



# BENCH TALK

## The Monthly Newsletter of the Northeastern Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild

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

### June 18 Program

## Shaker Furniture Overview with Brent Berglund

*by Steve Carroll*

Brent Berglund is one of the very newest members of the Guild, having joined just last month, but he has already proven himself to be a real asset to the organization through his willingness to share his extensive knowledge of traditional furniture with us. As you will see by visiting his web site ([www.bpberglund.com](http://www.bpberglund.com)), Brent brings his obvious love of the woodworking craft, an engineer's knowledge of function and materials, and a very personal commitment to honesty and integrity to his furniture building enterprise.

Many of you have been exposed to Shaker woodworks, either in photos or in person, and realize just how sophisticated and precise they are, both in design and in execution. In this program, Brent will discuss the origins of Shaker furniture, the attitudes that inspired them to their best work, and the characteristic cues, features and techniques that define the Shaker genre.

He will illustrate Shaker style and his personal furniture-building practice and philosophy with the help of one of his signature products - the Shaker Rocking Chair, a elegant yet practical piece of furniture by any craftsman's measure.

Join us at 7:00 PM on Friday, June 18 in Room 111 of Mary Ann Cofrin Hall on the UWGB campus to exponentially increase your knowledge of the "nuts and bolts" of Shaker furniture construction.

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### **THERE IS AN ELECTION THIS MEETING!**

*by Dan Alesch*

It is time for the annual Guild elections. Our founders decided we should have elections every year at our Annual Meeting in June. Our rules prohibit anyone from serving in the same office for more than two consecutive years. Every year, we look for a few volunteers willing to take on an office for a year or two. Without those volunteers, the Guild will just stop being the Guild.

The Executive Board (the existing officers) have worked to get a slate of proposed officers for the coming year. Nominations will be made at the June meeting. Additional nominations can be made from the floor, but make sure the nominee is willing to serve.

#### Proposed Slate

President:	Rich Ward
Vice President - Programs:	Lyle Martens
Vice President - Public information:	Steve Carroll
Librarian:	Bob Fruzen
Treasurer:	Steve Lockhart
Secretary:	Terry Keegan
Editor:	Dan Alesch

#### Appointed Offices

Chair, Membership Committee:	Fred Juengst
Chair, Spring Show:	Jane Alesch
Chair, Website:	Mark Brien
Chair, Special Activities	Open

*Note from Jane: Lyle Martens and Bob Fruzen agreed to place their names on the ballot because no one stepped forward. If you can't bring yourself to take on an office, perhaps you could help Lyle with a program or help Bob with the computer part of the library. Thanks!*

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### May Meeting Review

*by Steve Carroll*

Guild Treasurer Steve Lockhart is clearly on a tool quest. When the right tool isn't commercially available at the right price, he simply digs into his engineer/inventor bag of tricks and builds or modifies it himself. Steve has a particularly deep pool of resources to dig into. His dad was also an engineer and encouraged creativity and problem solving skills in his young son by teaching him to pay attention to how things work and to play with building and designing things just for fun.

Steve has recently added another chapter to his curriculum vitae with the publication of his article in the July issue of *Fine Homebuilding* magazine, which should be on the newsstand now. The editor for the project accused Steve of being an "ultra cheapskate"

based on the hours and effort he invests in building things economically that could more easily be purchased. Steve prefers to describe his approach as "cost effective" and elaborates by advising us to spend as much or as little as required to get the job done effectively. To illustrate the concept, he points to his high quality but expensive Delta Unisaw, which is used often and with great precision, and his \$100 bench top mortiser from Harbor Freight Sales, which is needed only rarely.

Steve recommends hunting for surplus industrial components for use in tool projects. Two sources he uses are the *Surplus Center* (Lincoln, NE) catalog and [allelectronics.com](http://allelectronics.com) web site. Relays, solenoid valves, switches and other components can be obtained as surplus at a very reasonable price that makes the projects practical.

Steve has built his shop dust collector system, an oscillating drum sander, a pin router, a panel saw, and an innovative router table, among others. He has volunteered to share details with Guild members on request, and encourages others to adopt his cost-effective approach to shop equipment, especially if they find invention and problem solving as interesting as he does.

## **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](mailto:mdjuengst@aol.com).

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

Twelve membership renewals due in April are now two months overdue. This is a reminder for Greg Balthazor, Marv Buelow, Chris Howard, Michael King, Steve Klein, Russ Roland, Eric Skaleski, David Slattebo, Bruce and Joanne Smith, Luther Snyder, Randy St. Aubin, and Gene and Ellen Winkler. This is your next to last *Bench Talk*. We'd like you to continue as an active member of the Guild, so please pay your dues today.

