



BENCH TALK

The Monthly Newsletter of the
Northeastern Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild

September 2007 Volume 24, Number 8

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OCTOBER PROGRAM: NEVER TOO EARLY TO START THOSE HOLIDAY PROJECTS

by Ron Dauplaise

Leon Stephenson, retired teacher from Preble High School in Green Bay will present our program at the October 19 Guild meeting. Leon will display and explain the construction of a very special Advent wreath he makes. He modeled this unique piece somewhat after a brass stand in a church catalog, but has clearly "made it his own." He made this wreath for his church, but has made a duplicate for this presentation. It is made of ash and plywood. He will also display and explain some of the jigs he needed to create the wreath.

The wreath itself is special and large – it stands about 6 ft. high. This height was needed so that it could be seen from most parts of the church for it was created. The wreath, 21 inches in diameter, sits at a 30 degree angle atop the stand, again, for broad visibility. Leon designed the candle holders to be adjustable; i.e., as they are used, the holders can be moved up so the flame is always at an appropriate height. The candles are oil burning. Of equal interest are the carrying cases. These special creations entailed a great deal of planning and time to construct. Guildies will certainly appreciate the skill involved in their execution.

This program is scheduled for October in order to allow woodworkers time to construct a wreath for the fast-approaching holiday season. Even though you may not choose to reproduce Leon's outstanding project, you will be able get ideas for one of your own. Don't miss this very special presentation.

As usual, we'll meet at 7 p.m. in Room 109 of Mary Ann Cofrin Hall on the campus of the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. An addition is being built to the Student Union, so close parking is limited – the construction supplies, etc. use up lots of parking places. So, if you need or want to be close, come early. Otherwise, there is plenty of parking in the Sports Center lot. And, last Saturday, the detour behind the Sports Center was still in operation.

THE MEETING IS THIS WEEK FRIDAY!!

BRING THOSE OVERDUE BOOKS!

by Dan Alesch

I've gathered up the items I've had from the Guild library for far too long and plan to bring them to the October meeting. Hope you do the same.

Pete Schuh, our new librarian, is trying hard to make sure that our list of library holdings actually matches our library inventory. To do that,

we must know who actually has what. Besides, getting the books back means that we will all be able to find that special item you are looking for.

THE BOARD AT WORK

by Dan Alesch

In addition to meeting monthly, talking about Guild stuff, and having dessert, the Board actually does some work. Right now, Board

members are working hard with Woodcraft in Appleton to see whether we can bring nationally-known woodworking TV personality David Marks here this coming February. He would present a Friday Guild program and hold several classes over the weekend in Appleton for Guild members. David has a program on the DIY network and that can be seen several times a week. He's very skilled and interesting. We'll keep you up to date as we try to work things out.

THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

At our September meeting, Ron Dauplaise explained his investment in a tropical hardwood plantation in Costa Rica. Although Ron and his wife, Ellen, have invested in 600 teak trees and 100 Cuban mahogany trees with the intent of financial gain, he noted that they would not have done so without the significant ecological aspect of the plantation in which they invested. Tropical American Tree Farms (TATF) is owned by Steve and Sherry Brunner from Ohio. Steve and a partner were considering a real estate development on the Pacific coast of Costa Rica in the 1980's. They discovered that the lumber required for such a venture would have to be imported, because so much rainforest had been clear cut. Shortly after this "discovery," the Brunner's decided to acquire farm land and return as much as possible to its natural state while making money and providing employment for the local population. They bought contiguous farms and planted 51 varieties of tropical hardwoods, harvesting only 14 varieties, while letting the balance continue to grow. They declared their lands as private nature preserves. So far they have acquired 14,000 acres (.1% of the area of Costa Rica), and returned half ---7,000 acres--- to nature. Many environmental organizations throughout the world have recognized their efforts and some birds and animals have now returned to Costa Rica for the first time in decades.

