



# BENCH TALK

The Monthly Newsletter of the  
Northeastern Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild

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### Making and Using Router Guide Bushings and Templates

You may recall a meeting some months ago when members brought their favorite jigs and fixtures. Steve Lockhart mesmerized the group with a brief description of router bushings he designed, built, and used to make some exceptional inlays. Steve agreed to do a full program on the subject and this is the month!

A router guide bushing and template can be used in conjunction with an appropriate router bit to make the male and female parts of an inlay. With care and good luck, an excellent result can be achieved.

Steve will go through the step by step process he used to design and build router bushings and templates to inlay a 2 foot long by ½ inch thick oval inlay of spalted maple set into a hard maple table top. This inlay is surrounded by a 1/8 inch wide border of walnut. The process consists of making a female template and using two different router bushings to make the cutouts in the top and inlay. These bushings needed to be custom made to accommodate the 1/8 inch border.

A commercial router bit and bushing set for inlaying is available at Woodcraft. Steve will bring examples of inlaying done using this set and describe the process used.

This will be a very informative program and is likely to spawn a lot of inlay work by Guild members.

The meeting begins at 7:00 P.M. We'll meet in Room 109 Mary Ann Cofrin Hall. The direct route is STILL under construction, but you can reach the parking lot through the Sports Center parking lot or by going 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, call Jane on her cell phone (246-1553).

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### ***SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT THE LIBRARY***

Over the past 25 years, our library has grown from a few items to almost 500 books, tapes, and CDs. As the library has grown, the job of Librarian has become increasingly difficult – keeping track of our holdings, tracking who has checked out or returned which items, and lugging the library to and from meetings ten times a year. It is no small wonder that it has become increasingly difficult over the years to find members

who are willing to take on the job of Librarian. The library is, of course, an extremely important part of the Guild and the Board wants to ensure that it is readily available to all members. Consequently, the future of the library was a primary focus of the most recent Board meeting.

One Guild member who expects to own and operate a coffee and book shop in Green Bay soon offered to house the Library in his shop. That would be convenient for Guildies in the Green Bay area, but not for those who live in other places.

One possibility that was suggested was to have a master librarian and four or five associate librarians. The master librarian would keep the files and the associate librarians would each take care of a part of the library. The library would be divided into a part on turning, a part on carving, and so forth. This proposal did not receive an enthusiastic response.

Another Board member suggested that we pay a member to serve as Librarian. The idea would be to pay someone \$500 a year to serve as librarian. The librarian would maintain computerized records of Guild holdings and of who has which items checked out, bring the items to meetings, cull old items, and buy new ones with funds authorized by the Board for acquisition.

It is an interesting idea and one the Board thought it would bring to the membership for discussion and guidance at the June meeting. Let the Board know what you think.

### ***THE BRAD NAILER RAFFLE IS THIS MONTH!***

The pneumatic brad nailer will be raffled off this month at the June meeting. Tickets are still available for \$1 each. The nailer is valued at more than \$170 and was made available to the Guild at a very special price by our friends at Makita and the Woodworkers Depot.

### ***THE ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS IS THIS MONTH***

In the May *Benchtalk*, the slate of officers proposed for 2007-2008 was listed. The following people have agreed to serve in office if elected: **Lyle Martens** for President. **Ron Dauplaise** for Vice President for Programs. **Lee Carlson** for Treasurer. **Steve Lockhart**, for Secretary. **Dan Hallada** for Vice President for Publicity, and **Dan and Jane Alesch** for editors.

We also have appointed positions. **Mark Brienen** agreed to continue as web-master. **Tom Charlier** will stay on for special projects. **Jane Alesch** will continue to chair the spring show. **Fred Juengst** will remain Membership Chair.

Tim McVey volunteered to serve, too. We are looking forward to having Tim serve as

a Board Member "Trainee", along with others who might be willing to take on that role. If you are interested in participating, talk with one of the current officers.

### ***MAY PROGRAM REVIEW***

*by Ron Dauplaise*

John Hooten, a violin maker from Appleton, presented a description of how to make a violin at our May meeting. John was born in Pennsylvania in 1924. His father was a carpenter and gunsmith; his brother and son are also violin makers. John has been "retired" from the Wisconsin Telephone Co. for 25 years, but spent 13 years repairing violins for Henri's Music Co. He has repaired over 2600 violins! John has built 46 violins, 17 mandolins, 3 guitars, one cello, and a bass fiddle. Since he does not build to sell, he now owns 109 instruments. (Along the way he did sell ONE violin!) He noted that mandolins and guitars give him the most difficulty as they require peg boards with frets, which is extremely exacting work. To create consistency and accuracy, he developed a computer program that provides him the necessary data to place the frets precisely.

