



St. Louis Woodworker's Guild NEWSLETTER

September 2008

Visit us at:

Number 284

Our 24th Year

// www.stlwoodworkersguild.org

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**Meeting Room,
Mailing Address**
Courtesy of Woodcraft



Next Meeting

Public and Private Forest Management
After a couple interruptions in Skip's plans and our speaker schedules, Skip is back and ready to go. He will be speaking this month on 'Public and Private Forest Management'. This is a topic that fits perfectly with Skip's vast knowledge of trees and how they grow.

Forest Management is a necessary thing if you are to get the most out of your stand of timber. A marketable tree standing in the forest represents significant money tied up until it is cut, moved to a mill and sold. A Forest Manager would take a basic inventory of existing trees; determine the goals of the property; discuss what to do with each tree; determine if they are marketable and determine the best approach to cutting, i.e. clear cutting or selective cutting. He would also determine if the land owner has the ability to manage the cutting and sale of trees. Beyond that Forest Management would help make the determination a particular tree will produce lumber that is suitable for furniture or other wood products and will represent a fair return on your land investment. Don't miss this meeting, particularly if you or your family has a stand of timber and you are wondering what to do with it.

Next Event

Annual Guild Picnic and Tour
This year we will be visiting David Stine's saw mill and wood shop in Dow, Illinois. We will see his facilities and the beautiful furniture he produces. David's furniture is generally in the style of the well known woodworker George Nakashima. David is noted for carefully selecting trees from the family forests that will both sustain the forest and produce beautiful furniture. Much of his furniture is made from large slabs with natural edges, varied grain, flaws and a lot of character. David's slab selection takes in consideration the client's desires as well as the fit and mood of the furniture. He will orient each piece so he can focus on the grain, color variations and

Next Meeting

**Thursday 7:00 PM
September 18, 2008
Wood Craft Supply Store
2077 Congressional Dr.
Maryland, Heights, MO**

Next Event

**Annual Tour & Picnic
Saturday September 20, 2008
Tour David Stines Saw Mill
Picnic at Pere Marquette Park**

natural flaws. No two pieces of furniture will be alike. Only natural environmentally safe finishes are used. David's clients include architects, designers, decorators, restaurateurs and artists. See more information of David at his website: <http://stinewoodworking.com>

For Directions to David's Saw Mill and Pere Marquette Park see map following. We will travel from North County about 25 miles through Alton., Illinois and northwest from there to meet at David's Saw Mill at about 10:30 AM for the tour. Following the tour at about 12:00 Noon we will return to Route 3, turn west this time and travel back to Route 100 and continue further west to Pere Marquette State Park (about 6 miles) for our picnic. The park lodge is east to spot on the north side of route 100. The picnic grounds are directly across from the lodge on the opposite (south) side of route 100. As is the tradition and customary with our annual picnics, each family should bring along a covered dish to share. The Guild will provide fried chicken, paper supplies, utensils, cups and soda to drink. Bring along your family and/or a friend that has an inter-

est in woodworking. Also feel free to bring any thing related to woodworking to show, trade, sell or give away. See map below and we'll see you there!

Last Meeting

Our planned speaker for August, Skip Kincade, was out of town and unable to present at the August meeting. At the last minute, Guild Director Don Snyder took the chance to show and discuss a unique bed he is in the process of building.

Don brought along the headboard with tapered posts and finials. The head board was made from a solid wide board, buff colored with wide dark streaks across it that reminds you of a country hillside scene. He inlayed a dark circle at the edge of the hill side that has the look of the sun coming up over the hill.

Don used hot hide glue exclusively on the bed. The glue was raw and in crystals that you mix with water and heat in a pot heater to a thin, smooth consistency before using. When it cools it dries very hard and is very strong. Hide glue may not be stronger than modern white or yellow glues, however, it has one big advantage in that you can heat the joint

and pull it apart for repairs and reassemble. Also, another reason Don selected hide glue was due to the fact that he ordered a minimum order of 25 pounds of raw hide glue crystals. Now he is under extreme pressure to use hide glue on everything he does so he can use it up before he dies. He may have to keep himself alive at least until he is at least 110 years old to come close to using the 25 pounds of glue.

