



From The Shop



The newsletter of the Lehigh Valley Woodworker's Guild

Issue 02.2007

UPCOMING MEETING INFORMATION..... 1
 JANUARY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS 1
 MARY ELLEN EVANS ON THE MEND!5
 STEVE KIRK POKER TABLE6
 RADIO BOXES! RADIO BOXES!.....6
 WAVELAND UPDATE!!..... 6
 HELP WANTED – TONY O'MALLEY! 6
 MEMBERS MART..... 6
 AND THE WOODCRAFT WINNER IS..... 7
 STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES 7
 VIRTUAL SHOP TOURS! AGAIN! 7
 WOOD SPECIALS 7
 L.V.W.G. CONTACTS..... 7
 2007 MEETING CALENDAR:..... 8

Upcoming Meeting Information

Next Meeting: February 20th, 2007 (3rd Tuesday!)

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

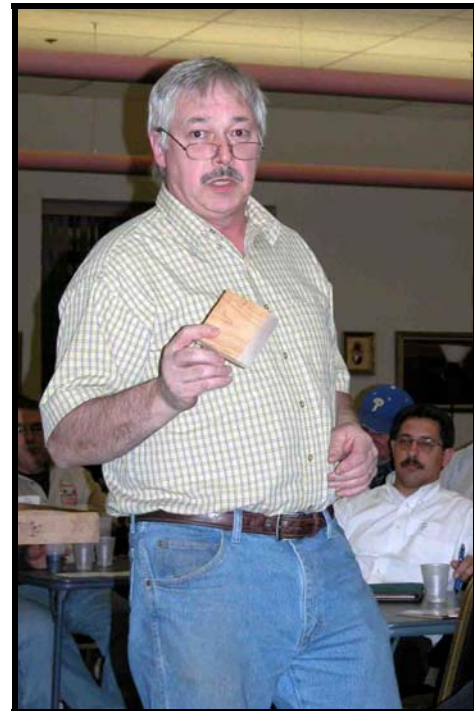
Speakers and topics:

BILL GRUMBINE! Spindle turning!
Take 10 – Members Q&A session

January Meeting Highlights

Fun, Fun, Fun! Making sawdust! Straightforward work. Not a lot of space needed! No expensive tools! Fred Matlack! – Well 4 out of 4 ain't bad. I have to admit, folks who know Fred have a lot of fun dealing with him and his presentations are fun as well. I jokingly referred to him as Fred "the entertainer", but anyone who was at our very well attended January meeting can see why. Fun presentation, fun project that even I can do, and Fred's usual "accuracy is not important" approach to this one – trust me, he is capable of doing fine work indeed. And fun to photograph, document, and write up. Got some meat to work with.

Bandsaw boxes!!



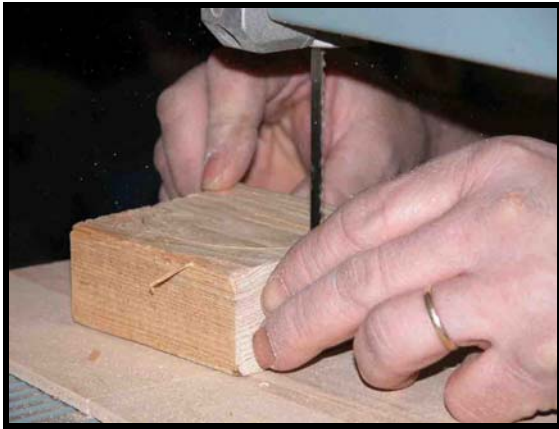
Fred "deer in the headlights" Matlack with a 2x4 chunk that he transforms into a neat box in 15 minutes.! I had a better photo but it turned out blurry – sorry Fred! Once can only do so much when photographing you!

