Ron’s Ramblings

Hello Everyone,

With the Christmas season here and the Guild making toys for the shelters, “Rick’s Trucks” came at a good time. It was amazing to hear of all the countries that Rick’s toys go to help kids, and the support he gets is equally impressive. After the meeting, I showed Rick the toys the Guild makes for the shelters, and he seemed, at least, a little impressed with the toys the Guild makes. They aren’t the pocket toys he had discussed, but it is still an impressive bunch. The toy makers really put out when it comes to the Christmas season - a tradition I hope will carry on for many years. Thank you to all the people who make toys.

Work safe, and share your hobby!

Holiday Party: December 5th

Reflections: Rick’s Toybox

When Rick Brunner needed a new reason to get up in the morning after a spate of health complications, he turned to helping the less fortunate by making toys for children. He got started by reaching out to his local community churches, schools, and shelters and providing small toys made out of beautiful exotic woods. Over the last three years, he’s scaled his production up to providing toys to underserved children in 11 states domestically and abroad to 7 foreign countries, seeking to serve the most impoverished areas he can reach. To meet that production level, Rick has transitioned from exotic woods to 1/2” Baltic birch that he rips and laminates together to make his toy blanks. This year, Rick’s Toybox became a registered 501(c)(3) as part of an effort to expand his shop space and scale up his production even further to reach more kids in need.

As previously noted, Rick’s toy blanks are made of 1/2” Baltic birch plywood; he rips them to about 1 1/8” wide and then stacks them to create the blanks. (continues next page)
Reflections (continued)

The toy blanks are then cut into their patterns on the scroll saw; Rick works with between 6 and 8 different patterns in a single batch of toys. The wheels are stained with a Minwax ebony stain followed by two coats of polyurethane. The main toy boys are finished by two rounds of dunking into a Minwax polyurethane, sanding them smooth, followed by two coats of wiped on poly.

Rick is sponsored by Bears Woods for wheels and other small parts, and by ToyMakingPlans.com. You can find more information about Rick’s Toybox on Facebook and read a little more about his story in Issue 5 of WoodToyWeekly. I particularly recommend his Facebook page to check out some really great photos and videos of kids enjoying his toys. Rick is making a great impact, not only in his community, but around the world.

We’d also like to thank Rick for his generous donation of three hundred wooden wheels, several sets of toy plans, and a bunch of scroll saw blades.

Thanks for a great presentation, and for all you do, Rick! See pictures from his presentation here.
IMPORTANT: Membership Renewal Form Reminder

Here’s another reminder that your dues for 2020 are due soon! You’ll once again find the renewal form in this newsletter. Renewal applications and payment are due to Ron Pederson by February 1st, 2020.

USDA Forest Products Laboratory Tour

Last month a group of our members got a tour of the USDA Forest Products Laboratory in Madison. The scientists and engineers at this amazing facility are on the cutting edge of technological advancement of wood-based building materials and sustainable forestry. We got to chat with one of their specialists about all things wood and enjoyed a great tour of their wood species archives, development labs, and material testing facilities. You can check out some of the laboratory’s significant contributions to our daily lives and learn more about this unique and important government service on their website: https://www.fpl.fs.fed.us/

More photos from our tour are available on our Facebook page (no sign-in required).

Workshop Update

First and foremost: WE HAVE ELECTRICITY!

We made great progress on the lumber rack at our last workshop session. Aside from a few safety violations from our fearless president Ron Reuter, the session went smoothly, with everyone contributing and the rack coming along nicely. We believe we should be able to finish the rack with one more session. The next workshop will be held at 9:30am on December 14th.
This month we have a humorous submission from Jim Schlarb. This story originally appeared in the April 1994 edition of American Woodworker magazine, and Jim thought we could all use a reminder to stay focused while we work and keep ourselves safe!

**FINAL PASS**

**“LOST PRESENCE OF MIND”**

We all know the perils of failing to be vigilant when at work. Here, in correspondence between a policy holder and his insurance company, is the story of a guy who failed in a big way.

**Dear Sir:**

I am writing in response to your request for additional information. In block number 3 of the accident reporting form I put “Lost Presence of Mind” as the cause of my accident. You said in your letter that I should explain more fully, and I trust that the following details will be sufficient.

I am a bricklayer by trade. On the day of the accident, I was working alone on the roof of a new six-story building. When I completed my work, I discovered that I had about 500 pounds of brick left over. Rather than carry the bricks down by hand, I decided to lower them in a barrel by using a pulley which, fortunately, was attached to the side of the building at the sixth floor.

Securing the rope at the ground level, I went up on the roof, swung the barrel out, and loaded it with bricks. Then I went back to the ground and untied the rope, holding it tightly to insure a slow descent of the 500 pounds of bricks. You will note in block number 11 of the accident reporting form that I weigh 135 pounds.

