

# St. Louis

## Woodworkers Guild



February 2009  
Issue 288

### Our Next Meeting

Thursday 7:00 PM  
February 19, 2009

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

### Next Presentation: Boxes by Vic Barr

Vic Barr will be the guest speaker at the February 2009 guild meeting. His presentation will revolve around the ever-challenging task of installing hinges on boxes. First he will discuss the aesthetic aspects of hinge placement. After that, he will go over the different tools he uses, such as routers and chisels. He plans on demonstrating a step-by-step installation of several types of hinges, including round, butt, stop, knife, and wooden. Finally, he will show us how he creates "stops" when he can't use specially-designed stop hinges. If you've ever made boxes in the past or plan on making some in the future, you're sure to get something out of this next meeting. We look forward to seeing you there!

### At Our Last Meeting Google SketchUp with Scott Wunder January 15th, 2009

At the last meeting, our guild president gave a very interesting and motivating presentation on Google SketchUp and using it as a woodworking tool. SketchUp is a 3-D drawing program, available as a free download on the Google website. It can be very useful to woodworkers as a means of hashing out design ideas and issues before you even make one cut in a piece of wood.



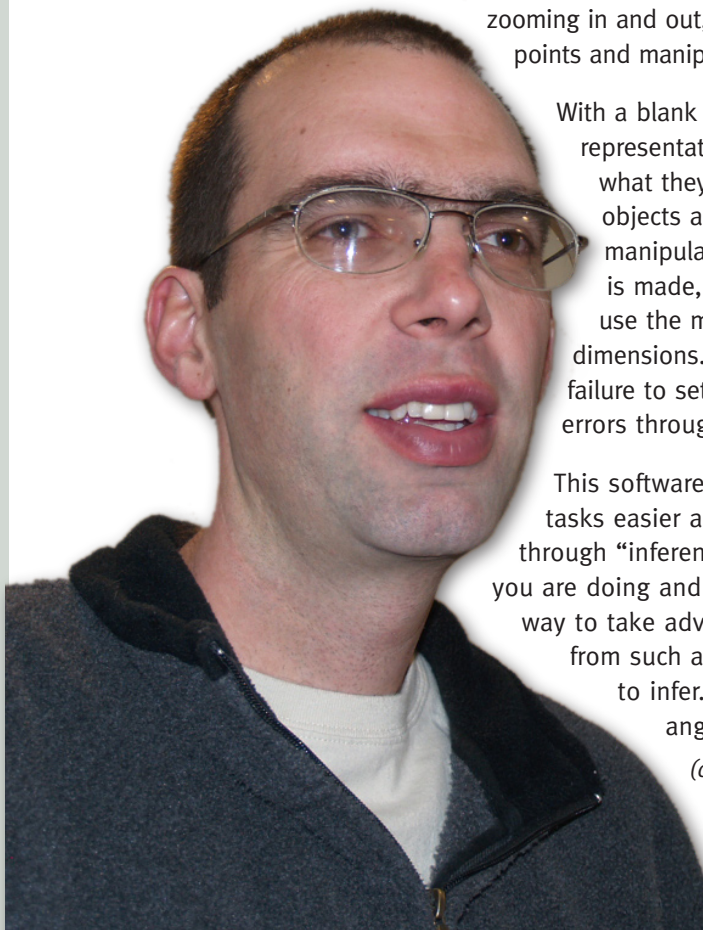
SketchUp provides us a different way of figuring out project plans. Instead of using graph paper or a sketch pad to draw out your ideas two-dimensionally, you can digitally create and manipulate your ideas in a three-dimensional format. While this might be a different way of drawing, and one that will take a bit of time to get used to, it is very logical once you are in the right mind set. Scott recommends starting off simple, creating basic shapes like boxes and cylinders, and then gradually building up your design complexity as a way of easing into it.

Scott started off the presentation by showing us a project he created in Adobe Illustrator, which is two-dimensional design software, and then comparing that to a project he created in Google SketchUp. With Adobe, what you see is what you get. This was obviously not so in SketchUp, as Scott showed us by zooming in and out, rotating the project around to different view points and manipulating specific parts of the project.

With a blank 3-D space, Scott then explained the representations of the x-, y-, and z-axis lines and what they meant. He quickly created several objects and showed the ease in which they can be manipulated with the expanding tool. Once a shape is made, with approximate dimensions, you can use the measurement pallet to set the size to exact dimensions. It is important to keep up with this as a failure to set exact dimensions can cause compound errors throughout the project.

