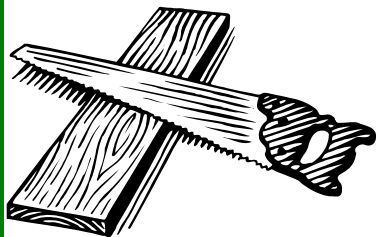


# Woodwork News

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## Project Timeline

- Early May - choose projects and get plans
- Late May - get wood and get started
- June - work on project
- July - Finish project - leave enough time for finish to dry before fair (plan on at least 3 days)

## Introduction/Purpose

The purpose of this newsletter is for beginning woodworkers and continuing woodworkers to have their questions answered. This will provide current information for all woodworking exhibitors. I am the Jr. Superintendent of Woodworking and am here to answer questions about woodworking as well as explain portions of the woodworking section of the fair book. An example of this is the hand tools only category. Many woodworkers use power tools before they are eligible. They will be marked down one place on each project when power tools are used. This is often a reason why beginning exhibitors do not do as well at fair as

they expect.

Many people feel that woodworking is easy and they can get it done quickly. This is not necessarily the case. You will have to spend time on your projects and work hard resulting in a beautiful finished piece.

There will be newsletters once a month. I will give the superintendent's and my contact information below. You can call or e-mail either of us with any questions you may have about the fair book guidelines, project possibilities and problems you have along the way.

## Picking Projects

How do I pick a project that will fit my age group and abilities as well as being something I will use?

To pick a project is one of the hardest things about woodworking. You must pick a project you are capable of completing, access to the supplies or the ability to get them. Beginning woodworkers usually have a harder time selecting projects. Some first or second year projects could be clocks, paper towel holders, pencil cups and birdhouses or birdfeeders. These are appropriate projects and are easy to do on a low budget with limited tools. Do not pick projects that are too simple if you have done woodworking for more than 2 or 3 years. Projects that you can do after 5<sup>th</sup> grade allow you to use power tools. Power tools will let older woodworkers do harder and more complicated projects than

younger exhibitors. Project examples are jewelry boxes or any type of furniture. Make sure you pick a project you want to make or will find useful. Too many kids don't put their heart into their projects which cause lower scores.

To find projects:

Hedberg Public Library – Woodworking section has books and *Popular Woodworking Magazine*

Online Websites such as:

- Wood Projects.com at <http://www.woodprojects.com/plan2.php>
- Jim Barry's Woodworkers Woodshop at <http://www.woodworkersworkshop.com/resources/index.php/cat=102>



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## Class A Woodworkers

Can I use power tools?

Please pay close attention. Class A woodworkers CAN NOT use power tools. NO EXCEPTIONS. You cannot use power tools to pre-drill, to cut to a certain length or to assist in assembly at all. There will be absolutely no exceptions to this rule and you will be marked down one place. For example if you deserve a blue, you will get a red.

### Parents

Please encourage your children to finish their projects a few days before fair. Judges do not look kindly on tacky finishes. This will make everything at fair run smoother. If you are worried about cost you can choose to do a cheaper project or buy less expensive wood. Aspen is an easy to work with soft wood that is often very reasonable in price. Small projects can often be made with scrap hardwood. It is important for

### Refinishing

First, make sure the item you select to work on is repairable. Then check to see if it is worth your time and effort. Repair and refinishing takes many hours to do correctly. It is a great way to bring new life to an old family treasure, but it is very frustrating if you spend weeks and discover that there is damage that cannot be repaired and the only hope is painting over it.

Make sure to take before AND after pictures of your project. This shows the amount of work you have done.

If you are in need of a refinishing project look around your own home or visit a some garage sales for possibilities. Look for solid hardwood

What about competing up into class B?

If you choose to compete in class B you may use power tools, but this is HIGHLY discouraged. You will be competing against people up to 4 years older than you are and it could put you at a disadvantage. You also will miss a set of skills necessary for some power tool projects. Please think carefully about competing in a higher age category.

your child to have the tools necessary for their project without breaking the budget. Ask friends, neighbors, or a relative if you can borrow a tool before buying new ones. Make sure to buy only the tools necessary to get the project done. Do not spend too much on unnecessary items.

Questions? Call Bill Kienbaum (756-0831) or me.

items like old oak chairs, small tables, or a mahogany dresser. These are often different project to find, but don't worry a treasure is out there somewhere.

Another source is the UW system surplus office. It is well worth the trip to Madison if you are looking for a treasure.

Their current inventory is available at:

<http://www.bussvc.wisc.edu/swap/swap.html>