Ron’s Ramblings

Hello Everyone,

It was nice to see Mark Bronkalla again, it had been too many years. His experience with using epoxy as an adhesive was very interesting. When you think of it, why not use epoxy as an adhesive? Once that stuff sets up, good luck getting it apart. And if you want something to stay for a long time, this seems to have longevity. The fact that two-part epoxy can be sanded, drilled, turned, and polished only add to its flexibility. With using it as an adhesive, I look back and think: of course, why wouldn’t you. Although, two-part epoxy is on the expensive side. I find myself going the extra mile to make my projects come out looking the best I can. I don’t know if getting old contributes to that or just taking more pride in my work and just slowing down a little more. I wish Mark were still a member and didn’t live that far away, he would be quite the asset to the Guild. Thank you, Mark!

Work safe and share your hobby!

Reflections: Mark Bronkalla and Epoxy

Mark got started using epoxy when he built a boat twenty years ago, and has seemingly been into epoxy ever since. What does Mark like about epoxy as an adhesive? To start, it’s waterproof, gap-filling, and tintable. Unlike PVA glue, it won’t go bad on the shelf and you don’t have to clamp the heck out of your workpiece in order to get a good bond.

The real magic of using epoxy, though, happens when you view epoxy as a system rather than one thing. You start with a resin, and can then select a hardener with longer or shorter open times depending on how much working time you need to assemble your project - epoxies that cure slowly are stronger than those that cure quickly. From there you can add thickener to adjust the viscosity and increase its strength for whatever your application is. Finish your customization by tinting your epoxy to whatever color you like if you’re working on an inlay or other visible epoxy application. Mark recommends West System Epoxy.

Epoxy can be applied to normal woodworking joints, of course, but it also works great for filling knots, cracks, and splits in your workpieces. It’s also a great option if you’re looking to pre-finish your project before assembly, since the epoxy will adhere to finished surfaces unlike PVA glue. You can find out more about Mark and his projects on his website: https://www.bronkalla.com/
Upcoming Woodworking Shows

The Woodworking Shows
February 21-23rd

For the past 30 years, The Woodworking Shows have established a devoted following by providing woodworkers with an outlet for their passion through tools, education, and a unique sense of community by hosting hands-on trade shows for woodworkers across the United States.

Please talk to Justin Gasal if you’d be willing to man our booth for a shift or two at the show!

Daily hours and more information at http://www.thewoodworkingshows.com/milwaukee.html

Neu’s Woodworking Show
February 29th from 9am - 4pm

See the latest in woodworking innovations and product demonstrations. Gain inspiration for your next project from local Master Craftsman; Artists including a Clockmaker, Guitar Luthier, Chainsaw Artist, and Wood Carver. Neu’s with your favorite tool manufacturers will offer you great savings at this one-day-only event. Add to your tool crib and improve your project output!

Don’t miss this great Milwaukee Area Woodworking Show at Neu’s in Menomonee Falls!

More information at http://www.neushardware.com/event/neus-woodworking-show/

NEWWG Spring Woodworking Show
March 21st and 22nd

The NorthEast Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild has hosted a woodworking show in Green Bay each spring since 1983 to bring greater awareness of woodworking to the larger community. Members display their work, with some woodworkers demonstrating techniques as well. Some will also have items for sale. A raffle of donated items draws a lot of interest, and provides revenue to the guild.

More information at https://newwg.org/annual-show/
Presenters Wanted at NEWWG

Patricia Williams, the coordinator of the aforementioned NorthEast Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild, reached out to us to invite them to take tables at their show. She said they have 40+ tables spoken for, but their floor plan has room for 90. She invites everyone to contact her with questions at tranquilbay26@gmail.com. Tables are $25 and can be shared. The deadline for applying is February 15th. You can find more information about the show at the link in the previous section, and view the registration form here.

Thanks to Boehm-Madisen!

Boehm-Madisen is a third generation family owned business stocking domestic and exotic hardwood and softwood lumber, along with millwork and sheet goods. The have supplied Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Northern Illinois for over 75 years.

They have been a sponsor of the Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild for multiple years now and are extra-supportive of our case. Each year, they have not only generously supported our cause by placing a sponsorship ad in the Ripsaw, but have also donated lumber to help make toys, making our number of toys produced even greater. This year they donated 700(l) board feet of hickory, which is already making the toy makers drool. We can’t thank them enough, especially John Kestly.

Remember: when you have wood needs, don’t forget their retail outlet at 21475 Doral Road in Waukesha, WI 53186. Their selection is as good as any, and the pricing is even better.

