund):

**Book worm** painting will continue on February 21st for those that needed more time. Some extra book worm blanks will be available as well.

**The Winter Celebration** was filled with lots of fun carving and chatting. A good potluck with lots of dishes present – no one left hungry!

**Spring Carving** – Bob will be picking up wood in Fargo during the RRVWC show for the Loon project. The project will be taught by Larry Longtine.

**Fall Classes** – Charlene Lynum will be teaching chip carving, and Alan Pearson will be teaching rosemaling. The second carving class has yet to be scheduled.

**Publicity** (Becky Weisgerber): Nothing at this time

**Annual Show** (Bob Pedigo, Dale Heglund): The BPS Career Academy is reserved for October 14-15, 2023.

**Property** (Becky Weisgerber): Nothing at this time.

**Library** (Todd Engelstad): Nothing at this time.

**Historian** (Clara Yonker): Nothing at this time

**Facebook** (Eric Gaasland, Dale Heglund): Up to date

**Website / Instagram** (Becky Barnes): New videos were added to YouTube – “How to Carve: Otter Letter Opener” and “How to Make: Carving Thumb Guard”

## **Old Business**

Keep in mind the upcoming Library exhibit – chip carving, cottonwood bark houses, etc.

Bob Pedigo taught a beginner letter opener class at St. Anthony on January 15th. The class had 10 people, ranging from 13-17 years of age. He says he may go back in March to teach another class.

## **New Business**

**Nominations Committee:** This February Meeting will have elections for Treasurer, Programs, and Property. Ron Holtz, Melanie Schiwal, and Alyse Erbele have volunteered as Nominations Committee members.



## Absentee Ballots (10):

**Treasurer:** Warren Schlecht

**Property:** Becky Weisgerber

**Programs:** Eric Gaasland

**Incoming President:** Cliff Orgaard – We would like to welcome and congratulate Cliff as he steps up from President Elect, to President, of the Flickertail Woodcarvers. Becky Barnes is now Past President.

A motion was made to adjust the Saturday Meeting time from 8:30am-10:30am, to 9am-11pm, and the Tuesday Whittle-In time from 7:15pm-9pm to 7pm-9pm by Doug Emerson. The motion was seconded by Ron Holtz. The motion was passed. With the church kitchen no longer cooking meals for the homeless, the club could attend earlier on Tuesdays.

**Meeting was adjourned.**



### *February 4, 2023* *Love Spoons by Bob Pedigo*

Bob Pedigo provided blanks for a Prairie Rose themed Love Spoon this year. Most of the blanks were cut from basswood (good for painting later), and a few were cut from butternut. The darker color of the butternut made the subtle shadows of the flowers tougher to see – so antiquing the end carving was suggested.

Bob divided the spoon up into different textures and shapes, with the handle made as a relief carving. The leaves had jagged edges, with incised veining, while the petals of the



flower were to be lightly sanded to give a soft appearance. The leaves were carved first, and lower, than the petals. The flowers were left until last to be the highest part of the spoon. Inspiration for the heart-shaped spoon bowl came from a book Cliff brought, which Bob thought would look good with the flowers.



***February 21, 2023***  
***Spooky Stumps by Warren Schlecht***

Warren Schlecht brought in a couple different projects for Tuesday's Whittle-In. First he brought paints and blanks for those wanting to finish (or start) the Book Worm project done during the Winter Celebration.

Second, he brought a number of cut-offs of various sizes and shapes to construct "Spooky Stumps" and barrels. Some demos looked like old rotten stumps, logs or trees with voids – inside each void was painted black with bright white cartoon eyes staring out. He had a barrel with legs poking out the bottom, and a cork in the middle. Upon removing the cork, you could see a couple of cartoon white eyes starting out through the hole.



Above: Matt H. works on a spooky barrel

Below: Warren S., Trissa F., and Becky W. work on projects.

