



BENCH TALK

The Monthly Newsletter of the Northeastern Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild

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MAKING JEWELRY BOXES: JUST IN TIME FOR ST. VALENTINE'S DAY!

Marv Beulow started designing and making jewelry and music boxes seriously about eight years ago. All of his boxes are from his original designs. Many of the music boxes and some smaller boxes feature "through" inlays done on a scroll saw. He cuts figures into the boxes ranging from a simple, stylized angel to a hummingbird, lighthouse, to Pegasus. Some inlays such as a heart are done with a router. His jewelry boxes are exceptional, not only for their exquisite design, but also for his near flawless execution of both joinery and finish.

Marv's work has been accepted into juried shows including Artstreet in Green Bay; Grand Cities Artfest in Grand Forks, North Dakota; Appleton's Art in the Park; Lake Geneva's Art in the Park, and the Secura/Appleton Art Center Fine Art Exhibition, where he was awarded honorable mention.

Marv lives in Menasha, but has a very large market area. He attends only a small number of shows every year. He conducts most of his business is done over the internet and Marv will tell us some of what he has learned doing internet business.

Some of you old-timers may remember when Marv was a Guild member. One year, he donated a magnificent jewelry box as grand prize for our Spring Show. As I recall, someone in Fred Juengst's family won it. Those of you who didn't win it will remember what a great piece it was . . . and he's just gotten better.

Marv will talk with us about designing and making boxes, making scroll saw inlays, and marketing on the internet. He's had good experience in each of those subjects. Be sure to be there, and, if you have a chance, check out his website at www.beyondthetree.com. He's been operating it for four years.

Remember, the meeting is this Friday, January 20th at 7:00 P.M. on the campus of the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. The Bay Settlement interchange is now completed and makes getting to the meeting place a little bit easier. We meet, as usual, in Room 109 Mary Ann Cofrin Hall. The librarians will be there and eager to do business.

THE FEBRUARY WOOD SHOW COMING TO GREEN BAY

by Lyle Martens

The Woodworks woodworking show is coming to Green Bay February 10, 11, and 12. It will be at the Brown County Veterans Memorial Complex in Shopko Hall. The hours are, Friday, noon to 6; Saturday, 10 to 6, and; Sunday, 10 to 4. There will be exhibitors and seminars and sales!

The Guild plans to participate in the Show in a couple of ways. We will have a booth, display work by our members, have some on-going demonstrations, and sell raffle tickets for our Spring Show in March.

1. Right now, we do not expect to participate in the Woodworks' "Top-a-Thon" program unless we can get someone to take the lead. The Top-a-Thon idea is that participating wood working clubs, like our in this case, work in a specified place in the show to make things for

charity. We would like to work this into our regular program of creating things for children and teens who are needy or ill, but someone has to come forward. Dale Kozicki almost always takes these things on, but we sure could use someone else to step forward for this one.

2. There are also opportunities for individuals to display some of their work in the Saw Dust Café and, in so doing, to compete for prizes. Tom Carlson plans to enter one or two items. Others should, too. The prizes are pretty good and the publicity wouldn't hurt any of us or the Guild.

Here's the catch: you have to register at least 14 days before the show starts here. That means that if you are not registered by January 26, you are out of luck. We've seen the work you all do; it can compete with anyone's and the competition here is all local. You can enter on-line at Woodworks website www.woodworksevents.com or if you don't have access to the web, give me, Lyle, a call.

3. The Guild will have a display and demonstration area. It will be a little bit like a "mini-Spring Show." We plan to have carving, turning, and scroll sawing demonstrations pretty much running continuously. We will have shelves and tables for displaying your work.

You know what that means. We need volunteers. We think we'll be able to compensate volunteers with passes or discounts for parking and for the show, but we haven't gotten the final word on that yet. The show company is on the road and a little hard to reach.

We need people to volunteer to display some items. They should not be real large items because we won't have a ton of space.

We need volunteers to staff the booth throughout the three day program. The volunteers will be expected to talk with people about the Guild and woodworking, sell raffle tickets, take membership applications, and keep an eye on the exhibit. We'll need at least two people in the booth at all times.

We need volunteers to demonstrate. No, you don't have to carry a picket sign. You do need to carve, scroll saw, turn, or do something else in a confined space.

I have a schedule set up, so if you can volunteer for any of these activities, call me and I will schedule you in. I will also have the schedule at Friday's meeting this week, so see me there.

4. We will be promoting our spring show at the Woodworks show. The Board authorized Jane to buy some tools for the raffle and a few stalwarts have already promised to make and donate raffle prizes. Let Jane know what you'll be contributing either at 920-468-0132 or at the Friday meeting.

Jane is also preparing raffle tickets so will have them at the Woodworks show. This is a great opportunity for us to sell a lot of tickets, so we want to make sure to give a good effort. Some prizes will be displayed there.

5. If you have any questions give me, Lyle Martens a call. I'm at 920-406-3027 or reach me at lc mart@worldnet.aat.net.

It sounds like it will be a pretty good affair, so be sure to plan to participate.

