

OREGON WOOD WORKS

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SUBMIT AN ARTICLE!

Do you enjoy reading the articles in our "new" newsletter? Then consider becoming one of our contributing writers. If you're a woodworker, you've got a lot of great ideas and expertise to share. You don't have to be a great writer; we can help you get your ideas down on paper. Contact Bob Oswald at 503-985-7137 if you'd like to share your ideas at:

bobnan@teleport.com

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

fundingsolutionsnw@comcast.net

LEARN FROM THE MASTERS BY BOB PASSERO

It was looking like my final project was going to be late. I was wrapping up two years in the Mastery Program at Gary Rogowski's Northwest Woodworking Studio in Portland. We had a show due to open, to exhibit these last projects. Gary told us these were to be our "signature pieces," the culmination of all we had learned in the program. And this large television/stereo cabinet I had conceived was getting the best of me.

I had started looking into intensive woodworking programs a few years earlier. There is no shortage of them: College of the Red-

woods, where James Krenov taught for years, and the North Bennet Street School in Boston are a couple of the more famous ones. The NWS program had a number of advantages for me: it's designed for people who have a day job, too. The tuition was reasonable compared to the other programs. And it was close enough to my home in Eugene that I wouldn't have to move.

Each fall, Gary admits five or six students, to begin two years of study. Each year is divided into three 10-week terms, like a college school year, with the summer in between off. We met once a week,

sometimes as a group for a demonstration by Gary and sometimes individually with Gary to talk about our ongoing projects. But most of the work was done at home, alone, working in my shop — a converted old 10-foot-by-16-foot garage outside my 1926 house.

In each term we built one or two projects, usually two. At the end of each term, we got together as a group to critique each other's projects. The projects Gary assigns are broad: a bench, a table with a drawer, a freestanding cabinet, a chair, etc.

From there, we were free to follow our own
Continued on page two...

OUR NEXT MEETING

On February 16th, we will meet at Crosscut Hardwoods for a great program: "Different Types of Wood and Their Best Uses", presented by our own Marilyn Welter. For those of you who don't know Marilyn, you'll find she knows just about all there is to know about wood! Board meeting at 5pm; general meeting at 7pm. (Networking from 6:30-7pm.) Crosscut is located off Front Avenue in downtown Portland. Take I-405 to Highway 30 (Yeon) and go west; turn right on Nicolai, then left onto Front Ave. Crosscut is located on the left hand side of the street at 3065 NW Front Ave. PLEASE BRING A CHAIR FOR YOU AND AN EXTRA FOR GUESTS!

Special note: Do not park in the lot on the north end as it belongs to the restaurant next door. You may park on the south side of the building and the lot to the south of the railroad tracks, or in front.

LEARN FROM THE MASTERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE...

design interests. For me, this flexibility is the greatest thing about the NWS program. I drew from Arts and Crafts, Federal style and Japanese approaches. Gary encouraged us to try to find our own styles. It is more than a woodworking program really. You will learn a lot about design if you take advantage of this freedom.

But 10-week terms go fast, and design is time-consuming, I learned. It is easy to spend three or four weeks working with a pencil and paper and not even set foot in the shop. It was critical to try to stay ahead, to work every day if only for an hour or two, to keep momentum.

The times I fell behind were the times when woodworking, for me, was no longer fun, when a deadline forced me to work too fast. I'd make a mistake, make a wrong cut. I would have to tell myself, "Slow down, you're going to end up hurting yourself." I was forced to make compromises. Time-consuming elements of a design would get tossed out. Some joinery would be simplified. I was disappointed I wasn't always living up to a quote that had lodged in my mind when I read George Nakashima's book, "The Soul of a Tree": "The object is to make as fine a piece of furniture as is humanly possible."

Yet much of what I learned in this program had to do with time and deadlines and compromise. I learned to search for ways to be more efficient, without compromising. I improved my skills to get quicker at chopping a dovetail or fitting a tenon. I saw what it would take to make a living at this and was glad I had decided to keep my job and not quit to head off for the College of the Redwoods. I learned I might be better keeping this a hobby — so I can be slow and ponderous and inefficient. And work by hand when I feel like it. And do the small things that probably won't be noticed by one in 100 people — but that make me feel better about a

piece. As Gary told us early in the program, passing on something one of his mentors had said to him: "It's the hobbyists who will keep the craft alive."

I wouldn't say Gary's program is going to prepare you to go into the furniture-making business. You could, I suppose, but I'm sure he would be the first to tell you that he's not trying to run a trade school. You will learn craftsmanship, you will learn to think in new ways about design and you will become quicker and more skilled simply by virtue of all the practice you get.

