



From The Shop



The newsletter of the Lehigh Valley Woodworker's Guild

Issue 04.2007

Note – I have eliminated the table of contents. Largely because there are so few pages and it wastes space. Looked professional, though.....

Upcoming Meeting Information

Next Meeting: April 17th, 2007 (3rd Tuesday!)

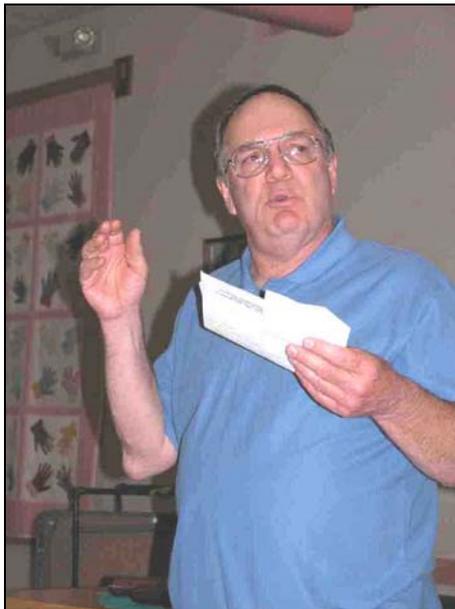
Location: Lehigh Co. Senior Center
1633 Elm Street
Allentown, PA

Speakers and topics:

- Phil Alcock of the New Jersey Professional woodworkers guild – Carving.
- Take 10 – Members Q&A session

Note – THANKS to Terry Green for submitting an excellent article for this issue! And to John Uhler for sending photos of his shop tour. Lou Supina also submitted an excellent writeup of his trip to Mexico in search of exotic hardwoods, but there was not sufficient space in this month's edition. Look for that in the May issue! All submissions gratefully accepted! Dan M.

Carl Nugent – Wood finishing.

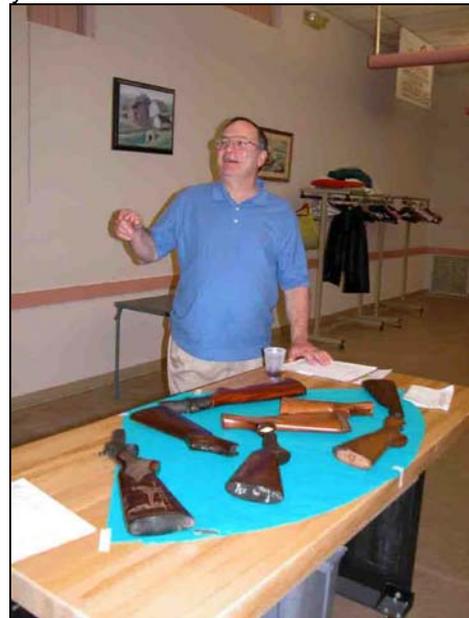


Carl Nugent begins his talk on wood finishing at the March meeting.

Carl started out advising the he is the owner / operator of a huge company called Gold n' Lustre, Inc. He is the CEO, accounting, labor, janitor, supply, and purchasing department. That means it is only him, for the uninformed. His company is in Trenton and specializes

in creating and finishing or refinishing gunstocks, pistol grips and the like. Having said that, he also cautioned that his techniques are used on smaller items and, while some may be useful on large items, most apply to smaller work. He was careful to suggest that each listener take away from the presentation what they felt they could use.

While Carl works and lives in New Jersey, he spends most of his time in PA. He likes to shoot and talk guns, and these pastimes are many times considered politically incorrect east of the Delaware. Sad.



Carl with a variety of gunstocks he has finished.

Carl uses many types of wood in his work and exotic woods are desirable in these applications. Rifle, shotgun, and pistol wood can be very attractive and many gun owners consider the wood as important as the firearm itself. I can attest to this being the owner of, at one time, 5 shotguns, ranging in cost from \$800 to \$3200. These are CHEAP in trap shooting circles. Some of the gunstocks will take your breath away. Trap guns, as example, can cost upwards of \$10,000 for a single barrel, single shot piece. \$5,000 guns are common. The wood has to withstand all sorts of weather conditions – I have shot in rain so bad you are totally soaked after your shooting round UNDER your rain gear. The "official" shoots are not cancelled due to weather. Rain, snow, nothing - except lightning. Modern hunting guns are often made of synthetics, but competition shooting arms are often prized for the wood and the metal work both.

