The Newsletter of the Minnesota Woodworkers Guild, Est. 1982

Volume: 135 Issue: October - November 2011

September Meeting: Swap Meet

Trading tools, milling lumber and touring the North Country. September's meeting was quite a change of pace.

Full Story



August meeting: Veneering - Tom Schrunk

World class veneer expert Tom Shrunk talked about the history and process of veneering.

Full Story

What's On Your Bench?

Now and again you just need a simple way to get some basic hand tools from here to there quickly. A simple tool tote will do the trick.

Full Story



President's Notes

Swapping tools or building friendships? Charlie says both happened at the September swap meet.

Full Story



\$100,000 Board

Want to make a one piece very large table? Here's the board you need.



Full Story

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President's Notes

Story by Charlie Kocourek

I have just returned from the Swap Meet that was held in the parking lot of North Country Workshop. This was a very cool event, and I want to thank our friends at North Country for hosting it. I also want to thank the program committee for their work.

Prior to the swap meet I talked to several people who planned to attend. Every one of them claimed their motivation for going was to reduce the number of no longer used items in their shop and to return "empty handed". I believed them. Sort of. Well, okay, I kind of didn't buy it.

One of the reasons I didn't buy it is because I suspected that like me, they were excited about the possibility of finding a stunning piece of figured (fill in the blank), a nice #3 bedrock, or something else they didn't even know they needed. But, I think there is more to it than that.

This was a swap meet. Two words; swap and meet.

The "swap" part of the swap meet was about trading our woodworking treasures, and I witnessed a lot of that. But, the second part is "meet", and deep down that might be even more important to us than the hunt for red figured lumber. What better way to spend a Saturday morning? Picture a bunch of woodworkers milling around on a nice September morning with coffee cups and baseball caps. Every one with a common interest in woodworking. Every one with plenty of people to talk to, and plenty to talk about. This was networking; sincere and genuine. We were making connections, and we were making friends. This is a big part of why I like the Guild as much as I do, and I believe this is another reason why my friends were eager to participate in the swap meet.

People sometimes assume that because I am on the board and involved with leadership of the Guild that I must be an extrovert. Sometimes people even assume that I make friends easily. Nothing could be further from the truth. I first joined the Guild because it is such a fantastic educational resource. I stick with it because of all the friends I have met. So yes, I very much enjoyed the swap meet!

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September Meeting: Swap Meet

Story by Jerry Beutel

Saturday morning? Outdoors? No program? Could this really be the Woodworkers Guild monthly meeting? Indeed, the program committee changed things up a bit for the September get-together.

Instead of our usual Tuesday evening meeting the committee organized a swap meet with extras. It was a great change of pace on this fine September morning and a nice opportunity to socialize while searching for that great find from someone else's shop.



The swap meet was held in conjunction with, and on the premises of North Country Woodshop in Burnsville. About 200 people (Guild members and others) took advantage of the opportunity to tour their facilities. President Tim Watts (in the green shirt) took time to welcome all.



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North Country Woodshop, is a newly opened business described as "a health club for woodworkers." Equipped with a full array of stationary and portable tools, they offer woodworking classes, bench space for individual woodworkers and advice and help from their staff. Perhaps this is not a brand new concept but it certainly has not been available on this scale in the area. Nor has it been done with such a complete menu of woodworking related services. The owners are offering many options to appeal to any level of woodworker. For example, shop usage comes in four different flavors – four hours per month to unlimited hours – at rates from \$30 to \$110. They will order materials if requested to and even load and unload them. Want photos taken of your finished work? North Country will arrange for that. They have a library, a junior woodworking program and even offer woodworking birthday parties. Their website describes it all. The concept seems certain to appeal to those interested in woodworking but without the available workshop space (esp. condo/apartment dwellers) or those without the interest in making an investment in a complete set of woodworking machinery. As long as the driving distance is reasonable it only makes sense to share the expenses.

In addition to the tours and the swap meet there was a Wood Mizer sawmill on-site and in operation. A steady stream of members drove in with logs and went home with boards.





And what about that swap meet? Approximately 35 members brought along items to sell. There were \$1 items and \$150 items. There were tablesaws and miter boxes; hand planes and books about hand planes; Eighty year old tools and brand new (or at least never been unwrapped) tools. There was wood, there were doors and drawers, and don't forget the vacuum bag and the air compressor or two. (How did Charlie get all that stuff in his tiny trailer anyway?)