The Brunners planted their first teak trees in 1992 and have now planted over 2,000,000. Tropical hardwoods do not show the marked ring development that trees in the temperate areas, like ours, do. This is because they have no slow-growth time. They grow continuously, and,

therefore, much faster. Teak is one of the fastest growing trees.

Contracts with TATF specify a 25 year maximum, so the most important characteristic of an investor in trees is patience! Teak is thinned at years 7, 10, 13, 17, 21, and, finally, at 25. At year 25, only a few trees remain. These are the very best ones, which are planned to be veneer quality. TATF recently sold one veneer log for \$20,000! The Cuban mahogany trees do not have to be thinned as frequently as the teak as they are a shade-loving species. Also, they have an even higher value. Additionally, the wood is immediately marketable, unlike teak. TATF is selling these trees for the same price as teak.

Ron spent much time discussing worldwide tropical rainforest deforestation and the myriad issues surrounding this depressing situation. Guildies are encouraged to pick up Ron's handout, which includes income projections, from our library and to access the extensive website at www.tatf.com. The 90 minute video of this presentation is also available for check-out.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

By Fred Juengst

Many have asked how many member we have. As of this month, we have 171 individuals, two of which are complementary.

Nine have their dues up for renewal in October. Your *Bench Talk* is marked. Please check your mail label to see if the renewal date is marked with a magic marker. Please pay your dues at the October meeting.

Two memberships are one month overdue and five are more than two months overdue. Thanks to those who already paid your 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, please sign the card and slip it into the mail to let me know you intend not to renew. Please keep your nametag in case you rejoin at a

later date. If you don't respond, I'll drop your name from our active roster, but you will be hounded for any outstanding library books.

If you get a postcard but 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 or bring it to the October meeting.

Some folks have sent in more than the amount required to renew their membership. Individual membership renewal is \$15 for the year. Family membership is \$20 and business membership is \$35 per year. If you pay too much, I add extra months to your renewal date to cover the amount paid. 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

CARVERS NOTES

The good old carvers will meet at Dan and Jane's on Thursday, October 18, Wednesday October 24, Thursday, November 1, and Thursday, November 8. There, that ought to be confusing.

Dan Hemminger brought his Native American face carving to the last meeting. It is truly impressive. Perhaps the best piece any of the carvers in the group has done. Nice work, Dan. Not to be outdone, *Rich Valenta* and *Roger Young* each brought a carving of a fox having treed a pheasant that they completed in a recent class. Very impressive as well! For a small group, this bunch has some remarkably talented people.

FYI:

by *Dan Alesch*

● Jane and I were very fortunate to have spent three weeks in Europe in September and October. We were extremely impressed by the European rail system as well as by outstanding woodwork and sculpture in cathedrals, castles, and museums. Jane took four gigs of photos. As we work through them, we'd like to share some of them with you on the website and in Benchtalk – at least the ones that show things of interest to

woodworkers and carvers.

● The Spring Show is looming. Jane has been in contact with lots of folks. It is beginning to look like the Show will be in the East Town Mall again this year, but the location within the Mall remains up in the air. The owners, of course, want to lease out their big spaces. If we are successful in bringing David Marks here, that will cost the Guild some money and that, presumably, would preclude our spending lots of cash to get another location that we can pin down far in advance. Film at 11. Well, if not, at least we'll keep you up to date as we learn things.

● Yet again, don't forget to give Dale Kozicki a hand with his toys for special tots. It's worth doing.

● We haven't pinned down a date fore the Holiday Party yet, but that will happen sometime within the next two weeks. Watch the November newsletter for the date. *Jane would like a show of hands or some e-mails as to your preferences. We can have it Saturday, December 8, or, for a change, on a Sunday. December 16 is an away game for the Packers (game at noon), so we could start earlier, 5:00 or even 4:30 for us older folks. It's your party. What do you think? Send Jane an e-mail at jalesch@new.rr.com or tell Dan your preference at the October meeting. Jane will be off vacationing again.*

● Next Board meeting will be at Alesch's on either Thursday, October 26 or on Monday, October 29. The Board will caucus and decide which at the October meeting.