BridgeWire MAKERSPACE

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SEPTEMBER 2020

HAPPY SEPTEMBER!

President's Corner

Bridgewire is mostly recovered from impact of Covid-19

You are great members. As Covid hit and we shut down, most of you stayed with us and maintained your memberships. We did lose a few members for financial reasons. However, since we reopened, we gained several new members and are near an all time high in memberships. I believe many of you appreciate the organization and facility that we all participate in. This is why I am asking you to consider serving as an officer or run for one of the 3 board director positions coming open in October. I will have more details available in the October newsletter regarding the annual Board of Directors election and officer appointments. This month you can ask me more about the positions if I don't tell you first.

Craig's Victory Garden

Something for the kids and for big kids too.

If the school district was wrong and the virus starts spreading faster, students may find themselves stuck at home again. The downside to this is you may have to teach yourself. The upside is you may get to teach yourself. Look up 'experiential' on Wikipedia and have a read.

This project is about container gardening, and the things we can learn from it and the things we can get from it.

Why grow?

Teaches gardening skills, contributes to food security.
Demonstrates lengths of planting to yield.
Teaches patience and reinforces self worth.
Allows for and encourages experimental techniques.
Gives micro greens to eat.
Grows seeds for next year's crops. Grows acclimatized seeds.
Learning to repurpose, recycling, and reuse.
Plant-pets to talk to? Take for a walk?

Materials

Notebook to keep track of your stuff so that you can share it later.
Cubic foot of good soil or potting soil (enough for about 13 containers)
Standard plant pots or recycled plastic containers
Clear plastic is long-lived, but translucent plastic milk cartons work
Well for a couple of seasons. Try other containers.

Sharpie to mark your containers.
Scissors, cutters (hacksaw is fairly safe & easy) to cut bottles.
Seeds. Imagination and art. Time.

The jars shown are filled with potting soil and have no holes in the bottom for drainage. This is experimental, and if over time the soil becomes 'spoiled' from over-wet, holes can be punched to drain. However, the largest of the plants shown are nearing a month old with no apparent problems. It takes just a little bit of water every couple of days to keep them healthy. Keep notes in your log. (Note, clear plastics in the direct sun will overheat the soil, and if so, the container itself must be shaded in hot weather. Maybe in a cardboard box with sun not hitting the jar?
Perhaps it may be good for early corn in the spring which needs hot soil to germinate well? Can a stalk of corn grow in a gallon milk jug? Also, clear plastic lets you gauge how wet your soil is at a glance.)

Fertilizers

You can buy fertilizers/plant food at stores, but also consider 'tea' made of cow manure, or free aged horseshit works very well. Consider also worm castings or even water from aquarium if you or friends have one. I prefer urine, but many think that's a bit too organic. Google tells us a family of 4 produces enough to fertilize 1/3 acre year round.

Kinds of seeds and characteristics.

I have ordered 40,000 turnip seeds which are on the way, and other seeds. These will be left in the shop, so grab a few when you stop by. Probably will be in kitchen area. If you want to help get more seeds and different kinds, throw a buck or two into the donations box and mark it for the solar fund.

Amaranth- young leaves edible. Copious seeds. Considered super grower by Rodale.
Arugula-fast growing greens, slightly bitter. Can self-sow if grown to maturity. Cold crop, early crop.
Barley-can grow greens for juicing, seeds for baking. When sprouted makes sugars good for brewing beer. Several months to maturity. 1 seed can give about 30 back.
Chia-have some old seeds, but still sprout.
Cilantro- leaves edible, good in soups for flavor. When to seed is called coriander, flavoring for cookies etc.
Garbanzo-leaves edible. Takes awhile for the beans.
Lentil-leaves & seeds edible. Fragile looking plant
Pot (hemp)-super fast growing makes ideal for experimenting. Leaves & sprouts edible, seeds provide protein and oil.
Soya (non GMO) nature's plant 'meat', high quality protein.
Turnip-fast growing for micro greens, spicy, can grow to bulb in 60 days is reported. Great seed producers.

Wheat-most everyone likes bread. Greens for wheatgrass juice. Rumor is 1/10 acre planted 2x/yr. can provide loaf of bread a day. Winter wheat takes 8months, spring takes 4. Winter slows down growth of all plants it seems.
More seeds coming, as they come. Some people like to put their seeds in the freezer for a day or so before planting because it may fool them into thinking winter has come and passed.

According to planting guides you can plant your garlic and onion sometime in October for harvesting next spring. You might even try a slice of ginger root from the store or some Jerusalem artichoke root which grows quite well.

Facilities Changes

Laser Cutter - Improved We have added air assist to the laser cutter. This was not inherent in the original epilog laser. Therefore we are fabricating our own system. The vacuum exhaust bar in the machine has been refabricated so that we could fit an air hose into the machine. The concept is that air blows out of the nozzle tip at the point of lasering and results in a more complete burn. This is the first iteration and will probably take a while to refine and maximize the effect.

Drum Sander - Repaired The switch in the drum sander has been fixed. Someone broke the power switch and tried gluing it back in. We suspect that it was broken when an extension from one of the other pieces of mobile woodworking equipment was bumped into the switch area. Please be careful when moving the various mobile stands. The cost wasn't bad but it was a special order switch.

Lost and Found - Created We have created a lost and found shelf. It is located on the rack next to the paint booth. From time to time most everyone forgets to put a personal item away or to clean up their materials. Any item found in the facility which is not a Bridgewire item and left somewhere in the shop other than a member's cabinet, project table, or rental space will be placed here. It will be dated on the day it was placed on the rack. If the item is not reclaimed in 30 days, it will become Bridgewire property. We may choose to use it or dispose of it.

