

# Newsletter

Volume 27 - Issue 5

May 2011

## Meeting Review: April 2011



In April our we welcomed **Craig Klucina** from **Plane-Spoken**, in Chicago. Plane-Spoken Furniture designs and builds custom shoji screens, tansu, platform beds and other works of art.



Shoji is the art of making wood and paper screens and Tansu is Japanese for cabinetry.

Craig is a master at his craft and showed us some very beautiful examples of his trade.

If you missed the presentation, you can check out his work at [www.planespoken.com](http://www.planespoken.com).

Thank-you Craig for a very entertaining and educational evening!

In April **Raffle Chairman Charlie Christensen** was able to award the **Special Raffle** prize of a **Bosch 12" Glide Miter Saw** to **Don Bouchard**. Since the raffle went well over our projected total, Charlie also awarded **\$50 Am/Ex Gift Cheques** to **Doug Pfaff** and **Jim Cummings** and **\$25** to each **Dave Kline**, **Brian Blackmore**, **Bernie Kotera**, **Fred Rizza** and **Lee Nye**. *Thanks for supporting your club!*

In May we welcome pyrographer **Sharon Bechtold** who will introduce us to the art of wood burning. You can get a sneak preview of her work online at <http://www.sharonbechtold.net/>.

*Hope to see all of you there!*





## FVWWC Events Calendar

- May 3rd.....Tue ....6:30 p.m....FVWWC Hand Tool SIG Meets: In the lower conference room.
- May 3rd.....Tue ....7:30 p.m....FVWWC General Meeting: Pyrographic Art by Sharon Bechtold
- May 16th.. Mon....7:00 p.m....FVWWC Period Furniture SIG meets - See Details on Pg 8
- May 18th.. Wed ...9:00 a.m....FVWWC's Breakfast Club: Red Apple Restaurant, 414 S Schmale Rd, Carol Stream, IL
- Jun 7th.....Tue ....6:30 p.m....FVWWC Hand Tool SIG Meets: In the lower conference room.
- Jun 7th.....Tue ....6:30 p.m....FVWWC ShopSmith SIG holds quarterly meeting in Vlahn Room/M111 - Ministry Center
- Jun 7th.....Tue ....7:30 p.m....FVWWC General Meeting: "Wood Market" for members and friends -- Watch for details!

## FVWWC Officers & Staff

- 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..... John Gesiakowski
- Program Committee..... Dave Burk  
Krub411@yahoo.com
- Shop Tour Organizer..... Norm Musur
- Membership..... Steve Fox  
Dcnfox127@aol.com
- Editor/Webmaster..... Linda Christensen  
woodworkers@fvwwc.org
- Library Committee..... Dave Dockstader  
resources@fvwwc.org  
Rick Moss  
Daniel Moss
- Raffles/Photographer..... Charlie Christensen
- Show & Tell MC ..... Matt Gauntt
- Show Chairman ..... Ed Schalk
- Toy Drive/Club Logo Items..... Gail Madden
- Member-at-Large ..... Mike Madden
- Audio/Visual Tech. .... Dave Burk
- Host ..... Ron Gilkerson
- Greeter..... Dave Burk
- Shopsmith SIG Chairman ..... Dave Dockstader  
(630) 851-8118  
sourceror@sbcglobal.net
- Hand Tool SIG Chairmen ..... Mike Brady  
mbrady25@comcast.net  
Mike Bridger  
bridger.mike@gmail.com

## FVWWC MONTHLY DRAWING

In May we will have a variety of items to pick from including a **\$300 Home Depot Gift Card** to some lucky player!

Winners in April were:

- |            |                 |                          |
|------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 1st Prize: | Roger Vachon    | Porter-Cable Hand Sander |
| 2nd Prize: | John Sternickle | \$25 Am/Ex Gift Cheque   |
| 3rd Prize: | Dan Winslow     | Rockler Gift Card        |



*See you at the meeting!*

**Charlie Christensen - FVWWC Raffle Chairman**



Reprinted from [www.woodsmithtips.com](http://www.woodsmithtips.com), Free How-To Videos, Shop Tips & Product Info from the Editors of Woodsmith Magazine.

# Woodsmith TIPS

Tips, Techniques, and Videos from the Editors of Woodsmith and ShopNotes

## Use Gel Varnish for a No-Drip Finish

While I was picking up a few cans of gel stain to try out, I decided to try a can of finish I'd never used before — gel varnish.

Like a gel stain, gel varnish is thick. So it's not prone to the problems of running and sagging that can be typical of thinner finishes.

The Bartley's gel varnish I used seemed even thicker than the gel stains. So it stays right where you brush it on, even on a vertical surface. This gives you time to work an area without worrying about finish running all over the place.

