

OREGON WOOD WORKS



LEE
JOHNSON,
PRESIDENT

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FROM THE PRESIDENT THE SERIOUS SIDE OF OUR TOYS

BY LEE JOHNSON

Sometimes tongue-in-cheek, and sometimes not, I refer to my woodworking tools as my toys. In fact, I got a couple of new toys for Christmas, and I can hardly wait to play with them.

Since my tool (toy) stock is getting pretty large and increasingly sophisticated, it is difficult for my wife to know what I don't have. So the kind thing to do is to give her a list -- complete with web sites, directions to stores, and specific scripts for talking to salespersons. This tactic usually bags me one or two new toys. This year it was a long bent # 7 gouge and a 90-degree parting tool.

And one of my daughters who lives in the Bay Area, and is therefore close to the Japanese Woodworker, bagged a nifty little corner plane that will be just the ticket for cleaning up a rabbet that's left just a little rough in the corner from adjustments with the shoulder plane.

All three new toy-tool-toys will, of course, need honing and adjusting and trial

runs to get them just right. Then, at the appropriate point in a project, out they'll come and do that one specific thing just right. It's a push whether getting them ready to use or actually using them is more fun.

Same thing with bigger, more complicated tool toys. I've recently taken delivery of a nice, beefy, 3-horse 18-inch band saw. It will take me longer to tinker with that guy to get it just the way I want it, and just like the little 4-inch corner plane, it's hard to say whether it'll be more fun tuning it or using it.

But enter the essential difference between tools and toys: these toys can hurt us. A wrist in front of a long bent #7 exposes veins and tendons; a thumb pushing that last bit of re-saw through the band saw can turn up missing. (Granted, I'd have to get really inventive to hurt myself with the corner plane, but I've managed to find ways to cut myself fairly seriously with hand saws, so I am not entirely sanguine about the little corner plane.)

My start-of-the-year message, therefore,

(Continued on page 2)

OUR NEXT MEETING **Versatile Sash and Woodworking** 1420 SE Water Avenue, Portland **Wednesday, January 18th**

The January meeting will be at Versatile Sash and Woodworking. They manufacture high quality, traditional design wood windows and doors. Their specialty is original restorations of older buildings, because they create these windows and doors the way 18th & 19th century craftsmen built them for your grandparents, and their grandparents. We will have a shop tour of the manufacturing facility, which will include some very old unique woodworking machinery! For any of you that have faced the challenges of working with fir, there will be tips on how to work with it. Versatile Sash uses solid fir construction and time-tested joinery to keep their product looking great for the next century. Although they specialize in 19th and 20th century historic buildings and residences, they will do custom work on any building projects.

Bring a friend! Social time begins at 6:30, with program to follow at 7:00. **BRING A CHAIR IF YOU'D LIKE A SEAT!**

Directions:

From I-5 Northbound, take the Water Ave exit. At the stop sign, turn right onto Water Ave. NWS is just down the street a few buildings. It's located under the East end of the Hawthorne Bridge a few blocks North of OMSI.

BNW/GUILD CHRISTMAS SHOW

BY GEORGE DUBOIS

Well, the Best of Northwest/Guild of Oregon Woodworkers show is history. While we had fewer exhibitors, the showings were stellar. We had some nice successes this year with almost all exhibitors saying they were happy with the results and would be returning to the show in 2006. All of the exhibitors showing small products had increased sales and the furniture makers were also quite pleased with the reception and attitudes of the buyers. Many saw increased commissions from the show.

We had an increased presence from the Siskiyou Woodworkers Guild who had five members attending in five booths. Again this year they captured the Best of Show: Nick Engler, for his very fine credenza and also the First Place award by Eric Strong for his set of fine end tables. We salute these fine craftsmen and are proud to have them with us at the show.

The Second Place was captured by Jeff Hilber for his very fine contemporary dining table. Third Place went to Past President Lee Radtke for his outstanding inlaid walnut pedestal dining table. Finally new exhibitors and soon to be members Scott Stewart and partner George McLitas garnered the prestigious \$250 People's Choice Award with their Lotus Design tables.



