

OREGON WOOD WORKS

THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS

ARIEL ENRIQUEZ, PRESIDENT



There's a lot to report on this month so I'll do my best to be brief and get it all in here.

First off, I have to give kudos to our last meeting's presenter, Lloyd Johnson. Lloyd's debuting of his software for designing segmented wood art was an over-the-top hit. Just days after the general meeting my inbox was getting hammered with queries looking for the program he'd promised to share with us. Since then he has made good on his promise and I'm sure the beta-testing is afoot! To be at that meeting during his presentation was to witness a roomful of spellbound wood-addicts. You just know the evening's topic is a success when there's nary a side-conversation to be heard. I wouldn't be surprised to see some quizzical creations at the next show and tell. Well done Lloyd and, from all of us, thanks for your generous gift.

Yesterday (4/21) I had the privilege of assisting at the SkillsUSA cabinet-making competition. SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry working together to

ensure America has a skilled workforce. This is vocational education done right. They offer courses in automotive, metal fab, carpentry, cosmetology (oh yes!) and more. The event took place at the Sabin-Schellenberg Professional Technical Center in Milwaukie. Fourteen high school students from Oregon took part in a timed work session, designed to display their abilities in understanding and executing basic woodshop skills. Besides being a true privilege to be part of evaluating young people like this, it was also pretty exciting to see the earnestness with which they pursued the tasks at hand. Jeff Reardon, woodshop teacher at David Douglas and hopeful candidate for the Oregon House, ramrodded the effort on behalf of SkillsUSA. Through him volunteers were found within the Guild to help out. Bill Hamilton rounded up judges/observers and did most of the legwork in getting donations of materials and tools for the event. Look for the Guild to be involved in this again next year.

Our latest community project has been slogged.
(Continued on page 3)

Inside this Issue:

<i>LM: Inlays by Computer</i>	2
<i>Intra-Guild: Last Chance</i>	4
<i>Wide Belt Resources</i>	4
<i>Swivel Base Caravng Stand</i>	5
<i>Square up the Table</i>	6
<i>Drilling Tall</i>	6
<i>Tips on Turning Columns</i>	7
<i>Incredible Accuracy</i>	8
<i>Faces of Woodworking</i>	9

NEXT MEETING — WEDNESDAY — MAY 16, 2012 6:30 PM

TERRY FOLTZ. AMAZING SCROLL SAW

Franklin High School, 5405 SE Woodward Portland, OR

Terry Foltz, will give us grand tour into the world of highly detailed scroll saw artistry. He will bring several examples of his work and will tell about his craft, how he started, techniques and tricks that he has picked up along the way as his work has progressed.

A retired engineer, Terry produces amazing levels of detailed work in Burl slices and any other interesting pieces of wood he finds.

He also has published his own "how to" Book on Scroll Saw Design and Technique. You can view many of his pieces at www.scrollsaw-art.com The website showcases about 5 different subject matters of his. Excellent site to see his talent!

Directions: Crossing the Ross Island Bridge eastbound, take SE Powell to 55th, a left turn lane a couple blocks past the light. North to SE Woodward 1/4 mile to the end. Left on Woodward a block; the shop is on the corner on the right.

Social time at 6:30. Come to discuss woodworking ideas and make new friends, Board of Directors meeting at 5:30.

LAST MEETING: INLAYS BY COMPUTER

BOB OSWALD

What a fascinating approach to doing inlays. What started out a little confusing (for me) turned out to be obvious and revolutionary by the end of the meeting.

Lloyd Johnson, a world recognized expert on the use of SketchUp ©, is also very involved with segmented turning. This is a process of gluing up patterns of wood in cylindrical shapes to make intricate patterns on a bowl or vase. Lloyd looked at the world market of a million or so turners vs twenty plus million woodworkers and decided that “flat work people” needed to be able to create their equivalent of segmented designs.



He developed a computer program several years ago, Lamination PRO, to help turned create the right shapes and visualize their designs. Lloyd’s latest release is a stunning example of ease of use and incredible flexibility in creating intricate patterns.