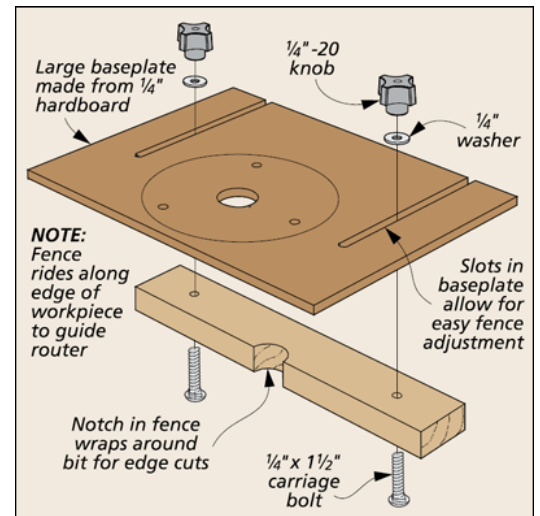
But what's even better is that once you wipe off the excess, it leaves behind a smooth, even coat that dries to the touch fairly quickly. Sure, you still have to wait a bit before applying another coat, but the "quick-dry" feature doesn't give dust any time to settle into the finish. And building up a few coats doesn't take any time at all.



A thick, gel varnish brushes (or wipes) on easily. Then you can just wipe off the excess for a smooth, even look. Plus, buildup goes quickly since the finish dries fast.

## Shop-Made Router Edge Guide

One baseplate that comes in handy is the edge guide shown below. With it, I can use my hand-held router to rout parallel grooves, dados, and even add decorative touches, like the flutes shown in the photo below. The key to this baseplate is the adjustable fence (drawing below) that rides along the edge of the workpiece. It's attached to a large, hardboard base with a few bolts, washers, and knobs.



# President's Sawdust

Tom Sharp, President FVWWC

*The editorial musings of your president which may be serious, funny, technical, or philosophical, but, hopefully always entertaining.*



## The Similarities of a Craft's Pleasure

My wife is a gardener. Her joy and passion is getting her knees dirty while culling weeds and nurturing those plants she wants to grow. Watching her in the middle of her garden is akin to watching anyone in their special place. You can't help but appreciate the infatuation and zeal she shows while plying her craft. As woodworkers we share that passion. The reasons my wife finds such pleasure in her garden are no different than those reasons we derive such pleasure in our own craft. Here are a few:

She enjoys what it looks like. There is a visual delight in just looking at her garden. To see the bright colors, to view the variety of leaves and flowers and watch the changes the garden goes through during the warmer seasons is enough to enchant anyone. Who will deny the same feelings when looking at a fine piece of furniture? To look at the wavy wood grain of a table top, to follow the slow curves of a cabriole leg with your eye, or to be attracted by the shiny gloss of a mirror finish on a board are all visual attractions.

One time I caught her fingering the little flowers of the Dutchman's britches flower. Tiny puffy things, the flowers look like these minuscule baggy legs of a Dutch man's pants (hence the flower's name). On another occasion I saw her rubbing the top petal of a jack-in-the-pulpit. We do the same thing to gain our own satisfaction. When you get done sanding a board with 400 grit paper, smooth a plank with your plane, or route a profile on the edge of a board, getting the tactile sensation of rubbing your fingertips along your work is enough reason by itself to spend time in the shop. When we rub that piece of wood, all of us have pursed our lips together, and at least silently breathed that "oohhhhh" sound showing our pleasure. The similarity is hearing Mrs. Sharp humming a happy tune as she brushes her fingers along the waxy petals of her Hostas.

Sometimes Mrs. Sharp is off in her world considering the technical aspects of her garden. She is considering the garden plan, how to add texture, depth, and "bones" to the garden. We ponder our own plans as well. What is the proper joinery, what finishing is appropriate, and what are all the other technical aspects we incorporate into our work.

A final attraction we share is to be fascinated by the exotic. The more rare, unique, or different the plant that can be planted and survive the winters the better. She has more than 30 different ferns now. I can only wish I had 30 different woods.

Having these pleasures in common albeit in different arenas is a way for us to better understand each other. I know what my wife feels when she's working in her garden and I know why she spends so much time doing it. I also understand why such a labor of love is worth it all. I'm just glad I don't have to dirty my knees in mud to enjoy my own pleasures. A little sawdust on my flannel shirt is much more fun.





