

# OREGON WOOD WORKS



Fingers: The 4-inch rule

## SAFETY BEGINS AT SEVEN

BOB OSWALD, PRESIDENT

I'm continuing to observe, to help and to learn in the Gaston High School, the seventh period junior high wood shop. Seventh grade, that's when students here first have the wood shop program available to them. And it's all about Safety, with a capital S.

I wondered when I first started volunteering here, "How do you ease young and enthusiastic people into safe use of dangerous tools?" Well, first you tell them and demonstrate procedures. You talk to kids of all ages like adults, something I didn't know how to do having grown into senior status without children of my own. I'm finding that they listen, they learn and they understand. They don't usually ask questions, but then neither do a lot of adults in my classes. You never know if you're getting through, so it's ok to assume that you are.

Here is the fascinating part to me, the 'reinforcement' process, discipline to use another word. Mr. Sims has a great concept at work. In the working world, if you do something against the rules, usually more than once, you get fired. His students get fired, for safety violations. That ranges from

improper use of a tool after they have been instructed, dangerous behavior such as hosing a friend with the compressed air, horseplay, anything that creates a possibility of injury to yourself or a fellow student.



Getting fired is no joke here. In this school these students take this wood class every day, and they receive a grade every day. A day is worth 10 points. If you get fired, you first get to spend the rest of the period sitting on the steps in the corner, a reminder to everyone that safety is critical and that there is no tolerance. Second, you lose your ten points for the day. You take a zero.

It gets more intense. If you're fired five times, you spend every day of the rest of the semester on the steps. No more woodworking. From then on, each day you must read three woodworking related articles and write

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### Tool of the Month

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NEXT MEETING—JUNE 16, 2009 7:00 PM

## MR. FRANK TASHIRO

Franklin High School, 5405 SE Woodward Portland, OR

Mr. Frank Tashiro, from Seattle, is an expert on Japanese woodworking tools. By avocation, he is a blacksmith in the Japanese tradition, and therefore knows a great deal about how Japanese woodworking tools are made and how they should be used. He is now 88 years old and still sells Japanese saws, doing business as Tashiro Hardware, LLC. He will talk to us about saws and their proper use as well as hand sharpening chisels, plane blades, and if we're interested, knives,

Mr. Tashiro says he likes to have the group tell him what they are interested in before he starts to talk, so come with questions about Japanese woodworking tools to get him talking.

Directions: Crossing the Ross Island Bridge east-bound, take SE Powell to 52nd, turn North to SE Woodward, then right on Woodward; the shop is on the corner on the left.

Board meeting at 5:30 (we're overdue).

## SIXTH ANNUAL INTRA-GUILD SHOW

BOB OSWALD

**W**hat a show that was. You are ALL winners! I think this was the biggest Intra-Guild show ever, both in attendance and number of entries. Twenty-nine exhibitors with 12 advanced, 10 Intermediate and 7 beginners. Many more 'admitted' high end people than ever before.

### **Without You, No Show**

A very, very, very big thank you to all the Guild members who participated. It's because of you that this works. I heard comment after comment about the incredible high quality of ALL the exhibits. Every single one of you, ribbon or not, did an excellent job. I like to think I'm pretty good, but I came away (again) humbled.



**What a show! You are all Winners!**

A very large thank you to our fine judges, best in the business. Gary Rogowski from Northwest Woodworking Studio, Michael deForest from Oregon College of Art and Craft and Ariel Enriquez from the Joinery. The Guild really appreciates the time you spent to help us. I imagined trying to be a judge and felt quite intimidated. You all took it in stride.

### **Keeping the Memory Alive**

This event grew out of Len Walko's discovery on the Arizona Association of Fine Woodworkers website. They do a show like this and Len brought the idea to the Guild six years ago. The George E. DuBois award was created in thanks to George for all the work he had done as a five-year president in building the Guild to what it is today. Sadly, George passed away last year; This award turned out to be a fitting and lasting tribute to him.



