



June 2009 Volume 26, Number 6

**The Monthly Newsletter of the
Northeastern Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild**

Visit us on the web at www.newwg.org

BENCH TALK

HEY, MOM, WE'RE GOING ON A FIELD TRIP! A JUNE OUTING AT HERITAGE HILL

There is no regular meeting at the University this month. Instead, Guild members will meet Friday, June 26, at Heritage Hill in Green Bay for a guided tour that focuses on old furniture and woodworking. We did this once before, years ago, and everyone who was there found it fascinating. It was fun and interesting to examine old joinery, design, marquetry, and so forth from the days without routers, and the other tools we think are generally indispensable.

Here's how it will work. The Park is offering two guided tours for us. One starts at 5:30 and the other at 7:00. Bring a friend, spouse, or significant other. He or she will enjoy it, too. Your job today is to send an e-mail to Don Kaster, our program person, at dwkaster@usxchange.net to let him know whether you will be there, how many will be in your party, and which tour you would like to take. (Don't send an e-mail to Dan. He has his computer turned off for a couple of weeks, so no one will read it.)

There is an admission fee. It is \$8 for adults and \$7 for persons 62 or older. The plan (at least as of today) is that the Guild will write a check for all the admissions just to simplify the operation. Then, and this is important, the Guild will pass the hat so you can contribute your share or, if you're a little short, whatever you can afford.

Don Kaster is working to arrange for a tram for those who might find the uphill-downhill walking a little difficult. Call him at 920-336-0892 to learn more about the tram.

To learn more about the park, visit its website at www.heritagehillgb.org. The park is located on South Webster Avenue, just north of Highway 172 on the East side overlooking the Fox River. The address is 2640 S Webster Ave, Green Bay. Should you wish more information, call the park at (920) 448-5150 -- Dan Alesch

Where:

Heritage Hill - 2640 S. Webster Avenue

When:

5:30 and 7:00 P.M., Friday, June 26, 2009



Ramblings from your President

by Steve Lockhart

We're supposed to be having normal high temp's in the mid 70's but the predictions are for rainy 60's this coming (as I write this) weekend. Good weather for woodworking. I would rather be enjoying the outdoors but woodworking is a great backup plan. Anyway, I have lots to do. I have a big job to work on for my business (building furniture for disabled people)

With over 50 years of woodworking experience (or was it 5 years experience 10 times) I learned a new trick the other day. I was helping a friend do some kitchen remodeling. The counter guy measured wrong and one section of the counter was ' inch too long so the stove wouldn't fit. The guy took it back to his shop and appeared in a couple of hours with the shortened (formica) counter. The cut end looked very professional so I asked him how he did it. He said he used a 'down cut' blade in his jig saw and then belt sanded it.

Apparently they do make down cut jig saw blades but for my next fussy project I just filed the end of my standard blade so it would fit in the jig saw upside down. It worked like a champ! No chipping on the top of the work.

Now for the Guild stuff".. WE NEED YOU! Elections will be held in July this year. We especially need a volunteer to be Secretary. Our secretary last year, Linda Surowic, is not able to serve again. The secretary's job is pretty easy. Just attend the board meetings and publish meeting notes. It is a great way to start serving on the board and then after getting experience, moving into another position like , maybe, President. -- SL

Board of Directors Meeting

The Board of Directors met for about two hours the evening of May 20th, at Tom and Lee Carlson's house. The recurring theme of the meeting was 'We need you!' It's great to see you at monthly meetings and picnics and parties and at the annual spring show. But there are lots of ways that the Board could use some help (sometimes just a little help goes a long ways, so give some serious thought to these).

First of all, Jane NEEDS help with the annual spring show. She is hoping to form a committee to do all of the work she has been doing all by herself, and so far has one person interested. So find a friend and offer to help so this committee can grow. She is also looking for a place to hold the show next spring. The criteria are 'size, outlets, and lighting.' Suggestions are welcome.

Second, the office of Secretary is still open. The primary responsibility is to attend the Board

meetings, take minutes, and distribute them to other members of the Board.

Dan and Jane are trying to get out of the 'newsletter business.' Dan is working with Greg Puza to take over editing and formatting. They are researching ways to get it printed and mailed for those who do not use email. Can you help?

