

THE Wood Rack



DECEMBER 2001

VOLUME 13, NUMBER 4

NEXT MEETING: Wed., Dec 5, 7 p.m., Brush Barn, Smithtown

NEXT MEETING: Toys for Tots and Ernie Conover

The December meeting will feature our annual "Toys for Tots" display and renowned woodturner Ernie Conover. Ernie will give a talk and demonstration of lathe techniques involving vacuum chucking and alternate attachment schemes.



President's Message

By Gabe Jaen

Well, you did it again. You voted in last year's slate of officers without one single office being challenged. I know there are many capable members amongst you that can handle any of the positions. There's also a lot of new blood in the club and we should tap into that talent pool. As it stands, our new editors are new members. Mike Daum has been with the club for about a year and Daryl Rosenblatt has been with us only a few months. If you won't run for office, then volunteer, demonstrate, do something. There is a core of hardworking individuals in the club and I'd hate to see them get tired of always doing the work. It would be a pretty boring club if all we did was sit around and trade stories. Think about it. Anyway, back to woodworking.

I, along with John Keane, Brian Hayward, Bob Urso, Joe Pascucci, Mike Daum, Steve Costello, and Owen Brady went to the American Woodworker Show in Pensauken, New Jersey. This show was different from other shows presented by the American Woodworker magazine. For one thing, they didn't have an area set aside for items made by woodworkers. This was always one of my favorite stops, seeing and touching the work of fine craftsmen. I enjoyed the floor demonstrations. These were going on most of the time. They were free and accessible on the main floor. I managed to sit through several including one by Wayne Barton, the chip carver, and one by Frank Klaus. Frank did a hand-cut dovetail which he signed and gave to me. Do you think he was trying to tell me something? The vendors were doing a fine job of demonstrating their products. This

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Secretary's Report

Owen Brady & Steve Costello



The November 7th meeting started on time with Gabe Jaen presiding. He hoped that everyone carried out their civic duty and voted the day before. If not,

there was an election this night for the Officers of the club. The result of the vote kept all of the present officers in their job. There were several new members at the meeting. We will mention names in the next newsletter.

Charlie James spoke to the club and thanked them for the generosity towards the Fireman's Widows and Children's fund. He indicated that nearly \$2,200.00 was collected and that he was grateful for the contributions. Next, Gabe made an appeal for demonstrators for the upcoming January meeting. He got at least 3 volunteers. It's important for us to see what other members are doing and show others how we are doing it. Maybe you have something you would like to share? It could be a joinery technique, a jig, or a machine operation. We are all here to learn and share, so how about it? Get in touch with Bob Urso. The "round robin" has always been a good way for us to learn and know more about each other.

Gabe thanked Jim Cosgrove and Jim Ruppel for the time and effort in putting together the newsletter, the "Wood Rack." It has been something we have become proud of. Mike Daum and Daryl Rosenblatt will take over their duties and the club thanks them for their volunteering for the task.

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President's Message continued ...

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show wasn't great, but it kept my interest all the time I was there.

A little story. At the show I stopped at this one booth because I had been seeing this product demonstrated since the late 1940s and early 1950s. I must have looked like a sale to the vendor because he kind of included me in his pitch. Well, I told him I was Interested but wanted to talk to my friends about it. I told him I'd be right back and off I went looking for John or Brian, or somebody. Finding no one, I went back and bought it anyway. When I finally met up with my fellow woodworkers, they looked at my box and in unison said, "I have one of those somewhere at home but I never used it." Turns out at least 5 members have this contraption, but keep it stored. What is it? The Swiss answer to the universal vise called the Zyliss Portable All Purpose Vise. I think I can hear someone muttering "Oh no, not you too Gabe!" Well, Mike

Daum bought one also and uses it daily, and we agreed to one day give a demonstration on the versatility of this vise, but not until I buy up the ones that are gathering dust in some of your shops (for a real cheap price), then sell them back to you for a profit. By the way, I also have a Craftsman's Recreator and their Router Turner.

Think what you want, woodworking isn't just about making something out of wood, it's also about collecting tools, or wood, or friends.

I won't be at the December meeting, so let me take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a safe and happy holiday season. I look forward to a rewarding year for the club with new seminars, round robin meetings and a great LIWC Show 2002

God Bless America.



Secretary's Report continued

Continued from page 1

Jim Clancy was on hand to discuss Toys-for-Tots. Jim had a table full of plans for toys and there was much interest in it. Frank Allaire brought in a rocking Dalmatian that was stunning, and a great example of a toy donation for the next meeting. It's the December meeting when the Marines will be landing at the barn. This is one of two times of the year when all club members can stand up and be counted (the other is our annual show). The toys can be complicated or simple. They can be painted, stained or just left in the raw. Boy's or girl's toys, they will all be welcomed. Let's show them that we are just more than guys and gals getting out of the house one night a month. Let's do it for the kids!

