



CAPITAL AREA WOODWORKERS WOODSHOP ADVISOR



on the web at <http://www.cawspi.org>

Volume 21, Issue 1

January, 2008

The December Meeting

by Tom McCue

Our December meeting was the **Club's annual Christmas party**. Most members present had their spouses with them, and a good time was had by all.

Dan Schmoker's Open Shops scheduled for 1:30 and 6pm **Friday, December 28th** were announced, and then the members introduced their spouses/significant others and other guests present.

The idea of reserving exhibition space at the Springfield Area Home and Builders Show was discussed, but the \$600 fee presented a problem. Mike McGrath later talked again with a representative of the organization, emphasizing that we are a non-profit group, but was told that they also were non-profit and would not budge on the fee, so it appears that this particular venue will not be available to display our talents. **We will continue to look at other possibilities.**

An announcement was also made that the Officer's were looking into **recycling old batteries in order to keep them out of the landfill**. Many of us probably have battery packs for our tools that have outlived their usefulness, and recycling is the best way to dispose of them. Sometime after the meeting, Chuck Frank heard on a radio call-in show that BLH Computers will recycle batteries, so we will contact them in the near future and try to schedule a collection as a service to members.

President-elect Mike McGrath passed out a questionnaire to determine member interest and ideas for future programs. Since many members were not present, we will again make the questionnaire avail-

able at the January meeting.

The **December Officer's meeting** scheduled for Dec. 10th was announced. The meeting was later rescheduled for December 18th due to inclement weather. **Jean and Gene Shutt** were recognized and thanked for **their hospitality in opening their home to the officer's for the meetings**.

Treasurer Frank Thornton announced that the Club had **about \$800 left in the Treasury** after spending \$300 on gift cards for prizes to be awarded later in the evening.

Dick Metcalf mentioned that there would be a **woodworking show in Schaumburg** sometime early in January.

Show and Tell

Roland Folsie exhibited a **cabinet on a stand made from Mulberry, Walnut and Sassafras**. The doors and handles were hand carved with a 1/4" round bit in a powered carving tool. Roland acknowledged that the Mulberry was by nature unstable and subject to cracking, but wanted to see how it would look in a piece of furniture because of its attractive yellow color. The finish was a wipe-on polyurethane.

Joe Tupy displayed several **beautiful turned Christmas ornaments that he had crafted from Walnut, Maple and Hackberry**. The blank was mounted to a lathe chuck, then turned on the outside, hollowed out with a hook tool, and a separate finial was turned and glued to the piece, and a gloss finish was applied.

Mike McGrath displayed several **inlay pieces that he made in a class he took last summer at a school in Maine**. He said that the instructor used the inlay technique in furniture that he built. The furniture was obviously high-end, since he built only four pieces a year and made enough off them to live on. Something for us to shoot for?

Tom McCue displayed a **segmented bowl with a block "T" theme** in honor of his beloved Illini going to the Rose Bowl. He had made the bowl several years ago as a Christmas present for his daughter.

Drawings were then held for **door prizes for the spouses**. Prizes were **donated by Jean and Gene Shutt, Tom McCue and the Club**. Following the drawings for the spouses, **drawings for two \$50 and eight \$25 Lowe's gift cards** for members present took place.

Additional drawings were held for the 50/50 tickets and meal reimbursement. **Tom McCue** was the **lucky 50/50 winner** and a **fortunate member and his wife** (not recorded here for security purposes because of the large amount of money involved) **walked away with the meal reimbursement**.

Frank Thornton announced that **all members will be asked to fill out a new membership application in order to update our records** and that the form will **include a waiver of liability when attending open shops or other functions**.

Let Us Know What You Want!!!

As usual, we want to ask your help in making our Club the best it can be and in providing for interesting programs that you find informative and entertaining. That means **we need your ideas as to what topics would make good programs**. If you know of someone (in the Club or outside the Club) who might be a good speaker, **give one of the Officer's a call**. Or, **fill out one of Mike's questionnaires and make your ideas or requests known!**

Thank You!!!

We want to thank Tom McCue, our outgoing President, for a great job during the past year! He led our Club well and is a truly nice guy! He had lots of good ideas and was always willing to ask what members want. We had some nice programs and some that were off-site. Thanks, Tom!