Here is the technique in a nutshell:

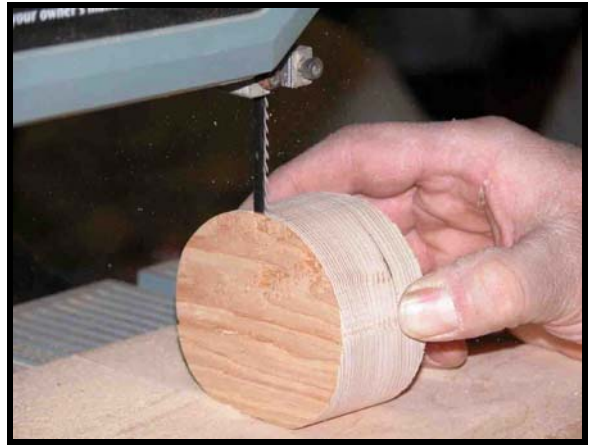
1. Cut a shape. One side is a reference side.
2. Cut the shape for the top, slightly curved.
3. Sand it. Flatten the bottom.
4. Cut off the top.
5. Cut off the bottom.
6. Cut out the inside of the box.
7. Cut off a slice from the "top" of the inside "scrap".
8. Glue inside scrap slice to top.
9. Glue side opening. Now circumference is smaller!
10. Glue on bottom.
11. Assemble, hold together, sand off extending parts of top and bottom.
12. Buffed on wax finish.

How easy can it get!

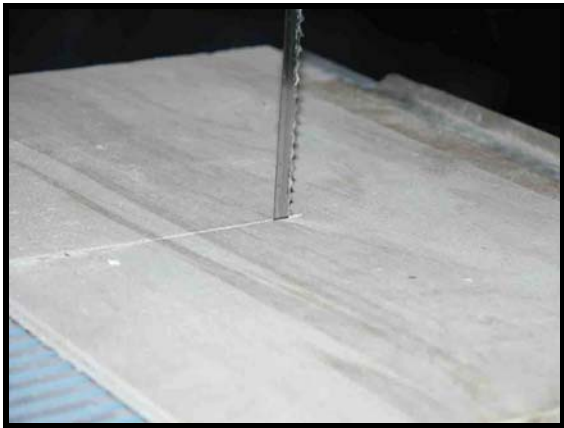
Here we go, explaining each step.



Cut the shape. Fred cuts the outside shape with the bandsaw. A reference edge needs to be cut so you can reassemble correctly AND so you have a stable surface for remaining work.



Cut the outside top shape – again a little concave to give the top a more pleasing appearance.



Fred’s bandsaw has a grooved table – not a good thing on a band saw as it tends to grab the work. So Fred makes a smooth table out of plywood or masonite. It also acts as a zero clearance table to eliminate tear-out and prevents small pieces from being pulled through the hole in the table.

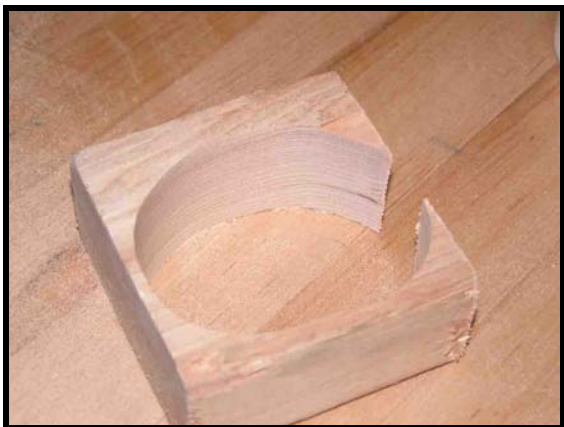


Blurry photo, but it does show the curve that was cut for the outside top in step #2.

Cut whatever shape you like, so long as it has a reference edge. Fred uses sort of a kidney shape, the idea being you can tell one side from another and you can rest the work on the edge with two “humps” so it is stable during cutting actions that follow.



Another blurry shot showing Fred sanding the outside. Do not forget top and bottom!



