

# St. Louis

## Woodworkers Guild



April 2010  
Issue 301

### Our Next Meeting

Thursday 7:00 PM  
April 16, 2010

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

### Historic Handrails with Mike Jones

The next meeting, on Thursday, April 15th, will take place back at our normal location in the back room of the St. Louis Woodcraft. Mike Jones will be the presenter at this meeting, discussing the construction of historic handrails.

Be sure to join us!

## Biannual Show and Tell with Silent Auction

March 18th, 2010

There was a great turnout at the March Meeting's Show and Tell and Silent Auction! I'd give you an exact number, but... people came and went and... well, I forgot to get a head count. Sorry. There were very few empty seats, in any case. There was a varied assortment of food, from cookies to White Castle Sliders, and many thanks go to John Wetter for keeping our thirsts quenched.

Considering it was the first time, the silent auction didn't go over too badly! Now that people know what to expect, we hope the next one will have more items in it. Speaking of the next time... at the most recent planning meeting (6:30 p.m. every 2nd Thursday of the month at the Schnucks on the south side of Manchester, just east of Hwy 270, if you're interested in joining us!), nobody could remember why the Show and Tell meeting was only held every other year, so it was decided that we should start having it every March! This will include the Silent Auction, as well, so keep that in mind if you ever find yourself with duplicate or unused tools.

*(continued on page 4)*



## Guild Officers

**President**  
Scott Wunder 314.731.2484

**Vice President**  
Wayne Watson 314.846.1172

**Secretary**  
vacant

**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**  
vacant

**Web Master**  
Michael Beaudoin 314.781.4571

**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*

## Scott's Thoughts – Wood Movement

*April 2010*

Running a sawmill and drying my own lumber has taught me a lot about wood movement. I know that some lumber, like cedar, dries quite flat and straight and other lumber, like sweetgum, will dry like a potato chip. Quartersawn white oak lumber almost always dries with the ends pulling away from the center of the log, making a board with a nice sweeping bow. I also know that boards that are sapwood on one side and heartwood on the other will dry with a distinct cup. These are things that happen when wood dries from green to air-dry or about 20% moisture content, which is where the dramatic movement occurs.

Even after air drying and kiln drying wood still moves with humidity changes and as woodworkers we have to consider this seasonal movement. This is the kind of thing I think about a lot and recently I gave myself the chance to really think about it. I was building a table and the wood I wanted to use was not dry. It was white oak which sat on sticks air drying for a little while, but was still wet enough to be considered “green”. I decided that I new enough about wood movement and since the table was a little rustic, that I should go for it.

The bases for the table were simple. I made sure all of the grain was going the same direction, so the shrinkage would happen evenly. It also worked out nicely that all of the pieces would have air movement on all sides so they would dry out at the same rate. So far all was good. I proceeded with the top. It was a glued-up top with breadboard ends. No big deal. If you do your breadboard ends correctly, everything can slide and allow the wood to move. I took all of that into consideration.

There was one thing I did not take into consideration. You see my brother tends to use my shop at night. I usually leave stuff in his way—after all it is my shop. He has to move what I am working on to do his work and he often does. He paid no attention to the fact that my wood was not dry and had no previous reason to, since I don't usually use wood that is so wet. The parts that I was carefully stacking so that they would have air movement on all sides during the construction process were now just laying down flat on a table. In one night all of the parts developed an amazing cup because the sides exposed to the air were drying and the sides on the table were not. This all happened in one night. And since my brother usually works late it was a short night at that. I was able to get the lumber back close to flat by soaking the side that had dried, but it still wanted to pull that direction. So far all is fine, but this created a lot of extra work and a lot of extra consternation on my part. I thought I worried about wood movement before.

This is an extreme example of wood movement, but the lessons learned apply even to dry wood. Make sure that pieces that need to stay flat have air movement on all sides, especially before the project is assembled. And try to hustle. If you take the time to make flat pieces get them assembled before they can move. Remember, things can literally go bad overnight.

*Scott*



On Friday, March 19th, six members of the guild met up with Frank Klausz for dinner at the Soulard Restaurant. The beer was tasty, the food was rich, and the conversation was daunting! Frank is anything but shy and his speak-your-mind approach to everything in life is refreshing, if not intimidating. If you ever get a chance to eat dinner with Frank, don't pass it up.

The next morning, 15 guys showed up at the St. Louis Woodworking Academy, most unsure of what to expect, ready for two full days of hands-on instruction from Frank. Except to say we cut our pins first, I won't bore you with the details of making

hand-cut dovetails. If you want to learn how to do it the Frank Klausz way, then you should pick up his DVD on How To Make Hand-Cut Dovetails or you can find detailed descriptions of his technique in the September 2005 issue of Popular Woodworking magazine or in the book, Hand Tool Essentials, also published by Popular Woodworking.

