

# WOOD CHIPS



Northwest Indiana Woodworkers Association

Volume 14, Issue 5 May 2010

## Sawdust from the President's Corner – May 2010

A few meetings ago I had the easel out and we did a brainstorm on some ideas for meeting topics. We had quite a few ideas from HOW TO ideas to PRODUCTS people wanted to learn more about. Your officers have been working on some of these for the months ahead. I also think that some of the best programs are when a member shows his/her special skill such as scroll sawing, pen turning etc. We have had some really good programs from members in the past and I hope we can do more in the future. We have a lot of knowledge within the organization.

Along that line we will be having a 3 corner program coming up as the program for the July meeting. This is when we set-up 3 stations of different demos. One might be scroll sawing, the second one on finishing and the third on ????. This program is always interesting as the groups spend 20 minutes at one stop and then everyone rotates to the next demo.

I need a couple of people to help me set-up our club display at the Fair Grounds in July and take it down after the Fair ends. This is not a large commitment of time. Part of the job is getting the items logged in at the meetings making sure a person has filled out one of our Exhibitors Information Forms and putting the items in a box. I can't do it as I'm running the meeting. I will be part of this committee for the set-up and take down at the Fair.

Please see me at the May meeting to lend a hand on this project.

There is a copy of the "EXHIBITORS INFORMATION FORM" at the end of the newsletter. Please print out a copy, fill in the info on the item(s) you will provide to the club for the Fair, and bring it with the items starting with the May meeting.

Please lend a hand on one of the committees and the booth at the Lake County Fair.

WHEN YOU GET INVOLVED IT BECOMES **YOUR** CLUB.  
GIVE IT A TRY!!

Lou Takacs (maker of quality sawdust)

## Show and Tell



Kris Hahn



Jim Jones



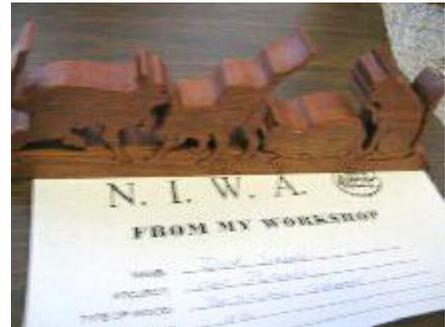
John Sturk



Frank Berzinis



John Hunter



Dick Sader



Frank Schmidt



Hilario Gonzalez



Lou Takacs



Dan Brudi



Marcie White



Hilario Gonzalez



Denny McCoole



Max Hernick



George Hammik



Leon Kozlowski



Chris Retson

## **SCHOOLHOUSE CLOCK GIVEAWAY**

A while back, a longtime member Ken Miller passed away. He was a very skilled woodworker and one of his areas of expertise was clock making. The club was given some of his clock kits that he had stored but never got around to building. We will be having a drawing for one of these at the next meeting. See Phil Malavolta for your tickets to benefit our toys for kids project.

We will have a second kit for the June meeting, which is a Bristol Gallery Clock. More details in the June newsletter.

The clock kit for May was made by Craft Products Co. out of St. Charles, IL. Craft Products company went out of business a number of years ago. Don't worry, there are a number of clock parts suppliers should you need some item. The kit is for a large Schoolhouse Clock similar to the one offered by Klockits. The kit contains all of the materials needed (pre-cut wood, glass, pendulum, movements, etc.) to complete the clock. It also has a curved glass face. It will be a bit of challenge, but the final product will be something to be proud of. The Klockit complete kit is \$209.99. The picture is of the Klockits clock and the kit for May is very similar.



## **Shop Visit**

Jim Schuster's shop visit yesterday was great. Jim's wife Fran, was the perfect hostess giving guided tours of their home and their artfully displayed antiques. All people could say was Wow!! And then of course, there was Jim's shop. He is so organized that I can hardly stand it. 🤔. As promised, Jim encouraged all of us to take home free wood. Thanks, Jim.

Jim wants to thank all that made the trip to Plymouth and showed an interest in club activities. There were several new, younger members there. I was happy to see that as the club needs new blood to stay healthy.

Jim called to say that toward the end of the day it was noticed that the flat bed trailer in the garage that had held some of the free wood, had a flat tire. Several members took charge of the situation and removed, repaired and replaced the tire. Thanks, guys.

