



# St. Louis Woodworker's Guild

# NEWSLETTER

February 2008

Our 24th Year

Visit us at:

// [www.stlwoodworkersguild.org](http://www.stlwoodworkersguild.org)

Number 277

## Guild Officers Sponsors

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### Vice President

Don Snyder 314-780-5443

### Secretary

Mike Olson 314-481-3301

### Treasurer

Jim Hoeller 314-721-2245

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Bob Colegate 636-239-8910

Bill Hobson 314-863-6437

John Wetter 314-965-1097

Rich Weitzman 314-872-7866

### Newsletter

John Wetter 314-965-1097

### Librarian

Mark Gezella 314-647-4546

### Web Master

David Brown 314-821-3130

### Membership Committee

#### Co-Chairmen:

Bill Hobson 314-863-6437

Rich Weitzman 314-872-7866

### Toy Committee

#### Chairmen:

John Patton 314-843-0616

Steve Briner 636-922-1947

### Corporate Sponsors . . .

#### Woodcraft

Maryland Hgts - 314-993-0413

#### The Wood & Shop

New Address: 2650 Metro Blvd  
Maryland Heights - 314-731-2761

#### St. Charles Hardwoods

St. Peters - 636-926-2000

Fenton - 636-717-1770

#### Rockler Woodworking & Hdwr

Bridgeton - 314-209-1116

#### Hydraflow Equipment Co.

St. Louis - 314-644-6677

#### Hibdon Hardwood Inc.

St. Louis - 314-621-7711

### Meeting Room, Mailing Address

Courtesy of Woodcraft



## Next Meeting

### Milk Painting Techniques

Guild Officer Bill Hobson will present a program on the use and techniques of milk paint. Bill's discussion will include the advantages and disadvantages, a review of the type projects where you might consider using this finish and where you might not. He will also discuss how to obtain the old look, how to apply the finish, and the techniques of using crackle and glaze. Finally, to back up his discussion, he will bring a few chairs and other samples to show how this old time finish technique looks and the typical colors that were used. Don't miss this program, it is sure to be one of the year's best.

## Last Meeting

### Building Wooden Hand Planes

Guild members Wayne Watson and Don Snyder did a great job of presenting a program on how do you find and buy old wooden planes in the market plane and how do you build a wooden plane from scratch.

Wayne, a long time collector woodworking planes, started off the program by discussing the many different kinds of hand made wooden planes and showing examples of each. The more common ones were bench planes designed for smoothing and jointing; dado planes for cutting moldings, rabbits or fillets and specialty planes for such things as plowing, cutting gutters and groves. Wayne also showed an unusual coopers plane with a curved base that was designed to smooth the inside top of a wooden barrel. Many, maybe most, wooden planes were built by the craftsman that used them. Those that were commercially available were often built by prison labor in New York State; which seems odd that the prison officials would allow prisoners to have access to plane knives and blades, let alone make and handle them.

Wayne went on to discuss where do you find old planes, how do you evaluate them and how do you restore them to working order. Wooden or metal planes and other old tools can frequently be found in antique malls, flea markets, estate sales, tool dealers, e-bay,

## Next Meeting

**Thursday 7:00 PM**  
**February 21, 2008**  
**Wood Craft Supply Store**  
**2077 Congressional Dr.**  
**Maryland, Heights, MO**

Craig's List, etc. One problem (which may be a cost advantage) is that old planes are not the hottest item in these places. So, generally they won't be out front and featured in their displays. You will have to search for them, but that is part of the fun. When you find them evaluate them for parts missing, cracks, rusty and pitted metal parts. Determine if you can restore them and if you believe they are worth the asking price. And, don't be afraid to negotiate the price as nearly all dealers will drop the price to get a sale. Wayne passed around several wooden planes from his collection. One thing to consider is that the controlled humidity in our homes can affect these antique wooden tools that were often stored in barns and unheated sheds.

