

NEWSLETTER

www.wpwoodworkers.org



Western
Pennsylvania
Woodworkers

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

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MEETING NOTICE

Saturday, December 10, 2011, 10:00 AM, coffee at 9:30 AM
at the shop of Bill James (James Wood Works) & Craig Marcus (Marcus Studio)
(The shop is at 6545 Hamilton Ave., please see the website for detailed directions.)

MEETING THIS MONTH: FLATTENING LARGE SLABS OF WOOD WITH A ROUTER

Our speaker this month will be WPW member Bill James, who will be demonstrating how to flatten (or shape with a curve) large slabs of wood with a router-based technique. It is not uncommon for woodworkers, especially hobbyists, to encounter a situation when they have to flatten a piece of wood that is wider than their jointer and/or planer. This is especially true when working large, live-edge slabs of wood, that would be typical of a Nakashima-style table. Bill will be demonstrating how to set up and use a bridge-mounted router and rail system that they use in his shop to flatten large slabs (they have used this technique for slabs as large as 42" wide by 10' long; your only limiting factor should be your imagination and the strength of your back!). Bill will also show, but not demonstrate, how a similar technique can be used to machine long sweeping curves on large slabs of wood, similar to the bench that he had at last month's meeting. For those who may want to do a little reading ahead of time, there is an excellent, and timely, article in the December 2011 issue of *Fine Woodworking* that describes in beautiful detail a similar, but far more elaborate, flattening jig. Bill will have a copy of the magazine available for those who may wish to review it after the meeting.

As an added bonus, Bill has asked Reid Crosby to join him for this program. Reid's business does many things, one of which is to cut, slab, and dry live-edge and sequence-matched slabs of wood (Reid is Bill's preferred supplier for this type of wood). Reid will be adding to the program by demonstrating how to flatten a large slab using a powered hand-plane and belt sander to do the same job (We'll see about that, Reid! Game on!). Reid will also have with him a variety of shorter live-edge slabs for sale, perfect for those of you who may want to try these flattening techniques on a smaller-scale project like a coffee table or side table. This is a great opportunity to try something new in your woodworking. – Bill James

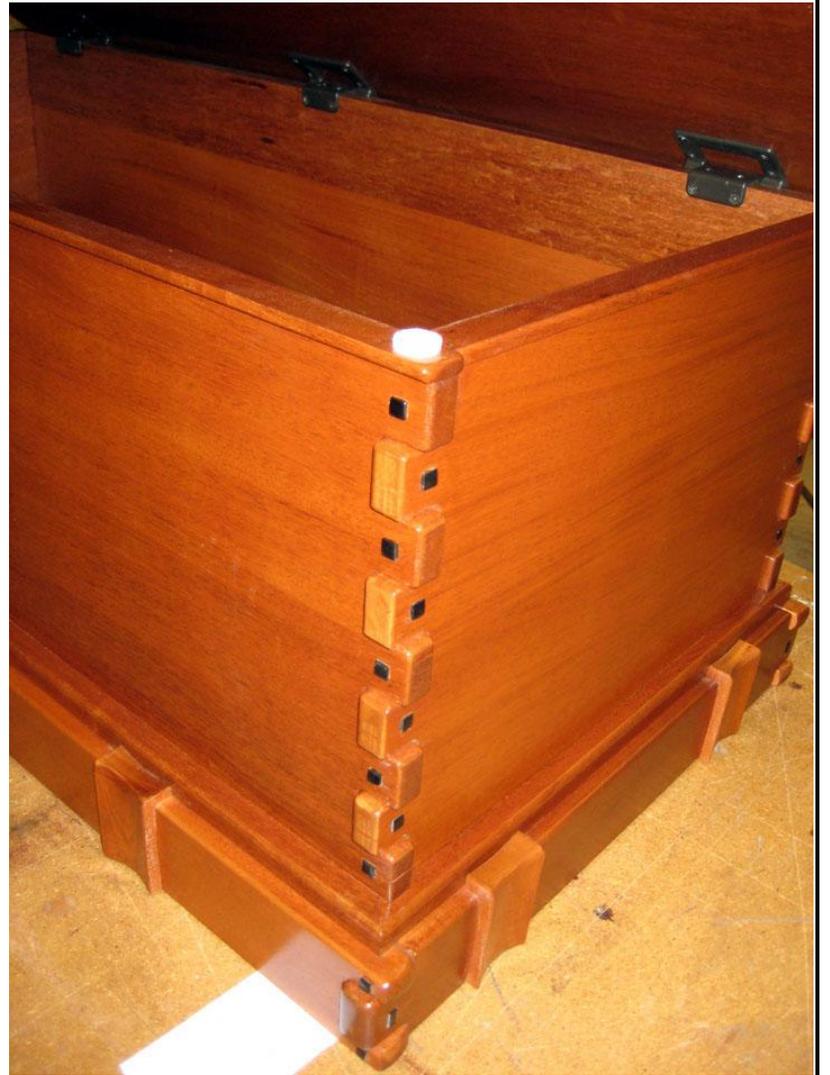
NOVEMBER MEETING REPORT



First place winner Mike Karafa : chest of drawers
(Left photo courtesy Ralph Sprang, right photo courtesy Calvin Wilson)



Second place winner Phil Melnick: metal-frame side table.
(Left photo courtesy Ralph Sprang, right photo courtesy Calvin Wilson)



Third place winner Joe Merante : chest of drawers
(Left photo courtesy Ralph Sprang, right photo courtesy Calvin Wilson)

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

SHOW AND TELL

Congratulations to Mike Karafa, Phil Melnick and Joe Merante for their winning entries in our annual Show and Tell, and thanks to all who brought their work to make this the biggest & best Show and Tell yet.

