

President's Letter

Spring is in full bloom, and I'm loving it. Even though I've enjoyed my time in the woodshop this winter it is now time for yard work and some golf. The fact is I'm going on my very first golf trip next week, which is why I'm getting the newsletter out earlier than normal.

Recently I purchased a set of classes on how to use Sketchup for woodworkers from Fine Woodworking's online course catalog. It has been fun, but I'm having a hard time keeping up each week. However, it is a self-paced course. My goal is to use Sketchup to design and build more complex projects. One such project, which is a dovetailed walnut bourbon bar/cabinet with spalted maple back panels, has been rolling around in my head for a couple of months.

The top and bottom cabinets will be suspended from a steel frame with French cleats. And there will not be cabinet doors, but instead the cabinets will both open, from the middle, like two shelves folded together using Soss hinges and all of this will be lighted with LEDs from above. The section between the lower and upper cabinets will have a marble top with a tambour cabinet in curly maple for the glassware. Like I said, it's complex. However, with Sketchup the goal is to build it digitally before I cut any wood.

Before I can get to my bourbon cabinet, I have a few other projects that must take priority. One of which is a project for my son and daughter-in-law and their new baby, expected in October. I had contemplated making all the usual baby furniture gifts, such as a cradle or a baby bed. But my issue with these items is once they are through their child rearing years, they would feel married to a piece of furniture they can't use, that Papa made, that is now in storage. So instead, I landed on making my first chair, a walnut Sam Maloof inspired rocking chair to be exact. This means I won't be spending all my summer goofing off.

The April meeting will be on Monday, April 24th, at *Sawdust Studios*, at 6:30 PM. I have asked fellow member John Loyd to give us a demonstration of his tambour door router bits. With the dream project mentioned above I have a special interest in learning more about this system. If given enough time I might also give a brief overview of how I ebonize wood.

I look forward to seeing everyone on the 24th, and please don't come empty handed. If possible, bring any of your projects that you have been working on, even if they are in the build stage, and any ideas for presentations for future meetings.

Not to sound like a broken record, but I want to remind everyone that my time as club president will end in June and we are still looking for someone that is willing to take on the position. I promise to assist in any way I can with the transition and with ongoing support.

Kindest regards,

Dean Dreg

Dean Gregory, President, Midwest Woodworkers Association

MWA Christmas Toy Project

On those days when you are between projects or need a break from your current project it is a good time to make some car bodies for the MWA Christmas Toy Project. We will need car bodies for the club's fund raiser at the Pumpkin Festival in October and completed cars for distribution to children's service agencies at Christmas. When it gets warm this spring we can get together to paint car bodies and wheels. Make your own designs from scrap 2x material or get molded car stock from Terry Selby. Just remember to drill holes for the axel pegs with 7/32" or 15/64" bits so the 1/4" pegs are a snug fit.



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