

OREGON WOOD WORKS

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ABOUT OUR NEW FORMAT:

This is the Guild's first newsletter in our new format. We expect it will take us a few issues to work out the bugs and develop the final "look" but we hope you'll find the new format interesting. Review the articles and let us know what you think. Then consider becoming one of our contributing writers. Even if you're not a great writer, you're a key member of the Guild and we'd like to hear from you. The newsletter provides all sorts of opportunities for you to share your woodworking adventures and ideas through short articles. Contact Bob Oswald at 503-985-7137 if you'd like to share your expertise at: bobnan@teleport.com

Have a great idea for a new name for the newsletter? Contact Christin at :

fundingsolutionsnw@comcast.net

FEATURE: IN PRAISE OF OLDER TOOLS

BY QUIN LEACH

I have a confession - I am an old-tool junkie. It started with my first table saw - a totally inadequate department store bench table saw "with Free stand!" Needless to say, as I started meeting other woodworkers, I learned to keep quiet about my "table saw". Comments like "What you should have gotten for a first saw..." were too common. However, it was the best saw I could afford at the time and did get me through my first few projects.

Ok, I figured out what I wanted - a Delta contractor's saw with Biesemeyer fence, an outboard good-quality motor and a cast iron table top with real miter slots...too bad I couldn't afford it. To make a long story short, I got more saw for less money by buying used. Most of you are going "duh" about now, but I'm not

just talking about a used saw, but a truly old one. I ended up with a Craftsman Model 100 (made sometime in the late 50's) with a new BTC fence (a drop-in replacement for the Biesemeyer) with 50" rails for under \$350. It took some shopping and some fiddling to get it dialed in, but now I've got a saw that will stay in the family, even after I upgrade to something better.

The same holds true for my hand planes: every one bought locally for less than \$5. Only two were ready-to-use, but all are a lot better than what I could buy for 10 times the money new. I'm talking about old Stanley "Bailey" planes. Planes made out of thick iron, with nice flat soles. Sure, I'd rather have modern, premium planes made by Bridge City, Lie-Nielsen, etc, but I'm on a

budget. Plus, it adds to the enjoyment to be using inexpensive, quality tools.

Except for a compound miter saw and a planer that I got a heck of a deal on, most of my tools were purchased used. I have a fully equipped amateur woodworking shop (2 car garage) for less than \$1200 or just a bit more than what that current Delta Biesemeyer contractor's saw would cost me.

Here are my rules for buying used tools:

1. Know what you are looking at and what it is worth. I research heavily on the Internet and use the "Closed Auctions" final price on eBay as a rough guide. *Cont'd on pg. 2*

OUR NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 17th at Gary Rogowski's Northwest Woodworking Studio in Portland at 1104 NE 28th, Suite A230. Gary will be showing us how to use a shaving horse to make a small stool using not much more than a drawing knife.

Directions from I-5 Going North:

I-84 towards The Dalles  
Take 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue exit #1  
Right onto NE 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue  
Right onto NE Sandy Boulevard  
Right onto NE 28<sup>th</sup>  
Right onto NE Holladay Street

Directions from I-5 Going South:

I-84 towards The Dalles  
Take 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue exit #1  
Right onto NE 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue  
Right onto NE Sandy Boulevard  
Right onto NE 28<sup>th</sup>  
Right on NE Holladay Street

## IN PRAISE OF OLDER TOOLS

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

Even if I'm buying locally I'll often get a model number from the seller over the phone and research it before I go look. This saves my time and theirs. Feel free to "risk" the odd quarter on smaller items like nailsets, chisels, etc.

2. Don't buy anything you don't need, even if it is a good deal. This lesson was hard to learn. I have friends and family members that have benefited from deals that were too good to pass up. An example: last week I hit the on-line version of the NickleAds and found a shaper for \$75. I called the seller, found out that it had features my current shaper didn't have (TEFC reversing motor and what sounded like a superior fence system). Turns out that it had the smaller table & I had to tell the guy "sorry, I'm not interested." But before I was done apologizing for wasting his time, he dropped the price to \$50, unasked. So, I called my brother to see if he was interested, and golly, he was. While I was there I asked if he had any other woodworking tools he wanted to part with and picked up a Bailey 5 1/4 and a few other tools for \$20. If you don't ask, you don't get.