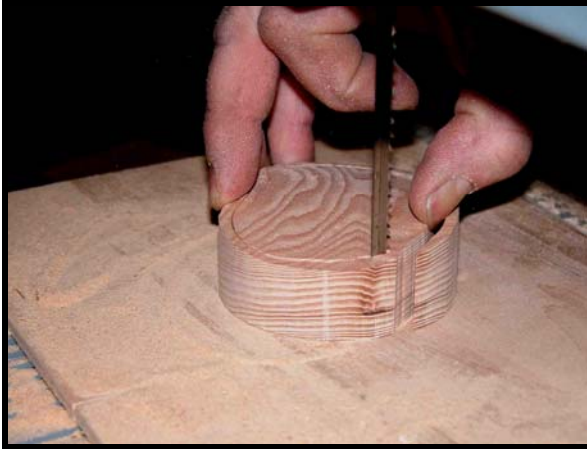
Here you can see that the side on the bottom of the photo has a small concave curve – that is the reference side.

The outside top is cut curves – mostly an aesthetic move. Sand the outside. This actually is the most sanding you will do to finish the outside of the piece. The cut from the scrap “top” is used as a reference piece to hold the top in place and keep it from sliding off. Since the bandsaw cuts a “sawtooth” surface and not a smooth one (one that Fred referred to as an “Inkra jig” edge, named after the very fine locking ridges on the Inkra jig), a little glue on the top and sliding the other piece against the top will result in a

point where the two pieces sort of “lock”. Make sure the space around the edge is equal so that the top will fit properly.



Cut off the top. Fred makes this cut a tad over 1/8". Use whatever thickness you like. Size of the box and sufficient material for strength really dictates what thickness is best. Cutting the bottom is the same technique for this style box!



Cut out the inside. Again, wall thickness depends on size of the box, personal taste, and structural strength. The entry cut runs parallel to the grain, and Fred uses his thumb to hold the entry cut open. He essentially finishes the cut and then backs the blade out. **BE CAREFUL!** It seems Fred is good at this as his thumb looks OK.



Cut the inside of the lid from the scrap left when cutting the box walls.

The next step – you glue the cut in the ring that has been cut to make the wall or side of the piece. You can likely hold this together with a small clamp or rubber band. Take care to ensure a good bond. Truth be told, in the meeting, Fred got the top with the glued reference piece that was held together by a member for a couple of minutes, and the ring that represents the box walls that was also held together for a couple of minutes, glued on the bottom, held it all together, and sanded it. The heat from the sander combined with the pressure of Fred holding it all together helped to set the glue – all was held together when he was finished.



This is what the outside walls look like when the cut is done. Do not know if you can see that the cut runs in parallel to the grain.



The purpose of this last sanding is to make sure that the seam glued on the wall is smooth, and to ensure that the top and bottom are flush with the sides. You can see in yet another blurry photo that the edges are being sanded off of the top and bottom.

The piece is essentially done! Except for the finish. What does Fred do now? Pretty easy. If you have a wheel with a buffing attachment that is clean, you are in the Fred Matak school of minimalist finishing. Fred puts a little HUT wax on the wheel and buffs the wax right onto the box. The friction of the wheel melts the wax into the wood. Done.

Fred showed us his nesting boxes. This is where the inside scrap piece is cut into another box using exactly the same process!

What is Hut Wax? It is a solid bar of wax that can be used in a lot of ways, but it is perfect for this application. Sure, you can get as elaborate as you like. But part of the fun is in the fast and easy approach.

A word on bandsaw blades – Fred advised that for small boxes a 1/4" blade works best. He used a 1/2" blade on the set of nesting boxes he brought.

Fred also showed us how to make a box with an overlapping lid. The process is the same, except you cut a slice off of the ring you get when you cut out the inside, and use the inside scrap to cut another "RING". The slice off the big Ring gets glued to the top. Don't get that? Had to be there....



These boxes were cut from one piece of locust (must have been one heck of a big bug!). Fred demonstrated that you can use the inside scrap to make another box, and illustrated that by bringing these! Fred advised that he ruined a bandsaw blade cutting that hard wood!



This is Hut wax. You can use it to wax a hut. Or a band saw box. Better a band saw box. Just coat the buffing wheel with some of this stuff and buff it right onto the box. Done.



A bandsaw box on steroids!



