

# OREGON WOOD WORKS

## SUMMER DAYS—FLYING BY



Tool of the Month

Last month's issue was a great change of pace. Several of you shared your projects. I loved that! This month it's back to what the editor can dream up. You'll notice a bit shorter issue, coming out a few days later than normal. And less variety. Two major events occurred this past month that consumed all available time and energy. One a week and one, every waking free moment for the month.

That changes the slant of the newsletter from a number of small articles about the projects that have occurred to a presentation on those

low projects. There are a number of interesting articles cooking, but they take time to flesh out and present. No time this month. Probably no time next month. In fact next month has travel involved. There may be a void in the newsletter series. Some of you will remember a long motorcycle trip last summer that caused the newsletter to skip a month. Well no motorcycle trip this year, although it was planned and superceded, but the Stagecoach and a mini-reunion trip to Michigan are all consuming. See you in September.

—ed

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### OUR NEXT MEETING—AUGUST 15, 2007 7:00PM

The August guild meeting will be at the Northwest Woodworking Studio, located at 1002 SE 8th (on the corner of 8th and Yamhill).

This is a special evening with Will Neptune, master carver and period furniture maker from Boston, Mass. He will be in town doing a workshop on his Marlborough Chippendale Hall table and has offered his time to talk with us.

Jon Zimmer of Jon Zimmers Antique Tools will also be there with a presentation of his business. The board meeting is at 6:00, all members are welcome to attend.

The general meeting begins at 6:30 for some social time, and then the structured meeting will open a little early at 6:45 so Mr. Neptune can begin his program at 7:00.

Directions:

From I-5 traveling North, take the Water Avenue exit (OMSI). Head east to 8th avenue on any of a few streets. Then North on 8th to Yamhill.

Bring a chair if you can, and enjoy!

—Brian

*Note: Watch the website for the September meeting. There may not be a newsletter next month. — ed*

## SUMMER WOODWORKING DOLDRUMS

BY LEE JOHNSON, PRESIDENT

**A**h, summer in the Pacific Northwest. Few parts of the Country are ever as nice as Bridgetown in summer, no matter what time of year.

It's time to take the kids to the lake, picnic, hike Mt. Hood trails, fish the streams, sit on the sidewalk with a latte and watch the passers-by, even mow the lawn in the long evening twilight -- time for almost everything except woodworking?

Well, don't feel alone. And don't feel guilty if you're not getting to the shop with regularity; few do. For the Guild, it means lower attendance at the summer meetings, don't even try to hold a workshop, use up the last guilt chips you've got to put the arm on volunteers for some shows, and don't expect a whole lot more.

But you know what? We've got 7 or 8 months of grizzly weather that makes us want to get to the workshop. That's when it's fun to see friends and colleagues on a Thursday night to work on the latest Guild project, spend a Saturday learning a new

skill, and enjoy the bright lights of your workshop (which you've outfitted, of course, with full spectrum lighting to fight of the seasonal effective disorder hebegeebies.)

For me, summer is opening the shop bay doors to get the equivalent of working outdoors. It means quitting and going home early if it gets too hot. It means taking some days off now and then (like today) to catch up on chores around the house and grounds. It's laid back time.

So I hope your summer is the same. Hope you're enjoying this piece of real estate -- none finer this time of year. If you can remember, come out to the August meeting to hear from a first-class (escaping-the-East-Coast-August-heat & humidity) wood artist, but frankly, don't change your vacation plans to do it.

I am hereby setting the tone for the amount of effort that needs to go into the Guild in the Summer by keeping this article brief. Have a good rest of summer!

*...summer is opening  
the shop doors ...  
working outdoors ...*

## WOODWORKING SERIES

BY GIG LEWIS

The Basics of Fine Woodworking Class will be starting on September 26, 2007., and consist of the follow 7 general subjects."

- Sept. 26 Safety & Measuring and Basics of Power Tools
- Oct. 03 Bench Tool Introduction
- Oct. 10 Material Preparation & Design
- Oct. 24 Routers and Jigs
- Nov. 07 Cabinet Construction & Table Saw
- Nov. 14 Finishing
- Nov. 28 Making your own Chisel and Edged Tools

His is a totally new concept and series, designed to appeal the the beginning woodworker.

These classes will be held at the various member/instructor's shop. The class size is limited to 5 students and the fee is \$100 for the entire series.

