



BENCH TALK

The Monthly Newsletter of the
Northeastern Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild

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THIS FRIDAY, MAY 15TH AT UWGB

RON SHEFCHIK DEMONSTRATES MAKING WOODEN BASKETS FROM SCRATCH

This Friday, Ron Shefchik will demonstrate a family tradition: making wooden baskets from scratch. If you saw Ron's work at the Spring Show, you know this will be a particularly interesting presentation. Ron has written a little background on how he got into basket making as a boy:

"As a boy growing up on the farm in the 1940's and 50's I worked with my grandfather Joseph in the art of basket making. Grandpa and I would go into the woods to cut down that special Blackash tree. It would about 10 inches across at the stump and we would cut it 100 inches long. These lengths would be taken to the Blacksmith shop in Pilsen where the blacksmith had a saw rig, and they would be cut into slabs about 11/4" wide. These slabs would then be put in a stock tank of water to stay wet until Grandpa would begin to pound them to separate the strips. Each strip represents one year's growth. As I grew bigger and stronger, I helped with the pounding and stripping. During the 60's, 70's, and 80's, my father and his brother worked at basket weaving. The baskets that are the Shefchik tradition were basically the farmer feed baskets holding approximately what would fit in five apple bushel baskets, and would be used in the barns to carry feed and bedding."

"I began to build baskets in 2003 when I saw a family going on a picnic and two of the children were carrying the picnic supplies in backpack baskets. I started with three sizes of the backpack and then the styles extended to a waste basket, market basket, the large feed baskets, a small version of the feed basket, and a laundry basket."

Where: Room 107 Mary Ann Cofrin Hall, UWGB. When: 7:00 P.M., Friday, May 15, 2009.

SOME CHANGES IN STORE

Greg Puza and **Dan and Jane Alesch** are working together to recreate Benchtalk into a new format. We think you'll like it, but pardon us for the next month or so while we "remodel". Here's a note from Greg:

Dan and Jane are going to be traveling quite a bit in the near future, and I volunteered to help with the editing/production/layout chores for the newsletter. Dan will still be writing and editing his column and articles, but the production (and deadlines) will be handled in Green Bay. There is, or will be, at the end of

this article, an email address on the NEWWWG website for articles and photographs that members would want to have published in the newsletter.

Among other travel destinations, Dan has been invited to speak professionally in Australia. Since Dan is a carver he and Jane will certainly have no problems with all the knives, gouges and mallets in their carry-on luggage ... mainly because the airline will be giving them a complimentary couple of oars and a rubber raft to use to get there. Rowing the 8,000 equatorial ocean miles will insure that they will arrive down-under in the very pink of health. I've also concluded that Dan must be so worried about taking a break as editor, and about communication concerning newsletter deadlines, that he will be taking a carrier-pigeon along to back-up his internet e-mail communication. I only arrived at this completely logical conclusion--concerning his travel communication plan--after overhearing Dan tell Steve that he finally found the pigeon he needed to help with the newsletter...

Before figuring out that internet connectivity must be spotty from a raft, and he must have decided upon a bits-by-bird information transfer scheme, that pigeon comment had me so confused ... ;-)

Here's hoping that all of Dan and Jane's summer voyages will be bon voyages, and that the wide-ends of their (carved) paddles will always be in the water.

Greg Puza, temp.ed.

Please direct any newsletter communication to <editor@newwwg.org> - Thanks, GP

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Tom and Lee Carlson's home, Wednesday, May 20 at 7 PM. The Board will be putting together the slate of candidates for Guild officers. Pay close attention. You may be on the ballot!

A GOOD TURNOUT AND A GOOD TIME AT HERITAGE HILL

Ron Dauplaise arranged for Guild members to display their work and demonstrate their skills at Heritage Hill early this month on a gorgeous Saturday. **Dan Hemminger** reports that the Guild members who participated had an enjoyable time and the crowds were good. Thanks, Ron, for putting this together.

BRIENEN'S BOWL BASICS

Mark Brienen completed our short wood turning series in April by demonstrating how to turn bowls. It was a very interesting and informative presentation. The Guild is getting a little high tech: two cameras were used to capture and show exactly how the work was being done. Mark is a regular turner at the Guild's Spring Shows and did a fine job of explaining techniques, alternatives, the use of various tools, and the elements of safety. He also created and distributed an informative hand-out to those present. Many thanks, Mark, for a job well done. Thanks, too, to **Don Kaster** for his camera work. So high tech!

