



# The Curling Chip

## July / August 2024

It seems like summer only just arrived, only to once again enter school season. The Flickertails have been busy as ever demonstrating at the Capital A'Fair, Bluegrass Goes Pink, Hootenanny, as well as somehow finding the time to finish and dedicate a brand new carving display case at Buckstop Junction.

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

Newsletter Editor: Becky Barnes

Flickertail Woodcarvers  
PO Box 7473  
Bismarck, ND 58507

<https://FlickertailWoodcarvers.org>



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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



## June 28-30, 2024 Wahpeton Carving Weekend

A number of Flickertail members attended the Wahpeton Carving Weekend this year, held at the ND State College of Science. The usual building was undergoing renovations, so the whole thing was held in the Hektner Student Center. Some classes were held in isolated rooms, while others were held together in larger rooms, separated by curtained wall partitions. A few benefits of this arrangement include being able to wander from class to class to see what everyone else was working on, as well as the close proximity of the cafeteria. A downside would be that not every class had the best lighting to work with (I'm looking at you, basement room...).

If you've ever thought about attending the WCW, you're in for a fun time of carving and camaraderie. Dining Services do a fantastic job feeding everyone breakfast, lunch, and dinner.



Above: Dale H power carving an otter in Roger Nadrchal's class.



Above: Anna W (left) worked on a bark house taught by Derek Epping. Becky W (right) worked on a layered landscape taught by Ken Ramler.



Above: Todd E (left) and Cliff O (right) both attended Bruce Ankeny's caricature class.



Above: Bob and Karen P working hard in Rhonda Smith's photorealistic colored pencil class.



Above: Doug E also took Rhonda's colored pencil class.

You get the opportunity to meet so many other carvers - and as you return year after year, those carvers become great friends.

Part of the festivities include a 50/50 Raffle, generally a couple of board-raffles, and raffle prizes that are donated from the carving and non-carving class instructors.



Above: Josh E (left) was kept busy sharpening tools all weekend, while Eric G (right) takes a break from his layered landscape class to raid Karen Henderson's spoon blanks.



Above: Izo Becic (left) specializes in Old World carving styles, and taught a Greenman / acanthus clock class. Becky B (right) worked on acanthus with him (below).



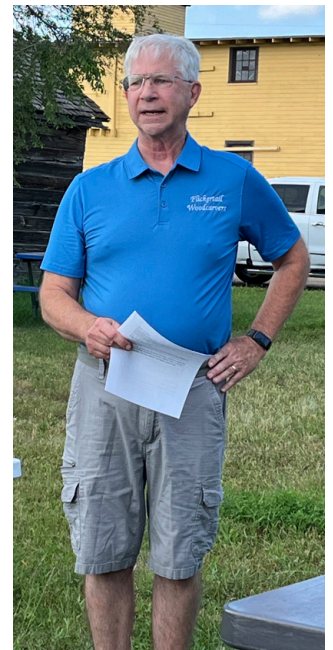
If you want to save money, they offer dorm rooms on campus for lodging. Or there are a few hotels / motels to choose from. Me personally, having stayed in the dorms last year, opted to splurge on a room at the Travelodge. I was pleasantly surprised! You never know what you're going to get with a hotel room, and I was prepared for noisy neighbors and the like - yet other than the random fireworks going off with the proximity of Independence Day, it was very quiet. I'll be doing that again in the future.



### July 16, 2024 - Buckstop Junction Display Case Dedication

In the last Curling Chip, there was mention of a new display case being built for the carvings out at Buckstop Junction. The Buckstop Junction Upgrades committee, consisting of Doug Emerson, Bob Pedigo, Mike Knudson, Warren Schlecht, Cliff Orgaard, and Todd Engelstad, with the help of Troy Frieze and volunteers, were able to complete the project. In celebration of the case completion, and in honor of the carvers whose artworks were to be displayed, it was decided (through a mini-gathering of club officers at the Wahpeton Carving Weekend) that instead of the normal picnic at Sertoma Park, we should hold a gathering at Buckstop Junction itself. Invites to members, and the families of Frank Koch, and Art Tokach were sent out.

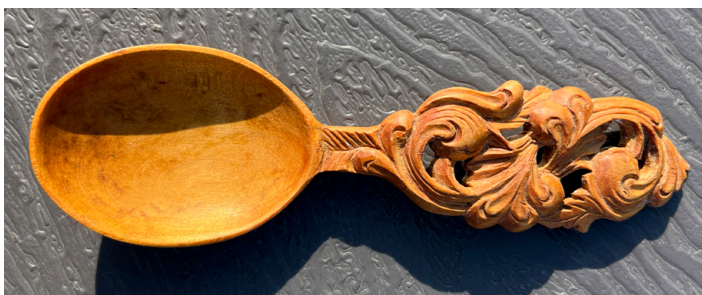
Club members donated to the cause, and supplies were picked up for pulled



pork sandwiches, macaroni salads, pies, desserts, fruits, vegetables, and a literal smorgasbord of goodies. Around 30 members and family attended the festivities. President Cliff Orgaard gave a brief speech outlining some of the history with Buckstop Junction, and the carvings held within the Lumbermill building.



