



RWS Calendar of Events

Invited Lectures / Workshops

2004 – 2005 Season

October 22 – 23	<i>Furniture Reproduction</i>	Phil Lowe
November 19 – 20	<i>Wood turner/Artist</i>	Lyle Jamison
January 14 – 15	<i>Tool Maker/Designer</i>	Lie-Nielson
March 11 - 12	<i>Cabinet Maker & Educator</i>	Steve Latta
April 22 - 23	<i>The Wood Wright's Shop</i>	Roy Underhill

RWS Lectures begin at 8:00 PM on Friday evening. Pre-meeting displays precede lectures and begin at 7:00 PM. The pre-meeting displays and the lectures are held at St. John Fisher College, Basil Hall Auditorium.

www.rochesterwoodworkers.org

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RWS Workshops for the 2004 – 2005 season

Unless otherwise indicated, workshops will be held at the Woodcraft store, 1100 Jefferson Road, Henrietta.

Membership Renewals

Larry Gilbert was the winner of the Early Renewal Drawing , a \$50 Rockler gift certificate.

From the Chair

By Laura Piché

What an unusual way to begin this years woodworking season! For those of you who did not make it to the first lecture, Don Williams, our speaker, spent most of Friday 9/17 sitting at the airport in Washington, D.C. thanks to the aftereffects of Hurricane Ivan. Don was grounded and did not make it to the lecture on Friday. He was prepared to go to Herculean efforts to get here for Saturday mornings workshop. He actually thought about driving all night to get here by Saturday morning. Fortunately, the airline was able to get him out on a flight very early Saturday morning. He made it safely, albeit perhaps a bit tired, and provided a wonderful workshop.

Several people pitched in during Friday night's lecture. Tom Meiller presented a terrific slide show documenting the creation/construction of his Pembroke table. And while Don Williams couldn't be there for the lecture, a long-time friend of Don's, Mike Mascelli, shared some of his exploits with Don. Mike is a restoration upholsterer, and has been involved with Don on numerous projects. Many thanks to both Mike and Tom for their help in rescuing our "storm ravaged" lecture. Hopefully those of you who attended the lecture came away with something of interest.

The next featured speaker will be Phil Lowe on October 22, 2004. Phil started, and continues to direct, the Furniture Institute of Massachusetts. In addition, he has been a professional furniture builder since the mid-70's. It is sure to be an interesting lecture.

Don't forget to register for any workshops you are interested in attending; they tend to fill up quickly. And check out the tours that John Britton has lined up for us. Keep checking the newsletter and website for updates about the 20th Anniversary celebration, and the Roy Underhill workshop in April.

As a reminder, the vast majority of you are now getting your RWS newsletter by e-mail. Sending a "virtual" copy enables us to use far more graphics, and include more content than we could previously. Additionally, it also saves RWS money as the cost of printing continues to rise. The hard copies of the newsletter that get sent out (other than the September issue) have fewer graphics and are shorter--you might say it is our "just the facts" version. If you are currently receiving the hard copy of the newsletter, and have an e-mail address, please let us know and we will switch you over to the virtual edition. Maybe we'll even save a few trees in the process--so that we can put them to an even better use!

Hope to see you at the October lecture! Until then, work and play safely.

Phil Lowe

Measuring Furniture for Reproduction



Lecture – October 22, 2004

Workshop – October 23, 2004

Phil Lowe last visited the Rochester Woodworkers Society in April of 1996.

Phil has been involved with woodworking since 1968 and is the author of many articles in "Fine Woodworking Magazine". He is featured in the "Time Life" series on woodworking and in videos with The Taunton Press on "Carve a Ball and Claw Foot", "Making a Sheraton Bed" and most recently, "Measuring Furniture for Reproduction". His teaching experience includes ten years (1975 -1985) as an instructor at Boston's North Bennett Street School, where he was positioned as department head for the latter five.

In 1997 Phil introduced a series of furniture workshops that run annually from June through August. Phil has been a visiting instructor, seminar speaker and demonstrator at various trade schools, private schools, and woodworking organizations throughout the United States and Canada. He holds a teaching certificate in two areas of vocational education in the state of Massachusetts. Since 1985 Phil has operated a furniture making and restoration shop in Beverly, MA, producing work for the private sector and museums throughout North America.

Phil's Saturday workshop will center around his latest video, "Measuring Furniture for Reproduction". He'll show how to work from photos, as well as original work, to create reproductions of an existing piece.

