

St. Louis Woodworker's Guild NEWSLETTER

March 2008

Our 24th Year

Visit us at:

//www.stlwoodworkersguild.org

Number 278

Guild Officers Sponsors

President

Mark Koritz 314-579-0401

Vice President

Don Snyder 314-780-5443

Secretary

Mike Olson 314-481-3301

Treasurer

Jim Hoeller 314-721-2245

Directors

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 Event

Note Meeting Location Change

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Members Show and Tell

Our next event is the biannual Members Show and Tell. This is our only, every other year, member participation event. The Show and Tell Meeting has always been one of our best-attended and best-liked. This is a chance for members to show what they can do and to see the products of our other members. In addition to the show and tell, we have set aside a table for a mini swap meet if anyone desires to buy, sell or trade a wood-working item. Also, as in the past several years, and for the show and tell meeting only, we will be meeting in the Creve Coeur Community Center 300 N. New Ballas Rd. located on the East side of Ballas Road one-half mile south of Olive, in the lower level multi-purpose room. See map following.

This is a family event. This meeting is open to anyone you would like to bring. In particular, spouse, kids, friends with an interest in wood working and/or potential members. We will have a light snack; the Guild will furnish soda, coffee and paper products. Members are asked to bring one of their favorite snack type finger foods to share with others.

Next Event

Thursday 7:00 PM

March 20, 2008

Creve Coeur

Community Center

300 No. New Ballas Rd.

Creve Coeur, MO

The Creve Coeur Community Center is a spacious facility that is well suited for the purpose of the evening - the exchange of ideas. To accomplish this, all members are asked (and encouraged) to bring something they have built to display and talk about for a few minutes. You may bring anything (or several things) that has some relationship to woodworking, such as: a piece of furniture, a wood toy, a craft, a hand made tool, a jig, fixture, an unusual purchased tool or an application of tool or fixture. Any numbers of items are welcome; they need not be elaborate, practical or even completed. Of course, if you don't have anything to share right now, come anyway and socialize - but be there and bring the family! The Creve Coeur Community Center's Multi Purpose room is on the lower level front of the building, Enter down the steps at the northwest corner. This room has a separate entrance. There will be no meeting at Wood Craft this month.

Last Meeting

Our last meeting, Milk Painting Techniques by Bill Hobson, was unfortunately cancelled due to weather. Bill's presentation will be re-scheduled to a later date in the year.

Toys

Toys for Hospitalized Kids

Please find following the toy activity report for the period ending February 29, 2008 as compiled by Toys Co-Chairmen John Patton and Steve Briner.

We delivered 324 items to the hospitals during this past month. There will be no delivery in March. We have already collected 290 new items in February toward our next delivery. Our grand total is now 25,625 toys delivered since 1994.

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 you the patterns by mail.

If you need patterns, wheels, axles (dowels) or need suggestions, please call (see 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 . . .

Do not forget Ron Diefenbacher's **Week End of Woodworking Instruction** – May 3 and 4. Ron's two day Furniture Building Seminar will include all the steps to build a piece of furniture from planning, wood selection, cutting, assembly, and finishing. There are still seats available for a bargain price of \$60 for the two days including lunches. To sign up and reserve your spot, give your check to Jim Hoeller or mail it to Jim at 7247 Lindell Blvd. St. Louis, MO 63130. Do it now before you forget, there are a limited number of seats available.

Also don't forget the **Recycle Furniture contest**. Project entries must be completed by the October 2008 Guild meeting. You can build anything you want. The majority of the wood must come from a recycled piece of furniture. You must

take a picture of the original piece of furniture and the finished item. New or recycled metal, glass, hinges etc. may be added to make the project functional. The winner will be by popular vote of the membership in attendance. The Grand prize will be \$100.

Reminder: **Get 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

PRESIDENT'S ARTICLE – MARCH 2008

Why does anyone choose to become a woodworker? Perhaps to design something, build it, and then feel the accomplishment of doing so. Some may appreciate the beauty of natural wood, perhaps just collecting it – stacking it in the basement or the garage – trying to think of what to make from it.

There are those who do woodworking for profit, those who do it for simple relaxation, and those because they enjoy the craft and the joy of seeing their ideas come to life, perhaps to be passed on to the next generation of the family.

