



Contains Feb 2008 Minutes

March 2008



Hoby Horn shared the platform at the February meeting with Janice Petko to demonstrate proper construction of Bluebird houses.

Bluebird Box....Hoby Horn

Hoby Horn gave the Feb. demo on the building of the blue bird boxes for placing on a trail or in a yard. He indicated that these were taken from the plans provided by Janice Petko. He selected one of the easiest to construct and therefore take the least amount of time. He used the club bandsaw to cut the pieces and also stated that if he was home in his workshop, he would cut them to size with his tablesaw for

more accurate construction. This type of bluebird house uses a 2x4 backing plate for all the pieces to be screwed to and this also provides a great support for screwing to a post. Hoby also used exterior deck screws for use of attaching the wood parts together. He indicated that he predrills all holes so that he will not split out the wood. He used the following steps to construct the bluebird box.

1. Drill 3 pilot holes into the sides of the box so that they can be attached to the 2x4. Align the back edge of the sides to the back of the 2x4. Screw the two sides of the box to the 2x4 with 2 inch deck screws.



2. Screw the square top roof seal into position at the top of the side edges. Pre-drill all holes.

3. Screw the square bottom plate into position between the side bottoms. Place this bottom plate far enough up into the box so that the door section will be flush with the front of the box.

4. Align door section for placement. The door opening at the top should be between $1 \frac{3}{16}$ and $1 \frac{1}{4}$ inch from the square top roof seal. This will be the opening for the entry of the birds. Cut grooves across the door interior so that the bluebirds will have a foothold to crawl back up to the opening to fly away. Use two screws, one on each side of the box to act as hinges for the door to swing open. Drill one or two holes near the top of the door and through the sides of the birdhouse so that you can insert a closing pin to keep the door in position.

5. Cut triangular pieces to fit into the interior upper corners for support. Screw into position.

6. Make a small nesting box to sit inside the bird house for the bluebirds to make a nest on. This wooden box should be removable for cleaning.

7. Cut the large overlay roof for the top of the birdhouse. Cut some drip grooves along the edges so that water can drip off the top roof edge and not become a problem. Screw roof into position.

8. Cut 3 ventilation holes along the top of the birdhouse sides, just under the roof overhang and 4 vent holes along the bottom. These are used for moisture drainage.



Janice Petko was a quest speaker at the February meeting on the topic of Bluebirds of Ohio

Janice Petko gave a lecture on bluebirds in Ohio to the BWWT on Feb. 16, 2008. She indicated that she became interested in bluebirds in 1986 and has been avidly acquiring information on the beautiful birds ever since. She currently oversees approximately 60 bluebird houses in her immediate area of the Algonquin Mill in Carroll County. She indicated that the bluebirds were in deep decline over the past years. She said that they like to live in old woodpecker holes in trees and natural holes in old fence posts. However, there has been a problem in finding these locations in recent years. There has been a tremendous amount of cutting of trees, due to development of neighborhoods and clearing of land for manufacturing concerns.

These actions will reduce the amount of trees used for bluebird habitat. Old fence posts are being removed and new metal posts are being used to erect fence lines. Again, this action will reduce the amount of nesting holes available to bluebirds. Other old trees have rotted away or used for firewood and that produces a reduction in housed nesting areas for bluebirds. There

has been some observation of red-headed woodpeckers taking over the nest areas also. There also has been an increase of pesticides, DDT, and lawn weed killer chemicals and that has eliminated a food source of bugs. Blue birds love to select food from open ground areas. Then in 1970, a big effort was made to build bird-houses to be placed in strategic locations in the wild to encourage the propagation of bluebirds. This has been known to have a desired effect of increasing the bluebird population.

The monitoring of the bluebird houses is a constant effort. This is done by making a weekly visit to each house in the bluebird trail. Highly conscientious birders will make two trips per week to insure proper habitation of bluebirds. The main culprit to bluebird nesting is the takeover of house sparrows of the nesting boxes. These nests need to be removed from the bluebird boxes at the earliest opportunity. It is very important to prevent the sparrows from hatching and fledging. Sparrows will usually build nest of sticks and twigs and are easily identifiable. With the sparrow nest removal process, it encourages the sparrows to nest else where in the natural habitat. Tree swallows on the other hand can live and cohabit with the bluebird. They catch their food on the fly, whilst the bluebird catches his food on the ground. Other predators that impact the bluebird are squirrels, cats, and raccoons. These should be deterred at all cost.