This software has several features to help make your tasks easier and avoid a lot of frustration. For example, through "inference" SketchUp will try to figure out what you are doing and make adjustments accordingly. The best way to take advantage of this feature is to view the object from such an angle that the software has fewer choices to infer. With time, this constant adjusting of angles and views will become second-nature.

*(continued on page 4)*



*Guild President, Scott Wunder*

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*Meeting Room, Mailing Address  
Courtesy of Woodcraft*

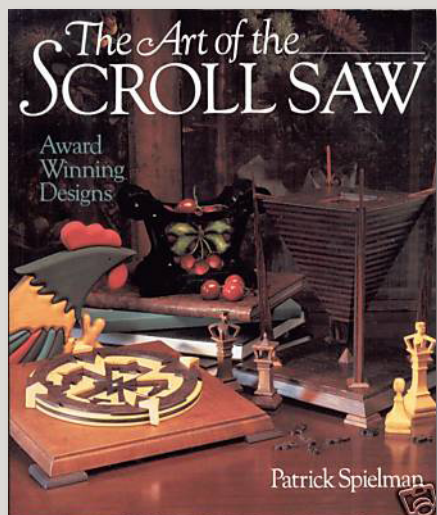
## President's Article, February 2009

On a regular basis, I talk to woodworkers looking for the perfect lumber for their project. Most of them aren't looking for specific pieces, like a panel or a lid, but a perfect board. They want their lumber wide and clear, like it came from a factory that produces no defects. These boards exist, of course, but they don't grow on trees, at least not every tree. It takes exceptional trees to make sizable defect-free lumber, and very few are exceptional. I am reminded of this every time I bring more lumber in to the shop to sell and end up with a large stack labeled (in my mind) "Scott's Lumber". These are the lower-grade boards that have very little clear wood in them, lots of character, and will not sell for much, if it all.

As I work on a project and use this lumber and the clear pieces lean against the wall waiting for a good home, I realize how very few woodworkers appreciate how good a tree must be to make the clear lumber we have all come to expect. Only logs that have no branches or have not had branches in a long while will produce clear lumber. Here is the kicker. Every log, even the very best logs, have low-grade lumber in them. I know this from experience, but I also know from experience that most woodworkers don't know this and have never really thought about it. Here is your chance.

Every tree starts out with branches that are low to the ground and these branches show up as knots when the lumber is cut. As the tree gets older the lower branches die out, new branches extend higher in the tree and the tree starts to cover over the old branches. This process continues for the life of the tree. Even if it is not getting taller the tree will heal over the old branches. The places where the log has healed will always show as "swirls" in the bark and indicate that a knot is somewhere below the surface and these knots will extend to the center of the tree. The center of the tree is full of knots from when it was younger and is low-grade – mostly pallet wood and railroad ties. So even the most perfect looking logs are hiding a low-grade center. A lot of people think the center is the best, but it is actually the worst by far. I encourage you to think about all of this the next time you are outside and take a closer look at the trees around you. Think about how little clear lumber is actually in each tree and how few of the trees are really "exceptional". I think it will give you a greater appreciation for your woodwork and what you have achieved.

*Scott*



Well, another Christmas holiday has come and gone. As I grow older, I find the holidays tend to make me wax nostalgic about my youth, and seasons past. Back to a time of heightened anticipation over gift-giving, family gatherings, and a break from school. I reminisce about my younger days, when the holiday season heralded magic and wonder, and all of the other sensations that leave a young lad awestruck. I guess that's why this month's selection feels so appropriate for me (as you might have guessed - I began taking notes on this book over my holiday break!).

This entry caught my attention for several reasons. Foremost is Mr. Spielman himself - a master woodworker for decades, and author of over fifty woodworking books (we have several of

his Router series books in the library). After Mr. Spielman, I'm drawn to the collection of contents. This scrollsaw book is infused with the talents of 27 other masters of the craft, who contributed 35 unique projects they claim scrollsawers of all levels can consider. All artisans provide final products to accompany their plans, which are captured as beautifully photographed examples of completed work.

The book begins with two pages of scrollsaw evolution, from antiquity through current state (as of 1995 anyway). And true to form, I'm most intrigued by the originals. First listed is a Millers Falls Company treadle saw from the 1820's. It was foot-operated, weighed just 17 pounds, and could be had for the sum of \$2.50! Another saw widely used by industry in the late 1800's is the Barnes Velocipede. It was capable of cutting stock up to 3" thick at a foot per minute, and was rated at 1200 SPM. The list concludes with a Hegner saw from Germany, reputed to be the machine that spurred the resurgence of scrollsawing back in the 1970s. A quick flip of a page leads to additional segments that include Artists Profiles, Projects, and a Gallery. All include adequate descriptions and great full color pictures. The Projects section offers complete instruction for all projects; everything from patterns and grain direction, to painting and decoupage, to tips on cutting and assembling.