The process works like this. You edge glue a bunch of boards together, the same as if you were doing a table top glue-up. But you use different variety’s of wood in the strips.

That glue-up is then sliced across the grain into strips. The simplest version is cuts ninety degrees, directly across the grain. The elegant version is to slice the board at an angle, perhaps thirty degrees. You then alternately flip (or flop) every other piece and re-glue them. This creates what is called a First Generation Pattern. In the simple ninety-degree example you’d most likely make a cutting board. In the angled board you create a pattern that can be the top of a jewelry box.

The big questions, how wide should the original boards be and what angle should the cut be made? And what would different woods look like. Lamination PRO takes your board size and species, lets you arrange them in a pattern, and with the push of a button shows you what the first generation pattern will look like. The really cool part is that the tools for configuring the boards are then on screen. Don’t like the pattern? Change the size of the third board? Not snazzy enough, change the fifth board to Purple Heart. The results are shown instantly on the screen

If you want to get fancier, cut the first generation glue-up again. At a different angle, and through various parts of the design. Again to the glue-up and you have a Second Generation design, much, much more complex and elegant than the first. Totally impossible to visualize. Millions of combinations. With a push of button [2] at the top of the screen, you see the second generation pattern. And you still can change the raw materials and see the results.

This goes on through Fourth Generation. Totally, absolutely, incredibly awesome.

An Offer...

Lloyd is offering a free copy of his program to current Guild members with the only “requirement” being to use it and provide feedback on any issues before he releases it to the worldwide market. When you submit a review, you’ll receive a lifetime unlock key.

...and a challenge.

With that copy, here’s a bonus. Use his software to design something. Then build it. Finally, for the next Guild meeting in May, bring a 1st generation, and/or 2nd and/or 3rd or 4th and receive a raffle ticket, 1, 2, 3 or 4 tickets respectively. Lloyd will give away \$100 to the lucky winner.

What can you create?

With Lamination PRO you can create designs to build projects like those shown in the adjacent photos.

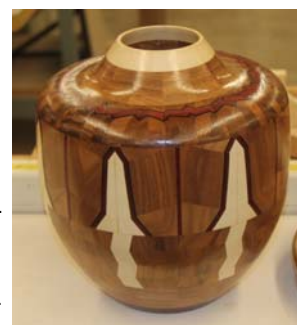


A Clock Face



Pencil Holder

Thanks so much Lloyd, for a great presentation, your contribution to



“Challenger” Vase

the world of fine tools, and your sharing.

SHOW AND TELL

BOB OSWALD

It's becoming obvious that our 'simple' show and tell event, during the general meeting, where members bring something they've built to share with us, is becoming quite an art show. The work is stunning and this month was over the top.

Thanks to **David Dunning**. He brought the most innovated product I've ever seen. A simple bandsaw box made from a piece of Douglass Fir, At least that was the assignment.



Amanda Wal-Graf recently taught a Guild bandsaw class at OCAC. David was one of the students. Part of the class, a challenge, was to make a bandsaw box out of a piece of 'Doug Fir'. And let your mind go wild, says Amanda. After all OCAC, and Amanda in particular, teaches art and creativity.

David has taken woodworking to a supreme level with the marvelous creature shown here, finished with milk paint.

Jim Hall brings something nearly every meeting.

He's an exceptional artist in thin wall turning and also use of a rose engine turning machine. Shown here are four items. The floral pattern in front, languishing in the shop for



months in a half finished state, awaiting an imaginative solution to a problem, got power carved after turning, into this wonderful bud. Pictured also are a rose engine bowl, a green bowl (Yes, Jim turns green wood too, he quipped). And a red bowl. Does anyone ever turn Redwood, someone once asked me. So he said "sure" with his 'red wood' bowl.

A **beginner** project (as I recall he described himself, and I'm sorry I didn't capture the member's name), he built this Mahogany table that expanded in scope as it was being built (a familiar story). Beautiful work.



THE PRESIDENT (CON'T)

ging along as we work through design and cost issues. The dam burst this past week when we received a commitment from Doug Wirkkala of Hardwood Industries for a very substantial break on costs. Heartiest of thanks go to Mr. Wirkkala as well as to members Ed Ferguson and Dennis Dolph for making this happen. Chip and I will meet with the clients this week and a production plan will be our volunteers' mailboxes very soon.



