

Dues are Past Due!

The dues for calendar 2006 (\$35.00 for individuals and \$40.00 for family membership) were due by December 31, 2005; if that date still appears on your mailing label you haven't yet paid the 2006 dues. Please pay at the January meeting, or mail your check to Richard Libera, Treasurer, at 402 Apple Rd., Newark DE 19711. Any who haven't paid by March 1 will be dropped from membership on that date.

December 21, 2005 Meeting Highlights:

Noted chairbuilder Jim Stevens presented Part II of his demonstration on building Windsor chairs by hand. Jim brought the seat he made last meeting plus pre-turned legs and spreaders, which he proceeded to trim, taper and install.

Using brace and bit Jim drilled angled holes in the seat for the legs, showing us how to lay out and align the holes at the correct compound angles. Then he showed us how to lay out and drill the holes for the spreaders, and how to lay out, trim and taper the spreaders. Next, using brace and taper jig, followed by brace and spoke pointer, Jim tapered the upper ends of the legs. Switching to brace and reamer, he reamed the holes in the seat to give the legs their correct and symmetrical rake and splay (using winding sticks to fine-tune the alignment) and, using Elmer's white glue, installed the spreaders and the legs. Then, after making them with a drawknife, Jim installed the wedges that keep the legs from twisting. The wedges must be installed across the grain of the seat; otherwise they could cause a split.

This traditional wedged and tapered leg/seat joint provides tremendous strength and durability -- whenever someone sits on the chair, the weight tightens the joint. Jim made it all look easy, and shared many useful tips. Special thanks to Jim Stevens for a first-rate presentation (and our apologies for a prior issue that misspelled his name).

At show and tell Frank Hetzel presented four small and distinctive pieces. Frank has made dinosaur crayon holders of gumwood as gifts for school age family members; these are unfinished so the children can choose their own paint or finish. Frank also presented a small scrollwork Koala Bear placque, a pair of salad tongs and impressively thin (1/32") scrollwork bookmarks. Bill Walters presented an unusual sled for a toddler, convertible to be usable by an older child. Built of birch and walnut and finished in spar urethane and wax, the sled has distinctive burned-in snowflake patterns.

Vince Passalacqua presented two jewelry boxes. First he made a handsome cherry box, finished with five coats of tung oil plus wax, thinking to give it to his young daughter. After some discussion with his spouse that one was redeployed, and Vince built his daughter a second and simpler box made of painted crown molding. Despite the modest material, the box has an elegant and distinctive look. Congratulations to Vince on spotting a design opportunity that many would miss.

Richard Libera, who is recovering from knee surgery, showed us the Early American cane he made from a sycamore branch, and Bob Cooke presented handsome night lights he lately made. Crafted in cherry, they have intricate scrollwork and a tung oil finish.

Special thanks to George Waddell, who kindly provided two dozen donuts for the meeting. By coincidence, your Editor did the same. It was quite a high-calorie meeting, fortunately not raided by the school's Diet Police.

The Guild awarded not three but four holiday raffle prizes, gift wrapped. Gary Hayes won a boxed set of Lee Valley Forstner bits. Roger Earley won a pair of Craftsman quick action forward/reverse clamps. Bob Cooke won a 32 ounce bottle of Titebond II glue, and Drew Horseman won a \$20.00 Woodcraft gift certificate.

January 21, 2006 Meeting Agenda:

Jim Stevens will present the finale of his impressive demonstration on building Windsor chairs by hand.

This month's raffle prize will be a Lee Valley Veritas apron plane, valued at \$69.00. As always, please bring "show and tell" items; those who do will receive two FREE raffle tickets.

The Woodworking Show:

Richard Libera reports that he and Chuck Skelly attended this show at the Maryland State Fairgrounds January 7. The show was large and interesting with much to see and wish for, and they visited the booths and displays of a number of guilds, clubs and vendors. Rich and Chuck particularly noticed the impressive presentation of the Annapolis Woodworkers Guild. They displayed 36 items made by members, all well labelled as to name or description, maker, wood and finish. Several members were available for discussion, each wearing a handsome shop smock made especially for that member. Rich and Chuck arranged for us to exchange newsletters with this lively and interesting group.

Rich and Chuck had a long talk with a DeWalt representative about how Black & Decker is going to integrate its purchase of Porter-Cable and Delta, and also discussed resuming our past relationship with DeWalt. Rich will write to DeWalt in hopes of firming that up.

In Memoriam:

Guild member Robert N. Cooke Jr. died January 5 at age 53, following a massive heart attack. After a notable career in engineering Bob had established a woodworking business, Hardwood Accents, that became his full time occupation. He crafted grills, vents and registers of hardwood, and sold them primarily to flooring contractors. Bob was a regular at Guild meetings and an impressive craftsman; as mentioned above he presented some current work at our December meeting, as he also did at the November meeting. Bob was widely liked and will be missed. In his memory the Guild has donated \$40.00 to the American Heart Association.

The Guild extends condolences to Alan Runk whose wife of 44 years, Sally Robelen Runk, died December 17.

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.

John Smock (302-239-9111) offers a Powermatic contractor's table saw with Vega fence for \$375.00, and an 18" 2hp single phase Jet bandsaw with a Kreg fence and 12" resaw capacity for \$550.

Coming Events:

The Society of American Period Furniture Makers will hold its seminar January 18-26 in Williamsburg, VA. For details visit sapfm.org.

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 11/21/2005	1770.87
Given in memory of Martin May	40.00-
December Newsletter expense	124.47-
Given in memory of Sally Runk	40.00-
December Raffle Earnings	64.00+
Dues Income	680.00+
Ending Balance at 12/31/2005	2310.40

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: 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, News Center, SnoWatch.

Board Meetings: The Board ordinarily meets immediately after each Guild meeting, and Board Meetings are open to all Guild members. The Board will meet 7:00 pm Wednesday January 25 at John Dunbar's house, 203 Glenelg Court, Middletown, DE.

Woodwords on the Brandywine
January, 2006

Woodworkers Guild of Delaware
402 Apple Road
Newark, DE 19711

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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