



The Curling Chip

September / October 2025

Fall is upon us! The leaves are changing colors, there is a crisp chill in the air, the October Annual Show has come and gone, and a new wave of future carvers are attending the Beginning Carving sessions.

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

Contributing Sources: Bob Pedigo, Becky Weisgerber, Anna Wright, Eric Gaasland

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FlickertailWoodcarversND

2025 Leadership

President: Becky Weisgerber

Past President: Cliff Orgaard

Programs: Eric Gaasland

Treasurer: Warren Schlecht

Secretary: _____

Librarian: Todd Engelstad

Historian: Clara Sherman Yonker

Membership: Doug Smith

Annual Show: Eric Gaasland

Property: Matt Hlebechuk

Publicity: Cliff Orgaard

Buckstop Gallery: Mike Knudson, Doug Emerson, Bob

Pedigo, Warren Schlecht, Cliff Orgaard, Todd Engelstad

Facebook: Eric Gaasland

Pinterest: Cindy Roth

Website: Becky Barnes



Monthly Meeting Minutes for Flickertail Woodcarvers

September 6, 2025



Call to Order by President Becky Weisgerber
10 members present
Bill Lardy joined at today's meeting.

Secretary's Report: Absent – Bob will be taking notes going forward

Treasurer's Report: Warren Schlecht

Balance is \$5,122.47 as of Sep 4. Motioned as ready by Eric Gaasland, seconded by Todd Englestad

Committee Reports

Membership (Doug Smith): not present

Programs (Eric Gaasland): Fall show next month!

Publicity (Cliff Orgaard): Not present

Property (Matt Hlebechuk): not present

Library (Todd Englestad): no changes

Historian (Clara Yonker): not present

Facebook (Eric Gaasland, Becky Barnes): Exists

Website (Becky Barnes): Up to date and receiving contacts

Old Business

- Sons of Norway thanked us for demo'ing at the Former Gov Mansion Aug 10 with a \$100 honorarium
- Upcoming demos
 - o Braddock today and tomorrow
 - o Applefest Sunday Sep 20, cars must be off grounds by 9:30am
- Reminder of Fall show theme table – Agriculture
- Raffle tickets are ready
- Bob submitted the Library chip carving display to the MyChipCarving email newsletter

New Business

- Beginner's classes – Becky will be asking previous teachers if they wish to teach again
- Church requests we wipe off the tables well today, because they have a busy "Rally Day" planned tomorrow morning.
- Would anyone be willing to teach a class through Baga? Cliff will
- Eric has the whittle-in schedule, please sign up to lead a session!

- Remaining class openings for the fall show:
 - o Rhonda Smith colored pencils – 5 openings
 - o Bob Lawrence rolling bison – 5 openings
 - o Izo Becic clock – 1 opening
- Spring carving class demonstrator still needed

Thank you Eric Gaasland for providing the Project today - Christmas light bulb caricatures.

Show and Tell:

Eric's amazing mangle board, and a chip carving - "don't pet the fart squirrels"

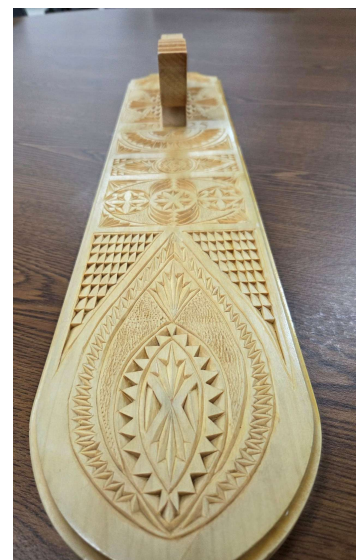
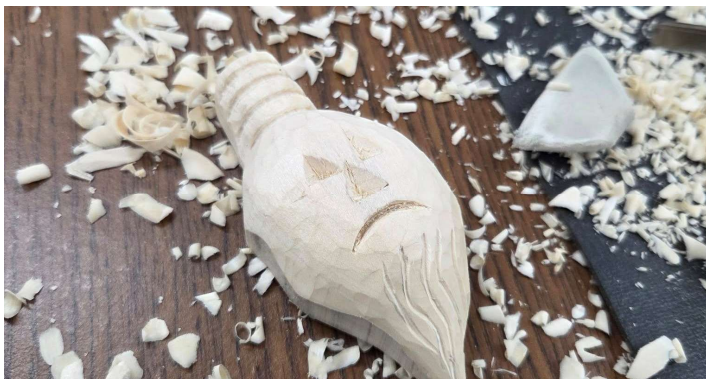
Meeting was adjourned. Todd motioned, Cathy second.



