

The Peter Becker Community Woodworkers' Newsletter March 2026

Gratitude for Dedication and Skill

For anyone who has ever built something from scratch, one starts with a rough sketch, notations of dimensions, and calculations of materials needed. This is the usual approach, but often an error occurs and things do not turn out as expected. At the Taylor Woodworking Shop, we have an individual who can make precision drawings using a CAD program. CAD stands for computer assisted design and is the ultimate in creating plans which include dimensions and angles. John Walz is that person who has designed many of our projects using his expertise from a lengthy career at Merck & Co. The list includes storage racks, signs and lettering, toy airplanes, and train engines for the Samaritan Purse project – just to name a few. We are indeed fortunate to have John and the talent and dedication he brings to the Woodshop.

- Joe Bondi, Woodworker

Why Is Our Woodshop So Clean?



Pictured above, from left to right, are Jim Brasch, Rick Layer, and Dave Wolff. Each Monday they come into the shop and empty the dust collectors and take out the trash. But on Monday, March 16, they decided to do some house cleaning. They vacuumed dust off shelves, equipment, floors and the dust collection pipes. All woodworkers are asked to clean up following their projects which also helps to keep it clean.



A Beautiful Table with Natural Edges, Seashells & Epoxy

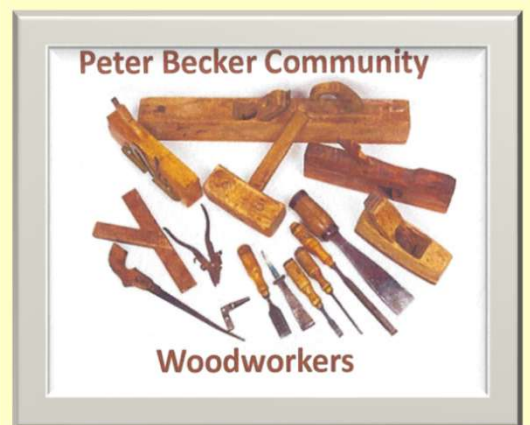
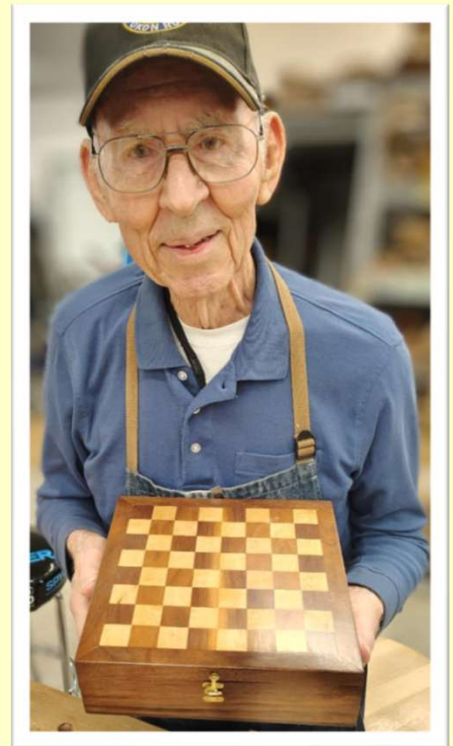
Several months ago, Jody Law approached Joe Bondi and asked if he could make a table using two walnut slabs. Residents Judy and John Evans, who bought a table at the craft show in November, asked if it would be possible to have another table made for them. The two pieces, which were not of the same thickness, were curved and somewhat warped. Joe's initial reaction was "no". But as he began to study them, he thought that maybe if he positioned the concave sides edge to edge, he could create a cavity that could be filled with epoxy.

Then he spent hours dealing with two slabs of different thickness but was eventually able to form a table top out of the two pieces with shims and slices of walnut. Joe invited Judy and John to look at the rough shape and determine whether this is what they wanted. They both were enthusiastic about the possibility. Judy, who collects seashells, asked if they could be placed in the epoxy. Of course, this presented yet another challenge, but Judy carefully placed the shells in a specific order.