In Show-And-Tell, Steve Costello presented an "American Girl" doll wardrobe that he and Owen Brady will be making for Toys-for-Tots. It was a simple design which could also be adjusted to make a Matchbox car carrying case, for the boys.

Gabe mentioned that there are 107 members with an email address. He sent out emails to all of them and found that 9 addresses are no longer active and only 47 answered him back as requested. Some answered with only their email address and Gabe had to backtrack to determine who they were. If you respond to the email, sign off with your name so the receiver will know who it is.

A reminder regarding the bus trip to Saratoga for the

Northeastern Woodworkers Show on Saturday, March 23, 2002. A \$20.00 deposit will be required and the total cost will be \$40.00. This is a relaxing trip that will take us to a great woodworking show, like our own.

Strother Purdy was the guest speaker for the night. He had a tough time getting down to the Barn but arrived on time. He demonstrated the making of a wooden snowflake using simple straight cuts on the table saw and showing us the gluing techniques. Strother is no stranger to the LIWC. We have had him here for our shows, seminars, and meetings. He never fails us and is always interesting. Watch for his articles in Fine Woodworking magazine.

Gabe mentioned that Frank Klaus was willing to open his shop on a Saturday for a day session. The fee will have to be worked out and depends on the number of members interested.



The secretaries regret omissions in the newsletter due to the fact that the notes taken from the Minutes were misplaced. We will try to add credits on to the next newsletter.

A reminder...

Club dues of \$25.00 are due in January!

A WOODWORKER'S JOURNAL

One Saturday Morning (and the Sunday before)
by Paul Decker

Christmas is approaching and I need a gift for my wife. A purchased gift would not do. I have a nice idea and it would be the first project where I get to use my Leigh dovetail jig, even though I've had the jig for about a year and a half (a gift from my Dad - no particular occasion). I cannot discuss what the project is at this time because my wife likes to read what I write and that would spoil the surprise. If it comes out good, I'll display it at the next show.

The Leigh jig came with the "shank bits, but the manual recommends the 8mm shank bits for their increased rigidity. I went to the American Woodworker show last weekend and was hoping to visit the Leigh booth and see about exchanging the bits, as they were unused. They were indeed able to make the exchange right there - how nice! There was not too much else new at the show and I will probably not travel that far again to visit one. I was shopping for an 8" jointer but Delta was the only one displaying them. There was one new booth with a gentleman (3rd generation, he said) engraving branding irons for woodworkers. His skill was incredible. He could work the cranks of the X axis and Y axis of his Deckel engraving machine while controlling the depth with his foot with such speed and accuracy it was unbelievable. I was impressed. Leaving the show, we stopped outside to look at the sawmills in the parking lot. I was studying the design (I'd like to build one some day) when Steve Costello yelled across the way that my neighbors would love me if I bought one. It's nice to run into other members outside of our regular meetings. Well, so much for "the Sunday before".

I need two things to get started on the gift. Now that I have the 8mm bits, I need 8mm collets. Bosch makes them for my router but Dynamite tool didn't have them in stock and neither did Woodworker's Warehouse. The gentleman at W.W. suggested Sunrise Tool. The other thing I need is some special wood. My idea required one wood to be of a red color and the other a light color that would contrast. Home Depot does not carry any red woods so I decided to travel into Freeport to Wood-Ply Lumber. I had purchased a color-ply bowl blank at the 2000 LIWC show from their booth. I signed up on their mailing list and received a \$15 gift certificate in the mail. Armed with the price list they sent me, I asked my father to join me and, on this Saturday morning, off we went. It took an hour to get there from Ridge. We walked into the open garage door and were greeted by their dog. The signs pointed us upstairs to the hardwoods. There was a rack in the middle of the loft with select pieces standing on end. Most had the species written on them and it was a rainbow of woods on display; Ebony, Makore, Guancaste, Curly Maple, Bloodwood, Cocobolo and more. There were other racks with the wood stored flat; Lignum Vitae (sold by the pound), Walnut, Clear Cedar, Tulipwood, and more. This is pretty cool. There was even a box at the end of the rack with scraps of all these woods that I knew could be useful for another project I have planned.

Back to the task at hand. Looking at the rack of vertically oriented boards, I saw a nice piece of Padauk that was bigger than I needed but I just had to have it. There was the red wood I needed. There was also a piece of appropriately sized Australian Lacewood that had an extremely intriguing grain. It was open like Oak but not straight; it was almost like a honeycomb pattern. The last selection I made was a piece of "thick by 17" wide Basswood that I will probably use in the project too. I tossed a bunch of scraps into a box from the bin at the end of the rack and we made our way downstairs and passed the canine guard (she, I think, is very friendly). We walked around the ground floor storage racks to see more Walnut, Spanish Cedar, and what looked like Purpleheart. We saw Baltic Birch plywood (5'x 5' sheets - European, presumably), a lighter colored MDF than I am used to and various hardwood faced plywoods.

