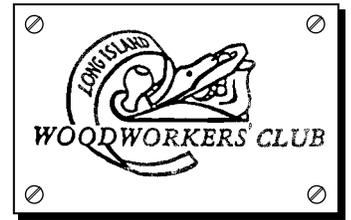


# THE Woodrack

January 2004



## Toys For Tots



**COVERAGE OF OUR ANNUAL  
TOYS FOR TOTS HOLIDAY EVENT**

**STEVE ECKERS' NEW  
COLUMN DEBUTS**

**◀ A VISIT TO GARRETT HACK'S SHOP**

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*"The views expressed within are not necessarily those of the Long Island Woodworkers' Club, its Board of Directors, or the editorial staff".*

## The Woodrack

Volume 16 Number 1

Next meeting:

Wednesday January 7th  
7 PM Brush Barn, Smithtown

Round Robin

## President's Message

Gabe Jaen



**W**ell, the New Year is upon us and it's time for those New Year resolutions. Having given this some thought, and having discovered the real value of properly sharpened tools, I've made a resolution to try my hand at some more involved woodworking projects. The projects would have to be of manageable size, considering the low overhead in my shop and the problem of just getting it out of there. Right now I'm on my second Pennsylvania Spice Cabinet like the one I had as a work-in-progress at our last show. I completed that one and it went to my daughter who lives in the state of Washington. I presently have another one about 95% complete that will go to my daughter here on Long Island. Soon I'll start the one for the wife; she lives with me. You see, I've already started to commit to my New Year's resolution and I'll have at least two projects for the forthcoming show.

All humor aside, having learned, and still trying to improve my ability to sharpen hand planes, chisels, scrapers, spokeshaves, and other like cutting tools has given me the incentive to do more complex work. Besides saving time on setups for a power tool, I save time on sanding, and end up with a better finish. But sharpening is not the whole thing; whether it's a hand tool or a power tool - if you don't take time to read the grain on a board you have defeated the purpose of the sharpening. A simple illustration; if you have two boards that are flat sawn and have the arches showing, you would think that you could plane both in the same direction. Not true. It depends on whether it's the bark side or the heart side. You may be cutting into the point of the arches or the opposite direction. If you look at the end grain, and the rings are cup side down, you will plane into the arch points. This is not without qualification, particularly when you think about figured woods. The other way is to read the face and edge grain. You want to plane in the direction that the grain raises as you look at the edge when you plane the face, likewise when planing the edge - look at the way the grain raises on the face. It's like you're hand planing away the top of the hill. If this doesn't help you, talk to me, I'll draw you a picture.

It's little things like this that we are unaware of that tend to draw us away from hand tools and their benefits. Let me finish by saying this; I don't intend to spend all of my time sharpening tools to the point that that's all I do. I'm not anal about it, nor am I going to ignore what a well-sharpened tool can do to make my work easier and better.

I'll continue writing articles in another corner of the newsletter, as this space will be filled by Mike Daum next month. They might include shop visits or other bits of information that come my way. (Editor's Note - see article on Gabe in this issue)

## Secretary's Report

Owen Brady &  
Steve Costello



It was that meeting of the year where everyone is wide-eyed and "ooh-ing" and "aah-ing" over the toys made by the club's members. It was a great year and over 550 toys were made for the Toys for Tots program. Gabe started the meeting off on a somber note about **Fred Goldberg** who is seriously ill. He also mentioned that any member who was still in arrears on their dues would not be getting their February newsletter.

The toys filled nearly half the room and there was limited seating. The 100 Toy Gang had made some 340 toys. Gabe thanked all the members for their efforts and indicated that this was the best year for the program. There was a raffle held for the participants in the toy program. Besides all the toys, show and tell included **Rich Macrae's** step stool with curved legs and dovetails. He stated that he got the design off of the web.

One of the new members, **Peter Schultheiss** brought in a carved chess set. The checkerboard was made from veneer beautifully mounted with additional game boards. The entire unit was enclosed in a carrying case. Steve Costello thanked everyone for making the Toys for Tots program such a success and has a special thanks for those members, 26 of them, who participated in the 100 toy Gang. A list of participants and benefactors to this program is included in the newsletter. He indicated that the books will be open for new members after the show and hopes that next years toy making will be even greater. He also announced that they will be starting a program for sick children in hospitals and related facilities such as was done with the rocking rowboats. The club is about woodworking, but the hope is that we can incorporate children in the equation. Anyone who has ideas, material, or would like to help please contact Steve Costello.

