

Newsletter

Volume 24 - Issue 8

August 2008

Meeting Review: July 2008



Tom Sharp welcomed to our guests and collected “fines” from all members who had neglected to wear their badge.

In July **Daniel Lozon** introduced Porter Cable’s new Omnijig. See <http://www.deltaportercable.com> for details.

In August we will be taking “**Virtual Shop Tours**” conducted by **Doug Olson** and other **FVWWC** members.

This is always a great night’s entertainment and one you do not want to miss - Check out the photos below for a “Sneak Preview”. Why not bring a friend, sit back and enjoy the fun!

In September we will have FVWWC members **Mike Brady & Mike Bridger** showing us the basics with “**Hand Planes: Buying, Using & Restoring and More!**”

Sure to be another club hit!

See you there!

EVENTS ONLINE

BE SURE TO CHECK OUT THE CLUB WEBSITE FOR UPCOMING WOODWORKING EVENTS IN THE AREA....THIS IS GOING TO BE A VERY ACTIVE SUMMER AND FALL!

FOR SALE & WANTED LISTINGS ALSO ON THE SITE!

<http://www.fvwwc.org>



FVWWC Events Calendar

Aug 2008..... TBA:..... "Hands-On " Hand Tool Workshop - Members ONLY!

Aug 5th Tue6:30 p.m. ... FVWWC Shopsmith SIG Meets

Aug 5th Tue6:30 p.m. ... FVWWC Hand Tool SIG Meets

Aug 5th Tue7:30 p.m. ... FVWWC General Meeting: Doug Olson & fellow FVWWCers bring us "Virtual Shop Tours 2008" - contact Doug to participate: DOLSON123@aol.com

Aug 20th ...Wed....9:00 a.m. ... FVWWC's Breakfast Club: Red Apple Restaurant - 414 S Schmale Rd - Carol Stream, IL

Sep 2nd Tue6:30 p.m. ... FVWWC Shopsmith SIG Meets

Sep 2nd Tue6:30 p.m. ... FVWWC Hand Tool SIG Meets

Sep 2nd Tue7:30 p.m. ... FVWWC General Meeting: Mike Brady & Mike Bridger present "Hand Planes: Buying, Using & Restoring and More!"

Sep 16th ...Wed....9:00 a.m. ... FVWWC's Breakfast Club

Oct 7th..... Tue7:30 p.m. ... FVWWC General Meeting: Rich Rossio presents "New Turning Tricks for Turners New & Old"



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Show Chairman Mike Madden

Toy Drive/Club Logo Items..... Gail Madden

Member-at-Large James Nellis

Audio/Visual Tech. Robin Blair

Host Ron Gilkerson

Greeter Jim Hildreth

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Hand Tool SIG Chairmen
Mike Brady
mbrady25@comcast.net
Mike Bridger
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FVWWC MONTHLY DRAWING

July's Regular Monthly Drawing:

1st Prize: Bosch 5" Random Orbital Palm Sander.....Jim Hildreth

2nd Prize: Bosch ToteJim Simnick



All proceeds go to the general operating fund of FVWWC to enable us to give more back to the membership. *Get your tickets early to be part of the fun & a chance to win!* More great items to choose from in the August drawings, including a **Work Sharp WS3000 Sharpening System**.

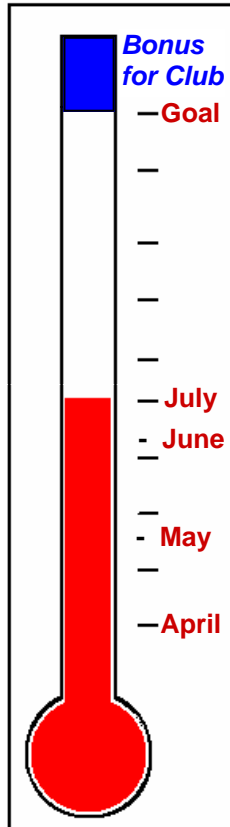
Don't forget, we are also running another "Special Raffle" for a **TurncrafterPro VS Midi Lathe** and everything you need is included in this kit we put together with the help of **Rich Rossio** and **Penn State Industries**. **Read about the "Bonus Package" on page 3!**

REMEMBER: These are "Member's ONLY" features to give our members more chances to win!

