



Newsletter

<http://www.midwestwoodworkers.org>
September 2014

President's Letter

Greetings Woodworkers,

Our August Meeting --- Our August meeting was wonderful. Norm Anderson treated us to a varied and full meeting.

We began by getting the talking tour of the construction and use of the venerable SPORG (smoker pizza oven roaster grill), a name and a contraption that originally existed solely in Norm's imagination, and was brought to life through a wide assortment of mechanical and welding abilities. The body of the beast, a picture of which was presented in last month's Newsletter, is a reincarnated large propane tank. The claw foot wrought iron detail at the base of the legs is the closest similarity to woodworking (although I guess that wood burning is also a tie in). The homemade racks, flue, door, etc. etc. all contributed to an exceptionally versatile and functional cooker. Most importantly, the food that it provided was great.

A brief interlude consisted of walking down to the Coy pond and watching the Coy and minnows in a continuous series of frenzied lurches for fish food (ala the Botanical Gardens in St. Louis, and probably a gazillion other touristy environs). But Norm gets this treat right at home. Biggest gold fish you can imagine.

We walked back up to the shop, got a talking tour of a fancy modular desk that Norm built, and then there was food. Norm and Frankie prepared a great meal, including fresh produce from the garden, meat and stuffed peppers from the SPORG (including some very nice pork and an experimental meatloaf roll with smoked turkey, mushrooms and peppers that I highly recommend), along with homemade potato salad and slaw, some brownie bights and delightful (Frankie swears they are healthy) cookies. The meal was incredible and much appreciated.

Don Bristow, our relatively new and young (but wise beyond his years) vice-president showed great promise when he made a motion that no other member of the MWA would be held up to the new "Standard of Norm" (or is that a Norman Standard?). Not that we weren't delighted that Norm and Frankie went to all this trouble, but that we don't want the supply of presenters to dry up for fear of inadequacy by comparison (as if that isn't already enough of a problem every day!). Good and quick thinking Don!

We then went through a shop tour. As Norm said, it is a work in progress. A very nice amount of space, it is a separate 20' x 40' outbuilding (where we also ate) divided between wood working and metal working functions. Norm's homemade air filters looked like a great idea---they were boxed-in box fans with a slide-in furnace filter that goes in a slot built into the upwind side. He had four of them mounted high on the walls of the shop. I personally am very bothered by free floating sawdust, and highly recommend this approach.

Norm then showed us the way to construct a Roubo bookstand. He circulated a rough-draft model he had completed previously. He talked us through the delicate issues of turning a single piece of wood into a hinged two-piece (and yet still bound together as one piece) folding bookstand. His demonstration of modern methods (compared to Roubo's 100% hand tool approach) included the use of an oscillating tool to poke narrow cuts directly through the wood at the sides of the hinges, and then resorting to hand held chisels to chop out the waste around the hinges to end of with a somewhat rounded hinge that allowed for movement. His effort to quickly achieve a free-hand band saw cut down the

middle of the board lengthwise was not quite as accomplished as some of his other magic tricks! But it gave us all the idea. We all learned what was involved in such a project.

Personally, if I ever have time to play, I want to tackle the Roubo bookstand, perhaps on a little larger scale as a stand for an unabridged dictionary (they are so big that they are a little awkward and difficult to use, and a person is discouraged from using them unless they are sitting open in a stand). Anyway, I believe it would be a very fun project, given a little more time than Norm had at our meeting!

Norm, thank you very much. It was an incomparable experience.

The raffle of Steve Baumgartner's Boone County cured ham was icing on the cake. I believe it raised a record setting amount of funds. We thank Steve, and assure him that any time he would like to duplicate the experience, we won't turn him away!

Our September Meeting --- Our September meeting is coming right up this Monday, September 22nd at Boone County Millworks, at 7:00 p.m. At the last minute Ernest was able to line up a presentation, and we appreciate his efforts. We should all keep thinking of presentations that we would enjoy seeing, and the persons or entities that might be able to make the presentation (all volunteers welcome).

This Monday we will be the benefactors of the work of Bill Lamberson. Bill makes his own fly rods from bamboo or wood. He will share with us the secrets of fly rod construction. It will be a lot of fun to learn.

