

# NEWSLETTER

www.wpwoodworkers.org



Western  
Pennsylvania  
Woodworkers

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President:	Robb Bartholomew	(724)966-2708	drwrbart@alltel.net
Secretary:	Ed Kardel	(724)832-2265	dell2020@turbousa.com
Treasurer:	Bill Robinson	(412)851-1857	wtrobsn@verizon.net
Newsletter Editor:	Ralph Sprang		wppwweditor@yahoo.com

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## MEETING NOTICE

DATE: Saturday, April 11, 2009

TIME: 10:00 AM, coffee at 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.). The easiest way to get there is from 5th Ave./Washington Blvd. (the street changes names at Frankstown Rd. -- welcome to Pittsburgh!). From 5th Ave./Washington Blvd. turn west on Hamilton (toward Pittsburgh) and 6545 is 2-1/2 blocks down on the right. We have a large green banner on the front of the building and two company signs on the side of the building.



## THIS MONTH'S MEETING: HOW TO DESIGN AND MAKE A RULE JOINT

**Presenter:** Dave DeYoung

WPWW member Dave DeYoung will show us how to design and make a rule-joint for drop-leaf tables. While visually appealing, and very functional, the rule-joint is not necessarily completely intuitive to lay out and also requires the use of a special hinge. Dave will take us through the steps of laying out and making this joint that should be a part of everyone's arsenal. And because things don't always work the way we expect them to, Dave is planning on having some examples of rule-joints that don't work so we can also see what not to do. Dave may also present a portion of his presentation in Power Point, so if you need special glasses to see a projected image on a board, bring them! – Bill James

## PICNIC UPDATE

The date of our WPW picnic has now been firmly set for Saturday, June 20, 2009. The picnic committee is working on the details and will be communicating them to us over the course of the next two months (probably as part of the newsletter and verbal information at the meetings). An important early task for them is to determine the approximate number attending, so if you could begin looking at your calendar to determine if you'll be attending, and be prepared to let the committee know at the April meeting, that would be helpful. – Bill James

## MARCH MEETING REPORT



Felix Pirozzi described the heart-shaped box he made.



Alex Botkin is building a large sundial for the Burning Man festival and talked about the design challenges.



Jim Griffiths showed and talked about his model railroad buildings and cars.



Mark Mooney showed how he makes Greene and Greene style lanterns



Dave Truax talked about his Windsor chair project.

## PITTSBURGH FANTASY IN WOOD

The Pennsylvania wood arts and crafts association will present the annual PITTBURGH FANTASY IN WOOD at the Castle Shannon Fire Hall, 3360 Library Road (route 88), Castle Shannon PA 15234. If you have not been to this show before, you have really missed out. Definitely worth the visit.

Dates: May 3: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
May 4: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

## MEMBER CLASSIFIED ADS

**For Sale:** 23" scroll saw \$210. Craftsman lathe with cutting tools \$150. Radial arm saw, not running, best offer. Gene Frey 724-832-9295.

**For Sale:** Westinghouse Precipiton (Electronic air cleaner) ideal for cleaning air in a large shop. Best offer John Francis 724-775-6036.

**For Sale:** New, unused set of three ½" shank straight carbide router bits ( 7/32", 15/32", and 31/64" ) in a wood storage box. \$15.00 Ralph Sprang [wppweditor@yahoo.com](mailto:wppweditor@yahoo.com)



In January of 2009, this was a small part of a 100 year old maple tree in a front yard in Jeanette, Pa. In February of 2009, a mighty windstorm blew across Jeanette, and knocked this tree over. It fell parallel to the entire length of the house, but other than a few dents in the gutter and a few missing pieces of slate, the house was miraculously undamaged.

In late February of 2009, several volunteers, including Craig Smith, helped to cut up and clear out this old tree. Several pieces of the trunk were rolled up into the back of a pickup truck and taken to a band mill in Grindstone, Pa., where the logs were cut into slabs 2 inches thick.

In early March, 2009, the slabs were cut into squares and meticulously stickered and stacked to start their drying process. After a month or two of air drying, they will be placed into a small portable kiln to finish their drying. But all of that is only the beginning of the story of this tree's second life. In June of 2009, these dry pieces of maple will be turned into legs and stretchers suitable for building Sack Back Windsor Chairs at the Society for Contemporary Craft. Half of this pile is already reserved, since it will be used during our sold-out class running from July 20-24. The good news, however, is that the other half of the pile may be available to you. We are now accepting registrations for a second class during the week of July 27-31. Sign up now before the rest of the pile is gone, and you too can help to write the next chapter in the history of this old maple tree!

For registration information, contact Laura Rundell at 412 261 1248, x-25, or email [thestudio@contemporarycraft.org](mailto:thestudio@contemporarycraft.org). For questions about the class, learning to build Windsor Chairs, or purchasing Windsor Chairs, contact Craig Smith at 412 996 5666, or email [craig@no-wood-untuned.com](mailto:craig@no-wood-untuned.com).

## 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](mailto:wpwweditor@yahoo.com).