

BENCHTALK



The Northeastern Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild Newsletter
Volume 33 Issue 6

June 2016

Greene and Greene Furniture Building

By: Steve Lockhart

I met Tom last October at the Milwaukee Fine Furniture Show. The Show always has many custom builders of fine furniture, but Tom's work stood out. He had a full dining room set on display which, he said, was commissioned for about \$29,000 (worth every penny in my opinion!) I immediately asked Tom if he would be willing to do a program for the Guild and this is the lucky result!

Tom's studio is in White Lake, (about 20 miles east of Antigo) In addition to his business, Tom teaches wood-working at the Northcentral Technical College Antigo Campus.

Tom has a broad portfolio of commissions ranging from custom furniture, cabinetry,, doors, lighting and even outdoor architecture. His styles range from organic natural edge pieces to a specialty in the Arts and Crafts style of Greene & Greene. His designs won the "best in show" award several different years at the Milwaukee Fine Furniture Show.

Tom will talk about how he got started in woodworking as well as Greene and Greene designs for furniture and light fixtures. Tom is looking forward to lots of questions and I know it will be rewarding exchange of ideas.



Upcoming Events

Upcoming program events include the following:

- ◇ **June 17, 2016:** Greene and Greene Furniture Building, with Thomas Gallenburg
- ◇ **July 15, 2016:** Photographing Wood projects by Melanie Wishart owner of Inkdrop Arthaus
- ◇ **August 2016:** No meeting (replaced by summer picnic)
- ◇ **August 27, 2016:** Summer picnic

Room Locations for Programs

The June program will be held in **MAC Room 109**.

FYI: The JULY program will be held in **Room 107** (which is next to Room 109)

Notes on Guild Members

Submitted by: Dan Alesch

Recently, we lost three long-time friends of the Guild, each of whom had participated in many Spring Shows. First, Ron Shefchik, a long-time Guild member passed away in May. You may remember Ron as an outstanding basket weaver who demonstrated his skills at the annual Spring Show until he was no longer able to weave baskets up to his standards. Weaving baskets, including Adirondack backpacks, similar to those used by the Voyageurs, was a family tradition begun by Ron's grandfather and passed down to him. We'll miss a fine fellow and craftsman and those really outstanding baskets he created.

Second, both Gerry Kronschnabel and his wife, Darlene, passed away this spring. Gerry, you will recall, specialized in intarsia. He created many artful and skillfully developed pieces that, over the years, were favorites of those attending the Spring Show. Darlene, though not a woodworker, not only helped Gerry, but wrote many fine cookbooks which were published and that were popular across the country. Both Gerry and Darlene were extremely personable and contributed greatly to the continued success of the Guild.

Finally, we want to send our very best wishes for a speedy recovery to Mike Dahlke. Mike was seriously injured this Spring in an unfortunate confrontation with a drill press. Mike is an absolute stalwart of the Guild and an invaluable asset in every Spring Show as he and his buddy, Clete Selisson, attend to a whole host of critical activities. Get well soon, Mike, and hurry back to the Guild meetings.

Board of Directors Meeting

Meeting Held: May 24, 2016

Present: Ted Zabel, Bob Welhouse, Steve Lockhart, Kathy Kuritz, Bob Kurtiz, Pete Schuh, Rob & Paula Martens, Maureen Birk, Dan & Jane Alesch, Jane and Dan Alesch, Fred Juengst

Absent: Steve Lockhart

Meeting brought to order by Rob Martens at 7:00 PM. Prior meeting minutes approved.

- **Treasurer's Report:** Last year: \$8,891.68. Current year: \$8,311.45 Discussion regarding reasonable treasury balance and worthwhile uses.
- **Membership report:** 0 new members. Discussion regarding aging membership.
- **Special Events:** Summer picnic. Debroux Park was reserved by Mary Haen. A grill has been reserved from Biebel's Catering & Rental. Signup deadline is July 1, 2016
- **Programs:**
 - May Program with Jeff Benson Designs—well received.
 - June 2016: Greene and Greene Furniture Building by Thomas Gallenberg
 - July 15, 2016: Photographing wood projects by Melanie Wishart, owner of Inkdrop Arthaus
 - Brief discussion regarding possible change to the room at UWGB
- **Editors Report:** Maureen and Paula are coordinating on the newsletter
- **Librarian:** A new book is on order: Spalting—history; by Sarah Robinson
- **Website Report:** Some discussion regarding the ease of use, keeping the website current, and ensuring that there are plenty of guild-related photographs. Maureen has a meeting scheduled with Jane Benson for assistance with the newsletter.
- **Other Business:** No other business
- **Next Board meeting:** June 21, 2016, at Pete Schuh's home. 7:00 p.m.

Review of May Program: Jeff Benson Designs

By: Ted Zabel

A NEWWG alumni, Jeff Benson was our speaker at our May meeting. Jeff has transitioned from working with wood to working with metals, he forges and shapes functional and architectural metal products. Jeff also introduces interested people to metal working via his metal working classes.

