

OREGON WOOD WORKS

THE EDITOR'S INSIGHT *Volunteering*

Summer is full swing, with a lot going on in the Guild outdoors. Three art shows, toy building and a project.

Twenty new folks joined the Guild this month, and twenty three last month. It's a perfect time for each of you to take part in one of these events. No skill required; it's a great chance to quickly get to know a few Guild members who know a lot about woodworking and the Guild.

Each of these adventures is only a one-time commitment of a couple hours. At the Clackamas Country fair, watch the absolute delight of children building a birdhouse 'all by themselves'. Get to know some of the people in this nice neighborhood at Multnomah Days, telling them a little about this Guild in their midst. Art in he Pearl is coming up Labor Day weekend. A fantastic art show that you can be a part of.

Look inside this newsletter for more details. Read about the toy program in last month's newsletter.

Take the first step in getting to know this Guild you just joined..

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Lignum Vitae

Heavier than water, it works hard

It's an amazing machine, the mind. Data processing. Imagination. Sitting on the front porch this morning reflecting on summer, vacations, last year in Michigan, my motorcycle trip to Michigan in 2006. A visited to my grandparents home in Sault Ste. Marie where I was born. The Soo Locks and the dangerous waterway behind grandma's house. It was a diversion ditch dug from Lake Superior, upstream where St. Mary's river starts the short journey over rapids to Lake Huron. The Union Carbide plant and the turbines that powered it. All these thoughts in the blink of an eye. I took a tour and discovered Lignum Vitae.

A very unique wood, Lignum Vitae trees grow in the Caribbean and the northern coast of South America. Research shows that they have been a big export crop to Europe since the begin-



ning of the 16th century.

"Lignum vitae", Latin for "wood of life", first had medicinal uses to treat a variety of conditions from coughs to arthritis. Wood chips were also used to brew a tea.

This wood is used because of its extraordinary combination of strength

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NEXT PROGRAM — THURSDAY
Summer Lake Park, Tigard, OR 97223

AUGUST 11 2016 4:00 PM
(Setup at 4:00 social time 5:00 or earlier)

Summertime, Summertime, Sum Sum Summertime!

I can imagine it. Can you? A calm summer evening; open air; comfortable conversation; pleasing music in the background; great food and drinks (no alcohol please).



That's right. It is time for and your family to come to the annual combined Summer Picnic/Guild Meeting on August 11. We again have the pleasure of meeting at Summerlake Park in Tigard, OR. This is a wonderful covered section of the park reserved for us and the setting could not be more beautiful. The Guild will provide chicken (provided by Joe Sanders), beverages and tableware. Just bring the dish of your choice (with serving utensils) to share.

(Continued on page 3)

From 217, take the Scholls Ferry exit and head west. Proceed about 2 miles to 130th. Turn left, headed South on 130th which changes names to Winterlake in about 1/2 mile. Wrap around the park about half way and watch for the pavilion and people on your left. Park along the street.

SO YOU ARE A WOODWORKER

ROGER CROOKS, PRESIDENT

I attended a neighborhood party for the 4th and while we were one of the original houses in the development (1986) most people were relatively new so we introduced ourselves. Several people commented “You’re the woodworker”. Hmmmmm.

My garage door is generally open so anyone looking in will see a wall of tools, a bandsaw, piles of wood and often me working at my lathe. Then there are times I’m using a loud chainsaw cutting up wood so I guess that is a valid assumption.

I assume if you are reading this newsletter, you consider yourself a woodworker or wanting to be a woodworker but what kind of woodworker? The Guild is focused on “flat-work” – using dimensional lumber to build things like tables, boxes, chairs, and such. We stress the fundamentals of woodworking with joinery and finishing techniques, using hand tools and power tools, and always, safety. But there are a lot more types of woodworking; turning, hand and chainsaw carving, boat/canoe building and many other ways to turn wood into something beautiful. In all these, learning the fundamentals of working wood is critical and the Guild’s team of instructors are here to pass on that information.

Before joining the Guild, I considered myself a woodworker jack-of-all-trades but master of none. I’ve mentioned before my first Guild class was with Bill Bolstad and it was an eye opener seeing how a professional works. Book learning is fine but cannot approach what you learn seeing an experienced person work.

