

ROUGH RIDER NEWS

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NOVEMBER 2022



Mike and Brandy Johnson

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Second Nature Woodworks:

Craftsmanship second only to nature's original

BY ANNE HANSEN

Each piece of natural wood is unique. Each has its own story, shown through the character markings, such as knots and the grain pattern. Each story the wood tells is part of the attraction of making unique pieces for Second Nature Woodworks craftsman, Mike Johnson.

"We named our business Second Nature Woodworks, because we take the unique pieces of wood and use them with minimal cutting to showcase the great material, while at the same time giving it a second chance for a second life," Johnson said.

Johnson has had a lifelong passion for building things with his two hands. The craftsman's earliest memories include building forts in his home state of Minnesota. By the time he was in his first woodworking class in ninth grade, he was building a boat.

"For as long as I can remember, I always enjoyed woodworking as a hobby," Johnson said.

It was no surprise to others that his passion for making things led him to a career in the construction trade. And through his travels across the country working in construction, he landed near Dickinson. Through all of the construction projects, Johnson never gave up his hobby of woodworking.

"I was always making a few things here, never really set it down, and now I am able to do it full time," said Johnson, who officially turned to woodworking full time in 2021.

His business focuses on one-of-a-kind pieces.

“I have always been drawn to the one-of-a-kind, unique items, as they have more character and for me, are more satisfying to build,” he said. “We want to make each piece personalized, and make it look like it could be a family heirloom, knowing that no two pieces of ours are ever the same.”

The uniqueness starts with the wood, which comes from locally sourced mills, along with larger pieces coming from an Amish family mill in Missouri.

“A lot of our material is live-edge, raw wood,” described Johnson, who travels three times a year to pick up the wood from Missouri.

Through his 40 years of experience, Johnson welcomes some of the industry’s changes, including drying his wood in a kiln versus drying it naturally, which can take up to three years.

“We dry our wood to ensure it is below 5 to 8% moisture, therefore making it last without changing the structure of the wood,” Johnson said.

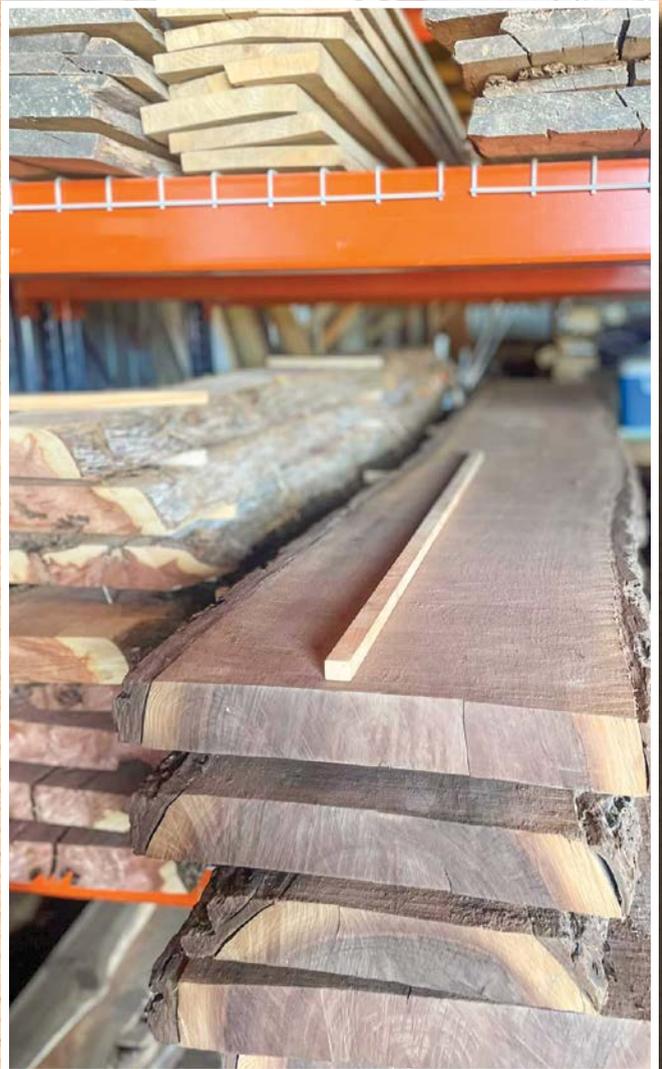
After drying the wood, Johnson tries his best to do minimal work to the wood to maintain its character and uniqueness.

“We mostly plane, route and join the wood together to make our pieces,” he said.

In the end, Second Nature Woodworks does the best work possible to be a trusted source for hardwood and live-edge items, like floating shelves, mantels, railings, bed frames, bath boards, charcuterie boards, tables, living room furniture and bedroom sets and much more.

