



# BENCH TALK

## The Monthly Newsletter of the Northeastern Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild

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**THE REGULAR GUILD MEETING IS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20<sup>TH</sup>**

## **CHOOSING BLADES FOR TABLE AND MITER SAWS**

*by Dan Alesch*

I find that, when picking a blade for my compound sliding miter saw or table saw, I often stand in front of the dozens of choices hanging on the wall before me, almost dumbfounded at the array, wondering which to select. Which blade works better for what purpose? Why should I care about “rake”? Why are some blades “aggressive” and others, apparently, more timid? How can I tell which blades are going to chip the veneer I just put on and which will cut a clean, crisp line? Frankly, I don’t know a lot about circular saw blades. To do the kind of job I want to do on my projects, I really ought to know a lot more.

Enter Pat Relich. Pat is an industrial engineering grad from Platteville. He is a hobbyist wood worker who enjoys making cabinets and furniture. I met him at Woodworkers Depot when I was, indeed, standing dumbfounded before a wall of blades, wondering what I should buy for my miter saw. When Pat, who sells power tools and the like at the Depot, helped me out, it didn’t take long for me to figure out that others may be in same boat I am and that it would be a good idea for Pat to put on a program for the Guild. He said he would and he’ll be with us February 20.

Pat is knowledgeable and hands-on. As a genuine wood worker, he is one of us and understands the kinds of problems we face in the shop. Here’s a chance to learn about blades and how to choose the right ones for you and your shop. See you there.

As always, we’ll be in Mary Ann Cofrin Hall, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, Room 111 at 7 in the evening. Don’t forget to return your library books and to take out new ones.

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## **THE SPRING SHOW IS OUR ONLY MARCH MEETING**

*by Jane Alesch*

**The Guild’s 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Spring Show will be held at Washington Commons in Downtown Green Bay Saturday, March 13 and Sunday, March 14. Set up is Friday, March 12.**

Here is a refresher on why we have this 22-year tradition. First, we hold the Spring Show because it lets us demonstrate the pleasure we get from woodworking by showing our projects and demonstrating our skills. Besides, we attract new members to replace those who move on. Third, we hold a raffle to finance our library, speakers, and other activities. Without the

raffle, your dues would double or triple. Annual dues barely cover the costs of preparing and mailing the newsletters.

If you choose to do so, you can sell products at the show that you have made or you can take orders to help finance your wood habit. It is your obligation to meet all requirements for licensing, sales taxes, and so forth.

Lastly, we have a good time and get to know one another better.

Three things are enclosed with your *Benchtalk*:

**1. Four pages of raffle tickets.** Each page equals a \$5.00 book of six (or \$1.00 each). Give the part of the ticket with the show information on it to the buyer and encourage them to come. Return the stub and the money to February meeting, the Show, or mail it to Jane Alesch, 909 Forest Hill Drive, Green Bay 54311. If you need more tickets, call Jane at 920-468-0132.

**2. Two posters.** Please, you or your spouse, find a place to post them: grocery, work, church, break room, gas station, etc. or hand it to someone and ask them to come.

**3. Volunteer sheet titled Annual Spring Show 2004.** Please fill out the form, noting the ways you will help and send it to Jane (or call her). If you are not there, there is no show.

We will have a locked store front window to display our raffle prizes three weeks before the show. If your donation is finished, bring it to the February meeting or call Jane so it can be displayed. Thanks.

We all know that Washington Commons is having a tough time drawing crowds lately, but we always draw lots of people there when we are there – but it will happen *only* if we publicize the event, sell raffle tickets, and work hard to get people there. Right now, there is no other place that has enough space for us and that will not

charge us an arm and a leg to be there.

We will be located in the former Hallmark and Bed and Bath locations near the new Washington Street entrance. There are two or three pull-up spaces at this entrance that you can use to unload (then move your vehicle to the parking lot). Parking is free on Saturday and Sunday and after 6 on Friday. We may be able to get some tokens for daytime parking Friday.

We need you to do several things in order for the show to be a success

First, **tell people about the show.** Talk about the show among your friends and at work! Invite people to come on down. If you know someone in television, radio, or the papers we can talk with, call Jane now.

Second, **display your work.** You can reserve a full or a half table. Bring one or two things or a bunch. If you want floor space, let us know ahead of time how much you will need. We will be able to lock the display areas at night, so your stuff will be safe.

Third, **demonstrate a skill.** You don't have to be able to hand cut perfect dovetails while blindfolded! You simply need to be able to show people who know less than you how you do something. We need people at all skill levels.