The two marines, Corporal Ip and Lance Corporal McKeon who came to collect the toys were delighted at the quality and quantity of the toys and thanked us for our contribution. They filled their van to the brim and we hope next year to better our efforts. Gabe ended the meeting with a Seasons Greetings to everyone. This is **Owen Brady and Steve Costello's** last issue of the newsletter as co-secretaries and board members. We will still be around and asking for help with the program for the children. We wish the best of luck to all the new board members and especially the new secretary, **Brian Hinteman**.



## Editor's Notes

Mike Daum



This will be my last column in this space, and it has been my distinct pleasure and honor to serve as editor of this great newsletter for the last two years. Not much will change, as Daryl Rosenblatt makes the easy transition to new Editor-In-Chief. Daryl has been the force behind most of the dramatic improvements made to these pages, and I hope to continue working with him, if he'll let me. I'm good at catching typos.

I joined this club because of Gabe Jaen. I had never desired to, nor belonged to a "club" before, and attending the first meeting at the Barn in July 2000 was very overwhelming for me. I was excited about being in the company of fellow woodworkers, but felt isolated because I knew no one. Yet when the meeting came to order, this smiling man with a ponytail (which I related to back then, if you remember) took the stage and commanded the attention of everyone in the room. As I looked around, I saw in the faces of these men and women, young and (mostly) older, the utmost respect and admiration for their leader. It might as well have been an evangelical gathering.

Gabe's mannerisms, his style (fashion sense included), and quick wit made me feel immediately at ease among this group of strangers (or was it strange group)? During this meeting, when he called on new members to introduce themselves, it was at that time Gabe made me feel more than welcome - like a new family member. The subsequent round of applause from the floor cinched it. I knew there was something special about this group of guys and gals, and I wanted in on it.

Since that time, I enjoy valued friendships with many of you. The club has become an integral part of my life. I owe this, in whole, to the man who I look up to (well, I AM a LITTLE taller) with great veneration. Gabe and his family have enriched my life in so many ways, and I want to extend a personal thank you, as well as on behalf of the club, for your encouragement, guidance, and most of all leadership as President of The Long Island Woodworkers' Club.



Gabe will be a tough act to follow. At the January meeting, if I start to falter on stage while running the meeting, I'll just look over to see Gabe's smile and twinkle in his eye and I know I'll be all right. Unless, of course, he's laughing at me like the rest of you.



**Thanks Gabe!!!**

## Notes From the Programming Committee

*Bob Urso*



**JANUARY 7TH 2004** Round Robin meeting. Additional (new) presenters needed.

**JANUARY 17TH** Shepherd tool will give a two hour lecture on infill hand planes followed by a hands on plane building class using their kit planes. Cost to members \$25. A plane kit will be available for about \$250 ( a steep discount). Lunch is included; contact John Seiple at (631)981-0989.

**JANUARY 24TH** A visit to 4H Youth Development. Contact Gabe Jaen or Dennis Taddeo for details.

**JANUARY 25TH** Glazing workshop with Mac Simmons (originally postponed. It is now on again.) Cost \$35 members, \$50 non-members. See Brian Hayward to sign up.

**FEBRUARY 4TH.** Bent laminations with Michael Puryear.

**MARCH 3RD** monthly meeting: Topic Vacuum in the woodshop. Veneering, clamping and lathe chucking  
Presenters: Club members

**MARCH 13TH** Sat. Sharpening workshop. Hands on and interactive. Cost \$25 members, \$40 non-members. See Joe Pascucci to sign up.

**MARCH 27/28** Northeastern Woodworkers' Show in Saratoga Springs. If interested, the cost is \$40, a bus is rented for the trip. call Steve Costello 631-427-8070

**APRIL 16TH** Friday before the show. Volunteers needed. Please let John Seiple know of your availability.

**April 17th and 18th L.I. Woodworkers  
9th Annual show & exhibit.**

### UPCOMING FOR 2004

**NOVEMBER 19,20 AND 21 2004.** Friday –Sunday Seminar presented by Marc Adams of the Marc Adams School. Topics to be determined, let us know what you would like to see.