But what about 10-15 years from now. Today we have CNC machines and 3-D printers that can turn out beautiful works. Is making a box on a CNC machine, real woodworking – yes it is, just a different way of thinking. However, if we ignore the basics and our current crops of grey-haired instructors move on, we will lose that knowledge and the ability to learn from masters. It’s sad that as we do all these estate sales, the family has no interest in the tools, so our woodworker community shrinks. It is very encouraging to see the number of young (a relative term for us retired folks) people joining and being active in the Guild. We need more.

So what’s the point – nothing other than understanding your role in helping the continuation of this wonderful art by learning as much as you can, be active in the Guild, use your skills as often as you can and pass these skills on to your children, grandchildren, neighborhood kids

Back to Business

We have three big events coming up; Clackamas Fair (Bob Vaughn) on Saturday Aug 20, Multnomah Days & Guild Open House (Bill Keay) and Art-In-the-Pearl Labor Day weekend (Elaine Saunders). We need help staffing the booths.

Please find time to help out and after the narrative above, get more people interested in woodworking.



Roger Crooks,
President

LEARNING NEW THINGS

ROGER CROOKS

How about a Chainsaw Bear

I had a friend years ago who was a chainsaw carver. He did beautiful work and I’ve got a half dozen of his pieces. I had always thought that someday I’d ask him to teach me but unfortunately he moved away. So fast forward a number of years and I think “why not”. So off to Amazon.com and books on chain saw carving bears and YouTube videos. Plenty of wood available to me thanks to another Guild member. My 20” chainsaw does great cutting up logs but not carving, so off to local Stihl dealer for a small (but expensive) 12” saw.

Book in hand, chainsaw gassed and ready, off I go. Chips start to fly, sawdust builds up around me. Neighbors walk by and ask what I’m making – I think about moving indoors. It looks so easy – it is not. More chips fly and something slowly emerges. I stand back and evaluate - things always look better at a distance – not enough distance. I know I followed the steps in the book perfectly, maybe a few steps were left out to save on printing costs.

My wife says it was a good first start and scurries off to do something. Neighbors pretend they didn’t see me. But not to be deterred I stand by my bear with a pig nose and rabbit ears – just what I wanted to make for Halloween to scare kids away.



PICNIC

(Continued from page 1)

Here are some of the highlights:

Music: We will be entertained by Two Hearts, a two-woman folk music group with mellow tunes and wonderful harmonies.

2 X 4 Contest: Complete your entry and bring it--- the audience will be the judge. (Check with Joe Sanders if you have questions)

Roger Crooks—12,000 volt demo

Show & Tell: Bring your Show & Tell items for display before and during the meeting.

Tables/Chairs: There will not be enough seating at the existing picnic tables. To be sure that you have seating, please bring along chairs for you and your guests. We also need some additional portable tables for eating and display. If you would be willing to provide one or more of these, please contact Gary Weeber at 503-680-3827 or email him at siweeb@gmail.com.

Schedule:

