

# St. Louis

## Woodworkers Guild



September 2010  
Issue 306

### Our Next Meeting

Thursday 7:00 PM  
September 16, 2010

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

### Automatons, by Jerold Reilly.

This month's presenter is Jerold Reilly. Jerold caught the attention of Vice President Jim Hoeller when he was featured on "Living St. Louis." Jim was intrigued by the automatons that Jerold produces. The automatons are non-electronic moving machines that resemble humans. Jerold uses wood throughout his creations and will show us how he turns the raw material into intricate working parts. Join us for what is sure to be a very interesting presentation.

## Fretwork by Gerald Cohen

*Notes taken by Bob Colegate*

*August 19th, 2010*

The main presenter at the August meeting was Gerald Cohen. He discussed his techniques, thoughts, and ideas on fretwork. One thing he emphasized is the fact that it is a simple process that most people can easily accomplish.

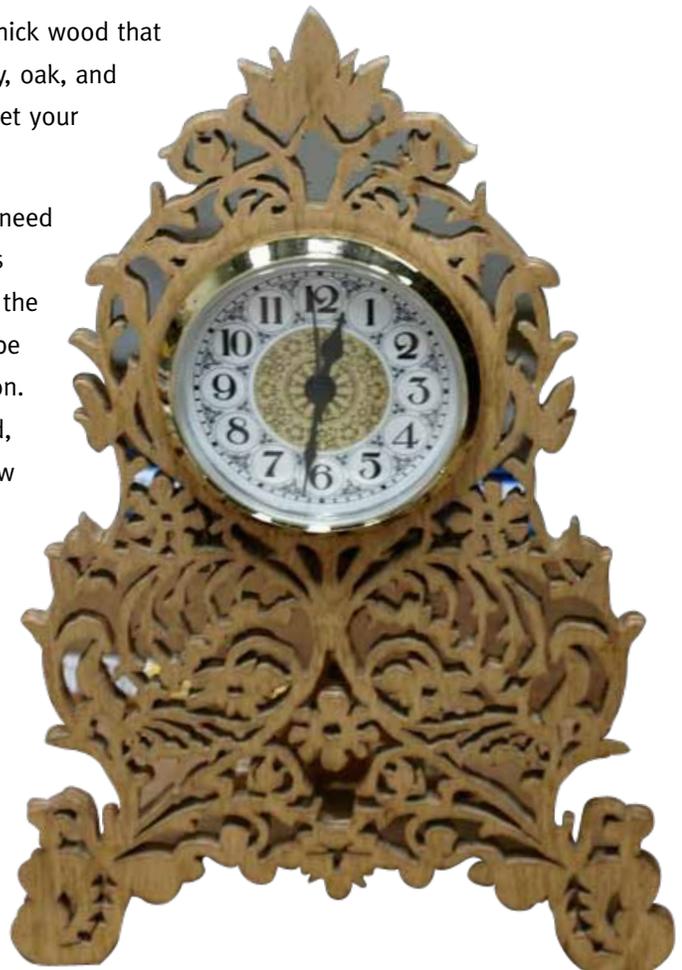
The general steps are pretty basic. First, you need to find a pattern! Gerald gets his from magazines and books. There are several magazines published today, such as Scroll Saw, that provide plans in each issue. There are also many websites dedicated to fretwork and scroll saw techniques where plans can be found.

The next part of the process is to pick out your wood. The color of the wood and the grain pattern in the wood matters, so be selective! You can resaw wood to the required 1/4" thickness if you have the right tools (a bandsaw, in most cases, but a bow saw would also work) or you can simply purchase 1/4" thick wood that is already surfaced. Gerald uses maple, cherry, oak, and walnut, but you can use any wood you can get your hands on, from common to exotic.

Once you have a pattern and the wood, you need to attach the pattern to the wood. He applies rubber cement to the pattern and places it on the wood in the desired location, taking care to be mindful of the grain under the pattern location. After the pattern has been glued to the wood, drill holes on one edge of the pattern to allow the scroll saw blades to be threaded through for the pierced cuttings. Gerald uses oo size blades that cut on the down stroke.

