

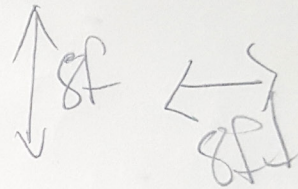
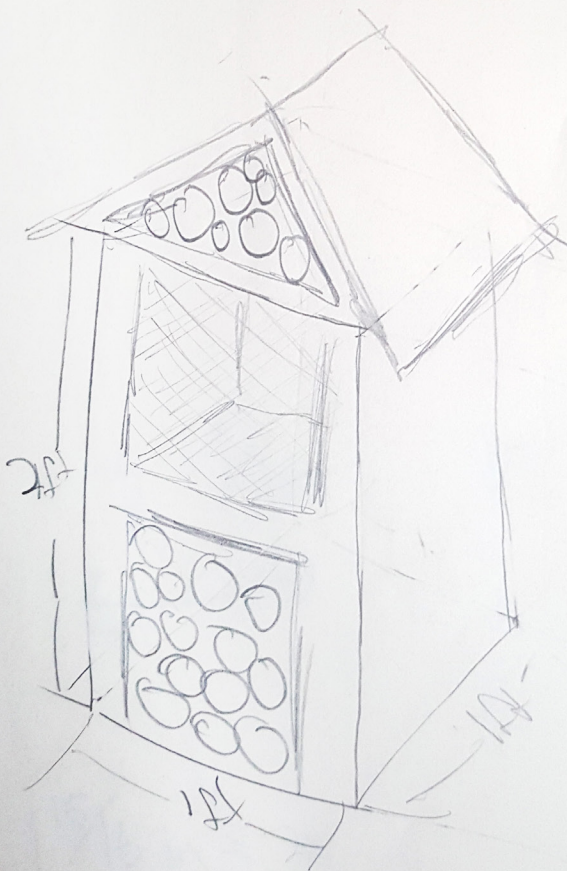
ISSUE: INSECT

“Insects, worms, and other small animals that carry out vital functions for life on earth have declined by 45 per cent on average over 35 years, threatening human health, water quality and food supplies...”