Don Snyder took over mid meeting and presented an outstanding program on how he made several wooden planes. Don came well equipped for his presentation with another one of his well done PowerPoint slide programs. Don and Mike Olson had recently attended a class on making wooden planes at Marc Adams School of Woodworking in Indiana, so they are now experts! Don's principle book references for plane making, other than the Adam's school, were *Wooden Planes and How to Make Them* by D. Perch and R. Lee; *Making Traditional Wooden Planes* by J. Whelan; *Making and Mastering Wood Planes* by D. Finck; and *The Fine Art of Cabinet Making* by J. Krenov. James Krenov has been credited for promoting the art of making your own planes.

Don showed a Jointer, Block, Chamfer and a Number 16 Hollow Plane that he built. All fine examples of Don's craftsmanship. The basic approach, for making the jointer plane he showed, is to get good reference material and follow the following nine steps. Start with an available plane iron of the correct style and size and block of wood also sized appropriately for the size and style of plane desired. Beech is often used for wooden planes. The wood block, for a jointer plane, should be about 22 X 3 X 3 inches. The block can be solid or a glue-up. Note that grain orientation is important in a solid block and at least the bottom surface of a glue-up. Don glued all of his planes using Hyde glue, for no special reason except he has a life time supply of the glue and he has to use it up before he dies. First you trim the two cheeks from the block of wood to enable cutting out the throat. The trimmed cheeks will be glued back later. After trimming, the remaining block will be laid out for the bed, mouth, throat and abutments. After layout remove all the wood, from the throat area, that does not belong in the finished plane. Next cut the blade bed from the core to form the back of the throat. Cut a recess in the bed for the cap screw head and remove the remaining core for the front of the throat. Next you will glue one cheek that you cut off in the first step to the side of the back throat bed. Then glue the front of the

throat to the same cheek and mark the wedge pin location. Follow this by gluing the other cheek to the other side of the plane in one operation, instead of the two separate glue-ups outlined above. When the glue is dry drill the hole for the wedge pin and mount the pin. Next make the wedge that will be used to lock the plane iron in place. Don made his mostly on the band saw from walnut. A component, such as this of a contrasting color, helps the overall look of the plane. The wedge should be the same width as the blade. Finally shape, tune and sharpen the plane blade, try out the plane and use it.

Plane irons (blade and chipper) are available at Wood Craft, Lie Nielsen and other woodworkers supply companies. You can also buy tool steel from a local steel supplier and make blade from scratch, as well as the plane. Don bought a Lie Nielsen blade for his plane.

Great job Wayne and Don! without a doubt, one of our best presentations of the year. With well over half of our membership there, it was a standing room only crowd and a Guild meeting record for attendance.

## Toys

### Toys for Hospitalized Kids

Please find following the toy activity report for the period ending January 31, 2008 as

compiled by Toys Co-Chairmen John Patton and Steve Briner.

We delivered 184 items to the hospitals during this past month, which gets us started on the New Year very well. We have already collected 152 new items in January. Our grand total is 25,485 toys delivered since 1994.

If you are able to join the toy team please note that items needed include, St. Pat's day (shamrocks), Mothers day (heart necklace) and patriotic items (such as the flag pattern). Easter is early this year and we will be needing rabbit or duck kits as they will give the kids much joy while assembling and painting.

Please look at the Guild's WEB Calendar (all dates should be advanced at least one month to be delivered when appropriate). See web site: [//www.stlwoodworkersguild.org](http://www.stlwoodworkersguild.org) to select a pattern or you may call and we will send them to you.

If you need patterns, wheels, axles (dowels) or suggestions, please call (numbers below). We have wheels available in four sizes: 1-1/4 OD, 1 OD for the Whimsy Car, 7/8 for the PT Mini car and 1-1/2 OD for the large racer. You may call John at 314-843-0616 or Steve at 636-922-1947 for any of the above or to arrange pickup.