Fred is applying the wax to the box. Quick, easy, effective and attractive. You can also use any conventional finishing means, of course.



Drawers for the above box are cut by making a "U" cut as in the second piece from the front. Cut the back off, then cut out the drawer piece, cut off the front and back, cut the "U", put it all together again.



A little glue (Fred used green paint!) and drop in some flock and you have a felt lining look in the drawer. No flock jokes. This is a family publication.,...



No, I am not going to try to document this one, but suffice it to say that the little peg locks the box, and it SLIDES open instead of lifting off. Sort of a Puzzle box!



The inside of the puzzle box. Sort of a quirky fun thing to do....

Fred advised that you can make square shapes as well, and he has made boxes for his sharpening stones using this technique.

Some bandsaw questions – a discussion on how long it takes to change a blade. Also – teeth point down! They cut faster this way. Removing tension – if you are not going to use the saw for a couple of weeks this is a good policy although many woodworkers do not do this. Problems are rare if you do not, but hey do occur. High tension or low tension blades/ Fred says they both work well but low tension blades are more forgiving. Dull blades perform better with higher tension. Fred uses Timberwolf blades.

Bandsaw guides – everyone has an opinion. Fred like Iturra Bandrollers except that they are noisy. Steel block are OK but can mess up a blade really fast if you are not careful. Fred is not high on Coolblocks. He has used hardwood end grain. He also advised that honing the back corners of a blade is not a bad idea.

There is a really simple bottom line here – If you want to work some wood and do not want to use a ruler, marking gauge, or work to a plan, want to make something attractive and functional, and bring one in to the spouse, then one for your mother in law 20 minutes later, then one for your kid 20 minutes after that, this is the project for you. Fred Matlack's presentations are always geared toward – well – everyone! Even me! And his presentation style is always entertaining. Another winner from a former member of the real American Woodworker Magazine. Thanks!



Now with this one, my favorite, the bottom is cut from the scrap and glued in with a thick glue so the seam will not show. I gotta make one of these!

Mary Ellen Evans on the mend!

Good news! Mary Ellen Evans is doing quite well after her surgery, the same surgery that had unfortunate consequences for our friend Angelo Tirandafilou. I am sure this made is that much more stressful for Tom, who made no bones about the fact that he was against it. Yes, the odds are that all will be well, but sometimes bad things happen to good people. Who knows why. I am not smart enough to understand that.

In any case, a big round of applause at the meeting that Mary Ellen is doing well, and I believe that somewhere, our friend Angelo was in her corner and celebrates with us.

Steve Kirk Poker Table
Submitted by Steve Kirk:



Pedestal based poker table. Steve Kirk built this as a wedding gift for a friend. We all know how much work someone puts into a project like this. Steve must be a very good friend to make something like this and give it away!



A closer view of the top, Even in the photo, this looks to be a great job.

Some of the details are:

The table is approximately 52 inches wide and about 31 inches tall. The wood is red oak for the edging and chip holders, and red oak plywood for the base, pedestal and other flat areas. Everything is mounted on a substrate of MDF. The center playing area is removable, which exposes 8 anchor bolts which attach the top to the pedestal (so you can take it apart for transport). The fabric is green velveteen which is glued onto 1/4 inch closed cell foam, which is then glued onto a plywood frame. The finish is Minwax Golden Pecan, followed up by 4 coats of Minwax wipe on gloss polyurethane. The table is a wedding gift for a close friend of mine. The plans were from New Yankee (Norm built this on one episode, and did it a lot faster than me!). **Thanks for submitting this, Steve!!**

Radio Boxes! Radio Boxes!

Russ Reinhard had a request from a local group. They apparently have a need for some wooden boxes to hold specialized radios. Russ has the dimensions for these. In the somewhat fast pace of the evening, I did not get the help group that needs these radio boxes made, and that is my bad. I do believe it was for a sight impaired help group, and I will ask Russ to repeat this request at the next session. This is a simple project and I am sure this guild can step up.

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.

HELP WANTED – Tony O'Malley!

