

Newsletter

Volume 24 - Issue 5

May 2008

Meeting Review: April 2008

Matt Gauntt, our VP, handled the proceeding in April with his usual ease and panache!

Our friend **Jim Heavey** gave us a presentation on “**Routers - How to Choose & Use This Versatile Tool**” and even the more experienced among us were taking note of what he had to say.

Of the many things he taught us was beware of bargains! You want your bits to work, work well and last so make sure you demand good carbide bits only! When possible, buy only those with “virgin” carbide, Remember: You only get what you pay for!!! If it is too inexpensive then it is most likely 3rd rate quality with 3rd rate carbide and 3rd rate bearings...And likely to rust the minute you take it out of the packaging!!!

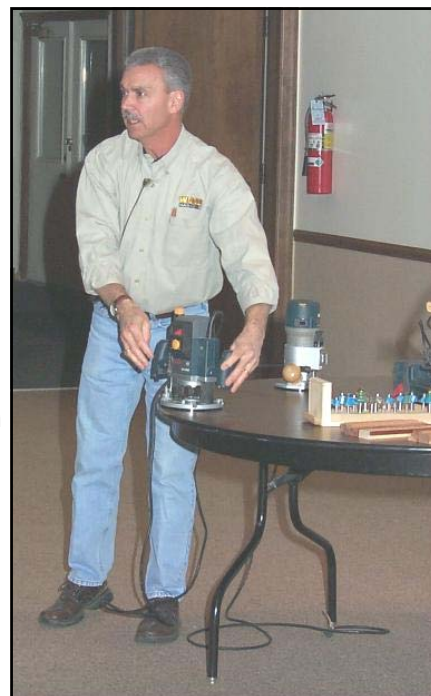
In May we will have FVWWC'er Paul Jablonski demonstrate one method of how to imbed decorative strip inlay into a work piece, such as the top of a jewelry box or the perimeter of a picture frame.

His demonstration will include the tools that he finds best suited to accurately control the length of cut, edge-to-cut distance and consistent depth of cut -- all with controllable accuracy to thousandths of an inch.

He will also discuss the final preparation prior to finishing, including the use of cabinet scrapers, hand planes and/or sanding.

Paul is an accomplished presenter and always gives the audience a memorable show.

See you there!



Birdfeeder Project Update

PLEASE NOTE: For the May meeting agenda, there will be **no Show & Tell** for the evening. Instead we will use the time to have persons talk about the bird feeders they have made.

At May's meeting, we will review the feeders we will plan to build the Rock Valley Garden Shop in Rockford (and others). Those bringing in a bird or squirrel feeder will have two minutes to show off their work, describe how it was made, tell what materials were used, how cute it is, why birds or squirrels love it, and



how many sunflower seeds it will hold (just kidding). The feeders should have a written/drawing plan.

The feeders will be judged on:

- aesthetic value
- ease of build and build repeatability
- its ability to protect the feed

A prize of a new Mercedes car, drill bit set, or equivalent will be given to all persons that show a feeder. See club

budget for further explanation!

Tom Sharp, FVWWC President

FVWWC Events Calendar

May 6th Tue ... 6:30 p.m... FVWWC Shopsmith SIG Meets - Details Bottom of Page 2

May 6th Tue6:30 p.m. ... FVWWC Hand Tool SIG Meets - Details Bottom of Page 2

May 6th Tue7:30 p.m. ... FVWWC General Meeting: Paul Jablonski presents "Inlays" He will show us how to get perfect inlays with the use of hand tools.

May 10th ...Sat.....9:00 a.m... Sharpening Workshop & "Rough to Ready" by Paul Jablonski & Karl Scogin - Naperville, IL.