Finally some words about the coming showcase events at the Oregon Convention Center. Volunteers are still needed! All we're asking for is a couple of hours of your time. It is easy duty and you'll have a good time, guaranteed. Send me an email and we'll line you up with the time slot that works best with you. I can be reached at arielyphyllis@gmail.com. Help make it happen!

LUMBER PRODUCTS

Committed to Providing Quality Hardwood Products and Building Materials at a Fair Price While Providing Excellent Service!

Honesty, Integrity and Professionalism

1-800-926-7103
Wholesale Distributor

www.lumberproducts.com

Ariel Enriquez showed the three legged stool, built in an afternoon as part of his power Tool Basics class. Only Ariel can do a project like this, almost entirely on the table saw, in an afternoon.



INTRA GUILD SHOW, LAST CHANCE

ARIEL ENRIQUEZ

By now we should all be aware that this year's Intra-Guild Show and Student exhibition will be taking place at the *Gathering of the Guilds* fair, May 4, 5 and 6 at the Oregon Convention Center. Directions for load-in and load-out are as follows.

LOAD-IN:

All entries need to be delivered before the show on either Wednesday, May 2 or Thursday, May 3. The hours for Wednesday are from 1PM to 8PM. Thursday hours are from 8AM to 8PM. We will be located in Hall "C".

If you can manage your item by yourself, in your two hands, then you are welcome to come through the front doors. If you need a cart to bring it in then you're asked to come through the receiving dock at the back of the building. Just look for the main ramp and someone will direct you. We can assist you with load-in. Any protective blankets or packaging you bring with your item should go home with you the same day. We don't have storage space for it.

NO ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED FRIDAY MORNING. That's in all-caps for a reason, so please don't ask for an exception.

LOAD-OUT:

Load-out begins at 5PM on Sunday, May 6. We hope you understand that we can not begin dismantling the show while it's still open to the public. You will be asked for identification before taking your piece. You will get asked at the booth by one of our volunteers and then probably again at

the exit by a security guard. This is for your protection so please be understanding of this mini-hassle. If you're having a spouse or friend pick up your item, then we ask that you let us know about that beforehand, preferably when you bring the piece into the show. Load-out is scheduled to be completed by 8PM so don't be late!

If you have any questions about anything at all I can be reached at arielyphyllis@gmail.com. Thank you and good luck to all the entrants!

COME ON DOWN

BOB OSWALD

Even if you don't exhibit, or sell, or demonstrate at the Gathering of the Guilds show the weekend, do come down and see some of the great wood projects by Guild members and high school students. You'll take home ideas and some new motivation to go try things in your own shop.

Goby Walnut Products, Inc
5815 NW St. Helens Rd
Portland, OR 97210
503-477-6744
www.gobywalnut.com



Highly figured & matched furniture stock
Claro walnut veneer - Gunstock blanks
Dimensional lumber - 1/4 - 24/4 in all grades
Instrument grade tonewoods.
Environmentally friendly - offcuts used for heat and small projects
Custom fabrication available.

Largest inventory
of black walnut.

WIDE-BELT RESOURCES

BOB OSWALD

We had a meeting at Creating Woodworking Northwest a couple years ago. I remembered and called for some time on their wide-belt sander. Arriving at my scheduled 9:00 appointment time, I checked in at the office, and took my place, second in line behind another fellow. Before my turn arrived, another fellow was in line behind me.

Before hand I had worried, as I am inclined to do, about them taking a hefty slice to get rid of the deep marks in my dresser top, quick and easy for them. NOT to worry. The operator was one of the most precise and professional guys I've seen. I felt relieved when he walked up to the board ahead of me with a digital caliper in his hand. When it came my turn, one question "Thickness or cleanup?"

He took minimal passes, nudging the sander down by thousandths of an inch. Using the left side of the belt for

'roughing' cuts that were still WAY better than my home attempts, the final cut was mad eon the right side of the belt.