KELLY MEHLER PROGRAM ON FEBRUARY 11 & 12, 2012

WPW-member Dave DeYoung has set up a weekend-long program with nationally-known woodworker, teacher, and author Kelly Mehler. The program is titled "Make a Side Table from a Single Rough-Sawn Board." Kelly will take us through all of the steps necessary to start the weekend with a board, and end it with a side table. These include layout, machine set-up and tuning, milling, resawing, tapering, mortise and tenon joinery, pegging, short-cuts and other tricks, gluing, etc.

For those of you who have hesitated to undertake a complicated project because you're afraid you will get stuck in the middle and not know how to proceed, this is the program you need to see. For everyone, you will learn from a gifted teacher many clever techniques for solving the problems you are sure to encounter.

In order to reserve your spot now, we need a deposit of \$50. The final cost of the program will depend how many people sign up, but it will be no more than \$100 and no less than \$50, plus an estimated cost of \$10 for lunch on both days (about \$5.00 per day). **We are going to limit the program to the first 42 people who pay a deposit.** We have been collecting deposits from WPW members since September, but we plan to open the program up to the "general public" on Dec. 12 by advertising using Rockler's email list. (Non-members will be charged an additional \$20 for WPW membership.)

I think this is a real opportunity to learn from a master teacher at a much lower cost than similar courses that he teaches in his shop in Berea, KY, and at Marc Adam's school in Indiana. **I urge you to get your deposit in to Marc Silverman now.**

DUES

Eighty-two members have paid our modest \$20 per year dues so far, but that leaves quite a few who have not yet paid. When Marc Silverman volunteered to take the Treasurer position, he wasn't looking for a job as Bill Collector. **If you haven't paid your dues, please give Marc a break and get your dues in without any more reminders.**

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

At the December 10 meeting, we will elect Directors, who will then elect or reelect our six officers for the next two years. Please plan to be there to cast your vote.

I hope to see you there at our last meeting before the holidays. – Frank Woolley, WPW President

UPDATE ON KELLY MEHLER PRESENTATION

As of December 1, we have 14 people committed to the February 11 & 12, 2012 Kelly Mehler weekend-long workshop. This is still quite a few less than the number of people who expressed interest in this program when it was in the planning stages, but we're near enough to the tipping point that we're going to go ahead with our commitment to Kelly. If you're at all interested in attending this workshop, please get your name to us at the December meeting, because at only 14 people we'll need to widen our reach to look for additional participants, and we want to give current WPW members the first opportunity to attend. – Bill James

DISCOUNT SUBSCRIPTIONS TO FINE WOODWORKING MAGAZINE

Club member John Francis has worked with Taunton Press for many years to make discounted subscriptions to Fine Woodworking and Fine Homebuilding available to our members. John has decided to take a break from this and I have agreed to take on this effort. Please let me know when your subscription is due for renewal if you would like to receive the discount. To receive the discount, the subscription must be ordered through the club, and we must order at least 10 new or renewal subscriptions at a time. – Ralph Sprang

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

The content of this newsletter is written by club members **just like you**. If you have an interesting story, tip, plan, or idea, please contribute it to the newsletter. We particularly need shorter articles that would be a paragraph or two. Newsletter contributions may be emailed to wpwweditor@yahoo.com.

MEMBER CLASSIFIED ADS

Ridgid Oscillating Edge/Belt Spindle Sander Model Number EB4424

I ended up with two of these and can really only use one. This one is brand new in the box. Current price at Home Depot is \$213 with tax, but I'll sell this one for the \$190 I paid for it. If anyone is interested, let me know before the meeting – I'll return it to HD if no one needs one. Ralph Sprang wpwweditor@yahoo.com

Ash Lumber The Ash Borer has reached Gibsonia and killed all my Ash trees. To save the timber I have run it through the sawmill and thus have a quantity of boards, squares and bowl blanks available and I would like to recover 25 cts/Bd Foot for the cost of sawing. Let me know if there are any particular dimensions you need; maximum length 9 feet, maximum width 20". John Bridges (724)625-9348

Hardwood Lumber MrLumber is a small manufacturing company located in Eastern Ohio. We buy, saw, dry, and deliver high end hardwood lumber for commercial use and also part-time woodworkers. Our stock list includes: quartersawn red oak, qs white oak, qs beech, qs sycamore, flat cut cherry, flat

cut red oak. We produce specialty items as well, including 4/4 curly qs poplar and 4/4 red oak qs boules.

We have recently started a free delivery to the Pittsburgh area and had quite a nice response. Our next delivery to Pittsburgh will be the 7th of September.

Our inventory includes 4/4 & 5/4 qs white oak; 4/4 & 6/4 qs red oak; 4/4,6/4,8/4, & 16/4 beech. We also saw curly material as available. Also available: cherry, walnut, red elm, boules and bookmatches. For order details email (mrlumber@gmn4u.com), visit us on facebook (at mrlumber hardwood) or call 1-740-310-3984.

Cherry Burl Mitchell Stevenson has a huge cherry burl for sale at his farm near Warren, PA. It is about 2.5 feet high and 6.5 feet around. He estimates the weight at 300 pounds. He also has many other burls of various species. He can be reached at 716-870-9011.

Machinery Repair and Service Dean Ridgeway, through his company Ridgeway's Machine Maintenance and Sharpening, offers machinery repair and service. Dean teaches in Westmoreland Co., lives in Butler County, and is willing to travel to work on your machinery. Please contact Dean at (724) 816-6683 or dabridgeway@aol.com for more information.