The corner posts of the bed are 2 ¼ inches square at the base and become a tapering octagon from two feet off the floor to a one inch octagon at the top. The first two opposite sides of the then four sided tapered corner posts were cut on the table saw at 45 degrees. The other two sides were rough cut on the band saw then planed/sanded flat to form an 8 sided tapered post. A 45 degree router bit was used for part of this. He also cut an ogee at the transition of the square base and the 8 sided taper. The finials were turned as separate pieces on the lathe. The headboard has a wide and a narrow slat. The wide board has three tendons on each end into the corner posts. Only the center tendons on each side are glued to allow for wood expansion. A dark wood disk (resembling the sun) was inlayed into the headboard in a position that makes it ap-

pear the sun rising over the hills in the distance. Don did the inlay by routing a circle the same diameter and thickness of the insert, then gluing the disk in place. An additional white stripe inlay 1/8th inch wide and 1/8th inch from edge of the dark circle was cut using a Lie Nielsen radius cutter for veneer. A picture frame matt cutter could be used for this cut as well.

Don had a little side demonstration on his method to apply veneer to a substrate. He used a home made veneer hammer that he made to apply a small square of veneer to a substrate. The tool has a handle and a wide rounded edge metal blade perpendicular to the handle. He warms the tool before using, then applies hide glue hot to both sides of veneer and the surface of the substrate, in this case MDF. The glue on the bottom of the veneer and the substrate forms the bond, while the glue on the top of veneer acts as a lubricant. He presses the veneer onto the substrate with wiping pressure from his wide blade tool. The veneer will grab quickly and dries in about 10 minutes. The glue on the outer surface of the veneer will sand off easily and any glue residue that remains will take stain just like the wood.

Great job Don and many thanks for jumping in with a great presentation at the last minute!

Toys

Toys for Hospitalized Kids

Toy Co-Chairmen John Patton and Steve Briner's August 30, 2008 toy report is as follows:

We delivered 136 items to the hospitals in August. Our grand total of toys distributed since 1994 is 26493 – a total you should all be proud of because it is your contribution to the needy of this community.

Our toy supply was increased by contributions by Jerry Balcer, Bob Colegate, Jim McKenna and Wayne Watson to the tune of 146 items. Great work guys. In addition the pipeline has a number of items



Don Snyder and His Headboard

President's Article September 2008

September, 2008

Once you go impact, you'll never go back

A friend of mine is a tool junkie. He has at least one tool for every job. Often he has more than one. This is especially true for cordless drills. He has about fifteen of them and most of them are DeWalt. Many times I would have my drill out, with the right bit in it, and he would still go get his. He never used my drill, or at least never wanted too. He called himself a drill snob and I agreed. My Porter Cable was a fine drill, worked with no problems, and only has recently become weak in the battery department. Why wouldn't he use my drill?

Turns out it wasn't my drill that he had problems with, he had become used to using his drill and impact driver combo. Apparently, the two together were a deadly combination. His said his drill was good, but the lethal blow was handed out by the impact driver. I blew him off at first. It was just another tool. It was just more money to spend. It was just another trophy for his case. Then I used it. It was fast, strong and light. I couldn't believe how well it worked.

Here's the thing. The impact driver doesn't just drive screws. It kicks their butts and asks for more. It starts out fast, driving the screws at maximum speed until it hits enough resistance. Then the impact kicks in and it beats it home. It does all of this without stripping the head or breaking the screws. The best part is that when you are driving screws from odd angles, especially above your head, it takes about half the force to hold it in place. And did I mention-It doesn't strip the head. It is unbelievable!

