

# St. Louis Woodworkers Guild



May 2009  
Issue 291

## Our Next Meeting

Thursday 7:00 PM  
May 21, 2009

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

**May 2009 Speakers:  
Shop Aids and Jigs  
with Bill Hobson, Jim  
Hoeller, Ethan Sincox,  
and Don Snyder**

At the next meeting, fellow guild members Bill, Jim, Ethan, and Don will discuss and demonstrate some of the shop aids and jigs they have made to assist them with their woodworking projects.

Bill will discuss the aids he uses for adding string inlay to a drawer front. Jim will demonstrate the jigs he uses to cut miter keys, raised panels, and triangles. Ethan will demonstrate his shop aid for mortising hinges with a flush pattern bit. Don will show you three frustration-reducing aids for making boxes with mitered joints.

Be sure to join us for what is sure to be a fun Spring evening!

[www.stlwoodworkersguild.org](http://www.stlwoodworkersguild.org)

## At Our Last Meeting Intarsia by Dan Sudkamp

*April 16th, 2009*

At our April 2009 meeting, Dan Sudkamp gave a presentation on intarsia. Also sometimes called 3-D marquetry, intarsia is the art of making pictures with wood. Dan draws a lot of inspiration from Judy Gale Roberts, an intarsia artist who has been making art with wood for more than 30 years. She has written several books and offers intarsia classes, books, and patterns on her website, [www.intarsia.com](http://www.intarsia.com).

Since the grain and character of the wood is what adds detail to an intarsia design, it takes a lot of different kinds of wood. Dan always has a large amount of wood on hand, most of which he gets from Wood-n-Shop. Since most intarsia is made up of smaller pieces of wood, you could easily get by using the scraps and cut-offs other woodworkers might consider throwing away or burning.

Unlike a lot of other woodworking styles, intarsia does not necessarily require the purchase of a large number of tools. In his shop, Dan has a scroll saw, a band saw, an oscillating sander, a (thin) belt sander, a rotary carving tool (foot-pedal operated), sanding star attachments, soft foam sanding tubes that hook up to the drill press, dust collection, and something called the Wonder Wheel.

The Wonder Wheel is an abrasive wheel that works on a bench grinder.

Even all of these tools are not necessary, though. You could get started on your first project with a coping saw, a rasp, and some sand paper.

Once you have the proper tools gathered, the basics of intarsia are quite simple. First, you must find a pattern. There are many books available at woodworking stores and on-line that can provide you with intarsia patterns. Dan sometimes even uses coloring books for his patterns. *(continued on page 4)*



*Dan Sudkamp*

## Guild Officers

**President**  
Scott Wunder 314.731.2484

**Vice President**  
Kurt Herrmann 636.394.4517

**Secretary**  
Matt Laposa 636.294.0844

**Treasurer**  
Jim Hoeller 314.721.2245

**Directors**  
Bob Colegate 636.239.8910  
Don Snyder 314.780.5443  
John Wetter 314.965.1097  
Mark Koritz 314.579.0401

**Newsletter**  
Michael Beaudoin 314.781.4571  
Ethan Sincox 314.303.2297

**Librarian**  
Mark Gezella 314.647.4546

**Web Master**  
David Brown 314.821.3130

**Membership Committee**  
**Co-Chairmen:**  
Bill Hobson 314.863.6437  
Rich Weitzman 314.872.7866

**Toy Committee Chairmen:**  
John Patton 314.843.0616  
Steve Briner 636.922.1947

## Sponsors

**Woodcraft**  
314.993.0413

**The Wood & Shop**  
2650 Metro Blvd.  
314.731.2761

**St. Charles Hardwoods**  
St. Peters 636.926.2000  
Fenton 636.717.1770

**Rockler Woodworking & Hardware**  
314.209.1116

**Hydraflow Equipment Co.**  
314.644.6677

**Hibdon Hardwood Inc.**  
314.621.7711

Meeting Room, Mailing Address  
Courtesy of Woodcraft

## President's Article, May 2009

I am currently working on a job that requires me to cut a lot of lumber and surface it to specific dimensions for decking, flooring, trim, etc. The job is bigger than I can handle alone, so I started looking for help. I found the help I was looking for in an operation in Linn, MO called Freedom Wood Products. They did a great job, at a reasonable price, and in a big hurry. This story is not really about them, but their effort was worth a plug. When I was there picking up a batch of flooring that they ran for me I got to talking with one of the owners. His name is Scott as well, so we hit it off right away. I, of course, got a tour of the operation and we began to talk about surfacing lumber and I realized we had a lot in common.