## Show Biz

*Mike Daum*



**I**d like to address the question of security for exhibits at the Hofstra Show. The Show committee plans to have several club members in the exhibit area at all times while the Show is open. This will serve to address questions from the viewing public, as well as keep an eye on antsy children or some guy looking to outfit his house with a new piece of furniture.

The layout of projects will be considered carefully, with attention given to smaller or more delicate items. If anyone has concerns about the security of their project(s), feel free to speak with one of the Show committee members about it. It may be possible to cordon off areas with ropes, however keep in mind that the temptation to touch wooden furniture is part of the appeal of the exhibits. While the doors are closed to the public, and at night, hired security guards will protect our valuables - but maybe we shouldn't allow any bed frames or comfortable chairs!!!

With a bit over 3 months until Show time, it is very important to fill out the exhibit sheet included in these pages and bring them to the meeting - or you can mail them to:

Mike Daum  
4 Pam Court  
South Setauket, NY 11720

The next Show Biz will address the procedure for selling your projects at the Show. Any other questions, please ask at the January meeting.

## MEMBER NOTES

Volunteers are needed for the Friday before the show, as well as during the show. Please let John Seiple know of your availability.

If you are interested in hosting a shop visit, and being written about here in THE WOODRACK, please let Gabe Jaen, Mike Daum or Daryl Rosenblatt know.

## Bent Nails and Splinters

Steve Eckers



**W**oodworking involves large and small details. It's impossible to know ALL of the tricks to make our work easier. Over the next year I will publish a list of small tricks I have learned (sometimes the hard way) that can make your work in the wood shop easier. I'm going to start each month with a safety tip, as this is one area where we all can use a gentle reminder. If you have a trick you have discovered, send it to me and I'll help you share it with the other members of this club. Send your ideas to me at: [seckers@prodigy.net](mailto:seckers@prodigy.net)

Lets start with safety. If you're using a router, table saw or other similar noisy machine, invest in a decent pair of "ear-muff" type hearing protectors. OSHA, the "safety guys" require them in industry. Why shouldn't you be using them at home? Hearing loss is not fun. Safety glasses are another very cheap insurance. I like the Selstrom 20/20 type. They look like regular glasses, they are light weight and fairly inexpensive (less than \$5.00 a pair). Get several. If the lenses scratch up, they are cheap enough to throw out.

### PATTERNS AND TEMPLATES

I like to use 1/8" tempered masonite or plexiglass for patterns that will be traced with a pencil. They can be cut to shape with almost any scroll saw with a fine blade. The edges are smoothed down with your belt sander or a finemetal-working file. They keep a good sharp edge and will last for years. Templates for a router should be made of thicker material to allow the bearing to ride on a wide surface. Be sure to write any specialinstructions on the pattern (router bit size, collar size, etc.).

Speaking of patterns, Xerox your pattern, and place it face down on your wood. Carefully iron it at the highest setting (linen) and the black lines will be transferred to your wood. Remember, any writing will be backwards.

### START YOUR OWN WOODWORKING LIBRARY

Get a book on sharpening techniques. It' a great place to start. Some titles you may want: Sharpening with

Waterstones, and The Accurate Table Saw, both by Ian Kirby. Making Woodworking Aids and Devices by Robert Wearingare is also good to have around. Get at least one book on finishing techniques. Another item in your library should be an album to put photos of your work. Don't use the "magnetic page" type. The glue stripes bleed through the pictures. Even if you do not sell your wood projects but just give them away, it is a nice reminder of what you have done and a history of your progress as a woodworker.

### ODDS AND ENDS

A roll of toilet paper in the shop comes in handy for wiping up small spills or when you just have to apply a dab of stain to a piece of wood. It also comes in handy for wiping dust off your glasses.

Take an old credit card and cut a notch in one short side. When you are applying wheels to a toy, it makes an excellent spacing gauge for the wheel-to-body clearance.

Are your squares square? I keep a 10 inch plastic 30-60-90 draftsman's triangle convenient for checking my tri-squares. I do not use it for anything else but checking squares. This way, when I drop one of my squares, I have a nice, clean, inexpensive but accurate 90 degree angle for checking the one I'm using. It's also great to make sure your table saw blade is square to the table.

