



BENCH TALK

The Monthly Newsletter of the Northeastern Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild

May 2004 Volume 21, Number 5

Visit us on the web at www.newwg.org

MAY 21 PROGRAM

Home Built and Modified Power Tools with Steve Lockhart

by Steve Carroll

Guild member and Treasurer Steve Lockhart is a man of many skills. As an engineer, inventor, boatbuilder (they don't call him the Commodore of Little Lake Butte des Morts for nothing), and self-acknowledged "ultra cheapskate," Steve can find economical, innovative and effective solutions to shop equipment needs.

In his presentation, Steve will show photos and describe power tools he has built or modified utilizing his experience as a mechanical engineer and seat-of-the-pants problem-solver.

Included will be:

- Pin router based on an off-the-shelf router (commercial machine cost \$1600, actual cost \$300)
- Router table which has a power operated raising mechanism (commercial equivalent not available even after 15 years!)
- Panel saw using an inexpensive "Skil" saw (commercial machine cost \$1200 plus, actual cost \$100)
- Oscillating drum sander using a sump pump motor (you have to enjoy building stuff to justify this one!)
- Relay switch for shop compressor so it will only run when the shop lights are on (this one may prevent a fire! Ask Steve why.)

Steve will describe the materials he used, suggest sources for supplies and information and go through the design process he used in constructing each tool.

Members are encouraged to bring information, pictures, or actual tools of their own to this

meeting. If you have a tool you have built or modified, join the presentation by calling Steve Carroll at 920-788-6516.

Steve not only makes tools, but he creates really interesting solutions to problems. You can catch one of his efforts in the June issue of *Fine Homebuilding*, where he is featured.

To learn how a real pro conceptualizes, engineers and refines practical and inexpensive shop tools, join us on Friday, May 21 at 7:00 PM in room 111 of Mary Ann Cofrin Hall on the UWGB campus.

IT'S ELECTION TIME AGAIN

by Dan Alesch

It isn't just Republicans and Democrats vying for office this year. It is time for the annual Guild elections. Our founding members, in their wisdom, decided we should have elections every year at our Annual Meeting in June. Every year, we say "thanks" to several of our Guild members who have volunteered to serve in one or another capacity for the prior year or two. Our rules prohibit anyone from serving in the same office for more than two consecutive years. So, every year, we struggle to find a few good volunteers willing to step up and take on an office for a year or two. But, without those volunteers, the Guild will just stop being the Guild. So, this year, it's your turn to step up.

Below is a list of the Guild's current elected and appointed offices.

Elected Offices:

President: _____ Need a volunteer

Vice President - Programs: _____ Need a volunteer

Vice President - Public information: Steve Carroll has been nominated

Librarian: _____ Need a volunteer

Treasurer: Steve Lockhart has been nominated

Secretary: Terry Keegan has been nominated

Editor: Dan Alesch will has been nominated

Appointed Offices

Chair, Membership Committee: Fred Juengst will serve a second year

Chair, Spring Show: Jane Alesch will serve another year

Chair, Website: Mark Brien will serve another year

Chair, Special Activities _____ Need a volunteer

We'll be looking for volunteers at the May meeting and during all of May. If you think you might be interested, call a board member. (The officers and committee chairs constitute the board.) Elections are at the June meeting. We'll need to have a complete slate to put into the June *Benchtalk*.

April Meeting Review

by Steve Carroll

If you saw a mellow glow emanating from the confines of Mary Ann Cofrin Hall

between 7 and 9 PM on the third Friday in April, we want to take credit. Our team presentation on the design and construction of lamps and lighting fixtures provided the

wattage for an illuminating discussion on the topic.

Given the interest shown to my Frank Lloyd Wright influenced "box and baffle" lamps at the March show, the goal of my section of the program was to make sure that anybody who wanted to try their hand at building their own had enough information to give it a good shot without reinventing the wheel. I handed out both CAD drawings of several permutations and a step-by-step build description. If you weren't at the meeting and would like these materials or just have questions, feel free to ask. These fixtures produce an attractive ambiance with their mellow glow and projected light patterns on nearby walls.

