

St. Louis Woodworkers Guild



March 2011
Issue 310

Our Next Meeting

Thursday 7:00 PM
March 17, 2011

Creve Coeur
Community Center
300 North New Ballas Road
Creve Coeur, MO 63141

Annual Show & Tell

Our next meeting is on March 17th and is the (now) annual Show-and-Tell meeting. So come see what everyone else has been working on the past year. Bring a few projects of your own while you're at it!

We will also be hosting a silent auction that night to help you clean up your shop by removing unused tools while raising a little money for the guild at the same time.

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Jointer Magic with Dan Coleman

February 2011

“Nothing about this is magic, unless you consider turning a ‘pig’ jointer into an excellent cutting machine to be magical.”

Dan Coleman, long-time member, former high school shop teacher, and all-around great guy, addressed the attending members of the guild at our February 17th meeting. The topic for the evening was originally supposed to be some flashy bit of spell casting where the end result was a perfectly tuned jointer. Instead, he decided to give us some general tips and ideas on how to do it the old-fashioned way, with some steel wool and WD-40, a few basic tools most everyone should have in their shop, and one or two specialty tools you can either buy or cobble together yourself.

Dan began his presentation the same way he begins all of his presentations – and I assume the same way he began shop class each semester – with a lecture on shop safety! Not that you'll find anyone complaining. Most of us have had enough close calls (and some have even had “incidents”) to recognize the importance of reviewing shop safety rules. It is especially important when talking about a tool that can take off your fingers in the blink of an eye.

So remember your three areas of shop safety – Personal, Environmental, and Tool. In the Personal category, remember to maintain a positive attitude while in the shop. Unplug any tool before you service it. Wear protection when using power tools – a respirator if necessary, eye protection, ear protection. Do not wear any loose clothing or jewelry. For your Environmental safety, remove all clutter from your work space and make sure you have adequate lighting and good ventilation. And as far as your tools are concerned, be sure to use the correct tool for the job. Keep your tools maintained (clean, sharp, in working order), and observe your danger zones. Remember, you can always tell a craftsman by the way he uses and chooses his tools.

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Scott's Thoughts - Know That You Can't Know Everything

March 2011

As part of my business, I sell hardwood lumber as well as build wine cellars. I do my best to get different stuff—wood that you can't get everywhere else. Mixed in with the oddballs is the regular lumber, things like flatsawn red oak. So, depending on how much I've processed recently, I will have a wide variety of species, grades, thicknesses and lengths.

Many times I don't have exactly what people are looking for, but we find lumber that will work. This, of course, can take a little time and an open mind. If someone wants me to always have exactly what they need and just get in and out, they typically don't come back. Knowing this, I try to show customers everything that I think might work. Often it is a lower grade lumber than they would buy, but it is less expensive and they can still get all of their parts for their project.

Of all of the woodworkers that I have met through the years, no one purchases lumber the same. I have a customer that will always buy the first board in the row, even if I tell him there are better ones just a little deeper. On the other end of the scale, I have customers that will shop for hours, laying out their projects on the boards and trying to find the best lumber while buying the fewest boards.

Between the two, is the perfect customer for me – someone who appreciates the time I take to help them, but doesn't take so long that I can't make a profit on the transaction. The common theme between all of them is that they typically try to purchase only exactly what they think they will need. And, I usually see them again for only a single board. This works out fine for me because the next time a customer comes back I have something different and it usually leads to another sale.

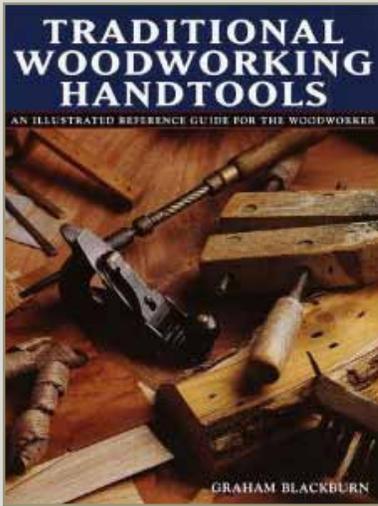
The thing I find curious is that even the most careful shoppers rarely plan for their mistakes and buy extra lumber. As a woodworker, I highly recommend buying at least a few extra boards when they are available because they may not be available the next time or they may be from an entirely different batch that doesn't match for some reason.