I can't say enough good things about how Creative Woodworking runs their business. Their fee is \$100/hour with a \$50 minimum. I had committed to myself that the price was worth it to get a quality job. It's a pretty steep price when the job takes five minutes, but worth every penny to me. And we both leave happy.

I had the good fortune to take a table top for friend along with the plan to split the fee. That made my five minutes be \$25. Definitely a bargain. If three of you get together, you each pay about \$15 to get a premium job done at a steal and Creative still makes good money. A real win situation.

They are located at 1036 Southeast Taylor Street Portland, OR 97214 (503) 230-9265

A SWIVEL BASE AS A CARVING STAND

LINDA HOWARTH

We recently visited Frank LaRoque in The Dalles. As usual with a visit to Frank, it was a pleasure and so informative. Frank has a great set up on his carving bench. It is a bench hook mounted onto a set of floor flanges so that the to-be-carved piece can easily be moved in circles to get the best carving angle. I had admired it during past visits to his shop and did again this time and told him so.

Frank, being Frank, immediately offered to make me one! Cool! It is pretty “easy” and “quick” as long as you can do a tiny bit of welding. Here is what you need to make two complete swivel bases for carving or rotating parts for assembly, give one to your buddy and impress him or her.

Supplies needed:

The following metal parts are all black pipe fittings

- Two – 1-inch(NPT) floor flanges
- Two – 1 ½-inch (NPT) floor flanges
- One – 1-inch (NPT) x 4 inch black pipe nipple, (cut in half)
- One – 1 ½-inch (NPT) x 4 inch black pipe nipple, (cut in half)
- One – ¾-inch threaded rod x 12 inches long, (cut in half)
- Six – ¾-inch nuts and (4) ¾-inch flat washers
- Two – ¾-inch wood dowels x 4 inches long
- Sixteen – 5/16-inch lag screws x 1-inch long with flat washers, (for mounting both swivels)

Instructions:

- Make two 12 x 12 bench hooks out of pine or other material to fit your needs.
- Cut the pipe nipples in half. Smooth the sharp edges.
- Use a ½ inch bit to drill a hole in the 1½ inch pipe nipple that is approximately 1½ inches down from the cut edge.
- Weld on a 3/8 inch nut over the hole.
- Drill a 3/8 inch hole, lengthwise, through the wood dowel to accept the threaded rod.
- Insert the rod into the wood dowel using nuts and washers on both ends to form a handle. This will leave enough threads on one end to go through the welded-on nut of the 1 ½-inch pipe nipple to hold the upper 1-inch swivel from turning.
- Screw down each of the flanges using the lag screws to a bench-hook, then thread the nipples on to their respective flanges and pat yourself on the back, Great Job.

Frank says, “Paint the metal parts pink or lavender. That way, no one will steal them and they will be easy to identify if they do”.

Thanks Frank for my new carving stand and for your help with the details of this article.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6

SHOP TIME WITH FRANK

BOB OSWALD

At the last Guild meeting, Frank asked me to let you all know that he’s offering time to talk with him in his shop.

Frank’s there to offer advice on your project or you can watch him doing what he does in the shop or you can have a discussion on anything that you want to talk about. Antique restoration, accurate assembly of their projects, shop jigs, finishes and application, lathe work, table saw cutting, sharpening tools, demonstrations or anything else.

Open house, 10am to 4pm, the second Tuesday of every month. No charge for Guild members. A few members currently do drive up to visit and discuss shop ideas with Frank every month.

Bring your lunch, Frank has hot and cold water for instant coffee or tea. Enjoy the scenic drive up the gorge to The Dalles

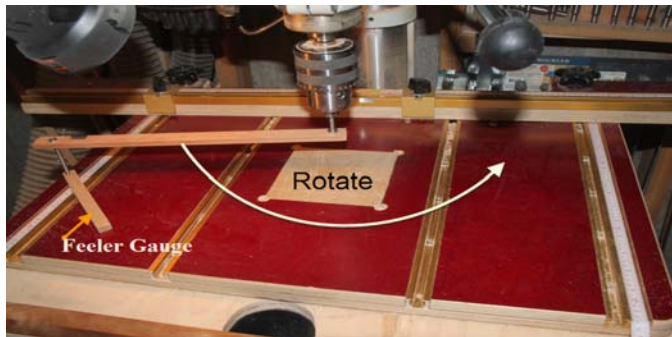
DO NOT Google, MapQuest or use a GPS for driving instructions. Call Frank @ 541-296-1066.
fnlaroque@embarqmail.com