## Howard's Corner with Howard Van Valzah A.k.a. The Woodorker

For many years I have dreamed of having a dentist type light fixture for use in my workshop. Why? When building and assembling complicated projects details are extremely important, and they often appear in places that are in the shadows of normal shop lighting. And as we get older we find

more lighting is required to be able to properly see the work to be done. I have used flashlights, floodlights, and 500 Watt portable lights, none of which do the job well because they tip over, they

move when you accidentally touch them with an elbow, or they have other problems unique to that specific light source. Even the ones that strap on your head require twisting your neck uncomfortably to get light where you need it. Every time I visited my dentist I marveled at the spot light they use to light up my mouth for very detailed tooth machining. The dentist could set the light to exactly the perfect angle to light the spot he wanted to work on and set it such that his head never got in the way of the light.

Then one fine day an email came from FVWWC stating that a dentist in Elgin had three dental lights for sale at a fixed price. I asked my dentist to check with her suppliers to find out what a used light ought to sell for. The reply was "Don't pay over \$500 for one". So I called the dentist, who is a club member with a Tuesday night conflict, and made arrangements to pick up one of the lights. Greg Karr is quite a guy. He has a woodworking shop in the basement of his home and has built a separate building for his auto workshop where he has rehabilitated an old Dodge truck only to

have a tree fall in on it and had to do the same job again.

The reason the lights were being sold was that he is changing all the

ones in his office with

LED lights. He told me that these lights new sell for around \$5000, so don't even think about buying a new one. When I picked up the light I was disappointed to find out that it did not come with a sliding device on the ceiling like the one in my dentists

office. But as the picture shows I over came that problem by mounting the light on plywood panel the will slide on the glulam joists exposed in my basement. I am in the process of the final assembly of a front hall table for

my daughter and family in Connecticut. As you can see in the photos the light is perfect for use in detailing the table. The light will go down to about 36" above the floor and will shine up and under all parts of the table. The photo shows the light aimed at the dentils mounted on the underside of the top. Shadows are now non-existent. The other picture shows the ceiling mounted sliding board. The light, when pushed up out of the way is about 6'-4" above the floor so it will not interfere with walking around it. My conclusion is that the \$175 was very well spent for a wonderfully usable tool. If you can afford one you won't be sorry and he might still have two left.



*Howard*

# Show & Tell

April 2011

Matt Gauntt, MC

The Show & Tell participants were:

- **Rich Escallier: Recipe Box w/Marquetry** made of Maple, Oak and veneers with a Marc Adams chair finish Gelstain, Boiled Linseed Oil, Lacquer and Paste Wax.
- **Lowell Iverson: Mirror** made of Walnut with a Shellac finish.
- **Lee Nye: Entertainment Center** made of White Oak with a Minwax stain and satin Poly finish.
- **Fred Rizza: Segmented Bowls** turned in Walnut with a Poly finish.
- **Doug Pfaff: "Chocolate Swirl" Segmented Bowl** made of 360 pieces of unfinished Walnut.
- **Dave Dockstader: Tri-Loom Prototype** in unfinished Oak.
- **Dave Burk: Pen** turned from Rosewood with a CA finish.
- **Mark Dreyer: Assorted Pens** turned from miscellaneous woods with a variety of finishes.
- **Howard Van Valzah: Hall Table**, a "work in progress" in a Frank Lloyd Wright design, made of Walnut and Quartersawn Oak to be wood filled, stained and finished in satin Poly.
- **Mike Madden: Book Display Rack** made of unfinished Melamine.
- **Sean T. Lamb: Balancing Table**, chart & 1/4" diameter rigging cable.

*Looking forward to seeing your future works of art!*





Reprinted from [www.americanwoodworker.com](http://www.americanwoodworker.com), Editors of American Woodworker magazine.

**American Woodworker**  
THE BEST RESOURCE FOR YOU AND YOUR SHOP

## Tips on buying lumber

By Rex Coker

Skilled woodworkers pick out a piece of lumber the same way chefs pick out a rib roast; they inspect it from stem to stern. Along with the beauty that accompanies wood, it also has flaws or weaknesses that could spoil a project – compromise a bookcase or mar the top of a table.

Expert woodworkers employed by specialty lumber yards are always ready to help you select your wood and guide you through your decision process, but also there are some simple facts that can make wood buying easier, too.

Different types of wood work best on different projects depending upon where the wood is going: inside or outside. Any outside project will need treated lumber. Treated lumber is resistant to rain and other elements and can last many years out doors where untreated wood can not. Untreated wood is best used for indoor projects. Whether it is for framing or bookshelves the wood will need a dry environment in which to exist.

Inspect each piece of lumber for cracks and warping. Do not buy pieces of wood that look damaged or have surface deformities. Avoid lumber with many knots in the grain of the wood, it can cause problems later on.