Fourth, **sell raffle tickets.** Sell them to your kids, your friends, your in-laws, your neighbors, and your co-workers. Sell them before the show. Sell them at the show. Sell! Sell! Buy! Buy! Buy! Win! Win! Win!

Fifth, **help set up** Friday afternoon or evening. Please lend the exhibitors and demonstrators a hand unloading.

Sixth, **give exhibitors a break.** If you can't be at the show all the time, show up for a little while to give some relief to those who are exhibiting and demonstrating by watching their tables. It is appreciated.

Seventh, **help take down the show and deliver prizes.** Late Sunday afternoon,

shortly after the drawing, we pull down the show. Exhibitors need help moving stuff to their cars and trucks.

If you have any questions, please bring them to them to the February meeting or call Jane.

## **AN INCREDIBLE ARRAY OF RAFFLE PRIZES**

Curt Andersen, a long-time Guild member, once observed that he remembers when the grand prize for the raffle would show up minutes before the raffle with the varnish still drying on it. Times have changed. Brian Everson talked us into including a power tool in the raffle and ticket sales skyrocketed. This year, we have an incredible array of tools, some handmade wooden treasures, and sundry items.

The most expensive tool is a Makita six-pac – it carries an on-sale price tag of \$600. It is an 18 volt cordless power plant with attachable drill driver, circular saw, jig saw, reciprocating saw, blower, and flashlight. That's just for starters. Another prize is a DeWalt 20" scroll saw (just like last year) with a stand and a light (A deal at \$450)! A third one is a \$100 DeWalt cordless 7.2 volt screw driver kit. We even have a brand-new 21 speed Diamondback Outlook mountain bike with front suspension (It was once a premium that came with the Makita piece).

We use a double-blind system of drawing winners. First, we draw randomly to identify the prize. Then, we draw the ticket stub and announce the winner. The person does not have to be there to win.

If someone wins a tool (or bike) he or she does not want or cannot use, the prize can be traded back to the Guild for cash. The winner can take the Makita 6-pac or \$250, the DeWalt scroll saw or \$200, the mountain bike or \$50, and the DeWalt cordless screwdriver

kit or \$50. Or, I suppose, they could sell it themselves. If any prize is turned back to the Guild for money, the Guild will raffle it off, subsequently, to its members.

We are extremely grateful to Merl and Char at Woodworker's Depot and to Chris and Mary at Woodcraft for their very generous efforts to get us great prizes at outstanding values and for all they have done for us.

So far, Guild members have said they will donate carvings, a three-legged Norwegian stool, an etched mirror, turnings, boxes, a mystery clock, cribbage board, a table and "I'm not sure yet."

Here's a key point. We still need some more of you to donate a raffle prize if you can. We have always had more than two dozen and the last couple of years, we have had more than three dozen. That array of prizes really helps sell tickets. We sell about half before the show and about half at the show, so bring 'em on in.

Wow! It would be really hard not to buy raffle tickets for this one.

## **JANUARY MEETING REVIEW** *by Steve Carroll*

Selecting the best adhesive for the assembly of a woodworking project can be a sticky dilemma, according to Woodcraft's Jeff Alarie. There are at least seven basic type of glues with woodworking applications readily available and in common use, and various brands and formulations to choose from within each type. Jeff provided us with useful information to be considered in making an intelligent choice as to which adhesive to choose to achieve specific bonding properties.

Cyanoacrylate (super) glues bond chemically and pretty much instantly to create a strong bond without clamping. Chemical accelerators can be used to speed this process even more. This type of glue is available in various viscosities (from water-like to gel) for

different applications and is often used in "repair" applications both as a putty when mixed with sawdust or in conjunction with a "V" gauge to replace small defective areas on a surface. *(editor's note: CA glue, when heated or when accelerator is applied, gives off cyanide gas. Use this stuff in a well-ventillated area and be careful. You may not want to burn that project that doesn't turn out.)*

Contact cement is used mainly in veneering or applying laminate to large surfaces. It is available in both solvent-based and water-based formulations each with significant positive and negative traits, but both with a similar relatively weak bonding strength.

Epoxies are two-part chemically bonded concoctions. Bonding strength and working time can be adjusted by varying the ratio of the bonding agent and hardener components during mixing, and the reaction is also affected by temperature. Jeff considers epoxies to be underutilized in woodworking and there is a learning curve involved in achieving a comfort level in the use of these adhesives. Epoxies can deteriorate under high UV exposure, but are fully waterproof.

Hide glue is traditional in furniture-making. It is now also available in liquid form, but traditionally has been available as a solid that must be melted for use. This property makes hide glues reversible with heat, so they can be melted for disassembly and repair.

