



The Curling Chip

January / February 2026

We had a great start to the year. New carvers are joining up, new people volunteering for club officer positions, and many carving opportunities are coming up. Warm days, cold days, sunny days, snowy days – ALL make great carving days.

Thank you to those providing project ideas – spoons, fish, dumpsters and more. If you have an idea for the group to carve, please speak up! The club has wood for projects.

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, Eric Gaasland, Doug Emerson

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FlickertailWoodcarversND

2025 Leadership

President: Becky Weisgerber

Past President: Cliff Orgaard

Programs: Eric Gaasland

Treasurer: Warren Schlecht

Secretary: Amanda Person

Librarian: Cathy Lash

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



Dakota West Arts Council



NORTH DAKOTA COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

Monthly Meeting Minutes for Flickertail Woodcarvers

January 3, 2026



Call to Order by Eric Gaasland
15 members present

Secretary's Report: Bob Pedigo read minutes from December 6, 2025, meeting.
Motion to Approve— Doug E. Seconded— Warren S. These were approved.

Treasurer's Report (Warren Schlecht): Balance of \$4965.47 in checking account, with all bills paid. Motion to Approve
– Val, Seconded – Anna W. These were approved.

Committee Reports

Membership (Doug Smith): No report

Programs (Eric Gaasland): Alex Yerks has not responded to contacts. 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): No report.

Historian (Clara Yonker): No report.

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

Old Business

Winter Celebration was held on Saturday, Dec 13, 2025 with several small projects being completed.

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

Elections are to be held at the February 7, meeting.

Cliff was contacted about free basswood to be donated to our club. Bob P. is driving to Minot after today's meeting to get the wood.

New Business

Doug Emerson brought a box for heart carving donations and put it on the top of the library cabinet. Anyone donating hearts to the Bismarck Cancer Center should give them to Doug or put them in the box in Doug's absence.

The club received an inquiry from the Benedictine Living Center with interest in someone from the club to provide a short talk on wood carving to the men's group there. Bob P. replied to the e-mail and has received no response from them.

Cliff O., Alvin B., and Bob P. taught a class to the fifth-grade students at United Tribes Elementary School. The class went well and eleven students each completed carving two Christmas ornaments.

Snow-Daze carving weekend in St. Cloud, MN is to be held on April 24, 25, 26, 2026.

Wahpeton carving weekend dates have been changed to June 5, 6, 7, 2026 instead of the last full weekend in June.

Show and Tell

Tim Miller brought a Snoopy dog carving along with a very nice rose carved in relief. Doug Emerson showed a Turtle and a Whale he recently purchased while in Hawaii. Bob P. showed his Norwegian Ale Bowl and a Christmas bell that he finally painted after they sat on his bench for too long.

Thank you to Eric Gaasland who provided today's meeting project.

Meeting was adjourned. Motion to adjourn, Moved – Amanda, Second – Alvin. Approved.



January 3, 2026 Whittle In Snow Snakes & Cancer Hearts



Each year the Flickertails work with local schools to make Snow Snakes, to help learn about Indigenous peoples' winter games. Mike Knudson works as contact between the club and classes. Above you can see a snow snake on the middle of the table. The teachers said there wasn't a lot of snow to work with, but they made due with what was there, before the warm temperatures erased what little was left. The kids also had a contest for the most realistic, and most fanciful snakes (right).





Top 3: Snow-snakes painted by students.

Above: Ale bowl carved by Bob Pedigo.

Right: Snoopy carved by Tim Miller.



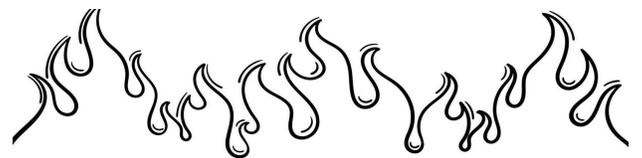
Above: Bell (left) by Bob Pedigo. Rose (right) by Tim Miller.



Below: Members gathering together for carving.



Above, and above right: Whale and turtle purchased by Doug Emerson from Hawaii.



