



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

wiscwoodworkersguild.org

Rendering Informative Programs Serving Area Woodworkers

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June 2009

John's Jaunt

Welcome to the June RIPS AW and John's Jaunt. This past weekend it was finally warm and dry enough to get some yard work done at my place. We lost some tree limbs and bushes to weather. Some were pretty sizable pieces so I am going to try my hand at salvaging the wood for some projects. Perhaps I can get some pieces suitable for some small turning projects.



In June we will be doing something a little bit different for our monthly meeting. We will have a chainsaw carving demonstration outside. Remember, it will be starting at 6:30pm so that we have enough daylight, and if you want a chair please bring one.

Coming in July will be our tool swap/sale and our annual Show & Tell. You are welcome to bring projects, jigs, fixtures, things that have

One of our discussions at the most recent board meeting was the state of our website and how we can make it more interesting, inviting and current. You may have noticed that we have already changed our calendar to be based on Google calendar; we are also looking at better ways to host pictures of our various events. The first one posted is from the recent Jeff Miller chair making workshop. Let us know what you think and what you would like to see on the website.

worked or not worked, tools you were particularly impressed with, etc. Anything that you think will help the other members to experiment and progress in their woodworking endeavors. For the new members, this is a great meeting to learn more about the wide variety of topics that your fellow members are interested in. In the past we have had projects as large as a wood power boat, and any number of jigs to make woodworking safer, easier and more accurate. I am looking forward to a big turnout!

Happy Woodworking!

-John

Reflections

"It's Time for Everyone to Make Their Seat" Says Chicago Woodworker

Reflections by Bob Duchek

Jeff Miller often finds a five-gallon plastic bucket one of the handiest tools in his shop. Miller is a noted woodworker from Chicago who paid his second visit to the Wisconsin

Woodworkers Guild on May 8.

In addition to making furniture for a living, Miller is a teacher, author and frequent contributor to *Fine Woodworking* magazine. At the guild's Friday night meeting, he gave a presentation on

one of his specialties—making chairs.

He has written an award-winning book on the subject, *Chairmaking and Design*, and brings a strong passion to the subject. That was evident not only in the Friday evening presentation but also in the more in-depth workshop he provided the following day in the workshop of Jerry Tackes.

Miller's furniture-making odyssey began when he was young and made his first chair from a design in a *Sunset* woodworking book. "It was a horrible design," he said.

Today he makes a beautiful chair, called the Cantata, that he describes on his web site (www.furnituremaking.com) as "dynamic, lyrical and voluptuous." It's a far cry from his original attempt and is listed at \$2,000 on the site (though Miller noted he was making a full set for a client at a cost of about \$1,300 each).

A look at the chair, which Miller brought with him, made the value clear. With sensuous curves and a striking form, it is an example of exquisite craftsmanship and, according to Miller, some very complex joinery techniques.

(continued on page 2)

In This Issue

John's Jaunt	1
Reflections	1 & 2
Woodcraft Classes	2
Raffle	3
Board Briefs	3
Pictures Learning Session	3
Program Notes	4
Reflections Workshop	4
Wood Fest Sale	5
June Meeting	6

Reflections...Continued from page 1

The Cantata represents one of three major categories of chair design, said Miller. As a “joined chair” (with legs, stretchers and mortise and tenon joinery), it joins two other types—Windsor chairs and post and rung chairs, generally made with woven seats.

Whatever the type, a comfortable chair, said Miller, follows some general rules of thumb. In terms of dimensions, the seat height should be about 17 to 17-1/4", the seat depth from 16 to 18" and the seat width at the front about 20".

But especially important, said Miller, is that the back have an appropriate tilt (about 95 degrees) and that it have a nice curve for lumbar support.

Getting the dimensions right is where the bucket comes in. Miller said he often uses a bucket with a couple of pieces of particle board (for seat and back) to mock up and test his chair designs. For more complex prototypes, he has also used plywood sides with dowels forming the seat, cardboard and even styrofoam.

Whatever the chair type and design, Miller said he pays a lot of attention to a chair’s comfort and, closely tied to that, the chair’s look and structure. To provide a comfortable seating experience, Miller incorporates a graceful curve into the back of his Cantata chair.

