

THE Woodrack

July 2014



ANNUAL PICNIC

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Time for another favorite tool article. Many of you know I'm a jig guy; I'll make thirty jigs for a project, sometimes even making a jig to make a jig. So I would rather build something than buy it. There are a few products that it couldn't possibly pay to make instead of buy, and this product is one of them.

I finally got around to repairing the less consequential damage that Superstorm Sandy hit me with: The outdoor cabinets I made (out of cedar) years ago by my barbecue and outdoor sink (a really great idea, I think I've used the sink twice in 20 years). The doors shattered and I finally stopped procrastinating and made new ones (this time out of cypress, which I like more for outdoor use than cedar).

Three doors, two of which would be needing butterfly hinges in the middle as well). A total of 16 hinges and four magnetic catches that needed installation, and since I wasn't going for total precision, I just wanted them fast. Enter the tool that you can buy, but only make if you have a machine shop: The Vix bit. Until you install a large load of hinges, and anything else that needs a centering pilot hole, you can't conceive of how you can get by without it. Maybe they are available in some cheap Chinese knockoff, but I got mine from Bob Urso, and I can tell you that the drill bit is of high quality, the machining perfect, and the springs strong.

Charlie James has his aprons for restaurant reviews, so I guess I would have to award Vix bits 5 "combi squares."

THIS MONTH:

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

SECRETARY'S NOTES

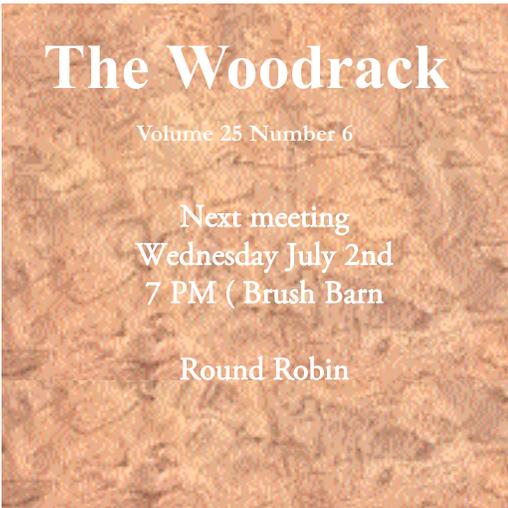
LI CABINETMAKERS

LISA

BURN BARREL

TURNER'S GUILD

SECRET SOCIETY OF WOODCARVERS



We am proud to announce, on behalf of LIW members Iris and Richard Zimmerman, that their eldest son, Dr. Mark Zimmerman, is one of New York Magazine's TOP DOCTORS for 2014.

Dr. Zimmerman is a Doctor of Pulmonary Disease. (Dr. Zimmerman's name appears about 1/2 way down the list.)

Congratulations to Dr. Zimmerman and his parents, Iris and Richie.

<http://www.castleconnolly.com/doctors/results.cfm?source=nymetro&speccode=058>

SECRETARY'S NOTES



JIM HEICK

Our June meeting was our Annual picnic. Members arrived around 6:00 pm. Weather was great, food, and ice cream were good and company even better. Special thanks to Steve Costello, Ray Bohm and Mike Luciano for volunteering to coordinate this year's picnic. Attendance was approximately 115 people. It was a great turnout by the membership and their families.

Special thanks to Exotic Hardwoods of Northport for their generosity. Pen blanks, and wood for turnings were donated for the members. Additionally, many pieces of wood, various types were donated for the auction.

The club welcomes new member Ned Gschwind.

July meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 2nd. This will be our "Round Robin" meeting with each SIG represented and demonstrating their skills. We are also looking to setup a table to assist in registering for the Website. Mike Daum and Jim Macallum will be assisting members to sign on to the site. Photos of the members will be taken and added to their individual profile if needed.

