

Newsletter

Volume 24 - Issue 3

March 2008

Meeting Review: February 2008

Robin Blair, our Programming Chairman, was in charge of the proceedings last month. He welcomed our small but enthusiastic crowd to the meeting, including a number of first time visitors.

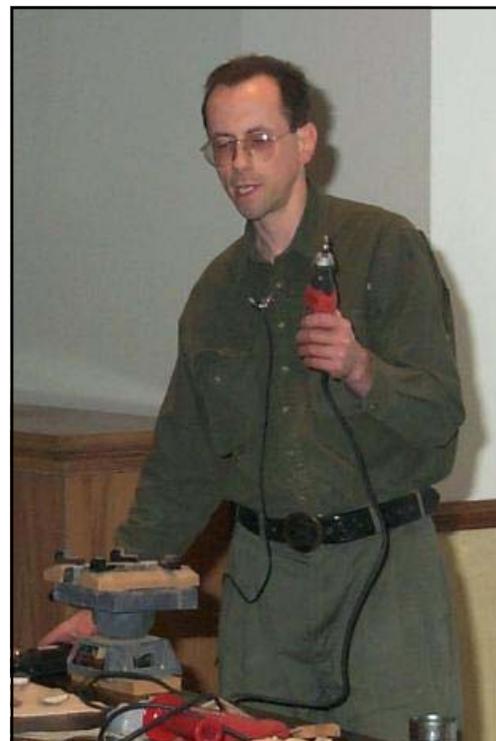
Our presentation was brought to us by Jeff Smith who owns and operates Jeff Smith Fine Woodworks in Elburn, IL.

He gave us some insights into carving as a hobby and a business. Very nice presentation, Jeff!

In March our president, Tom Sharp, will give us an instructional demo on Decorative Moulding Repairs. He will show us what to do to restore broken areas to their original design.

He tells me it is a lot easier than one might imagine! Sounds like an interesting presentation none of us will want to miss.

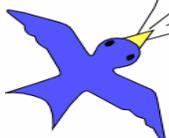
Hope you can be there and, remember guests are always welcome, why not bring a friend!



2008 Project Ideas Wanted...

...FVWWC is currently looking for patterns/designs for **bird feeders**. If you have a favorite **bird feeder** design or pattern you would like to share, bring them to the March meeting, please! All styles, modern, traditional or whimsical are wanted so bring them along and add your ideas to the discussion.

Tom Sharp, President



FVWWC Events Calendar

Mar 4th..... Tue6:30 p.m. ... **Shopsmith Special Interest Group** will hold an Organizational Meeting to establish FVWWC's first SIG. For details contact **Dave Dockstader**: 851-8118 or sourceror@sbcglobal.net

Mar 4th..... Tue7:30 p.m. ... **FVWWC General Meeting**: **Tom Sharp**, current FVWWC President, will teach us how to **Repair Decorative Mouldings**

Mar 20th....Wed....8:00 a.m. ... **FVWWC's Breakfast Club**: The Apple Restaurant at 414 S Schmale Rd - Carol Stream, IL - *Everyone is invited to stop by!*

Apr 1st Tue7:30 p.m. ... **FVWWC General Meeting!**



FVWWC Officers & Staff

woodworkers@fvwwc.org

President	Tom Sharp thomas.sharp@sbcglobal.net
Past President.....	Ron Gilkerson (630) 879-8756 rongilker@hotmail.com
Vice President	Matt Gauntt
Treasurer	Doug Pfaff
Secretary	Jeff Sandkam
Program Committee	Robin Blair blairr@saic.com
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.....	Doug Olson
Membership.....	Larry Maher maherla@ameritech.net
Editor/Webmaster	Linda Christensen woodworkers@fvwwc.org
Library Committee	Dave Dockstader Rick Moss Tom Zillman
Raffles/Photographer	Charlie Christensen
Show & Tell MC	Matt Gauntt
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
Shopsmith SIG Chairman...	Dave Dockstader (630) 851-8118 sourceror@sbcglobal.net

FVWWC MONTHLY DRAWING

Thanks for the support! Even though we had a smaller crowd than usual in February, you did us proud!!! We really appreciate your participation.

Regular Monthly Drawing:

1st Prize: \$50.00 Am/Ex Gift Cheque **Robin Blair**
2nd Prize: \$25.00 Am/Ex Gift Cheque **Dave Kline**

In March we will again have a diverse selection of items as prize choices. Get your tickets early to be part of the fun!

We are also in the process of organizing another **Special Raffle** that we hope everyone will like...Keep watching and listening for details!

