

# St. Louis Woodworker's Guild

# NEWSLETTER

April 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 Meeting

### Making Metal Hand Planes.

Our next meeting will feature Guild member Mike Sistek presenting a program on making metal planes. This program is a follow-on to Don Snyder and Wayne Watson's presentation in February on making a wooden plane. Mike has built wooden planes in the past and has always wanted to try to make a metal plane. Don's approach and discussion in February was the inspiration for Mike to build his first plane out of metal. That was only two months ago! The economics of building a metal plane are very good. A Lie Nielsen metal plane will set you back at least \$150 to \$200, or more. Mike spent \$20 for the brass and steel and \$20 for a plane iron. That's not to say that a home built hand plane is equivalent to a Lie Nielsen, but this is a bargain. Lie Nielsen has the best steel and manufacturing capability for woodworking planes in existence.

Building a metal plane was not as difficult a job as it might appear. After reviewing a couple references (Shop Notes issue number 88 and references from *hand-plane.com*), Mike was able to complete his first metal shoulder plane in about 6 to 8 hours. There was no machining, welding or heavy equipment involved. Everything was accomplished with a metal chop saw, a hack saw, a few files, a hammer and a few punches. Of-course there was a lot of his labor involved. The sole plate and sides were joined with a hammer and punch, and most of the effort was filing. Don't miss this meeting, it is sure to be one of the best of the year!!

## Last Meeting

### Member's Show and Tell

The Guild's bi-annual Show and Tell meeting was held at the Creve Coeur Community Center and as always it was a great success and one of the Guild's big events over the past two years. About 20 members displayed and discussed their projects. This event, as in the past was a great opportunity to see what our membership can do and have a good time with family and friends as well. The Show and Tell Presenters were as follows:

**Phil Adams** – Flag and decorations display case

**Jerry Balcer** – Several custom and unique bird houses

**Vic Barr** – Bowl, rosewood plane, clock, jewelry box

**Jim Birkenbach** – Scroll saw clock

**Bob Colegate** – Several band saw boxes

**Ollie Coughlin** – Drop leaf fable, fluting jig

**John DeLuca** – Wall hung table

**Larry Grzovic** – Wall mounted cherry flowerpot holder

**Paul Hanson** – Quilt stand, serving trays, hot dish holder, scroll saw portrait of John Wayne

**Kurt Herrmann** – Towel holder, step shelf, jewelry box, flower stands

## Next Meeting

Thursday 7:00 PM

April 17, 2008

Wood Craft Supply Store  
2077 Congressional Dr.  
Maryland, Heights, MO

**Mark Koritz** – Flower pots, clock, picture of hutch, other items

**Jerry Lammers** – Wine bottle holders

**James Long** – Cedar Clocks

**Larry Mehmert** – Shoji screen of walnut and hard maple

**Richard Orcutt** – Cutting board, candle stick holder, bowl

**Don Synder** – 2 Benches and a live edge Cuban Mahogany coffee table

**Mark Stutz** – Pen case, golf ball display, cook book holder

**Tom Tupper** – 3 Leg candle stick table

**Scott Wunder** – Pictures of large wine storage cellar and unique entry door

This was a difficult presentation to track- please advise you editor if there are any errors above. See pictures following –