4:00 pm --- Setup

5:00pm ---Social Time

6:00 pm --- Picnic

7:00 pm ---Meeting

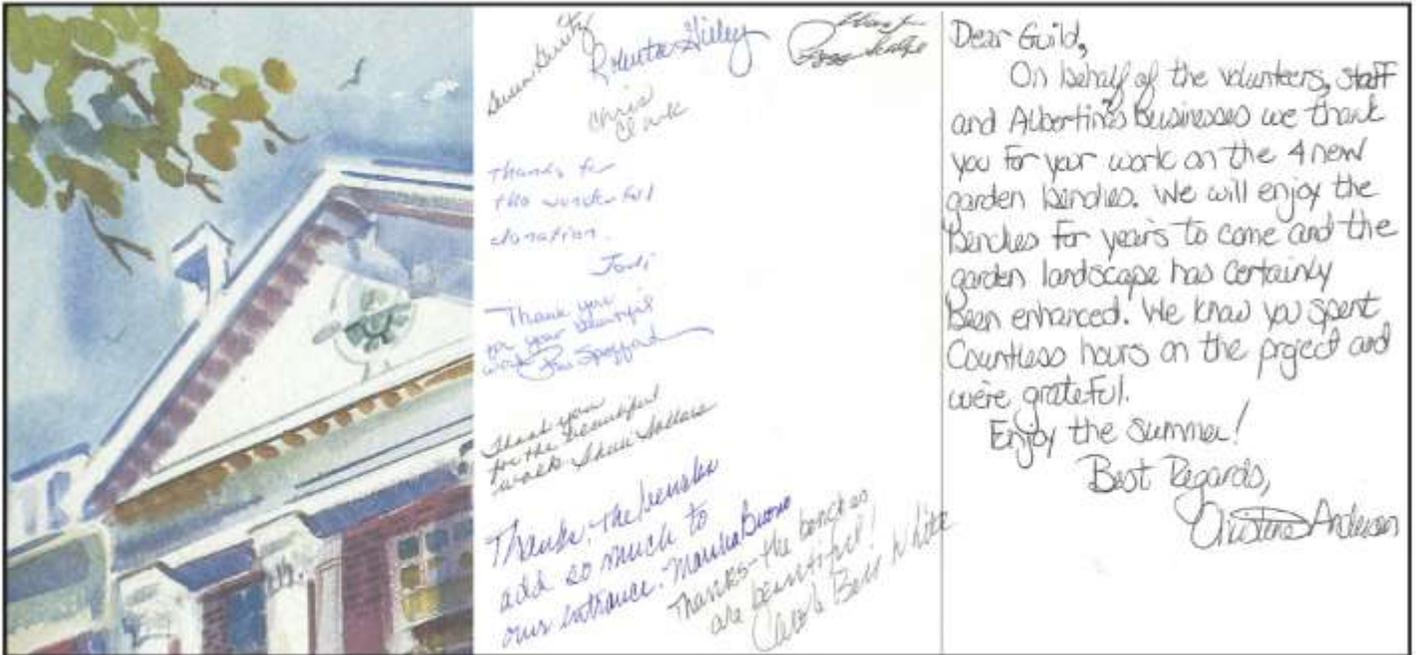
8:30 pm --- Done/Tear Down



ALBERTINA-KERR COMMUNITY PROJECT

The Guild received this thank you card last month from the folks at Albertina-Kerr. The bench project was completed and the work is nothing short of beautiful.

Read elsewhere in the newsletter about a new project starting up soon.



A SALUTE TO SOME SPONSORS

BOB OSWALD & GIG LEWIS

Our semi-annual bus tour took place this month, following a traditional route to visit

En-route on the bus, Gig provided a little background on the suppliers, a bit about how lumber is measured, and the drying process for lumber.

Woodcrafters.

One of three woodworking 'variety' stores in the Portland area, they carry lumber as well as major power tools, hand tools, finishing materials like stain and varnish, and a plethora of accessories. A must visit even if you're not on a bus. Located just north of Burnside on the East side of the Willamette.



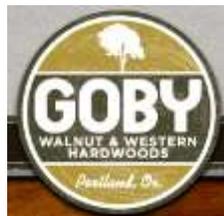
There is usually plenty of staff on hand to help out with advice and how-to knowledge.

They are always generous to the guild and tour morning was no exception. Coffee and donuts awaited.

They recently purchased a bench from the Guild through an extra run from the Albertina-Kerr bench community project. It was on display and is destined for a planned reading room.

Goby Walnut Products.

Located adjacent to the St Helens highway just as you leave NW Portland, it's easy to miss the gate the first time past. And turning into the yard is a strange feeling, back in time perhaps? It's rustic, with lumber lying everywhere. Trees waiting for processing, stickered stacks air drying, huge slabs 'just lying around'. Wait until you get inside the show room!



Goby deals in hardwoods on a large scale. In its early days it was walnut. Today they carry White Ash, Maple and White Oak, Elm and more.

They have a large machine shop and do a variety of milling and furniture building.

Stop in the main showroom to browse through a huge box of offcuts, beautiful odds and ends sold by the pound. Wandering through the stacks of lumber reveal some of most stunning figure. Something for everyone.

A very big thank you from the Guild to these special suppliers. We greatly appreciate the time and effort for this special tour.

Crosscut Hardwoods

And awesome display of lumber of many, many species, everything is beautifully arranged and priced. Both of us have spent many the hour combing the stacks for a certain grain, or matching board foot requirements of the project to their inventory.



Assistance in shopping is not immediately forthcoming here. They leave you alone to shop. But a trip to the counter gets quick assistance. They carry common hardwoods as well as many exotic varieties. Plywood in many species and even a huge rack of poplar in the back room for those less expensive projects. I built a violin a few years back, a nine month labor of love that turned out beautifully. I got the sound board spruce and the figured maple back lumber from Crosscut.

