Corey’s Corner

It was quite a blustery night on the 2\textsuperscript{nd} of March. I was sorry to see so many did not make it to the meeting, but I understand; the roads were horrible. Garrett Hack was here for two days with the Guild and Friday night was spent on "working smart." Garrett had a lot to say about the subject, much of it was simple, like developing a marking system that you understand and are consistent with. Other ideas were more complex like thinking about the design of a piece you are attempting, and whether or not it was within your capability. Garrett talked about wood selection and how choosing a friendly, easy to work wood is more fun than choosing a highly figured wood. If you have multiple parts that are the same thicknesses, mill that wood all at one time to avoid having to go back to the planer later in the project. Mill all of the wood you need for the project at one time and be sure to leave plenty of extra for machine setup, etc. Remember that some pieces that may not be suitable for one part may be cut shorter for use as a different part; Garrett used the idea of door stiles vs. rails.

Garrett relies heavily on his hand tools, and one example he had of how they can be more efficient is the idea of creating a "reference" face or edge. For example, when building a table, Garrett will use the bottom edge of the aprons as a reverence edge for joinery, so he will hand plane that edge smooth. After the edge is planed smooth, it's done; no more work has to be done on that edge. He will feel for that smooth edge when cutting joinery and realize that it is a reference edge just by touching it. Some of this is subtle stuff, but if you are in the habit of feeling for a smooth edge, I think you can see where that might be a useful clue as to which surface you care about. To avoid mistakes in measuring, Garrett will often create a full scale drawing, including the joinery and use that drawing to lay out his part directly. A full scale drawing comes in very handy when you are working on a curved piece such as a demilune table, or serpentine chest.

Finally, one of Garrett’s tips that I use and love is to set up two blades with a spacer in the tablesaw to cut tenons. Garrett has two blades he uses just for this purpose; I use the two outside blades of my dado set. He has a bunch of brass shims and keeps track of exactly which shims to use to get a certain size tenon. Once you take the trouble to set this up (and it doesn’t take long, really) it saves a huge amount of time in fitting tenons, they slide sweetly in the mortises they were made for.

Saturday, the 3\textsuperscript{rd} was spent on Design, and Garrett was kind enough to give me permission to share the slide presentation with the Guild. I will be making a CD for the Library and anyone interested can check it out. I will also be including some other pictures and presentations I have collected over the years. The day was spent mostly talking about the pieces in the presentation and Garrett’s approach to design. It was an interesting day; the best part for me was hearing other people’s thoughts on the designs shown. Overall, it was a quick visit, but a very informative one. Garrett expressed his thanks for having him, but, next time he would like to stay longer and do a class if possible.

Work Safe. Corey
Many thanks to Jerry Tckes, Corey Megal and Kevin Siegworth for their photography this month.
Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild
Board Briefs – March, 2012

Attendees: Corey Megel, Jerry Tackes, Jerry Strojny, John Parkes, Ken Ochs, and Matt Maki.

Treasury Balance: $9067.40

Membership: Eleven new members joined at the Woodworking show. One-hundred, twelve (112) members are paid to date for 2012.

Publications: Items for publication in the April Ripsaw are due to Leila by March 12th.

Programs/Workshops: Programs are scheduled through September (no August meeting). The September program will be a presentation on veneering principally by Corey Megal and Jerry Tackes. Members are being asked to volunteer to demonstrate various skills for the June program. A second Bob Dickey box making workshop will be scheduled due to demand.

Other: Jerry Tackes presented a proposal to share the purchase of a new wireless microphone with two woodturning groups. The new mic would be a headset type with better performance and feedback resistance. The Board approved a $150 share of the $450 total cost.

Respectfully Submitted, Ken Ochs

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REFLECTIONS

By Kevin Seigworth

Six WWG members got together on two Sunday's in February to build jewelry boxes with Bob Dickey. Bob owns the Wood'n It Be Nice gallery in Mukwonago and specializes in building wooden boxes.

A great time was had by all and we learned many new techniques for building boxes. Bob provided all of the wood, hinges and even included lunch on both days.

We started by sizing our Cherry stock and cutting the miters on the ends using a miter sled on Bob's SawStop.

Bob said that true craftsmanship is being able to fix your mistakes. If that is true I am going to be an awesome craftsman someday with all the experience I have fixing my mistakes.

We cut tray profiles in the box sides using a mortising bit on the router table. There is a top tray and a lower tray that slide on the profiles cut into the insides of the boxes. Very elegant. The groove for the plywood bottom and raised panel top are also cut at the router table.

After dry fitting, it was on to gluing up the box sides, top, bottom and lid at one time. By the way, if you cut graduated tray profiles inside your box that means each side has a proper top and bottom and woe be to the woodworker who glues one of these sides in upside down. If that ever happens to you, give me a call if you want to know how to fix this. Just working on my craftsmanship badge.

With the box glued up we then cut slots in the corners for walnut feathers that are both decorative and add strength to the miter. After the glue set and the feathers are flushed up, we turned to cutting the top off the box on the table saw. The front and back were cut through but the end cuts were shallower so the lid did not come off. A few quick cuts with a utility knife and the lid was safely separated from the box.

