



# Newsletter

<http://www.midwestwoodworkers.org>

May 2014

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## President's Letter

Greetings Woodworkers,

Our April meeting was fun. A large group made the trip to Cardwell Hardwoods in Jefferson City. Even though it was a bit of a drive, by leaving at 6:00 p.m. it did not end up being too late a night.

It was very informative to see all of the various hardwoods that they keep in stock. It was a wide assortment at reasonable prices. They also stock quarter sawn lumber in a number of wood varieties. If you need something a little out of the ordinary, such as odd sized pieces, they said just let them know and they will see if they can accommodate you. For example, they had saved us a couple of pieces of walnut that were 8/4 thick, approximately eighteen inches wide and twelve feet long. For this they wanted \$10.00 per board foot, which didn't seem bad for such an unusually large size piece of lumber. Most of their prices were much cheaper.

It was also interesting to hear Leroy Cardwell tell the story of how he came to start his hardwood business. Basically, farming was not paying the bills, but there were many other details included from a long and productive life. He also provided facts about his business. For example, Cardwell's is the second largest private supplier of staves to the Jack Daniels distillery. He talked much about the qualities of the Oak that you look for to make good staves, the need to use quarter sawn lumber, how they are made, etc. He also shared interesting liquor facts, such as the requirement of spending two years in barrels physically located in Kentucky to be called bourbon, and that both Scotch and Tabasco sauce are made in used barrels.

Cardwell's has also started a millwork shop. The building (which we toured) is complete, and they have acquired a very interesting number of large (production capable) pieces of equipment. It was all fun to see.

For our May meeting we are having our annual picnic. It will be this coming Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, at Albert Oakland Park, Shelter No. 2 (see attached map). Enter the Park off of Blue Ridge, just East of Parker. As you come in, Shelter No. 2 is close to the back left corner of the parking lot. Additional information about the park is available at the Columbia Parks and Recreation web site.

The MWA is providing meat. Please bring a side dish (vegetable, dessert, salad etc.) and please bring enough to feed your party and an equal number of guests from Coyote Hill. If you are able to bring your dish in a disposable container, then the Coyote Hill staff can take home any leftovers (I also use a Dollar Store serving spoon for the same reason—but they presumably have serving utensils).

For the picnic, we try to eat at 11:30 a.m. So please arrive before that. The shelter is scheduled to be cleaned by 10:00 a.m. Come as early as you like to enjoy the park and each other. There is a playground close by. There are plenty of tables with bench seats, but you can also bring folding chairs if you want alternative comfortable seating for part of your visit.

Keep thinking of program ideas.

I contacted Klingspor to request the available free 20 pound box of sandpaper scraps that is available to member clubs twice a year, if you call and ask for it. Look for packets of sandpaper as door prizes at meetings for a while!!!

I hope you have all had opportunities to make sawdust. Uncharacteristically, I stole some time over the last two weekends to finish the “honey do” job of replacing our laundry room sink and counter top (the new piece of counter was left over from the “flip house” project my wife and I did, and has taken only two years for me to get to this laundry room project—I don’t think I am making points at home).

The project was a lot of fun. I used a scrap piece of counter top to use as a saw guide in cutting the keeper piece of counter top to length. That provides a guide for both the counter width and the backsplash. Fortunately, I had about eighteen inches more length than I needed, so I could do four or five practice cuts until I was leaving a smooth, square edge. Part of the trick was continuing the saw steadily in the same cutting plane as you get past the guide!! To cut out the hole for the sink, I did practice drilling with a 3/8 inch bit, until I could place the jigsaw starter holes directly next to, but not over, the template line for the sink hole (I seem to always need to make up the template—this is the second time that the provided template was the outline of the outside of the sink rim, rather than the insert hole!). I also made practice cuts with the jig saw along the lines in the middle of the bowl area, before starting for real.

Because one side of the counter top was against a wall, I also got to practice ironing on the Formica end cap and trimming it. I first tried the method suggested by the directions, which was to use a fairly smooth file, but I would still be there---a trim router is awesome, if you are very careful. You are probably getting the idea that this was not a fast project—I am not even fast when I know what I am doing—again, not earning points at home.

I won’t bore you with the plumbing stories. But if you are ever installing a new sink, getting to install the faucet before you insert the sink in the counter top (compared to reaching up behind the bowl from inside the cabinet with a bowl wrench) is awesome.

Hope to see you this Saturday at Albert Oakland Park. Rain or shine, it is a fun experience to share with the kids, and each other.

Until we meet again, be safe, and have a ton of fun working wood.

Joe Gorman

## **How to Sharpen a Plane Blade with Sandpaper**

To lap the back of the blade behind the cutting bevel:

Use a very light coating of 3M “77” spray adhesive to temporarily glue small (1 ½” x 3 ½” rectangular pieces of sandpaper along the edge of a sheet of ¼” plate glass.

The paper to use is aluminum oxide in grits 50, 80, and 100 and silicone carbide (wet or dry paper) in grits of 150, 180, 220, 320, 400, 600, 1200, and 2000. The plate glass should be placed with its edge flush to the edge of the workbench. Grits can be skipped, if desired, but more time on each grit will then be required to fully remove the scratches from the previous grit. Using the gradual progression as listed, however, will require only a minute or so with each grit.

Lap the end one inch of the back of the iron on each grit in turn. Paper can be used wet or dry.

About every 10 seconds or so, stop and brush off the sandpaper with a whisk broom and wipe the blade off on a rag (or your shirt).

About 10 minutes after starting, you should have gone from 50 grit on up to 2000, and there will be a mirror finish on the back of that iron the likes of which must be seen.

Then, jig the blade in a honing fixture or go at it by hand.

Clamp the blade down in the blade-holder device, taking care to have the bevel resting on the glass perfectly along both edges. If there is a microbevel adjustment on your honing fixture, adjust it up to its full two-degree microbevel setting and hone away up to the 2000 grit.

Flip the blade over on the sandpaper several times, hone and lap, hone and lap, each time gentler and gentler, to remove the little bit of wire edge.

The resulting thin secondary bevel should be quite shiny by this time.

Remove the blade from the jig and perform the “shave some arm hairs off” test, or the sharpness test of your choice.

Of course, the ultimate test of a plane iron’s sharpness is what it does on wood.

When it is all done, peel the sandpaper from the glass and throw it away. Then, scrape the little bit of residual adhesive from the glass with a razor blade, a quick wipedown with acetone on a piece of paper towel, and the cleanup is done in a minute.

No oil, no water, no mess, no glaze of flatness problems to worry about, and a cutting edge that is Scary-Sharp.

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