

# St. Louis Woodworkers Guild



June 2011  
Issue 313

## Our Next Meeting

Thursday 7:00 PM  
May 16, 2011

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

## Bill Turner

### Turner & Associates

The speaker for June 2011 is Bill Turner, owner of Turner and Associates, an Industrial Design Firm.

Bill is a graduate of Washington University's Architecture Program. Almost from the beginning of his 30+ year career, he has been involved in industrial design, building prototypes, patterns, jigs and fixtures. Bill will discuss the woodworking elements of his business and his use of traditional metal working machinery in the precision fabrication of unique wood parts, patterns and fixtures.

On Saturday, June 25, Bill will open his shop at 2215 Mackland Ave, St. Louis, from 10 a.m. - Noon to demonstrate some of his woodworking techniques.

## Scrapers and Beaders by Mike Sisteck

May's presentation was given by Mike Sisteck, the guild's Vice President and a veteran presenter. His topic this time was on setting up and using scrapers and beaders, including handled scrapers, card scrapers, scraping planes, beading planes, and the humble scratch stock. He wasted no time jumping right in with his first topic, handled scrapers and shave hooks.

The handled scraper is what most people call a paint scraper. The two most common brands are Stanley and Sandvick and they have each produced several styles and types over the years. More than anything, these scrapers are used to clean up glue squeeze-out. They are easily sharpened using a mill file at a 45 degree angle.

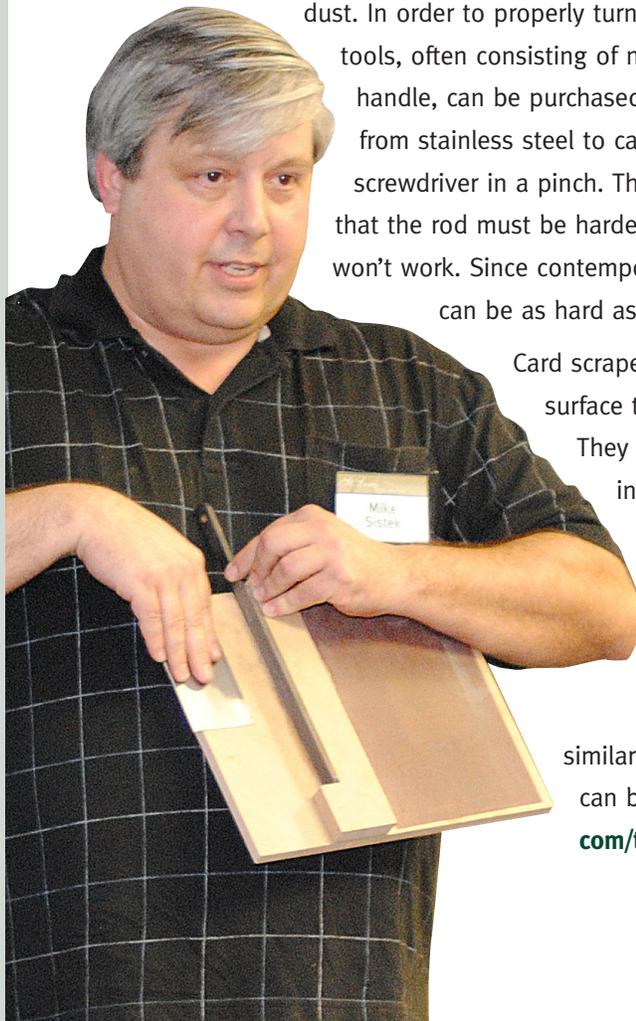
Before Mike went into the topics of card scrapers and scraping planes, he took a moment to discuss burnishers. When sharpening scrapers, you are often required to "turn a hook" on the edge of the burnisher. This is what makes the tool act more like a plane, producing shavings instead of

dust. In order to properly turn the hook, you must use a burnisher. These tools, often consisting of nothing more than a metal rod with a wooden handle, can be purchased or made. The rod material can be anything from stainless steel to carbide – some people even use the shaft of a screwdriver in a pinch. The key thing to remember with burnishers is that the rod must be harder than the edge you are trying to turn or else it won't work. Since contemporary card scrapers and scraping plane blades can be as hard as RC 60+, a screwdriver shaft will not work.

Card scrapers are often used to remove tearout in a surface that you could not remove with a hand plane.

They are made of steel and, generally, rectangular in shape, though their shape and thickness can vary. They can be purchased, but many woodworkers will make their own, using an old piece of saw blade.