It is just too easy to mess something up in this business. You could set up a tool wrong, be working from a bad plan or no plan, drop an assembly, or mess it up in the finishing room. And these are the things you can control.

Think about all of the stuff you can't control. Maybe you run a board through the planer and it chips out so bad that you can't use it. Or, your router tears up an edge that you have to rebuild. And don't forget, building from someone else's bad measurements or even building from their good measurements that left out an important detail about the surroundings. There are too many variables in this business that all start with the medium itself. After all, wood is a natural product and it doesn't always act the way we want it.

The important message here is that you should plan out your project as much as you can stomach and realize that a lot of what we need to know won't become apparent until it happens. Know that you can't know everything and plan for that. And, for goodness sake buy an extra board.

Scott



The subtitle to this book is, “*A Manual for the Woodworker A Guide for the Enthusiast,*” but it might be more appropriately called, “*A Woodworking Encyclopedia*”. In the 364-page tome I own, Graham covers holding tools, setting-out tools, sawing tools, planes, edge tools, and boring tools in great detail. A section in the back called Miscellaneous Tools acts as a catch-all for any topics that do not fall under the first six sections. These sections are illustrated with over 400 instructive line drawings by none other-than Graham, himself.

To call Graham thorough would be an understatement. He devotes several pages to the discussion of pencils

and chalk alone in a chapter on measuring and marking tools. His three chapters on hand saws don't just cover the different kinds of saws available; they also talk about the history of the different styles, sawing techniques and hand positions, and sharpening methods

The bulk of the book, almost 250 pages, is devoted to hand planes of all sorts, from the basic bench planes to beading planes and hollows and rounds. He takes us through an example of finding and cleaning up an old wooden bench plane. He provides details on closing the mouth of an old smoothing plane that has had the sole flattened too many times. The more complex the plane, the more thorough his discussion on that plane becomes.

But as important as the topics he covers are, it doesn't mean a whole lot if it isn't written clearly and doesn't keep your interest. As I read through the book for the fifth or sixth time in preparation for this review, I tried once again to find a chapter that left me confused or uninterested in the topic.

He has a companion book available, as well, called *Traditional Woodworking Techniques*. I do not yet have a copy of this book, so am unable to comment on it. But if it is anything like the first book, then I'm sure it would make a useful collection to any woodworking library. If you are interested in obtaining a copy of either of these books, Graham told me he would have many copies of both available for sale during his presentation on May 7th and 8th at 30% off the listed price.

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

April 2011 Meeting

The speaker for the April 2011 guild meeting is Brian Romaine, the manager of Rockler's North County store. He will be discussing and demonstrating the use of the table-mounted router, router tables, and router table accessories.

Notes and Notifications

Sharon Overschmidt from Keller Williams Realty needs someone to turn a replacement spindle for a staircase. The staircase is unpainted wood, so the replacement piece needs to match the others in wood species and color. Anyone who might be interested in helping them out should call 314-677-6514 and ask for Sharon or Kathy for more details.

Toy Report

Toy Co-Chairmen: John Patton and Steve Briner.

Thanks to the folks who worked at the show and turned in toys last month. We received enough to make a nice delivery of 184 toys in February.

But we still need more! Spring is on the way, so bird houses and animal kits are great items to consider, along with rabbit kits, butterflies, coyotes, cats and cars. If you need patterns, see our web site (www.stlwoodworkersguild.org) to select and print one; or, you can call John or Steve and one of them will send you the patterns by mail. No matter what pattern you choose, it is always best to make them in batches of about 20 or so.

You can reach John at 314-843-0616 or Steve at 636-922-1947 for any of the above or to arrange pickup or delivery.

Other Notes

A total of 60 people, including 6 guests, attended the February 17th guild meeting at the Creve Coeur Community Center! Our new facilities leave us with plenty of room and the seats are comfortable, so if you've hesitated to attend meetings before because of our previous crowding issues, then leave your fears behind and join us at our new location at 300 North New Ballas Road in Creve Coeur.

Jointer Magic with Dan Coleman (cont)

When talking specifically about jointer safety, there are a few specific rules Dan mentioned. Be sure to use push sticks or push pads at all times. Use the belt guards that came with the tool or make your own out of wood or acrylic. If your jointer does not have its blade guard (often called the "pork chop" guard), replace it with a salvaged one or make one yourself out of plywood. Observe and mark the danger zones on your jointer. Finally, look for guidance if you are unsure about something. If you don't have the owner's manual, you might be able to download it on-line. And be sure to check out www.vintagemachinery.org (formerly owwm.com) and its sister site, www.owwm.org.