3. Don't buy anything in worse condition than you have the time, energy, or money to fix. I bought an original-model 1947 Shopsmith (the 10E) all-in-one tool for \$50, and still don't have it completely "showroom" restored. But then, I have all of its features duplicated by stand-alone tools, and it is still a useful tool even though it ain't pretty.

4. Sometimes it's better to buy new. There are some tools you'll want that aren't available very often used - bandsaws and thickness planers are great examples. Spend as little time as possible looking for the best possible deal. If you don't have a lot of time, but still want to buy used, check out Barbo. I discovered that for the features I wanted in a thickness planer, I was better off buying new. Especially as the hunt for a cheap used thickness planer had already cost me many hours. I did manage to buy a pretty good bandsaw for \$10 though.

5. Don't buy any tool that you can't get parts for or can't wait for the parts. With eBay and other online resources, you can almost ALWAYS get the part eventually. My Shopsmith 10E, over 50 years old, has parts regularly on eBay! There are people that sell on eBay who buy old non-working name brand

tools and part them out. Another example is a Porter-Cable 7518 router that I bought for \$20 at a garage sale - I talked the seller down from \$30 because it was missing a couple of minor parts which cost me \$7.50 through The Tool Peddler (their parts department is great!) So, for \$27.50 I got a router that sells new for around \$300. Buy name brand items if you are going to buy used. Craftsman, Delta, Porter-Cable and many of the others support their tools far longer than I would have believed. Delta and others have online PDF manuals for many of their old tools!

6. If possible, try the tool before buying, especially if it is motorized. A drill press that spins up nice and appears to be perfect in every way isn't a bargain if the motor is worn-out and it bogs down even when drilling small holes in pine. But, even if it isn't motorized and seems pretty simple, it is worth your time to check out. A \$1 Rosewood Try Square isn't a bargain if it isn't square & it only takes a few seconds and a pencil to check it.

*"I'm talking about...planes made out of thick iron, with nice flat soles."*

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## TIPS: KNOTTY BOARDS ARE BEAUTIFUL!

BY BOB OSWALD

How many of us pay a premium for figured wood and then buy a board with knots and cut them out? I see many articles about selecting wood to eliminate sapwood and knots. Personally, I think knots add a lot of character. Of course, you have to work with them carefully to avoid tear-out and dislodging them.

But the same tear-out problem exists with the twisty grain of figured wood. In a hardwood, knots are almost always surrounded by stunning grain. Why not make it the focal point of your next project? The best knots crop up on some of the least expensive, lowest grade boards available. The biggest secret

is to make light passes on the jointer or planer.

*"...knots are almost always surrounded by stunning grain..."*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY JOHN DUBAY

Most everyone I talked to said the meeting at Woodcrafters was the most information dense meeting of the year. After all, most of us own a table saw and want to learn all we can about getting the most from them.. The folks from Freud and Woodcrafters gave us all that and more with door prizes and great pizza to boot.

Next month's meeting at Gary Rogowski's Northwest Woodworking Studio provides yet another opportunity to learn from a woodworking teacher with a truly national reputation. (Which, Gary will tell you, pleases his mother very much.) No member should miss this opportunity to absorb his unique woodworking knowledge and take advan-

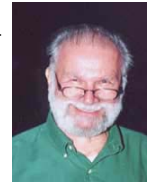
tage of the give and take of Gary's interactive teaching style.

The meeting is also our annual Sponsors Night where we have the privilege of meeting our Guild sponsors and hearing their comments about Guild activities. The Guild owes much to these organizations for donating to the Guild and its scholarship program and for giving discounts to Guild members. This is our time to show our appreciation for their generosity.

The annual meeting this year also marks a watershed organizational event. Guild activities and programs have proved popular in recent years, and have no doubt contributed to our growth, now at 270 members.