The most commonly used woodworking adhesives are the polyvinyl acetate products invented in the early 1950's commonly known as white and yellow woodworker's glue. They are available in several variants: white, yellow, type 2 (cross linked and water-resistant), extended open time formulations, etc., each of which has useful properties and significant limitations

Polyurethane glues (the best known is Gorilla Glue) are strong adhesives that have a usefully long open time and bond in the pres-

ence of water. They are becoming increasingly popular but can be hard to clean up and deteriorate rapidly in storage. There is also a hot-melt variety of polyurethane glue that is useful where clamping is difficult and instant bonding is desirable.

Adhesive products can deteriorate significantly over time in storage. Some types have a longer shelf life than others, but it is prudent to buy in reasonable quantities, rotate stock, and check the status of your glue before bonding something important. It is also vital to use the products per label instructions and allow sufficient drying time for the bond to solidify fully before stressing the joint significantly.

Thanks to Jeff for an informative "bonding session." We now have new ammunition in our arsenal of gluing tactics.

## **A GUILD MEMBER IS HOSPITALIZED** *by Bob Platten*

Long-time member Tom Berger broke his hip ball from a fall recently. A retired engineer, Tom regularly attends the monthly meetings with his sweetheart, Shirley Vandermus. Tom is the fellow in the wheel chair who always asks the highly technical questions. He is recuperating from surgery and is currently at St. Vincent Hospital in Green Bay. Shirley can be reached at 920-490-1684, if you're so inclined. Get well soon, Tom. We're all pulling for your speedy recovery. Tom, we need your input!

## **MEMBERSHIP STATUS REPORT** *By Fred Juengst*

For those with membership renewals due in February '04, your Bench Talk address label will be highlighted in PINK. Please pay your dues as soon as possible.

Four membership renewals due in January '04 are now one month overdue: this is a reminder for Bob and Diane Froehlich,

Edward and Ellen Looker, Elbert Mitchell, and Rory Reinhold. Please pay your dues today, we like your company!

Membership renewals due in December '03 are now overdue by two months. This is the next to last newsletter for Peter and Susan Wirtala, Wade Egan, Steve and Darlene Enderby and John Lacy. Don't let your membership expire. Please pay today.

Members failing to renew their membership and who are overdue by at least 3 months received a postcard attached to their *Bench Talk*. This is your last *Bench Talk* unless you pay your dues promptly. If you don't wish to continue your membership, please print your name on the card as shown and drop the postcard in the mail. The postcard simply confirms your intent. Please keep your name tag in the event you rejoin later.

To continue as a member, slip the postcard and dues payment in an envelope and mail it. Use the same address as is on the postcard. As long as you don't mark the card in anyway, we will be able to reuse the postcard.

To pay dues, send your check to Fred Juengst, 846 Cornelius Dr., Green Bay, WI 54311. If you have any questions about your membership, please call Fred at 920-469-1919 or e-mail him at mdjuengst@aol.com.

## **THE MONTHLY INJURY UPDATE**

*by Dan Alesch*

Tom Charlier damaged himself in December. It could easily have been a lot worse than it was. Tom was cutting a piece of wood on his table saw. He had removed the guard for some reason. The piece kicked back, flew up, and smacked him hard just above the left eye. Lyle Martens reports that, when he saw Tom, Tom had a dandy black eye and a really ugly cut just above his eyebrow. Could just as easily have been an eye.

It doesn't take much. Yours truly installed new blades on his planer and then,

like an absent-minded professor, ran his finger along the new edge, "just to clean off some of the oil." It stopped bleeding after a while. Well, I had to apply some pressure, but . . .

## **THE OLD CARVER'S CORNER**

*by the Old Carver*

The Old Carver is pretty observant, and has observed that the Alesch guy can cut himself just looking at a sharp edge.

The carvers continue to meet periodically at Dan and Jane's Studio A. The upcoming dates are Tuesday, February 10, Wednesday, February 18, Wednesday, March 3, and Tuesday, March 9. Take a moment to mark your calendar now.

The carvers start at 7 P.M. and continue until someone has to go home. Bring a project, some sharp tools, and interesting conversation.

At the last meeting, Dan Hemminger brought in a list of upcoming carving shows, including one the same weekend as our Spring Show. See Dan H. for an update on an array of shows and classes in the Midwest. Dan A. and Jane have already made plans to go to the International Show in Iowa in June. Dan A. plans to enter at least one piece.

## **THE BOARD WILL MEET AT MAC HALL ON THE CAMPUS, JUST BEFORE THE REGULAR MEETING**

The Executive Board will meet at **6:15 on February 20 in Mary Ann Cofrin Hall**, just before the February meeting. The primary topic will be the upcoming annual Spring Show.