Another great source of information for jointer and planer knife setting is a video by Bob Vaughn (who happens to also be a significant contributor at www.vintagemachinery.org). This video can be found here: <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=2983839096587014177#>. It is about 25 minutes long, but well worth the time it takes to watch.

When cleaning your jointer, some of the supplies you might want to have handy include WD40, paint thinner, wire wheels, rags, steel wool, pipe cleaners, paste wax, and lithium grease. Be sure to use wrenches that are guaranteed, because you'll probably be exchanging some of them when you're done. You will also need screwdrivers, an ice pick or awl, and a wooden mallet or dowel. A measuring device, such as this one from Lee Valley, <http://tinyurl.com/dial-indicator>, comes in handy and can be used to set up many of your shop tools. Another useful cleaning tool is compressed air, but you should make sure you do not use more than 50 psi to clean the motor.

Due to space limitations, we do not have room to cover Dan's step-by-step process for tuning up a jointer. But we will try to get a write-up of his procedure posted on the new website once it goes live. In the meantime, the Bob Vaughn video should be considered as an excellent source of information that pretty much mirrors Dan's presentation.

Thanks once again, Dan, for taking the time to continue our education on shop safety and power tool tune-ups. One of these days, we'll all have shops filled with fully restored and functioning tools. Until then, we'll continue to look forward to Dan's next presentation!

Now... if you find yourself one day sitting in your garage with a partially dismantled jointer and no clue as to how it goes back together, and you can't find your magic wand, I hear Dan works for soda and pizza...



Show and Tell Rundown

- Rick Sanders** Rick brought in more of his small projects he makes with scrap wood. This time it was candle holders and desk clocks.
- Cecil Robertson** Cecil passed around a rope bed tightening tool he'd recently picked up.
- Jeff Morgan** Jeff worked hard on a display case for Boyscout and Cubscout badges.
- Larry Alvarez** Larry presented his potpourri boxes and pencil holders.
- Phil Haskins** Phil passed around pictures of a flame birch table he'd made.



Rick Sanders



Cecil Robertson



Jeff Morgan



Larry Alvarez

Other Notes

Gorilla Glue donated several cases of glue to the guild for raffle prizes. These were all given out from raffle tickets drawn at the February meeting. I didn't bother with names.

Officer Elections will take place at the April meeting. The Vice President and President positions are both open. Guild members on the nominating committee include Mike Sistik, Keith Lissant, Bob Colegate, and Mark Koritz.

Shop Tour:

Mark Koritz will open up his shop for all the guild to see later in March (TBD). Mark's shop was previously featured in Woodcraft Magazine. You've seen it in print – now come see it in person!

Silent Auction Rules

The rules are pretty simple:

1. Items that are to be entered into the auction must be in place by 7:00 PM. The doors will open at 6:00 PM and the auction will end at 8:30 PM.
2. 10% of the sale price is to be paid to the Saint Louis Woodworkers Guild (SLWG).
3. If an item does not sell, then 10% of the starting bid price goes to the SLWG.
4. All auction items must be woodworking-related (no toasters or kitchen sinks!)
5. The seller must remove any unsold items they brought in.
6. Large and bulky items should be left in your vehicle; a picture and a description will suffice.
7. All bids must be in whole dollar amount intervals.

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Shop Day at Faust Park

February 26, 2011

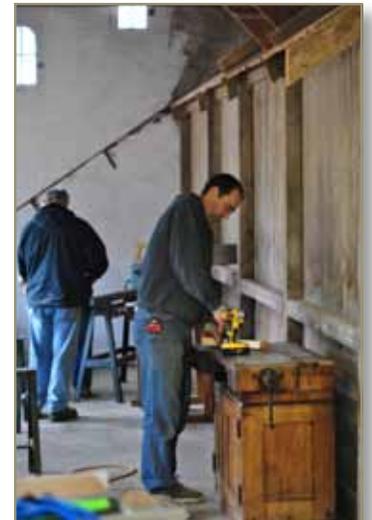
Last month we had a shop day in our new shop at Faust Park. We had about a dozen members show up to help install newly donated tools, clean out the space, and set up new workbenches. We currently have all the basic tools for a functional shop. Many of the machines are entry-level, but a few are very nice, specifically a 14" Delta bandsaw, a large Woodtek drill press and a delta lathe, all of which look barely used.