Now, if I don't have an impact driver with me I find myself thinking, "This is how they used to do it in the olden days." Sure, it works. You can drive screws with a drill. But once you go impact it is hard to go back.

Note: I have since used a Bosch, Makita and Hitachi, as well as the DeWalt, and all worked great. The key seems not to be in the make, but just in the fact that it is an impact driver. If I were to purchase one, I would make sure to get one that matches the batteries I already have.

Guild Picnic is this Saturday!

This weekend is the annual St. Louis Woodworkers Guild Picnic. That is right, it is this Saturday. Time sure does fly doesn't it. We are meeting at David Stines near Grafton, IL at 10:30 and then going to Pere Marquette for our picnic lunch. Information and detailed directions have been e-mailed. If you need more information call Scott Wunder at 314-574-6036.

Scott

resulting from Kurt Hermann's toy party. These are yet to be received. We need more of everything. Please join in making toys and kits of any kind for kids in our hospitals. Christmas and other holiday events are ahead of us.

Please look at the Guild's WEB Calendar (all dates should be advanced at least one to two months to be delivered when appropriate). Since we need some of all the patterns, consider making any of the projects. See web site: www.stlwoodworkersguild.org to select and print a pattern or you may call and we will send you the patterns by mail.

If you need patterns, wheels, axles (dowels) or just suggestions, please call (see below). A new supply of wheels is on order. Until they arrive, we have wheels available in three sizes: 1-1/4 OD, 1 OD for the Whimsy Car, and 1-1/2 OD for the large racer. We do have many odd size wheels looking for projects.

You may call John at 314-843-0616 or Steve at 636-922-1947 for any of the above or to arrange pickup or delivery.

Kurt Herrman's Toy Making

Kurt's next session October 4th 9:00 AM - 12:00 noon - Call if you would like to help 636-394-4517

Other News

A Guild sponsored weekend seminar featuring nationally known wood worker and finisher Jeff Jewitt has been confirmed for February 14 and 15, 2009 at Wood Craft. The cost is expected to be \$125 for the weekend, which includes lunches, snacks coffee and soda. Jeff's books are available at Wood Craft. Mark your calendars now so you don't miss this seminar on finishing.

Future meetings:

October: Larry Mehmert – Dust Collection;

November: How-to forum on small Christmas projects.

Recycled Furniture Contest – Judging will be during October meeting \$100 first prize. If you haven't started, now's the time!

Library Corner

Tage Frid Teaches Woodworking

I decided to expound on the accomplishments of Tage Frid after having mentioned him last month in my Klausz article. I've known of him for quite some time, but never really investigated what he did or how he was regarded. I find I should have done so much sooner. We woodworkers lost a great talent when Mr. Frid passed away.

We have *Tage Frid Teaches Woodworking* in our library, which is actually book one of three. I think this may be the only set he ever authored, though he has quite a list of references to his credit. As I read about the lives of well-known woodworkers, I'm frequently awed and inspired by what they accomplish. Success can be measured by results that range from commodity to philanthropy. So often I approach this monthly article with "tunnel-vision"; i.e., a single intent of describing a person's book, or video, or expertise with regard to what kind of woodworking they do. But my research frequently proves educational when I find how diversified a person's approach to life can be. Mr. Frid is a perfect example.

Born Tage (pronounced "Tay", did you know that?!) Frid in Copenhagen, Denmark in 1915, he began his pursuit of craft at the tender age of 13. He served a five year apprenticeship under a master named Gronlund Jensen. Not only did he complete his apprenticeship, but went on to earn undergraduate and graduate degrees from two universities in Copenhagen. He immigrated to the United States around 1948 when recruited by the American Crafts Council to form a woodworking program for the School of American Craftsman. After 14 years, he joined the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), where he taught from 1962 through 1985. From all accounts, he was regarded as a great teacher, who always sought to draw talent from his students. He was ever cognizant of a common pitfall among teachers; that being to avoid influence through personal ideas and methods, thereby encouraging a student to develop his own unique mechanical and intellectual abilities.

