



BENCH TALK

The Monthly Newsletter of the Northeastern Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild

June 2005 Volume 22, Number 6
Visit us on the web at www.newwg.org

CHIP CARVING TO ENHANCE PROJECTS

By Ron Dauplaise and Fred Juengst

Chip carving is an ancient method used to beautify all kinds of objects. Primitive peoples decorated wood and bone tools and implements thousands of years ago. Modern man has chip-carved boxes, building support structures, stools and furniture. Some homes have chip carved doors and beams. More recently, Wayne Barton has popularized the Swiss style of chip carving and created a new art form using only two knives.

Ron and Fred will discuss the history and tools as well as demonstrate how to carve and lay out a pattern on a project. They'll bring and show a number of completed projects to illustrate how cuts are put together to make a design. Ron has taken Wayne Barton's class recently, has learned the latest techniques, and will discuss these as part of his demonstration. Fred has been chip carving since 1987 and will discuss designs and layout tools and give some examples of carving letters.

This is a type of carving every woodworker can do, and one that everyone can use to enhance projects, like turned vessels, furniture, picture frames, boxes, chairs and benches, and toys. In fact, some old school woodworking apprentice programs required everyone to make and chip carve a box. It develops keen eye hand coordination. Besides, it a lot of fun!

Remember, we meet in 109 MAC Hall at UWGB at 7 p.m. Friday, June 17. We are trying to arrange to use video to project the demonstrations onto a large screen so everyone can have a front row seat. It really worked out well last month with Tom Tengowski as producer, director, and camera operator. We need a new camera and camera operator this month. Call Fred Juengst if you can help. 469-1919.

TIME FOR THE ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Here it is, the annual June meeting with the annual elections. Your Board has worked the crowd and come up with a slate of officers for your consideration:

Elected Offices

President: Rich Ward
Vice-president, Programs: Lyle Martens
Vice president, Public Information: Steve Carroll
Librarian: Joe and Trudy Ferrier
Treasurer: Tom Carlson
Secretary: Steve Lockhart
Editor: Jane Alesch

In addition to the elected officers, the Board is responsible for selecting individual members to several appointed offices.

Chair, Membership: Fred Juengst

Chair, Spring Show: Jane Alesch
Chair, Website: Mark Brien
Chair, Special Activities: Tom Charlier

Keep in mind that you can nominate someone for an office at the June meeting. It is always good, however, to learn beforehand whether that person is willing to serve.

MANY THANKS TO THE OUTGOING OFFICERS

All members want to thank those members who have served the Guild in one or more capacities and who are now taking a well-deserved break.

Bob Fruzen has served admirably as our librarian. Thanks, Bob, for bringing the books, keeping track, and making our lives easy on the borrowing end of the Library.

Terry Keegan has served on the Board for four years – two as Membership Chair and two as Secretary – and has done so through sickness and health. Thanks, Terry, for your many contributions.

Dan Alesch no longer holds an elective office, but will be helping Jane with every issue of *Benchtalk*, so he'll still be around.

MAY MEETING REVIEW

by Steve Carroll

At the May meeting, woodturner Ron Odegaard taught us far more than his techniques for turning small objects. Close attention to his program revealed the values he gained over time during a long career as both a teacher and a production woodturner. Like product selection and refinement. Like process development and improvement. And also like the value of planning, organization and innovation in your work methods and business practice.

The "plot" of Ron's presentation involved demonstrating the turning of a small white ash bell and a stick pen. He has made thousands of each over the years and has refined the process to a science. As a wood collector, he has turned a bell in each of the approximately 1000 woods in his accumulation, obviously including many that are not well suited to the process, honing his turning technique and tool selection decisions in the process. He has developed a wide array of fixtures in the course of his work that take much of the variation out of some of the trickier aspects of bell (and pen) construction, both speeding the process and reducing the errors that lead to waste and inefficiency.

Ron is the most "organized" woodworker I've seen. From beginning by taping his pockets shut to keep the (inevitable) chips out of his clothes to organizing his tools and supplies in an efficient and consistent pattern to developing innovative tools and jigs to take chance out of his work to the greatest extent possible. He has the clarity and patience of a teacher when explaining his work, yet he invariably works at warp speed when turning, probably because that is how he gets his best results. His turning tools are innovative. The handles are consistent in size. three-

sided and color coded. They have embedded magnets to keep them in place and off of the floor. Some are standard profiles, but others have clearly been "invented" for specific tasks. He uses Yankee push drill style drill bits in his work rather than common twist drills for a variety of reasons, which include both performance and tool life. Some choices seem eccentric at first glance, but are clearly based on experience and results, like measuring in picas rather than more commonly used units.

