

# OREGON WOOD WORKS

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY JOHN DUBAY

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*Let's raise the bar.*

*How about a  
publication twice  
as large with  
more photos, articles ...*

I now realize how I learned woodworking at Guild activities. It was the same way I learned aerobatic flying in my little two-place observation plane, that is, by hanging out at our company officers' club bar in Tong du Chon, Korea. There, I could ask the Air Force jet jockey staying with us about the techniques such as a real barrel roll, not the shuddery, shaking snap-roll trick I picked up God knows where. "You need airspeed," he said, "and you get it by pointing the nose down." The next day I tightened up my shoulder harness and pushed the stick forward and started the roll only when I had enough speed. WAHOO. It worked.

Guild meetings, seminars, work parties, booth duty at shows, and sometimes casual chats, all have served as my woodworking classroom just like that small bar did for my flying. My point is that the Guild provides many ways to learn, often where we least expect it. Just take a deep breath, push the stick forward, and dive in.

While I have gained so much from the Guild, as we prepare for our annual meeting and the new regime change, I have a few thoughts and suggestions about the future.

The Demilune table seminar this year showed how popular sessions taught by outstanding craft people can be, both educationally and financially. The Guild now has the stature and resources to host a weekend

seminar with a nationally known woodworker, modeled on the seminars at Highland Hardware in Georgia and at other woodworking sites on both coasts. Even though we have equally competent local instructors, a seminar by any of the Taunton Press authors, for example, would expand the horizons for all of us. All we need to do is take a deep breath, and push the stick forward.

As good as it is, our newsletter is ready to take a step forward. It has already caught the attention of a very successful guild newsletter on the East coast, the Woodworkers Guild of New Hampshire. Let's raise the bar. How about a publication twice as large with more photos, articles about and by our professional members, as well as an occasional in-depth article about a sponsor. I miss the Guild meetings held in our member's home shops, but we could feature those in the newsletter if there were more pages. And publishing more pages in each issue could be possible by reducing the frequency of publication. Another deep breath, and push...

We're very fortunate to have such a qualified slate of new officers and Board members taking the helm (stick?) next year. They will, no doubt, make the Guild even better than it is. Even though I'm almost out of breath, maybe I can help with breathing lessons.

## OUR NEXT MEETING

### Get To Know The Sponsors, Win Prizes, Eat Well, and Elect Officers!

November 16, 2005

Social time: 6:30pm

Franklin High School, 5405 SE Woodward St., Portland

Meeting: 7:00 pm

Get to know the sponsors and their products better while enjoying some "special eats" and a door prize or two. Then, cast your vote for your favorite candidate, as we elect next year's Board. An evening of fun and surprises!

#### Directions:

Cross the Ross Island Bridge to the East side of the Willamette River. Continue on Powell Blvd (highway 26) east to 53<sup>rd</sup>. Turn left on 53<sup>rd</sup> and go 0.3 miles. Turn right on Woodward 1 block. - Don't forget to bring a chair or two! -

# TOOLS, TOOLS, TOOLS

BY BOB OSWALD

*... the only way to  
finally land that  
customer who has  
been thinking  
about you ...*

I had an out of town visitor and the whole weekend I was nagged by this little voice in the back of my head "go home soon". I wanted to make my annual pilgrimage to the Tool Show at the Expo. Well, actually by plan, company left Portland airport about noon on Sunday and I made a mad dash for the Expo. Took Columbia and discovered more new ways to get to the Expo... but that's another story.

It was the usual array of vendors, large and small. There is the comfort of the old standby large companies selling the things we save up for during the year, or go back to buy, having visited and pondered for 3 years prior. Last year I bought the Incra Jig system. I had looked at it for several years and tended to treat it as another "blender demo at the state fair". Well this is not a promo for Incra, only an observation that many of us take a while to make decisions, especially of large financial impact. And the point here, a brief tangent from the show, is that coming back to the Guild shows, like the upcoming Christmas show at the convention center, is the only way to finally land that customer who has been thinking about you for 3 years.

There was an unusual display of veneers this year, both by Rockler and the folks who donated samples to the Guild a couple of months ago – the same samples we give away at the meetings. I just happened to get interested in veneering recently, a lacking in my education, so I stocked up on a few tools. The best part is that it's the least expensive endeavor on which I have partaken. Now I just need a project. (I'm thinking about that Christmas exchange mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter.

