The Shed

Issue 3
Volume 3
August, 2021

The Official Newsletter of the US Men's Shed Association

Photo by Howard Wolff

The Men's Shed is an international phenomenon with thousands of clubs worldwide. We answer men's innate need for activity. A Men's Shed is a club, mainly for older guys. We have tools and materials for pursuing our interests and passions, for learning something new and sharing skills. We join to make stuff and tinker. We share a pot of coffee in a friendly atmosphere. In the end, we make friends and discuss troubling health issues. The key to our popularity is best expressed in our motto: men don't talk face to face, we talk

shoulder to shoulder

USMensSheds.org

Zoom Meeting for Shed Leaders

Most Shed leaders have never met each other…so let's get together on Zoom!
It will be a chance to meet, exchange experiences and share ideas.
We're planning a Zoom for leaders of Sheds for September.
Stay tuned as our plans develop!

Gillespie Men's Shed

Philip Johnson

We sure have lots going on!

Tom Remmer told us about recumbent tricycles, what they are and why they are a good alternative to regular bicycles so we tried one out in the parking lot.

Next week we will be building and painting our Little Free Library, not once but twice! We will go to the Lake Minnetonka Shores Woodshop to build the little door frame and stain, paint and prime all the pieces. Assembly will take place at our next Men's Shed meeting.

Helping us at the LMS Woodshop has been the volunteer Woodshop Supervisor, Lowell Swenson. (pictured below). Lowell has been very helpful with our Little Free Library project.

Swenson is an expert woodworker who always provides good ideas and safety tips. Oh, and he also donated $20 to our Shed.

North County Men's Shed Update

Steve Werner

Though COVID 19 has impacted our ability to meet in person, we've actually experienced significant growth in the past 15 months. We've continued to meet weekly using the Zoom platform. This has allowed us to attract new members, many of whom live nowhere near south Florida.

One of our members has a summer home in Maine and he has introduced a number of his friends to our Shed. Several of these gents are regular participants in our weekly meetings and several have made presentations to us. Another new member resides in Washington, DC and began to attend in order to learn more about Sheds, with a view toward opening a Shed in his area – he too has become a regular Zoom attendee. In addition, we have several regular attendees from 'across the pond.' Sometime ago we were introduced to Dan Gmaj with Sheds without Frontiers and he has been instrumental in introducing to us a number of Shedders from England, Scotland and Ireland. In addition to some of these gents attending our Zoom sessions, several of us from North County have attended Zoom meetings held by the Scottish Shed in Nairn.

We are slowly returning to face-to-face activities. The first was our monthly breakfast meeting in May. The future remains a bit uncertain but we expect to continue via Zoom throughout 2021. We welcome Shedders from everywhere to join us. Drop me a quick email and we'll add you to our email distribution list. stevew@usmenssheds.org

HERE WE ARE AT THE JUNO BEACH CAFÉ.

Men's Shed Association of West Michigan

Christopher Wilson

Whoever authored the phrase “Good things come to those who wait“ must have had our Shed in mind. In 2019 Board President Christopher Wilson started the ball rolling by establishing the Shed as a 501c not-for-profit organization. We all know too well what happened early in 2020 with the onset of COVID19. The shutdown was both a hindrance and a blessing for us. The downtime allowed us to focus on locating a wonderful rental space for our Shed at Home Repair Services of Kent County. We began the task of securing needed equipment and supplies and readying the space to accept members once we were able to meet safely. Being unable to recruit members during COVID, we are just now starting to build our membership. Since officially opening about four months ago, we’ve grown from zero to eight members and have a steady increase in inquiries.

Currently our Shed is open two days a week but as our membership grows so will our days and hours of operation. Our goal has always been to encourage inclusivity and diversity and our promotions for the Shed reflect those values.

Another goal of ours is to act as a resource or feeder to help establish Men’s Shed’s in other Michigan communities. West Michigan is quite rural. It’s not realistic to expect our members to drive to a Shed in the city, so we want to help bring the Men’s Shed to the country.

We are excited and grateful to be the second Men’s Shed in Michigan and one of a growing number of Sheds in the United States.

Ruston Community Men Shed

Tommy Folk

We had a very eventful Spring highlighted by our first annual “ShedFest -21” - a Makers Market, where we gave shop tours, sold and displayed crafts made by our members and signed up new members. Many local artisans set up booths to show and sell their arts, crafts, food, and other items. Musicians gathered to jam and share their musical talents. An animal rescue group brought dogs and cats for love and adoption. Food trucks fed the hungry and children played games. We are very grateful to our board and members for their dedication and hard work which made this a wonderfully successful event.

Multiple community and fund raising projects have kept the Shed busy this spring including the construction, sale and delivery of raised cypress planters, construction of registration boxes (~40) for Lincoln Parish Park and raised planter boxes built for The Well of North Louisiana, a Christian community ministry. The Cub Scouts used our shop to learn about tools and to build projects with their parents. Members continued to share and grow their knowledge and skills and to deepen their relationships with one another.

The upcoming weeks and months are to include First Aid classes and in-service “Tool-Torials” on the tablesaw, bandsaw, jointer/planer, miter saw and lathe.

More from the Ruston Men's Shed

SHOWING HIS CHILDREN HOW TO USE THE BAND SAW

WE MADE RAISED CYPRESS PLANTERS, MAKING USE OF OUR LOCAL CYPRESS LUMBER MILL

MUSICIANS GATHERED TO JAM AND SHARE THEIR MUSICAL TALENTS

Bellingham Men's Shed

Marshall Gartenlaub

A place to sit and relax; eleven benches that the Bellingham Farmers' Market will use on their outdoor market days. They paid for materials and we supplied brains and brawn. After delivering the benches to them, we set up a table, took a publicity photo and recruited members. Eleven interested men signed up for our Shed. Later, led by Dave Lers, we built wooden toys using a digital router and hand worked the finish.

