



# The Curling Chip

March / April 2026

It was a very busy spring, with meetings, gatherings, and more. As we geared up for Snow Daze outside of St. Cloud, MN, we mourned the cancelling of the annual Wahpeton Carving weekend. Hopefully it will be back on schedule next year! There were too many events overlapping, and instructors pulled away.

Spring is the perfect weather to sit outside in the sun and make some wood chips – hopefully everyone is getting a little chance to enjoy the weather!

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>

[FlickertailWoodcarversND@gmail.com](mailto:FlickertailWoodcarversND@gmail.com)



FlickertailWoodcarversND

## 2026 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



# Monthly Meeting Minutes for Flickertail Woodcarvers

March 7, 2026



**Call to Order** by President Becky Weisgerber  
15 members present, no guests

**Secretary's Report** (Amanda Person): Bob P. read the minutes from the last meeting.  
Eric motioned to approve, and Cliff seconded.

**Treasurer's Report** (Warren Schlecht): Warren reports the total is \$5,204.47, with all bills paid. Eric motioned to approve, and Todd seconded.

## Committee Reports

**Membership** (Doug Smith): Warren made the report - there are many members who still need to pay their 2026 dues.

**Programs** (Eric Gaasland):

Spring Class:

Dick Skauge - relief of female face from the side. Sign up is still open (only 2 people are taking this class so far). The Class is scheduled for April 10-12, 2026 at the Hillside Community Center.

Fall Show:

-Eric is still trying to contact Alex for the fall show. Eric is thinking about reaching out to Mary Wagner (from Jamestown) for a Ukrainian Egg project.

-There are still openings for whittle-in projects in April and May, as well as for fall and spring projects. Please see Eric with ideas.

**Publicity** (Cliff Orgaard): Cliff taught a BAGA class, which was a success. There is an opportunity to have a table for a demo/info about the club during an event on July 16th, 2026, from 2:00 to 6:00 pm at the USDA Agricultural Research Laboratory (south of Mandan). Cliff will be there, please let him know if you are also able to attend.

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

**Library** (Cathy Lash): No report.

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

**Facebook & Website** (Eric Gaasland, Becky Barnes): -Eric has put the club schedule (from now through May) on the Dakota West Art Council's website.

-Facebook posts are updated as needed.

-The Norsk Hostfest is no more. The "Save Norsk Hostfest" Fjord Fest is planned for August 21 & 22, 2026 at the Minot Auditorium. Should the club attend with a display or offer classes?

## Old Business

- Please sign up to lead a whittle-in session - remember the club has wood for these projects if you need it. Open dates: April 4, April 21, May 2, & May 19
- There is a donation box for hearts on top of the Library Cabinet
- Please remember to donate any carvings for upcoming raffle prizes.
- Doug states that the Buckstop Junction Committee would like new carved items to display in June. Please have things ready by the end of May.
- The Bismarck Public Library display will be for the month of August. Please remember the theme will be caricatures and have things ready by the last week of July.
- Bob talked at the Benedictine Center for about 20 attendees.
- Bob was approached by Rally Point ND (a local veteran's support group). The club's information will be put on their website, and Bob volunteered to give a talk at one of their upcoming meetings.

## New Business

- We had to sign a liability form to use the church premises, which includes indemnification against slip-and-fall injuries in the parking lot. Please be careful!!
- Todd Englestad provided the project today: a penguin caricature. There are instructions on YouTube under ddalo "carve a little penguin" video, found here: (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YX2pNdpg9Jo>).

## Show and Tell

- Bob showed a woman's high-heeled cowboy boot
- Cliff showed a love spoon
- Eric showed a fish carved using a Norwegian technique called Kroting
- Bob posted a how-to about chip carving Butternut on MyChipCarving.com

**Meeting was adjourned.** The meeting was adjourned: Todd motioned to approve, and Eric seconded.



March 7, 2026 Whittle In  
ddalo's "Carve A Little Penguin"  
Provided by Todd Englestad

If you haven't checked out ddalo's YouTube channel



yet, I highly recommend it. He periodically comes out with adorable carvings and works through step-by-step each cut. There are generally no words spoken, rather it's all pointing and showing the piece off from different angles. As you can see from the penguins from the video screenshot on the previous page, they all have the same basic feel, but there is some individuality in the carvings as well. One scarf is solid, another has fringes, some have more wrinkles than the others... while one hat has ribbing, another a top pom-pom, etc.. So he gives you the basic pattern, and from that you can go wild with details of your own choosing.