Well, it is time to check out. I present the box of scraps to the man at the counter (I believe he is one of the owners). "There's some Ebony in here, twenty-five dollars" he says. "Okay" I said, and presented him the gift certificate. I showed him my LIWC membership card and he gave me a 15% discount. We loaded the truck and started home. "Sunrise Tool is on the way home," I said, "let's see if they have the collet I need". Unfortunately they didn't. I'll have to try the web site.

That pretty much wraps up "One Saturday Morning". I remember as a kid (5-10 years old) going to Sears many Saturday mornings with my Dad and looking at all the shiny tools. Some things just don't change.





NOTES FROM THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

By Bob Urso

This will be a busy meeting. We will have our annual "Toys for Tots" display as we usually do in December. I Hope everyone is busy making toys and we will be able to surpass last year's generous amount. In addition to the T.F.T. we are lucky to have Ernie Conover agree to speak at this meeting. It was an opportunity we could not pass up. Ernie will be giving a talk and demonstration on the lathe. He will demonstrate vacuum chucking and alternate ways to attach projects for turning. He will show us that we do not need a \$200 chuck to turn wood. Ernie operates a woodworking school

at his home in Ohio. He has also developed and marketed his own lathe (The Conover Lathe). He has written several articles for magazines such as Fine Woodworking, and he is the author of several books as well.

As I said, this will be a busy meeting so we are asking everyone to hold off on show-and-tell until the January meeting. Then we can show all the projects we made with the new tools we received for the holidays. In addition, we will not have the book and tape library at the December meeting. I am sure that the pastries at the coffee table will make up for any inconveniences.

JANUARY 11-13, 2002 Woodworking show in Somerset, NJ

FEBRUARY MEETING- (tentative) a presentation from Brian Monks and Leo Meliak

MARCH MEETING- Gene Kelly (member). Production and building of a small project from design to completion

APRIL MEETING- T.B.A.

APRIL 20 & 21, 2002- 7TH ANNUAL SHOW AND EXHIBITION. Show planning is well under way to make this the best show ever. While most commercial shows seem to offer less quality and few if any exhibits, our show is becoming more anticipated every year. We are planning more seminars and more exhibits than last year and our goal is to present the best possible show. Your help and participation is important to this goal. *Plan on spending the weekend at show 2002.*

MAY MEETING- T.B.A.

JANUARY 2002 ROUND ROBIN

January 2, 2002- Our January meeting will be presented in the round robin format. For those of you new to the club, this will consist of several small demonstrations presented by club members showing various tools and techniques. Members visit the areas that they are most interested in. These tend to be our most popular meetings. We usually have a round robin type meeting at least twice a year, once in January and once in the summer. Members both new and old are encouraged to participate. The following demos are scheduled to date:

Steve Costello: veneer checkerboard

Karl Blessing: handsaw sharpening

Charlie James: handcut dovetails

Brian Monks: dovetails (Leigh Jig).

Will we witness the war of the dovetails?

Daryl Rosenblatt: scary sharp sharpening demo

Owen Brady: "Oops"

Gene Kelly: production technique

Alain Tiercy: scroll saw

Bob Urso: TBA



IAN KIRBY RESPONDS...

Re: President's Message, November 2001
 Either I have failed to make my point or Gabe has misunderstood the point. In his President's Message he says "Yes, I do want to make a period reproduction that has the kind of elegance that Ian Kirby speaks of, but whenever I'm ready to start such a project another request pops up." I don't know where he got the idea that I would encourage him or anyone to make a "period reproduction" piece. But it's Gabe's opening paragraph that tells me that we're not on the same page. "Most of the projects I work on these days seem to be for the family, and they are usually big projects. Right now it's a hutch for my daughter, which is typically the kind of thing I make. Shaker, country, and occasionally children's furniture are my stock-in-trade."

Well, these are the very things that any amateur woodworker should be putting heart and soul into making the work as elegant, well-designed, and well-made as mind and hand allows. Making furniture and fittings isn't a multi-class thing, as though we reserved one sort of thoughtfulness and skill for a "reproduction", and a different sort for a "daughter's hutch." The reality is that the things you make for the family fall firmly into the category of "reproduction" pieces - it doesn't get any better, Gabe. So, best foot (and chisel) forward and let's all see the elegant and beautiful result at the 2002 LIWC Show.

TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT

A cautionary word from Bill Rhodes

I came very close to cutting off my left index finger late this summer. Now, I am not one of those guys who worries excessively about things like danger and such. I live my life. I have done a lot of things that some would call stupid and others would call heroic. But playing fast and loose with woodworking safety is where I draw the line, and is not something I do.

