

## **Dues are Due!**

The \$35.00 dues for calendar 2006 are to be paid before December 31, 2005. Please pay at the December meeting or mail your check to Richard Libera, Treasurer, at 402 Apple Rd., Newark DE 19711.

## **November 16, 2005 Meeting Highlights:**

The meeting had two major themes. First, members presented the tree ornaments and holiday decorations they made for our Delaware Hospice Festival tree. The ornaments ran the gamut from simplicity to intricacy. Craftsmanship and creativity were impressive, with handsome carvings (one was even gilded), difficult turnings, delicate scrollwork and a wide variety of original forms and attractive finishes. Members explained and demonstrated the techniques and materials they used, including ingenious ways to make small and delicate items in quantity.

Many thanks to Mike Reese for coordinating this project, both within the Guild and with the Delaware Hospice. Thanks also to all the members who made ornaments: Tony Albano, Cas Anolick, Harry Coulsting, Rich Dell, John Dunbar, Roger Earley, Hans Francke, Jim Given, Gary Hayes, Frank Hetzell, Judy Hodgson, Jim Kirkbride, Richard Libera, Mike Reese, Tim Sabo, Jerry Sheeran, Joe Tomeo, Harry Welcher, and Paul Welsh.

Second, noted chairbuilder Jim Stephens presented Part I of his demonstration on building a chair. Starting with a blank of Eastern white pine Jim carved before our eyes the classic seat of a Windsor chair using traditional hand tools: spokeshave, drawknife, gutter axe, scorp, compass plane and chisel. While doing this he explained how to lay out and shape the seat, with specific techniques for working to the layout. Jim also described how he uses two coats each of barn red and black milk paint to give Windsor chairs an appearance of age and wear. He explained his steamer and how he uses it to curve the back of chairs, and shared many other tips. Special thanks to Jim for an interesting and instructive presentation; we look forward to Part II.

This was a good meeting for show and tell; many thanks to all who participated. John Dunbar presented a 9" walnut, brass and steel fixed throat smoothing plane that he made. Inspired by the Norris 14" plane, John's plane is designed for very fine smoothing of figured woods. Jerry Sheeran presented several hand mirrors he has made in various woods. Jerry favors walnut finished in watercolor varnish, but also presented examples made of white oak (in a wipe-on polyurethane) and sycamore (with six coats of spray lacquer). Jerry buys beveled glass mirrors from Kauffman Glass, and attaches them to the backs

with silicone caulk. He showed us MDF templates he uses to lay out the wooden handles and backs.

Bob Cooke presented a handsome red oak sample case, with inlaid strips of Brazilian cherry and box joint corners. Bob also presented wooden louvers he makes for use where HVAC registers are mounted in hardwood floors. Your Editor presented the Mother of all Organizers (a set of fixed shelves divided into 92 pigeonholes) and demonstrated the bridge jig used to position and cut the 176 divider dadoes efficiently on the radial arm saw. And David Webber presented an elegant, precisely fitted box he made for a prized set of chisels, using contrasting woods and a tung oil finish.

Charlie Given won this month's regular raffle prize, a four piece Starrett combination square set. We also raffled tickets to the Hospice Festival of Trees; Gary Hayes won those.

### **December 21, 2005 Meeting Agenda:**

We will have Part II of Jim Stephens' presentation on building a Windsor chair by hand. Jim's exceptional craftsmanship is widely known and recognized – for instance, his work has been displayed at Winterthur, and he has given demonstrations there.

As always, please bring "show and tell" items; those who do will receive two FREE raffle tickets. This month there will be three raffle prizes – gift wrapped. What they are will be a well-kept secret, until the winners open the packages.

### **Get Well Soon:**

Scrollwork artist Joe Tomeo came early to the November 16 Guild meeting, bringing decorations for the hospice tree, but felt ill and had to leave. It was a heart attack, and required major surgery. After a stretch in the hospital Joe is now recuperating at home; all best wishes for his swift recovery. Members who receive Scroll Saw Workshop magazine may recall that Joe's shop was featured in the Spring 2003 issue (p.67).

### **In Memoriam:**

We have lost a member and a friend. After attending our November 16 meeting as usual Martin G. May, Sr. died peacefully at his home that night. Marty worked at Woodcraft, and before that at Woodworkers Warehouse. He was well liked, and will be missed. In his memory the Guild has contributed \$40.00 to the M. Gregory May, Jr. Education Fund. Contributions to the Fund may be made at any Wilmington Trust branch.

## Buying Opportunities:

John Dunbar (302-376-1927) offers a Jet 6" Jointer in excellent condition, three years old with three sets of knives, for \$325.00

For those interested in Little-Known Equipment, a "wood processor with monitor & keyboard" is offered in the November 17 Community News classifieds.

## Benefactors of the Guild:

Several merchants, suppliers and restaurants have been generous in supporting the Guild; please keep these friends in mind when you make purchases: Woodcraft, Highland Hardware, Lee Valley and Veritas, Café Gelato, Fair Hill Inn, Eagle Diner and Giordano's of Kennett Square.

## Treasurer's Report:

Balance forward at 10/20/2005	1485.92
November Newsletter & Reminder Postcards	160.78-
Correction	26.73+
November Raffle Earnings	69.00+
Dues Income	350.00+
Ending Balance at 11/21/2005	1770.87

By: Richard Libera, Treasurer

## 2005–06 Meeting Schedule:

**Dates:** Guild meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month of the school year, September through May; this year's remaining dates are: December 21, January 18, February 15, March 15, April 19 and May 17. The Guild often has a June meeting, and normally does not meet in July and August.

**Place & Time:** During the school year we normally meet in the Carpenter Shop at Hodgson Vo-Tech High School in Glasgow, DE. June meetings are elsewhere, and the April 2006 meeting will be at the Kalmar Nyckel shipyard. At Hodgson we meet from 7:00 pm to about 9:00 pm. Some arrive earlier, which is fine -- the shop is open to us around 6:00 pm. The school entrance is on **business** 896 (Glasgow Avenue, old 896) south of Rte. 40, and the shop is in the rear by the dust collection system. Park in the side lot near the shop; **violators of parking rules may be towed.** Whenever the school is closed due to weather, that evening's meeting is cancelled. Closings are broadcast by local radio stations and WDEL reports them online at [www.wdel.com](http://www.wdel.com), News Center, SnoWatch.

**Board Meetings:** The Board ordinarily meets immediately after each Guild meeting. Board Meetings are open to all Guild members.

## **Guild Membership as of November 16, 2005**

**Guild Membership as of November 16, 2005 (Continued)**

Woodwords on the Brandywine  
December, 2005

Woodworkers Guild of Delaware  
402 Apple Road  
Newark, DE 19711

**Dues Are Now Due!**

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**WOODWORKERS GUILD OFFICERS FOR 2005-06**

President:  
John Dunbar, 302-376-1927  
Vice President:  
Don Ransom, 302-655-5054  
Treasurer:  
Richard Libera, 302-368-8035  
Second Treasurer  
John Baker, 302-834-1548  
Newsletter Editor:  
Paul Welsh, 302-235-2080  
Hardware Librarian:  
Jerry Sheeran, 610-268-3467

Library Committee:  
David Sokolowski, 410-398-3564  
Tim Sabo, 302-376-0382  
Pell Sherman, 302-832-2872  
Raffle Manager:  
Chuck Skelley, 302-737-2033  
Program Committee:  
Tony Albano, 610-268-3833  
Roger Earley, 302-998-4855  
Vincent Passalacqua, 302-378-3649  
Mike Reese, 302-477-1071  
David Sokolowski, 410-398-3564