



BENCH TALK

The Monthly Newsletter of the Northeastern Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild

April 2005 Volume 22, Number 4

Visit us on the web at www.newwg.org

It's show time!

(NO REGULAR MEETING AT UWGB THIS MONTH)

More demonstrators than ever before. Great raffle prizes. Good space. Even if I weren't a member, I'd bust my butt to get to the Show this weekend. It's going to be great!

SETTING UP

This Friday, April 8, we'll set up the Show at Washington Commons in the afternoon and early evening. We've got great space, but it is going to require some vacuuming, cleaning, and arranging. Call Jane (468-0132) if you can bring a shop vac and/or some cleaning and dust cloths. We really do need a few folks there to help get the space ready for occupancy during the afternoon. Four or five of us could do it in two hours pretty easily. We plan to start cleaning up about 11 in the morning.

The shop space we'll be in is easily locked at night, so, unless there is a massive break-in by the guys who did the Brinks job, it will be safe to leave your stuff there. We have access to lots of shelving; the walls are built to hold shelves and shelves and shelf holders were left by the previous occupants. There are also some rolling display shelves you might want to use. We have good lighting, but will probably want to redirect some of it to put our work to best advantage.

Use either the main mall entrance on Adams Street at the circle or unload on the ground floor from the parking ramp off Main Street and enter the Commons from the parking ramp. The Guild provides tables. Bring a comfy chair or a cushion to use on the not-real-good chairs available at the Commons. You can bring your own display cases and tables if you want, but they should be skirted. The Commons has some carts and some pegboard for display purposes. **Parking is free in the parking ramps and lots on Saturday and Sunday, but not Friday.**

Jane has a blueprint of the space and is assigning space to participants based on what they said they need and based on drawing passers-by into the space. Your space will have your name on it. **If you can't find your space, ask. Bring an extension cord and power strip to make sure you get electricity.**

The Show opens at 10 Saturday morning (we'll be there from about 9 A.M.) and runs until 6 in the evening. Sunday, we'll start at 11. The raffle drawing is at 4. Then we clean up at 4:30.

RAFFLE TICKET SALES

We need to sell 1,300 raffle tickets to break even with the costs of raffle prizes, printing tickets, and advertising. That's about ten tickets per member. To match last year's net proceeds, we'll need to sell 7,000 tickets altogether. We're running a little behind last year's sales, so it is time to step up the sales effort. In addition to selling tickets, be sure to tell everyone you talk with about the show this weekend. Last year, we got about 3,000 people down to visit the show. Let's do that well this year.

RAFFLE PRIZES

As in the past, our friends at Woodworkers Depot and Makita and Woodcraft of Appleton have come through for us! They made it possible for us to offer the following prizes: a Makita 6-pack with

retail value (\$700), a Porter Cable cordless brad nailer (\$300), a Dremel rotary tool kit with planer and multi-saw (\$140), a woodworking cloth bag filled with tools and gadgets (\$125), and a mountain bike (\$220). And, we have a wonderful array of items from Guild members.

Be sure to support the local woodworking stores that support us! These folks have been consistently super to us through the years, so, before you buy, give them a try.

And, be sure to watch WLUK's Good Day Wisconsin Friday morning to see friends from the Guild do their thing.

TEN WAYS YOU CAN HELP THE SHOW

1. Be there, even if just for moral support. Wear your badge.
2. Display your woodworking items.
3. Demonstrate your skills.
4. Sell and buy raffle tickets. They are \$1 each or six for \$5.00. Call Jane (468-0132) to get more tickets or posters. Get the stubs and the money to Jane before the drawing. Remind the buyers to come to the Show.
5. Help with publicity. Distribute posters. Tell all your friends and neighbors.
6. Help with signs and flyers.
7. Come to the show to provide security, talk with prospective members, give demonstrators a break, or hawk raffle tickets.
8. Donate a prize for the raffle.
9. Help set up and/or take down, unloading and loading.
10. **Deliver prizes to winners!**

THE MARCH PROGRAM: INTARSIA

by Jerry Kronschnabel

Intarsia is the art of making decorative and pictorial mosaics with wood. It can be traced back to ancient Egypt, Imperial Rome, Persia, eighth century Japan, and the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Centuries in Germany and Italy.

I've made a few patterns of my own, but that's not what I enjoy doing. I'm not an artist, so I usually start with a purchased pattern. I may change the size or combine two or more patterns by using the scanner and printer to copy it in sections. I then tape the sections together to form the new pattern.

For the March program, I used a simple pattern with only 31 pieces. The sheet has a suggested shade of wood, an arrow showing direction of the grain, and a piece number. I made four copies of this sheet so I could cut out each piece with the outline intact.

