



Newsletter

<http://www.midwestwoodworkers.org>

July 2014

President's Letter

Greetings Woodworkers,

For our June meeting, we travelled down to Versailles, Missouri to tour Good's Millworks. The facility, the equipment, and the people were absolutely awesome. I wish I had taken pictures of some of the equipment and processes (which they specifically allow you to do). But I would be happy to go back anytime, if a few folk who missed the opportunity want to see it. It is also a very pretty drive.

The owners, Ivan and Tim Good (father and son, respectively), stayed around on this Monday evening to show us everything. They also talked the CNC Router operator into staying and giving us a demonstration. They spoke of their beginnings, building custom homes. They ran into a significant amount of demand for custom doors and millwork. About fifteen years ago they switched to doing only that type of work. They sell wholesale only, in twenty-four states, focusing primarily in the Midwest, but also spread around, including significant sales in California.

They talked to us first about their philosophy of doing things right, making a great product, and talking us through some door cut-away pieces designed for show-and-tell. They use quarter inch veneers on their doors (they get four pieces of veneer from a 4/4 piece of wood). A door, along with its custom moldings, are made from the same bundle of wood for consistency. They normally use Poplar for the filler in the door, but can use solid Cherry, etc.

Then we toured the facility and equipment. While there is not time within the confines of this newsletter to discuss each piece of equipment, the CNC Router was REALLY COOL, and it was HUGE (about a quarter million dollars huge). I wish I had measured, but the bed where all the action occurs may be 6' by 10.' Wood is held down on the bed by vacuum, which holds the boards rigidly in place while the router does its thing by a robotic extension arm that reaches 360 degrees around (all the way around four sides[but not all six sides] of) the work piece. The computer holds programs for various pieces, so lasers from above indicate exactly where to place the boards. Then the large robotic arm moves to a palette (think artist's palette or a tray) of assorted bits, and selects the appropriate bit for each operation. Boards are cut just slightly larger than needed before placement on the CNC router, and the first passes are with a straight bit that does the final shaping of the outside dimensions (in anywhere from one to three passes, depending). Then different bits cut grooves, dowel holes, and fancy trim. It was very impressive, and fun.

Their dust collection system was also huge, and used a 150 h.p. motor with a 12' cyclone. They talked very seriously about how much longer their blades stayed sharp, once their dust collection improved. The collected dust is ultimately sent to chicken farms, but not to turkey farms (is sawdust like rain for turkeys?!?).

Ivan and Tim were incredibly gracious, and went out of their way to show us and tell us lots about the operation, and give full answers to all of our questions. They ended the night with coffee and cinnamon rolls made by Tim's wife (Ivan's wife had other commitments). The Good's in particular, and apparently that part of Mennonite country in general, are famous for these cinnamon rolls. Along with the coffee it kept us going all the way back home---which was good because we didn't leave there till about 9:30!

As a bonus for those who couldn't make it (and those who did), Ivan Good was touting this free mobile application that is available from the American Hardwood Information Center. He sent me the link to their web site: <http://www.HardwoodInfo.com>. Once you are on the web site, look for the "American Hardwood Species Guide." It provides links for both Android and Apple devices. It includes pictures of what the finished wood for each species looks

like (Ivan's favorite part, as a woodworking salesman—it turns his iPad into a versatile sales tool showing customers what different choices of wood species would look like). The app allows you to lighten and darken the image to see how a particular species of finished wood looks across a range from light to dark finish. It also provides information on uses, availability, physical properties, etc. for each species.

JULY MEETING THIS MONDAY --- Our July meeting is coming right up this Monday, July 28th, at 7:00 p.m. at Boone County Millworks. The program this month will be put on by Brent Winningear of Crow's Fork Game Calls (see his site on Facebook). Brent makes a wide assortment of game calls, and will show us how it's done. Many of his calls are turned, but I don't know if they all are. He will bring an assortment of game calls, and I understand that he will also show us how to use the calls.



A picture of four gorgeous examples of Brent's work.

Also at the July meeting – we have annual elections for officers of the MWA. Hopefully we won't have fights breaking out over too many people wanting the honor of the same position.

Also at the July meeting – it is time for annual dues payments (actually, like elections, that was June but our June meeting was on the road). Dues are still the same unbelievable bargain they have been for years. Single membership in the MWA is \$20 for the whole year. Family membership is \$25. If you would like to also belong to the Wood Turners group, you can get both single memberships for one small fee of \$35. Treasurer Tom Stauder will accept cash, check or money order made out to MWA.

AUGUST MEETING --- Our August meeting will be held at the home and shop of member Norm Anderson. It is always a real treat to get to see someone's shop, see how they set up, what they like to make, how they like to do it, etc. It was very nice of Norm to volunteer.

Norm also has a project to show us and discuss, and we will get an opportunity to name his resulting piece of work, and possibly even take it home. It is based on the work and style of Andre Roubo, the famous 18th century French master woodworker and author of an entire treatise on woodworking. So mark your calendars for Monday, August 25th, for the MWA meeting at Norm's. Address info and additional information will be included in the August Newsletter.

I hope you have had opportunities to work wood. I am back to being chained to my desk at work, but looking forward to future opportunities.

So, please be safe in the shop, and have a lot of fun working wood. I hope to see you this Monday at 7:00 at Boone County Millworks for a very interesting program on making and using gorgeous wildlife calls.

Joe Gorman

June 2014 MWA Meeting

Meeting held June 23, 2014

No officers' meeting

Meeting held at Goode's Woodworks in Versailles

12 members present

We carpooled to Versailles. Mr Goode told how the business started and what they now do. He and his son then showed their shop and equipment. They have a CNC router that makes door parts. They showed us their large wood inventory and then we saw the other equipment used to make mouldings. They discussed their business plan and how they used outside help to streamline the shop and increase efficiency. This was very interesting, and anyone would benefit seeing how they operate. The meeting wrapped up with drinks and delicious homemade cinnamon rolls. A very enjoyable evening.

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