Clara Yonker, club historian, brought along carvings by one of the Flickertail founders, Telle Rudser. The first were "Knotheads" - small portraits of people with wood knots cleverly filling in the void of the face. The one pictured on the left was carved in 1961, as per the date marked on the hat. Rumor has it Telle was a wood scrounger, and didn't let much go to waste - the bowl above on the right and the decorative spoon below are carved from unknown woods.



Clara also brought along some of the tools she began carving with, and told us how because Telle didn't drive, members of the club took turns driving to and from town to teach carving.

Bob Pedigo was contacted by the owner of the Bismarck Larks about the possibility of making a traveling trophy for the newest baseball rivalry between the Minot Hot Tots and the Badlands



Big Sticks from Dickinson. Everyone decided on a carving of Theodore Roosevelt riding a bison. The carving was mounted on a simulated rock base. The trophy will be passed back and forth between the baseball teams.



Bob also brought along two spoons carved from fallen Siberian Elm branches in his yard.





We were able to interview Ashten Brown, creator of Badger State Blades. I was first introduced to BSB when Eric G. loaned me a knife. He discovered Ashten through Facebook - see - sometimes the algorithms DO work!


**Ashten - how did you first get introduced to the world of carving?**

I was first introduced to wood carving when I was very young. My grandfather got his start in the early 90s so when I say I've been around it my whole life, I'm not kidding. I believe I was about 12 years old before I received my very own carving knife and started attending weekly carving club with my grandparents. From then on, I traveled with them to lots of different shows in our area as well as some a bit further away such as the Doane Experience in Nebraska and the AWC in Iowa. In my 20s other things took a front row while carving took a seat in the back, but somehow, it was always there.

**Why did you decide to make blades? Do you do much carving, or have blades taken over?**

Fast forward to 2023, I was out having breakfast





with my grandpa who had just returned home from judging the Mountain Home carving show in Arkansas with Denny Neubauer. My grandpa had mentioned that Mike Shippley was having some health issues and how that would really leave a hole for carvers if new makers didn't start popping up. I mean who would people be able to get tools from??!! Finding myself in my 30s at a job I didn't truly love, with a young son who seemed to grow more with every blink, and a slight obsession with "Forged in Fire"; (I binge watched the entire series on maternity leave). I found myself thinking, why couldn't I do that? I only thought about it for about 4 hours before I called my grandpa to ask, "How the heck do we do this". We contacted Denny who mentored me and continues to brainstorm with me as well as answer just about any question I have to the best of his knowledge.

I don't get much time to carve any more due to the demand of the business as well as my 3-year-old. Last year I did take couple classes last year, Floyd Rhadigan and John Overby. Both were fantastic and, I've won ribbons on both from different shows we've been at this year.

**Through your Facebook updates, we see you get to travel around to different shows like the Rocky Mountain Carver roundup. How was it? Do you have any other shows you're itching to attend?**

The Rocky Mountain Roundup was fantastic, Guy and Craig put on an absolutely wonderful event. We will also be attending the CCA's Carvin' the Rockies this year, we are very excited! Early next year we will be attending the Lancaster County Carvers show in Pennsylvania.

**I love your community engagement, like your Year-of-the-Dragon knives. For those that don't know, Ashten is crafting limited edition knives (4 each month) with a different dragon theme. How do you maintain a good Knife-Life balance? I know for me sometimes it's hard to get enough time in my SheShed for carving - while other times I know I need to take a break from carving for other projects. What are some of your non-carving hobbies / interests?**

I have had many interests over the years but



Left: Ashton Brown, right Denny Neubauer

most recently I've taken to shooting sports. My husband and I enjoy deer hunting together in the fall and shoot trap together in the summer. We have snowmobiles for winter fun, if we ever get enough snow that is, and quad riding in the warm months, our son absolutely loves when he gets to ride too.



I know you said you're still getting your order-page set up, but you can custom make knives in different blade lengths and shapes (chip, detail, upsweep, etc.), along with three handle shapes (straight, fishtail, and duckbutt). Do you have any plans to make gouges or side-sweeps?

Yes, we plan on having a full line of gouges and other tools. Unfortunately, we had some equipment failures and are working on getting those taken care of before we can start moving forward with those tools.

You can follow Badger State Blades on their Facebook page:

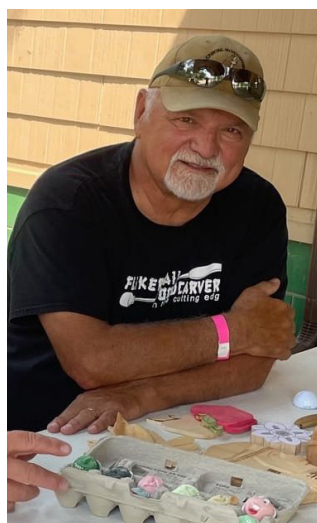
<https://www.facebook.com/badgerstateblades> or their website <https://badgerstateblades.com/>



July 29, 2024  
Bluegrass Goes Pink  
Cross Ranch State Park

The Flickertail Woodcarvers have been carving cancer / memory hearts for many years now as a donation to the Bismarck Cancer Center. Members attended the annual event and demonstrated carving, while cheering on the participants. Carving was from 1-4pm in front of the visitor's center.

