

OREGON WOOD WORKS

A GUILD CLASS REPORT: STEAM BENDING

BRUCE PALAMOUNTAIN

On a brilliantly hot July day, eight Guild members made the journey up a windy Columbia Gorge to The Dalles, destination, a wood bending class with Frank LaRoque.

Reaching The Dalles, we made the usual discovery: though there are several ways to Frank's shop, there are countless ways to lose the trail in the Dalles! Nonetheless, all arrived in plenty of time to meet our gracious hosts and begin a full day of fun from a master of wood bending.

At the very start, all participants received a nice kit for steam-bending with a specially modified steel pipe, torch and sprayer. This kit will certainly be helpful for small scale bending projects where time is of the essence.

To begin our workshop, Frank gave us a brief sketch of his extensive experience with steam bending and glued lamination over decades of furniture making. What becomes clear at once is Frank's unique ability to innovate in the face of challenges in furniture building. In fact, an entire day could be gainfully consumed simply learning from Frank's retelling of his career. Just the few anecdotes

we enjoyed were most educational.

Thanks to Frank's capable assistants, the steam box was fired-up, and everything stayed on-track as participants moved pieces in and out of the box and into various clamping setups. Here again the astute observer will notice that, though our Instructor has many tales to tell, the work always moves forward at a brisk pace. As with an accomplished musician, the audience might be tempted to think the artistry is easily mas-



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NEXT PROGRAM — THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2014 7:00PM

CHISELS, PLANES AND HAND SAWS

The Guild Shop, 7634 SW 34th Avenue, Portland

Alexander Anderson, will be discussing the use and care of chisels, from sharpening for the intended use of the chisel to the methods of directing the edge into the wood. Chisels are very versatile tools, but control is key. With demonstrations of holding techniques and the use of the hammer to drive the chisel, Alexander will help shed light on how to get more out your chisels and how to keep them sharp as you work.

Alexander will also be showing the body dynamics of strong and controlled plane strokes. The even stroke that draws the plane through the wood and leaves a flat surface.

Jeff Zens will talk about the sometimes confusing but always useful hand saw. These wonderful tools come in a lot of sizes and shapes, but can easily be divided into two main categories: cross-cut and rip. He will provide examples of several saw designs in both western and Japanese styles, and discuss their usefulness in different cutting operations. Finally, he'll talk about the techniques and equipment needed to keep these great cutting tools sharp.

From the west, Allen becomes Garden Home and then becomes Multnomah Blvd.

From the East, off I5/Barbur Blvd, head West on Multnomah Blvd. Then:

To locate the shop, turn uphill, North, on 35th Avenue. At the stop sign, turn right, go one block, turn left. Go over the crest of the hill and as you start down, the shop is in the little center on the right. Drive downhill to the Multnomah Art Center to park and walk back. Park in both front and back of the Art Center depending on construction.

STEAM BENDING

(Continued from page 1)

tered, but that, we know, would be a foolish assumption!

Sadly, time does not permit a full description of every methodology Frank LaRoque has mastered. Just in the time before lunch, we were able to gain a wealth of useful information on steam bending, including safety (Thank You!), box construction, boiler connections, wood preparation, form construction and clamping technique.

It would be criminal not to mention the wonderful lunch Frank's wife, Paulette, laid out for us. With just enough time to enjoy the meal and exchange impressions in the shade of the willow trees, soon enough, we were back at it!

After lunch, there was more hands-on time, tackling the

challenge of steam bending over hot pipe. Much trial and error occurred as participants got the feel for balancing the elements of time, heat and water to achieve a quick and lasting bend in thinner pieces of wood. An exciting aspect of this technique is how quickly the desired bend can be achieved.



We also covered the crucial issue of spring-back, curing times, adhesives and tool sharpening. Frank does much of his sharpening using a unique combination of a 60-grit friable grinding wheel and a stiff felt buffing wheel. His technique is an eye-opener. While other craftsmen are fussing over a bank of wet stones, Frank is long-since back to work with a razor-sharp chisel!

Our day ended with a brief tour of the unique LaRoque spray booth, where every item is chosen and arranged for speed, cost-effectiveness and safety. Suffice it to say, participants were making notes at a rapid clip!

As the day draws to a close, one thing is clear; if you have the slightest inclination to attend a class by Frank LaRoque, get signed up. It is a value-added experience.



