John’s Jaunt

For those of you who are getting tired of the updates on my table, you will be glad to hear that it is almost done and should be out shopped by this weekend. My wife will probably have a party that I finished something!

Mary Anderson, our toy chairperson, will be looking for some volunteers at the June meeting to host future toy making workshops. If you are interested in learning more about what is involved please let her know. She also has a number of toy plans neatly organized by topic.

Walt Haddock gave an excellent presentation on shop electricity at the May meeting. A few of the key points that I walked away with were:
1. to get a good understanding of your current electrical situation by mapping out your current circuits,
2. to plan out your work including knowing your local building codes and any restrictions on who can perform the work,
3. and to be safe.

There were a number of good comments from the audience pointing out differences in electrical codes, and the importance of safety.

Thanks, Walt!

The Guild Roundtable

By Dick Yezek, Vice President

Wood has been cut and shaped for thousands of years using only hand tools. As a boy I cut fir boards with a handsaw flaked with rust. That handsaw buckled on every third stroke; the finished cuts were both crooked and coarse so that handsaw gathered still more rust on its peg in the garage. Some 30 years later I watched a finish carpenter cut 45° miters with a handsaw in 6" oak cap molding for half height partitions in the Bay Shore Sears store. Using only sawhorses for support, he made one cut on each piece; the joint was perfect! His handsaw looked a bit like the one I had used 30 years earlier but it followed the line he had drawn on the molding perfectly - and it stayed 90° to the surface! I went back to that Sears store to check the finished product; all the joints in that cap molding were perfect. It took me 10 more years to discover that aside from 30 years experience, the secret in that carpenter’s handsaw was it was sharp and the set was correct!

At this years’ “Woodworkers Show” I observed a Lie-Nielson representative hand cut dovetails in dissimilar hardwoods using their handsaws and chisels. As expected, the tools cut the wood like a hot knife through butter. Using a set of hand made jigs for marking out, the whole process took the demonstrator no more than 15 minutes. The dovetails he cut were asymmetric. The pins were tiny compared to the tails, so tiny it would be next to impossible to cut them using a router and a commercial dovetail jig due to the spacing requirements imposed by such jigs. To further complicate matters the joined pieces were of different thickness. Once again the sharp dovetail saw stayed 90° to board faces and followed the lines with ease although occasionally one of the tiny pins would break off during fitting up.

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JUNE Meeting Back Page
O.K., a sharp handsaw makes sawing easier but the real question is: “How can you tell when a hand tool is really sharp if you have never used one before?” One recent article in a popular woodworking magazine stated teeth on most new western style handsaws have far too much set. Such saws cut a wide kerf making it easy to stray from the line, producing the wavy cut I experience to this day every time I use one of my old handsaws. But the same article asserted you can expect to use Japanese handsaws “out of the box” because they have sharp, hardened, teeth set for cabinet making instead of carpentry. I learned what a sharp handsaw with correctly set teeth could do when I tried a Japanese handsaw for the first time. Japanese handsaws cut on the pull stroke but if you prefer a push stroke you can once again purchase a sharp, domestic handsaw with teeth set for cabinet making - but expect to pay double the price of a hardware store handsaw. That’s one way to learn what a sharp handsaw can do - but there is another way.

Our guild has regularly offered workshops in sharpening plane irons and straight chisels. These workshops give you the chance to try out really sharp tools owned by the instructor without buying a new, top-rated one, a fact that gets little press! (What you don’t learn in the workshop is although it may take hours to flatten a poorly made plane iron or straight chisel, once a tool is sharp; it’s easy to keep it sharp!) How does this apply to handsaws? Well, although we currently do not teach handsaw sharpening, have you considered asking the instructor or another attendee to bring a sharp handsaw to a sharpening workshop for you to try out? How about asking the same question at a regular Guild meeting? That’s another unseen value of Guild membership!

