

The Curling Chip



March 4 and March 15, 2014

Meetings Trinity Lutheran Church

Tom Turck taught the wood carving project for both the whittle-in and the monthly meeting. The activity consisted of carving a key holder in the form of a Muskie game fish and antique spear fishing lures to make into key chains (see more below). Nine

people attended the whittle-in and monthly meeting.

President Doug Emerson opened the meeting and Secretary Warren Schlecht read the minutes from the February, 2014 meeting. Motion to approve the minutes was made. Motion passed. Treasurer Ron Holtz reported \$4,738 in the checking account with all bills paid. The only significant bill coming up will be paying the instructor for the May, 2014 class. Doug reported Jim Lindseth completed the audit on the 2013 Treasurer's books and found no deficiencies. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made, seconded and passed.

Doug informed the group that Ron Holtz asked to resign from his duties, after 17 years, as club Treasurer and working the raffle at the Annual Show. The President asked those in attendance for volunteers for the two positions, but no one stepped forward. If anyone is interested in the Treasurer's position or helping with the annual raffle, please contact Doug Emerson or Ron Holtz.

Newsletter Editor Tom Turck requested articles for the club newsletter. Any publishable articles or pictures should be sent to him (tdturck@bis.midco.net), so he can include them in an upcoming newsletter. Also if you have an idea but want some assistance in preparing an article, Tom will help you.

An instructor, John Cottenham, was found to teach the carving class on May 2, 3, and 4. The project is a Mallard drake decoy and flat female duck profile. Presently the class is full, but if anyone is interested call Doug and you will be placed on a waiting list. The class meets at Trinity Lutheran Church starting Friday morning at 08:00 AM.

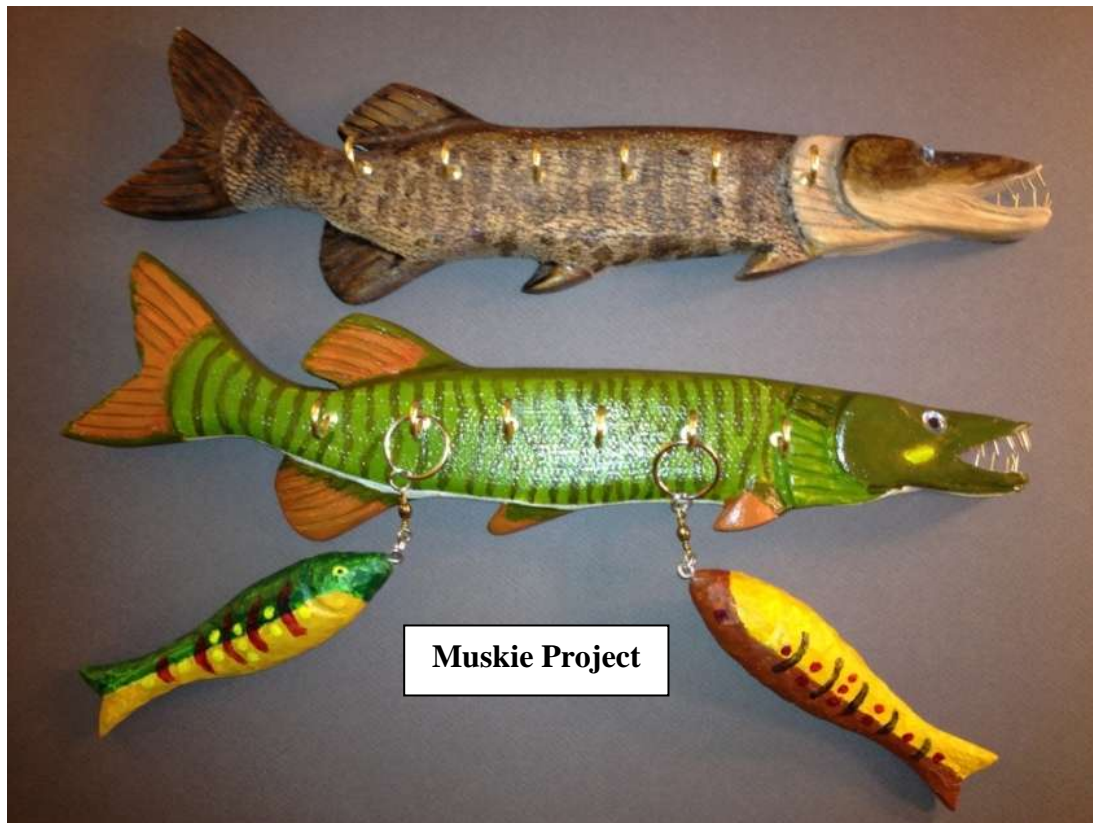
Doug Emerson said the Memory Hearts carvings given to the Cancer Center in Bismarck have been a hit and more are needed. The simple-to-carve hearts are given to cancer patients who really appreciate them. For the April 1 whittle-in project, we will carve more Memory Hearts to help replenish the Cancer Center inventory. Contact Doug if you already carved some hearts to be donated, and we can get them to the Bismarck Cancer Center.