Sharpening a card scraper is a fairly simple process. The process Mike described is very similar to the method Chris Schwarz teaches, which can be found here: [http://www.popularwoodworking.com/techniques/a\\_better\\_way\\_to\\_sharpen\\_scrapers](http://www.popularwoodworking.com/techniques/a_better_way_to_sharpen_scrapers)



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## Wayne's Sawdust

June 2011

May has slipped by faster than I could imagine! Our Guild had a very busy month with the Graham Blackburn seminar, the Lie-Nielsen Hand Tool Event, as well as our regular meeting. The Blackburn seminar was an educational, wonderful two days. Graham was a gracious and very knowledgeable speaker. He just about covered the waterfront concerning the use of basic woodworking handtools. This is a subject that is gaining renewed interest throughout the woodworking community. With the proliferation of new high quality hand tools, from chisels and hand planes, to saws, more and more of us are dusting off our grandfather's tools and putting them back to work. While I will always use my shop machines to get my projects underway, more and more I turn to hand planes, to make decorative elements instead of my router, finish the surface rather than sanding, and to do my joinery. Graham Blackburn's techniques, refined over a forty year career, were very much simplicity in themselves. From sharpening saws to tuning hand planes Graham took away much of the mystique surrounding the set up and use of vintage tools. While a hand tool expert, he doesn't turn his back on stationary machines. He uses them whenever possible, but for example, he demonstrated the use of inexpensive vintage moulding planes to produce decorative edges and mouldings ready to finish, without sanding, in less time than it takes to insert a bit into your router. Although I have also been using these vintage tools, I was able to pick up a quite a few tips, which in themselves, were worth the price of admission. Several members brought in troublesome tools, which Graham diagnosed and set right. All in all, two days with Graham Blackburn was a great way to spend a weekend.

The Lie-Nielsen Hand Tool Event special evening for our Guild was also a great success. Special thanks have to go out to Cecil Robinson and Dan Coleman who picked up the Lie-Nielsen crates (all 1800 pounds of them!) and transported them to Kent Adkins shop. Speaking of Kent's shop, I should really clarify. Kent has a "super shop" on steroids! It was profiled in an article within Popular Woodworking a few issues back. It is equipped with the some of the best equipment available from manufacturers like Martin, Oneway, Festool and Zimmerman. It would be easy to think that this is just a "trophy shop" until you look at the body of work that Kent has produced. His current project, which was in the shop, was a walnut period secretary. To say it is magnificent is an understatement. From the selection of stock to the workmanship, it is clear that Kent is a serious craftsman, who produces superior period furniture reproductions. I hope that most of our members had an opportunity to see it.

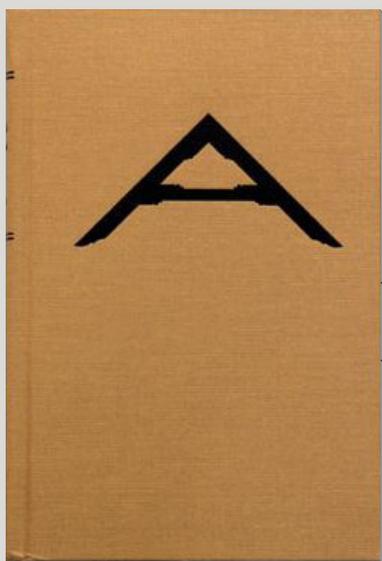
I was sorry to miss my first meeting as President. Mike Sitek always gives a quality presentation and a chance to learn from him should not be missed.

As summer is upon us I know, that for most of us, serious shop time is in jeopardy. Between working in our yards, to taking the youngsters to their ballgames, not to mention vacations etc. it becomes quite a dilemma to find time to make sawdust. The Guild's Executive Board is working on some new programs which make our choices of activities even tougher. Let us know about your suggestions for quality programs that will drag you away from your typical summertime activities.

*Wayne*

*The Anarchist's Tool Chest*  
by Chris Schwarz

Library Corner by Ethan Sincox



I have too many tools. No, I'm serious! I have too many tools!  
(I'll wait until you're done laughing before I continue...)

At some point, I went from buying tools at estate sales and garage sales, because I needed to outfit my shop, to "rescuing" that lone Stanley 750, even though I already have two of them at home. This became a sudden reality check when I tried to organize things to bring them into the new shop. I have (at least) four full sets of chisels and eight lignum vitae carving mallets, for Pete's sake!