With the hole drilled for the blade, the next step is to cut out the pattern. This can be done by hand with a hand-held fret saw or it can be done by machine with an electric scroll saw. Gerald's favorite scroll saw

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*Meeting Room, Mailing Address  
Courtesy of Woodcraft*

## Scott's Thoughts – Utility knives and plastic don't mix

*September 2010*

A utility knife is one of the few tools that is always in my tool belt and is on my top-ten list of often-used tools. They have many applications, but cutting plastic not one of them. As a matter of fact, utility knives should just stay away from plastic all together.

Utility knives dig into plastic and don't ride consistently. They will cut smoothly, then just as quickly dig in and get stuck. Or, they might just completely release and hop around uncontrollably. And, plastic has no grain direction, so there is nothing to direct the knife and an errant cut could go anywhere.

The worst cut I have ever had came from using a utility knife to cut plastic when I was in college. I had a project laminated and was trimming it to size with a utility knife and a metal ruler that I was using as a straight edge. The plastic was thick and I was pushing down hard. Before I knew it the knife slipped and I cut a corner of my fingertip almost completely off. The only thing that stopped it was my fingernail, which did not cut through.

Also, while I was in college a classmate was doing the reverse. He was using a plastic triangle as a straight edge and the knife hooked into the plastic and jumped over his outlaid thumb. He was a big guy and it made a big mess. He went to the ER and they sewed it back together again.

If I ever cut plastic with a utility knife I am extremely careful and I make sure to keep my fingers bent so the knife doesn't just ride over them if I do slip. Hopefully the handle will hit a knuckle before any real damage occurs.

Very recently I was working with a friend who was cutting plastic wire ties off of some new lighting fixtures we were installing. I wanted to say something about plastic and utility knives, but I didn't. I thought he was smart enough already and didn't need my two cents. After a couple of minutes I heard the yelp that I was expecting. I knew what he did – he cut himself with the knife. But what really makes the story worth telling is that while we were looking for a bandage he said, "That was the third time I cut myself this morning."

Remember: Utility knives and plastic don't mix.

*Scott*

### St. Louis Woodworkers Guild Caps and Mugs...

Because we couldn't meet the minimum order requirements, we will not be selling wood grain travel mugs as part of the guild fundraiser. Hats and metal mugs that were ordered will be available at the next meeting.



In the first woodworking class I ever took (Hand-Cut Dovetails, naturally), the teacher recommended we check out a new magazine during the question and answer part of the class. It was called *Woodworking Magazine*, published by F+W Publications, the company who publishes *Popular Woodworking Magazine*, and he said it contained no ads!

So I went right out the next day and bought the first issue. It was one of the best woodworking decisions I've come to make over the years! At least for the first two years or so, each issue was designed to help you tackle the project that was the focus of the

main article. Smaller articles throughout the issue would break down various parts of the main project, providing you with detailed instruction and even the occasional small project to attempt first. For example, the main project in Issue #2 was a Shaker end table. Other articles in that same issue covered simple and fast rabbeted drawers, gluing up flat panels, and mortises and tenons for tables. I think this method helps take the fear out of attempting the larger project.

Another crowning feature of the magazine was the section on tool reviews. Each review was thorough and unbiased and provided you with several levels of buying options for the tool under review, from highly recommended to not recommended. They also provided you with information for where you can purchase the tool and at what cost.

As of this year, the magazine is no longer being published in its original form. The powers that be at F+W Publications decided to combine *Woodworking Magazine* with *Popular Woodworking* to create *Popular Woodworking Magazine*. But through their website, you can still order digital copies of every issue and print copies of most issues. Hardbound editions of the first seven issues and issues 8-12 can also be purchased and a hardbound edition of the last four issues should be available soon. They can be purchased at the F+W Publications website: <http://www.fwmagazines.com/category/woodworking-magazine>. If you haven't already discovered this fount of woodworking knowledge, I invite you to check it out; I think you will like what you read.

## 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

The November meeting will take place at the Creve Coeur Community Center, located at 300 North New Ballas Road. The meeting start time will remain the same.

