

WOOD CHIPS



Northwest Indiana Woodworkers Association

Volume 30, Issue 5 May 2025

WOODEN YOU LIKE TO KNOW

Greetings fellow woodworkers,

A Cautionary Tale of Creativity Gone Wild

Jeff had always considered himself an aspiring woodworker. He wasn't exactly a professional—more of a "watch three YouTube tutorials and go rogue" kind of craftsman. One day, he decided he was going to build the ultimate bookshelf for his living room. He had grand visions of sleek lines, hidden compartments, and an artistic flourish that would make Da Vinci jealous.

The plan was simple—except for the fact that he hadn't exactly written one down. He figured inspiration would strike somewhere between cutting and assembling. Unfortunately, inspiration turned out to be more chaotic than expected.

First, Jeff miscalculated his measurements. Instead of a bookshelf, he accidentally created a towering wooden monstrosity that could only be described as a "storage fortress." It was so tall, it blocked half the window. His cat, Mr. Evil, took one look and claimed it as his throne.

Then came the creative touches—he thought, "Why not add a secret compartment?" This led to an impromptu trip to the hardware store, where he left with a variety of hinges, some drawer slides, and a contraption that looked vaguely like it belonged in a spy movie.

Back at his workshop (read: basement), he tried installing the secret compartment but somehow managed to install it *backward*. Now, instead of hiding things, the compartment popped open with excessive enthusiasm, launching small objects into the air like a surprise party.

Finally, the finishing touch: staining the masterpiece. Jeff was *very* generous with the wood stain. So generous, in fact, that it leaked onto the floor, giving the entire basement an unexpected walnut-colored makeover. It took weeks to get rid of the smell, and his shoes had a suspicious sheen for months.

After hours of work, frustration, and accidental shoe-staining, Jeff finally stepped back to admire his creation. The bookshelf leaned slightly to the left, had an overly aggressive hidden compartment, and still smelled like a woodworking disaster—but it was his. And despite everything, it had character.

In the end, Jeff embraced the imperfections. He filled the wonky shelves with books and trinkets, proudly telling every guest, "It's a *custom* piece." And Mr. Evil? He still ruled from his wooden throne.

Moral of the story? Creativity is great but *maybe* plan your woodworking projects before going full rogue.

NEWS OF NOTE:

This month we have created a new Membership committee to handle all those things involved with welcoming guests, signing up new members and collecting dues, etc. Susan Bunce will chair the committee and lead this endeavor along with Dennis Byron assisting her. If you are going to pay your dues this month for the achievement point, please see Susan to do so.

Thanks to our volunteers!

REMINDERS:

**This month's meeting will be on May 22nd @ 6 pm at Hobart Moose
May's program will be John Hart (tax accountant) will be here to
answer your questions on LLC and small business tax laws.**

**See you at the next meeting,
Jeff Snellgrove
President NIWA**

FROM THE RAFFLE COMMITTEE

NIWA would not be in the good shape it is without the RAFFLE program. Dues alone does not pay the bills. Your club encourages all members to please take and sell some RAFFLE tickets. Club dues are now due at the May meeting, still only \$25.00, and \$35.00 for couples. If you know someone interested in woodworking, bring them into a meeting. Thank you, Ron Benson

SHOW AND TELL



George Denton



Susan Bunce



Bill Schoech



Earl Lakia



Lee Nedreau



Kevin Sturgeon



Bryant Mitol



Dennis Byron



Gene Davis



Mat Seibert



Don Miller & Jon Robbins

2 X 4 CHALLENGE



Matt Conrad



Dennis Byron



Don Williams



Bill Schoech



Don Miller



George Denton



Susan Bunce



Jeff Snellgrove



Kevin Sturgeon



Steve Smith

TOY BUILD

Some of our members at a toy build workshop at George Denton's shop.





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 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

2025

May 23nd Membership Meeting at Moose Lodge, 143 South Hobart Road, Hobart IN

6:00 PM

June 18th Committees Meeting at Moose Lodge, 143 South Hobart Road, Hobart IN

6:00 PM

June 26th Membership Meeting at Moose Lodge, 143 South Hobart Road, Hobart IN

6:00 PM

July 7th Executive Board Meeting 5 PM at Portage Moose Lodge on County Line Road

July 10th Set Up Club Booth at Steam Show 3 PM at Lake County Fair Grounds

July 11th – 13th Club Booth at the Steam Show at Lake County Fair Grounds

July 16th Committees Meeting at Moose Lodge, 143 South Hobart Road, Hobart IN

6:00 PM

July 24th Membership Meeting at Moose Lodge, 143 South Hobart Road, Hobart IN

6:00 PM

July 31st Set up booth for Lake County Fair **Time to be announced**

August 1st – 4th Work booth at Lake County Fair

August 20th Committees Meeting at Moose Lodge, 143 South Hobart Road, Hobart IN

6:00 PM

August 28th Membership Meeting at Moose Lodge, 143 South Hobart Road, Hobart IN

6:00 PM

August 31st Club Picnic at the Portage VFW at 2803 Monnier St. In Portage IN

12:00 Noon

September 17th Committees Meeting at Moose Lodge, 143 South Hobart Road, Hobart IN