## GUILD SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Event	Date	Activity
Finishing	Sept. 13, 20, and 27	3 sessions on finishing using different types and techniques
Basics of Fine Woodworking	Starts 9/26. Limit of 5 students	7 session class on the basics of Woodworking. Includes Measuring; Power Tools, Hand Tools, Design considerations, Cabinets, Table Saw; Routers, Finishing and more.
Carving	10/27	Decorative and Detail carving with Lee Johnson.
Table Construction	March, 2 days. \$215	How to build a table with Bill Bolstad

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Welcome aboard Nick Brandt, Darrell Davis, Scott Lee. Larry Rasmusson, Greg Weigel

# IRON & WOOD, A PERFECT MARRIAGE

BY BOB OSWALD

It's been a busy month, and it's going to get worse. Deadlines.. thought those were left those behind in retirement from the business world. But everything in life, one way or another, is deadlines. In this case the Territorial Express will do the mail run September 20th weekend. And the Benton County Fair in Olympia begs of the presence of a stagecoach. That's the termination of the run and a perfect place to raise awareness. Lots of time, got all summer, months or at least weeks. And you know how

the deadlines are on your project. Your spouse starts asking "when will it be finished". Parts have been coming to life in wood. This month it's iron. What a great combination, wood and iron. You can think of wood as the washers between iron parts. The really cool part is that the two together make a structure that is much stronger and much lighter than either of the two mediums used by themselves. Wood forms the framework,



**Iron & woodworking**

iron adds the strength. Simple bolts and nuts tie it together. And to get fancy, the iron parts would be made in a forge, hammered by hand into shape, like the blacksmiths of a century ago. And that is the essence of this project. Welding is kept to a minimum; joining to parts together to make one. Insteadh, where time and

So the stagecoach project progress as of today. The coach body is finished and painted. The footwell has been installed. Benches need to be made.

The front and rear boots are complete and painted, awaiting leather straps to suspend them in place. The wheels are complete and will be installed Wednesday.



**Body painted, foot well next**

The under-carriage is making major progress... iron work all month long. A photo of the steering gear, hounds and tong shows



**Steering Gear—a perfect marriage of Iron and Wood**



**Coach on display at Ft Vancouver—July 4th**

some of the complexity involved. The big push of the moment is to get the suspensions system complete. The through-braces, about fifty feet of 2 inch leather strap folded on itself require quite a bit of iron. That will be done this week. This coach will rise to its feet at the Thurston

A note about iron working. Starting with rough shaping, there is hammering into final shape, welding or forging two pieces together. Drilling holes, clean up, test fit, drill matching holes in the mating wood surfaces, take apart and fine tune the joinery (wood/iron), reassemble, take apart and prime parts, final assemble and paint. A lot of trail, an occasional error.

And here's the most perfect twist to this story. The coach has moved from OCAC to the old Orenco Store. I thought that place was abandoned, but it happens to be owned by Rob. I can't believe and can't begin to express the joy and irony of bringing this 100+ year old coach to life in a historic building in the center of Beaverton that is also over 100 years old. It is so befitting. And we have stepped from

material allows the parts are hand forged. I defer to far greater talent than mine at this phase, but I will take a forging class this fall. I love the complement to woodworking. I have a 'pirates' chest in mind. If you have the same image I do, the chest is banded in iron. The hinges are hand forged.

*(Continued on page 5)*

# THEIR FINEST HOUR

BY BOB OSWALD

I am having the incredible good fortune this summer to be a part of history in two major events. This particular event is the Extreme Makeover, Home Edition. For those unfamiliar, a deserving family somewhere in the U.S. is selected to receive a new home. And it's done in a dramatic fashion, demolish the existing house and build an entirely new, completely furnished, totally landscaped home..... in one week!

Well they came to Oregon and selected Legend Homes, the company for which my wife works to build a home. So, at her insistence, prying a few precious days out of a very busy retirement schedule, I volunteered to help on site. It was the most awesome experience. I didn't see the family on either end, but marched down the road Monday morning in the "Braveheart" scene and spent three hot days helping right in the middle of construction.

So how does it work? The family is notified by surprise on Saturday morning that they have been selected from a number of possibilities in the area. At noon on Saturday they are taken away and sent on a very nice vacation on the other side of the country. A crew of TV folks move in and pack all of their belongings. On Sunday the site is prepared for it's major event. Tall grass mowed, yard obstacles removed, generally clearing the property.

On Monday morning the Braveheart scene occurs. Hundreds of volunteers march down the street, white



Braveheart—We Can Do It!!!!

helmets, blue t-shirts, all screaming with enthusiasm over the event that is about to transpire. Ty Pennington announces the project, greets the volunteers and the project begins. By Monday noon, the old house is demolished and within a few hours there is no sign that it ever existed. Before the debris is even hauled away, the track-hoes are carving out foundations and footings. As the left side of the new houses digout is completed and the 'hoes' are working the right side, the concrete crews are setting forms. And it goes like this all week.



