



THE R.I.P.S.A.W. REVUE

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Rendering Informative Programs Serving Area Woodworkers

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John's Jaunt

As I mentioned in previous installments of John's Jaunt, I recently finished our kitchen table, a circular oak table with two leaves and a center pedestal. This was a project that I wanted to do and didn't have a particular timetable, as was evidenced by it taking over a year to complete. My current project is on the other end of the spectrum: it is a project I need to do and it needs to be done quickly. A few weeks back, we heard a crash in our master bedroom closet and soon discovered that the wire shelves had pulled completely off the wall, ruining the drywall in the process. So I am now rebuilding the closet based on the plans in the February/March 2005 issue of Wood magazine. This project is different from the table in that it is more of a mass production (for me) sort of project. It also shows the benefits of using the right tools and fasteners. Specifically,



John Johnson, Guild President

the Conformat screws and the stepped drill bit make assembly much more efficient. Hopefully this project will be complete in the next week so that we can get our "closet" off of our bedroom floor.

Also mentioned before, we are in need of volunteers. Open positions for the coming year include Secretary, Facilities Coordinator, and Program and Workshop Chairperson(s). If you would like to volunteer, or nominate someone that you think would be good for the

positions, let me know. I would like to recognize two new volunteers, Dodd Egan who has joined the refreshment committee and Lewis Enderle who has agreed to coordinate the refreshment committee.

Thanks Dodd and Lewis!

The Guild Roundtable

By Dick Yezek, Vice President

For several years now the debate over Guild workshops has waxed unceasingly. Are there too few or too many? Are they priced too high or too low? Have woodworking video tapes and DVDs together with classes at local woodworking stores siphoned off not only our basic workshops but also our members? The claim is these new

formats are both inexpensive and pervasive in today's marketplace. Certainly one can repeatedly view a video at leisure - but you can't ask a question of a video. Furthermore, most videos describe fundamentals only;

intermediate and advanced topics are reserved for the author's week long classes taught in his own school. Moreover, each video is set in a shop specifically equipped with all necessary tools and supplies; nothing is missing and nothing is left to chance. The subtle implication is your project could turn out like the one in the video - if only you had the equipment and supplies shown in the presentation!

No video tape or DVD can impart skill. Have you ever tried to turn a bead using only a skew chisel after watching a master do it on a video tape? How about using stains or dyes to color match new wood to old on a project? It always works when Bob Flexner does it but does it work when you try it after watching Flexner's video tape? Then there is the matter of the wood itself. All the stock used on every video tape or DVD I have ever viewed is always perfectly flat, straight, and true. At the conclusion of the tutorial a picture of the simply magnificent finished product is flashed across the screen - usually built from a far more appealing wood species than the common lumber used "for clarity" during the presentation. Mistakes or problems are rarely, if ever, treated in the video media.

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Certainly any class taken at a local woodworking store imparts some degree of skill as long as it is not simply a seminar. While instructor skills vary, it's safe to say all the instructors at local woodworking stores are well versed in their particular topics because they have taught their topics many times over. By doing so they have honed their teaching skills as well as their woodworking skills. But masters are versed in many woodworking skills and most have close relationships with industrial experts in various fields which give them instant access to analytical and engineering data related to the subject at hand. Do you recall Marc Adams explaining the chemical analysis of various glues at one of our meetings? Do you get that type of analysis in ANY woodworking class at ANY woodworking store? Do you have the same faith when an instructor in a local woodworking store claims any glue will work?

At a minimum, Guild workshops taught by masters are indeed unique. Students get the chance to work alongside a master at a cost unmatched elsewhere. The fee set for ANY Guild workshop is based on the assumed expense with a goal of at least breaking even but in many respects the price is essentially a gamble. The *average* expense for a one day Guild workshop taught by a master is \$1000 which includes transportation, hotel, meals, materials, and the fee paid to the instructor. The math is simple. If 10 students enroll we need \$100 from each just to break even. If we think 20 will enroll we can set the fee at \$50 - assuming the class location can support 20 students actively participating in the workshop. The class limit at most locations is 12 to 15 which works out to an *average* of \$75 per student per day. Deviations from this "average fee" are many; the fee goes up if the workshop is more than one day or material cost is high; larger shop space permitting higher enrollments or donations from Guild members (room and board, materials, etc.) reduce the average fee. But only you can decide if the benefit derived from working with a master for a day or two justifies the workshop's fee.

