



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

wiscwoodworkersguild.org

Rendering Informative Programs Serving Area Woodworkers

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March 2010

John's Jaunt

Welcome to the March installment of John's Jaunt! Since I last wrote, I have had the opportunity to participate in two workshops. The first was the shellac workshop with Bill Robillard. This was the first time that I have worked with shellac and it was helpful to try it with an expert present. I learned a few things on sanding and the importance of not stopping on the work piece when padding on shellac to prevent the alcohol from damaging the finish that has already been applied.

The second workshop was building a Shaker style shelf. This project was put together with pocket screws and so I got some practice with my pocket hole jig (one of my acquisitions at the previous woodworking show that I hadn't gotten around to using!) Thanks to Jerry Tackes for helping



out and lending his expertise at the shelf workshop, and Bill Godfrey for the use of his shop for both workshops.

Since the last meeting, a number of people have stepped up to help out.

Bob Hillman will be taking over the membership database with help from Jeff Nebel, and four people have volunteered to help out with the raffle. Thanks guys!

Please note that the next two meetings will be on Friday to accommodate our speakers

and seminars/workshops.

Finally, please note that I have updated phone and email listed in the RIPS AW if you want to get a hold of me!

Happy Woodworking!

-John

Reflections Reflections

Reflections on Violin Making

by Leila Crandall-Frink

We were privileged to have Chris Moore speak to us at our February meeting about making instruments. Chris does new construction, repair and restoration of stringed

instruments, mostly violins. He attended 3 1/2 years at the Chicago School of Violin Making to learn how to do this. He said that making and repairing instruments is his only job. Last year he spent 75% of his time on repairing peoples' instruments.

Chris said to master the craft of instrument making you need to build 100 instruments. It takes about 200 hrs to make a violin and 500 hrs to make a cello. He gave a lively presentation of the process of making a violin, showed us examples along the way, showed some of his tools, and answered a LOT of questions. He ended with playing a short piece of music on a violin he made.

I was most fascinated with his presentation of his tools. He has \$20,000 insurance on his tools and shop. His toolbox was made of wood and one drawer held planes. Most likely you are all thinking big toolbox, big planes. But he had a normal size toolbox, with one small drawer devoted to the smallest planes I have ever seen. Check out the pictures and you will get some idea of what they were like.

He starts the process with raw wood. He uses 1/4 sawn ingelman spruce from Canada for the tops, and 1/4 sawn maple for the bottoms. The ingelman spruce used in the top of the instrument has no figure and is better for producing the tone of the instrument. Over the years the cell structure of the wood dries and changes the sound slightly.

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The back side of the wood is flattened using a block plane. Then 2 pieces are jointed. He leaves a very tiny gap. He puts them together with hot hide glue, then using a rubbing motion he can push them together. Then he transfers the shape to the form and cuts out the shape. He uses a gouge to scoop out the inside of the form. The top needs to be 2 1/2 to 3 mm thick and the bottom 4 1/2 mm in the center and 2 mm on the edge. He finishes the shape with finger planes to get the refined shape he needs. He does not us sandpaper on the body. He uses scrapers to get the final smoothness he needs.

He makes the sides of the instrument by making the outline rib assembly. Then using 1 mm thick wood, steam bends it and fits it on the side of the form. He then glues the back to it. And finally fits the top. He makes the neck scroll and it is fit with shallow dovetails. The neck scroll is the part of the instrument that makes it unique because each craftsperson makes it slightly different. He said you can tell who made an instrument by the scroll. He uses an egg white mixture to seal the wood. Then the final finish is an oil based varnish. Without varnish the instrument sounds extreme. He rubs out the finish after it is dried.

We thank Chris for an informative and enjoyable presentation.

Feb Speaker Chris Moore



WWG 2010 Programs

Friday, **March 05**, 2010

Wood technology (general woodworking)

Frank Klausz

Friday, **April 09**, 2010

Scroll Sawing

Dirk & Karen Boelman

Thursday, **May 06**, 2010

The basis for good wood finishing

William Robillard

2010 Workshops

Saturday, **March 06**, 2010 – free to all members
Joinery, cut dovetails, and other hand tool joinery

Frank Klausz

Sunday, **March 07**, 2010 – free to all members

Finishing

Frank Klausz

Saturday, **March 27**, 2010

Sharpening workshop

Walt Hadcock

Saturday, **April 10**, 2010

Scroll Sawing

Dirk & Karen Boelman

Saturday, **April 17**, 2010

Make a Broom

John Holzworth

The winners of the door prizes for February were:

Jay Pilling Jeff Nebel Jim Kees

Shane Linskey Tom Gilmore

Congratulations to All!

March Raffle Item

Tom Petkovsek, manager of Rockler Woodworking and Hardware has donated the March 5th raffle prize. A Beadlock Loose Tenon Joinery System will be given away. This system allows you to create mortise with loose tenon joints using your drill. The kit includes a 3/8" drill bit, Beadlock jig with guide block and shims. Tom has included a package of 3/8" x 2" tenons for your next project. The product can be viewed at beadlock.com. Rockler Woodworking and Hardware is located at 845 North Mayfair Road, 414-774-1882.

Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild

Officers

| | | |
|--------------------|---|--------------|
| President | John Johnson jcjkj@gmail.com | 815/575-9266 |
| Vice President | Jerry Tackes brewwood@wi.rr.com | 414/431-4242 |
| Secretary | Ed Cessna ectablesaw@yahoo.com | 414/764-3870 |
| Treasurer | Corey Megal coreym@wi.rr.com | 414/282-8504 |
| Program Co-Chairs | Tom Shuppe trailerman@sbcglobal.net | 414/475-5706 |
| | Bill Godfrey billg1234@aol.com | 262/542-5239 |
| Exhibits/Publicity | George Egenhoefer | |
| Publications | Leila Crandall-Frink Lfrink@wi.rr.com | 414/453-4118 |
| Workshop Signup | Jack Whitstone | |

Board Briefs February, 2010

Attendees: Ed Cessna, Leila Crandall-Frink, George Egenhoefer, Bill Godfrey, Shane Linskey, Corey Megal, Jay Pilling, Jerry Tackes

Membership: 91 members (six new members) have paid their 2010 dues. Dues must be paid by March 1, to be included in the 2010 Membership Directory and to continue to receive the Ripsaw. Bill Hillman will be taking over Membership with Jeff

Treasurer: Balance: \$11,739.05 as of 02/10/2010

Publicity: The Guild booth at the Woodworking show was discussed. Suggestions made for next year's show include: request 4 booths; invert the booth; have more projects people can touch; have a display of library materials; have more demos i.e. bandsaw, inlay, sharpening, etc

Programs/Workshops: Plans are being made to have cabinetmaker George Von Driska present the October program and perhaps a workshop. Planing for 2011 programs is now underway.

Toys: Several of our Christmas toys are on display at Woodcraft. We have decided to begin displaying toys at Rockler. Shane Linskey will handle the Rockler display.

Other Business:

Woodcraft Meetings: The Milwaukee Area Wood Turners also meet at Woodcraft. They have expressed an interest in using our audio equipment. We are interested in using their video equipment. The sharing of equipment will benefit both groups. Jerry Tackes will explore the addition of more electric outlets.

Nametags: We have decided to begin using permanent nametags. Members will pick up their plastic nametag at the beginning of the meeting and leave them at the end of the meeting. Leila Crandall-Frink will prepare the tags.

Respectively Submitted,
Ed Cessna



Drawer
of
small
planes

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

Scrollsawing

The topic of April's monthly program will be scrollsawing. The presenters will be Dirk and Karen Boelman. Dirk and Karen have been scroll sawing together for over 20 years. Dirk's patterns and articles have been published worldwide in countless books and magazines. He has been featured on national television and in DVDs. When he's not designing, drawing, writing or sawing, he travels across the country to numerous scrolling and woodworking shows.

Karen is one of world's smoothest circle cutters. She has spent thousands of hours sawing countless projects on the scroll saw. She and Dirk have sawn through numerous species of wood, plastics, thin metal, and even rocks. Karen adds her creative touch to the numerous projects that the couple creates together.

Dirk and Karen have worked with many different types of scroll saws and blades. They have tackled projects smaller than a dime in size to pieces too large to fit on a scroll saw. The Boelman's are well known for the detailed instructions that accompany the patterns sold through their shop "The Art Factory."

At our monthly meeting on Friday, April 9, they will present an overview of their work, and show examples of their projects. They will conduct a workshop from 9 AM to 4 PM, Saturday, April 10, in the Woodcraft shop.

The morning session will cover everything from the basics of scrollsawing for beginners, every step-of-the-way through advance sawing techniques. They will discuss and demonstrate setting up your saw properly, adjusting tension, squaring the table, and using the various types of blade. Participants will learn the ins & outs of working with patterns, including correcting of copier distortion, joining pattern sections, double checking dimensions, and getting the best results with spray adhesives.

Dirk and Karen will demonstrate a variety of sawing techniques that help you cut sharper inside corners and outside points, straighter lines, and smoother curves. They will explain cutting veining/definition lines, stack sawing, bevel cutting, segmentation, and intarsia.

During the afternoon session participants will use scroll saws to practice the techniques learned in the morning session, or to make actual projects. Dirk and Karen will provide one-on-one training. You will also be able to tackle some of Dirk and Karen's "Special Scroll Saw Challenges."

The workshop is limited to 15 participants, and the cost is \$60. You will be able to sign up at the January, February, and March meetings. The workshop will provide valuable information for the beginner to advanced scrollsawer.