What a great club!!!!

Bob (Let's make Toys for Kids) Roach

## **Newspaper Article!**

John Sturk, our Publicity Chairman managed to get a fine article about our club published in today's *Times*. It tells about the club's history as well as our various activities such as Toys for Kids, Show and Tell, Shop Visits, Public Displays including the Lake County Fair, our Woodworkers Breakfast, Christmas Party, Monthly Programs, and Special Interest Groups. Good job, John. You may read the article at [http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/article\\_a353dd2c-2fda-5464-81fa-c7eeddb66bb6.html](http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/article_a353dd2c-2fda-5464-81fa-c7eeddb66bb6.html)

What a great club!!!!

Bob (Let's make Toys for Kids) Roach

## **Lake County Fair**

Our club will once again have a booth at the Lake County Fair in the Family Arts & Crafts Building. We will be there on Friday August 6<sup>th</sup> through Monday August 9<sup>th</sup>. Anyone wishing to help in the booth or put on a woodworking demonstration should contact John Hunter 219-962-4741, we can use all the help we can get and it is a lot of fun. Volunteers also get free admission to the fair. You can visit the online fair webpage at <http://www.lake-county-fair.com/> Also for members who would like to place items they have made in the judging you can access the rules and entry forms at <http://www.lake-county-fair.com/documents/2010%20FA%20book.pdf>

## **Items for Sale**

If you have any wood working related items that you wish to sell through the newsletter please contact Lalo Gonzalez [LaLogon@sbcglobal.net](mailto:LaLogon@sbcglobal.net) or John Hunter [john.b.hunter@verizon.net](mailto:john.b.hunter@verizon.net) Include a description and the price you are selling them for, also how you may be contacted.

## Calendar of Events

May 18	Committees Meeting at Hidden Lake 6:30 PM
May 20	Membership Meeting at Hidden Lake (2 x 4 Challenge) 7 PM
May 21	Shaker Box Class at Lou Takacs's shop
June 5	Club Breakfast at Old Country Buffet 9 AM
June 15	Committees Meeting at Hidden Lake 6:30 PM
June 24	Membership Meeting at Hidden Lake 7 PM
June 26	Field Trip to the Werther Carving Museum near Dover Ohio
July 3	Club Breakfast at Old Country Buffet 9 AM
July 5	Executive Board Meeting at Lake County Library 6 PM
July 20	Committees Meeting at Hidden Lake 6:30 PM
July 22	Membership Meeting at Hidden Lake (Four Corner Demo) 7 PM
August 6-9	Club Lake County Fair Booth 10 AM – 10 PM
August 7	Club Breakfast at Old Country Buffet 9 AM
August 17	Committees Meeting at Hidden Lake 6:30 PM
August 26	Membership Meeting at Hidden Lake 7 PM
August 29	Club Picnic at Hidden Lake 12 Noon
September 4	Club Breakfast at Old Country Buffet 9 AM
September 21	Committees Meeting at Hidden Lake 6:30 PM
September 23	Membership Meeting at Hidden Lake 7 PM
October 2	Club Breakfast at Old Country Buffet 9 AM
October 4	Executive Board Meeting at Lake County Library 6 PM
October 19	Committees Meeting at Hidden Lake 6:30 PM
October 28	Membership Meeting at Hidden Lake 7 PM
November 6	Club Breakfast at Old Country Buffet 9 AM
November 16	Committees Meeting at Hidden Lake 6:30 PM
November 18	Membership Meeting at Hidden Lake (Toy Program & Elections) 7 PM
December 4	Club Breakfast at Old Country Buffet 9 AM
December 16	Membership Meeting at Hidden Lake (Christmas Party & Awards Banquet) 7 PM
December 21	Committees Meeting at Hidden Lake 6:30 PM

## Humor

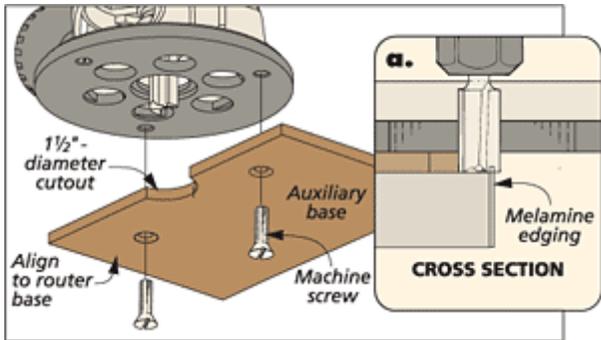
Alex and Benny had been woodworking buddies for almost eighty years, and one day Alex speculated on the possibility of there being woodworking in heaven. Both agreed that whoever died first would come back and tell the other if there is. As it turned out, Benny died the next day. Exactly one month later, Alex woke up to the sound of his name being called.

