



BENCH TALK

The Monthly Newsletter of the
Northeastern Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild

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INSIDE!

- **IT'S TIME FOR THE ELECTIONS!**
- **HOME BUILDING FOR THOSE WHO NEED IT – AT THE JUNE MEETING**

Habitat for Humanity

by Lyle Martens

Jeff Carels, our June speaker, has worked for the Greater Green Bay Habitat for Humanity as Construction Manager since January, 2005. He took this position after a 25 year career with Georgia-Pacific. As Construction Manager, Jeff is responsible for all aspects of the building process: selecting the house plan, obtaining permits, bidding for contractors, and developing and supporting construction leadership for each building.

Before joining the local Habitat affiliate, he worked as a volunteer on several Habitat “builds.” His interest in joining Habitat stems from his belief in the organization’s mission and goals and the positive impact that Habitat for Humanity has on everyone involved, especially the new homeowners.

Jeff has been married for 28 years and has two grown daughters.

We’ll be treated to a PowerPoint presentation that gives an overview of Habitat for Humanity and how it operates. The presentation includes the major components of the organization and its activities, including site selection, family selection, construction and funding. Jeff will also include information about the need for affordable housing and ways for interested people to get involved.

The meeting will begin promptly at 7:00 P.M. on Friday, June 16. As usual, we’ll meet in Room 111 of Mary Ann Cofrin Hall. The direct route in is under serious construction and is completely impassable (Actually, the University is rerouting the road so they can build the new Kress Event Center.) To get to MAC Hall, continue north from the intersection where you would normally enter to go the sports center and MAC Hall. Take the first left on Walter Way and follow the signs to MAC and the Phoenix Sports Center. If you get lost, flag down a student for directions, drive around for an extended period getting frustrated, or call Jane on her cell phone (246-1553) for directions.

IT'S FINALLY HERE – THE ANNUAL GUILD ELECTION

by Dan Alesch

I’m sure you’ve been chafing at the bit for the annual Guild elections at our June Annual Meeting. I know that I can hardly wait. The current

officers have put together a promising slate of candidates for office – folks who have taken it on themselves to guide the Guild through another exciting and successful year:

President: Lyle Martens
Vice President for Programs: still looking
Vice President for Publicity: Dan Hallada
Secretary: Steve Lockhart
Treasurer: Tom Carlson
Editor: Wayne Blank

The Board is still looking for one or two people who want to take on the lead role in arranging programs. The other Board members help out. You could be the one to take this important job on. Give it some thought and talk with **Rich Ward, Lyle Martens**, or any of the Board members. You will have the opportunity to nominate others for the elective positions at the June meeting. If you plan to nominate someone, be sure to have his or her permission.

The Board also names individuals to head important Guild committees. The following persons have been identified to head committees this coming year:

Membership: Fred Juengst
Special Activities: Tom Charlier
Spring Show: Jane Alesch
Website: Mark Brien

MAY MEETING REVIEW

by Fred Juengst

The meeting began with Marty Eckhard yelling “Hay! Hay! Hay!” while carrying a handful of hay. That set the stage for several boxes full of comical inventions by Marty. Many may remember Marty’s routine from several years ago and he has added a lot of new inventions. After the entertainment, Marty’s son-in-law, Kevin Smith, discussed hand sharpening of plane and chisel irons.

Kevin filled us in on a little of his history. He started woodworking as a youngster and has mostly learned on his own. With no formal training in woodworking, Kevin has always been open to new ideas on how to accomplish various woodworking tasks. Kevin said his parents loaned him the money to start his woodworking business after graduation from high school. His interests led him to be one of the original founders of the Guild. He has been a professional woodworker for

the past 30 years. Kevin told us the first time he used a really sharp tool, he felt great sense of accomplishment and thrill. A sharp tool does make a difference and increases the joy of woodworking more than imagined.

Kevin uses water stones for honing plane irons and chisels but still relies on natural stones for his lathe tools. He starts by carefully grinding a 25-degree bevel on his plane irons and bench chisels with a grinder. He uses a fine grinding wheel and takes great care not to blue the metal. For honing, he places the plane iron or chisel in a honing guide (like Woodcraft 03A21). This honing guide has stamped on its side the length of blade projection from the guide for both 30 and 25 degrees. Kevin fashioned a gauge to easily set the blade to 30 degrees. This puts on a nice secondary bevel on the cutting edge. He hones in three steps, using 800, 1200, and 4,000 grit. The back of the plane iron or chisel are also honed flat. To keep the water stones flat, he rubs them together before each use.