September 6, 2025 Whittle In Christmas Light Caricatures by Eric Gaasland

A smaller-than-usual gathering was held, due to the 50th Annual Threshing Bee that a good chunk of the club was demonstrating at, at the same time. Eric G. had a "bright idea" and brought in blanks to carve Christmas light caricatures. Some were happy – others broken! Oh no!

Eric also brought in a couple of chip-carved additions. His mangle board turned out awesome, and the "Don't Pet The Fart Squirrels" was a good touch of humor.



An excerpt from <https://www.mangleboard.com/>

...An ancestor of the iron and cousin of the laundry bat,

this old domestic implement was used to press or smooth laundry, i.e., to remove the folds after washing. The mangle board was a single piece of carved wood (usually oak, beech or pine), used in conjunction with a kind of rolling pin (or roller) around which a slightly damp material (towel, cloth, sheet, etc.) was tightly rolled. The person using the mangle board held the handle with her dominant hand, with the other hand placed flat near the end of the board. The mangle board was then moved over the rolling pin in a back-and-forth movement, thereby smoothing and softening the linen, a rather rough fabric.

...The mangle board, while remaining a functional object, became a courtship gift offered by the man to his bride-to-be prior to the wedding day. The beauty and quality of the mangle board were a symbol of the future husband's means. In some regions, legend has it that the mangle board was used to make a wedding proposal official. The suitor hung the board on the door of the house where the woman he wished to marry lived; if the board remained on the door, his proposal was rejected. The rejected suitor could not then offer that board to another woman.



50th Annual Threshing Bee in Braddock September 6-7, 2025

The weather for the celebration was great. This was the 50th anniversary of Threshing Bee. For a first-time attendance of this threshing bee it was an impressive site seeing all the antique tractors and equipment. The highlight of the event, besides the Flickertail Woodcarvers, would have to be the Tractor parade. It is not every day that one would get to see all of these tractors in one place.

They had demonstrations of every farm instrument from making small bales, to separating the corn from the stalks, to making silage, and much more. The highlight of this wood worker was seeing the sawmill, planer, and shake maker.

Unfortunately, I did not get to see everything that I would have liked to.

-Eric Gaasland



Above: Carving demo table set up in Braddock, ND.



September 16, 2025 Whittle-In Pumpkin Caricatures by Todd Engelstad



Above: Pumpkin caricatures by Todd E.



Left: Interesting find at an Eden Prairie, MN consignment store. No information on the mask given. A quick Google Image search gave options such as "West African", "Zulu", "South African", etc., which wasn't much help. The carving is about 20" tall, and stained with colors. The wood appears to be something similar to walnut, or other darker woods, but not ebony. Regardless, it will make a unique hanging on my shop wall. Hopefully I'll find out more about it eventually!

-Becky Barnes

AppleJam – Buckstop Junction

September 21, 2025

On September 21, Becky W., Bob P., Cathy L., and myself attended the Bismarck Cancer Center Foundation's Apple Jam Fundraiser. It was a beautiful sunny day, a great change from the week of rainy days prior. The great weather had crowds out in full force, and it was one of the most heavily attended events I've been to at Buckstop Junction. We had many opportunities to introduce people to carving. There was quite a bit of interest in new classes and the club. The business cards, with images of past projects on the back, were quite a hit.

Not only did we get a beautiful day of carving outside, but the variety of vendors was impressive. There was amazing food, local craft vendors, and great music. I was impressed by the variety and skill of the bands, and I especially enjoyed seeing some couples make an impromptu dance area at the base of the stage. It was a day of enjoyment, good entertainment, and good people. I look forward to attending again next year.

-Anna Wright



Monthly Meeting Minutes for Flickertail Woodcarvers

October 4, 2025

Call to Order by President Becky Weisgerber
23 members present

Secretary's Report: Becky Weisgerber read minutes from September 6, 2025 meeting. Motion to approve as read by Eric Gaasland, Seconded by Bob Ferderer. These were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Warren Schlecht

Balance is \$5,122.00 in the checking account. Motion to approve by Eric Gaasland, Seconded by Todd Engelstad. These were approved.