January 20, 2026 Whittle In Dumpster Fire By Eric Gaasland

Eric brought in a larger version of the mini-dumpster fire that was done for the Winter Celebration. Some people had flames, others looked like an invasion of trash pandas (raccoons). Some dumpsters were pristine, and others covered in painted rust.



Above: The smaller ornament-sized dumpster fire.

Below: The larger, more serious dumpster fires.



Above: A “trash panda” (raccoon) makes an appearance in one of the dumpsters. Some people are working on dumpster fires, others their own projects. There was chip-carving out, and a wooden succulent/cactus as well.

Monthly Meeting Minutes for Flickertail Woodcarvers

February 7, 2026



Call to Order by President Becky Weisgerber
17 members were present.

Secretary's Report (Cathy Lash): Bob P. read minutes from January 3, 2026, meeting.
Motion to Approve— Eric G. Seconded— Cliff O. These were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Warren Schlecht

Balance of \$4700 in checking account with all bills paid. Motion to Approve – Eric G., Seconded – Val. These were approved.

Committee Reports

Membership (Doug Smith): No report

Programs (Eric Gaasland): Alex Yerks has not responded to contacts. Dick Skauge is teaching a Spring class on April 10-12, 2026. Project is a female face in relief. Cost is \$160 which includes one cutout. Contact Eric to sign up.

We still have openings for a member to lead a meeting or whittle-in project April 4 & 21 and May 2 & 19.

Publicity (Cliff Orgaard): Due to the change in our upcoming fall show location the street signs we use to advertise the show need to be updated to show our new location. If you have any signs, bring them back and they can be updated prior to needing them for the fall show.

Property (Matt Hlebechuk): No report.

Library (Todd Englestad > Cathy Lash): Becky W. donated books. Todd will go through them and add to the library. Any duplicates will be used for the silent auction at the fall show.

Historian (Clara Yonker): No report.

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

Old Business

Please sign up to lead a whittle-in session. Remember, the club has wood for club projects if you need it. Dates open - Apr 4, Apr 21 and May 2, May 19, 2026.

Bob P. drove to Minot after January's meeting to get the wood which was donated to our club. The wood is now at Eric's for use for club projects. Contact Eric if you need wood for a project.

The person who donated the wood has requested a small carving in exchange for the free wood. Bob P is asking for anyone who wishes to help out with this to give him a call. Bob will give an acanthus love spoon, which was made from the donated wood, to the man in Minot who transported the wood from Bottineau.

The Benedictine Center in Bismarck contacted Bob P to provide a talk on woodcarving for their men's group which will be on February 19 at 1:30.

Snow-Daze carving weekend in St. Cloud, MN is to be held on April 24, 25, 26, 2026.

Wahpeton carving weekend dates have been changed to June 5, 6, 7, 2026 instead of the last full weekend in June. The [Wahpeton brochure](#) is now out.

New Business

The Bismarck Public Library display for this year needs to have the theme of the display decided. After discussion it was approved that the theme for this year will be caricature carvings. Moved – Warren S., Second – Eric G. Motion was approved.

Becky W. mentioned that our club is a 501 (c) 3 designated organization and employers may donate to our club as a tax-exempt organization for Giving Hearts Day.

The Vesterheim Museum in Iowa is asking for entries for an upcoming event. Becky W. has the post card if anyone is interested.

A local veteran's support group, rallypointnd.com, has contacted the club website to inquire about adding woodcarving for their veteran's activities. Bob P. agreed to call them.

Elections

The following officers were elected by voice vote at today's meeting.

Secretary – Amanda Person

Librarian – Cathy Lash

President-Elect – Becky Weisgerber

Bob P. moved the presented slate of officers be approved, Second Warren S. Motion Approved.

The following upcoming events were discussed for club participation:

May 30, 2026 – Asian-American Cultural Group has asked the club to display again this year. Becky W. will lead.

June 19/20, 2026 – Bluegrass Goes Pink is scheduled. The club typically demonstrates carving just outside the Cross Ranch State Park Visitor Center. It was agreed to continue that again this year.

August 1/2, 2026 – Capital Affair Demonstrations.

September 12/13, 2026 - Southwest Steam Threshers in Braddock, ND have invited us to demonstrate again this year. It was decided the club will continue again this year.