Guild President Lyle Martens brought in an attractive small table lamp that was designed by one of his students many years ago. There was no surprise that the dominant visual theme was curved body sections.

Long-time member and regular contributor Linda Surowiec brought in a really stunning lamp made from a natural chunk of log oriented vertically with a deer carved into the side. Linda described the process of building the lamp, with clear instructions for the critical steps. She also described available choices for lamp hardware and the importance of proper shade selection for both function and appearance.

Member James Rose graced the program with two absolutely beautiful Arts & Crafts style table lamps that he built from wood, salvaged parts and sheet copper. He described his learning process integral with building them, which involved metal smithing as well as woodworking. James builds a new lamp every year or two as an on-going project.

Finally, Steve Lockhart showed pictures of interesting lighting projects built by both himself and his father. Several included functional spinning wheels in the design.

There was also an Arts & Crafts style ceiling fixture of wood and stained glass that is not only impressive on its own, but also projects an attractive colored pattern on the ceiling when illuminated. Another suspended fixture featured an interesting patina application on metal pipe that Steve described in detail.

Thanks to all who participated. We lit up the joint and provided a small sample of the possibilities available for attractive and functional lighting projects. *(Editor's note: Nobody is allowed to light up a joint at Guild meetings. UWGB is a Drug Free Zone.)*

MEMBERSHIP STATUS REPORT

By Fred Juengst

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

For those who joined the Guild in the last several months, your name badges are in and will be available for you at the May meeting. For those joining a few weeks after the Show, your name tags have not been sent in yet. We need a minimum of six names before ordering new name tags. Several members who have the old style name tags have chosen to get the new badges. If you want to update your name badge, please send me a check for \$10 and I will order it for you.

Sixteen memberships are up for renewal in May. Your mailing label is highlighted in PINK. Please pay your dues as soon as possible.

Fourteen membership renewals due in April are now one month overdue: Rather than print all the names, please look at your mail label. If it is PINK, please pay today and continue to be an active member of the Guild.

Four membership renewals due in March are now two months overdue. This is a reminder for Thomas Anderson, Roger Grosskreutz, John Scheinpflug, and Tom Tengowski.

No members are overdue by more than 3 months and for once no one received a postcard attached to their last Bench Talk.

We got a nice note from Catherine Van Gompel, who is leaving the Guild. Catherine's husband, Jim, was a long time member until he passed away. Cathy stayed on as a member, not because she is a woodworker, but because of the friends she had made in the Guild over the years. Cathy is been a fine friend of the Guild and a wonderful person. We're glad she stayed with the Guild as long as she did and we wish her the very best. We know that some Guild members will be staying in touch with Cathy.

THE OLD CARVER'S CORNER

by the Old Carver

The carvers will continue to meet at Dan and Jane's through the spring and summer as schedules permit. Right now, they are scheduled to meet May 12 and 26, June 2 and June 30. They usually work around the schedule to add a couple of more sessions – they just can't stay away from shaping wooden things.

Be alert!!! Road construction season is on us and Dan and Jane's neighborhood is no exception. The portion of University Avenue east of Riviera Lanes all the way to Curry Lane, near the highway 57 interchange at the University, is under construction. To get to Dan and Jane's coming east on University Avenue, it is best to follow Hwy 57 (University Way) to the University's exit (Nicolet Drive). Then to come to their house by coming past the Mental Health Center and South up Mount

Mary and Laverne. Call for instructions if you would like.

At the last gathering, Rich Valenta described his week-long class in Faribault, Minnesota with Ivan Whillock. He learned a lot about relief carving and was willing to share it with the members of the little group as members munched on delicious, fresh rhubarb cake made by Ellen Pagel.