Committee Reports

Membership (Doug Smith): no report

Programs (Eric Gaasland): We still have openings for people to lead meeting and whittle-in projects. If you can help out, contact Eric.

For our annual show there is still one opportunity in Izo Becic traditional carved clock class, 4 openings in Bob Lawrence rolling buffalo class, and 4 openings in Rhonda Smith colored pencil class. Contact Eric to Register.

The first two days of Izo's class will be at United Church of Christ, 1200 East Highland Acres Road, Bismarck. Class starts at 9:00, can set up at 8:00.

There will be a potluck get-together at 6:00pm, Friday, October 10 at the Hampton Inn, near Bismarck State College campus. There will be no Saturday evening banquet after the show this year.

A carving exchange is planned for Sunday afternoon during the show. Open to everyone – bring one to get one.

Publicity (Cliff Orgaard): Cliff Orgaard has contacted the Bismarck Tribune to get our show listed in the calendar of events in the newspaper. Anna Wright and Bob Pedigo were interviewed on North Dakota Today and provided information about wood carving and our annual show on September 26. Cliff will be doing a taped interview with the local television show Studio 701 which will air on Friday, October 10, during the 9:00am hour.

Property (Matt Hlebechuk): no report

Library (Todd Englestad): We now have a new book on Chip Carving donated by Eric Gaasland.

Historian (Clara Yonker): no report

Facebook (Eric Gaasland, Becky Barnes): Things are being posted as they arise.

Website (Becky Barnes): Up to date and receiving contacts

Old Business

- See the club chip carving display at the Bismarck Public Library through October.
- Please sign up to lead a club meeting or whittle-in project. The club has wood which can be used if you need wood.
- We are looking for suggestions for future class teachers for our spring and show advanced classes.

Thank you to Becky Weisgerber who provided today's meeting project , tiny gypsy/wispy flowers.

Meeting was adjourned. Eric Gaasland moved, Todd Engelstad seconded. Approved.

October 4, 2025 Whittle In
Gypsy-Wispy Flowers
by Becky Weisgerber



Above: Still frame of Anna W. and Bob P. on the ND Today show.



Above: Still frame of Cliff O. on the Studio 701 show.



Above: Wispy flowers carved during the whittle-in.

October 9-10, 2025 Pre-Show Class
Acanthus Clock with Izo Becic

This year's extended carving class was taught by Izo Becic of Moorhead, MN. He has taught in many states, and has held a mallet & gouge class at the Wahpeton Carving Weekend for many years. The first two days of the class were held in the basement of the United Church of Christ. There were plenty of tables to work with, and many people brought their own carving stands as well. There were enough snacks and cookies available to fend off a rabid herd of 3rd graders – or at least a group of busy carvers.

Each of the eleven participants were given a clock blank cut from butternut. Izo did a combination of walking around from carver-to-carver to help guide, as well as holding mini-gatherings to demonstrate a particular spot, if enough were at the same place in their carvings.

Izo is a very patient teacher, and very helpful. He makes fun of his English, but is more than willing to demonstrate by doing, while explaining. When you want to learn – you can understand.



Above: Warren S. chats with Izo, with Anna W. and Alvin B. in the background.

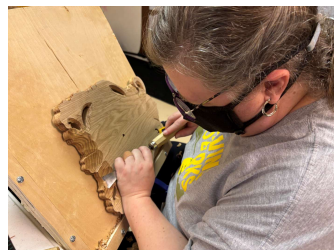


Above: Izo instructing how to go about beveling the clock face to the group, with Todd E. looking on.

Below (clockwise from top left): Todd E., Eric G., Anna W., Bob P.



Above (clockwise from top left): Alvin B., Troy F., Becky W., Marlene M.



Above: After finishing the front of the clock, the carvers needed to work on the back side too. This helps it cast dimensional shadows when hung on the wall.



Above: Todd E. and Becky B. discuss clock anatomy.

October 11-12, 2025 54th Annual Woodcarving Show – BPS Career Academy

The acanthus clock class with Izo continued during Saturday and Sunday morning. Bob Lawrence's mini-class of "rolling bison" began as well.



Above: Izo works with Anna W. on her clock.

Below: Cathy L. carves a rolling bison.