Hardwood Industries

These folks have been incredibly generous to the Guild. They have provided much of the lumber for our community projects at donation prices. The Guild can not thank them enough for their great support of the community.



As I see it, they have two businesses. The primary business is providing lumber to their customers selected to specific criteria. You can order lumber to any number of specifications, size, clarity, grain, whatever. They will select from their inventory, and mill if it's part of the deal, lumber to fit your specific needs. Somewhat of a niche business and they do it well. They are frequently adding more new modern machines to help reduce processing cost of the custom work they do.

A special tour featured how they run their primary business.

They have large lumber stacks, sometimes a little harder to browse for a specific item, but a quick question to a nearby staff person gets you where you need to go. The really big deal is that the 'rejects' from their selection process are here at bargain basement prices. A knot, not right for a primary customer, is exactly what I am looking for.

Every so often they have excellent 'parking lot sales. A must do. They hosted lunch, similar to what they also do on parking lot sale days.

HELP SPREAD THE WORD

VOLUNTEERS CAN HELP

Clackamas County Fair ~ Birdhouse Build

WANTED A FEW GOOD MEN AND WOMEN

August 20

Come help us help the kids build birdhouses at our annual participation at the fair. We are in need of five or six more volunteers to help out. We are currently trying to fill shifts from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. It's a great opportunity to work with the young folks and help them take home a completed birdhouse that they themselves put together. As a volunteer it's a very rewarding experience and the sense of accomplishment is evident in the looks on the kids faces when they show their parents their finished project.

Parking & admission are free to the volunteers. **If you can help , please contact either Ariel Enriquez at arielvphyllis@gmail.com or Bob Vaughn at bvaughn@pacifier.com.**

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Guild in Multnomah Days

Saturday August 20 ~

Bill Keay

The Guild workshop was opened in the fall of 2013 and we have had success in bringing our awareness to our community. This year, for the first time we have been offered the opportunity to host a booth at Capital Highway & SW 34th at Multnomah Days

This event draws nearly 10,000 people and it will help us bring greater awareness of our organization, workshop, classes and the community projects we do throughout Portland

We are in need of volunteers to help staff the booth and the workshop for this event.

In the booth you will help patrons use several hand planes to make shavings for sashay bag giveaways as well as talk with them about the Guild and your hobby.

We will help direct patrons to our Guild workshop a block away, where additional volunteers are needed to help families make bird houses and provide shop tours of our facilities.

We will begin around 7:00AM with the booth set-up. People will start arriving around 8:00. The parade along Capital will run from 10:00 ~11:00. Traffic will surge following this event.

We anticipate traffic at both locations to remain strong until 4:00. We are looking for volunteers to help staff the booth and workshop for a single two-hour session. We would welcome that additional help. **Contact Bill at wmkeay@gmail.com.**

Thank you!

HARDWOOD BUS TOUR

LYRIC JOPLIN

Each location visited had a specialty focus on different areas of hardwoods. The day was filled with exploration and learning about beginner terms in regard to purchasing, wood types, and different kinds of retailers.

Each retailer has a unique way to showcase their hardwoods which gives a variety of ways to discover the wood you need. Woodcrafters and Crosscut Hardwoods both offer a selection of tools as well. Goby Walnut Products specializes in hard to find large slabs and exquisite pieces, which is reflected in pricing. Hardwood Industries has the best pricing for bargain hunting.

All of the locations offer discounts to guild members so be sure to mention it! If you come on a future tour with us, some recommendations are: wear sneakers, bring a bottle of water, snacks if you get peckish, lunch if you have any special dietary needs.

Thanks for a great tour to the Guild & sponsors,

RALEIGH PARK SCHOOL PROJECT

ALEXANDER ANDERSON

The Raleigh Park School librarian has requested of the Guild, help in building a bench for their library. This will be more of a cabinet style bench designed to match existing benches in the library and will have four pull out boxes for games.

Guild members helping out will be working with power tools like the sliding table saw, router, and Festool Domino. The work parties will take place from 11:00 - 6:00 each Sunday starting the 24th and will be located at Madrone Studio, 8900 B NE Vancouver Way Portland OR 97211.

If you have questions or need directions, please contact Alexander Anderson at 503-593-4423, or email through the Guild website.



Nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool.

UPCOMING CLASSES

NORM BAIRD

You may be wondering what the Education Committee has been up to—the cupboard has been bare for a while. In fact we have been developing a full agenda of classes and workshops. Here is just a sampling:

- ♦ Finishing Master Craftsman Michael Dresdner will be conducting two workshops in early September. Early registration discounts are available on the website now.
- ♦ Michael Fortune will be returning in October to teach four classes; chair design, making bent-wood hand mirrors, a “waterfall” edge demi-lune table and a repeat of the band saw clinic for those that missed it last year.

GUILD UPCOMING CLASSES

Think Finish Before You Build with Chip Webster

Aug 9, 6-9, \$40

Class Coordinator: Linda Humason

This is an introduction seminar in finishing Students will be exposed to the concept of “Think finish first”, the questions that should be answered before starting a project. We will learn techniques for surface preparation And, Learn how to “finish the finish”—rub out, waxing, and polishing.

Measuring, Marking, & Layout with Jeff Zens

Aug 13, 9-1, \$45 for early registrants until July 31

Class Coordinator: Gary Weeber

To build furniture that lasts, you need accurate joinery, and that flows directly from accurate layout. The class will be a mixture of demonstration and some hands on work. A list of key layout tools will be provided.

Restore a Metal Bench Plane with Ken Hall

Aug 24, 5-9, \$120

Class Coordinator: Doug Drake

Learn how to restore a metal, Bailey style bench plane from a rusty hulk to a finely tuned tool. Bring your own plane or buy one with the class and create a lifelong tool.

Finishing “By Hand and Eye” with Michael Dresdner

Sep 9-10, 9-5, \$350 early registration through Aug 15

Class Coordinator: Jeff Zens

Spend 2 days learning about simple, hand-applied finishes with an internationally known finishing master. You’ll learn the right way to prep the wood, how to choose the ideal finish for each project, and how to manipulate finishes with a variety of application tools.

Steam Bending with Frank LaRoque

Sep 17, 9-5, \$160 (carpool, \$144)

Class Coordinator: Bob Sokolow

This is a one hands-on workshop and Frank will provide all the information and tips you’ll need to make your projects turn, twist, and curve. All aspects of bending will be explored, including types of wood, steam boxes, hot pipe bending, laminating, and clamping.

Japanese Sawhorse Workshop with Alexander Anderson

Sep 17- Oct 6, 9-5, \$580

Alexander’s shop, Madrone Studio

Class Coordinator: CJ Marquardt

The goal of this class is to learn skills that will help your woodworking experience to be more fruitful, while at the same time building a work aid (Japanese sawhorse) that will be useful in implementing the skills learned in class.

Repairing Common Mishaps in Woodworking with Alexander Anderson

Sep 18, 9-4, \$120

Alexander’s shop, Madrone Studio

Class Coordinator: Bob Sokolow

This class will show some of the dozens of types of repairs that are commonly employed by Alexander in his shop. We will talk about blending in the color and grain of the wood, and how to use epoxy to help with critter holes and other defects.

Spokeshaves with Norm Baird

Sep 20, 6-9, \$65

Class Coordinator: Ric Fry

This class will provide an introduction to buying, tuning, and using spokeshaves, a central element of chair construction. Students will have opportunities to use several different shaves, of different designs and features, and from different makers.

Making a Traditional Ladder-back Chair with Norm Baird

Sep 24-Nov 12, 9-5, \$882

Catlin Gabel Woodshop

Class Coordinator: Ric Fry

The class will start with green logs of Oregon white oak. Each student will use traditional tools to make parts and assemble a greenwood (also known as ladder back) chair. Weave the seat from cotton shaker tape, and take home a comfortable chair.

Advanced Finishing Techniques Workshop with Michael Dresdner

Sep 30-Oct 2, 9-5, \$475 early registration until Aug 31

Class Coordinator: Jeff Zens

Once you’ve mastered simple finishes you can move on to the tools that give you even more control over the appearance of both the wood and the coating using coloring and complex finishes. Spend 3 days to learn adding dramatic colors, making inexpensive wood look more upscale, and building a complex layered or filled pore finish.

