



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

wiscwoodworkersguild.org

Rendering Informative Programs Serving Area Woodworkers

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December 2009

John's Jaunt

Welcome to the November issue of the R.I.P.S.A.W. The holiday season is upon us! I would like to take this opportunity to thank a couple of people that have volunteered to help out. Jim Schlarb has offered to take care of the Guild's voice mail and Shane Linskey will be taking over the Toy Chairman role in 2010, with guidance from Jay Pilling our current Chair. Thanks guys! We still have opportunities in the Vice President position, the Membership position and Workshop registration position. If you are interested let me or another board member know.

Last month I wrote about needing to make a magic wand for my niece. Well, I got it done (on time even) and she was very excited! Of course now I have to make a couple more for her slightly jealous younger siblings...

The most recent issue of Wood magazine also gave me some inspiration for some potential Christmas gifts, in particular, the chip & dip server. I may also try my hand at



scroll sawing a real project like the animal puzzle in the same issue. So much to do, so little time!

Next up on the agenda is our Holiday party. As we have been mentioning at the meetings, this year we have added a short stand up comedy routine for after dinner. Also, at the last board meeting it was suggested that we have a door prize drawing. So if anyone would like to contribute any small items for door prizes, like a turned pen, or an

ornament or the like, please feel free to bring it a long. If you still have not signed up to attend there is still time but we have to know by 11/28. So let Corey Megal or myself know ASAP!

Happy Holidays and good luck getting those projects done!

-John

Reflections- Meeting *by Robert Duchek*

Garrett Hack Shares Secrets of a Smooth Drawer

What's the secret to making drawers that not only look great but work great. ...sliding smoothing in and out for years, even decades after they were installed. At the November

meeting of the Wisconsin Woodworker's Guild, Garrett Hack of Vermont offered some advice, based on his more than 30 years of experience as a professional furniture maker.

Don't forget wood movement, he advised, as he explained his drawer-making methods, gave some tips and shared a way to make sure drawers fit, even with the seasonal changes in humidity.

Though some of Hack's recommendations may seem a bit overboard, it becomes clear after hearing him talk or attending one of his workshops that he is a passionate and often picky guy...picky about the wood he uses, picky about getting a smooth hand-planed finish on his boards and especially picky about the way his furniture looks, works and feels.

Hack is even picky about the way his furniture smells, recommending woods like aspen or poplar for the inside of drawers, mainly because they're inexpensive but also because they don't have a strong odor.

Hack's pickiness as a woodworker translates into beautiful, extremely high-quality furniture that has earned

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him his living and a reputation as a leading American craftsman.

In his workshops and books as well as his articles (and videos) for *Fine Woodworking* magazine, he shares his woodworking techniques as a teacher and advocate for fine quality work, not as a judge.

At the November meeting and a two-day workshop that followed, he delved into the details of drawer-making and shared his obvious affection for this important component of a beautiful and fully functional piece of furniture.

This visit to the guild was at least his third and was arranged by Corey Megal, a member who shares Hack's interest in using hand-tools, and especially planes, to impart an exceptionally tactile finish to the wood... a finish that Hack believes is only degraded by the use of sandpaper.

For a close-fitting drawer, Hack recommends that the front of the drawer be carefully planed to fit the opening. He then attaches the sides to the front with either dovetails or a less difficult, but still strong, tongue and rabbet joint.

Hack likes to attach the back of the drawer case to the sides with a sliding dovetail. The dovetail pins (cut along the back edge of each side) slide into vertical slots cut into the drawer sides near the back.

While some might prefer plywood for the drawer bottom, it comes as little surprise that Hack takes a more unlikely approach. He glues up a panel of solid wood, in this case with the grain running across the width of the drawer.

He hand planes the wood (top and bottom) and then planes the edges to reduce the thickness so that it will fit into grooves in the drawer front, back and sides. The result is a very stiff bottom (thin at the edges but thick in the middle) that will withstand a great deal of weight.

As important as the drawers, said Hack, is the case into which they must fit. There, Hack uses joinery that will ensure the case and drawer openings remain sturdy and square. In a typical construction, Hack said that for each drawer, the case incorporates planed and waxed runners as well as guides on each side.

Hack uses quartersawn wood for his drawer sides to reduce the amount of expansion and generally avoids a finish inside the drawer because he doesn't feel it's necessary. When he does apply a finish, he said, it's usually shellac to avoid any smell.