**George DuBois**



**Mark Roberts**

### **And the winners were:**

#### **Best of show**

The coveted award went home with Mark Roberts for an outstanding Big Bottom Myrtle Ukulele

#### **Advanced**

- First: Jim Hall, Turned Bowls
- Second: Vince Corbin, Modern Coffee Table
- Third: Leonard Worth, Music Stand

#### **Intermediate**

- First: Len Walko, Jewelry Chest
- Second: Jim Smith, Workbench
- Third: Jim Parker, Copper End Table

#### **Beginner**

- First: Robert Vaughn, Molly Brown table
- Second: Bob Bergstrom, Toolbox
- Third: Marcus Flanders, Inlay Jewelry box

### **Improvements**

We don't need to get too uptight about this. The important thing is that people participate, enter their projects. We all love to see what others do. But there's always room for improvement in the process.

#### *Should I Enter?*

I am sure there are some folks too intimidated to put their work on display. I hope you can realize and appreciate that we all do love to see projects. It's what we're there for. No matter what kind of work. I recall the wooden trucks I first brought to a meeting. I felt so out of place and was surprised at how much people enjoyed them. What can we do to encourage this?

#### *What Category?*

There's some hesitation about declaring yourself an intermediate woodworker when you think you're a rank amateur. And even more so, many great woodworkers don't want to commit to calling themselves advanced. I think we could use a little more definition of categories, perhaps a little 'do it yourself' test to help pick the right category. What do you think?

My own assessment of me comes to mind. I don't know that I'm that advanced as a woodworker but I enter that category because clearly, to me, I'm not a beginner. I feel very confident that I know more than enough about the techniques of woodworking to be beyond intermediate.

But a humbling reality regarding my entry was that,

(READING DOWN)

ADVANCED

INTERMEDIATE

BEGINNER

proud as I was of my work, it definitely fell short of "top three". When I compared it to the others it was not gallery quality by

a long ways. And truth is I knew it when I entered it. I just didn't want to take the time during construction to go the extra mile. I wanted to be finished. That does not make me not

be an advanced woodworker. Just one that has to work harder to be better.



Jim Hall

me after the show. Tell me why I didn't win. He did and it was one of the best lessons I ever had. There are several things I do better today be-



Len Walko



Robert Vaughn



The fun part for my wife and I is that we love the matching tables and enjoy them in the living room every day. They may not be gallery quality even though I started out to make them that way. The point is—just because they didn't measure up for a ribbon, that should not change the category in which I should enter. I'd like you all to share that perspective.



Vince Corbin



Jim Smith

cause of his help. Take this show as an opportunity to learn.



Bob Bergstrom

Arrangement

It was difficult to arrange products by category this time. Did that matter? The judges said they were ok with what we did.

More categories—Should we have an advanced category and a professional category?

Send your ideas to [TimberCreek08@gmail.com](mailto:TimberCreek08@gmail.com) Help make this great experience become superior.

Thank you to Len Walko for the excellent photos

I didn't win anything

It can be an empty feeling. It was for my first entry five years ago and it was this time. But please don't let it detract from your enthusiasm. A couple of years ago I asked Ariel to critique



Leonard Worth



Jim Parker



Marcus Flanders

## BEST OF SHOW AWARD

BOB OSWALD



**T**hank you very much to Len Walko and Sid Sutherland this year for producing the Best of Show award.

The plaque is East India rosewood laminated onto maple and then engraved with a CNC router. The finish is "Agualente" by M.L. Campbell, a pre cat water based lacquer. After 4 coats it was rubbed out with Abralon pads, from 360 to 4000 using paraffin oil diluted with mineral spirits as a lubricant. The stand is a bent lamination of Bolivian Rosewood.

Sid and Len donated the material and quite a bit of time to make this outstanding award.

Photos do not do justice to the real thing!!

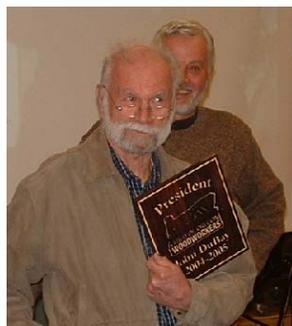
## AWARD PRESENTATIONS

LEN WALKO & SID SUTHERLAND

Two awards were presented at the Guild meeting last week, a small way of saying thank you for great efforts put forth.