Habitat is extremely important to the bluebirds. They love to have sparsely vegetated areas or low grass locations in which they can find their food source. Their bird-houses should not be located near the woods or you will attract a large population of house wrens. It is recommended that nesting bluebird boxes should be placed at least 100 feet from the woods. Boxes can be placed in the open yard just to see

what birds are interested. Large lawns or cemeteries provide a good location. You should not locate boxes close to barns. Do not mount bluebird boxes on trees as predators can become a problem. Use a pole and then attach an 8 inch stove pipe as a predator guard. It should be secure at the top and allowed to wobble or swing on the pole. Some kind of hardware cloth needs to be placed in the top of the stove-pipe to keep out squirrels and snakes.

A person should mount about 5 or 6 boxes in an area where bluebird habitat is in effect. This gives birds an ample attempt to locate the houses and select them. If a nesting box is given up to the swallows, then that will leave a significant number available to the bluebirds. Bluebirds, typically, will lay 4 to 6 eggs in their nest. Bluebird eggs will usually hatch in 12- 14 days. If an egg has remained in the nest about 4 days after the last one has hatched, that egg should be removed because the result will be a dead hatch or a weak bird will result. One does not want rotten eggs to be present in the nesting areas. Boxes should be placed in position in early Feb. when bluebirds begin to pair off. The birds will build nest in early April. This period will provide them ample time to select their locations for beginning a family nest. Check boxes in March and clean out any old nest since the new family will like to build new ones for their offspring. When the eggs have completely hatched, then remove the old nesting material. It is not unusual to have the bluebirds lay a second group of eggs for a second hatch in a year. Usually two hatches will occur in any given year. Blowfly larvae are a big problem. Check the newly hatched birds under their wings and under the nesting areas to see if there are any larvae present. They should be removed from the box.

Sparrow traps can be made with a small

piece of wood and hardware cloth on the back side to trap the bird. The interior of the trap has a small trap door and a trip wire to keep the bird in position. For some of the raccoons, one can place a hardware cloth bent into a circle to be placed into the round bird entrance hole. The wire circle will protrude about 2 inches out the front of the bird house with pointed wires showing. Raccoons have been known to stick their whole arm inside the bird entrance to clean out the nest.

Enjoy your birding experience and the nesting of bluebirds.

Respectfully submitted
Jerry Schaible, Sec.

President's Notes

Happy Anniversary, Buckeye Woodworkers and Woodturners. According to the Spring issue of the AAW Journal we have been members of AAW for 15 years. The club has come a long way in those years. At this time Ben Fix and a number of others are working on putting together an historical background of the club. It has taken a lot of time and effort by a number of individuals over the years to make the club what it is today. Thanks to all who have given many the opportunity to learn new skills in working with wood.

Thanks to Hoby Horn and Janice Petko, club members enjoyed a very pleasant and informative session about Blue Birds and how to construct a simple Blue Bird house. As we learned, Blue Birds are making a comeback in the State of Ohio and hopefully some of you will take the time to build and tend some houses in your yards.

At the March meeting George Raeder will be passing on a wealth of knowledge that he has developed over his many years of

woodturning. George has worked with many different kinds of turning tools and woods over the years, and has a real knack for helping others increase their turning skill level.

After the meeting we will be having a Turn and Learn Session. If you have never turned a Box or would just like to learn a different way to turn a Box, come and join us and learn a new skill. Also, we will be turning tool handles and grinding a tool again. Some of the members indicated that they would like another tool making session since the January session filled up so fast. So here is your chance.

Just another reminder : start thinking about the Club Auction in July. Look around your shop for items that you no longer use and would like to donate to the club auction. Items could be pieces of wood, tools, jigs, fixtures - most anything within reason. Remember, the money we take in at this event helps to fund the programs and to purchase equipment.

As always, we are in need of help with setting up, cleaning up, planning and instructing so don't hesitate to step forward and offer to volunteer for a week or two or more.
Plan to participate.

Be sure to check our website, www.bwwt.org, frequently for any updates, club meetings and activities, and don't miss our gallery of projects by the members. The gallery is a great source of ideas.

Phil

Calendar of Events

The March meeting will be held at Camp Y-Noah on Saturday Mar. 15th

March Demo, "Not How But Why", all about tools and their usage with **George Raeder**.

March Turn & Learn— *After the regular meeting, Learn to turn an end grain box, tool handles and some tool sharpening technique as well.*

April Demo, Featuring Joe Hermann, Editor of Wood Turning Design. Joe will build a wall hanging coat rack using both flat work and turning skills.