Charlie Christensen - FVWWC Raffle Chairman

Special Raffle “BONUS PACKAGE” Added

To help spur all of you to get your tickets now, and not wait, **Rick & Laura Rossio of L&R Collectibles & Crafts** have graciously offered the following **Bonus Package!**



The sooner we reach our goal, the bigger the prize!!!

The Rossio's will donate beautiful exotic wood bowl and pen blanks to the lucky ticket holder....But the number you will receive depends on how fast we reach that goal!

If we reach our goal in **August** the Rossio's will give the winner **10**

Exotic Bowl Blanks and 50 equally beautiful Pen Blanks but that offer is good for **August ONLY!**

In **September**, and for each additional month it takes to reach our goal, the **Bonus Package** will be reduced by 2 (two) Bowl Blanks and 10 (ten) Pen Blanks until gone!!!

*It's up to you...*We could easily reach our goal in August if all interested Members line up and get those Special Raffle tickets!!! Remember, the tickets are only \$5.00 each or 5 (five) tickets for \$20.00, cash or check. You do not have to be present to win the **Special Raffle** but you do have to get your tickets to have a chance to win!!!

We are over half way to meeting our goal so let's get on the bandwagon and find a new home for this turning workshop extravaganza!!!

FVWWC's Shopsmith SIG Report

The Shopsmith Special Interest Group (SIG) meets at 6:30 on the first Tuesday of the month, just before the FVWWC meeting, in the vestibule of the Bethany Lutheran Church. The purpose of the group is to share experience, ideas, and fun and explore all the possibilities available with the Shopsmith. You don't even have to own a Shopsmith to join us.

If you are interested in the little machine that can, please join us.

Dave Dockstader
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FVWWC's Hand Tool SIG



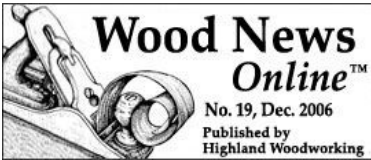
The Hand Tool SIG will be holding their first "hand's on" Workshop in August. *This will not replace the SIG meeting prior to the regular Tuesday night meeting on the 5th.*

Exact date and theme for the Hand Tool Workshop will be announced soon.

Hint: The skills learned at the July 19th Sharpening Seminar will be put to good use.

Mike Brady
mbrady25@comcast.net

Mike Bridger
bridger.mike@gmail.com



Branch to Bench: The Birth of a Design

by Richard McCandless

When an idea and an opportunity come together, it can mean satisfying work. In 2005 I flew to England with a church choir. I noticed benches, both ordinary benches and unusual purpose-built ones. Something clicked. Some yellow locust trees had fallen on our property. Locust is known for resisting rot - people say that if two posts are planted side by side, one steel and one locust, the locust post will still be standing when the steel one is gone. Yellow locust was once a furniture wood but the supply was too small to meet demand and other woods replaced it.



Why not make a bench from the fallen locust? Weavers have "sheep to shawl" events, so this could be "branch to bench." Here was a chance to mill the wood, make the parts, and use the result right where the trees had grown. A brick circle in a new landscaping project looked like the perfect spot for it. My collection of tools and woodworking experience finally looked large enough to do this kind of work.

Chances are there's nothing in this project that you haven't thought of doing yourself. It may inspire you to try one of the "what-ifs" bouncing around in your head.

Benches and chairs are two of the most satisfying things you can build. They're useful. They can be beautiful. While we put our stuff in boxes, bowls and bureaus, we put our whole selves in benches and chairs.

And benches are all over. You've heard of deacons' benches, stadium benches, park benches, and mourners' benches (not to mention workbenches, which are really tables). American coaches can bench a player, and members of a parliament may be back-benchers. Walt Whitman wrote of the place "where bee-hives range on a gray bench in the garden, half hid by the high weeds," and Wordsworth of the "cottage bench or well-spring where the weary traveler rests."

