

# St. Louis Woodworkers Guild



October 23, 2008  
Issue 284

## Our Next Meeting

Thursday 7:00 PM  
November 20, 2008

Woodcraft Supply Store  
2077 Congressional Dr.  
Maryland, Heights, MO

## Surface Enhancements and Decorations by Matt Kiem

Next month's presentation will be given by Matt Kiem. Matt is a member and former president of the Woodturners of Saint Louis guild. With a father who taught shop for 30 years, Matt has been involved in woodworking his whole life. He has been turning wood for the past three and a half years and sells his finished pieces through local galleries and juried art shows.

Matt's presentation will cover surface enhancements and decorations. These techniques can be applied to any part of a finished piece, from a table apron to the side of a turned vase. He will cover aspects of texture, carving, and the use of milk paint. If you've ever thought you needed to add some interest to one of your finished projects, you should join us at the next meeting for some great ideas!

## At Our Last Meeting Public and Private Forest Management with Skip Kincaid September 18th, 2008

For those of you who missed the September meeting, Skip really did give his presentation! Fourth time is the charm in this case. If you have ever attended a Skip Kincaid lecture in the past, then you know why we kept at it. He is an incredible presenter, so it is always worth the wait. We were not disappointed. Skip's methods of presenting are highly developed, from his voice to his mannerisms, and he can bring even the slightly-interested listener to rapt attention.

Skip has bachelor degrees in both Forestry and Economics and holds a Masters degree in Forest Economics from the University Of Missouri. He has been with Missouri Conservation for nine years and touts it as one of the best programs in the United States. As it is with most other conservation programs, the one big downfall is the pay. The solution to this problem involved a switch to full-time consultation; Skip now works for Davey Tree.

The last time we heard from Skip, the lecture took place during a walk (we could almost call it a "stand", really) through the Missouri Botanical Gardens, where we discussed various aspects of native Missouri trees. This time, however, he talked about trees on a much grander scale, with a focus on forest management.

The science of Forest Management came from the need to design and maintain healthy forests and to meet the demand for lumber and timber stands. Obviously, the focus of this presentation was on the latter.

There are two basic systems used in timber stand management – even-aged and uneven-aged. Which one you pick depends upon many things, including the number, age, and species of trees found in the forest. It also includes the landowner's objectives – do they want to focus more on wildlife, income, aesthetics or wood products. The three methods available to the even-aged system are clear cutting, seed tree, and shelterwood.

*continued on page 4*



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*Meeting Room, Mailing Address  
Courtesy of Woodcraft*

## President's Article, October 2008

### The Biggest Blunder

I was watching the Biden/Palin debate this week and found myself looking for the big blunder. I got to dreaming up different ways that they could really mess up and then I got to thinking about my own blunders and finally The Biggest Blunder.

I'll paint the scene for you. I was young – 22 and fresh out of college, working at my first, and only “real” job. It was an ad agency and I was an art director, surrounded by a bunch of creative types. When there was a problem, I fixed it. I was much more hands-on than everyone else and wasn't afraid to jump in. I had some woodworking experience and thought that I knew enough to keep me out of trouble. Boy was I wrong!

It started out simple enough. Our boss, who was becoming scarcer in the office, had a roll-top desk that was always open. He used it when he was in the office, but he wanted it closed and locked when he was out of the office. He couldn't lock it because of the wires from the telephone and other electronics that had to go out the front of the desk and wrap around the side to get to an outlet. The solution sounds simple, right? Just drill a hole in the back of the desk and run the wires through. No problem.

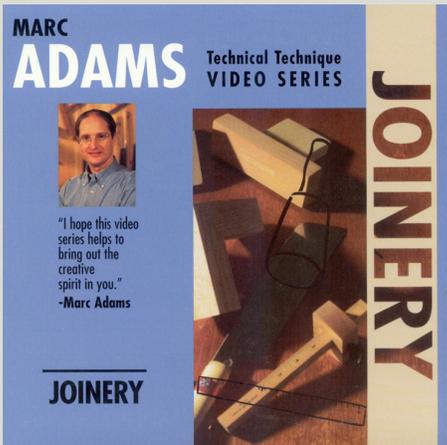
The next day I brought in my drill, decided where everything should go and figured out the placement of my hole. I drilled a not-so-nice and big hole through the back. It was a chipped-out, two-holes-next-to-each other-

wiggle-the-drill sort of operation. I made sure that all of the wires, especially those with the big plugs, would easily fit. It didn't matter too much how it looked, after all it was totally hidden in a little cubby-hole.