Carl started his talk like Norm Abram does – talked about safety. Safety with tools is obvious, but strippers, finishes, and certain types of woods can be very toxic

to the skin or when breathing in fumes or sanding debris. He talked about the seven "P's". Proper Prior Planning Prevents P*ss Poor Performance. Pick a vowel.



Carl's display of pistol grips illustrating many different types of wood he uses in his work.

Carl distributed a handout describing the 11 steps he uses. – Strip / Patch-repair / Sand / Steel Wool / Burnish / Steel wool / Stain / Steel Wool / Seal / Finish / Polish.

The stripper he uses is a gel type, because much of the work he does is on curved parts and the gel adheres to the contours while doing its work. He uses the newer stuff as opposed to dichloromethane or methylene chloride. He recommends a plastic scraper to remove residue and an afterwash of alcohol and steel wool. On repairs needed, dents are raised by wetting them and sometimes with application of heat to swell the fibers. For cracks or splits, he uses shellac sticks color matched to the piece. He advises also that wood filler works better for him than home brewed preparations like glue mixed with sawdust.

Carl uses wet / dry type sandpaper for all his sanding as it stands up better. His limit for dry sanding is 320 grit, after which he uses wet sanding as high as 1000 grit. 4/0 steel wool is almost all he uses for all his steel wool work. He wets the wood, allows it to dry, and then knocks down the grain. Carl burnishes the wood with a piece of hard metal, such as the shaft of a round screwdriver to sort of polish the unstained finish followed again by steel wool. He feels this creates a smoother starting point. This may be at conflict with other views, as burnishing wood can create a surface that does not readily accept stain, but Carl again cautioned that you want to try his techniques to see if they work for you. If they do, then incorporate them in what you are doing. Obviously this burnishing is restricted to smaller work.

On staining, he like Minwax finishes, the old stand by, not the gel. There are many color choices. He recommends that the first coat get wiped on and almost immediately wiped off so that you do not get the work too dark too fast. It is easier to reapply if you desire a darker finish. With some woods, a wood conditioner is applied first to prevent blotching. Some Military stains, such as chestnut, are available from sources like Brownells. He mentioned "Brownells" several times in his presentation. This company specializes in products for guns and outdoors. They have a huge inventory of materials and perhaps a visit to their web site will be of value as a potential source for materials not generally found in woodworking sources. Their printed catalog is immense, about 2" thick.



A close up of some of the pistol grips.

On to sealing, he applies a heavy coat of finish and lets it dry. He cautioned that humidity is bad for finish drying, as many know. His shop is not air conditioned, and most of us cope with similar situations, so be prudent and let stuff dry totally. Then he removes most of it with steel wool, and follows that by another application and drying, each time removing less finish. For final coats, and sometimes gun stock get MANY, he applies finish with a "finger dunk" technique and hand rubs each layer in, using steel wool lightly now between coats. Carl likes wiping poly, especially for gunstocks that are exposed to the elements – rain, snow, and abuse. Oil finishes darken the wood and should be used with caution. Carl's work does not lend itself to finishes such as Linseed oil or Tung oil, which need lots of build to be effective, and Carl does not like working with these finishes. The exception is with military stocks, which traditionally were finished with boiled linseed oil. Carl does like teak oil and a preparation for gunstocks – Tru Oil.

Interestingly, when the piece is done, Carl's final step is to rub the finish down with a brown paper bag or reverse (paper) side of sandpaper (He said REVERSE) to sort of "burnish" the final coat to a high luster.

To close, being a gun owner (I only have two now..), there was a lot to take away from in this presentation. Folks who do small work may also have discovered

some new techniques they may try, and larger case work is almost too big to use some of these techniques, but, as Carl suggested, you be the judge. Carl brought an interesting display of pistol grips made of all types of woods and also several gunstocks finished in all sorts of ways.

We appreciate the presentation and the time it took Carl to come out here from across the river. By the way, Carl refused his speaker fee, so thanks again!

Carl can be reached at:

**Gold “n” Lustre
PO 640
Trenton, PA 08604
609-392-4222**

John Uhler Virtual Shop Tour

John Uhler has done some very creative thinking and has implemented which allows him a full function shop in a limited space. While John provided a lot of data to me, space only allows a few shots, so I will attempt to include the ones where his “shop solutions” may benefit you. John has a whole lot of innovation going on in this shop. He uses adjacent surfaces where appropriate as support surfaces as with his radial arm saw setup, and makes sure that other surfaces are intentionally high enough or low enough so that the stock will have clearance enough to not hit other machines, as in the photo with the shaper, band saw, and planer.