By the way, we expect to see our friends and Guild members from Woodworkers Depot at the show with some of their fine products, so plan to be there and support the Depot by buying from Merl and Char. As of now, Woodcraft in Appleton will not be participating.

THE SPRING SHOW IS COMING SOON!

By Jane Alesch

As most of you know by now, we will not be holding our Spring Show at Washington Commons this year. It looks like those days are over, at least for a while. We're moving to East Town Mall in Green Bay. **The Show will be held on March 25 and 26, with set-up on Friday, the 24th. Mark your calendar now.**

As you read above, we'll be selling tickets for our raffle at the show in February. ***We'll need to list prizes if we want to sell tickets, so please be sure to let me know what you plan to donate as a raffle prize. This is really important because the show is critical to the Guild's finances. Call me today to tell me what you plan to donate (468-0132) or let me know at the meeting this Friday. Many thanks!***

We'll be calling on some of you to help out with some activities both in preparation and at the show – nothing overwhelming, but many hands make light work. Or, just volunteer now!

We always have a great turnout at the Spring Show, but, if you haven't participated, you really should try it out. It is fun and a good experience. Everyone learns something.

THE OCTOBER MEETING

by Bob Welhouse

The October speaker was Andrew Madsen, Luthier from Neenah. He talked about building and repairing stringed musical instruments. He began studying guitar in sixth grade and built his first guitar in ninth grade. He began working at Island Music in high school where he repaired stringed instruments. He then took an eight month course at the Roberto Ven School of Luthierie in Arizona, where he learned about building and repair. He focused mostly on the acoustic guitar.

Andrew explained the different types of guitars. A classical (Spanish) guitar uses nylon strings, while an acoustic guitar uses steel strings. They differ in construction, sound, and size. The acoustic guitar needs more internal bracing because of the stress created because the steel strings exert more force than nylon.

Madsen builds five kinds of acoustic guitars: jumbo, dreadnaught, parlor, orchestra, and electric.

Madsen discussed the use of the vacuum bag to clamp and glue bracing members to the back of the guitar. A special heating pad is used to bend the sides and various small specialty hand tools.

The wood used in construction is almost always quartered. He likes to use quartered Adirondack spruce for the fronts if it is available. The backs and sides use tone woods (mahogany, maple, or rosewood, for example) in the middle. Each has a different tonal quality. A special epoxy glue is used for gluing oily woods like rosewood.

Each is customized to the customer's needs. Traditionally, the finish used is nitro cellulose laquer. He likes to use a type of ure-

thane that doesn't check, will move, and is easier to repair with super glue and accelerator.

This last fall, he attended the Healdsburg Guitar Festival in Santa Rosa, California, where he had a chance to view and compare guitars and talk with other builders from around the world. Price ranges for guitars at the festival ranged from \$3000 to \$50,000. Madsen plans to exhibit at the next Healdsburg Festival. It was an informative and entertaining program.

THE NOVEMBER MEETING

by Dan Alesch

John Hielsberg from Oshkosh was scheduled to be with us November 18th to tell us how to steam bend hardwood and make snowshoes. He didn't show up and he didn't call. That hasn't happened for a **long** time. We sure hope he is just irresponsible and that nothing serious happened to him to keep him from joining us.

Nonetheless, about 50 of us had a very good meeting while many others of you were in deer camp. We discussed member program preferences and ideas for improving the Guild. There was widespread interest in finally getting the Guild Directory that Dan started last year and didn't finish. They would like to see e-mail addresses of members in the Directory. A number of members said we could send them Bench-talk e-mail in a PDF format and save money on postage. Will do.

People talked about programs they particularly liked. These included our jig and fixture programs, the luthier (Madsen), Greg Kulibert's slide show, Kevin Smith, and Mark Duginske. Members would like the following kinds of programs: a slide show showing kinds of woodwork and woodworking, faux finishing, a program on wood turning, and special kinds of things Guild members are working on. They would also like for the Guild to bring in experts to conduct special workshops for members.

These are all things the Guild can do, especially if someone is willing to contribute some time and effort to help with a particular event or activity.

THE ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

Every year, the Guild holds a party during the Holiday season for its members and a spouse or guest. This year, the party was held Saturday, December 10 at Dan and Jane Alesch's house.

About 60 Guild members attended and good conversation and good food dominated the event. Steve Lockhart did a great job acquiring door prizes from our friends at Wood Workers Depot and Woodcraft. **Be sure to spend your woodworking dollars at our member organizations that do so much to support the Guild.**

Special thanks to Tom and Sue Sorenson who donated two glasses on which they had etched the Guild Logo. Very nice!

The lucky winners were selected by a drawing: Betty Lockhart, Terry Keegan, Linda Suroweic, Don Berken, Gail Welhouse, Mary Wohlend, Sharon Dishmaker, Bob Decker, Kathleen Beyer, Joe Martin, Carol Valenta, Bruce Kornely, and, of course, Dotty Juengst, who usually wins something at Guild events.

Special thanks, too, to those who made toy donations for the less fortunate. They were delivered promptly to Freedom House, a non-denominational, non-profit organization that provides temporary housing for families in need of help. The folks there were very grateful.