I sat in on one class. You need to go and you need to plan to spend all day and you need to attend as many of these as possible if you call yourself a woodworker. I happened to attend the pen turning demo. I have done a little of that but always have trouble at the "don't grind down the template" part. Well, I

learned how not to do that. I learned the difference between turning plastic and wood. I learned how to bring the finish to a mirror like polish. You need to go. There are typically about five sessions running concurrently all the time. Data overload so you have to pick and choose.

The Guild had a great presence as usual. Every time I passed the booth, in as little as three hours, there were different faces staffing it. Many, many thanks to the people who were there, donated their time, and helped be to the public what the Guild is all about. And it was wonderful, as always but especially now, to see George there. Despite being slowed down by some surgery this summer, he's always there for the Guild.

What else – a few other demos including a mat cutting one. You've all seen those gadgets for making picture frame mats. Well I had an experience this summer. I purchased a special print and had it framed and matted at one of the typical frame shops around town. I picked a fancier than normal frame, always works out that way. I was looking at it at the time and saying "Why am I doing this??" I can make better frames than this and pay a FRACTION of the price. But I didn't know quite where to start and I didn't know how to do the mat. So I paid a lot of money and I'm happy with the result. BUT, I have 5 more pictures to frame. I'm not going to do that again. I will likely write an article about basic framing in the next month or two. The research to do justice to it will yield me several frames. And I have a few months to research matting systems (they are a bit expensive too, but...) and hopefully pull it together and put behind me forever, the dependence on high priced frame shops. Maybe I'll open one!

Overall a very nice show. Next year I promise me that I will not have out of town company, and I will dedicate at least a full day to attending classes. And I'll have the time this time to help out at the Guild booth for a couple of hours.

## Welcome New Members:

John Komp, LeRoy Gallagher, Fred Stephenson, John Brewer, Vince Corbin, Joseph Jedrychowski, Ginger Bernasconi, Mike Massey, Jack Arendt and Gary Bankston. We're glad you joined us and do say hello at the next meeting.

## Announcements:

Apologies to Dave Miller. Dave is a new professional member and he contributed that great article last month on a router Dado jig. And I neglected to mention his full name and give him the credit due. Thanks again Dave!!

## JIGS ... AND WHAT A MEETING!

BY BOB OSWALD

We didn't know until the last minute who was bringing a jig for show and tell. It could have been a short meeting. It wasn't. It was great. About 20 people brought their favorite shop jig, some brought more than one. The October Guild meeting at Franklin High School was everything a sharing or-

ganization could make it be. One of my favorites was a router jig to cut the hollowed out seat in a stool. Made me want to go home and build one ... and knowing me, I might do it soon. And John's adjustable jig for cutting miter angles ... and a great jig for cutting tapered, curved table legs. Incredible.

And there were a couple of ways to make perfect oval shapes. Lee Johnson presented his jig that allows you to make any size perfect oval. A shape so much more interesting for a table, and very easy to make perfectly. Sid showed us yet another way to copy an oval, or any shape, and maintain the symmetry of that shape. George showed us how to make perfect miters. I was so caught up in observing that I forgot to take notes that would have helped here. Thanks a lot to George for the photos that are included here.



*Larry Approves*



*It's easy and simple*

## JIGS ... AND WHAT A MEETING! (CONT'D)



*A very nice jig for curved, tapered legs*

All in all a very nice show. It was, as always, fun to just wander from station to station, mingle with friends, make new ones. We were fortunate to have a number of folks new to woodworking join us after a class they were taking at the High School. A very welcome addition and one of them won a veneer packet door prize – great!! You missed another enjoyable evening if you weren't there. Come on out. Show us your stuff too.



*Holding pen blanks vertical for drilling*

## A WOODWORKER'S CONFESSION

BY JOHN SHARP

OK, I admit it... I am an addict. I can't get enough of woodworking shows on TV. My habit began innocently enough. Like many, I started with Norm Abram's New Yankee Workshop on PBS. Norm's easy, friendly manner and his vast collection of spiffy tools hooked me right away. While the show generally focuses on fairly simple projects that can be covered in a twenty-five minute episode or two, Norm occasionally includes more advanced projects and techniques. Of course, woodworking is a hands-on activity and expertise cannot be gained simply by watching TV. That said, Norm Abram has had a very real influence on how I approach the craft and solve problems. While Norm has become like a good old friend who lets you hang out in his shop each Saturday, I take it as a sign of my growth in woodworking that I find myself questioning how he does things, more and more.

