



# BENCH TALK

The Monthly Newsletter of the  
Northeastern Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild

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## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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  - Next Meeting: Furniture Finishing with Style!
  - A Retrospective on the Christmas Party
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### THE GUILD MEETING THIS COMING JANUARY 19<sup>TH</sup>

Want to expand your horizons on furniture finishing and wood decoration? The days are gone when the only “classy” finish is a careful coat of stain followed by multiple coats hand-rubbed oil or fine varnish. Today, classy finishes include painted surfaces and a host of faux finishes like those you see on the home improvement and decorating channels on cable or via the dish.

You will recall from our Spring Shows, the beautiful Norwegian chairs that **Tom Carlson** has donated to our raffle. Our featured speaker for January is Dona Fischer, a talented painter and wood carver from Algoma, who specializes in that particular kind of painted finish. Dona’s speciality is rosemaling, which Norwegian immigrants brought to the United States. They carried their belongings in beautifully rosemaled trunks, Rosemaling began to go out of style in this country about 1860, but is currently experiencing a big revival. The revival in the United States is often credited to a Norwegian painter who was employed as a wagon painter in Stoughton, Wisconsin, during the Great Depression.

Dona has been rosemaling for 35 years and paints in many styles and mediums. She will give us a brief history of the finishing technique and the different styles in which she paints. She will bring many examples of her work to the meeting. Come to learn about one alternative way to finish wooden projects, ways to enhance your own furniture, boxes, trunks or scrollwork projects and the enjoy the examples of this art form. You might want to bring your spouse or a friend.

The meeting will begin at 7:00 P.M. on Friday, January 19. We’ll meet in Room 111 of Mary Ann Cofrin Hall. The direct route in is under construction, but is passable through the Phoenix Sports Center parking lot. Another way to get to MAC Hall is to continue north from the intersection where you would normally enter to go toward the Sports Center or 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.

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### ***THE UPCOMING SPRING SHOW: MARK YOUR CALENDAR, SAVE THE DATE***

*by Jane Alesch*

The Guild’s 24<sup>th</sup> Consecutive Annual Spring Show is scheduled for East Town Mall in Green Bay on March 24 and 25. Because the mall is getting new owners, we aren’t sure exactly which space we have, but we’ll work hard to get the

same space we had last year. It was great space.

If you haven't participated in at least one of the Guild's past 23 Spring Shows, you've been missing something special. The purposes of the Spring Show are 1) to demonstrate how much fun and how rewarding wood working is, 2) to engage in discussions and fellowship with other wood workers, and 3) to make enough money on a raffle to support the Guild's activities for the coming year.

It works this way. The Guild arranges for a space, so far always in a mall, and rents tables and chairs. Guild members sign up for a space at no cost to them. There they display their work, demonstrate a wood working skill, and, if they wish, put their creations up for sale.

We need each of you to help with publicity. Anyone with an "in" at a newspaper, radio or TV stations, or whatever, please leap forward!

Guild members donate handmade wooden items for a raffle and the Guild buys some attractive tools to add incentive to raffle ticket buyers. Tickets are a dollar a piece or six for five dollars. We try to buy or sell as many tickets as possible. If we sell 3,000 or more tickets, we can afford speakers, books, tapes, and videos without raising our dues.

We need Guild members to volunteer for Friday setup and for all day Saturday and Sunday right through cleanup. Details, a sign-up sheet for volunteers, and raffle tickets will be in the February newsletter.

Start now to get ready to participate. Got questions? Ask them at the January or February meeting or call Jane at 468-0132. Now's the time to start working to make this show a giant success.

## THE ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

The Christmas party was attended by more than 70 happy, talkative, and hungry Guild members and guests. The conversation was great. There was lots of laughter. Folks got to know one another better. The food was spectacular and a good time was had by all.