Ample use of pegboard and storage devices such as a library index card case for small parts provide a place for everything.



John had a heavy duty table top drill press, and has it mounted on a heavy box which has storage too, making it function like a floor model. Here he has swung the home made drill press table out of the way and in the back has a jig for doing long work that adjusts in angle, Here he has it adjusted to do a 45 degree hole in a piece of long stock.



Here we see that John has arranged some stationary tools with work surfaces all at different levels so that you can use one without the work catching on the surface of another. Note the planer in the read of the photo located near the exit door – it is located there so if John is planing long stock, and needs more room, he opens the door. Simple but effective.



John has crafted a very neat sacrificial work surface for his workbench which is held in place by the tail vise. Note on front of the bench side is a slot and a clamp....



The photo above has the front edge piece in the down position. Here is is raised (there must be another on like this at the other end..) and locked in place. Another piec of stock in the tail vise (please note the photo – both edges are raised above the work surface) and you have a perfect 90 degree angle for assembly!



Not everyone has a huge fence on their table saw. John has a pre-cut 20" section of wood that he places on the right side of his fence, adjusts the fence to the width he needs plus the extension, places a grip bar against the spacer on his extension table, and locks it in place. Viola! A long table saw fence! This is again very simple but very effective. Many times you spend money on these really wide fences and almost never use the extra capacity – this is a cost effective way to make your existing setup work for those occasional wide cuts.



You want to see some neat dust collection for a radial arm saw? John constructed a series of large louvers to the rear of the saw where the exhaust is and the dust is directed down and away from the tool.



In order to extend the rear "fence" of the radial arm saw, John has these extension fences that fit into his workbench with dowels. Slips right in and it is all lined up.



Tilt up router table makes for easy changes and adjustments. Nice storage drawers below as well.

Terry Green's Home Entertainment Center!

The following text and photos was submitted by Terry Green as sent to Wood Magazine as testimony to a project he built from their magazine. It is nice to know that Terry uses that great workshop he showed us in his virtual shop tour for equally impressive projects. Very nice work here.



Looks like some craftsmanship and attention to detail was applied to this great home entertainment center made by Terry Green.



Sliding dovetail drawer sides?



Front view shows nice proportions.



Nice work on the top of the unit...



A view of the leg detail.

The original design came from Wood Magazine's October 2005 issue called 'Compact Entertainment Center' on Page 42 with changes made to meet our personal needs. The project is made of white oak and poplar for the drawer insides. The drawer fronts are jointed with sliding dovetails. The eight drawers have holes drilled on 2" centers on each inside piece to accept shelf support pins (Woodcraft Part No. 130340) to hold DVD's and VHS tapes upright. The more you put in the drawer the further you move back the pins. The drawer fronts are flat to match the rest of the furniture in that room.

The sides are constructed of 1/2" white oak plywood and rabbeted edge boards. The top is 3/4" white oak

plywood with 1" thick breadboard edging all the way around. The front is all mortise and tenon joinery. The inside drawer supports are white pine with beeswax for ease of sliding.

The finish has (2) coats of 'General Finishes' Prairie Wheat Gel stain and (3) coats of Watco wipe on satin poly from Woodcraft with the last coat of poly wet sanded with 1500 paper and then applied paste wax.

The doors are topped with a tapered top rail to match the feet. The inserts are beveled glass from Penn Allen Glass, Allentown, PA. The hardware is all antique brass.

Frank Klausz

Central NJ Woodworkers Guild

The Central Jersey Woodworkers Association (<http://www.cjwa.org>) has made arrangements for a special Saturday session with Frank Klausz. This is a great opportunity for you to spend a day learning from master cabinetmaker, author, video star and demonstrator in his shop in Pluckemin, NJ.

In the morning session, Frank will demonstrate and discuss sharpening, handplanes, wood technology, various joinery techniques including dovetails, mortise and tenon and more. In the afternoon Frank will provide a Table Saw seminar that will provide you the knowledge to master this essential shop tool. Learn to use hand and machine tools from one of America's top flight Craftsman at his own shop!

