

St. Louis Woodworkers Guild



July 2009
Issue 293

Our Next Meeting

Thursday 7:00 PM
July 16, 2009

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

**July 2009 Speaker:
Woodworking with
Children**
by Denny Krupinski

Denny will explain what it takes to woodwork with children.

Frank Klausz Class Announcement

In March of 2010, join 15 fellow guild members in a hands-on class with Frank Klausz. Frank will provide the wood, but you need to provide sharp tools and an intermediate skill level in woodworking. After two full days, you will leave the class with a high-quality jewelry box made entirely with hand tools. The cost for this class will be approximately \$300 per person. More details will be provided as is it available. Contact Mark Koritz (mkoritz@charter.net or 314-579-0401) if you are interested in signing up for this class.

At Our Last Meeting A Walnut Table with Kent Adkins

June 18th, 2009

At last month's meeting, Kent Adkins took us through most of the process of the construction of a solid walnut, double-pedestal dining table. Like many woodworkers before him, Kent began with an overview of his own journey through woodworking.

Originally hailing from a farm in Maryland, Kent is a Urologist who lives in the St. Louis area. His introduction to woodworking began at a class taught by Mack Headley at the Marc Adams School of Woodworking. He followed that up with more instruction by Mack in Colonial Williamsburg. Later on, he learned marquetry from Patrick Edwards, turning from Ernie Conover, and received furniture-making instruction from Allen Breed.

Kent's shop is located in a warehouse in the St. Louis area. His larger power tools, including a table saw, a jointer, a planer, and a shaper, are all Martin CNC-operated woodworking machines. He also has a nice collection of Lie-Nielsen hand tools that he has been focusing on using more and more these days.

After going over details of his training, Kent showed pictures of some of the pieces he'd made over the years. These pieces included a Chippendale library bookcase, a dining table and chairs, a tiger maple chest (a copy of a Chris Becksvoort piece), and a Chippendale tall post bed.

The walnut table he discussed at the guild meeting is also a copy. The original was made by [Pete Michelinie](http://michelinie.com/home.html) (<http://michelinie.com/home.html>) out of mahogany; Kent's first modification was to use walnut, instead. For \$125, Pete sold him the plans to the table, 40 pictures of the construction process, provided

(continued on page 4)



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The Wood & Shop
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*Meeting Room, Mailing Address
Courtesy of Woodcraft*

President's Article, June 2009

Tack cloth, schmack cloth

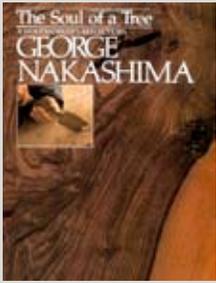
I was working on some trim for a customer this week and after the install it was time to paint. I had agreed that the homeowner would prime all of the trim before I put it up to save her some money. I sanded the primer, installed the trim and was ready to start painting when the homeowner pointed out some tack cloths that she then offered for my use. She is the kind of person that worries a lot about the details and wants them right. I know that she wouldn't consider herself a professional finisher and most likely read in a step-by-step book that you should use tack cloths. She has also probably used tack cloths in the past and they never seemed to cause any harm and appeared useful. But when she asked me if I wanted to use them, I thought "Why? I'm just painting trim." I politely declined and went about my normal routine of finishing – which, by the way, doesn't include tack cloths.

Now, I am not strongly opposed to tack cloths. They are sticky and collect dust, but you absolutely don't need them. All you need is your hand to guarantee a dust-free finish. After you have sanded and are ready to finish remove the majority of the dust with a dry paintbrush, a dust brush, a vacuum or blow it out with compressed air (I tend to just blow it off with my HVLP spray gun if I am spraying the finish). Now, the surface should be basically dust free, except for the smallest of particles. Simply run your (clean) hand over all of the surfaces to get a feel for what is going on. This is your last chance to make sure everything is in good shape, so run your hand over everything. It will tell you if you need to vacuum more in an area that you might have missed, need to sand some more to make it smoother, or simply need to work on something that you didn't see. You will be amazed at what you find with your hand that you could never tell with a cloth or your eyes.

If it is not too dusty, I will hit it once with my hand and then feel it a second time. If it feels dust free—it is dust free (just like the duck). If it is a little extra dusty I might have to hit it a couple of times with my hand, wiping my hand on my pants leg in between until I don't feel any dust. By the way, this works no matter how dusty your pants get. I know, it doesn't seem picky enough, you feel like you should fret over it more. But your hand will tell you everything you need to know about that surface and what to do next. You could easily prepare a beautiful surface without looking at it and using only your hand as a guide.

The next step to a dust-free finish is proper application of the finish and I will talk about that next month (after I come up with a fun title). Until then, save your money and don't buy any tack cloths!