There were no items for show and tell and no further business, so the meeting was adjourned.

Secretary *Warren Schlecht*

Musky Key Chain Project

As noted earlier, the March project was a Muskie key chain holder and carving antique spear fishing lures to be made into key chains. Three complete kits, (1 musky, 2 fish and hardware with instructions) are still available for \$10 each.





March Flickertail Meeting



Muskie by Vince Bitz

April 1 and April 19, 2014
Meetings Trinity Lutheran Church

Doug Emerson taught the wood carving project for both the whittle-in and the monthly meeting. Because of Easter Sunday, the April 19 Flickertails meeting had a low turnout and meeting notes were not taken.



Some Design Ideas

***Carver Replicates Painting* (submitted by Jim Lindseth)**

Zheng Chunhui, a famous Chinese wood carver, worked four years to create this incredible 40 ft masterpiece out of a tree. The carving is based on the legendary Chinese painting *Along the River During the Qingming Festival*. The original artwork was created over 1,000 years ago. This highly detailed carving shows daily life in ancient China. *Reference:* <http://www.viralnova.com/tree-trunk-carving/>



Detail of Carving



Decoy Carving Project

From May 2 through May 4, the Flickertails had a duck decoy carving class taught by John Cottingham of Gladwin, Michigan. He worked for the US Public Health Service in the National Disaster Medical System as a professional paramedic until retiring in 2011. One of his last missions was helping victims of Hurricane Katrina.

John is an avid hunter and visits several states at various times of the year including McClusky, ND for a few weeks most falls. He also enjoys training his hunting dogs for competitions and spending time with his family and young great grandchildren.

Although he carved his first decoys in 1964, John did not begin to get serious about carving decoys until about 20 years ago. He now carves decoys for shows and commercially and is a Master Carver.

John taught us that there are basically two kinds of ducks and nature's functional design is based on the how they feed. Puddle ducks are limited by the lengths of their neck in reaching sub-surface food. Their tails are high on the body and their feet are more forward. Diving ducks can feed deep below the surface. Their tails are much lower and the diving duck's feet are further back on the body.

Our project was a mallard drake duck. We carved the body out of cork and the head out of basswood. In addition a flat female mallard duck profile was carved out of pine. John's tip was to close your eyes and feel with your fingers for high and low stops. You will be able to detect things that you cannot see with the naked eye. We painted the decoy with wildlife acrylics from Hofcraft Crafts - Catalog found online. If you want to know the specific colors, I have the list provided by Frank Koch. Email me at tdturck@bis.midco.net.

Initially John liked carving and found painting difficult. However by studying live birds, photographs and waterfowl anatomy, he eventually became proficient at painting and now thoroughly enjoys it. Two of his most difficult things are first starting a project and then knowing when to stop. For a long time, John had difficulty accepting that he was an artist. His wish, in giving these carving classes, is that 1 or 2 people from the class will take up carving decoys.



John Cottingham Preparing a Cork Blank for Carving



Frank Koch's Mallard Drake



Female Mallard Duck



Head /Body Blanks (4 available \$30 each)