Keith Lissant started the day by getting the wood-fired stove up and running and having members fill out volunteer forms (remember, you are covered by the parks insurance as long as you are registered as a volunteer). Everyone then worked together to move some beams out of the way and clean up. In short order, everything was in its place and the benches were built. Even with no clear

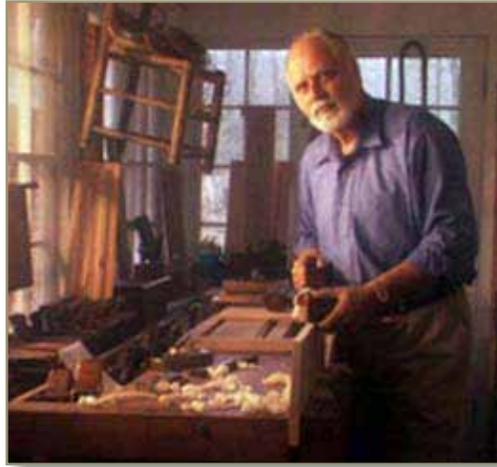
direction the space quickly took shape and it was easy to picture the shop actually being used for woodworking. The space is not huge, but even with 12 people working, it did not feel too cramped. It is well lit and has good natural light from plenty of windows. The walls are not insulated, so the heat from the stove is quickly lost, but the shop should still be comfortable for a large portion of the year. This will be a great space for both the Guild and Faust Park to use in the future.

Thanks to everyone that came out and worked. Special thanks go out to Keith Lissant, who has taken the lead on our efforts at the park.



Graham Blackburn Presentation

On Saturday, May 7th, and Sunday, May 8th, the Saint Louis Woodworkers Guild will host an intensive woodworking seminar on high-end hand tool techniques with Graham Blackburn. Graham is an author of more than 16 books on woodworking and home design and construction. The event will take place at the Creve Coeur Community Center, located at 300 North New Ballas Road in Creve Coeur. Saturday will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., with an hour lunch on both days.



The first day will consist of an introduction to serious tool tune-up of marking, sawing, and planning tools, with an emphasis on being able to produce the finest surfaces – better than what can be achieved by sanding. Once tools are in good shape, they need to be used with complete accuracy, so he will take us through some of the traditional methods of making jigs and guides.

Graham encourages us to bring along any planes or saws you would like advice on tuning. He will demonstrate his super-fast method of sharpening as taught to him by his father.

The focus of the second day will be on joinery not generally possible with machines, like efficient frame-and-panel techniques and hand-cut dovetails and possibly purpose-made mouldings of superior quality.

The general emphasis over the two-day seminar will be on traditional techniques, not easily duplicated through use of a table saw or router, in order to expand the average woodworker's "vocabulary" for more interesting and higher quality projects.

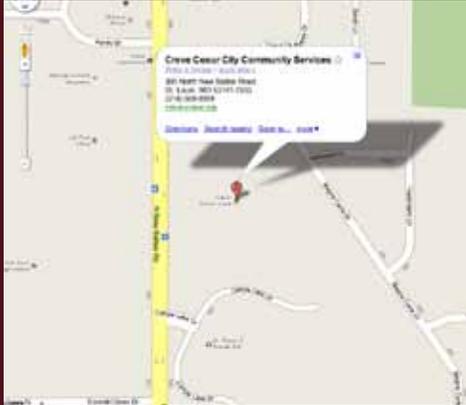
The total cost for the two-day seminar will be \$95. Unfortunately, we are not able to offer pricing for just one day. Graham has also agreed to bring copies of his book, *Traditional Woodworking Handtools*, and offer them for sale at a 30% discount of the list price he advertises on his website.

Silent Auction Rules

8. It should be understood that the majority of these auction items will be in varying used conditions as represented by the seller. All items are sold "As Is". The SLWG is not responsible for defects, hidden or otherwise.
9. The SLWG reserves the right to limit the number of silent auction items at any time.
10. Payment for any items you win must be received before you can take possession of the auction item.

Meeting location.

Creve Coeur Community Center, located at 300 North New Ballas Road, St. Louis, MO 63141.



click map to open in Google Maps

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, 36 Burnside Court, St. Charles, MO 63303.