Best of Show – Nick Engler, Siskiyou Guild

We saw some new craftsmen at this year's outing. Duane "Dusty" Taylor with his fine Intarsia showing. Larry Gurney with his meticulous and incredible fish carvings, Joseph Baia-monte from Eugene with his incredible conference/dining table (a sold piece for \$8,000), our own tool maker David Jeske with his finely crafted chisels and marking tools and finally new member from Klamath Falls Harold Potter with his exquisite solid inlaid tables and incredible designs.

Once again OCAC put up their best efforts with some outstanding pieces done by the students and as always a show stopper. A big thanks to Michael de Forest, woodworking program director, for this year showing. We even had those fantastic Student competition pieces, who were in the Nationals Contest I might add, from David Douglas High School and their teacher/mentor Douglas Ivey. We might even be able to get some inspiration from some of these "kids"?

As I turn over the reins of the show committee to a worthy Larry Butrick I want to thank everyone who has supported our efforts at this and past shows. If you're serious about your work then let's see you at the 2006 shows. There are some great plans for 2006 so come and be a part of them.



People's Choice Award – Scott Stewart & George McLitas

FROM THE PRESIDENT (CONT'D)

is this: let's get out there this year and play with those tool toys. Let's enjoy them to the max, whether we're doing it for both fun and profit, or heading for the basement to forget for awhile the nasty email surprise we got today at work. But let's pick up that push stick; keep both hands on that carving tool; tie the work piece down tight; change that dull blade for a sharp one; stand to the side if there's a chance of kick-back; keep our

thumbs higher on the Japanese saw blade. It is a little irritating, "not-fun" to have to carve some blood off your work (and that's the only way to get rid of it -- believe me), and it's a really big "not-fun" to sit in an emergency room with a bloody towel.

Save a corner, this year, of those incredibly inventive minds to invent safer ways to do it. Let's play, but let's play safe.

BNW/GUILD CHRISTMAS SHOW (CONT'D)

Additional comments by Bob Oswald:

A very big thanks to George DuBois, Larry Butrick, the show committee and a team of volunteers for all the efforts. A lot of great people stood duty at the Guild booth, telling people about us and representing what this Guild is all about, passion for woodworking and quality. We need to start thinking about this earlier in the year. I will be there. Customers DO come back looking for that exhibitor (personal experience speaking). This show IS the single best place to get exposure for your woodworking talents in the Portland area.

Thanks to our Siskiyou Guild partners for their participation. A top notch group of folks who brought some outstanding pieces of work. Check www.SiskiyouGuild.org.



Dave Jeske makes beautiful tool handles.



The wonderful volunteers who make it happen. Thanks to all of them. And thanks, Don and crew for this pose. Folks, *this* is your Guild!



George was busy taking photos. Nick from the Siskiyou Guild looks on.

A WORD FROM OUR SPONSORS

BY ED FERGUSON

Steve Philips will be taking over from Ed Ferguson. Thanks to Ed for all the work in organizing and working with our great sponsors during the past several years. And be aware Steve that articles from our sponsors about aspects of woodworking are very welcome.

BNW/GUILD CHRISTMAS SHOW (CONT'D)



David Douglas High School students are so talented.



A challenge in any workshop, Harold Potter.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

A surprisingly large number of new folks joined us in December. Welcome to all of you. Stop and say hello, please.

Jim Forristal
Bruce Elia
Andrea Cohen
Anne Erickson
Don White
Carmen Castanette
Ron Peters
Grady Morgan
Eugene Shaw
Randy McCall
Bill Bach
Gary GeRue
Richard Winston
Thomas Hawkes

TINY TIP

BY MIKE KELLY

When mixing finish epoxy such as MirrorCoat, make sure the mixing containers are clean and will stay that way during mixing. I used a plastic drink cup to mix epoxy, only to learn (after a couple of tries) that little shavings of the white plastic were coming off the inside of the cup as I mixed. They were invisible until I poured the mixture on the workpiece. I recommend glass or metal containers and utensils.

