

# OREGON WOOD WORKS



LEE  
JOHNSON  
PRESIDENT

## FROM THE PRESIDENT. TO FRET OR NOT TO FRET

BY LEE JOHNSON

For the past two or three years, first as your VP and now as Pres, I've been fretting about something. It's about this:

When I joined the Guild several years ago, the monthly meetings drew about 15 to 20 people. I use the analogy -- which was literally true at many meetings -- of a comfy gathering around Bill Anderson's woodstove with cookies that Bill's wife Jackie made that morning. Most of the meeting was a pretty productive bull session about what people were up to, how they got their band saw adjusted, which new spokeshave was the best, and whatever else came up.

Then we started to grow. Which is good. There is a wider diversity in our membership, which spells more knowledge to be shared, more money to provide services to members, a grown-up newslet-

ter, a great web site, better seminars, a gangbusters library and all that other good stuff about wood and working wood. George DuBois, with his boundless enthusiasm, was largely responsible for growing the Guild.

But there's a downside. With our meetings drawing 70 or 80 people, there is a loss of the easy informality -- the camaraderie, if you will -- and the off-handed, but very valuable informal information sharing that just happens in smaller group settings. And when we surveyed all of you a couple of years ago, the biggest (by far) reason you gave for joining the Guild was networking with other woodworkers.

So on one hand, it has become much more important to provide high quality, better organized monthly meetings to ac-

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## !!!! NOTE: DATE IS 1 WEEK LATER !!!!

### OUR NEXT MEETING — MARCH 22, 7:00PM

#### Machinery Demonstration

Wednesday, March 15th, 2006 7:00 pm  
Barbo Machinery, 4617 SE Milwaukie Ave., Portland 503-232-8158  
Southeast Portland, 1/2 block south of Holgate Blvd. and 1 block east of McLoughlin (99E)

#### From I-5 Southbound

**Head** south on I-5 to the 99E exit- #300B- towards US-26 E/Oregon City/OMSI.  
**Follow** signs for and merge onto 99E heading southbound

#### From I-5 Northbound

**Head** north on I-5 to the OR-43/Macadam Ave. exit- #299A- towards US-26 E/Ross Island  
**Follow** signs to and cross the Ross Island Bridge  
**Take** the 99E ramp to merge south onto 99E/McLoughlin

#### Common

**Keep** south on 99E/McLoughlin for .65 miles  
**Take** the Holgate Blvd. exit to cross over 99E/SE Grand Ave./McLoughlin  
**Turn** right on SE Milwaukie Ave. **Barbo** Machinery is 1/2 block on the right

## TO FRET OR NOT TO FRET (CON'T)

*It looked to me like you  
were having fun. I  
know I was.*

*(Continued from page 1)*  
commodate the larger group (I call it the “Oh-Jeeze-we-better-get-organized-here” effect). On the other hand, as we get better and better at that, it begins to obviate more networking opportunities. So I’ve been fretting about it.

Fretting, of course, does absolutely no good for anyone. It’s time to do something about it. But I think maybe this is too important for the old “do something even if it’s wrong” tactic; I don’t want any babies lost with the bathwater.

I know one thing to do, and we’re getting on with it. Some of the most fun I’ve had in the Guild was working on the flag boxes for 9-11 victims’ families and working on the Guild workbench. I not only learned a bunch of stuff, but I also met some people whom I am now proud to call friends. That experience can be replicated. We’re out now rounding up projects to offer up for your learning and networking pleasure. We’re looking for woodworking projects that will not only offer learning opportunities, but also have some socially redeeming qualities to them. Stay tuned.

There are some other ideas batting around out there. Some very large guilds or woodworking clubs have big meetings every other month and small, localized gatherings on the off months. I was warming up to that one and asked the Board to think about it. But I’m not at all sure that we’ve hit some critical mass of “largeness” to try that big a change. I guess

it’s just something to keep in mind at this point.