### Past President

John DuBay received a "Past President" plaque marking his years of service as President of the Guild, 2004 and 2005. In the chain of succession, John followed George DuBois and was succeeded by Lee Johnson.



**John DuBay  
President 2004-5**

### Certificate of Appreciation

Mike Denham was recognized for his participation as one of the teachers in the Basis of Fine Woodworking, in the segment on Safety & Measuring; Basics of Power Tools. He has also donated many hours in help on community projects as well as building and restoring projects for people in the name of the Guild. Thank you very much, Mike.

## LAROQUE ON THE LOOSE

FRANK LAROQUE

**I**f you are rebuilding an antique and need old screws and only modern galvanized coated screws are available, not to worry. Here are a few tips.

- (1) Soak the zinc or galvanized screws in white vinegar for a few days and then rinse them under hot running water, because they will be really dirty. The scum rinses off and this leaves the screws looking freshly made with out the shine.
- (2) Dip the screws in "Gun-Blue" to make them a blue/black. This makes them look 100s of years old. Gun blue is available in any store that sells guns and ammo. I found it in Bi-Mart. You can also use the solution for darkening brass.
- (3) If the slot is wallowed out, use a hacksaw with two 24 tooth blades. Install the blades so the teeth are in opposite directions. This will make the slot the right size for larger screws. If the screw is little, use only one blade.
- (4) To restore a hole or to move a hole, use shish kabob skewers and white glue. Sharpen them in a pencil sharpener and cut off with garden clippers. This will fix holes from #4 to #12.
- (5) If the hole is just a little loose, fill with C/A glue and let it dry before re-installing the screw. This hardens the surrounding wood fibers and swells them slightly and the screw will re-seat itself. Please don't put the screw in wet C/A glue, this makes it a permanent part of the wood, unless you spray the screw with Pam.

**I**t is amazing the things that can be learned after a life time of doing woodworking and coming up with things that are so simple and very effective. I was sanding a table top that I am refinishing and the sand paper kept filling with gunk. I threw away piece after piece. The top was laying on carpet samples. Out of frustration, I rubbed the paper on the carpet and to my utter amazement, all the gunk came off the sandpaper !!!!!!! Needless to say all the used sandpaper came out of the garbage and I cleaned them all. I tried different carpets and found that the deep pile worked the best. Some of the carpet will stick to the sandpaper and it is easily brushed off.

**A**nd NAPA can come to the rescue. They sell a product called "Super-Clean" and it removes all kinds of junk, grease, and most importantly, rust. I don't know what makes it so good, but, full strength it can remove any crud on any metal surface. Diluted a bunch, it removes rust from chrome and does not have any abrasives in it. I just found out about it when I had to clean up a 40 year old tri-cycle. It looked new after cleaning with this stuff and just had to polish the paint and have the seat recovered. It has instructions on the back for all the different applications. You've got to try this stuff, it is unbelievable. Surprisingly it is biodegradable. Also is really cheap, \$15 a gallon.

## WOODWORKING: DIVERSITY

BOB OSWALD

**W**oodworking is SO rich in diversity. When I think about other hobbies of mine, they are limited to a pretty narrow perspective. Take a look at wood-working.

There are the types of projects, the woods, finishes, plans, machines, tools, bits, techniques, processes.

Joinery alone generates dozens of terms, mortise and tenon, dovetail (half blind, through and sliding), lap, rabbet, dado, bridle, groove, miter, butt and many, many more.

Woodworking techniques range from carving and turning through Marquetry and intarsia to toys and boxes and furniture. And that doesn't take into account outdoor, construction and household projects.

Projects range from decks to furniture (tables, chairs, beds, dressers, nightstands, armoire), cabinets, toys, jewelry. Styles like Craftsman, Louis XIV, Modern, Arts and Crafts, Shaker, Provincial.

Look at the wood, hundreds of species with focus on dozens of more common names: Walnut, Cherry, Birch, Oak, Sapele, Myrtle, Beech, Bubinga, Cocobolo, Zebra and Maple. And they come in curly, Birdseye, quilted, spalted, burl, quarter sawn, vertical grain.

