



October 2009 Volume 26, Number 10
The Monthly Newsletter of the
Northeastern Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild

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BENCH TALK

Brewed Indigo

Presented by Patrick Pozarski

A Program We're Dyeing to See, or: Verde, Verde, Verde!

The description of our October presentation by Patrick follows in his own words:

"In the presentation this Friday I intend to cover some of the different finishing techniques we employ in the woodworking industry to control color and achieve consistent, predictable results. This includes the use of step and control samples as well as the utilization of numerous different wood treatments such as wash coats, dyes, glazes, etc..

"I will be showing several samples that were produced for submittal to architects, designers and clients, as well as sharing some pictures of finished projects.

"I also will share a piece that I finished using some of the techniques that produce the deep blue and green finishes so many people seem to notice." _PP

Where:

Room 107 - Mary Ann Cofrin Hall, UWGB

When:

7pm-9pm, October 16, 2009



Show'ed and Tell'ed ...

by Dan Kaster, Program Director

The September meeting was our annual members show and tell, where all Guild members are encouraged to show their work and tell us how they did the tricky bits of invention. Guild president Steve Lockhart told about the construction of a challenging project and a saw jig he used to help build it. Photos and a brief article follow. Rob Martens showed slides of a work-in-progress extremely complex and beautiful cabinet, and may be back in the spring to give a more detailed presentation on its construction. But it was Chris Rowland, of Woodcraft in Appleton, who gave much of his time to presenting a new jig from the Kreg company, and further presented in some detail the technical points of circular saw blade construction, and the proper choices to match the blade to the task.

The new Kreg jig addition is designed for thinner material, and so uses a smaller drill-bit and produces a shallower pocket. This should prove to be quite popular in drawer and small-box construction.

The saw blade portion of his presentation was a last minute request by members and Chris demonstrated his depth of knowledge, and powers to recall, in an off-the-cuff situation.

Several members passed exemplary bowls and carvings around for examination by the audience. Unfortunately, all their names were not recorded so we thank you all as a group for your participation, and will print a proper list to thank you by name in the next Benchtalk. There will be a sign-up sheet at the October meeting. Overall it was a quite successful meeting. _DK, _SL, _ed.

Ramblings from the President

by Steve Lockhart, President

As many of you know, I do wood boat restoration as part of my woodworking hobby. So when my wife and I drove to upstate New York to visit her family in late Sept. I couldn't resist stopping at Gravenhurst, Ontario to see their wood boat museum and (not coincidentally) there was a wood boat show going on there as well.

I like to look at the restored wood boats for inspiration to try to do better next time I work on a boat. The guide at the museum explained that the fitting of planks on the exquisite Greavette mahogany boat on display was done by master carpenters. Master indeed. The boat was built in 1952. No CNC routers then. The planks didn't have a gap big enough to fit a sheet of paper. anywhere. The surface finish would compare favorably to the dash on a Rolls Royce. It gave me courage to tackle a much less challenging boat and the ambition to try to achieve a finish the next step up. _SL



Necessity is the Mother of Invention!

by Steve Lockhart

About a year ago I agreed to build a replica fire truck for a child who is disabled. The project had a deadline of July 22, 2009. It was to be life sized with a changing table on the back. And there were a few key parts donated from Pierce Mfg. which were factory seconds for real fire trucks. While planning the project I realized that to cut the panels for the truck which is made of 1/2 inch MDF (medium density fiberboard) I would need an accurate way to cut the large panels. Rather than purchase a Festool or Dewalt [or Makita -ed.] track saw (\$500 to \$700 plus) I decided to build my own saw based on the same principles.

I built 'tracks' from masonite and a 3/4" by 4" piece of white ash. (One track 4' 6" long and another 8' 6" long. I also purchased an inexpensive circular saw (\$23 from Harbor Freight, including carbide tip blade) to use as a dedicated tool. I installed the female part of the track on the saw and the male on the white ash.

A key part of the system is a 1/2" thick 4' x 8' foam board. I lay the board on my garage floor instead of my former method of scattering 2x4 scraps around. The foam board works much better as a backing for cutting. My results aren't quite table saw quality but they are better than holding the saw against a guide board (or following a line) _SL



CHIPS, SHAVINGS, SAWDUST, BROKEN ROUTER BITS, AND OTHER STUFF

by Dan Alesch

Tom Charlier seems to be recovering nicely from his triple threat: heart surgery, gall bladder surgery, and stroke. He's back at home now after a shorter than expected stay at St. Vincent Hospital in Green Bay. I've suggested to him that there are other ways to get his name into Benchtalk. In any event, we all wish him well.

If you have information on anyone under the weather, let us know so we can pass on the word.

Wood Toxicity

Last week, Jane was reading a new Fox-Chapel publication entitled Hand Carve Holiday Gifts when she noticed a chart on wood toxicity. We thought you would be interested in a couple of items in that chart.

I have always had trouble with red oak dust. Now I know why. Red oak dust is a serious nasal irritant for some of us. It is not as dangerous as willow and sassafras dust, both of which are linked to nasal cancer. Wood dusts that commonly have serious adverse effects on nasal passages, eyes, and skin come from red cedar, Cocobola, Ebony, Greenheart, Padauk, Rosewood, Teak, and Black Walnut.