Table Saws and Other Power Saws with Frank LaRoque

Oct 8, 9-5, \$150 (carpool \$135)

Frank’s shop in The Dalles

Class Coordinator: Bob Sokolow

The table saw is probably the most used tool in a shop and can do much more than just rip boards and make lots of sawdust. Learn valuable tips for using the table saw safely, and also for using the skill saw, saber saw, and other power hand tools.

See the Guild website for registration and more details. Contact the Class Coordinator with questions. All classes are held in the Guild Shop unless otherwise specified.

AFFILIATE UPCOMING CLASSES

Northwest Woodworking Studio

Master Works: The Rogowski Stool

Aug 22-26

Instructor: Gary Rogowski

TURNING FOR FURNITURE BUILDERS

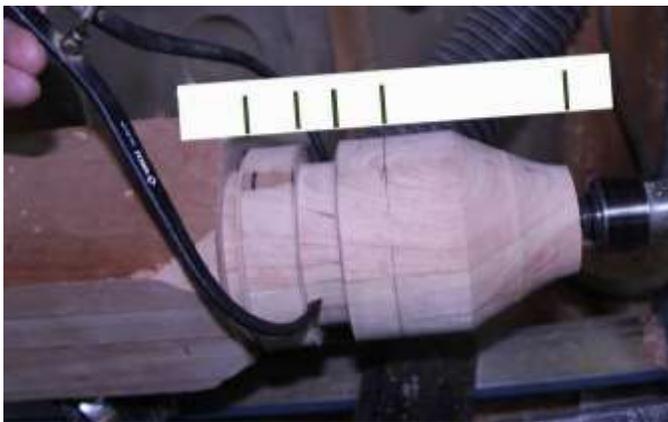
BOB OSWALD

As furniture builders we tend to make boxes and tables and things that are generally squarish. We bend wood to get some curves and artistic appeal. Occasionally we need to make something round. Turning is a favorite pastime of the folks in the wood turning clubs. But how do *we* apply turning techniques when we use them so seldom. I built a bedroom set a few years back that has a lot of curves and round things. Here's a bit of advice on how to approach a few subjects:

- ◆ Getting the dimensions right
- ◆ Replicating, making more than one
- ◆ Combining multiple elements into a structure

Going beyond freehand turning, you need dimensional control, just like in cutting the lumber for the rest of the project. This bed has bun feet. I wanted them integral to the 4x4 base and commercially available add-on's where not the desired shape. In this photo, the 'storyboard' piece of wood has lines marked on it for the transition points, generally hard points.

The first step is to turn the section from square into a cylinder. (that step is not pictured). Holding the ruler



next to the spinning cylinder, holding mark lines at the template points.

Cut away the deeper parts that form the basic structure, using a divider to get the right diameter.

Then turn the beads, which means rolling off the hard corners to form that big soft round 'ring'. At this point the final shape of the bottom can be turned. You could



use a template, a piece of wood cut to the profile and held against the foot for more precise control. I felt that my eyeball was good enough since I had the bottom, the large bulge and the top of that bun turned to the right diameters by this time.

Replication is 'easy' in that you just repeat this process using the story stick and calipers.

Further turning opportunities came in producing the parts for top part of the leg/post. Two cylinders and two



disks. Both of them are created in a special way so you don't have any end visible grain.

The disks are a glue up of four, ninety degree triangle wedges whose points meet in the center. This makes all faces of the perimeter be long grain. Very pretty and the glue lines make a nice pattern.

The columns were an eight sided glue-up of pieces beveled 22.5 degrees. I chose not to glue up a 4x4 and worry about all those seams and changes of grain. The cylinder seams are quite controlled and uniform and the



grain is more controlled. Assembled end-to-end with dowels looks like the photo .

The final assembly was beautiful. Four post style legs, two at 32" for the footboard and two at 52" for the headboard.

Assembling them onto the torsion box structure partially pictured was another significant challenge with a router. The whole project was much more complicated than I imagined. It's great that I didn't look ahead or I probably would never have attempted it. Taking it one step at a time with a lot of drawings and forethought did help. I am incredibly proud of the end result, the entire bedroom ensemble.



ANOTHER FUN DAY IN THE SHOP

GIG LEWIS

This morning when I turned on my bandsaw there was an enormous combination of screeching and grinding sounds. Yesterday there weren't. My first guess was a bearing failing. I have never had a bearing fail, but, I thought that the sound slowly increased as it gets worse. That was not the case here. Time to see if the Michaels could help, Fortune and Rothman.