Some choose to make small projects and some do major pieces of furniture. Others enjoy looking at a piece of wood that many might not appreciate and seeing what they could craft from it. No one else may appreciate the finished product; however, that is not particularly important – it is the feeling one gets from being creative and transforming ideas into something permanent.

Just cutting a board and smelling the aroma is enough to stimulate some folks to keep up the hobby of woodworking. While some like to turn wood on a lathe, others prefer to carve – but usually both enjoy what they have created. However, no matter what woods we use, how we position it or what we have when we finish, not everything deserves to be kept...remember, we can always feed the fireplace or the wood stove!

Being a woodworker is a hobby of solitude. One usually works alone in the workshop, often accompanied by music or National Public Radio. In fact, some do it so they *can* have an excuse to be alone (and that is all we'll say on that subject!). On the other hand, woodworking gives people the opportunity to meet with others who share their passion, discussing what they do, learning from each other – especially if you belong to the Woodworkers' Guild!

I am quite sure that there are many more reasons that we all have chosen woodworking as our hobby or business. It would really be interesting to hear from you: why did you become a woodworker; what keeps you involved; what satisfaction do you get from it?

For those of you who read this and get back to me with your thoughts on this, I will make a donation in your name to Variety, The Children's Charity. (Many of you know that for many years I have been involved with this fine organization, which supports 89 individual children's agencies, as well as giving direct aid to over 1,200 children needing medical equipment such as wheelchairs and prosthesis). As woodworkers, let's have some fun sharing *and* doing something good for our community.

Sincerely,

Mark

Library Corner

A Museum of Early American Tools

Eric Sloane

When I think about artists of "Americana", several immediately come to mind. Norman Rockwell is probably my favorite for capturing the essence of American life on canvas. Grant Wood is another well-known artist, largely due to the pitchfork-holding farmer and woman beside him in "American Gothic" (ca. 1930). But these artists, though incredibly talented, chose to hone their skills in a single medium. Were there artists with commensurate talent that expanded this genre via mixed media? Yes. Enter Eric Sloane - a man wholly devoted to capturing the exuberant state of life in our nation's early years. He not only painted, but wrote, sketched, philosophized, and collected what has now become some of the most definitive works on early Americana.

Born into wealth as Everard Jean Hinrichs, he developed an interest in art as a young boy. During his youth, he spent many hours with a neighbor who taught him to hand paint letters and signs. He nurtured his talent for script during his formative years, which served him well in the many books he authored (almost 40 throughout his life). As his talent matured, many pilots hired the young Hinrichs to paint lettering on their airplanes. One pilot chose to barter flying lessons for signage, which is how the young lad discovered his fondness for sky and clouds. His work with airplanes also led to acquaintances with several famous individuals. Amelia Erhardt bought his first cloud painting, and a large mural of clouds painted by Mr. Sloane is on display in the Smithsonian museum in Washington DC. It's been said he is the finest cloud painter of his generation.

Everard had a falling out with his family during his teen years, which also approximates when he chose to use an alias for his work. He became an itinerant sign painter, working his way across America from east to west, tracing the steps of pioneers that had gone before him. While he considered home to be Connecticut, he became quite enamored with New Mexico. He wound up spending much of his adult years living and painting between two residences, a Connecticut farmhouse he restored and a second home near Santa Fe. He painted as a member of the Hudson River School, and is considered by many to be an artistic genius. But he was quite eccentric, with interests that ranged from weather (he was the first "television weatherman"!), to Pueblo Indians, to European settlers. He married five times and lived to be eighty years of age. Just after his eightieth birthday, and prior to release of his final book (aptly entitled "Eighty"), Mr. Sloane suffered a massive heart attack on the way to meet his wife for lunch. It is believed to be the only appointment he missed his entire life.

Mr. Sloane filled *A Museum of Early American Tools* with an extraordinary amount of material, given its diminutive size. It was published in 1964, and many historians believe it was the catalyst that spurred a nascent interest in tool collecting during that era. Considered a sketchbook by the Author, it's dedicated to American Pioneers who made their own tools, then employed them to create everything else necessary for survival. Simply put, it's an incredible tribute to early American craftsmanship.