Machines – power tools, bandsaw, table saw, radial arm saw, scroll saw, miter saw, drill press, jointer, planer, router.

Hand tools, to name just a few, like chisels, scrapers and planes with their dozens of sub-levels, scrub, jack, jointer, smoothing, shoulder, dado.

Hand power tools drill, skil-saw, jig saw, nailers, sanders in pad, orbital, random, corner.

And so many things to learn about the edge of a cutting tool – crosscut, rip, laminate, glue line, thin kerf and combination saw blades, all of which have some kind of set, hook, rake, kerf, alternate bevel, skip tooth.

Router bits go into the hundreds; straight, flush trim dovetail, pattern, round over, bead, cove, bull nose, hundreds of names

Finishing runs a gamut beyond wax, lacquer, varnish, shellac, oil, French polish, sandpaper, grit, tack cloth.

Jigs – cutoff sled, miter sled, straight line jig, taper jig, cove cutting, box joint to name but a few of the conventional ones. This category is limitless.

Is it any wonder that people new to this sport are overwhelmed? And that's also the incredible beauty of it for me. There is literally no end to what you can learn.

An observation from a student in the Basics Class, and a

very astute one. "There's so much to learn and know that I just don't know where to start". My advice is somewhat simple, "*just start somewhere*". Don't go buy all the best tools and build the best shop and then try to decide what to build. Pick something out of a magazine, or take a suggestion from your spouse, or something that just appeals to you.

Ideally it's 'simple', somewhere on the low end of project scale.

Start with a birdhouse or a jewelry box. Graduate to a blanket chest. Some day take on a new kitchen.

Find a plan and buy what ever minimal tools you need to do the job, with an eye towards it being the best tool you can afford so that you can keep it forever, and build something. I can not count how many people have said later how much they learned

on that first project. Then pick something else and "just do it". I can promise you that in five years, you will look back and be.... well.... pleased. And the fun part... you'll have a bunch of tools that you actually use. And you'll have projects that, even if they're not the best in the world, the early ones, you'll be so pleased with your progress. You will be just as proud of that first one as the last, because YOU built it and you started down a wonderful path.

*Woodworking  
diversity...  
that's also the  
incredible  
beauty of it ...*

## BEAUTIFUL HOPE CHEST

BOB OSWALD

Lee Johnson brought his latest commission, this stunning Hope Chest, to the Guild meeting this month, a wonderful inspiration for all of us. Cedar lined with a hidden compartment, Mahogany, carved flowers, inlaid marquetry rose and Snowdrops in the top, fluted columns and sulfur filled lettering for the well-aged look. Lee mentions the Marquetry as his first attempt. You'd never know it.

I can only hope some day to have Lee build something for me. Truly breathtaking. And hidden mistakes he's always willing to share.



## NWS CLASSES

BOB OSWALD

Joinery Concentration: Carcasses, June 7-11  
 Joinery Concentration: Frames June 14-18  
 Workbench Skills: Hand Planes June 21-25  
 Greene & Greene Side Table, June 28 +  
 Design with Nature, Jul 12-16  
 Demi-lune Table, Jul 26-30  
 Dovetailed Hope Chest, Aug 2-6  
 Japanese Hand Planes, Aug 13-15  
 Shaker Breakfast Table, Aug 16-20  
 Hand Tool Concentration: Tools for the Shop, Aug 23-27  
 Finishing, Sept 13-17  
 Elevated Seating: Rogowski Stool, Sept 20-24

For details, see [www.NorthwestWoodworking.com](http://www.NorthwestWoodworking.com)

## EXCERPTS ON FINISHING

JOE CORNETT

### Study, Practice

There is in-depth information on staining and finishing, available in books and videos. Magazine articles are a great source of information to increase your knowledge on finishing. Nevertheless, the best formula to better finishing is plain old hands on experience. Practice will allow you to get the feel of how different finish products work. What works for someone else might not work for you.

### **Rule # 1 – TEST**

Use a scrap from your project. Sand it the same, stain it the same, and topcoat it the way you plan to do the final project..