My addiction became even more serious when I discovered David Mark's Wood Works (DIY Network on cable). David is an artist who happens to work with wood. This show is geared toward intermediate to advanced woodworkers. More often than not, Wood Works hits home with what I aspire to as a woodworker. Whether demonstrating how to set up shop tools, construct an elaborate jig, or perfect a finish, David is an excellent teacher who makes everything seem do-able. I am constantly inspired and always learn new things watching this show.

There are a number of other good shows as well.

The Woodwright's Shop (also Saturdays on PBS) stars Roy Underhill who is a direct counterpoint to Norm Abram. While Norm revels in power tools of all kinds, Roy eschews anything with a motor. This show focuses on pre-industrial revolution, old-time woodworking. The axe, adze, hand plane and foot-operated lathe hold sway here. I tend to watch this one for entertainment and historical perspective more than woodworking technique.

The Router Workshop (on PBS though not OPB) features a father and son team, Bob and Rick Rosendahl. Bob and Rick demonstrate everything that is possible (and some things that aren't) using that most versatile of tools: the router. This is a pretty good basic guide.

DIY Network also offers Woodworking, featuring basic projects and fundamentals, and Woodturning, covering the basics and a variety of woodturning topics.

While none of these shows is a substitute for real shop experience, classes, or one-on-one mentoring, I have found a wealth of ideas and know-how in the best of these.

For more information, visit

- ◆ The New Yankee Workshop: [www.newyankee.com](http://www.newyankee.com)
- ◆ David Mark's website: [www.djmarks.com](http://www.djmarks.com),
- ◆ The Woodwright's Shop: [www.pbs.org/www](http://www.pbs.org/www) and
- ◆ The Router Workshop: [www.pbs.org/routerworkshop](http://www.pbs.org/routerworkshop)
- ◆ DIY's woodworking shows, including Wood Works, can be found at: [www.diy.net.com/diy/woodworking](http://www.diy.net.com/diy/woodworking)

## SHOWS: BEST OF THE NORTHWEST

BY BOB OSWALD & GEORGE E. DUBOIS

Remember that the Best of Northwest / Guild show is coming up December 3 and 4, 2005. Remember that repeat appearances will get you customers, especially if you're selling big ticket items. Last year was the Guild's first exposure and involvement in this show. Many, many people commented on the new face it brought to the show. This year, they will be back with friends. The Guild has found a new venue and can create a whole new interest in wood at this one-of-a-kind opportunity.

This is where the Guild brings out the best in woodworking, turning, carving, marquetry, and all the disciplines of wood-working. This is an opportunity for all woodworkers to show what they can do. Begin on your road to success as a woodworker here. This is where you advertise who you are, what

you do, and the quality of your work. It's all about you and woodworking. We need you as an exhibitor or as a volunteer. Come and join us in this very fine presentation of what woodworking is all about. The fee is the lowest you'll ever spend anywhere for a show of this quality.

Preparations for the show are coming along nicely and we still have space for those who want to join us. The closing date has been extended, but you need to apply soon.

We have a few nice surprises that we've added to the show, which are sure to make this an outstanding event. And we will have a party exclusively for the exhibitors.

Need info? Want an exhibitor application? Contact Larry Butrick 503-635-3008 or George E. DuBois 503-365-7636.

Plan to come.

## THINK ABOUT CHRISTMAS

BY BOB OSWALD

The annual Guild Christmas party is coming. My first year in the Guild, I made one and it was a bit of a labor of love. I hoped of course that whoever got it would appreciate it. It's more typical to buy something, wrap it and put it under the tree. That's very nice and absolutely fine. But wouldn't it be the Guild way to share Christmas in the spirit of the craft we

enjoy so much? Think about it. I mention it now to allow you time to plan. I think there are a lot of small project gifts that could be fun to make and fun to share. A small jewelry box, something turned, something with a small veneer inlay, a picture frame, a Christmas tree ornament, a scrapbook or photo album cover. Need some ideas? Talk to me. 503-985-7137.

# HOW TO WRITE AN ARTICLE

BY BOB OSWALD

*I would help out with the newsletter but I don't know what to write about.*

*I'm no good at writing*

My first reaction to both of those arguments tries to be positive, but I sometimes have a hard time dealing with it when I ponder the excuses in my solitude. In the first place, woodworking is probably the richest activity in the world for variety and for a million things to talk about. The second argument is a little more understandable. Most of us lack enough confidence to expose our possible shortcomings to the scrutiny of our friends. Well, I stopped caring about that somewhere along the way, which is partly why I produce this newsletter. Let's take the two subjects, one at a time.