The annual Show and Exhibit will be held November 8th and 9th. Setup will be on Friday Nov 7th. Volunteers will be needed for all aspects. Please contact Pat Doherty – Show Chairman @ paddede@aol.com to volunteer. Please consider displaying a project for the member exhibit as well. Further show details to follow.

On a side note... Tom Lafferty is looking to purchase a Porter Cable Dovetail Jig. One was available at last year's show in the Tool Garage. If anyone is interested in selling a dovetail jig (for larger projects) please contact Tom at the next meeting.





The June 10th meeting started at 7:10, with 20 members present.

Harry announced the availability of 1st & second cuts of various species - cheap!

July 12th is the picnic at Harry's yard (92 Manor Rd, south of Little Plains Rd, Huntington), from 10am to ?. Besides stuffing our faces, Harry will be demonstrating the process of turning logs into lumber. Everyone should bring personal safety gear - eye and ear protection. The cost is \$10 per person. Several members volunteered to bring supplies(thank you).

Steve Price has a 10" radial arm saw for sale; Joe Hopke is looking to buy a planer and a band saw, which generated some discussion.

The raffle was won by Ben Nawrath and Steve Price.

Show & Tell

Gary M showed a dogwood carver's mallet.

Steve Price showed a cocobolo plane and a dovetailed drawer for the "chapter challenge."

Norm Bald showed some pictures of a stop-action photo cabinet he built, and a stained glass cat (he does a lot of stained glass).

Jim Brown showed a grinder rest and a dovetailed chisel box.

Rich MacRae showed a dovetailed (of course) box.

Nate showed a tray from a wine case with dovetailed corners.

Barry showed a dovetailed tissue box cover and his Moxon vise (that he finally made).

Roger Ehler showed a dovetailed drawer.

Jim Hennenfeld showed a dovetailed drawer box and a jig for making dovetails on the band saw.

President Bob demonstrated using Timbermate wood filler on a whit oak board, which he sanded with a Festool sander (that he raved about). He tinted it with walnut stain and sealed with a waterborne finish. This demo was done throughout the meeting, since several of the steps required drying time.





LISA



JOE REARDON



CHAPTER CHALLENGE: BIRDHOUSES



To Hell and Back in a Burn Barrel



BOB SCHENDORF

The Bishop is coming, the Bishop is coming!

A couple of years ago, my buddy Charlie, the furniture restoration guy, gave my number to a client of his, a little Lutheran church in Bellrose, Queens. They were looking to have some stuff done in their seventy year old church, and when the Pastor called me I was thrilled!

To me as a woodworker, working in a church was like playing in Yankee Stadium. It didn't matter that I was raised a Catholic, any church, or other house of worship, is an honor to work in.

First of all, I am out of "practice" and second of all, I am divorced, thus destined to burn in Hell anyway, and third, when I was a practicing Catholic, raised in the progressive seventies, it was a new Catholic church, much more accepting of other "Christians" their quotation marks, not mine.

The subtle undertone, which was never spoken was kind of like; "yeeeah, they are not Catholic, but they are almost like us, so yeeeah, they are almost as good as us." I never really understood it, then as I grew older, and left my little enclave of a Catholic neighborhood (but even there we had Irish Catholics, Polish Catholics, and a lot of Italian Catholics, complete with their Blessed Mothers on a half shell in their front yards, and their life size Nativity scenes at Christmas time. I still don't know how they got those animals to stand still for three to four weeks at a time. Almost none of them lived up to my mother's idea of what a good Catholic should be. They were all either too little or too much) did I learn that the rest of this big old world was full of Christians of other faiths, that actually looked down their collective noses at us! And as I dared to fraternize with these other so called "Christians", (again "their" quotation marks, not mine) it turns out they weren't so bad. Heck a lot of them were darn near nice! They even looked like me and spoke like me!

My point is, I understand how important a Church, a Temple or a Synagogue is to people of Faith. So when they invite me in to do a job (regardless of the particular religious flavor) I am honored. And I will do everything in my power to deliver a project that is worthy of their trust.

