



The Curling Chip

November / December 2024

Winter has made its presence known - the freezing rain that just came down is no joke! Thank you to all of our Beginning Carvers who joined us for classes, and to everyone who braves the winter chill to come hang out and carve. The club has had an influx of people finding us and asking about demonstrations - which is awesome!

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

Newsletter Editor: Becky Barnes

Flickertail Woodcarvers
PO Box 7473
Bismarck, ND 58507

<https://FlickertailWoodcarvers.org>



FlickertailWoodcarversND



FlickertailWoodcarvers



makerspace.social/@FlickertailWoodcarvers



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

November 2, 2024



Call to Order by President Cliff Orgaard

18 members were present, with two others dropping by briefly.

Secretary's Report: Becky Barnes

Secretary's Report – Motioned as read by Diane Lehman-Turck, seconded by Becky Weisgerber.

Treasurer's Report: Warren Schlecht

Warren was unable to attend but reported that the balance as of October 31st was \$6,037.90. The only anticipated expense is \$1,200 for the rental of the Career Academy during our Annual Show. That would bring the balance down to \$5,107.90. The bill should arrive in November. A financial audit was completed by Gretchen Deeg, and will be presented at a later date.

Committee Reports

Membership (Doug Smith): Not present.

Programs (Eric Gaasland): Eric is still rebuilding the Whittle-in sheet. Please sign up to teach a project to the group!

[Wesley Hathaway](#) is tentatively scheduled for the 2025 Spring carving class, sometime in May.

Publicity (Becky Weisgerber): We're in to the slow time of year - nothing new right now.

Property (Becky Weisgerber): No change.

Library (Todd Engelstad): Ruth Graf, wife of Larry who passed away, brought over a number of magazines and books. Todd will check out the books, add any new ones to the club collection, and put any duplicates up for give-away to the group.

Historian (Clara Yonker): Not present.

Facebook (Eric Gaasland): Still getting interactions.

Website (Becky Barnes): Photos from the annual show are uploaded onto the "[Photos from the 2024 show](#)" page. The [2025 Snow Daze Carve In](#) information is also scanned and uploaded to the website for those interested in a class in MN during April.

Buckstop Junction Upgrades (Doug Emerson, Bob Pedigo, Mike Knudson, Warren Schlecht, Cliff Orgaard, Todd Engelstad): Nothing new.

Old Business

Eric G. created an Annual Show survey, asking people what we did well, and what we can improve on. Once tallied, he will present the results to the club.

New Business

Whittle-In Project: Thank you Todd Engelstad for bringing in TWO projects today - a poinsettia relief, and a chip-carved sleigh.

An idea stemming from the summer demonstration tables / tent was brought up, about purchasing a vinyl sign that can hang via bungee cords to the back of the tent. Not just a "Flickertail Woodcarvers" sign, but one listing a number of the activities we do, and classes we teach. It was motioned by Alvin Braunagel, and seconded by Todd Engelstad, that we design and purchase a vinyl sign. It was put to a vote, and passed.

Similar to the vinyl sign, a suggestion was made to make a couple of printed table cloths for demonstration days, and one specifically saying "Raffle" for the Annual Show. It was motioned by Anna Wright, and seconded by Diane Lehman-Turck. It was put to a vote, and passed.

The smaller extendable banner used for advertising is showing its age. Becky Barnes will look into the cost of purchasing a new one.

The club was sent a letter by the National Wood Carvers Association, makers of Chip Chats. They were holding an ornament-making drive. The deadline for carvings was November 1st, but we can go to their website to see some of the submissions. They also are now selling more merchandise, such as hats, available on their website store.

A request for a 5th grade demonstration was sent in to the club. Cliff Orgaard is in contact with the teacher, and will plan a lesson with the help of Bob Pedigo.

We are waiting on the Dakota West Arts Council to open their site for grant applications. Eric G. let us know there is a Governor's Awards for the Arts grant, which recognizes individuals or organizations for their contributions to the art. Cliff O. will look more into it.