What would I write about?? Well if you started breaking down woodworking into components, each of which could lead to "several" articles, you would have a list like:

Power tools – bandsaws, table saws, miter saws, drill presses, jointers, planers, belt sanders, disk sanders, mortise tools... it's a big list. Then you could write about your favorite one, or a way to use some aspect of it, about a custom miter gauge, about fences and stop blocks. About the tools and the blades that fit in each, how to sharpen them (I am still a total novice at sharpening my tools). A table saw tends to have one basic tool, the blade. And yet there are many blades and so many uses for each of them. A lot to talk about. A drill press can hold a huge variety of tools, mortise chisels, hole saws, an arbor press. You could go on and on.

And talk about hand tools, which we haven't done yet. How to use a plane on edges, flattening, rabbets ... I don't even know what terms to use here; I just remember seeing some unusual hand planes in the two years I've been here. And chisels, scrapers, saws – how to use them in normal or abnormal situations.

We want to know more about turning, use of lathes, projects. How about some ideas on veneering, marquetry, intarsia. What are they? What's the difference? How can I use marquetry to enhance my projects? I learned quite a bit this weekend at the tool show and plan to beat you to the punch here with an article soon.

Jigs – what a treat it would be to get an article and a photograph from each person at the October meeting on the jig they presented. That's about 20 articles! About 75 people learned from those presenters. I want to believe that two hundred more who didn't make it to the meeting would enjoy reading about them.

Finishes – all I know here is that I was told (and I believe it) from a finishing seminar that the Guild offered last year, that finishing is to be savored. It's the culmination of the hard work you put into construction. It is what brings the project to the pinnacle of perfection. I came away enlightened ... but I still have so much to learn. That class is wearing off for me and I am starting to resent the finishing stages again. I forgot a lot of what I learned and what I learned was a fraction of what there is to know. Many of you undoubtedly have a lot of knowledge about finishing that you could share. And then there's sanding

tips, what types of sandpaper are there, where do I use them?

Joints, good ones, weak ones, where to use certain types. Does everyone out there know how to make a double-blind dovetail? How many of you know what it is? I do and I need to get more proficient with my Inca Jig so I can give a demo some day. All you furniture builders know things about the joints that make chairs strong, cabinets work, tables function. Share some of that knowledge with us.

And your projects – what are you building? Tell us about one. Or talk about some tricky phase and how you got through it. Everything is interesting.

Help this Guild to grow – contribute your knowledge. You have it, you share it, and you still have it, only usually more of and better quality than before. No one learns like those who teach! Every one of you has something to contribute. You do not have to be intimidated or unsure. When I sit down to write and as I get on a roll, I love it. What makes me sad is the tremendous pool of talent going nearly untapped in this Guild of Oregon Woodworkers. Too busy, can't do it, don't know what to write, got to wash the car. What if I showed up at your house this Saturday and asked for a tour of your shop. You would probably be delighted and you would talk all afternoon about an endless variety of things; about your tools, your projects, your mistakes. I know you would. In other words, you have the talent to talk about what excites you. So write it down and send it to me.

I tell people, go out to your shop. Pick up a scrap of wood and throw it backwards over your shoulder. Wherever it lands, talk about it. If it fell on the floor, talk about how you keep your shop cleaned up. Tell us about how you keep your tools organized and your lumber sorted. Tell us what you do with your scraps. God knows I have a ton of it that I don't know what to do with. If it lands on the drill press, tell us how you attach a fence to that stupid round table casting? How do you drill a vertical hole in the end of a pen blank? (Hint: I bought a jig from Rockler this weekend to do it!! I saw Mitch's jig at the meeting but didn't want to take the time to make one.) How do you store your drill bits so they are handy when you need them?

My hat is off and my heartfelt thanks to the people who do help at the shows, take part in the committees, run the library, teach classes, and who have written articles. There is no reason why we can't have 100 percent participation from every member of the Guild. In some way, big or small, give back a little of what you are taking out of the Guild.

I did a little math. If every member wrote one short article and I published 6 of them in each issue, I would have enough material for 4 years!! That means if you write me one article, you are off the hook for 4 years. The leverage of sharing the load is staggering.

