



R. I. P. S. A. W.

May, 2015

Rendering Informative Programs Serving Area Woodworkers
 Website: <http://www.wiscwoodworkersguild.org/>

Ron's Ramblings



Ron Reuter
 Guild President

Hello Everyone,
 I have to admit, when I first heard about our speaker, I wasn't sure if it would be something that would really hold my interest. But, I was wrong ! The information Jeff gave us in the alley I found to be very interesting. And to see the finished product was a plus. I still don't know if I'm ready to tackle a project like this, but I wouldn't be afraid to help if someone was thinking

of doing one. (If time would allow.)

I hope everyone enjoyed the Woodworker's Show. I talked to a number of wood worker's from Madison and would not mind going to one of their meetings to see what other clubs do to get their members excited about their meetings. Maybe down the line.

I hope you checked out the new web site. Dave Steingart did a great job taking over from

Bruce Everard. Thanks to both of these guys, but a special thanks to Dave for figuring out and finalizing the whole thing. If it would have been left to me, we wouldn't have anything close to this. Thanks guys !

FINAL NOTE: Please check in with Jay Pilling if you can help with the "round table" meeting in June.

Work safe and share your hobby!

Ronald Reuter

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Reflections:
 Like Ron, I had some serious misgivings about having our meeting devoted exclusively to making a canoe. However, as your editor this month, I was duty-bound to attend. Boy, am I glad I did!
 Jeff Grosskoph is a lifelong Wisconsin resident, currently living in New London. He was born and raised in a little town called Caroline in Shawano County near the Embarrass River. His woodworking experience includes home and agricultural building construction, children's

toys and cedar-strip canoes.

Before getting started, efforts were made to bring his demonstration canoe downstairs. However, since it was determined that the canoe wouldn't make it around the bend and nobody thought to bring a Sawzall, his presentation began outside. (Jeff was rather insistent that we didn't ask Woodcraft for the use of one of their saws.) Jeff's demonstration canoe was 16' 5" long, 34" wide, and weighs a mere 57 pounds – as much as 20% lighter than a comparably sized aluminum canoe. Jeff's

18-footer weighs in at only 69 pounds.

It took about 150 hours to build his first canoe. He's perfected his construction techniques to the point where he can now build a canoe in about 95 hours. At a sales price of \$1,900, and considering the cost of materials (the resin alone is about \$350), Jeff doesn't recommend canoe building as a get-rich scheme.

His demonstration canoe was a flat-bottom model. He explained that this type of hull provides more stability when you

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Friends of the Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild

Homestead Finishing Products, Cleveland, OH
(216) 631-5309 www.homesteadfinishing.com
Rockler Woodworking and Hardware 1725 S
108th St, West Allis, (414) 774-1882
Woodcraft of Milwaukee, 14115 W. Greenfield
Ave New Berlin, WI 53151, (262) 785-6770
Woodline USA (800) 472-6950
Green Man Tree & Landscape Services, owned
by Guild member Peter Gustin, Sr. (414) 659-
0753
L&B Home Improvements, Luke Bassler 414-
477-5381

Raffle and Door Prizes

April raffle winners were: Andy Wagner, Ron Reuter, Leila Frink, Paul Prondzinski, Steve Soltes, Norm Lange and Ron Hinderman

Some of the April Door Prize winners were: Jeff Nebsl, Steve Soltes and Leila Frink. There were others but their stubs didn't get turned in.

Congratulations to all the winners.

Rockler Class Schedule - Tuition assessed

Sun., May 3, 11am—2pm: **French Rolling Pin**

Turning

Sat., May 23, 1pm—5pm: **Basic Scroll Saw Class**

Rockler Demonstration Schedule

Sat., May 2, 11am: **CNC Shark Demo**

Sat., May 2, 11am: **21st Century Woodworking Day - CNC Piranha**

Sat., May 2, 11am: **Cabinet Building Demo Part 3 - Drawers**

Sat., May 9, 11am: **Cabinet Building Demo Part 4 - Drawer Slide Installation**

Sat., May 9, 11am: **What's Turning Day - Pen Turning**

Sat., May 16, 11am: **Rockler Innovation Day - Soy Gel & Java Gel Stain**

May 23, 11am: **Joinery Made Easy - Kreg K5 Pocket Hole System**

May 30, 11am: **Rockler Innovation Day - Box Joint Jigs**

For further details, call Rockler: 414-774-1882.