ANNUAL DUES - IT'S EASY ONLINE

It's the end of the year and time to renew your dues in the Guild. If you joined after September 1, you are automatically continued through 2006. Thank you Steve & Gail Haskett, Eugene Ezman and Robert Bosquet for your early 2006 renewal. You can save the Guild quite a bit volunteer effort by sending in your renewal check any time. Even easier is to renew on the website using PayPal. No stamps, envelopes and trip to the mailbox. Click on Join/Renew in the left column. If you don't know your login name, it's the email address you sent to the guild with your application. And if you forgot your password, click on Reset and you will be mailed a new password. Be sure to **click** on login. If you hit the **enter key** it won't accept you

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New members – if you've given someone your application and don't hear from us within two weeks, call me, Bob Oswald, 503-985-7137 or bobnan@teleport.com and I'll track it down. We're trying to improve our application handling process.

Update your address on line. It's easy and it really helps the people who have to process the paperwork.

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I LEARNED ABOUT WOODWORKING FROM THAT

Glass cutters are cheap. Throw them away. I cut a large piece of glass recently and it made more of a 'crinkling' sound than I remember as it was cutting. The first cut went ok and broke cleanly although I think the edge felt a little rough. The second cut was not clean and the glass broke away from the line ruining the piece. Actually, in this case I did not cut cleanly off the edge of the glass. Put a pad underneath the glass and let the cutter fall off the edge onto the pad. If it feels wrong, it probably is. Stop there and fix the problem.

CUT-UPS My greatest fear is that I'll die and my wife will sell my tools for what I said I paid for them.

THE GUILD CHRISTMAS PARTY

BY BOB OSWALD

An annual event, another year gone by, friends. That's what the Guild is all about. A nice sized group of wonderful people turned out for the party at Franklin High School. More food than any human could eat, as usual. It was a nice evening just chatting. No hurry, no agenda, just share some of the past year together. The gift exchange was as enjoyable as always. Quite a few handmade gifts that went over very well. Next year maybe we'll focus more on that to bring out the spirit of woodworking. Thank you all for your participation and to the meetings committee as usual for being the anchor that makes these events flow so smoothly. Several cameras took home many candid as well as posed photos. I may use some of them in future issues. We were lucky enough to capture Santa Clyde in this moment between flights.



SHOP TIPS: SCRAP

BY DAVE MILLER

A little while back, Bob Oswald suggested an easy way to pick something to write about. I think he said stand in the middle of your shop, throw something over your shoulder, and whatever it landed near, write about it! Ok...I did. And what did it land near? A pile of scrap ...hmmmm. I thought about trying again but decided it wouldn't be fair and besides, I would likely land near another pile of scrap anyway.

I think all woodworkers have one thing in common. It's difficult to part with off-cuts of any size, shape, or species. Heck, I've even found 3 inch long off-cuts from 1 X 4 pine boards stashed away. (Nope, never have used them...yet.) We all end up with piles of wood pieces that we just know we're going to use...but generally never do. The piece is always too small, too thin, too dark, too nice a piece....sigh.

As I stumbled over a pile of wonderful Cherry plywood off-cuts and nearly broke my nose trying to retrieve whatever it was I threw over my shoulder, it occurred to me it was about time to come up with a system to deal with all those bits.

If you've got a woodstove, or have a friend that relishes getting your scraps to burn, you probably won't have the problem of too many scrap pieces piling up. I've got a propane stove in my shop that has a closed combustion chamber. It's great for safety around wood dust and flammable finish materials, but it's of no value in getting rid of those small off-cuts. I needed an idea!

What I came up with will shock some of you because it actually means getting rid of some of those beloved boards.

But not without giving them all a second chance! Get a plastic 30-gallon plastic trash container and set it close to the table saw. When you get an off-cut, if it fits in the container, that's where it goes. If the piece doesn't fit in the container, stack it in a special section of your storage area or somewhere out of the way in the shop.

