



Newsletter

<http://www.midwestwoodworkers.org>

June 2015

President's Letter

Greetings Woodworkers,

So there was this operator error that affected our May newsletter. I had prepared the president's note and thought that I had sent it to Bob Youngquist for inclusion in the newsletter---but I hadn't. As a result, the May newsletter was exceptionally short and sweet. Another result is that I still owe you the description of our April meeting.

Our April Meeting -- For our April meeting we were guests of Mr. Nate Meyer and the Hickman High School woodworking shop. Instructors from other Columbia High Schools also came.

We received a shop tour and discussion that included a discussion of the laser machine that cuts pieces out based on what you program into the machine, much like a CNC router. There was much drooling over that machine by MWA members.

The instructors talked about their background, their previous experience and how they came to be wood shop instructors, and about the wood shop program. In addition, there were excellent PowerPoint presentations and discussions by each of several students regarding the things they work on. Most impressive was the young man who works on designing and constructing the sets for their theater performances. It was a truly amazing and high tech approach. He showed pictures and gave explanations of a number of sets that were truly fascinating.

The Columbia High Schools also solicited our membership for volunteers who would like to teach a class (or a few classes?) in one of the MWA member's areas of expertise. A number of attendees signed up. If you are interested (willing) please contact me and I will put you in touch with the right people.

We really enjoyed the presentation, and we really appreciate all of the work that went into entertaining the MWA members for the evening.

Our May Meeting -- Our May meeting, which is our annual picnic, was held Saturday, May 30th in the Happy Hollow Shelter in Stephens Park. We had an excellent large crowd of children and staff from Coyote Hill. We also had a number of MWA members and a few spouses.

There was plenty of good food, and a good time was had by all. The weather was a little spotty, and people experienced a little water, but for weather cleared up beforehand while we were getting everything together and afterwards while we were disassembling. So we were lucky, grateful, and happy.

Fall Festivals -- As fall approaches we think of the Heritage Festival and the Pumpkin Festival. Due to a small number of volunteers to work the festivals and a small shortfall in total number of cars built this year, a decision was made to forego the Heritage Festival again this year, and stick with the Pumpkin Festival. The Pumpkin Festival is the weekend of October 10th and 11th in Hartsburg, and we will be reminding you again before then!

Art in the Park -- Since our May picnic, the Columbia Art League has held their annual Art in the Park event at Stephens Park. Our very own Ernest Hilderbrand and Tom Stauder were again in attendance, displaying many labors of love. The weather this year was excellent and the crowd was correspondingly large, so I hope that both gentlemen did well.

There were other woodworkers at Art in the Park. One displayed items I had only recently heard about: carved wooden oven rack push-pull sticks. They looked helpful (I recently burned my hand on our oven) and not too difficult to make (not that I could do it). Just an idea for anyone looking for ideas.

There was also a woodworker from Iowa whose work was new to me, by the name of Jeff Easley. He made very interesting wooden “abstract wall sculptures” out of contrasting colored wood and geometrical shapes that he sold for a LOT of money. He seemed to have very good crowds at his tent as well (part of that may have had to do with being up front). He also makes interesting “studio furniture.”

You can see samples of his work at his website at www.jeffeasley.net (Caution: be sure and use .net in the address. Do NOT go to www.jeffeasley.com, unless you are a huge fan of Dungeons and Dragons and want to communicate with a different Jeff Easley). His website also shows his prices, and gives information about his history, as well as his methods. If you are a person who takes your art to shows to sell, his site also has a nice, printable, list of seventeen shows (mostly juried) that he attends each year. They are all within a nice compact five state region—if you are looking for additional outlets not too far away.

I will write to woodworker Jeff to see if he would want to make a presentation to the MWA. We could even change our meeting date to accommodate his availability locally! A presentation would involve a very interesting combination of topics including design, wood types, and other wood preparation.

Unfortunately, some folk don't want to educate the competition---like the gentleman I approached at the last Pumpkin Festival, who made very nice and very rustic looking furniture (stools, chairs, tables and benches) out of cedar branches and planks with a lot of bark left on. He was much too wise to be talked into giving it all away to the vicious competitors in the MWA membership! Our loss.

Other Matters -- I hope you all have had chances to make sawdust recently. Sadly, once again I have had little time in the shop, and have no other wood related matters to report.

I hope to see you all this Monday, June 22nd at Boone County Millworks for our regular June meeting. This would be a good meeting to bring any Show and Tell items that you have. Until then, be safe in the shop and have fun.

Joe Gorman

MWA Facebook Group

The Midwest Woodworkers' Association has a group on Facebook. The monthly newsletter will be posted there. Also, please feel free to upload photos of your projects to share with the group.

Midwest Woodworkers' Association

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