The new activities – seminars and beginners woodworking classes, mentoring and scholarship programs, sponsorship development, field trips, an improved website presence, reviving the annual woodworking show – all have contributed to the Guild's vitality and member growth. They have also highlighted the need to adopt a more efficient governance system and procedures. The large 18- person Board of Directors, each member a committee chair, was becoming cumbersome. We needed to streamline the board meetings and

*Cont'd on page 4...*



## JIGS, FIXTURES: ADJUSTABLE DADO JIG

BY LINDA MAIN

Many woodworkers on a budget find themselves in the situation of having to find alternative ways to accomplish tasks. Even if you don't have a table saw, you still can make precision dados with a router. Or, even if you do have a table saw and dado blade, you might find it difficult to get exactly the dado width you want. Woodsmith magazine, Vol. 25, #148 (August 2003) has instructions on pages 6-7 for the router jig that will solve all your dado challenges.

narrow one nesting into a wider one. The two Ts are dead-on square and the legs of the Ts are exactly parallel. The small T is adjustable, so you can vary the distance between the legs of the Ts to make a dado of any width you want (like 23/32" to fit a plywood shelf, for example). Add an adjustable stop block and you can duplicate the position of the dado in another panel.

For those who don't have a jointer, this jig can also be used to edge-joint short stock (less than 30")

Materials required are: 1/4" tempered hardboard, 3/4" plywood or MDF, plus 4 carriage bolts and wing nuts and 8 screws. This jig works with either a fixed-base or plunge router and requires a straight router bit.

If you can't locate the August, 2003, Woodsmith, email [ldmain@toledotel.com](mailto:ldmain@toledotel.com) and I'll email you a PDF copy of the article.

*"...this jig can also be used to edge-joint short stock."*

## WOODWORKING: LESSONS LEARNED

BY BOB OSWALD

When I re-sawed my first figured board to make a bookmatch panel, I did take care that the bandsaw was well aligned to make a pretty smooth cut. I ran the pieces through the planer and not realizing it, when you take much wood off the matching sides, if the grain is wild it changes VERY rapidly with depth of cut. You can destroy a nice bookmatch but cutting too deep. So keep the trim cut very light, preferably only with a drum sander and just enough to remove the saw marks.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

CONT'D FROM PAGE 3...

the lines of communication and to assign specific responsibilities to a smaller number of committees.

The officers and board members gathered for a two-day retreat to develop the new system. Under the experienced leadership of Gail Haskett as moderator, the Board listed the current board tasks, prioritized and categorized the list, and assigned the tasks to one of

five proposed committees. The five committees are:

- Communications
- General Meetings
- Membership
- Education
- Shows

Each committee chair will also serve as a board member. The Board will have two additional elected members who will not chair committees

but represent the membership as a whole (members-at-large), one a professional member. These seven elected board members plus the four elected officers constitute the Board of Directors.

I want to thank all the officers and board members for their many contributions to the Guild this last year. The Guild has thrived as a result of their dedication and effort.

*“Why not volunteer...?”*

## BUILDING A BETTER GUILD

BY GAIL HASKETT

Want to get more involved in the Guild? Want to network with other members while fulfilling a need? Join your fellow Guild members in helping make the Guild a great organization for all woodworkers! Why not volunteer to help on one of the following committees? It doesn't take a big commitment of time and it's very rewarding! Contact the chairs for more information.

### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

CHAIR: DREW PARRISH  
541-689-9021

How do we network more effectively? What skills do the members have that they can share with each other? How can we recruit new Guild members? What "fun" events

and projects can we do? Join this committee and help answer these questions while getting to know other fascinating Guild members of all skill levels!

### MEETINGS COMMITTEE

CHAIR: GAIL HASKETT  
360-666-6133

Got some great ideas for the monthly meeting? How can we enhance networking, learning, and fun during these get-togethers? For the answers to this and life's other important questions, you'll want to join this fabulous committee.

### COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

CHAIR: BOB OSWALD  
503-985-7137

Like writing? Design? Internet? Printing? Are you creative? Have we got a committee for you! This

committee is responsible for keeping us all informed through all media. What could be more important than that?

### SHOWS COMMITTEE

CHAIR: GEORGE DUBOIS  
503-365-7636

OK...not only are you going to help promote the Guild through shows and exhibits, but you get to work with George, the king of promotion!

(THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE IS FULL AT THIS TIME.)

Call now! Committee chairs are standing by!!!!!!!

## RESOURCES: WHO, ME?

BY TOM MCCANN

When Lee Johnson suggested that I might be a suitable mentor for a new woodworker who had taken one of his carving classes, I thought he must be joking. What did I know about woodworking? Having retired four years earlier from a demanding career in medicine, I felt poorly quali-

fied to teach woodworking to anyone. But I had a long-standing interest in woodworking and had been fortunate enough to be accepted into the Northwest Woodworking Studio's mastery program where I got a basic understanding of stock preparation, joinery, and design, so I de-

cided to give it a try.

My student came to the first session with a rough plan for a bench for her living room and had already purchased the wood. We met an average of once a week, as she learned to solidify the design, mill the stock and build her bench. *cont'd on page 5...*

## TOOLS: BIRDSMOUTH BIT

BY BOB OSWALD

I learned about the Birdsmouth bit from my brother. It's an excellent way to make cylinders. Of course, you can cut miters but getting the angle perfect so you don't have creep takes time. And the next tricky part is holding all the pieces in place until you get a band clamp around them. The Birdsmouth bit is ground to the precise angle required for a particular number of sides and it cuts a V groove in one edge. Each side is then stacked with its neighbor making alignment pretty foolproof prior to clamping. Tapered cylinders are also easy. It does take 3 different bits (6/12, 8 and 16) to make from 3 to 16 sided cylinders. The photo shows the bits and the interlocking concept. See Lee Valley Tools for a detailed write-up.



## RESOURCES: WHO ME?

CONT'D FROM PAGE 4...

She learned shop safety and to use the bandsaw, table saw, planer, jointer and router. We also touched on sharpening and the use of hand tools such as planes and chisels. For a relatively straightforward project, there was an amazing amount to learn. And what surprised me even more was that I knew enough to teach her these basics. It also helped that she was an apt and willing pupil.

As the project neared completion, she decided to add some decorative details, which enhanced the final project greatly. I was able to suggest some subtle modifications

that added to the interest of these details. When she put the final coat of finish on the piece, we were both proud of the work we had accomplished together. The bench now occupies a place of honor in her living room and is used for extra seating when the crowd of guests gets too large.

My motivation for writing this piece is twofold. First, I feel that the mentoring program offered by the Guild is one of our greatest assets in that it encourages the advancement of learning about woodworking and is available to all of its

members at no cost. As an additional and unexpected bonus, my student and her husband have become good friends with my wife and me, as we share many common interests. Second, I feel that it is important to point out that many of us are like me and feel they don't have anything to offer to a beginning woodworker. But I can assure you that we all have soaked up a lot of useful and practical knowledge and techniques that newcomers will find extremely helpful in getting started on the right track. All it takes is the willingness to share. Try it! You just might like it!

*"All it takes is a willingness to share."*

## BEGINNER'S CORNER

BY BOB OSWALD

Since this is a new column for the Guild, we'll start with a little introduction of the woodworking process. A project can be divided into a number of major steps that include:

1. Project - what should I build and why
2. Design - create it, buy plans, copy something
3. Wood - matching household, cost,
4. Machines or Hand Tools - types, advantages, tips
5. Tools, blades, bits, etc - so many choices of tools for every machine
6. Cutting - optimum use of the wood, avoiding damage
7. Joining- many different options, decorative, strength
8. Glue - types, applications
9. Add-on hardware- buy it before you start your project
10. Sanding- paper types, how and when to use
11. Finishing- what type is best, how to apply, problems

Most of these steps take place without sophisticated planning. Each of them can be divided into many, many sub-sections. And in each area, there are little tips (like dealing with tear-out when cutting or drilling) that are often learned the hard way, at the expense of rebuilding a part or damaging an expensive piece of wood. The purpose of this column is to point out some of the 'taken for granted' things as people get more experienced. (to be continued...)

