

St. Louis Woodworkers Guild



July 2010
Issue 304

Our Next Meeting

Thursday 7:00 PM
July 15, 2010

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

The Design Process, by Jerry Cox.

Jerry Cox will be our guest speaker at the July 15th guild meeting. He will be talking to the guild members about the design process. If you are interested in making your own projects without the benefit of a purchased plan, this will be a great meeting to attend.

Logs to Lumber by Scott Wunder

June 17th, 2010

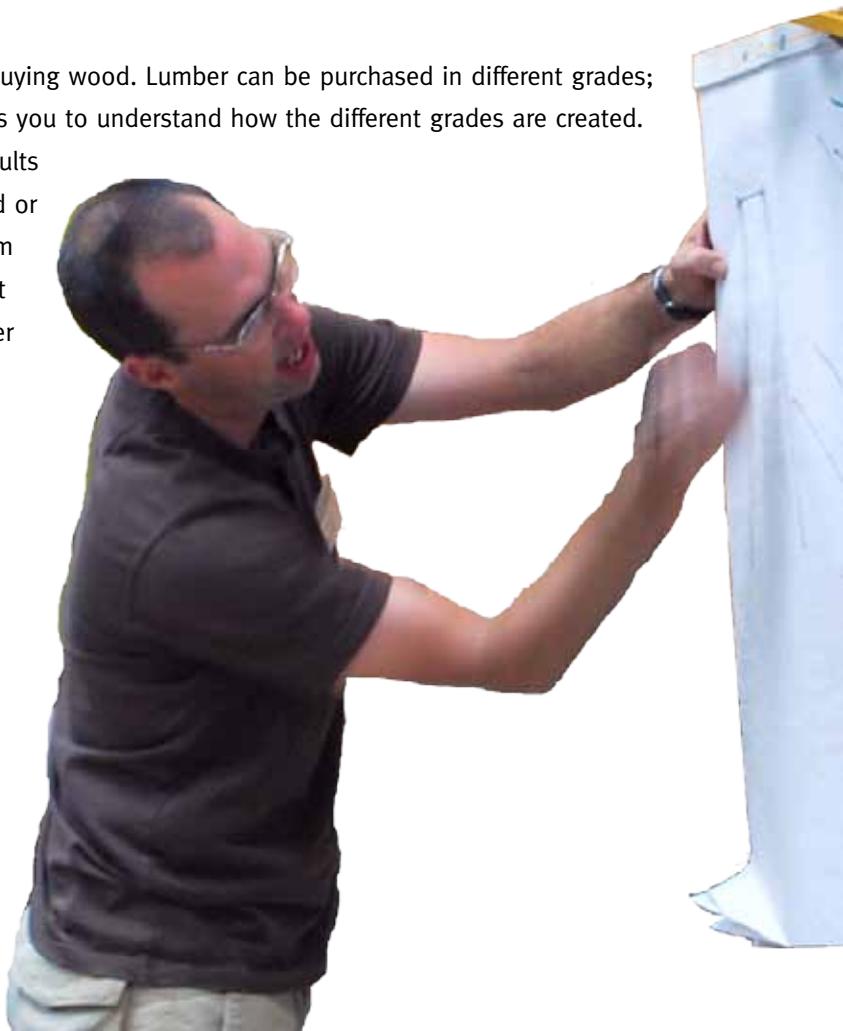
Filling in for a presentation that fell through at the last minute, Scott Wunder took some time at the June 17th 2010 meeting to provide us with a summary of his two-day woodworking, lumber, and sawmill extravaganza from late last year. With the obvious ease and comfort Scott felt in front of the guild, it is pretty clear he loves talking about wood.

Scott readily admits this fact. He says he likes talking about lumber because most of the people he talks to don't like to admit they don't know much about lumber, from seemingly simple tasks like how to calculate board feet to accounting for wood movement in furniture construction. Making others feel comfortable talking to him about lumber and woodworking gives him more opportunities to educate them. Having owned several different kinds of saw mills over the years, Scott certainly has plenty of experience to draw from.

The first subject he tackled was buying wood. Lumber can be purchased in different grades; knowing how the tree grows helps you to understand how the different grades are created. To put it simply, knots are the results of branches, either ones that lived or died off. Better lumber comes from trees with fewer knots. The lowest grade wood comes from the center pith of the tree while the highest grade lumber comes from the outside bottom of the tree.

Quality lumber should always come from the trunk of a tree and never from the branches; this wood almost always grows under tension and does not dry properly. Even if you can't see it in the bark, knots (from branches that never fully formed) can be found in the

(continued on page 4)



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Secretary
Keith Lissant

Treasurer
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Wayne Watson

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Librarian
vacant

Webmaster
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 – Shopping for a Shop

July 2010

At last month's meeting I showed an example of a candle lantern that is used at Faust Park for special events. It is a fairly simple piece to build and is the first project as part of our association with Faust Park. We have had some discussions with them on where to start, and simple made sense to get us warmed up. The plan is to build an initial batch of 30 and then move on from there, which will include more lanterns, repairs on the buildings in the village and helping them build a woodworking shop/s in one or two buildings on the property. While the guild will have access to these shops, they are not huge as far as square footage goes and are being viewed as a "warm-up" to a bigger and better, more centrally located shop for the guild's use.