Most monthly meetings have a program. Do you have a talent or skill that you could share? Do you know someone who could do a program? Talk to Don Kaster or Steve Lockhart.

Two really easy ways to help out: (1) if you use email, make sure to notify the editor when you change your address, and (2) when it is time to renew, do so promptly so the person in charge of membership (Fred Juengst) doesn't have to keep reminding you.

Other things discussed were the current financial situation, topics for future meetings, and a new concept to make members unable to attend meetings because of age and/or health reasons 'members emeritus' and send them newsletters. All of you are welcome to submit suggestions for names to consider.

The rewards for attending Board meetings are many: (1) developing friendships, (2) visiting others' workshops, (3) feeling of usefulness, (4) dessert. Any guild member is welcome to attend any Board meeting. -- SL

Membership Report

by Fred Juengst

At our Guild Board meeting, we discussed how to notify our members that their membership has expired and they are about to be dropped. The problem became more complex when so many members are receiving Bench Talk by e-mail. The editor had to send cards to these people, call them, or use other means to notify them. It takes time and if e-mail addresses don't work any more only the editor knew. I volunteered to help.

We all agreed that I will send a notice to all members about to be dropped from membership regardless of how they receive Bench Talk. A letter with a post card inside means your dues should have been paid at least 3 months ago. If you do not respond, you are dropped from the list of members I prepare at the end of each month. After the editor has sent out the newsletter, I will get a list of the e-mail only and mail only newsletters so I can update my records.

You can help me keep the membership list up to date by letting me know by e-mail or regular mail of any address changes, or e-mail changes. My e-mail address is mdjuengst@aol.com. My mail address is 846 Cornelius Dr., Green Bay, WI. I hope this solves some of the problems we have and relieves the editors from extra work. -- FJ

CHIPS, FLAKES, SAWDUST, AND AIRBORNE PARTICLES

by Dan Alesch

* Latest health reports. Hmmm. Jim Haen is doing much better following his heart surgery and expects to go back to work soon. Bob Decker is having a few health problems lately, but we're hoping he will be back to carving and bicycling soon. Tom Charlier reports he is much better after the six-bypass surgery. I broke a rib last Friday. I either slipped getting out from a small boat or it happened in a bar room brawl. The whole thing is a little fuzzy.

* There is an 'Art vs. Craft' show from 10 to 6 September 26 in Green Bay's Broadway district. It is a first time deal and will include 100 do-it-yourself artists and crafters. It is a juried event. If you think you might be interested, the application deadline is June 19. More information is available at info@newartscouncil.org. Lots of Guild members are very talented, so this is a chance to show off your talents and earn a few bucks.

* I've been cleaning and rearranging my shop. It is a seriously painful, yet satisfying task. I like the way it is working out. Maybe now I can get some work done down there.

* It's graduation time. Do you remember graduation? It seems like a long, long time ago. It might be a good idea to give a handmade wooden gift to your favorite grad.

* It's also fishing time. That being said, I think I will bind up my rib cage and see whether I can find some crappies. -- DA

CLIFF ALLEN PASSES

Our good friend, long-time Guild member, and extraordinary wood turner died in his sleep on Wednesday, June 3. Cliff was one of the really good guys. He always had a smile and a good word for everyone. He was unassuming, happy to share his knowledge of turning and tool making, and the kind of person you miss and remember fondly all your life. His obituary is expected in the Appleton Post-Crescent, probably on Friday. -- DA

May meeting main presentation

by Don Kaster

(your 'fish out of water' program director)



The In and Out of Basket Weaving

At our May meeting Ron Shefchick presented his skill at the art of weaving Adirondack style blackash baskets. The baskets that Ron makes are similar to those used by early explorers and travelers. He has made his own version of these early baskets by adding wooden dowels in the corners and attaching plywood bottoms to make them sturdier so they last longer, and a unique method of adjusting the shoulder straps. Ron was fortunate enough to have a grandfather who took the time to teach him this useful skill. His presentation included stories about his family's three-generations of basket weaving.

The Woodworker's Guild and I would like to thank Ron for his fine and interesting presentation. -- DK

and ...

