



# Bench Talk

The monthly newsletter for The Northeast Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild

Volume 27 Issue 6

June 2010

### *Points of Interest:*

- June Election
- Member of the Month
- Upcoming events

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## **The President's Corner**

**By Steve Lockhart**

I have always enjoyed going to Bay Ridge Building Supply. I usually come home with more than I went for because they have so many unusual kinds of plywood / mdf board. Now that we had our program by Damian of Bay Ridge I hope more of the members will share a great resource.

My best "find" at Bay Ridge was 1/4 inch African mahogany veneer plywood. I bought several sheets and they worked perfectly for restoring the deck of my wood boat.

Another find there was 1/4 inch mdf board with ribbon grain mahogany veneer. I used this for a bench for a customer. Stain and gloss varnish made this look gorgeous. I have an-

other sheet of this waiting for a bright idea to build something special.

Hopefully something in my presentation this month will be the inspiration for some member(s) to build something special!

Steve

## **June Election: Slate of Officers**

June elections are here. The slate of officers include:

- **President:** Steve Lockhart
- **V-P Programs:** Robert Martens
- **Secretary:** Bob Welhouse
- **Treasurer:** Lee Carlson
- **Librarian:** Peter Schuh

- **Special Activities:** Dan Alesch
- **Guild Show:** Jane Alesch
- **Public Relations:** Lyle Martens
- **Newsletter Editor:** Paula Martens
- **Web Reporter:** Mark Brien

*Note:* Write-in nominations / votes are also an option.

## Board of Directors Meeting

### Meeting held: May 26, 2010

- **Present:** Steve Lockhart, Lyle Martens, Tom Carlson Lee, Carlson Fred Juengst, Peter Schuh, Paula Martens
- **Absent:** Mark Brienens, Tom Charlier, Dan Alesch, Jane Alesch
- **Meeting Call to Order:** Steve L.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Current assets are \$8,333.41 compared to last year's \$10,067.08. The report included the cost of the Rob Cosman program co-sponsored by Wood Craft of Appleton. A contributing factor to the current reduced assets is the Cosman program. It should be noted the Cosman program was well accepted and part of the Guild education program. Tom C reported the raffle continues to be a well accepted part of Guild meetings and is a 'break-even' event.
- **Membership Report:** Fred J. indicated there is one new member and a couple members have been dropped. Fred is currently working to bring the membership report up-to-date.
- **Programs:** April's program presented by Bay Plywood was educational and well accepted. Handouts included a flyer that gives Guild members a 5% discount on purchase. For details on upcoming programs, refer to the "Upcoming Events" section of this newsletter.
- **Editor's Report:** Paula M (new Guild newsletter editor) reported that the first letter went well. Paula started a new feature on presenting a member of the month. She also suggested a new program of interest called the 2x4 challenge. More on this later.
- **Special Activities:** No report.
- **Librarian Report:** Peter S. indicated that 2 new books were added on wood inlay.
- **Web Report:** No report.
- **Spring Show:** No report, but members are reminded that the show will be on March 26 and 27, 2011.
- **Special Activities:** The Christmas party will be held on December 11 on the UWGB campus.
- **Other Business:** Steve L. presented the slate of officers for next year. (Outlined on Page 1)
- **Next Board Meeting:** June 23rd at Tom and Lee Carlson's.

## Member of the Month: Milton Schmit

### By Paula Martens

1. What is your specialty in woodworking? Woodturning
2. How many years have you been woodworking? Woodturning for about 8 years, but I've dabbled in other areas all my life.
3. What is your favorite wood to use and why? Kingwood, because of the great finished effect.
4. What project do you take the most pride in? Being published in "Woodturning Design" magazine last year.
5. What is the best deal you have ever gotten on a woodworking tool? None that stand out.
6. Do you have any tips you can give us? Enjoy what you do.
7. Do you have any mentors? The members of the Northeastern Wood Turners who critique each others work at every meeting.
8. What does membership in the Guild mean to you? Fellowship.

*"Enjoy what you do"*

## Upcoming Events

Upcoming Guild meetings and events include:

### Guild Meetings:

- **June 2010**— Steve Lockhart to discuss the techniques used to build the inlay table which was on display at the March show.
- **July 2010**—Pat Pozarski will present furniture repair.
- **August 2010**—Guild picnic to be held August 22nd at DeBroux Park, Bellevue.
- **September 2010**—To be determined.
- **October 2010**—Tom Smith will present veneering.
- **December 11, 2010:** Guild Christmas Party

## Improved Safety/Cutting on the Table Saw

By Lyle Martens

I receive numerous questions about table saw and band saw operations, especially the cutting of veneer. Let me address the table saw in this review. You can improve your table saw safety and cutting by making your own throat plate inserts.