### Election of Officers

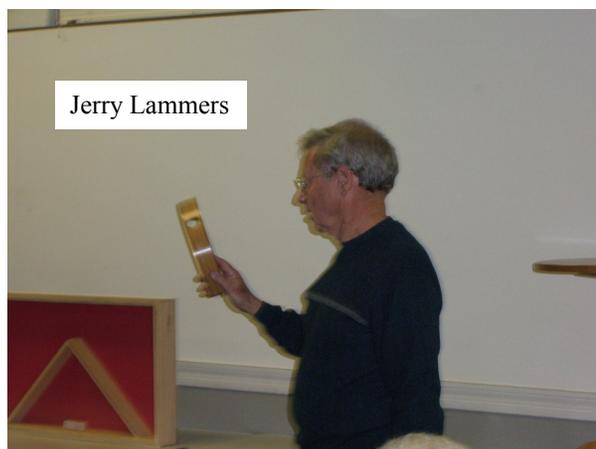
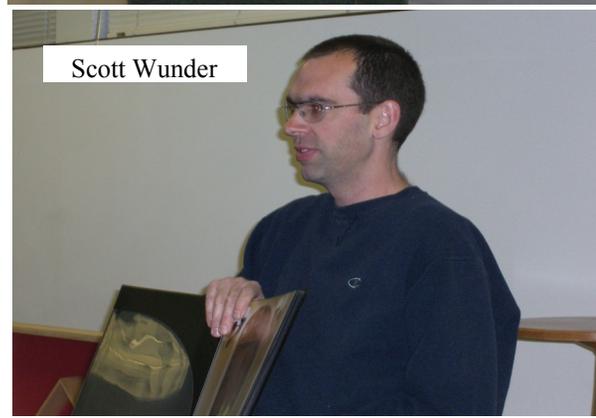
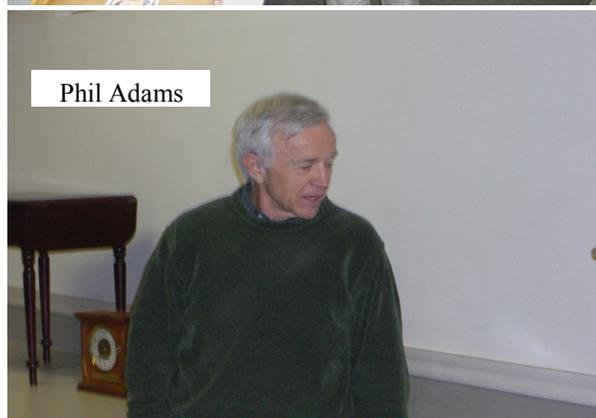
The Guild's annual election of officers is scheduled as per the by-laws for the April meeting. Only paid members may serve as an officer or vote. The Election Committee is offering the following slate of the four elected officers for 2008 as follows: President – Scott Wunder, Vice President – Kurt Herrmann, Treasurer – Jim Hoeller, Secretary – Matt Laposa. Paid members may nominate any other paid member for these offices up to the time of the election. All other officers and Committee Chairmen are appointed by the President with Board approval.

### Weekend of Woodworking Instruction . . .

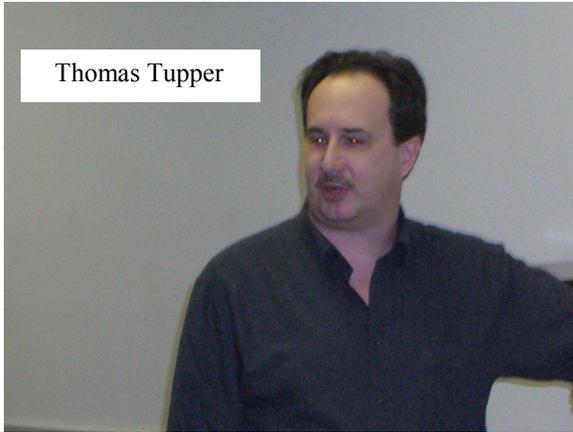
The 2 day weekend with Ron Diefenbacher is scheduled for May 3 and 4 at Wood Craft. There are a few seats left at the bargain price of \$60 including lunches. This is your last chance to sign up for the seminar and reserve your seat. See Jim Hoeller at the April meeting or mail a check to Jim for \$60 to 7247 Lindell Blvd. St. Louis, MO 63130. Do it now before you forget!

There is no report this month on toy activity.