But then I saw how interested and engaged the group was at the last meeting where we had three “stations” going on: Jerry Billings with his antique woodworking tools, Ariel Enriquez on chisels, and me on hand planes. Nobody had to “organize” the group; you all were plenty smart enough to go where you were interested, move from station to station as your interest dictated, or gab with friends in between. It looked to me like you were having fun. I know I was. Maybe more opportunities like that are just the ticket.

So why am I dithering about all these uncertainties? I think I just want you to know that the Board and I are working on ways to make your experience with the Guild as good as you’d like it to be. I’m pretty sure that means a mix; a few, high quality, “sit, listen, and learn” programs, and a leaning toward more opportunities for informal elbow-rubbing (read “networking”) among us.

For me, I’m going to judge ideas with two questions in mind: will I learn something, and will it be fun? If the answer is yes on both counts, we’ll probably give it a try; if not, we’ll try something else.

Finally, neither your Board nor I have cornered the market on good ideas. If you have one for this hopper, tell one of us, and we’ll throw it in. Phone call, e-mail, or note; the door’s always open.

*Do you feel intimidated  
by the construction of  
fine dining room  
chairs?*

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## ROCKLER—GUILD AWARENESS \* APRIL 22 \*

BY BOB OSWALD / CARL EHERTON

Rockler is offering a nationwide event where all 34 stores will be inviting their respective guilds to the store. They will have a table for some of our Guild members to discuss the Guild. This is a chance to expand the public’s awareness of woodworking organizations and opportunities in the Portland Area. Rockler encourages us to invite Rockler customers to join the Guild. They are also going to include their annual swap meet that day so if any Guild members have some old tools or woodworking supplies you want to trade out, it will be a perfect opportunity to do so. This has been

one of Rockler’s most popular events in the past. The Guild is planning to have our workbench there and do some demonstrations. Volunteers to do demos are needed and will be greatly appreciated. Think about helping out at the store.

Participate in the swap meet – browse through your shop for those things that could be someone else’s treasure. Rockler events always draw a lot of people.

*... to do your very best*

## DEDOBBELEER SEMINAR - SLATED FOR MAY 5 & 6

BY LEN WALKO

The Guild is sponsoring a second workshop presented by Don DeDobbeleer on May 6 & 7. The price will be \$180 for Guild members. Contact the Education Committee or Len Walko [lenwalko@hotmail.com](mailto:lenwalko@hotmail.com) or call 360-253-6456 for details. Here is Don's description:

*"Do you feel intimidated by the construction of fine dining room chairs? If you surf the web looking at professional furniture builders sites, usually you will find a conspicuous absence of dining room chairs. There's a reason for that.*

*I think most advanced wood workers would agree that designing and building an original dining room chair that meets all the unique requirements of a chair, namely nice looking to the eye, (like all good furniture), bullet proof joinery, (you will have a three hundred pound man rocking back on the rear legs) comfort, ( a unique requirement of chairs), make them one of the most difficult furniture disciplines to master.*

*I will be teaching a seminar in Portland. The course will take two days, and I will build a chair from scratch, explaining each step as I proceed.*



*I have built close to fifty chairs and actually made money on the last set! I had just about given up on expecting to make more than ten bucks an hour on chairs. They had become a necessary evil as part of a bid for a full dinning room set. Over the years I have slowly refined the techniques, and on this last set I had some kind of brain fart and came up with a simple solution to the most troubling part, the many compound angles of every joint in the chair.*

*These techniques do not require a shop full of major machinery, but they do require a fairly good understanding of router techniques and limitations. The two-day course will cover all the aspects of chair building: design, comfort, joinery considerations, curved joinery, bent laminations, generating curves, fairing curves, creating templates, template routing and pattern shaping on*

*the shaper. We'll also go through the final fitting and the glue-up."*

Don's seminar last year on his demi-lune table (Best of Show in last year's Best of the Northwest Exhibit) got rave reviews. Novice or professional, you'll learn something at this one!

Ya gotta do this one! Think about that project you have wanted to do. Read the article on Zen, on perfection, on having a reason to do your very best.... then do it, and join the show.