Thanks Marty and Kevin for an enjoyable evening. I hope your tips on producing a really sharp edge will help our members enjoy woodworking even more.

THE OLDE CARVER’S NOTES

by the Olde Carver

The carvers continue their incredible productivity straight through the summer months. They’ll meet at Dan and Jane’s on June 21st, and will set a time at that session for July meetings, probably starting after the 15th..

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

By Fred Juengst

We have 13 members whose renewal is due this month. If you are one of them, your mail label is marked with a colored magic marker. Our June meeting is an excellent time to renew your membership. (Jane will be there in Fred’s place with his receipt book.)

Eleven members have renewals due in May; if you are one, you are now overdue by one month. Four members are overdue for renewal by more than two months. This is a friendly reminder for **Bill Dishmaker, Aaron Gesicki,**

Terry Keegan, and Spence Lindbeck that your dues are due now. Please consider remaining a member of the Guild and pay your dues today.

A couple are overdue by more than three months. If you are one of these, a postcard is attached to your *Benchtalk* as a reminder to pay your dues as soon as possible. If you choose not to renew your membership, please sign the card and slip it into the mail. This will let me know you intended not to renew. Please keep your nametag in the event you wish to join at a later date. If you don't respond, I simply drop your name from our active roster.

If you borrowed books from the Guild Library, please give Joe or Trudy Ferrier (920-438-8116) a call to arrange to return the borrowed items.

For those getting a postcard but wishing to renew, just slip the UNMARKED postcard in an envelope with your membership dues and mail it to me at 846 Cornelius Dr., Green Bay, WI 54311 or bring it to a meeting. My address should be on the card as well but this has not always proved to be the case.

For those new members and those who paid dues in May, please check your label to be sure your renewal date is in 2007 or later. If you feel I made a mistake with your dues, do not be shy, give me a call (920-469-1919) or e-mail (mdjuengst@aol.com) me with your complaint. I double-check all the roster entries but I do make mistakes and appreciate getting them corrected quickly

We have all 21 new name tags from Global Recognition. I won't be at the June meeting, but Jane has them and will be happy for you to pick them up from her.

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

● For almost as long as I can remember, Jane and I have been putting out *Benchtalk* each month. We got a break for a while when **Steve Lockhart** took over for a year or two, but we've been back at it for a while since then. It's been fun and

rewarding and, best of all, it made it easier for us to get to know most of you. We appreciate the opportunity, but all good things come to an end. We wish **Wayne Blank** good luck and know you will support him in his role as editor.

● Jane and I just got back from an extensive tour of damaged areas along the Gulf Coast. The first 500 yards of most of Mississippi and Alabama behind the beaches is gone. Seven story hotels, along with single family homes, were just demolished by Katrina's 20 foot storm surge. **Tom Charlier** is still collecting new and used hand tools for Hurricane Katrina victims folks in Mississippi. Be a sport and contribute those extra tools to help out. Just bring them to the June meeting. You can get a donation slip from Tom's church for tax purposes, too.

● Here's the last reminder for the Darboy Chicken Fest Craft and Garden Show scheduled for Saturday, June 24. Talk with Guild Member **Milton Schmidt** if you are interested in a booth. 920-993-9664 or e-mail him at Memaschmidt@aol.com.

● The folks at **Treasure Trove** in De Pere (864-3486) still need more woodworking items to sell.

● **Exciting news!** **Tom and Sue Sorenson** are happy to announce the Grand Opening of their new store. It is named Laser Dynamics, LLC. They sell "unique items for unique people." You can find their shop at 2737 North Packerland in Green Bay. They are two blocks north of the Post Office on the sunny side of the building. I've sent a flyer they sent to me to those of you getting this by e-mail. To talk with Tom or Sue about their enterprise, call them: Cell 606-3817, Home 469-3757.

● **Wood Workers Depot** is looking for Guild members to demonstrate their skills for the Saturday before Father's Day. Give Russ or Dennis a call at 336-6900. They'll make it worth your while and it is good publicity for you and the Guild.