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia:

Fraxinus nigra (Black Ash) "... Black ash is unique among all trees in North America in that it does not have fibers connecting the growth rings to each other. This has a wonderful implication for basket makers. Temperate trees form annual growth rings of two types of wood. Spring wood is rapidly laid down early in the growing season and is weak. Summer wood is laid down slowly in the summer and fall, and is much darker and tougher. By literally pounding on the wood with a mallet, the spring wood is crushed, allowing the summer wood to be peeled off in long strips. The absence of the connecting fibers is what allows the summer wood strips to separate. It is these long strips that are trimmed and cleaned and then used in basket weaving."

(http://en.wikipedia.com/wiki/Fraxinus_nigra)

SHOWCASE CABINET DESIGN - PART 2

by Fred Juengst

We left the saga of designing and building a showcase cabinet in the February 2009 issue of Bench Talk with a finished lower cabinet and a pile of thickness planed wood cut to rough length and width. After building and finishing the base cabinet, I expected to be so excited I would rush to build the upper, showcase. That did not happen. The excitement evaporated because I could not decide how to build the large glass door, where to locate the puck lights, and how to hold the glass in place. I needed solutions to finish the job.

At the 2008 Guild Show, I asked Lyle Martens about how he held the glass in place in his large display cabinet. He used clips to do it. Clips have the problem of visibility and with the side panels I felt they would be too visible. I did see a number of other methods to hold the glass in place but no decision was made and the prepared wood continued to sit piled up in my shop waiting.

In January 2009, I broke an outside Pella window knocking down a huge icicle by my front door that built up over the holidays. I called a repair shop and the guy asked how old the windows were. I told him and he refused the job because the windows of that vintage did not have removable moldings. I called Pella and they suggested Packerland Glass Products could do the job and gave me the name of the person to contact. Yes indeed they could do the job.

I talked to the repair guy as he finished up the job and was impressed with his skill and the great looking job he completed. He showed me a few of the special tools he used to work with glass. As I was thinking about glass, I wondered if a glass door without a frame would be feasible for my cabinet. I looked in my recent Rockler Catalog to see if they had hardware for an all glass door as large as I needed. Yes, they did sell the hardware and they described how to calculate the weight of the door. The hardware would hold a 28 lb glass door and mine would only be about 18 lbs.

I was so impressed with the Packerland Glass Products window repair; I called them and asked if they cut strange shaped glass for customers. Yes, they do this all the time. I visited the shop on 2042 Holmgren Way and showed Wendy Blohowiak my scale model of the upper cabinet to get a quote for the glass. Wendy suggested I make a pattern of the shape of the glass shelves and they would make it exactly like the pattern. I asked if they had any hardware for glass doors. Yes, they had hinges

but rather than a knob to open the glass door, she suggested I use a magnetic catch to hold the door closed. To open the door, you just push the door in a little and the door will pop open. I bought this hardware. Wendy said she had an instruction sheet for ordering the glass for this hardware set and she made me a copy.

Now I was excited about finishing the showcase project. I had the door hardware in hand, and a supplier of the glass I needed, and all at a reasonable price. By not having to build a door frame, the display area would now be larger and the door problem was solved. My pile of wood would need to wait no longer to become a beautiful cabinet. -- FJ

[Part 3 to follow with a photograph if the cabinet-ed.]

Northeastern Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild



Guild Officers

President, Steve Lockhart

V P, Programs, Don Kaster

V P, Publicity, Tim McVey

Treasurer, Lee Carlson

Secretary, Linda Surowiec

Member at Large, Lyle Martens

Librarian, Pete Schuh

Editors, Dan and Jane Alesch, Greg Puza

Membership, Fred Juengst

Special Events, Tom Charlier

Web Site, Mark Brien

Spring Show, Jane Alesch

Regular Meetings are usually held the third Friday of each month at 7:00 P.M.

**Room 109 Mary Ann Cofrin Hall,
University of Wisconsin-Green Bay
West of the Phoenix Sports Center.**

For membership information, contact:

Fred Juengst, 846 Cornelius Drive, Green Bay, WI 54311 or visit our web site: www.newwg.org.