Prizes!

Get ready for the  
**Guild of Oregon Woodworkers**  
2nd Annual  
Inner-Guild Show

**When :** May 17th (regular monthly meeting)  
**Categories:** Beginner, Intermediate, Professional  
**Judged on:** Design, Craftsmanship, and Originality

Don't miss this opportunity to display your work, no matter what your level of expertise.

This is the meeting lots of us have been looking forward to! Last years' show was a big success, and we hope this years will be even bigger! So finish that project you've been working on, or just enter any piece that you've completed in the last two years!

Each category will have a first, second, and third prize, plus there will be one "Best In Show" (The George E. Dubois Award, a beautiful personalized plaque).

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Gary Borders, Stephen Anderson, Sean Berg, Larry Piper, Thomas Garelli, Charles Landers, Bob Terry

## THE LIBRARY

I checked out a copy of Fine Woodworking this month. Believe it or not, it's the first time I've borrowed a book. There was a great bandsaw article and a really attractive construction article for a hall table that I want to do. The library has magazines, videos and books on many aspects of woodworking. Check out something, go home and sit in the living room on Saturday morning, clear your mind and read.

## ZEN AND THE ART OF WOODWORKING

BY BOB OSWALD

Have you ever read a really good book, where you look up and wonder where the last hour went? The same can happen in your woodworking. It never used to happen to me but it's starting to. It's related to being too goal oriented. As they say in other walks, enjoy the journey, don't worry about the destination. And in woodworking, I believe that the secret is to enjoy every step. Do each step like it is the most important one in the project. Be almost afraid to be finished.

On a slow day at a trade show years ago I picked up a book at the local college bookstore called "Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain". I was learning to draw then and I had heard the book mentioned many times. The concept is that the brain has two functioning sections. The left half is organized, methodical and time keeping. The right half is abstract, creative, not disposed to structure. The concept further states that when you are in that loss of time mode, you are using the right half. And if you can call on the right half more on demand, you can achieve more focus, more inner peace. Jumping to the end of the story, I'm here to tell you, against all opponents, that it is absolutely true.

I started to read this book and the exercises they take you through are simple but you are guided in a way that encourages you to do the exercise well, not quickly. About half way through the book a few days later, I realized that I was losing that sense of time while doing those exercises.

Recently I committed to a project that stretched my skills. The nature of the project required it to be as perfect as possible and it caused me to focus like I never had before. And this project put me in that frame of mind for several reasons. I did not want to make a mistake that would ruin a piece of wood. Everything was grain matched and to fail

with one part would be to go all the way back to the beginning. And the finish, color balance, presentation, no visible flaws—all critical factors. I did have a few little problems along the way and was fortunate to be able to recover them.

It was not a conscious decision to be focused. It just happened. And when I finished about two weeks later, I knew that this is what woodworking is all about. To lose yourself in a project, to lose yourself to time, to be delighted with the results

I am most proud of the finish. Too many of us skate through that phase, hating it. I loved every minute of it. That first coat is true magic. The color first comes to life. It glistens. You don't miss a spot anywhere. And the reluctance to wipe it off 10 minutes later is strong. But after I did the first wipe down, the color was still there and a smoothness-to-the-touch emerged that surprised me. I didn't want to apply a second coat for fear of losing that smooth feel on the first coat. Six coats later, with wet sanding between, only enhanced the results. The last coat was applied like talcum powder to a baby. I decided to wipe it on so thin, so thoroughly, to rub it out even as it was still wet. It had all the properties I could have hoped for. I can only say that time passed and I didn't realize where it went. And the project and the finish is the best I have ever done. When I look back on this project, I find nothing that I would do differently. That's an incredible feeling. That is woodworking!

The project took easily twice as long as was 'necessary'. But the results are ten times better than I would have done in half the time.