“Alex! Wake Up! I have good news and I have bad news!” cried the ghost of Benny to his friend. “The good news is that woodworking is everywhere in Heaven! No matter where you go, there’s an open shop. They always have the latest tools, everything always cuts perfectly, joints practically join themselves! It’s paradise up there!”

“That IS good news,” Alex said. “But what’s the bad news?”

“You’re scheduled to give a demonstration on dovetails tomorrow at 2:30.”

## Flush Trim Jig



Every now and then, I face the task of trimming the thin edging applied to a piece of melamine. And until recently, a quick, easy way to get the job done had escaped me. But as often happens, when you think about something for long enough, a good solution comes to mind.

My inspiration involves a router, a straight bit and a hardboard auxiliary base. The drawing above shows the details. The trick here is that the “partial” hardboard base raises the router base and allows it to travel over the edging to be trimmed. The straight bit, adjusted to cut flush with the auxiliary base, can then trim away the excess edging.



There are a couple of tips I'll offer to get the best results. First, since only half the router base is supported, you want to concentrate on keeping it from tipping. So shift the pressure back onto the auxiliary base as you rout. And second, you'll end up with a cleaner cut if you move the router from right to left, as shown in the photo. <http://www.woodsmithtips.com/>

## Shaker Oval Boxes: program & class

There was a time when households had few belongings, when clutter from too much stuff was not an issue. Basics such as matches, glue powders and paint pigments, and sugar, coffee, tea, and spices needed containers. Before the age of canisters and Tupperware, the Shaker craftsmen made and marketed their oval boxes.

Shakers oval boxes have become recognizable artifacts of Shaker life and work. First made over two hundred years ago, these containers were made for community use and for sale to the “world’s people” until well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. They were used to hold food stuffs in the pantry, buttons for the seamstress and tacks in the shop. Graceful, well made and of widespread utility, they represent virtues of the Shaker order itself.

Our program for our May meeting will be presented by Eric Pintar, partner in Home Shop Woodworking School and suppliers of Shaker Box making materials. Eric will go through the steps involved in producing a shaker box. See [www.shakerovalbox.com](http://www.shakerovalbox.com) to get more information on this and other schools offered at their Charlotte, MI location.

We have 11 club members paid & signed up for the class on Friday May 21, 2010 at the home of Lou Takacs. Lou's address is 207 South State Rd 2, Valparaiso, IN. Phone: 219-465-7207. Class starts promptly at 8:00 am CST and lunch will be provided. We should finish around 5:30-6:30 pm. Wear comfortable shoes!!

## **Bob Flexner's Finishing Tips**

<http://www.thefinishingstore.com/>

### **TIP: How to Avoid Runs and Sags**

You should never have runs or sags drying in your finish whether you're brushing or spraying. The way to achieve this level of perfection is to watch the surface you're brushing or spraying in a reflected light. You may need to arrange some lights or move your body and your head often to see what's happening.

With a reflection you can see easily when a finish begins sagging or running. Then it's a simple matter of using your brush (even if you're spraying) to remove the problem. Lift the excess finish off the surface with the brush and spread it to another part or drag it over the lip of a jar or can.

### **TIP: How to Avoid a Lot of Sanding with Oil Finishes**

It's not necessary to sand above 180 or 220 grit when applying an oil or oil/varnish blend finish. You can achieve the same smooth feeling results by sanding each coat after the first while that coat is still wet on the wood. You are wiping off all the excess anyway, so sanding dust isn't a problem.

