



St. Louis Woodworker's Guild

NEWSLETTER

July 2008

Our 24th Year

Visit us at:

//www.stlwoodworkersguild.org

Number 282

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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

Applying Milk Paint

In a last minute shift of speakers, Guild Officer Bill Hobson will step in and present his previously postponed program on the use and techniques of applying milk paint. Bill's discussion will include the advantages and disadvantages of milk paint, a review of the type projects where you might consider using this finish and where you should 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 some samples of the typical colors that were frequently used when this finish was popular; a few milk painted chairs and other samples to show how the finish technique looks. Don't miss this program, it is sure to be one of the year's best. Our planned speaker for the July meeting, Mr. Skip Kincade had a last minute conflict and has been rescheduled to a future date.

Last Meeting

Building a Bow Front Dresser

Guild member John DeLuca did an outstanding job of presenting his design, assembly and finish phases of building a classic bowed front dresser. John has been woodworking for several years and he likes to build furniture for his own use and for his family. He has a background in the electronics industry and retired a few years ago.

Next Meeting

Thursday 7:00 PM

July 17, 2008

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

During his design phase, John was in the process of selecting a style for the dresser. He likes American period furniture and came on to the idea to build a dresser with a bowed front. He had no particular reason for this much more difficult style, except he wanted to try the particular design. He quickly found out the bowed front design more than doubled the time it takes to build the dresser or a chest of drawers.

John's design had three major considerations: function, craftsmen style and the use of the Golden Ratio $1 + \sqrt{5} / 2 = 1.628$. The book "The Geometry of Art and Life" by Matila Ghyaka was used to understand the ratio and establish the proportions and shape. The ratio provides a pleasing look and makes all elements appear in proportion. He started his design by sketching the entire dresser to establish the exact design of the components. Some pieces were sketched full size where the detail was warranted. Using the ratio the drawers grow

in height from top to bottom by 1 and ¼ inch on each of the five drawers. The ratio is also used on the sides of the dresser which have raised panels. The panels are square with top and side rails of the same width; however, the bottom rail is much wider than the others to give a more pleasing look. The wood selected for the dresser was curly cherry with quarter-sawn sycamore drawer sides, to match other furniture.

The construction phase started with laminating the bowed drawer fronts. The five drawer fronts and the bottom rail were laminated from five resawn thin strips each. After the strips were resawn, he planed them to dimension in his thickness planer using a sled to hold the strips individually. He also wet the wood before planing to reduce tear-out. Cherry was used for the top and bottom laminations and popular for the middle three laminations. John made a MDF glued-up form to

accomplish a 2 ¼ inch bow with an extra ¼ inch over bowing to allow for spring-back. The drawer fronts and bottom front rail were glued one at a time, bowed and clamped over the glue-up form and allowed to dry over night. The side raised panels were solid cherry with beveled edges. The bevels were cut standing up in a jig on the table saw. Bending and laminating the drawer fronts makes a much more pleasing natural grain look, as opposed to what is typically done on commercial furniture where they bandsaw a curved front from a block. Dove tails were cut on the drawers, both front and back. The front dovetails were more difficult due to the curved surface and angle on the front. The drawer fronts were planed 1/8th inch undersize to allow for cock beading on the top, bottom and sides. The beading hides the laminations on the top and sides of the drawer fronts. It also hides the dove tails which are normally exposed in fine furniture. The cock beading for the top and

bottom of the drawers had to be cut from curved pieces. Finally a 1/8th inch ebony inlay was inserted in a routed groove about 1 and ½ inch from the edge around the top.

For finishing John made trial boards of scrap cherry pieces to test tone and depth of the desired finish. Blotching was a major problem as is typical of cherry. He sanded to 320 grit and finished with 000 steel wool. He used one pound cut Zinsser shellac, and antique cherry gel stain finish. He applied one coat of shellac, 2 coats of Behlen burnt umber gelatin stain and rag wiped on several thin coats of Minwax Poly. He applied no finish on the inside or outsides of the drawers except to wax the sides and runners. This is a very well done piece of furniture that will stand up to any commercial piece, no matter how expensive.