If you are building a project for inside the home, make sure the wood does not have a bow or curve to the plank. Unless you have tools in your shop like a planer to take out the bow and curve, you should stay away from this type of lumber.

If you are planning to build bookcases or end tables consider woods like poplar, oak, cherry, or birch to do the job. These woods have tight grains and are durable. The wood grains are beautiful and they finish to a polished look when completed. Use lesser grades of lumber to frame cabinets on the inside and finish them with the more expensive woods on the skin of the cabinets. This will keep cost down and still give you the best finish you are looking for in the project.

Wood grains are important when you are looking for prime wood. The tighter the grain of wood you choose the better the project will look for inside work. Oak and cherry are common of these types of woods. Popular and birch are favorites of many woodworkers because they are considered a soft wood and produce a very nice finish when completed. Still you need to check the wood for any flaws.

Treated lumber is checked much the same way as regular lumber. If it is not straight or solid upon inspection it could lead to problems after the project has been completed. It is important to select wood that has no grain cracks or splits. Though the wood is treated, water penetration can cause the wood to split further. If you can not protect it from the elements by selecting wood without flaws, the chances are it will not last and will damage quickly if rain and ice can get into the grain of the wood.

## Quick Cure for Sand-Through Woes

Aaaargh! It's so easy to sand through the finish on an edge and it always seems to happen when I'm ready for the last coat of varnish. Here's a quick and easy fix. Grab a touch-up marker and run it along the sand through. It'll make your mistake virtually invisible. The marker dries instantly so you can put that final coat on right away. Available in a wide variety of shades and colors, these markers are designed to blend scratches and minor sand throughs into the finish.



# Period Furniture SIG

May 16th, 2011



This bi-monthly special interest group on period furniture meets at the Bosch National Training Facility, 901 South Rohlwing Road, Addison, IL.

The group will next meet on May 16th at 7pm. The topic of the presentation will be announced later.

Members of the Fox Valley Woodworker's Club or the DuPage Woodworkers are welcome to attend.

Happy pins and tails,  
**Tom Sharp**

thomas.sharp@sbcglobal.net

# FVWWC's Hand Tool SIG May 3rd, 2011

The **Hand Tool SIG** meets, January through November, at **6:30**, before the regular meeting at **Bethany Lutheran** in the lower conference room.

Anyone interested in the use of hand tools is welcome to join us for discussion of this fascinating area of woodworking. We will learn by sharing the experiences of using and caring for traditional hand tools.



*Hope to see you in there!*

**Mike Brady**

mbrady25@comcast.net

**Mike Bridger**

bridger.mike@gmail.com

# ShopSmith SIG June 7th, 2011

The ShopSmith SIG now meets quarterly. Meetings include a scheduled topic and we will also have round-table discussions of various ShopSmith problems and solutions.



**NEXT MEETING:**

**June 7th - Homemade  
Accessories for the ShopSmith**

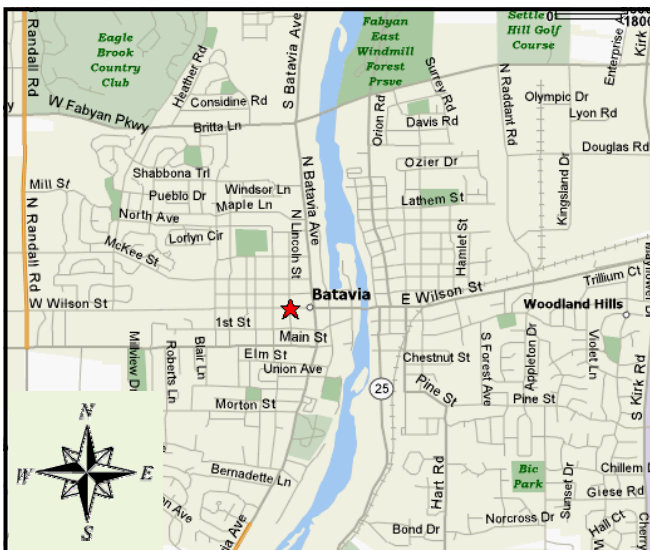
We meet 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm in the Vlahn Memorial Room/ #M111 of the Ministry Center next door to the church.

Share your Shopsmith experience with us and find out what the rest of us have been up to with our machines.

**Dave Dockstader**

630-851-8118

sourceror@sbcglobal.net



## 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, May 3rd, 2011

6:30 p.m.: Hand Tool SIG

Lower Conference Room

7:30 p.m.: General Meeting



Guest Speaker:

**Pyrographic Art by  
Sharon Bechtold**

[www.ArtofFireOnline.com](http://www.ArtofFireOnline.com)