



St. Louis Woodworker's Guild NEWSLETTER

August 2008

Our 24th Year

Visit us at:

//www.stlwoodworkersguild.org

Number 283

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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

Forest Management

Skip Kincade will speak on Forest Management Public and Private. The management process is directed toward improving the health of a forest to improve yield. Among other things these techniques will determine when to harvest, what method should be used, should cutting be selective or clear cut and how should the land be restored, etc. Don't miss this program particularly if you have a wooded area that needs management.

Last Meeting

Use and Application of Milk Paint

Bill Hobson pulled off another of his outstanding woodworking presentations, this time he covered in detail the uses of milk paint and the techniques of applying it to furniture.

While visiting New Hampshire, Bill came across Roger Schaeffer's furniture building shop and school, and was invited to spend a week. Bill returned every year for ten years. Bill got a great deal of his chair building and finishing knowledge while attending that school. He built 10 chairs in the ten years he attended. In addition, Bill's dad, also a woodworker with furniture building experiences, undoubtedly passed along a few hints, on the subject over the years. A lot of his dad's furniture was painted with either acrylic paints, or stained with mahogany, dark walnut and/or Jacobean stains. The pieces usually looked good when completed; however, in a short time they would lose their luster and shine, then become very dark. Also, the painted furniture was prone to chipping. In contrast, the furni-

Next Meeting

Thursday 7:00 PM

August 21, 2008

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

ture that Roger built in New Hampshire was painted with milk paint had a very old appearance and would retain its look and character for many years.

Building a chair in one week, as Bill did, doesn't sound too bad; however, Roger and crew would each build three or four chairs each in the same week. In the early trips, Bill would stain his chairs and they would paint theirs. Usually they would paint the first coat then distress it by scraping and beating it. Then paint the second coat of a different color, which is intentionally wiped off poorly in the areas that are normally the wear points. Finally they would hit and miss wipe the chair with a black glaze and leave it in that poorly wiped condition which would make the chair look very old.

Dye staining furniture will unite dissimilar woods in a chair such as birch, oak and pine, causing them to look the same. Oil stains will be absorbed differently in each wood resulting in different shades and color. To apply stains, first raise grain with a damp rag, let dry, de-whisker and wipe on quickly with a big very wet brush.

Milk paint has been in use for centuries, it is made from a combination of milk, color, lime, pigments, clay and water. The steps in applying milk paint are as follows:

1 - Dye stain the entire chair to avoid the "white wood wear through" problem

2 - Mix equal portions of milk paint, powder and water (by volume) then

- Add the powder to hot water and stir for 5 minutes, let stand, stir again and strain through panty hose to avoid graininess

- Apply the paint with a foam or natural bristle brush (it dries in about one hour, Bill waits longer); if the seat is to remain stained – cover it with plastic bag and duct tape.

- Typical color progressions: green – red – black; green – yellow – black; red – black; red – green.

3 – Apply crackle (Optional), use a thinned hide glue or Elmer's glue mixed 1 to 1 with water; (note: a thicker mix gives alligator skin effect, thinner gives spider web effect)

4 – Apply a different color (Optional) over the crackle; apply within two hours, spray or use one way brush strokes

5 – Lift paint immediately while it looks wet; use rubber gloves or paper towel; if too dry, apply more paint and lift again

6 – Paint pin strips on spindles and legs

7 – Ding-up chair with car keys, sharp objects, stones, tiny drills, etc

8 – Sand thoroughly 180 – 220 grit wearing through paint

9 – Apply black or brown glaze (thinned oil base paint); note that red and mustard show glaze best; black and green show less, but still looks good; wipe within several minutes before it dries completely; allow

paint build up around spindles on seat and bow; then let dry completely

10 – Varnish with a flat urethane using a natural bristle brush, avoid the shiny look, let dry overnight

11 – Rub out with 0000 steel wool plus WD-40 or other lubricant until it shows a patina or sheen

Windsor chairs came over from England in 1725. By 1750 there were regional differences between New York, Philadelphia and New England. Green was the earliest color, followed by red and others. Most farmers made their own paint with ingredients such as: curdled milk, milk casings, lime, pigment, clay, coal, soot, crushed brick, red clay, etc. The basic characteristics of milk paint are:

- Flat
- Course, unless well sanded
- Doesn't flow or level itself
- Streaky
- Lime adds hardness and aids mixing
- Combination of ingredients cancels chemistry and it becomes inert when dry
- Safe for children's toys, safe to environment and it is okay to pour down drain
- Non-combustible, biodegradable, fair priced, widely available, no odor
- Stripper will not remove it
- Does not chip, will not fade, will only wear away

- Subtle shading, beautiful colors

- Must be sealed with varnish, shellac or lacquer to prevent water spotting

- First coat is generally splotchy and uneven, to smooth rub with a maroon nylon pad

- Second coat covers and flows better, dries dead flat, shows brush marks, to smooth rub with gray nylon pad

Great job Bill, as usual, I am sure you have inspired a lot of guys out there to build a chair and try milk paint. Fine Woodworking (July 2008) had a very good article on milk paint. See pictures following.