I would be remiss, however, if I did not point out a compliment Frank mentioned several times during the class (and even once after the class when talking to Wayne Watson, the guild V.P.). The benches we used were not the best suited for hand tools. In most cases, we had two woodworkers to a bench and the one vice on each bench either didn't work or was of such poor quality it was unusable. But after Frank demonstrated the technique for cutting dovetails, and gave us scrap wood to practice with, we all went back to our benches and figured out how to make it work. Not one person complained about not having a vice – people either shared what good vices we had or people made their own set-up with clamps. Frank was really impressed with our ingenuity and ability to adapt to the situation.

By the end of the first day, 15 people had 15 boxes (though they weren't all quite the same size) assembled with hand-cut dovetails. We let them sit overnight to allow the glue time to fully cure. On day two, we leveled the sides, shaped the lids, and cut off the tops. Frank showed us how to add the hinges and lock and we ended the class by discussing his suggested finishing techniques.

I really enjoyed this hands-on class, much more so than any of the lecture classes I've attended over the years. Some people learn better by reading and listening and others learn by doing – apparently I'm one of the latter. Though I do see the reason for and a need for lecture classes in the future, I am also looking forward to the next hands-on class sponsored by the guild.

I don't expect we'll see any finished boxes in the April 2010 guild meeting, but I do expect to see a few in the Show and Tell portion of the May 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.

## Announcements

### Faust Park Restoration Projects

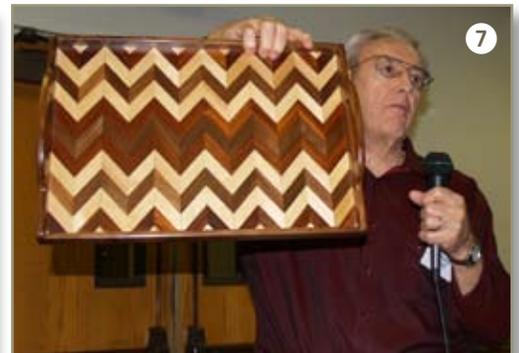
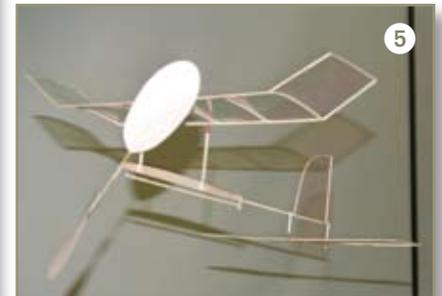
While things haven't progressed very much over the past few months, we are still planning on working with Faust Park to help preserve St. Louis County history. This is a great opportunity to keep your existing skills sharp and learn some new ones along the way! For more information, contact Scott Wunder via email at [wunderwoods@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wunderwoods@sbcglobal.net).

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

We delivered 245 items to the hospitals in March, moving our grand total of delivered toys up to 30,370. Upcoming holidays include Mother's Day, Father's Day, Memorial Day, and the 4th of July. Patriotic items and heart medallions will be in demand. Our supply of cars is doing good, but we need other craft items, like cats and coyotes. If you need patterns, more can be found on the guild's website. You can call John (314-843-0616) or Steve (636-922-1947) to have patterns mailed to you or for more information.

## Biannual Show and Tell with Silent Auction (cont)



- 1) Leslie Tupper
- 2) Walter Henderson
- 3) Gary White
- 4) Jeff Morgan and Scott Wunder
- 5) Jerry Lammers' plane in flight
- 6) Silent auction table
- 7) Richard Orcutt
- 8) A good turnout!

## Frank Klausz Weekend Wrap-Up



## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### Thursday, May 20th

Boris Khechoyan will discuss carving details in your furniture projects. Boris is a master carver who teaches woodcarving in south county.

### Thursday, June 17th

Rich Petty will drive down from Mexico, Mo., to talk about his company, Greener Lumber. He will have samples of reclaimed old grown mahogany (and maybe a few others) from South America.

### Thursday, July 15th

Jerry Cox is going to give a presentation on the process of designing a project from scratch.

## Woodworks Library at Evenfalls Studio

Rob Hanson, the author behind the Evenfall Woodworks website, has a page dedicated to free woodworking resources. It can be found here: [http://www.evenfallstudios.com/woodworks\\_library/woodworks\\_library.html](http://www.evenfallstudios.com/woodworks_library/woodworks_library.html). It is a unique collection of over 175 books on woodworking and related topics that you can download – for free! They are all in PDF format and must be viewed using Adobe Acrobat Reader. In most cases, these files are quite large, so keep that in mind when downloading a book. Many thanks to Don Snyder for directing us to this site!

### Strategic Planning Meeting

Next week will be the strategic planning committees meeting to discuss the direction of the guild and where we would like it to head. The committee consists of John Wetter, Don Snyder, Kurt Hermann, Bill Hobson, Wayne Watson, Mark Koritz and Scott Wunder. Topics to be discussed are fund-raising, membership benefits, charity support, events, etc. and how all of these are connected to our vision. If you have an idea for the future of the guild please be sure and present it to one of the committee members for consideration.

### 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.*