May 21st...Wed....9:00 a.m... FVWWC's Breakfast Club: Red Apple Restaurant - 414 S Schmale Rd - Carol Stream, IL

Jun 3rd..... Tue6:30 p.m. ... FVWWC Shopsmith SIG Meets

Jun 3rd..... Tue6:30 p.m. ... FVWWC Hand Tool SIG Meets

Jun 3rd..... Tue7:30 p.m. ... FVWWC General Meeting: Barry Gork "Introducing Timbermate"

Jun 7th.....Sat.....9:30 a.m. ... FVWWC Shop Tour: Elgin - Dan Miller's Workshop - Map/Info a meeting or email to woodworkers@fvwwc.org

Out With the Old, In With the New!

A gentleman contacted the FVWWC a few weeks ago looking for someone that could turn a new pedestal for a porch column on an old home he is restoring in Wheaton. Ron Gilkerson gave him my name and I agreed to turn a new pedestal for him to match his sample. 12" diameter and 5", thick out of cedar.

Attached is a photo of the old pedestal and base and the new turned pedestal and base. He picked it up today and was very pleased that his contact with FVWWC was a success.

Jon Wolfe



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
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Raffles/Photographer.....	Charlie Christensen
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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
Hand Tool SIG Chairmen	Mike Brady mbrady25@comcast.net Mike Bridger bridger.mike@gmail.com

Just In Time For Summer...

...FVWWC member, Dan Miller, has offered to share his custom plans with us! Here is what Dan had to say:

"Several years ago, I put together some plans for Victorian Screen doors.

Perhaps some of our members might like a copy."

Anyone interested can visit the club's Home Page and click on the link provided to View/Read/Print a .pdf copy on Dan's plans. Stir up some Lemonade and look for a LINK like this →



FVWWC MONTHLY DRAWING

April was a lively meeting... ...And we really appreciate your participation in the Club drawings. We enjoy bringing them to you and the funds raised make this and many other Club features possible.

We had a bit of a surprise at the drawing. The first ticket drawn belonged to **Ron Gilkerson** but Ron, our past president of many years, magnanimously passed on the Router Kit and requested we bring it back in May to give members another chance to win!

Regular Monthly Drawing:

- 1st Prize: Passed on Choice.....Ron Gilkerson**
2nd Prize: Bosch DLR165K Laser Rangefinder KitJeff Sandkam
3rd Prize: Bosch Large, Heavy-Duty Tote BagJohn Warwick

In May we will have items like a **Bosch Laser Rangefinder Kit, Bosch Digital Multi-Detector Kit & the Porter Cable Multi-Base Router Kit & a copy of "Projects & Shop Tips" donated by Jim Heavey** offered as prize choices!

Get your tickets early to be part of the fun & a chance to win!



2-1/4 HP (Maximum Motor HP) Multi-Base Router Kit 893PK - The 893PK includes Router motor, Fixed base, Plunge Base, 1/4" & 1/2" collets, Sub-Base Centering Gauge, Collet wrench, Carrying Case, Operating manual.

Special Raffle Spring 2008:

Our latest **Special Raffle** is off and running! We will sell tickets on this until our goal is met and **you do not have to be present to win the Special Raffles!**

The prize is an entire turning outfit with goodies galore. Our friend **Rich Rossio** put together a prize package for us, from **Penn State International**, that second to none! Just look at this list of hardware, accessories, kits and wood that will be included all for the price of a ticket!:

- TurnCrafterPro Variable Speed Midi Lathe
- Extension Bed
- 3 pc Pen Turning Chisels
- 6 pc Midi Anniversary Chisel Set
- Pen Mandrel (winner's choice)
- 4 Jaw Universal Chuck
- Slimline Pen Kits
- 7 Pc Pen Mill Set
- 3 Exotic Wood Bowl Blanks... ..And More!



For more details...

...See us at the meeting!



Specifications:

- Motor: 1/2HP (650-3800 RPM)
- 3-step Motor Pulley
- Headstock: 1" x 8tpi, #2MT
- Tailstock: Live center, #2MT
- Construction: cast iron
- Distance between centers: 18"
- Swing over bed: 10"
- Wt: 80 lbs, 102 lbs with extension bed
- Overall size: 30" L x 7-1/4" W x 14-1/2" H
- Length with extension bed: 52" long

Charlie Christensen - FVWWC Raffle Chairman

Walnut: Kiln Dry or Air Dry?