October Pumpkin Festival --- Mark your calendars. We will man a booth at the Pumpkin Festival in Hartsburg in October. The festival runs Saturday and Sunday, October 11th and 12th, from 9 to 5, rain or shine. If you can contribute a day or even a half day of time to help small children build (really assemble) their own wooden cars, you would be glad you did, and so would they. I would be happy to record time commitments at any time. Simply email JGorman@ptclabs.com.

I hope you have all had opportunities to work wood. I have had a few rare opportunities myself. At work we replaced a wall mounted HVAC unit. It is a little larger than a typical window-mount air conditioner, and it also heats, and it is built into the wall (like a hotel room unit) rather than being window mounted.

But since our building was built about thirty-five years ago, the currently available units are a little smaller. The old hole in the wall was a little oversized, and the guys who installed the new unit did not deal with the aesthetics (no surprise there). So I ended up doing a three sided picture frame of trim around it (too close to the floor for the fourth side). The trim had to cover some very uneven spaces, so I made some shims on my chop saw to fill in some places under the trim before caulking (for you perfectionists out there, this is rehab and not new construction. The finished product looked neat and trim, though nothing like new construction).

When cutting the shims, to prevent them from just sliding through the chop saw table insert, I found that if you simply place a piece of scrap cardboard under the wood, and hold the cardboard in place as you slide down the wood for the next cut, the cardboard makes a great, quick, and cheap "zero clearance" table insert substitute, and all of your shims stay up where you can retrieve them.

I have also been helping my friend replace the rotted out bench boards in his back yard picnic bench. Because I was finally going to get a little more use out of my random orbital sander, I decided to go ahead and order a supply of 5" disks with eight holes. It was a good opportunity to test out our 10% discount from Klingspor. I had already gotten my magic number from Klingspor based on the MWA's participation in their program (if you need info, contact me or Bob Youngquist). I ordered a variety of 8-hole paper ranging from 80 grit to 220 grit.

Not that we would need it for the bench, but while I was at it I also ordered some finer grit 5" self-stick sandpaper in rolls. At Klingspor, they explained that the 8-hole paper is fairly aggressive, and only goes to 220 grit. The finer paper is without holes, is peel and stick, and goes beyond 1,000 grit. In addition to wanting it for occasional orbital sanding work, self stick sandpaper comes in handy for many uses. One of them we will demonstrate whenever we get the next tool sharpening MWA presentation together. I also ordered a zero clearance table insert for my Delta Unisaw at \$20.00 pre-discount.

Mostly I just wanted to mention that Klingspor has a nice assortment of woodworking supplies, including a lot of choices for sandpaper, and my experience with the ten percent discount program was really positive (but you do need to know the procedures and follow them exactly, and not just run off and order something).

That's all for this round. I hope to see you this Monday at Boone County Millworks for a very interesting program by Bill Lamberson on making fly rods. Please be safe in the shop, and have a lot of fun working wood.

Joe Gorman

August 2014 MWA Meetings

Business Meeting Minutes, August 25, 2014

Meeting held at Norm Anderson's Shop

Joe Gorman, president

17 members present

Minutes were read

Treasurer's report showed that the woodworkers had a balance of \$3306 and the turners had a balance of \$1484

There will be a toy car workshop August 28th at the PET shop and a turners' workshop Sept. 4th at Ernest's house

Show and tell

1. Olin Hatfield showed a ring with a wire insert he turned

2. Norm had a piece of wood that he needed help identifying

Our host Norm Anderson served us a gourmet meal to enjoy and gave the program. He showed his shop and tools then showed how he cuts puzzles how to make a Roubo book stand.

The next meeting will be Sept. 22nd at Boone County Millworks

The raffle was a country ham donated by Steve Baumgarnter. It was won by Harrold Ankeny.

The raffle bought in \$68.00

There was no door prize



Left: Norm shows some of his brewing equipment. Right: Folding bookstand made from a single solid piece of lumber (<http://www.woodwrightschool.com/the-roubo-bookstand-wroy/>).

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