SQUARE UP THE TABLE

BOB OSWALD

There are a number of ways to plumb your drill press table. The easiest (and least accurate) is to align a square with the edge of a drill bit. A second method uses a digital angle gauge. Zero it against the drill bit and then set it on the table and adjust to ninety degrees.

Here's a simple and precise way. Some sources use a straight wire, like a coat hanger, about eighteen inches long, bent it into a "Z" shape. I found the wire to be a bit springy, and made the simple jig pictured. A scrap stick 1/4 x 3/4 x 15" or so. Add two machine screws mounted at the ends,



one up, one down, as shown in the photo. Tighten one end in the chuck.

Raise the table close to the dangling end and manually (NO POWER) turn the chuck, rotating the jig/wire in a half circle. If the table is perfectly perpendicular to the quill, both left to right and front to back, the distance to the tip of the wire will be constant.

As the adjustment gets close, I find the jig striking the table. A "feeler gauge" of any thickness helped a lot. Set the table so the gauge barely scrapes the bolt. You can easily test clearance anywhere along the arc.

Adjust the table as required to make the gap uniform.

Adjusting the table that final few thousandths is best done by using a wood mallet. Tighten the table bolt(s) lightly, but firm enough to be solid. Tap on the table with the mallet to fine tune the position.

Finally tighten the table bolt and recheck.

BOY SCOUT COUNSELORS

LARRY WADE

Boy Scout Woodworking Counselors - Are you one?

Larry Wade is interested in making contact with any member who is, or has been, a merit badge counselor for woodworking in the Boy Scouts. Or, he would like to know if you know any such counselors. If so, drop him an email at larry-wade@comcast.net.

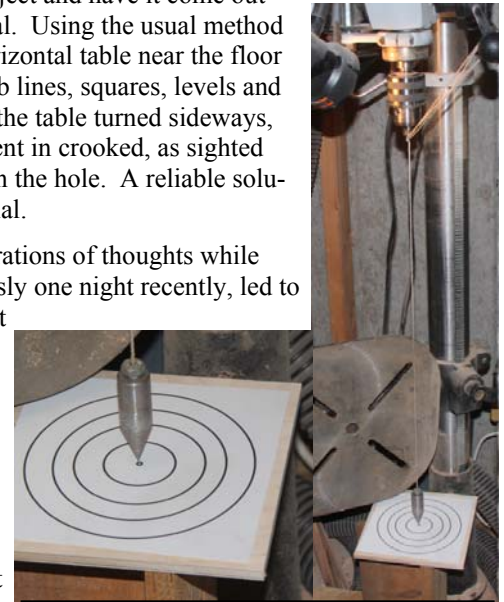
DRILLING TALL

BOB OSWALD

I've struggled often with the problem. How to drill a hole in a tall object and have it come out perfectly coaxial. Using the usual method of placing a horizontal table near the floor and using plumb lines, squares, levels and various jigs on the table turned sideways, the first drill went in crooked, as sighted using a dowel in the hole. A reliable solution was essential.

Several iterations of thoughts while sleeping restlessly one night recently, led to a "bulls eye". It worked very well.

You can make a target with a variety of computer programs. This one was contact cemented to a piece of plywood that would rest on a table at the foot of the drill press.