TO GET YOUR GREEN CARD

BOB OSWALD

Confusion continues about the Shop qualification process. The website page, "To Use the Shop" has been reworded and simplified. Too many words made the process difficult to follow. The essence of obtaining a green card is listed here, quoted from the website. Please read that website page to fully understand the whole picture of what it takes to use the Guild shop to work on your own projects. Note: That means that you do not need a green card to volunteer for community projects or take Guild classes.

To obtain a Green Card you must:

1. Attend a free New Guild Shop User Orientation Meeting. Registration is required. This includes taking a Tool Safety Exam with answers recorded on the Answer Sheet, at home prior to the class. A self assessment form will help you decide if you are ready for step 2 below.
2. Complete a Tool Safety exam, demonstrating safe operation of each tool. Registration is required for an available session. You will demonstrate that you can safely use each machine through a series of exercises administered by the examiner. It is not a test of your woodworking skill.

Successful completion will result in being issued a Green Card, your "membership" into the shop.

IF YOU ALREADY HAVE A Green Card, you are grandfathered into the shop. No additional testing is required.

If you are not confident of your ability to use a particular machine (the router for example), you can get further training on your own in any form: a skilled friend, PCC, Northwest Woodworking Studio, Village Industrial Arts or one of the Guild Machine Skills classes.

PORTLAND WOODWORKING SHOW

JIM MADARAS

Many of you have been to this show. It's back again this fall as another great show. Many of you have helped the Guild manage our booth there. It's a good time to share what you like about belonging to the Guild with interested people.

We're in need again of volunteers to help with this duty. Participation means free admission. There is an on-line sign-up form, a google spreadsheet, accessible from the Shows tab of the website, the Woodworking Show. Your participation will be a big help to the Guild.

Please check the website under Shows to volunteer.



A DECADE OF NEWS & HISTORY

BOB OSWALD

It's been ten years this month as newsletter editor. I was asked to take over the editor task for the Guild in September, 2004 by Dean Mattson. He suggested that it would be a big favor to then president George DuBois. The board of directors that year had realized that they were spending too much time in the monthly board meetings debating details, and that as a result, not much got accomplished. Gail took the board to a remote site for a few days in August, 2004 and they debated the issue. They came back with a restructured Guild, one that still exists today. It included the normal complement of officers, President, Vice president, Secretary and Treasurer, but they created several committees, the core of which are still actively managing the Guild today. A couple more roles were added to reflect changes.

These committees would work outside the board meetings, focusing on issues in their respective areas, and report back to the board with proposals for new programs, project status, changes needed, etc. It incredibly streamlined the board meeting, after a slightly painful readjustment of not debating every issue. I had been attending the board meetings since I joined. This new change brought me to the role of chair of the Communications committee.

The committees were Membership, Programs, Education, Communications, Shows, Sponsors, General member at large and Professional member at large.

Because of the new shop, Operations, Safety, and Community Projects have been added. You can see the people who fill these roles on our website under *About Us*.

So it's a decade that I've been Communications Chair. Responsibilities include the newsletter, the website and general Guild wide communications. "*You don't have to write articles, just coordinate and publish them.*" Dean casually told me. They picked me because I had written a couple of pretty nice (in my humble opinion) articles earlier in the year about two field trips. Also, Kristin, the current newsletter editor wanted to retire.

Well, to my chagrin, but not much of surprise, there weren't any articles to coordinate. There was the occasional one every other month or so, a delight when it happened. But unless my new leading role was to be in charge of an empty newsletter, something had to be done.

I remember spending a lot of time in the library in those days, trying to find interesting things without plagiarizing them. That worked best by taking the idea home and toying with it in my own shop. From that I would write an original article.

I'll brag about being very good with my hands all my life, including some degree of woodworking. Thanks to a wise father who believed in do it yourself and that his sons should also. But, I'll also admit to being a pretty rank amateur when it came to fine woodworking. I have to look back on those days and feel a bit of pride in how the skill and knowledge has grown, immensely, thanks in great part to being involved with the Guild. Doing those early projects to

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED—LET'S TALK

JIM MADARAS

Hi to all our Guild members. I am writing you to let you know about a new approach we are taking to help you get more involved in helping us run the Guild more effectively.

As background, it has been a little over a year since we opened the shop to our members, a big step forward in the benefits of belonging to the Guild. This fact has proved itself out with the increase in membership that we have experienced since announcing the shop. Hundreds of new members have joined us. But the problem with growth comes more responsibilities and a need for more volunteers. An organization can only be as strong as the membership involvement in making it a success. As I look at the organization that is helping to run the Guild, I do not see the same level of growth in the number of new volunteers stepping up to help us run this growing organization.

