



# The Curling Chip

November / December 2025

Winter is blowing and snowing, but it can't keep us down. Members new and old continued to gather and share carving fellowship. We finished up the year with two more meetings, Whittle-Ins, the Winter Celebration, and Beginner Carving Classes (which began in October). Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!

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)

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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

November 1, 2025



## **Call to Order** by President Becky Weisgerber

21 members present, with 3 new carvers attending. Total of 24 people  
Were present.

## **Secretary's Report:** Bob Pedigo read minutes from October 5, 2025, meeting.

Motion to Approve– Cliff Orgaard, Seconded– Eric Gaasland. These were approved.

## **Treasurer's Report:** Warren Schlecht

Treasurer Warren Schlecht provided treasurer's report. Balance of \$4735.47 in checking account with all bills paid.  
Motion to Approve – Eric Gaasland, Seconded-Cliff Orgaard. These were approved.

## **Committee Reports**

**Membership** (Doug Smith): No report

**Programs** (Eric Gaasland): For next years featured show carver Eric has contacted Alex Yerks – Swedish Bowl, Bill Jaeger – Swedish Flat Plane, Wesley Hathaway – Norwegian Dragon Head. No commitment from any of these three at this time.

For our Spring class, it was suggested that we try to contact Dick Skauge for a Bellamy Eagle carving project in Butternut wood. The consensus is that is a good choice, and Eric will contact him.

Winter Celebration was discussed. After discussion the group decided that a full day in December would be chosen to have an "Ornament Day" which is like that which the Garrison club has held in the past. A few instructors will provide cutouts for ornaments, and each project should take approximately two hours to complete and then continue to the next project led by the next instructor. The preferred date is Saturday, December 13.

**Publicity** (Cliff Orgaard): Nothing new.

**Property** (Matt Hlebechuk): No report.

**Library** (Todd Englestad): We now have three new books just added to the library.

**Historian** (Clara Yonker): No report.

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

## **Old Business**

Warren Schlecht reported that he purchased five chip carving knives related to the October meeting discussion. It was decided that Warren should sell those to interested new carvers if they want to have a better chip carving knife rather than purchasing by the club.

Please sign up to lead a whittle-in session. Remember, the club has wood for club projects if you need it. Dates open are Jan 20, Mar 7, Mar 16, Apr 4, Apr 21 and May 19, 2026.

## New Business

Bob P. brought back all the carvings from the Bismarck Public Library display to return to members who loaned them. They are available in the parking lot after the meeting ends.

We need to consider a new theme for another library display in the future since the library has invited us back in the future. Bob P will contact the library to check available dates and report at the December meeting.

Elections are to be held in February for club officers. We need to form a nominating committee which President Becky Weisgerber will begin.

### ***New facility for Fall show discussion.***

The current cost for rental of the Bismarck Career Academy continues to rise. The club is considering holding our show in another location. Since the number of carvers who have displayed is decreasing the consensus that a smaller facility may be a better choice. Cliff Orgaard has visited the Bismarck Eagles and believes that facility has ample space and could be rented for \$300 for an entire weekend. The Bismarck Eagles has an on-site restaurant and could cook burgers and deliver them to our tables. There is an opening for the weekend of October 10-11, 2026, which is currently the only available weekend in October.

Cliff can reserve the facility with no deposit and no penalty if we cancel. Members feel the month of October works for our show but should not rule out late September or early November, however, most feel the October dates are preferable. The consensus is to keep the October dates if possible. Two of our new members have worked at the Mandan Eagles and agreed to contact the manager there to discuss possible dates and prices as well. The location is still not finalized but the membership agreed that Cliff should contact the Bismarck Eagles to hold October 10-11, 2026, for our show.

Thank you to Warren Schlecht who provided today's meeting project, a personified drippy candle.