The curved slats, said Miller, are not steamed but are made with thin layers of wood, bent in a form and glued together. The advantage to this method, he said, is that the curved form stays stable with no springback.

While the curved back adds immeasurably to the beauty of the Cantata chair, it is not the only element. “The trick,” said Miller, “is to make a chair look good from all angles.” And to that end, Miller said he has come to rely on some complex techniques, and for the Cantata chair, a “large box of jigs.”

As he discusses his approach to chairs and chairmaking, it becomes clear that Miller has spent a great deal of thought and time to perfect his designs—not just to create furniture that lasts but furniture that creates a lasting impression in comfort and beauty.



Jeff Miller’s Cantata Chair

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Woodcraft Class Schedule

Basic Cabinet Construction 6 Week Session, w. Bob Dickey, Tue, June 2,9,16 and Wed, June 3,10,17 6PM-9PM

Bandsaw 101, w. Bob Dickey, Sun June 7, 10AM-2PM
Thursday Night “free” tuition -PAY FOR MATERIAL ONLY - CIGAR PEN CLASS, w. Melanie Wegner, Thu June 11 or June 18, 6-9PM

Wood Preparation Using The Planer, Jointer & Table, w. Jason Swanson, Mon June 15, 5-9PM

Turning 101: Intro To Lathe Work, w. Hank Bardenhagen, Sat June 20, 9:30AM to 3:30PM

Check the Website for more details:

www.Woodcraft.com

Jeff Miller presenter at May Meeting and Workshop



Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild Board Briefs May, 2009

Attendees: John Johnson, Ed Cessna, Bill Godfrey, Brian Halligan, Corey Megal, Jay Pilling, Tom Schuppe, Jerry Tackes

Membership: 140, of which 92 receive the Ripsaw via email

Treasurer: Balance \$14,301.31

Programs/Workshops: April program presenter Ed Wohl decided not to host a breadboard making class. The joint making workshop being planned for June will not be held.

Other Business:

Wood Sale: The date for the large wood sale at Bill Godfrey's shop has been changed to Saturday July 11, with a rain date of Sunday July 12. Details of the sale will appear in the June Ripsaw.

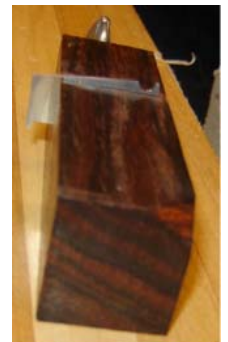
Guild Web Site: Our web master Brain Halligan joined us for a discussion on the web site. It was pointed out that most of the pictures on the site were very dated, i.e. the 2004 holiday party. Brian has been unsuccessful in getting people to send him pictures. Jerry Tackes will send Brian some of the over 1,000 Guild pictures that he has. Members, who take pictures of future Guild events, should consider emailing them to Brian. It was also noted that our current web address is very long. We are trying to think of a shorter address. If you have an idea, contact a member of the board.

Service Project: John Johnson shared an email he received from Walt Hadcock. Walt has learned that a community group may request that the Guild construct some storage shelving. The Board will discuss the matter when Walt presents a detailed request,

Respectively Submitted

Ed Cessna

Sub Fence Clamp for June Raffle



Pictures from Inlay Learning Session
held in late April.

June Raffle Column:

Bill Godfrey and Tom Shuppe were the winners of the May raffle. The June raffle items have been donated by Mesa Vista Design. One lucky winner will win a Grip-Tite magnetic featherboard. The superstrong magnet clamps the featherboard to any steel or cast iron surface and has a cam release. Another lucky winner will go home with a Sub Fence Clamp. This can be used to clamp a wood fence to your table saw fence when you need a rabbeting fence or a taller fence. The two clamps secure the subfence through two vertical holes in the top of the auxiliary fence without drilling into your existing fence. Tools from Mesa Vista Design can be viewed and ordered from <http://www.grip-tite.com/>, 800-475-0293

Submitted by Alan Clapp

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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

Program Notes

Tom Schuppe is busting out all over!

I'm busting out with excitement about our June 3rd meeting. The meeting starts sharply at 6:30pm.

We are meeting outside on the parking lot of the TTYC, so bring a chair, ear protection and an umbrella in case the weather becomes inclement.