A Nominating Committee was appointed to help search out club members to hold the positions up for election come February. Cliff Orgaard, Todd Engelstad, and Becky Weisgerber will work towards finding people willing to fill Treasurer, Program Chairperson, and the Physical Properties Chairperson positions.

Show and Tell

Anna Wright brought in her finished carved (but not yet painted) Santa from Barry Bowers' class.

Doug Emerson also brought in his finished carved and painted Santa (a different blank than Anna's).

Meeting was adjourned.



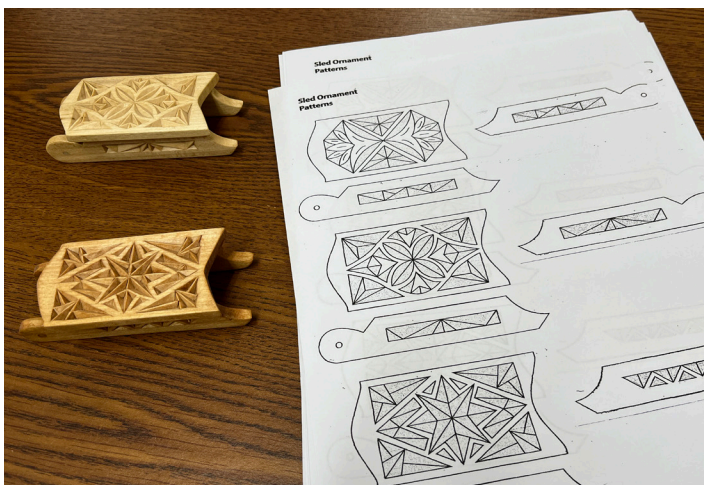
November 2, 2024 Whittle-In Sled / Poinsettia by Todd Engelstad

Todd was cleaning house, so brought not one, but two projects - AND candy! With Halloween on a Thursday (what *monster* would have it on a weekday?!), Trick-or-Treaters were low in number this year. So with each project blank came a "mummy" candy bar with googly eyes.



The first project (bottom of left column) was a sled with chip-carving on it. There were three different designs to choose from, as well as heat transfer-tools to copy the pattern over to the blank wood. Heat transfers work on images printed with toner, not inkjet. The trick is to tape your image down so it doesn't shift, and then gently move the heat source in a circular motion. You can lift up your image to check what areas need more attention, and if it's taped down on one side, you can just continue with the heat transfer tools. If you leave the tool still for too long, you risk burning the pattern and wood.

The second project were left-over Poinsettia flowers Todd said were left overs from last year. They required a little relief carving.



Ruth Graf came by with a number of books, magazines, and blanks from her late husband and Flickertail Woodcarver member Larry. Todd E. will go through the books and add any that aren't already in the Library, and then release the rest for anyone who would like them.



Above: Anna W. brought in her Barry Bowers Santa carving.

Below: Doug E. also brought in his Barry Bowers Santa carving - but painted.



Tool Review: Flexcut Chip-Carving Knife

The carving project offered up the perfect opportunity for a tool review. Becky B. did not have a chip-carving knife with, so borrowed one that Eric G. had just picked up - a chip-carving knife by Flexcut. Disclaimer: Becky B. does not hold the knife how most people do - she prefers a pen-grip, versus a whole shaft grip.

The knife was not sanded smooth, which would be difficult to hold. Instead it had multiple flat bevels across the handle that work well for finger indexing. The blade had a nice smooth finish, and wasn't too thick. It wasn't as thin as the Pfeil #2 chip-carving knife, the blade was almost as deep. All in all it seemed to carve fairly well, and was easy to hold.