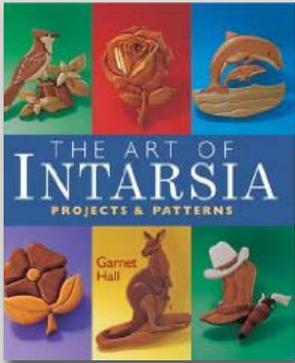
Most people think that rough lumber is just sent through a planer and that is all there is to it. Not the case. If you work with or have even just taken a good look at lumber in the rough you have realized that it doesn't dry flat and straight. I always thought it was because those idiots at "The Mill" didn't care and didn't know what they were doing. Fact is, you can take every precaution, but lumber doesn't dry perfectly flat. If you take rough lumber and send it through the planer, it comes out a little flatter and a little skinnier, but not perfect.

To get your lumber flat and straight it has to be jointed on the face (wide side of the board) so that there is a straight and flat surface to run on the bed of the planer. I, like most other woodworkers, do this by hand on the jointer. It is a lot of work if you need to surface a large batch of lumber in a day. I can surface on the jointer about 500 board feet a day by hand. Because I know there is always a better way, I like to ask people like Scott (the other Scott) how they do it. Scott pointed to a machine he referred to as a surfacer.

The surfacer operates like a large jointer and looks like a long planer. The cutterhead is on the bottom between the infeed and outfeed tables. The top houses a long conveyor belt with 3/4" tall soft rubber nubs to feed the lumber through. The idea is that it pushes the lumber through the machine with as little down force as possible. This allows the hills and valleys, and dips and twists to remain on the top and the board to be jointed flat on the bottom. This is a great invention that I was happy to witness it first hand. I was happy to find that there is a better way and now I know just the machine I need (even though I have nowhere to put it). Happy Jointing!



*Scott*



Personally speaking, one of the biggest attractions to woodworking is its multi-faceted modus operandi. Mix in one part mechanical action, one part artistry, one part material beauty, sprinkle with some ingenuity, assemble and finish. Next thing you know, a masterpiece is born! Such were my thoughts as I gazed over Dan Sudkamp's creations at our last meeting. He did a first-rate job presenting, and obviously knows his way around an intarsia project.

Dan mentioned during his presentation he plans to donate *The Art of Intarsia* to our library. In anticipation, I thought it fitting to

explore this art form a bit more, hoping to learn about Garnett Hall along the way. I find it equally interesting to learn about personalities behind the work, and Mr. Hall did not disappoint. A self-professed woodworker all of his adult life, he's holds vast interests ranging from handiwork to helping others. From his website, I learned he worked a farm that had been in his family for three generations, was a bee-keeper, and also collects toys and intarsia by other artists as well. He's obviously expert at his craft, having sold over 4000 pieces in his career.

I must admit, while I have seen much intarsia artwork by many different artisans, the only two professional woodworkers that came to mind were Judy Gale Roberts and Jerry Booher. I have some of their books at home, and we also have one of their early books in the library (you can read my review about Judy and *Small Intarsia* in the December '03 newsletter). As Dan stated during his presentation, Judy is widely respected and credited with reviving the nearly lost art form back in the 1980's. While she may have resurrected the craft, others have adopted her technique and gone on to become respected artisans in their own right. Such is the case with Garnet Hall.

*The Art of Intarsia* is a how-to book that includes a brief history of the art, an apt description of tools and techniques, and many project plans in robust color. Pages practically burst with beautiful pictures of processes and final projects, and it's high-quality paper portends a professionalism about the content. There are twenty projects to choose from, which serve to satisfy a wide variety of interests and/or hobbies. Many form a clever link between subject and wooden medium. You not only get standards such as animals and holiday-themed projects, but some unique patterns like vehicles, clocks, and even a necktie!

I'm enamored with the concept of "painting in wood," a term often used to describe intarsia. Oil on canvas can be picturesque, but often-times lacks dimension - be it the opaque pigment, canvas backing, or an unfortunate lack of skill by the painter. When wood is incorporated, a whole new realm of creativity can be attained. Imbued with striking grain patterns, lustrous ray flecks, or luminous fiber direction, wood inspires art as only it can. Judging by the "oohs and ahhs" during Dan's presentation, it's obvious he hit the mark with his farm scene. Grain orientation combined with furrows cut in a meandering, distant perspective make you feel like you could step right into the picture and head off to the farmhouse for some dinner! This is where qualities of wood are most celebrated, especially since the artist's intention is to reveal pristine hues and showcase their full potential.