Benches invite us to stop and sit. They seem to say have a seat, take a load off, 'bide a wee, rest your feet. Making one, using it and seeing people sit on it is rewarding.

Every project is an experiment. I never made a bench or designed anything with this many parts. It would be a new experience to cut the stock, create a one-of design and make more than 40 mortise and tenon joints.

PLANNING

The work began with a sketch. Taking stock (so to speak) of the logs on hand, I let the wood control the design. Its size, shape and quantity established the bench's length, the fortunate curves of the front and rear legs and the sizes of some parts. Think of this design philosophy as "sufficiency," not perfection. I wanted the bench to be good for its job, which is to seat one or two people comfortably and stand up to the weather. It's a natural approach to design and it fit the purpose.

On a piece of quarter inch plywood I drew a full sized pattern of the bench ends, the parts with the arms. These were the complicated assemblies and this forced me to draw the joints involved. Since the project stretched on for several months with many interruptions, the pattern was a reference whenever I started work again. I've since read that a famous school of cabinetmaking has its students do a full sized pattern for every piece of furniture they make.

To be sure there was enough stock I wrote check lists, marked pieces, set them out in order and made lists again. With so many parts there was no way I'd remember what I wanted to do with any one rough piece.

To fit in the brick circle, the bench was designed to bend with an included angle of 155 degrees. The angle made me haul out high school trigonometry so the seat depth in the center would let the front and back edges be parallel. That is, the seat is about an inch deeper in the angle of the bench than at either end because the center rail is in effect the hypotenuse of a triangle.

TOOLS, METHODS AND FINISHING

Split and chain sawn, the rough stock sat in the garage to dry. Indoors it would have dried too much, because the bench is outdoor furniture. After several months the stock was dimensionally stable.

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Make a Chisel Handle

Create a custom handle for your socket chisel in ten steps and practice basic hand tool use along the way

by Bob Smalser

I prefer to make my own socket chisel handles rather than stick with the one that came from the manufacturer. I can shape them to fit my hand and my working style, and I can use a dense hardwood of choice, such as hickory, ash, or oak. Most of the time I make chisel handles on the lathe. However, if you don't have a lathe the process can be accomplished just as well -- though maybe not as fast -- with a drawknife, spokeshave, rasps, and files. The following 10-step process illustrates my method. I took these photos as I shaped two framing chisel handles on a job site. Click on each image to see a larger view.



STEP 1: Rough cut a 16-sided workpiece

Begin by milling a piece of stock for the tool handle to rough dimensions; about 2-in. square by 10 in. long. I leave the workpiece extra-long so there is sufficient stock to mount in a vise. I'll cut it to length later. Remove the four corners of the workpiece on the tablesaw with the blade tilted to 45 degrees. This will leave you with an eight-sided workpiece. Then use a hand plane and remove the eight corners until you have a 16-sided workpiece. I use two planes for the job -- one set course for the first few cuts and one set fine for the last, finishing cut.



STEP 2: Shave it close to round

Next, use a spokeshave to remove the corners on the 16-sided workpiece until it has 32 sides. I support the workpiece with my shave horse. However, most woodworkers don't have a one of these specialty benches, so this can be done at the workbench, securing the workpiece between bench dogs.



STEP 3: Mark out the ferrule tenon

With the handle close to round, fit the ferrules on the striking ends of the handles. These are simple sections of 1-1/4 in. dia. brass pipe salvaged from an old plumbing fixture with a hacksaw and buffer-grinder. Mark the center and then use a pencil to mark the inner diameter of the ferrule.



STEP 4: Cut the ferrule tenon

With the ferrule circumference and depth laid out, use a handsaw and chisels to cut the round tenon. A piece of masking tape on your dovetail saw functions as a depth gauge for the shoulder cut. Then pare away the waste with a gouge and chisel. The ferrule should fit tightly over the tenon, and you can use a patternmaker's rasp to do any final fitting. In order to achieve an extremely tight fit, I heat the ferrule to expand the metal just before driving it on with a mallet. I also coat the wood tenon with a bit of thickened and dyed epoxy. I like to create a thick bed of epoxy at the shoulder, so the ferrule won't act as a riving knife and split the wood when struck. Last, I drive on the hot ferrule.