September 20, 2026 – Apple Jam will take place at Buckstop Junction.

September 27, 2026 – Bill Nelson gave information on an event new to us, Teddy Roosevelt Days, to take place at McDowell Dam Park. Bill said we would be able to show carvings, demonstrate carving, and possibly allow some of the young attendees to try soap carving since they would be too young to work with sharp tools. Amanda P. agreed to take the lead on this.

Show and Tell:

Cliff O showed a carved bunny he completed. Alvin B. showed several chip carvings.

Thank you to Bob P who provided today's meeting project, an Acanthus leaf love spoon.

Meeting was adjourned. Motion to adjourn, Moved – Cliff O., Second – Eric G. Approved

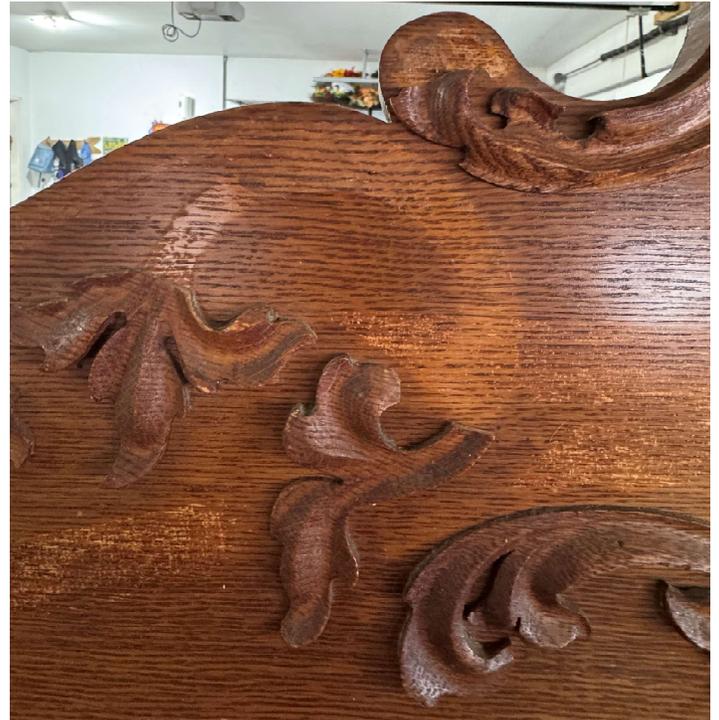


February 7, 2025 Whittle In
Acanthus Spoon
by Bob Pedigo

Each year Bob comes up with a new Love Spoon project for the club. These are loosely based off of the Welsh Love Spoon tradition, where a young man vying for the attention of a lady might carve a spoon to show their interest and skill. If she accepts the spoon – then things move forward in the dating department. If she rejects it? Well – live another day, carve another spoon.



Rather than try and trace, mail, measure, and guess back and forth from ND to MN – Becky asked Bob P. if he would like to tackle the project and keep it local. Bob has repaired a number of other furniture pieces in the past, and said he would look at it.



Bob has come up with hearts, folding spoons, layered Prairie Roses, and more. This year he worked up an acanthus leaf styled spoon.

Fitting right into the acanthus theme, Becky B. was contacted by the sister (Anne) of a friend about carving missing pieces on an old bed headboard that had scrollwork appliques. Her daughter's goal was to upcycle it, repair, paint, and turn it into a shelf.



Thankfully one half of the headboard was complete, so there was something to copy the design from. Bob worked his magic, and since it was being painted over instead of stained, he was able to mimic the missing pieces using basswood instead of oak, which sped things up. Anne was amazed and sent an email gushing with praise.



Great job Bob! Thank you for connecting with Anne, and fixing up the soon-to-be shelf.