Here are the steps:

1. Sand the wood to 180 or 220 grit, sanding in the direction of the grain.
2. Apply a wet coat of boiled linseed oil, 100% tung oil, your own mixture or oil and varnish or one of a number of commercial brands of oil/varnish blend (often called "Danish" oil).
3. Keep the finish wet on the surface for at least 5 minutes, adding more finish to areas that become dull.
4. Wipe off all the excess finish. (Be sure to hang your rags individually to dry so you don't risk spontaneous combustion.)
5. Let the finish on the wood dry overnight (three days for tung oil) in a warm room.
6. Apply a second wet coat and sand with the grain using 400- or 600-grit wet/dry (black) sandpaper while the surface is still wet. You don't need to use a sanding block to back your sandpaper.
7. Wipe off the excess and let dry overnight (three days for tung oil) in a warm room.
8. Apply a third coat using the same wet-sanding technique if you want. You'll usually improve the results a little with a third coat.

Run your hand over the surface. It should be silky smooth with a beautiful soft, satin sheen—and with much less work and better results than if you sanded the wood through all the sanding grits up to 400 or 600 grit.



## Get a Grip



When installing a woodscrew, you often need one hand to hold the workpiece and the other hand to hold the cordless drill. The problem is that this leaves the screw unaccounted for. And if you've had my experience, the screw usually doesn't want to cooperate.

I tried using a magnetic driver bit, but it wasn't very reliable. Finally, in my search for a better solution I came up with the sure-fire screw gripper you see in the photo at right.

It's simply a short length of soft plastic tubing. As you can see, the tubing slips snugly over the driver bit to hold the head of the screw firmly in place. Now, the screw can't get away, cam out of the bit or go off line, and a sometimes frustrating job becomes easy. <http://www.woodsmithtips.com/>

## Exhibits Needed!

We need members to bring items they have made for the club exhibit at the Lake County Fair and for the Christmas tree exhibit.

Nancy Distel is in charge of the Christmas tree display and is seeking wooden ornaments and items to decorate the tree at the visitors center.

We are currently seeking a member to be in charge of setting up the Fair exhibit in July. This exhibit will be a display case directly across from our clubs fair booth. Items that are not too large are needed for the case. Larger item can be displayed in the club booth. A copy of the exhibit form is included in this newsletter. If you have any items you would like to place on display please fill out the form and let either Lou Takacs or John Hunter know.





**NIWA Exhibit Information**

**Please complete and return with item to be displayed**

**Location of exhibit:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

**Member:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Item to be exhibited: (use reverse if necessary)** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Wood Type or Material:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Finish:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Set Up Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Take Down Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Exhibit/Event Dates** \_\_\_\_\_

**Disclaimer**

**The undersigned does hereby understand and agree that all items presented for exhibit/event will be the owner's responsibility. Northwest Indiana Woodworkers Association and members shall not be liable for any damage sustained, loss, theft, or disappearance of said items, or parts thereof, while being on loan for display/exhibit.**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## 2010 Committee Members

President Lou Takacs  
Vice President Dick Sader  
Treasurer Charlie Morris  
Secretary John Hunter  
Achievement John Hunter  
Audit Bill Harbison  
Badges Elizabeth Carlsson  
Bargain Alerts John Hunter  
Christmas Exhibit Nancy & Merle Distel  
Christmas Party Claudia Brazil & Marcie White  
Community Liaison Dick Sader  
Discounts Paul Jarrell  
Drawings Phil Malavolta  
Exhibits Marcie White & Phil Malavolta  
Field Trips Leon Kozlowski  
Fund Raising Norm Johnson  
Hats & Shirts Fred Baginski  
Historian Art & Helen Willing  
Hospitality Charles Norman  
Lake County Fair Lou Takacs  
Library Bob Roach  
Membership/sign-in George Salatas  
Mini-Seminars John Sturk & Bob Miller  
Newsletter Editor Hilario (Lalo) Gonzalez (lalogon@sbcglobal.net)  
Nominations Joe McDaniels  
Parliamentarian Joe McDaniels  
Pattern Master Stanley Wagner  
Photographer Fred Baginski  
Picnic/Party Marcie White, Claudia Brazil, Lou Takacs  
Publicity John Sturk  
Program John Hunter  
Recycling Claudia Brazil  
Shop Visits Dick Sader  
Show & Tell Denny McCool & Max Hernick  
SIG Carving Carl Mills  
SIG Scroll Saw Dick Sader  
SIG Turning Denny McCool  
Toys for Kids Bob Roach, Claudia Brazil & Skip Brazil  
Videographer Carl Mills & Max Hernick  
Website Bob Roach

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