

Newsletter

http://www.midwestwoodworkers.org January 2022

President's Letter

Midwest Woodworkers Association January 2022 Newsletter –

Happy New Year to all the members of the Midwest Woodworkers Association and may it be the best year ever for you and your families. With the new year comes many new projects along with some new challenges.

Right now, my projects are all driven by MWA's gallery show at the Columbia Art League for the month of February, from the 1st through the 26th. I'm working on several different items for the show including a walnut slab and black epoxy river table, a burl walnut and sycamore wine tote, a white oak jewelry box, and a lamp made from a white oak timber salvaged from my family's home church built in 1840. Each of these projects have really pushed my skills, which is what I like, until things go wrong. I've had



issues with each of them, mostly with the limited amount of time to complete them but also the unanticipated difficulty in drilling a 2-3/8 inch hole through end grain old growth white oak. The density of this timber is unbelievable!

It is my hope that each of you are also working on at least one project for the art show, even if you don't typically sell your items. My strategy is if I don't really want to sell a certain project, then I will price it accordingly. This way if it does sell then I will at least have an unexpected

windfall to console me.

I would like to stress that this is a way for the general public to get to know more about MWA and to hopefully grow our organization. Additionally, if we do well with our show this year, then maybe in subsequent years we can get a better month on the Columbia Art League's calendar.

I was also able to complete a cutting board and a pair of knives for Christmas gifts, thanks to Norm Anderson's assistance. Norm has truly been a blessing to me with my most recent projects, along with Tom Stauder, who have both either let me use their shop equipment or loaned me equipment I don't have. This really got me to thinking about the true value of MWA, which is the relationships we are able to build and to foster. Even though I benefited from using Norm and Tom's equipment, I also benefited from getting to see what they are working on and to connect as woodworkers. I truly treasure this part of our visits.

I also wanted to mention that I'm giving a presentation on the Midwest Woodworkers Association to my Rotary Club on Friday, February 4th, at 7:30 AM, at the Country Club of Missouri. Please feel free to join me, and I'll even buy you breakfast. This is a way to hopefully build more awareness of our organization as well as for the art show. If you have any pictures, such as the pumpkin festival or the toy car project, that I could include in the presentation that would be greatly appreciated. I would also like to include a diversity of woodworking projects, so if you can take pictures of your current or past projects, I would also like to include them in the presentation. Thank you in advance for your assistance with putting this presentation together.

As to the challenges I mentioned in the beginning. Since the new year came upon us, so has a new variation of COVID, Omicron. The plan is to have an in person meeting on January 24th at Sawdust Studios, with Zoom access also available. But please choose the side of safety first before deciding to attend in person. Presently, I don't have a program set up, but I would encourage everyone to bring their Art League projects to show and discuss. We will also be discussing the logistics of getting all our pieces to the Columbia Art League on January 30th.

Finally, when I said "safety first" earlier, this wasn't only referring to the challenges with COVID, but also to shop safety. As many of you know one of our long-time members, Don Bristow, recently had a very close call that required over 20 stiches to repair his finger from a nasty miter saw kick back. This made me think about my own habits in the woodshop and to maybe slow down and take the appropriate safety precautions when using my equipment, including eye, and breathing protection. As I used to tell my kids when they were little, "safety first".

Once again, Happy New Year and I hope to see everyone soon.

Kindest regards,

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President, Midwest Woodworkers Association

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