



The Curling Chip

May / June 2024

We can drink a toast to Spring with our new Ale Bowl carvings, thanks to Jim Paulson! We had a wonderful gathering at the Pedigo household in early May, and the last of our Trinity gatherings late May. It's time for Summer picnics, and community outreach events.

Have an idea for an article? Did you take woodcarving photos on a trip? Please send them to Becky at thewoodwurm@gmail.com

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FlickertailWoodcarvers

2024 Leadership

President: Cliff Orgaard
President Elect: Becky Weisgerber
Past President: Becky Barnes
Programs: Eric Gaasland
Treasurer: Warren Schlecht
Secretary: Becky Barnes
Librarian: Todd Engelstad
Historian: Clara Sherman Yonker
Membership: Doug Smith
Annual Show: Eric Gaasland
Property: Becky Weisgerber
Publicity: Becky Weisgerber
Buckstop Gallery: Mike Knudson, Doug Emerson
Facebook: Eric Gaasland
Pinterest: Cindy Roth
Mastodon & Instagram: Becky Barnes
Website: Becky Barnes



NORTH DAKOTA COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

Monthly Meeting Minutes for Flickertail Woodcarvers

May 4, 2024



Call to Order by President Cliff Orgaard

14 members were present - the meeting was held at Bob Pedigo's home because of the Spring Carving Class.

Secretary's Report: Becky Barnes

Secretary's Report – Motioned as read by Eric Gaasland, seconded by Jana Knoll.

Treasurer's Report: Warren Schlecht

Warren was unable to attend the meeting. He submitted a report that the balance was \$6,355. Of the total balance, \$3601 is designated for the Buckstop Junction improvement fund. The income and expenses from the Spring Carving class will be reported at the next meeting. Motioned to accept by Eric Gaasland, seconded by Marlene Roles.

Committee Reports

Membership (Doug Smith): Not present.

Programs (Eric Gaasland): Carver Carol Leavy who works with caricature carving, and is part of the Caricature Carvers of America (CCA) is available in October, for \$70/person/day. Blanks would run \$25-35 for roughouts. She has santas, snowmen, angels, and other subjects to work from. Becky Barnes motioned that we accept Carol as the October Featured Carver for a three-day session (Friday, Saturday, Sunday), with Friday carving all day, and Saturday-Sunday as the morning-carving-only. Motion was seconded by Matt Hlebechuk. Put to a vote, the members present agreed.

Publicity (Becky Weisgerber): No changes.

Property (Becky Weisgerber): No changes.

Library (Todd Engelstad): No changes.

Historian (Clara Yonker): Not present.

Facebook (Eric Gaasland): There was a lot of Likes and Comments over the Ale Bowl carving class.

Website (Becky Barnes): Up to date, new Curling Chip posted.

Buckstop Junction Upgrades (Doug Emerson, Bob Pedigo, Mike Knudson, Warren Schlecht, Cliff Orgaard, Todd Engelstad): Troy is waiting to hear back from the Grants that Eric submitted, but estimated costs are coming to a little more than the \$3,600 in the allotted fund. Bob Pedigo motioned to allow up to \$1000 from the general fund to help pay for the new case. Seconded by Anna Wright. The motion was put to a vote, and passed.

Old Business

None

New Business

Whittle-In Project: Thank you Eric G. and Cliff O. for bringing in Comfort Heart blanks and extra Fairy Door blanks.

We've received a request from Daniel Bielinski, the director of theater at the University of Mary. He would have liked to have volunteers from our club to help build sets for the stage today. As a carving club, we're really not interested in doing carpentry work, and will not ask members to volunteer for building sets.

The Bismarck Public Library fall display will be Chip Carving - please think about all kinds of chip carving – complex, easy, finished, in-progress. Bob Pedigo will start collecting carvings late July. They will be on display at the Library from August through October.

The next meeting will be in September! Today was our last meeting of winter-spring. There will be one more Whittle-in gathering May 21st – after that the third Tuesday of June, July, and August will be our picnic gatherings at Sertoma Shelter #5, from 5:30pm until people disperse.

Thanks to Bob and Karen for allowing us to use their home for the meeting today.

Thanks to Jim Paulson for teaching the Spring Carving Class this weekend.

Show and Tell

Cliff brought a souvenir from his trip to New Zealand - a laser-cut wooden box featuring a Kiwi on the cover. He also brought his finished rooster taught by Ken Ramler during the Saint Cloud, MN Snow Daze Carve In.

Troy brought in his Cane Topper carving, from a class taken at the Red River Valley Woodcarvers show, as well as a tiny delicate chip-carved circle.

Eric expanded upon his Fairy Door carvings with one showing the door open, and a scene

with Northern Lights shown through the doorway.

