



# Newsletter

<http://www.midwestwoodworkers.org>

December 2016

---

## President's Letter

Greetings Woodworkers,

Toy Cars as Holiday Gifts for the Less Fortunate -- Our stockpile of toy cars was distributed earlier this week to children's agencies. Elves Bob Youngquist, Mike Gentsch, Harrold Ankeney and Ernest Hilderbrand delivered approximately 1,100 cars earlier this week. We appreciate their help, and we hope that the cars bring a lot of enjoyment.

Our November Meeting -- Our November meeting was a wonderful presentation by Dr. Barry J. Gainor. Dr. Gainor is a long-time Bluegrass musician, as well as a hand surgeon. He also rehabilitates classic banjos. In fact, in 2013 he wrote an article for the Journal of Hand Surgery showing the surprising similarities of the practices of that profession to the practice of banjo repair. His article is entitled "Hand Made: A Handy Pursuit—Rehabilitating Vintage Banjos." He mentioned such similarities as the practice of making sure you measure twice and cut once!!!

Dr. Gainor also has a website entitled the Banjo Rehab Center. The web address is [www.banjorehab.com](http://www.banjorehab.com). It features a rotating array of commentary and pictures, such as the recent entry of one of his restored banjos in an art show at the Columbia Art League. Dr. Gainor's wonderful sense of humor is evident throughout his web site, in the aforementioned article, and I expect in person.

Dr. Gainor took us carefully through the way he builds a banjo from start to finish. He discussed sourcing necks and other parts, and many essential pointers in how the parts need to fit together. He also discussed some of the history of the banjo and some of the variations in sound, and the uses for each. Sound variation is produced by various means including putting a back on the pot (the big round main part of the banjo), and also by use of various tone rings.

He mentioned that he sourced his pots from a gentleman at St. Francis Farm ([www.stfrancisfarm.org](http://www.stfrancisfarm.org)). That is a Catholic Worker operation in upstate New York that focuses on simple living, voluntary poverty, and helping those in need. The volunteers grow crops and share their harvest with soup kitchens and help immigrants in the Syracuse area. Dr. Gainor made the point, which I heartily second, that they are a good organization to support. From a woodworkers' point of view, much of their income is earned by responsibly growing and harvesting timber and milling lumber, which they sell or use. They also make wooden toys for poor immigrant families in the Syracuse area, again focusing on simple living. Perhaps we can trade some wooden toy ideas with them?!

Dr. Gainor's presentation was well organized, informative, and extremely interesting. He brought a number of parts and banjos to facilitate his discussion, which added a lot to what we got out of it. We are very grateful to Dr. Gainor for his fine presentation.

Our December Meeting -- The December program is our annual Holiday Dinner. It is our opportunity to spread some holiday cheer to the children from the Coyote Hill home. This year we expect twenty-five children and ten adults from Coyote Hill as guests. Your own children and guests are certainly welcome as well. We

give the Coyote Hill children and staff a night out, feed them, and send each child home with a wooden car, and other items. In the process we get to share a meal and each other's company. The dinner is coming right up this Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>.

The Holiday dinner will be held once again (courtesy of Harrold Ankeney and the church) at the community cafe at Community United Methodist Church, 3301 W. Broadway (across the street to the west of WalMart and almost across Broadway from HyVee). Come around the back of the church and you will see an entrance toward the center, and the large room to the right of the entrance where the dinner is held. The doors will open at 5:00 p.m., and the goal is to start eating about 6:00. Arriving by 5:30 will allow time to get your food dish to the right location, and help with any last minute needs.

In order to accommodate our guests from Coyote Hill, we ask that members bring a dish that would serve twice as many people as the number in your group. MWA provides the entrée and drinks, and members can bring a vegetable, starch, salad or dessert. Anything that can be brought in disposable containers will facilitate sending home leftovers with our guests.

We encourage MWA members to bring show and tell items to the Holiday Dinner that can help our guests appreciate and learn a little about woodworking. We also provide MWA-made cars so that each child can take one home. If anyone is interested in making and bringing puzzles or other child-oriented woodworking products that the children, or each house at Coyote Hill, can take home with them, that would be really nice as well.

As is traditional for the MWA Holiday Dinner, there will be two categories of door prizes. One is for MWA members in attendance. This year that door prize will be a \$150 gift certificate from a local hardware store (this avoids winning a tool that you already have). For our guests from Coyote Hill, as well as guests accompanying MWA members, there will also be a door prize (actually two). One will be a bowl made by Ernest Hilderbrand, and the other will be a pen turned by Dale Andrews. All good reasons to attend the Holiday Dinner, in addition to providing a break and a treat for Coyote Hill residents and staff.

In order to help repay Community United Methodist Church for allowing us to use their space, and in order to prevent this event from costing them money, there will be a donation jar available at the dinner to defray costs of providing the facilities.

Please remember that the December event is earlier in the month than our usual meeting (it's this Monday) and starts earlier. Try to be there by 5:30.

Program Ideas -- All future program ideas are welcome.

Our January Meeting -- For our January meeting Tom Stauder will give us a presentation on joinery. While that remains shrouded in some mystery, it promises to be a fun and informative meeting.

That's all for this month. I hope to see you at 5:30 this Monday for the Holiday Dinner, as well as the usual enjoyment and camaraderie of hanging out with woodworkers.

Be safe in the shop, and have fun.

I wish you and your friends and loved ones a blessed and merry Christmas and Hanukah, and a fulfilling, peaceful and happy new year.

Joe Gorman

## **November MWA Meetings**

Officers' Meeting

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

We planned for the Christmas dinner to be held December 12th.

Business Meeting

Meeting held November 28, 2016 at Boone County Millwork

Joe Gorman, president

18 members present

Minutes of the October meeting were read

Treasurer's report showed a balance of \$5545 of which the MWA had \$4109 and the woodturners had \$1846

Bob Youngquist asked for help delivering toy cars. Contact him if you can help

Terry had scrap wood

Show and Tell:

1. Bob Youngquist showed turned bracelets and toy cars he made for the kids at Christmas dinner
2. Olin Hatfield showed bracelets, tops, and turned pens
3. Dale Andrews showed a bamboo walking stick
4. Darren Laupp showed scroll sawed snowmen and a toy helicopter
5. Tom Stauder showed turned pepper and salt mills
6. Don Bristow showed a picture of a knife case he made

Our Christmas dinner will be on December 12th at the Community United Methodist Church on West Broadway, across from HyVee. We will try to eat at 6:00 PM. The club will furnish meat, bread, drinks, and tableware. We will have kids and house parents from Coyote Hills so members are reminded to bring extra food. Members are also reminded to bring guests and items for show and tell.

Our program was given by Dr. Barry Gainor. He gave a very interesting presentation on how he restores and builds banjos. In addition he discussed the history of banjos and treated us to some good music. This was a very interesting program for someone who can barely play a radio.

The door prize was a rubber mallet won by Scott Sager. The raffle was a \$40 gift certificate from Home Depot and was won by Dale Andrews.

See everyone at the Christmas dinner!



Toys made by MWA members ready for delivery to children's service agencies throughout Columbia and the world.

**Midwest Woodworkers' Association**  
c/o Bob Youngquist  
4435 Highway PP  
Columbia, MO 65202  
[youngquistr@missouri.edu](mailto:youngquistr@missouri.edu)