My tip comes from observing the Lie-Nielson demonstrator at the February “Woodworkers Show.” He used a roller type bevel gauge to set and hold the bevel angle for sharpening his straight chisels but after sharpening, he butted the bevel gauge on the edge of a short 3/4” board, and then nailed a small stop across the tip of the blade. For later honing he could quickly reset the bevel gauge at the proper distance from the tool tip using this simple jig. His “bevel gauge jig” had stops nailed at different distances to set 20°, 25°, and 30° bevel angles. Using the jig to set your bevel gauge cuts honing time to a minute or two because your bevel angle is dead on every time! Further, if you buy a bevel gauge that has a micro bevel setting you can establish a micro bevel in just a few strokes after honing is complete! As a matter of record, Lie-Nielson handsaws are American made with sharp, correctly set teeth “out of the box.”
JUNE 2005 PROGRAM

Topic: Arts and Crafts Movement
Presitter: Glen Adamson

Location: Faith United Church of Christ
4240 N. 78th St. Milwaukee WI

Date: Wednesday June 1, 2005

6:45 pm gathering & announcements
7:00 pm to 9:30 pm program

Glen Adamson, from the Milwaukee Art Museum, will be presenting a discussion on the Arts and Crafts movement and how it relates to furniture. Mr. Adamson had previously spoken to the guild (as a Curator of the Chipstone Foundation) on the 18th Century pieces in their collection, the finest in the country. Members who had the opportunity to hear him speak are aware of his knowledge and presentation skills. We are fortunate to have him back for a second presentation.
Building A Workbench Workshop
By Dick Butula

Third Week

At this session some of the guys worked on making the stretchers and putting mortises in the four base legs. The stretchers were then notched and fitted to each leg mortise.

Another group of men worked on the front board to fit the vice. It was laid out so that the center of the vice lined up with a row of dog holes. This will allow the vice to be used for clamping of material between it and the dogs in the table. Since the vice casting face wasn’t exactly parallel, it involved a bit of trial and error to get it to fit. Holes were also drilled to fasten the vice both to the face board and the bottom of the top.

Boards were glued together to make the face for the end vice. Dog holes were incorporated in them and spaced to line up with the three rows of holes in the tabletop, to also allow for material clamping. Holes were then drilled in both the vice face and end boards for the threaded rods to move freely in and out.

The back board of the tray was the measured and marked for dovetails. They were then cut and fitted between the dovetails of the side boards. Dados had also been cut in the side, table back, and tray back boards for the tray bottom.

All of the tabletop boards were then dry assembled to assure a good fit. It looked good so we started the final glue up. The side board dovetail was only glued near the front of the top to allow for expansion. The top back board, which did not have a dovetail was glued and tacked in place. The tray bottom was not glued, but just slid into the dados. The dovetails of the tray back and side boards were then glued and put in place. The whole assembly was then clamped together.

The finished top measures 48”x29”. This might seem smaller than you want in your shop, but keep in mind that this bench will be regularly moved and assembled for the Guilds monthly meetings.

We anticipate that the workbench should be finished at our next session. Unfortunately, with the Woodworking Show the next weekend, the workbench could not be ready for the Guilds next meeting.

Building A Workbench Workshop
By Dick Butula

Fourth Week

Now that the top was all glued together, the squeezed out glue was scraped off. The side, tray and back boards were all planed to make a flat surface. The dovetails all were planed for a smooth fit. Filling in gaps on the top also made for cosmetic improvements.

The Veritas twin-screw tail vice was positioned and secured. Spacers were installed under the screw rods to keep the vice from tilting when extended with heavy pieces. One face of the Jorgensen rapid-acting bench vice was epoxied and bolted in place.

To make the base easier to level, small blocks were glued and screwed to each corner of the bottom of the bases side pieces. The top also was fitted with alignment blocks on one end and mortises cut for parts of the tail vice on the other end.

The stretchers for the base were mortised to position the nuts for the threaded fastening rods. Hand fashioned knobs were made out of walnut for the fastening rods, with spalted maple covers over the center holes, and were epoxied on the ends. To cover the mortises on the stretchers, walnut rosettes were turned, also with spalted maple covers over the center holes. These were then hot glued over the stretcher mortises.

With some fine-tuning of the fit of the top to the base, the bench was assembled. A little cleanup of the squeezed out epoxy and final scraping of the top the bench was almost complete. The handle piece of the bench vice was installed and the guys all stood back and admired the finished result. A final step will be to rub the bench with two coats of boiled linseed oil.

In the write up of the second week of this project, I neglected to include Vern Eilers as one of the participants. Also on the last week Bob Hillman was able to be with us for a few hours.

Like any major construction project there are bound to be some injuries. This project suffered four, none of which were life threatening. In fact four band-aids were all that were required. The walking wounded shall remain nameless.

After having worked on this workbench it was agreed that each and every one of the guys learned more about woodworking than when we started. It is through the workshops that the members get to know each other better in addition to learning new skills. I for one am very glad to have been a part of this workbench project and to be able to contribute to the Guild.
Raffle Column

Submitted by Alan Clapp

Victor Taugher was the lucky winner of the Woodline router bit set in May.