Scandinavian Heritage Association
Minot, ND
November 1, 2024

While driving through Minot, I spotted a Stave church. I made a detour, and visited the [Scandinavian Heritage Association](#). Unfortunately during their “winter” hours, the buildings in the park were closed for visitors, but that just means I need to come back during the summer. The outsides of the building scattered around the park were a great representation of Scandinavian and Nordic woodwork. The two buildings that caught my eye on this short trip were the Stabbur, and the Gol Stave Church.

Stabbur

The sign outside reads in part: “This storehouse is a replica of the cottage from Torvetjønn, a farm near Møsvann in Telemark, Norway, which is considered a major work in Norwegian fold architecture. The original was built in 1750 by an excellent craftsman Jon from Vinje. Ottar Romtveit of Rauland, Norway constructed this replica, which was then disassembled

for shipping to Minot where he and his crew reassembled it.”

Each side had decorative scrollwork carving into crossbeams and bracings. The corners had turned pillars that were also carved.



Above: Stabbur as a whole, and zoomed in to the archway above the door.

Below: Stabbur stairs embellishment.





Above: Stabbur doorway, with chip-gouged circular designs.

Gol Stave Church

The sign outside reads in part: The Stave church museum is a full size authentic replica of one of the finest designed Stave churches constructed in Norway. The Gol (Hallingdal) Norway Stavkirke was originally built in the mid-1200s and in 1882, by order of King Oscar II, this old and venerable "House of God," which had risen over the Gol community for 700 years was dismantled and shipped to Oslo. In 1884, King Oscar II laid the cornerstone for the reconstructed church at Bygdøy Park in Oslo where today it forms part of the Norwegian folk museum.

The Gol Stave church museum in the Scandinavian Heritage Park in Minot was constructed by Stright River Log Homes of Park Rapids, Minnesota under the careful and dedicated supervision of Myron D. Peterson, M.D., a past president of the Scandinavian Heritage Association and chairman of the Gol Stave Church committee. Additionally, it was because of the exemplary monetary support of Dr. Peterson and his wife, Gail, that others were inspired to help fund this magnificent structure which will display our heritage for decades.



Above: Gol Stave Church.



Carvings from the Collections: Woodworking from the Heritage Center and State Museum

As often happens while looking through the collections at the Heritage Center, I ended up going down quite the rabbit-hole. Jenny Yearous and I pulled a couple of old weathered objects from the shelves, that looked like mini banded barrels with lids and handles. They are **askurs** from Iceland - a compact bowl with a handle, and a lid that doubles as a plate. Soup or porridge could be added to the bowl section, and the plate would hold meats, bread, and cheese. Didn't finish your meal? No problem! With the built-in lid, you could close up your meal and save it for later. The askur were often slid under the bed for storage, since the bed doubled as a dining room chair in the compact turf Icelandic

houses. Each member of the household would have their own askur, decorated with fanciful designs and/or their initials. Some sources say they were crafted from driftwood, as trees were hard to come by in Iceland after mass-clearing for farming.



SHSND 01546



Below: An Icelandic Askur bowl which is a low bulbous covered stave bowl with 3 flat pine bands. The bands are decorated with a narrow white ribbon with a black woven plaid design... Free undulating acanthus pattern in low relief on cover and 1871 carved on top of lid near the hinge.



SHSND 2022.00060.00001

Above & Top Right: The Collection entry reads: Icelandic Askur made of wooden staves and bands. The pot has two wooden handles. Both handles are carved and have a circular cutout at their center. The pot's carved cover has been hinged to the larger handle. A wooden peg has been inserted into the center of the hinge. the top of the cover has carved designs. The center of the cover's interior is carved aawy. The base of the cover is now concave. Four concentric circles have been carved into the base of the pot.

This is where the rabbit-hole kicks on. Doing some high-tech research on askurs (aka Google), I ran across an image I had seen before, of a bearded figure sneakily licking out a bowl while looking over his shoulder. I found the artist who had made the image: Brian Pilkington. Mr. Pilkington has a plethora of fantastically illustrated books covering Icelandic lore, including “The Yule Lads - A Celebration of Iceland’s Christmas Folklore,” which is where I had seen the image years before.



