

# WOODWORDS ON THE BRANDYWINE

*Woodworkers Guild of Delaware*

*Volume 18, No. 8*

*April, 2007*

*www.delawarewoodworkers.org*

## **March 21, 2007 Meeting Highlights:**

This meeting featured two major presentations. First, University of Delaware Professor Jim Glancey and his colleague Dan Pron reviewed recent work at the University's Center for Composite Materials to develop safer hammers and chisels, and demonstrated two resulting products: Hard Cap chisels made by Baltimore Toolworks and marketed through Home Depot, and prototype Kobalt capped hammers, not yet on the market.

Conventional chisels have their hazards. The hammer can graze or miss and hit fingers or wrist. Sometimes mushroomed chisels chip when hit, sending metal shards flying. Over long periods heavy users face other risks. The energy transferred when hammer strikes chisel can cause debilitating injuries to hands, wrists and arms. Some users develop repetitive motion injuries, and the high-pitched sound of hammers on chisels can cause hearing loss.

Jim Glancey's team built a test stand with an automated hammering arm. For months this machine hammered away on chisels while the team took thousands of measurements. They developed a polymer cap for the chisel that delivers a 90 percent reduction in harmful vibration and reduces most of the sound below audible frequencies. The striking surface is two and a half times larger, to prevent missed blows, flying chips and mushrooming. The researchers also discovered that such a capped chisel can be made sharper -- a capped 60-degree chisel cuts easier than the usual uncapped 65-degree chisel, with no reduction in durability. Many thanks to Jim and Dan for an instructive and interesting presentation, and to Chuck Skelley for arranging it.

The second major event was Chuck Skelley's demonstration of the fine points of applying plastic laminate to MDF, plywood and particle board surfaces with contact cement. Using "B" grade laminate, which is thinner and bendable, he proceeded step by step to make a flawless small counter top before our eyes. After preparing the edges of the substrate with a belt sander he cut slightly oversize strips of laminate with a splitter made for the purpose, brushed a thin layer of Hybond 80 contact adhesive on the substrate edges and laminate strips, carefully attached the strips, and routed the resulting edges flush and clean.

Next Chuck sprayed the adhesive onto the top surface of the substrate and the bottom surface of the corresponding large piece of laminate. Then came the crucial part. Contact cement is unforgiving, and woe to him who lets the surfaces touch before they are correctly aligned -- they instantly and irretrievably bond in the wrong position. Chuck showed us how to keep them separated with

waxed dowels, which he pulls out one by one as he rolls the laminate down in its correct position. He also showed us samples of different solid edge wood profiles – chamfered, rounded over, etc. Special thanks to Chuck Skelley for a clear and practical presentation.

At show and tell Richard Libera presented pictures of his solar-powered clothes dryer – a beefy clothesline support/bench made mainly of 6” by 6” cypress. He also showed us an antique crosscut handsaw with only four points to the inch, and an unusual handle with a separate hole for the thumb. Bill Bristow presented a carved and painted striped bass which has won prizes elsewhere. Bill’s wife, a talented artist, did the distinctive paintwork. Roger Earley presented a turned and segmented pot with a threaded lid, elegantly done in paduk redwood with an ebony lid. Paul Steel presented an impressive ten drawer spice box based on a 1740 New Hope original, and showed us some of the jigs he used. The piece is walnut, handsomely inlaid with maple and cherry. David Webber presented an oak shelf tray with rounded corners made for the children’s playroom at the Helicopter Museum, and showed us an antiqued weight he made for the clock he is building. Our thanks to them all.

Charlie Miller won the Guild’s regular raffle prize, a \$30.00 gift certificate at Woodcraft. Dolores Marino and Brian Reed won the other two raffle prizes – sets of Hard Cap safety chisels. Special thanks to Baltimore Toolworks, who donated them.

### **April 18, 2007 Meeting Agenda:**

The theme of this meeting will be air powered tools. Chuck Skelley will present several kinds and sizes of nailers and describe their pros and cons. Tony Albano will present and explain the air tools and bits he uses for thrifty and effective wood carving. You can try out any and all of the tools being demonstrated, and you are earnestly invited to bring in and explain or demonstrate air tools of your own.

The Guild’s contest for the best frame for a picture, mirror or the like will be judged at this meeting. There are no restrictions as to size or shape, and the first and second prize winners will each receive a \$15.00 gift certificate at Woodcraft. **If you haven’t yet started there is still enough time.**

This month’s raffle prize will be a Veritas iron edge trimming plane – a recent and impressive addition to the Veritas product line. As always please bring "show and tell" items; those who do will receive two FREE raffle tickets.

### **A Call to Board Service:**

The Guild will elect its 2007-08 Board at the May 16 meeting, and volunteers are needed. Please consider volunteering. The tasks are satisfying and not overly demanding, and by serving on the Board you can help to sustain and improve our Guild. Your Editor needs a successor or at least some help, we

may need a backup Treasurer, and there may be others ready to pass the baton. Contact John Dunbar (302-376-1927) or Richard Libera (302-368-8035).

### **Membership Program:**

We now have 65 paid members, which is well below our target. It's time to rebuild our membership. Please help -- invite woodworking friends and acquaintances to Guild meetings, and encourage them to join. Prospective members can become Guest members and receive up to three issues of the newsletter before dues are required.

### **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, Lee Valley and Veritas, Lie-Nielsen Toolworks, Bell's Supply Co. Inc., Café Gelato, Eagle Diner, Fair Hill Inn, Arby's, Giordano's of Kennett Square and Hearne Hardwoods of Oxford, PA.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Balance forward at 3/7/2007	2159.44
Dues Income	70.00+
March meeting raffle proceeds	52.00+
March Newsletter expense	92.50-
Ending Balance at 4/8/2007	2188.94

By: Richard Libera, Treasurer

### **2006–07 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 April 18 and May 16. 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 normally elsewhere. 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.** Also, **bring a flashlight** because the parking lot and shop entrance may be unlighted.

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April, 2007

Woodworkers Guild of Delaware  
402 Apple Road  
Newark, DE 19711

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**WOODWORKERS GUILD OFFICERS FOR 2006-07**

**President:**

John Dunbar, 302-376-1927

**Vice President:**

Jim Stevens, 302-239-4713

**Treasurer:**

Richard Libera, 302-368-8035

**Second Treasurer**

John Baker, 302-834-1548

**Newsletter Editor:**

Paul Welsh, 302-235-2080

**Second Editor:**

Judy Hodgson, 302-479-3938

**Hardware Librarian:**

Jerry Sheeran, 610-268-3467

**Raffle Manager:**

Chuck Skelley, 302-737-2033

**Membership Chairman:**

Pell Sherman, 302-832-2872

**Webmaster:**

Bill Wuhrman, 610-869-0383

**Library Committee:**

David Sokolowski, 410-398-3564

Tim Sabo, 302-376-0382

Pell Sherman, 302-832-2872

**Program Committee:**

Tony Albano, 610-268-3833

Roger Earley, 302-998-4855

Vincent Passalacqua, 302-378-3649

Charles Given, 302-292-2724

Jim Kirkbride, 302-999-8112