



BENCH TALK

The Monthly Newsletter of the Northeastern Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild

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INSIDE!

- **Guild Spring Show THIS Weekend**
- **Elections scheduled for June Meeting**

GUILD SPRING SHOW THIS COMING WEEKEND

by Jane Alesch

Don't forget we will be holding our Spring Show at the East Town Mall in Green Bay. **The Show will be this weekend on March 25 and 26, with set-up on Friday, the 24th. Come on down!**

Where?

East Town Mall is at 2350 East Mason Street in Green Bay. If you are on Interstate 43, take Exit 183 (Mason Street) to the West. East Town is a mile or so west of the exit on the south side. We will be in a large store that is right at the Mall's main entrance. It is large, with windows to the outside and it can be locked. Jane is making a plan for where each of us is to set up. If you haven't sent in your form, call her at 468-0132 so she can plan a place for you. Otherwise, you'll be in the leftover space. Free parking. Go in the main entrance.

Publicity

Watch for our publicity. WFRV-TV Monday, March 20 from 5 A.M. to 7 A.M and Friday, March 24, from 5 A.M to 9 A. M. On WLUK-TV. We'll also be in papers, etc. throughout the week. Talk it up with your friends and acquaintances. Sell raffle tickets.

East Town Mall gave us free ads in the Press-Gazette! Thanks, Andrea!

The Raffle

Many of you have returned your tickets with cash or check. Good for you! Some haven't. We're hoping you will bring them to the East Town Mall well before the raffle so we can mix the stubs in with the others. **Call for more tickets or to drop off money.**

We continue to add dynamite raffle prizes. From **Woodworkers Depot**, we were able to purchase a 10 inch Makita sliding compound miter saw and a cordless impact driver. **(Thanks, Merl, Char, and your friends at Makita).** Cordless drivers are going to replace a lot of cordless drills and that Makita saw is great (we've got one), so you'll want to buy some tickets, too, as well as sell them. From **Woodcraft**

in Appleton, we got an oscillating spindle sander by Delta and a DeWalt random orbit sander. (**Thanks Chris, Mary, and your friends at DeWalt.**) Lyle Martens who demonstrated the Kreg K3 at the Depot, got a donation of a Kreg K3 Master system from the folks at Kreg. (**Thanks to Lyle and Kreg.**) We also got a 7" Skil Saw from Tom Carlson as a donation. It's new and its nice! (**Thanks, Carlson crew.**) **We got seriously great discounts on all the things that we purchased.**

Guild members are being generous with their donations to the raffle. Wow! Still hoping for more to make the raffle completely irresistible. As of now, it looks like we have at least **42 prizes** as of this writing!

Call Jane at 468-0132 ahead of time to give her details about your raffle prize so we don't have to stay up all night making signs. Thanks.

Displayers and Demonstrators

We're in pretty good shape with demonstrators, except for Sunday, so, if you want to do some, just call Jane. We'll have scroll sawing, power carving, knife and gouge carving, chip carving, turning, sharpening, finishing, intarsia, and **Lyle Martens** laminating and on the Kreg.

The room looks big and it is. Bring stuff.

If you want power, bring your own extension cord .

There is a lot of food nearby and a good sandwich shop across the hall. Bring money.

A central purpose for the Spring Show is to show others how much fun woodworking can be and that we want people of all skill levels to join us. If you haven't committed to displaying, but think you might, there is still time to call Jane at 468-0132.

A few chairs will be available – first reserved gets first choice. Bring your own chair if you want to be comfortable or give Jane a call and she can get one for you.

Publicity

Publicity is coming along well thanks to many helpers. We put up posters, put ads in papers across NE Wisconsin and the Valley, talked with friends, put it on the website, got free notices the radio, arranged for television coverage during the week before the show, got signs up at the East Town Mall, and got posters in critical stores. We're in a new place, though, so continue to talk it up and put up posters.