Great job John!



John DeLuca and his Bow Front Dresser



President's Article February, 2008

Thanks to everyone that has sent me their biography information. The response has been unbelievable so far. I am looking for a few paragraphs about each member and some photos to accompany the biography. Send your information to Wunderwoods@sbcglobal.net.

o O o

When I started woodworking, red oak was the standard. Everyone used it, it was available as a choice in every kind of woodwork, and it was available at every hardwood outlet – including Home Depot. I had heard rumblings about this other wood called white oak being used in woodworking and even in high-end furniture. But I thought it must not be as good as red oak or it would be everywhere too. I am now sure that is not the case.

Here is what I know from working with both of them. They are similar in many respects such as machine-ability, strength and acceptance of glue, stain and finish. The main differences are color, texture and durability. White oak is tan compared to the peach or pink color of red oak – not a huge deal. Now the differences become more noticeable. For me, the big advantage of white oak is that it is typically tighter-grained, making even flat-sawn lumber have a finer texture. Also, the pores which are open in red oak are plugged up in white oak, which leads to what I think is a finer finish. Finally, the biggest difference is in durability. White oak is very waterproof and performs great outdoors. Red oak is not waterproof, sucks up water like a straw through its open pores and is much less durable.

So why isn't white oak everywhere? Why so much red oak? Here's my theory. It all comes back to durability. White oak can do it all, red oak can't. Red oak won't last if you use it for trailer beds, fence posts, etc. So white oak stayed mostly outdoors. It was used for barn siding, carriages, fences and stalls. At the same time there was plenty of red oak available, so everyone started using it – indoors. After people began to use it indoors more mills cut it and it became more available, so more people used it, etc. It reminds me of something I read awhile back (I can't remember where, but it stuck with me). It was asked why so many barns are painted red? They were painted red because that was the most common paint color available for painting a barn at the time. Why was it the most available? Because everyone painted their barns red. It's simple.

Currently, oak is falling out of favor. Mostly because it was everywhere and now people want something different. Tastes change and I would encourage you on your next oak project to try white oak instead of red oak. I find it a little different and a little better.

Scott

Library Corner

Dovetail A Drawer DVD

Frank Klausz

The exquisite joinery John presented last month triggered renewed enthusiasm in me about dovetails, so I grabbed our copy of Frank Klausz's DVD on the same topic. Mr. Klausz ranks in the top tier among professionals best known for their woodworking prowess and ability to teach. I'm actually a bit hesitant to describe his work here, since so many of you met the man face to face at his instructional weekend and are probably more qualified to describe his talents. In any event, this is what I chose for the month.

I pieced together my own "virtual" biography about Frank Klausz after investigating several references, and found some of what I learned is also described early in the video. He entered into an apprenticeship with his father in Hungary as a 14 year-old boy. He claims he paid quite a price by sacrificing a relationship with his father in exchange for his instruction as a master. At 18 he became a certified journeyman cabinetmaker, and ten years later he found himself in America, seeking to establish his own cabinet-making shop (Frank and his wife immigrated to America back in 1967). Another twenty years passed by the time he built the shop of his dreams, and from that piece of New Jersey comes his own brand of excellence. In addition to his business, Mr. Klausz is also known as author and teacher, and has been featured in many publications such as *Fine Woodworking*, *Popular Woodworking*, and *Woodworker's Journal*. He also maintains his own website at www.frankklausz.com.

Dovetail a Drawer provides guidance for dovetail joinery using nothing but hand tools. It focuses on key operations to ensure success towards constructing a complete desk that employs handcut dovetail joinery. What's most impressive about the hour-long presentation is how he completes tasks so quickly and precisely using no jigs or templates. Experts always make this sort of work look effortless - a true mark of a master. There are seventeen "chapters" to the video, which cover every aspect of preparation and fabrication. But rather than list all of them here, I'd like to simply mention those I found most interesting;

- Marking/Cutting drawer parts, and Wood Technology.