Ten membership renewals due in May are now one month overdue. This is a reminder for Floyd Bucher, Steve Carroll, Janet Champion, Jamie Geiken, Michael Gurski, Ronn Liebergen, Duane Luneau, Joe Morin, Jan Olgren, and Steven Raasch. Please pay your dues today and continue to be an active member of the Guild.

Members failing to renew their membership are overdue by at least three 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 your membership, slip the post card and dues payment in an envelope and mail it to me at 846 Cornelius Dr., Green Bay, WI, 54311. Provided you do not mark the postcard in anyway, we will be able to reuse the postcard.

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

## **SCROLL SAW NEWS**

Remember the 2004 Midwest Scroll Saw Picnic, *Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup>* in Richland Center, Wisconsin. There is a dinner Friday evening, August 6<sup>th</sup>. For more information contact Floyd or Carol Hacker at Ocooch Hardwoods in Richland Center (608-647-2591 or [floyd@ocoochhardwoods.com](mailto:floyd@ocoochhardwoods.com)). As far as we know, Joe Martin, Bob Fruzen, Larry Wohlwend, and Dan and Jane Alesch are planning to attend. There may be more we don't know about.

The scroll saw picnic will be held at the Richland Center middle school. It is on Highway 80, south of the intersection with Highway 14 and north of OO and Ocooch Hardwoods.

There is a dinner Friday night (RSVP), lots of vendors, contests, and places to stay.

*Joe Martin would like very much to car pool to the scroll saw picnic. These days, that makes a lot of sense. You can reach Joe at 920-864-7429.*

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

*by the Old Carver*

The carvers will continue to meet at Dan and Jane's through the summer as schedules permit. Current plans are to meet June 29 and July 7. They'll add to the schedule when summer plans are firmed up.

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, call for instructions.

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," call Dan or Jane at 920-468-0132 so they have time to set a chair for you.

### **GUILD PICNIC IN AUGUST**

After you participate in the scroll saw picnic in Richland Center, hurry home for the Guild's Annual Picnic Sunday, August 8.

It will be held at DeBroux Park in Bellevue – the same place as the last few years. We'll inset a map in the July issue for those of you with short memories or who are newcomers.

This is a family event. Bring your spouse, kids, grandchildren, or significant other.

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. The Guild is indebted to Bob Rukamp who generously provided the Union with a big pile of firewood. Rich

tells us we should have plenty for this year. Can't tell you what a difference the big grill makes.

The Guild provides roast corn, brats, burgers, and hot dogs, condiments, and soft drinks. Everyone brings a dish to pass, lots of conversation, and a big appetite. We all have lots of fun.

In the past, the Guild purchased tomatoes, onions, and pickles. If anyone has an overflowing garden and would like to make one or more of these their "dish to pass," that would be great. Please call Jane at 468-0132 so she doesn't bring them, too.

More in July!

### **THE MAY BOARD MEETING**

The Board met May 27, 2004 at Lyle Martens' home. Board members present were Dan Alesch, Jane Alesch, Fred Juengst, Steve Lockhart, Steve Carroll, Bob Fruzen, and Lyle Martens.

Steve Lockhart reported that we have \$8,669 in the treasury.

The meeting focused on identifying candidates for elected and appointed positions for the coming year, on program planning for the coming months, and on the August Guild picnic.

The members also discussed their concern that older members of the Guild were having difficulty driving distances to the night meetings. Car pooling was suggested as perhaps the best way to address the problem.

**The next Board meeting will be June 30 at Steve Lockhart's home in the Town of Menasha. All members are welcome. Call Steve for directions at 920-733-2347.**

### **Chips**

*by Dan Alesch*

✍ Gas prices are higher than ever and more and more of our members are having problems driving to Guild meetings at night, especially if they come a long distance. It's a good idea to car pool. Can you bring someone to a Guild meeting with you? We sure don't want to lose those talented folks who are thinking of staying away because it is difficult for them to get to the meetings.

✍ Mark your calendar. The Guild's Holiday Party is scheduled for December 11 at Dan and Jane Alesch's house.

✍ If you are a relief carver, you might want to contact Joe and Karen Stankowski at 715-824-7161. They are looking for someone to carve a wildlife scene for a fireplace mantel.

✍ 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 Guralski 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.

✍ 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*.

✍ HELP! Guild member Tom Tengowski made the Guild meeting raffle a monthly event – one that was welcomed by lots of members. Tom, our “raffle master” has gotten heavily committed lately and it looks like he won't be able to keep doing the monthly raffle. Do you think you could do it, at least some of the time? If so, let one of

the Board members know at the June meeting or call Dan or Jane at 468-0132.

✍ It wouldn't hurt to have a woodworker's joke in this spot from time to time. Got one that we can print here? Let me know.

