



Newsletter

<http://www.midwestwoodworkers.org>

February 2015

President's Letter

Greetings Woodworkers,

Our January Meeting -- Our January meeting was a very interesting presentation by Master violin maker Tom Verdot and his apprentice, Will Scherer. We learned many things about the luthier's craft. Tom brought many show and tell items to facilitate his presentation, and even played a little for us (what a beautiful sound!).

As in all things wood, there were many procedures that resembled some of the work done for completely different subject matter, that all of us could relate to even though we have no expectation of building a violin. For example, Tom revealed how thin the sides of a violin are, and also discussed the type of iron that he uses to heat up the side pieces and allow them to bend in order to follow the shape of the violin. It was similar in some ways to the bending procedures we followed in the Shaker box making class, except that making violins is apparently less messy, in the sense that it did not require steaming or boiling the pieces of wood in large copper troughs.

Another very interesting aspect of the work was the incredible attention to detail. Tom showed a number of very small finger planes, and talked about how they are used to work a piece to the desired configuration in every detail.

Will Scherer also shared with us interesting aspects of the path of a luthier apprentice (I hope I am using both words correctly). He discussed how he met Tom, and the fact that he now has a basic understanding of how to make violins and just needs repeat opportunities to practice and to hone his skill. It was very nice of both gentlemen to give us the presentation, it was extremely interesting, and we really appreciate it.

Our February Meeting -- Our February meeting will be our annual Swap Meet. Please bring whatever tools, jigs, etc. that you have not used in a while and would just as soon find a good home for. At the Swap Meet it is fun to just see what is out there, and to see what you can get it for (or get for it). While I have not personally done well at bargaining over prices, I have been happy with the prizes I have found. I am sure that some of you are better hagglers than I, and for some that is apparently half the fun. Come participate and enjoy in whatever way works for you!

Beyond February -- Any suggestions for future programs are welcome. If there is a topic that you would like to see explored, or if you know someone who has a skill related to woodworking that they would be willing to demonstrate, please let us know.

For April, it looks like we may get to visit the shop at Hickman High School, and learn from them. For May we will have our annual picnic, to be held this year at Stephens Park, with honored guests from the Coyote Hill children's home. Details will be provided in a later issue.

Other Matters --

Regarding the Bill Bass Memorial, Ernest wrote earlier this month:

“Good News!!! Donations to date are more than 80% of the cost needed to acquire a heavy duty Powermatic Dust Collection System and do some upgrading of the ductwork.

If you wish to contribute please make out your check to PET and send it to:

PET
1908 Heriford Road
Columbia, MO 65202

And indicate on the Memo line: Bill Bass Memorial

PET is a 501c(3) organization so all donations are tax deductible. All excess money collected will be spent towards upgrading/expanding their duct system.

Thank you for your help”

If you are interested in giving, and have not yet, please go ahead and send in your tax-deductible contribution.

In addition to honoring long-time dedicated MWA member Bill Bass, this effort points up the win-win relationship we have maintained with PET. They allow us to use their facility to paint the wooden cars that MWA members cut out for children, and in turn we have helped them improve their own capabilities in a number of different ways. The charitable efforts of both organizations are enhanced by this collaboration. We are grateful for this opportunity, and for their support.

That’s all for this month. I hope to see you this Monday for the annual Swap Meet, as well as the usual enjoyment and camaraderie of hanging out with woodworkers.

Be safe in the shop, and have fun.

Joe Gorman

January MWA Meetings

Officers meeting, January 26, 2015

Present: Terry Selby, Don Bristow, Ernest Hildebrand, Dale Andrews, Joe Gorman and Karl Haak

We discussed future programs

We discussed picnic

Business Meeting Minutes

Meeting held January 26, 2015

Meeting held at Boone County Millworks; 7:00 pm

Joe Gorman, president

20 members and 4 guests present

Minutes were read

Treasurers’ report showed that woodworkers had a balance of \$4750.00 and the turners had a balance of \$1615.00

Ernest announced there would be a toy car workshop on Wednesday January 28th at the PET shop and a turners’ workshop on Feb 4th at his house

Ernest said Mike Gentzch was following up on the memorial for Bill Bass and the PET shop needs a new dust collector but we need additional funds. He said we can make donations to PET

Show and tell

1. Paul Andrews showed duck houses he made
2. Tom Stauder showed a bench he made
3. Norm Anderson showed a pizza cutter and a cutting board he made
4. Olin Hatfield showed an ornament he turned

5. Darren Laupp showed a flower intarsia he made

The door prize was a sharpening stone and was won by Dale Andrews

The raffle was a spindle sander that was donated by Scott Sager and was won by Paul Andrews

The Raffle bought in \$85.00

Violin and fiddle maker Tom Verdod and Will Sherer gave us a very interesting program on fiddle making. They showed the tools they use and told about the wood they use. They answered many questions.



Show and tell items at the January 2015 MWA meeting.

Midwest Woodworkers' Association

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