## Show and Tell Project Presenters . . .



**Show and Tell Project Presenters . . .**



Thomas Tupper



Rich Orcutt



Mark Stutz



John DeLuca



Vic Barr



James Long



Jerry Balcer



Ollie Coughlin

**Show and Tell Project Presenters . . .**



**Projects Presented By . . .**



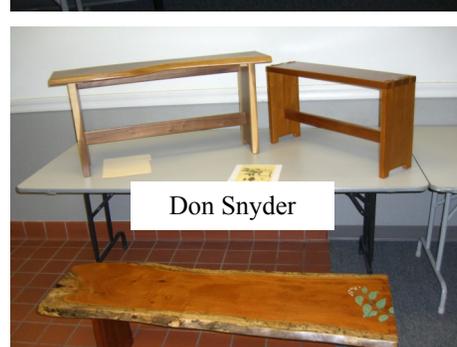
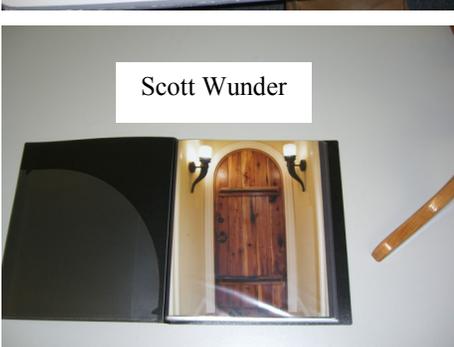
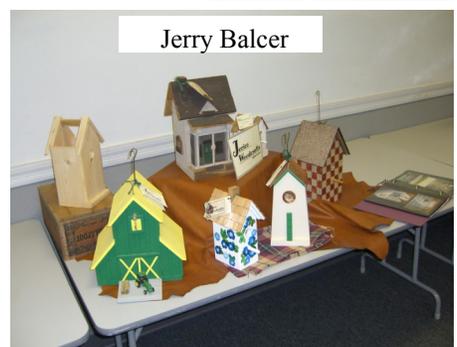
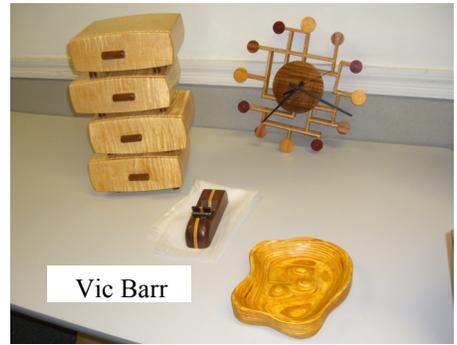
Bob Colegate

Don Snyder

Bob Colegate

Mark Koritz

Projects Presented By ...



## **President's Article April, 2008**

### **TIME GONE BY**

Time flies when you're having fun...it certainly doesn't seem like it has been three years since I started as President of the Guild. However, it has been a wonderful three years for me. I have made many terrific friends and learned so much about the great hobby of woodworking. When I reflect back, I am so proud of all the things the Guild has accomplished during this time.

We have had Mark Adams and Frank Klaus do weekend workshops, and Ron Diefenbacher conducted a shaping class. Each of these events was well attended and taught us a lot, as well as building camaraderie amongst our members.

The quality of our monthly presenters added a good deal to our woodworking knowledge. In addition, having such an outstanding lineup of speakers drew more members to our meetings and helped our membership grow substantially. We have about a 50% attendance at most of our meeting, which is fantastic.

What makes the Guild great is You. In my three terms, I have never been turned down when I asked a member to help out, and that says a lot about our membership. It is really hard to sit here and not name all of those who contributed so much; in fact, it hurts not to do so. There are just too many individuals to mention by name. But there are two exceptional members.

First is my right hand, left hand and confidant, Don Snyder. Without all of Don's hard work we would not have had such fabulous speakers this past three years – or the high attendance at our meetings.

The other is John Wetter, our Newsletter publisher and author. John is the hardest working member of the Guild, spending about forty hours a month putting our outstanding newsletter together. I believe it is another reason why our attendance has grown so much.

To everyone else, thank you all for your efforts...they have definitely paid off because our Guild is stronger now than ever before, membership-wise and finically.

I must admit, in the beginning I really disliked having to write this monthly article, but now I am really going to miss doing it. It's been my way of communicating with each member.

Our great group of incoming officers is excited to take over, and I know more wonderful things will continue to happen. I am looking forward to sitting down at meetings and just being a spectator.