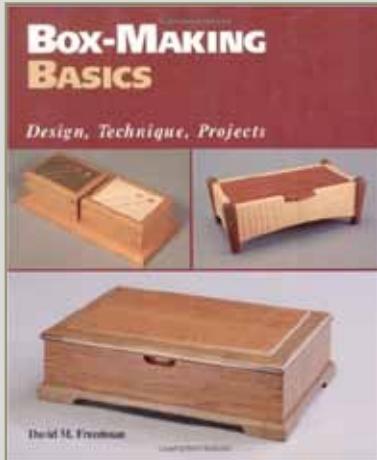
We, of course, don't want to put the cart before the horse, but we have to at least get the cart out of the barn for it to go anywhere. The cart, in this case, is the building for such a shop and the horse is the funding necessary to procure and outfit the building. As of right now, we are on the lookout for building with just the right amount of "character" to make it highly affordable. For example, Glenn Phillips, a recent new member from Birmingham, told us about a building that their guild rents for just \$1 per year. It was obviously a nice gesture from the right individual. And, while I don't expect such low rent, I do expect it will take quite a while to find something close and now is the time to start looking. Please make a mental note that the guild is interested in moving in this direction and pay close attention when you are part of the right conversation. You never know when the person you are talking to happens to own a 7,000-10,000 sq. ft. building with tall ceilings in the I-270/I-40 area and is looking for the right group to rent it to for a low price.

Along that same line we are starting a fund, separate from the Guild's normal expenditures, for a future shop. We are allocating an amount (to be determined) from our current bank account to put in and start our shop fund. We are also looking for additional fund's and ideas on how to raise them. If you have any ideas for raising funds, please feel free to share them with one of the board members.

The shop will also need to be outfitted with equipment, so we are in the market for donations. If you hear of any possible donations that could go towards making a new shop please pass the information along. Within just the last month a donation of many tools and equipment was made to the guild and got us started out on the right foot. The more usable tools will be kept for the shop and the others will be sold and the funds put into the shop fund. I am personally collecting and storing the tools at this point since we don't yet have a place to put them, so let me know if you find anything that needs to be picked up.

I am excited about the prospect of our guild having a workshop and wanted to have everyone be on the lookout for related space and items, but the focus is still on Faust Park and helping them out. The first lantern building workshop for Faust will be held at Wayne Watson's house on Saturday, July 31 at 10:00 a.m. Please contact Wayne at workswood@earthlink.net and let him know that you plan to attend.

Scott



When I decided to get into woodworking, I knew I was probably never going to be a “big project” woodworker. I’ve always had a fascination with boxes, from the small cedar box that was once my grandfather’s (and now sits on my dresser) to lap desks and tea boxes (who doesn’t love anything with secret compartments?). So it seemed like a good place to start. Not knowing much about woodworking or woodworking books at the time, I was lucky to stumble upon a book that was well-written and pointed me in the right direction.

As the name implies, this book is a great source for anyone just getting into making boxes out of wood. It seems that everyone is interested in books that tell you how to complete a project, step-by-step. As the primary interest of most people, this book does have plenty of different projects, full of new techniques for you to practice and learn, including mitered boxes with plain and decorative lids and boxes with slot, pin, and butt hinges.

But it also does something much more important – it discusses the basics of box making, from the elements of good design to simple finishes you will find easy to apply while still achieving good results. David touches on such topics as proportion, wood selection and preparation, dealing with wood movement, and wood storage. Within the confines of just a few pages, he doesn’t go into great depth on any of these topics, but it is enough to get you going in the right direction.

As he goes through step-by-step processes in building specific boxes, David takes the time to discuss such details as the kind of glue you might want to consider, various techniques for cutting miters, methods of reinforcing mitered joints, and assembling lid panels.

The information found in this book is not just useful to beginning woodworkers; I often refer back to it when I haven’t done a specific technique in a while or if I want to spark some ideas for my next box. This book is available through the Guild library, but you can also find it for a relatively low price on-line. It is one I would recommend as a fine addition to your permanent woodworking library.

Lantern Workshop

Date: Saturday, July 31, 2010

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Wayne Watson’s house

Contact: workswood@earthlink.net

We are looking for members to help make candle lanterns for our first group project for Faust Park. Please let Wayne know that you plan to attend.



