

April 19, 2006 Meeting Highlights:

This was a special meeting at the Kalmar Nyckel shipyard, with tours of the shipyard's museum, blacksmith shop and carpentry shop. After a welcome and introduction by Pell Sherman, who is active both in the Guild and in the shipyard, Kalmar Nyckel officer Ed Minch made a fine presentation on the background and history of the ship, its design and construction, sails and rigging, and the woods, tools and techniques used in the olden ship and in its modern reconstruction. The present ship has about nine miles of rope and makes extensive use of purpleheart and South American locust, more durable than the traditional oak.

We then visited the blacksmith shop where Dave Lawrence shared some of the lore of working with iron and demonstrated ways to shape it, heated beyond red-hot to brighter colors, each shade of which has special meaning to the blacksmith. Steve Brooks showed us through the shipyard's well equipped carpentry shop, and Bob Bradish explained the fine points of "fighting tops" – wooden structures high on the masts, from which the crew could pick off attackers with musket fire. It was a thoroughly pleasant and interesting evening; turnout was strong, light refreshments were provided and a fine time was had by all. Special thanks to Pell Sherman for arranging this meeting, and to Ed Minch and all the Kalmar Nyckel folks for their warm hospitality.

Because of the special nature of the meeting, we omitted show and tell and the monthly raffle.

May 17, 2006 Meeting Agenda:

Here is a chance to learn or deepen your wood turning skills. Prominent turner Tim Sabo will demonstrate the fine points of making and turning a segmented bowl.

This will be the last chance to buy raffle tickets on the impressive hand crafted Windsor chair that we watched Jim Stevens build. Tickets are \$20 each -- quite an opportunity, since Jim customarily sells these for \$750 or more. The raffle will close and the winner will be announced at this meeting.

As mentioned last month, your editor plans to bring a piece of 1/8" by 1" aluminum bar stock suitable for making stub splitters; any members who care to are welcome to cut off 3" or 4" pieces for that purpose.

The Guild will elect its 2006-07 Board at this meeting. It now appears that the nominees will be:

President: John Dunbar, Vice President: Jim Stevens, Treasurer: Richard Libera, Second Treasurer: John Baker, Newsletter Editor: Paul Welsh, Assistant Editor: Judy Hodgson, Hardware Librarian: Jerry Sheeran, Raffle Manager: Chuck Skelley, Library Committee: David Sokolowski, Tim Sabo and Pell Sherman, Program Committee: Tony Albano, Roger Earley, Vincent Passalacqua, Charles Given and Jim Kirkbride.

Please consider volunteering for these and other jobs. Some of the above folks might be ready to pass the baton, and there are other posts we could well establish. We could use, for instance, a historian/archivist to pull together the Guild's records and maintain a full set of the newsletters and other records – news clips, membership records, etc. You may have other suggestions. The Board tasks are satisfying and not overly demanding, and by serving you can help to improve our Guild. Contact John Dunbar or Richard Libera.

This month's raffle prize will be a Craftsman 12 volt drill-driver with a case and two batteries. As always please bring "show and tell" items; those who do will receive two FREE raffle tickets.

Special June 14 Meeting with DeWalt Product Developers:

DeWalt product development representatives will meet with our Guild 7:00 pm Wednesday June 14, at our usual Hodgson School meeting place. They will bring new DeWalt products that are still in development, for us to use and comment on. Afterwards they will give the Guild various tools and products, which we will then and there distribute by lot to those who attend. In past years they have been pretty generous with these goodies; some have received power tools worth about \$200.00, and lesser items such as saw blades have been distributed in healthy numbers. Special thanks to Richard Libera for arranging this with DeWalt and with Hodgson school.

Benefactors of the Guild:

Several merchants, suppliers and restaurants have been generous in supporting the Guild; please keep these friends in mind when you make purchases: Woodcraft, Lee Valley and Veritas, Café Gelato, Fair Hill Inn, Eagle Diner, Giordano's of Kennett Square and Hearne Hardwoods of Oxford, PA.

Treasurer's Report:

Balance forward at 4/4/2006	2716.69
Dues Income	70.00+
April Newsletter Expense	124.40-
Ending Balance at 5/2/2006	2662.29

By: Richard Libera, Treasurer

Historical Note:

The 1860 Republican national convention in Chicago acknowledged the importance of woodworking in our national affairs, with chairs made for the occasion attracting a good deal of attention. One was made of 34 kinds of wood, each from a different state or territory. Kansas, then excluded from statehood and the scene of widespread bloodshed about slavery, was represented by "weeping willow". Michigan craftsmen made another chair for the Chairman of the convention. Said to be the first chair made in Michigan, the chair for the chairman had a primitive look, with the seat dug out of a huge log and mounted on rockers. Harper's Weekly of May 19, 1860 shows us:

That convention also has some other historical interest. After a struggle it nominated Abraham Lincoln, whose election was followed by secession and civil war.

2005–06 Meeting Schedule:

Dates: Guild meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month of the school year, September through May; this year's remaining meeting is May 17. The Guild often has a June meeting, and normally does not meet in July and August.

Place & Time: During the school year we normally meet in the Carpenter Shop at Hodgson Vo-Tech High School in Glasgow, DE; June meetings are normally elsewhere. At Hodgson we meet from 7:00 pm to about 9:00 pm. Some arrive earlier, which is fine -- the shop is open to us around 6:00 pm. The school entrance is on business 896 (Glasgow Avenue, old 896) south of Rte. 40, and the shop is in the rear by the dust collection system. Park in the side lot near the shop; violators of parking rules may be towed. Whenever the school is closed due to weather, that evening's meeting is cancelled. Closings are broadcast by local radio stations and WDEL reports them online at www.wdel.com, News Center, SnoWatch.

Woodwords on the Brandywine
January, 2006

Woodworkers Guild of Delaware
402 Apple Road
Newark, DE 19711

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