MAY MEMBERSHIP REPORT

by Fred Juengst

At the Spring Show we signed up five new Guild members and three others joined by mail. At this time, our membership stands at 179. Three additional folks have shown great interest in joining and have been sent application forms. The Spring Show has come through again and attracted new members. Thanks to all who made the Show a great success.

Because the Spring Show always brings in so many new members, we also have an unusually large number of memberships due for renewal, so check this list for your name and, if you are on it,

please get your dues to me as soon as you can:

NOW OVERDUE:

Carlson, Don and Helen; **Charlier**, Tom and Margee; **Cosby**, Philip; **DeBenedetto**, Rick; **DeGroot**, Guy; **Doherty**, Kevin; **Druckery**, Chuck; **Dvorachek**, Ron; **Friday**, Terry; **Fritsch**, Bob; **Gauger**, Travis; **Huempfer**, Gerry; **Kaster**, Don and Diane; **Keegan**, Terry; **Kirmse**, Jesse; **Knaide**, Cal; **Kozlovsky**, Don; **Kronschabel**, Gerry; **Krueger**, Otto; **Kubiak**, Mark; **Lund**, Don; **Murphy**, Paul; **Myslik**, Ron; **Ottum**, Jeff; **Peterman**, Mike; **Pozarski**, Pat; **Puza**, Greg; **Rocque**, Bob; **Ronk**, Greg; **Ross**, Jeff; **Rudie**, Leonard; **Schmidt**, Mike and Katie; **Smith**, Tom and Sue; **Sonnleitner**, Jim; and **Tomac**, Brian.

DUE IN MAY:

Birk, Maureen; **Blanke**, Wayne; **Carroll**, Stem; **Crist**, Mike and Debbie; **Danielson**, Joe; **Dauplaise**, Ron; **Ferguson**, Bob; **Fruzen**, Bob; **Geiken**, Jamie; **Graveen**, Cliff; **Guralski**, Mike; **Haese**, Bill; **Hammen**, John; **Heim**, Lawrence; **Hervas**, Leonard; **McVey**, Tim; **Mezo**, Martha; **Olgren**, Jan; **Oryall**, Cookie; **Osterman**, Al and Steve; **Piontek**, Aaron; **Schuettpelz**, Glen; **Sigmund**, Tom; **Wieske**, Dan.

Those overdue by more than three months will get an attached postcard as a reminder to pay your dues. If you wish to resign, please sign the card and drop it into the mail. If you do not respond, your membership is dropped from the e-mail list and mailing list. If you 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.

Please be sure to keep your receipt if you pay cash. I do make mistakes and if you renew for two or more years, please keep your receipt. I do have good records and can go back to see how the mistake was made and what was paid, but it is time consuming. R-mail me (mdjuengst@aol.com) and I can check to be sure I have the correct due date for you. If you get the paper copy, check your mail label for when your membership expires. For yearly membership renewals, individuals pay \$15, families pay \$20, and businesses pay \$35. New members pay more the first year because they pay for their name tag.

CHIPS, SHAVINGS, and AIRBORNE PARTICLES

By Dan Alesch

- Hey guys, this is not a contest! In December, **Jim Haen** had five by-pass heart surgery. Last week, **Tom Charlier** upped the ante by having six by-pass surgery! Both are doing well, but it is time to stop this continual one-upmanship stuff!
- We have said news from **Lyle Martens**. His and Darlene's older son passed away on April 21. We all send our most sincere condolences.
- On a brighter note, thanks to all of you who took advantage of our special "large lot" purchase program at Bay Hardwoods. It looks like it was a win-win and we need some of those these days.

- As everyone knows, sales are down in most places for most things. Remember, when you buy, to shop first with our friends at **Woodworkers Depot**, **Woodcraft**, and **Bay Hardwoods**. I've been traveling all over the country and learned that we are incredibly fortunate to have the array of locally-owned shops we have. Most towns just don't have those resources. Besides, the big box stores haven't done much for us lately, if ever.
- If you've bought a new tool that you think might be of interest to others in the Guild, or if you have had either a pleasant or not so pleasant experience with a tool or product, let **Don Kaster** or me know. (I'm at dalesch@new.rr.com or 468-0132,) We're planning a program for July in which we'll be providing each other with useful information on things like that.
- I'm happy to report that I haven't heard of any significant woodworking injuries this past month. Keep up the good work (unless you're simply not telling me to avoid being mentioned here).
- **FOR SALE: Mike Crist** (920-632-4626) want to sell his 15 inch Jet planer, 14 foot metal wood rack (four shelves), and an assortment of kiln dried oak, cherry, hard and soft maple, and pine. All for \$1,000. Give him a call.