Demolition begins—twenty minutes work

One phase is not even completed before the next phase begins.

The secret to building a home in a week is absolute, overpowering brute force. Where 4 people would set the forms, 40 people do it. Where 2 electricians would wire a house, 40 people are assigned. Where 4 framers would build walls, install trusses, add siding and roofing... an awesome display of 'firepower' occurs. Parr Lumber pre-built all the walls from plans that were less than a few days old. Two flatbed trucks brought all the walls. Two more brought all the roof trusses. A crew of over 60 framers installed wall panels. The house went from a deck to standing trusses in about three hours. And it FIT. I watched a huge pre-built wall (a panel) drop into place and with a few raps of a hammer, slide gracefully between to already standing walls. Precision you wouldn't believe possible.



Boom Truck

The orchestration of manpower was awesome.



Twenty three minutes—mud to rock

Two main project leaders for Legend Homes were on site 24 hours a day, alternating shifts.

And no micromanagement here. The subcontractors know how to do their jobs. They manage their own tasks. The project managers are there to assure, to direct traffic and when the time is right, to stay out of the way.

(Continued on page 6)

## EXTREME MAKEOVER, BILL'S EDITION

I volunteered to work on the Extreme Makeover Home Edition project. The project was rewarding, fun, hard work, and at times challenging to overcome boredom while waiting for camera crews to decide what to do. I met wonderful woodworkers who shared stories and life experiences. I also learned different methods of working and reaffirmed some prejudices about using quality materials and workmanship. I came away with a bright blue t-shirt and a new hat, and several thoughts about working on a volunteer team.

### What I Learned in Four Days of Volunteer Work

- ◆ Demolishing then rebuilding a 4000 sq. ft. house in 6 days is an amazing process to watch first hand.
- ◆ It is fun and rewarding to watch and participate in a gigantic team-building exercise.
- ◆ Planning is the most important process in completing a project.
- ◆ If you take a thin cut on 4"X12"x10' green cedar beams, you can smooth them with millions of passes through a Craftsman planer and then through a brand new Craftsman planer (first one broke). Green cedar is very heavy and it takes lots of drinking water for the four people working as a team in 102 degree heat.
- ◆ Focus on what you are doing for the project, not what the project can do for you.
- ◆ Every project has a braggart who no one appreciates. Some people are not team players.
- ◆ Hard work and good craftsmanship is admired by all woodworkers.
- ◆ A spring loaded nail set is very handy to own.
- ◆ It takes less time to start with good material than it does to make crap look good.
- ◆ A self-taught person is only as good as his teacher. This supports the saying "I do it better because I do it twice."

the wonderfully perfect tools at OCAC to the more basic shop, wood and iron, reminiscent of the era of this coach. It could not be more appropriate, more picturesque. The biggest hazard is neighbors and passers by wondering what is going on. This store, vacant and abandoned looking for decades, has come to life. And a stagecoach is being born here.

By next newsletter the coach will stand on its wheels. It will be test drawn by a horse team. I am anxious for the real ride.

See [www.TerritorialExpress.com](http://www.TerritorialExpress.com) for details.



**The Orenco Store = Stagecoaches**

## EXTREME MAKEOVER (CON'T)

The pride of workmanship shows. TV audiences wonder what kind of quality could possibly go into such a rush job. You had to be there. Standing in the middle



of these groups of home building specialists. No shoddy workmanship here. No short cuts. It's done right; it's done to code; and by God our crew will be sure to finish on time and not be responsible for holding up the project.

Each time I talk about the project, and even now as I write about it, emotions well up. To see this incredible outpouring of effort, commitment, dedication, generosity touches the soul. Many friends have said that the show on TV brings tears, every time, all the time. Try to imagine being in the middle of this effort; you can not imagine. To have been there I can only tell you that emotions run strong many times a day, all day long, all week long.

Back to the details. The preassembled panels fit, perfectly. It was a complex floor plan. It was a complex elevation. It is impossible to believe that a total house, 4000 square feet, could be pre-built from first time, never tested plans... and fit!

And an emergency occurs, midnight of the first night. Pouring concrete with hot mix trucks. This stuff goes off fast, so it is dry mixed at the plant in Corvallis. Then the water and accelerator is added to the truck a half mile down the street, a temporary plant set up for this kind of high speed project. Twenty three minutes later this stuff will be rock. Another myth to talk about. Fast set concrete probably produces faulty end results. This material is (and was) tested by the construction company. It has double the normal concrete strength.

So.... at midnight the concrete plant broke down.