Since wood expands and contracts and seasonal humidity can make a drawer stick, Hack takes that into account as well. At his meeting presentation, he

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Workshop Signup	Jack Whitstone	

recommended a tip that he said has helped him greatly in sizing and fitting drawers.

He suggested that everyone create what he called a "moisture board," using air dried wood of the type you'll use in your furniture and drawer fronts. Because a board can change much more across the grain (its width) than in length, he said it's important to measure the width of the board repeatedly throughout the year and record the measurement and the date.

The value, he said, is that no matter what time of the year you're making furniture, you'll be able to judge how much the wood will expand (or contract) and take that into account when fitting the drawers.

For some that might seem an extreme measure, but not for a master craftsman who has spent much of his life, working to achieve such an extreme, and admirable, level of a quality. And not for anyone else who wants, like Garrett Hack, to create beautiful heirloom furniture that will last for many lifetimes to come.



**Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild
Board Briefs November, 2009**



Garrett Hack workshop photos courtesy of Robert Duchek



Friends of the Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild

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, 14115 W. Greenfield Ave New Berlin,
WI 53151 Phone: (262) 785-6770

Woodline USA can be reached at 800-472-6950

Attendees: John Johnson, Ed Cessna, George Egenhoefer, Leila Crandall-Frink, Bill Godfrey, Shane Linskey, Corey Megal, Jay Pilling, Tom Schuppe, Bill Smeaton

Membership: 146, 16 members have paid their 2010 dues.

Treasurer: Balance: \$11,773.96.

Publicity: Signups continue for people to man the Guild booth at the Woodworkers Show in February. We have enough volunteers for Friday. But, we still need people for Saturday and Sunday.

Programs: 12 people attended The Garrett Hack drawer workshop. The workshop to build a Stickley bookcase is scheduled for January 30. A finishing workshop has been scheduled for January 23. The workshop, dealing mainly with shellac, has a fee of \$40. Both of the January workshops will be held in Bill Godfrey's workshop. A decision was made to continue the practice of not having a monthly meeting in August. Beginning in February 2010, a \$50 shop fee will be included in the overall cost when a workshop is held in a member's shop.

Toys: Shane Linskey has volunteered to become our toy chairman for 2010. Jay Pilling will assist him during 2010.

Other Business:

Woodcraft Move - We have purchased 3 used folding tables and 91 used folding chairs. We are hiring a moving company to move the library and other Guild property from State Fair to Woodcraft.

Christmas Party - Items made by Guild members will be given away as door prizes at the party. Any Guild member wishing to donate a door prize should simply bring it to the party.

Election of Officers – The current Guild offices will continue to serve for 2010.

Respectively Submitted, Ed Cessna

Band Saw for sale: 20 in Inca (Swiss), new 1 ½ hp motor, resaw blade included \$300.00
Call Larry at 262-894-9860.

PROGRAM NOTES

Thomas Schuppe, the nutcracker man

Tis the season to celebrate our past year's adventures in the art of woodworking. Truly, isn't it time to celebrate the toys we make for battered women's shelters? Guild members and their families should be proud of their achievements.

December 2nd is our annual Christmas party at Meyers restaurant.

Happy New Year!!! 2010

The program committee has planned exciting programs for the New Year.

The members who have helped develop programs in 2009 and 2010 are:

Ed Cessna, Leila Crandall-Frink, Gerald Claussen, George Egenhoefer, Vern Eilers, Dave Gillis, Bill Godfrey, William Hadcock, George Henderson, John Johnson, Chris Craemer, Corey Megal, Jay Pilling, Ron Reuter, Liz Rohde, Kevin Seigworth, Bill Smeaton, Scott Stanwyck, Jerry Tackes, & Klaus Zunker.

Thanks for a job well done; and I truly apologize if I missed listing your name.

Thursday, January 7th, meeting at Woodcraft is about clocks. William Galinsky makes clocks in his workshop. He is a renowned clock builder who sells his masterpieces around the world. When he starts a clock project he doesn't have a client, but within days of completing the clock it is sold. Don't miss meeting William Galinsk. You'll be amazed.

Saturday, January 23rd, workshop at Bill Godfrey's is all about finishing. William Pollard is a professionally trained finisher. He has mastered his craft and is excited to train Guild members on the art of finishing. Shellac overview to include French Polishing and brushing. Cost \$40.00. This is a must for all of us. Contact Kevin Seigworth for details.

Saturday January 30th workshop at Bill Godfrey's is all about building a small bookshelf. You bring your own wood and build the shelf in one day. Cost \$7.00. Contact Ed Cessna for details.