Member led workshop fees are much less (usually \$25) which covers the cost of tooling, jigs, breakage, and some or all of the supplies. Tooling, jigs, and supplies account for about 80% of the \$25 fee. Breakage, (band saw blades, drills, router bits, etc. plus planer and jointer knives dulled beyond repair) is a variable. In general our fee for a member led workshop is about 1/3 the cost of similar workshops taught at local woodworking stores - which do NOT include materials. Of course few, if any, members consider themselves professional woodworkers but look at the output from member led workshops. Do you recall the band saw boxes, bow front tables, and mantle clocks, to name just a few, made in member led workshops? Do you believe any

Officers

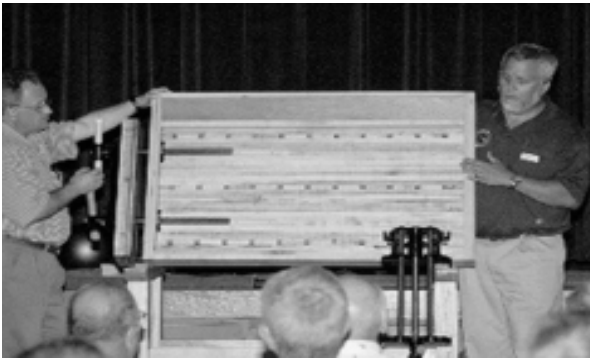
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of these workshops to be a distant second to those offered by local woodworking stores?

Don't forget the time spent setting up and testing jigs and the donated shop space and environmental at a member led workshop. These are big reasons why such workshops average 1/3 the cost of the same workshop taught in a woodworking store. It's true our workshops are less convenient because our Guild can offer a given workshop only once per year at best but our instructors have gone out of their way to enable Guild members to enroll in a member led workshop. Schedule times are commonly adjusted to fit students' needs and in some cases additional "sections" have been added to popular workshops to accommodate heavy enrollments, perks not offered by woodworking store classes. (Guild workshops taught by guest instructors must be scheduled based on the guest's availability.)

Finally, consider what happens at a class in a woodworking store if you don't complete the project. Do you get to repeat the class free of charge? Can you get "after hours" instructor help or free materials to start over after you cut something too short? Can you call up the instructor seeking additional instruction, tips, etc.? Will the instructor come over to your shop to help you finish the project? I have witnessed all of the above in member led Guild workshops.

Pictures from WWG August Program on Building the Workbench



Thanks to
Ken Bahr and
Mark Bronkalla
for their
presentation on
building the
workbench.

Guild Workshops

September Workshop

Workshop Name: Inlay and banding for an 18th century spice box with Glen Huey

Sponsor: Kevin Seigworth

Workshop Date: Saturday, September 10, 2005

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Maximum enrollment: 15 members

Fee: \$50

Location: Scott Stanwyck Shop

Presenter: Glen Huey

Materials included in fee: Demonstration material and supplies

Comments: In this workshop Glen will demonstrate the techniques to build your own inlay and banding such as that used on an 18th century spice box. For an example see Glen's article in Popular Woodworking issue 126. With some jigs, patience, and tools you already have in your shop, you too can incorporate inlay and banding in your furniture. Attendees will make chevron and circular inlay as well as practice with stringing.

