



# BENCH TALK

## The Monthly Newsletter of the Northeastern Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild

January 2005 Volume 22, Number 1

Visit us on the web at

[www.newwg.org](http://www.newwg.org)

### THE MEETING IS JANUARY 21

#### Bob Walkner on Logging and Saw Filing Tools

*by Dan Alesch*

I had a nice chat with Bob Walkner on the phone about the program he'll be presenting at our January meeting. Bob's hobby is collecting saw filing and logging tools. We talked mostly about his logging tools and about Wisconsin's old logging days. Bob is an active member of the Forest History Association of Wisconsin. His dad was a saw filer and Bob has his Dad's old tools. He's been adding to the collection of old tools for 30 years.

Bob takes his logging tools out to museums and to give talks to people like us who have an abiding interest in wood. Bob's friend and associate in the Association, Carl Blahnik, will be on hand to help with the tools and to add his knowledge.

In addition to the tools, Bob will talk a little bit about the Association, which has a Quarterly newsletter and annual convention. Last year, the convention was held in Ashland and, before that, in Two Rivers. Ask Bob about the shop in Ashland where one can buy wood cut from old logs recovered from Lake Superior.

Bob tells me that the last Wisconsin log drive on a river was in the 1930's. Horses and river drives went out about the same time as the railroad and bulldozers came in. Listening to him was particularly interesting for me, because my maternal grandmother's family were Norwegian farmers and lumberjacks who homesteaded near Iola in the 1870s. My great-uncle, Alvin, used to tell me about when he used to float down the Little Wolf and the Wolf on a flatboat behind the great floats of white pine to Oshkosh every year as the ice went out. He was just a boy, so he got to help the cook get meals ready for the men working the float. Lefse anyone?

This is going to be a good one, so be sure to be there.

**January 21, 2005 at 7:00 P.M.  
University of Wisconsin-Green Bay Campus  
111 Mary Ann Cofrin Hall**

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## **UPCOMING MEETING IN FEBRUARY; AN EVENING WITH THE FOREST PRODUCTS LABORATORY**

While our January meeting focuses on the logging days of old, our February meeting will focus on the contemporary matters having to do with the forest resource. Our speaker will be Charles R. Frihart from the USDA Forest Service's Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin. Mr. Frihart is Project Leader for Wood Adhesives Science and Technology. If you are at all familiar with the Lab, you know they do really interesting and important things. So, be sure to mark your calendar. There will be more on the presentation in the next *Benchtalk*. In the meantime, you might wish to try the website: [www.fpl.fs.fed.us](http://www.fpl.fs.fed.us).

## **GET READY FOR THE SPRING SHOW, APRIL 8, 9, AND 10**

Mark your calendar now. The Guild's Spring Show is scheduled for April 8, 9, and 10 at Washington Commons in downtown Green Bay. Those of you who participated in last year's show know what a great success it was. Literally thousands of people flocked to the Commons to visit the show and chat with those who were demonstrating a wood skill or displaying their materials. We set a new record in raffle sales. At least one member grossed over \$1000 in sales of his woodworking projects. Members who haven't been there before have a treat in store for them.

This will be the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual spring show. The objectives for the show have remained pretty much unchanged over the years: promote woodworking, attract some new members, enjoy some time with your fellow Guild members, display your work, and raise enough money from our annual raffle to support the Guild, the library, and our programs.

For the last couple of years, we've been able to sell our products at the show. It worked out particularly well last year, so be prepared this year with some inventory of handmade wooden items.

Each year, 30 or 40 Guild members donate something they've made to the raffle and most Guild members buy and sell raffle tickets. This is essential for the Guild's treasury. It enables us to keep the dues at \$15 a year. The dues barely covers the costs of mailing out the 11 *Bench Talk* issues each year.

We need for you to participate. Demonstrate one of your skills, like turning, carving, sharpening, scrolling, or the like. Display some of your projects, even it is only one. Sell raffle tickets. Donate a prize. Help with set up and take down. Talk with visitors. Help with security. Help with publicity.

Jane needs to have a list of specific prizes so she can use it for the publicity and to put on the raffle tickets. Please let her know as soon as you can what you will contribute. Reach her at 920-468-0132 or at [jalesch@new.rr.com](mailto:jalesch@new.rr.com).

More later!

## **IT WAS A GRAND HOLIDAY PARTY**

*by Jane Alesch*

The 70 woodworkers and their guests who made it to the Holiday Gala all seem to have had a good time and our house survived.