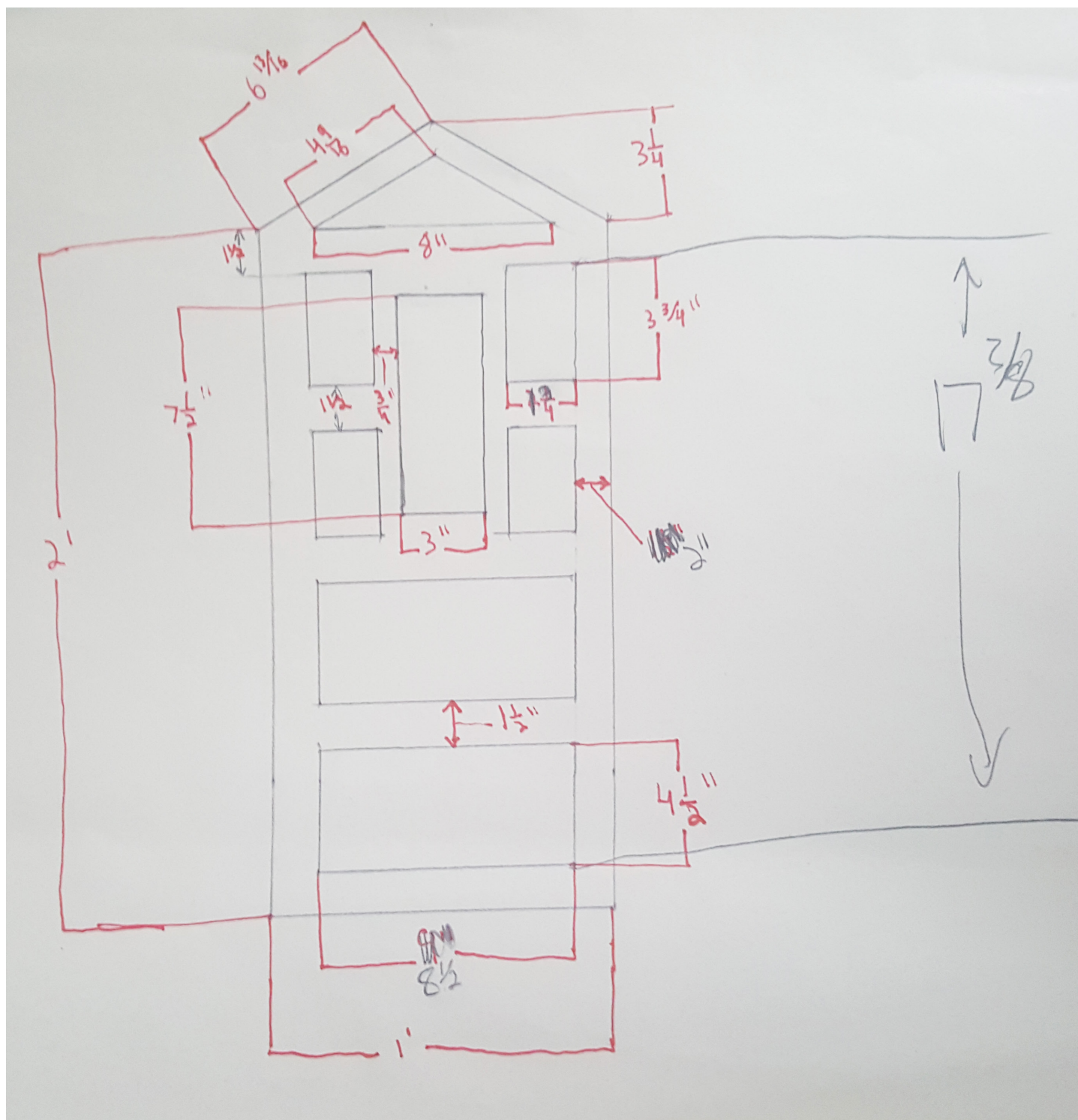
– Steve Connor

What is most unbelievable is not that there is a severe decline in insects, but the fact that it is so easily missed. Sure, bees, butterflies, and other “popular” insects get some notable coverage, however it’s not just those insects that are the issue, and I don’t think people realize what is happening. I’m an avid outdoorsman and even I had no idea that it was this big of an issue. Being a lover of the outdoors and nature this affects me personally, and quite significantly so it was important for me to make something that would have a strong impact on others. This project gives us a chance to be more involved and to educate others on the issue so that we can begin to fix it.

The class was provided with ash wood to construct our insect motels out of. The wood was very easy to work with and looked very nice once it was planed. I used the ash to create the frame for my insect motel, but needed something else for the siding so I went out and bought birch plywood. The birch plywood was a little more difficult to work with but I made due with it. It is meant to sit a little ways off of the ground on a cinder block. The insect motel is designed for several different insects. First the top is designed as a general resting spot for insects and is filled with sticks and twigs. The middle section is filled with hay and is designed as a place for beetles. The bottom is filled with rock slabs and is designed for centipedes and woodlice.