The sellers took advantage of the opportunity to let someone else see the value in those treasures from their workshops. And the prices dropped dramatically

in the last hour - better not to have to haul those treasures back home, I suppose! And most of all everyone seemed to be having fun, walking from seller to seller, rummaging through the used books and just catching up with old friends.

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August meeting: Veneering - Tom Schrunk

Story by David Mitchell

Tom Shrunk is an expert in the field of veneering who lives and works in Minneapolis. He has written numerous articles on the subject for Fine Woodworking and other magazines and his work has been cited in numerous publications. Tom has displayed his work (and won awards) at the Guild's Northern Woods show. Indicative of Tom's world-class expertise at veneering, he has designed five art case pianos for Steinway and Sons, preparing all of the veneer surfaces (virtually the entire visible portion of the piano) at his local shop for these one-of-a-kind Steinway pianos. He uses highly-figured veneers such as carpathian elm burl. He also like to work with lustrous woods (and other materials) that appear to change color and brightness as the angle of observation and lighting changes.

We were fortunate to have Tom as the featured speaker for the August Guild meeting. Following is a brief summary of his presentation.

History:

Tom said that the use of veneers dates back to the early Egyptians. Ancient Egypt needed to import most of the wood it used, thus making it a very precious and scarce commodity. By using it in thin sheets the Egyptians were able to make the most of the wood available to them. The earliest veneers were always sawn. The sawing of veneers was replaced with slicing in the mid-19th century. The slicing method of cutting veneer is faster, eliminates waste, and creates a more consistent veneer product. The use of veneer is one of the greenest processes adapted by the woodworking industry. Many layers of veneer can be cut from what would be a single piece of solid lumber. It has become standard for veneer to be cut either 1/28" or 1/40" thick. The 1/28" thickness is historically the American veneer mills standard. The 1/40" thickness is typical for European veneer.

Process:

The veneer slicing operation is an exacting procedure that requires maintaining exacting moisture levels and raising the temperature of the wood. Water baths of 160 to 190 degrees Fahrenheit are used to prepare logs for slicing. The temperature will vary depending on the species of the wood. Sprinklers are used to keep logs wet. The lignum in the wood tends to plasticize at approximately 180 degrees Fahrenheit. The veneer slicing blade is fixed, the log moves across the fixed blade. The veneer cutting technique varies with the

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log and with the species of wood. Rotary veneer slicing is largely used for construction grade plywood. This method can produce the largest veneer sheets for the lowest cost. The grain pattern of this style veneer tends to be very "wild." Rotary slicing is also used for burls and birds-eye grain patterns. The majority of the veneers that Tom uses for fine furniture are either quarter or plain sliced. The flat slicing technique produces veneers that look like normally milled solid wood stock.

Working with Veneer:

Veneers of almost any common or exotic tree species are available. Local suppliers and mail order stores offer a selection of wood species and color tones that are unavailable from locally grown trees and in most cases it would be cost prohibitive to import dimensioned lumber from those trees. Also, veneers of burl are available. Burl with its varying grain pattern is exceedingly hard to work with as solid lumber.

Just as solid wood moves with changes in temperature and relative humidity, veneers will also react to moisture and heat changes. But rather than cupping, twisting and bowing, veneer tends to wave and curl. Usually when veneer is purchased, it has curled or is wavy. One method used to deal with this is to stack the veneer between particle board sandwiched with plain white wet paper towels. (particle board, paper towel, veneer, paper towel, particle board, paper towel, veneer, paper towels, otherwise you go through a lot of them. Re-wet and re-stack daily. It helps to let the paper towels hang-out over the edges. Use just the weight of the particle boards for compression. Be prepared to continue this effort for a couple of weeks.

Further details about the veneering process can be found in the February 2007 issue of Fine Woodworking. Tom's 6 page illustrated article begins on page 60.

Tom teaches veneering techniques at the Blue Sky Galleries (<u>www.blueskygalleries.com</u>).



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Welcome to these new members:

Robert Gwinn

Paul Krenik

Stephen Guthrie

Ken Kirkley

Tony Huber

Merha Tibebu

Eric Augustine

Jim Moran

Ronald Krueger

Nicholas Wall

Matt Thibodeau

Rob Morse

Dave Francis

Keith Morgan

Ralph Dorweiler

Joe Jenny

David Miel

Bryan Emery

Dan Trudeau

Edward Mittman

Marshal Alsaker

Aaron Fisher

Norman Nystrom

Timothy Felt

Walter Scott

Tim Hagen

Douglas T Cohen

Brad Hopke

Charles McCarty

Charlie Dahl

Todd Williams

Jim Zimmerman

Kevin Krause

Tim Kraemer

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What's On Your Bench?