And then there's external satisfaction – here's something I feel the need to share. A Midwest Guild newsletter writer who had lavish praise for the content and quality of the newsletter contacted me this summer. He has struggled also with getting assistance from his members. He only survived the position a year. Recently I was contacted by the New Hampshire Guild

## HOW TO WRITE AN ARTICLE (CONT'D)

about reprinting some of our articles. I can't tell you how flattered I was that about ten of the requested articles were mine. We'll receive a courtesy copy of their newsletter in a couple of months and I'll make it available to the Guild. The point I am trying to make is twofold. One is that I love to share and am not looking for glory. I just want to help others. The second is that being appreciated for something IS rewarding. So let's get YOUR names out in front of the world also. The Guild of Oregon Woodworkers has great potential – but it will never be more than potential if we don't unleash it. We can be a strong group that can entice even more sponsors, get discounts, put

on great shows, have seminars, teach the community.

On the second subject, "I can't write", I say that if you can talk, and most of you can, then you can write. Write down those words. I do accept that many people are not eloquent writers. But I am more than happy to rewrite anything you send. Just tell me to do it. I typically won't alter a piece of work so as to preserve the author's intentions, but I do tell you it is a lot easier for me to rewrite an article than to draft one from scratch.

Well, folks, the next step is up to you. You can make the Guild even bigger and better than it is today.

## SIDE LIGHTING

BY BOB OSWALD

Ever notice how overhead lighting casts shadows almost every place you work? I have a large number of clamp-on lights, basically one on every tool. If you mount a light to the wall shining sideways, typically it's mounted behind the tool, casting no shadows and providing a very well lighted view of your work area.

## COMING SOON

Speaking of a new zero clearance insert, remember how wonderful the first cuts were that you made with your new sled? By the way, how many of you use a sled? There are dozens of how-to articles out there. I keep wanting to make one and then I say, later, right now I'm busy. Should I publish an article on one? It would give me the incentive to locate and make the perfect sled.

## LIBRARY

There are many new books and videos. Bring your membership card and take home a couple.

## SEMINARS & CLASSES

10/29/2005 Your Woodworking Biz with Dean Mattson

Salem

Learn about operating your woodworking business and making it thrive from Dean Mattson; a veteran woodworker and businessman with more than 20 years of marketing expertise.

## I LEARNED ABOUT WOODWORKING FROM THAT

No time in the shop for several months, so no mistakes. Share your own experience. It only takes 3 sentences. Anonymity guaranteed unless you tell me to add your name.

## TINY TIP

Using an ABT (alternate bevel tooth) saw blade to cut the slot for a visible spline leaves you with a slight hollow that can detract from the appearance under scrutiny. Use a router bit or a saw blade with a raker to cut a flat bottom in the slot.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

20" Wide **BELT SANDER** Sun Hill CT20 S. New Bearings, New Vulcanized rollers, Single phase 220 5hp mtr. 20 assorted belts included. Needs work. Sold as is. \$300.00. Call Kerry at (503)289-5980.

*The Guild of Oregon Woodworkers is a group of professional and amateur woodworkers like you, committed to developing our craftsmanship and wood-working business skills. The Guild offers many benefits for members, including*

- *monthly educational meetings*
- *monthly newsletter*
- *mentoring program to help members develop their skills in specific areas*
- *discounts*
- *woodworking shows*
- *network of business partners (the key to our development as members and as a Guild, providing additional learning opportunities)*
- *and a network of support.*

*For information on how you can become a member, contact Guild President John DuBay at 503-391-7890 or email [jldubay@comcast.com](mailto:jldubay@comcast.com)*

## **GUILD OF OREGON WOODWORKERS**

P.O. Box 13744, Portland, OR 97213-0744

### **CLASSES, SEMINARS, DEMOS, AND SUCH....**

**Northwest Woodworking Studio** 503-284-1644, [www.northwestwoodworking.com](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.com](http://www.ocac.com)

**Woodcraft** 503-684-1428, [www.woodcraft.com](http://www.woodcraft.com)

**Woodcrafters** 503-231-0226, 212 NE 6th Avenue, Portland

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\* These sponsors offer discounts to current Guild members. Refer to the website under *Benefits/Discounts* for details and restrictions. Remember to thank them for their generosity.

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### **Guild of Oregon Woodworkers**

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[www.GuildOfOregonWoodworkers.com](http://www.GuildOfOregonWoodworkers.com)