So, Pastor Pete calls me one day, and I go look at the job, which I think was an alter railing. I gave him a quote, and all of the good news, bad news scenarios I could think of, and I didn't hear from him again. That is for six months. Then, out of the blue, Pastor Pete calls me and asks if I can build a couple of columbaria cabinets. Cabinets? Of course I could. My response must have not been too convincing because Pastor Pete felt the need to define what a columbaria was; "Bob", he said "a columbaria is a cabinet where you store the urns containing the ashes of the deceased"

"Oh" I replied thinking; "wait, you want to put dead people in one of my beautiful cabinets?"

"Sure Pastor, I knew that! Everybody knows that! Sure I can do it." I wasn't going to miss out on a chance to play for the Yankees if I could help it.

Long story short, we got the job and delivered two gorgeous oak, columbaria cabinets, each containing twelve cubbies that would hold two urns. The doors were raised panel where bronze plates can be affixed, and installed them in the back of the church, with a nice shelf between them where loved ones could place flowers or candles to honor their deceased loved ones. Pastor Pete had the foresight to pre sell them, thus turning a profit before we even delivered them.

As a matter of fact, the Church bookkeeper, a very nice lady who paid me the final installment told me that she had bought a space, and was carrying around her late husband's urn in the trunk of her car awaiting the arrival of our cabinets. The urn apparently clashed with the décor of her home, so she couldn't put him on a shelf in the house. On the day of the install, we met Rich, a retired metal worker, who was now in charge of the maintenance of the aging church. He too, turns out, had bought a space in our cabinets explaining; "Yeah, I figure with the kids growing up and moving to different neighborhoods, if me and the wife are here, maybe they will come and see us once in a while". Rich is one of those really nice guys, the kind of guy that you bond with the first time you meet him. And I immediately felt a little uncomfortable knowing that someday, this really good guy is no longer going to be here, and they are going to take his remains, burn them to a crisp, and then stick his ashes behind a thin (but well-made and beautiful) door, secured by a lock which we bought out of a catalogue. And he was ok with that. I wanted to grab him by the shoulders and say: "No! You can't go in my cabinet when you die! You're too good! You should go in a poplar box with a really dark stain, or a genuine mahogany box (Genuine? Maybe.) that some funeral director tries to upsell to your grieving family, and then get put in the ground and have dirt thrown on top of you!" And when I thought that through, I found myself at peace. I was kind of honored. Death makes us all a little nuts, regardless of the amount of emotional investment you have with the deceased.

Anyway, on that day, Rich mentioned that they were thinking of replacing the four main doors in to the church, and asked if we could build them. We inspected them rather closely and said; "Yes we can".

The better part of a year passed by, until one day Rich, the church's care taker called me.

"Bob", he said "we want to go ahead and have you make the doors. Come in and measure and give us a price and I'm sure the committee will approve it.

Given the fact that we are talking about a church, let me be honest, just in case my agnostic leanings may be wrong. I had never built an exterior door, interior bedroom doors, sure, cabinet doors, hundreds, but never an exterior door. And I was honest with Rich about it. He assured me that he and Pastor Pete had complete faith in me, and we signed the contract in August.

Don and I examined the existing doors and realized they were of stave door construction, not solid wood. I had seen stave core doors that my buddy, Mike had built and was intrigued.

A stave core is exactly that, a core made of smaller boards (or staves) glued together that kind of looks like butcher block, and then gets a veneer of the species that you want the door to be made of.

For example, our doors needed to be 2 3/8" thick, so we ordered 2" thick stave core material which comes in "sheets" forty eight inches by ninety six inches. It consisted of quarter sawn poplar (quarter sawn for stability) which is placed on edge and then the faces are glued together. Thus when the wood moves, the doors get thicker and thinner, and not wider, so theoretically, they won't swell up and stick when it gets humid, and won't shrink too much and get drafty when it gets colder.