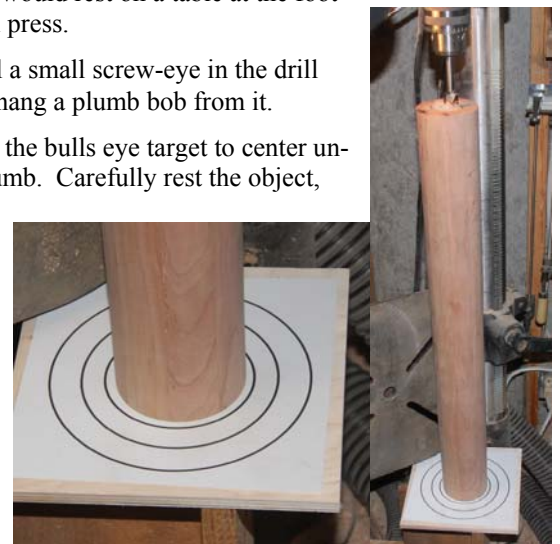


Plumb the target under the chuck.

Install a small screw-eye in the drill press and hang a plumb bob from it.

Move the bulls eye target to center under the plumb. Carefully rest the object, centered, on the target.

With a pilot hole or punch mark on top, drill into the top.



Center the column and drill it.

The column, sitting by itself, did not align with the drill bit. The bottom may not have been perfectly square and the plywood target most likely was not perfectly level.

However, it doesn't matter. As long as the column bottom is centered on the target and top is under the drill bit, it will work. Just tip the column under the drill point and proceed.

Checking alignment with a long, straight dowel showed negligible angular error in all directions.

* * * CLASSES * * *

Fundamental Sharpening Skills 12-3

12 May 2012 9:00 AM at Sherwood High School
 Instructor: Jeff Zens, \$100
 Register on line or contact Chip Webster - 503.780.8812,
 jdwebster3@comcast.net

Hall Mirror 12-1

19 & 20 May 2012 9:00 AM at Bill's shop, Talbot, OR
 Instructor: Bill Bolstad, \$160
 Register on line or contact Ed Vachal, 971.275.3962

NL Lab (through Hand planes)

19 May 2012 4:30 PM at Sherwood High School
 Instructor: Dennis Rodriguez, \$100
 Register on line or contact Chip Webster - 503.780.8812,
 jdwebster3@comcast.net

Beginning Wood Turning 12-1

02 Jun 2012 9:00 AM at Franklin High School
 Instructor: Howard Borer, \$135
 Register on line or contact Jim Madaras -503-754-5622,
 james@madaras.us

Intermediate SketchUp 12-1

09 Jun 2012 9:00 AM at OHSU
 Instructor: Lloyd Johnson, \$85
 Register on line or contact Jim Madaras, 503-754-5622

For all classes, see the website for many details. Note: The website contains the official times,, costs and contact info.

NW WOODWORKING STUDIO

CONTACT (503) 284-1644
 WWW.NORTHWESTWOODWORKING.COM/

Introduction to Woodworking

Ten week class with Zach Malcolm, Monday evenings beginning March 26th

Hand Tool Skills: Mortise and Tenon Table

Ten week class with Jack Reynolds, Tuesday evenings beginning March 27th

Hands on Finishing

Five week class with Gary Rogowski, Wednesday evenings beginning March 28th

Craftsman Style Mirror Frame

Two day workshop with Gary Rogowski, April 21st and April 28th

Bending Wood

One day workshop with Jeff O'Brien, May 12th

Building an Arts and Crafts or Modern Bench

Three day workshop with Tim Celeski, May 18th - 20th

TIPS ON TURNING COLUMNS

BOB OSWALD

A project required turning three-inch diameter columns. Not wanting the usual glue lines to be visible in the project, a little extra work solved the problem. Glue up a cylinder out of strips ripped at 22.5 degrees on the table saw. This produces an eight sided assembly as shown in the photo. This technique is old hat to segmented bowl blanks used by turners, but in a more 'planer' world, it's easy to overlook. The results was a very smooth, continuous wood looking piece. Some changes in grain direction were the only clue that it did not start with a solid log.



Sanding smooth after final turning the columns is typically done by holding a strip of sandpaper around the back

side of the blank. That works and the wider the paper, the better, so you don't create high and low spots. The random orbit sander sitting nearby caught my eye and the light bulb went on. Use the random orbit sander on the spinning column. It evens out the pressure, is easier to hold, and generally just worked better.