Painting Lesson



Carving Lesson

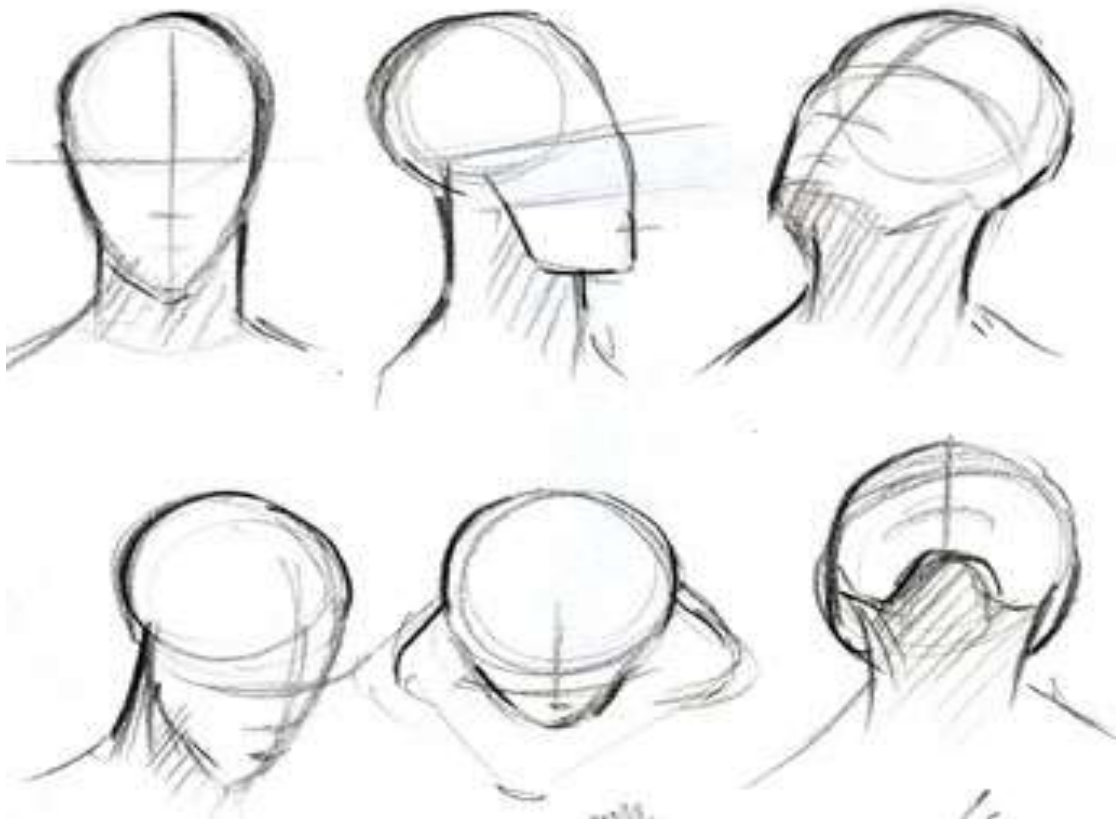
Thanks to Dale Heglund for supplying some of the photographs.

I have been taking some art drawing classes over at the local college and have learned some drawing techniques with applications to wood carving. The following commentary is a compilation of articles on drawing facial features that I read for the classes.