The planning for the door takes nearly as long as the construction. This is because you have to cut off chunks of the stave core, under size so you can then veneer over all of the edges of the chunks. Once you have the entire chunk veneered, you have now created a board that you can mill and cut as if it were a solid piece of wood.

We don't have a great re saw, and we were using white oak for the doors, so the best decision we made in the process was to use three eighths of an inch thick veneers on the chunks and then plane all of them down to a uniform thickness, (the final thickness of the veneers was just around a quarter of an inch) thus making the re sawing operation a little bit less harrowing, we didn't have to worry about being dead on accurate when we cut them "But Bob, you wasted a whole bunch of material"

Yes, we lost possibly two board feet over the two hundred and fifty or so board feet of re sawing and planning the way we did. Most of which would be useless any how if we had it, plus I'm not paying for it and most of all, relax, God will make more, and I have that on good Authority!

We joined the rails and stiles with traditional mortise and tenons, which presented their own logistical challenges, because we are not set up to do joinery of that size. We spent a lot of time making router jigs. And in hindsight, had I bought a brand new floor standing mortise, it would have paid for itself in saved labor.

The raised panels (did I mention that there are four raised panels in every door?) we thought would be straight forward, solid lumber glued up and shaped with that big, hairy panel raising bit. Then my pal Dave, who has over thirty years' experience as a carpenter, and was going to do the install for us came in to check on our progress and said "You don't have to make the panels that way. Why don't you just use the stave core material and veneer it like you've been doing, and figure out how big the raise on the panel is going to be and add wider pieces of solid on the edges to allow for the bit to raise the panel without exposing the stave core?"

It sounded good at the time. We had enough stave core left over, and we could use a lot of the off cuts for the wider edges we would need. Great idea, economically and structurally. The reality was it took another day and a half of planning and calculating as well as a bunch of tests to get it figured out. But I must admit, when we did the result was excellent.

Dry fitting and glue ups was tedious and time consuming. Because we are not an exterior door shop, each joint had to be tweaked and adjusted for a perfect fit.

In the end it was nearly all worth it, we ended up with four perfect doors that we, as well as the members of the church can be really proud of.

But here's what really happened..... We booked the church door job right after we moved in to the new shop. We had projects that we were still pending from before the move. And lost at least a month setting the new place up. In the meantime a designer we had done a couple of decent jobs for took the dining room space of a show house that was being held in an old mansion in a very exclusive north shore community, and boonswaggled us in to making a whole bunch of pieces for the cost of labor and materials (you have to take care of your designers), and every week for what seemed like a month she needed something else. The exposure was going to be incredible, but the deadline was nearly impossible. We did it though, one of the too few deadlines we have been able to make. The show opened with much hoopla on Labor Day, and was promptly closed down a week later by village officials who didn't want the extra traffic on their narrow and quiet roads.

In the mean time I was hemorrhaging cash. My rent had nearly doubled with the move, and I had to hit up a retirement account to keep us afloat. By the time we could even think about doing the church doors, the decent weather of the fall was waning.

I had arranged for the painter to get to the church and paint the jambs as well as the trim that were not being removed, I then called Rich and told him that we were losing the weather and let's not push it because we didn't want to get caught with our "pants down" by scheduling an install, and have the weather turn ugly on us. We should put it off until the spring, and he agreed. Hey, I was honest, and it was a legitimate concern. We had just run out of time. My intentions were sincere, and I had planned on getting on them in February and be ready as soon as the weather broke. And I told my guys that.

Well, fall turned to winter as it has a tendency to do, and the shop got busier. The doors got put off for this job and that one, well we could sneak this one in and get paid whereas the church doors weren't going to see any more money

until they were installed. In the meantime, the huge pile of stave core door material just sat there on a dolly, getting rolled from one place to another.

“Guys, I would really like to get started on the doors this week.”