Good opportunity here from Tony O'Malley if you have what it takes! His new shop looks great!

Help Wanted. Tony O'Malley is looking for capable help in his Emmaus custom woodworking shop. Great equipment, comfortable shop atmosphere, diverse projects. Flexible opportunity, from part time to full time to independent sub-contractor basis. Call Tony @ 610-428-0392. See recent work at www.tonycustomwood.com

Members Mart

AT THE NEXT MEETING!

Ken Burton will have copies of the new Table Saw project book for sale at the next meeting. The book includes 10 great projects you can make with the table saw (some of which I've had at the meetings). It also includes a DVD about table saw techniques. \$25 (signature optional). Hey, get it signed!

AT THE NEXT MEETING!

Gerry Chiusano has the following items for sale:

- ½ hp ball bearing motor - \$50
- 48" Link V belt - \$10
- 5 dvd set – using table saw, band saw, jointer planer, lathe, Shaper - \$25 for all
- 2 books – Making Colonial Furniture – Free.

AND..

Mike Galasso of Stroudsburg, not a guild member but a woodworker and a nice fellow I sold a shotgun to has a Delta 1.5 HP dust collector for sale. Never used. Some extra hose as well. \$400. Call Mike at 570-420-0627 at home or 570-242-0425.

**AND
Biesemeyer Table Saw Fence System**

Paul will be bringing this to the February Meeting...

"Home Shop" model (40-in. rip capacity; fits most tablesaws). Includes 27" x 34" side extension table with router insert plate, adjustable router fence blocks, owners manual, and all mounting hardware.

This professional aftermarket fence locks parallel to the saw blade every time, and its scale and cursor system eliminates the need to set up a cut using a tape rule. Attach a router to the insert plate in the side extension table, and you've got an instant router table. The included router fence blocks allow setting a router bit behind the face of the fence when necessary. Adding this complete system to your tablesaw will increase your accuracy and efficiency by leaps and bounds.



Pretty nice setup on Paul's fence and side table.



Another shot of Paul's fence setup.

AND

Andy got the aprons! \$20 per apron. Nice stuff!

And the Woodcraft winner is...

I think it was John Truskowski!! I got to get better at that! NO PHOTO!

Steering Committee Meeting Notes

Andy gave the treasurers report and it was accepted. The refreshments are going well. Allen Powell will be providing SPECIFIC plans and instructions for the next batch of blocks. Dan suggested that instruction #1 is –

if you take wood for block, bring it back as blocks. The newsletter is under control, and now Dan only has to e-mail it once instead of 4 times. The 2007 calendar is going quite well. See the 2007 schedule!

VIRTUAL SHOP TOURS! AGAIN!

John Ulher will be giving us a tour in an upcoming meeting!! What about your shop? Any kind of shop!

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
Kempton, 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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Gerry Chiusano	610-730-3958
Guild Contact Person – E-mail	
Russ Reinhard	

2007 Meeting Calendar:

Month	Topic	Speaker
January 16th	Band Saw Boxes	Fred Matlack!
February 20th	Grumbine turns spindles!	Bill Grumbine the remarkable!
March 20th	Finishing	Carl Nugent
April 17th	Carving Virtual shop tour - Uhler	Phil Alcock – NJ Professional Woodworkers Guild
May	Woodburning	Frank Rauscher
June	FESTOOL – new tool! Shop tour – Craig Bentzley's shop.	
July		
August		
September	Carving	Frank Rauscher
October	Annual Woodworking contest	

NEXT MEETING – Tuesday, February 20th, Starting at 7:30, sharp. Allow time to arrive and be seated before start time.

Location: Lehigh Co. Senior Center

Topics:

- The remarkable Bill Grumbine turns spindles!!
- Take Ten – 10 minute Q&A problem solver session

LVWG 2007 Application:

Annual Dues - \$36.00

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Nickname _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone _____ Bus Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

E-mail address _____ Fax Phone: _____

Survey Question:

How long have you been working with wood? _____ Years

Treasurers information 2007

Name: _____ Date Paid _____

Amount paid _____