



The Curling Chip

March / April 2026

One last meeting before the Summer season strikes. Picnics and Demonstrations are on the horizon!

Bob P. gives us a blast from the past with acanthus swords, and Doug E. found a school teaching future Master Carvers in Bhutan.

And how many nuts would a Nuthatch hatch if a Nuthatch would hatch nuts?

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

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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

May 2, 2026



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

Secretary's Report (Amanda Person): Amanda read the minutes from the last meeting (held on April 4th). Eric G. motioned to approve. Anna W. seconded.

Treasurer's Report (Warren Schlecht): Warren was not present, but there were no transactions & the balance is the same as last month (\$5,204.47). No motion to approve, as no real report was given.

Committee Reports

Membership (Doug Smith): No report.

Programs (Eric Gaasland):

Spring Class: Alex replied, but was not enthusiastic - perhaps try to schedule this instructor for Fall of 2027

-Signup sheets for open whittle-in meetings are still available

-April class update: small number of people attended, but it was a great class

Fall Show: Cliff and Anna took a class from Sue Lem (from St. Cloud) - a relief carving class. Cliff asked her if she would come to Bismarck to teach our Fall class, and she agreed. Cliff will follow up with her.

Publicity (Cliff Orgaard): No report.

Property (Matt Hlebechuk): No report.

Library (Cathy Lash): 3 books and a cast of an owl were donated. Inventory will be done by the next meeting.

Historian (Clara Yonker): No report.

Facebook & Website (Eric Gaasland, Becky Barnes): 2 requests from the website (noted in New Business).

If anyone has photos from Snow Daze, send them to Eric or Becky B. to be posted on Facebook.

Old Business

-Please bring in yard signs

-Lend carvings to Buckstop Junction committee by June

-Remember caricatures for the BPL display in August

-Remember raffle prizes

-We will likely have guests next meeting - the Young Professionals group

-Calendars of all known events are here - please attend what you can!

-Buckstop Junction event is cancelled

New Business

- This is our last Business Meeting of the year - only one more regular Tuesday meeting (5/19/2026), then we are on our summer picnic schedule.
- Website requests:
 - Someone with huge cottonwood trees is asking if people would carve totems for them, and / or if anyone wants the wood. These trees are coming down next week.
 - Does anyone build birdhouse? (Doug Peterson will follow up with this request)
- Picnic whittle-ins will be held at Sertoma Shelter #5 on the third Tuesdays of the summer, from 5-7pm
- Request for Syttende Mai event - there will be a table at the Heritage Center during this event on Sunday, May 17th from 1-4pm. The club will get a donation from The Sons of Norway. Come and carve!!
- The Norsk Hostfest is closing, and they are auctioning off carvings on May 6th - an online auction.

Thank you to Marlene Moser for providing today's project: May flower

Show and Tell

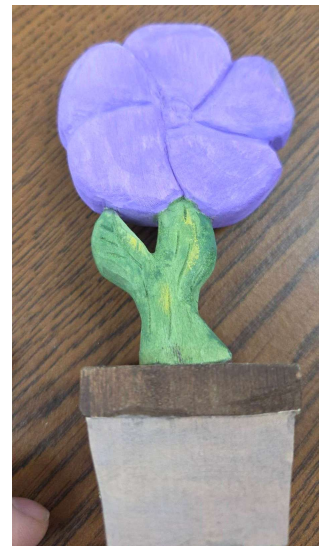
- Becky W. - a loon relief, note the trick of burning in narrow parts before cutting alongside them.
- Anna showed the jigsaw puzzle from the Snow Daze event.
- Michaela showed the carving of the woman in profile from the spring class.
- Doug P. showed two Santa faces carved and painted.

Meeting was adjourned. The meeting was adjourned: Eric G. motioned to approve, and Cathy L. seconded.



May 2, 2026 Whittle In May Flower Provided by Marlene Moser

Marlene was ready to jump into Spring with a May Flower – thank you Marlene!



Above: A May Flower example – each came with a flower top, and a separate “pot” base.



Left: Marlene adding stop-cuts with a gouge and mallet.



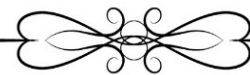
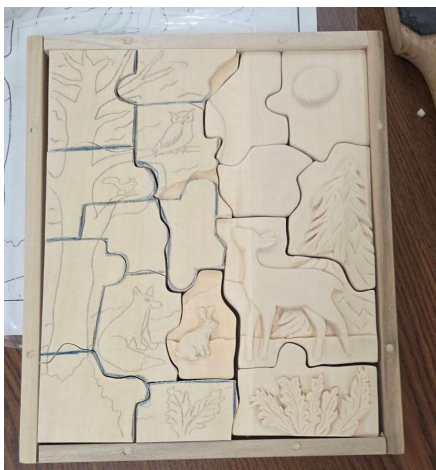
Left: Santa face carved and painted by Doug P.

Below: Carvers busy working on projects.



Above: Becky W's Loon relief, from Snow Daze.