I sent off an email in the vain hope of reaching him, and he wrote back! He gave me permission to post his painting of Askasleikir - the “Bowl Licker.” For those not versed in the Yule Lads - think Santa, but sneaky, pranksterish, and with 12 siblings (for a total of 13 Yule-tide scoundrels). So alongside the door-slammer, and the spoon-licker... what does the bowl licker do? Why... he waits until the occupants of the house are distracted, scoots under the bed, and licks clean any unsupervised askur that’s there. Now - that’s just the “prank” that particular Yule



Illustration by
Brian Pilkington

Lad pulls. Much like Santa, the Yule Lads will give good children a small gift in their shoes left by the windows. What do naughty children get? A rotten potato. Eew.

So amidst all the reading of askur and Yule Lads, I ran across the Skyrgamur - the “Skyr Glutton.” What is Skyr? It’s Icelandic yogurt! There used to be huge barrels of Skyr in various stages of aging that this hungry Yule Lad might raid. Nowadays however, he’s lucky enough to find that Skyr is sold in supermarkets, and all he needs to do is sneak over to the fridge. After a quick search I did indeed find Skyr in our local Cash Wise and Family Fare - however, each store seemed to have their own choices of flavors (Blueberry/Bilberry, Strawberry/Lingonberry, Cloudberry/Peach, Plain, Raspberry, Key Lime, Coconut, and Vanilla). In the interest of Science, of course I purchased some Skyr to try - and I can say I personally will not be returning to regular yogurt any time soon. Skyr is thicker, heartier, and definitely stuck with me longer than standard yogurt. The Icelanders are definitely on to something, in my opinion.



More askur are on display inside the National Museum of Iceland, in Reykjavik. Other books written and illustrated by Brian Pilkington are available online via used-book stores - however a large selection can be found at [Grapevine Store in Reykjavík, Iceland](#). There are MANY books on trolls...

November 19, 2024 Whittle-In Pinecone by Warren Schlecht

Warren brought in a chip-carved pinecone project for us. He said the project was done by the group over 10 years ago, and it was time to make a reappearance. Warren's version can also be found in Woodcarving Illustrated, "Chip Carve Pinecone" by Jim Hiser. Doug E. brought in his pinecone variants, with more shaping on each of the diamond scales. Rather than perfect points, his scales looked like they were overlapping like a real cone you would pick up under a tree.



Above: Doug E.'s realistic-scaled pinecones.

Below: Becky B's finished sled from the November 2nd project, and a realistic pinecone-in-progress. Some scales carved, others marked in with pencil.



Above: Warren's pinecones and antler stand.

Below: Project in Woodcarving Illustrated.



Monthly Meeting Minutes for Flickertail Woodcarvers

December 7, 2024



Call to Order by President Cliff Orgaard

19 members were present, with another dropping by briefly.

Secretary's Report: Becky Barnes

Secretary's Report – Motioned as read by Eric Gaasland, seconded by Diane Lehman-Turck.

Treasurer's Report: Warren Schlecht

Balance is at \$4,792.47, with everything up to date. A financial audit was completed by Gretchen D., and will be reported later. Motioned as read by Eric Gaasland, seconded by Diane Lehman-Turck.

Committee Reports

Membership (Doug Smith): Not present.

Programs (Eric Gaasland): The next Whittle-In project will feature Snow Snakes, with Mike Knudson.

[Wesley Hathaway](#) is tentatively scheduled for the 2025 Spring carving class, sometime in May. Just need to fine-tune the contract. The subject will be a Norwegian dragon head shoulder mount.

Publicity (Becky Weisgerber): Nothing new right now.

Property (Becky Weisgerber): No change.

Library (Todd Engelstad): The books donated from Ruth Graf on chip carving have been integrated in the library.

Historian (Clara Yonker): Not present.

Facebook (Eric Gaasland): Still getting interactions.