Due to my surprise at being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded at a rather rapid rate up the side of the building.

In the vicinity of the third floor, I met the barrel coming down. This explains the fractured skull and broken collarbone that I have noted.

Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two-knuckles deep into the pulley. This explains the lacerations of my right hand.

Fortunately, by this time I had regained my presence of mind and was able to hold tightly to the rope in spite of my pain.

At approximately the same time, however, the barrel of bricks hit the ground—and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Devoid of the weight of the bricks, the barrel now weighed about 50 pounds.

I refer you again to my weight of 135 pounds in box number 11. As you might imagine, I began a rapid descent down the side of the building.

In the vicinity of the third floor, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles and the lacerations of my legs and lower body.

The encounter with the barrel slowed me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell into the pile of bricks and, fortunately, only three vertebrae were cracked.

I am sorry to report, however, that as I lay there on the bricks—in pain, unable to stand, and watching the empty barrel six stories above me—I again lost my presence of mind—I let go of the rope.

*Our thanks to Mike Veteto and the newsletter of the Green Country Woodworker’s Guild (Tulsa, Oklahoma), where this story appeared.*
Member Project Gallery

Post your completed or in-progress projects in our Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild Members group on Facebook or email them directly to Alex Leffelman for inclusion in the showcase!

Joe Eberle
“Finally got this critter done and delivered. Wedding present to our son and new daughter in law.”
Facebook

Ron Pederson
“Had a great time with ron Reuter and time Masnica. They wanted to learn how to make wrist watches. So we have had a workshop session in my shop for the last few saturdays. Today we assemble the 12 watches we made and just a little San day some varnish and they’ll be telling time
Facebook

James Murphy
“Just finished this 3D end grain cutting board in time for my daughter’s 40th birthday today.”
Facebook

Larry Teufel
“A shout out to Jim Schlarb for making these absolute awesome LEGO tables for the women’s shelters playrooms. I’m not sure about the total amount but I think he made 7. The kids will keep their minds on creative ideas and escape thoughts of times they may have been traumatized.”
Facebook

If you have any recent projects, finished or in-progress, please share it with your fellow members!
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild

Meetings (except August & December)
First Thursday of each month. 6:30 – 8:30 PM
Woodcraft of Milwaukee – lower level
14115 W. Greenfield Ave.
New Berlin, WI 53151

Renewals submitted after Feb 1st, add $5.00

Renewal dues for individuals: $45.00/yr.
Renewal dues for add’l household members: $20.00/ea.

Name: ___________________________________________ Date: _____________________

Add’l Household Members: __________________________________________

New address: ___________________________________________________________

City: _______________ State: ___ ZIP: _______________ Phone:____________________

E-mail address (where the newsletter is to be sent): __________________________

How long have you been a woodworker? ________________________________

How did you hear about WWG? [ ] Friend [ ] Internet [ ] Woodworking Show [ ] Other ___________

Please make checks payable to Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild
Send completed form with check to:
Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild
1935 Harvest Lane, Waukesha, WI 53186

Release from Responsibility

Participation in Guild programs, workshops or other activities, and use of associated facilities, is purely voluntary. Correspondingly, the nature of these activities potentially involves some personal or physical risk on the part of the participant. In consideration of my being permitted to participate in these activities, I hereby release and discharge the Guild, and associated facilities, their officers, employees, owners, and affiliates, their successors and assigns, of and from any and all claims or demands for injury to my person or property, resulting directly or indirectly by reason of my participation in the program, and I hereby assume full responsibility for all risk of injury to my person or property by reason thereof.

Signature ________________________________

Guild Use:
Check No. ___________ Amount: ___________ Date Rcvd: ___________
Cash Receipt No. _______ Amount: ___________ By: ___________________
Member No. ______________

Page 1 of 1
## Upcoming Classes and Events

### WWG Programs & Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 5th</td>
<td>Guild Holiday Party &amp; Dinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2nd</td>
<td>Using Epoxy as Glue with Mark Bronkalla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 6th</td>
<td>General Guild/Financial Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 5th</td>
<td>Everything Your Mother Never Told You About Blast Gates, with Ron Reuter</td>
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</tbody>
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Respectfully submitted by Jay Pilling, Program Director

### Woodcraft Classes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time/Content</th>
<th>Fee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 2nd</td>
<td>6PM - Introduction to Pen Turning</td>
<td>$55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 3rd</td>
<td>8AM - Woodworking for Women</td>
<td>$95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 4th</td>
<td>9:30AM - Introduction to Wood Finishing</td>
<td>$95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 5th</td>
<td>10AM - Introduction to Woodturning</td>
<td>$95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 6th - 20th</td>
<td>6PM Mondays - Woodworking Fundamentals</td>
<td>$95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 8th</td>
<td>5PM - Woodworking for Women</td>
<td>$95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 14th - Feb. 18th</td>
<td>6PM Tuesdays - Basic Cabinet Construction</td>
<td>$295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 15th</td>
<td>6PM - Basic Router Techniques</td>
<td>$55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 25th</td>
<td>9:30AM - Introduction to Bowl Turning</td>
<td>$95</td>
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more information at [https://www.woodcraft.com/stores/milwaukee/classes](https://www.woodcraft.com/stores/milwaukee/classes)

