



# 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)

## DON'T FRET<sup>1</sup>, THE OCTOBER 21 PROGRAM IS ABOUT MAKING GUITARS

Andrew Madsen will present our October program. He has been involved in repairing and building of instruments since 1998. He got his start in the art of lutherie (building stringed instruments) while in his sophomore year of high school. He had built an electric guitar the year before and wanted to pursue building acoustic guitars. They are more demanding and, yet, more satisfying for him to complete than an electric. After building a few guitars, he obtained a “respectable” job at a Neenah music store. While working there throughout high school, he got the chance to work on all types of instruments, including all string family instruments, brass, and electronics. That gave him a well-rounded background in many aspects of the music repair trade, but he always focused on building guitars as a career.

After graduating in 2001, he attended Roberto Venn School of Lutherie in Phoenix, Arizona. The school gives students the chance over a six-month course to learn almost all aspects of guitar building. Following completion of school, he returned to Neenah to start his own guitar company named AM Lutherie. Currently, Andrew is employed by Arcways of Neenah. He has stopped repairing instruments and spends all his spare time constructing his own instruments and building his business.

Andrew will talk about modern acoustic and electric guitar construction, new kinds of finishes and procedures, setting up an inexpensive spray booth to get professional results, wood species used in musical instruments, and what makes a great guitar.

Our October meeting begins at 7:00 P.M. on the 21<sup>st</sup> at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. We meet in Room 109, Mary Ann Cofrin Hall. The Library will be there with librarians, Joe and Trudy Ferrier, eager to help you find just what you're looking for.

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### REVIEW: OCTOBERFEST IN APPLETON

The Guild had a good turnout for the annual Octoberfest held in Appleton on the Lawrence campus. The Guild was represented by Joe and Trudy Ferrier, Joe Martin, Bruce Carlson, Tom and Sue Sorenson, Lisa and Steve Danielson, and Luther Snyder.

The tent location was top-notch and we are told that sales were fairly brisk. Mark next

year's calendar for the show, which is usually held toward the end of September.

The Guild extends its very special thanks to our friends at Woodcraft Appleton, especially Jeff Alarie, for sponsoring the Guild's participation and for putting up the tent and arranging everything for free!

### REVIEW: THE PICNIC

Forty-some members enjoyed good fellowship, good food, and good weather at the

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<sup>1</sup> This is a stupid guitar joke put in by the editor's husband. Frets are those little bars across the neck of a guitar used for adjusting the effective length of the string to play different notes.

annual picnic. In other words, a perfect Woodworkers Guild picnic. Mark Brien used Rich Ward's grill to perfection and Tom Carlson did yeoman duty as janitor. Thanks for all who helped!

## **REVIEW: STEVE DANIELSON ON WOOD**

*by Steve Carroll*

Among the many important skills to be acquired by beginning woodworkers is learning the lingo of the lumberyard. Luckily, the Guild has a member who is also a lumber merchant and is willing and able to clearly explain the terms used in the sawing, grading, processing and measuring of the materials used in our craft. Steve Danielson has spent 20 years in various positions in the lumber business and, since 1997, has been the owner, with his wife Lisa, of Bay Hardwoods, located southwest of DePere.

Critical to the craftsman when purchasing lumber are the dimensional measurements of thickness in "quarters" (1/4 inch increments) and quantity or volume in "board feet." One inch thick rough lumber is described as "four quarter" stock. Two inch is "eight quarter." Board footage is calculated by multiplying the length of the board times its width times its thickness (all in inches) and dividing by 144. Hardwood is priced and sold in board foot increments. A lumber scaling rule contains all of the information needed to make a quick and accurate approximation of the board foot volume of most boards.

Quality is described by a grading scale, with Firsts and Seconds being the most defect free grade, followed by Select and Better, Select, #1 Common, and so on. The grading system is based on a minimum length and width for the board plus an estimate of the percentage defect-free area on either the best or worst side, depending on the grade. Steve explained that generally the smaller boards in each grade are likely to contain the fewest defects.

Knowing the moisture content is important in hardwood to ensure that the material you are purchasing is suitable for the intended purpose. Dimensional stability is highest in kiln dried lumber, which typically has a moisture

content of six to eight percent. Air dried stock with 15-20% moisture content will retain the tendency to shrink significantly, making it risky to use in tightly joined projects which may distort or break. Green lumber contains nearly 100% water by weight. Electronic moisture meters are available that can accurately verify moisture content. Steve feels that the pin type of meter is superior to the surface contact type and that it is prudent to check boards in at least three separate spots to get an accurate reading.