I ran the wires through, plugged everything in and cleaned up the debris. All that was left was the basking. I love to bask after a job. So, Chris the accountant who asked me to do the job came in to take a look. I proudly showed her what I did and pulled down the roll-top to show her how nice it worked. I should say I pulled ON the roll-top. It seemed to stick. I thought maybe there was something in there, maybe it hadn't been closed in a while, maybe it is just a little—Oh No!, Oh No! It didn't take me long to figure out what the problem was. Yep, I drilled right through the roll-top that hides in the back when the desk is open. I pulled out the wires and pulled down the roll-top. By the way, it worked great without the wires going through it. Down it came and there is—right at eye level. The biggest, chipped-out, two-holes-next-to-each other-wiggle-the-drill hole you have ever seen. The basking was officially cancelled and after I got done changing my pants, it was decided that someone else should “fix” it.

This is by far my biggest blunder and one by which all others will be judged. I have often thought about writing it up and sending it in to American Woodworker magazine's Oops! section, but it just didn't seem right to get paid for messing up. Maybe now I'll send it in.

*Scott*



Okay, it's official - I now habitually defer to Adams DVDs when I miss meetings and lose my chance to review a book for the month! While not on a \$700 billion scale, it's a bail-out nonetheless. This happened at least once last year, and Mr. Adams really came through for me. In these moments of panic I consider him a woodworker of epic proportions! I guess I subconsciously watched his recordings to create an emergency store for such occasions. I reviewed his furniture series, marquetry, and wood bending videos last year, so at least it's been awhile since I talked him up.

His Joinery DVD is formatted much like many others in his series. There are nine "chapters" which cover pretty much everything you need to know about assembling wood, and conclude with some final thoughts about how to get on with it. Marc begins with an Introduction, where he stresses (as he has before) that woodworking is a skill - not a talent. He also celebrates a few key characteristics of wood, most notably it's variety and versatility. He claims this method of work defines the most fundamental aspect of woodworking, which can be traced to ancient times.

Joinery is defined as a means of connection, secured by three Basic Joints; 1) fastened by mechanical means (nail, screw, etc.), 2) glued wood-to-wood, with no mechanical bond, 3) any combination of the first two methods. Regardless of the method used, there must be good wood-to-wood contact; i.e., NO SLOP! The viewer's first exposure to a broad range of Terminology comes in the third chapter. Pretty straight-forward stuff here; e.g., to edge-joint is to true up and connect long ends of boards. Splines, or biscuits, or dowels can be inserted between two edges for additional strength. For increased reinforcement, a housed dado can be used, which is essentially a three-sided tongue-and-groove joint. A rabbet, or two-sided joint can also be used, which doesn't help so much during assembly but still trumps a plain butt-joint. Additional definitions, e.g., mortise and tenon, bridal joint, basic miters, etc. are also contemplated.

Marc claims there are "...over 600 ways to join wood..." in Selecting a Joint. Not sure if he's serious or facetious about that statement (his expression never changes!), but either way makes his point clear. He educates the viewer about the hydroscopic property of wood - that it tends to take on and lose H<sub>2</sub>O as the seasons change. As such, several factors must be considered for any given joint. Ask yourself these questions: Is the joint subject to any stress? Does grain oppose each other in mating surfaces? Will dimensional change adversely affect the joint (given it's size)? What is the surface condition of the grain being joined? Answer them and you're on your way to a solid connection.

Cutting a joint requires Tools. For what this chapter lacks in detail, it makes up for in scope, and his largesse is delivered machine-gun style. The best workshop will include a tablesaw, mitersaw, bandsaw, drill press, router, marking gauges, scratch awl, tape and metal rules, squares, bench chisels (1/4" to 1"), dovetail saw (Marc prefers Japanese style), files, mallet, and a good workbench. What more could a guy (or gal) want?! After you buy all of this stuff, it's time for Tuning Up, which obviously refers to preparing tools for use. Marc likes the sandpaper method (remember scary sharp?), where a sheet is laid flat to accept an edge tool for sharpening, or lapping if-you-will. He likes to put a knife-edge on marking gauges, which helps persuade them to track properly as a line is struck. I was also surprised to hear he always removes the tooth set on American handsaws, reasoning they cut with much less effort when attacking wet wood.