Below: One of the puzzle carvings Cliff and Anna were working on with Sue Lem, this particular one by Anna.



May 17, 2026

Syttende Mai with the Sons of Norway ND Heritage Center & State Museum

The Flickertails teamed up with the Sons of Norway to demonstrate and show carving examples. Eric G. led the Flickertail portion, with help from many other members. Syttende Mai commemorates the signing of the Norwegian Constitution in 1814 and remains a significant cultural holiday for Norwegian communities around the world.





Above and previous page bottom: Flickertails enjoying the day, carving, and demonstrating to the public inside the ND Heritage Center & State Museum.



If this fellow looks familiar, you might have visited the HostFest in Minot! Sadly the HostFest has voted to cease operations citing rising costs and low attendance. The carvings and statues (and more!) that decorated the venue have been sold. A new event, the “Fjord Folk Fest” is looking to create a smaller event going back to the roots of HostFest at the Minot Municipal Auditorium, August 21-22, 2026. Their theme is: Old Roots, New Currents. A reminder that our cultural story continues to grow, evolve, and inspire.



May 19, 2026 Whittle In
Nuthatch
Provided by Becky Barnes



The Flickertails were contacted by the Young Professionals group, asking if they could attend / participate in one of the carving sessions. After a branch fell in her yard, Becky B. had an idea of making small Nuthatches (the carving pinned to the halved branch with a small dowel), and expanded it to include enough blanks for the group of new carvers. She sent the box of blanks with Becky W. and Anna W. at the Snow Daze event!



Eric G. spearheaded carving up some demo pieces – with some being smooth, comfort-bird style, and others flat-plane carved. So many options from a single blank. The pattern is now available on the [“Patterns”](#) page of our website.



May 30, 2026

NDAACI Table at the
BSC NECE building, Bavendick room

Club members were once again invited to participate in the North Dakota Asian-American Arts and Culture Initiative (NDAACI) gathering, this time held at the BSC Nece building, inside the Bavendick room.

Two carved sword & scabbard pieces in particular were brought in by Bob Pedigo. He writes "I bought these in Thailand in 1970. I was on a 3-day R&R from Vietnam while I was stationed in Vietnam. The R&R happened twice during my tour. A few of us on our crew got to ride on a General's private commuter jet to Thailand and return to Vietnam. I was told it was in appreciation of the missions we were doing which was accurate ground directed bombing of enemy targets from our positions on the ground. We talked the pilots in on a flight track and told them exactly when to release their bombs on target. I think I paid about \$20 for the pair of swords, which was 1/3 of my monthly combat pay of \$60 per month at the time. I think the carved portions are mahogany, but I'm not sure of that. These were made in Thailand, but I see much resemblance to acanthus or Scandinavian design in these."



Minnesota Institute of Art

Wandering through the Minnesota Institute of Art, there are soooo many different carvings to drool over for inspiration. As my daughter and I were walking through a wing, she grabbed my arm and said “Mom – you should take photos of THAT for the carvers!”

The description label reads:

Austral Islands

Ceremonial paddle, c. 1820-1840

Wood

Gift of Mr. Walter Cline 47.40

Ceremonial paddles are among the best-known examples of Austral Islands art. Although their original purpose is not clear, they were likely used as dance wands. In the early 19th century, many were made as souvenirs for European travelers. It is unclear whether this particular paddle was used locally or made for the market about 200 years ago.

The geometric design – of interlocking diamonds arranged in bands on the paddle – was carved with a shark’s tooth. A circle of bottle-horned beast heads, carved in full relief, decorates the pommel.



Buckstop Junction Display Update

Doug Emerson sent in photos from the new display updates in the cabinets at Buckstop Junction, inside the Lumber Building.



June 16, 2026
Sertoma Park Picnic

A good turnout for the June picnic – if you missed it, there will be two more this summer! July 21st and August 18th. Quite a few show-and-tell pieces.



Bhutan Trip

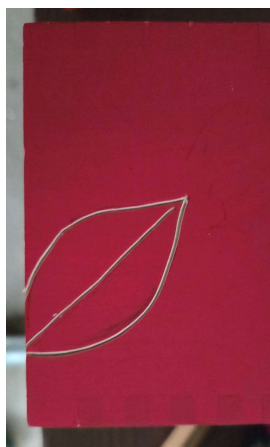
While Doug Emerson was visiting Bhutan, he visited a carving school. He says "It takes two years of studying to become a master carver. We visited this school that had several class rooms where students were learning a skill. It was very interesting watching them carve.



Left: Part of a painted and incised cell phone chair.



Above, Left, Below: Sides from a painted and incised box.





I found a website explaining carving in Bhutan more. Check out:

<https://www.bhutanwiki.org/articles/wood-carving-in-bhutan>

“Wood carving, known in Dzongkha as *parzo* (or *shagzo* for woodturning on a lathe), is one of the most visible and widely practiced of the thirteen traditional arts and crafts of Bhutan. The art form encompasses a broad range of objects, from the elaborate decorative elements adorning dzongs, monasteries, and traditional houses to ritual masks used in sacred dances, Buddhist altar pieces, and functional items such as bowls and containers. Wood carving is integral to Bhutanese architecture and religious life, and its practitioners are regarded as essential custodians of the nation's cultural identity.