Your friend,

Mark

# Library Corner

## Additional Works

Eric Sloane

I hope you don't mind, but I can't quite get past Eric Sloane just yet. Since last month's review, I've read several additional books of his, and thumbed through portions of what I already had at home. I can't help but feel that although several generations removed, I've made a connection with this man. I was raised in a hard-working, middle-class family. As I grew, my parents and grandparents not only taught me the value of a dollar, but instilled in me a deep-rooted appreciation for all that I acquired. I learned to care for my possessions, with an eye towards conservation and preservation. What I came to realize is these are key ideals Mr. Sloane professed in his "Philosophy of Awareness", the basis for his life's work.

There are three *Additional Works* I chose for this write-up. During last month's research, I became quite curious about *Diary of an Early American Boy*. This is a fictional tale based upon true events of Noah Blake, a boy that turned fifteen during the summer of 1805. He received a diary as his birthday gift, and set out to record daily experiences over the months that followed. Mr. Sloane found Noah's diary while rummaging through his house in Connecticut, and decided to use it as the premise for a story. His efforts left us an engaging tale of life on an American homestead. Noah's daily entries (brief comments entered verbatim throughout the book) provide a glimpse of how a young man lived over 200 years ago. They also reveal his personality, describing his relationship with parents, neighbors, and community, and highs and lows experienced as he filled each day with work. Much of what the teen wrote is lost on present-day vocabulary, but esoteric phrases elicit help from the Author, who fervently fills the gap with 1805-era lexical explanations of what the boy recorded.

Along with the *Diary Of...* book, I borrowed *American Barns and Covered Bridges* from my local library. This is an amazing reference, not only for rural barn and bridge history, but as an authoritative work on how these masterpieces of American ingenuity were constructed. As structures built during "...the age of wood...", all assemblies, movement, skidding, hoisting, etc. had to be done manually. Yet the matter-of-factness in which builders dealt with the weight and immenseness of components was commonplace. Attitude was everything. No matter the task, a job had to be done - period. All aspects of barn and bridge building are described; how tree selection took place, how trees were sawn, drying techniques of the era, tools of the trade, and all about fabrication. But this is not perfunctory writing, for through it all Mr. Sloane remains sensitive to how these early craftsman handled material; how proud they were of their tools, how respectful they were of the wood they worked, and how they celebrated when the work ended. As I've come to expect, the book is filled with his unique sketchings. But this one surprised me - I believe text actually surpasses illustration in terms of volume.

I purchased *A Reverence For Wood* some time ago, which places final emphasis on how valuable wood and other natural resources were to early Americans. It describes in lucid detail how different technique and purpose is between "then" and "now". Consider how we disdain snow on our roads and walkways; we shovel and plow it away as quickly as possible. Yet in early America snow was purposefully stacked on rooftops, and shoveled onto roads and bridges. It was welcomed as insulation against harsh winds, and made winter the only viable season for transporting heavy loads. Weights that were practically immovable during warm periods could be skidded or sledged with little effort on a snow-packed lane. Another stark example is how devalued charcoal has become. There was a time when men actually held occupations as "coal burners". It was a solitary life which demanded they spend months in the woods to gather "fuel" for great charcoal fires, which burned for days or weeks at a time in minimal oxygen. These "Fire Mounds" required attention around the clock, leaving little time for sleep. When a mound burned down, charcoal was exhumed and sold for many uses. Even ash from spent charcoal supplied lye for soap-making!

I discovered a logical congruity among these books. 1805 was a year of great progress for Noah and his father, as the homestead expanded and a new bridge was built. Bridge building skills and techniques are later greatly detailed in *American Barns and Covered Bridges*. *A Reverence for Wood* is replete with descriptions of wood usage, a culmination of content in preceding books. And across all, there is a deliberate consistency in descriptions of life, work, and use of earthen material. I noted some overlap and/or reuse of sketches and paragraphs as I read these, but I suspect this was intentional. It was most likely used to emphasize importance of a topic rather than to simply draft another manuscript for publication.

As I stated last month, reading these books and accompanying information from the web and public library opens my eyes to the ways and means of life centuries ago. This is great historical information from a great American, and I encourage you to explore these and the many other books, paintings, and illustrations created by Eric Sloane.

**Mark Gezella - Guild Librarian**

## 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