When: Saturday April 21, 2007 from 9AM-4PM

Where: Frank's Cabinet Shop, Inc.
(<http://frankklausz.com/homepage.html>)

1992 Burnt Mills Rd.

Pluckemin, NJ 07978

tel: (908) 658 4396 (DO NOT CALL THIS NUMBER FOR SEMINAR SIGNUP)

Cost:

Non CJWA club member fee is \$60, which includes a pizza lunch and CJWA club membership for year 2007. This is a great opportunity for you; as a more typical fee is around \$70 for one of Frank's shorter woodworking show seminars.

The shop can accommodate no more than 40 people (Frank has about 20 chairs) so please bring your own small folding chair.

Registration:

There are a limited number of seats still available so don't delay. MAIL your check for \$60, payable to "CJWA" to: Paul Weber, CJWA Treasurer
33 Timothy Lane
Tinton Falls, NJ 07724

Reservations are accepted as payment is received.

Thank-you,
Roger Ackerman
President
Central Jersey Woodworkers Association
www.cjwa.org

And in other news...

Judy Muth – I am inaugurating her with title of Party Chairperson and cheerleader. She suggests we have a more buffet style party where folks bring in food and covered dishes, snacks, etc instead of just cake. While Cake Creations does a fine job, and **Mary** is doing well and **Tom** probably chased her back to the kitchens, this would be an interesting approach. I like to cook and am a much better cook than woodworker. So maybe we can call the Christmas Party “Gag and Brag!”

Judy also described that they constructed a Hindu prayer shrine. Interesting project. She said she gave it a good Christian Blessing before it left the shop, so its new owners are more of less covered from all angles.

Paul Anthony diverted from his normally quiet and shy persona to tell us that **Bailey Lumber** is changing its business model and is having a huge open house on **May 12th**. Jeff advised that he will be sending out a flyer and that their web site should be up but it is a little behind schedule in development. He is trying to get this going before the open house. It seems that they are still operating the kiln but not the sawmill, which suffered the most damage in the fire they had, but they are also restructuring the business a bit anyway. Nice folks at Bailey. Seems most folks involved with selling wood are nice folks.

LATE NEWS: Bailey’s flyer will be sent out with the newsletter AND they are having a drawing for 100 BF of PA red oak or a store credit for \$250!!

Directions: From I-78 exit #35 - Lenhartsville

- Take 143 north toward Kempton
- Go about 4 - 5 miles and turn left onto Old Philly Pike (First left after the Sunoco Gas station)
- When you come to “Y”, keep right onto Kunkle’s Dahl Rd.
- Continue 2 miles to a stop sign, turn left onto Mountain Rd.
- Go 1.25 miles to Bailey Wood Products, Inc.

Paul also advised that Bucks County is having a huge furniture exhibit from **4/5 – 4/19**. This is almost past press time, but you can contact the Bucks County Chamber of Commerce at 215-348-3913 or www.centralbuckschamber.com, the chamber of commerce web site. Got this info from the web site:

The Byers Art Exhibition is responsible for development, planning and creation of the annual

Art Exhibit, each year, focusing on a significant aspect of Bucks County art. The event is one of the Bucks Fever celebration anchor events, continuously held since 1986.

Andy Anderson reported that **Bill Phillips**, a fellow with a long established hand tool business, is quite ill. Folks who know him may want to give him a call or drop a card.

Allen Powell described the new plans for blocks as published in last month’s newsletter. We want a better result than last year. I can tell you that my tools will be up and running and I plan to contribute. Allen’s plan is to make it clear and easy to participate.

BOOKS!

Gerry Chiusano has a schedule conflict and does not know if he can make meetings in the future. **Russ Reinhard** will be taking over book duties. Thanks for stepping up, Russ! We will be bringing in the catalogs for the Taunton book sale so **YOU** bring in checks or cash for your book ordering desires. Books have a hefty discount and you toss on a buck for shipping (a bargain).

Waveland update!!

Allen Powell, our Hurricane Katrina conscience, advised that the furniture is still needed and still being shipped. There is still time to get your contribution on the trip there. Folks, these are the people you do NOT hear about on the news.

Drag and Brag



A hunk of root. Will Schmidt used oil on this and that is why the color is so dark. Interesting shape to this piece, and to many of the unusual pieces he brings in. I like them! Do not know what they are, but I like them.