I think a fair number of attendees got a brief glimpse of this book at our last meeting. Dan needs to hang on to it for awhile yet, but look for it in our library within the next few months.

## 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.

## Elections

The election process for the 2009/2010 Guild Officers took place in the April meeting. Please welcome our new officers and directors - Scott Wunder, President; Kurt Herrmann, Vice President; Matt Laposa, Secretary; Jim Hoeller, Treasurer; Bob Colegate, Don Snyder, John Wetter, and Mark Koritz, Directors. They look and act remarkably like the old officers and directors!

## Toy Report

Steve Briner provided an update on the number of toys made to date – 28,033 in all, with 136 toys delivered in April and 676 delivered so far this year. If you need patterns, wheels, or axles or if you have suggestions for projects, please make your needs known. We have many odd-sized wheels looking for projects (like spoke wheels and larger-diameter wheels). Please call John Patton at 314-843-0616 or Steve Briner at 636-922-1947 for any of the above or to arrange pickup or delivery.

## Other Notes

Quarters were tight once again with 54 members and guests in attendance at the April guild meeting. Congratulations to David Brown, winner of the April meeting's raffle. His prize was a \$50 gift certificate to Woodcraft.

Lately, people have been gathering at Woodcraft around 6:30 to socialize before the meeting. It is a great opportunity to meet some of the newer members and catch up with friends.

## Intarsia by Dan Sudkamp (cont)

Before you cut out the pattern pieces, use arrows on each piece to indicate the grain direction. This will be helpful when you are selecting the wood for each piece. After they are marked, cut them out and use spray adhesive to attach them to the wood you have selected.

Using a scroll saw or a band saw, cut the wood to the shape of the pattern. After it has been cut, use a light table to fit the pieces together and make sure the gap between them is minimal. If the fit is poor, use whatever means necessary (sand paper, rasps, sanding drums, etc.) to shape the pieces to a proper fit. Continue cutting each piece of wood with the pattern, dry fitting periodically, until every piece has been cut out.

Once the pattern has been cut out and properly sanded to fit, each piece needs to have the edges rounded. This is best done on an oscillating sander or a rotary tool or drill press with a sanding drum attachment. For smaller pieces, attach them to a larger piece of wood with carpet tape to make it easier to hold them. After the pieces are roughly shaped, use the sanding star to make them smoother. The sanding is the most time-consuming part of the process and creates a lot of dust and noise.

After the pieces are cut out, they need to be applied to a backing. Dan uses plywood and he always stains the plywood a dark color before attaching the individual pieces; that way, if there are any gaps in the wood, the backing will not show. The pieces should be attached with wood glue and then held in place with heavy weights, like sand bags, until the glue dries.

After the pieces have been added and the glue has dried, you might want to consider back-beveling the backer board. That will help hide the edge of the backer board and prevent it from detracting from the intarsia.

Finally, you want to protect your new woodworking project. A polyurethane or lacquer spray finish is appropriate here and easy to apply.



*Dan Sudkamp showing off one of his Intarsia projects*

## Show and Tell

Michael Olson started Show and Tell off this month with a copper birch cutting board he made as a gift. The wood came from a tree removed at the Missouri Botanical Gardens.

Vic Barr showed everyone a coopered lid he was making and the jig he used to make it. Clamping was done with wedges and then the lid was smoothed with a block plane and sand paper.

Tom and Leslie Tupper recently attended a class at the Marc Adams School of Woodworking. They brought back class catalogs and said there are still quite a few openings if anyone is interested in signing up for something later in the year.

Dave Flori announced he had wood for sale if anyone was interested and said they were looking for woodworkers who would do live demonstrations of turning or intarsia at the Pevely Mall.

Jim Holler passed around handouts for Michael Branson, who is selling off all of his hardwood. Michael is moving and does not want to take the wood with him.

Chris Law brought in an Arts and Crafts-styled table lamp he designed and made himself.



*Chris Law showing off his Arts and Crafts-inspired table lamp.*

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

**June 18, 2009**

### **Guild Meeting:**

Kent Adkins is speaking at our June 18 meeting.

He will be talking about the solid walnut double pedestal dining table he is presently making. It is 56" x 42" with two 14" leaves, and it features 1" banding around the top edge with string inlay on both sides of the banding.

### New Website On Its Way

In conjunction with our recently remodeled newsletter we are also updating our website with a new look. We are in need of new photos of your work or any other items of interest that you think should be included. Please don't be shy and e-mail your submissions to Michael Beaudoin at michael@ba-doyn.com or bring in prints for us to scan. The new site is almost ready for launching and will include many new features.

### 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.*