The lesson is clear. Wear masks or respiratory systems, eye protection, use dust collectors, and, when working with those woods, don't tramp though the house with the dust on your shoes and clothing. Wash your hands before grabbing into the chip or popcorn bowl. New lungs are pricey.

Got Any Suggestions for the Library?

Pete Schuh, our librarian, is on the lookout for good additions to the Guild's Library. If there is a book or CD you think ought to be in the library, let him or another Board member know. Chances are we can afford to get it, and your chances of being first in line for it are very good.

Christmas Giving

As you know, this is a particularly tough year, with one of every ten unemployed. I'm sure that means a sparse Christmas for lots of families in our area. This would be a good time to make a wooden gift or two for those who are less fortunate than we are. Bring them to a meeting, to the Christmas Party, or just drop them off at Dan and Jane's. We'll see they get to the right places. _DA

Treasurer's report

by Lee Carlson

Here's the short version of the treasurer's report:

Current assets: \$ 9,850.12

Assets this date last year: \$ 8,824.29

Board Minutes

by Lyle Martens

Northeastern Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild Meeting of the Board of Directors September, 23, 2009

Present: Steve Lockhart, Lyle Martens, Dan Alesch, Jane Alesch, Don Kaster, Mark Brienen, Fred Juengst

Absent: Tom Charlier, Greg Puza, Tim McVey, Peter Schuh, Tom Carlson, Lee Carlson

Minutes of Last Meeting: Dan A moved, 2nd Mark Brienen

Treasure's Report: [se page 4]

Membership Report: [see page 4]

ATTENTION

Public Relations: Tim McVey absent. It was noted that because of personal considerations someone may be needed in his place. A notice will be placed in the Newsletter for interest in the position by club members. There was discussion about placing a notice of Guild meetings in the local press.

Program Review: Don K asked about critique of the September meeting. All thought it was okay but future considerations should include a time requirement for vendors and regular program presenters. Woodworkers Depot asked if they could make a presentation on Festool, and Don will check into it. The October meeting will be presented by Pat Pozarski on Dyes. November will be on Sketch-up and Don will ask Bob Wellhouse to make presentation. There was some discussion on how complex the presentation should be. Club members should be given information/demonstration on how it could help in the design of projects. December will be the Christmas Party at the UWGB ecumenical center.

In January Nancy Hardtke will present on Caning. Suggestions for future meetings are "Going Green" with Forest Products Lab, Precision Grinding.

Special Activities: Dan A indicated that Woodcraft is interested in working with us again for a spring workshop. A suggested presenter is Mr. Coffman an expert on use of hand tools. Dan will do more checking with Woodcraft.

Web Report: Mark B indicated he will bring our web site up-to-date.

Spring Show: Jane A is still working on details etc.. Coverage and advertising of the show, Jane A will check on woodworking magazines, Steve L will do Craig List, Dan A will do Wisconsin Trails, Lyle M will do TV. In addition Lyle M will check with woodworking teachers on possible high school project contest. More assignments later.

Next Board Meeting: October 21 at Fred J's.

October Membership Report

by Fred Juengst

We want to welcome our two new members this month. They are Bob Yancy and Tina O'Connor. Both have a special interest in carving.

We now have a total of 163 members, down from the high of about 190 or so. We normally have between 150 and 170 members so we are back to our normal level.

Of the 18 members we sent postcards to last month, eight did not respond and were dropped. If you were dropped by mistake, please let me know so I can correct the mistake. Please remember you can rejoin at any time by paying your dues so don't throw away your name tag. This month only three postcards will be sent out. I am pleased so many receiving post cards have paid and were happy with the reminder. Please do not hesitate to call me at 920-469-1919 or send me an e-mail at mdjuengst@aol.com. I really prefer to not remove your name if I don't have to.

Almost every month, our editor receives a number of returned e-mails. If you receive your copy of Bench Talk by regular mail instead of by e-mail as you expected, please send me an e-mail with your name and your correct e-mail address. I will make the changes to the master membership list and you will get your Bench Talk by e-mail. If you have not yet received your name tag, please see me at the September 18 meeting. _FJ

Spring Show in March 27 and 28

by Jane Alesch

Southwest High School, Green Bay Mark your calendar now. Plan to participate. Do you know whether you will donate a raffle prize? If so, let me know what it will be. I need to print tickets and need that information. Any thoughts on what we should buy for a tool? You can reach me easily. Jane at jbalesch@att.net or at 920-468-0132. _JA

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If you have any bills you can e-mail them to me. Please include: Name, what it was for (picnic, newsletter, etc.), total (if your bill is for more than one item, please itemize and total each one, then add them together for a grand total). You can also just mail the bills) to me but please include the above information. I will send you a check in the mail.



Northeastern Wisconsin Wood Workers 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

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING PROGRAMS

November 20 Friday: Bob Wellhouse, SketchUp

December 12, Saturday: Christmas Party

January 15, 2010 Friday: Nancy Hardtke, Caning

February 19, 2010 Friday: Rob Martens' Cabinet

For membership information, contact:

Fred Juengst, 846 Cornelius Drive

Green Bay, WI 54311, or visit our web site:

<http://www.newwg.org>.



Last Days of Summer August 2009

The picnic shot that was

(... a bit too late for the last Benchtalk)

Photograph by Kathy Beyer, courtesy of Robert Platten