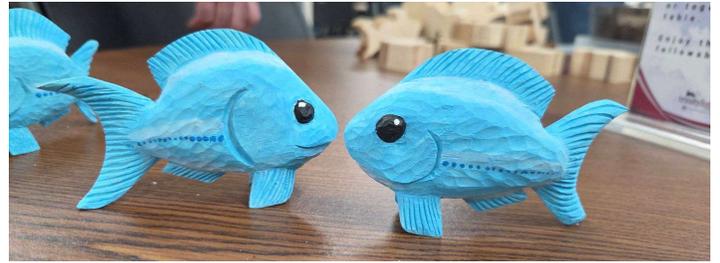
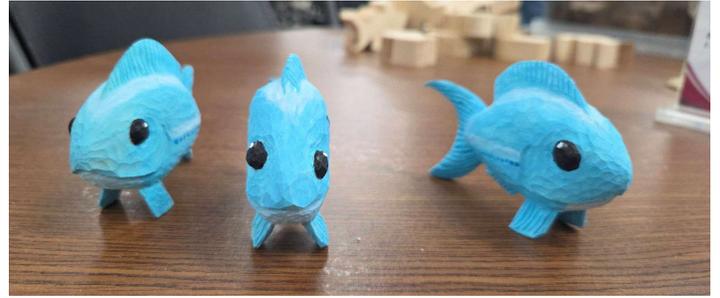
February 7, 2025 Whittle In

Arizona Sand Guppy

by Dave Stetson via Doug Emerson

Doug found a great article in a 2000 Wood Carving Illustrated magazine (spring 2000) written by Dave Stetson featuring sand guppy (*Gupus arizonia*). According to the article, it's a relative of the "stick-

lizard", is blue because of the turquoise sand it eats, and has great big eyes to protect itself from the Arizona sun. It might just be a relative of the bug-eyed fish we carved earlier too! Thank you Doug for the fun project.



Above: A whole school of Arizona Sand Guppies!

Below: Carvers working on fish and other projects.



Woodcarvers Challenge

A Review by Becky Barnes

There is a relatively new group on Facebook that might interest those of you on the Social Media platform.

The page is called “Woodcarvers Challenge” – and each month they put forth a challenge that lasts until the last week or so of the month. At that point everyone votes for their favorite, and the new “winner” chooses what the next month’s challenge will be.

I joined up in January, and the challenge was to make a small person, no larger than 1” x 1” x 2”. I wrote the end-date wrong, thus didn’t get into the actual voting round, but it was a fun challenge. My daughter suggested I make “A bearded man wearing a slouchy hat, drinking a glass of beer, with a content smile” – yeah, thanks kid... it’s tiny and I don’t carve people!

There’s no prize, and it’s a very supportive group. It’s fun to read the stories behind peoples’ carvings – like last month, which was to carve what from the outside looked like a “small moment,” but made a lasting impression on the carver. Quite the task. December was a Santa face, and March is to be something St. Patrick’s day related (leprechaun, gold, beer, rainbow, shamrock, etc.). From the looks of it, most people just lurk and enjoy the page, and carve something when they’re inspired – it’s not mandatory to carve something every month, which could be daunting.



I believe it at least somewhat fills the niche the World Wide Carving Exchange had – but without the exchange part. That was a year-round Secret Santa project, where if you wanted to participate you would send your contact info to the website. You were then

given someone else’s contact info. You could carve anything in the category listed to mail off, and you would receive one in return. Sadly I discovered that site shortly before Covid shut it down, and was only able to do one exchange!



Upcoming Events

March 17: Whittle-In

April 4: Meeting & Whittle-In

April 10-12: Spring Carving Class with Dick Skauge – Female face in profile.

April 18-19: Dakota Woodturners Annual Spring Symposium, BSC.

April 21: Whittle-In

April 24-26: Snow Daze Carve-In, St. Cloud, MN

May 2: Meeting & Whittle-In

May 9-10: Prairie Canada Carvers’ Association Annual Show and Competition

May 19: Whittle-In

May 30: NDAACI demonstration table at BSC

June 5-7: Wahpeton Carving Weekend *please note – earlier than usual!*

June 16: Summer picnic at Sertoma Shelter #5

July 21: Summer picnic at Sertoma Shelter #5

August 1-2: Capitol A’Fair demonstration table

August 16: Hootenanny demonstration table at Buckstop Junction

August 18: Summer picnic at Sertoma Shelter #5

More events are listed on the [Flickertail website calendar](#) – if you have anything to add, send an email!