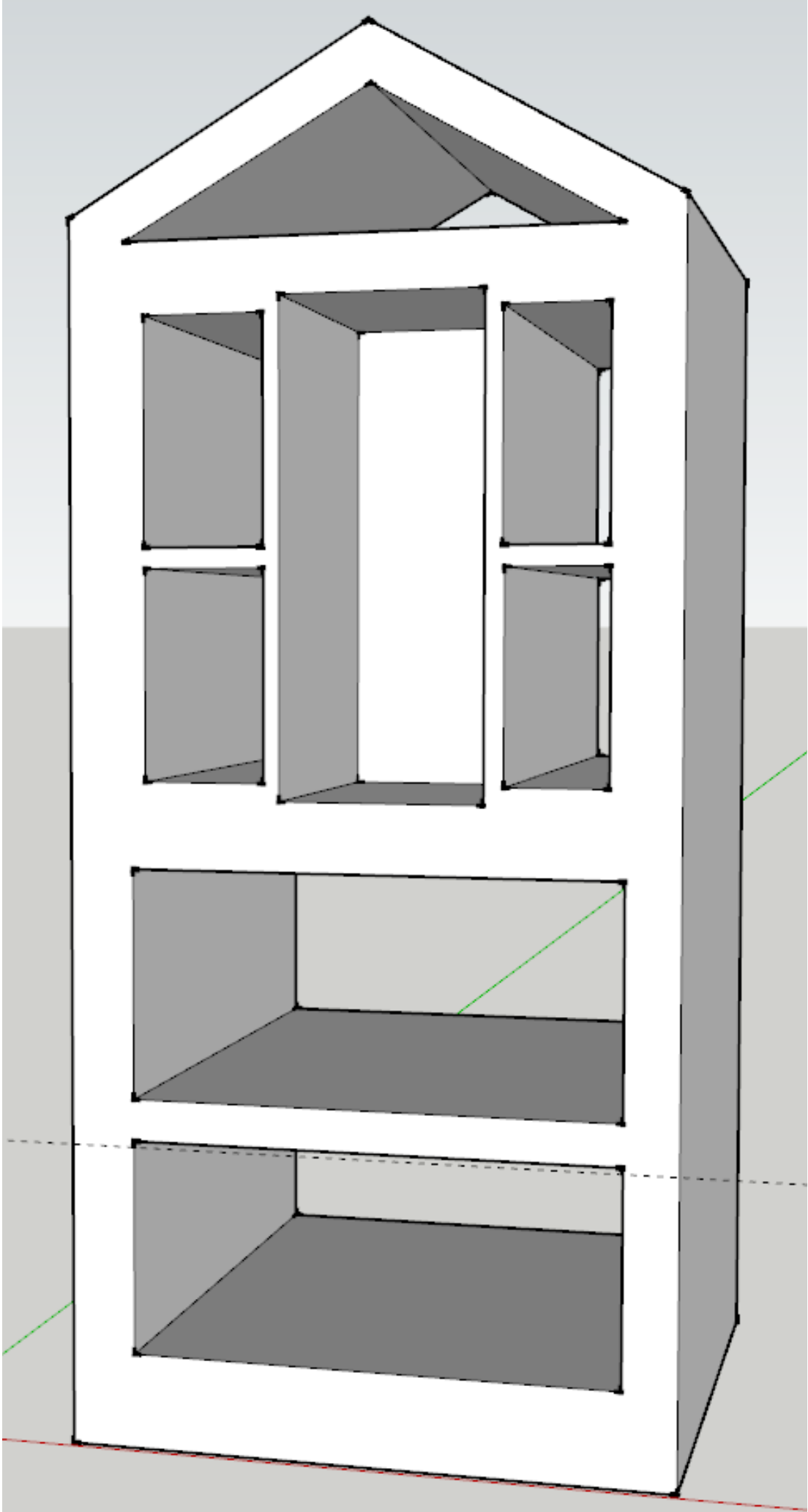
16 ft of
material
for frame

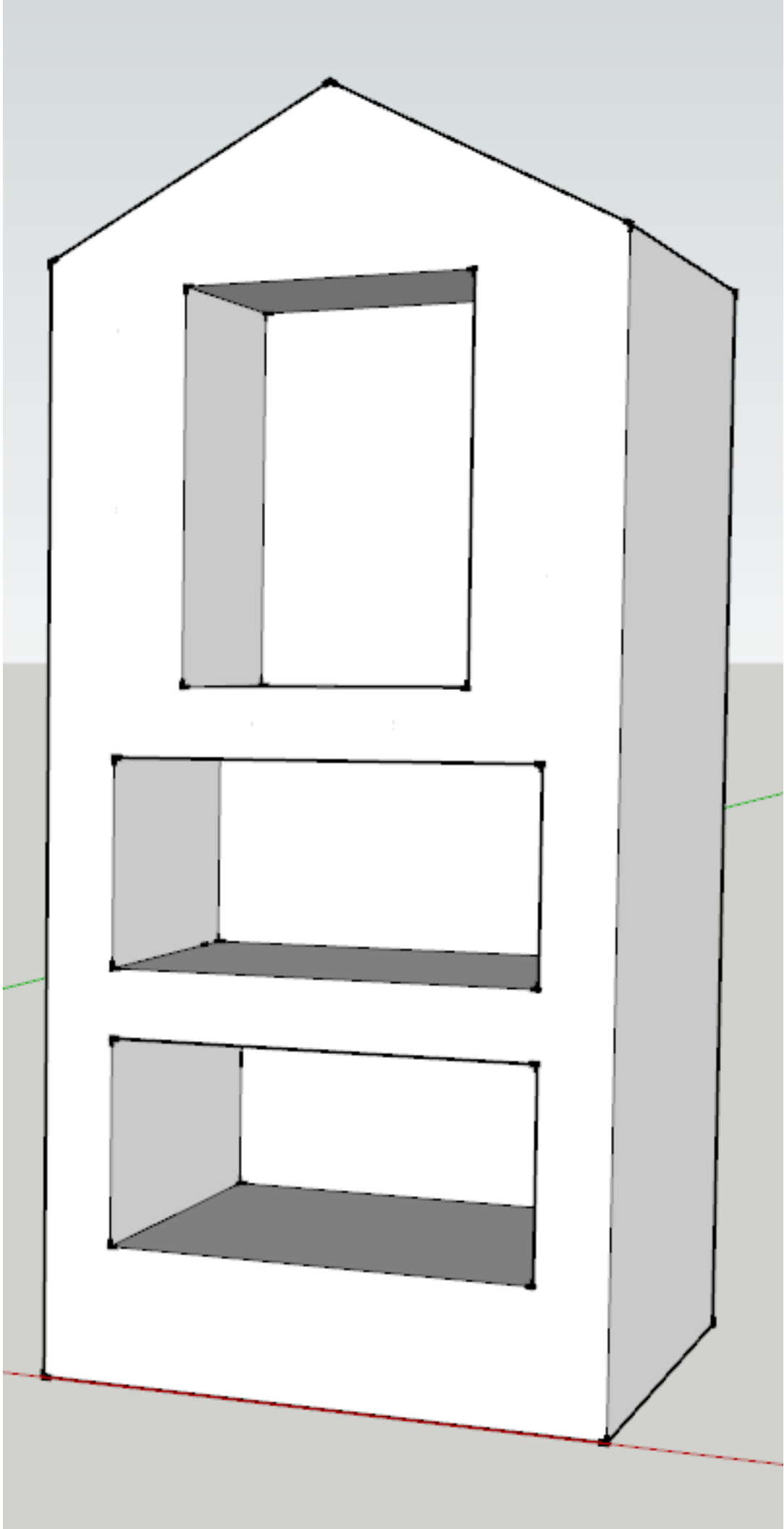






Version 1





Maintenance:

This insect motel was designed with very basic maintenance in mind. The rocks don't need to be replaced, and the sticks and hay don't need to be replaced unless things are taken or become damaged.





The main objective for this project was to create a successful, permanent home place of protection for insects throughout the state of Wisconsin. These habitats will be revealed at a public, opening ceremony the Lakeshore State Park, and then transplanted and installed throughout the state of Wisconsin through various State Trails and parks. We were tasked with learning how to use the tools and machines in the woodshop and show proficiency with our newly learned skills. A huge factor was the challenge to create a successful piece that will be shown on a public level.

I was very excited to get into the woodshop as the last time I worked in one was middle school. A lot of research went into the insect motel. After Tom's presentation I had so many ideas rushing through my mind that it was hard to choose a final design to go with. I figured there was no point to building something fancy if it didn't serve the best purpose it could, and although I wanted to go with something unique looking, I decided to go with function over form and built a pretty standard looking structure. Getting back in the woodshop was like riding a bike and I had the entire frame of the insect motel cut and put together before the end of the first workshop day. I then went out and purchased some birch plywood to use for the siding and roof. Over the next several workshop days I finished everything up.

I did a pretty good job for not having been in a woodshop for almost 10 years. There were a few rough spots along the way where I measured wrong and had to recut but it was all part of the process. I had a blast making this piece and I'm super excited for it to actually serve a purpose other than just being art. I learned so much from this project, and not just relearning how to use certain tools in the woodshop. I've never made something that was actually going to be in the public eye and inform people about the issues we're facing in our state. It's incredibly rewarding knowing that what I made will help educate people and help better our state and our planet.