...See you at the meeting!

Charlie Christensen - FVWWC Raffle Chairman



Thanks For the Input!

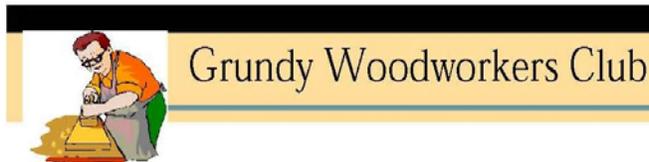
Recently the Board emailed our online Members asking what we might do with the remaining birdhouses. Wow, we got many good responses and a lot of offers to help!

Mike Madden will move the remaining 46 birdhouses to Jim Donovan's facilities for storage until next fall's Sandwich Fair.

Consensus of opinion was to sell at the Fair as they were meant to be. With secure storage, that is now an option worth pursuit!

We will ask members with sales savvy to help us do the best job possible this year.

Tom Sharp will have more details at the March meeting as to how we will progress.



Grundy Woodworkers Club

You Are Invited...

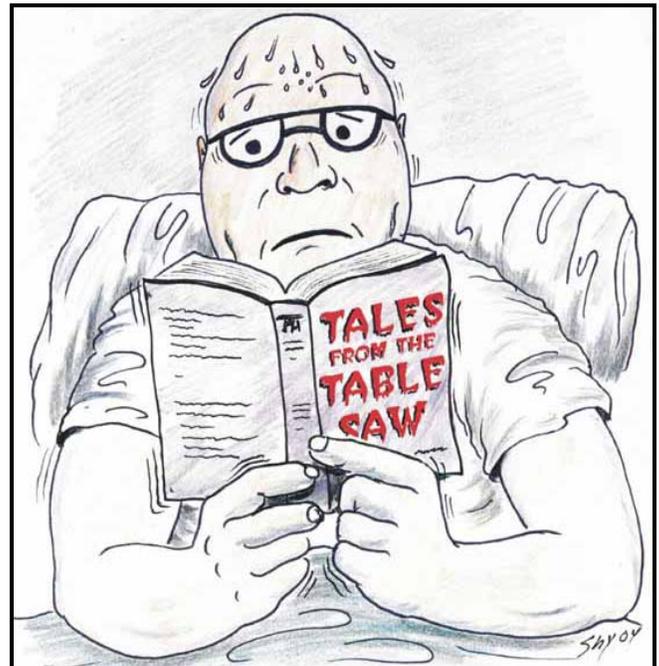
Dick Sing Wood Turning Seminar:

Grundy Woodworkers Club is sponsoring a wood turning seminar Sunday April 20th from 10:00 a.m. -4:00 p.m. at the Prairie Millworks Shop Morris IL. Dick Sing is one of the leading turners in the Midwest. He has written many books on the subject. His demonstrations will include spindle turning techniques (a.m. session) and advanced turning techniques (p.m. session). A lunch is included in the fee. Cost for the full day of instruction is only \$30.00 per person. Advanced reservation for the seminar is encouraged. Space is limited to 50 people so sign up as soon as possible. To make a reservation for the seminar call Terry Steinbach at 815-942-8250 or E-mail him at steinb@cbcast.com.

FVWWC's Shopsmith SIG Report

The FVWWC Shopsmith SIG held its first meeting last month. The purpose of the SIG is to share expertise, ideas, and experience with the Shopsmith. The SIG is open to all FVWWC members who have (or would like to have) a Shopsmith. We will meet on the first Tuesday of the month (corresponding to the FVWWC monthly meeting) at 6:30 at the same location. If you are interested in the little machine that can, please join us.

Dave Dockstader
630-851-8118
sourceror@sbcglobal.net



He was alone in the shop, very alone. My guards had been removed. I could tell by the lost expression on his face that his mind was somewhere else as he gently inserted a beautiful piece of Souther Yellow Pine into my 10 inche, 40 tooth razor sharp micrograined carbide tipped Freud blade screaming at 3450 rom. As it slid along my Biesemeyer fence with 9 ply Finland birch and high impact laminates, hand fitted to solid steel, his thumb was getting ever closer...and closer.....and closer.....