I am sure that your table saw came with at least two throat plate inserts, one for regular cross and rip saw cutting and the other for cutting dados. My recommendation is to replace both those inserts with zero tolerance insert plates. Replacing those inserts that came with your table saw will improve your cutting and operational safety. Replacement will also allow you to make precision and smooth veneer.

Using zero tolerance inserts makes cutting veneer on the table saw safe and easy.

Make your own inserts. You do not need to purchase expensive inserts which can cost \$20 to \$30 each. Purchase enough Baltic Birch plywood to make several inserts. Baltic Birch is stable and strong so it makes an excellent choice. Most table saws have inserts that are slightly more than 1/2" thick, so purchase that thickness unless your saw takes a different thickness. In addition to the plywood,

purchase a number of 1/8" or 3/16" socket screws for insert plate leveling adjustment. Purchase enough plywood to make several inserts. By making several inserts you will have blanks for a number of different width of cuts.

*Continued on Page 4*

## Photos Needed

By Paula Martens

Last months edition of BenchTalk included a section with photos taken at the March Guild show. Some guild members commented they liked seeing the photos and would like to see more.

If you are working on a special project, or have a completed project that you take particular pride in, we'd love to see it.

If you would like to share with us a photo of one of your projects, please e-mail the photos to me at [RobertPaulaMart@centurytel.net](mailto:RobertPaulaMart@centurytel.net). As space allows, I will include them in a "Photo Gallery" section.

## Need a Sharp Edge?

By Paula Martens

When you come across an item that works really well you feel the need to tell everyone you know about it, right?

This is what happened when my father-in-law, Lyle Martens, heard about "Speedy Sharp" - a carbide edge sharpener. To give it a try, he ordered one for himself (and one for me). With typical skepticism, we all tried it. However, after sharpening the first knife, we found that

it surpassed our "Wow" factor.....and then some.

The carbide edge Speedy Sharp sharpener is made in the U.S.A. According to the "www.speedysharp.net" website, it sharpens knives, scissors, chisels, router bits, planer blades, hatchets, fish hooks etc. If you're willing to give it a try, it could be the best ten bucks you ever spent.

## Improved Safety/Cutting on the Table Saw, *continued from Page 3*

By Lyle Martens

To make the inserts, use the insert that came with the table saw for a pattern including the leveling and locking of the insert in the throat of the table saw. Once the blank inserts are made and fit the throat opening, you are ready to make your zero insert plate on the table saw.

Follow these steps in preparing your insert for cutting.

1. Roll your circle saw blade all the way down below the table saw surface.
2. Slide your rip fence over the blank insert but not where it will interfere with the saw blade.
3. Turn on the saw and slowly raise the blade bringing the saw through the insert.
4. I recommend that the blade be raised about 1" to 1 1/2" above the insert as this will allow for safety in cutting for most stock.

5. Use this same process for making inserts for dado or wider saw cuts.

Using zero tolerance inserts makes cutting veneer on the table saw safe and easy. Use a good combination saw blade with 60 to 80 teeth. My recommendation is to cut veneers between the saw and the fence. (This is somewhat controversial among some woodworkers). Using this technique will result in smooth and very accurate veneer. To make sure that there are no resulting saw marks, use a push piece of lumber and try to make a continuous cut without stopping and starting the cut.

In the next newsletter I will discuss proper set-up for the band saw. In the meantime good luck with your table saw .

## Membership Report

By Fred Juengst

We had one person join our Guild this past month. Unfortunately, 5 individuals were dropped from the active roster leaving us a total of 175 members. The dropped members were sent a reminder card and did not respond. One resigned. I realize that some members may have been away or misplaced the reminder of membership renewal. If that happened to you, simply return the postcard **unmarked** with your check and you will be back on the active membership list with all its privileges.

One dues reminder card was sent this month. If you do not intend to renew, please place your name on the postcard and drop it in the mail. This way I know your intention is to resign. Please do not feel

you have to explain why you choose not to continue being a member. If you choose to send in your dues, **do not** mark the postcard in any way. Just slip the postcard and your check in an envelope and send it back to me at 846 Cornelius Drive, Green Bay, WI 54311.

If you fail to receive your Bench Talk by e-mail and you normally do, let me know so we can correct your e-mail address. If you have any questions, or don't get your Bench Talk, notify me by sending me an e-mail at mdjuengst@aol.com or call me at 920-469-1919. I will do my best to correct any mistakes or answer your membership questions. If your home or e-mail address changes, please e-mail or call and I can enter the change on my master membership list.