Becky B brought in her Wizard, Hippie, and Pickles taught by Bruce Ankeny during the Saint Cloud, MN Snow Daze Carve In. She also brought a small Plague Doctor concept for the October Whittle-In.

Meeting was adjourned.

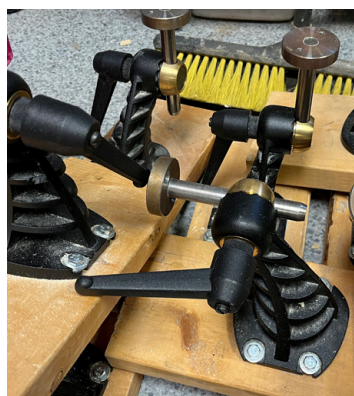
Motioned by Eric Gaasland, seconded by Troy Frieze.

May 3-5, 2024 Spring Class by Jim Paulson - Ale Bowls

We were pleased to have Jim Paulson of Leeds, ND lead us in a Scandinavian Ale Bowl class. The class was held in Bob & Karen Pedigo's garage. There was plenty of space, tables, light, and enough food that even a college student wouldn't go hungry.



the carver desired, they unscrewed and unclamped the piece. The drill press was adjusted to leave about 1/2-3/4 inch along the bottom, and a Forstner bit installed for a controlled depth gauge to help speed up hollowing the bowl cavity.



Everyone took a blank, and studied or took reference photos of the finished bowls Jim brought as inspiration. Many of the blanks were "pheasants" or "roosters" but there were a few "dragons"

hidden in the bin as well. Each carver had a clamp to use which held things in place while they carved the outside of the bowl first, but could be swiveled to different angles to accommodate grain direction.

Once the outside was rough-shaped to what

At this point it was time for spoon gouges, curved gouges, and a lot of tool trial and error. Jim brought along some great sizes and shapes of gouges to supplement our own. Plus - he had a super-secret recipe in spray-bottles that helped soften tough end-grain, and made it like carving through butter. Well, maybe not super-secret, but it was new to many of us! A combination of rubbing alcohol and water, spritzed onto the surface and let soak for a couple minutes - it was amazing the difference!



Above: Becky W. gouging out the inside of her bowl



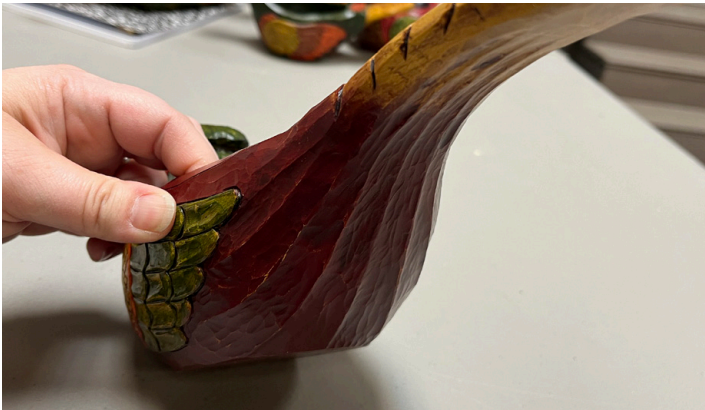
The outside of the bowls soon followed. Some bowls had a gouged effect on the outside resembling overlapping boards (called “lapstrake or clinker”) - which just messes with me because “clinker” is also the term used to describe natural coal-fired clay, or red-rock, used on many roads in North Dakota. Not to be confused with scoria, which is volcanic in origin, yet locally a synonym for clinker. But I digress. Other ale bowls were decorated with stylized floral and acanthus designs. Each carver’s imagination was the limit!



Above left: Troy F’s decorative overlapping tail feathers.
 Above right: an example of dragon scale.



Above: Bob P’s ale bowl showing the lapstrake effect.
 Below: One of Jim’s pheasants with lapstrake.



Below: Two of Jim’s pieces with completely different wing styles.





Finished Bowl
examples by Jim
Paulson





This page has our Flickertail ale bowls nearing the end of our class-time together. We can't wait to see the finished pieces all painted! Jim had a number of blanks left over that some people purchased, so perhaps even more bowl variations will be seen in the near future.



Above: Troy F's cane / stick topper, and chip carved round, made at the Red River Valley Woodcarving show in Fargo, ND.

Below: Eric G's modified fairy door to show it open with a scene beyond.



Above: Cliff O's souvenir box from New Zealand.

Below: Cliff O's finished rooster from the Ken Remler class, taught during the Saint Cloud Snow Daze.



May 21, 2024 Americana Whale
with Cliff Orgaard



Above: The Ale Bowl class collides with the monthly meeting. Plenty of tables to spread out on, and STILL leftover food.