In-House Seminars

Sharpening Seminar

by John Britton and Ed DeMay.

Date: 10/30/2004 at Woodcraft

The seminar will cover the sharpening of chisels, plane blades, scrapers and lathe tools. The seminar will cover various grinding wheels and grinders, sharpening and honing stones, as well as proper care and storage of stones.

Cost: \$25 members; \$35 non-members

(I listed the incorrect date on the sign up form and apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused. It has been corrected on the Web site. Tom Hess-Newsletter.)

RWS Hepplewhite Table Workshop **- December 11**

By Jim Altemus

The focus of the Hepplewhite table building workshop will be a hands on approach to various methods of shaping and joining parts for a simple one drawer table, and alternatives to preparing a finished table for staining/dyeing, and finishing. We will be working on a simple one drawer, tapered leg 18" square style side table, typical of the early 19th century cabinetmaking era in the eastern U.S. It will be a copy of one made in the Genesee Country Village cabinet shop, where only hand tools were used. The table also fits well with contemporary styles.

The workshop will cover alternative uses of hand and power tools for table construction, with the hope that you will come away with an appreciation for some hand tool techniques that sometimes can be quicker than setting up machines for the same job.

1. Alternatives for tapering legs – table saw jig vs. band saw & hand plane tapering.
2. Mortising options – mortise chisel, drilling & chiseling, and mortising machine.
3. Tenon cutting options – simple tenon jig for table saw, and hand cutting.
4. Basic drawer construction – cutting dovetails, making decorative cockbeading.
5. Finishing with hand planes, scrapers, or sandpaper
5. Table top construction & fastening.

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A one day workshop is not enough time to complete a table, so we will spend a little time on each of the components (i.e., doing one mortise & tenon joint) and the remainder of the work could be taken home and completed at your leisure.

There are two options of wood if you want to work on your own table at the workshop. One is walnut with poplar for the drawer or an option of all poplar if you wanted a painted or grain painted table. The walnut table would be \$57 in materials, and the poplar option \$32. If I get some savings in yield of lumber I'll pass this on, so I won't collect until the day of the workshop. To save time, I'll have the pieces cut & planed fairly close to final size, so we'll concentrate on the joinery. You could also bring in your own wood to work with, and I would give you a cut list for the parts to bring to the workshop. Or, you can bring in "scrap" to just practice the joints and not make a table.

I would appreciate knowing how much wood I will need to purchase by November 1, so please let Ed DeMay know your intentions, and your e-mail address. I'll also send out a list of tools it would be good to bring if you have them.

Looking forward to a fun day. If you have questions in the meantime, my phone is (585) 6547 5328, e-mail cjaltemus@frontiernet.net.

Jim Altemus

Early Fall Tour

1 October 2004

Meet at the Woodcraft parking lot at 6:45 am and leave at 7 am. It's approximately a 3 hr drive to get there. If anyone needs a ride, it can be worked out there.

Tour of the factory and lumber operations of Crawford Furniture Company in Jamestown, NY. Crawford makes the Jamestown Line of Cherry furniture. They have a 4-floor factory with about 150 employees. They are a 120-year-old company with some very old, and some brand new machinery.

You can take a preview of their woodworking at www.crawfordfurniture.com. They have a sawmill and kiln drying operations, and they manufacture their products from log to finished fine furniture. This promises to be a most interesting tour and, with the drive, a great Fall outing. We will announce the tour with the date and details as soon as possible.

We apologize for the short notice.

The 2004 – 2005 RWS Board

Note: the e-mail addresses for out board members are linked to our website:
www.rochesterwoodworkers.org.

For example, Laura Piché can be reached at:
chair@rochesterwoodworkers.org

Chair

Laura Piché (chair@)

Secretary – Treasurer

Rob Ring (secretary@)

Membership

Jan Davin (membership@)

Workshops and Education

Ed Demay (workshops@)

Speaker Selection

Tom Meiller (meetings@)

Newsletter Publisher

Tom Hess (newsletter@)

Webmaster

Maria Sohn (webmaster@)

Librarian

Tanya Yudelson (librarian@)

Public Relations

Jon Rouleau (publicity@)

Tours / Pre-meeting Displays

John Britton (tours@)

**Next Newsletter Deadline:
October 15, 2004**

We Need Your Help!