AT LEFT ARE 50+ TOYS FOR TOTS, A U.S. MARINE SPONSORED CHARITY

OUR BENCHES - IN PROGRESS

BENCHES - READY TO GO

L TO R: GEORGE, RICHARD, DAVE, TOM, MARSHALL, BOB, & BOB, JOHN, TIM & JACK

Honolulu Men's Shed

Glenn Sears

We are fortunate to have a professional SawStop table saw. Member and master woodworker, Tim O'Donnell leads a class on the safety and use of the table saw by having each Shedder build a box; not an ordinary box but a beautiful box with mitered corners, a floating bottom and a fitted top. We learned a clever trick for clamping the mitered corners using packing tape.

DIANE GLUES JOINTS THAT ARE CONNECTED ON THE BOTTOM SIDE WITH TAPE.

GLENN AND MICHAEL APPLY A NAN OIL FINISH

JUSTIN ROUNDS CORNERS WITH THE ROUTER

THE FINISHED BOX - USED HERE FOR RUMMYKUB

Portland Men's Shed

Greg Miller

On June 12th, 16 Men's Shedders built 18 bunk beds. We were participating in *Bunks Across America,* a Sleep In Heavenly Peace national build day, a project to build beds for kids.

The materials were donated by Lowes hardware store. We are the Portland Metro Chapter of Sleep In Heavenly Peace.

Hopkins Men's Shed

Dan Pierce

We found a way to help local children in the area who are sheltering with little to do for fun. We partnered with the Eden Prairie Home Depot which has donated many small wood building kits. The kits include a recycling truck, pencil box, hockey game, tow truck and a pallet coaster. We have provided kits to several local organizations to entertain their young children.

- We added 200 kits to the YMCA Ridgedale food bags for distribution to needy families.
- 150 kits were added to the Free Meals for Kids program at Hopkins schools.
- 60 kits went to the Hopkins Next Door neighborhood group.
- 24 were distributed to Hopkins Boy Scout Troop 207.
- 45 went to the Citi-Gables Senior Condo which supervised local kids in assembling kits.
- 50 Hopkins Block Artists worked with child sidewalk artists to build and decorate kits.
- 48 went to the YMCA

Included in future plans, the Hopkins School Community Engagement Department has asked to add kits to their Blank Canvas Engagement/Education platform to introduce the world of Carpentry to Hopkins School youth with parental assistance/supervision. The schools are shifting focus to home economics, showcasing the importance of having a trade outside of what is considered normal career paths. To share our mission with other organizations we have created a page on our website fso that groups can request kits to share. Hopkinsmensshed.org

Links to Men's Shed Newsletters around the world

Canada	http://menssheds.ca/
Australia	https://mensshed.org/news-events/newsletter/
New Zealand	https://menzshed.org.nz/newsletters/
Ireland	https://menssheds.ie/newsroom/
UK	https://menssheds.org.uk/newsletter-archive/
Wales	https://www.mensshedscymru.co.uk/newsletters-test-page-mar-2020/
Scotland	scottishmsa.org.uk
US	https://usmenssheds.com/category/newsletters/

US MEN'S SHEDS

Aloha MS
Honolulu, HI

Batavia MS
Batavia, IL

Bellingham MS
Bellingham, WA

Broadway Village MS
Crystal, MN

David's MS
Girard, PA

Denver MS
Denver, CO

Elgin MS
Elgin, IL

Gillespie Center MS
Mound, MN

Grand Traverse MS
Traverse City, MI

Honolulu MS
Honolulu, HI

Hopkins MS
Hopkins, MN

Lebanon MS
Lebanon, TN

North County MS
Palm Beach Gardens, FL

Ocomowoc MS
Ocomowoc, WI

Portland MS
Portland, OR

Roseville MS
Roseville, MN

Ruston MS
Ruston, LA

The Glenn MS
Minnetonka, MN

Vancouver MS
Vancouver, WA

West Michigan MS
West Michigan, MI

Wilson County MS
Lebanon, TN

Someone said…

"The Shed is a great diversion…

…maybe you just need to hang with people who get how cool woodworking is

…maybe the smell of wood takes you back to days working with your dad and picking up all the skills he learned from his dad

…maybe you're driving your spouse nuts

…maybe you need a place to go and talk story

…or maybe, just maybe you need to go and be there for someone else."

"Thanks for helping to take care of my dad, he really needs this."

"As a practitioner of Buddhism, I found that the stillness of mind that is experienced when working with my hands with full attention is something that I've never experienced working in an office."

"This is a terrific idea! I wish my Dad had had a Men's Shed."

AMAZON SMILE

Hey, Men's Shedders. You can sign up for **Amazon Smile** and 0.5% of your purchase will be donated to your Shed or other charitable organization you choose. Follow this link to sign up.

https://blog.aboutamazon.com/community/how-to-sign-up-for-amazonsmile

US Sheds currently under Development

Washington DC
Northwest Florida
South County Florida
Raleigh, North Carolina
Katy, Texas

The US Men's Sheds are really taking off. We'll keep you up to date with quarterly newsletters.
Please send articles and photos for the next newsletter to Glenn Sears at gsears@stanfordalumni.org

A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

That's true only if the picture tells a story.
Send action photos with eyes on the activity in progress rather than on the camera.
Photos of comradery and group efforts tell a store and are especially welcome!
Glenn and Mary Sears, Editors

US Men's Shed Association
Shoulder to Shoulder