

# WOODWORDS ON THE BRANDYWINE

Woodworkers Guild of Delaware

Volume 18, No. 5

January, 2007

## **Dues are Now Overdue!**

Dues for calendar 2007 were to be paid before December 31, 2006. If you haven't yet paid please do so at the January meeting, or mail your payment to Richard Libera, Treasurer, 402 Apple Road, Newark, DE 19711. Dues are \$35.00 per calendar year (\$40.00 for family membership).

## **January 17, 2007 Meeting Agenda:**

Webmaster Bill Wuhrman is planning an announcement and a short discussion about the Guild's new website. He would like to show us a preliminary version, but our group is too large to view anything together on a laptop screen. **Request:** Will any member who has or can borrow a PC projector please coordinate with Bill (610-869-0383, bill@billandlucinda.com) about bringing a projector to the meeting. Whether or not a projector becomes available you can see the preliminary version at <http://www.billandlucinda.com/wgd/>. Bill plans to obtain whatever Board and membership feedback we have, revise the website accordingly and put the result online. Afterwards, he can make other improvements that members and the Board may later suggest.

This meeting will be Antique Tool Night. Philip Lothrop, whose impressive collection and expertise were featured in a July 20, 2006 News Journal article, will present a selection of the tools our forebears used. Some are ingeniously designed works of art in themselves, involving rare woods, ivory, and other fine materials. Phil will have a question and answer period – a good time to learn more about Phil's collection, and to learn from Phil and from each other about your own interesting or mysterious old tools. So bring those in, and let's widen our knowledge.

This meeting will also be Nakashima Night. Felix Connolly will present a dining table he has built in the George Nakashima style, and will share the techniques involved in building and finishing it.

This month's raffle prize will be a 14.4 volt Bosch impact driver donated by John Dunbar. As always please bring "show and tell" items; those who do will receive two FREE raffle tickets.

## **December 20, 2006 Meeting Highlights:**

This meeting's main event was Jerry Sheeran's "Overview of Veneering, with a Demonstration of Two Techniques." Jerry first discussed the pros and cons of different glues, then demonstrated, step by step, cutting veneer, cleaning the cut edge, taping a seam, gluing the veneer, bonding it to the substrate with

an iron, checking for bubbles and correcting them. For a finale he demonstrated the use of hide glue, which is an art in itself. For more detail Jerry recommends various articles in "Fine Woodworking" magazine (Nos. 87, 108, 111, 114, 129, and 189) and the book "A Manual of Veneering" by Paul Villiard.

For veneering PVA (polyvinyl acetate) glue (white and yellow) and hide glue are generally recommended. Jerry prefers white PVA glue, which is activated at a lower temperature than yellow glue and dries clear, with no time limit as to when it can be heat activated (yellow glue is limited to 72 hours). Hide glue has some desirable properties -- it is very strong, yet readily reversible -- but it is messy and smelly and requires a heated pot to keep it flowing (Jerry uses a crock pot).

For cutting veneer Jerry prefers a veneer knife, but a utility knife or linoleum knife will also work. Making several passes along a straight edge, Jerry demonstrated how to cut the veneer without splitting it. He used a jig to remove the resulting fuzzy edge. Two plywood boards form a right angle, and the vertical one is surfaced with sandpaper. The veneer is slid along the horizontal board with the edge against the sandpaper, creating a clean and straight edge.

Jerry next demonstrated making a "seamless seam". He taped two pieces of veneer together with veneer tape, and two others with 14-day blue painter's tape. He showed us how to lay the tape perpendicular to the seam and stretch it. To look for gaps, he held each seam up to the light.

Jerry had pretreated a board with diluted yellow glue and allowed it to dry. Using a clothes iron he demonstrated how to apply veneer by heat activating the glue. With the iron on the medium setting he laid the veneer on the board, tape side up, and ironed from the seam outward. Once the veneer adhered he tapped it to detect any bubbles by the sound. He showed us how to eliminate a bubble by cutting it with an X-acto knife and re-ironing.

Finally Jerry demonstrated veneering with hide glue, which has its advantages. It is very strong and can bond well without clamping. It is reversible, because warm water dissolves the glue. Being the color of wood, its joints can be invisible and the occasional dab of excess glue can be inconspicuous. Many thanks to Jerry Sheeran for an interesting and instructive presentation.

Your editor presented a short subject -- "The Miserly Librarian's Guide to Practical Bookshelves". Using ordinary construction grade pine he makes standardized shelving units that can be mounted side by side against walls and/or back to back as stacks. They are 2' wide by 80" high by 9" deep, with a 1/4" luan plywood back. The front inside edges of the sides are rounded over but the outside edges are not, which makes the front edges look right when units are mounted side by side. All shelves are fully adjustable in 1/2" increments (important to librarians). There is no protruding molding or stile at the sides. Such details can be handsome on shelves for sculpture or bric-a-brac, but for books they are a nuisance.

The finish is simply boiled linseed oil, thinned 50% and wiped on. For ease of construction and to eliminate possibilities for error the design is very simple – for instance, the units are identical on the top and the bottom. Although the more usual 3' width saves some labor and material, your editor's 2' width has four advantages: (1), the 2' shelves never sag, (2), the individual 2' units are much easier to carry and maneuver through curved and narrow steps and passages, (3), the 2' units use space more efficiently when doors, windows and other obstacles must be accommodated, and (4), the 2' units offer more internal flexibility in arranging and displaying books.