So when I heard about Chris Schwarz's new book, *The Anarchist's Tool Chest*, and read a little about the concepts behind it – bucking the current trend of wasteful consumerism in woodworking and outfitting your shop with only the essential woodworking tools – I knew it was a book I needed to get my hands on as soon as it was available.

My (autographed) copy arrived two days after the first shipment of orders. Like several other recent Lost Art Press publications, this book comes in a cloth-covered hard bound copy and it is made with quality paper and an excellent binding technique. I dove into it that first night and have been reading (and re-reading certain parts) in most of my free-time ever since. The print is easy on the eyes; the writing is clear, concise, and fun to read; the photos are plentiful and well-placed.

If you have unlimited shop space, plenty of disposable income, and a dislike of puns and groan-worthy woodworking humor, then this book is probably not for you. If, on the other hand, you want to develop a good set of quality tools to get you busy making things out of wood with a reasonable amount of expenses (notice I didn't say minimal expenses – quit being cheap!), and enjoy fun and witty writing (not many woodworking books make me laugh out loud), then you should consider reading this book before you buy even one more tool.

The first section of the book, entitled "Memory", discusses the reason and the concept behind the book in great detail, with the end goal of trying to get people to wake up and break the cycle of buying cheap crap. This is where you also get to see the all-important list of tools you should consider buying (or "you get to keep", in my case, though I am a little light in the saw department still). Chris also discusses the work shop environment in general, and what kinds of things we might do to create a welcome environment where we can comfortably work on our projects.

The second section, "Reason", is the meat of the book. It breaks down the tool list in great detail and examines why each tool is on the list, along with a bit of use and upkeep information. This section is riddled with useful tips (along with a large number of puns). The information provided does not by any means replace a week-long class on using hand tools, but it is a good starting point.

The final section, called "Experience", is mostly involved with building your own anarchist's tool chest. Chris discusses important dimensions, what kind of wood and joinery to use, what finish is best, and ideas on how you might organize the inside.

His appendices include a chart of what tools some historical tool lists included and a very dangerous section on sources for finding antique tools (read at your own risk). In a thought-provoking Afterword, Chris highlights the fact that our government and free-enterprise will not preserve our craft; this task is left up to you and me, the "passionate amateurs".

I do not think I could give this book a higher recommendation.

Announcements

**July 2011 Meeting**

At the July meeting, we'll have Alan Hunt and Eric Lavelle doing a presentation on techniques and resources for restoring vintage woodworking machinery. Alan will also be giving a shop tour the following Saturday in Maryville, Illinois.

**April attendance**

There were 42 guild members and guests in attendance at the April 2011 meeting. Be sure to check the contact list at the back of the room and make sure your contact information is accurate. This will be available at every monthly meeting.

## Toy Report

Toy Co-Chairmen: John Patton and Steve Briner.

We were able to deliver 152 toys in May. For the year, we have delivered 640 items and a grand total of 32926 since 1994. We need a lot of craft items and cars for deliveries in the future. Bird houses, animal kits, flowers, heart medallions, rabbit kits, butterflies, coyotes, cats and bears will make nice craft items for the kids to assemble and paint.

If you need patterns, see our web site to select and print a pattern. Or you can call John or Steve and they will send you the patterns by mail. We really need about 20 each of any craft pattern you select. That allows five items for each agency.

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

## Raffle Winners

David Knudson won the \$50 gift card to Woodcraft.

Rich Sanders won the \$20 gift card to Rockler.

## Scrapers and Beaders (continued from cover)

Once you've turned the hook, the scraper is ready to be used. It can be pushed with thumbs on the inside or pulled with thumbs near the edges. You want to try and use as much of the hook as possible, so be sure and move your thumb from the middle to each edge as you work. Your card scraper should be producing shavings, and not dust, so if you see the latter, then you need to change your angle or re-turn your hook.

Scraping planes are designed to hold the scraper blade at a fixed angle while you manipulate the whole plane across the wood. Scraper plane blades are always sharpened at a 45° angle and the hook is always turned on the face of the blade (that is the unbeveled side). There are two main types of scraping planes – one with gull-wing handles on the sides of a main body and one that functions similarly to a hand plane. The most popular version of the first kind is the Stanley #80, which is still in production today. Veritas claims to have an improved version of this tool, with a longer bed to help you when scraping near the edge of a board. Popular versions of the latter style include the Stanley #85, 87, 112, and 212. Lie-Nielsen and Veritas produce their own versions of most of these styles.

When setting the blade on a scraper plane, a piece of paper should be placed under the toe of the plane to make sure the blade is proud of the sole of the plane by just a minute amount. All scraper planes are designed to be pushed, rather than pulled.