“Ok, but I’m half way through this job and he just started that one.” Came the reply.

“Alright” I said. “But next week for sure...” and they would give me a halfhearted nod like teenagers will do when asked to take out the garbage.

I was a good sergeant, a really good sergeant. I was not destined to be a general. And that is where my Achilles heel lies. And always has since the business has started growing. I can be the bad guy when cornered, but not on the day to day basis. And that is my fault.

The doors finally got started in March, when I had wanted them to be ready. And they were not going to go down without a fight. They fought us at every turn. Every process presented its own unique set of problems. Suggestions I had made went unheeded. And then, it was one problem after another.

In the meantime Rich and I kept in contact, my stomach turning in knots when I saw his name come up on the cell phone. All the time being very calm, “Ok, I don’t want to rush you.” he’d say. Let me tell you, I became the kind of dancer my Latin wife would be proud of during the course of this job.

Of course during all of this, we got busier and busier. Then other jobs got backed up, and when there was a problem with one of the other ones, it was all hands on trying to fix it so the doors got put aside again temporarily.

In mid-May, Rich called me and said;” Bob, I don’t want to rush you, but the bishop is coming June 9th, and it would be great if the doors were in.” I promised him we would try, but I couldn’t guarantee it. And we did try. Once word got out of the bishop’s impending arrival, Harry (you didn’t think I would do an article without mentioning Harry, did you?) would come in and walk back to our shop and say; “The Bishop is coming, the Bishop is coming! Are the doors ready yet?” On a good day he would do it two or three times. Did it help us? No. But I think it helped alleviate the stress that his own business was causing him.

One evening, right around Memorial Day, we were hanging out having a beer, Dave had come by to inform us that he was getting really busy, and if we wanted the doors installed this year we better get a move on.

Harry was waiting for a client who was coming down from Connecticut, and when he arrived he gladly accepted the invitation to have a beer after his long trip. He introduced himself very cordially, opened his beer, and went about his business of picking out the walnut he had suffered through so much to see.

Dave and I eventually drifted towards the back, where my shop is and started discussing what else, the damn doors! Two out of the four were which glued up. Progress my friend, progress!

As we were talking I glanced towards the client and then it hit me. The client was Strother Purdy! We had a very well renowned, and pretty famous, and very accomplished furniture maker in our shop, and nobody realized it! Once he was done picking out his lumber, Strother, made his way back to Dave and I, because after all, he is a fellow woodworker, and regardless of your accomplishments, in the end there is nothing we all love to do more than poke around someone else’s shop and shoot the breeze.

Strother mentioned that he had always been fascinated by doors, and was really interested in the story of ours’. We both looked at the skeleton (stiles and rails, no raised panels) of a church door laying on Don’s workbench, in clamps,

and I turned to him and said: “Gee, I hope Don realizes that the plans don’t call for a screen door, and hopefully he hasn’t gone ‘rogue’ and built one!” Turns out that I was right and the assembly we were looking at was just dry fit, scheduled to be glued up the next day.

In the end, the Bishop never saw our doors, I’m going to burn in Hell, but we all knew that any way didn’t we? But they came out beautiful just the same.



TURNER'S GUILD



MIKE JOSIAH

The June 2014 turners meeting was held on June 12th and started promptly at 7PM led by President for life Steve Fulgoni.

Huge White has had good success with his Freedom Pen project. So far he has 160 pens finished. His goal is 300 pens. All the pens will be sent to American Servicemen and Woman overseas. More info on the project can be found here: <http://www.freedompens.org/>

To help out with the project, we will use the July (Main club) Round Robin meeting to turn pens, and also the August meeting to hopefully finish up the 300 so Hugh can arrange to ship them out.

The topic for the July turners meeting will be on tool work. Things that will be covered are Scrapers, Using a skew, Bowl gouges etc

Tonight's topic was an open discussion. The one question submitted was on sharpening bowl gouges. Steve not only answered this but also presented an interesting history of the bowl gouge.