QUICK TIP: Why use epoxy? thickened epoxy provides a microscopically perfect fit and rock-hard surface, so when the handle is struck thousands of times during its life, there will be minimum wood crushing and the resulting cam action that will eventually wear it out. When it has to be replaced eventually, it is a simple matter to heat the metal to the 110 degrees required to break the epoxy bond.

STEP 5: Create the tapered tenon for the socket

I do similar work to fit the chisel sockets. Since these are tapered, I find it convenient to use the sanding disk on the buffer-grinder. As I'm removing waste, I'll drive on the socket occasionally to mark high spots on the wood. You can see the high spots where the fibers have been crushed shiny by the drive fit. You can also use sooty smoke from an alcohol lamp burning mineral spirits, Prussian Blue machinist's layout paste, or even lipstick, to perform the same function.



STEP 6: Determine a shape

With the ferrule and socket ends complete, turn your attention to the handle. These chisels will pare more often than chop, so I want a compromise between a traditional framing chisel handle and the longer handle for a slick. As my favorite handle shape is one I used for turning the cherry handles



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Resawn, which means logs turned into lumber, made good use of the sixteen inch band saw I bought from its previous owner last year. The big saw is no weakling but in dense locust four or five inches thick it still cut slowly. Part way through the work I replaced the old blade with a Wood Slicer band saw blade from Highland Hardware and the improvement was dramatic. Immediately the saw cut easier, faster and smoother.

From dried, rough pieces the jointer and portable planer produced stock for each part. Since the design was in part driven by the available wood, I found myself going back to these tools many times.

There are lots of ways to cut mortises and tenons. Here the plunge router was a good tool for mortises. The part to be mortised was clamped to a simple homemade wooden template. With a template guide bushing and a spiral upcut bit the router made the job quick. To cut tenons I went back to the band saw, always leaving them a little fat and trimming later. Big mortises and tenons engaged lots of wood in the joints.

Sharp chisels were crucial. They let me clean and adjust the mortises and tenons. (If you've never sharpened that chisel of yours, do it – even new from the store they aren't truly sharp.) My wife got used to occasional pounding noises from the basement and my ears got used to the earplugs and earmuffs.

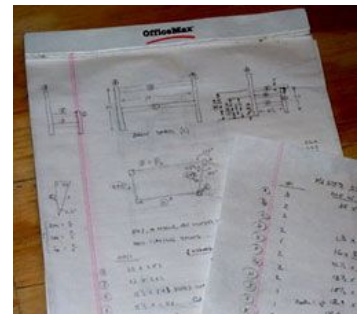
The bench sits outdoors and "finish sanding" started and ended with a 60 grit disk on the random orbit sander. To round the arm rests I experimented with a coarse flap disc on an angle grinder. That removed lots of stock very quickly but was harder to control.

Locust is so durable that I'm leaving the bench unfinished. In a few months it will weather to grey.

Final assembly was outside because the bench is more than five feet long. Within minutes my wife and I had bench-tested...er, tried it out, and guests gave it a trial sitting that evening. We all declared it a success. It's nice to see how the bench gives life to an overlooked spot. Today the locust bench sits about a hundred yards from where its wood grew, inviting us to enjoy the outdoors.

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www.highlandwoodworking.com - www.woodnewsonline.com



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for Grandpa's old drawknife a couple decades ago, I simply eyeball the proportions for the new handles and lay out my guidelines using masking tape that I will simply slice through during shaping.

STEP 7: Install the handle before shaping

The sockets are also driven on with thickened epoxy, as detailed in step four. After the epoxy cures, rough out the handle using a coarse spokeshave. This is where you get to be creative. Since this is made by hand, you have the opportunity to make the handle fit your hand.