Story by Jeff Hand

A Simple Walnut Tool Tote

On a weekly basis, a small group of guys gather for Tool Nite. We talk shop and focus our efforts on tools. The skill sets vary as do the interests and tastes in furniture, period tools and approaches to woodworking in general. All these elements make for interesting conversations, learning experiences, and the simple pleasures found in making and rehabilitating tools. I personally have learned more in the last year of gathering with these friends than I thought possible. Heck, over the course of one evening, these fellas helped me construct an incredibly simple, sturdy and inexpensive bench



which, frankly, I don't think will be replaced. Ever. That's a story for another day.

What does this have to do with a tool tote? Since we gather at one guy's shop every week, one kinda needs a simple way to get his basic tool set from one shop to the other. It's nice to only have one item to remember when you get home from work. One trip to the shop and then your vehicle and you're on your way to an evening of productive work.

Before I built my tool tote, I was making at least two trips from my shop to the car before I was comfortable I had what was needed to work that night without borrowing every tool in the shop. And, I generally forgot at least one item. No more! I can carry just about everything I need for any task Tool Nite brings about.

Construction

Normally, one might use pine for such a utilitarian object. That was the plan but I didn't have enough pine, scraps or otherwise, to make the tote. What I did have was a wonky walnut board with a few loose knots and one large ugly fairly tight one. I'm a big fan of walnut so thought it appropriate. I did have one piece of seasoned pine that would serve nicely as a the bottom. It also brightens up the box and makes finding odds and ends easier.

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To start, I set out by considering what would be the required tools for most tasks. I settled on these items to define the footprint: Stanley #5, Stanley #4, Stanley 65 1/2 block plane, Veritas apron plane, Disston D8 22" crosscut saw, Disston #7 rip saw and my sharpening stones (DMT). These items more or less consumed the space needed for the bottom of the tote. I also allowed for a small compartment at the end to house my marking knives, small rules, dividers, awls, gauges and etc. I played around with placement of the items on my bench allowing for a channel in the middle that would accommodate my chisel roll and other items I would need from time to time.

After the footprint was determined, I focused on the depth of the box and the height of the ends. Since I would be carrying hand saws most of the time, I picked a depth that was slightly proud of the tops of the horns on the saws for their protection. The height of the ends was purely trial and error. After I cut down the ends and sides to rough dimensions, I just played around with handle placement that would ensure easy access into the box.

After settling on dimensions, I cut everything to size. I decided some curves on the end pieces would be a little sexier than just the standard triangle with the tip lopped off the top. The design decision also provided a chance to work with the coping saw, rasps and a spoke shave. The bottom was dovetailed to the ends at the bottom for the sake of added strength. Prior to doing this joinery though, I cut mortices in the ends for the handle which was secured to the ends with small wedged through tenons.

Since one of the recent conversations among the guys was the uses and merits of cut nails, I decided to use some fancy rose head cut nails to attach the sides. I think they worked out well and added to the handmade feel. (Their





hold is very strong too. I did not glue the sides before attaching them since I may make modifications down the road.)

Finish

I left the tote unfinished. It is for transporting tools and will constantly be receiving some level of abuse. The walnut doesn't look as nice unfinished but I can live with that. I may apply a few coats of oil and/or shellac eventually. I'm just happy to get from here to there in one jaunt.

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Members in the news

Four Minnesota Woodworkers Guild members were mentioned in the September 2011 issue of Woodshop News. Dale Anderson, Tim Heil, Mark Laub and Tony Kubalek were recognized for their award winning pieces from this year's Northern Woods Show.

You can read the full article on-line here: <u>Woodshop News</u>. All of the Northern Woods winning pieces including those mentioned above can be seen here: <u>Northern Woods winners</u>.



Tim Heil's Nanny Rocker, winner of the Best Handwork Award

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Classified Ads

Advertising in the classifieds is provided to members of the Minnesota Woodworkers Guild free of charge. Ads placed should be for goods or services of general interest to the woodworkers who make up the guild community. Ads for services will run until cancelled. Other ads will run for one issue unless renewed. Submit ads to: jebeutel@gmail.com.

Wood

Unfinished hardwood picture frame molding, in lengths. Liquidating my inventory. Beautiful, various woods: cherry, maple, walnut, ash, poplar, birch. Several profiles including floater moulding. Moulding is unfinished and sold by the stick, average length 8 - 10 feet. See profile examples at: https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?