Many brought wonderful gifts for the less fortunate. I was busy doing hostess things, so I wasn't able to keep track of who brought what, but your generosity was much appreciated. Dan and our grandchildren took all the gifts to the new Freedom House in Green Bay. Freedom House is a shelter for families who find themselves without a place to live. They get to stay six weeks while they find jobs, if they don't already have them, and

get help finding a place of their own. The folks there do nice work.

Thanks for coming and thanks for making our holiday just that much brighter.

*We want to add a special thank you to Woodworkers Depot in Green Bay (really the Village of Ashwaubenon) and to Woodcraft of Appleton (really the town of Grand Chute). We had a lot of door prizes because of those folks. Once again, they made it possible for our door prize money to go a long, long way. Be sure to buy your tools and supplies there and, when you are there, thank them for supporting the Guild so generously.*

## SMALL SCALE TURNINGS WITH DICK SING AT WOODCRAFT

by Jeff Alarie

Dick Sing launched his notoriety by writing a very popular book on pen turning, *Pens from the Wood Lathe*, and has since gone on to write five more books including *Ornaments and Eggs* and *Projects for the Mini Lathe*. He is, by all accounts, a very popular and entertaining demonstrator and travels the country to showcase his turning talents. Dick will be appearing at the Appleton Woodcraft store on Saturday, February 19<sup>th</sup> for two presentations – one in the morning from 9 AM to noon and one in the afternoon from 1 PM to 4 PM. Since he's done so many pen making presentations and written two books about them, Dick is going to forgo the pen making part of his repertoire. Instead, he will showcase some of the other neat things he does on the wood lathe such as eggs, ornaments, boxes, and other small-scale turnings particularly suited to the mini lathe. The regular cost for the morning or afternoon sessions is \$35. However, Northeastern Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild members will be able to attend for the special rate of \$25. To register and pay via

credit card, call Woodcraft at 920-730-9663, or stop by the store. Make your plans now, as this is sure to be a fun and informative session with Dick Sing.

*(Editor's note: Jeff, thanks for the generous discount on the class to Guild members. It is much appreciated! And, don't forget to pick up the rest of their class schedule for a mid-winter pick-me-up.)*

## GUILDWEAR UPDATE

Rich Ward reports, "We've still got some Guildwear left. I'll bring it to the meeting in January for members. We got good prices on everything, so we're passing those through to the Guild members."

Your job is to bring some cash or your checkbook and pick out some gear that identifies you as one of the few, the proud, the Guild member.

## MEMBERSHIP STATUS REPORT

By Fred Juengst

To pay your dues, send your check to me, 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: [mdjuengst@aol.com](mailto:mdjuengst@aol.com). Thanks from the Guild.

As of January 1, 2005 we have a 173 active members. Thanks to all for making the Guild a friendly, interesting, and informative group.

Ten memberships are up for renewal in January. Your mailing label is highlighted in PINK. Please send in your dues or bring payment to the January meeting and save postage.

Seven membership renewals due in December are now one month overdue. This is a reminder for Ron and Louise Anderson, Robert Baird, Jeff Benson, Steve and Darlene Enderby, Bill Gau, Fred Juengst, and John Mortonson. To please pay your dues today and continue to be an active member of the

Guild.

One membership renewal was due in November and is now two months overdue. This is a friendly reminder for Noel Hansen that this is your next to last *Bench Talk*. Please consider continuing being an active member of the Guild and paying your dues today. (*Editor's note: Noel, Jane says she needs you at the Spring Show!*)

Members failing to renew their membership and who are overdue by at least three months received a postcard attached to this *Bench Talk*. This will be your last *Bench Talk* unless you pay your dues promptly. If you do not wish to continue your membership, just print your name on the postcard as shown and drop it in the mail. The postcard confirms your intent. Please keep your name tag in the event you choose to rejoin the Guild at a later date. If you borrowed books from the Guild Library, please give Bob Fruzen (920-863-6819) a call to arrange for the return of borrowed items.

To continue your membership, slip the post card and dues in an envelope and mail it to me. Provided you do not mark the postcard, we will be able to reuse it.

### THE OLD CARVER'S CORNER

The carvers will continue to meet at Dan and Jane's home. Sessions are currently scheduled for January 19 (Wednesday) and 26 (Wednesday), February 16, and February 23. Mark your calendars now.

The old carver is impressed with the incredibly good carvings that members of the group are producing. The incidence of self-inflicted wounds continues to decrease and the quality of the carvings continues to improve. Who could ask for anything more?

