



News and Views from the Western Pennsylvania Woodworkers, Incorporated © 2011

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MEETING NOTICE

DATE: Saturday, April 9, 2011

TIME: 10:00 AM, coffee at 9:30 AM
(please do not arrive before 9:30 AM)

PLACE: The shop of :

Bill James (James Wood Works) and

Craig Marcus (Marcus Studio)

The shop is at 6545 Hamilton Ave. (which is parallel to and between Penn Ave. and Frankstown Rd.). Please see the website for detailed directions.



MEETING THIS MONTH: WOOD BENDING

Our speaker this month will be John Kitchen, a new WPW member with a wide variety of interests. By day, John is a professional photographer, but he's also a consummate tinkerer and is self-taught in many subjects. One of these subjects is guitar-making, and John's program for us will be focused on the methods that he uses to bend wood for the acoustic guitars that he makes and repairs. John has a variety of store-bought and shop-made tools, jigs, and equipment that he uses in wood bending and guitar making, and he'll be demonstrating the use of as many of them as time allows. Most importantly, though, is that John will present methods that are accessible to the home shop, and useful in things other than guitar making. – Bill James

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

I hope you all enjoyed Jerry Murrey's presentation at our March meeting on French polishing as much as I did. Bob Flexner, whom I consider the best current writer on interior wood finishing practices, has an article in the April issue of Popular Woodworking magazine titled "Shellac: A Challenging Finish." In it he carefully explains why shellac is more difficult to use than other finishing materials – confusion about names for colors, wax content and resin concentration; blushing and ridging during application; and especially the annoying issue of shelf life of both liquid and solid shellac. In spite of all these problems, Jerry was able to make this sophisticated high-gloss finishing method look easy, and created some pretty nice finishes right in front of our eyes. Thank you, Jerry.



And thanks also to Alex Botkin, Mike Nugent and Ralph Smailer, our a/v team, for a flawless video projection that allowed all of us to see Jerry's finishes like we were standing next to his bench (and will allow any of you who missed Jerry's presentation to see it on a DVD that Marcia Craig will be pleased to loan to you).

You will recall that I said in February that I planned to focus on participation, teamwork and predictability. The most basic measure of participation is simply headcount during our monthly programs. We counted 46 in February and 80 at our March meeting. Before anyone extrapolates that to high expectations for April, it's worth noting that our February meeting was rescheduled to the same day as Turners Anonymous. Since about two dozen of our members are also members of TA, we expected to see a small count in February.

Besides agreeing to spend some of the club's money on the new video projector, our Board has been busy searching for interesting field trips for us to take this summer (and nice places to have a picnic). They are still gathering information about various places, and decisions will be made in the next few weeks. If you have any suggestions, now is the time to let any of the Board members know (their names and contact info are on the wpwoodworkers.org website).

My request for some volunteers to help Craig Smith with our website resulted in one possible team member, but we are still looking for one or two more. If you think you might be able to help, find out more about what is needed from Craig Smith (412-966-5666 or craig@no-wood-untuned.com) or me (412-578-0534 or frankwoolley@hotmail.com).