OK, now you have neatly "contained" scrap. So? Well here's the beauty of it; when you're building a jig or fixture or just need a sacrificial board for some trial cuts, you won't have to scramble all over the shop looking for a suitable piece of scrap! You can quickly grab a piece from the "scrap" container or storage area "scrap" section, use it, and if it doesn't go to a permanent home in another piece of furniture or a jig, toss it back. I found too that those larger pieces often shrink over time and eventually wind up in the scrap container!

Believe it or not, at some point the container is going to get full. It's at that moment you have to gather up all your courage, grit your teeth and haul it out to a burn pile, unceremoniously toss it in a heap and light it up. At least those scrap pieces will keep you warm outside a few times a year, and it's great for roasting marshmallows!

I can't offer any other gems of encouragement. Those precious off-cuts will someday be exactly what you need to build anything. Maybe you have to stumble over your own piles to realize the sad truth but at least I will have tried to warn you. And no, you shouldn't sort through it when you toss it in the heap to burn it!

To be continued...

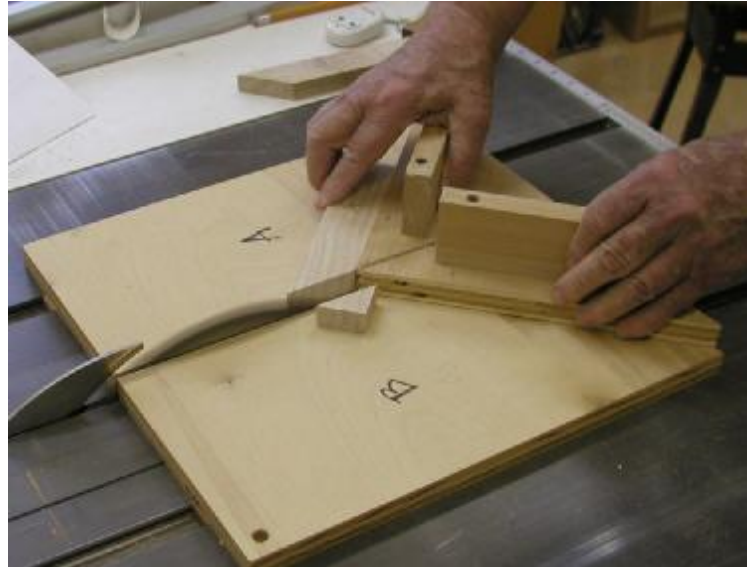
SEMINARS: FIXTURES WITH GEORGE DUBOIS

BY BOB OSWALD

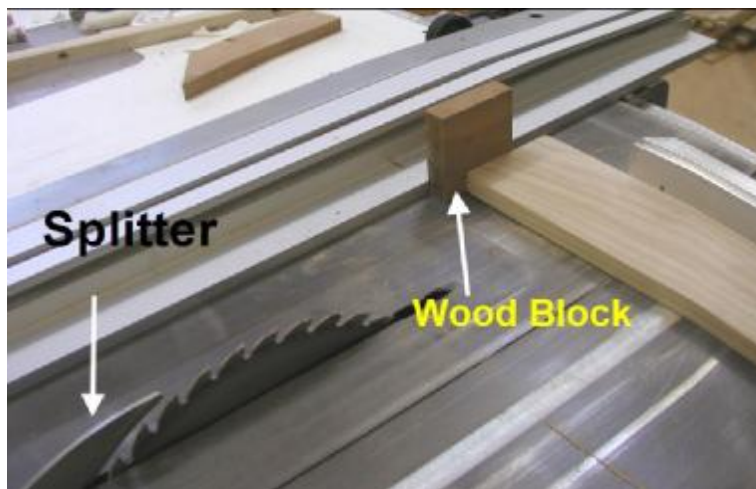
It's difficult to capture a shop layout on camera. You lose the perspective of structure and organization. But here's a sample of George's shop. Well lighted and ventilated, a planned layout for workflow, clean and full of storage systems and jigs. And that's what this article is about. This summer George taught a Jigs & Fixtures seminar.