Members Mart

I'm selling a DeWalt Biscuit Jointer Kit with extra Biscuits for \$150.00, and a Porter Cable Profile Sander for \$115.00. Both tools in Excellent condition.

Pens and stuff – For Sale!

Jim Frankenfield is selling his PENS, and his wife Pat is selling her hand fabricated SILVER and SEMI PRECIOUS STONE JEWELRY at JUST AROUND THE CORNER, a Fine Art-Fine Craft-Gallery located at 5A North Bank Street, Easton Pa. Bank Street is 1/2 block west of the circle.

WOODCRAFT SALE AND SEMINARS!

Ray and Mary Winkler of our local WOODCRAFT store on Lehigh Street are announcing a sale and open house from April 13 – 15. Discounts of 10% off, not including a few tools where vendors do not permit discounts. There will be demos and clinics on Friday and Saturday, and the store is open Sunday as well. Call Ray or Mary at 610-351-2966 for info. These folks run a nice business and are great friends to this guild.

And the Woodcraft winner is...

How do I know? I made a mental not to keep getting better at getting photos and names. Seems mental notes do nto work well any more. I will play catch up on this at the next meeting. My apologies to the winner in March and to Woodcraft who contributes to these prizes!

Steering Committee Meeting Notes

Andy gave the treasurers report and it was accepted. The refreshments are going well. **Block making was discussed and will be raised at the next guild meeting with respect to future direction.** Newsletter costs are under control and **Dan Manturi** (That's me) will continue to ask members to accept e-mail copies. This is not from a cost perspective at this time, but more from a standpoint of the process of updating post card data, address lists, printing, cutting, stamping, and mailing them.

Russ Reinhard has obtained a large file cabinet and **Andy Anderson** will ask the Senior Center management if we can keep it there, even at a small additional yearly cost. We can keep our library there, the guild tools (drill doctor is the only one right now), electrical cords, amplifier, projectors and the like in lockable storage.

The 2007 calendar is holding up pretty well. We have a couple of vacancies but some plans to fill them.

Allen Powell will be pulling together the list of contestants for the October woodworking contest. This was fun and informative and I think winners and non winners alike had fun. The format will be similar to

last year where we will have a few categories and you make something that will be a good fit for the category.

We also discussed the potential of getting a camera to do close ups of presentations and project them for better viewing. Russ also suggested we get a mirror that can be affixed to the bench we have overhauled at a 45 degree angle as in the turning bench at Woodcraft, enabling a birds eye view of the work being done.

VIRTUAL SHOP TOURS! Presentations!

Joe Deevy will be doing a presentation on a trip to Williamsburg where the old strictly hand tool methods are demoed.

Jump in and do a presentation– OR –submit an article!

Wood Specials

SHADY LANE TREE FARM

Louise & Mike Peters
5220 Shimerville Road
Emmaus, PA
610 965-5612 Please call

FLEETWOOD LUMBER & FLOORING

BILL BURKERT
27 Rapp Rd.
Fleetwood, PA
610 944-8364 Please call

Member discount 5%

Bailey Wood Products, Inc.

441 Mountain Rd.
RD#2 Box 38
Kempston, PA
610 756-6827

Woodcraft

Pkwy Shopping Ctr.
1534 Lehigh St.
Allentown, Pa.,18103

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Harold Andy Anderson	610-965-4828
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Russ Reinhard	
Guild Contact Person – E-mail	
Russ Reinhard	

2007 Meeting Calendar:

Month	Topic	Speaker
April 17 th	Carving	Phil Alcock – NJ Professional Woodworkers Guild
May 15 th	Woodburning	Frank Rauscher
June 19 th	FESTOOL – new tool! Shop tour – Craig Bentzley's shop.	Vendor presentation
July 17 th	Collection of member presentations – shop tours, etc.	
August 21 st	Vacancy!	
September 18 th	Carving	Frank Rauscher
October 16 th	Annual Woodworking contest	Anyone and everyone
November 20 th	Vacancy!	
December 18 th	Annual Holiday Party	Members and families

NEXT MEETING – Tuesday, April 17th, Starting at 7:30, sharp. Allow time to arrive and be seated before start time.

Location: Lehigh Co. Senior Center

Topics:

- Phil Alcock – NJ Professional Woodworkers Guild – on Carving.!!
 - Take Ten – 10 minute Q&A problem solver session
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