The June raffle prize is provided by Rockler Woodworking and Hardware and will make a great addition to your clamping collection. The prize is a Bessey K-Body Kit consisting of two 24” clamps, two 40” clamps and four blocks.

Woodcraft Classes – June

Turning 101: Intro To Lathe Work with Hank Bardenhagen Saturday, June 4, 9:30am - 3:30pm

Turn A Pen & Pencil Set with Liz Rhode Sunday, June 5, 11:30am - 4:30pm

Power Carve: Feather Pin with Roger Wilson Tuesdays, June 7 & 14, 6pm - 9pm

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Router Basics with Vince Corrigan Wednesday, June 8, 6pm - 9pm

Basic Scroll Sawing with Rich Radtke Thursday, June 9, 6pm - 9pm

Introduction To Intarsia with Rich Radtke Sunday, June 12, 11:30am - 3:30pm

Raised Panel Doors with Vince Corrigan Wednesday, June 15, 6pm - 9pm

Turn A Natural Edge Bowl with Hank Bardenhagen Thursday, June 16, 6pm - 9pm

Woodburn: Portland Head Lighthouse, Maine with Dick Buerger Saturday, June 25, 9:30am - 3:30pm

Basic Scroll Sawing For Kids with Rich Radtke Sunday, June 26, 11:30am - 2:30pm

Basic Pen Turning: Kids Summer Session with Liz Rohde Wednesday, June 29, 10am - 1pm

Member Projects:
Members receive a free raffle ticket when they bring in a project to show.

Friends of the Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild

A. Fillinger, Inc. 6750 N. 43rd St, Milwaukee 414/353-8433
Alpine Plywood 12210 W Silver Spring Road, Milwaukee, 414/438-8400
Custom Service Hardware 1170 Wauwatosa Rd, Cedarburg, 262/375-7960 or 800/882-0009
Homestead Finishing Products, Cleveland, OH 216/631-5309 www.homesteadfinishing.com
Neu’s Building Center, Inc. N95W16915 Richfield Way, Menomonee Falls, WI 262/251-6550 (located near SW corner of Co. Q and Hwy 41/45)
Rockler’s (The Woodworker’s Store) 845 N. Mayfair Rd, Wauwatosa, 414/774-1882
Woodcraft, 1725 S. 108th St, West Allis, 414/607-6164
Woodline USA can be reached at 800-472-6950, www.woodbits.com

Wiscwoodworkersguild@wiscwoodworkersguild.org
JUNE 2005
Date: June 1, 2005
Event: Regular Monthly Meeting
Topic: Arts and Crafts Movement
Presenter: Glen Adamson
Location: Faith United Church of Christ
4240 N. 78th St. Milwaukee WI
Time: 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Sponsor: Art Paque
Fee: None
Comments: Glen Adamson, from the Milwaukee Art Museum, will be presenting a discussion on the Arts and Crafts movement and how it relates to furniture. Mr. Adamson had previously spoken to the guild (as a Curator of the Chipstone Foundation) on the 18th Century pieces in their collection, the finest in the country. Members who had the opportunity to hear him speak are aware of his knowledge and presentation skills. We are fortunate to have him back for a second presentation.
Note: The Arts and Crafts Movement in Europe and America, 1880 – 1920 is an exhibit at the Art Museum that will be running from May 19 – September 5, 2005.

JULY 2005
Date: July 6, 2005
Event: Regular Monthly Meeting
Topic: Show and Tell
Presenter: Guild Members
Location: Faith United Church of Christ
4240 N. 78th St. Milwaukee WI
Time: 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Sponsor: Ken Bahr
Fee: None
Comments: An annual favorite to inspire others and brag about your work. Show pieces, Jigs and fixtures, tips and timesavers will be presented by Guild Members, explaining what they did, how it was done, and how it helps around the shop for all the tips. Always informative and fun, and great ideas to take home with you. Come and enjoy, get up and show your stuff! Signups at the next meeting to help schedule the time.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS
Some of the upcoming programs will include one on making our workbench, as well as how to make your own classic bench. We are also confirming programs for fall, hopefully one on classic furniture (18th or 19th century) and a workshop on hand cut dovetails. Watch upcoming Ripsaws for details on these and others.

ELECTRICAL SURVEY
There was a noticeable interest in shop lighting, 110 volt vs 220 volt power and three phase converters. There also was some interest in dust collecting systems and controls. The program committee will try to set up more programs or workshops on these topics for the fall.