Shelves are supported by brass shelf clips, mounted in four brass shelf standards that are flush mounted in dados, two to a side. Each shelf standard is attached to the side by 13 small brass Phillips head screws (5/8" No. 4). Driving 52 little screws per unit can be a chore. An electric drill is overkill, and a hand screwdriver is too tedious. But a traditional hand drill with a Phillips head bit mounted in the chuck does the trick pretty smoothly. There is no need to pre-drill holes in softwood for the many small screws. One simply clamps the shelf standard in the correct position, sets a screw loosely in each of its holes and drives the screws assembly line fashion with the hand drill.

For the show-and-tell portion of the meeting Tony Albano presented attractive examples of Japanese carving called Netsuke. Using a tagua nut, known as "poor man's ivory" he carved an owl and a boot with a mouse, and out of boxwood he made a snail. He also brought carving tools and the book "The Art of Netsuke Carving" by Masatoshi Raymond Bushell.

Ken Smith presented a cherry Chester County spice box with dovetailed drawers that he made at a 6-day course he attended. He also brought in a photo of a 1700's Winterthur grandfather clock that he built, mainly with hand tools, at a 3-weekend course he took at Old Mill in Yorklyn. The clock was mahogany, handsomely ornamented with gold leaf and hand carvings.

Ron Hasse presented two turned segmented bowls he made from odds and ends of maple, walnut, and cherry. He explained the technique he used to avoid end-grain. Rich Dell showed us the jigs and techniques he used to make and install handsome but thrifty kitchen cabinets. He used red oak for the exterior but melamine for the carcass, eliminating the need to finish the interior. For the adjustable leg each cabinet required he eschewed costly hardware and made quite satisfactory ones that only required an inexpensive piece of hardware. He also demonstrated a jig he used to align and screw together the corners of the cabinets.

John Dunbar presented a handsome two drawer hinged-top box he built of curly maple and walnut, inspired by a design in "Wood" magazine. Its finish is boiled linseed oil and sprayed lacquer. Hans Francke donated to the Guild library a CD containing photos of American wood. David Webber showed a photo of an interesting toy "travel truck" he designed. Because the truck needed to be easy to pack for travel, he designed it to be easily disassembled and reassembled. The truck is built of scrap oak, and held together with removable wooden pegs. Judy

Hodgson presented a black walnut picture frame that she made for a painting; it has molded edges and mitered corners secured with pocket hole screws.

David Webber also took photos of the many ornaments that Guild members made for the Delaware Hospice tree, and presented to each of those members an excellent photo of ornaments that member made. Many thanks to David for a thoughtful and handsome initiative, and to all the above members who participated in show and tell.

The Guild welcomed two guests to the meeting: Bruce Griffith and Guy McNair, both turners. Thanks to Charlie Given for inviting them.

This month there were three gift-wrapped raffle prizes. Jim Kirkbride won a \$20.00 Woodcraft gift certificate, Ralph Brisbin won an 18 volt Craftsman 3/8" cordless drill, and Rich Dell won a \$35.00 gift certificate to Fair Hill Inn.

### **Future Programs:**

The Guild has announced a contest for the best frame for a picture, mirror or the like, to be judged at our April meeting. There are no restrictions as to size or shape.

We want to hear more from our members about how you plan, make and finish projects. Please volunteer to make a presentation, and please help us locate other professional woodworkers and knowledgeable amateurs who can be invited to teach us.

### **Membership Program:**

Please help rebuild our membership. Invite woodworking friends and acquaintances to Guild meetings, and encourage them to join.

### **Get Well Soon:**

Guild Treasurer Richard Libera is convalescing at home after a heart attack and surgery, and likely will miss the January meeting. Although he is still weak and has had some post-surgery problems, he expects to recover fully and sends greetings to all. Our best wishes for his speedy recovery.

### **New Editor Needed:**

Your Editor has done these newsletters since September 2004, and has reasons to pass the baton. We had planned an orderly transition whereby Second Editor Judy Hodgson would take over this year, but that is not to be. Judy has received an attractive job offer on the West Coast, and plans to take it. So, we need you to volunteer. Please help.

## 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, Lie-Nielsen Toolworks, Bell's Supply Co. Inc., Café Gelato, Eagle Diner, Fair Hill Inn, Arby's, Giordano's of Kennett Square and Hearne Hardwoods of Oxford, PA.

## Treasurer's Report:

Balance forward at 11/26/2006	1757.16
Dues Income	525.00+
December meeting raffle proceeds	52.00+
December Newsletter expense	112.45-
Ending balance at 12/31/2006	2221.71

By: Richard Libera, Treasurer

## 2006–07 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 dates are: January 17, February 21, March 21, April 18 and May 16. 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.** Also, **bring a flashlight** because the parking lot and shop entrance may be unlighted. If the school is closed due to weather, that evening's meeting is cancelled. Local radio stations broadcast closings and WDEL also reports them online at [www.wdel.com](http://www.wdel.com), News Center, SnoWatch.

**Board Meetings:** The Board often meets at Hodgson immediately after Guild meetings. It sometimes meets at the homes of officers, normally on the Wednesday evening one week after a Guild meeting. Board Meetings are open to all Guild members.

Woodwords on the Brandywine  
January, 2007

Woodworkers Guild of Delaware  
402 Apple Road  
Newark, DE 19711

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**WOODWORKERS GUILD OFFICERS FOR 2006-07**

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