Lumber can be plain, rift or quarter sawn, which describes the relationship of the cutting plane to the growth rings in the tree. The appearance of the wood can vary greatly based on the sawing orientation, with additional figure usually appearing in rift and quarter sawn stock. To determine the sawing orientation, look at the end grain. If the growth rings are roughly parallel to the face of the board, that board is plain sawn. If the rings are at a 30-60 degree angle to the face, it is rift sawn, and if the rings are nearly perpendicular to the face, the wood is described as quarter sawn.

Bay Hardwoods stocks an impressive variety of domestic lumber species in various thicknesses, lengths and grades. Also available are figured domestic hardwoods (bird's eye, quilted, curly, flamed, etc.) and a large of imported exotic wood species for that special application. Steve is a great guy with tremendous knowledge of wood, and a real pleasure to do business with.

## **A WOOD SHOW IS COMING TO GREEN BAY**

Remember when wood shows used to come to Green Bay? Well, another one is coming. Sponsored by Popular Woodworking, the show will be held at the Brown County Arena on February 10,11,12, 2006.

The Guild expects to participate in the show, but there are several options about how to participate. The Board will meet Tuesday, October 18 at Fred Juengst's house (call if you'd like to attend 669-1919) to decide on the Guild's role in the show. You can find out more about the

show at [www.woodworksevents.com](http://www.woodworksevents.com). and look for more in *Bench Talk*.

## THE OLDE CARVER'S NOTES

by the Olde Carver

The olde carver was feeling a little chilly this morning as the front moved through, moving us from mid-August to late October. Olde Carver loves the autumn, with its colored leaves, bright blue skies, and crisp air. It's a good reason to live here. (*Why is it that air, apples, and pickles are "crisp" but we never talk about branches or sticks as being "crisp". They are always "nice and dry."*)

The carvers plan to meet at Dan and Jane's house on October 12 and 19. They will also meet on November 2 and 16. They'll pick a day to meet during Thanksgiving week. Dan is still flying around working on Hurricane problems, so if you were not at the previous meeting, check in to make sure when the group plans to meet. Dates sometimes change. You can reach Dan or Jane at 920-468-0132.

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

By Fred Juengst

Please take a few seconds to see if your mailing label is marked in pink. If so, it's time to pay your dues. We have 14 people due in October. If your dues are due, don't wait, mail them in today.

Three memberships were up for renewal in September. One member's dues came due in August and are now overdue by two months. This is a reminder for Dave Plamann.

We have two memberships now overdue by more than three months. If you are one of these, you have a postcard attached to your *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 simply 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 Joe or Trudy Ferrier (920-438-8116) a call to arrange for the return of borrowed items.

If you wish to continue your membership, do not mark the post card in anyway. Just slip the post card and your dues in an envelope and mail it to me. This will allow us to reuse the postcard.

We do on occasion make a mistake with your membership and I regret it. Please don't hesitate to point out any mistakes right away so they may be corrected promptly. 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 send me an e-mail at [mdjuengst@aol.com](mailto:mdjuengst@aol.com). Thanks from the Guild.

## FYI

*Little tidbits of relevant, irrelevant, or irreverent news, observations, and assorted stuff from and about members and their pursuits.*

by Dan Alesch

### ● BENTWOOD LAMINATION FISHING NET CLASS

Long time Guild member and former president Lyle Martens will teach a class in bentwood laminating at Woodcraft in Appleton on October 22 and 23. The class runs from 10:00 to 5:00 on Saturday and 11:00 to 4:00 on Sunday. All enrollees will learn skills in laminating wood and take home a beautiful fishing net and the forms to build more. The class costs \$95 and you may enroll by contacting Woodcraft by telephone at 920-730-9663 or 888-399-9663. Many of you know that Lyle is the king of bentwood laminating; if you can take the course, do it.

● The Iron Mountain carving show takes place this weekend, October 8 and 9. Even for noncarvers, this is a worthwhile show. Good vendors, good carving, good fellowship.

● Jane has a lead on a couple of really good-sized (English?) walnut trees that have been or are being cut down. If you can take it away and have it cut into lumber, give her a call and she can direct you to the owner of the logs. This one has a short fuse, so don't procrastinate. Jane is at 920-246-1553.