Ever hear his Joinery Technique mantra? Layout is everything, and everything should have writing on it! He likes a 1:6 or 1:8 ratio for scribing dovetails, and likes to handcut them with dovetail saws and chisels. This is his approach for both through and blind dovetails. His preference is a mortise and tenoned three-way miter on compound joints (three contact points), and likes hip-joints for chairs, with a 3/8" rabbet and 5/8" round-over bit to machine the parts (he opines that rounded edges tend to cradle mating surfaces). He most often reaches for white or yellow synthetics as his Glue Choice, of which white glue can be used approximately 80% of the time. However, others should be considered as necessary. Hide, or animal glue is great for reversible joints. Seems counter-intuitive, but this is quite commonly used in acoustic instruments, since sooner or later a guitar, violin, cello, etc. must be repaired due to inherent stresses wrought by the strings. Urea-Formaldehyde and epoxies are great for exotic (oily) wood, or exterior grade stock subjected to the elements. Just be wary of off-gassing with U-F type products - it can be dangerous stuff. The video wraps up with Adams WoE's, or Words of Encouragement. Here he offers a few parting words, encouraging the viewer to tackle a project and enjoy the process. He takes advantage of the last few minutes to echo his belief that anyone can do this!

Picture quality of this DVD parallels other Adams DVDs I've viewed - crystal clear. It runs approximately 80 minutes, and provides a wealth of information about joinery. And these are fun to watch, which can't always be said about instructional videos. It's also interesting to see how his taste in eyeglasses changed through the years! Wonder if his wife had anything to say about that? This DVD will be available for checkout at the next general member meeting.

## Toy Report

### Toys for Hospitalized Kids

September 30, 2008

Toy Co-Chairmen John Patton and Steve Briner.

We delivered 280 items to the hospitals in September. Our grand total of toys distributed since 1994 is 26,773.

Our toy supply was increased by contributions by a long list of persons. You know who you are. The total was 375. Great work guys and Gal. Kurt had another toy party on October 4th, which consisted of 4 Guild members and produced 120 cars. Please join in making toys and kits of any kind for kids in our hospitals. Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays are ahead of us. Please look at the Guild's WEB Calendar for items needed for those events. If you need patterns see our web site: [www.stlwoodworkersguild.org](http://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 need suggestions, please call (see below). We have many odd size wheels looking for projects, like spoke wheels. Please ask John.

You may call John at 314.843.0616 or Steve at 636.922.1947 for any of the above or to arrange pick-up or delivery.



## Public and Private Forest Management with Skip Kincaid (cont)

Clear cutting is the most well-known method, as it results in a dramatic visual impact. In this method, an entire stand of trees is removed in one cutting. In some areas, such as Oklahoma, this can include as much as 1000 acres of land. Clear cutting (and the following replanting) results in a new forest of even-aged trees that can be harvested all at the same time again. Drawbacks to man-made clear cutting include bad views and erosion. Forest fires are Mother Nature's way of clear cutting large areas of land while the loss of a large-canopied tree can create a small "clear cut" area which generates similar results.

Following the seed tree method, the landowner removes the majority of the old stand in one cutting, except for a select number of trees left in order to provide the seeds necessary for regeneration. This method limits itself to trees that require lots of sun and have light seeds.

The most complicated even-aged system is the shelterwood method. It involves creating a new stand of trees under the shelter of the canopy of a few larger trees. Once the shelterwood has served its purpose, it is removed to allow the younger trees to thrive.

With a forest full of shade-loving trees, your better option might be to follow one of the uneven-aged methods of single tree selection or group selection. In either method, trees are hand-picked for removal or retention, based on such factors as the species, quality, and size class. It is important to follow established guidelines with this method so as to not remove only the high-grade trees or trees over a certain diameter size or all of the mature trees. The goal is to end up with a forest containing a wide variety of trees, including several species and varying ages.

These methods are often misused by untrained loggers and cause more harm than good. Their usual procedure is to overbid with a promise of high returns, only to pay from the actual mill ticket. It is always a good idea to consult a trained forester. They can calculate specific dollar offers and establish the rules for cutting in a binding legal contract the logger must follow.

