Corey’s Corner

I really enjoyed talking about benches last month. Thanks for coming and all of the great questions. Much has been written about workbenches and it is true that you can get by without one, but I’ve found that a good bench makes the hobby a lot more fun. I loved Jerry’s suggestion to put 10 things away every time you come into the shop; it’s a great way to start a session in the shop.

I haven’t had much time to spend at the bench recently. I’ve been working on one of the largest projects I’ve ever taken on, installing a bamboo floor in my house, about 1300 square feet of it. It’s been a fun project, but I’m tired of being on my knees. Bamboo is interesting stuff, it comes in a couple different varieties and the quality, like just about everything else can be all over the place. I went with strand bamboo, which, according to the manufacturer, is twice as hard as red oak. I believe it, I took a hammer to a piece of scrap and it is pretty tough stuff. To manufacture the flooring, they shred the bamboo up and then put it back together under heat and pressure with a lot of adhesive. It sort of resembles the LVL stuff they make beams out of now. Bamboo cuts like wood and you can route it as well. It’s hard on the tools, though, so I plan on having the blade on my crosscut saw re-sharpened after the project is done. I’m just about done, and I couldn’t be more pleased with the results.

In other news, the board maybe losing a member in the next few months, so if you’ve been sitting on the sidelines, now is the time to speak up. We’ve been having the board meetings before the regular Guild meeting, from 6:00-6:30 and it’s been working well. The position that may be opening up is the membership chair, so please, if you’d like to get more involved with the Guild, let me or another board member know, or better yet, come to the board meeting and jump in.

Work Safe, Corey

Reflections

How do I begin telling about the April program on building a workbench? There was so much information share from both Jerry Tackes and Corey Megal. They both have made more than one workbench. They have upgraded to a version that serves their needs better than the older bench. They both used books about workbench building to help them decide how to make their current bench. But most importantly they both agreed that making the bench was a good experience and worth the work. They both believe that a woodworker should have the best bench they can afford, because it allows them to customize it and make a difference in their ability to work on the projects they do.

Jerry started the evening by talking about his workbench. It is 8 ft long by 40 inches wide. It is free standing so you can work from any side of the table. It is 25 years old. He built it so it could be taken apart and moved. He made it to be heavy, because he didn’t want it to walk around his shop. It has a Maple top which he flattened by using a fence assembly and a router. It has walnut drawer fronts. He did not build it with a tool tray because he prefers his tools on the wall. It has round rather than square dog holds. The height is the same as his table saw and therefore able to be support for sawing projects. He made a router table that can attach with clamps to the end of the bench. He built drawers the entire width of the table with a hidden compartment in the back to hold little used tools. Jerry likes a tail vice. His is an Emert vice. Jerry says, “Buy the best vice you can afford.” His vice can tilt, rotate and lock in place. Jerry likes commercially available bench dogs that are round because they give him lots of options. He
can clamp on the top or front of bench with them. Another favorite tool of Jerry’s is a simple piece of Styrofoam. He uses it to hold sharp items. Just stick them in. When the Styrofoam gets too full of holes to be useful, just get some more from some of those items you buy that are packed in it.

Jerry also showed pictures of his first bench he built. It is called a torsion box assembly table. It is made with a ¾ inch sheet of MDF as the top. He made sure it was flat. He built an egg crate web for under the top. He built boxes to set the table top on that could be configured in different ways. He finished it with paste wax, which he can redo whenever it needs it.

Corey began his part of the presentation by telling us about the book he likes called Workbenches - the Design and Theory. He also read other books. Jerry’s books he likes to use are The Workbench Book, a different approach to build a bench, by Scott Landis and a recent (March 2012) issue of Woodsmith that has a plan for an heirloom workbench. Corey says that the design of a bench is a personal preference. He said the reasons for building your own rather than buying are that you can make it heavy, sturdy and with safety in mind. You can customize it to work best for you and your workshop.

Corey continued by telling about his past workbenches. His first bench was a bowling alley. It was heavy, but the top was not flat. The understructure was flimsy, not built sturdily. Over time the middle of the bench sagged an inch. His second bench had a silver top. Corey built the base. The vices that came with it were horrible. This bench did have a flat top, but it was not heavy enough. Both of these benches helped Corey decide what features he wanted in a workbench and he decided making his own was the best way to get that.