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

With several important projects completed, the people at Faust Park have managed to get the Chicken House ready for conversion into a woodworking shop. This is a great opportunity to help out the St. Louis community, build new friendships, and learn some great woodworking skills along the way. For more information, contact Scott Wunder via email at 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 172 items to the hospitals in June. Our grand total of toys distributed since 1994 is 30,958. We very badly need craft items, such as coyotes, cats, flowers, heart medallions, bear kits, and butterflies. Our current supply for these items is zero! We still have a good supply of cars, however. If you need patterns or help, contact Steve Briner (636-922-1947) or John Patton (314-843-0616) or go to the website, www.stlwoodworkersguild.org for any of the above or to arrange delivery.

Other Notes

There were 48 members and guests in attendance at the June 2010 meeting. No raffle took place as we were out of tickets! Rich Weitzman offered to bring some from home for the July meeting; if he doesn't have any then he'll just buy some more.



Logs to Lumber by Scott Wunder (con't)

wood after enough is cut away. No matter how good a tree looks, it always has firewood-grade lumber in it (branches and the pith on smaller trees). The center can often times be used for railroad ties, as long as it is big enough.

What about figured lumber? Unfortunately, nobody really knows how to force a tree to grow curly, bird's-eye, or otherwise figured lumber. Many suspect some figured lumber comes from stresses to the tree while it was growing, like it leaning on a hill or some such thing. Finding a maple log with bird's-eye figuring in it is very difficult – in all his years of cutting lumber, Scott has never come across one personally.

Next Scott focused on wood movement. Lumber expands and contracts in three directions relative to its relationship to the rest of the log. It moves the most around the annual rings (in the circumference), half as much through the rings (in the



radii), and none along the length of the log. Thus, quarter-sawn lumber, which has annual rings perpendicular to the face, has the least amount of wood movement in it. For this reason alone, it is highly prized as quality woodworking lumber. But cutting a tree for quarter-sawn wood is the most wasteful, so it costs more per board foot. Flatsawn lumber is the most economical way to cut the log and generally yields quality wood, but this wood has the most amount of

movement, so care must be taken when using it for furniture.

Finally, Scott went into some detail about veneer logs. Veneer logs are the highest quality logs and are perfect on the outside (no branches or "cat faces"). These are worth the most money and need to be a minimum of 8'6" in length. If you believe you might have a quality veneer log, cut it as long as you can. Walnut tends to provide the biggest return when it is a veneer-quality log.

If you would like to do some further research or reading on wood identification, movement, and selection, Scott highly recommends Bruce Hoadley's books, *Understanding Wood* and *Identifying Wood*, both through Taunton Press.



Top photo: Scott Wunder dropping a Sycamore.

Middle photo: Scott Wunder demonstrating how to sharpen a chainsaw.

Bottom photo: Guild Member Roger Branson mills a log.

Show and Tell

Jim Hoeller built a mantle out of red oak. Being that it was quite large and attached to a wall, he just brought in the pictures as proof of his endeavors.

Cecil Robertson took a few minutes to remind everyone he is teaching a Windsor chair class at Woodcraft from 9-5 on July 16th, 17th, and 18th. If you are interested in attending this class, see one of the Woodcraft staff.



Glen Phillips brought in a photo album of some of the work he's done and pictures of his shop in Crystal City.

Jeff Morgan spent some time making a shadow box for a young girl who went first at state in track for four years.

Walter Henderson brought in another mountain dulcimer. This one was made out of Paduk and Canary Wood.



Finally, Vic Barr did a quick demonstration of his technique similar to one shown on the back of the last issue of Fine Woodworking magazine. He took a block of maple, resawed it not-quite-through to end up with "springs". He still hasn't decided on a great use for it, but imagines it could easily be used to make a turned bowl base or a lamp shade or a plane or a hat. He mentioned that he uses the Woodslicer blade for resawing and claims it is the best resaw blade in the world.

St. Louis Woodworkers Guild Caps and Mugs...

In an effort to promote the St. Louis Woodworkers Guild, Mike Sistek has arranged for an order of hats and coffee mugs with a Guild logo on them. The prices are very reasonable – a hat is \$15, a 14 oz. mug is \$12, a 16 oz. mug is \$14, and a hat and 16 oz. mug is \$25 – and are of good quality. If you are interested in making a purchase, please contact Mike at sistekmw@charter.net for more information or track him down at the next meeting.



Sage/Stone



Khaki/Army Green



Stainless Steel



Woodgrain

Other Notes

Faust Park Update...

Things are starting to pick up with guild members volunteering at Faust Park. Scott Wunder is working on setting up some groups to go work out there. One project that comes to mind is the making of some candle lanterns. The lantern Scott brought in as an example was featured in the February/March 2005 issue of Woodcraft Magazine. If you would like a copy of the plans, you can download them from the Guild website [here](#).

Scott also brought word about possible shop space available at Faust Park. In the loft space over the machine shop is about 1200 square feet of space that isn't being used. Faust Park is considering letting the guild use this space.

Start Marking Your Calendars

The fall guild picnic will be on September 18th at the Museum of Transportation.

Details will be announced as soon as they are finalized.

Looking forward to seeing everyone there.

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.*

