



Newsletter

<http://www.midwestwoodworkers.org>
March 2015

President's Letter

Greetings Woodworkers,

Our February Meeting -- Our February meeting turned out at the last minute to be a double header! As announced, we held our annual Swap Meet. The offerings this year were a little sparse, but some interesting opportunities were presented. At the very least, members and guests enjoyed seeing what was there and talking about it.

Ernest Hilderbrand also prevailed on Mike Van Hove to make a presentation. For many years Mike has made wood vise blocks for Midway Arms. He is wanting to get out of the production end of woodworking and focus his available woodworking time on individual projects, and is willing to turn this repeat money making opportunity over to some younger and more energetic enthusiast (it sounds like Mike was 60 or better when he started this production over a decade ago).

The vise blocks are a roughly 3" x 3" block of clear oak, perhaps an inch or inch and a quarter thick (Mike recited very exact measurements which I failed to write down). The block has a hole in the middle a little smaller than a gun barrel, and is cut in half so that the two halves placed in a vise can clamp around a rifle barrel to facilitate removal of the barrel from a rifle when an owner wants to replace the barrel but conserve the remainder of the rifle.

Mike took us through the whole process, starting with oak boards that are full of knots, culling out the clear spots to make these blocks. He starts with a clear piece large enough to make three blocks (a set of blocks contains two pairs of halves with a the hole already drilled, and one unfinished (solid) block in case the buyer has an odd sized barrel and needs to make block halves to fit. Mike then joints one side and one long edge to square up the piece. The piece is too short to run through a planer, but he squares up the other long edge by running the piece through his table saw with the jointed edge against the fence (or a large band saw might do nicely for this).

He likes to first cut the blocks in half, before cutting the center hole, because drilling straight through the solid oak block is slow going with a Forstner bit, because of the need to remove the waste. When cutting only half a hole, on the edge of a half block, the waste simply flies out. Mike says the Forstner bits allow you to simply hold the blocks against a fence and a fence stop to drill the half holes. He then sands the blocks a little (required only by his sense of professionalism and not by Midway Arms).

Mike likes to make about 250 block sets at a time, hoping to end up with at least 200 sets that are keepers. The presentation also gave rise to speculation about how many of these small cottage industry woodworking jobs are out there. Folks thought there are probably a lot of them. It's interesting. We thank Mike Van Hove for the presentation.

Our March Meeting -- For our next meeting, on Monday, March 23rd at Boone County Millworks, we will be the beneficiaries of a presentation by Duane Perry. Duane makes some good looking benches (see picture below). These benches are very versatile, and can do double duty as a half picnic bench by rotating the back of the bench to lay flat, at a height suitable to be used as a table. Duane will discuss how he makes these bench/tables. He will bring pieces that represent various stages of construction, and will also bring a completed bench. He also comes with a reputation for being an excellent speaker (no pressure Duane!!!). We are really looking forward to his presentation.

As a side note, Ernest Hilderbrand (who is recovering from foot surgery and for whom we are all hoping for the best) recruited Duane for this presentation. In addition to these neat benches, Ernest was impressed with a picture of Duane's mother that was burned into a picture-sized piece of wood. Duane subsequently burst Ernest's bubble, when he revealed that he was not the artist responsible for the wood burning piece. It was actually prepared by Signs Now! As Ernest astutely and immediately observed, with his sixth sense about these things, we see another program in our future!

Beyond March -- 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.

There was a suggestion that a presentation on finishing techniques and products would be welcome. If anyone has ideas on a person or business with a lot of knowledge in this area, who might be persuaded to share—please let me know (and if they are a friend or acquaintance of yours, don't hesitate to pop the question!).

For April, we will visit the shop at Hickman High School, and learn from them. As far as we know at this point, it will be held on the normal day and time, just not the normal place. The modern woodworking shop in which these young woodworkers learn has the latest technology. "It is not your grandfather's woodworking shop." We are looking forward to the visit.

