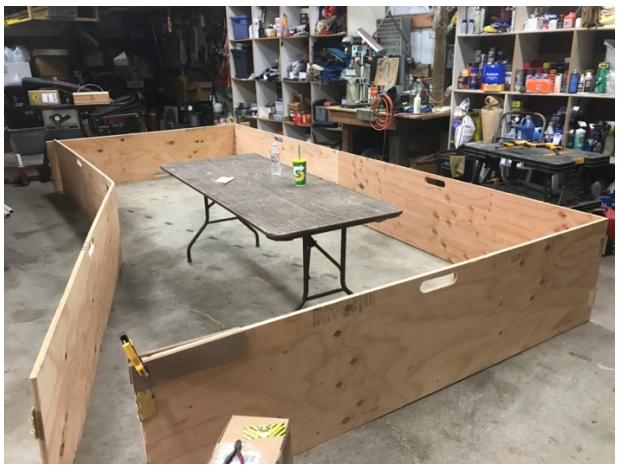
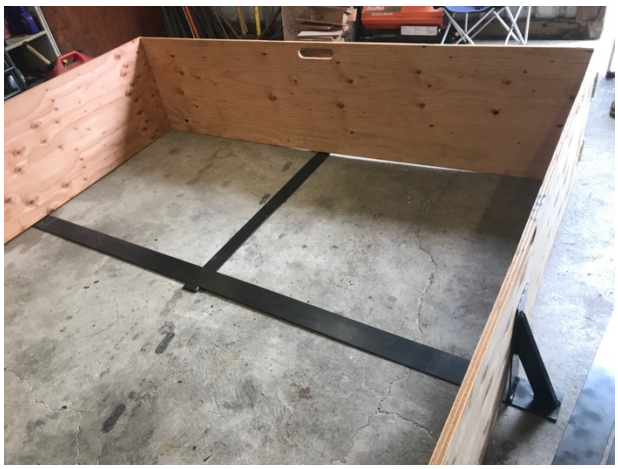
After two years of borrowing equipment from McLoughlin Chapter, late this summer Ron Pockrus, Harold Fisher, Bill Pavlisick, Rita Russell, Hank Keehner, Jim Sallee, Billie Giddens, and George Larson all participated in making Mid-Valley's own portable fishing pond. Procurement was by grant and donations.

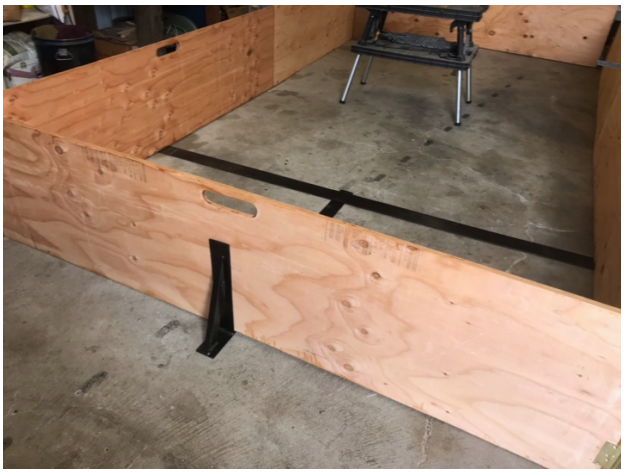
Six 2'x8'x$^{3}/_{4}$" plywood panel walls with hand holds cut to make them easy to carry, and hinges with removable pins on each end placed to allow easy assembly/disassembly. Bill Pavlisick and Devon Stokesbary secured the steel support metal, cut it to length, and welded the side supports on the five metal structural pieces. The rest of us assembled all the parts to confirm fitment.