But, yes, I missed a few deadlines during the program. I didn't like that. I didn't think it was fair to my classmates. But I always felt that I hadn't compromised more than I could bear — more than I wanted to, but not more than I could bear.

I did finish that final project. Well, it only had one quick coat of finish and some interior drawers weren't built yet, but by the time the show opened it was "ready enough" to be displayed in the exhibit.

And after it was all over this past summer, I was feeling wistful. It had been such a huge part of my life for two years — always in the front of my thoughts, always a deadline hanging over me like an anvil. I won't miss that, but I'll miss the classes, the critiques with my classmates and the individual meetings with Gary, during which he would rip apart some design idea of mine. Most of the time I realized, perhaps later, that he was probably right. I miss how the program — and Gary — challenged me.

But now it's time to explore further some of the designs that did work, not to mention the ideas I never had time to take from the sketchbook to the shop. This program jarred loose so many ideas that I will have plenty to do for a long, long time.

SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS!

Our sponsors help support the Guild and help make the newsletter and other Guild activities possible. And, as a special bonus to you, many offer discounts. (See the back page of the newsletter for a list of our sponsors.) Patronize their businesses and, when you do visit them, be sure to thank them and tell them how much you appreciate their continued support of the Guild!

FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY JOHN DUBAY

Awesome. That's a word seldom in my vocabulary. Nevertheless, if I had to put in one word my impression of the woodwork, the shop, and the Joinery staff that we saw at the January meeting, it has to be "awesome".

Mark Gaudin, the Joinery's founding partner, spoke of his justifiable pride in their successful business, pointing to his showroom as proof of the pudding. He frosted the cake with statistics like the number of pieces built each year, board feet of lumber consumed as well as loads of sawdust and chips carted away. Referring to a card from his wallet, he clearly outlined the firm's goals to build high quality wood furniture with integrity, without harm to the environment and with emphasis on customer satisfaction and employee morale. The audience, divided into three groups, was then given a tour through the entire production line, from the individual workstations for milling, joinery, and glue-ups, through assembly and finishing. Along the way, in addition to an explanation about the very advanced tools most of us can only dream about, we learned about the firm's philosophy of assigning responsibility for completing each piece to an artisan who signs the finished piece before it goes in the showroom or shipped out the door. In the showroom, you can see several rooms full of household and office furniture, modeled on the

Shaker style, influenced by Thomas Moser, and given the Joinery's individuality. It's a display to warm a woodworker's heart, each piece a thoughtful example of good design and impeccable workmanship with oiled and waxed surfaces that create a feeling of comfortable elegance; all that sets a high bar for those of us who take up woodworking simply because we like building things with wood.

It is easy to feel a bit envious of those shops with computer controlled cutters and positioning systems and rugged machinery that would not get knocked out of adjustment if hit by a tank. I know I've often felt the lure of the tool buyer's syndrome telling me I'm only one power tool away from being a master craftsman. (I'm helped when I remember Ariel's admonition: "It's a poor craftsman who blames his tools.") We can, however, be inspired by the design ideas and the skillful work done at powerhouse shops like the Joinery but also exemplified by the best work of our Guild members brought to our meetings and exhibited in Guild shows. It's comforting, for me at least, occasionally to realize that such fine work comes from shops not much different from my own, and usually done for reasons other than making a profit. So, while we may not have awesome machinery and working spaces, if we have the passion for woodworking and take advantage of the learning opportunities afforded us, we can all enjoy the quest to do awesome woodworking. I'm happy with that.

TIPS: Handy Chuck Key



Always misplacing the drill press chuck key? Fasten a retractable key chain to the column of the drill press with an ordinary hose clamp. Using a short dowel with holes in each end, epoxy one end to the chuck key and the other to an eyebolt.

"TINY" TIPS

If you value your time, buy a second router. Time spent changing bits is quickly paid for.

RESOURCES: WOODWORKING ON THE NET

BY JOHN DUBAY

www.woodworking.org - The Internet has an inexhaustible supply of woodworking information. Here's my favorite, a site I always check first: Woodworking Central, sponsored by the WWA (Woodworkers Website Association). It was developed by and for woodworkers and neither promotes nor sells any service or product. You won't find any ads or even links to commercial sites unless on one of the many woodworkers' reviews, or the page devoted to members' links. (Note: only one Guild has a link, and it's not us.)

The main screen includes buttons taking you to:

The Weekly Opinion – Answer a question, then find out how others answered. Eg. how often do you consume alcohol in the shop? Not everyone said “never!”