“The difference is in the details,” said Johnson, who wants his craftsmanship to be second only to nature’s original.

If you would like to learn more about Second Nature Woodworking, visit them on Facebook or their website at <https://woodworksnd.com>. ■



Manager's message:

It's a matter of (co-op!) principles



Travis Kupper

For me, this is a time of year for reflection, and topping my list of things for which I'm grateful are our wonderful communities. I know I speak for all Roughrider Electric Cooperative employees when I say we are thankful to be in such an incredible place. You may recall last month, when my column touched on the first

three cooperative principles. This month, I'd like to tell you about the remaining four principles. The cooperative principles are essential to the co-op business model and benefit all members of the co-op.

Autonomy and independence

The fourth principle, autonomy and independence, means the co-op operates in an autonomous way that is solely directed and guided by its members, reflecting the values and needs of our local communities. This means the co-op is not being influenced by leaders or shareholders several states away. Instead, the co-op is led by the local members it serves.

Education and training

The fifth principle, education and training, focuses on enhancing the knowledge of co-op employees and board members, which enables them to contribute to the development of the co-op.

By investing in continuous learning for our employees and board members, our co-op is making a commitment not just to individual, professional and personal growth, but to the future of the co-op and the high quality of service our members expect and deserve. It's a win-win situation.

We also strive to inform our members (that's you!) and the public about the mission and operations of the co-op. In fact, that's why you receive this magazine every month, so we can share the latest co-op news and updates, as well as energy efficiency and safety tips.

Cooperation among cooperatives

Cooperation among cooperatives is the sixth principle and fosters the way co-ops work together to address bigger challenges. While this principle applies to all types of cooperatives, it is especially relevant in the energy industry. In our case, we put this principle into action after major storms and disasters that cause widespread power outages. When this happens, we call on nearby co-ops to come to our aid and assist with restoration efforts. And we extend the same help to them when they need us. I can't think of a better example of cooperation among cooperatives.

In addition, because we are part of the national electric co-op network, we can connect and collaborate with other electric co-ops to tackle industry-related challenges, like cybersecurity and an ever-changing energy landscape.

Concern for community

The seventh principle, concern for community, is essential to who we are as cooperatives. We serve our community not only by being an essential service, but by helping to power our local economy. I think you'll find most cooperatives bring good people together to make good things happen in the community. We hope you feel that way about us, your local electric co-op.

On behalf of everyone at Roughrider Electric Cooperative, we're thankful for your membership, and we hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving. ■



Safety Starts with ME: Jason Bentz

The beautiful season of lights is officially upon us, as the holidays approach and the year draws to a close.

“Here at Roughrider Electric, we want to remind you that before decking the halls, remember that safety should always come first,” said Jason Bentz, Roughrider’s operations manager.

When decorating with lights this holiday season, Bentz recommends these few tips to take into consideration:

1. Have a ground crew (one or two people) steady your ladder and pass the decorations to you. This is an invaluable part of safety, keeping you supplied with untangled light strings, fasteners and encouragement.
2. Remember to keep a safe distance from your overhead electric service.
3. Don’t overreach. If you cannot get to a point with your body completely centered between the sides of the ladder, get down and relocate it.
4. Don’t overextend the ladder. If your ladder is too short, rent or borrow a longer one. A ladder extended beyond its working limits is dangerous, as is standing on rungs too close to the top.
5. Do not overload circuits by stringing more light sets together than the manufacturer recommends. Check the packaging for details.
6. Check your wires for breaks and cracks in the insulation that can lead to shorts.



Most of these tips apply equally to inside and outside decorating activities.

In addition, Bentz suggests investing in LED lights this season.

“Why go the LED route? Longevity and cost of operation are the two key reasons. Unlike incandescent lights, whether the large or mini bulbs, LEDs will last for many, many years. LEDs have no filaments to burn out. Aside from physically destroying the bulb, the LED is amazingly robust,” he said.

To our valued members, on behalf of everyone at Roughrider Electric, we wish you a safe and happy holiday season. ■



Holiday closings

Roughrider Electric Cooperative will be closed Friday, Nov. 11, in observance of Veterans Day, and Thursday and Friday, Nov. 24 and 25, for the Thanksgiving holiday. Line crews will be available in the case of an emergency or power outage. We thank all veterans and members of the military for their service and sacrifice!

AN ALL-EXPENSE-PAID TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

ESSAY QUESTION:

If chosen as a Youth Tour delegate, you will be traveling to Washington, D.C., to experience and learn about America's rich history. What moment in American history do you wish you had been a part of and what would you have contributed?