The only patterns that he uses are ones that he draws, starting with the outline on newspaper and proceeding from there. When he built his first violins in 1939 and 1940 while he was a teenager, he did not have electricity out in the Pennsylvania countryside where his family lived, so he used only hand tools. He said the only tools he had were a crosscut saw, handsaw, chisels, wooden mallet, files, drawknife, and sandpaper. It took him nine months to build his first four instruments: a ukulele, two mandolins, and a violin. He had some of these instruments on display – they appeared exceptional!

Wood, he noted, is the most critical element of the many elements in an instrument. Woods that he uses are: birdseye maple, purpleheart, myrtlewood, Lake Superior salvaged wood (475 years old), Pennsylvania maple, and wood salvaged from a river bottom near Eau Claire. He wants every instrument to look good, and, obviously, sound good. The bass fiddle that he built was made out of wood that he bought at

Menard's! Violins are best made out of one piece for each the back and the front, but the bass was much too big to build that way. He used nine pieces of the Menard wood and cut them in half, giving him 9 pieces for the front and a set of 9 matching pieces for the back. He then cut them edgewise into pieces 1", 2", and 3" and glued them together.

John never stains the wood; he much prefers the natural colors. The grain, which he so carefully selects, shows much more clearly when not stained. After sanding he seals with one coat of varnish. All parts are glued together with white glue. The finish is three coats of varnish with fine steel wool between coats. Too many coats would adversely affect the tonal quality of the instrument.

He has invented a sophisticated method to measure the resonance of each instrument. John noted that each instrument's surface often has three major resonance frequencies. After measuring these frequencies accurately, he may need to sand either the top or the bottom slightly to change the principal frequencies on that surface so that each piece, the top and the bottom, have differing major frequencies. In this way his final product will have more even tone throughout all frequencies.

John explained each step in the exacting process of violin construction in fine detail, as well as the process of violin bow construction. This program enlightened all in attendance regarding the art and science of violin making.

John, an artist in the truest sense and a very skilled and talented craftsman, explained this process and rationale in detail. If a member is interested, be sure to check out the video.

## ***APRIL MEMBERSHIP UPDATE***

***By Fred Juengst***

Thirteen members have June as their anniversary date – the month they joined the Guild. Please check your mail label to see if it is marked with a magic marker. If so, please pay your dues at the June meeting.

We have eight memberships one month overdue. Thanks to the nine who paid their dues.

Twelve members are more than two

months overdue in paying their dues. We hope you still find the Guild a benefit to you. Please consider remaining a member of the Guild and pay your dues today.

For those more than three months overdue, 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.

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 sometimes make mistakes and want to get them corrected quickly. All members who just paid their dues should check the date on their mail label to be sure it reads 2008 or later.

## **THE CARVERS NOTES**

The carvers continue to cut and hack through the summer – at least on June 6, 13, and 27. The group will make more definitive plans for the rest of the summer on June 13, but they will not meet at Dan and Jane's on June 20.

### **FYI:**

***by Dan Alesch***

- ***PASTOR NEEDS HELP.*** We got this note through the Web-Site. **"I am looking for a woodworker to build a church podium. Could you recommend someone? Home phone: 920-465-0120 Rev Edward McKenzie.** If you think

you could help, please give the Pastor a call.

- Check in with Guild member, **Denise Dauplaise**, to see whether she still needs help with a staircase that was vandalized in a house that Neighbor Works was moving. She can be reached at 391-0391.

- **Ron Dauplaise** offers the following definitions:

**DRILL PRESS:** A tall upright machine useful for suddenly snatching flat metal bar stock out of your hands so that it smacks you in the chest and flings your drink across the room, splattering it against that freshly-stained heirloom piece you were drying.

**ELECTRIC HAND DRILL:** Normally used for spinning pop rivets in their holes until you die of old age.

**BELT SANDER:** An electric sanding tool commonly used to convert minor touch-up jobs into major refinishing jobs.

- Here's an important reminder. Be sure to support those firms that support the Guild in so many way:

**Bay Hardwoods**

**Woodcraft**

**Woodworkers Depot.**