By Nick Rentas, FVWWCer

Woodworkers have disagreed for years on whether or not to use kiln-dried walnut for their projects. Kiln drying walnut has the effect of leaching color out of the heartwood and darkening the sapwood. Countless board feet of walnut that would have been downgraded to #2 Common are saved and the waste is minimized. Unfortunately, it also takes the reddish highlights out of the cells in the wood. Walnuts' richness becomes considerably muted.

Air-dried walnut has all of the natural color that we love, but it takes many years to get dry enough for use. My own experience has been very disappointing. I bought some nicely figured air-dried walnut about 15 years ago and kept it in my shop for at least 5 years before I ever worked with it. I made a lovely desk for my wife with a beautiful 30" wide by 50" long top. It was glued up from 2 pieces cut from a single 16 1/2" wide board. Each of the two pieces were split down the center and re-jointed, so you could argue that the top was made of four pieces, but you get the idea. The top was finished dead flat and attached with figure eight swivel fasteners to allow for expansion. A year later, the nice swirl near the middle of one end began to buckle and split. Another corner was beginning to cup. How dry was my air-dried walnut when I cut into it? I'll never know for sure because I didn't own a moisture meter at the time.

During that same time period I had purchased another nice piece of air-dried walnut from a dealer at the Chicagoland Woodworking Show. It was about 1 1/4" thick and 14" wide with the bark still on the edges. It was going to be the top for a sofa table designed in the style of Nakashima. That piece sat in the shop for about a year and developed a twist so severe that it was only usable for turning pens or warming the family room. No more air-dried walnut for me.

For many years I had been content to use kiln dried walnut finished with water base lacquer. What I didn't like was the comparatively dull color. Then a good friend of mine who spent his adult life as a professional refinisher taught me a simple process to take kiln dried walnut and return the color to its original air dried patina.

Sand the wood to 150 or 180 grit. Apply a coat of orange dye that has been reduced with 9 parts

alcohol to 1 part dye with either a rag or a spray gun. If you spray, remember that alcohol burns very quickly, so use all of the precautions you would use with nitrocellulose lacquer. The dye is dry in less than a minute if you're using alcohol and the problem is solved. The orange dye replaces what has been lost and you can complete your finish in whatever way you prefer. As an alternative, you could also use a water-soluble dye, but I don't care to raise the grain after I've done my final sanding. I like to follow the dye with Behlan Pore-O-Pac Paste Wood Grain Filler tinted with walnut stain. You can buy it pre tinted or tint it your self by mixing it with your own oil-based stain. The grain filler has the visual effect of about 3 coats of clear finish under whatever you use for a topcoat. It doesn't add any protection of course, but it just looks more completely finished. My current finish of choice is General Finishes Arm-R-Seal oil & urethane. Water-based lacquer is easy to spray and durable, but once it has been damaged, and in the fullness of time, everything gets scratched up somewhere, you are completely screwed. Good luck trying to repair that water-based lacquer without sanding down to bare wood and starting over. Although it's not as easy as touching up damaged wood finished only in oil, Arm-R-Seal is reasonably repairable with a little spot sanding and finish. If you like to make furniture with walnut as I do, this process solves a lot of problems.

**Mohawk Ultra Penetrating Stain, Orange
Reduced in 9 parts alcohol to 1 part dye
Wiped on or sprayed**

Source:

Reliable Products

1330 Louis Ave.

Elk Grove Village, IL , 60007-2310

Phone: 847-228-7667

Business Activity: Manufacturer / Exporter

**Behlan Pore-O-Pac Paste Wood Grain Filler
Available tinted in Walnut, Cherry or
Natural which can be tinted with Dye or oil
base stain**

Sources:

Rockler, Woodcraft, some paint stores

A Tool Review: Lee Valley's MagSwitch® Universal Featherboard

by Doug Olson, FVWWCer

I spend several hours a day in my workshop and like most woodworkers, safety is a large concern. I want to spend time on my projects, not in recuperation from a woodworking accident.