Above is his "Carving a Little Black Cat", and below is "Carving a Little Grim Reaper".



He also has painting videos for those of you interested in painting techniques. Everything is very easy to follow along with.



Above: Todd's demo-carvings for the Whittle-In.



Above: Flickertail member work on their penguins.

## Tree Spotlight: Tupelo

*Nyssa sp.*

Tupelo is a small deciduous tree in the genus *Nyssa*, named after the water nymphs of Greek mythology. Most Tupelo is tolerant of (or needs) wet soil and areas that flood – perfect for a water nymph. The trees have broad alternating leaves which turn red, yellow, or even purple in autumn. It is a relatively slow growing tree, reaching 12-15 feet in height in a decade, with a mature height of 40-70 feet tall. The trunk is mostly straight, with a flared bottom similar to Bald Cypress.

It has many common names, such as black gum, sour gum, black tupelo, pepperidge, cotton gum, swamp gum. Five species of *Nyssa* grow in North America, from southern Ontario all the way south to Mexico, which dwell in moist areas. Three species grow in Asia, and one in Malaysia. The wood is pale yellow to light brown, with a fine texture. Tupelo wood is favored by bird carvers because it power-carves easily, and holds its shape well. At first glance Tupelo looks very similar to Basswood – but they sound completely different. If you run your fingers along a board of each, sound is produced. Basswood is a lower tone, while Tupelo is a higher note. This is a handy trick when you're sorting through unlabeled donated wood in a box!



Below: Bob P's Cowgirl boot

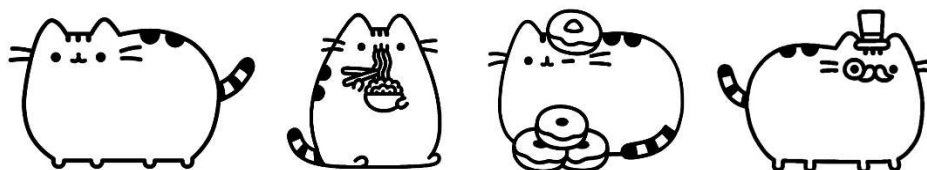
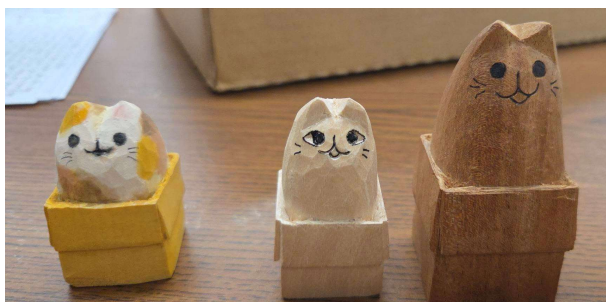


Left: Cliff's Love Spoon from Bob's February project.



March 17, 2026 Whittle In  
Cat in a Cardboard Box  
By Becky Weisgerber

Becky provided another adorable Whittle-In project for the club – a cat in a cardboard box.



## Monthly Meeting Minutes for Flickertail Woodcarvers

April 4, 2026

**Call to Order** by President Becky Weisgerber  
12 members were present.

**Secretary's Report** (Amanda Person): The minutes from the last meeting were read.  
Eric G. motioned and Doug E. seconded to approve the minutes.

**Treasurer's Report:** (Warren Schlecht): The total is \$5,259 with all bills paid. Books are soon to be audited for 2026.  
Eric G. motioned and Warren seconded to approve the report.

### Committee Reports

**Membership** (Doug Smith): One new member this past month. All members have paid their dues.

**Programs** (Eric Gaasland):

Spring Class: is April 10-12 at Hillside Park community center, beginning at 9am.

Fall Show: no response from Alex – any teacher / class ideas are welcome.