He approached all aspects of his work with conviction. His furniture style became known as Danish Modern, and he was instrumental in seeing that style flourish over the last five decades. Although most of us probably recognize Mr. Frid as a woodworker, he was most gifted as a designer. In fact, not only did he design furniture (held positions in Donovan & Frid, Shop One, and ESPAN, which manufactures small desk accessories), but served as design consultant to the Mystic Seaport Museum, International Mint, Rhode Island Hospital Trust, served as designer for the Howard Johnson's and Treadway motel chains, and was an interior designer for the Danish Government. His work was featured in many publications, and was added to permanent collections of the Smithsonian Institute, Renwick Gallery, Boston Museum of Fine Arts, and Museum of Art at RISD. He also build altars and crosses installed in many churches, such as the Church of St. John the Divine-Episcopal (Denmark), and the Episcopal Church of Mitchell, S.D. And of course, I would be remiss if I didn't mention he was a former editor of *Fine Woodworking* magazine, and also helped establish it as a trade publication in 1975 (remember that I wrote of his enduring, healthy rivalry with Frank Klausz last month?!). And awards - ***fahgedaboudit!!*** Simply too numerous to list here.

He sustained a direct and pragmatic work ethos, yet offset this intensity with an odd sort of humorous persona. Mr. Frid often annoyed his wife with his stubbornness, which was portrayed by a "make it, sell it" attitude towards his creations. Once a project was complete, he couldn't stand to have it around anymore! One amusing tale describes how he and his wife were entertaining guests for a luncheon, when the affair was interrupted by movers who came to collect the very dining set they were using! He had sold the set sometime earlier but never mentioned it to his wife. Incidentally, he and his wife Emma were married for 57 years until his death in 2004.

As for his book, *Tage Frid Teaches Woodworking* is a compendious three-volume set, filled with over 50 years of experience from a master teacher and designer. It is revered by shop teachers **Con't**

as "essential reading", and considered requisite text for all serious artists. The three volumes instruct a reader in furniture building, and define key elements to Scandinavian furniture design and production; 1) *Joinery* - (the volume we have) considers critical intersections and appropriate joinery for maximum strength and longevity, 2) *Shaping, Veneering, and Finishing* - an amazing pictorial reference with over 700 illustrations that clearly instruct how to accomplish many operations such as turning, carving, veneering, and inlay, and 3) *Furnituremaking* - Mr. Frid teaches by example in this final volume, where he completes 18 unique pieces of furniture, including many tables, stools, a rocking chair, his own personalized workbench, and a grandmother clock. These volumes resonate with Mr. Frid's beliefs that furniture should always match the needs of those who use it, be it simple or complex, and be made soundly of proper material.

There is much to be discovered about Tage Frid, similar to what I realized with Frank Klausz. I found search results from the web to be almost mesmerizing. I actually found a copy of his death notice on the web, which is quite a tribute to the man. I encourage you all to take a look at his books, or visit the web or your local library to read more about this gifted artisan. *Tage Frid Teaches Woodworking* will be available for checkout during our next general member meeting.

Mark Gezella - Guild Librarian

Directions to David Stine's Mill & Picnic

Directions to David Stine's

Head North on I-270

Exit 31B, Hwy 367 To Alton (11.1 Miles)

Left on 143 Landmarks Blvd (.8 Mile)

Left on Broadway- Ill-100

Great River Rd. (4.6 Miles)

Right on Clifton Terrace Rd. (.8 Mile)

Left on West Delmar Ave - Ill-3 (5.4 Miles)

Straight on Ill-109 / 1600Rd. E (1 Mile)

Left on CR-5 / 600 Rd N (1.3 Miles)

Right on Bartlett Rd (1/2 Mile)

To: 16376 Bartlett - David Stine's Stein's

16376 Barlett

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
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