Scott



I wanted to follow my article from last month with a little more on Mr. Nakashima before too much time passed. My original intent was to read and describe his book, but during my research I found out much about him and decided to include a brief biography. A bona-fide steward of the earth, he used his knowledge of architecture and woodworking to create objects that symbolize harmony and promote peace. From what I've read, he ranks among the most beneficent of craftsmen.

I watched a "Craft in America" PBS series some time ago and found it's companion website, which tells of both George Nakashima and his daughter Mira. Mr. Nakashima was born in Spokane WA, attended the university there, and earned a Masters in Architecture from M.I.T. Interestingly though, he learned Japanese woodworking from a fellow detainee while held in a WWII internment camp. He later opened a woodworking shop/studio in New Hope PA, which enabled him to connect with some of the world's finest craftsmen. His efforts culminated in work that can now be found in some of the most prestigious locations nationwide. Mr. Nakashima died in 1990, at which point Mira took over as creative director of the studio. She continues to produce furniture to honor her father's classic design.

But this is only part of the story. His preoccupation with peace led to formation of the Nakashima Foundation for Peace. His vision was to produce seven "peace alters" using immense, extraordinarily beautiful natural slabs of wood destined for each of the world's continents. He completed three. The first was consecrated and installed in a cathedral in New York city. The second, constructed to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the United Nations, currently resides in Moscow. A third table is permanently installed in Auroville, India. A fourth alter table is underway, destined for Capetown, South Africa (overseen by the Nakashima Foundation for Peace).

Soul of a Tree, Mr. Nakashima's solitary book, is divided into three parts: 1) The Making of a Woodworker, 2) The Tree, and 3) The Making of an Object. Part 1 describes how he searched the world hoping to discover more about himself and how to properly reflect his reverence and gratitude for such magnificent botanical specimens available to him. His travels to Tokyo, Pondicherry, and back home again also secured his ideas about the peace alters. Part 2 describes the plant; it's cultivation, harvesting, types, and the woods. However, it's not instruction about where to harvest a tree, or how to cut for yield. Rather it's an interpretation of how this master viewed trees as a gift from his Creator. Part 3 is once again theory and philosophy, an amalgam of formulaic thoughts and actions that take years of practice to perfect, through mechanical repetition and conscious thought - a kind of cognitive meditation. Skills definitely worth the endeavor. And I'm not the only one that feels this way. The Martin Guitar Company created a special edition Nakashima acoustic guitar in his honor. The only time they ever created an instrument for someone who never played professionally.

This theory of all things possessing a soul is prevalent throughout Japanese-themed writing. I've read other woodworkers such as Toshio Odate intoning the same virtues. Even American authors across many disciplines are influenced by Japanese technique. You can find examples of this in woodworking, gardening, architecture, etc. It's an intriguing concept, one I hope to research more as time goes by.

The Soul of a Tree is not in our library, so let me know if you are interested in securing a copy.

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.

Announcements

Bruce Denslow, owner of the Wood & Shop, wants everyone to know he is still open for business. His shop is located at 2650 Metro Blvd in Maryland Heights. He currently has discounts on the Shop Fox floor model machines in the store and is also selling glass cases, counters, and shelving from the display room. For more information, stop by the store, call him at 314-739-4564, or visit him on-line at www.woodnshop.com.

The SLWG board members are looking for ideas. Are there any community projects in your area where guild members could offer their assistance? Do you know of any ways in which the guild could do something to better your community? Think about it! And if something comes to mind, please contact Scott Wunder, President, at 314-731-2484.

Toy Report

122 toys were made and delivered in June, bringing the total number of toys donated so far this year to 952. Over 28,300 toys have been donated by the guild. If you would like to help the Toy Committee by making some of the suggested toys or offering your shop for a toy-creating session, please contact Steve Briner at 636-922-1947 or John Patton at 314-843-0616.

Other Notes

There were 55 members in attendance at the June 2009 guild meeting. There were two raffle items this month. A \$50 gift certificate to Woodcraft went to Dan Sudkamp and Mike Sistek won a Quinn-sharpened saw blade.

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.

A Walnut Table (con't)

him with his cell phone number in case he had any questions, and gave him two pages of written instructions.

Unfortunately, the table was not yet done, so he couldn't show us any pictures of the finished piece. But he was able to go through some of the steps he took to get him where he was at that point.

For starters, he cut all of his lumber to length with a jig saw. He then further dimensioned his lumber with his Martin power tools, first jointing edges and then planing to thickness. Because he has such little shop time available to him, he takes full advantage of his power tools to dimension his lumber as quickly and as accurately as possible.