Lots of the group members will be headed off to classes this summer and fall. They'll be bringing back projects, amusing anecdotes, a couple of small wounds, and lots of new and enhanced skills.

The carvers meet at 7 P.M. and continue until they all drift away. Bring a project, some sharp tools, and interesting conversation.

If you are not a "regular," please call Dan or Jane at 920-468-0132 so they have time to set a chair for you.

THE APRIL BOARD MEETING

The Board Met April 29, 2004 at Dan and Jane Alesch's house. This is a summary of Terry Keegan's Minutes:

Board members present were Dan Alesch, Jane Alesch, Fred Juengst, Steve Lockhart, Steve Carroll, and Terry Keegan. Lyle Martens, Bob Fruzen, Floyd Bucher and Tom Tengowski did not attend.

Treasurer's report: Steve Lockhart. From April 30, 2003 through 29 April 04, total income was \$8190.90. During this same time expenses were \$5734.99, resulting in a gain of \$2,455.91. Coupled with previous year's income gains, the Guild now has assets of \$9004.64. A more detailed report of the report was presented to Board members. It will be summarized and included in a future *Benchtalk*.

Membership report: Fred Juengst. Thirteen new members have signed up in April, many as the result of our spring show.

Programs report: Steve Carroll. – Steve Lockhart has agreed to do the May program on homemade tools. For the June meeting, Steve will attempt to arrange a program on building Shaker Furniture. Possible future programs might be on starting a web site, different kinds of drawer slides, hinges, etc. We discussed the desire and the difficulty of having programs arranged up to six months in advance. Steve Lockhart suggested this would enable our displaying future Guild meeting speakers ahead of time at Woodworkers Depot and Woodcraft. The problem is getting speakers to commit that far in advance.

Spring Show: Jane Alesch. The March 04 spring show at Washington Commons was a huge success with our selling \$5,151 of raffle tickets. With spring show expenses for prizes, etc., we had a net profit of \$3,714 from this one event. Terry Keegan congratulated everyone who participated and especially Jane Alesch for her dedication and willingness to chair this event annually. We have seen approximately 20% income increase each of the last three years in raffle sales from the show.

**Time and place for the next
Board meeting will be announced
at the May Guild meeting.**

Chips and Dip *by Dan Alesch*

Remember the 2004 Midwest Scroll Saw Picnic, Saturday, August 7th in Richland Center, Wisconsin. There is a dinner Friday evening, August 6th. For more information contact Floyd or Carol Hacker at Ocooch Hardwoods in Richland Center (608-647-2591 or floyd@ocoochhardwoods.com. Joe Martin and Bob Fruzen are planning to attend, so it looks as though there is a good

contingent of Guild members who are likely to be there in lovely Richland Center for the event.

After the scroll saw picnic, hurry home for the Annual Guild Picnic on Sunday, August 8. It will again be at DeBroux Park in Bellevue. (We'll inset a map in a later issue.) Jane has already marked her calendar to get the key to the building on time. Rich Ward is bringing the newly refurbished Carpenters Union grill. The Union lets us use the grill for free, so we should at least provide the firewood. If you have some spare firewood, call Rich at 920-469-3038.

FOR SALE. Delta 6" by 48" belt, 9" disk sander, complete with stand. Used very little. \$150. Can be seen – a short drive to Hortonville. Talk to Rick at 920-779-6889 or call Guild member Michael Gurski in Neenah at 920-725-8551.

FOR SALE. Metal stand for 16" Performax drum sander. Like new. Will fit other tools as well. Make an offer. Dan or Jane at 920-468-0132.

John Nowak and Rich Valenta won the Spring Show Guild Member Participation Incentive drawing for \$30 gift certificates. Congratulations! Your certificate, as we always say, is in the mail.

If you know of upcoming events that you think other Guild members might find interesting, just let me know (920-468-0132) and we'll put it in *Benchtalk*.