### Other News . . .

Plans are coming together for the Guild sponsored **Week-End of Woodworking Instruction**. This seminar is set for the weekend of May 3 and 4 and will be held at Wood Craft. Ron Diefenbacher will be the seminar instructor. Ron will take a piece of furniture and demonstrate all the steps necessary to plan, select wood, prepare the wood, cut, assemble and finish the piece. You will see and understand all the details necessary to perform these tasks yourself and complete such a project. Ron is well qualified to teach this seminar, he builds custom furniture in his own shop and has taught woodworking for several years at Washington and Maryville Universities. The seminar is expected to cost about \$60 for the weekend with lunches included. Mark your calendar and plan to attend. More details will be available at the February meeting and in the next newsletter. The **Guild Annual dinner** has been cancelled due to a shortage of sign-ups. Money will be refunded to those who sent money.

Wayne Watson

Don Snyder

## President's Article February, 2008

### WONDERING!

Do you ever wonder about how things work and how they got started? How they are a part of our lives now, and what would it be like without them? Let's stop and think about some of the things that we use every day and wouldn't want to be without.

Electric has certainly changed the way we live: it can heat and cool our home, enable us to see in the dark, power our appliances...no question we wouldn't want to live without it. Now, even some automobiles are using electric for fuel. (Electric also powers those hidden cameras at found at some intersections, so watch your speed.)

And, of course, electric is a best friend to woodworkers. Just think how much less productive we would be without power tools. How much longer would it take to make a project, or would we have even chosen this hobby if there were no electric? Woodworking with only hand tools is a physically demanding craft...would we have the patience and stamina for it? A project that we can now complete in a few weeks might take months and months without electric.

I really admire the skill and technique of the old craftsmen. We have quite a few pieces of antique furniture in our home, and sometimes I look at them, trying to picture how it was made using only hand tools. I imagine the piece going together with care from loving hands and think how many homes it may have lived in before it came to live with us. Take a look around your home and envision how the furniture was constructed, be it old or new.

You might find it interesting to go to the internet (now, there's something that has really changed our lives) and search for old electric woodworking tools. Some of them don't have even a close resemblance to the same tool of today, and again I wonder how many transformations it went through to become that tool as we know it today.

Let me know if you have some stories to share about projects you have done without the benefit of electric...I think we'd all find it interesting.

*Mark*

### Ultimate bragging rights: Your shop in a national magazine

Do you have the kind of shop other woodworkers like to visit? Is your shop filled with clever ideas that help you work smarter, faster, or safer? Have you designed and built special tool racks, machine bases, cabinets, jigs, or other shop helpers you think your fellow woodworkers would find interesting? If so, the editors at WOOD magazine invite you to submit your workshop or individual shop projects for review for possible publication in future editions of *America's Best Home Workshops*. Your shop doesn't have to be big or nit-picky clean. The ideas could be storage solutions, task-specific jigs, shop tips, or the special way you designed, built, and outfitted your shop. To submit your shop visit [www.woodmagazine.com/homeshops](http://www.woodmagazine.com/homeshops)

**The Collinsville Woodworker's Show** with new owners and sponsors was held as scheduled February 8 – 10. Our booth was near the main entrance but not in a high traffic area due to lack of activity beyond us. The show went well and has room to further expand next year.

**Kurt Herrmann** is organizing a **group toy building session**. He needs woodworkers to work together and build toys. This is a social, fun and a very productive way to create a lot of toys in a short time. If you can help, see Kurt at next week's meeting or call him at 636-394-4517 or 314-608-8602

**Skil Saw Recall** – Don Snyder has informed us that the Skil Tools has issued a recall for their circular saw models 5650, 5700, 5750, and 5755 that were manufactured between 01/02 and 12/06. These saws were recalled for trigger switch problems. If you have one call

866-761-5572 or visit [www.skiltools.com/en/customerservice/safetyinforecalls/](http://www.skiltools.com/en/customerservice/safetyinforecalls/).