To that end I own over half a dozen feather boards of different types and sizes. Some I made, but most I bought. Right now they all sit in drawers near each machine. Too slow to set up, mismatched to the work and always in the way were reasons (or excuses) for their dusty storage.



Last month while I was planing some boards and staring down into the mesmerizing whirl of the three ultra sharp blades driven by a 2 hp motor, I had an epiphany – Hey, it would hurt if my fingers slipped down in there!

I decided I needed to find a way to do this more safely.

As luck would have it, a new Lee Valley flyer came out the next day. Like always, I reluctantly took time out to look for a tool that I really needed and could work no further without. Right. (Read “In childlike anticipation, I grabbed the flyer looking for something I wanted, could not afford and would have to think hard to develop a rationalization to buy.”) It was then that I spied the MagSwitch® Universal Featherboard. I use several rare earth magnets throughout my shop, so I was respectful of their gripping power. I did think about the need for a new safer tool.... Hey!... I could actually get this and not feel guilty!

For a guy who gets most of his tools at garage sales and auctions, it is a bit pricey at \$44.50, but it did seem to make sense if I was serious about keeping my fingers intact. I ordered it.

What I like about it:

- 👍 As with almost all of Lee Valley's stuff it is well made
- 👍 Set up is very quick and easy
- 👍 It's small and lightweight, but the magnets hold it in place. I have yet to budge it when locked down
- 👍 With a flick of a turn on the knobs, the magnets release.
- 👍 It can be placed anywhere on a steel surface.
- 👍 It does not need any modification to the machine
- 👍 On the planer it can go on either the fence or the bed
- 👍 It can be reversed on the shaper to accommodate shaping in either direction
- 👍 It works great on the band saw for small pieces and re-sawing too
- 👍 Can be used on either side of the blade at the table saw



As with all featherboards it works great when machining several pieces of the same size. No need to shut down and reposition. With this one though, repositioning is a breeze!



I'll give this tool 2 (*unbandaged*) thumbs up!

CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE

- **Gerstner Model W-52 Machinist Chest** - It has never been used and has never had a tool placed within it. On the H. Gerstner & Sons website (www.gerstnerusa.com/), the chest was selling for \$743.60 in December of 2007. I would be willing to sell at a minimum price of \$450.00 or best offer.

Bill Taylor

wjtaylor@wowway.com
847-760-6144



WANTED: WOOD

- Will buy from 1 pc. to bulk lot of hardwood lumber, shorts, blanks & cut-offs in cherry, walnut, mahogany, redwood, etc.

Ron Gilkerson

Phone: (630) 879-8756 (Voice Mail)
E-mail: rongilker@hotmail.com

Attention FVWWC Members

List your For Sale/Wanted Items Free!

Contact FVWWC Editor/Webmaster
(630) 551-7653 or woodworkers@fvwwc.org

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.

During the May meeting, some of our members will be bringing old copies of the "Hands On" magazine. "Hands On" was a publication of Shopsmith, Inc. for a number of years that had some wonderful projects and a variety of Shopsmith jigs and fixtures. If you are interested in the little machine that can, please join us.

Dave Dockstader

630-851-8118
sourceror@sbcglobal.net



FVWWC's Hand Tool SIG



The Hand Tool SIG held our first official meeting prior to the April General meeting. A very gratifying turnout of 10 members came at 6:30 p.m. and traded ideas about what the group can accomplish over the next few months. It was decided that some of the meetings will be hands-on learning sessions on Saturdays. The first of these will be the Sharpening Workshop by member Paul Jablonski & his friend Karl Scogin on May 10th. There is a nominal \$15 charge for this class. This Workshop has a limited capacity so do not wait to sign-up. Contact Linda at woodworkers@fvwwc.org for details on reserving your seat.