The seminar focused on 7 jigs ranging from simple yet critically important to simplifying complex tasks. A few of them are shown here. Isn't it interesting how few words are included with this article and yet how explanatory (I hope) the pictures are?

The photo below shows both a splitter and a simple wood block. The splitter is a vital table saw accessory. It prevents a board that is being ripped from closing behind the saw blade. This is one of the most dangerous situations on a table saw. The board pinches closed on the rising rear teeth of the blade and it very likely will rise up, usually violently, into your face, or be propelled across the shop. Don't do this at home!



This miter frame jig makes perfect picture frame corners. This was my inspiration for a lengthy article on building picture frames and related jigs that will appear in a future issue.



George's shop

The wood block is double taped (I built one with a super magnet) to the fence to provide a stop for cutting multiple pieces of wood to the same length. The work piece passes away from the block and does not get caught between the blade and fence. Simple, yet incredibly safe and functional.



SEMINARS: FIXTURES WITH GEORGE DUBOIS (CONT'D)



Guild members, if you're not taking the opportunity to participate in some of these seminars, you are missing a tremendous opportunity. It's right in your own back yard. You have the benefit of advice from master craftsmen, as well as just talking with fellow woodworkers. I can't stress enough how much there is to learn and how much comes from directions you never would have imagined. Another side benefit of this seminar was a look at the beautiful homemade things throughout George's home. It inspires me.

No need for dial indicators or other fancy alignment tools. This simple alignment jig will check your saw blade for parallel to the miter slot. It fits snugly in the miter slot and has an adjustable screw. Set the screw height to just touch a tooth on the near side of the blade. Mark the tooth and roll it to the far side. Slide the jig back and check clearance. Align your table saw blade to the miter slot according to the manufacturer's instructions.



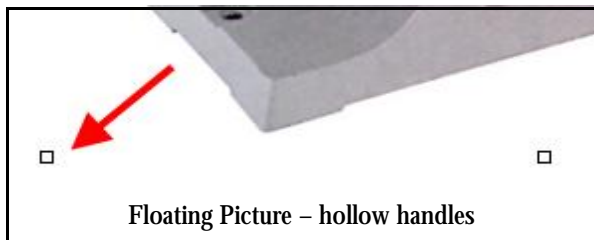
Here a taper jig is actually being used to true up the rough edge of a board. After the truing cut, the board is removed from the jig and ripped again in the normal fashion to make a perfect board with straight and parallel edges.

COMPUTER COOL

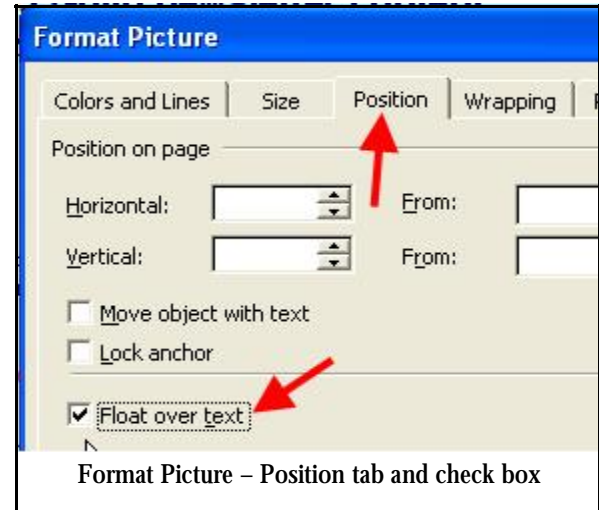
BY BOB OSWALD

Computers are a way of life for pretty much all of us. And with them comes the tradeoff of versatility and power versus complexity. This probably won't be a continuing column unless I get reader feedback, but for now, here's something that might help you.