**PAPER TOWEL BRAKE**

LAROQUE ON THE LOOSE

Have you ever grabbed a paper towel and too many towels came off the roll??? Here is the world's most simple towel brake.. yes, indeed, that is a glass cleaner spray can, just laid on top of the roll. Provides just enough braking power and does not hinder on the removal of the towels. No more dirty words caused by paper towel holders.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

BOB OSWALD

Welcome to the Guild new members—Mike King, John Kaminski, Mike Dawson, Joseph Nolin and Jason Jones.

We're happy to have you with us. Do say hello to an officer or two at the next meeting so we can get to know you.

SKILLS USA COMPETITION

BILL HAMILTON

On Saturday April 21, Guild members Ariel Enriquez, Chris Frazier, Larry Wade, Lindal Risenhover and Bill Hamilton, under the leadership of guild member and David Douglas wood shop teacher Jeff Reardon supervised and judged the SkillsUSA cabinet making competition at the Sabin-Shellenberg Professional Technical Center in Milwaukie Oregon.

Skills USA is a national nonprofit organization serving teachers, high school students and college students who are preparing for careers in trade, technical and skilled service occupations. Skills USA held the Oregon state competition in cabinet making, automo-



tive technology, welding, baking and metal fabrication.

There were 15 students from Portland to Eagle Point competing in the competition. The students built a 21" x 13" divided tote from Baltic Birch and plywood. The students were judged on layout, measuring, safety, machine skills and the completed project. The winner of this competition goes to a national competition. This project, although seemingly simple provided significant challenge to the contestants.

During the competition we were able to meet several of the wood shop teachers that attended with their students and get them interested in the Guild. The six guild members involved felt this was a very beneficial and enjoyable experience. It was great to work with students that are really interested in woodworking. Several of us have volunteered to coordinate this competition next year.

Special thanks to Steve Penberthy from Woodcrafters for supplying the materials for this event.



INCREDIBLE ACCURACY

BOB OSWALD

I had the opportunity to consult with a young man in his shop recently. He was hung up on getting his miter saw tuned to sub-fractions of a degree. He was not satisfied with the mitered frame corners on the top of boxes he was building. My first inspection went two ways – his miter was not bad, the finish was not good. In this case he was so overly concerned with a slight gap at the foot of the miter that he was missing the formula for what it takes to be, as he himself put it, "gallery quality". So we talked about the project, about fixing the biggest problems first. His finish was silky smooth, but when the light caught it.... Definitely not gallery quality.

That said we turned to calibrating tools. We talked about dial indicators, But more to the point, about accuracy, he was intensely focused on tuning the tools to be high precision machines. I was a little at a loss as I have never tried to make the tools micron-accurate. It's how you use them. So we talked and I tried and probably helped him understand.

The revelation for me was at home that evening. I'm enjoying a glass of wine and listening to something soft on XM and am looking at my latest table creation. I gaze on the miter joints. In my humble opinion, razor sharp and invisibly tight. It took me to the afternoon conversation, about accuracy. I cut those with a home made miter sled. Pulled them together with some good clamps and they're great. I don't have the most fantastic tools in the world, good quality. But not top of the line. I too am struggling with the finish, but the miters, I believe would pass muster anywhere.

It's not the accuracy of the tools, it's how you use them. Consistency – even and consistent pressure cutting every piece. Pushing a piece of wood through the aaw at a steady pace, without pausing, holding consistent pressure against the rip fence.

There's a Harley Davidson t-shirt that maybe you can relate to. People wonder about the attraction, the intrigue of Harley. And the shirt says "If I have to explain, you wouldn't understand.". Well it's a lot like that with wood-working, and quality, and technique. If I have to explain ... but that IS what we do. We must educate, pass on the heritage, and to do that we must explain. We tell you what to do differently.

Woodworking by its nature, is partly predictable, scientific, this is how it's done. Except, *that didn't turn out the way I thought it was supposed to.* Wood moves, cuts are wrong, burn marks, a sag in the finish, an open joint.

Five years later you WILL be way better than you were five years ago. And ten years later you're even better. And eventually your learning curve flattens out and most of what you do is always good. I'm so delighted that in nine years of growing, my curve is flattening out.