Woodcraft Class Schedule March 2010

- Basic Router Techniques** Wed, Mar 3, 6 PM - 9 PM
- Introduction to Box Making**, Sat, Mar 06, 9:30 AM - 5 PM
- Turn a Euro Pen**, Sun, Mar 07, 10:30 AM - 1:30 PM
- Woodworking for Women**, Mon, Mar 08, 6 PM - 9 PM
- Raised Panel Doors on a Router Table**, Wed, Mar 10, 6 PM - 9 PM
- Basic Cabinet Construction 6 Week Session**, Begins Thu, Mar 11, 6 PM - 9 PM
- Introduction to the Scroll Saw**, Sun, Mar 14, 10:30 AM - 1 PM
- Wood Preparation Using the Planer, Jointer & Table**, Mon, Mar 15, 6 PM - 9 PM
- Table Saw Fundamentals**, Wed, Mar 17, 6 PM - 9 PM
- Turning 101: Bowl and Spindle Turning, Intro to the Lathe**, Sat, Mar 20, 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM
- Create a Jewelry Box**, Sun, Mar 21, 10:30 AM - 4 PM, Sat, Mar 27, 9 AM - 5 PM
- Advanced Router Part 1**, Wed, Mar 24, 6 PM - 9 PM
- Advanced Router Part 2**, Wed, Mar 31, 6 PM - 9 PM

Klaus Zunker Table curly maple and spalted maple



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

SHARP STUFF

So what is sharp? How do you compare the sharpness of your planes and chisels with the sharpness of others? One way is to simply see if they “do the job” for you. But that may mean you are unaware of any way they could “do the job” even better!

There are a few traditional methods of testing for sharpness you may have heard ... for instance, shave the hair on the back of your arm, test against the back of your thumbnail, slice a sheet of paper in the air. Such methods are rather “subjective” ... they are at least a bit different from person to person, and they are not likely to be “repeatable”.

There is a simple test for sharpness that is inexpensive and reliable; I encountered this a few years ago when preparing for the 2008 Sharpening Workshop and have used this method ever since.

The key idea is to measure the force required to cut a specific thread when the blade is held at right angles to the thread. The thread is Coats & Clark, 40 weight, trilobal polyester. I have a spool of about 1,000 yards, in black, although I’d be surprised if the color makes any difference. Any thread will do for an individual; this is the thread used by others across the country. We can compare our results to theirs by using the same thread.

The force is measured using an accurate electronic scale. Our grandsons are participants in the annual Cub Scout Pinewood Derby races, so our son acquired a good scale to keep the weight of their cars under the limit. The scale measures up to 300 grams (about 10 ounces) in increments of 0.1 gram (about 3 one-thousandths of an ounce). Seems like this should be adequately precise for all but the most discerning woodworker.

We have a very simple jig that holds a piece of thread horizontally (a small block of wood and two wedges). We rest the jig on the scale and set the scale to zero. Then we measure the amount of (vertical) force required to cut the thread. No “slicing” or “sawing” actions are allowed.

This simple, repeatable test allows us to conduct experiments and compare the results. There are many variables ... the chemistry and heat treating of the blade material, the geometry of the cutting edge, and the degree of polish on the cutting surfaces. You may have your favorite technique and others may have theirs.

I was humbled to learn my early efforts required 200+ grams to cut the thread. I now know to strive for less than 100 grams. I can get 75 grams fairly consistently today. Other experimenters claim to achieve 50 grams or less, but also encounter important issues with the durability of the

blade edge. So the goal is to get under 100; bragging rights begin around 80.

(See http://bladetest.infillplane.com/html/testing_sharpness.html).

Our Sharpening Workshop, Saturday March 27, will begin with discussion and demonstration of a very simple and inexpensive sharpening method — sandpaper on glass. You will be given all the materials needed to follow along and apply the method to the hand tools you bring (straight lines only, no gouges, scorps, travisters, and such). You will personally practice each step of the method and measure your progress with the thread test.

We will then move into a discussion and demonstration of other methods. We will conclude by using the thread test to identify the “sharpest” member present! (I really have to prepare ...).

You know, just because you have read a book on how to swim doesn’t compare with jumping in the water. Ditto with a bicycle. Ditto with sharpening. How sharp are you? Better sign up to find out!

tx

Walt Hadcock
Rhykenology@wi.rr.com
(262) 241-3763



Spenser
Linskey shows
his Tomahawk

Parts of a Violin



Woodworking Show



Bookcase Workshop



Member Projects

Tom Hipsack turned bowls and jar lids.



Corey Megal's Tea Box



Lew Enderle scroll saw fish and small cross

WISCONSIN WOODWORKERS GUILD

NOTE: This meeting is on Friday rather than Thursday.

WWG Monthly Meeting

Friday, March 5th, 2010

Meeting Location:

Woodcraft

14115 W. Greenfield Ave
(Greenfield and Sunny Slope)

Topic: Wood Technology

Presenter: Frank Klausz

Join us on Saturday and Sunday when Frank will do seminars on joints and finishing.

Woodcraft Parking

Woodcraft has requested that Guild members park in the western side of the parking area.

This will leave the area nearest the store for customer parking.

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The Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild
Box 137
Milwaukee, WI 53201

First Class Mail