October Workshop

Workshop Name: Dovetail workshop with Jeff Miller

Sponsor: Kevin Seigworth

Workshop Date: Saturday, October 8, 2005

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Maximum enrollment: 10 members

Fee: \$50

Location: Jerry Tackes Shop

Presenter: Jeff Miller

Materials included in fee: Demonstration material and supplies

Comments: In this Dovetail Workshop, you'll learn to cut dovetails two ways: by hand, and using the table saw and band saw (with a simple, terrifically versatile jig). A one-day, hands-on workshop devoted to this functional and sometimes frustrating joint. Why settle for the mechanical look of routed dovetails when you can learn to cut beautiful dovetails with these methods? Work on the key skills for hand-cut joints, and see how these skills can be applied elsewhere in your woodworking.

August Board Minutes

Members Present: John Johnson, Dick Yezek, Ken Bahr, Jerry Kashmerick and Mary Anderson

President: John contacted the insurance agent and we have the right amount of coverage for the guilds needs. He checked on lighting for the stage and is in the process with Dick to find the right lighting. The positions of Secretary, Programs/Workshops and Facilities Coordinator are not filled as of yet.

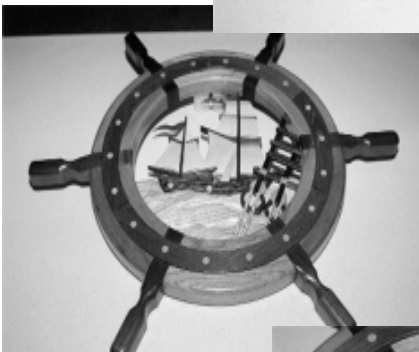
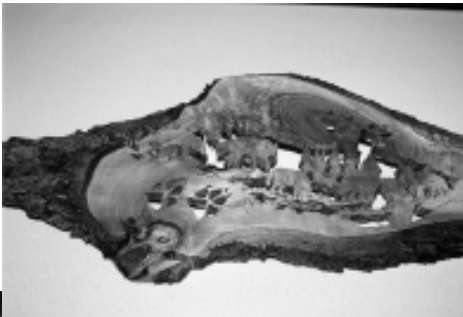
Vice President: Dick also looked into the lighting issue. He announced that there were many interested guild members for the Glen Huey and Jeff Miller Workshops.

Programs/Wkshps: Ken mentioned the committee is working on next year's monthly meetings.

Exhibits/Publicity: Jerry announced that German Fest was a success, however it was a mutual idea that we would not come back next year. It was discussed that for the Woodworkers Show next year, a ticket would be made up to hand out with the next meetings information on it so that we could get more people to come.

Membership: Mary announced no new members last month. A couple people have stepped up to take care of the refreshments at the monthly meetings; however, we could use at least one more.

Bill Smeaton's scroll work.



Jerry Tackes intarsia ship in a ship's wheel.

Detail of the ship done by Jerry Tackes.



GUILD PROGRAMS

September Program

Date: Friday September 9, 2005

Event: Regular Monthly Meeting

Topic: 18th Century Spice Box construction

Presenter: Glen Huey

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

Time: 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Sponsor: Kevin Seigworth

Fee: None

Comments:

Glen Huey builds custom furniture in his shop in Ohio. At the age of fourteen, with great help from Dad, he built his first furniture piece. It is a Sheraton Bed that he still has to this day. Sometime after graduating from the University of Cincinnati, Glen decided to return to his passion - the building of 18th and 19th Century Reproduction furniture.

In this program, Glen will discuss 18th century spice boxes, their history, styles and construction techniques. He will also discuss in depth the process and techniques used in building 18th and 19th century furniture reproductions including studying pieces, books and styles. In the companion workshop, Glen will demonstrate making the banding and inlay used in construction of the spice box door.

October Program

Date: Friday October 7, 2005

Event: Regular Monthly Meeting

Topic: Bed design and construction

Presenter: Jeff Miller

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

Time: 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Sponsor: Kevin Seigworth

Fee: None

Comments:

Jeff Miller is a furniture designer, craftsman, teacher, and author of woodworking books and articles (he's also a former classical musician and a dad). J. Miller Handcrafted Furniture is located at 1774 W. Lunt Avenue, Chicago, IL. Jeff's furniture has been shown in galleries and shows nationwide, and has won numerous awards. His furniture is in the Decorative Arts Collection of the Chicago Historical Society.

