



Newsletter

<http://www.midwestwoodworkers.org>
December 2014

President's Letter

Greetings Woodworkers,

Our November Meeting -- I was sorry to miss our November program. I hear it was excellent. Tom and Ernest demonstrated how to build and use of a large jig to enable you to flatten slabs with a router. A copy of a Fine Woodworking article showing in detail how to build and use this big jig is attached to this newsletter. Pictures of Ernest and Tom's presentation are also included in this newsletter.

Tom also demonstrated how to make a butterfly patch using a router inlay kit from Whiteside, part #9500. Here is the link to this kit in the Woodcraft catalog.

<http://www.woodcraft.com/Product/09116/whiteside-9500-solid-brass-router-inlay-router-bit-set.aspx>. In general, the butterfly is essentially two metal triangles with one point of each triangle joined together, to give it the butterfly look. Each triangle is embedded on either side of a crack or fissure in a slab of wood, holding the two sides together and preventing the crack from widening.

Both of those techniques (slab flattening and butterfly joining) are part of an approach made famous by woodworker George Nakashima. His work is on display in museums, I believe including the Smithsonian. I spent a lot of time one day drooling over a large number of his pieces on display in a museum in Balboa Park in San Diego (the name of the museum escapes me, but if you get to the museums area of Balboa Park you can't miss the building). His work is characterized by making tables, benches etc by using cross-sectional slabs of tree trunks, etc. with the natural edge remaining around the perimeter of the table top or bench top (or whatever the piece of furniture is). In some respects it is very much like bowls that are turned to leave the bark on the edge of the bowl, except that the Nakashima pieces can have very irregular edges, which provide additional character. It gives a whole new meaning to the "natural" look. It results in a very distinctive style, with unique individual pieces.

Thank you very much to Tom and Ernest for putting this program together and displaying a problem solving approach for working with large natural slabs of wood.

Our December Meeting -- The December program is our annual Holiday Dinner. You won't want to miss this one (see below). It is our opportunity to spread some holiday cheer to the children from the Coyote Hill home. We give them a night out, feed them, and send each one home with a wooden car. In the process we get to share a meal and each other's company. The dinner is coming right up this Monday.

The Holiday dinner will be held once again (courtesy of Harrold Ankeney and the church) at the community cafe at Community United Methodist Church, 3301 W. Broadway (across the street to the west of WalMart and almost across Broadway from HyVee). Come around the back of the church and you will see an entrance toward the center, and the large room to the right of the entrance where the dinner is held. The doors will open at 5:00 p.m., and the goal is to start eating about 6:00. Arriving by 5:30 will allow time to get your food dish to the right location, and help with any last minute needs.

In order to accommodate our guests from Coyote Hill, we ask that members bring a dish that would serve twice as many people as the number in your group. MWA provides the entrée and drinks, and members can bring a vegetable, starch, salad or dessert. Anything that can be brought in disposable containers will facilitate sending home leftovers with our guests.

You are also encouraged to bring woodworking show-and-tell items. These give our guests a sense of some aspects of woodworking. Your own children and guests are certainly welcome as well.

Two things are important to note about the Holiday dinner.

First, it is a week earlier than our regular meeting. It is on the third Monday (December 15) rather than the fourth Monday (just remember it is next Monday). Along with the early date, the start time is also early (see above).

Second, in addition to a nice woodworking gift as a raffle prize for non-MWA member guests, we have a special raffle prize for MWA members in attendance. The Ridgid spindle sander was just rated in the Winter 2015 edition of Fine Woodworking's annual Tools & Shops issue as Best Overall and Best Value. Retailing at \$200, the reviewer liked it much more than other spindle sanders, including those that cost more than twice as much. Also, a nice man at Home Depot (which owns Ridgid, along with Ryobi and Milwaukee) advised me that as long as you register your new spindle sander within the allotted time, Ridgid provides a lifetime guarantee.

Our own Tom Stauder said that he owns one, and it is a really good machine. Among its advantages are an especially large table surface in front of the spindle (to hold your work). It also comes with a small belt sander attachment, that allows you to sand both curved and straight surfaces with this machine. To have a chance on winning this wonderful machine, just show up with a dish. You don't have to do anything else (talk, breath, help clean up, etc.) unless you want to. Get in on spreading some holiday cheer, eat good food, hang out with good folks, AND get a chance to win a great spindle sander. It's a no-brainer!

That's all for this month. I hope to see you this Monday for the Holiday Dinner, as well as the usual enjoyment and camaraderie of hanging out with woodworkers.

Be safe in the shop, and have fun.

I wish you and your friends and loved ones a blessed and merry Christmas and Hanukah, and a fulfilling, peaceful and happy new year.

Joe Gorman

Novemver MWA Meetings

Officers' meeting

Present: Terry Selby, Don Bristow, Ernest Hildebrand, Tom Stauder, and Karl Haak

We discussed need for programs

We discussed Christmas dinner

We discussed a nemorial to Bill Bass

Business Meeting Minutes

November 24, 2014; Boone County Millworks; 7:00 pm

Don Bristow, vice-president

18 members present

2 guests

Minutes were read

Treasurer's report showed that woodworkers had a balance of \$4968 and the turners had a balance of \$1614

We discussed a memorial to Bill Bass, a long-time member who passed away. Ernest made a motion to give \$500 to PET and if any members wanted to donate they could. Karl Haak seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The Christmas dinner will be December 15th at the Methodist church across from HyVee on Broadway. Coyote Hills kids will be with us. Club will furnish meat, bread, drinks, condiments and table ware; members bring a covered dish or desert for your family and extra people. Bring family and guests.

Ernest said we would distribute toy cars on December 1st or 2nd. He will send email. Also let him know of any other group you would like to give cars.

Terry had scrap wood

Show and Tell

1. A gentleman whose name I did not get showed a piece of osage orange root he cleaned up and finished

2. Darren Laupp showed a Noah's ark intarsia he made

We need ideas or volunteers for programs

Ernest announced a turners' workshop at his house on December 4th and Tom said the turners would meet at his house on December 14th.

Tom Stauder and Ernest Hildebrand gave our program. They showed how they flattened a slab of pecan wood and the jig Tom made to do it.

Tom also showed how he made walnut butterflys to secure cracks.

The door prize was a bottle of glue and was won by Norm Anderson.
The raffle was a \$40 gift certificate from Home Depot. It was won by Yvonne Robert. The Raffle bought in \$60.00



Tom routes a recess for a butterfly inlay.



Tom and Ernest adjust the slab-flattening jig.



Tom and Ernest flatten a large slab of wood for a table top.

Show and Tell at the November MWA Meeting



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