## Sparking Creativity

By Paula Martens

What do you think you could make if you were limited to just one 2x4 board? That's right...just one 2"x4"x8' piece of board. The possibilities are limited only by your imagination. The guild is sponsoring a 2x4 challenge to have a little fun and see how creative our members can be.

**General Rules:** Only one 2"x4"x8' board can be used. Guild members purchase their own board.

**Specific Rules:** To be determined.

Participants will bring their completed entry to the September guild meeting. Meeting attendees will vote for a winner who will be awarded a prize.

If you wish to participate, please notify Paula so a list of participants can be created. (Call 920-845-9395 or e-mail RobertPaulaMart@centurytel.net). Once a list of participants is compiled, the final rules for this challenge will be provided to all participating in the challenge.

## Photo Gallery

You've heard the sayings before:  
 "A picture is worth a thousand words."  
 "You have to see it, to believe it".

Even though there's room to spare,  
 My photo gallery is a little bare.  
 Grab your camera,  
 Snap a picture or two,  
 Nothing fancy, nothing extraordinaire,  
 Just a simple picture of projects that you can  
 share.



Andrew Detloff and Lyle Martens, Guild show

## In celebration of the day...

By Paula Martens

While woodworking is a skill that is honed over many years, there also lies the 'luck of the draw' which I call *inherited talent*. I believe, to a certain degree, that the ability to create is a gift of inborn talent... either you have it or you don't. With Father's Day upon us, I can't help but wonder:

- How many guild members learned the craft from their father?
- How many fathers in the Guild have passed their woodworking craft on to the next generation.

- As a child, do you recall watching your father create something special. Was it a toy? Was it a piece of furniture for your bedroom?
- As a father, do you have a son or daughter who has been inspired by you and who also enjoys the craft?

To the father's out there.... Whether it's in a lawn chair or inviting the kids into the shop to "talk shop", Happy Father's Day and enjoy your day.

## Did you know...

By Paula Martens

Ever curious what the inspiration was behind a tool? Or behind a company? A review of the Kreg Tool Company website ([www.kregtool.com](http://www.kregtool.com)) provides the history behind Kreg Tools.

In 1986, Craig Sommerfeld (a tool & die maker by trade) needed to find a way to attach doweled face frames to his kitchen cabinet carcass members. He designed and built his own "Craig's Jig" - a single-hole pocket hole jig to attach the face frames from inside the cabinet. Encouraged by

friends, he built a few more and took them to some woodworking shows where interest in his jigs grew. He kept building more and more jigs during his free time, then promoted them weekends at woodworking shows. After thousands of demonstrations, the Kreg Tool Company was formed becoming a leader in Pocket Hole Technology.

In 2003, Kreg diversified and added products named 'Precision Measuring Tools'.

## NORTHEAST WISCONSIN WOODWORKERS GUILD

**When:** Every 3rd Friday of the month, unless specified otherwise.

**Time:** 7:00 p.m. Room 107

**Where:** Maryann Cofrin Hall, UW-Green Bay



Visit us on the web at:  
[www.newwg.org](http://www.newwg.org)

### **Guild Officers**

President, Steve Lockhart

Vice President Programs, Don Kaster

Vice President, Publicity, Tim McVey

Treasurer, Lee Carlson

Secretary, Lyle Martens

Member at Large, Lyle Martens

### **Committee Chairpersons & Project Coordinators**

Librarian, Pete Schuh

Membership, Fred Juengst

Special Events, Tom Charlier

Spring Show, Jane Alesch

Web Site, Mark Brien

Newsletter, Paula Martens

**Reminder- Overdue Library Materials:** There are many books and video material past due. Please return any overdue items you may have at the next Guild meeting.

## **Next Guild Meeting: Friday - June 18, 2010**

**Topic: Steve Lockhart's Inlay Table**

Guild President Steve Lockhart will present methods used to design and construct an 8 foot diameter dining table

### **Design:**

- The process used to work with the customer to arrive at the final design of the inlay pattern.
- How to build a structure which would maintain a flat surface and meet needs of the construction process.
- How to obtain desired pattern: Should you use veneer, inlay, or solid construction.

### **Construction:**

- Adhesives: Unique adhesives used for bonding the inlays to the surface and bonding the layers of the torsion box.
- Precision of patterns: master patterns were created to allow cutting of the segments of the

inlays on a router table.

- Finish: Use of epoxy to fill the open grain of oak for uniformity with close grain of cherry and walnut.



Inlay Table by Steve Lockhart