**Steve Lockhart** did a marvelous job getting great door prizes with help from Woodworkers Depot and Woodcraft. Thank you, guys! Thanks, too, to everyone who brought such fabulous foods, especially Ellen Pagel (whose name tag read Helen for some unknown reason.). Every year is good, but this year was particularly good! The Christmas Party is a great way to meet Guildies and to learn who does things of interest to you. If you weren't there this year, do yourself a favor and attend next year. *Missing a knife or spoon? Call Jane (468-0132).*

## NOVEMBER MEETING

*by Jane Alesch*

The November meeting was great, thanks to all of you who brought those incredible jigs and fixtures. I strongly advise you not to miss one of these meetings because you had to see them to believe them. You guys are awesome.

## THE OLDE CARVER'S NOTES

The carvers are still at it weekly – well; kind of weekly depending on schedules, travel, snow, and so forth. The carvers will meet at Dan and Jane Alesch's on Wednesday, January 17 and 24 for sure. Other dates will be added later. If you think you might like to give carving a try, give Dan or Jane a call at 468-0132.

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

*By Fred Juengst*

With no *Bench Talk* in December, those who did not pay their dues on time have had a little grace period. Cards have been placed in the *Bench Talks* for six members who were due to renew in September and October. In addition, eight members have membership renewal due this month. If you are one of these, your mail label is marked with magic marker. Our January meeting is an excellent time to renew your membership. Please remember that renewal dues are \$15 for an individual, \$20 for a family, and \$35 for

businesses.

Seven members were due for renewal in December and are now overdue by one month. Please pay your dues as soon as possible to continue your membership in the Guild.

Only two members are overdue by more than two months. This is a friendly reminder for **Noel Hansen** and **Bill Wright**. Please consider remaining a member of the Guild and pay your dues today. (*Editor's note: Besides, Jane really wants you in the Spring Show again.*)

For those members who are overdue by more than three months, a postcard is attached 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 and e-mail list. This month we dropped three individuals.

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. My address should be on the card as well but this has not always proved to be the case. I am pleased to report that many cards are returned with dues payment.

If you feel I made a mistake with your membership due date or 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

**If you are not renewing your membership, but borrowed books from the Guild Library, please give Joe or Trudy Ferrier (920-438-8116) a call to arrange to return the borrowed items.**

***FYI: Little tidbits of relevant, irrelevant, or irreverent news, observations, and assorted stuff***

***from and about members and their pursuits.***

***by Dan Alesch***

● Jane and I are back as editors for this month only. Editor **Wayne Blanke** asked if we would take it for a month while he deals with a heavy agenda. We're glad to do it

● Lots of Guild members have been having health problems recently. We don't know all of them because word doesn't always get around. Our founder, **Bob Platten**, is undergoing yet another heart surgery this month. **Lyle Martens** is fighting cancer with aggressive therapy. **Roger Young** is recovering from by-pass surgery. **Linda Surowiec** recently had back surgery and seems to be coming around nicely. **Larry Wohlwend** is recovering from a really ugly virus that hospitalized him. **Tom Carlson** is also coming along after a tough year. And, it looks like **Bob Decker** is pretty much recovered from a detached bicep. We wish all our members who are ill or injured or who have people close to them who are the very best. We want you to recover quickly and come back to join us.

If you know anyone else who is having health problems, let us know. It's always nice to get a card, a visit, or a call from a fellow Guildie.

● **Tom Charlier** is still collecting new and used hand tools for victims in Mississippi. Be a sport and contribute those extra tools to help out. Just bring them to a meeting. You can get a slip from Tom's church for tax purposes, too.

● We're still looking at a possible move from the University to Northeastern Wisconsin Technical College. There are advantages to both places. The Board is exploring the options. If you have any ideas, talk with any officer about your thoughts.

● ***Our friends at the Woodworkers Depot in Green Bay and at Woodcraft in Appleton helped enormously with door prizes for the Christmas Party. They are always doing something for us and we appreciate it. Do yourself a favor and patronize these stores that do so much to help the Guild. Mention that you are a Guild member and say "Thanks for your support."***