Michael R. suggested that the first thing to do was unplug it. I removed the blade and Kreg Fence. Moving the lower wheel with my hand did not indicate any roughness. I plugged it back in, turned it on and got the same loud noise. Checking the motor area for something loose or caught yielded nothing.

Further examination revealed that the key was missing from the upper pulley and that the pulley was making the noise on startup. After getting to speed it was quiet. Retrieving the key from underneath the motor and reinstalling fixed that problem. But I noticed that the belt might be a little loose. When I released the bolts holding it, it dropped about 3/8th of an inch. Definitely too loose.

The two pulleys for the belt need to be in alignment. I did that using a small level and moved the upper pulley to make the belt vertical, removing any tension that would bend the shaft.

I turned the saw back on and no screeching, but there was a loud slapping vibration noise. It was the two bolts holding the return raceway in position. Each was a little loose causing the noise.

Turning on the saw again revealed a new fast tapping sound. That turned out to be loose Kreg fence mounts. Now the saw was purring. Everything was tight again.

I spent about an hour and a half tracking things down and I have my good saw running well using only some knowledge I learned through classes and a knowledgeable friend in the Guild.

When I use any of the power equipment in my shop, I always use earmuffs to protect the hearing that I have left. That is why I was not aware of the various noises trying to tell me something. Check out your equipment and make sure that the machinery is tight and safe.

Michael Fortune's class and his machinery knowledge saved me from having to take the saw into a shop somewhere. Thanks to the Michaels.



WOOD BY THE QUARTER

BOB OSWALD

Wood is commonly sold by the board foot with thickness measured in 'quarters'. The thickness translates to quarters of an inch. For example, a four-quarter board would be expressed as fractionally as 4/4. Dividing it, yields 1 inch thick. A somewhat distressing reality is that it is usually, and legally, about 1/16 less than that, so if you need a real one inch, you have to buy 5/4 or 6/4. Since lumber is usually rough, you lose thickness anyway.

The area of the board, a board foot, is a one foot square board one inch thick. Woodworking stores selling lumber surfaced to 3/4" still call it a board foot. Technically at that point it is a square foot.

The final volume of wood is board-feet x thickness in integer inches.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

BOB OSWALD

Welcome to our newest members in chronological order. We're happy to have you with us and hope you'll make a regular appearance at the monthly programs. Say hello at the next meeting so we can get to know you.

Preston & Rachel Browning, Debbie Gardiner, Bryan Bertsch, Gustav Baur, Damon Miller, Brian Tharp, Paul Lemman, Troy Johnston, Josh Oldenburg, Ian Wilson, James Tsui, Otto Bajnoczi, Mark Federspiel, Lee Wyatt, Craig Galyon, Harry Humason, Dan Jacobs, Jacob Bowlin, Morgan Patton and Kevin Clark. *Try your hand volunteering at just one event this month.*

WE ALL KNOW THESE ANSWERS

GARY WEEBER

Right?

- ◆ When we initially flatten stock on the jointer and planer, what is the order in which the four sides are flattened?
- ◆ What are reference surfaces and why are they important?
- ◆ How closely should I mill my stock to final dimensions?
- ◆ What is a cabinet maker's triangle and how is it used?

If you are confident you know the answers to all these questions then you need read no further. If you aren't sure, read on. Measuring, marking and layout is critical to good woodworking. It is important because doing this well not only promotes accuracy and beauty of appearance but also ensures efficient use of materials.

Want to find out more? Easily done. Sign up for the Measuring, Marking and Layout Class being presented by Master Woodworker Jeff Zens on August 13. Sign up before the end of month to get a discount! See our website for additional information.



LIGNUM VITAE

BOB OSWALD

(Continued from page 1)

and density. Lignum Vitae is hard and durable, and is the densest wood on the planet almost double the density of African Blackwood and more triple the density of Hickory

It has been used for wood cricket bats, lawn bowls and croquet mallets. It found widespread use 'back in the day' in mortars and pestles and for wood carvers' mallets. It was the traditional wood used for British police truncheon until recently, due to its density and strength. The belaying pins and deadeyes on the USS Constitution and other sailing ships were made from Lignum Vitae.

Its naturally oily nature make it widely used in water-lubricated shaft bearings for ships until as recently as 1960. Due to its density and natural oils, they rarely require replacement, despite the harsh condition in which they were used.