We created a story stick to aid in laying out the mortising of the box and lid for hinges on the router table. We then started making the two sliding trays and the dividers that sit in the bottom of the box.

Bob demonstrated how to build and attach the lid lift. He uses a 1/8 inch dowel like a loose tenon to add strength to the lid lift to box attachment. He then demonstrated how he uses micro suede and mat board to make a liner for the bottom of the box and the trays. With some final sanding at home these jewelry boxes are ready for the finish of choice.

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You may also send email to:  
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**Rockler Demonstrations & Classes**

4/1, Bottle Stopper & Coaster Turning Class  
4/7, Use & Care for Hand Planes  
4/14, Dust Right Vortex Demo  
4/15, Money Pen Turning Event for TAX DAY!  
4/21, CNC Shark Demo,  
4/22, Tall Pepper Grinder Turning Class  
4/28, Build your Own Resaw Jig  
4/28, Ice Cream Paddle Turning Class

You can contact Rockler at (414) 774-1882.  
They are located at 845 N Mayfair Rd.

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**Woodcraft Class Schedule**

Turn kitchen gadgets, Sat, April 7, 10AM - 4PM  
Table Saw Fundamentals, Mon, April 9, 6PM - 9PM  
Basic Bowl Turning, Sat, April 14, 9:30AM - 3:30PM  
Basic Router Techniques, Sun, April 15, 12:30PM - 3:30PM  
Turn a basic pepper mill, Sun, April 22, 10:30AM - 4PM  
Turn a Princeton pen, Thu, April 26, 6PM - 9PM  
Building An Acoustic Guitar, Fri, April 27, 9AM - 7PM  
Sat, April 28 & Sun, April 29, 9AM - 5 PM

You can contact Woodcraft at (262) 785-6770.  
Location: 14115 W Greenfield Ave, New Berlin

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**Raffle & Door Prizes**

The lucky door prize and raffle winners were Richard Burke, Bod Duchek, Carl Burst, Gary Shadley, Cory Megal, Matt Maki, Jim Kees, Ken Ochs, Vern Eilers.

Congratulations to all!!
WWG Programs Workshops

Spring is here and the call of the workshop may be weakened by the call of the yard. As with all projects (indoors or out), you need to start with a good foundation. The workbench could very well be considered the foundation of any shop. So let’s all listen up. Corey Megal and Jerry Tackes would like to share their thoughts and experiences. Enjoy!

April Program – “Building a Workbench” with Corey Megal & Jerry Tackes

- **Thursday April 5th** Corey Megal will be discussing the wonderful world of workbenches: What sort of wood makes a good bench and why, work-holding devices, vices, bench dogs, holdfasts, bench puppies, and other fixtures that help hold your work. He will talk about the importance of a bench when using hand and power tools. How tall should your bench be? Why go through all the trouble of making a bench?

Corey built a Roubo style bench in 2007 and will be talking a bit about what he likes and doesn’t like about the design. A lot of the information comes from Chris Schwarz’s excellent book on workbenches. Much has been written and discussed regarding workbenches, and Chris did a great job of gathering that information and creating an excellent book with three different options for building a bench. Bring your questions. This should be a very informative night.

April Workshop – “Build a Wooden Box with Bob Dickey” (Sponsored by Kevin Seigworth)

- **Saturday and Sunday April 28th & 29th** Bob Dickey presented his approach to wooden box making and displayed several of his creations at our October meeting. Here is the link to his website to refresh your memory: [http://www.woodnonline.com/](http://www.woodnonline.com/) Bob has agreed to lead another WWG workshop to build one of his wooden box creations in his shop. This is a two day workshop to be conducted on a Saturday and Sunday in April. Each participant will work along with Bob and will leave with a box ready for final sanding and finishing. This is a box that Bob sells for $285. Bob will provide all the materials including the wood and the hinge hardware. Lunch is included both days.

There is a minimum attendance of 4. Max is 6. Fee for members: $160. This event will be held at Bob’s workshop in Mukwonago. (506 Valhalla Drive, Mukwonago, WI 53149) 9 am to 4 pm both days.

May Program – “Router Table Techniques” with George Vondriska

**Friday May 4th** - George Vondriska has made three woodworking videos and demonstrated tools for Delta, Shopsmith, Takagi, and Record Tool. He has taught woodworking to employees of Andersen Windows, Northwest Airlines, and the Pentagon. George has contributed numerous stories to American Woodworker Magazine, and is currently writing for Woodworkers Journal. George holds one patent on a woodworking tool, but is always hatching a new idea or two.

George will be discussing some of the really efficient techniques you can perform at the router table. The router table is one of the most versatile tools in the shop. This seminar well help you get the most out of yours. George will teach you how to set up and use the following bits: rail and stile, lock miter, drawer lock, and plywood V-groove. He’ll also show you how you can use your router table as a jointer.

May Workshop

- **No workshop this month.**
Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild

WWG Monthly Meeting
Thursday, April 4th, 2012
6 PM doors open, board meeting
6:30 PM gathering
7 PM meeting begins

Topic: Building a Workbench

Presenters:
Corey Megal & Jerry Tackes
will be discussing the wonderful world of workbenches, and why and how you would make your own.