Guild member **Vic Barr** has been elected to the board of **Best of Missouri Hands**, [www.bestofmissourihands.org](http://www.bestofmissourihands.org). This state artisans organization promotes art visual education throughout the state. **Congratulations Vic!!**

The **Greater St. Louis Art Association** has elected Guild members **Vic Barr** President and **Bob Colegate** Vice President. This group promotes art education through monthly speakers, two art shows each year at Queeny Park and several member exhibitions. They also award scholarships to high school seniors and grants to educational institutions. Sounds like Vic is going to be a busy guy! **Congratulations to both Vic and Bob!!**

## Library Corner

### Classic Plane Making - Vol 1

Tod Herrli

I want to thank Wayne and Don for providing such an outstanding presentation on wooden hand planes last month. Did you hear a new record was set for meeting attendance? As I recall, sixty-three members contributed to the auspicious occasion. I tell ya, I think we should start holding weekend sessions with some of our members as featured instructors! Don offered up another DVD at the end of the meeting, which I couldn't wait to view. It's all about wooden hand planes, specifically crafting sets of Hollows and Rounds. Given this newsletter falls in the midst of several scheduled presentations on hand planes, I felt it was a perfect fit for this month's article.

Wooden molding planes were very common prior to the industrial revolution. Employed daily by master cabinet-makers and carpenters, these ubiquitous tools were used to create decorative trim work that adorned everything from furniture to buildings. They are considered as pairs, where the sole of one is the inverse of the other; i.e., a rounding plane cuts a concave profile while a hollowing plane cuts a convex profile of the same radius. They are prescribed as evenly-numbered sets which range from #2 through #18. Numbering is no random act; each designates the size radius it will cut in eighth-inch increments. Simple binary division tells the tale; e.g., a #2 molding plane will cut to a radius of 1/8 inch, a #4 cuts a 1/4 inch radial arc, and so on.

The DVD contains fifteen separate segments, with a total running time of approximately 90 minutes. Some segments are brief, to yield more time for the important stuff, such as scribing a plane block, mortising the bed, etc. I'll list them all here, but suffice it to say you will gain the most benefit by viewing for yourself;

01) Intro	06) Make a Wedge	11) Buffing Station
02) Design & Layout	07) Make a Hollow Iron	12) Float Making
03) Sawing the Mouth	08) Prepare a Round Blank	13) Final Details
04) Mortising the Body	09) Profiling the Round	14) Making Shavings
05) Profiling the Hollow	10) Make a Round Iron	15) Credits

I've not heard of Mr. Herrli before, but he does a fine job enacting all steps necessary to craft a set of these molding planes. He begins his instruction by exhibiting several wooden hand planes, then quickly moves to selecting and marking out stock for a new set. The wood must be of suitable size, and can be either solid wood or laminated planks of proper height and thickness. Extreme care must be taken to true reference sides and scribe layout lines. This is emphasized throughout the DVD as a matter of paramount importance when creating functional tools. The bulk of the video is spent on making a complete hollowing plane, though he also describes fashioning a rounding plane as well (just glosses over similar operations to eliminate redundancy). Adequate time is also allocated to the rounding iron, along with profiling the rounding plane sole. Once plane bodies are built, operations turn to detailed instruction on cutting irons from tool steel; marking out, cutting with a hacksaw, grinding and buffing (he was quite creative with his buffing wheels!), and finally annealing and tempering to prepare for use. He then planes some scrap stock with his two new planes as final proof of function. Most beneficial for me was watching him heat-treat new irons. I've seen pictures in books before, but never saw anyone heat metal and watch it change colors as it warms through temperature ranges. *Neat!*

I gravitate toward hand-tool usage, and love to watch craftsman do what they do. What I like most is the serenity of a small shop; hearing the whisk of a plane across a piece of wood, and the calm during a pause to check progress. So *sweet!* Video sound and picture quality are both excellent, and the entire "film" takes place in the shop of John Alexander. If you ever explored working green wood, you most likely encountered the work of Mr. Alexander. He taught chair making for over 25 years, and to his credit published several books on the subject. Though no longer teaching, he still does research, and maintains his own website as well ([www.greenwoodworking.com](http://www.greenwoodworking.com)); A superb reference on working wood with hand tools.

Should you decide to give plane-making a try, a .pdf file is also included on the DVD, which you can access from a personal computer. This contains additional detail regarding layout, plane geometry, patterns for gauge blocks and wedges, etc. I found it a valuable addition to the instruction. Viewing this video was extremely enjoyable for me. I'm grateful for Don's donation, and I think we stand to gain much from his benevolence. I encourage you to view this new entry, and will make it available for checkout at our next general member meeting.