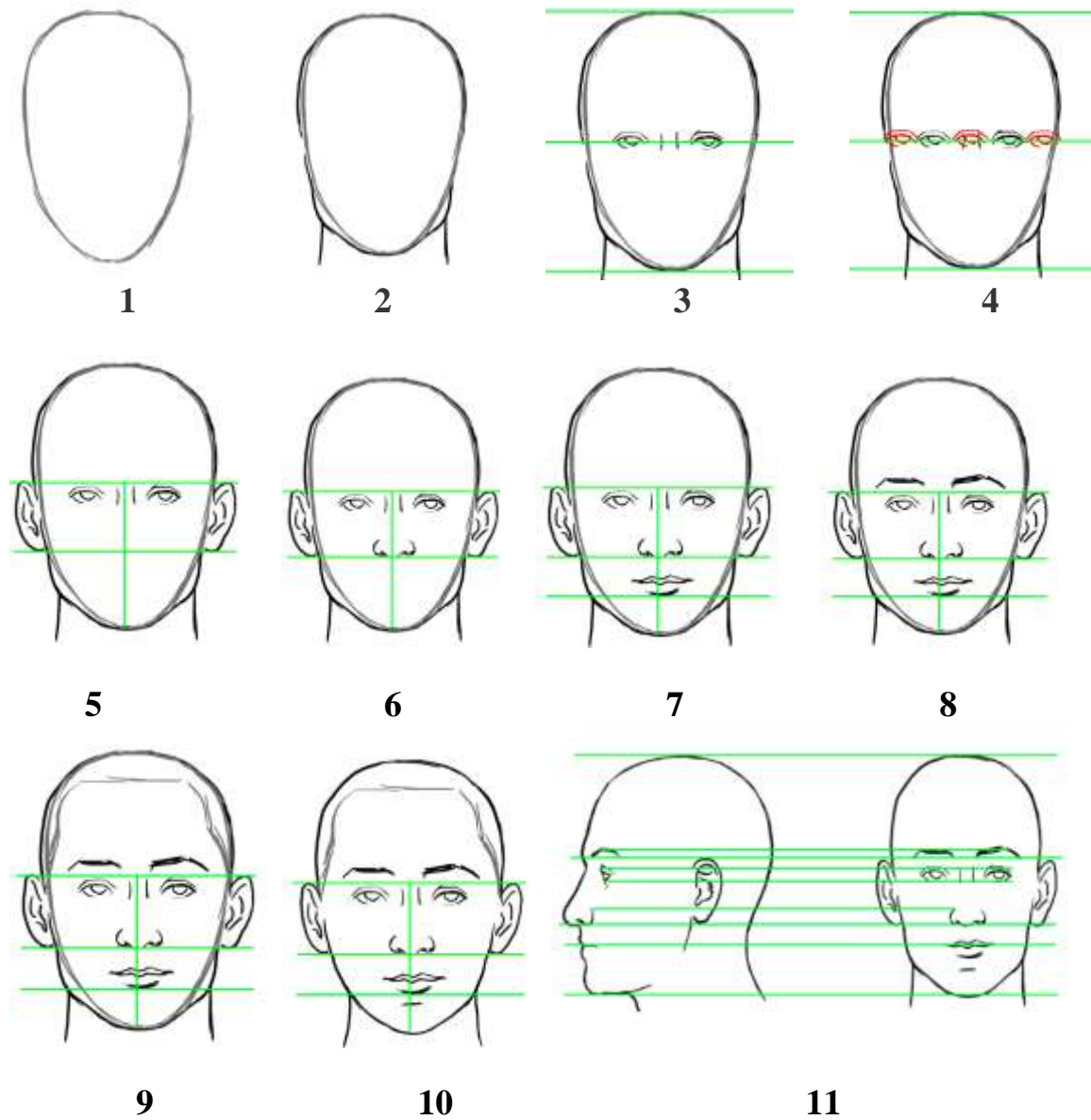
Head and Facial Proportions

Many people make mistakes when carving faces because they don't fully understand facial proportions. A simple formula exists to make sure your getting all the features in the right place. This procedure focuses on proportion, one of the important aspects when carving a head and face.

First draw a circle representing the cranium. Then bring a straight line down from the top of the circle to about double the length of the original circle. Next, you bring lines from the bottom of that line to the edges of the circle creating the shape of the face.



An alternative method and to add facial features follow the 11 steps listed below.



1. Know your proportions: Heads are not perfect circles, and they are not perfect ovals either. You can think of them as kind of egg-shaped, with the tapered end toward the bottom. Of course this varies depending on the angle you are carving the head.

2. Refine the jaw line: If you are drawing woman, this egg shape might do well to describe her jaw line, but men have a slightly more angular jaw, and flatter chin.

3. Eye placement: Eyes are just about halfway between the bottom of the jaw and the top of the head.

4. Head radius: A good rule of thumb is that the head is about 5 eyes wide and the gap between the eyes, where the bridge of the nose is located, is about the same width as the face on either side of the eyes.

6. Ear placement: The tops of the ears are just above the eyes and the bottoms halfway from the eyes to the bottom of the jaw.

7. Nose: In the example sides the nose extends a little past the inside corners of his eyes, but noses vary quite a bit in width.

8. Mouth: The bottom lip of the mouth is halfway between the earlobes and jaw line. And the width extends to about the the iris in the eyes.

9. Eyebrow placement: The eyebrow is generally wider than the eye below it. Eyebrows tend to be thickest toward the bridge of the nose and taper toward the sides of the face, where they often also sweep downward. They vary greatly from person to person.

10. Hair placement: The hairline is typically about 1/4 to 1/3 of the way from the top of the head to the eyebrows.

11. Side profile: Extend proportion to side profile to remain consistent.

These proportions work just as easily for a woman. Adjust the jaw line to be a little more rounded, make the ears a bit smaller and the neck a little narrower and you have a pretty convincing female face.



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This project is supported in part by a grant from the North Dakota Council on the Arts, which receives funding from the state legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Also supported by grants from Dakota West Arts Council and Montana Dakota Resources Group.