And in the great balance of nature, I have subsequently  
*(Continued on page 6)*

## WOOD RESCUE, THE BEGINNING

BY BRIAN WARRINGTON

Hi members! This month I'll tell y'all about our very first rescue mission, one that began after perusing some advertisements on the Internet. I found an ad for a "very large cherry stump" and figured that it would be right up our alley. No limbs, no felling, just take a stump off someone's hands. Well, that was my first mistake. Have you ever seen how big a cherry tree can be? The 5 limbs that were still attached were each over 18" across at their bases, and the stump itself was 45". Wow! My puny little 18" chainsaw was no match for that brute, so out came Ron's 42 incher. That saw runs on pure testosterone, and everyone in the neighborhood knew about it when we lit it off. Its roar brought people from around the area to see what was going on, and they were all happy to see that we were going to do something more than just burn it.

It seemed that the tree was a fruit-bearer, and many of the locals missed the cherries that were once so abundant. But

the tree needed trimming once the limbs started falling, and, unfortunately, it didn't survive the shock. It must have been huge. All that was left was a 5 foot trunk and the five limbs about the same length..

The owner had just purchased the home, and considered the stump an eyesore. He had offered it to his wife's boss, but he never came for it. One man's trash is another's treasure, and we came away with some beautiful wood that day. Rich colors of red, tan, and salmon reached out to us as we sliced off 6-8" slabs of solid wood. Opportunities like this one have come along, and we have picked up some nice wood. Sooner or later, we'll be bringing some in for door prizes or the like. Until then, we'll keep looking and sawing, getting what we can and hoping for more. I have to admit these articles are fun to write and see in the newsletter. It helps me feel as if I am adding something to the group. And thanks to Bob for all the help editing. Enjoy!

# USING THE SCRAP THE FIRST TIME

BY DAVE MILLER

You placed that 30 gallon garbage can close to the table saw to collect scraps. Perhaps you've even gone to Rockler and bought a basic hardware kit to make a few jigs. I think I mentioned last month, the garbage can was slowly filling up? Well by now it's probably filled even more so let's build the first jig! Before you get too excited, this jig won't make much of a dent in the scrap collection you've probably already accumulated, but it's a start, and I think you'll find it very useful if you have a radial arm or compound miter saw.

Both saws are great for cutting long stock to shorter lengths. To improve accuracy and speed in making multiple pieces of the same length, a 'saw stop' is a good solution. The inset shows the overall view of what I put together for my radial arm saw.

The stop itself is really nothing more than a simple clamp made from a three bits of plywood cut to the dimensions I've given.

Figure 1 is the front plate. The two holes will accommodate the bolts that will give the clamp its gripping ability.

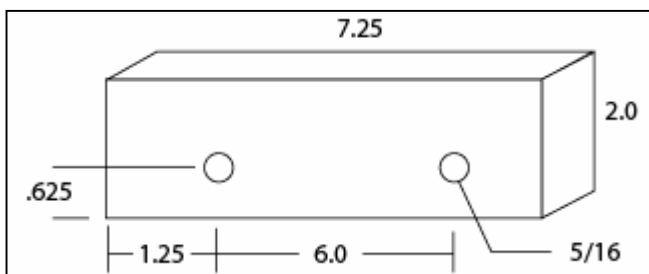


Figure 1. Front Plate

The center plate is really the part that requires a little planning. The thickness of the plate should be the same thickness as the back-board the saw-stop is going to slide on. Once you've cut the part out, drill the 5/16ths inch holes using the front plate as a guide to insure they line up. Now cut a slot on one side of the plate about 6/10ths of an inch wide, centered on each of the holes. The slots should

