

# WOOD CHIPS



Northwest Indiana Woodworkers Association

Volume 24, Issue 1 January 2019

## President's Ramblings

Greetings Fellow Woodworkers I hope the New Year has found everyone safe and in good health. This has been a difficult start to the year for me. I have another surgery scheduled for this month.

Looking back on 2018, it has been a good year. Over the past year our club was well represented at three events, Duneland Carver Show, 34<sup>th</sup> Annual South Lake County Antique Farm and Tractor Show, Lake County Fair, and the many Shop Visits we had. Everyone that attended did a great job in supporting and representing our club and events. Thank You everyone that hosted a shop visit and everyone that attended. Unfortunately the Duneland Carver show will not happen this spring and we should plan on another venue to support our educational raffle. Please come up with some ideas we can discuss at the next meeting.

Looking at what 2019 holds, Scott and Susan Phillips will host an open house at their shop/studio in Ohio on May 11th from Noon to 4 PM Eastern Time, Everyone is welcome.

Christmas Banquet: Thank you Lisa Robbins and your committee for your outstanding work bringing the banquet together this year. If you missed the banquet, you missed out on a fantastic meal! We had so much that we had to add extra tables to buffet line. All that wonderful selections of the best treats in the region were laid out for all to enjoy in a great display. We have the best chefs and bakers attending this feast, sharing their specialties with us, Thank all of you so much! Thank you and all the members that donated their beautiful & unique handy works for our guests.

January's Program, Silent Auction: Here is your chance to make some room in the workshop. Bring in your gently used tools and or supplies that you haven't used in years and make a few bucks. This just maybe the thing someone else needs. Pickup a form and list the lowest bid you will accept on the item. Then towards the end of meeting, bidding will close. If your item has no bids you must take it home with you.

The club cannot dispose of the item.

February's Program is SHOP JIGS, and featuring

Upcoming events: The Woodworking Shows 2019, Indianapolis, Indiana 2/1-2/3.  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 2/22 to 2/24 and Columbus, Ohio 3/8 to 3/10.

More information can be found at [www.thewoodworkingshows.com](http://www.thewoodworkingshows.com)

Great Lakes Woodworking Festival Saturday, May 4th: 11AM – 7PM Sunday, May 5th 11 AM -5 PM Adrian, Michigan. More information can be found at [www.greatlakeswoodworkingfestival.com](http://www.greatlakeswoodworkingfestival.com)

Scott Phillips is having an Open Shop on May 11th, 2019.

Happy New Year, Enjoy this weather and Don't let your tools rust!

You're President, Kevin Sturgeon

### **FROM THE TREASURER**

Fellow wood workers; Dues can now be paid in advance of the May dead line. Doing so will get you a achievement point. Also, Raffle tickets for 2019 are ready to pick up to sell or buy. The prizes are, 1st.; \$300.00, 2nd; \$20000. 3rd; \$100.00. Great job last year. I hope this year will be even better.

After all bills paid out last year 2018/2019 we still have \$188.00 left in our regular account, and \$1,889.00 in our educational account. I still have a lot of those toy wooden cars that Skip gave the club to be worked on for selling at our events or to someone you may know interested in one. Anyone interested in doing them can let me know at our January meeting and I can get them for the February meeting or sooner if need be - Ron Benson

### **AWARDS**







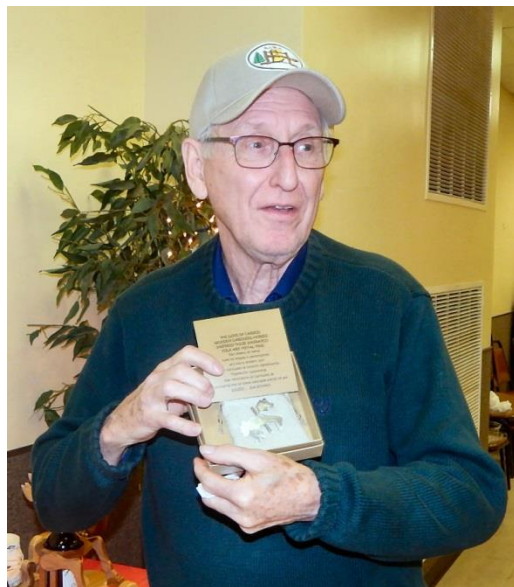




**SHOW AND TELL**



Jon Robbins



Bill Schoech



Julie Sturgeon



Kevin Sturgeon



Don Boswell



Gene Davis



Ron Benson



Kevin Sturgeon



Dick Sader



John Hunter



Kevin Sturgeon

## ITEMS FOR SALE

If you have any wood working related items that you wish to sell through the newsletter please contact John Hunter [john.b.hunter@frontier.com](mailto:john.b.hunter@frontier.com) Include a description and the price you are selling them for, also how you may be contacted.

