

June 2009

Our summer season is finally here. Along with the nice weather comes all of the maintenance and new outdoor projects for the year. To make your new projects more interesting, incorporate a turned object into your deck, mailbox, birdhouse, or fence. Cedar is easy to turn, smells great, and is inexpensive. The Mandan Art Association has asked us to demonstrate at Art in the Park in Mandan on July 4th. Ron and I demonstrated last year. We will need to discuss at our June meeting. Larry Nelson managed the Craft Supply tool order again. This order is a lot of work, but a great benefit to club members. Let Larry know you appreciate his effort.

Seems like every year I start a project in May that takes much longer than I thought it would. This year, the project was three identical bookcases. My granddaughter wanted a big bookcase, nothing fancy just functional. I built a fancy small one a few years back for her, but this one needed to be big. In my head, I am thinking this will be an easy project with a veneer plywood case and a solid face frame. I told her I could easily put doors on the bottom half and adding short turned legs would make it a turning project too. The size would be 3 feet wide by six feet high.

Since this is such an easy project, I should make three of them at the same time. One would be for Char and me, and one for our son Ryan and his wife. This project will be fun because in my old shop I had trouble cutting full sheets of plywood. Now I have plenty of room. I made a drawing and the unit looked plain, so moldings were added to the top and bottom based on a picture of a similar unit in a book.

The plywood was purchased and I set out to cut and shape all the pieces before the first one was assembled. I soon realized this was a large project and was going to take some time. I finished the units and started staining and varnishing the first bookcase. Three coats of polyurethane varnish took well over a quart. I still have to apply the finish to the other two. They are still sitting in my shop. Anyway, I need to be more realistic when it comes to judging the amount of work a project takes. My granddaughter saw her bookcase on Memorial Day weekend and liked it. In that instant, I forgot about the work and am ready to start the next thing.

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