

Moving toward retirement

8/6/2021

As I draw closer to retirement, I find myself focusing on preparing for that new life. Mary and I plan to continue putting in the landscaping in our fenced yard, of course, and we're having fun imagining the how to end up with a space we'll love to be in, without spending more than necessary and without creating a maintenance burden as our bodkins become ever more creaky. So, it may take another year or more before the big pieces are in place but already, Mary's feeders are attracting a wide range of avian guests, including hummingbirds, American Goldfinches (our state bird), Stellar Jays, robins, sparrows, finches, Black Capped Chickadees (I think), two mating pair of doves (Eurasian Collared?), pigeons, blackbirds, etc. We love watching through our family room window.

Anyone who knows me understands that my writing will continue. You haven't seen such frequent posts lately as I've been working on a larger project. More about that later, I hope. I'm reimagining how I want to share my writing with the world or at least, the tiny corner of it occupied by folks who care to read my offerings. I've been using Wix as my website platform but lately I've been considering a move to another platform. No slam to Wix; I chose it by default when I started but now I want to consider what will work best for showcasing my combination of writing, posting woodworking photos, videos and commentary, and encouraging two-way conversations throughout. Since the woodworking side of things will involve more complex, graphic-heavy posts, I'm carefully considering the services used by woodworkers whose sites I find easy to follow.

Speaking of woodworking, I've had to put project work on hold while I finish (to the extent it will ever be truly finished... ahem!) setting up the shop itself. The major pieces are where they're likely to remain, utility bench installed and in use, electrical and such all done and most tools have found their homes. The problem de jour and project for this weekend is figuring out what to do with the stuff that I can't part with but for which I don't have an obvious landing place. I HATE 'junk drawers' because I never get back to them. So, really trying to put each item to bed. We'll see how it goes... Having come to really love woodturning, I'm in the planning stage of upgrading my lathe. I started on an Excelsior mini-lathe with bed extension and it has been a fantastic learning tool. But it is meant for newbs and folks who only turn fairly small items and I find myself wanting to do larger bowls and learn more complex techniques. The Excelsior will go to my brother, so nothing wasted.

And this is to say nothing about overhauling my private work space from day job office to a room for reading, writing and carving. But that's another whole topic.

I could go on and on but this is me for the moment. Be back soon!