

St. Louis Woodworkers Guild



August 2011
Issue 315

Our Next Meeting

Thursday 7:00 PM
August 18, 2011

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

Safety in the Workshop with Dr. Brad Bernhard

Physician and fellow guild member, Dr. Brad Bernhard, will be conducting a presentation on safety in the workshop at the August 18th guild meeting. He will be discussing such topics as what kind of medical supplies you should have on-hand in your workshop, as well as what to do in case of a medical emergency.

At Our Last Meeting: Industrial-Sized Woodworking with Alan Hunt and Eric Lavelle

At the July 2011 meeting, Alan Hunt and Eric Lavelle gave us a taste of what it's like to do industrial-sized woodworking. They spent about an hour taking us through their shops, showing us machines they hoisted, dug out, pushed, pulled, and rolled into their shops to get made over and turned into beautiful machines that work wood.

Eric's shop is generally stocked with the older tools. It is a functioning line-item shop, which means all of the major machines run off of one main drive shaft. The machines in his shop, for the most part, use Babbit bearings. Alan's shop is the more contemporary one (though his tools are still old by our standards). They are generally industrial-sized machines, but most of them use ball bearings instead of Babbit bearings.

Alan began the presentation by going through, according their experiences, what machines are easy to restore and what machines are more difficult to restore. Of course, the difficulty also depends greatly on the as-found condition of the machine. Some of the easier tools to restore are jointers, shapers, belt sanders and disc sanders. The more difficult tools to restore include planer matchers, single-end tenoners, radial arm saws, drum sanders, and planers. Specialized machines, like a

continued on page 4

Alan Hunt started off with the newer tools



Eric Lavelle followed with the older ones



Guild Officers

President

Wayne Watson 314.846.1172

Vice President

Mike Sistik 618,243.6071

Secretary

Keith Lissant 314.962.1907

Treasurer

Larry Grzovic 314.846.4882

Directors

Bob Colegate 636.239.8910

Mark Koritz 314.579.0401

Kurt Herrmann 636.394.4517

Rich Weitzman 314.872.7866

Newsletter

Ethan Sincox 314.303.2297

Scott Wunder 636.922.7629

Webmaster

Michael Beaudoin 314.781.4571

Membership Committee

Bill Hobson 314.863.6437

Toy Committee Chairmen

John Patton 314.843.0616

Steve Briner 636.922.1947

Sponsors

Woodcraft

314.993.0413

The Wood & Shop

314.139.0001

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

U-Pick Hardwood Lumber

636.485.5217

Wayne's Sawdust

August 2011

A couple of years ago, I became increasingly interested, in 18th Century period furniture. I joined the Society of American Period Furniture Makers (SAPFM) and have learned quite a bit attending chapter meetings, both here and in Kansas City. Earlier this year, I was able to attend the annual symposium at Colonial Williamsburg, "Working Wood in the 18th Century." Each year they choose a main theme for the conference. This year's was "Cabinetmakers Look to the East: Asian Influences on 18th Century English and American Furniture." Mack Headley and his staff at the Hay Cabinet Shop, along with outside presenters such as Phillip Lowe and Andrew Hunter, showed the elements of style which were influenced by the Chinese in the 1700's. These details, cabriole legs, fretwork, and carvings have had a profound effect on the design and construction of period furniture.

Returning from Williamsburg, I was fired up to start my first piece of period furniture. Just then I received the course catalog for "Mark Adams School of Woodworking (MASW)." A class taught by Glen Huey (formerly the Senior Editor of Popular Woodworking magazine) to build a reproduction of a Chester County (PA) lowboy caught my eye. I signed up for the five day class and waited impatiently for July to arrive.