While Mike spent most of his time discussing scrapers, he did have enough time to talk for a bit on beading planes and scratch stocks. Beading planes have been manufactured for well over 100 years. Some of the earliest versions include the Kendal & Voss round blade beader (a contemporary example of this plane can be found in the top-right corner of this newsletter) and the Poole & Williams multi-blade beader. Other companies that made, or still make, hand beaders include Stanley (#66 and #69), Preston, Veritas, and Lie-Nielsen. All of these tools are designed to hold the beading blade at a 90° angle to the sole of the tool. The height is adjustable, either manually or mechanically with a vernier adjuster, and most of them have a fence that can be moved closer to or further from the blade. Sharpening these cutters is simple – polish the faces of the cutters on your sharpening stones then use slip stones to hone the edges. You want to keep a 90° angle between the faces and the edge of the cutters.

A scratch stock is basically just a homemade beading tool and consists of an L-shaped piece of wood with a slot cut into the long edge to hold the blade. The short edge becomes the fence. Screws or bolts in the face of the long edge allow you to tighten the gap of the slot to hold the blade securely. You can use factory-made cutters for other planes in your scratch stock or you can make your own profiles using pieces of band saw blade that have the profiles cut into them with files.

Again, Mike gave us way more information than we could ever fit into a newsletter article. If you have any questions about a process, technique, or tool Mike discussed, go ahead and shoot him an e-mail or give him a call. He'll be happy to discuss it with you in greater detail. Hopefully, we can get a few of his topics written up in a step-by-step document and posted on the new website in the near future.

A big thanks to you, Mike, for giving us an educational and entertaining presentation!

## Show and Tell

Glen Phillips brought in a collection of pens he's made from various materials, including buffalo horn, bog oak, and olive wood from Jerusalem.

Cecil Robertson passed around a notice about a Rockler sale coming up and a yard sale flier that listed many tools for sale.

Charlie Hoehn made a miniature-sized cannon and ship cut-away and brought it in for everyone to see.



Mike Emmanuel mentioned [ereplacementparts.com](http://ereplacementparts.com) as a great source for finding parts and how-to articles for maintaining your power tools.

After participating in Graham Blackburn's weekend seminar, Bruce Shockley traded in his 12' tape measure on some Garrett Wade wooden rulers. He passed them around for everyone to see.

Rich Sanders had some free tin cans to give away to anyone who might be able to use them.

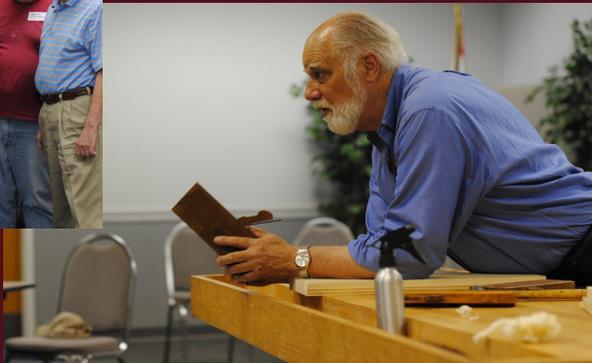
Ethan Sincox passed around information for a man in Ballwin who contacted the guild with walnut lumber and a Performax 16-32 Plus Sander for sale. Davies Powers can be reached at [HYPERLINK "mailto:drpowers35@yahoo.com"](mailto:drpowers35@yahoo.com) drpowers35@yahoo.com if you are interested in purchasing any or all of these items.

## Graham Blackburn Seminar



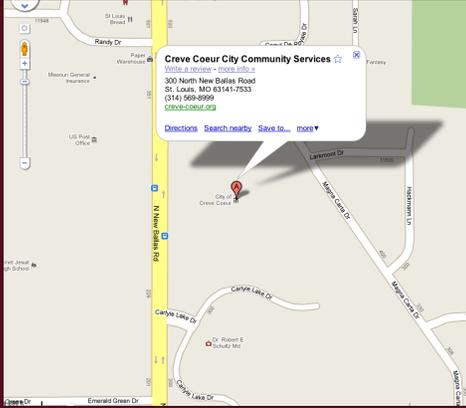
Members of the Guild (above) took advantage of a chance to learn from one of the greats, Graham Blackburn (bottom row middle).

Graham Blackburn (below) gave an in-depth presentation on using hand tools to members of the Guild over a two-day workshop last month.



## Meeting location.

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



## 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, c/o Treasurer Larry Grzovic, 2849 Championship Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63129.*