Once his lumber was dimensioned, he started laying out boards for the top. He used the widest boards he could find so as to reduce the number of glue lines he had in the finished piece. Once the top was glued up, he used a beading tool and hand planes to add a beading profile to the edges. After the edges were shaped, he began working on the veneer banding that went around the perimeter of the table. This banding is made out of satinwood veneer with black-died castello and holly stringing.

A shooting board helped him joint the satinwood veneer and a Lie-Nielsen circular beading tool was used to cut the veneer for the corners and then later used to make the channel for the stringing.

During the presentation, Kent took some time to go over a few of the mistakes he'd made in this part of the process, such as the use of expired hide glue. He also talked about the importance of practicing on less-expensive woods before you try a new technique. For example, when turning the legs for his table, he made several test pieces before attempting to turn the legs in walnut.

Even though we couldn't see the finished piece, it was useful to hear about the trials and tribulations he'd gone through so far in the process. It helped to bring into sharp focus the idea that it isn't about the mistakes you make during a project, but how you deal with those mistakes, that determines how good a woodworker you are.

Green Woodworking

In an effort to reduce expenses and save trees (for a more worthy cause, like lumber!), the Saint Louis Woodworkers Guild would like to reduce the number of printed newsletters we circulate. Beginning with the August 2009 newsletter, any guild member with a valid email address will only receive a digital copy of the newsletter. A membership roster will be passed around at the June and July meetings so you can confirm or add

your email address information before this change. Any guild members without an email address will continue receiving the printed newsletter as per usual. If you have a valid email address but would like to continue receiving the printed newsletter as well, please contact Scott Wunder (314-731-2484 or wunderwoods@sbcglobal.net) before the mailing of the August 2009 newsletter.

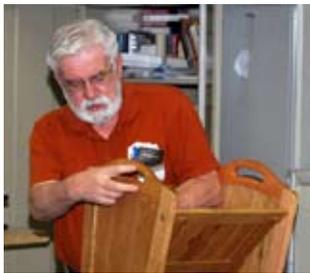
The Show...

Luke Carter brought in a race car he made for cub scouts. It won the weirdest shape award. Austin, Luke's older brother, brought in a praying mantis he carved and painted himself. It was signed by Norm Abrahms.



Because of a recommendation from the guild, Vic Barr was able to bring in pictures of a tournament trophy he was asked to modify.

Dave Flori brought in several signs made out of old barn wood that were carved with a chainsaw. He also mentioned he has lumber for sale at the Pevely flea market every weekend.



Paul Hanson briefly discussed a magazine rack he made out of oak; it was one of several that Paul had recently made.

Lawrence Alvarez passed around a collection of pens, toothpick holders, bud vases and bows he had turned on his new lathe.

Larry Mehmert held up and talked about the pecan hall table he'd recently finished.



Mentoring Program

Are you new to woodworking and looking for guidance? Do you just want to learn more about a particular aspect of woodworking, such as carving, using hand tools, or getting the best use out of your power tools? Or are you an intermediate- or advanced-level woodworker with knowledge and experience to share? The SLWG is looking for members who want to be involved in a mentoring program, whether it is because you need assistance or because you feel you have something to offer. If you are interested, please contact Mark Koritz (mkoritz@charter.net or 314-579-0401) or Wayne Watson (workwood@earthlink.net or 314-846-1172).

... and the Tell

Mike Olson directed everyone to a stack of duplicate issues of Fine Woodworking Magazine he brought in. They were duplicates of issues both he and the guild already had, so they were free to whoever wanted them.

Cecil Robertson brought up an email he'd sent out to the guild members earlier in the month about storage boxes that were available for free. He

also mentioned he was able to demonstrate the WorkSharp tool before every meeting.

Dan Coleman mentioned he was looking for a Rockwell Uniplane so he could make a copy of the blade guard for a replacement piece.

Dan Sudkamp brought in an intarsia book for the library that he no longer needed.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

August 20, 2009

Gery Zipprich, former Archivist for the International Wood Collectors Society (IWCS), will be on hand to talk about the organization and discuss how it can benefit hobbyist woodworkers. The organization, founded in 1947, is a non-profit society created for the purpose of correctly identifying and naming wood specimens and creatively using wood in various crafts.

September 17th, 2009

Fellow guild member Cecil Robertson will go through the process of carving a Windsor chair seat. This is the first of several presentations Cecil will give on the various steps to making a Windsor chair.

More Announcements

The Society of American Period Furniture Makers

(SAPFM) is looking to establish a regional chapter in the St. Louis area. A first meeting is being planned for Saturday, September 19th, 2009. This meeting is being headed by Gerald Yungling. For more information on the SAPFM and what it might be able to offer you, visit their website at <https://sapfm.org> or contact Gerald at sapfmgateway@sbcglobal.net.

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.*