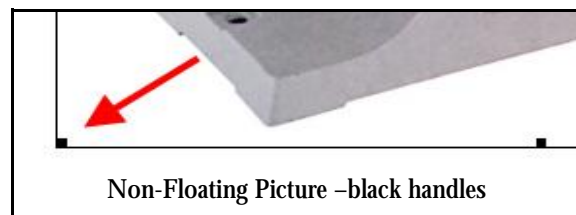
Do you ever have a problem with pasting some photos into Word and having them 'skitter' around? I have for many years. Most of the time I get lucky and they go where I put them. I stumbled on the secret just this month. The default paste mode for pictures is 'floating'. When you click on the picture, if it has hollow 'handles', it's in floating mode, and in my opinion kind of uncontrollable.



To fix this problem, click on the photo. Then right click and select "Format Picture". Click on the "Position" tab and the "Float over text" box will probably be checked. Uncheck it and it will become locked on the page between the text where you want it.



When you click on the picture now, the handles will be solid black. And the picture will stop skittering around on its own.



WOOD RESCUE

BY BRIAN WARRINGTON

Hi members! Like I threatened in the last issue, I'm writing about my efforts in rescuing trees from going to the grinder. Now, the work involved in taking down trees and hauling them away is a lot like raising kids... you just can't explain it with mere words to get someone who hasn't done it to understand. I guess, like raising kids, you do it for reasons other than it being easy.

I'm going to start my little series by writing about the first tree we obtained, a very large cherry that was dying in the back yard of a southeast Portland home owned by a wonderful woman named Ruth. It was growing along the fence line bordering her property, and had recently dropped a large section of a limb on the neighbors side of the line, destroying some outdoor furniture that they had been sitting in only hours beforehand. The drop had caused them to demand that Ruth remove the tree, which in turn had caused her to look around and find someone to remove it... us, in the end.

She had estimates of up to \$1800 to remove the tree, which she would have paid had it not been for two guys (fools?), Ron and I, that said that they would do it for the wood. When we sized the job, we figured it wouldn't be that big of a deal. It was only about 60 feet high, and about 32" across at the base. Heck, just slice 'er up and haul it off, right?

Hoo boy.

We began the job with the intention of removing the limbs and dropping the trunk in pieces. With approval from the neighbors to access the tree on their side as well, we began. After 6 1/2 hours of cutting, we were about halfway through with the limbs and dog-tired. We ain't 20 anymore, and couldn't even try to lie to each other about how we were ready for some more.

Sitting on a piece of limb that I swear weighed ten million pounds, I was drinking a Gatorade that Ruth supplied for us (she was great!). I downed it, and was still thirsty. I went for another, and couldn't drink it because my stomach was full... still thirsty... That's when I figured I had better quit working. It was 95 degrees and in the sun. Geez, I'm getting old.

So anyway, during the process the neighbor lady came out and was complaining about the mess we were generating. When she went back in, her husband popped his head out the window and we had a nice chat. I had the impression she was having a bad day. After a few laughs, I went back to work. At the end of that day, we completely cleaned up both sides of the fence and went home with Ruth's approval to come back when we could.

About a month went by, and during that time Ron and I

WOOD RESCUE (CONT'D)

had to concede to each other that we were in over our heads. Neither of us had any idea of how we were going to take the rest of the tree down. In snooping around on the Internet, I came in contact with a tree service person, John, who was willing to do a weekend job. I showed him the tree and explained how we were trying to save the wood. He was so impressed with our intentions that he said he would finish it up for free, with an agreement to call him when we got another tree job so he could make some money. He didn't have to twist my arm too hard. We arranged to do it the following weekend.

So there we were. The following weekend he had the tree stripped and down in about two hours. Five of us were working away when the neighbor guy came out. I saw him talking to my son, thinking nothing of it until I noticed the conversation wasn't friendly.

The neighbor was more than a little impatient during this process, but after a few words we decided that we had better

load as much wood as we could in as little time as possible to avoid any more conflict. Just toss the wood in the trailer and roll away... except... cherry wood is ridiculously heavy, and we couldn't get it all. We rolled away with what we could, to return again in a couple of weeks for the rest.