Ron Odegaard is a man who knows his craft and his business intimately and has refined his tools, techniques and product line to a razor edge. I am grateful that he is generous in his willingness to share that hard won knowledge with others following the woodturning path.

JIM, THE TOOL MAN

I'm Jim and I'm a tool addict....

Today I'm going to break from a long held tradition of bad-mouthing Sears Craftsman power tools.

One of my favorite and most frequently used tools today is my Craftsman 19.2v VSR drill. I bought my drill, 2 battery packs, 1 hour charger, and worklight in a kit on sale for about the bargain price of just 88 bucks last fall. Frugal Jim sent in a rebate offer and received a 3rd battery by mail for free.

Not a day goes by that I don't use it for one thing or another. It has true 410 in lb wrist snapping torque (thank goodness for the 24 position clutch) and a keyless chuck that actually works. The biggest test for me was popping a half dozen 1/2" holes in 10 gauge steel with a B&D "bullet" drill bit in less time than it would take to plug an extension cord into my Milwaukee Magnum corded drill. Try that test with most cordless drills and you'll be disappointed. It is well balanced, smooth, and very, very powerful. I especially like the pair of built-in levels, both horizontal and vertical, to improve your technique.

Time will tell if it's as durable as my old Milwaukee 12v cordless, or any of the other newer "premium" makes and models I use at work, but at less than 1/3 the price of any of them, I took the chance and so far I'm very glad I did.

A variety of accessories that use the interchangeable battery packs such as a laser circular trim saw, jig saw, reciprocating saw, and fluorescent lamps are available. I haven't tried them yet. A friend, however, says the circular saw is amazing.

Good woodworking from me, Jimmy
"Always lookin' for the most bang for the buck!"
Haen.

THE OLDE CARVER'S NOTES

by the Olde Carver

The carvers will meet at Dan and Jane's Studio A on Wednesday, July 13, July 20, and July 27. Call ahead if you are new to the group or have missed a session or two. Summer is a little "iffy" at the Alesch camp; they sometimes get called away and the group sometimes decides spontaneously to change the date of a get-together. When they do get together, the group gathers at 7 in the evening and usually has swept up and is gone by 9:30.

If you think you might like to sit in on a session of show and tell, carving, chit chat, praise and critiques, and munching yummys, give Jane a call at 468-0132.

MEMBERSHIP STATUS REPORT

By Fred Juengst

Membership in the Guild jumps up around the Spring Show: we signed up seven new members this year. Along with lots of new members, we have a large number of renewals for memberships as well. Please look at your label to see if it is highlighted in PINK. Please continue to be a member and send in your dues. All those who remember signing up for membership at the Spring Show should send in their dues now.

We have nineteen memberships up for renewal in May and these are now one month overdue. Please pay your dues today and continue to be an active member of the Guild.

We have sixteen memberships due in April and these are now overdue by 2 months. Please consider continuing being an active member of the Guild and pay your dues today.

Members failing to renew their membership and who are overdue by at least three months

received a postcard attached to their *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 nametag 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 postcard and dues in an envelope and mail it to me. Provided you do not mark the postcard, we will be able to reuse it.

My address is Fred Juengst, 846 Cornelius Dr., Green Bay, WI 54311. If you have any questions about your membership, call me at 920-469-1919 or e-mail me at mdjuengst@aol.com. Thanks from the Guild.

FYI

by Dan Alesch

- 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

- Club night at Woodcraft was lots of fun. There were demonstrations of tools and equipment, refreshments, chitchat, lots of people we knew from the Turners and the Guild, and some dandy prices on sale items. Thanks to Chris, Mary, Jeff, and all the guys at Woodcraft. Let's do it again sometime soon!

- Member Ron Dauplaise does a lot more than woodworking. He also is a Lambeau Field tour guide and has been the official Bellin Run starter for the past 26 years. The *Green Bay Press-Gazette* picked up on Ron's story this week, describing how he is the guy who gets to fire the starting gun, triggering the thousands of runners to pound down the pavement. It sounds great, Ron. Hope you didn't get too wet this past Saturday!

●Here's a thought:

**Be careful in your shop.
Fingers don't grow back.**

**●MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR
THE GUILD PICNIC. IT WILL BE HELD
AT JOSTEN PARK IN BELLEVUE ON
SEPTEMBER 11.** That will, in fact, be the
August meeting. There will also be a September
meeting. We're hoping you can figure that out.