Our June guest is a chainsaw artist who will show us how to shed a few pounds fast. He will chip away at a large log to create a caricature of an animal. But, either Bill Godfrey or Bill Smeaton, suggested that by the end of the evening the caricature will really resemble one of our most accomplished Guild members, "Jerry Tackes". I can hardly wait.

At our July meeting, we all want to see the projects you've created for the past year. But, more important, we want you to bring in fixtures and jigs. We want to see your techniques, your brain thrust. We want to learn from you!!!

Also, don't forget to bring in tools/machines you don't use anymore. Put a sales tag on those tools that no one can refuse. Perhaps your tool will find a woodworker's tool box where it again can be appreciated. The tool sale runs from: 6:30pm-7:00pm and again at the break.

**Wood Fest Sale, July 11, 2009 9AM – 4PM
at Bill Godfrey's see page 5 for details!!**

Tips on Making Chairs from Jeff Miller's Workshop

- The lumbar curve for a chair back should generally start about 9" up from the seat with a radius of about 10".
- Use 1/8" plywood or Plexiglas to create a template and sight down the curve to see any flat spots.
- In cutting the curve from a piece of wood, cut the leftover piece (with complementary curve) in sections to use as sanding blocks.
- Smooth a curve with a plane or spokeshave. It's faster and a drum sander creates ripples.
- Miller finishes his furniture with a mix of Tung oil, varnish and thinner, applied with a rag.
- To join curved pieces, leave a flat spot when cutting the curve or create one later (using a router).
- One of the easiest ways to cut mortises is with a plunge router in multiple, shallow passes.
- Create curved slats for a chair, by cutting wood into thin strips and re-gluing with Weldwood plastic resin glue. The thickness of the strips depends on the degree of the curve.
- To glue the thin strips, use a vacuum press or a form and caul with lots of clamps. Remember that you can't use the cutoff from the form as a caul. It won't match when you add the thickness of the strips.
- To cut angled tenons, use a wooden wedge against the face of the tenon cutter on your table saw.
- Read Jeff Miller's books with more details on woodworking techniques and design:
 - Chairmaking and Design
 - Beds
 - Children's Furniture Projects

Wood Fest Sale, July 11, 2009

9:00AM – 4:00PM

At Bill Godfrey's

Over the past few months you have been hearing about the up-coming lumber sale. Well, here are the final details of the sale.

- 4/4 and 5/4 lumber will be sold in 50 BF bundles.
- 8/4 lumber will be sold by the board.
- Select or better lumber is:
Cherry, Maple, Walnut & Red Oak
- #1 common or better lumber is:
Hickory
- The maple is S2S and the rest of the lumber is rough. The lumber is kiln dried and ready for use.
- Lumber is random widths with a nominal length of 8'
- Rain date Sunday July 12, 9:00am.
- Bill Godfrey's address: S53 W26445 Fox Vale CT, Waukesha.
Tel: 212-271-5239
- Pre-orders will be accepted at the June and July Guild meetings.
- Ed Cessna will accept pre-orders via phone or email – 414-764-3870, ectablesaw@yahoo.com.
- Pre-orders should be picked up on July 11th, 2009.
- Cash and checks will be accepted.
- See Prices below:

BOARD FOOT PRICING

Bd Feet in stock	Guild Members Price List	Milwaukee Area Market Prices	
509	Hickory 4/4	\$1.25	\$2.55
1068	Cherry 4/4	\$2.69	\$4.65
460	Walnut 5/4	\$2.25	\$5.55
238	Walnut 8/4	\$3.95	\$7.00
990	Red Oak 4/4	\$1.33	\$2.40
215	Red Oak 5/4	\$1.68	\$3.25
262	Red Oak 8/4	\$2.30	\$4.40
1200	Hard Maple 4/4	\$1.07	\$2.15

- Those who purchase 101 plus BF will receive a 5% discount.
- Direct question to Ed Cessna – 414-764-3870, ectablesaw@yahoo.com. : Bill Godfrey – 212-271-5239; or Tom Schuppe – 414-475-5706, traileraman@sbcglobal.net



WISCONSIN WOODWORKERS GUILD

Regular Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, June 3rd, 2009

Meeting starts promptly at 6:30 PM and
will end before 9:30 PM

Tommy Thompson Youth Center

Parking lot

at State Fair Park

640 South 84th Street

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John's Jaunt	1
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Raffle	2
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