

WOODWORDS ON THE BRANDYWINE

Woodworkers Guild of Delaware

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March, 2007

www.delawarewoodworkers.org

March 21, 2007 Meeting Agenda:

Chuck Skelley is a professional. Guild members will recall his detailed and practical March 2005 presentation on preparing door jambs and mounting doors, their hinges and hardware – tasks that look simple but have plenty of ways to go wrong. This month Chuck will share his know-how in another tricky area -- applying plastic laminate (Formica, Wilsonart, etc.) to MDF and particle board surfaces using contact cement. Chuck will demonstrate how to apply and rout the edging, apply the top, rout the edges clean, file and clean the glue. He will show and compare the installation of different solid edge wood profiles and, time permitting, will also demonstrate the fine points of seaming, routing and sanding solid surface material (Corian).

This month's raffle prize will be a \$30.00 gift certificate at Woodcraft. As always please bring "show and tell" items; those who do will receive two FREE raffle tickets.

February 21, 2007 Meeting Highlights:

At show and tell Hans Francke presented a small carving of a largemouth bass. Carved appropriately in basswood, the piece is a candle holder done in a Danish oil finish. Brian Reed presented a handsome round cheese tray with segmented veneer work surrounding a round corian center; this triggered a substantial discussion of veneering techniques with special guest Mario Rodriguez taking part. David Webber presented components of a pendulum clock he is building, and described improvements that he expects will achieve unusual accuracy. Our thanks to them all for interesting and helpful presentations.

This meeting's main event was a presentation by Mario Rodriguez, artist in residence at Philadelphia Furniture Workshop -- an exceptional and nationally prominent furniture designer, craftsman and teacher, and a prolific author on woodworking topics. After a short introduction by Guild Vice President Jim Stevens, he presented a small and elegant hand made victorian dressing mirror, taking us through many of the subtleties of its design and construction. The mirror is adjustable, being center mounted between two upright spindles, and the top of its frame is arched. Beneath the mirror the piece has a single small drawer, with a mildly curved front surrounded by pale mahogany cockbeading.

Built mainly of a pine substrate clad in crotch mahogany veneer and finished with French polish, the piece is a triumph of veneerwork, and the presentation developed the step by step processes of choosing, preparing, cutting and applying the veneer. Mario also took us through the joinery – the half lap dovetails and how to cut them, the mortise and tenon joints (a 5/8" mechanic's wrench makes an unchanging caliper to size the tenons precisely) and the delicate cockbeading on the drawer front, and much else.

For more about Mario Rodriguez and his work visit philadelphiafurnitureworkshop.com, where detailed plans and drawings of the victorian dressing mirror can be purchased. In token of our appreciation the Guild presented to him a Lie Nielsen rabbett block plane.

George Waddell won the raffle prize, a 14.4 volt Craftsman drill/driver set.

Website:

You can now see the Guild's new website anytime; simply visit www.delawarewoodworkers.org. That address is now part of our newsletter masthead. **Request:** Let's continue providing to Webmaster Bill Wuhrman your suggestions for changes and improvements, and those impressive pictures of your favorite projects. The easy way is by e-mail to Bill (bill@billandlucinda.com). Or, bring them to him at the next Guild meeting.

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. **If you haven't yet started this one, it's time.**

Here is something new. It is proposed that the Guild designate a meeting in the near future (perhaps May) as a books/magazines swap and sale night. This would not be the meeting's main event; it would be a 10 or 20 minute activity in a regular meeting.

Membership Program:

We now have 65 paid members, which is well below our target. It's time to rebuild our membership. Please help -- invite woodworking friends and acquaintances to Guild meetings, and encourage them to join.

Membership Chairman Pell Sherman will have some announcements at the March Guild meeting about our recruiting brochure and related topics.

Upcoming Events:

The Philadelphia Invitational Furniture Show will be held March 24-25 2007 at the Cruise Ship Terminal in the former Philadelphia Navy Yard at the foot

of Broad Street. This is a major show, with a wide selection of the finest work being done in our section of the country. For details visit www.pffshow.com.

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 1/31/2007	2361.81
Dues Income	140.00+
February meeting raffle proceeds	41.00+
February Newsletter expense	128.15-
Gift for Mario Rodriguez (rabbet block plane)	135.00-
Postage (R. Libera and R. Dell)	45.23-
Future raffle prizes	74.99-
Ending Balance at 3/7/2007	2159.44

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: 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, News Center, SnowWatch.

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.

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