Woodworkers Gazette – Members share views, news, and reviews. Samples: “Three tools I'd take to a deserted island,” “Shellac,” and “Building a Walnut Wall Unit”

Info Exchange – includes four sections: The bulletin board, called “Infeed/Outfeed,” for posting questions and comments; “The Daily Uarel” a collection of daily links to exotic and mostly informative woodworking related sites; “The Daily Puzzler” with questions like “What's the difference between double and paired tenons?” and the “Swap n' Shop” for used tools and lumber.

Woodworkers Maze – Work your way through a maze with dead ends and trap doors by answering questions about woodworking. Not as easy as it sounds.

Miter Master – Calculate compound miter and bevel angles

Wood Sampler – Photos of various woods submitted by members.

Plan & Article Search – Search over 2000 links for tools, jigs and techniques. See a full description of table saw kickback. Search over 600 links to free and not-so-free plans.

Tool Survey – Not manufacturers specs, but the more important observations and evaluations by users.

Accident Survey – Woodworkers' reports of close calls and serious injuries. A sobering excursion guaranteed to raise your awareness.

Wednesday Night Chat – Don't bother.

Woodworking Channel – A work in progress attempt to collect woodworking videos.

You are not asked to join the WWA, however, you must register to post messages on the Infeed/Outfeed bulletin board. And, since it is a non-profit site maintained by woodworkers, contributions are not mandatory but only gently requested.

INNER GUILD SHOW TO BE HELD IN MAY

It's time to get ready for the May Inner Guild Show!

During the Guild's general meeting in May, the regular program will be substituted with an “Inner Guild Show”. Our goal for the show is to have every member bring an item to display... beginners, intermediate, and skilled hobbyists! There will be a special category for the Guild's professionals as well! Let's all have fun with this... there will be prizes and opportunities to really interact and see each other's work! A flyer will be available at the February meeting! Plan to attend!

TAX ANGLES FOR PART-TIME WOODWORKERS

BY LINDA MAIN, EA

Are you a weekend woodworker who occasionally sells some pieces? For income tax purposes, you could have a business or a hobby. Depending on your circumstances, your woodworking activities may qualify as a business, a hobby, or may not need to be reported at all.

BUSINESS

You must have a profit motive and you must show a profit in at least 3 out of 5 years. It can be a side business. Pros: you can write off the cost of your tools; if your shop is at home, you may be able to write off a percentage of your utilities, insurance, and home maintenance costs that would not otherwise be deductible, and you may even be able to depreciate the cost of your shop. Cons: you may have to pay self-employment tax (Social Security & Medicare) on your profits, in addition to income taxes; when you sell your home, any depreciation taken for your shop must be "recaptured" and taxes paid on the recapture amount. You need to keep good records for tax purposes.

SELF-SUPPORTING HOBBY

In this case, you try to sell enough to support your habit and justify your tool purchases, but you aren't really trying to make money. Hobby losses cannot be deducted, while hobby income must be reported. When you have hobby profits, you are allowed to deduct associated expenses as Misc. Itemized Deductions. If you take the standard deduction and don't qualify to item-

ize, you may think that you lose the deductions completely. That is not necessarily so. You can choose to include Schedule C (Profit or Loss from Business) in your tax return. There, you can show income from sales and deduct associated expenses. In the years where you don't make a profit, you can limit your deductions so that the net profit/loss is zero (because hobbyists can't deduct losses). In the years where you make a profit, you can buy that new tool you've been wanting and deduct part or all of it's cost to reduce or eliminate your profit for tax purposes. If your annual profit is less than \$400, you don't have to pay any self-employment tax. You need to keep records for tax purposes.

TRUE HOBBY

In a true hobby, you aren't trying to support your habit. You simply love to work with wood. Once in awhile, a friend or family member may see something you've made and twist your arm into making one for them. They reimburse you for what it costs to make the item and maybe throw in a little extra for your trouble. This is what truly meets the definition of a hobby for tax purposes. You never make a profit or even recoup more than a small percentage of your expenses. There is nothing to report on your tax return and no requirement to keep records, although it's still a good idea to keep enough records to show that you always spend more than you make.

AMNESTY FOR LIBRARY BOOKS!

Amnesty !!!

Due to the changeover of club officers, it's been hard to get books checked in on time. So, for the next meeting, no late fees will be charged for overdue library books. But *PLEASE* bring your books next month or contact Roger Tuck about getting them back to the Guild. We have a number of past due books that are still out. We'd appreciate your being helpful and honest with your Guild associates and getting these books back to the Guild so that others may use them.