Welcome!

And, we want to welcome Mike McGrath as our new President for 2008. We look forward to getting to know you better and feel you will do a good job, too. We understand you and Mike Robertson, our President-elect for 2009, were a package deal! Mike, we hope you show Mike how to do it next year.

Pay Your Dues!!!

Don't forget to pay your Club dues for the new year! Try to take care of this soon so our records are up to date and we can have an accurate mailing and e-mail list. And remember, Frank wants you to fill out a new application form, too.

If you get a hard copy of the newsletter mailed to your home address, your yearly dues are \$20. This helps cover the cost of postage. If you get your newsletter via e-mail, your dues are \$12 a year.

Pay your dues soon and we can come up with an up-to-date membership list as well as the appropriate mailing list for mailed copies or e-mail copies.

Portrait of a New President-- Mike McGrath

by Don Gottschalk

Mike is being elected our new president of the Club and he tells me he is really happy to serve our members. A Portrait article was done a couple years ago but Jan and I thought it would be good to do a current review as he is our new president.

Mike was born in Elmhurst, Illinois and did attend public schools there. He graduated from high school and then attended Illinois State University for his Bachelor's Degree. After that he went to Northern Illinois University for his Master's degree.

He had several teaching jobs here in Illinois and then went to Alaska in the early 80's. He taught there for 20 years and came to really like Alaska. He retired from teaching in 1993 and moved to Springfield in early 2004. He currently substitute teaches in Pleasant Plains. After he retired in Alaska, he taught one year in Chicago and then went to Dubuque, Iowa and taught there for 6 years.

Mike has been into woodworking since his college days. When he was living in Alaska he was able to use the school shop but now that he has moved to Springfield he has a shop building in the backyard of his home here. His favorite thing to do is to build furniture and he does that for his home and has made a few pieces for friends. He is now building desks for his home.

Mike recently went to Maine to take a class on tools. That one was very interesting. He also took a class on hand cut dovetails and has been doing that lately. Recently he took a class on inlays and is looking forward to working on that.

Mike is looking forward to being president of our club and having some programs based on classes that he has taken. We are all looking forward to getting to know him better and seeing a few things he has made.

Remember Our Libraries!

Just a reminder that we have a wealth of information in our video and print libraries. Make use of these resources! Give Frank or Larry a call if you wonder if we have something on a certain topic.

Upcoming January Meeting

Our next meeting will be on **Mon., Jan. 14th** at our regular meeting site at **KICK's** (the old Furrows bldg. at **2744 S. 6th St.**). This meeting was **postponed a week due to a National Championship football game!** Please Note: Our new meeting room continues to be the Gymnasium, a room off the buffet area, as our old room is being converted into a game room. The social hour is 5:30-6:15pm, dinner at 6:15pm, followed by the program about 7pm. The program will be a **member discussion of "What I got for Christmas" and a discussion of the pros and cons of tools you own or have used.** This may be beneficial to other Club members. We can learn from the experiences of others. Also, our **new President, Mike McGrath, will take over his leadership duties for 2008!**

Officer's Meeting

The January Officer's/Advisory Meeting will be **Mon., Jan. 21st at 7pm.** at Gene Shutt's house. Any interested member may join them if interested or have something to bring up.

Upcoming February Meeting

The February meeting will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 5th, 2008 at KICK's (usual time and place). I am not sure what has been decided upon for the program that night. Perhaps Mike McGrath will give us information at our Jan. meeting.

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Open Shops

Be thinking ahead to 2008 and when would be a good time for you to host an Open Shop! Jan will send around a sign-up sheet at the next few meetings.

If you are interested in having one this month, just let us know at the meeting or phone Chuck Frank who can get the info. on the web or sent out in an e-mail!

*The **WOODSHOP ADVISOR** is a monthly publication of the Capital Area Woodworkers Club. Its sole purpose is to keep members of the club aware of the club activities, special events and new developments in the field. The Advisor is the right of paid membership. Dues of the club are \$12/year if you receive the Advisor via e-mail and \$20/year for the Advisor sent by mail to your address. For more information contact one of the officers.*

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