Start early, while your working on your project. You have the scrape right now. Sand three samples at 120, 150, 180 and stain. The next day add another coat of stain if you wish. When dry add a topcoat. Take good notes on the back of the test pieces and you will have the exact stain recipe when you are ready to finish.

*The best advise I can give you is, never believe anything, anyone, including me, tells you about finishing until you test it for yourself.*

### \* \* \* FOR SALE \* \* \*

Brand new (assembled) Delta 2 H.P. Dust Collector, model 50-761. 2100CFM, 230V Single Phase. It is too large from my shop. Brett Marshall 914 320 9225 \$450.

## SUMMER CLASS SERIES

### **Fundamentals of Furniture Design**

Lee Johnson will be teaching this two day class:  
 Tuesday June 22 and Thursday June 24th  
 6:00pm to 9:00 pm  
 Lee's shop in NE Portland  
 Class Size: 15  
 Cost \$ 50.00 for both days (includes pizza dinner)

This Class will give you the basic skills to transform your ideas into a successful furniture piece. It will explore the geometry of classic designs and show how it applies to contemporary design. The class will discuss proportion, the golden ratio and other methods to get a pleasing look. Also covered will be the use of curves, and decorations (inlay, beading, carving) on furniture. What is too little – what is too much. Most importantly it will show you how apply these techniques to your furniture. To sign up contact Dennis Dolph at (503) 238-6319 or [damd@xprrt.net](mailto:damd@xprrt.net)

### **Jigs with Rob Lewis**

Rob Lewis of OCAC will be teaching this evening class:  
 Friday June 18<sup>th</sup>  
 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm  
 Oregon College of Art and Craft Wood Shop  
 Class Size: 15  
 Cost: \$25 (includes pizza dinner)

Rob will build at least 5 basic jigs for use with table saws and routers in your shop. He is always a wealth of information and “tricks of the trade”. To sign up contact Jenny Jecmen 503-760-7276 or [jj@pacifier.com](mailto:jj@pacifier.com)

### **Hand Tool Sharpening with Frank LaRoque**

Tuesday July 13th 2010, 6:00-9:00 PM  
 Franklin High School  
 Cost \$35.00 includes a Gorbet file (and pizza)

Learn how to sharpen auger bits, Forstner drill bits and wood cutting bits. 1 1/2 hour Q&A, the remaining time for practicing sharpening your wood bit.

To sign up, contact Chris Frazier 503 705-2636 or [frazier1@comcast.net](mailto:frazier1@comcast.net)

### **Rebuilding Old Machines**

Tuesday July 20<sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm  
 7065 N. Wabash Ave. 97212  
 Class Size: 8  
 Cost: \$35 (includes pizza dinner)

Guild Member Gary Moshofsky will show you what to look for in old machines. The process of disassembling them. Everything you need to know about bearings. He's have handouts on resources for finding old/odd parts and websites to order outdated manuals.....and more. To sign up contact Jenny Jecmen 503-760-7276 or [jj@pacifier.com](mailto:jj@pacifier.com)

## A FEW THINGS ABOUT HARDWARE, AND WHERE TO FIND IT

LEONARD WORTH

Does everyone know that machine (twist) drill bits come in increments other than your standard hardware store variety of 1/64 of an inch? They come in number sizes that vary by a few thousandths, in sets or individually. How about a .503 inch bit instead of the standard .500 with just enough clearance to let the dowel in smoothly but tight. A couple of sources would be Wink's Hardware on SE Stark or Munnell & Sherrill on NE 63rd. You may have to pay about 3 times as much as a hardware store bit, but the quality in steel is far superior. I keep one of these quality sets just for things like pilot holes for screws in hardwood.

A good deal of the space taken up in my small wood-working/metal shop is full of jigs. Jigs everywhere; drilling jigs, table saw and welding jigs, and of course lots of router jigs. Some of them I've made 35 years ago, and haven't a clue what they're for.