We'd also like to extend a hearty thanks to Clyde Hastings and Bill Bruno for taking over management of the library. And our continued thanks to Roger Tuck, too. They have implemented a new checkout system for the Guild's books that we hope will be fast and easy. It's the old pocket inside with a card system that we all grew up with. All you have to do is just fill out the card when you take a book, including: name and phone number (we know where you live!!). Drop the card in the checkout box. Next meeting, the cards will be arranged by number. Find your card, sign off that you returned it, put it back in the book, and put the book in the library. Someone will be there to help but we hope to make this easier.

SEMINARS

BY JOHN SHARP

The Guild of Oregon Woodworkers kicks off the 2005 Seminar season in spectacular fashion. Don Dedobbeleer, winner of the Best of the Northwest - Best of Show award will demonstrate the techniques and methods he used in creating his prize winning demilune table. This was as close to perfect as anything I've seen and everyone at the show was talking about this superlative piece.



Demilune Table by Don Dedobbeleer

Topics will include: design and layout, fine-tuning your tools, re-sawing, inlays and veneering, joinery and much more. This will be a jam-packed day of learning and inspiration. We are offering two sessions: Saturday March 12 and Sunday March 13 - 9:00 am to 5:00 at Len Walko's shop in Hockinson (WA). Due to Don being away from his shop for several days and making the long trip up here from Northern California the fee for each one day class will be \$80.00. Time is short, so get those registrations in now!

JIGS, FIXTURES

BY BILL WOOD

Four years ago I read an interesting article in July/August 2000 issue of *Fine Woodworking* magazine. Well, I finally got around to it and the results are amazing. When ever I turn on a piece of equipment such as the cabinet saw I usually forget to turn on the dust collector. Then, I walk to the wall switch and back to the saw, a hassle even though my home shop isn't that big. I gave some thought to buying a \$60.00 remote control switch, but figured I would misplace it. And you still need to turn the dust collector on and off.

The article, Dust Detector, gave very precise directions on how to make an AUTOMATIC switch. It works on 120/240 and requires a dedicated circuit breaker for the equipment like saw, lathe, and shaper. You can have about 6 machines turn on/off the dust collector automatically with this modification. And, you can still use the dust collector switch as you did prior to the modification. The project took about an hour to install in the back of my circuit breaker panel.

For just about \$50.00 I got the two required parts at Platt Electric and Grainger. I opened up the electrical panel after first shutting off the power. Then, it was

just a matter of following the step-by-step directions in the article and finding a location for the two small parts. It took longer to determine where to put the two parts than it did to install them. It is just a matter of reconnecting 8 wires.

Now I don't need to turn any switch for the dust collector, it's AUTOMATIC. And it even turns off the dust collector when the machine is turned off. It is fantastic; I love it.

Check the library or contact bcwood@spiritone.com or 503-631-3999 for a color copy (\$4.50)

BEGINNERS' CORNER: CHOOSING A PROJECT

BY BOB OSWALD

Someone new to woodworking is usually groping for ideas and dying for Something to build. A common starting point is often request from a friend. This is tempting because of the eager enthusiasm to please, to prove you can do it, to justify the tool purchases.

A much safer place to start is a small project out of a magazine. These projects can be relatively simple, yet adequately challenging. They 'usually' have a proven set of plans, lumber list, dimensions, color photos, wood suggestions and tips. A custom scratch project has none of this. I have seen the frustration of missing design requirements, feature changes during construction, multiple trips to the store, trial-and-error cutting and fitting.

This kind of experience on an early project can dampen the enthusiasm to continue. And having survived one, it can lead to bad habits – lack of planning is no problem because I solved all the problems, didn't I? A few small but successful projects provides the enthusiasm to take on bigger or custom ones.

Excellent sources for project ideas include *Wood*, *Weekend Woodcrafts*, *Woodworkers Journal*, and *Popular Woodworking*. They typically have very attractive entry-level projects as well as complex ones.

It is a good idea to study the design before diving in, even for a few days. Visualize the finished project – ask yourself questions about it. Many designs benefit from a little improvement. I made a mirror that was impossible to clean. I added one step to the process and changed one dimension that totally solved that problem (on the second six I built). Another point, depending on the project: consider building several. The setup time can be well worth it and you end up with some gifts.