**Mark Gezella - Guild Librarian**

The **Greater St. Louis Art Association** welcomes visitors to their monthly speaker program. They usually meet at the First Congregational Church, 10 West Lockwood in Webster Groves, 7 PM on the fourth Thursday. The next meeting (2/28) will feature an accomplished painter, Carol Horstmann. Here topic will be PAINTING

WITHOUT A BRUSH. Her works are monumental at twelve feet and meaningful at twelve inches. She works in steel, wire, stoneware, found objects, printmaking and painting. Her works can be viewed at the Horstman Studio and Sculpture Park, 56 East Lakewood Drive, Fenton, MO 63026.

## Things to Know About Our Website

### By Guild Web Master David Brown

There is a lot of information for Guild members on our website, <http://stlwoodworkersguild.org/>. Don Snyder developed the site in 2001. For the last few years I have been keeping it up to date and making a few changes here and there. The site has been in place long enough and contains enough references to other sites that we hope people who are looking for a wood-working club in the St. Louis area will easily find us using a search engine. While the Guild Newsletter is probably the best anywhere, the website serves as a useful supplement providing up to date information with helpful links, information about our organization, and links to information on the internet that may be of special interest to our members.

Perhaps a good place to start familiarizing yourself with the site would be to look over the home page. From there you can navigate to the various subsections of the site where the good stuff is. There is a link to a Table of Contents which gives a fair amount of detail as to what is on the site and where to find it. Each entry in the Table of Contents is a link to the page it references. Gallery pages and toy plans are the most frequently visited pages other than the home page.

There is also a link to the Members Only Area. A username and password is required to look at the pages in this part of the website because there are things in there such as names, addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses of members. We do not provide that information to anyone except members. We hope your e-mail address is in our membership directory and is up to date. Occasionally we send special announcements to those on our e-mail list. If you did not receive an e-mail on January 21 from [webmaster@stlwoodworkersguild.org](mailto:webmaster@stlwoodworkersguild.org), then we do not have your correct e-mail address. There is other information in the member's area including a link that can be used to set up a website of your own and help the Guild since we will get \$30 if you do. If a member wants to access the member's only area, they can

simply send me an e-mail and ask for the username and password.

On the lower left and right sides of the home page are columns of information and links about upcoming meetings, events, and items of current interest. This is a place where you can easily find what the topic is for the next meeting and info about special meetings such as shop tours.

We have a place on the website for show and tell; it is called the Members Gallery. Many of our members have submitted photos and descriptions of their work which can be seen on their page in the Gallery. In many cases, a photo of the "artist" is included on the page. This is a good way to learn to identify members by face. You can also find photos of the Guild officers by clicking on their names on the Current Officers page. If you would like to display your work on a Gallery page, contact me and we will get your page set up.

Many of our members have participated in the toy program. Many drawings for the toys we make are on the website so you can print them out and use them for a pattern. Most are full-size patterns. Along with the toy patterns is a table giving the months of the year with due dates when particular toys are needed for timely distribution to hospitalized children in the St. Louis area.

While we have a nice library of books, magazines and videos stored at Woodcraft, there is a list of the library items on the library page of the website so you can sit at your computer and see what is there. I suspect most of you enjoy reading the excellent reviews our Librarian, Mark Gazella writes in the newsletter monthly. Did you know that his reviews are on the website? If you go to the library page and click on the name of a book, magazine, or video, you will be presented with his review of that item if Mark has reviewed it.

Happy surfing,  
**David Brown - Webmaster**

## St. Louis Woodworker's Guild Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Types of woodworking  
you enjoy \_\_\_\_\_

Amateur, Intermediate  
or Expert \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Where did you obtain this application  
and learn about the Guild? \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this application with your check for \$25.00 for one year's dues to: St. Louis Woodworker's Guild, 2077 Congressional Drive  
St. Louis, MO 63146. You will start receiving this Newsletter, which will keep you informed of the time and place of meetings and  
other events.



St. Louis Woodworker's Guild  
2077 Congressional Drive  
St. Louis, MO 63146