STEP 8: Rasps work well for detailed shaping

I finish the rough shaping with a coarse rasp. If you are confident using successive grades of abrasive paper, you should be just as confident with rasps. The work looks ugly, but the ugliness only extends to the depth of the teeth, and is removed with successively finer rasps with finer teeth -- just like sandpaper. Rasps are really precision instruments. Learn to use them, and you will never need to use a power sander on a rounded surface like these. Finish sanding becomes a snap.

STEP 9: Sand to a smooth surface

I finish sand the shaped handle in minutes with successive grits beginning with 80 grit and ending with 220 grit. I use a 600-grit abrasive to polish occasionally as I go to reveal the sanding scratches I missed. I also dampen the wood with water between each grit. Water reveals scratches I missed, but more importantly, it swells the fibers in those scratches so they can be removed with little hollowing of the surface. Water will also prevent the grain from raising beneath your finish when the tool gets wet for the first time. To finish the handle, I prefer a thin wiping varnish rubbed out with paste wax and fine steel wool.

STEP 10: One down, many more to go

With one handle completed for a model, the second and any subsequent handles can be made much faster, as there is less trial-and-error during the shaping progress. The first handle takes me about 45 minutes to shape and sand; the second one will take 25 minutes. Don't try to go fast, take your time, learn as you go and enjoy yourself.



Project 2008 Update: Birdfeeders

Members Ron Gilkerson, Alan Blotch, Don Bouchard and Howard Van Valzah met with the folks in Rockford to go over their requested changes and modifications to the club's birdfeeder samples.

We have our first orders and, now, ***we are seeking volunteers to help build/assemble*** those first birdfeeders and get us off the drawing board and ready for delivery!

Details available at the August meeting.



Show & Tell July 2008

July's display was smaller than usual, due to the holiday, but interesting as always. Participating Member were:

- **Tom Sprain: Windsor Chair** of painted Ash and Basswood.
- **Howard Van Valzah: Desk Clock, Layered Garden & Church Cross** of various woods with a variety of finishes.
- **Mike Brady: Stickley Style Side Table** in Quartersawn White Oak with lacquer finish.
- **Floyd Johnson: Stylized, Decorative Rooster** of unknown wood with painted finish and decoration.
- **Stan Anderson: Tic-Tac-Toe Gameboard** in Oak base with poly finish and Poplar beads.

See you all again next month!





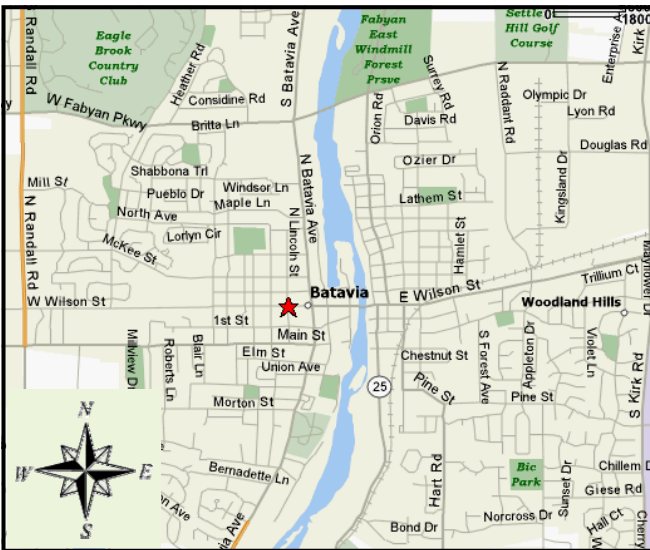
Fox Valley Woodworkers Club, Inc.

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FIRST CLASS MAIL



Fox Valley Woodworkers Club

General Meetings held at:

Bethany Lutheran Church

8 S Lincoln St. - Batavia, IL

1st Tuesday of each Month at 7:30 p.m.

Doors Open at 6:30 p.m.

Visitors Always Welcome!

FVWWC Agenda

Tuesday, Aug. 5th, 2008

6:30 p.m.: Shopsmith SIG

6:30 p.m.: Hand Tool SIG

*All interested FVWWC
Members invited to attend!*



7:30 p.m.: General Meeting

Doug Olson

& FVWWC Friends

PRESENTS THEIR 2008

"Virtual Shop Tours"