Corey built a bench similar to a 17th century bench he found in a book. He made it with a maple top and legs that are 5 x 5 inch square. He attached the top with large (2 ½ x 3 inch) mortise and tenons. The legs are attached. He flattened the top with a hand plane. It took about 5 hours and he checked it with a winding stick. He says you should use the largest plane you own. His bench has a leg vice built onto the end. He said the holding power is much greater and it works well with big and heavy projects. It has leather glued on the face so it does not mar a project. He has round holes for the bench dogs. He likes to use purchased hold fasts. They go in any hole and get band on to hold down. Banging the other direction to loosen. He drilled the holes for bench dogs before assembling the top. The holes are about 4 inches apart. He wishes he had more holes toward the front. After he was finished and it was in use, he decided to add 1 ½ inches under each leg for his height. Corey used plastic resin glue as his glue of choice. He says it doesn’t move, it welds the wood together.

It was a night full of information. Thanks to both Corey and Jerry for their presentations. They are both willing to give helpful information if anyone decides to make their own workbench.

Submitted by Leila Crandall-Frink
Member Projects
Donna Baltz with her scrolled lighthouse
Vern Eilers with his segmented bowl
Dan Nelson with the Child Rocking Chair that can be assembled
For Your Information

I am a new member of the Guild.

I regularly visit a Habitat ReStore not far from my workplace during my lunch hour. They have some interesting stuff from time to time. On my visit today, they had a large quantity of dowel pegs for joinery. Varies sizes, priced at $.01 each, which seemed cheap to me. They also have a pretty large quantity of nice Shaker style drawer pulls and some other styles, priced at $.25 and $.50.

I was wondering if anyone in the Guild would be interested. Many of these items have been at the store for some time which makes me think they need the ‘right’ type of buyer.

Submitted by, Tim Deadrick

Milwaukee Area Restore
3015 N 114th
Wauwatosa, WI 53222
Phone: (414) 257-9078
Fax: (414) 257-9084
restore@milwaukeerestore.org

Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild
Board Briefs – April 5, 2012

* * * * * * * Corey Megal, Jerry Tackes, Jerry Strojny, John Parkes, George Egenhoefer, Leila Crandall-Frink, Ken Ochs, and Rich Frink

Treasury Balance: $6816.34

Membership: One-hundred, fourteen (114) members are paid to date for 2012.

Publications: Items for publication in the May Ripsaw are due to Leila by April 16th.

Secretary: The Wisconsin Nonstock Corporation Annual Report was filed in March.

Programs/Workshops: Programs are scheduled through October (no August meeting). The October program will be planned on turning. A second Bob Dickey box making workshop has been filled (6 members). Members are asked to volunteer demonstrating various skills for the June program.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ken Ochs

Additions to the WWG Library

Four books have recently been donated to the Guild library:

- Woodcarver’s Library by E. J. Tangerman and Eric Zimmerman
- Carving Horses in Wood by Eric Zimmerman
- Whittling and Woodcarving by E. J. Tangerman
- Design and Figure Carving by E. J. Tangerman

In addition, Corey Megal, Guild president made a DVD of Garrett Hack’s recent presentations to the Guild. These are now in the library entitled: Design Techniques from 2012 and Drawer Making from 2010 presentations.

Submitted by,
Pat Kashmerick
Librarian

Contact information for WWG Workshops

John Johnson
9409 Nicholas Lane
Spring Grove, IL  60081-8286
815/575-9266
Email: jejkyj@gmail.com

Kevin Seigworth with his box made in the latest workshop.
**Officers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Corey Megal</td>
<td>414/331-7175</td>
<td><a href="mailto:camegal@yahoo.com">camegal@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Jerry Tackes</td>
<td>414/431-4242</td>
<td><a href="mailto:brewwood@wi.rr.com">brewwood@wi.rr.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>John Johnson</td>
<td>815/575-9266</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jejkjyj@gmail.com">jejkjyj@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Ken Ochs</td>
<td>262/782-2135</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kochs@wi.rr.com">kochs@wi.rr.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>Jerry Strojny</td>
<td>414/649-0677</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jerry.strojny@gmail.com">jerry.strojny@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Other/Committees**

- **Membership**
  - John Parkes

- **Exhibits/Publicity**
  - George Egenhoefer 262/786-6814

- **Publications**
  - Leila Crandall-Frink 414/453-4118
    - leila.frink@gmail.com