Toys

Toy Building Session

Guild Vice President Kurt Herrmann organized a toy building session in his shop on August 2nd and produced 60 cars as well as cutting out numerous additional parts. Many thanks to the participating toy builders which included: Bob Colegate, Tom Tupper, Larry Grzovic, Ollie Coughlin, Ken and Kathy Buchmann, Norm Stroecker, Mike Bien, and Kurt. And not to be overlooked, many thanks also goes to Kurt's wife Dee who welcomed everyone in their home and provided the food. Besides this powerful toy building team we had several additional volunteer's that we wish to thank for offering to help out, but had to be turned away due to lack of space. Those were: Jerry Balcer, Richard Orcutt, Bruce Shockley, Bill Sheely, Wayne Watson and Mark Koritz. See Pictures Following.

President's Article August, 2008

White Wood, Sap Wood and Spalted Wood

Lately I have gotten a lot of questions about spalted wood and white woods. The main question I get about white woods is usually, "What white woods do you have?" They really are asking, "What species do you have that has a wide enough sap ring to produce white boards?" The customer usually end up buying maple, but it starts a discussion about where white woods come from and what to look for in your purchases.

Every tree has heartwood, which is the center of the tree and sapwood, which is the outer layer of the tree, just inside the bark. The sapwood is white. Sometimes it is tinted a little, (poplar, for example, is slightly green) but it is always very close to pure white. The heartwood is always darker. Sometimes, it is only a shade darker (basswood) and sometimes it is chocolate brown (walnut) or even black (ebony). This sapwood layer is thin in some trees and very thick in others. Lumber that we consider white woods will have a much thicker ring of sapwood when compared to lumber that you would normally think of as being darker. Here is the trick, the sapwood needs to be thick enough to produce a reasonable amount white lumber. This is very often the case in species such as maple, ash, and box elder. In these trees, the sapwood is thick enough that we can use it. In darker woods like walnut, cherry and oak the sapwood is usually only about an inch thick and is trimmed off like fat from a choice piece of meat. Within, the white woods it is possible to have a log that is almost entirely sapwood or a log that is almost all heartwood. It is most common that the white wood log is about half and half.

Recognizing the sapwood layer is the key to understanding the defects that can happen to white woods. Typical defects in white woods are end stain, sticker stain and spalting (although this is typically considered a positive among furniture makers). Sapwood is a live layer of the tree and will degrade or decay. I compare this layer to fresh produce. If exposed to hot and wet conditions the white wood will start to darken, then spalt (early rot) and then rot. In the same conditions, heartwood will not spalt and it will only very slowly rot. When purchasing white woods, pay attention to the color of the boards, especially if cut during the summer. If the logs are stored for a long period before cutting the ends will typically be darker. If the lumber is not dried quickly enough, it will have an overall darker color. And if it is dried on sticks that don't allow for proper drying there could be sticker stains, which are dark stripes across the boards that very often do not plane out.

When shopping for spalted wood or looking to make your own, simply make sure that the log has a thick layer of sapwood, since this is the only area that will spalt. The maples spalt the best because of the sugar in them, but I have also seen good spalting in poplar, hickory and sycamore. I have even had some very nice spalted oak before, but again, this was only in the sap wood. All of the boards looked perfectly normal on the heartwood sides, except for some worm holes. Just remember white woods are sapwood and only sapwood spalts.

Scott

Library Corner

Articles, Books, and DVDs

Frank Klausz

I regret writing such a brief article about Mr. Klausz last month. So much so that I did some additional research on him over the last few weeks in order to provide a little more information about this supremely talented individual. I'm hoping this will make up for my abbreviated piece last time! As I originally stated, he ranks among the best in terms of skill and ability to teach. He's one of those folks that I can't really hear enough about - truly an inspiration.

I talked about *Dovetail a Drawer* last month, but Mr. Klausz has actually produced five videos over the last several decades;

Biscuit Joinery - how to employ biscuit joinery in cabinetry and bookcases

Hand Tools - how to tune and use hand tools for precision joinery

Dovetail A Drawer - see last month's article!

Woodfinishing - his essential techniques for producing an ideal finish

Making Mortise and Tenon Joints - how to fashion M&T joints using either hand or power tools

Aside from his celebrity in video production, I learned he also wrote several books early in his career. However, I don't find these offered by popular booksellers. I believe they are no longer in print, and would have to be acquired second-hand through book fairs, e-bay, or some such avenue. Folks are clamoring for a printed version of his DVDs, so I suspect his books are hard to come by.

I must emphasize there are literally hundreds of references to Mr. Klausz on the web. A few obvious sites are *Popular Woodworking*, *The Taunton Press*, and articles from *American Woodworker*. He's been a contributor to all of these for many years. Much of his sage advice can be found in issues of *Popular Woodworking*, along with somewhat unique articles such as Must-Have Tools for Woodworkers, a Master Cabinetmaker's Toolchest, and Hand Tool Maintenance. There's simply too much to list regarding what he's provided in *Fine Woodworking* - in fact, they claim over 266 references to him! Not all are his articles, but a combination of his words and those of others that include references to Mr. Klausz or his completed projects.