Reprinted from: <http://www.woodworking.org>



Best Wood Finishes For the Small Shop

by Chris Black

The furniture studio where I fill in on occasion uses an industrial post catalyzed lacquer finish on most of their commissions. Although it dries in 8 minutes and is pretty much bulletproof, applying this type of finish requires some expensive equipment. In my own shop, I prefer to use off-the-shelf finishes that don't require donning a chemical protective suit or building an elaborate spray booth. I feel like I can still produce good looking finishes for my clients without sacrificing durability or requiring too much drying time. If it takes 24 hours for a finish to dry, you probably aren't making any money on the job. The key is to pick an appropriate finish for the project. Knowing how the piece will be used, where it will live and who will be using/abusing it will help you pick the right finish.

SHELLAC

Shellac is unquestionably my favorite finish. Shellac dries fast, looks great, touches up easily, and is relatively safe to use. When mixed fresh from shellac flakes and used within a couple of weeks, it's quite durable. Aside from being a world-class topcoat, dewaxed shellac is also a universal sealer. Put it over a water-soluble dye before top coating with a waterbased finish to prevent the color from bleeding through. You can also add Transtint concentrated dye drops in shellac for shading and toning. I apply shellac to any interior project that doesn't get super heavy traffic or a ton of moisture. For instance, shellac would be perfectly appropriate for a dresser, side table or gift box, but it wouldn't hold up well on a bar top or on an employee break table. I usually apply shellac with a homemade pad/rubber/mouse or spray it on.

WATERBASED

Waterbased finishes generally come in two varieties; acrylic and polyurethane. The polyurethane variety is slightly tougher and can be used on floors and tabletops. Today's tough waterbased finishes dry fast, clean up easily, and you don't need a fireproof spray booth. They also cure fast, so you might only have to wait a couple of days if you want to rub out the finish to a high gloss. As a result, almost all commercial jobs that come out of my shop are coated with waterbased topcoats. I also finish all bathroom fixtures, kitchen cabinets, entertainment centers and most bookcases with waterbased films. By adding a few drops of amber colored Transtint dye in the finish, I can make the final coat look remarkably like an oil based film without the slow drying time of oil. While I like to spray waterbased finishes, most can be brushed on. Our Ceramithane brand seems to brush on the best. Use a good synthetic brush like our Purdy Nylox/Polyester.

OIL

What about good old oil? Well sometimes a job gets spec'd for oil or you have a piece made from walnut or cherry that's just screaming for a little oil. The key to using an oil based finish is not to use oil. That's right. Natural oils like tung oil, linseed oil and oil varnish blends take too long to dry and don't offer much protection. Plus they're expensive and you wind up paying mostly for paint thinner. My solution is to buy a true short oil varnish like Behlen's Rock Hard Table Top Varnish, and cut it back with equal parts paint thinner so it can be wiped on. These over-the-counter varnishes are much more durable than the true oils, and they are loaded with dryers. On a nice day you can apply three coats of thinned varnish and no one will be the wiser. Try this experiment. Take your favorite oil or oil blend and wipe it next to a coat of thinned varnish. Wait a day and see if you can tell the difference other than one of them will still be tacky.

I like to apply this type of oil finish with a clean, lint-free cloth. After I get the surface covered with the finish, I go back and level the varnish with a rag trying to remove as little material as possible. Keeping more finish on the wood will reduce the number of coats you have to apply. Don't overwork the wet finish. Varnish, if left alone, will self-level to flawless perfection.

EPOXY

Occasionally I'll get a job like a bar top that's spec'd out for an epoxy finish. You know, it's the type of finish that looks like 50 coats of polyurethane. It's best to use a very viscous epoxy product designed for this sort of thing like our Envirotex Lite. Make sure you follow the manufacturer's instructions to the letter or you're liable to wind up with an uncured, bubbly mess. Also, epoxy finishes don't hold up well in sunlight. If the piece will be outside, it's best to coat the dried epoxy with several coats of a good spar varnish.

SPAR VARNISH

Spar varnish is of course the choice for clear coating exterior jobs. Recently some two-part super-performing products have entered the professional boatbuilding market, but I won't go into them here. When choosing a spar varnish, make sure it is a true long oil varnish loaded with a UV light-protecting mineral. Here are some hints. If you can find it at a blue or orange colored home center and it costs under \$90 a gallon, it's no good. Decent spar varnishes are typically made from tung oil and have a very slow curing rate, so they remain relatively flexible to accommodate the seasonal movement of wood. Also they contain minerals that act in a similar way as paint pigment which helps keep the sun from breaking it down so quickly. The thing to remember about spar varnish is that more is better. The more film between the world and the wood means better protection. So, load it up! Apply all varnishes with a high quality natural bristle brush. Cheap brushes will shed hairs in the finish. For more information on exterior finishing, check out our Q & A in the October 2007 issue of Wood News Online.