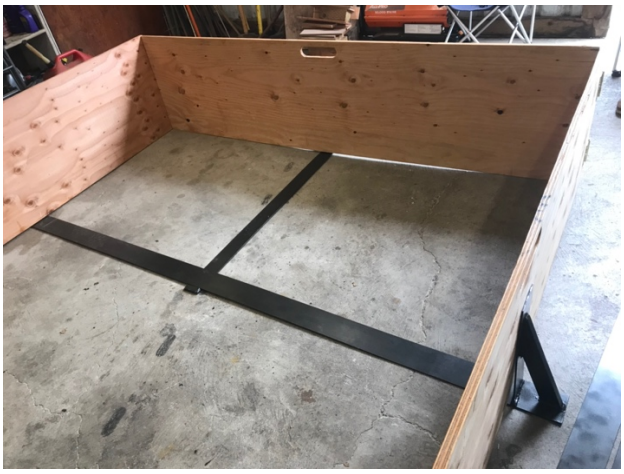


Wood panels being fitted with hinges

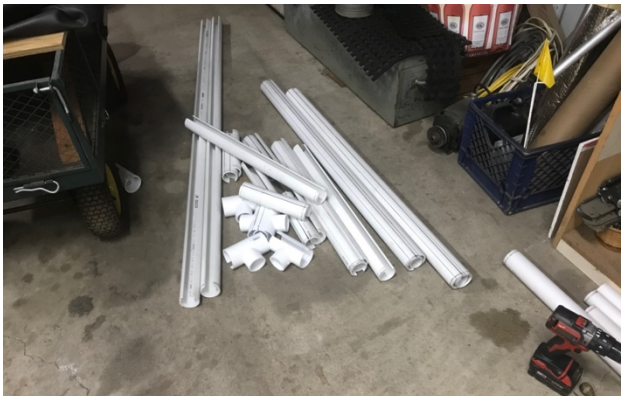


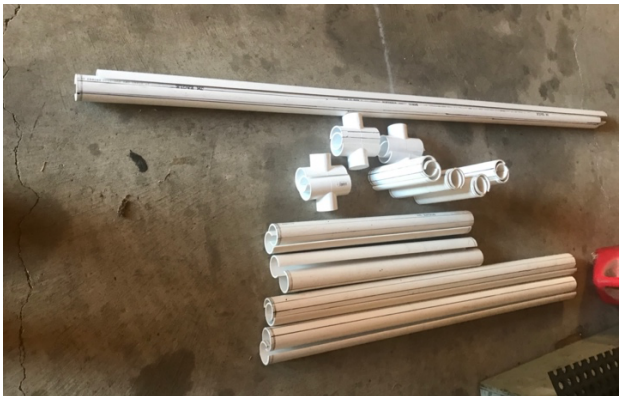
Metal side and end supports in place



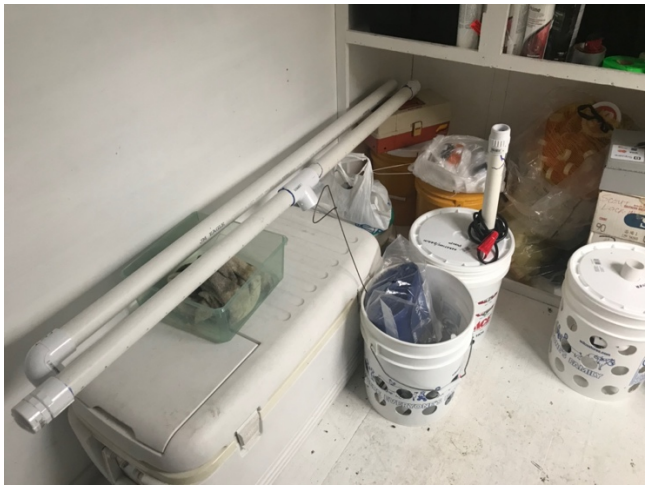
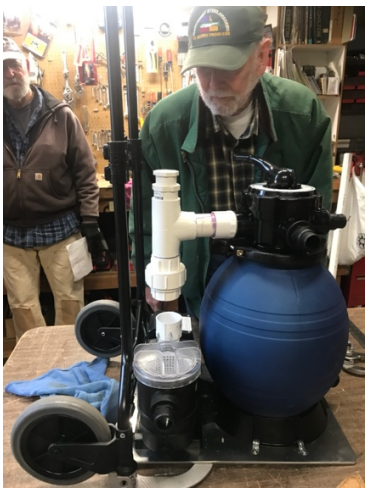