The May 6th (club meeting night) focus for the Hand Tool SIG will be on hand planes. Members should bring hand plane they want to share or gain knowledge about. New members can join us at any time, even if your tools are the other kind of "cordless" (with batteries)!

Mike Brady - mbrady25@comcast.net

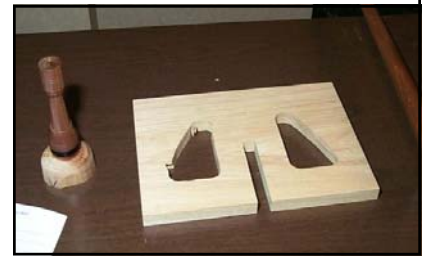
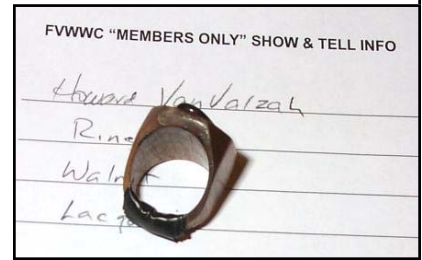
Mike Bridger - bridger.mike@gmail.com

Show & Tell

April 2008

In April we had a number of interesting “**Boo-Boo’s, No-No’s & Oops!**” projects in honor of April Fools Day. It is always interesting what one learns from these mistakes! Those members with projects on display were:

- **Stan Anderson: Birdfeeder** of unfinished Red Cedar.
- **Fred Rizza: Maple Table** with Poly finish.
- **Mike Madden: 10° Ramp for Miter Saw** made of ever popular, unfinished “junk” wood.
- **Jim Mengler: Round Mission Style Table** of Ash with a General Finish.
- **Howard Van Valzah: Walnut/Tiger Eye Ring** with lacquer finish.
- **Don Carkhoff: Veneered Maple Coffee Table** with Poly finish.
- **Bill Turk: Birdfeeder** made of unfinished Cedar with angle “goof”.
- **Lee Nye: Oak Bookcase** complete with drilling disaster!
- **Floyd A, Johnson: 1997 Chip Carved Butternut & Oak Step Stool.**
- **Mike Kalscheur: Knick Knack Box** in Red Oak with broken miter joint due to expansion, with a dye stain and Poly/Oil finish.
- **Dave Dockstader: “Trash” Cedar Birdfeeder**, unfinished.





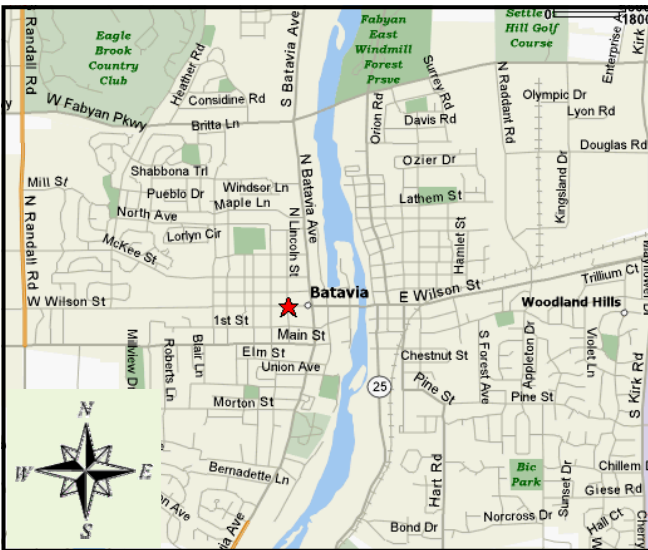
Fox Valley Woodworkers Club, Inc.

PO Box 1041

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 Agenda

Tuesday, May 6th, 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

Paul Jablonski

Presents

"Inlay How-To's"