Location: 1725 S 108th St, West Allis

Woodcraft Class Schedule - Tuition assessed

Sat., May 2, 9:30am—4pm: **Introduction to Hand Tools**

Sun, May 3, 10:30am-3:30pm: **Turning 201: Bowl Turning**

Tue., May 5, 6pm-9pm: **Table Saw A-Z**

Th., May 7, 6pm-9pm: **Mother's Day Turned Projects**

Tue., May 12, 6pm-9pm: **Beyond the Basics—Table Saw**

Th., May 14, 6pm-9pm: **Turn a Wine Bottle Stopper**

Tue., May 19, 6pm-9pm: **Lumber Preparation**

Th., June 11, 5pm-9pm: **Woodworking for Women**

Sat., July 18, 9:30am-5pm: **TURN FOR THE TROOPS**

Woodcraft Demo Schedule

Sat., May 2, 10am-2pm: **Relief Carving, Charlie Milliser**

Sat., May 9, 9am-4pm: **TURN A PEN FOR MOM**

Sat., May 9, 1pm-2pm: **Dust Collection**

Sat., May 16, 10am-2pm: **Relief Carving, Charlie Milliser**

Sat., May 30, 10am-2pm: **Relief Carving, Charlie Milliser**

For further details, call Woodcraft: 262-765-6770.

Woodcraft is located at 14115 W. Greenfield Ave., New Berlin

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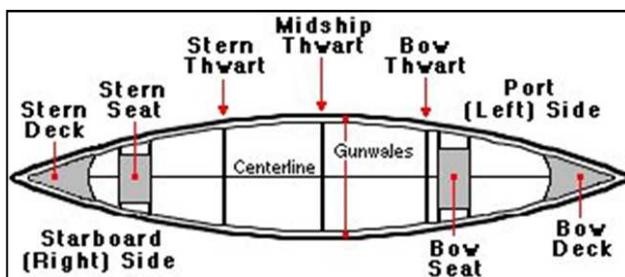
are getting in or out of the boat. However, in use, it's actually less stable than a round-bottom canoe. This, he said, is due to the difference between initial stability and secondary stability. The round-bottom canoe, with its superior secondary stability can be tipped almost to the point where water starts to come in over the side without capsizing. The flat-bottom boat can be tipped to a certain degree but then would capsize almost immediately past that point. The round-bottom design is understandably preferable when canoeing in heavy winds. The flat-bottom boat doesn't have much of a chance against a big wave coming at you broadside.

Jeff called our attention to the spaces he incorporates in the gunwales (also called gunnels). These are useful for draining water out the side but they also serve as a convenient tie point to lash cargo such as cameras, shotguns, backpacks, etc.

The basic structure of Jeff's canoes is made using strips of red and white cedar which are 1/4" thick by 3/4" wide. These strips are laid out and glued together using Elmer's glue. He staples them to the forms on his structural frame, as well as where needed between the forms. (For the sake of those purists who like consistency of terminology, the 'structural frame' is the assembly on which the canoe is built – upside down. The 'forms' are the ribs of the frame on which the cedar strips are attached. See page 8 for a picture of the canoe

before the last of the strips are applied.) After allowing the glue to set overnight, he removes all the staples (all 3,000, but who's counting?) and then covers the entire structure – inside and out – with fiberglass. He uses both 4- and 6-ounce woven fiberglass. The heavier material is used in areas which are more susceptible to abuse. And he uses multiple layers at the bow. The result is a canoe which is quite light but amazingly strong.