Guild of Oregon  
Woodworkers

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*The Guild of Oregon Woodworkers is a group of professional and amateur woodworkers like you, committed to developing our craftsmanship and woodworking business skills. The Guild offers many benefits for members, including: monthly educational meetings, participation in a variety of woodworking forums, including woodworking shows, monthly newsletter, mentoring program to help members develop their skills in specific areas, and a network of business partners, the key to our development as members and as a Guild, providing additional learning opportunities, discounts, and a network of support. For information on how you can become a member, contact Guild President John DuBay at 503-391-7890.*

## CLASSIFIEDS

**Editors Note: Classifieds are due on 5pm on the Wednesday following the Guild meeting. Submit your ad to Christin Smith at: [fundingsolutionsnw@comcast.net](mailto:fundingsolutionsnw@comcast.net)**

**500 bd/ft of reclaimed clear heart redwood;** 2x3's 2x6's and 4x6's; I'm wanting to find someone that would give this material a second life. I'm willing to part with it for what I got it for last year at \$5 a bd/ft. I don't have the time to do this material justice. Call Eric at (503) 201-9443.

**Buckman Arts Magnet Elementary School** and da Vinci Arts Middle School are presenting a fundraiser for the schools, the Fifteenth Annual Art Show & Sell on April 8-9, 2005. We are seeking artists in all media to participate. Application deadline: postmarked by January 22, 2005. Please contact [namita\\_wiggers@yahoo.com](mailto:namita_wiggers@yahoo.com)

**Over 25 species of African hardwood** for sale at only \$1 per board foot. (Wood is 8/4 in 3 to 15 ft. lengths.) These beautiful woods are suitable of for flooring, furniture, cabinetry, etc. Over 200,000 board feet available must be moved out by years end; \$250 minimum order. Contact Tim Warren at 503/256-2002 or [timwar@threeoaks.com](mailto:timwar@threeoaks.com).

**Oregon Black Walnut**, 1/4 through 24/4 –matched tabletops, figure lumber (over 300,000 B.F. inventory), veneer .040 (1mm) thick enough to sand, leaves up to 20" wide and 12 ft. long. Contact Goby Walnut Products at (541) 926-1079 or [www.gobywalnut.com](http://www.gobywalnut.com)

**Pass on your experience and support our troops!** Woodcraft in Tigard is hosting a Freedom Pens Turnathon on November 11<sup>th</sup>. We need volunteers to advise the folks turning pens and wood donations (5/8" x 5/8" lengths). We will supply the pen kits, chisels, and finishing materials for pens to be shipped to our troops overseas. We even have an engraver to personalize them! If you are interested, please contact Bobbie Virkler at 503-684-1428.

**Black Walnut** log sections, 3 foot diameter, 18"-24" long. Some 10-15" diameter also. Call Dennis Cox, 503-463-6765.

**Estate Sale**—Old Millers Falls miter box w/28" backsaw; brace w/approx. 3 doz. Bits; handsaw sharpening tools, including: clamp, tooth setter, file guide, jointer (file holder). Make offer. Chris Herron (541) 352-7344; [cherron@gorde.net](mailto:cherron@gorde.net).

### **Classes, seminars, demos, and such...**

**Northwest Woodworking Studio:** (503) 284-1644; <http://www.northwestwoodworking.com>.

**Rockler Woodworking:** (503) 672-7266 [www.rockler.com](http://www.rockler.com)

**Oregon College of Art and Craft:** (503) 297-5544 [www.ocac.edu](http://www.ocac.edu)

**Woodcraft:** (503) 684-1428; <http://www.woodcraft.com>

**Woodcrafters** 212 NE 6<sup>th</sup> Ave., Portland (503) 231-0226

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## GUILD OF OREGON WOODWORKERS

P. O. BOX 13744 PORTLAND, OR 97218

### **The Guild is Proud to be Sponsored by:**

Barbo Machinery, Portland  
Bridge City Tool Works, Portland  
Crosscut Hardwoods, Portland  
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Lumber Products, Tualatin  
Northwest Woodworking Studio, Portland  
Oregon College of Art and Craft, Portland  
Rockler Woodworking, Beaverton  
The Tool Peddler, Portland  
Woodcraft, Tigard  
Woodcrafters, Portland