In this presentation, Jeff will review the considerations and techniques used to make any style of bed. By changing a few details you can change the look of a bed from four-poster, to Arts and Crafts, or Shaker or Sleigh bed. If you have ever wanted to build a bed, this will be a great primer on the topic for you.

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TOOL HANDLES

Ipe is an unusual dense hard wood. It has long been used in situations such as docks, piers, and bridges due to its durability. It has lately found use in decking.

My back deck (4 x 8) and another deck (400 square feet) and railings have all been made with Ipe.

I have accumulated a variety of Ipe scraps. I comes in a variety of colors and some differences in graining. It makes an excellent tool handle. I've turned four so far and will slowly make additional tools handles for all my files and rasps.

At the next (September) meeting, I will bring a box of over 100 Ipe pieces 1 7/16 square and 7 1/2 long — ideal blanks for turning your own tool handles.

I suggest a donation to the Guild of \$0.50 each.
thanks, Walt Hadcock Rhykenology@ExecPC.com

Raffle Column

Submitted by Alan Clapp

Jerry Tackes won the Rigid drill last month.

Jerry Smaglik volunteered to run the September raffle. The raffle prize is a Ryobi jig saw. This is a variable speed orbital scrolling jig saw with laser guide and tool-less blade change. Accessories include wood and metal blades, a vacuum attachment and an edge guide. Good luck and be nice to Jerry!

Woodcraft Classes – September

Turning 101: Intro To Lathe Work, Hank Bardenhagen, Sat, Sept 3, 9:30am - 3:30pm

Power Carve & Finish: Hooded Warbler, Roger Wilson, Tue, Sept 6, 13, 20, 27, Oct 4 & 11, 6pm - 9pm

Turn An Acrylic Classic American Pen, Melanie Wegner, Sun, Sept 11, 11:30am - 2:30pm

Band Saw Basics, Woodcraft Staff, Mon, Sept 12, 6pm - 9pm

Setting Up Your Own Shop, Don Washow, Wed, Sept 14, 6pm - 9pm

Mastering Sharpening I – Chisels, Don Washow, Wed, Sept 14, 1pm - 5pm

Turn A Hollow Vessel, Ron Nelson, Thur & Fri, Sept 15 & 16, 6pm - 9pm

Woodburn: Portland Head Lighthouse, Maine, Dick Buerger, Sat, Sept 17, 9:30am - 3:30pm

Scroll Saw Project: Scrolled Box, Rich Radtke, Sun, Sept 18, 11:30am - 2:30pm

Fundamentals Of Woodworking, Woodcraft Staff, Mon, Sept 19 & 26, 6pm - 9pm

Mastering Cabinet Construction, Don Washow, Wed, Sept 21, 9:30am - 5pm

Turn A Natural Edge Bowl, Hank Bardenhagen, Thur, Sept 22, 6pm - 9pm

Turning 101: Intro To Lathe Work, Hank Bardenhagen, Tue, Sept 27, 9:30am - 3:30pm

Mastering The Router, Don Washow, Fri, Sept 30, 9:30am - 5pm

Turning 101: Intro To Lathe Work, Hank Bardenhagen, Sat, Oct 1, 9:30am - 3:30pm

Basic Pen Turning, Woodcraft Staff, Sun, Oct 2, 11:30am - 2:30pm

Woodworking For Women, Woodcraft Staff, Mon, Oct 3, 6pm - 9pm

Basic Scroll Sawing, Rich Radtke, Wed, Oct 5, 6pm - 9pm

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

**Notice Friday
Meeting Date!**

Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild

Regular Monthly Meeting

Friday September 9, 2005

Glen Huey of Ohio

presents:

18th Century Spice Box construction

at

Faith United Church of Christ

4240 N. 78th St. Milwaukee WI

7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

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