When we did, Ron had custom fabricated a hoist and dolly system, as well as a chainsaw guide that slides along a 2x6 to cut the logs, making the whole job possible. Ruth wanted much of the limbs for a neighbor's fireplace, and had the neighborhood kids clean up the final mess for a few bucks.

Ron had a maple burl clock that we offered to John for his very generous services, but Ruth felt the need to pay Ron a bit for his work. I can't say enough about how nice she was to us.

Finally, I promised Ruth that some of the wood would be a donation to a local high school woodworking class once it dries. See you at the next meeting, and have a great day!

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE

Delta 14-651 Hollow Chisel Mortiser This is the heavy one with the cast iron table. In new, unused condition - really. It was assembled and a few test cuts made, then set aside and never used. It works fine, but I always seem to go for my router set-up when I need mortises. Riser block, chisel holder, and original Delta chisels included.

Delta 22-560 Portable Planer 12 1/2" Looks good - this has been used but not too much - the first side of the original knives still cuts well. This originally came with a stand, which I kept tripping over so it's gone. There is one extra set of new knives included.

Both tools were bought new from Woodcrafters a couple of years ago. Take a look to verify condition. Trades considered (tools, musical instruments, ?). David 503-775-9894, days.

FOR SALE

Delta 23-710 Wet-Dry Sharpening Center 8" 1000 grit horizontal wet wheel and 5" x 2" 120 grit ALO dry wheel. Tool rest base supports the sliding tool holder. Adjusts for height and tool angle and may be mounted for either wheel. The fast cutting action of a dry wheel with the cool honing benefits of a wet wheel - all in one grinder. Includes optional Planer Knife adapter. Nearly new. \$225 new, yours for \$150. Bob Oswald 503-985-7137.



POSITIONS AVAILABLE

THE REBUILDING CENTER/OUR UNITED VILLAGES ReFind Furniture Manager *Job Purpose:* To assure the successful operation of ReFind Furniture's goals by diverting construction and demolition waste for reuse, inspiring creative reuse of building materials, and serving as an educational resource for Oregonians. The ReFind Manager will take the lead in implementing ReFind's strategic plan for 2006. For more information, please visit our website: www.rebuildingcenter.org, or contact Chris Bekemeier at cbekemeier@ourunitedvillages.org or 503-517-0953.

AmeriCorps ReFind Education Assistant

The *ReFind Education Assistant* will work closely with ReFind Furniture Manager and Our United Villages staff members to design and implement The ReBuilding Center's ReFind Education program. The member will also assist the ReFind department manager in the production of ReFind's furniture inventory, stocking inventory in the ReFind Showroom, answering phones, and maintaining a safe & clean shop environment. For more information, please visit:

<http://www.northwestserviceacademy.net> or contact Sherrie Jackson, NWSA Recruitment Coordinator at 503-234-2383.

CALL FOR ENTRIES

Seeking artists in all media for the 16th annual Buckman Elementary School Art Show & Sell in Portland. Applications available online at www.buckmanelementary.org/artsale. Deadline: January 20, 2006. Artists retain 70% of proceeds; remainder supports arts programs at the school. Last year's sales grossed over \$70,000, of which artists received 70%. This could be the right place to sell older work/inventory and help support arts education in the public schools. It is also a great place to test out new work if you are just starting out. Contact Namita Wiggers at namita_wiggers@yahoo.com.

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 Lee Johnson at 503-292-4340 or email leejohnson13@comcast.net

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

Rockler Woodworking 503-672-7266, www.rockler.com

Oregon College of Art and Craft 503-297-5544, www.ocac.com

Woodcraft 503-684-1428, www.woodcraft.com

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

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Lumber Products

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Woodcraft, Tigard *
Woodcrafters, Portland *

* 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.

Guild of Oregon Woodworkers

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We're on the Web!

www.GuildOfOregonWoodworkers.com