They're made of MDF, aluminum, rubber, plastic, steel, polyethylene, screws, springs, and of course wood. Say for example that you need to cut a bunch of 3/8 or 1/4 inch steel plate for something and both your laser cutter, AND your CNC machine are on the fritz. What are you going to do? My favorite steel cutter in this situation is a \$5 "Lennox" bi-metal hack saw blade that fits into my old "toy" Black & Decker reciprocating jigsaw. Just make sure you support the work well, close to the cut, and that you hold the saw down hard against the piece so it doesn't bounce. Clean, quick set-up; accurate and no melted slag to deal with. I am always surprised at how fast this cuts, a good 2 inches per minute. Fast and easy enough for me.

VERY important, be sure to wear tight fitting or double, triple eye protection. Those tiny little chips will try to find their way into your eyes if at all possible. It's also helpful to use a lubricating wax stick on the blade to make it cut better. Try Hall Tool on Grand Ave.

There are lots of other ways of cutting steel of course: plasma cutter, flame cutter, abrasive cutoff wheel, metal cutting bandsaw. DO NOT try to cut steel on your wood cutting band saw even with a bi-metal blade. You will instantly ruin the blade. However you can cut aluminum and brass on a wood cutting bandsaw even with a fine tooth regular blade, even relatively thick stuff. And for that matter did you know you can cut aluminum and brass on your table, or chop saw? Just go sort of slow, and be sure to use a carbide blade. Again, double your eye protection.

Aluminum, great stuff for making very accurate jigs that never warp or wear out. A favorite inexpensive place is Clackamas Steel just off Carver Road at Hwy 212 / 224 in Clackamas. This place is an inventor's paradise. Boxes and bins everywhere full of all kinds of steel in all kinds of shapes, and sizes, new and used.

Tubing, rounds, plates, pipes, angle iron, and what have you, all for about 49 cents a pound. I bought all the tubing and pipe needed to build a deluxe canoe / lumber rack for my pick-up for about \$26! They also have scrap and remnant aluminum, copper, brass, and stainless steel for about \$3 a pound. They don't care if it's just a piece of

brass bar stock, or the original ship's bell off the Titanic, it's \$3 a pound.

For aluminum plate, try Pacific Metal in Tualatin where they also sell remnants by the pound. Lots of good stuff. There is also Alaskan Copper & Brass around SE 26th & Raymond where you can buy stuff like bronze fly screen (hardware cloth), or .005 inch thick copper sheet by the foot for example. You go look at what you want, order it at the counter, then wait a day or so. It's expensive, but it's there.

If your looking for something specific, say a piece of two inch brass round stock eight inches long, and don't want to take your chances looking around for it used, you can call or go online to Metal Supermarket. They are all over the Northwest. I use the one on NE Whitaker Way by the airport. They are not cheap, but they have or can order exactly what you need, and in a jiffy. Metal Supermarket has some remnant bins where you might find a good deal, but be careful as they might have a minimum charge or cutting fee. The last time I was there looking for a piece of 3/16 X 3/4 inch aluminum bar stock to make a couple of cam clamps, I found a two-foot piece of material in the rems of just what I needed. The price was \$10. OR I could get a ten foot piece for \$10. A little quick math made that decision easy. Eight more cam clamps coming up.

If your looking for plastic, polyethylene, or anything connected with plastic, it's TAP Plastics, located all around the area. I use NE 28th & Sandy. They can custom cut anything you need, or they have a very full bin of all kinds of plastic and polyethylene rems for a buck a pound. 1/8 inch clear acrylic makes templates you can see the wood grain through. Need to make an auxiliary base plate for some special set-up on your router? You can probably pick up a blank piece of that same material in the remnant bin at TAP for about a dollar instead of paying \$10 at a supply store.

A couple more nuggets. If your router, jigsaw, or what have you goes on the fritz, or works intermittently, it's usually either the cord (broken), the switch (burned or broken), or the brushes (worn). You can throw it out, or have it checked out or repaired at a place called Charles Day on SE 11th in Portland. They can also order you a new cord/switch/brushes, and give some very sound advice, like toss it and buy a new one.

A note about bearings. They are very often a standard size, type of seal, dimensions and snap ring groove placement etc. Years ago I bought an old (vintage) American made wood lathe that I immediately tore to pieces. I bought it more to tear it apart and hot rod it up than to actually USE it. When replacing the head stock bearings I took them to McGuire Bearing Co on SE Market. They matched them, same brand name, and number. Often times you can get an even better quality bearing. Bearing supply places are everywhere. You don't have to buy everything at the hardware store.