Wash Sink - Cleaned The wash sink has been cleaned of caked on paint, dirt, and other questionable materials. The sink now has a lid which must be opened and closed each time. The lid has a List-of-Rules about "All Drains" at Bridgewire. We have implemented this lid so that we can put the rules in your face, since some people refuse to read and follow the common sense, legally required, and environmentally friendly laws of our society. If these rules are not followed, we will have no choice but to remove the sink.

Swamp Cooler – Repair Completed Several years ago the water pump was replaced on the Porta-Cool swamp cooler. However, it was a quick fix. The pump had its own cable and required it be plugged-in to start and unplugged to stop. The pump is now wired into the Porta-Cool and has its own on-off switch on the panel with the fan rotary switch.

Who dunnit?

Inspector Policy

Inspector Policy is our house detective. He is always on duty looking for rules violations which disrupt the peace and fair maker environment. He lives by the maker credo "Be Excellent to each other". Each month he will ask for your help to identify a rules violator.

This month's case:

"Disappearance of the Maker"

On August 11th at 8:45am Inspector Policy entered the building through the main door. He immediately noticed the lights were on and the inside temperature was sweltering, despite the early hour. He walked through the facility to make his presence known to the other occupants. The wood shop "Hellooooo?" The machine shop "Is anyone here?" Welding shop, Electronics, 3D lab…….. No one! Inspector Policy used his keen deductive reasoning and immediately determined that the maker before him must have vanished into thin air or been abducted the previous evening.

When asked how he came to this conclusion the Inspector replied, *"He must have left against his own will, No self respecting member would leave the shop with all the lights still on. That costs an amazing amount of money to keep these lights on all night."* When asked how he knew the time of the disappearance, the Inspector noted*, "The heat, all that heat so early in the morning could only be generated by leaving the lights on all night."* If you can provide any leads or know the culprit, please drop a note in the Who Dunnit / Scavenger Hunt box at the front desk.

Inspector Policy

ARTICLES ALWAYS NEEDED!

The Newsletter

Things are looking up for the Bridgewire Newsletter, we're getting more and more interest in submitting articles, making the BWNL more interesting and relevant than ever. Thanks to Eric and Craig, for contributing to this month's issue. If you have an article in mind or just a particular subject that you would like to see in the newsletter please email your entries to Lance, at lance@ipc-solar.com .

EDUCATION HAPPENINGS

Embedded Systems Group: Every Tuesday of the month with lessons in soldering, basic circuitry and electronics projects. We are restarting this group. We plan to have a meeting every week during the summer. This would be the place to learn electronics and upgrade your knowledge. Projects will be presented every meeting.

Bridgewire Classes and Workshops.

We offer a varying array of classes and workshops from month to month which can be viewed in our Calendar.

FINAL NOTES

Clean up for the cleaning crew?

We're back! And strict hygiene rules are in place. It's important that we pay attention to our workspace and be sure to consider the other members who come after us. Bridgewire's industrial cleaning service will again be doing a terrific job of keeping the shop tidy and dust free. We can all help them focus on the deep cleaning aspects of their job by keeping work areas organized and sanitized and cleaning up after ourselves. Let's not forget that Bridgewire is a co-operative facility that

relies on member participation to maintain the facilities while keeping an affordable fee structure. This service frees us to spend more time on infrastructure issues. There's plenty of need for repair and maintenance of the tools and equipment.

New Members

Bridgewire is excited about starting up again with lots of new members starting projects.

Here they are:

Dominic Duarte

Marshall Eaton

Nanette Fink-Eaton

Returning member: Jacob Smalser

BRIDGEWIRE CALENDAR

Bridgewire Calendar
September 2020

SEP

Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
September 1 6 pm - 7 pm Embedded Microprocessor Group meeting	**2** 6 pm - 7 pm BW Officers Meeting 7:15 pm - 8:15 pm BW Board Meeting	**3** 6 pm - 9 pm Open House Night 7 pm - 9 pm Metal Shop and Welding	**4**	**5**	**6**
8 6 pm - 7 pm Embedded Microprocessor Group meeting	**9**	**10** 6 pm - 9 pm Open House Night 7:30 pm - 9 pm Laser Cutting & Etching	**11** Patriot Day	**12** 9 am - 11 am Open House Saturday 10 am - 12 pm CNC Wood Router Class (Intro)	**13** GrandPare
15 6 pm - 7 pm Embedded Microprocessor Group meeting	**16**	**17** 6 pm - 9 pm Open House Night 6:05 pm - 8:05 pm Wood Shop	**18**	**19**	**20**
22 6 pm - 7 pm Embedded Microprocessor Group meeting	**23**	**24** 6 pm - 9 pm Open House Night 7 pm - 8:30 pm 3D Printing	**25**	**26** 9 am - 11 am Open House Saturday 11 am - 1 pm CNC Wood Router Class (Adv)	**27**
29 6 pm - 7 pm Embedded Microprocessor Group meeting	**30**	**1** 6 pm - 9 pm Open House Night 7 pm - 9 pm Metal Shop and Welding	**2**	**3**	**4**

BELOW Click on "Calendar" to go to the Bridgewire calendar with interactive event details.

ALL MEMBERS, If you would like to add an event. Email us at info@bridgewire.org or click on the button below the calendar to schedule your event with details and contact info. The new event will be approved by an officer or director to make it show up. Your events can be any project you want to share or get help with. Add Event

Calendar