**Publicity** (Cliff Orgaard): No report.

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

**Library** (Cathy Lash): Inventory is needed, will happen in May



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

**Facebook & Website** (Eric Gaasland, Becky Barnes): No report

## **Old Business**

-Eric has a signup sheet for fall whittle-ins.

-Remember to bring in old yard signs so we can replace the location.

-Remember raffle prizes.

-Remember caricatures for the library display in August.

-Doug reminded everyone that the Buckstop Junction display will be switched out in June, please bring new items for display in May (they will be on display for one year).

-Doug reminded everyone about the “Bluegrass Goes Pink” event at Cross Ranch on July 26th – we will have a table, please come and carve!

## **New Business**

-Wahpeton is cancelled for this year.

-May 19th – the Bismarck Mandan young professionals are sending some people to carve with us. Becky B. is sending simple nuthatches for a project. Would someone be willing to lead it?

\*Becky W. to collect count of blanks requested

-Two new free Vesterheim zooms:

\*May 9th Alpine Brettstuhl

\*June 6th Norwegian Tyllidal Chair

-Sunday, July 12th @2:00pm, Rock Club will be doing catlinite / pipestone carving. Becky W. has asked if it's ok if we join them en masse but have had no response. If you're interested, contact them. The event will be at BPL, Meeting Room A.

-Animal carving request – someone wanted a price quote on “carving animal images in wood – customized – more than one.” Bob has been in contact. [email redacted – turned out to be a fake request]

-NDAAACI blurb requested for the instructor of the May 5th demo, prior to the day of the event. Beck W. will do this.

-The City of Bismarck has an open invitation for artist RFP to put photos along a trail via QR code. Will pay \$300 for the images that are chosen.

Eric Gaasland provided today's project – Easter Rabbit Surprise

## **Show and Tell:**

Bob brought a bison and half a wolf carving. He also made another knife handle from Lilac: Becky B. mentioned a free-flowing epoxy (EcoPoxy) that Bob used (and added a tint to it). It turned out beautifully!!

**Meeting was adjourned.** Cliff O. motioned and Doug E. seconded.

# April 4, 2026 Whittle In Easter Rabbit Surprise

by Eric Gaasland

Just in time for Spring, Eric provided an Easter Rabbit Surprise carving for the Whittle-In!



Above: Surprise!  
Bunnies!



Left: Bob P. taking a  
break from Bison to  
work on a rabbit.

Below: Becky W to  
Bob P: "What is  
that?" "Half a wolf".  
"Well, of course it is.  
It's exactly what it  
looks like."



Above: Lilac and epoxy knife handle, crafted by Bob P.



Left: Becky W's "Strobbery In Progress" is indeed progressing right along.



## April 10-12, 2026 Spring Carving

### Female Face in Profile

With Dick Skauge

This year Dick Skauge from Minnesota taught the Spring Carving class. The subject was a female face in profile. The venue was the Hillside Aquatics Complex.





About half-a-dozen Flickertails took part in the Spring Carving class, working on facial proportions, hair detail, and enjoying the sun filled space.

Thank you Dick for spending your weekend with us!

April 21, 2026 Whittle In

Scottie Dogs

by Bob Pedigo

A bit Thank You to Bob P for leading the club in carving a Scottie dog. These little pups can be adorned with a ribbon around their necks – either a classic plaid, or a specific colored ribbon (fighting cancer, endometriosis, etc.)

Over a dozen Flickertails attended the Whittle-In.



April 24-26, 2026

Snow Daze Carve-In

Sartell, MN

For those that had attended the Snow Daze Carve-In in the past, you may recall the tight quarters we worked with. Tables were set up and down the venue, with barely enough space to wriggle between if you needed to grab a drink, hit the restroom, or bid on the silent auction. This year was completely different! The event was held inside the Sartell Community Center gymnasium. Tables were spread apart, classes each had their own designated spots, and you didn't have to strain to hear your instructor over the din of surrounding people. If Snow Daze keeps the same venue next year, there will be room to grow.

Aside from the carving and non-carving classes, there were also tables for vendors. Badger State Blades of Wisconsin was there, along with Moore Roughouts, The Wood Wym (me!) wood cross-stitch blanks, and Deep Holler Knives of Iowa. There were tables for raffle drawing, and give-away areas where people could give and take whatever was left on the tables.