I am very careful to think about each cut, where my hands are and what safety devices I have in place. Even with my concern for safety, I did get hit with a tablesaw kickback a few years ago, but the damage was blunted by a heavy coat. The worst I got out of it was a bruise and more respect for the physics of the table saw.

So, how did I come close to becoming a 9-fingered wonder? Well, I was cutting the second cut of a rabbet in some 1" stock. I had my tall auxiliary fence on my table saw and a featherboard pointing down over the cut. Another featherboard was positioned before the cut horizontal on the table. I have used this set up for years without any problems at all. I considered it safe. My left hand was riding the back of the workpiece providing slight pressure against the fence to keep the cut nice and straight with 3 inches of wood between the spinning blade and my finger. Everything was moving along well until... Zipppp! Faster than you can read that. Much faster than I typed it. The workpiece was gone, flying though the air and across the shop even faster. The pressure my finger had been providing did not stop however, and I actually touched the side of the spinning saw blade before I could retract my hand.

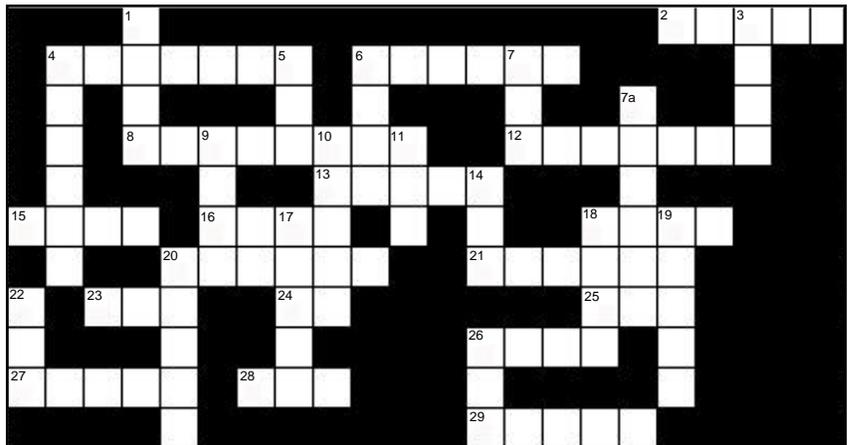
I immediately examined my hand for damage. There was none. I was shocked to say the least. I knew I had hit the blade but my finger was still there. I stood waiting for the end of my finger to fall off, as I was sure it would. Then it dawned on me. I was lucky. Very lucky. I should have had a hard time typing that sentence with a missing left index finger. But here I am, still whole. I turned off everything in the shop and had a one-month safety stand down. I read and reread books on woodworking, articles and websites on safety, and spent as much time as I could thinking of how different life would be without that finger or hand.

Now, what lesson can we learn from this? One simple word, PUSHSTICKS. A pushstick would have gone into the blade instead of my finger and would have provided me with just as much control and precision as my finger. I am back in the shop now, starting slowly, making new pushsticks and featherboards and thinking of more ways to make my table saw safer. Maybe next time I will make that rabbet with a router.



C R O S S W O O D P U Z Z L E

by Mike Daum



ACROSS

- 2. A simple decorative edge.
- 4. Another name for 2 across.
- 6. A common joint for drawers.
- 8. The joint you first guessed for 3 across.
- 12. Can be chopped, or drilled
- 13. Shoulder _____.
- 15. Saw blade term.
- 16. Backing boards prevent tear-_____out.
- 18. What we want to pay for all tools.
- 20. Something Strother Purdy forgot for his presentation.
- 21. Japanese saw.
- 23. Hawaiiin wood.
- 24. Power tool listing.
- 25. Needed to sharpen saw blade.
- 26. Type of hinge.
- 27. Router collar.
- 28. Used to prevent wood splits.
- 29. Usually 1/3 thickness of the wood being joined.

DOWN

- 1. Used to burn veneer edges.
- 3. Hold down devise.
- 4. Used for paring or chopping.
- 5. Which animal is not incorporated in wood termnology: dog or rat.
- 6. The horizontal piece of a frame.
- 7. Wood type.
- 7a. What you do to a line.
- 9. Done at November meeting.
- 10. Month of next LIWC show.
- 11. Type of joint.
- 14. _____ grain.
- 17. Angle type.
- 18. What we create.
- 19. Common butt joint.
- 20. Frame and _____.
- 22. Makes work easier.
- 26. Useless without a router.

THE MARKETPLACE

**FOR
SALE**

DELTA BANDSAW: 16", 1/2 HP with stand, like new, \$250

Paul Satriano (631) 424-3722

POWERMATIC SAW 66: stock fence, new motor, \$750.

(631) 424-3722

DELTA CONTRACTOR'S SAW: New bearings and is in good shape.

Charlie James (516) 739-2443



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