A light coat of paste wax on the sides and face of my Jorgensen clamps will stop glue splatters from sticking to it. A strip of wax paper between the jaws and my project are also good (and cheap) insurance that the project will not become a semi-permanent part of the jaws.

When driving BRASS screws into a project, the slot gets bugged up. First drill a pilot hole and screw in a same-sized steel screw. This will cut the thread into the wood and allow the brass screw to go in easier. You may want to rub the thread on a piece of bees wax or ivory soap to act as a lubricant too.

*Steve Eckers has been a member since October 2000, and has since retired as a shop teacher.*



# Toys For Tots





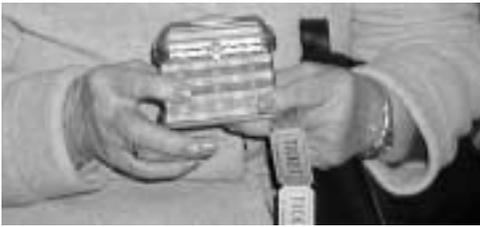
# Toys For Tots



# Show and Tell

As usual, several club members displayed their talents, to the admiration of all attendees.

Rich Macrae's curved, dovetailed stool, Peter Schultheiss's chess set, Ed Leitgeb's Betty Boop picture and Flo Leitgeb's small box delighted all.



## THANKS FROM STEVE COSTELLO:

I would like to give a special thanks to the members of the "100 Toy Gang." Their efforts have made this activity successful and I would like to recognize the following members who gave of their time and talents to this worthy cause:

**Frank Allaire, Harry Diaz, Owen Brady, Steve Eckers, Gabe Jaen, Graham Kelly, Jim Clancy, Bob Reimertz, Vic Werny, Rich Hickey, Sal Iglia, Alain Tiercy, Dennis Taddeo, John Keane, Joe Pascucci, John Capotosto, Joe Howard, Rich Macrae, Fernand Neuenschwander, Charlie Felsen, Don Peterssen, Bob Heathwood, Tom Rizzo, and Kurt Dietrich.**

I would also like to thank those who gave needed resources to this endeavor: **J & A Lumber, Roberts Plywood, Armor Crafts, Dick Weil, Mike Taranto, Owen Brady, Eliot Silverman, and Vic Venuti.** Needless to say this would not have been possible without the encouragement and financial support from the club.

Thanks to all!



# WOODWORKING SHOW 2004



## Application for Show Exhibit

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please select a category for the piece (circle which is appropriate)

- A. Furniture 1: Beds and tables
- B. Furniture 2: Desks and casegoods
- C. Furniture 3: Chairs
- D. Turning
- E. Toys/Crafts/Games: Includes any miniatures
- F. Accessories: Small projects that do not fit into "E"
- G. Unique: Any project not fitting into any other category
- H. Scrollwork/Intarsia/Marquetry
- I. Novice: A novice cannot have ever submitted a piece to any show, and must be new to woodworking. (placement will be at the Exhibit Committee's judgement)

Basis of design (circle which is appropriate)

- A. Original design
- B. Published plan
- C. Kit
- D. Class
- E. Other \_\_\_\_\_

Is this piece for sale (circle one) Yes No

Is the price negotiable (circle one) Yes No

What is the price? \_\_\_\_\_ (The Club receives a 10% donation of the sale price. Sales are through the Woodshop Gallery.)

Materials used:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Dimensions: \_\_\_\_\_

All entrants should know that their exhibits will be photographed, and that their projects may be submitted to magazines and newspapers for publication. Unless told otherwise, your piece will be entered for judging. This is suggested, as the judges will then be available for comments and suggestions for all judged entrants. Only members in good standing may have their projects judged.

## Shop Visit: Garrett Hack

*Mike Daum*



**I**t was a picture-perfect setting; a warm Saturday in November, a beautiful farm landscape in Vermont, absolute silence from the outside world - save the crisp sound of shavings peeling from a board of birds-eye maple by a sharp handplane. We were in woodworker's nirvana, at the shop of Garrett Hack.

The visit was more of a fact-finding mission to discover the logistics of arranging a future trip for a larger group of club members. Garrett's shop is a good six hour drive from Long Island, and as we discovered, to spend a quality day there would require leaving the afternoon before and spending the night at a motel or lodge nearby. Our small group included John Seiple, who drove to and fro, Bob Urso, Harry Hinteman, and myself (who slept to and fro).