If you are looking for a tool that another member would like to sell you can place a wanted ad in the newsletter, just contact John Hunter at [john.b.hunter@frontier.com](mailto:john.b.hunter@frontier.com)

## 2019

January 24<sup>th</sup> Membership Meeting at 208 South Linda Street, Hobart IN 7:00 PM  
Silent Auction

February 18<sup>th</sup> Committees Meeting at 2949 Willowcreek Rd, Portage 7:00 PM

February 28<sup>th</sup> Membership Meeting at 208 South Linda Street, Hobart IN 7:00 PM

Shop Jigs

March 18<sup>th</sup> Committees Meeting at 2949 Willowcreek Rd, Portage 7:00 PM

March 28<sup>th</sup> Membership Meeting at 208 South Linda Street, Hobart IN 7:00 PM

April 1<sup>st</sup> Executive Board Meeting 7 PM at 2949 Willowcreek Rd, Portage

April 15<sup>th</sup> Committees Meeting at 2949 Willowcreek Rd, Portage 7:00 PM

April 25<sup>th</sup> Membership Meeting at 208 South Linda Street, Hobart IN 7:00 PM

2 x 4 Challenge

May 20<sup>th</sup> Committees Meeting at 2949 Willowcreek Rd, Portage 7:00 PM

May 23<sup>rd</sup> Membership Meeting at 208 South Linda Street, Hobart IN 7:00 PM



June 17<sup>th</sup> Committees Meeting at 2949 Willowcreek Rd, Portage 7:00 PM  
June 27<sup>th</sup> Membership Meeting at 208 South Linda Street, Hobart IN 7:00 PM  
July 1<sup>st</sup> Executive Board Meeting 7 PM at 2949 Willowcreek Rd, Portage  
July 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> Club Booth at the Steam Show at Lake County Fair Grounds  
July 15<sup>th</sup> Committees Meeting at 2949 Willowcreek Rd, Portage 7:00 PM  
July 25<sup>th</sup> Membership Meeting at 208 South Linda Street, Hobart IN 6:00 PM  
August 1<sup>st</sup> Set Up Club Booth at Lake County Fair 9 PM  
August 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Club Booth at Lake County Fair 10 AM – 10 PM  
August 19<sup>th</sup> Committees Meeting at 2949 Willowcreek Rd, Portage 7:00 PM  
August 22<sup>nd</sup> Membership Meeting at 208 South Linda Street, Hobart IN 7:00 PM  
August 24<sup>th</sup> Club Picnic at Hidden Lake Park in Merrillville  
September 16<sup>th</sup> Committees Meeting at 2949 Willowcreek Rd, Portage 7:00 PM  
September 26<sup>th</sup> Membership Meeting at 208 South Linda Street, Hobart IN 7:00  
PM Program Favorite/Least Favorite tools  
October 7<sup>th</sup> Executive Board Meeting at 7 PM at 2949 Willowcreek Rd, Portage  
October 21<sup>st</sup> Committees Meeting at 2949 Willowcreek Rd, Portage 7:00 PM  
October 24<sup>th</sup> Membership Meeting at 208 South Linda Street, Hobart IN 7:00 PM  
November 11<sup>th</sup> Committees Meeting at 2949 Willowcreek Rd, Portage 7:00 PM  
November 21<sup>st</sup> Membership Meeting at 208 South Linda Street, Hobart IN 7:00  
PM Toy Program  
December 16<sup>th</sup> Committees Meeting at 2949 Willowcreek Rd, Portage 7:00 PM  
December 19<sup>th</sup> Membership Meeting at 208 South Linda Street, Hobart IN 6:00  
PM Christmas Party, Installation and Awards

### **Bob Flexner's Finishing Tips**

<http://www.thefinishingstore.com/>

## **The Beauty of Waterborne Finishes**

It's a rare finishing class that I don't get someone who has been a die-hard user of solvents, such as lacquer, conversion varnish and the like, who is reluctant to try waterborne. There is certainly nothing wrong with those finishes, after all they have been around for years and have stood the test of time.