Website (Becky Barnes): The new Library catalog has been updated online. Information PDFs are available on the [Snow Daze Carve In](#), April 25-27, 2025.

Buckstop Junction Upgrades (Doug Emerson, Bob Pedigo, Mike Knudson, Warren Schlecht, Cliff Orgaard, Todd Engelstad): Done with the case project - and purchased a gold colored aluminum 4x6" plaque displaying gratitude to Troy Frieze and Interior Woodworks for all their hard work.

Nominating Committee: Club positions of Treasurer, Program Chairperson, and Physical Properties Chairperson are up for election. Warren S. has said he is willing to continue on with Treasurer, Eric G. has said he will continue with Programs, and Matt H. said he would be willing to act as Physical Properties Chair. Elections will be during the February meeting.

Old Business

Only one person took the QR code Survey during the Annual Show - so there wasn't much to report on!

Vinyl Signs will be designed and priced out sometime this winter during Becky B.'s downtime, along with new table covers.

The Beginning Carving Class was a success! Numbers varied class-to-class, but at maximum there were 13 people present. Class evaluations indicated we're doing a good job. Thank you to all the project leaders - these classes wouldn't happen without you.

New Business

Whittle-In Project: Thank you Cliff Orgaard for the Christmas Bell carving project.

Demonstration requests have come in through the website and email.

- Martin Luther Grade School, November 25 - Cliff O. demonstrated carving hearts to their 5th graders.
- Theodore Jamison Elementary Class, December 9 - will be led by Bob P., Warren S., Todd E., and Cliff O.
- Post Adopt Dad's Retreat, scheduled for April 12th at Trinity - we have agreed to demonstrate, but will need more volunteers to make it a success. This will be a 2-hour long class, with about 10 people. Bob P. and Todd E. have indicated interest. The more the merrier.
- ND Asian-American Arts and Cultural Initiative Cultural Expo, May 17th at the Heritage Center - Cliff O. will see if they are still accepting tables, but the club would be willing to demonstrate or have a show-and-tell table during their event.

Winter Celebration at Hillside Aquatic Park on February 15, 2025. The Parks waived the rental fee - very kind of them.

- At this point we do not have a specific project / instructor planned. Dennis R. might be able to teach his golf ball carving caricatures. Becky W. said she could also teach her cupcake box. Perhaps a couple of smaller projects instead of a larger one. If you have an idea or

other suggestions, please let us know.

Show and Tell

Warren S. brought in his finished Barry Bowers caricature. He said it was supposed to be a gnome, but ended up looking more like a Santa.

Bob P. brought some souvenirs from his trip, including a carved wooden knife from Mendoza. He said in Chile there was a gift shop with an artist-in-residence where he found an owl butter spreader, and a dish for soap or butter. The owl was out of a speckled wood, and might be leopardwood.

Matt H. showed his finished bark house.

Cathy L. had modified cacti from Eric's design, adding toothpicks to make them "stabby." She also had a finished Fairy door.

Cliff O. brought in his finished chip-carved sled, from Todd's prior project.

Meeting was adjourned.



December 7, 2024 Whittle-In Christmas Bell by Cliff Orgaard

Cliff brought in a Christmas Bell project that utilized knife and gouges - a great exercise! It had a flat back, and dimensional front.