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. The picnic will be held on Saturday, May 30th at the Happy Hollow Shelter. Additional details will be provided in the April and May issues. Think of it as an opportunity for these children to get a day out on us, an opportunity to hang out for a couple of hours with some very laid back woodworkers and their significant others and eat good food, and an easy opportunity to make a difference.

Other Matters -- I hope you have all gotten opportunities to make some sawdust. I have piddled in the shop a little, had a very weird experience with my jointer, and started dealing more with hooking up machines to my dust collector. It is unbelievable how expensive it is to buy metal tubing and connectors for a dust collection system, if you choose to go that route. For the time being I am settling for a compromise position. Don Bristow suggested that he really likes the quick hook-up facility offered by the Rockler "Dust Right" port and handle. The ports have a rubber connector and clamp to fit over the machine port, and the other end of the Dust Right port has a plastic end made to mate with the Dust Right handle/connector. This handle unit attaches to the end of a flexible hose, and readily twists onto the mating port, and twists back off when you are done. You can install and leave the Dust Right ports on all your ported machines, making it easy to move the dust collection hose from machine to machine. So far, I love it. And it will certainly suffice while I save up for a more permanent installation.

Quiz for the Day: So I have no real experience using my eight inch used jointer, and was looking forward to squaring up a 40" long piece of pine 2 x 8 to make part of the front jaw of a 36" wide two-handle vice (my plan was (is) to glue two flattened boards together and then joint and resaw the new almost 3" board down to the 2.25 inch width that I wanted to end up with). The board did have some large knots, and I was unsure how that would go. The jointer is set to remove 1/16" of wood. Of course, I assumed that I needed to press down as I moved the board over the cutter. From the start, on each pass I noticed a lot of activity at the lead end of the board. For the first few passes there would be a free spinning (no cutting) area about 2/3 to 3/4 of the way along, and then more cutting at the end portion. I assumed I had a high spot where there was no cutting activity. Eventually, it got so that there was cutting engagement in about the lead half but nothing for the back half.

When I finally picked the board up and looked at it, the lead edge of the board was uneven, going from about 1.4 inches at the fence side of the edge to 1.2 inches at the outside edge. Looking along the full length of the board along the outside edge, it went from about 1.2 inches on the lead end, to about 1.5 inches at the back!!!! I guess the finished surface was flat—but not exactly what I was shooting for. My despair was a stronger feeling than my surprise.

At the meeting, I will be happy to receive all of the suggestions you have for what went wrong, and what to do differently next time. Maybe this quiz thing could become a regular feature? Feel free to send me your own personal quizzes or questions, and we will include them in the Newsletter.

That's all for this month. I hope to see you on Monday, March 23rd at 7:00 p.m. at Boone County Millworks for the presentation by Duane Perry, as well as the usual enjoyment and camaraderie of hanging out with MWA members.

Be safe in the shop, and have fun.

Joe Gorman



February MWA Meetings

Officers Meeting; Feb. 23, 2015

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

We discussed future programs

Business Meeting; Feb 23, 2015; Boone County Millworks; 7:00 pm

Joe Gorman, president

19 members and 3 guests present

Minutes were read

No treasurer's report

Ernest announced that donations to the Bill Bass memorial can still be made to PET

Ernest announced that a toy car workshop would be held Feb 26th at the PET shop and there would be no woodturners' workshop this month because of his upcoming surgery

Terry had scrap wood and toy car stock

Mike Van Hove gave a talk about a barrel holder he makes for Midway Arms. He said he wants to quit making them and any member who would like to take over can contact him

Show and Tell

1. Patrick showed a carved spoon and angel he carved

The door prize was a set of brushes won by Tom Head

The raffle was a gift certificate of winner's choice and was won by Joe Gorman

The raffle bought in \$57.00

This was our annual swap meet and several members had items to sell that they no longer needed

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