Well, here is what we are going to do to try and help with this organization challenge. Starting at the October meeting there will be a table set aside where you can go to ask us where we need help. We will be available both before and after the Guild meeting to help you get a better understanding of the areas where volunteers are needed and what is involved when you volunteer to help the Guild in its various areas of need. I will be at the table along with another board member to assist you in searching for an area where you can assist us that matches your interest.

So at the next meeting look for the sign that states "Guild Volunteers Needed, Lets Talk".

CONTINUED

have something to write about was only the beginning.

Looking back over the newsletters, I estimate in excess of five hundred (500) articles written for the Guild over that decade. An accurate count is possible but means re-reading the last 120 issues. Hmmm, maybe it's time to do that.

You too can learn a lot of fine furniture and fine wood-working like I did. There are several ways. Build things in your shop and learn the hard way. Write an article about something you're working on or completed. Participate in a community project. Coordinate an education class. Teach a class using some special skill or discovery of your own. You too can look back a decade later with a great deal of pride.

Early Topics:

2004—Summer Shop Tour 2004 (this got me recognized as an "expert" writer), Bird's Mouth Router Bit (I had scarcely used a router at this point), 2004 Guild Christmas Show (now ended and replaced with Gathering of the Guilds,. Some of those articles were pretty weak compared to what I'd like to think I know now. But it's how we grow.

Take a closer look at the Volunteer article above!

Get involved. Get educated. Get connected.

SIMPLE SALAD TONGS

BOB OSWALD

They make this cute salad tongs in the eighth grade woodshop class at Gaston High School. They take about three class periods to do it. You should be able to do it in an hour.

It's cute, self spring-loaded and you learn the art of *high speed* steam bending. It starts by cutting two pieces of Maple or your favorite food safe wood as shown, 11 x 2 x 5/16"



In these two pieces cut a saw kerf with the fence set at 1/2". Cut them 5" deep. It helps to raise the blade high to keep the radius short. Clean up the radius on the band saw.



With one hand, pry up the center finger of one piece and with the other hand the center of the other piece. Interleave them and push them gently together. They should be pushed far enough to overlap the fingers. I went a little further and it was probably more than necessary. Be careful not to *split* the wood.



Soak a dish towel and gently wring it out, leaving it quite wet. Wrap it around the fingers as show above. Put it in your microwave and *cook* it on high for 3 minutes. Be careful taking it out as it's HOT. Unwrap the towel and let it cool, preferable overnight. Sand both pieces to get rid of the raised grain.



Cut the center finger on one and the outside fingers on the other, back 2". A scroll saw is handy here but a pull saw works well also.



Assemble the two pieces in such a way that they lie flat back to back. The bent fingers should overlap. Drill a hole for a finishing nail, about a 2" 6d nail.



Invert the two tongs and you should find the center finger pressing on each other forming a spring.

Viola, salad tongs. Disassemble and shape the ends as you desire. Rounded edges and a little dished out on a drum sander where they pick up the goodies adds a nice finishing touch.

A final observation. These turned out quite stiff and a little bulky. I would try 1/8" stock and after bending, glue a small strip at each end to thicken it up for the nail hole. It could also stand to be a couple of inches shorter.

WANDERING THE WEBSITE

Do you sometimes log in to the Guild website and find that your account balance isn't what you thought it should be? It should show zero balance or perhaps reflect a balance owed for a class registered but not yet paid.

Unfortunately, sometimes there's a little oversight when dealing with the bookkeeping surrounding classes. It's a manual process and, try as we might, an occasional oversight occurs. Most typically when you ask us to cancel you from a class for which you're already paid, there are a few steps that have to occur.

Assuming that you cancelled from the class and are receiving a refund, one of the steps sometimes overlooked is logging the refund on the website.

Be assured that the accurate logging of our financial transactions is done precisely by the treasurer using bookkeeping software, not the website accounting. We must use the website since it enables payment by PayPal. And we must sometimes manually keep it in balance when your unexpected changes occur.

If one of these accounting steps on the website is missed, you might see an overpaid balance on your account. It may be confusing or misleading when you try to register for another class.

If ANYTHING about your account EVER does not look right, please notify me (timbercreek08@gmail.com) or the website administrator address (which is also me) and I'll fix it. Hopefully this is a rare thing.

I review the site systematically for errors and it's a very tedious job, as there are other conditions I have to monitor also. So any advance notification you send helps a lot.