While making modifications can be counter to this 'easy project first' mentality, it can also prevent some disappointments. The choice is between a completed project, according to the book, vs. being irritated with a design flaw when it's hanging on the wall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

What a Great Club: A new welcome letter for new members has been created. It is wonderful to see all the benefits of belonging to the Guild. Check it for yourself. On the website, click Benefits on the home page and then the button on the benefits page. Four pages of what it's like to belong to the Guild.

They're coming: Expect your 2005 membership cards in February. We wait until most renewals are in so the mailing process can be efficient. There's also a change of officers this year that makes accuracy as a result of the transition important to us, so there is extra work and time.

I've Moved: So how do I notify someone? Two ways – on the website, click on Board of Directors and then send email to Membership Chair Drew Parrish. His email address is right there. Another way is to Log In and use the Administration link. As a member, you have access to some Administrative privileges such as changing your address. If you don't know how to log in, watch this space next month for a tutorial.

I'm Over-worked: ...and under-loved, of course. The Guild is run totally by volunteers. One of those monthly tasks is getting out copies of the newsletter. It involves time & travel, print masters, go to Office Depot for copies, fold, make address labels, attach them, stamps (darn, a trip to the post office), staple, mail (back to the post office). You can help by electing email notification instead of US Mail for your newsletter. If you like to sit by the fire and read, which I do, print the color version on your printer.

Newsletter articles: Thank you to this month's contributors! See your own name here. Send a 300-word tip or a 1000-word main feature to Bob Oswald at: bobnan@teleport.com or contact him by phone at: 503-985-7137.

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. Pictures included as space allows.

SHOP: I have about 1800 sq ft well tooled shop in Beaverton. I am not using it very much and can offer an opportunity to a well referenced woodworker for rent. Contact David Weitzer at 503-703-1345.

SHOP MACHINES: Used only in home workshop; excellent condition. 360-225-1363

Delta disc sander - \$500- 12" Disc /6" Belt on enclosed roll around base. Single Phase; **Drill press** \$150 Floor Model with Production table. Single Phase; **Phase converter** \$800- 7 HP Rotary, almost new; **Delta band saw** \$2,500- 20" Metal/wood variable speed; **Delta wood lathe** \$1,000- 12" Gap Bed, variable speed, w/tool floor stand, 3 Phase; **Delta jointer** \$1,100- 8" Long Bed on enclosed stand, Single Phase; **Powermatic planer** \$4,200 -18"x6", heavy Duty Base w/knife grinding attachment, 5HP, 3 Phase; **Powermatic feeder** \$1,000- Model 4V3, never used, still in original box, 4 speed, 3 Phase; **Delta table saw** \$2,000- 12"/14" tilting arbor, enclosed stand w/roll around base, 7 HP, 3 Phase

KOA: Wide variety of sizes of Koa, all in excellent shape; moving out of the country and decided to get rid of our supply; wish we'd bought more when we had the chance. Call 360-225-1363 for more information on the Koa. Also have numerous other pieces of wood, including 27 turning blocks of exotic wood, all over 20 years old, all 2" thick; some 6" square and some 7" square, 4 treated beams @ 4"x12"x14", 2 laminated girders 2"x13"x17', 5 cedar posts 4"x4"x8', 2 pieces 2"x4"x14", and a variety of treated wood, the kind with no bad stuff – for gardens, etc., including 6 pieces 2"x4"x14', 3 pieces 2"x4"x8', 24 pieces 2"x10"x8', 3 pieces 4"x6"x8', and 12 pieces 4"x4"x10'. Call 360-225-1363.

L-500 Nyle Kiln: 40' insulated container with 5 mounted fans and rail system has capacity to dry 5500 board feet of lumber. Price of \$20,000 includes 3 rail carts, Lignomat moisture meter, microwave, canvas baffle system, 5 external moisture stations, a moisture injection system, spare wet/dry bulb control unit, operating manuals and one day of complete training. With full price offer, will include 5,000 board feet of air-dried African Hardwoods. Contact Beverly Warren-Leigh, (503) 704-7553.

LAST CHANCE to buy African Hardwood at \$1/BF. We are closing our doors on February 28. We can email our inventory list to you. 35 species in all. Just send me an email bevww@threeoaks.com

The Guild also provides mentoring to help members develop their skills in specific areas through our Mentorship Program.

Guild of Oregon Woodworkers

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We're on the Web!

www.guildoforegonwoodworkers.com

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.

Classes, seminars, demos, and such...

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

Rockler Woodworking (503) 672-7266 www.rockler.com

Oregon College of Art and Craft (503) 297-5544 www.ocac.edu

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

Woodcrafters 212 NE 6th Ave., Portland (503) 231-0226

GUILD OF OREGON WOODWORKERS

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