Metal end support shown interlocking with cross-support (steel is all painted)

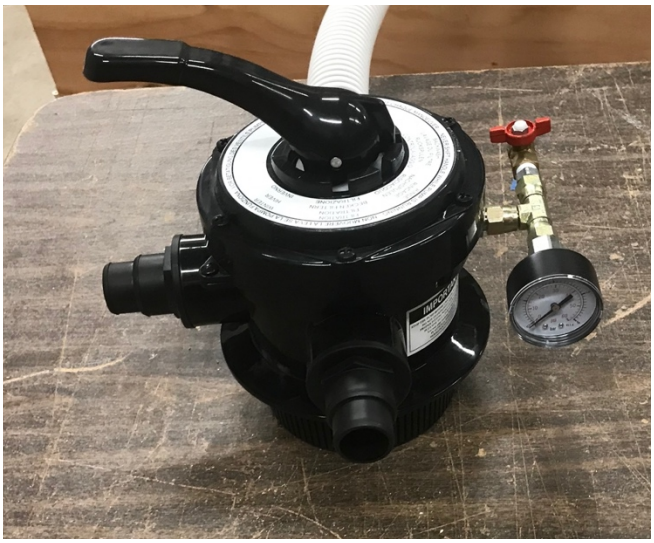




PVC liner holders that act as top edge to hold the liner in place on the plywood walls and protect it from abrasion from the fishing poles and many hands.

Two buckets with holes drilled in their sides will be filled with course prefilter fabric media for both the aeration pump (center) with manifold (left) and the intake for the sand filter/pump (right). The sand filter will be used for multiday events to improved water quality for the fish. The sand filter is attached to a handcart for portability. Bill and George each donated a sump pump to ensure there will be a spare available for emergencies.



Sand filter multi-valve allows *back-flush*, *disposal*, and *filter* flow settings. The pump must be shut off when making changes to the flow setting. In addition, a tool box with appropriate wrenches has been assembled to make sure setup goes without hitches.

The test fitting of the liner onto the pool support frame allowed it to be marked to simplify centering of the liner on the support framework structure.

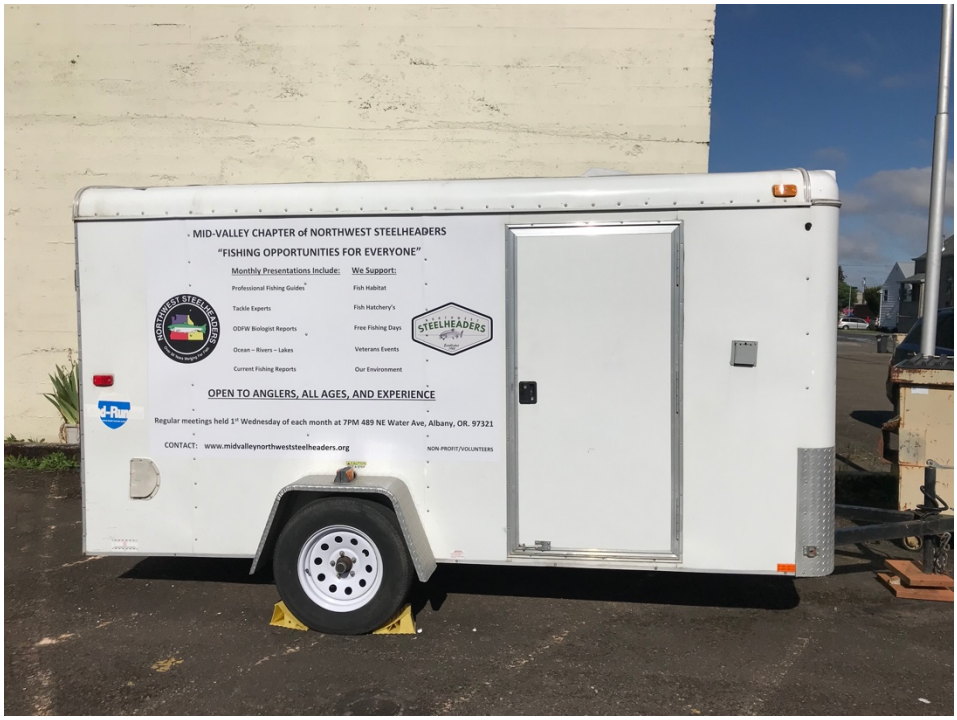
Layout requires placing the steel supports starting with the ends first, then placing cross-supports and moving components to interlock. The plywood support walls are added and locked into place with hinge pins. Finally, the liner is placed in the bottom of the space and unfolded over the walls using the PVC liner holders to secure it in position. Once filled with water, the water pressure holds the liner in place and flattens wrinkles. The aeration pump is fitted with power cord tied to the center top support to keep it out of the water. Filling the pool with water from city source requires addition of about 16 oz of *Prime*™ concentrated water conditioner for chlorine removal (our pond is about 2000 gallons) and roughly the same amount will be required to detoxify ammonia, nitrate, and nitrate (fish waste) to keep the fish active on the second and third days if it is a long duration event (three bottles total = $60). The sand filter attaches to the course prefilter for intake water with the unit setting outside the pool near a pond corner. Until we have gained some experience with the sand filter, the backflushing frequency is unknown. Pressure drop on the filter must be monitored and should indicate when needed. We have included a