BUY & SELL FORUM

BOB OSWALD

Many of you know about this forum on the Guild website as evidenced by its use. If you are interested in knowing about postings to this forum go there and click "Subscribe". You can always Unsubscribe at a later time.

BUT, this week I cleaned out ancient items dating back to 2013. I've asked in the past and it says so on the forum page, Please Delete your Old Posting. It's time for a reminder again.

Please delete your posts after a few weeks, sold or not. By leaving the clutter there it detracts from the credibility of the website. It takes a fair amount of my effort to clean up.

Sadly our website provider does not have a way for them to age and fall off the list. It's on one of their wish lists for future releases.

Have you looked at the other forums lately? They are only as successful as your use of them.

IT'S CLEANING TIME

BOB OSWALD

How many times has a saw blade gone in for sharpening when it only needed cleaning.

Burning and tear-out are the biggest indicators of a dirty blade or router bit.

I clean my blade every time I change it. I typically change blades at least once a day, from a rip to a crosscut. It's a perfect time to apply a little cleaner while you're tightening the new blade in place, re-installing the throat plate and plugging it back in. Wipe down the new blade and tuck it away.

It's amazing how much accumulates in a week. If you haven't cleaned it in a month, and if you use your shop on a decent basis, you're probably way overdue.

Router bits are most often overlooked, at least in my shop, for needed cleaning. They are in and out of the router so often that we just don't think about it. And they seem to keep cutting. Take a closer look at them. Or even better, just set them in a cleaning bath when you remove it and at the end of the day (or more frequently if you remember) take them out, wipe them down and store them.



My approach to cleaning the saw blades varies between two methods. One is an oil pan size container filled with diluted resin dissolver, available at our sponsors. The other is simply Easy Off. In either case, a ten minute soak is plenty.

Your best friend is a brush scrub brush, also cheap and available. A steady scrubbing of each tooth leaves them shiny bright and usually, very sharp.



FENCE MICRO ADJUSTER

ROGER CROOKS

Need to move your fence 1/64th and that little bump you do just does not always work. Here is a quick and easy solution to build a simple device.

Parts – Magnet from Harbor Freight – 50 lb. version, jig knob and bolt A simple \$10 investment. Assemble it as shown in the photo.

Position to the right of your fence near the center. The magnet is strong and by rotating the knob you can make extremely fine fence adjustments.



Parts needed



Assembled view



Pushing on the fence

LEFT HANDED TAPE

BOB OSWALD

I didn't know they made left handed tape measures, but then, why not. You can check a number of on line sources. Lee Valley for sure. Rockler carries them for \$8.99. As I read their write-up, I realize that it doesn't matter which is your dominant side. It depends also on how you pick up the tape. I've had that experience, where the numbers are upside down.



CLEANING BRUSHES WELL

BOB OSWALD

I'm sure most of you have had the same problem I have, cleaning a brush, typically used for painting, and cleaning it well. We wash it in the solvent until it runs clear, using water if you're lucky. But when you come back tomorrow, it's stiff as a board. How DO you get all the residue out of the brush?

I'm finishing the violin I built last year,. An expensive sable brush from International Violin also stiffened up on me after the first use with an alcohol based dye. Putting it back into alcohol softened it up, but it left me concerned about upcoming stages with oil based varnish. When this stuff hardens, it usually does not soften up. What to do?

In reading through a variety of books and articles about finishing violins, I stumbled across one sentence that made the difference. After thoroughly cleaning your brush with the relevant solvent, wash it a couple of times, gently, with soap and warm water. That did the trick. I used this brush for seven different coats, washing it in warm water at the end. The brush is still as soft as when it came out of the wrapper.

I tried it on a beat up old house paint brush in a deck refinishing project. Same results. The brush that was almost ready for the garbage is now very functional. Not as good as new mind you, but a lot of life left.

BARBO OPEN HOUSE

Many of you know that Barbo Machinery has moved from Central Portland out near Portland airport. And the ownership has changed hands from founder Rand Robinson to some of the employees.

Come on out and see what's new.