Many talented artisans are featured in the book, several that I was already familiar with. Judy Gale Roberts presents her work with intarsia. She has been featured in many woodworking magazines (I know BH&G Wood featured her several times over the years), and is credited for introducing the art of intarsia to a whole new generation of woodworkers. Her work entitled "Hidden Forest" (included in the Gallery section) is quite popular, and has received national acclaim. Incidentally, I described her Small Intarsia book back in December 2003. Silas Kopf is another gifted woodworker, whose cabinetmaking and impeccable marquetry skills are quite phenomenal. Mr. Kopf, a furniture maker since 1973, is a graduate of Princeton University with a degree in architecture. In 1988 he received a Craftsman's Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. He also studied traditional marquetry technique at the Ecole Boulle in Paris. The Gallery features several of his works that you really must see to believe.

I have a DeWalt scrollsaw at home, but I have to admit it most often sits idle in a corner of my workshop. Books like this provide just the incentive I need to give it center stage for some serious cutting! I think Art of the ScrollSaw is a great offering that clearly illustrates how versatile and relatively inexpensive this form of woodworking can be. I plan to have this book available for checkout at the next general member meeting.

## Library Reminders

The books, magazines, and tools of the library are there for the benefit of all of the guild members. Please keep that in mind as you check materials out and try to return them in a timely manner.

## Show and Tell

Richard Orcutt made a serving tray using plans found in the latest issue of Woodcraft Magazine. He initially started out making two, but had to use parts of both to make one because one of the angles was wrong in the article!

Paul Hanson talked about his thumb injury he received from his table saw. He recommended going to see a doctor no matter how little you think you are hurt because of the possibility of nerve and tendon damage.

Cecil Robertson passed out fliers for WSI Distributors, an antique restoration supply company located in downtown St. Charles.

Vic Barr showed everyone pictures of a table he made for his art gallery booth. All of the artists have a table in front of their "art wall" where they can keep business cards and pamphlets about their work; Vic's table just happens to be one of his works of art!

## Toy Report

As of 12/31/2008, the guild has made 27,357 toys for St. Louis Children's Hospital. The Child Life Staff of SLCH sent a card to the guild, thanking us for our support and wishing us the best for 2009! We also received a letter from Karen Rieker, In-Kind Coordinator for the Children's Hospital Foundation, thanking us for our generosity. If you are interested in helping with the perpetual toy drive, contact John Patton or Steve Briner. The next toy-making session will be held on March 7th.

## Mark Koritz's Shop to be Featured in Woodcraft Magazine

The shop of former guild president, Mark Koritz, will be the subject of a seven-page feature article in the next issue of Woodcraft Magazine. In the article, Mark talks about some of his creative ideas for setting up a basement shop and includes some space-saving tips, as well. A copy of this article can be found on the guild's website ([www.stlwoodworkersguild.org](http://www.stlwoodworkersguild.org)) in the Member's Only section.

## Google SketchUp with Scott Wunder (cont)

Making "groups" with your objects is another mind-saving feature. You can use the Group function to attach separate objects together, but still be able to adjust them individually. Following this method allows you to explode your completed project into all of the component pieces with no problems.



3-D Drawing from Google SketchUp



Actual construction

Once you get the basics of Google SketchUp, you can start playing around with some of the fun features. The Follow Me tool can be used to make a profile, create a path, and then run a three-dimensional shape around the designated edges. This creates such things as crown or trim molding or trim molding on a chest or dresser. Using the Walkthrough and Scene functions, you can create an animated presentation which will progress through a step-by-step process or flows through multiple views of a project from different angles. By applying a sketch style to your objects, you can give them the appearance of being hand-drawn.

Once you create an object, you can adjust the display to the angle you want and print out screen captures to show clients or add to a portfolio. On smaller projects, you could use this function to print out actual-sized templates.

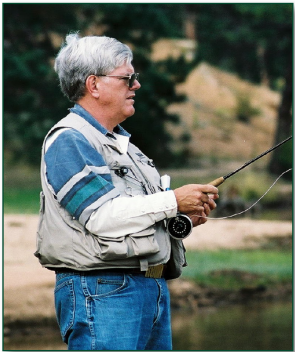
If you want to download Google SketchUp, go to [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) and search for "SketchUp". The download process is quite simple and easy to follow. Once you get started, Scott recommends starting simple and doing a little each session. That will keep your frustration levels down and allow you to progress at a comfortable rate. Most importantly, don't be afraid to experiment with the software; it might take your woodworking to a whole new level!