I do not profess to be an expert in any of these subjects. This is just what I have found to work for me. I hope this has been of some interest and help. Good luck.

## ROUTER BASICS AND JIGS

ED VACHAL

How many times have you heard it said that the router is the most versatile tool in your shop? If you've only heard it a few times then you owe it to yourself to attend the Router Basics and Jigs class which is part of the series of the Guild's "Basics of Fine Woodworking" program. And if you feel you could get more performance out of your skills and your router then you definitely should attend this class.

The first class of 2010 visited host and instructor Bob Oswald, enjoyed his warm Gaston hospitality and listened intently to his riveting router basics class. Most of you recognize Bob's name—he's the President of the Guild, and some of you got entertained during the January monthly meeting by Bob's joinery and router knowledge when he built a frame and panel cabinet door for us.



The "Basics" class received practically one-on-one instruction and demonstrations of how to get a lot out of a router. Although the material was not daunting or overly complex, it definitely was right on target with just enough detail and showmanship to really inspire us no matter what our skill level.

Bob wasted no time in getting a discussion going. After the introductions and some basics like why the router is the most versatile tool in the shop, to safety (watch those fingers, protect the eyes and ears), and to the various applications a router can perform like: joinery, trim, cabinet construction, using a router like a jointer, and creating a mortise door hinge, Bob really got into his stride.

We got a tour of the three major categories of routers, and their features. We learned about the choices a person has when contemplating a router purchase. Do you want a hand held or a table model or do you want/need both? Do you want a variable speed versus a fixed speed? How will you use the router? What shank size should you consider? What about a fixed base versus a plunge base? And do you want to make multiple passes or are you impatient and only want to make a one-pass cut?

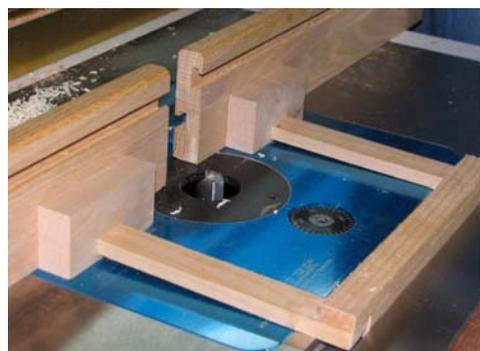


Then we got a

birds-eye look at the types, and styles, and uses of router bits, why some bits have bearings and others don't, why the savvy woodworkers suggest not buying cheap sets of bits, and what might make up a useful and versatile starter set of bits? Also, why you might choose a hand-held variety versus a table model router—and why you might want both types?

Some things to think about when considering a table model include buying or building that table, what a table should do and how you might want to set it up, how to think about calibration and alignment, looking for effective gauges to achieve specific thickness, direction of feed, why tear-outs occur and how to prevent snipe? Can you see why this is a great topic? Are you confused yet?

Then Bob got into the heart of the matter... making noise and sawdust, the demonstration part of his



presentation. He jumped over to his table mounted router, and took out piece after piece of wood. He started with a straight cut bit. He showed us how to cut a dado, a rabbet, a groove, a blind stop cut, and how the bit height affects each of those cuts. Then he switched to a round over bit and created some edge trim, and walked the board around with both an edge trim bearing and a starting pin, and then he created a dowel out of a square stick. From there he showed us various jigs a person can create or purchase to make life simpler like handles, push blocks, dove-tail jigs, miter spline and rail & stile jigs, oval cutter, stopped groove in a box, and a hinge mortise jig.

Free-hand routing is just as fascinating and effective as table routing.

To show us why that is Bob strutted over to his workbench and proceeded to create dados, widen dados, rabbets, trim pieces, creating floating tenon/mortises, tem-



## ROUTER BASICS (CON'T)

plates, drilling holes, and using guide bushings, and on to flush trim, trimming, shaping, and chamfering. Whew, we were getting a real workout.