Sales

We can have stuff for sale at this show. Here's a chance to reduce your inventory. Over the years, we have had very little pilfering, but it makes sense to have someone watching your stuff when you need to leave your booth. If you don't plan to display at the show, volunteer to give demonstrators and displayers a break.

Attracting New Members and Having Fun

Wear your Guild-ware and your name tag! We need some talkers at the Show – members who will gladly talk about how much fun they have turning trees into *objets d'art*, our magnificent library and great programs, how much the Guild has helped them become competent artisans, and what a golden group of good people we are. If you are up to that, come on down and hang out. Even if you aren't, come on down and hang out. We can use you to spell people with booths and share the fun, if only for a couple of hours.

THERE WILL BE A VOLUNTEER SIGN UP SHEET AND RAFFLE AT THE RAFFLE DESK!!!

REVIEW: THE FEBRUARY MEETING

by Dan Alesch

Jeff Alarie from Appleton's Woodcraft gave a great presentation on using the router to make inlays. It was a "watch me on the big screen" presentation, benefitting from the Guild's new technology – mini-cameras and a microphone that enabled **Mark Brien** to focus right in on the action. Even **Brian Everson**, who always sits in the very back row, got a bird's eye view.

Frankly, I was stunned by how simple the techniques for router-based inlays are, particularly with the nifty templates available on the market. I had no clue how one would approach the problem, but Jeff made it simple and straight-forward. Looks like I'll be spending a few bucks on some of that stuff. The gist of the method is that one uses a pattern and a bushing on the router to remove the wood from where the inlay is to go. One then uses the same pattern and a different bushing (or a special attachment that adjusts the size of the original bushing) to cut the inlay from a contrasting piece of wood. Jeff always cuts the inlaid piece just a little thicker than the hole so the inlay can be sanded down flush with the surface.

There are several kits available for those who would like to get the whole inlay package all at once in a box. Alternatively, you can buy sets of bushings to match your router and either buy patterns separately or make them yourself. Kits and bushings are available from our member stores.

If you missed the meeting, Jeff will be doing an encore at the show on Saturday.

Jeff, it was a great presentation. Many thanks from all of us.

ANNUAL ELECTION AT JUNE MEETING

If you've always wanted to be an officer of the Guild, here's your chance. The annual election will be held at the June meeting, which, from our by-laws, is always also the annual meeting. Being an officer isn't hard (just look at our current crop if you doubt my word), but it is

important work. Without Board members, there wouldn't be any Guild. You could show up on the third Friday and no one would be there. You wouldn't be able to borrow books, see speakers, get the Benchtalk.

Right now, the Board is looking hard for one or two people who want to take on the job of arranging programs. This could be you. Give it some thought and talk with **Rich Ward**, **Lyle Martens**, or any of the Board members. New volunteers, come on down!

BOARD MEETING

The Guild Board met at Dan and Jane's house March 9 to make sure everything is on target for the Show. The focus was on the Spring Show, upcoming programs, and candidates for the June election. The Board will meet at Steve Lockhart's home on Thursday, April 13. If you have anything you would like to bring to the Board's attention, or if you just want to sit in, let any officer know.

THE OLDE CARVER'S NOTES

The carving cluster's plans are a little up in the air right now, mostly because Dan and Jane's travel plans are up in the air. It's best to call ahead to find out when the next session is scheduled. Talk with Jane or Dan at 468-0132.

The carvers will be well-represented at the Annual Show, displaying, demonstrating, and selling – or wishing they were selling.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

By Fred Juengst

New name tags have arrived! If you joined between June 17, 2005 and February 20, 2006, please pick up your nametag at the show. Pick yours up at the raffle desk at the show.

Twelve members are up for renewal this month. Your mail label is marked with magic marker. Our March Show is an excellent time to renew your membership. Fred is suffering from high water and heavy rains in Hawaii, so see

Tom Carlson at his table.

Four members were due in February: you are now overdue by one month. Please pay your dues as soon as possible to continue your membership in the Guild.

Three members are more than two months overdue with renewals. This is a friendly reminder for Bill Ciha, Rick DeBenedetto, and Rory Reinhold that your dues are due now. Please consider remaining a member of the Guild and pay your dues today.