I also found several blogs that were informative as well as entertaining. One such entry describes how Frank came to America as a young man, looking to learn additional skills to augment what his father and grandfather taught him in Hungary. In the early 70's he signed up for a seminar on joinery, taught by a wood glue representative. As the seminar wore on Frank became frustrated as the teacher espoused his own method of joinery; slog on a bunch of his glue, hold until setup with spring clamps, and move on. Frank was so irate he demanded his money back and stormed out! This event was ostensibly what drove him to host seminars once he gained recognition as a credible professional.

Another site describes how Frank came to associate with *FWW*. He was sitting in a barber shop one day, thumbing through periodicals when he saw advertising for a magazine with the professional woodworker in mind. He decided to subscribe, but upon receipt of his first issue was soon disappointed. He called the publisher to complain, who answered by sending two representatives to his cabinetmaker's shop the very next day! They were awed by his simple yet exacting method of work, and formed friendships almost immediately. This led to more introductions among woodworking circles, which eventually included a meeting with Tage Frid. Apparently these two held opposing views on a number of aspects regarding how to work wood (early issues of *FWW* actually hold point-counterpoint discussions between the two). They maintained a "Jekyll 'n Hyde" style friendship for many years; they bickered and argued during work hours, but turned off all animosity toward each other at quitting time (incidentally, Tage Frid passed away in 2004). My understanding is they really enjoyed each other's company after hours.

Library Corner Continued -

Librarian Con't -

There's much more to this man beyond the physical energy he directs towards his craft. He is generous with his apprenticeship program, and always has several students on-hand to assist with projects as they learn the trade. He's not shy about his opinions, and makes very clear his proclivity towards shortcuts and shoddy workmanship. And he's quite the humanitarian. I read he collects medical equipment provided by U.S. hospitals; all apparatus either discarded or obsolete. He has them reconditioned at his own expense, then ships them to his native Hungary for renewed use.

There is a wealth of information on the web about Mr. Klausz, and I took notes as I traversed a variety of sites, blogs, chat sessions, etc. I chose what I thought were some interesting features of Frank's life and work, and paraphrased them here for you to enjoy. I hope that you do. I plan to have his *Dovetail A Drawer* DVD available for checkout at the next general member meeting.

Mark Gezella - Guild Librarian

Future Meetings and Events:

September -

Thursday meeting: September 18th

“Woodworkers building their own house”
presented by Jeff and Sherry Owens;

Annual Tour and Picnic: September 20th. This year we will be visiting David Stein's farm, shop and saw mill followed by a picnic at Pere Marquette Park near Grafton, Illinois. David inspired by George Nakashima, builds large projects from tree slabs. He cuts, mills and completes the projects on his farm. See: www.stinewoodworking.com. Picnic sign up sheets will be available at the August and September meetings.

October -

Thursday Meeting: October 16th. Guild member Larry Mehmert will be presenting a program on dust collection

Other News . . .

Weekend Workshop with Jeff Jewitt - We have confirmed a workshop at Wood Craft on February 14-15, 2009 by this nationally known woodworker. Jeff will cover the finishing topics of safety, surface prep, coloring, filling, shellac, lacquer, oil finishes, varnishes, combo finishes, water borne, and rubbing out. Mark your calendars!

Julie Geeting is seeking a woodworker to build small boxes with some carving on top, similar to jewelry boxes. She needs five initially and will pay for

the effort. If interested call Julie at 413-691-0861.

Tool Recall - DeWalt Tools is recalling their DeWalt DC608 Cordless Brad Nailers. The nailer can fire unexpected when the safety is in locked position. If you have this nailer call DeWalt Industrial Tool at 866-220-1481 before using the tool again.

Other News Continued -

Table Saw For Sale - Guild Secretary Matt Laposa has a Jet table saw with router insert extension table for sale. Interested? Call Matt at 636-294-0844.

Guild Director Bob Colegate has been invited to present a program on how to make band saw boxes at the Columbia Missouri Woodworker's Guild August 25th.

Guild Member Larry Mehmert recently participated in a two day Juried Columbia Art League 50th Anniversary Show with 130 vendors. Larry won 2nd place with his Shoji screens. Congratulations Larry!

Wood for Sale - Planed both sides and one edge, 6 to 8% moisture, Random lengths, 7/8th thick, select or better: white oak 4" to 11" wide, 1/4 sawn - \$3.00 bd/ft, flat sawn - \$2.75 bd/ft; red oak 4" to 10" wide flat sawn, \$2.35 bd/ft; Also 6 and 8 qtr white oak - \$3.25 bd/ft. 10% discount to Guild members and additional 10% discount for over 100 feet per individual. Call Emile Damotte 636-536-0665.



Bill Hobson and His Milk Painted Chairs



Kurt Herrmann's Toy Building Session



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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