When we arrived at Garrett's farm, we immediately recognized the infamous brick shop Garrett built right into the landscape (see pictures). Inside, an exquisitely crafted ladie's chest of drawers (in the making) immediately caught the eye, surrounded by an adequate assortment of well-cared for vintage power tools and, of course, the hand planes.

If you are not already familiar with Garrett Hack, you should know that he has written two books to date for Taunton Press; *Classic Hand Tools*, and *The Handplane Book*. His articles also appear regularly in the pages of *Fine Woodworking* magazine, where he is a contributing editor.

We talked a bit, sharing information, and collectively initiated an experiment on a recently-debated topic; yellow glue bonding to a planed board edge surface versus a surface lightly scuff-sanded. The result was evident - even freshly handplaned board edges will not bond as well as edges touched with sandpaper before edge-gluing the halves. When gluing up panels, lightly touch up the edges with 150 or 220 sandpaper. A dramatic difference was found when the boards were chiseled apart after drying.

The rest of the visit was a lesson on bent laminations, using a demi-lune table as a model. We also visited Garrett's wood piles of air-dried lumber, where we selected some boards of cherry and curly aspen to bring home. All in all, the long drive is absolutely worthwhile.



The club will plan and schedule a trip in the spring, sometime after Show 2004. Garrett will be a seminar speaker at the Show, so we'll welcome him back to Long Island in April. Until then, I'd highly recommend becoming familiar with his written works. I'm on Chapter 7 of *The Handplane Book* right now...and recognize many of his planes from our visit.



# LIWC MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Complete your renewal by clearly printing the information requested in the spaces below, and return this form, along with your check in the amount of \$25.00 to:

**Joe Bottigliere  
1238 Church Street  
Bohemia, NY 11716**

Checks should be made out to the **Long Island Woodworkers' Club**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Date Joined \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Work/Office Phone \_\_\_\_\_

The Club Board would appreciate your comments concerning club operations, programs, speakers, seminars, etc. Your input, whether pro or con, is necessary for the club to prosper and be of value to you as an individual member. Please don't be bashful. All comments are welcome. We would also like to know if you are interested in serving on one or more committees and those areas of woodworking that are of greatest interest to you.

**COMMENTS:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The Club keeps a directory of what types of tools, and what interests each member has. We do this in an effort to expand our "woodworking family." Since no one has all the tools they need, this directory will serve as a "phone book" of all unusual tools and techniques we as Club Members are willing to share. Please list these below:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**TO ALL MEMBERS: MEMBERSHIPS RUN FROM JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31. TO REMAIN A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING, YOUR RENEWAL IS DUE BY DECEMBER 31, 2003. NEWSLETTERS WILL NOT BE MAILED TO MEMBERS NOT IN GOOD STANDING.**

## The Marketplace

Five 24 x 72 infrared ceiling heating panels complete with thermostat/switch, prewired for 220 V. Designed for a lay-in ceiling or can be mounted to any ceiling. \$150

**Daryl Rosenblatt DarylRos@AOL.com**

Performax 25 x 2 Dual Drum Sander with Power Feed; 5 HP 220 V Leeson Motor. Machine has "low mileage" Asking \$2,000 firm.

**Bob Urso (631) 724-4625 or through the club website**

12" Sear's bandsaw, good condition \$175.00

14" Reliance Bandsaw, good condition. \$225.00

10" Ryobi Tablesaw, good condition

**Charlie Morehouse at 631-271-7251**

Craftsman 12" band saw  
Craftsman drill press  
Delta 12" planer

Grizzly 8" jointer  
Air compressor and nail guns  
Craftsman 10" Radial saw  
Delta Wood lathe \*  
Delta Contractors saw 10"\*  
Craftsman Jig saw(give away)  
Router table/ with Porter Cable  
Sthil chain saw  
Wood chipper

**Robert Rudd (631) 261-0371 rrudd@suffolk.lib.ny.us**

Craftsman 12" Bandsaw in good condition \$125

**Neal Fergenson (516) 796-9052**

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LONG ISLAND WOODWORKERS' CLUB



4 Pam Court  
South Setauket, NY 11720

First Class Mail