long hose that can lead outside for disposal of the backwash (roughly 1 minute of pump operation) required to flush and replenish the filter. The aerator should operate full time for the duration of the event.

Shut down after the event comprises removing the fish (usually with the provider taking the remaining fish back) we have fabricated a pusher screen that concentrates the fish for easier netting, draining the water, removing the pumps, rinsing the course filters and sand filter, removing the PVC liner holders, folding the liner, removing hinge pins and taking down the wood side walls, and finally removing the steel supports. When removing the liner, look for punctures (wet spots on the floor) and mark so that patching can be performed. The trailer is set up to store the entire assembly. **Rinsing and drying** all components is required to prevent freeze damage as well as strong odors from developing. Repair of equipment and liner is a must. Inspecting and repairing all poles and tackle is also regularly required.

For the fishing pond, only bamboo poles are used with fixed lengths of line and a hook with bait. The pole were prepared and donated by Chapter members. This limits tangles and casting issues when so many are in such close proximity.

We have provided the fishing poles, line, hooks, and bait (most of the time bait is donated), the chemicals, and the labor for past events. The sponsoring organization procures the fish and reimburses for the chemicals used. We have handled up to 500 fish in this 8'x16'x2' (~2,000 gallon) tank. Keeping ice and zip-lock bags for those that want to take their catch home has been another of our group's donation. About 150 fish were caught in the three day events in the past. Kids should fish for 10-15 minutes in groups of about 10 in order to keep a minimal backlog of kids and parents waiting in line. Working a timing system has yet to be devised to make this more equitable. It takes about 6 staff to operate with a couple of teams needed to break the duty up into doable durations. The Expo runs from 9 to 8 on Saturday which would really be three teams on 4 hour shifts. It is very busy. The staff includes ticket taker/bait and pole provider, runner, and three fishing helpers (to both guide the newbies and handle the hooked fish) and icing station at the exit. We have found that the icing station must control use of resources. The runner is to provide help for whatever needs to get done. For a three day weekend 20 volunteers would be ideal.



ANWS Mid-Valley Chapter's 6'x12' trailer for the portable fishing pond transport was purchased by the Chapter during 2019.

Simple Zebco reels and poles are housed in the trailer (~40 rods and reels) that originated from ODFW STEP sources. We keep them at the ready for outdoor lake fishing events to supplement ODFW free fishing events when we are called upon.

This equipment should give us capabilities to support kid's learning to fish for many years to come.