

July 2009

Hope everyone had a good July 4th. What a great holiday. The weather is almost always nice and the fireworks get better every year. Generally, this is a hard time of year to find the time to turn. However, it is a good time to clean up the wood pile and cut pieces you can turn this fall and winter.

I purchased the Madrone burl piece that Dale Larson donated to our symposium silent auction. The piece got put on a shelf and I forgot about it until a couple weeks ago. We hear stories about how badly Madrone cracks as it dries. Trust me, it is true. I cut along the cracks and boiled the pieces for 2 hours as Dale suggested. They have not cracked anymore and appear to be stable.

The club purchased a 55-gallon drum of green wood sealer (Anchorseal). Ron has the drum at his shop. The cost was about \$460. Bring a jug to the July meeting and purchase what you need. Bring the size of jug to suit your needs.

Char and I are going out to Oregon, so I will miss the meeting. We will attend a quilt show in Sisters, OR. Then head to the southwestern corner of the state to get some Madrone burl and figured Myrtlewood. Myrtlewood is typically very plain, but I was told it can also have some nice figure. Also, a friend cut down a large Catalpa tree about one year ago and saved some of the wood. We will pick that up too. We will be visiting lots of relatives also.

Around 1985, we mined for Sapphires near Philipsburg, Montana for a day. We had several cut at the time, but saved many rough stones. On the way out, we are going to stop and see about getting more cut. The mine does not allow people to dig on their own anymore due to potential liability. But, you can purchase concentrated gravel mix to wash and sift. We plan to see about buying some concentrate to go through after we come back. I cannot buy much though, because we need room for wood.

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