



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

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MEETING NOTICE

DATE: Saturday, March 12, 2011

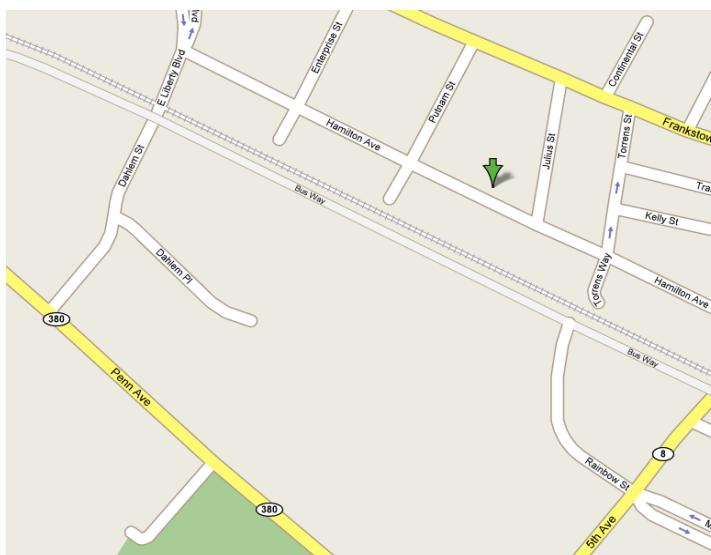
TIME: 10:00 AM, coffee at 9:30 AM
(please do not arrive before 9:30 AM)

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: FRENCH POLISHING

Long-time WPW member Jerry Murrey will present a program on French Polishing. Many members have asked about a finishing method that will provide a beautiful and smooth protective finish that does not require spray equipment or a dust-free environment to achieve. Through lecture, demonstration, and pass-around sample boards, Jerry will take us through the steps, from start to finish, of how he creates a French Polish finish. I've seen a couple of examples of Jerry's finish, and they are very nice indeed. If you have been looking for a way to widen the finishing options available to you, Jerry's typically thorough and well-thought-out approach to solving woodworking issues should give you plenty of ideas for trying your hand at this time-honored finish. – Bill James

FUTURE PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

After much thought, and discussion with Frank Woolley, I would like to consider trying a different approach to developing programs for future meetings. It's no secret that at times we have plenty of programs in the queue, and at other times (of late, too often) we don't have enough programs, such that it seems like we're always scrambling around to have programs ready. It's not entirely clear to me why this occurs, but I have an idea that I'd like to try. Simply stated, I'd like to decouple the program topic from the speaker. In other words, instead of me asking for program ideas, where it's somewhat implied that we're looking for a speaker and a subject, I'd like to focus on having a stable of speakers that we'll call the Program Team. These speakers would then be responsible for presenting one program per year, the subject of which could be up to them (perhaps a skill in which they have a strength, or something that they have always been interested in researching), or chosen from a list of topics of interest to the WPW membership (we will survey the membership). I will be privately approaching a small group of WPW members whom I believe would make a good inaugural Program Team to test out the concept. But, I obviously don't know all club members, and certainly don't know their skills, so if you're interested in being a Program Team member, please contact me (Bill@JamesWoodWorks.com).

It's important to note this Program Team approach will not be the only way that programs will be generated. Given the success of Steve Latta's WPW Saturday program and Sunday workshop, we intend to continue to vigorously pursue "outside" speakers, with the goal of having one per year as our finances allow. Additionally, if a WPW member has an idea for a program presentation, they will always be welcomed to do so (essentially, just as we do it now); that is, there is no need to be a Program Team member to volunteer to put on a program.

Another benefit of this Program Team approach is that it dovetails nicely with Frank Woolley's desire to increase the number of people actively participating in running the WPW. That's not to say that the time commitment of being a Program Team member will be huge, because it won't, but spreading the work around a little will make it easier for all involved. Additionally, having a larger group responsible for programs will bring new ideas, approaches, and personalities out in the open. It might also turn out that once people get a taste for helping with a program once a year, they may be willing to take on one of the other Board positions so that we can constantly rotate people in and out of positions to help make our club grow, prosper, and stay relevant to our members' interests.

I sincerely welcome all comments (positive or negative) or other ideas on how we can improve our program generation, and ask for your patience as we implement this idea and work out the inevitable bugs. --Bill James

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

At our February meeting I said my plan to make WPW more valuable to its members was focused on increasing 1) participation in WPW programs and activities, 2) teamwork in getting the work done, and 3) predictability of our actions. I also asked for your ideas on how to do that, and specifically asked for volunteers to help Bill James prepare programs and Alex Botkin upgrade our audio/video capabilities.

I am pleased to report that the Audio/Video Team is in great shape, with both Mike Nugent and Ralph Smailer volunteering to join Alex. In addition, Alex and Bill James selected a new video projector with twice the light output of our previous projectors, and Bill was able to purchase one at an excellent price.

I have another request for volunteers, this time to help Craig Smith with our website. We need at least one person who could learn to post information on the website, but we also need one or more who could enhance the website to make it more useful for members and visitors. Craig has done all this for a long time, and he deserves some relief. Please contact Craig (412-966-5666 or craig@no-wood-untuned.com) or me (412-578-0534 or frankwoolley@hotmail.com) to learn more about this.

Bill James has arranged another great program this month – our own Jerry Murrey on French polishing, the most sophisticated of the historic furniture finishes. I hope to see you there. – Frank Woolley

LAST MEETING REPORT

WPW member Regis Will presented a program on heat treating steel. Topics covered included types of steel suitable for tool making, how to anneal the steel so it can be worked more easily, how to heat treat the steel to temper it, and how to manipulate the steel to get the desired final hardness. Thanks. Regis, for a very informative and entertaining presentation – editor

BOARD MEMBER SEARCH

In the near future we will be calling for nominations for Board members (our bylaws call for electing half of the Board to alternating two-year terms every year), as well as filling any vacancies. Club members in good standing who have a sincere interest in being on the Board are encouraged to let our new president, Frank Woolley, know of their interest. Members of the Board will be asked to assist in running the club, helping the President to set direction, and to actively participate on committees as requested by the President. Your help would be sincerely appreciated.

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.

THE SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL NEWSLETTER IS MARCH 26, 2011.

FOR SALE

(WPW members are invited to submit items for sale or trade for inclusion in the newsletter on a space-available basis)

For Sale: 6" Sears planer/joiner on mobile stand bought in 1988 and in excellent condition \$175

2 HP 15" heavy duty auto planer, YHP - 150/15", on heavy duty mobile stand \$400

Contact Tim Janeway 412-259-8578 (Sewickley, PA)