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### Getting his fill



In his spare time, Wayne Wooten learned how to lay brick.

**W**ayne Wooten, being a sales manager for *Empire Disposal Ltd.* in Fort Worth, likes people, and likes to talk.

He just doesn't like to talk in front of large groups of people.

Two of the longest minutes of his life happened recently when his name was drawn at an industry breakfast. The prize? Wooten had to give an impromptu speech to a cozy gathering of 350 people.

"I'm sure I said something," says Wooten, "but I'm not sure what I said!"

On the job, though, he seems to do just fine and says he enjoys helping and talking to his clients. But as much as he likes speaking to the much smaller groups of people he helps every day, he has tried several times – unsuccessfully – to explore other endeavors outside the construction and industrial roll-off world.

After 23 years of working for his father-in-law's roofing company, he spent

another year at a different roofing company, where he was introduced to the roll-off aspect. Then he tried to work in anything other than those businesses.

"Whenever I was leaving the roofing business, I swore I would never go back to where there was roofing or trash, and I ate those words!" Wooten says. "I've done other things, but they're not my forte."

But Wooten is content to try new things as a hobby. He recently learned how to lay brick by experimenting on a fire pit project, only to find it wasn't as hard as he thought it might be.

And on a cruise celebrating his 30th anniversary with his wife, he was inspired to create a hammock haven after seeing hammocks an islander was selling.

But it seems while you can take the man out of the landfill, you can't take the landfill out of the man.

"I've come to grips with it," Wooten says. "This is my part in life!" –mjm