**Publications Committee**

- **Editor**
  - Leila Crandall-Frink 414/453-4118
    - leila.frink@gmail.com

- **Associate Editor**
  - Si Farmer 414/464-6021
    - sfamer1@wi.rr.com

- **Web Master**
  - Brian Halligan 414/771-9835
    - halligan@mcw.edu

You may also send email to: wiscwoodworkersguild@wiscwoodworkersguild.org

**Rockler Demonstrations & Classes**

- **5/5**, Leigh Dovetail Jig Demo
- **5/6**, French Rolling Pin Class
- **5/12**, Rockler Dovetail Jig

**5/19, VIP Customer Appreciation Days Demos**

- 10AM - Rockler Shutter System
- 11AM - CNC Shark
- 1PM - Scroll Saw
- 2PM - Drawer Loc Router Bits
- 3PM - Green Wood Turning

- **5/26**, Router Tables & Accessories

You can contact Rockler at (414) 774-1882.

Rockler is moving April 28th to their new location at 1725 S 108th St, West Allis.

**Woodcraft Class Schedule**

- **Mother’s Day Turning**, Thu, May 03, 6-9 PM
- **Scroll Saw 201**, Sun, May 06, 11 AM - 3 PM
- **Wood Preparation Using The Planer, Jointer & Table**, Thu, May 10, 6-9 PM
- **Spindle Turning**, Thu, May 17, 10 AM - 3 PM
- **Spindle Turning**, Thu, May 17, 6-9 PM
- **Turn a Basic Pepper Mill**, Sun, May 20, 10 AM - 4 PM
- **Basic Router Techniques**, Mon, May 21, 6-9 PM

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

**Raffle & Door Prizes**

The lucky door prize winners were Richard Burke, Ken Ochs, Donna Baltz, Mark Enderle, and George Egenhofer. The raffle winners were Vern Ziegler, Jay Pilling, Larry Teufel, and Ken Ochs.

Congratulations to all!!
**WWG Programs  Workshops**

*Spring has officially arrived, (well it seems to be about a month after summer showed up…)* This month we can return to some of the fundamental power tools in our arsenal, the Router and it’s buddy the table. George will keep our minds from “spinning” out of control, and help us maximize the useful potential of the venerable router.

### May Program – ”Router Table Techniques” with George Vondriska

- **Friday May 4th** - George Vondriska

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 will 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.

### June Program – ”Member Demo’s”

- **Thursday June 7th** - Guild Members will be the “Stars of the show.” They will be presenting on some of the fundamentals of quality woodworking as well as some of the more intricate (and fun) skills some of us would really like to learn. Presentations will be ongoing at the same time at different stations.

**Guild member presenters:**
- Jay Pilling - Sharpening
- Klaus Zunker - Carving
- Jerry Tackes - Veneering
- Vern Eilders - Lathe turning
- Corey Megal – Hand Plane techniques

### June Workshop

- No workshop this month.

### July Program – ”Guild Show and Tell”

- **Thursday July 5th** We will have our annual “Guild Show and Tell”. Our talented members will be sharing their experience and knowledge regarding some of their favorite handmade jigs and fixtures, as well as the successes (and hopefully some failures) of their recent woodworking projects. This is a great time to ask questions and learn what to do (and not to do) the next time you’re in your workshop.

### July Workshop

- No workshop this month.

---

**Library Reviews**

Do you borrow materials from the Guild library? Have you read a good book or seen an excellent DVD? If you have, how about sharing your thoughts with your fellow Guild members.

Just tell Corey Megal that you would like to share your thoughts about a book or video. When called upon, give the name and call number of the item and tell us why you liked it. Your brief review may encourage others to use the item.

One of our members, Norm Lange, has a couple of requests. First, he is shopping for a member made coffee table for a friend if anyone has one for sale. Second, he is looking for tips on making exotic wood 10 to 30 mm spheres.

You can email him at glfinman@wi.rr.com
Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild

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

Topic: ”Router Table Techniques”
Presenter: George Vondriska

George will be discussing some of the really efficient techniques you can perform at the router table.

In This Issue
Corey’s Corner 1
Reflections 1 & 2
Pictures 2 & 3
In my Opinion 4
Member Projects 4 & 5
Board Breifs 5
Additions to Library 5
Woodcraft Class Schedule 6
Rockler Schedule 6
Friends of the Guild 6
Programs & Workshops 7
May 2012 Meeting Back

The Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild
Box 137
Milwaukee, WI 53201

First Class Mail