Cliff brought in blanks for the "Americana Whale" pattern by Vernon DePauw published in the Summer 2017 Woodcarving Illustrated magazine. This was our last gatherig at Trinity before the summer picnics kick off at Sertoma shelter #5.



Above: Cliff finished carving and painting his Ale Bowl from Jim Paulson's class.



June 18, 2024 Winter Picnic at Sertoma

Brrrrr! The weather for our first Sertoma park gathering was rough. We had unseasonably cool and drizzly conditions – perfect for sitting at home under a blanket with a cat on you, maybe with some hot chocolate. A total of 8 Flickertails showed up with food, and carvings to work on. Hopefully July will be warmer!



Becky W. brought in a cupcake box – the frosting-lid section was made from carved rings glued together. She says she plans on carving the next one with a diagonal groove, to look like twisted frosting. Each ring was carved separately, then glued together for the lid.



Fifteen people were in attendance, including Mr. Mayer from Colorado! He was up visiting family for graduation, and saw we had a Whittle-In. Time well spent!

Eric G. had a stick of Ankeny Pickles that was nearing completion, and a fresh stick to start on.

Becky B. had a partially finished intarsia



nametag. Just a little more sanding and sealing to go. She says those were the smallest eyes she's ever cut out. Becky also purchased a couple of soapstone carvings from the Royal Canadian Mint, in Winnipeg, MB. The black stone was carved into a polar bear, and an owl – both smoothed and sealed – then details etched into the finished surface to look chalky against the dark background.

Marlene M. was busy working on a flower... tray? Dish? Bowl? She wasn't sure what the end result was going to be, but it was a nice repetitive swirl of petals.



Above: Everyone trying to make the best of the rotten weather. Thank goodness we had a shelter!



The Depot Duluth, MN

As part of a family road trip, Becky Barnes had the opportunity to go visit The Depot, a historic site in Duluth, MN, next to the Scenic Railroad line. It was originally built in 1892, and housed a plethora of small businesses such as a barber shop, newsstand, parcel room, and more. It was an important hub of transportation during World Wars I and II, for moving immigrants through, and for shipping iron. As America shifted from trains to cars, service declined until it shut down in 1969. In 1970 it was repurposed as a National Historic Site, and reopened as the St. Louis County Heritage and Arts Center. Within are displays from a number of immigrant families (and a “replica” working Finnish farm), including a ton of antique tools and carvings. Their website sadly doesn't promote the carvings much, but trust me – they're there. Check out their page here:

<https://www.experiencethedepot.org/>

Many of the carvings shown were by Herman Melheim, but many more are simply on display without labels. As a sometimes-museum-exhibit-designer... I objected to this lack of information!

Another carving on display (with an information sign!) reads:



Leif Erickson Viking Ship Head

The wooden dragon head displayed here is original to the replica Viking ship built in Korgen, Norway by local ship builders. It was completed on April 1926. The ship was made to replicate the vessel which Leif Erickson sailed to North America via the Atlantic in 997 A.D. Captain Gerhard Folgero and his crew of three set sail from Bergen, Norway to North America on May 23, 1926. They stopped at the Shetland Islands, Fare Islands, Iceland, and Greenland. They landed at St. Johns, Newfoundland on July 20, 1926 and 13 months later landed in Duluth on June 23, 1927. Shortly after the voyage was completed, Duluthian Emil Olson bought the ship from Captain Folgero and donated it to later named Leif Erickson Park around 1929. The ship progressively began to deteriorate from neglect and vandalism. It reached its lowest point in 1980. A Duluth City Councilor suggested the ship should be burned in traditional Viking style, which inspired Will Borg, Olson's grandson, to raise funds to restore the ship. The Restoration Project has raised \$100,000 since 1985 in various ways. The actual rebuilding of the ship started in 1991 and most of it has been completed. You can learn more at leifericksonvikingship.com



Important Upcoming Events

July 18: Flickertail Picnic at Sertoma Shelter #5 – family friendly! Bring a project to work on, or show and tell.

July 27: Bluegrass Goes Pink – Cancer run/walk, with woodcarving demonstrations (showcasing our Memory Hearts). Carving is from 1-4pm. Contact Doug Emerson at 701-425-8226, or dd_emerson@msn.com

August 20: Flickertail Picnic at Sertoma Shelter #5 – family friendly! Bring a project to work on, or show and tell.

October 12-13: Annual Woodcarving Show! Details to come, but mark it on your calendar. Featured Carver will be caricature carver and CCA member Carol Leavy. Read more about Carol here: <https://cca-carvers.org/carol-leavy/> Non-carving class by Becky Barnes, cross-stitch in wood.