Four painful hours of delay to get it back on line. HALF the slack in this project. And worse, all the trades people are scheduled on the job in thirty minute intervals. Many show up and have to wait four hours for their task to begin. Strangely, happily, no one is grumbling or complaining. Problems happen. When it's our turn, let us not be a reason for more delays.

And the miracle of the project. Sheet rock occurs late in the cycle. They were called and moved back a few hours so they would not have to stand and wait. When they go the news of problems, this outstanding company called its competitors and got more hands for the job. What was planned to be about 50 sheet rockers to do their job in about six hours turned out to be 168 hearty souls, and they did the job in TWO hours, hanging and tape. Ready for paint. The convoy of cars from I-5, the parade of blue shirts, liability releases all signed, marching onto the property... brings grown men to tears. They alone brought the project back on schedule.

On the human side our daily life is traffic, eight-to-



Walls, siding, trusses, roofing, windows, electrical—all at the same time

five, traffic, hot days, snowy winters. Life goes on, daily, for everyone. But the indomitable spirit of man; we can put a person on the moon, we can build the Hoover dam, we can build a house in four days. It is moving, emotional, to see what people can do when they rally to a cause.

I'm very sad that my call to the Guild for volunteers did not occur. The mail system was malfunctioning. A couple of people got the message. Bill Bolstad was on the right list and volunteered. I think it was a moving experience for him also.

# EXTREME MAKEOVER (CON'T)

This was the most moving experience of my life. The incredible generosity of merchants, companies and individuals. The coordination of such massive numbers of people, the totally selfless giving of every worker. Sub contractors pulled in help from their competitors. Trades people talked in parking lots.... If you can do this, I can do that. Helping each other. If you have ever seen new home construction you know there is typically only one sub-contractor on site at a time. At the 1/3 point of this project there were concrete, post and beam, decking, framing, roof trusses, electrical, heating and plumbers all working simultaneously. The house basically flowed from left



Forty electricians waiting their turn

of it. They stopped all other work they were doing and sent entire crews to do a massive job of perhaps a weeks duration in two hours.

Cooperation – every subcontractor trade normally works alone on a job. On this job there were at least six different trades working simultaneously at any given time, and helping each other.

Generosity – Legend Homes and every single contractor donated everything. All the material and labor to build this house. And the businesses in Corvallis, OR donated food, gifts, furniture. You can't begin to imagine. This home was furnished to the point of complete new wardrobes for every family member, food in the pantry,

complete kitchen appliances and utensils. Staggering.

The program will air in late September or early October. I'll send out a short note assuming some are interested, when I know the date.

This was a once in a lifetime experience. I am so please to have participated.



A new home, landscaped, furnished...

to right like an artist painting across a canvas.

Around two thousand workers and volunteers worked 6 days non-stop, around the clock. Incredible. The indomitable spirit of man!!

So many stories. And what touched me so much, besides the sheer technology and magnitude of such a project, was the enthusiasm, cooperation and generosity of so many people.

Enthusiasm – every subcontractor working for Legend Homes wanted to be a part



*The Guild of Oregon Woodworkers is a group of professional and amateur woodworkers like you, committed to developing our craftsmanship and wood-working business skills. The Guild offers many benefits for members, including*

- *monthly educational meetings*
- *monthly newsletter*
- *mentoring program to help members develop their skills in specific areas*
- *discounts*
- *woodworking shows*
- *network of business partners (the key to our development as members and as a Guild, providing additional learning opportunities)*
- *and a network of support.*

*For information on how you can become a member, contact Guild President Lee Johnson at 503-292-4340 or email [leejohnson13@comcast.net](mailto:leejohnson13@comcast.net)*

## **GUILD OF OREGON WOODWORKERS**

P.O. Box 13744, Portland, OR 97213-0744

### **CLASSES, SEMINARS, DEMOS, AND SUCH....**

**Northwest Woodworking Studio** 503-284-1644, [www.northwestwoodworking.com](http://www.northwestwoodworking.com)

**Rockler Woodworking** 503-672-7266, [www.rockler.com](http://www.rockler.com)

**Oregon College of Art and Craft** 503-297-5544, [www.ocac.com](http://www.ocac.com)

**Woodcraft** 503-684-1428, [www.woodcraft.com](http://www.woodcraft.com)

**Woodcrafters** 503-231-0226, 212 NE 6th Avenue, Portland, [www.woodcrafters.us](http://www.woodcrafters.us)

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\* Some sponsors offer discounts to current Guild members. Refer to the website under *Benefits/Discounts* for details and restrictions. Remem-

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### **Guild of Oregon Woodworkers**

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**We're on the Web!**

[www.GuildOfOregonWoodworkers.com](http://www.GuildOfOregonWoodworkers.com)