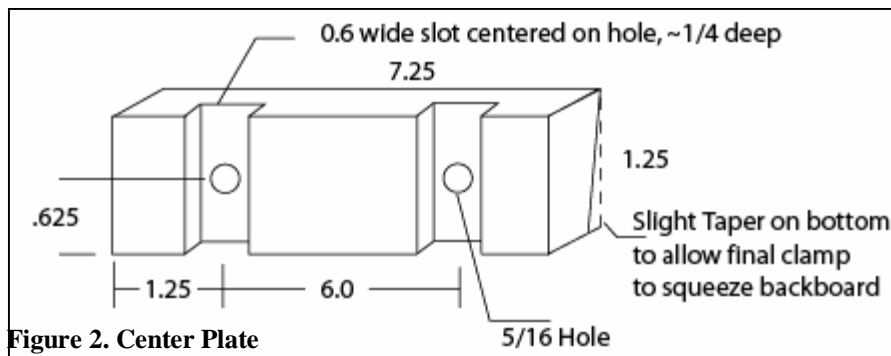


Figure 2. Center Plate

be about 3/16th to 1/4 inch deep, just to provide clearance for the T-bolt heads. Finally, bevel the face of the plate that will be in contact with the front plate slightly. The top of the plate should remain the original thickness but the bottom should wind up about (stress the word 'about') 1/64th inch thinner.

## A Saw Stop Makes the Job Easier

The 'back-board' keeps the material perpendicular to the blade.

On the right end of my back-board, I put a self-stick metallic measuring tape beginning at the right edge of the blade. Just make sure to order the correct tape so it's not upside down like mine!



You may have to change the design of the back-board to fit your particular equipment and space, and perhaps you want to have the stop on the left end but isn't modifying half the fun?

Finally, fabricate the back plate to the same dimensions as the front plate but don't drill any holes.

Now, insert two 1/4 inch dia. 2 inch long T-bolts into the holes of the center plate so the T-bolt heads are recessed in the slots you cut in the plate. Glue the center plate to the back plate. This locks the T-bolts in place! See the Assembly photo below.

You might notice I also used screws to attach the center plate along with glue. You don't have to, but then I'm obsessive about these things?

Finally, put the front plate over the bolts, thread the handles on, and it's finished? Well...you can al-

ways embellish it a bit. I rounded the outside corners for looks. I also rounded the bottom corners of the center plate (after I munched my measuring tape by dragging the stop over a miter cut I had made in it) and put a couple coats of poly on the exterior surfaces. Now slip it over the back-board, tighten the handles, and the saw stop will be locked in place.



Figure 3. Assembly

This is such a simple jig, and aside from the fact it didn't

reduce your scrap collection very much, it's a great introduction to using the hardware I talked about in a previous article.

## CLASSIFIEDS

My name is Richard Worthey and I am co-coordinating an all woodwork show at the Umpqua Valley Art Center in Roseburg, OR. I am looking for Oregon woodworkers who would like to participate. The show dates are for Dec 1, 2006 thru Jan 15, 2007. Items are to be delivered by Nov 27, 2006. I currently have about 12 people committed to do the show from our area. They range from furniture makers to carvers to woodturners. We have room for about 25 total artists/ woodworkers with each one having no more than three pieces in the show. I am looking for mainly sculpture and furniture artists at this time as I have several turners already committed.

I would like photographs or electronic images submitted by March 1, 2006. We will make selections by March 15, and would like positive commitments by March 31.

I may be contacted via email at [dkdesign@jeffnet.org](mailto:dkdesign@jeffnet.org), or snail mail to: Richard Worthey  
6643 Melqua Rd.  
Roseburg, OR 97470

## GUILD EVENT CALENDAR

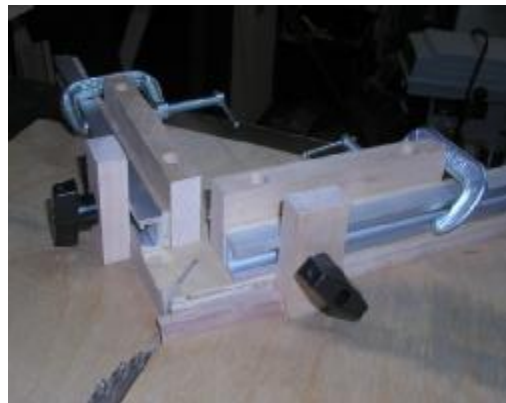
Event	Date	Activity
Woodfest	May 6	Display & sell. World Forestry Center, Portland
Intra Guild Show	May	Bring one of your projects for judging and awards
Salem Art Festival	July 21-23	Display & sell. Kid's bird-house project.
Tour of Shops	? July ?	<i>We need a volunteer to coordinate this.</i>
Guild Picnic	August	Relax, barbecue, potluck, games of skill
Oregon State Fair	Aug 30 – Sep 4	Exhibit, teach, help in the booth
Village of Willamette Arts Festival	Sep 16–17	Display & sell products.
Woodworking Show	October	Guild demos
BNW/Christmas	December	Rent a booth. Sell your work in a premier show.
Christmas Party	December	Exchange hand made gifts