The first turning tools were made from carbon steel. Even today these tools take be given the sharpest edge out of all current tool metals, but the edge dulls quickly.

Carbon steel tool are also vulnerable to bluing if overheated during sharpening. Blueing means that the hardness is gone. The tool must be heat treated or the edge carefully ground past it to can back to good steel again.

High Speed Steel is the current steel of choice. It sharpens very well (Close to carbon steel) but also holds its edge well. It is also not subject to bluing issues when sharpened.

To sharpen your tools, a bench grinder is the most common method. 3600RPM grinders are the most common, but 1725 RPM slow speed grinders are the best. The wheels that come with a grinder are something to consider upgrading. New and better wheels are made from Ceramic abrasive (SG) or the newest wheels are CBN (Cubic boron nitrate). CBN wheels offer the smoothest grind.

Early bowl gouges were forged steel and had a "U" shaped flute. As technology progressed the U shaped flutes were milled instead of being forged.

In the 1970's A parabolic or "Super Flute" design was introduced. This design gave a larger cutting edge on Square ground tools. This design has two straight sides with a single radius at the bottom. The advantage here is that on the sides you have a 1/2" gouge, but when using the bottom you have a 1/4" gouge. More versatility in a tool

When the Irish Grind (Swept back, or David Ellsworth grind) tools were introduced things changed again. Again a single tool has multiple purposes. You can rub the bevel for a clean cut. The swept back edges allow you to use the tool as a scraper or even as a shear scraper. This depends on how you hold the tool.

(Liam O'Neill invented the Irish Grind. David Ellsworth took the idea and as a very good marketer, changed it slightly and made it his own.)

Steve likes to keep both the Super flute and swept back tools available when he turns. He also keeps them at different angles.

A 40 degree tool works best on the outside of a bowl, but that tool is limited to that purpose. Steve likes to have 50, 65 and 75 degree tool when he is turning.

The 50 degree tool is used for the outside and most of the inside. The 75 degree tool is for the bottom of the bowl. The 65 degree is to cut a clean transition between where the 50 and 75 degree tools cut cleanly.

Swept back ground tools are normally around 65 degrees. This allows shear scraping on the outside, and also allows a decent cut on most of the inside. Because of the angle though its hard to keep the bevel touching the wood properly. (David Ellsworth's tools have a 60 degree grind.)

Another grinding technique is to grind back the very bottom of the heel of the tool. This can help prevent the tool from burnishing or compressing the wood as you turn the bottom.

To check the angle of his grinds, Steve places a protractor in the center of the tool flute and measures the angle.

Looking back, its amazing the changes technology have made for turners. More will follow I'm sure but we are all in a great place to succeed with what we have now.

The July Chapter challenge will be Embellishment. Bring in anything you turned and then carved, painted, filled with minerals etc. Use your imagination!



SECRET SOCIETY OF
WOODCARVERS



JOE REARDON

The May 2014 meeting of the Secret Society of Woodcarvers (SSOW) aka Carvers S.I.G. was called to order by Steve Blakley.

Steve B is arranging a speaker for a future meeting.
The Carvers welcomed Hugh White.

Members showed completed carving projects:

- Iris Zimmerman and Debbie Novomestky – gold finches, from a Walter Roth class.
- Richie Zimmerman, & Steve Blakley – Mourning Doves, also from a Walter Roth class.
- Matt Reardon – Morning Glory flower
- Steve Blakley – Eagle Head

The rest of the meeting was devoted open carving of works in progress.











The Marketplace

Routers,Sanders,Drills and more for sale,
Dennis Taddeo 631 543 2256

L.I. School of Classical Woodcarving & Woodworking Schedule visit;
[http:// homepage.mac.com/walterc530/](http://homepage.mac.com/walterc530/)

If you have an item or series of items you would like listed, just email the editor at:
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