### Rockler Classes and Demonstrations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time/Content</th>
<th>Fee</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 5th</td>
<td>11AM - Introduction to the Lathe</td>
<td>$75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 7th</td>
<td>9AM - Turn a Wooden Pen</td>
<td>$75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 9th</td>
<td>4:30PM - Hand Held Power Tool Safety</td>
<td>$75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 11th</td>
<td>1PM - Woodworking 101</td>
<td>$75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 12th</td>
<td>1PM - Make a Cribbage Board on the CNC HD5</td>
<td>$75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 14th</td>
<td>9AM - Turn an Acrylic Pen</td>
<td>$75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 18th</td>
<td>2:30PM - Cutting Dovetails by Hand</td>
<td>$75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 19th</td>
<td>11AM - Introduction to the Lathe</td>
<td>$75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 25th</td>
<td>9AM - Turn a Wooden Bowl</td>
<td>$85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 26th</td>
<td>11AM - Introduction to Hand Tools</td>
<td>$75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 31st</td>
<td>11AM - Mortise and Tenon Joinery</td>
<td>$75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

additional free demonstration times and more information at [https://www.rockler.com/brookfield-store](https://www.rockler.com/brookfield-store)
WWG Officers & Directors

- **President**: Ron Reuter (262) 784-5877 ronbo439@yahoo.com
- **Vice President**: Greg Waldo (414) 769-1553 waldog1050@sbcglobal.net
- **Treasurer**: Eric Novak (414) 750-4128 ericnovak88@gmail.com
- **Secretary**: Jack Zbiegien, Sr. (262) 483-8522 jackz@zbie.com
- **Membership Director**: Ron Pederson (262) 442-4089 rpederson9561@gmail.com
- **Program Director**: Jay Pilling (414) 425-5692 jaypilling537@gmail.com

WWG Committees

- **Audio/Video**: Jerry Anson (414) 453-4537 janson@wi.rr.com
  - Tom Hipsak (262) 865-8512 thipsak@wi.rr.com
- **Events**: Tom Masnica (262) 370-4496 710thomas@gmail.com
  - Justin Gasal (920) 587-4079 jgasal@yahoo.com
- **Librarian**: Chris Reuter (262) 784-5877 ronbo439@yahoo.com
- **Publications**: Alex Leffelman (262) 716-3564 alex.leffelman@gmail.com
- **Raffles**: Jerry Anson (414) 453-4537 janson@wi.rr.com
- **Toy Chairman**: Norm Lange (920) 474-7183 glfinman@mailbox.org
- **Webmaster**: Dave Steingart (414) 688-7078 dasteingart@yahoo.com
- **Sponsorships**: Ro Jodat (262) 422-4771 rojay.roj@gmail.com

Board Meeting Notes (November 21st, 2019)

**Attendees**: Ron Reuter, Jerry Anson, Ron Pederson, Rich Manchester, Tom Masnica, Eric Novak, Greg Wernish, Mike Robertson, and Ro Jodat.

**Treasury Update**: As of October 31st, 2019 our treasury balance is $5,799.27.

**Notes**: Ron Pederson is handling the entertainment for this year’s holiday party; last year 70+ attended. We discussed the future of the toy group and the possible need for waivers for nonmembers. We discussed whether insurance would have to change if we introduce divisions into the Guild. Briefly discussed our website and how our domain is owned/managed. Table Saw Certification was discussed for the workshop; Chris will likely help with this in January. We discussed next machine acquisitions for the workshop. A lapel mic for presenters was requested to avoid complications with the larger mics. The electrical work for the workshop was completed since the last meeting; cost was $2,250. Beads of Courage project was discussed again - lift-top boxes are preferred. To work around the upcoming holidays, the next board meeting will be on December 19th.

A reminder that Board Meetings are held monthly, and member input and participation are encouraged.