**Meeting was adjourned.** Motion to adjourn, Moved – Eric Gaasland, Second – Todd Engelstad. Approved.



## November 1, 2025 Whittle In Drippy Candles by Warren Schlecht



# Monthly Meeting Minutes for Flickertail Woodcarvers

December 6, 2025



## **Call to Order** by President Becky Weisgerber

Meeting called to order by President Becky Weisgerber. 15 members total present of which four were new carvers in the beginner class.

**Secretary's Report:** Bob Pedigo read minutes from November 1, 2025, meeting. Motion to Approve— Eric Gaasland, Seconded— Michaela B. These were approved.

## **Treasurer's Report:** Warren Schlecht

Balance of \$4990 in checking account with all bills paid. Motion to Approve – Eric Gaasland, Seconded – Michaela B. These were approved.

## **Committee Reports**

**Membership** (Doug Smith): No report

**Programs** (Eric Gaasland): Program Chairperson Eric Gaasland updated on programs. Alex Yerks responded to contacts, but nothing is firm at this point for fall show. Dick Skauge is willing to teach a spring 2026 class suggesting a female face in relief. Dates to be determined.

**Publicity** (Cliff Orgaard): Nothing new.

**Property** (Matt Hlebechuk): No report.

**Library** (Todd Englestad): Nothing new.

**Historian** (Clara Yonker): No report.

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

## **Old Business**

Winter Celebration is set for next Saturday, Dec 13 all day at Highland Acres United Church of Christ. Potluck to follow about 4:30 PM. We must be out of the space by 7:00 because the church has another function then. Please sign up to lead a whittle-in session. Remember, the club has wood for club projects if you need it. Dates open are Jan 20, Mar 7, Mar 16, Apr 4, Apr 21 and May 19, 2026.

Cliff Orgaard reported that the Mandan Eagles has no dates for October 2026 for the show and that they are only open on Saturdays. Mandan Eagles will not be suitable for our fall show. The Bismarck Eagles location has been reserved for October 11, 12, 2026. It is possible that we may also use the space at the Eagles on Thursday and Friday for the class prior to the show. Moved – Doug Emerson, Seconded – Todd Englestad, Motion approved to hold our fall show at the Bismarck Eagles.

## **New Business**



Bob P. reports the dates of August through October 2026 are reserved for another display of carvings at the Bismarck library. One suggested theme is caricature carvings, but others could be considered. The theme is to be determined at a future meeting.

Elections are to be held in February for club officers. We need to form a nominating committee which President Becky Weisgerber will begin.

Cliff has been contacted about free basswood to be donated to our club. It must be picked up in Minot if we want it. Bob P agreed to contact the individual and arrange for a trip to Minot to get the wood.

Warren S. reported that a woman from Woodworth has a stump she'd like someone to chain saw carve something on it. It was suggested that Josh Epping be contacted to see if he has interest.

### Show and Tell:

Becky W showed a sasquatch, Michaela showed a praying Horned Owl to replace one for a coworker which was stolen from a work location. Eric showed a chip carved rolling pin.

Thank you to Cliff Orgaard who provided today's meeting project, an icicle snowman.

**Meeting was adjourned.** Motion to adjourn, Moved – Todd Englestad, Second – Doug Emerson. Approved



December 6, 2025 Whittle In

Icicle Snowman

by Cliff Orgaard



A big Thank-You to Cliff for leading the group in carving an icicle snowman.

How do you get a snowman to calm down? Ask them to chill out.

How does a snowman get to work?  
By icicle.