In a small Q&A session after his main presentation, Skip fielded questions from the guild. He played the "what tree is this?" game (answer: it was a honey suckle walking stick) and indicated that honey suckle and kudzu are not the problem they used to be. He also brought up the topic of the Emerald Ash Borer and discusses its presence in Missouri. If it spreads to the Saint Louis area, it would cause large forested areas to disappear, as Saint Louis has the highest concentration of ash trees in the United States. By way of example, he pointed out the Arch grounds are comprised of 80% ash trees.

More information on forest and land management in Missouri can be found on-line at the Missouri Department of Conservation's website, [www.mdc.mo.gov](http://www.mdc.mo.gov). A free PDF, called Forest Management For Missouri Landowners can be downloaded here: <http://mdc4.mdc.mo.gov/Documents/318.pdf>.

## Featured Woodworker: Paul Hanson

I began woodworking when I was about 10 years old. My Father was building a house in our small town in eastern Nebraska and I walked up to see the project. Well, my dad didn't like to see anyone standing around just looking so he put me to work cutting bridging for the floor joists. I liked to work in his shop where I had free access, working mostly with the lathe. Later on I worked with my father during summers between high school and college terms building houses, farm buildings, and remodeling, additions, and repairs to buildings. I graduated from the University of Nebraska with a degree in architectural engineering and a commission in the US Air Force in 1954.



I took a vacation from woodworking in 1954 and got married. Joan & I went to Alaska, compliments of the Air Force for two years. I did very little woodworking for the next 42 years but kept busy working for various architects and engineers as a structural engineer.

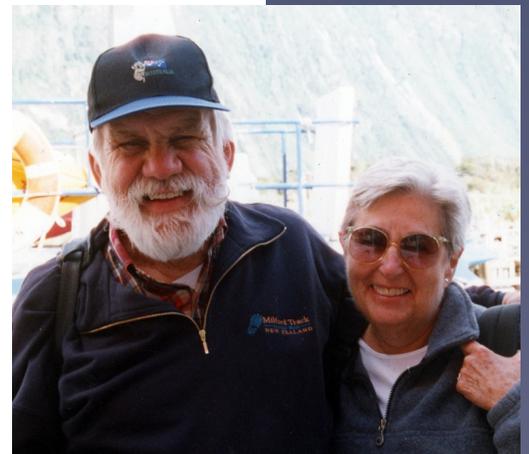
I retired in September, 1998 after 42 years of service. My friends at the office gave me a watch which was broken and had a dead battery. Also a gift certificate. I used the gift certificate to buy a router and some other tools and I was back into woodworking. I joined the St. Louis Woodworker's Guild in 2000...



I like to make different things, mostly small stuff that I give for presents to family and friends. Some can be seen on the St. Louis Woodworker's Guild website. One exception to the small stuff is a 9-drawer chest that I made in the basement. I had to hire the movers to help me get it up stairs. I work mostly with cherry, walnut, maple, some oak, cypress, white pine, and Baltic birch plywood. I like woodworking as a hobby and find it very relaxing as long as everything goes reasonable well.

I think my most interesting project was rebuilding a wood chest that my grandmother brought when she came from Sweden. It had been kicking around in various basements and garages for years and was in pretty bad shape. Some of the boards were split; covered with several layers of paint, and the corners had been cut down and re-nailed together (the original chest had no nails or screws). It had the old, barely legible address painted on the side with Nebraska spelled NEBRASJKA in the Swedish fashion. I redid the dovetail corners, repaired the split wood, doctored up some of the dents and scrapes, and refinished the chest with gel stain and polyurethane varnish. My sister re-stenciled the name and address on it. In the process we found out that it was not my grandmother's chest but was my great grandfather's.

In between my first woodworking and my hobby woodworking, my wife, Joan, and I have raised 8 children, 6 boys and 2 girls. We have 15 grandsons and 15 granddaughters. Our first great-grandson was born on June 19, 2008.



## St. Louis Woodworkers Guild Annual Tour and Picnic



September 20th was the date for this year's Saint Louis Woodworker's Guild Annual Tour and Picnic. The tour took place at David Stine's farm and the picnic was originally planned for the Pere Marquette State Park, near Grafton, Illinois.

Dave Stine lives on a 40 acre farm near Dow, Illinois, with his wife and children. Two of these acres is occupied by a house and barn/workshop. Their house is a typical two-story farm house built in the 1860's. After buying the house, Dave restored the exterior of the house with new cedar siding, tore out the carpet and refinished the wood floors, restored doors and windows with period trim, and returned the house to its original look.