The book holds many chapters, most just two or three pages in length, which are literally overrun with drawings that clearly illustrate each topic. Together they provide a glimpse of virtually every extant craft from the period; e.g., wheelwrights, housewrights, sawyers and lumbermen, blacksmiths, farriers, tanners, etc. I selected this book for its copious contingent on woodworking tools, but it is definitely not limited to this singular method of work. In fact, I get the impression farmers should be considered among the most talented and versatile of all American laborers, since their daily tasks required such a vast array of unique implements. Consider maintaining a harness and plow for field work, all of the tooling necessary for sundry tasks in the barn, grass shearers and cutters, as well as planes, chisels, drawknives, etc. for building maintenance and repair. Each work-day left little time for rest.

Reading this book and accompanying information from the web and public library gives me insight to how our nation flourished centuries ago. I'm grateful to individuals like Mr. Sloane who devote such boundless energy to salute those who came before us, and encourage us all to be aware of and appreciate all that we have. Please visit these websites to learn more about Eric Sloane;

www.eric sloane.com - dedicated to discovery of the vast contributions this man proffered during his lifetime

www.eric sloane-awareness.com - encourages the viewer to explore the inimitable artistry of Mr. Sloane

www.cultureandtourism.org - provides information about the Sloane museum in Kent, CT (navigate by selecting *History...Museums from Home*)

A Museum of Early American Tools will be available for checkout at the general member meeting in April.

Mark Gezella - Guild Librarian

Directions to Creve Coeur Community Center

Show And Tell Meeting March 20, 2008 Only

From I-270 South Bound

Exit Olive Street

Turn East Bound

Travel 3 blocks

Turn right (South) on New Ballas Rd.

Travel 3 blocks - Turn left into:

Creve Coeur Community Center

300 No. New Ballas Rd.

Park on left near front of building

From I-270 North Bound

Exit Ladue Road

Turn East Bound

Travel one block

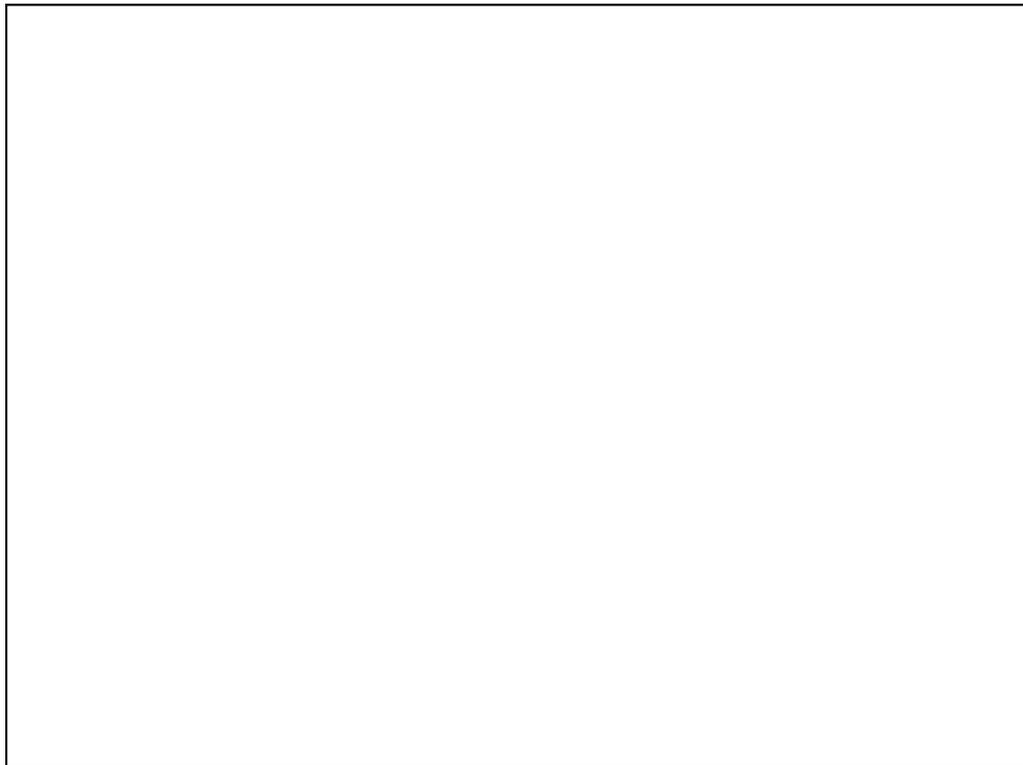
Turn left (North) on New Ballas Road

Travel Nort 3+ blocks - turn right into:

Creve Coeur Community Center

300 No. New Ballas Rd.

Park on left near front of building



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.



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