Bhutan's extensive forests of cypress, pine, walnut, and other hardwoods have long provided abundant raw material for carvers. The country's isolation and the deep integration of Buddhism into daily life ensured that wood carving traditions were transmitted with remarkable continuity from the medieval period to the present day. Today, the art is sustained both by traditional apprenticeship and by formal training at institutions such as the National Institute of Zorig Chusum in Thimphu.



Ritual masks (*bap*) represent another major category of Bhutanese wood carving. These masks are worn by dancers during *tshechu* festivals and other religious ceremonies, embodying deities, demons, animals, and characters from Buddhist mythology. The masks are carved from a single block of wood — traditionally agarwood, poplar, or other softwoods that can be hollowed and shaped — and painted in vivid polychrome.

Mask carving is considered a sacred act. The carver must follow specific iconographic guidelines to ensure that the mask accurately represents the deity or character it depicts. Wrathful deities are shown with bulging eyes, bared fangs, and flaming hair; peaceful deities display serene expressions. Animal masks depict creatures such as deer, snow lions, and the mythical garuda. The consecration of a completed mask by a lama is an essential step before it can be used in performance.

Notable mask types include those representing Guru Rinpoche's eight manifestations, the terrifying *ging* and *tsholing* characters, the stag and hunting dog of the *Shawo Shachi* dance, and the comic *atsara* clown figures. The masks used in the Black Hat Dance (*Shanag*) are among the most sacred and elaborately carved.



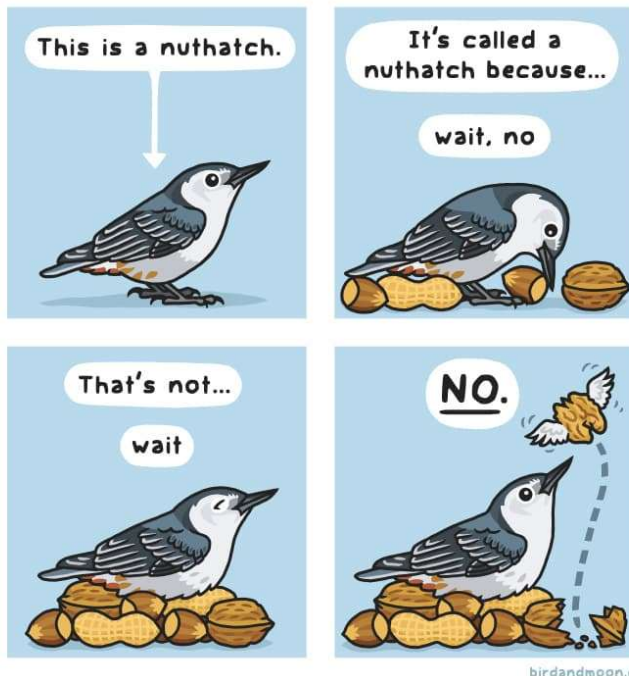
June 19-20, 2026
Sons of Norway Convention
Radisson Hotel

Claudia Berg was kind enough to send this photo, showing Eric G. participating at the Sons of Norway convention!



Becky W has been on a pun kick recently!

She has been holding on to this "Bird and Moon" comic for years, and took the opportunity provided by Becky B's nuthatch project to finally execute it. (She also learned from past experience and made two - one for this year's raffle, and one to keep.)



The nuts in the nest are from her stash - black walnuts collected on a trip to Ithaca, NY some years back, and local acorns. She notes the applicability of the Quilter's Lesson that each time you successfully use an item from your craft stash in a project, it reinforces the questionable behavior of accumulating things in stash!



Reprinted with permission of Rosemary Mosco – check out more of her nature / bird comics at: <https://rosemarymosco.com/>

Other recent entries into the pun series:

- The Strobbery in Progress is finally glued-up, ready for our upcoming Caricature display at the Bismarck public library!



- The Sass-quatch caricature



Last year Eric G got deep into chip-carving - just in time to round out that year's Library display of chip-carved items.

This year's new trend of painted, then incised objects stems from a Vesterheim class highlighting the old custom of "kroting". The concept is that when the kids are stuck inside all winter, sleeping in the sooty cabin loft, what else do you do but draw on the walls? Chalk drawings could be washed off, but incised drawings like these could be reused to tell familiar stories year after year.

When the Sons of Norway convention requested we do a small woodcarving class, Eric thought this was a natural fit. The only tools needed are a small v-tool or two. He prepared a selection of simple line art and Sons of Norway shields for students to trace and incise. Sons of Norway will be giving a small honorarium to the club in thanks.

Here are Becky W's attempts at an aurora, using iridescent watercolor over an aurora motif Eric G brought back from an Icelandic trip. The background is a milk paint in color "Klein Blue".



Upcoming Events

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.