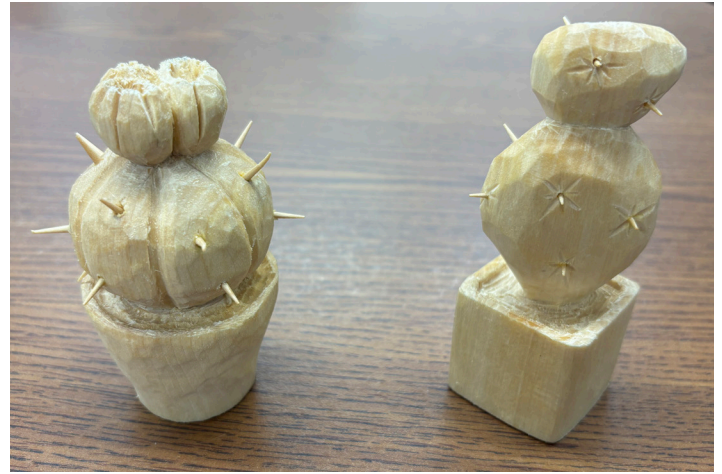
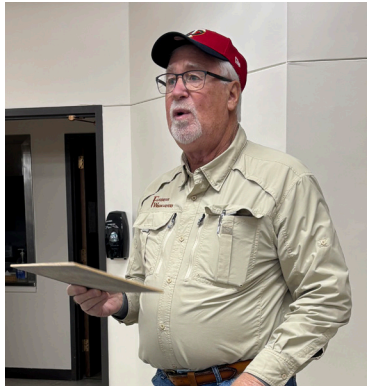


Above: Bell blanks, directions, and a couple of painted examples.



Above & Left: Various stages of Bell carving. Some started with the bottom, others began with the bow up top.

Right: Warren S. brought in a sandpaper demonstration - he took a plywood sheet, and glued different grits on opposite sides (ex. 220, 100, 320, etc.). This gives a hard flat surface to sand against, without the sanpaper buckling.



Above: Cathy L. crafted two cacti from Eric G.'s earlier project, but added toothpicks for spines.

Left: Cathy L. finished up her Fairy door. Just needs a little paint!



Above: The plaque purchased, to be installed on the display case at Buckstop Junction.



Above: Matt H. shows off his completed bark house.
Below: Cliff O. finished up a chip-carved sled.



Above: Souvenirs from Bob P.'s travels to South America. A wooden knife, and a plaque to hold soap or butter.



Left: Another of Bob's souvenirs - an owl letter opening or butter spreader, made from a speckled wood that might be leopardwood.

Right: Warren's completed gnome-turned-Santa, from Barry Bowers' class.



Above: Another snow-snake in progress.



Left: Eric G. took inspiration from Cliff's Bell project, and made himself a wooden bowtie out of butternut. The handsome piece had creases and knots carved in - all it needs is a band!



December 17, 2024 Whittle-In Snow Snakes by Mike Knudson

It's not December without Snow Snakes! This community service project involves carving pine sticks into long snake shapes, so 3rd graders can paint them and learn about Native American winter games.



Above: Mike K. managed to find some carvings by Ole the Hermit!

Below: Marlene R. brought in some gorgeous angels. The wings are not ostrich egg shells - they're super thin maple.



Above: Mark K. uses a rasp to help peel away those pesky corners.





Above: Not carving... but Becky B. was busy working on a school of plesiosaurs for her lab volunteers.



Above: Eileen H. made a cat puzzle with pyrography details.



Upcoming Events!

January 2025

4: Meeting & Whittle-In. Trinity Lutheran Church basement Fellowship Hall, 9-11am.

21: Whittle-In. Trinity Lutheran Church basement Fellowship Hall, 7-9pm.

February 2025

1: Meeting & Whittle-In. Trinity Lutheran Church basement Fellowship Hall, 9-11am. Project by Bob Pedigo – Love Spoons.

7-9: Women Outdoor Weekend: Beginning Carving class with Becky Barnes, Lake Metigoshe State Park. Registration online via [ShowClix](#) begins December 11, at Noon CST.

15: Winter Celebration at Hillside Aquatic Complex in Bismarck. Carving & Potluck!

18: Whittle-In. Trinity Lutheran Church basement Fellowship Hall, 7-9pm.

[More Calendar information is available online!](#)

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Happy New Year!

Feliz Navidad!

God Jul!

HAPPY HANUKKAH!

A Joyous KwanZaa!

Whatever you celebrate, we hope you have a joyous time with friends and family.

We'll see you all in 2025!