The carvers are working on a "friendship cane" to raffle off at the Spring Show. This is a cane comprising a bunch of separate carvings on 2 x 2 blocks that are held together by a pipe that runs up the center of them. Are

there any closet carvers out there who would like to contribute? No obligation to join the little group, but we'd love have you participate in the cane.

### GENERALLY UNRELATED CHIPS, SPLINTERS, AND CUTOFFS FOR YOUR INTEREST, AMAZEMENT, OR AMUSEMENT.

by Dan Alesch

○ While you're thinking about it, volunteer to head up the Holiday Toy and Gift Project for the Guild in 2005. We really need your help and it is both fun and rewarding.

○ The Board meeting will be held at Dan and Jane's at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>.

○ Frank Stilp, long-time Guild member from Neenah, is interested in talking with some other Guild members about setting up a coop for selling their products. He has some commercial space, where else, but on North Commercial Street in Neenah. If you are interested in talking with him about it, give Frank a call at 920-722-7586.

○ We've gotten many returns on the interest survey and directory sheets. I'll be traveling to distant places for a while, so does anyone want to volunteer to put the directory together on a spread sheet or data base so we can both print it and access it? If not, you won't be getting anything until about April.

○ Guild member, Bill Wright, is offering classes through Fox Valley Tech this winter. Here's a schedule of those classes.

### Relief Woodcarving Classes

The project for this semester will be a Labrador retriever in a marsh setting. The overall size is about 12"x17". All skill levels are invited.

Fox Valley Tech in Chilton. Stating date: January 19<sup>th</sup> (10 weeks). Time: 8:30 am-Noon. Cost: \$72.90 plus materials (Age 62 and over- \$4.50 plus materials). To register call 800-843-4131 Valley Fair Mall in Appleton. Starts January 11<sup>th</sup> (12 weeks). Time: 8:30 am-11:30 am. Cost: \$72.90 plus materials (Age 62 and over- \$4.50 plus materials). Register at 920-720-6800.

### **Decoy Carving Classes (Antique style)**

Students will carve and paint a canvasback drake decoy about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of life-size. All skill levels are welcome.

Brillion Community Center. 1:00-4:30 pm or 5:30 pm-9:00 pm. Starts February 8<sup>th</sup> (10 weeks) Cost: \$72.90 plus materials. (Age 62 and over- \$4.50 plus materials). To register call 800-843-4131

### **Woodworking Classes**

These classes allow a student to develop their woodworking skills in a fully equipped wood shop. Students will have the option of being instructed in a class project or, if experienced, will be able to select their own project with the approval of the instructor.

Chilton High School starting February 3<sup>rd</sup> (10 weeks). Time: 6:00pm-9:00 pm  
Little Chute High School starting February 7<sup>th</sup> (10weeks). Time: 6:00pm-9:00 pm.  
Cost: \$61.50 plus materials. (Age 62 and over- \$4.50 plus materials). To register call 800-843-4131.

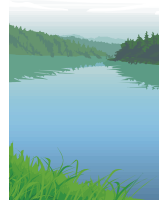
All of the classes listed above will be taught by Bill Wright. If you have any questions about the classes call Bill at (920) 532-4429 or email at [billwright@itol.com](mailto:billwright@itol.com)

O Do you have any cherry you want to sell? I'm looking for some 4/4, 8/4, and/or 12/4 stock for some projects I have coming up. Before I head off to the retailers, I thought I

might check in with you folks. I can plane rough stock. Dan Alesch 920-468-0132.

O Jane and I have been editing for a long time. We're grateful to Steve Lockhart who took over for a couple of years while I served as president, but the time has come to retire from editing *Benchtalk*. It's been great fun and we have enjoyed it immensely, but it is time to focus on getting the woodwork done in our house, on learning more about turning, and on carving. We'll continue doing it this winter and spring, but after the elections in June, someone else will be the editor of *Benchtalk*? Will it be you?

O Most of you will already have heard that long-time Guild member Pat Spielman died just before the holidays. Pat, America's most published woodworker, was a wonderful guy and a great supporter of the Guild. He co-authored books with many people, including Carl Roehl, a deceased Guild member. I remember Pat from many years ago when he still taught High School in Door County and worked from his garage. I contracted with him back then to create signs for a large development I was building here in Green Bay. Nice guy, great woodworker. We'll all miss him. We all send our deepest condolences to his family on their loss.



Wear your hearing protection!  
Wear your eye protection!  
Pay attention to what you are doing!

The part you save may be your own.  
The only cut-offs we want are wooden.