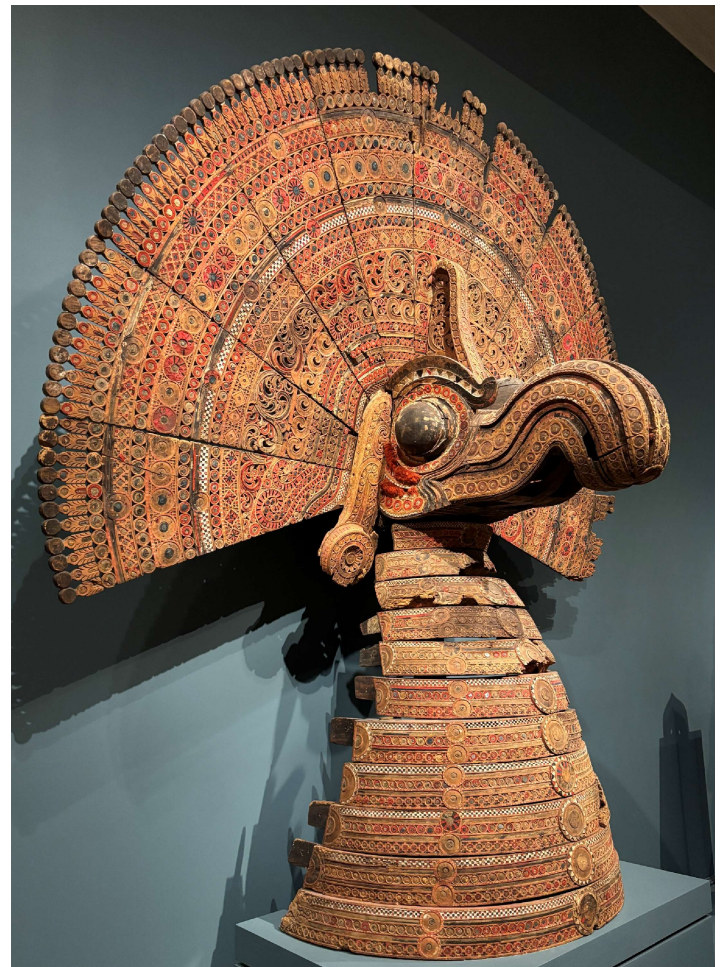
What award did the snowman win?  
Best in snow.

What is a snowman's favorite game?  
Freeze tag.

What is a snowman's favorite food?  
Brrrrrrrgers!

December, 2025

Minneapolis Institute of Art





There are many wood carvings inside the [Minneapolis Institute of Art](#), and examples of wooden architecture as well. The first piece I'll highlight is the "Processional image of a Large Swan." The carving is filled with intricate details, and a multitude of mixed-media additions. The plaque next to it reads:

"India

**Processional image of a Large Swan** (Velya Annam), Kerala, 19<sup>th</sup> century Jackfruit wood, pigments, cloth, mirrors, beetle wings, paper

This radiating "large swan" bust would have formed part of a processional structure measuring more than 40 feet tall. Unique to the Neelamperoor Pally Bhagavathi Temple, in the southwestern coastal state of Kerala, it was commissioned as an effigy of the goddess Kali during the Pooram Padayani festival. It is believed that once Kali was satisfied, she could assume the benevolent role of fertility goddess and bless the harvest of the once largely farm-based economy.

The elaborately constructed effigy remains a highlight of this annual ritual. It is remarkable that an essentially ephemeral processional sculpture of this scale, age, and quality is so well preserved. The fluid integration of varied materials (cloth, mirrors, pigment, and wood) into a mesmerizing pattern demonstrates the wonders of Kerala's ritual aesthetics."



been a glinting wonder to see in sunlight with all the reflectors intact.



December 13, 2025

## Winter Celebration

This year's Winter Celebration was moved to December, instead of January/February, so people could make ornament ahead of the holidays. Instead of one big project (like the Book Worm), multiple smaller and faster ornament-themed carvings were spaced out. Need a Dumpster-Fire for the past year? We've got it. A chip-carved sled for some carefree fun? No problem! Or maybe you've thrown your hands up in the air, and need a DIY ornament (just add glue). Following the carving was a potluck meal. Members made sure to have everything cleaned up and moved out by 7pm, as the church had another event following the Winter Celebration.



As you move around the sculpture, the mirrors and beetle wings would reflect the light. It would have



