



# Newsletter

<http://www.midwestwoodworkers.org>

October 2015

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## President's Letter

Greetings Woodworkers,

Our September Meeting -- For our September meeting, as advertised, we met at the farm of Mike and Nancy Gentsch. The weather was incredibly nice, the setting was beautiful, and the experience was wonderful. It also could not have been a better day for a picnic, and the food was great. Both the picnic and the setting lent themselves to an event at which people could have extended conversation, exchange information and ideas, and just get to know each other better. A marvelous visit.

The demonstrations were exceptional for those of us new to harvesting and cutting logs, and they were good for the rest of us. The bandsaw mill worked as advertised, and gave fresh incite to the way in which boards are cut (and the variations in set up of a cut based on desired final look). We also saw rays in the wood, and discussed specific uses for the piece we were looking at, and the fact that the rays disappear if you try to turn such a piece of wood instead of using it as a flat surface for something.

The tractor mounted log winch was awesome. They can pull fallen logs out of all kinds of places. Especially notable was the huge plate/anchor thing that was mounted to the back of the tractor. As a log would present more and more resistance the anchor would be forced further into the ground, preventing the tractor from being pulled toward the log, rather than the other way around.

Mike also discussed the history of the farm, and the uses they put it to. All in all it was an extremely nice, and very informative visit. Thank you very much to Mike and Nancy for having us to their farm and showing us how to process logs.

Our October Meeting -- For our October meeting the MWA will have a booth at the Pumpkin Festival this Saturday and Sunday, October 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> in Hartsburg. It is really fun to help children choose their car parts and build their own car. Many parents tell us every year that their child(ren) really look forward to it.

If you are able to help at the MWA booth, please send me an email letting me know when you can be there. But if you forget to let me know, please show up anyway—we will be happy to see you.

Terry Selby sent the following announcement. "The Hartsburg Pumpkin Festival will be held this weekend Oct.10th and Oct.11th; 10am to 5pm both days. As in previous years our club will have a booth where we help children construct toy cars and promote our club. We should have electricity available if anyone wants to

demonstrate woodworking technique. This year there are new driving directions for getting to the festival .They can be found at Hartsburg pumpkinfest.com. All vendor vehicles are to be unloaded and moved by 7am each day. Come down one or both days, help out our club, have fun working with the kids and enjoy lots of great food at the different vendors. Our tents should be in the same location as in past years but I don't that for sure. If you cannot find us call Terry at 864-7782. Hope to see you there.”

Program Ideas -- All future program ideas are welcome.

Other Matters -- I hope you all have had chances to make sawdust recently. I built two Whelping Boxes for our Izzy to have her Golden Doodle litter in. I finished the second box late last night (Monday) and this morning she had ten puppies!! I made the first box from a 4x8 sheet of sanded 5/8 inch plywood. For the second one I noticed that for an additional \$5 I could get a 4x8 sheet of 3/4 inch melamine coated particle board. There was so much to commend it, including lack of warping (ease of assembly) and the fact that it could be easily cleaned. See attached picture of whelping box being checked out Monday night, and being used Tuesday morning. Also note the 2x4 bumper rail that prevents mom from inadvertently rolling over and suffocating newborns against a wall of the box.

However, I may have destroyed my straight router bit, used to cut out the doorway entrance and the eight handle holes (the quarter inch roundover router bit did not have or cause this problem). The straight bit routing went very slowly, and developed an incredible amount of plastic smelling smoke. I have now learned the smoke from burning melamine is extremely toxic. If I pass soon, let that be a lesson to you (although I did use a dust mask rated for fumes).

I hope to see you this weekend at the Pumpkin Festival. Until then, be safe in the shop and have fun.

Joe Gorman



Proud mother with ten hungry pups.



Whelping box ready to go.

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