Jeff uses a polyester resin



instead of epoxy with the fiberglass. Not only does it cost about a quarter that of epoxy, the polyester resin lets the lighter color come through providing a better contrast. The one disadvantage of the polyester resin is that it's nasty, smelly, stinky stuff to work with. The first couple of canoes he built using the polyester resin, he didn't use a respirator. His wife claims she could smell the polyester on his breath for two weeks! There doesn't seem to be any difference in the durability of the canoes with either product. His first canoe, which he built in 1976, is still in use. Over time, the polyester resin will cloud somewhat if you leave it in the sun. He recommends not storing them outside. His own canoes are up in the rafters of his shed.

Jeff doesn't make the seats. He found a source in Vermont

which makes seats that have a comfortable curve to them which helps keep the boater centered in the canoe. They cost only about \$35 so it isn't worth it for him to fabricate them himself. The seats are screwed onto a cleat which is glued onto the side and then fiberglassed.

In response to a question about keels, Jeff stated that his first canoe had a 1" keel on the bottom. He discovered that this was quite detrimental in shallow water which is a canoe's primary

venue. When the canoe would hit a log in this shallow water, the keel gave the canoe something to pivot over – not a desirable maneuver in a canoe. After some trial-and-error, he found that he

could just about duplicate the keel's function by designing the canoe's hull such that more of the bow and stern were in the water. Tracking increases as the bow and stern dip down deeper into the water. However, maneuverability goes down. Depending on how the canoe will be used, this could be an advantage or disadvantage.

After a short break, we reassembled back downstairs for a very informative slide presentation during which Jeff led us through the intricacies of canoe building. This was made even more interesting as he continued sharing many techniques he has developed and perfected to make canoe building easier and more cost-effective. One of those techniques grew out of Jeff's need to have long strips of cedar. He explained that

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getting these long strips without too many knots requires that they come from a fairly big tree. To remedy this, Jeff came up with a simple jig that he uses to scarf-joint the ends of two strips.

There were many more tidbits that Jeff shared with us, such as how to sand the inside walls of the canoe, how to repair scratches, how to attach the stern and bow plates to be strong enough to hold the tie-downs, how to know which end of the canoe is the bow, how to apply the fiberglass around the contours, how to carry the canoe such that it's 57 pounds feels more like 25

pounds, why Jeff uses fiberglass instead of Kevlar, and what finish he uses on the gunnels instead of fiberglass and how he applies it, to name a few. To relate them all here would require much more space than we have available. However, there's a simple solution to be sure you

don't miss out on any of the wisdom imparted at our meetings. Just be there!

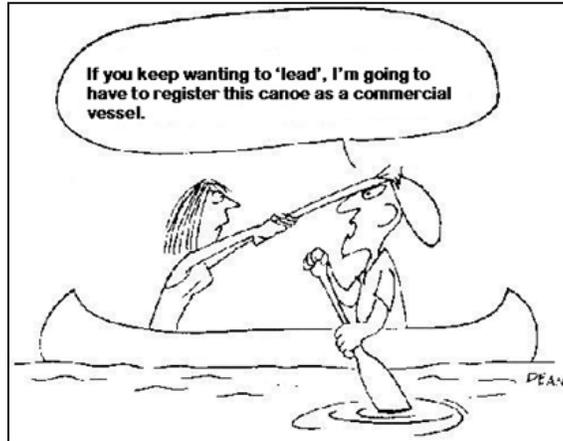
Although most of those in attendance won't be building a canoe, it is very likely that many of us will be taking some of the techniques Jeff has perfected and applying them to other

woodworking projects.

That's because he not only described *what* he does, but also explained *why* he does it the way he does.

Thanks so much, Jeff, for a very enlightening and entertaining presentation!

*Submitted by Don Doss,
RIPSAW Co-Editor*



Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild Board Briefs – April 2, 2015

Attendees: Ron Reuter, Jay Pilling, Don Doss, Leila Crandall-Frink, Kevin Seigworth, Andy Wagner, Ken Ochs, and Dave Steingart

Treasury Balance: \$6,887.88

Membership: Paid 2015 membership is at 103 members

Programs/Workshops: With the exception of November, programs are scheduled for meetings through the remainder of 2015.