Thursday - Saturday
October 9-10 • 8am - 5pm
October 11 • 9am - 2pm



14811 NE Airport Way, Suite 400
Portland, OR 97230

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

BOB OSWALD

Welcome to all of the following new members in chronological order:

John Johannessen, Ron Kincaid, Michael Williams, Tom Phillips, Matthew Williams, Marilyn Boyd, Beth Karolle, Sara Colbeck, Gary Joaquin, Darren Morgan, Brian Kelly, Mac Sheldon, Andy Park, Robert Carriou, Jimmy Chan, Eldon Conder, Ron Davidson, Marguerite Fishman, Shanna Gauger, Patrick George, Robert Goldie, Regina Klein, Robert Klein, Mike Peabody, Tom Pier, Ronald Schewerda, Andy Steiner, Calder Tahrán, Nick Tahrán, Ralph Tahrán, Jon Witherspoon, Kevin McIntyre, Dallin Hague, Jennifer Jackson, Alex Haupt, Judy Gage

We hope you'll make a regular appearance at the monthly programs. We're happy to have you with us. Say hello to an officer at the next meeting so we can get to know you.

FROM THE EDUCATION TEAM

NORM BAIRD

GUILD UPCOMING CLASSES

Explore the Possibilities of the Spokeshave, with Norm Baird

Oct 3, 5-9, \$60

Coordinator: Chip Webster

Build a Multiple Choice Table, with Bill Bolstad

Oct 25-26, 9-4:30, \$375, at Bill's shop in Talbot

Coordinator: Bob Sokolow

New User Shop Orientation & Machine Safety Classes

- Table Saw and Chop Saw Skills
- Router and Router Table Skills
- Jointer and Planer Skills
- Band Saw, Drill Press, and Table Mounted Sander Skills

All these are intended as support for new Green Cards

Next Level Series with Dennis Rodrigues and Jeff Zens

- Fundamental Sharpening Skills with Zens, Oct 31, 1-9, \$120
- Milling Work Pieces by Hand with Rodrigues, Nov 1, 9-5, \$120
- Machine Maintenance and Setup with Zens, Nov 8 in Zens' shop, \$60

See the Guild website for registration and details. Contact the Class Coordinator with questions. All classes are held at the Guild Shop unless otherwise specified. 7634 SW 34th St, Portland, 97219

AFFILIATE UPCOMING CLASSES

See their websites for more details and offerings

Oregon College of Art and Craft

Band Saw Box Unleashed

Oct 4-5

Instructor: Kai Korsmo

Northwest Woodworking Studio

Cobbler's Bench/ Bookshelf

Oct 6- Dec 15, Mondays

Instructor: Gary Rogowski

A Strategy for Furniture Design, Lecture

Oct 22

Instructor: Gary Rogowski

Portland Community College

PCC offers woodworking classes for beginners and basics. There are also special classes for Women and Seniors.

THE 2014 OPEN HOUSE

ROGER CROOKS

I took money for 19 new members, 4 which are family. I was promised another 5-8 would sign up from home. We had lot of ladies who were interested – was great to see them bond with Jenny and then sign up.

I think we had around 35 people sign in so our hit rate was very high – let's say 20-25 out of 35 are going to be members. Good interest in Basics class. One lady bought a shop membership for \$150 for her member friend for his birthday which is today.

Pass this on to others that helped out who are not on my list and special thanks to Jim and Jenny and others who helped to set this up and made it happen.

Roger



LAST MEETING: MEGA SHOW AND TELL

JIM MADARAS

The September Guild Meeting featured our Guild members bringing in items that they have been working on during this summer. There were many items brought to the meeting with the largest item brought was a dining room chest by Vince Corbin. Vince then left his piece for us to show off at the Open House. Then we had other pieces that ranged from cutting board to jewelry boxes, cabinets, tables, some tools you can use in the shop, step stool, mirror, garden planters and other items that I am probably forgetting. I want to thank all of you that brought in items that made this a successful meeting. Here are a few the pictures to tell the story.



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 educational programs
- Monthly newsletter
- An education program to help members develop woodworking skills
- Sponsor discounts
- Woodworking shows
- Network of business partners (the key to our development as members and as a Guild, providing additional learning opportunities)
- 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

Woodcrafters 503-231-0226, 212 NE 6th Avenue, Portland, www.woodcrafters.us

THE GUILD IS PROUD TO BE SPONSORED BY:

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Goby Walnut Products
Hardwood Industries
NW Figured Wood
Rockler Woodworking
SawStop
Woodcraft
Woodcrafters



Affiliates:

Northwest Woodworking Studio
Oregon College of Art and Craft

- ◆ Some sponsors offer discounts to current Guild members.
- ◆ ** denotes Scholarship Sponsor



Guild of Oregon Woodworkers

c/o Bob Oswald
40639 SW Vandehey Road
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We're on the Web!

www.GuildOfOregonWoodworkers.org