May Demo, Professional Turner and instructor **Dave Hout** will provide an all day demo. Lunch will be available at a nominal charge.

June, Field trip being planed.

July, Our annual auction. Start putting aside those unneeded items now for the auction! This is our main fund raiser for the year.

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BUCKEYE WOODWORKERS
AND WOODTURNERS
Feb. 16, 2008

The Feb. meeting of BWWT was called to order by President Phil Brower at 9:30 AM. He asked that any visitors at the meeting to please stand and identify themselves. Ed Williams and Bill Ray introduced themselves to the membership. The attendance today was recorded at 41 individuals. The pres. thanked everyone for coming.

The Pres. made note of the new woodworkers' store that had just opened up in Stow in the last month or two. It is located in the plaza at the intersection of Graham and Fishcreek roads. The store entrance is on the east side of the plaza complex. They have a store with woodworkers supplies as well as a work room with many stationary tools. The article went on to suggest several woodworking entities in the Summit County area and BWWT was recognized for its woodworking club and educational activities.

Our club received a note from AAW indicating that Nick Cook will be the guest speaker at the Traverse City, Michigan woodturning club on May 19, and 20. The tuition to hear him speak is \$80 and payable to their woodworking club. Anyone interested should be in contact with Lyle Jamieson at 231-947-2348.

Hartville Hardware Tool Catalogs are available. If anyone is needing any tools, it is recommended that you purchase them from the catalog or the Hartville Hardware store. If items are purchased through the catalog, you will get a 20% club discount this year. Hartville Hardware has also been instrumental in making donations to our club each month in the form of tools and other hardware items.

The Ohio Forestry Auction is coming up and Feb is the last month that we can donate our turned items to them. All proceeds from this auction will go to an Ohio Children's Fund to help with medical costs of the needy. Doll Lumber has been extremely generous to our club by donation bowl blanks each year for our club auction in July.

Pres. Brower also mentioned that the tool steel that was ordered last month is now available. This HSS tool steel is 1/4 X 1/4 X 8 inches in length and available from Lou Mineweaser for \$5 per tool blank. All tool requests were payable upon pick up.

Pres. Brower also mentioned that we will be participating in the Camp YNoah summer Learn and Turn sessions with the campers. Ben Fix is in charge of this weekly event and you should contact him if you are interested in helping mentor these young turners.

The March demo will feature George Raeder in a discussion of proper tool usage and presentation of the tool to the wood blank. This will be extremely helpful for all turners in our club.

Les Smith, a long time member of our club, has made a huge donation of video tapes that are of every aspect of woodturning. He has collected these over the years and added them to his library. Because of his moving to Walnut Creek and no longer having space, he has made this donation to our club. We sincerely thank him for this contribution.

It has been noted that our web server has been down and our newsletter editors and web administrators could not access the system. Please be patient while this is being worked on by the proper technicians.

Lou Mineweaser, our treasurer, has noted

that all dues are to be payable by the end of the month or you will be dropped from the rolls. Tool steel is available from him if you have ordered it in Jan. and payable on pickup. He also has patches for jackets and caps available for a small fee.

We do have a list of library books that were loaned out in past months, so when you return your books, make sure that you take your name off the list.

John Dilling noted that some members have moved out of the area and their names will be taken off the membership list. He also mentioned that all newsletters are being sent out to those individual members that do not have computers.

Ben Fix mentioned that our members should check the website for all future monthly demos. George Raeder will have the demo for March, Joe Herrmann will be responsible for April, and Dave Hout will be provide the demo for May. We do have a Turn and Learn session scheduled for next month and it will be on lidded boxes. Because of the difficulty, this session should be for intermediate turners. Gordon Seto and Bill Seabolt are now responsible for all outside demonstrators.

The display cabinet at the cafeteria at the camp will need more items for show. Please make your items available to Jim Brown so that he can add the new ones.

The Wooster Art Show has been delayed for about one month, until July 11, due to new administrators taking over the project. Pres. Brower noted that due to an error in the taking of the vote for club sponsorship, there will be a strict adherence to the Roberts Rules of Order in all future votes.

Peggy Fix has been very instrumental in creating our new member packet. This 8 1/2 X 11 packet will be given to all new

members and have listed all the pertinent information about our club. This should have been done years ago to help all new members see what our club consists of. We thank Peggy for coming up with this idea and creating the packet.

Our annual Club Auction will be held again this summer. Members should go through their shop and select items that they are not using any more and donate them to the club. All proceeds will be used for our club treasury to further our efforts in woodturning.

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry Schaible, Sec.