Then, thankfully, we got an eye-popping demonstration of what can go wrong if you use a router incorrectly or if you're not paying attention or if you just plain don't know the perils and dangers of routing—and why some woodworkers consider the router the most wicked tool in the shop. Bob talked to us about the potential injuries, and he even sent a piece of wood into motion—think projectile traveling 50 mph! We got the basics of direction of cut, end grain cuts, splinters, grabbing, and just how strong a 2.5 hp router is, and four actions to never try with your router.



Let's talk about value for an instant. There are five students attending this "Basics" series. We invested \$125 in ourselves to attend ten sessions, and to get educated to become better woodworkers. Every class is at least three hours long, it's hosted by an instructor who is knowledgeable in the art of woodworking, we get practically one-on-one treatment, receive a plethora of information, see numerous demonstrations, enjoy great rapport, get all of our questions answered, and in some cases we get fed. The hospitality and camaraderie is top flight, and the spirit of giving is truly exemplary of the spirit of being a member of a guild. There is great value in this series of classes. This is a great investment we made in ourselves. I wish my retirement plan returned as much value as these classes contribute to my skills in becoming a better craftsman.

When you visit Bob's home be sure to enjoy the view from his front porch to the West. It's truly pristine and pastoral. And be sure to ask Bob to show you his living room end tables and also that spectacular hall table. These are several examples of Bob's patience, experience, and talent all put to good use. And the coffee cake was awesome too.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

BOB OSWALD

Hello to Craig Davis, Dan Phalen, Greg Kaufman, Joe Laws and John Finn.

We're happy to have you with us. Please introduce yourself to me at the next meeting. I'd like to know who you are.

## PRESIDENT: SAFETY

BOB OSWALD

*(Continued from page 1)*

a report on each one, for the rest of the semester, to pass the course. That's more forgiving than in the working world where a serious violation may cost you your job for real and forever, and possibly a lawsuit for what you may have caused.

Mr. Sims called the class together in the middle of the Monday class. All machines shut down and everyone hurries to his attention for a lecture. "You all know about the 4-inch rule, right? We've talked about it very often" and he calls on a student to explain the rule. "No fingers within 4 inches of a cutting tool". In this situation a student was shoving a very short piece through the bandsaw, randomly chopping off pieces. No purpose, it's what kids do some times. Not acceptable.

"In this shop we build safety. Other products occur as a result, but safety is what we're here for" reminds Mr. Sims.

Instilling safety into the students from the very beginning. It starts at seven, grade seven.

I'd like to report that the kids all read the newsletter last month and were delighted to be recognized by the Guild of Oregon Woodworkers. So what's happening in the shop?

Syera is finishing up a picture frame. She discovered that sanding the back without protecting the front causes scratches. Bench Cookies protected the back when re-sanding the front. Claire finished a birdhouse in record time and started turning a goblet, off center even! Chris is making a race car from the plan book, having finished a pen. Nathan finished up his 'key', a doorway to fantasy games he enjoys. A void filled with copper powder added to its mystique. Doug discovered the joys of trying to fill a large hole in a bottle stopper blank so it would stop spinning on the lathe. That conquered he's on to some scroll saw work. Nate completed a bottle stopper topped with a golf ball. It was beautiful and his work is certainly improving. He's now digging through the plan book for something more challenging. Carley, Lexie and Cloe are jointly building a table for the special ed department. Ashley took on the picture frame also, but embellished it with a Paduk accent, a really nice touch, ironically used to cover a mistake. Ryan learned how to transfer an image to wood, pressing with a pen through the paper. It will allow him to paint some detail into his scroll saw project. Jaycee and Haylie were putting finishing touches to the paint pattern for the candy dispenser.

Every day, every period, this shop is totally alive with busy workers, making things, making mistakes, getting smarter like the rest of us. These kids don't know the limits. They'll try anything. Sometimes it works, sometimes not; they fix their mistakes without a complaint. Sandpaper is for fixing things. And they use it and their work is nice.

"These kids are ready to roll up their sleeves and take hold of tomorrow"

*The Guild of Oregon Woodworkers is a group of professional and amateur woodworkers like you, committed to developing our craftsmanship and woodworking 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, see the Guild website listed below.*

## GUILD OF OREGON WOODWORKERS

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