We'd like to increase our membership this year and we need your help to get the job done! On page 7 of the July/August newsletter there is a coupon for a one-time free admittance to any lecture this season except the Roy Underhill lecture. We are hoping that your guest will enjoy the evening enough to join the club. The member sponsoring the guest will be eligible for a free drawing. This coupon will be used as a ticket for a free drawing to be held at the March 11th lecture. There is a space for the member's name on the coupon. You need not be present to win. After checking in with your guest at the membership table, your coupon will be deposited in a container for the drawing. We will pull as many names as we have products. So far we have a few one-year woodworking magazine subscriptions - Fine Woodworking and Woodworker's Journal. Check out our Membership Drive Sponsor's Board at each lecture for new additions. The coupon can be found on the website in the electronic newsletter and there will be copies at the membership desk. Please, each member is allowed only one **free** guest this season. Hope to see you and a friend at one of the upcoming lectures!

Jan Davin, Membership

RWS Business Sponsors:

Woodcraft

Machines and Supplies for Woodworking

Rockler

Woodworking Supplies in Buffalo

Fawn Meadow Wood Crafters, Inc

Bruce Alles

Homes By Design

Mike Heiler

Walter Taylor Agency, Inc.

Insurance

We thank them for their support.

A Chippendale Pembroke Table in a Month

By Tom Meiller



Chippendale Pembroke Breakfast Table

Last fall, while at a class by Gene Landon at Olde Mill Cabinet Shoppe, in York, PA, I showed Gene a picture of a "Southern" breakfast table I planned on making. I had seen the table in *Southern Furniture 1680- 1830* (Williamsburg collection). The table was rather plain, with straight legs, no moldings and a rectangular top. Gene, who doesn't hide his feelings of Philadelphia furniture's superiority over all locales, told me I should stop by his house and see his Pembroke table – in the Philadelphia style.

So, in November I took a day off from work, and drove down to PA with my wife and son. We spent the afternoon in Gene's shop, as I photographed and measured his table. Gene's table was based on a table by Adam Hains of Philadelphia. Gene had an auction catalog in the table's drawer with a picture of the original. I had to admit Gene's table had a lot more going for it than the Southern table I had planned on making. For starters, the top was serpentine shaped, which really dressed it up. Another nice feature was the arched cross-stretchers with spurs. The Southern example had straight cross-stretchers. And lastly, Gene's table had a simple astragal molding and carved corner brackets. My plan was to build the table in one month. I would give up TV and sleep, and force myself into the workshop every night with a defined goal for the evening. After forcing myself to finish two other big projects, I finally started milling wood for the table on April 3, 2004. I worked at an amazing pace, frequently starting at 9:00 pm, and stopping at midnight.

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The first step in making a drop leaf table is to make the hinged sides, which swing out to support the drop leaves. I had previously hand made hinges in 1 ½" white oak for a Chippendale card table. Making the hinges out of 1" mahogany was a pleasure. Once complete and pinned, I attached them to a poplar backer board. The legs came next. They are square with a stopped bevel on the back, which I cut with a draw knife and spoke shave. The leg bottoms have a molding applied – in the Marlborough style. I made the molding using hand planes and scrapers. Applying them took I lot longer than I thought. They are not mitered, so I applied the front and back, and then trimmed them flush. Next I applied and trimmed the sides. I then carved the molded detail on the square ends.

The last part of the base to make was the arched cross-stretchers. I shaped them using spoke shaves, files, bench chisels, and scrapers. The “spurs” added a lot of extra work. After cutting the lap joint, and fitting the tenons to the leg mortises, I was able to glue the table base together. I then cut the swing supports free.

The single board for the top was too wide for my thickness planer, so I went to work with my scrub plane, and planed the top and drop leaves from 1" to 5/8" thick. It took a little sweat, but the mahogany planed well, and I have the satisfaction of knowing it was done by hand. I had never made a rule joint before, but it proved to be pretty easy using hollow and round molding planes, and scrapers ground to the final shape.

Using a chisel and router plane, I cut mortises for the hinges. I laid out the serpentine profile and cut it out on my bandsaw. I then spent several hours fine tuning the shape with files, spoke shaves and scrapers. Gene's top edge had a simple round over (1/16" deep), which softened the edge. I had seen a picture of another table by Adam Hains in *American Furniture Queen Anne & Chippendale* (Winterthur Museum). This table had a fillet at the top and bottom, and a half-round. I thought this really added distinction to the table. I found out it also added about eight more hours work, since the entire molded detail is formed on the serpentine edge. I chose to do this molding by hand, starting by marking the fillets with a special cutter I made for my beading plane. This was followed by cutting the fillet with the router plane, and then carving the round-over. I found my back-bent gouge came in very handy for the concave regions.