Then epoxy was tinted blue and poured in four layers which allowed the shells to be placed at different depths in the cavity. Joe finished the table with a coat of shellac and two coats of polyurethane. Then he buffed the top with pumice and wax. The table features 19" steel hairpin legs and measures 33" x 17" at the center. Two LED strips were installed underneath to illuminate the shells through the epoxy.

A Box Fit for a King and Queen

Pictured below is Chet Bergey holding a Chessboard and box which he made using walnut and maple. The lid opens and there is a place to store the pieces used in the game. The box is lined with felt and finished with polyurethane.



It's a Dusty Job, but Rick Loves to Do It.



Pictured above is Rick Layer using one of our lathes to turn an oak platter. Several weeks ago, Rick decided to learn how to use the lathe after seeing the projects done by Chet Bergey, Roy Feiss, and Chet Kratz.



Welcome Ron Moritz

Pictured to the right is Ron Moritz who has been a resident in Maplewood Estates for three years. He spent 50 years in marketing and sales, and brings extensive woodworking experience, including cabinet making. He has been helping John Walz build another set of shelves to store donated wood.



Welcome Ron



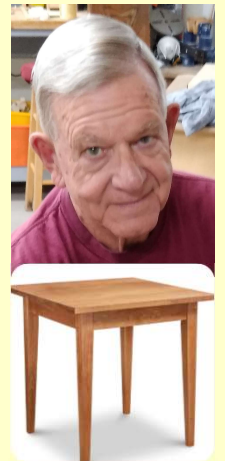
WOW!! - What a Vase

Joe Bondi turned this wooden vase out of 190 pieces of maple and cherry. It features a center rim made of padauk. Then he finished it with polyurethane. It is a gift for a family member.

Photo by Joe Bondi

Our Furniture Store Update

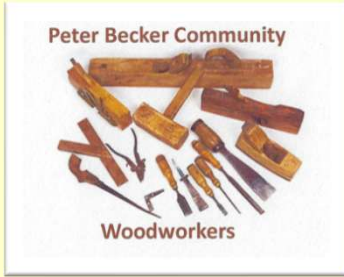
Do you have furniture to donate? Wayne Whitney, who manages the Furniture Store, would appreciate your donations. Please call him at 267-261-4457 for more information. Wayne reported that sales totaled \$1,549.95 for the month of February. All income benefits the PBC Auxiliary.



Executive Committee

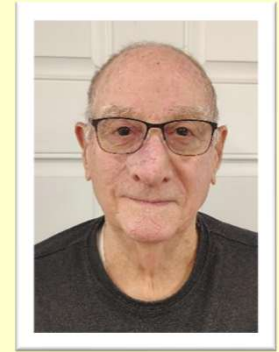
President-John Walz
Vice President-Bob Coble
Treasurer-Dave Wolff
Secretary-Chuck Forsythe





Welcome Joe Ermigiotti

Pictured to the right is Joe Ermigiotti, one of our new woodworkers. Joe and his wife, Judy, moved to Maplewood Estates last November. He is helping John Walz build another set of shelves to store donated wood.



The Joy of Woodworking

The joy of woodworking is in the creative process, and it offers relaxation, stress reduction, and the satisfaction of crafting beautiful items from wood. Carving, turning wood on a lathe, and building items provides a deep sense of accomplishment. And what joy there is when one turns simple materials into lasting, personal, or functional pieces.

--Bob Coble



WELCOME SPRING



The PBC Woodshop is a place of Belonging, Caring, and Serving.

Pictured above is Tom Nolan setting up the software on our new computer and monitor. We now can make and print labels, make signs, and search for tools on the internet. Thanks to resident Joe Mataloni, and Woodworkers, Mark de Porry and Tom Nolan, who donated their skills, software, and hardware.

This publication features members of the PBC Woodworkers' Association. Bob Coble is the photographer and editor, and he is assisted by Marilyn Derstine. For more information, please call our President, John Walz, at 215-703-4166