These chapters illustrate how drawer components are produced along with how to select and match wood for appearance and durability.

- Marking and Sawing Tails, Marking and Sawing Pins.

These are most fun to watch as he deftly marks out and saws tails and pins, then chops away waste with equal agility.

- Planing inside and outside drawer faces.

A personal favorite, as I'm always captivated by watching paper-thin shavings whisked off a board during final tuning.

Instruction is expertly delivered, and picture and sound are rendered with utmost clarity. The video has a copyright of 2003, though the original recording dates to 1984, which I believe places production in his first shop. I must say it appears just as I had envisioned. Bright and airy, spacious, and well organized. Mr. Klausz obviously has great respect for his tooling, which appear to be of highest quality. All are stored in a careful and proper manner, and during use he handles them with aplomb befitting a craftsman with decades of experience. Though I've seen this video once or twice before, it was a pleasure to watch again. *Dovetail a Drawer* will be available for checkout at the next general member meeting.

I hate to cut short any description that features Frank Klausz, but I also need to use some article space to ask for your assistance. Several books were checked out from the library recently, but no information was entered on the item cards. Could you please check to see if you have any of these items in your possession? See next page -

Library Corner Continued NextPage-

Library Corner Con't -

These items are:

- Home Furniture Magazine, Issue #1, Winter '94
- How to Repair & Restore Furniture (Cook & Sons)
- Tage Frid Teaches Woodworking, Book 1

If you happen upon these, kindly return them at our next meeting. I'd also like to once again remind everyone of our library policy. Please borrow materials you think you may actually get to read, view, etc. in a month and return them the next month. When you select an item, please write your name and date on the attached library card and leave the card in the index case. This is a small, black plastic case with a hinged lid that is usually kept on a shelf in the "books and videos" cabinet. Also note that all magazines (second cabinet) also have a card attached to them as well. Simply record the same information on magazine cards and deposit in the same case when you checkout magazines. Adhering to this policy assures all members an equal opportunity to borrow the many great items we have in our library. I thank you all in advance for your help with this

Mark Gezella - Guild Librarian

Other News . . .

Drill Recall:

Don Synder has informed us that Bosch Tool Corp. has recalled their model 1191VSR Blue hammer drills: The recalled drills can continue to operate after the trigger has been released, posing a risk of injury. Only drills with a serial number that begins with "7" are included in the recall. For additional information, contact the Bosch Tool Corp. toll-free at (877) 472-0007 or visit the firm's Web site at www.boschtools.com.

Personal Profiles:

Guild President Scott Wunder has taken on the role of "Social Chair" with the objective to get more interaction between members. To facilitate this he would like to get a short biography of each member.

The biography should include:

- Name
- Current and past occupations
- Woodworking interests including your specialty with other details such as:
 - What do you build?
 - What woods do you like?
 - What is your favorite tool?
 - Where did you learn woodworking?
- You may also include other hobbies, activities

and your family

- Include 3 or 4 photos of yourself, your projects, etc.

Congratulations Bob!

Bob Colegate recently won first place East Central College (Union, MO) Art Show. Bob has also been juried in photography by the Greater St. Louis Art Association. To be juried means that a panel has reviewed your work and has agreed that it meets technical and artistic standards of excellence.

Recycle furniture contest

Don't forget the Guild's recycled furniture contest. If you haven't started your project – now is the time! You must use major components of a piece of furniture that would otherwise go to the dump, and make a new item. Judging will be in the fall. Take pictures of the original item and the new creation. The prize for the winning entry, as judged by the membership, will be \$100.

Curly Maple for sale

Vic Barr has a supply of curly maple for sale. The pieces average 14 inches wide by one inch thick. He will let it go \$6 a foot. If interested call Vic at 314-994-1181.

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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