And *this* is where my story begins, its use in hydroelectric power plants, The Union Carbide plant got its power from turbines driven by the man-made river that flowed past my grandparents house on Cedar Street in the Soo (local name for Sault Ste. Marie). The name, for your trivia lesson, is French for Falls of Saint Mary. On my visit in 2006, I toured the turbine generator and saw, in the clear rushing water way below the surface, the Lignum Vitae bearings still in use on those shafts.

It was also prevalently used on ship drive shafts as a bearing that would keep the ocean at bay. This application included the first submarines. Awesome

In some internet research I found this clipping:

Lignum Vitae North America is hosting the first ever Water Lubricated Bearings co-located event at Hydrovision 2015 in Portland " Water-Lubricated Bearings: How They Can Extend the Life of Your Power Plant and Save Your Company Money"

Today you can buy it at Woodcraft in a variety of sizes in the \$20 price range. They also have an intriguing looking 10-pound box of exotic cutoffs to include a wide range of woods: Ebony, Cocobolo, Zebra-wood, Lignum Vitae and many, many more.

How about building a boat, with you own hand made wooden bearings on the propeller shaft?

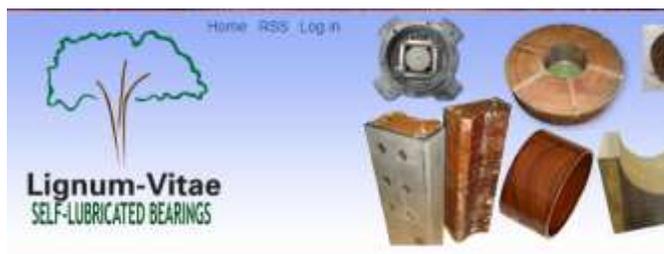


Photo from Lignum-vitae-bearings.com

IT'S NOT JUST THE BLADES

BOB OSWALD

You can also be seriously injured by sandpaper, especially in either of the two scenarios below.

The wide belt sander.

When the wood enters the feed port, a roller under the head pushes the board down against the feed belt. On a home sander, this is a substantial force and you don't want you fingers under the board. If you do that, reaction will cause you to jerk the pinched finger out and you'll probably sand off a bit of flesh on the rough surface of the belt. On an industrial sander, it can happen so fast that you can't get your finger out. It WILL cut it off.

NEVER lift a board off the belt once you set it down. If you must move it, and only if you must, what hands flat you might push it sideways. The far safer thing to do is to turn off the feed and the drum. Raise the drum, extract the wood and start over.



The disk sander

It has a serious hidden flaw. The table must be adjusted to be very close to the disk. If there is much of a gap, a small piece of wood you are sanding can be pulled into the gap. Too many people, in my opinion, have the habit of holding only onto the wood, with one or both hands, and with no part of the hand touching something solid and unmoving.

I witnessed a small piece of wood being sanded, held with suspended hands, and it broke and shot down a too-big gap between the table and the disk. The finger closest to the disk followed the wood into the gap. A loud scream and blood was the sign that another tool conquered a human.

My approach to handling small pieces (even big pieces) especially working close in to the cutting surface of a router or sander, is to rest both palms on the table and use finger tips to manipulate the wood. If the wood get sucked away suddenly, your hands are holding the table and usually, if things go well, the wood just disappears and your fingers get no closer to the cutter.



The Guild of Oregon Woodworkers is a group of professional and amateur woodworkers committed to developing our craftsmanship. The Guild offers many benefits for members, including:

- Monthly programs
- Monthly newsletter
- An education program to help members develop woodworking skills
- Sponsor discounts
- Woodworking shows
- Network of business partners.
- A woodworking shop with space to rent
- A network of friends

For information on how you can become a member, see the Guild website listed below.

GUILD OF OREGON WOODWORKERS

10190 SW Washington St., Portland, OR 97225

CLASSES, SEMINARS, DEMOS, AND SUCH

Northwest Woodworking Studio 503-284-1644, www.northwestwoodworking.com

Rockler Woodworking 503-672-7266, www.rockler.com

Oregon College of Art and Craft 503-297-5544, www.ocac.edu

Woodcraft 503-684-1428, www.woodcraft.com

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We're on the Web!

www.GuildOfOregonWoodworkers.org