## Toy Report

The toy report was given by John Patton. A total of 184 toys were delivered this month. The total for the year is 1,605, making the cumulative total 31,326 since the beginning of the program. If you would like to help make toys and need patterns, wood, or ideas, please contact John at 314-843-0616 or Steve Briner at 636-922-1947. With Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas just around the corner, toys with these themes will be greatly needed!

The top toymaker presentation will be done at the September meeting.

## Other Notes

### Candle Lanterns for Faust Park

For the last year or so, the St. Louis Woodworkers Guild has been trying to come up with projects to help give back to the St. Louis community. Recently, Scott Wunder, the guild president, was approached by members of the Faust Park Restoration Project with an idea. Night time tours of Faust Village are often done by candle

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## Fretwork by Gerald Cohen (cont)

is the Exacliber 1" model EX21. Cutting usually requires a lot of time; it is important to use a quick release chuck as you have to move the blade for every pierced cut.

After the pattern has been cut, it gets peeled off. Sanding may be required in order to remove bits of adhesive that will stick to the cut panel. There is no need to sand the interior, or back side, of the cut piece. Once it is sanded, Gerald often applies a stain to the wood. He does not, however, use any other type of finish. He prefers Minwax stains.

With all of the pieces stained to the appropriate colors, he assembles the piece, using Titebond glue and clamps during the process. Most of the time, his finished projects are given to organizations to be used for fundraisers.

With easy-to-follow plans and a minimum investment of tools, wood, and time, fretwork is a great introductory type of woodworking. Gerald offers the following advice to people who want to try their hand at it:

Go slowly and be careful not to push too hard on the blades – they break easily, even when handled with care.

Make relief cuts when working on a piece with sharp angles.

Have fun!



## Show and Tell



Bob Colegate showed the Woody trophy for the top toymaker of 2009, a carved basswood sheep dog with a watch movement embedded in the side of the maple base. Bob affectionately referred to it as a 'watch dog'.

Cecil Robertson showed a chain saw designed to cut beams.

Keith Lissant showed a stool made with a seat that rotated and elevated on wooden threads.

Vic Barr brought in a 6" square jigsaw puzzle made from thin slices of 36 different woods, most of which came from his scrap pile.



Dave Flori passed around several chain saw fish carvings in white pine.

Rich Sanders showed everyone some of the candle lanterns he made for the Faust Park Restoration Project.



## Other Notes

### Candle Lanterns for Faust Park (cont)

lantern. But over the years, many of the lanterns have disappeared, so they were looking for a way of getting more.

They provided the guild with a lantern to come up with plans, but several members recognized it as a design from one of the earlier issues of Woodcraft Magazine, so the actual plans were much easier to come by. Scott Wunder donated pine lumber, Jeff Morgan and Mike Sistek donated the glass, and Dan Coleman donated the brass rod needed to complete the projects.

On Saturday, July 31st, Bob Brinkman, David Knudsen, Denny Krupinski, Bruce Shockly, Mike Sistek, Tom Tupper, and Wayne Watson met up at Wayne's shop and built 37 candle lanterns for Faust Park! In addition to that, Rich Sanders made two more lanterns earlier in the month.

If you want to help out by offering your shop for a future candle lantern party, volunteer time, tools, or materials, or even make some on your own, please contact Scott Wunder ([wunderwoods@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wunderwoods@sbcglobal.net)). A .pdf of the plans is available to anyone who wants it

## St. Louis Woodworkers Guild Picnic

This year's Guild Picnic will be held on Saturday, September 25th, at the Museum of Transport. A tour of the museum will be given at 10 a.m. with lunch to follow. A main dish and beverages will be provided; anyone attending should bring a side dish to share.

Directions to the Museum of Transportation:

Take Hwy 270 to Dougherty Ferry Road exit.

Go West on Dougherty Ferry Road for .9 miles. (Turn right if you are coming from the north; turn left if you are coming from the south.)

Turn left onto Barrett Station Road

Continue .4 miles until you arrive at the Museum of Transportation

## Start Marking Your Calendars

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## 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.*