Secretary: Sixty (60) members/guests attended the April meeting.

Other:

1. Webmaster Dave Steingart's rehabilitation of our WWG website went live online just before the woodworkers show. The updated website is at the previous address of www.wiscwoodworkersguild.org and is now a valuable tool for recruiting new members.
2. Dave Steingart was contacted by an individual who has offered to add some "pizazz" to our website with the thought of using it to showcase his website design skills. Deferring this to Dave's expertise as our webmaster, the board has asked Dave to discuss this with the gentleman further and report back to the board.
3. Due to the large number of members having Ripsaw sent by mail, the cost for this service has now reached over \$500 per year. Unless the number of mailings isn't reduced substantially, it will be necessary to initiate a surcharge for members who desire this service. The surcharge would cover most, but not all of the associated costs. Don Doss will write an article for the Ripsaw to explain the board's position.
4. Current WWG policy allows guests to attend one meeting, after which they are requested to join the Guild if they wish to attend future meetings. The Board voted to change this policy to allow guests to attend two meetings before being requested to join. This will allow guests to see more of the Guild's workings before making a membership decision.
5. A reminder that all items for publication in RIPSAW should be sent to both Leila Crandall-Frink (leila.frink@gmail.com) and Don Doss (FourPartHarmony@att.net).

Respectfully submitted,
Ken Ochs

Upcoming WWG Programs

May 7th – Gary Hess, grandson of Frank J. Hess, founder of Frank J. Hess and Sons Cooperage, in Madison, Wisconsin will be presenting a historical look of his grandfather's business. With his presentation, Mr. Hess will be including a complimentary, autographed copy of his book, "Roll Out the Barrels".

June 4th – Roundtable

July 2nd – Show and Tell

August 6th – No meeting this month

September 3rd – Jerry Anson; subject TBA

October 3rd (**Friday!!**) - Jeff Miller, Furniture Design- see Page 6

Field Trip

May 13th, Wednesday. Field trip to the US Forest Products Lab in Madison, Wisconsin. This trip will consist of the fairly new research facility, the wood library with 10,000 samples, plus the experimental house. It will likely also include a stop at the University Dairy Science Store.

Also, please submit your thoughts and ideas to Jay for programs you'd like to see, either for one of our meetings or as an extracurricular event such as a field trip.

ATTENTION!!

Currently, WWG sends the RIPSAW newsletter to most members by e-mail. However, 29 members receive their copy via the US Post Office. The cost for this mailing is over \$500 annually. Believing that WWG's resources could be better utilized, the Board is encouraging all members who have Internet access to accept delivery of RIPSAW via e-mail. Those members who wish to continue receiving RIPSAW through the US Postal Service may be charged \$10/year for this service. As an alternative, the current issue of RIPSAW will be available at our regular meetings without charge. These copies are also available for our guests.

Our Membership Application will be changed to allow applicants to choose how they wish to receive their copy of RIPSAW.

Receiving RIPSAW is a privilege of membership. To continue receiving RIPSAW, membership dues and the mailing surcharge must be received timely. A reminder to renew will be posted in the October, November and December issues of the RIPSAW.

ETC.

Carl Brust is still bringing in woodworking magazines he rescued from an estate sale. Good stuff, folks!

Have you talked to Norm Lange, our Toy Chairman, about using the Woodcraft facilities in the evening for Christmas toy construction sessions?

Jay has a Hegner Multimax 18V Scroll Saw for sale. More details will be in next month's RIPSAW if not sold.