Most patterns suggest 3/4" thick wood, but I usually use 1/2". This saves material and is easier to saw. The thicker your wood, the more likely your cuts are to be off square, making it difficult to fit pieces together. Where I want to raise certain pieces, I either use thicker wood or raise it with 1/4" plywood. I use rubber cement to glue the pattern pieces to the wood. It holds well enough on most wood, and residual glue rubs off easily after you remove the pattern. When you're positioning the pattern pieces, pay close attention to grain direction and imperfections, such as knots and curved grain. You can enhance your picture with this attention to detail.

Sawing is where the rubber meets the road. A beautiful pattern and beautiful wood selection are important, but a poor job of cutting makes for a disaster. A pencil mark width too large or too small in the center of a project can make a big difference around the outside.

Make sure your saw table is square with the blade. Use sharp blades. A dull blade will wander. I do most of my cutting on the scroll saw, and I do not stack and cut on it. A #7 skip-tooth blade works best for me. I use the band saw for longer, straighter cuts, and sometimes I stack for the band saw. Sand off any slivering from the bottom of your piece after every cut so the piece lays flat and doesn't catch on the saw table as you move.

When there are several adjoining pieces the same color and same grain direction, I leave the pattern pieces together and cut them out as one. To separate the pieces, I change to a #1 blade (.011 thick). A wide saw kerf on curves screws up the fit. Before you remove the pattern from the piece, mark the piece number on the bottom. This can prevent a lot of frustration when you're assembling.

For backing, I cut a piece of 1/4" plywood a little larger than what the finished project will be and assemble the pieces on it. I usually

start by fitting the first few pieces and tape them together. Then I use double sided tape to hold them in place on the backing temporarily. I smooth all the edges and fit as I go. If a group of pieces is to be raised, I fit them together and glue them permanently with Elmer's Wood Glue to a piece of scrap of the right thickness. After the glue has dried, I cut the group on the scroll saw. I tilt the table 15 degrees so I don't scar the pieces as I saw. When all pieces are fitted properly, I shape them to my preference. After shaping, sand all top surfaces with 220 or 250 paper.

Now, I glue things down permanently. Elmer's Wood Glue requires clamping, so I use my homemade clamping table. Depending on your clamping method, this task can take considerable time. When the glue has cured, I cut off excess backing on the scroll saw with the table tilted 15 degrees and finish sand all edges and the back.

I use Tung oil for a finish. I oil the back and edges, applying enough oil to the front to seep into all joints. I buff it dry after about 10 to 15 minutes. After 24 hours I sand the front with 320 paper and apply another coat of oil, let it soak for 5 to 10 minutes and buff it dry. The next day I rub it lightly with brown paper or cardboard to give a very smooth surface. Attach the hanger of your choice and autograph your art work.

(Editor's Note: Thanks, Jerry, for a great program and write-up)

FYI

- We're sad to report that Guild Member Earl Beyer's wife passed away recently. We're also saddened to report that Terry Keegan's sister-in-law passed away as well. The Guild extends condolences to both members and their families.

- On a happier note, two Guild members published articles in *Chip Chats*, a national carvers' magazine. Bill Wright reported on the Oneida's sculpture show last fall and Fred Juengst reported on techniques he developed for using a digital camera to help him draw carving patterns. Congratulations, guys!

- Carvers will meet at Dan and Jane's Studio A on April 6, 13, and 27, and May 11 and 25.

- Steve Danielson, a new member, owns Bay Hardwoods in De Pere and indicates that he will give discounts to Guild Members. I've been there and bought wood. It's great.

- Tim Evans has more kiln dried red oak, black walnut, ash, cherry, calico, and butternut than he needs. It is graded and the prices look very good to me. Call 884-6486.

- The 2005 Midwest Scroll Saw Trade Show is Saturday, August 6, in Richland Center at the High School on U.S.14 just west of town. For more info: 608 647-2591 or clhacker@mhtc.net.

- Member Milton Schmit wants you to know that a big show is coming up in Darboy this June. It will be held Saturday, June 25 at the Darboy USA Community Park. More than 3,000 visitors give woodworkers a great opportunity to sell their products. Booth space costs only \$20 for our members. Call Milton at 920-993-9664 or at mcmaschmit@aol.com.

- Member Frank Stilp tells us that a man named Paul Schmidt is looking for someone to build him a medium-sized roll top desk from cherry or hickory. It is to be similar to the one shown in *Woodsmith* (#103), but only 36" wide. Reach Paul at 920-721-4657. If you don't have access to *Woodsmith*, call Frank for a copy.

- Welcome new members Steve Danielson, Dan Hallada, Adolf Hendriks, and Milton Schmit. Now that you are members, be sure to participate in our April Show and don't be shy about offering suggestions to improve the Guild.

- Eight memberships are up in March: your mailing label is highlighted in PINK. Please send in your dues or bring payment to the Show and save postage. Three membership renewals were due in February are now overdue: Curt Andersen, Allen Moyer, and John Nowak. Three renewals due in January are now two months overdue: Bob and Diane Froehlich, Carl Graf, and Bob Quella, this is your next to last *Bench Talk*. **Why not bring your dues to the raffle table at the show?**