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Move Over YouTube... *...GlueTube Has Arrived!!!*

Anyone with Internet access has had to have seen at least one video clip of squirrels acting squirrely or a cat chasing a dog up a tree, it goes with the territory. Some of us, so I hear, need a daily fix of YouTube to make their day. Well the folks at FineWoodworking.com have taken things to a whole new level with the launching of GlueTube, a special site just for woodworkers. Here's a sample of what I found:

GlueTube

Woodworking videos for the people, by the people

GlueTube is FineWoodworking.com's video blog that features self-produced videos about woodworking submitted by woodworkers around the globe. The videos featured here stream direct from video file-sharing Web sites including YouTube, Vimeo, Blip.tv, Brightcove.tv and Google Video.



ICFF Interview with Erik Hansen

Time: 8:15

Submitted by: Neil Lamens, Furnitology Productions
Brookhaven, Long Island, NY

Tag along with furniture maker and video podcaster Neil Lamens during his trip to the International Contemporary Furniture Fair (ICFF) in New York City. In this video, Lamens sits down for an interview with Erik Hansen, director of Carl Hansen & Son, a manufacturer of Danish modern furniture best known for producing the iconic designs of modern master Hans Wegner.

Hansen represents the third generation of the famed furniture company and uses his camera time to share some of the company's history and milestones.

Find out how you can upload and share video on GlueTube.

Recent Videos

- Feb-15 - A Primer on Shellac
- Feb-11 - Lathe Projects: Brought
- Feb-9 - WSJ Video Interview with Jimmy Carter
- Jan-30 - Interview: Erik Hansen on Danish Modern
- Jan-24 - Projects for Kids: Build a Folding Chair

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Show & Tell

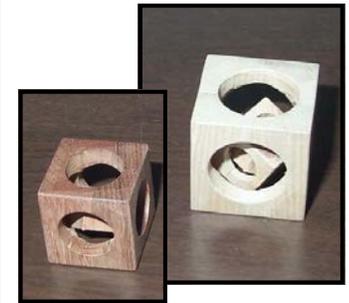
February 2008

First, thanks to Dave Dockstader for taking on the MC duties in February. Other than a little trouble with the tickets, he did a very nice job!

Those members with projects on display were:

- **Robin Blair: Birdhouse** in Cherry with a Wipe-on Poly finish.
- **Stan Anderson: Spalted Maple Bowl** finished in Minwax Wipe-on Poly.
- **Fred Rizza: "Cube in Cube" Puzzle** made of unfinished Mahogany.
- **Joe O'Malley: Step Stool** in Antique Red with an oil finish and made of Mahogany and Walnut.
- **John Winton: Mallets** - 2 of Apple and 2 of "Mystery Wood", all with Mineral Oil and Beeswax finishes.
- **Jim Mika: Blanket Chest** in unfinished Cedar. This was his first major project, made as a gift, and it was such a hit he has been asked to replicate over a dozen more for his daughters and nieces!

We look forward to seeing what next month has to show us!





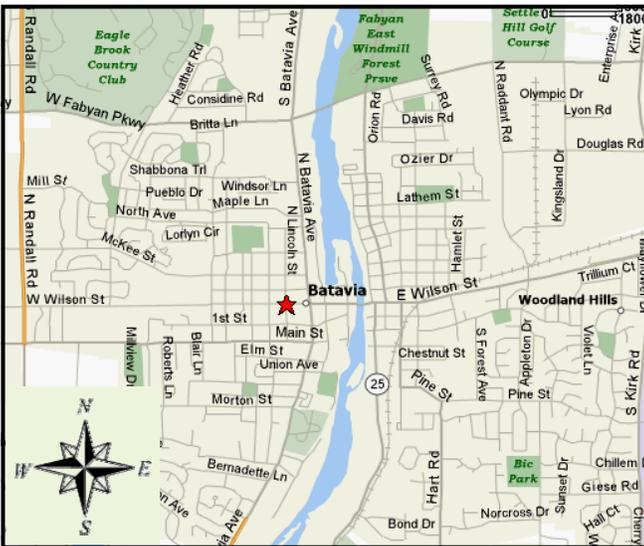
Fox Valley Woodworkers Club, Inc.

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Batavia, IL 60510-1041

<http://www.fvwwc.org> - woodworkers@fvwwc.org

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

Tuesday, Mar 4th, 2008

6:30 p.m.: Shopsmith SIG

All interested FVWWC

Members invited to attend!



7:30 p.m.: General Meeting

Tom Sharp presents

**“Repairing Decorative
Mouldings”**