## A JIG ON A JIG

BY BOB OSWALD

I spend too much time cobbling stuff together to get a job done. I'm getting more tuned into taking the extra time to make jigs. Of course to me, a jig has to be reusable to be of best value, so sometimes it takes quite a bit of time to figure out how to take one of those seat-of-the-pants solutions and turn it into a long lasting one.

This happened to me on a project using the miter jig. I needed to make tiny adjustments to the length because I was making an inside piece where the length was already determined, unlike a picture frame where you can slide around 1/4' or so and not really care. This miter was on both ends of



a 3-inch piece of 3/8" square stock as shown in the photo.

Having read Dave Miller's article on using hardware with your scraps, the thought was in my mind for

several days. Then it hit me. I used a T-track, a T-bolt and handle and a homemade stop to produce this adjustable stop for my Miter jig. One on each side allowed me to make those incremental adjustments. And they are shown clamped on (for the moment) so that they can be removed and replaced with longer tracks if needed. The adjustable block moves to the next track easily. So simple and so useful. Thanks Dave!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanks to all the members who have renewed so far. Your dues provide programs, a space for the meeting, support for trade shows and Guild programs that help everyone enjoy woodworking. On the website, click "Join/Renew". Update your address and make an easy Paypal payment, or send a form and check to Norm Michaud, 1041 Chandler Road, Lake Oswego, OR 97034

## Zen and the Art of Woodworking (con't)

(Continued from page 4)

tested my dovetail skills on a four little recipe boxes. I was in a hurry to see the results, and the results show it. Two are garbage. I'll salvage them and store something in them. It will remind me each time I look at them what being in a hurry is worth. Two are better but far from acceptable.

Focus, enjoy, learn, appreciate, lose yourself in time.

## MUSIC “MAKERS”

BY BOB OSWALD

There was a great turnout at Rockler’s in Beaverton for demonstrations of hand made wooden musical instruments on Saturday 1/28. Dozens of people wandered around and talked to the artists. The event lasted all day. There were hand made guitars, native flutes and a dulcimer. It’s fun (and scary) to hold a \$15,000 guitar – lacquer finished to a perfect mirror finish.



## 2006 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Steve Philips	Sponsors		<a href="mailto:sgphlips@ipns.com">sgphlips@ipns.com</a>
Roger Tuck	Librarian	503-968-0838	<a href="mailto:rogerdtuck@yahoo.com">rogerdtuck@yahoo.com</a>
John Sharp	Seminars	360-892-2325	<a href="mailto:jsharp_112@hotmail.com">jsharp_112@hotmail.com</a>
Norm Michaud	Registrar	503-635-7957	<a href="mailto:nhmichaud@earthlink.net">nhmichaud@earthlink.net</a>

## TINY TIP: SURFACE PLANING

BY BOB OSWALD

How can I tell if the entire surface of a board that I've run through a thickness planer is flat? Scribble a chalk mark on the surface of the board. Then run it through the planer until the chalk mark disappears.

## I LEARNED ABOUT WOODWORKING FROM THAT:

BY BOB OSWALD

I think I know what happened. I was routing a deep 5/16” mortise and I didn’t lock the router clamp that holds it when adjusting depth. The bit was extended a long ways into the piece although I was only increasing 1/4” at a time. But I think the vibration with the long exposed shank cause the failure shown in the photo. Lock the depth adjustment!



*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](mailto: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](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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\* Some 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**

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

**We're on the Web!**

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