Waterborne finishes are the new kid on the block, right? Well sort of. Ever used latex paint, either interior or exterior? Well, that is basically a waterborne finish and it too has stood the test of time. Now, thanks to some creative chemistry we have waterborne coatings for furniture, automotive and just about every application known and it is just going to keep growing, as it should, it is great!

There is a slight learning curve if you're an old solvent user, but not a difficult one. I know because I have used solvent based products since I was thirteen in both the auto body and furniture worlds. First time I tried a waterborne, well, it wasn't good; but I was determined to master it. What follows is a synopsis of my journey.

The first thing I noticed was that despite my best efforts, the finish got runs, I just couldn't get past them. I also had a lot of orange peel. It was frustrating. I was doing everything that I had read or been told, had a nice big 2.0 needle/nozzle, but it was like spraying with a water hose. I wasn't happy.

Then I started playing with smaller needle/nozzle setups and reduced the fluid - what a difference! I found that using a 1.4 or 1.5 needle/nozzle and backing off the fluid, I could get a much better finish. Then I started to pay attention to the initial texture on the surface directly from the gun versus what I had a few minutes later. This brought to my attention that because of water's surface tension, it wasn't laying out quite as smooth initially. Unlike the solvent-based products I had always used, it took a little bit of time for the finish to flow out and lay down. Allowing this time allowed the finish to lay down nicely. Over the years, the flow out of waterborne top coats has improved, and while they still don't lay out the same as a solvent base off the gun, they come close.

Then came my next issue, overspray. Unlike solvent-based products that dissolve back into themselves, water borne isn't quite the same. The overspray tends to lay on the surface more. The solution, however, is simple. Reduce the overspray and get a nice wet coat on as soon as possible. Don't give surfaces time to tack up while there is overspray being produced. Initially, I overcame this by spraying fewer pieces and by positioning them in my booth so that overspray being pulled by the exhaust fan wasn't pulling overspray to another surface. This worked pretty well but I make a living doing woodwork and finishing so the reduced number of pieces in the booth and added time were just not acceptable. I knew the answer was in finding some way to increase the fluid and still atomize the finish so I could 'move' more pieces at a time.

I was using gravity fed spray guns and also had tried some of the turbines and they were okay. With the gravity fed guns I had to increase the air pressure, thus more overspray; or reduce the fluid and in some cases both. The turbines were 2-stage and I couldn't increase the pressure so I had to reduce the fluid, again I was restricted. That's when I realized that if I could get the fluid under some pressure, like a latex pump sprayer, I could get what I wanted. With my gravity fed/compressed air guns I noticed a significant difference if I used one of the bigger cups on top and the cup was full. Just the added pressure of the fluid helped, so I got to playing with "drilling" and trying to rig up the gravity feeds so I could pressurize the cup, not with great success, but I had enough success to know it was the answer.

If you prefer using a gravity fed spray gun, I have found that the 3M PPS system is superb. Soon after, I got my hands on the Apollo Atomizer, my troubles were over. I often run mine on compressed air, but I also have the 1050VR Turbine. I can get on cruise control and knock it out. I typically run the 1.3 needle/nozzle because I can get the fluid to the gun and cut the pressure down so there's very little overspray. Now, the booth gets loaded up and I'm back to "in and out." There is one down side to this, I teach finishing classes and when the Apollo is cookin' they complain because they don't get much spray time. They get over it when they see the finish they get. Just a couple of more things I tell my students. The first is about the viscosity. It has improved in the waterborne finishes so here is the test I use, very simple. If it will go through a medium mesh strainer as fast as you reasonably pour it in, you are good to go. Secondly, when you spray a waterborne, look across your panel, you want to see a fine, light texture if any. Look for the whitish haze (waterborne looks like milk). The white haze lets you know you're 'wet enough'. If you have both, give it five minutes and you will see how nicely it levels out.

If you take a little time and use the proper equipment, you will find that you also can lay out a super slick finish using the new waterborne topcoats. The advantages of waterborne finishes are huge. Waterborne finishes are not flammable and are not as toxic as solvent-based finishes. Better for your health and safety not to mention the reduced insurance rates! Personally, I have found that the durability and workability are both superb.

For your next project, give waterborne topcoats a try. Happy finishing!