## Recycled Furniture Contest

At the last meeting, four guild members presented their submissions for the Recycled Furniture Contest. The rules were simple – a finished piece, made mostly of recycled wood, must be submitted along with a picture of the woodworker and the original item from which the wood was recycled. Contest entrants included Bob Colegate (church pew into bed), Cecil Roberts (church pew into carpenter's toolbox), Richard Orcutt

(coffee table into night stand), and Jim Long (church pew into Pastor's bookshelves). Although it looked like three of the men robbed a place of worship for inspiration, the pews were all obtained legally. After the pieces were presented, the attending guild members voted on a winner. Congratulations to Richard Orcutt and his coffee-table-come-night-stand! Richard received \$100 cash for winning the contest.

## Featured Woodworker: Keith Lissant



My name is Keith Lissant. I have been a member of the Woodworkers Guild for a little over one year. I learned most of my woodworking from my father, but in many aspects of it, I have surpassed him.

I started mainly with DIY and home repair, but also like to make gifts for people.

By training I am a chemist with some computer training. I have worked for a variety of companies, but mostly in environmental chemistry, either in the lab or working with computers to produce reports. Since I retired, I have done a lot of volunteer work with Habitat for Humanity, both in St. Louis and over in Illinois. I also did volunteer work with a group to rehab some building for two or three non-profit organizations in the greater St. Louis metropolitan area.



My wife and I live all alone, with a little brown dog we call our own. She loves her ball. She loves to

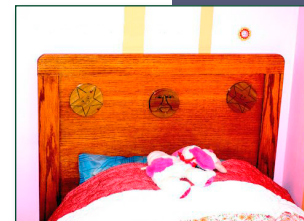
run. Together we have lots of fun. My wife works at the Missouri Botanical Garden. We love to travel, by train if we can, to learn about our country's history.

I have a fairly complete wood-working shop in my basement. I do not have a table saw because I injured my left hand with one a few years before I married my wife. I like doing a broad spectrum of wood-working projects. I have made a few tables, a few chairs, bookcases, name stools for my nieces and nephews, birdhouses and an assortment of small projects. Most of my work recently has been using my lathe or scroll saw.

Besides wood-working, I like to fish and tie fishing flies. I also make leather crafts and stained glass projects.



*Richard Orcutt's entry, before (above) and after (right).*



*Bob Colgate's entry*

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### February 14-15, 2009 Finishing Seminar with Jeff Jewitt:

There is still time to sign up for this weekend event with Jeff Jewitt. Jeff is a regular contributor to Fine Woodworking magazine and will be covering all aspects of finishing.

### February 19, 2009 Guild Meeting:

Vic Barr will be giving a presentation on boxes, focusing on techniques for adding lids and hinges.

### March 19, 2009 Guild Meeting:

Dan Coleman, an Industrial Arts teacher and fellow guild member, will give a presentation on tool set-up and maintenance, along with a discussion of safety issues and best practices.

### April 16, 2009 Guild Meeting:

This month's meeting will be an open-discussion forum on woodworking jigs. Guild members are invited to bring in jigs they've created and found useful in their shop for discussion.

## Membership Application

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

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

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

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

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

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

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

*If you would like to join the St. Louis Woodworkers Guild please attend our next meeting or mail this application and your check for \$25 for one years dues to:  
St. Louis Woodworkers Guild, 2077 Congressional Drive, St. Louis, MO 63146.*

### TWO-DAY SEMINAR

# Finishing your woodwork



Jeff has been a frequent contributor for over ten years to Fine Woodworking Magazine. He has also written for American Woodworker, Wood Magazine, and Popular Woodworking Magazine and has won numerous awards for his books and videos.

## with Jeff Jewitt



February 14th 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. & February 15th 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Treat yourself to a special Valentine's Day gift and join the St. Louis Woodworkers Guild, as we present "Finishing Your Woodwork" with Jeff Jewitt. In this two-day finishing course Jeff will cover surface preparation, filling and coloring techniques on Saturday and sealers and a wide variety of topcoats on Sunday. Jeff will show you everything you need to know to make your woodwork really stand out!

Woodcraft Supply Store (Westport area)  
2077 Congressional Dr.  
Maryland, Heights, MO

Tuition: **\$125**  
*Includes lunches and refreshments*

Reserve a seat:  
Call Scott Wunder at 314-574-6036  
[www.stlouiswoodworkersguild.org](http://www.stlouiswoodworkersguild.org)