Beads of Courage Specifications

We’ve received some boxes already (thank you!), but there’s still been a lack of clarity regarding the specifications for donating boxes for the Beads of Courage program. You can check out their entire informational handout here, but here’s a summary to get you going:

Recommended interior dimensions for turned boxes are: 6” diameter (5” min), 5” height (4” min), and for flatwork boxes are: 4” x 6” x 4”.

Please take the time to ensure you are using a safe finishing process that does not contain toxic materials. Also do not use finishes like linseed oil that take a long time to outgas. Please refrain from painting Beads of Courage boxes.

Optionally, you can purchase Beads of Courage Logo Beads to be attached anywhere within or outside the box.
The Anatomy of a Speaker

Ron Reuter

It was brought to my attention that a couple of members were not going to re-up this year due to the fact that we didn’t bring in a “well-known” speaker and didn’t have a workshop. I’m going to break this down for the people who don’t know the investment it takes to set up a speaker. I will use an example of a contact Jay looked into for the group.

Julie Bender, of Julie Bender Fine Art - an artist that may have been able to help us add a little flair to our projects. When Jay contacted her, the breakdown went something like this: $3,000 down, plus airfare and hotel accommodations. She is willing to give us a workshop with 12 people at $250 per person. (That’s not included in the first price - it’s added on.) Do the math, and we have now blown our entire year’s budget. This is not to say Julie is charging an unreasonable amount, or that her skills and time aren’t worth that cost, I’m simply illustrating how quickly we could exhaust our budget with a well-known speaker like Julie.

By contrast, Ron Zdroik from the Milwaukee Area Wood Turners is an unbelievable artist, and I don’t think he would charge us nearly that amount. We have an unreal amount of talent here in our group, and just because you know who they are doesn’t mean they’re not worth listening to.

The next consideration is where to hold these events. People have criticized our lower level work shop, but we’re creating a space for us to hold these kinds of events and demonstrations in the future. The alternative is to have one of our members open up their own shop and let us host - and I would be glad to set it up - but until that happens, we’re doing our best with the resources we have available. If you have ideas or opinions about our speaking events, please come to the board meetings and let us know. Better yet - join the board and make a change! I ask that you keep all this in mind and that you all become part of the solution going forward.

Big Plane Thanks

Jerry Anson

Thank you to everybody who helped in making parts for the big plane. Jim - the chip breaker looks great. Tom - the tote and front knob screw heads look great also and are a perfect fit in the tote, I assume they will be in the front knob also.

I have the tote assembled, and I’m working on putting the large radius on the edges now. I’ll bring it in at the next meeting ready to finish. We still have the frog not assigned to anyone to do. We will see if we can divide its components up at the next meeting.

I would also like to have a third meeting on Saturday, February 15th, to see how the parts we have finished fit together and to see what we can have ready for the show.

Thanks to everyone again!
Help Wanted!

I (Alex Leffelman, your faithful newsletter editor) do my best to get as much relevant and interesting information into each newsletter as I can. But some months there just isn’t much content, and the newsletter feels a little sparse. This is where you can help!

We’d like to get our members more involved in generating content for the newsletter. If that sounds like a lot of work, we’re prepared to sweeten the pot (beyond just helping out your fellow members, especially me)! **Any content submission for the newsletter will be rewarded with 2 tickets for the raffle at the next meeting.**

Here are some ways you can contribute in the future:

• We’d like to spin up a “Tip of the Month” section. If there’s a jig or a technique that you’ve discovered recently or have found indispensible for years, we want to hear about it.
• Project photos / write-ups. I include any and all project photos that are shared on our Facebook page or sent to me via email. I personally love to see what other members are creating, so I would again encourage you to submit what you’re working on. **Note:** Requires detailed build write-up to qualify for the raffle tickets.
• Interesting content referrals. Did you find something interesting online (related to woodworking)? Send it to me, and we’ll get it in the newsletter so you can discuss it with other members at the next meeting.
• Shop tours. This is an off-shoot of project photos. What kind of space are you working in? What tools do you have at your disposal? How do you utilize the space you have available for tools and storage solutions? Everyone can learn something from everyone else’s shop, so snap some photos of your shop and tell us about it and we’ll put it in the newsletter.

So help us (me) out and get involved!

**Tip of the Month!**
We didn’t receive any submissions for tip of the month. I award you all no points, and may God have mercy on your souls. Enjoy this Pickles comic instead.
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!

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

Ron Pederson
“Ted Cooper recently made these items. A segmented bowl and a book press for his (I think) grandson who makes books. Great job, Ted!”
Facebook

Jerry Anson
Facebook

Ron Pederson
“Ted Cooper’s wife carved this and shared it with Ron Reuter and myself, thought we would share her handiwork.”