Thursday, February 4th, meeting at Woodcraft is all about building musical instruments. Chris Moore, who has his own shop in Madison Wisconsin, will be the presenter.

Friday March 5th, Saturday 6th, & Sunday 7th, meeting & workshop at woodcraft free to members. Presenter: Frank Klaus national trainer. Details to follow in 2010.

Friday April 9th, & Saturday 10th, meeting & workshop on scroll sawing. Details will be provided in the January Ripsaw.

For workshop participation send your check to John Johnson.

Happy Holidays and thank you again for all your support.

Garrett Hack Workshop Participants!



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Workshop: Saturday January 23, 2010. 9 AM to 2 PM
Shellac overview to include French Polishing and brushing

Presenter: Bill Robillard

Fee: members - \$40.00

Location: Bill Godfrey's workshop

Description: Shellac overview to include French Polishing and brushing. . Presentation/discussion shellac // French polishing//brushing. What is a French polishing session? How to spirit, build the body and fill pores. Discuss keys to success - alcohol selection, best sources of shellacs. , best brushes. etc. How to build a polishing pad. Padding vs polishing. How to hold the pad. How to load the pad. When do you have too much or too little shellac. When/how to properly use pumice. While we won't do any spraying, will review spraying technique and gun setup

Workshop activities:

- 1) Building a proper French pad
- 2). Loading the pad techniques.
- 3) French polishing a flat surface
- 4). Practice - Exercises
- 5) Shellac Brushing
- 6) Making and using Shellac "Paint"

After 30 years with the IBM Corporation, Bill Robillard was afforded the opportunity to retire and pursue his dream of building Encore Restorations. Though Bill has been involved in woodworking for most his life, in 1996 he formally began training to become a master woodworker at the Marc Adam's School of Woodworking in Indianapolis. Upon retiring from IBM in 2008, Bill entered and completed the full time program at the National Institute of Wood Finishing in Minneapolis, MN. Bill is continuing his formal education via on-going conservation workshops hosted by Don Williams — a lead Smithsonian- wooden artifacts conservator.

Woodcraft Class Schedule December 2009

Power carve - Mallard Drake Duck - Animated Pattern, Tues, Nov 24, Dec 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; 6PM - 9PM

Make a Hall Table With the Kreg Jig, Thur, Dec 03, 6PM - 9PM

Half Blind Dove Tails with Porter Cable 4210/4212 Jig, Thur, Dec 10, 6PM - 9PM

Turn Christmas Ornaments, Sun, Dec 13, 10:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Advance Router II, Mon, Dec 14, 6PM - 9PM

Route a Raised Panel Door, Thur, Dec 17, 6PM - 9PM

Turning 101: Intro To Lathe Work, Sat, Dec 19, 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Sharpen Hand Tools with Water Stones, Sun, Dec 20, 10AM - 2PM

Scroll Saw Christmas Ornaments, Sun, Dec 20, 3PM - 5PM

Sharpening and Hand Tools Workshop

Date: March 27, 2010, Saturday 8:30 AM to Noon

Topic: Sharpening and Hand Tools

Presenter: Walt Hadcock

Location: Bill Godfrey's Shop

Fee: Members only, Maximum 20 participants
\$20

Many of us continue to use dull planes and chisels, perhaps because we have not yet learned simple, inexpensive, and effective techniques to make tools sharp. It may seem contradictory, but a sharp tool is easier to use and therefore safer to use than a dull tool. It requires less force, so it is more easily controlled, and therefore less likely to slip. A sharp tool allows us to do better work.

This workshop is one that we try to offer every year or so. It provides an excellent opportunity to acquire a basic skill and interact with other members of the Guild.

November Raffle

The winners of the November raffle prizes were Jim Kees, Jerry Claussen, John Breckenridge and Tom Shuppe. See you at the Holiday Party!

Year End Raffle

Rockler Woodworking and Hardware has donated the year end raffle prizes. A \$100 gift certificate and two \$50 gift certificates will be given away during the December 2nd Holiday Party. Rockler is located at 845 N Mayfair Road in Wauwatosa 414-774-1882. Stop in this holiday season for your woodworking needs and to thank the Rockler team for their continued support of your Guild.

WISCONSIN WOODWORKERS GUILD

Regular Monthly Meeting

is the Holiday Party

December 2, 2009

at Meyers Restaurant

4260 S 76th St

6:30 PM

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