MORE GOOD NEWS

Dale and Bev Kozicki received a very nice letter of appreciation from St. Vincent's Hospital. The letter thanked the Guild for its gift of assorted wooden toys. Dale and other Guild members made these to give to the pediatric patients to paint while they are hospitalized on the Hospital's tenth floor.

Thanks, Dale and Bev, for all the work you do making things for young people with health problems. Thanks, too, to all the Guild members and others who helped create this huge assembly of toys. That work is really a feather in your cap and it reflects nicely on the Guild. I just love that stuff.

BOARD MEETING

The Guild Board will meet at Dan and Jane's house at 7:00 P.M. on Monday, February 6. The

meeting will focus on the February Woodshow and the Spring Show in March. If you have anything you would like to bring to the Board's attention, or if you just want to sit in, give Dan or Jane a call at 468-0132.

THE OLDE CARVER'S NOTES

by the Olde Carver

Lots of carving stuff is coming up. There is a show in Plover on Saturday, March 18 (9 to 4) and Sunday, March 19 (10 to 4). The Wisconsin River Woodcarvers are putting on the show, competition, and sale. It will be at the Elizabeth Inn and Convention Center at the corner of Highway 54 and I-39.

The big carving show in Davenport is going a little retro this year. It is taking away a bunch of divisions, like novice, intermediate, and open. The whole competition will be open: compete to see how you do against the very best in the world. Wow.

The carvers will meet pretty regularly in January and February (well, at least so far). Plan to meet on Wednesday, January 18 and Wednesday the 25th. Then, in February, we'll meet on Wednesday the 1st and on the 8th.

While there is a small group of regulars, we always welcome newcomers. If you think you would like to sit in, call Dan at 468-0132.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

By Fred Juengst

Please take a few seconds to see if your mailing label is marked with a pink marker. If it is pink, your membership is due. Don't wait, mail in your dues today.

We have three memberships up for renewal in December; these are now one month overdue. Please pay your dues today and continue to be an active member of the Guild.

Two memberships were due in November; these are now overdue by two months. This is a reminder for Michael King and Bill Wright. Please consider continuing being an active member of the Guild and pay your dues today.

Since we had no *Bench Talk* in December, we now have 12 memberships overdue by more than 3 or 4 months. You have a postcard

attached to your *Bench Talk*. This will be your last *Bench Talk* unless you pay your dues promptly. If you **do not wish** to continue your membership, just print your name on the postcard as shown and drop it in the mail. The postcard confirms your intent. Please keep your nametag in the event you choose to rejoin the Guild at a later date. **If you borrowed books from the Guild Library, please give Joe or Trudy Ferrer (920-438-8116) a call to arrange for the return of borrowed items.**

If you wish to continue as a member, do not mark the post card in anyway. Just slip the post card and dues in an envelope and mail it to me. This will allow us to reuse the postcard.

We sometimes make a mistake with a membership and I regret it. Please don't hesitate to point out any mistakes right away so they may be corrected promptly. My address is Fred Juengst, 846 Cornelius Dr., Green Bay, WI 54311. If you have any questions about your membership, call me at 920-469-1919 or send me an e-mail at mdjuengst@aol.com. Thanks from the Guild.

FYI: Little tidbits of relevant, irrelevant, or irreverent news, observations, and assorted stuff from and about members and their pursuits. by Dan Alesch

● Bob "Our Founder" Platten forwarded the following request for inclusion.

I'm looking for someone that may be able to carve a hawk in flight. Do you know of anyone in the Guild that does this kind of work? I don't know what kind of hours or cost something like this would be but I would really like to have one. I'd like a 2 to 3 foot wingspan, but I plan to suspend it from the ceiling, so it could be made of a lighter wood. Hopefully that makes it easier to do?

Thanks, Dave Madigan. 920-469-1024
dave1024@new.rr.com, :

● Our beloved Treasurer, Tom Carlson, has the following items for sale.

- a Grizzly combination belt sander (6" x 48") and 12" disk sander, low speed for \$300.
- a 21" Woodtek scroll saw for \$200.

You can reach Tom at the meetings (he sells

raffle tickets) or call him at 920-856-6363.

● Tom Charlier continues to collect used hand tools for folks in Biloxi, Mississippi. Biloxi took a huge hit from Hurricane Katrina and lots of people lost virtually everything they owned. Some folks contributed tools at the Holiday Party and they have been shipped to grateful folks in Biloxi. Bring your excess hammers, squares, screw drivers, planes, and so forth to the January meeting. Tom will ship the tools South at his expense. Thanks, Tom, for taking the lead on this effort.

● The Board is checking prices on camera and sound equipment to make it easier to see and hear demonstrations at our monthly meetings. It will also be useful at our Spring Show and other demonstrations. Mark Brienen is working on this project. He will train several other Guild members in how to use the equipment. The board authorized Mark to purchase the equipment if he can get it for under \$500.

● Here are a couple of photos of Happy Campers at the Holiday Party from the lens of Bob Platten.