TOP 3 REASONS

1. All-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., compliments of Roughrider Electric Cooperative
2. A whole week to visit unforgettable historic monuments, museums and the U.S. Capitol
3. A learning experience you'll never forget



- To enter the essay-writing contest, you must be a sophomore or junior in high school.
- You and your parents or guardian must be served by Roughrider Electric Cooperative.
- If you have any questions, please contact Brad Quenette, Roughrider Electric, at 800-748-5533 during regular business hours.
- The deadline is Jan. 20, 2023. You can email entries to Brad Quenette at bquenette@roughriderelectric.com or mail a hard copy to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, 800 Highway Dr., Hazen, ND 58545-4737.



CHECK OUT THE ESSAY CONTEST GUIDELINES AT
<https://www.roughriderelectric.com/youth-tour>



Snowbirds and SmartHub

Members, are you heading somewhere warm for all or part of winter? Make sure you are signed up for SmartHub to receive important cooperative updates, like planned power outages, while you are away!

You will receive a text message or email notifying you of important information related to your electric service.

Now is a good time to also make sure Roughrider Electric Cooperative has your current contact information. To verify your telephone number or email address, or request an update,

call 800-748-5533. Or login to your SmartHub account to update your information.

If you do not have a SmartHub account, set one up by going to www.roughriderelectric.com and select the SmartHub link in the top right corner. From there, you will be able to sign up as a new user.

Roughrider also has a Facebook page! Please like and follow to learn timely cooperative and community news.

Members, thank you for staying in touch and helping us keep you informed. ■

Board meeting highlights

When, where and who: The board of directors of Roughrider Electric Cooperative met at Roughrider's Dickinson office on Sept. 30

Minutes of the previous meeting: The board reviewed and approved the minutes of the Aug. 26 meeting.

Co-general managers' report: Travis Kupper presented the co-general managers' report.

WDUS/3C updates: An August report was presented to the board from WDUS and subsidiaries.

Board member reports: Attendees at the meetings over the past month reported to the board.

Exposure Control Plan: Approved and adopted Roughrider's exposure control plan.

CFO report: Alex Craigmile presented the board with a summary of financial reports, which were accepted by the board.

Operations report: Jason Bentz provided the board with additional information on his written report



www.roughriderelectric.com

HAZEN OFFICE

701-748-2293 or 800-748-5533
800 Highway Dr., Hazen, ND 58545
7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. CT Monday-Friday

Payments may be deposited in the deposit box by Roughrider Electric's main office entrance or in the drop boxes located at Krause's Super Valu in Hazen or Bronson's Super Valu in Beulah.

DICKINSON OFFICE

701-483-5111 or 800-748-5533
P.O. Box 1038, 2156 4th Ave. E.
Dickinson, ND 58602
7 a.m. - 4 p.m. MT Monday-Friday

Payments may be deposited in the deposit box west of Roughrider Electric's main office entrance or in the drop boxes located at Dickinson City Hall, or the west and south locations of Family Fare supermarkets.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

- Greg Steckler, President; Dunn Center..... 548-8122
- Roger Kudrna, Vice President; Dickinson..... 483-8377
- Troy Sailer, Secretary; Golden Valley..... 948-2427
- Bruce Darcy, Treasurer; Golden Valley 983-4222
- Darell Herman; Beulah 873-4371
- William Retterath; Center 794-8729
- Arnold Kainz; Dickinson 483-8207
- Dan Price; Henster 794-3779
- Callen Schoch; New England 290-3836

MANAGEMENT

- Don Franklund Co-GM/CEO
- Travis Kupper Co-GM/CEO



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facebook.com/RoughriderElectric

Co-op 101: What are capital credits?

Did you know electric cooperatives return money to their members in the form of capital credits? While you may like receiving those capital credit refunds from Roughrider Electric Cooperative, you may not be sure exactly why you get them. It's simple, really.

When you establish service with your electric cooperative, you become a member.

Capital credits reflect each member's ownership in the cooperative. Electric cooperatives do not earn profits. Instead, any margins or remaining revenue after all expenses have been paid are allocated to the cooperative's members in proportion to their electrical usage.

How are capital credits returned to you, the member?

STEP 1: ALLOCATION

An allocation determines your share of the cooperative's margins in a particular year. Margins are "allocated" or assigned to members who belong to the cooperative during the year in which a margin is generated. The allocation is based on the member's portion of electrical usage for that year. Each member's portion is referred to as a "capital credit allocation."

STEP 2: RETIREMENT

Once capital credits are allocated, they are retained by the co-op for a certain time. Capital credits are the most

significant source of equity for the cooperative. Equity is used to help meet the expenses of the co-op, such as paying for new equipment to serve members and repaying debt. Capital credits help keep rates at an affordable level by reducing the amount of funds that must be borrowed to grow and maintain a cooperative's existing electric system.

Upon completion of the rotation period, the board of directors will review the cooperative's financial health and can declare a retirement (your cash payment), and a portion of your capital credits are returned to you. ■