Submitted by Alex Leffelman
Wisconsin / Northern IL Woodworking Clubs

- Badger Woodturners Club, Madison; First Tuesday of each month, 6:30pm. badgerwoodturners.org
- Blackhawk Carving Club, Wednesdays, 8:30 - 11am, Ken-Rock Community Center, 3218 11th St., Rockford, IL http://blackhawkcarving.com
- Capital Area Carvers, Madison, WI; Second Tuesday of each month, 7pm. capitalareacarversofwisconsin.org
- DuPage Woodworkers, Glen Ellyn, IL, Fourth Wednesday each month except July, 7pm. dupagewoodworkers.com.
- Fox Valley Woodworking Club, Batavia, IL; First Tuesday of each month, 7:30pm; fwwc.org
- Kettle Karvers Club, Plymouth, WI; First Wednesday each month, 6:30pm, Generations, 1500 Douglas Dr., in the Masters Gallery Foods room, Plymouth, WI. See website for other dates and times. kettlekarvers.org
- Lake Country Carvers, Oconomowoc, WI; monthly, second Thurs. 5:30pm; Ray Burow, 920-474-4075
- MAD Woodworkers, Monona, WI; Third Wednesday of each month, 6:30pm; madwoodworkers@yahoogroup.com
- Mid-Wisconsin Chippers, Neenah, WI. First Sunday each month 1:30pm; mwchippers@gmail.com
- Milwaukee Area Woodturners (MAWt), metro-Milwaukee, WI. First Monday each month 6:30pm, Woodcraft of Milwaukee; mawturners.com
- Northeast Wisconsin Woodturners, Neenah, WI; Second Saturday, Sept. thru June, 9am. NEWWoodturners.org
- Northeastern Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild, Green Bay. Third Wednesday each month, 7pm. newwg.org
- River Bend Carving Club, Racine, WI. First & third Saturdays of the month, 9:30 - 11:30 am. $3/ student, 3600 N. Green Bay Rd., Racine. www.riverbendracine.org
- Rock River Valley Carvers, Janesville; First Thursday of each month, 7pm; rockrivervalleycarvers.com
- West Allis Woodworkers Club, West Allis, WI. Art Kastner, President at 414-476-9902
- International Association of Penturners (IAP), Wisconsin Chapter, meets as needed at Woodcraft of Milwaukee, Lower Level; penturners.org
- Wilson Park Woodcarvers & Woodburners, Milwaukee, Wednesdays, 8:30am - Noon, Wilson Park Senior Center, 2601 W. Howard Ave., Ed Thomas, 414-427-8256
- Wisconsin River Woodcarvers, Stevens Point, 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of each month, 6pm - 9pm, The Lincoln Center, 1519 Water St. www.wisconsinriverwoodcarvers.org
- Wisconsin River Woodcarvers, Wisconsin Rapids, Wednesdays, 6pm - 9pm, First Congregational Church, 311 2nd St. South www.wisconsinriverwoodcarvers.org
- Wisconsin Valley Woodturners, Wausau, WI; First Thursday of each month, 7pm.
YOUR MILWAUKEE-AREA 
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cialty Woods serves the discriminating woodworker looking 
for highly figured and unique hardwoods for that one-of-a-
kind project.
WWG Winners, November 2019

Congratulations to the winners of our door prizes and raffle items from our last meeting!

**Door prize winners:** Dave Steingart, Jon Johnson, Rich Manchester, Ron Pederson, Lyle Morrison, Joe Eberle

**Raffle prize winners:** George Eggenhifer, Jon Johnson, Lyle Husar, Rick Ponto (x2), Tom Masnica (x3), Mike Prebish (x2), Jim Murphy, Jim Schlarb (x2), Ron Reuter, Paul Prondzinski, Gordon Vetting

Find us on Facebook

Like our Page to help us reach more area woodworkers:
https://www.facebook.com/WisconsinWoodworkersGuild

Connect with your fellow guild members between meetings in our private members-only group:
https://www.facebook.com/groups/518977035179247/

Friends of the Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild

**Homestead Finishing Products:**
Cleveland, OH
(216) 631-5309
http://homesteadfinishingproducts.com/

**Rockler’s (The Woodworker’s Store):**
17300 W. Bluemound Road, Suite 500
Brookfield, WI 53045
(414) 302-1472

**Woodline USA:**
(800) 472-6950

**Neu’s Hardware Tools**
Paint:
N95W16915 Falls Parkway
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051
(262) 251-6550

**Woodcraft:**
14115 W. Greenfield Ave
New Berlin, WI 53151
(262) 785-6700

**MEMBER BENEFIT:**
Show your Guild Membership Card and enjoy a 10% discount on many items at Rockler’s, Woodcraft, and Woodline. Contact store for details.

Donations - **NOTICE**

The guild is regularly asked if it accepts donations of tools or equipment from estates or from woodworkers who are leaving the craft for one reason or another. The answer is YES. As a 501(c)(3), we are permitted to accept such donations and will provide appropriate receipts for tax purposes. We will not provide appraisal services or selling advice. A donation is an excellent way to honor the memory of the woodworker while supporting the Mission of the Guild. If you are considering such a gift or know someone who might be, please contact an officer listed above in this issue of RIPSAW.