Cliff & Marilyn O., Becky W., and Anna W. made it from Bismarck, ND. Becky B. came up from Eden Prairie, MN. There were 126 participants this year!



Above: Anna working on her woodland critters puzzle carving.

Below: Cliff working on his woodland critter puzzle.



Above: Becky W. carving details into her loon relief



Above: Becky B working on her pirate captain, Aaaarrgh!



Cliff's Woodland Scene



Becky W's Loon

April 26, 2026

## Minnesota Woodcarvers Guild

### Eden Prairie, MN

Returning to MN after Snow Daze, I discovered the Minnesota Woodcarvers Guild was having a display at the Eden Prairie Mall. The group isn't really a woodcarving club, as people don't seem to get together to carve, but they do have monthly special interest meetings where they might talk about a certain kind of glue, or a new machine, or a way to work with veneers. The display at the mall was a selection of items (mainly furniture) to showcase their skills. I asked if I could photograph a couple which also showed carving, and they readily agreed.

At right, an ornate chair with text that reads:

#### **Tony Kubalak**

#### **Eagan, MN**

I have been a period furniture maker since 1999. I am interested in high style Queen Anne and Chippendale pieces. All of my period projects have been faithful copies of originals that are part of museum or private collections. I strive to make my pieces as close to the originals as possible. This includes surface texture and hand tool marks as well as construction details. In addition I strive to give the finish an aged look and feel. The goal is to have a piece that looks and feels 250 years old.

#### ***Cadwalader Saddle Chair***

This is my reproduction of one of the most famous and finest chairs made in colonial Philadelphia. It is a unique style in 18<sup>th</sup> Century chair design with the serpentine front rail and sideways dip. It was commissioned by General John Cadwalader as part of large suite of furniture in 1769. The hairy-paw feet are one of the unique and iconic features of the Cadwalader suite in general and this chair in particular. The construction of this chair is significantly more complicated than others because of the seat rail curves and the 3-part back splat. I have plans to make another version of this chair as well as two or three other pieces from the suite.

Materials: Mahogany



The next piece reads:

**Eric Johnson**  
**Stillwater, MN**

I have been involved in woodworking as a hobby for more than 30 years. I enjoy the challenge of learning new skills and stretching my abilities with each new project.

### ***Philadelphia Chippendale Dressing Table***

This piece is made primarily of cherrywood, which I harvested in Stillwater, where I live. The inspiration to build this piece came from a book by Tony Kubalak, and I was immediately drawn to the intricate carvings, especially because I had never done anything this extensive before. The drawers are a highly figured tiger maple and adds to its elegance. The finish is shellac with a French polish on the top and a gel stain in the carvings to give an antiquated appearance.

Materials: Cherry, Tiger Maple, and Poplar



## Upcoming Events

**May 2:** Meeting & Whittle-In

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

**May 17:** Syttende Mai table for Sons of Norway – contact Eric G. Heritage Center, 1-4pm.

**May 19:** Whittle-In – project by Becky B – nuthatch. Young Professionals visiting.

**May 30:** NDAAACI demonstration table at BSC. Contact Becky W.

**June 6:** Free Webinar on Norwegian Tyllidal Chair – Vesterheim Online class.

**June 16:** Summer picnic at Sertoma Shelter #5

**July 12:** Rock Club pipestone carving – 2pm, Bismarck Public Library Room A.

**July 16:** USDA-ARS Friends and Neighbors Day. Contact Cliff O.

**July 21:** Summer picnic at Sertoma Shelter #5

**July 25:** Bluegrass Goes Pink, Cross Ranch State Park. Contact Doug E.

**August 1-2:** Capitol A'Fair demonstration table. Contact Becky W.

**August 18:** Summer picnic at Sertoma Shelter #5

**September 5:** Monthly Meeting

**September 5-6:** South Central Threshing Bee, Braddock, ND

**September 15:** Whittle-In

**September 20:** Apple Jam – Buckstop Junction

**September 27:** Teddy Roosevelt Days, McDowell Dam. Contact Amanda P.