6:00 PM

September 25th Setup booth for Fall Harvest Festival And Antique Equipment Show

September 26th – 28th Work both at Harvest Festival and Equipment Show 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

September 25th Membership Meeting at Moose Lodge, 143 South Hobart Road, Hobart IN

6:00 PM Program Favorite/Least Favorite tools & Silent Auction

October 6th Executive Board Meeting 5 PM at Portage Moose Lodge on County Line Road

October 15th Committees Meeting at Moose Lodge, 143 South Hobart Road, Hobart IN

6:00 PM

October 23rd Membership Meeting at Moose Lodge, 143 South Hobart Road, Hobart IN

6:00 PM

November 12th Committees Meeting at Moose Lodge, 143 South Hobart Road, Hobart IN

6:00 PM

November 20th Membership Meeting at Moose Lodge, 143 South Hobart Road, Hobart IN

6:00 PM Toy Program

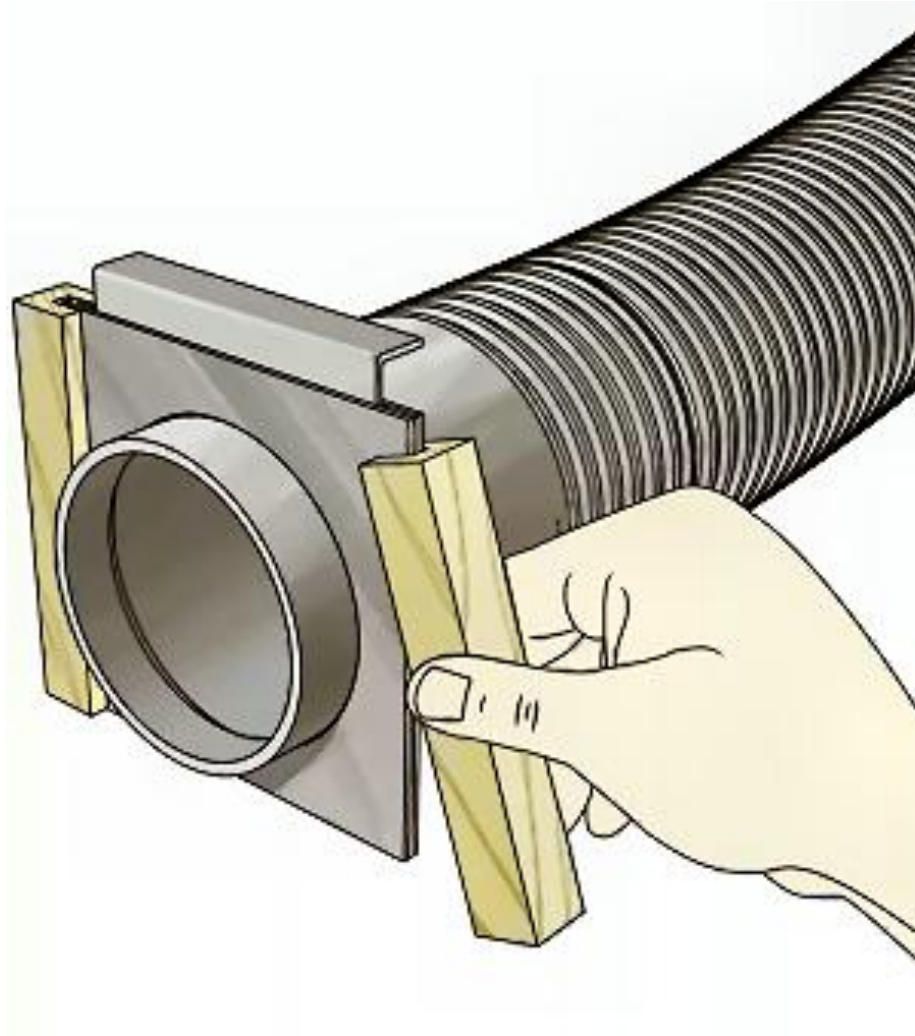
December 10th Committees Meeting at Moose Lodge, 143 South Hobart Road, Hobart IN

6:00 PM

December 18th Membership Meeting at Moose Lodge, 143 South Hobart Road, Hobart IN

6:00 PM Christmas Party, Installation and Awards

WOODWORKING TIPS



I've noticed one problem with plastic dust collection gates: sawdust accumulates in the tracks, preventing the sliding gate from closing tightly. So, I made hardwood clips that allow me to easily disassemble the gates to clean out all the sawdust.

The clips shown here hold the two halves of the blast gate firmly together, yet remove easily when it's clean-out time. The groove in each clip fits snugly onto the side of the gate.