All that remained to complete the table was the applied molding, carved brackets, and the drawer. I made the astragal molding with a wooden molding plane a friend lent me. I cut out the pierced brackets and carved them. Only then did I realize there were left and right brackets due to grain direction. I had three rights and one left. Now I have two of each, and one “sample” bracket. For the drawer front, I used a nicely figured cut-off from another project.

To finish the table, I applied a yellow dye, and then home-made walnut husk stain. I brushed on about ten coats of orange shellac, and then used Gene's aging method as described in a recent issue of *Fine Woodworking*. This involved making a glaze from an oil finish and burnt umber. The final step was applying an ebony paste wax using extra fine steel wool. This left a wonderfully silky finish, which I have to touch every time I walk by the table.

I moved the table from my shop to its new home next to our sofa on June 27. It took almost three months, but I was able to get most of the work done in April. Unfortunately my “day job” got in the way, but I'm happy now that it is done. I keep a picture of Gene's table in my table's drawer, along with a photo of the original table from Gene's auction catalog.

RWS Special Interest Groups

A good way to get involved and meet more people in RWS is to join one of your Special Interest Groups, better know as SIGs. We have several very enthusiastic groups. If you are interested, give the leader a call for details.

Boatbuilding SIG: Meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Contact Ray Feasey: 582-2298. (rfeasey@aol.com)

Chair and Period Furniture SIG: Meets the last Wednesday of each month. Contact Ken Turner: 582-1157 (KTurner7@rochester.rr.com).

Furniture SIG: Meets the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:00 P. M. at Woodcraft in Henrietta. Contact: Dick Morano: (315) 946-4054 (de1946@usadatanet.net).

Turning SIG: Meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 P. M. at Woodcraft in Henrietta. Contact Jim Hotaling: 223-4877. (jhotal2198@aol.com)

Upcoming Wood Event

From Laurie Dill-Kocher

Announcing a unique opportunity to view a diverse collection of wood vessels by twenty nationally known artists.

Vessel Invitational Series

November 12 - December 18, 2004

Roberts Wesleyan College

Davison Gallery - Roberts Cultural Life Center

2301 Westside Drive, Rochester, NY 14624-1997

585.594.6120

Reception: Friday, November 12, 2004 - 5:00 - 7:00 P.M.

Gallery Hours: Monday-Friday 11A.M. - 5 P.M.

Saturday 1 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.

International Woodworking and Furniture Fair 2004

By Jon Rouleau

August 26 arrived last Thursday and I found myself driving to the Rochester Airport to catch a six o'clock flight to Atlanta Georgia, home of the International Woodworking and Furniture Fair, or IWF 2004 for short. I had gone down in 2002 and had such a great time I decided that I needed to return again this year. I take an early morning flight down to Atlanta and return the next day on a late flight back to Rochester. I do this for two reasons, the most important is that I save the cost of an extra night's lodging and to be truthful I was so tired after those two days I didn't want to walk another foot.

For those of you who don't know about the IWF, it's held in Atlanta every two years at the Georgia World Congress Buildings. It is the largest woodworking exhibit in the United States. It is designed for industrial woodworkers, and has some of the most fantastic machines you will ever see. You will also find just about every kind of accessories used in the woodworking world, from sandpaper and glue to lasers and software.

This wonderful world of large machines and small items are located in the three buildings that make up the Georgia World Congress Center, think twenty-eight acres of floor space and you have some idea how large this place is. Each building has a different assortment of exhibits. Building A had mostly hardware and things for cabinet making. Building B had a lot of different types of tools and Building C had large industrial machines.

There is so much going on at the IWF I'm only going to tell you about a couple of unique machines that I saw and then I'll give you some tips should you decide that you want to go down August 24 to August 28, 2006.

For those of you that want to make picture frames or other products that have mitered corners they have a cnc machine that will cut an accurate 45 degree on the end of the wood and then route a mortise on one piece and a tennon on the other. A perfect miter every time, supply the wood and press a button. The other idea that I wanted to talk about was a man with a shaper that had taken the split fence and made the bottom inch or so and spring loaded it, the next thing he did was to put a flat fence about the same height as the spring loaded fence in front of the split fence. Are you still with me? That captures the work piece for identical production runs. It would probably work great on a router table.