Gary Emerich
“In the newsletter you asked for pictures so here’s my new project. I’m making another family tree for my grandson. This is basically an intarsia project which will measure 24 inches by 30 inches.”
Email

Alex Leffelman
“Recently finished this box for my wife for her birthday. She likes to keep all the cards I give her for various occasions, and her previous box had filled up.”
Facebook
Upcoming Classes and Events

**WWG Programs & Events**

- February 6th  
  General Guild/Financial Meeting

- March 5th  
  Blast Gates and Ductwork, with Ron Reuter

Respectfully submitted by Jay Pilling, Program Director

**Woodcraft Classes**

- February 10th  
  6PM - Turn a Slim Line Ball Point Pen  
  $55

- February 19th  
  5PM - Woodworking for Women  
  $95

- February 22nd  
  9AM - Turning a Lidded Box  
  $100

- February 24th  
  6PM - Basic Router Techniques  
  $55

- February 27th  
  6PM - Table Saw Fundamentals  
  $55

- March 5th - 19th  
  6PM Thursdays - Woodworking Fundamentals  
  $95

- March 7th  
  9:30AM - Hand Cut Dove Tails  
  $95

- March 11th  
  6PM - Wood Finishing / General Finishes Products  
  Free

- March 23rd - April 6th  
  6PM Mondays - Woodworking Fundamentals  
  $95

more information at [https://www.woodcraft.com/stores/milwaukee/classes](https://www.woodcraft.com/stores/milwaukee/classes)

**Rockler Classes and Demonstrations**

- February 11th  
  9AM - Turn an Acrylic Pen  
  $75

- February 15th  
  2:30PM - Cutting Dovetails on the Rockler Complete Dovetail Jig  
  $75

- February 16th  
  1PM - Woodworking 101  
  $75

- February 18th  
  9AM - Turn a Wooden Pen  
  $75

- February 22nd  
  11AM - Decorative Accents  
  Free

- February 23rd  
  11:30AM - Introduction to Hand Tools  
  $75

- February 27th  
  11AM - Mortise and Tenon Joinery  
  $75

- March 7th  
  11AM - Woodturning Techniques featuring JET Power Tools  
  Free

- March 14th  
  11AM - Power Sharpening with Sorby’s PRO Edge Sharpening  
  Free

- March 21st  
  11AM - Finishing Techniques featuring Old Masters’ Wiping Stains  
  Free

- March 28th  
  11AM & 2PM - SawStop Professional Table Saws  
  Free

additional free demonstration times and more information at [https://www.rockler.com/brookfield-store](https://www.rockler.com/brookfield-store)
Guild Information

WWG Officers & Directors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
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WWG Committees

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Board Meeting Notes (January 30th, 2020)

Attendees: Ron Pederson, Tom Masnica, Mike Robertson, Rich Manchester, Ron Reuter, Jerry Anson, Lyle Husar, Jay Pilling, Jim Schlarb, Gary Shadley, Justin Gasal, Jeff Grzeca, Alex Leffelman, Eric Novak, Jack Zbiegen

Treasury Update: As of January 30th, 2020, our treasury balance is $6,904.58.
Notes: We’ve received new donations to the workshop - a Jet mini-lathe, a vacuum cleaner, and a Grizzly shaper. Jack Z briefed the group on our tax-exempt status with the IRS, which is pending a form to be filled out and sent in; Greg Waldo is now the registered “agent” of the Guild. We discussed special membership rates to offer at the upcoming Woodworking Shows; we will offer memberships for $25 at the show for new members. The next workshop for the giant plane build will be February 15th. The cost and value of high-profile presenters was discussed, contrasted with more local presenters or Guild members with expertise. It was noted that the current workshop has been funded entirely by sponsorships and donations, no membership dues have been used towards it. Jay is looking into booking Gary Rogowski for a presentation and workshop in August, also thinking about having Charles Radtke present. A suggestion to amend our bylaws to allow changes to the bylaws by a simple majority instead of a 2/3 vote was discussed, and transitioned into a lengthy discussion regarding member retention and attrition and communication between Guild members and the board.

A reminder that Board Meetings are held monthly, and member input and participation are encouraged.
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; fvwwc.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.
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GUILD MEMBERS RECEIVE 10% OFF SELECT REGULAR PRICE IN-STORE PURCHASES! SEE STORE FOR DETAILS.
WWG Winners, January 2020

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

Door prize winners: Steve Hall, Mike Prebish, Rich Stefanowski, Jon Johnson, Ken Stoller, and Gordon Vetting

Raffle prize winners: Steve Hall, Ron Reuter, Jim Murphy, Paul Prondzinski, Bob Werner, and Jon Johnson

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

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

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

Woodline USA:
(800) 472-6950

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.