Dave's workshop is located in a barn that, including the lean-to additions, is about 60' by 90' in size. It is spray foam insulated and heated in the winter with an outdoor wood burning furnace (which also heats his house). Fuel for the stove comes from cut-offs, bark, branches, and unusable lumber.



In the style of George Nakashima, Dave's finished pieces often consist of large slabs of natural-edge boards. These slabs are often flat- and rift-sawn for better figure. This, along with the thickness of the slabs, causes checks and splits. He controls the splits with butterfly keys of a contrasting wood.

As an example of a finished piece, he showed the group a dining table made from a single slab of wood that was nearly four feet wide and ten feet long. A similar table recently sold in New York for \$10,000. The market for his finished pieces is in or around New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, and other very large cities. He believes this is because nobody outside these large metropolitan areas would pay that kind of money for relatively simple furniture.

His shop contains mostly large, including a wide belt stroke years old or older, but he does saws in the heart of the shop. pleted via a Wood Mizer band Weaver. He rounds out his tool



industrial woodworking equipment, sander. Much of this equipment is 50 have two newer Jet cabinet-style table Initial milling services are usually com-saw owned and operated by Dennis repertoire with a two-man chainsaw that can rough cut logs up to four or five feet in diameter. He demonstrated the use of both the two-man chainsaw and the Wood Mizer during the tour.

A founding member of the Sustainable Furniture Council, Dave is concerned about the impact he makes on the environment. Since he harvests much of his lumber from his own farm and the land of nearby relatives, he can ensure responsible renewal and sustainability. He only cuts trees that are dead or dying and, as previously mentioned, any wood not used for lumber is used to heat his house and shop in the winter.

## St. Louis Woodworkers Guild Annual Tour and Picnic (cont)



Dave dries his own lumber in an industrial Nyle kiln he has set up behind the barn. The kiln is approximately 20' by 30' and around 15' high. It is fully insulated and has a heater, a dehumidifier, and three air circulating fans. In the summer months, the heat from the three fan motors is sufficient enough to heat the kiln to the desired temperature without having to use the heater. In fact, it often gets too hot and he has to exhaust the heat in order to avoid drying it too fast. He loads the kiln by stacking stickered

lumber onto a cart and rolling the cart into the kiln. A full load of thick lumber can sometimes take several weeks to dry.

A spray booth can be found inside the shop, but it mostly goes unused these days. His preferred method of finishing is with linseed oil. He applies the oil at a temperature of about 140 degrees and allows it to soak overnight. After anywhere between 12 and 15 applications, the wood finally becomes saturated. A final buffing is all it needs after that.

Due to recent heavy rains and subsequent flooding, that site was under four feet of water, so the location had to be changed. Dave came to the rescue and suggested some picnic grounds owned by the Antique Equipment Collectors Club (of which Dave is a member) just a few miles from his farm. He was able to arrange the use of the campgrounds for a small fee. The facilities included a fully equipped kitchen, several tables under a roofed area, restrooms, and a display of antique equipment!

We had a good number of guild members attend the shop tour and picnic this year and everyone seemed to have a great time. Many thanks go to Dave for the tour of his shop, the discussion, and the last-minute picnic arrangements and to Scott and Matt for setting the event up.



**Reminders...**

**Jeff Jewitt Seminar Deposit Due**

To save your spot at the Jeff Jewitt seminar on February 14-15, 2009, at the reduced price of \$125 for the weekend, a \$50 deposit is required by the end of the November meeting. After that, the cost will be \$150 and then opened to non-members. Jeff is a nationally published woodworker in the specialty of furniture finishing. Be sure to catch Jeff's latest article in the current issue of Fine Woodworking.

**Recycled Furniture Contest**

Don't forget to bring your entry for our recycled furniture contest to the next meeting. All entries must be made primarily from another piece of furniture that has been assigned a new use and been completely rebuilt. The winner will receive their choice of \$100 cash or a free pass to the Jeff Jewitt seminar in February (\$125 retail value).

**Membership Application**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Type of woodworking you enjoy \_\_\_\_\_

Amateur       Intermediate       Expert

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Where did you obtain this application and learn about this Guild? \_\_\_\_\_

*Mail this application and your check for \$25 for one years dues to: St. Louis Woodworkers Guild, 2077 Congressional Drive, St. Louis, MO 63146.*

