



BENCH TALK

The Monthly Newsletter of the
Northeastern Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild

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THE SPRING SHOW

by Jane Alesch

The Spring Show is this weekend, March 24 and 25!

It doesn't look like we'll be getting any television or newspaper coverage this year, so it is up to you to get your friends and neighbors there and to sell raffle tickets. Give it a real push this week!

We've got the big room we had last year, so be sure to be there. **If you plan to be there and haven't called in to tell me how much space you need, do it today.** 468-0132.

We need someone to handle clothing sales for the show and, if we can talk you into it, for the rest of the year. Please decide you can do it and let me know.

We need a few shop-vacs and operators for cleaning up after the show. Call Jane at 468-0132 to confirm that you are bringing one. If you will be using a scroll saw or lathe, please bring one with you. Others who can bring one, should do it. We have to make the place as clean as we got it before we leave.

Don't forget your **extension cords** if you need power. The Guild will not provide them.

We need five or six people to work the main booth, handing out information, selling tickets, making public address announcements, and chasing down things that need to be done. If we have five or six, it won't be necessary for a

couple of people to do it all weekend.

Don't forget to wear your name tags and wear your Guildwear.

If you want a **comfortable chair**, bring one. The ones we rent are adequate, but not great.

We'll be setting up Friday afternoon and evening. I'll be there Friday by about 11. If you can't do it then, get there very early Saturday morning. The door will be unlocked at 7:45, but Jane will try to be there at 7:30. You can park in front (but *not* in the bus stop) and bring your things in through the front. The show starts at 9.

When you come to the Show, be sure to sign in at the main booth. We will draw from among those names for a Makita Cooler.

We need some people to stay at the end of the show to help clean up and we need a few more to help deliver prizes to people who aren't there to take them home. Don't leave these jobs to one or two people.

Remember to bring in your raffle tickets and money before the drawing Sunday at 4.

Above all, **be sure to come and have fun.** Check out what others are doing. Get to know your Guild colleagues. Talk with prospective members. And, good luck with your sales and orders. **Remember, we are a show, so try to delay pick-up of special sold items until later on Sunday.**

WE LEARNED HOW TO BUILD A LOG HOME IN FEBRUARY

by Dan Alesch

One of the Guild's long-time members said it was one of the best programs we have ever had at a Guild meeting. And I agree. It was a dandy. Part of the reason the program was so good was the personality and delivery of our speaker, Jon Mykkanen, from Republic, Michigan. The rest of the reason has to do with the knowledge about traditional methods of log home building that he brought to the meeting.

Jon and Marie traveled down from the UP with props and with some "stick" furniture they and their helpers make at the shop in Republic. Jon and Marie build log homes the old-fashioned way. That is, they do not mill the logs to a uniform shape and size and then build a "Lincoln Log" structure. Instead, they start with the logs – as often as not ones that grew on Jon's land and that he cut down. They strip the bark from the logs and let them dry. Then, each course of the walls of the cabin is built individually. Each succeeding log in the wall is scribed and the bottom of the log, where it meets the log under it, is shaped by hand so that it fits perfectly over the log under it. The work is labor intensive, but it creates extremely aesthetic and well-built buildings. They don't use nails to hold anything together until the final top course, where long spikes are driven into the joints to ensure stability.

These UP craftsmen are preserving an art developed over centuries in what was the great North American wilderness. They are doing their best to pass it on, and, in the meantime, creating some amazing homes. Not only that, by Jon and Marie joined the Guild!

Thanks to **Tom Charlier** who discovered our guests up in Republic and made sure we had an opportunity to hear what they have to say. And special thanks to Jon and Marie. Marie won a gift certificate to Wood Workers Depot at our monthly drawing, so Saturday morning, they were off to put that certificate to good use and head back to Republic. Nice people and a fine program. We hope to see them often again.

THE OLDE CARVER'S NOTES

by the Olde Carver

Rich Valenta hosted the carving group for a few weeks while Dan and Jane were off in warmer places. It gave Rich a good chance to show off his handy work. He has done a lot of work creating a clean shop for carving and painting, a wood working shop, and a quilting center for his wife, Carol, who is a really amazing quilter. Great work, Rich!

Dan, who really hasn't gotten the hang of retirement yet, is still traveling around the country working, so the carvers are meeting a little irregularly. Right now, it looks like they'll carve on the following Wednesdays: March 28, April 4, 11, 18, and 25. It's usually best to call in advance to see what the schedule is. Reach Dan or Jane at 468-0132.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

By Fred Juengst

Ten members are up for renewal in March. Please check your mail label to see if it is marked with a magic marker. The date is the date your membership is up for renewal. Please pay your dues at the March Show or send it by mail at the address below.

Seven memberships are one month overdue. Please pay your dues as soon as possible. Five memberships are overdue by more than two months. We know it's easy to forget to send in your dues, so this is a friendly reminder for **Rick Jadin, Donald and Helen Lund, Doug Nelson, and Bob Quella**. We would really miss you a lot if you don't renew!

For those 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 one individual.

If you get a postcard and want 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. 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, and sometimes irreverent news, observations, and assorted stuff from and about members and their pursuits.
by Dan Alesch***

● St. Bernard's School in Green Bay is looking for one or two people to give one or more mini-classes on woodworking from 1 to 3 on April 24, 25, or 26. Do as many or as few as you want. You could do it there or at your shop if it isn't too far from school. Jane, who doesn't really need another task, said you could call her about it (920-468-0132).

● **Frank Stilp**, Guildie from Neenah, was featured in a very nice article in the *News-Record*, the Neenah-Menasha paper. Frank and Mary Lou have opened the Generations Coffee Shop on North Commercial on the Island. Stop in if you are in the Neenah area.

● One of our members reminds us of John's Sharpening Service. Seems to sharpen almost everything that needs sharpening. Decent-looking prices and local service. 863-6770 or 755-2475.

● **Steve Danielson** (Bay Hardwoods) tells us about a large industrial, 24" planer that may be available. See Steve at the Show.

● The Guild Picnic is scheduled for Sunday, August 12. Mark your calendar!

● Remember Dona Fisher who taught us about Rosemaling? She's teaching at the Sturgeon Bay Senior Center in April and May. The brushes she told us about are sold through the Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum in Decorah, Iowa. Call 563-382-9681 or go to <http://vesterheim.org>.

● The Board appointed a committee to evaluate the Northeastern Wisconsin Technical College as a location for our monthly meetings. The committee includes **Fred Juengst, Steve Lockhart, and Jane Alesch**. They'll work with **Curt Andersen** to assess our options.. If you have some thoughts on the matter, give one of them a call.

● *Our friends at the Woodworkers Depot in Green Bay and at Woodcraft in Appleton helped enormously with door prizes for the Spring Show. They are always doing something for us and we appreciate it enormously. 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."*

● Who was it that gave me a tip on a 3-M Product to use in place of Micromesh? I couldn't find the website to include in *Benchtalk* this time and would like to include it next time.

● Got something to sell? Want to buy something? Know something you want to share with your fellow Guildies? Let me know. You don't have to make it pretty. We'll do that. Just let us know.

● I'm just back from a week of interviewing people in New Orleans, Biloxi, and Gulfport. It doesn't look a lot different from last year at this time. It's going to be a long haul for those folks..