10th Annual Fine Furnishings Show



September 18-20, 2015

Meullner Building

HART PARK

7300 Chestnut St.

Wauwatosa, WI

Admission: \$10/adult

Sign up online for VIP Half Price Admission

<http://www.finefurnishingsshows.com/milwaukee>

LAKE COUNTRY CARVERS

ANNUAL WOODCARVING

Show, Competition & Sale

Saturday, August 1, 2015

10:00 - 4:00

Featured Carver: Jim Schlarb

Lake Country Life Enrichment Center

1306 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Oconomowoc, WI 53066

For more information, contact:

Ray Burow 920-474-4075

This month, celebrate Mother's Day, Sunday, May 10th!

"All that I am or ever hope to be, I owe to my angel Mother."

Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865)



Jeff Miller at Woodcraft

Milwaukee Woodcraft is proud to sponsor a visit to Milwaukee by Jeff Miller on October 2nd and 3rd. Jeff is a designer, craftsman, prolific writer and an active teacher, both at his own woodworking school in Chicago (<http://www.furnituremaking.com/>), and at furniture schools around the country. His furniture has won numerous awards, has been in shows around the country, and is in a collection at the Chicago History Museum. Among the books he has authored are *Beds* (The Taunton Press, 1999), *Children's Furniture Projects* (The Taunton Press, October 28, 2002) and *The Foundations of Better Woodworking* (Popular Woodworking Books, November 30, 2012). His first book, *Chairmaking and Design*, was published in 1997 by The Taunton Press and won the Stanley award for Best How-To Book of 1997. The companion video *Chairmaking Techniques* won best video also. The book is now in its second edition (Linden Publishing, March 1, 2007). He has also contributed chapters to *Furniture for All Around the House* and *Storage Projects for All Around the House* for The Taunton Press and is a frequent contributor to *Fine Woodworking* and *Popular Woodworking* magazines.



On Friday, October 2nd at 7 PM, Jeff will be giving a presentation on the topic of furniture design at a special meeting of the Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild. The meeting and presentation will take place in the lower level at Milwaukee Woodcraft. All are welcome to attend as a guest of the Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild (<http://www.wiscwoodworkersguild.org/>). On Saturday, October 3rd, Jeff will be in the Woodcraft store where he will be giving two presentations. In the morning, he'll be demonstrating decorative inlay techniques. In the afternoon, he'll be demonstrating how to incorporate curves into your furniture work.

If you're at all interested in designing and building furniture, you won't want to miss these presentations!

And the winner is . . . Jim Schlarb!



Jim won First Place in Creativity at the recent Woodworking Show with the above carving. That earned him the Bosch MX25EK-33 Multi-X Oscillating Tool Kit, valued at about \$200. Jim's entry also won the Best Overall award and with it a \$75 Lee Valley Gift Certificate. Congratulations, Jim!



Lyle Morrison turned a piece of driftwood into a work of art



George Egenhoefer (left) and Dave Drickhamer (right) 'bowl'ing us over



Jay Pilling still 'turning' out gems!



Jim Schlarb's latest bandsaw box



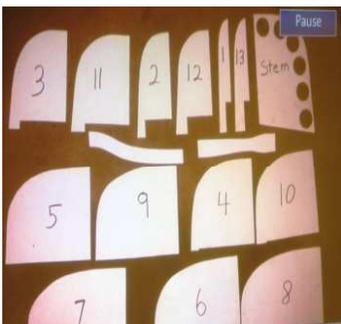
George Egenhoefer (left) and Jim Schlarb at the Woodworkers Show



Jeff Grosskoph started his presentation outside—on what may have been the only 'summer' day of 2015



The ups (above) and downs (below) of it



The great 'frame-up'. Templates (left), forms on frame (center and right)



Construction begins . . .



and continues . . .



and continues . . .



Ahh, finally-last slat!



Now to pull all 3,000+ nails!



Fiberglassing bow with 6-ounce material after using 4-ounce in the center area



Done with the bottom-ready to flip



First step after flipping: lots and lots of sanding. Then fiberglass using extra layer at bow.



After trimming the fiberglass, Jeff installs the gunnels, the carrying bar, the stern and bow decks, and the seats.



Jeff's unique oars. The one on the left is his latest design. Both have a bend where the oar meets the handle which provides greater leverage when rowing.