October 10, 2025 Potluck

The Friday night potluck was again held at the Hampton Inn, just off of the Bismarck State College campus. There were crockpots of chili, pulled pork, soups, and side dishes galore. Salads, chips, and treats, but a little grumbling over the quality of the coffee. It was a good time to catch up with our out-of-town friends.



Above: Rolling bison blanks and demo pieces. A bucket of paints was also available for those that finished with the carving, and wanted to color their critters.



Above: Bob shows his class some painting ideas for their rolling bison.



Above: The rolling bison class participants.



Above: A nearly finished clock. The numbers and dials will be installed after the clock is clear-coated.



Above: The raffle table was filled with all kinds of carvings. Chip-carved ornaments and trivets, bark carving, boxes, cell-phone holders, reliefs, in-the-round, caricatures, scroll-saw & resin, and even golf balls!



Above: The acanthus clock class participants.

There wasn't an official Saturday banquet this year, but a few people ended up gathering at HuHot Mongolian BBQ. Unfortunately the non-carving class was cancelled this year.



Above: Some of Izo Becic's carvings. Scrollwork crosses and clocks, oak-leaf branches, and a gouge-chip-carved box.



Above: Alvin's project for October 21st was just ducky!



Above: Becky B. standing on a chair to get more of a whole-room effect. Eric G. assisting with holding up a clock carving.



Above: Those attending the Whittle-in on October 21st.

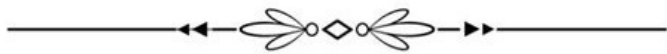
I enjoyed the chance to come back to Bismarck. I know I haven't been gone long, but I have missed the bi-monthly get-togethers of the Flickertails. You truly are an amazing and talented group, and should be proud.

Thank you to the vendors, instructors, class participants, club members, friends, family, and new carvers.

-Becky Barnes

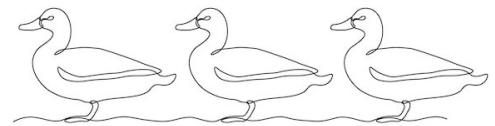


Above: Becky W. working with the Beginning class.



October 14, 21, & 28, 2025
Beginning Carving Classes

The Beginner Carving class kicked off on the first Tuesday after the show ended. It will be taught for eight Tuesdays evenings, sometimes coinciding with the regular Whittle-In session, such as on October 21st.



October 30, 2025
Wood from the Hood

I am continuing my exploration of the Twin Cities area to locate other carving opportunities, and wood suppliers. I'll space them out in different Curling Chip submissions, but figured I would start with one whose name caught my attention: Wood from the Hood.



The name sounded unique, so I scoured their website and social media pages before visiting. Every trip out here is a 20-40 minute drive from my house, so I want to make sure it's a place worth visiting (or make sure I can knock out a few errands in one venture).

"The idea came to Cindy and Rick Siewert as they watched an old Ash tree being cut down in the backyard of their Minneapolis home. Losing their neighborhood tree was hard enough, but hauling it to a landfill was not an option. With a family history in the commercial cabinetry business since 1965, the Siewert's knew the life of this tree didn't have to end because it was being removed."

Excerpt from <https://woodfromthehood.com/about/>

They take in trees being cut down in urban areas – construction casualties, remodeling, preventative, etc. – trees that are not specifically being harvested for lumber, and reclaim them. Instead of grinding them up or throwing them away, they slab them up, kiln dry the lumber, and sell them to the public. They keep the zip code where the tree was removed tagged to the tree throughout the process, so people can see exactly where they came from!

Walking inside, there is a selection of finished products such as cribbage boards, decorative trees and coasters, iPad stands, cutting and charcuterie boards, and bottle openers. Past that there are stacks of wood and cookies. Some are large lumber pieces at 4/4, 6/4, and 8/4 (1", 1.5", and 2") thicknesses, of varying widths and lengths. Other interesting boards that wouldn't have enough material for a full-on lumber board were marked as "artist specials". Cool colors, spalting, textures, and shapes. There were also two cut-off bins marked \$1/pound (walnut \$2/pound).

The prices seemed very fair. Common trees like Ash, Oak, Maple, Walnut, and Cedar were mixed with other trees you don't see as much, like Catalpa, Honey Locust, Hackberry, and Elm.



Above: Sections of Walnut – plenty of straight grain, but the textures in these boards were just gorgeous.

Below: American Elm. At left, subtle grain and honey colors. At right, spalting and unique color shifting.



-Becky Barnes