It's not the precision of the tools, it's how you use them.

FACES OF WOODWORKING

BOB OSWALD

I joined the Guild nine years ago with a woodworking background in the home building kind of stuff, with occasional forays into fine woodworking, known at the time to me as a cabinet for my wife's ceramic mice collection. The guild became, to me, a door opening into the realm of what we call fine furniture. As I've nearly completed a complex bedroom set with a number of tables and other things behind me, and a sawdust bin full of experience, I see a new adventure looming.

I bought a violin at an auction in a bar a year ago. That's a dangerous place to be, and I did come home with a violin, a guitar and a few other things. The violin has a beautiful shape and I've always wanted one hanging on the wall over my piano. Now I had one. But in handling it, the bridge popped off. Having no idea where it went at the time, or what to do with it, I went to the Hillsboro music shop. Jack fixed it easily and commented that with a little tune-up, this would be a nice violin.

The farthest thing from my mind was to actually want to play it. I bought it to hang it on the wall. I'd tried the violin once before, for only a moment, found it totally weird and uncomfortable, and wrote off that experience. So Jack changed directions for me. Since I had a good quality instrument at a very good value, when I picked it up from the repair work, a "how to play a violin" book followed us home. It turned out to be intriguing although serious attempts to learn were not on the horizon. Enter fate. Christmas last year brought a month's violin lessons by a local and very talented lady, Kathy. It has become a grand adventure, to play the violin, even at my ripe age.

Where does this lead? About two months ago, talking with a friend who is taking on building a guitar, it dawned on me that I could possibly build a violin. People do. A bit of research has landed me in the middle of a few good how to books, a number of great internet links, and meeting a new friend who builds violins professionally, and who just happens to live a couple miles from my house. He's offered free advice when ever I want to stop over. What a bonus.

I'm learning that the Northwest is rich in luthiers, people who make stringed instruments. This weekend, an annual show at Marylhurst College was "the" place to be. I had a chance to see and visit with seventy plus builders, representing instruments ranging into the ten-thousand dollar and up quality. Stringed instruments are a single class, but within that are guitars, violins, mandolins, banjos, ukuleles, harps are more. And within those, further delineations such as acoustic and electric guitars. The list goes one. Woodworking is infinite.

The point of this article, intended to inspire a couple of you Guild members to try something new, is that woodworking has *so many faces*.

Fine furniture, turning, intarsia, lutherie, marquetry. Carving, to name a few areas of focus. So many opportunities to do things in wood. And within each, a multitude of directions, or specialization, to pursue.

I, have shied away from some of these other fields thinking that lutherie, for example, is for 'other people'. IT's changed. I look at a violin and today I see a box. I know



how to build boxes in the form of cabinets, jewelry holders, and so forth. This new box is a very different shape for sure. It's construction is definitely off the wall



compared to what we're used to in traditional furniture. What an opportunity to learn something totally new.

Imagine the possibilities. Explore woodworking

outside your comfort zone.

A carpenter was giving evidence about an accident he had witnessed. The judge asked him how far away he was from the accident. The carpenter replied "twenty seven feet, six and one half inches". "What? How come you are so sure of that distance?", asked the judge.

"Well, I knew some idiot would ask me. So I measured it!" replied the carpenter.

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*
- *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.*

GUILD OF OREGON WOODWORKERS

10190 SW Washington St., Portland, OR 97225

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.edu

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

Woodcrafters 503-231-0226, 212 NE 6th Avenue, Portland, www.woodcrafters.us

THE GUILD IS PROUD TO BE SPONSORED BY:

Barbo Machinery
Carbide Saw
Emerson Hardwood
Goby Walnut Products
Hardwood Industries
Lumber Products
Rockler Woodworking
Woodcraft
Woodcrafters



AFFILIATES:

Northwest Woodworking Studio

- ◆ Some sponsors offer discounts to current Guild members. See the website for details. ** Scholarship Sponsor



Guild of Oregon Woodworkers

c/o Bob Oswald
40639 SW Vandehey Road
Gaston, OR 97119

We're on the Web!

www.GuildOfOregonWoodworkers.com