For non-carvers, the day consisted of a 5K & 10K Fun Run/Walk (with children, strollers, bikers, walkers, and runners all welcome), a free-will donation supper provided by the Washburn area churches, a bluegrass concert by Cotton Wood and Friends. The night concluded with a one-mile glow hike.



Above: Warren Schlecht, Clara Yonker, Doug Emerson, Todd Engelstad, Bob Ferderer, and Alvin Braunagel.



August 3-4, 2024  
50th Annual Capital A'Fair

This year was the 50th anniversary of the Capital A'fair! The Flickertails were there both days, demonstrating carving, and chatting with those attending (10am-6pm on Saturday, and 10am-4pm on Sunday). It seemed there was an uptick in carving interest this year – many people stopped by, asking about beginning carving, or interested in the October show. Saturday was hot and humid. There was a lot of traffic in the morning, but after lunch things really slowed down until the temperatures cooled. Sunday was more moderate traffic the whole day, but was just as cool, chilly, and drizzly as Saturday was hot.



Eric G. regaled people with stories of torched marshmallows, set cleverly next to his fire carving, along with his pine-scented outhouse situated near the “last roll” of toilet paper. Becky W. talked with many people about the October show, raffle tickets, beginning carving – I’m honestly surprised she still has a voice at the end of the weekend! Becky B. rotated between mallet & chisel carving, or hand carving, depending on if more traffic to the table needed to be drummed up. If things got quiet, a few loud tock-Tock-TOCKs of the mallet (and Eric yelling “Ow!”) gained some onlookers. Also joining the tent was Alvin B. and Marlene M. working on chip-carving, Cliff O. carving a rooster caricature, Matt H. with a growing number of tushrooms, Bob P. and his bison (he says he can carve them in his sleep), Marlene R., Diane L-T., Tom T., and many MANY people who swung by just to say “hello” and give moral support.



Attending year-after-year, you begin to recognize some of the vendors, and look forward to seeing how much lighter your wallet becomes after finding your favorites. Paul Holte the wandering musician was a delight, and a

good portion of our tent-denzens purchased from painter Andrew Knutson set up across from us. Working out of Scandia, MN and Lake Audobon, ND, his art can be seen on [Plains Perspective Gallery & Studio](#). He specializes in oil painting animals on feathers, rocks, bark, etc..

The only downside to our shade spot was that it had to be pushed back from the curb and walkway a bit in order to find a flat spot. After a bit of run-around trying to figure out who was in charge of what, we should be able to set up on the brick walkway to the west of the State Library - a nice, flat spot, right against the curb, out of the way of the vendors.



August 17, 2024

### Buckstop Junction Hootenanny

The Corn Fest at Buckstop Junction has been rebranded as a Hootenanny, with musical performances extending well into the night - far after when I would turn into a pumpkin. The Flickertails had a demonstration table there during a cool, gray day. Cliff O., Eric G., and Vince B. each had things out for show-and-tell, and were busy working on projects.



Also joining for table duty was Matt H., Marlene R., and Michaela R..



August 20, 2024

### Sertoma Park Picnic

A few members showed up for the last picnic of the season. I can't believe August is almost over. Our first meeting of the fall is scheduled for Saturday September 7th, 9-11am, at Trinity Lutheran Church, in Bismarck. See you there!



August, 2024  
Icelandic State Park  
Cavalier, ND

While visiting Icelandic State Park during a rain-day on the Pembina Gorge Public Fossil Dig, our staff made a quick round of all the buildings on site. At first glance the church was plain, with colored glass windows, white walls, black trim. Upon entering one thing immediately stood out to me: at the front of the sanctuary was a baptismal bowl on a stand. But not just any bowl - it was a CHICKEN bowl! There wasn't any accompanying text or description, but I was sure I was looking at a massive bowl carving by Jim Paulson, who taught our Ale Bowl class this spring. Heading back to the main office, I inquired into the carver. "I think it was a Reverend from Leeds, a something Paulson?" - Yes! The sleuthing was a success.



### Important Upcoming Events

**September 7:** Meeting & Whittle-In, Trinity Lutheran Church basement Fellowship hall 9-11am.

**NEW Event! September 13 & 14:** Downtown Street Fair - looking for demonstrators. Friday 10am-8pm, Saturday 9am-6pm.

**September 17:** Whittle-In, Trinity Lutheran Church basement Fellowship hall 7-9pm.

**October 5:** Meeting & Whittle-In, Trinity Lutheran Church basement Fellowship hall 9-11am.

**October 12 & 13:** Annual Woodcarving Show! Details on the website at:

<https://flickertailwoodcarvers.org/annual-show/>

The Featured Carver is Barry Bowers who specializes in caricatures. Josh Epping will teach bark carving. Non-carving class by Becky Barnes, cross-stitch in wood.