Jeff showed how a salvaged RR spike can be fashioned into a very functional and attractive tool. We learned how and why early steel/iron tools were laminated and how the Bessemer process significantly changed the quality and availability of steel. We learned that Jeff uses a low carbon steel, Grade A-36 for most of his work. Furnace butt welding is a process where two iron pieces are heated to 2500 deg. F and then pressed or hammered together to form a welded bond

Jeff has a number of homemade tools and jigs made for many of his unique products. Jeff fashions special tools and jigs when needed although he pointed out that it is faster and less costly to purchase required tools rather than make them if they are commercially available. He showed items where he has fashioned metal and wood materials into unique artisan items. As an example, large architectural door hinges were fashioned for a large Door County Home using special metal working techniques

Further information at Bensonsdesigns.com

Otto Krueger Passing

Submitted by: Rob Martens

Otto Krueger was a member of the Woodworkers Guild for many years. Even though Otto had not attended many meetings in recent years, he will be missed by his family and the Seymour Community. Otto was hired by my father, Lyle Martens, to teach woodworking at Seymour High School. My father and Otto were life-long friends. Otto had attended Stout University after my father, but in recent years Otto had attended some of the Stout Alumni Reunions with my parents. Even though Otto taught before I had reached high school, my brother Bill learned woodworking skills in Otto's classes

Otto visited with my father and I at our shop a short few weeks before my father went into the hospital. He was impressed with the quality of our shop and the things Dad and I made together. Otto had remarked at the time how important he thought it was to share our knowledge and skills with others. Otto visited my father several times while he was in hospice care; they shared stories and he brought my father a book or two to read, as Otto was big into reading and history. For all of us who knew Otto, he will be missed.

Membership Report: By: Fred Juengst

This month I dropped 2 members for nonpayment of dues and sent out 3 dues reminder cards. I still have 11 members who will get reminder cards next month and 9 more for the month after that. This certainly beats last year where I had 21 reminder cards for July and a lot for August. Thanks for your help. At this time we have 134 members in good standing plus 4 prospective new members. Dues are \$15 for individuals, \$20 for family, and \$35 for business. Make your check payable to "NEWWG" and send it to Fred Juengst, 846 Cornelius Dr., Green Bay, WI 54311.

If you are joining for the first time, we require you to purchase a name tag. Please add \$10 for individual, \$15 for family (2 name tags), and \$15 for business members (3 name tags). Many years ago members of the Guild resented having to stand and introduce themselves. The name tag solution started because some refused to stand and introduce themselves. They wanted to quit the Guild if this practice continued. Just remember, dues 30 years ago was just \$15 for individuals.

Some of the newer members of the Guild may not understand why we have a sign-up sheet and a cup with money in it. We do keep a record of members attending and any address or e-mail changes they have but are also interested in prospective new members. The sign-up sheet gives us those names and e-mail addresses so they can get 3 issues of Bench Talk and learn about our Guild. The money cup is to encourage you to wear your name tag and not let it sit in a drawer. The fine for not bringing your name tag is 25 cents (honor system). Please wear your name tag so we get to remember your name and not talk to you because we forgot your name.

Event of Interest

The 15th Annual Woodlanders Gathering, Rustic Arts and Nature Crafts Workshops

July 7-10, 2016

Shake Rag Alley School for the Arts

Mineral Point, Wisconsin

This unique event offers over 40 workshops to choose from, more than 20 talented instructors to work with creating rustic furniture, garden structures, woodcarvings, and other nature based projects using hand tools and natural materials like fresh green bendable willow, recycled wood, twigs and branches, gourds, stone, leather, plants, cement, metal, and more.

For details:

<http://www.shakeragalley.com/woodlanders-16>

Important Notes

- **Upcoming Summer Picnic**— Will be held on **SATURDAY, August 27th** (not Sunday, like it usually is). Please RSVP by July 1st.
- **Library:** Be sure to return any materials you may have checked out so others can use them.

Elections

By: Paula Martens

The guild provides its members a number of activities: Monthly programs, Annual Spring Show & Sale, Summer picnics, Holiday parties, Newsletters, etc. The guild needs people willing to help ensure these activities continue. One position on the Board of Directors for July 2016—June 2017 still needs to be filled. Please contact us if you can join the Directors this season. Thanks.

Northeastern Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild Meetings

When:

Every 3rd Friday of the month, unless specified otherwise

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Where:

Maryann Cofrin Hall, UW-Green Bay campus, Room 109

Visit us on the web at:

www.newwg.org

Guild Officers

President: Rob Martens

Vice President Programs, Steve Lockhart

Vice President Publicity, Ted Zabel

Treasurer, Kathy Kurtiz

Secretary, Bob Welhouse

Committee Chairpersons & Project Coordinators

Librarian, Pete Schuh

Membership, Fred Juengst

Special Events, Dan Alesch

Spring Show, Steve Lockhart

Web Site, Maureen Birk

Newsletter, Paula Martens

For inquiries regarding this newsletter or joining The Northeastern Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild, contact Paula Martens at:

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