If you are more than three months overdue, a postcard is attached to your *Benchmark* as a reminder to pay your dues as soon as possible. If you choose not to renew your membership, please sign the card and slip it into the mail. This will let me know you intended not to renew. Please keep your nametag in the event you wish to join at a later date. If you don't respond, I simply drop your name from our active roster.

For those getting a postcard but wishing to renew, just slip the UNMARKED postcard in an envelope with your membership dues and mail it to me at 846 Cornelius Dr., Green Bay, WI 54311. My address should be on the card as well but this has not always proved to be the case.

If you feel I made a mistake with your dues, don't be shy. Give me a call (920-469-1919) or e-mail me with your complaint. I do make mistakes and appreciate getting them corrected quickly. **If you borrowed books from the Guild Library, please give Joe or Trudy Ferrier (920-438-8116) a call to arrange to return the borrowed items.**

FYI: Little tidbits of relevant, irrelevant, or irreverent news, observations, and assorted stuff from and about members and their pursuits. by Dan Alesch

● Guild member, **Steve and Lisa Danielson** own and operate Bay Hardwoods. If you are like me, you didn't know that they are giving Guild members the 500 board foot price when you buy wood, even in less than 500 board foot quantities. That's quite a savings. Steve has a good supply

of new exotics, aromatic cedar in 4/4, 8/4 basswood, and turning stock. Bay Hardwoods is closed Saturday and Sunday. Give them a try when getting ready for your next project.

● Every once in a while I realize just how lucky we are to have **Woodworkers Depot, Woodcraft, and Bay Hardwoods** available to us. Jane and I wanted to put a poster up in a retail outlet that is part of a chain that sells tools that apparently come here by ship through some Harbor. They said that we couldn't put up a poster; it is against their policy. Well, it's against my policy to buy there. I buy almost exclusively from our friends – the Guild's member companies that support us in so many ways, help us with raffle prizes, know us by name, and keep us from having to buy from those other places. **Support those who support the Guild.**

● As I get closer to retirement (for the second or third time or whatever), I'm doing some reorganizing in my overcrowded shop and am finding things to sell so I can jam other stuff in space I don't have. The first item to go is a 3 horsepower DeWalt plunge router, Model DW 625. It is electronic with variable speed. It is essentially brand new. It is top-rated by almost everyone, but, contrary to popular thought, a guy *can* have too many routers. This top-level workhorse lists at \$546 with a street price of around \$300. If you're interested, give me a call and we can talk price. Dan at 468-0132. PS: I think I'll bring it to the Show.

● Don't forget that **Tom Charlier** is collecting used hand tools for Hurricane Katrina victims folks in Biloxi, Mississippi. Bring your excess hammers, squares, screw drivers, planes, and so forth to the Spring Show! Tom has already shipped five boxes of tools South. We're also accepting chain saws, power nailers, compressors, and whatever. This charitable activity is part of our continuing effort to do good, so jump on the bandwagon.

● **Noel Hansen** is still looking for plans for a horizontal, wall-mounted gun rack. Call him at

920-682-4952 if you know where he can find one.

- Here's another reminder for the Darboy Chicken Fest Craft and Garden Show. It's being held in Darboy Saturday, June 24. Talk with Guild Member **Milton Schmidt** if you are interested in a booth. 920-993-9664 or e-mail him at Mcmaschmidt@aol.com.

- Our new friends at **Treasure Trove** in De Pere (864-3486) have a beautiful store (Jane checked it out), but they need more stuff. They've adjusted their consignment rates to accommodate those of us who are small time sellers, so give them another think if you thought it might be too pricey for you to sell there. But do it after the show if you have anything left to sell.

- Got anything to sell? Something you want Guild members to know? A new tip or jig? Catch a large fish? Injure yourself? Give Dan a call (468-0132), a secret note, or an e-mail (dalesch@new.rr.com) and let him know. He'll make you a star!

That's all for now, f-f-f-folks!