<u>set=a.1455897894148.42875.1734387448&l=4c7d9cbea4&type=1</u> Prices vary depending on wood and profile, start at \$1.30/foot. Contact me for more info at: <u>info@sheralynbarnes.com</u>

Shop Space

Space available to rent in Bespoke Minneapolis'/St. Paul workshop. Rental costs include: full use of shop facilities, finishing room, and all utilities and trash. Shop equipment includes Altendorf sliding table saw, Format cnc shaper, Format digital 20" planer, SCM 16" jointer, Laguna cnc lathe, as well as 16" disc sander, belt sander, moulder, router tables, hydraulic veneer 4' x 8' cold press; 5' x 14' veneer bag press, Laguna 16" capacity re-saw bandsaw, Powematic 14" bandsaw, drill press, dovetail jigs and etc. Please view our website www.bespokeminneapolis.com to see the type of work which is produced in our shop. Total rent is \$925.00 per month.

Magazines

Woodsmith Magazines Issues #109 - #160, missing #131 & #143. Plus a few extras. Mint condition, 51 issues in all. \$40.00 cash. Call Nick at <u>763-476-1621</u>

Help Wanted

Mark Laub Studios has a great opportunity for 1 or 2 competent woodworkers. You will be helping build award winning, very high end, complex, original design furniture. Friendly, supportive, learning environment. Flexible hours and pay. Call or email Mark <u>612-210-7793 marklaubstudios@gmail.com</u>

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Tools

16" Planer. 2 speed, works great. 220 volt. \$600 Contact Charlie Kocourek Charlie@jack-bench.com

Delta 22-580, 2 speed finishing planer in very good condition. Asking \$325,

Amazon's new price is \$556. Used occasionally to do hobby jobs and I have run Cherry and Oak through it with no problem. The infeed and out feed extensions fold up to save space. That's a nice feature when you're tight on space. If you want to see it run, bring something by to try-you will be impressed!

Larry 651-208-7525

3 hp, left-tilt JET table saw for sale. Great condition! Need to get \$1,000. Dick Cortright (651) 689-0087

Shopsmith Mark V, Model 500, barely used-capabilities: table saw, disc sander, drill press, horizontal boring machine, lathe. Asking \$600 or best offer. Contact Ron Gardner at <u>763-786-7513</u> or <u>ron84gard@fastermac.net</u>

Services

Mike Siemsen's School of Woodworking. Woodworking with a hand tool focus.

We have a great line up this year including some tool sharpening and tool tuning classes. Our Workbench Class was a huge success and will be offered again in the future. Take a look at my website, improve your sharpening or furniture making skills! Classes are held in my shop on a quiet rural setting 35 miles North of the Twin Cities. The shop is heated and air conditioned for your comfort year around. Reserve your spot now! Visit my website at www.schoolofwood.com, e-mail mile@schoolofwood.com or call 651-257-9166 for more information.

Woodcraft Education Program. Located in Bloomington, we offer the Twin Cities most complete selection ofwoodworking classes. Our classes cover furniture making, carving, turning, hand and power tools, and finishing. We also offer free demonstrations every month. Close by, small class sizes and the best local and national instructors make it a great place to bring your skills to the next level. Website: Woodcraft Bloomington Store Phone: 952-884-3634

Workbench Plans. Plans now available for Adjustable Height Workbench with a built in Mobile Base. Email Charlie Kocourek at Charlie@Jack-Bench.com or visit my website www.Jack-Bench.com

Plane soles milled flat, price ranges from \$12 for a block plane to \$40 for a #8. Sides can be milled square to the sole for \$15-\$20. Contact Chuck Pitschka at <u>952-935-0660</u>, or by e-mail at <u>cepitschka@yahoo.com</u>

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\$100,000 Board

Story by Jerry Beutel

Pictured below is a 40 foot by 5 foot single board of Ancient Kauri wood from New Zealand for sale at Ancientwood Ltd. They claim it is the worlds largest board and that it is at least 50,000 years old. Take a look at their website to see the interesting details about Kauri wood and how it was preserved but not petrified for so long. And this particular board - you'll need \$100,000 and a big truck to take it home.



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Upcoming Meetings

Oct. 18th Guild Meeting: Abrasives 101, Flooring, and Is It Really Wood?

Galen Fitzel from 3M Construction & Home Improvement Marketing Division is our guest speaker for what promises to be a fun and information packed meeting. Details on the topic, the time and location here.

November 4-6: 2011 Fall Seminar - Marquetry Techniques and Furniture Design with Paul Schurch.

Details on the topic, the time, location and registration here.

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