Tips:

Book a room at a hotel that has shuttle service from the airport. This mean you can get on the MARTA, Atlanta's rapid transit system at the Airport, take it to five points where you get off and get on a west bound train and get off at the first stop. You are now within walking distance to the World Congress Buildings. You can check your luggage at the GWCC for a buck and a half, spend your day looking at the exhibits and when you are done, pick up your luggage, take the MARTA back to the airport and pick up the shuttle to your hotel. It cost \$1.75 to take the MARTA to the GWCC, it cost approximately \$26 to take a taxi.

Wear the most comfortable shoes you have. There is a lot of walking. There are almost no chairs in the main exhibit but you can find a few benches on some of the other levels. You have to look for them.

Samples are plentiful on the first day. This year I got an assortment of sandpaper, different kinds of glue, tack cloths, a couple of bar clamps and a couple of sanding pads for my sander as well as some t-shirts. The second day the samples ran out and the booths did not seem interested in re-stocking.

Food is expensive at the GWCC. They have dozens of small restaurants and food carts throughout the exhibit area. You can get anything from your favorite alcoholic beverage to a pizza to a sit down buffet but be prepared to pay more than you would back home. A hot dog cost \$3.50. You can bring a couple of bottles of water and a snack to hold you until you return to a restaurant or your hotel. All the exhibits have candy or pens, sometimes both. It's almost like being turned loose in a penny candy store that doesn't have a large assortment.

Don't get lost. You enter the GWCC from the street and find that the main exhibit floor is down four levels. They have people stationed at most of the doors to help you find your way and maps. You can get almost anywhere from building B and you have to go up to get to where you came in.

Pick up a bag to carry your treasures. Many of the exhibits have bags available for free. Stop at the Fine Woodworking exhibit on your way to the main floor and get a free magazine or two and a bag to carry everything in.

Bring a BIG suitcase. For the second time I came to the IWF with a duffle bag that didn't have enough space for all the things that I picked up. I won a gallon of glue but asked for two quarts instead because I had no way to carry a whole gallon. It simply took up too much space.

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Airlines are strange. I tried to bring my bar clamps with me in my carry on luggage and was told that they were not allowed on the airplane. If it weren't for a nice clerk at the ticket counter who found me a box to put them in, I would have had to leave them at the airport. When I checked my duffle bag at the counter, the person told me that he didn't think I was allowed to take woodworking glue on the airplane. I checked my bag, not knowing if it would be heavy or light when I picked it up again in Rochester.

I had my picture taken with Norm Abrams at the Porter Cable booth and watched Scott Phillips make a shadow box. I marveled at a magician doing rope tricks and a saw that will stop if it touches a finger. I talked to an engineer from Carter about getting some guides for my Hitachi 3" band saw.

The best part of the trip is I met some friends after work and went to dinner and then was shown around Atlanta. It was all kind of amazing.

Register early. If you register at least a month or two in advance, the IWF will send you a list of exhibitors and a map so that you can plan which ones you want to see. I did that, but then saw everything at least once. If you find a booth with a sample that you like, you can visit it again in a few hours or the next day.

I don't know if I'll return to the IWF in 2006, I've been twice and been amazed both times. I have some friends in Atlanta who met me at the hotel and took me out to dinner and then gave me a tour of the city. It was a fun trip. If anyone wants to ask me questions or get some more information you can email me at publicity@rochesterwoodworkers.org or just stop me at one of the lectures.

Syracuse Woodworking Show

If anyone attended the Syracuse Woodworking show on Sept 24-27, 2004 and would like to submit an article please feel free to do so. Email it to: newsletter@rochesterwoodworkers.org by 15 Oct 2004.

September Pre-Meeting Display

By John Britton

The first meeting of the 2004-05 Season got off to a very nice start with 10 members displaying 16 pieces of their skilled craftsmanship. We were treated to two versions of the same Chippendale Style table; one by Tom Meiller and the other by Ken Turner. We also enjoyed a wood sculpture, a Windsor style settee, a turned bowl and vase, a stepstool, a stand alone photo display stand and a couple of shop fixtures.

The drawing for a \$50.00 gift certificate at Rockler in Buffalo was won by Harry Beaver.



Rochester Woodworkers Society Presents

Phil Lowe

Measuring Furniture for Reproduction

Lecture: Friday, October 22, 2004
Basil Hall, St. John Fischer college

Workshop: Saturday, October 23, 2004 Workshop
Woodcraft, Jefferson Road

Rochester Woodworkers Society, Inc
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Rochester, NY 14692



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