This was my first trip to Marc Adam's school. When I arrived I was bowled over by the facility. The stationary machinery was top of the line and the shops were large. While I was there, three other classes were also being held, (Joinery, Guitar Jigs and Fixtures, and Turning with the skew chisel) along with our Queen Anne Dressing Table class. From the first hour the organization of the school was evident. I estimate that there were over seventy students present for the four classes. Even with this large number the classes did not impact each other. Marc Adams is committed to providing a quality experience safely and his staff did just that. Each instructor was assigned an assistant to insure that the students used the power equipment both safely and efficiently. Our MASW assistant was more than helpful throughout the week without intruding. This was a tall order when you factor in the different skill and experience levels of the students. Glen Huey was a great instructor, easy to work with and very skilled. He completely demystified the construction of period furniture. From carving cabriole legs to sizing drawer fronts and hand cutting half-blind dovetails, his advice and construction tips alone were worth the price of the class. While none of us completed the project at MASW, the lowboy will be easily completed at home. This was without a doubt, the most enjoyable, productive, and educational five days that I have experienced in my woodworking career to date. Marc Adams and his "family" have truly put together an organization that will provide a superior experience to anyone that attends, regardless of their skill and experience level. With over 135 classes or workshops, ranging from carving to joinery, to specific projects, you can easily find a subject that will enhance your knowledge and skills. Several of our members have attended Marc Adams that I am aware of. Bill Hobson, Mark Koritz and Don Snyder have been there. If you are considering attending, ask one of them if the experience was valuable. My response is a resounding yes!

Wayne



A few years ago, I'd read an article by Chris Schwarz about a small plow plane he used, called the Record 043 Plow Plane. It's really quite a tiny plane (just a few inches long) and it doesn't have many uses (it plows grooves), but after reading how much he enjoyed using it, I thought I would try to track one down. Enter Patrick Leach.

In case you don't know who Patrick Leach is, he is one of the two founders of Independence Tools (the company Lie-Nielsen bought out when

it started making saws many years ago). He used to be a software geek. Now he pawns off antique tools to those weak of will and full of wallet with a monthly sales list. He also attends a few woodworking shows (like the Woodworking In America conference), peddling his wares. When I decided I wanted to try out the 043, I shot him an e-mail and asked if he had one available for me. He replied that one was on the way for me to try out and, should I like it, I could just send a check at that time. Now THAT is the kind of tool dealer I like to do business with!

It arrived within a few days and I pulled it out of the (original) box. All the parts were there and in good condition. It came with the standard set of blades. I pulled out the one I figured I would use most often (1/8") and honed an edge on it in very little time. Then I set it up with my most standard configuration – making a groove in the inside of box sides to accept the bottom board.

With less than 15 minutes of prep time, I pulled out a jointed piece of scrap wood and started practicing with it. The key to using a plow plane is to take the first stroke at the end of the board instead of the beginning. The second stroke is started a bit further back, taking out more wood, and you continue starting a little further back until you're all the way at the end of the board. This technique helps to track the groove properly

And it works! After a few practice tries, I felt comfortable enough to try it on my current project, a sliding lid box. Faster than you could say, "Now where is the rip blade for my table saw," I had a properly positioned groove in the bottom half of all four box sides. Since it only gets used for the one purpose, I haven't had to sharpen the blade again yet. But when I do, I don't expect it to take another 10 minutes.

I liked the Record 043 so much, I bought another one. I keep the first one set up with the standard dimensions necessary for making boxes and use the other one as necessary for other projects. If you're interested in seeing what Patrick offers for sale every month, then check out his website at: www.supertool.com/StanleyBG/stanoa.html. At the bottom of this page is a link to e-mail him where you can request to be added to his mailing list.

Announcements

Mini Workshops

Kurt Hermann and Don Schneider are organizing the new mini workshops sponsored by the guild. At the last meeting, Kurt indicated details have already been hashed out for the first one! Guild member Chris Law will be teaching a mini workshop on joinery, including traditional mortise and tenon and floating tenon joinery, in the workshop in his home. It is currently slated for the morning of Saturday, August 27th, from 9:00 AM to noon. The cost will be \$10/person (all proceeds go to the guild) and the workshop will take approximately 2-3 hours of time. It will be open to 6-7 people; if there is enough interest, a second session will be run, as well.

These mini workshops are a great way to spread woodworking knowledge throughout the guild, but they will only succeed if members offer to share their knowledge. If you are interested in hosting a learning experience for other guild members, please contact Kurt Hermann via e-mail at kurtdee@sbcglobal.net or by phone at 314-608-8602.

July attendance

There were 45 people total in attendance at the June meeting, including 2 guests. Be sure to check the contact list at the back of the room and make sure your contact information is accurate.

Toy Report

A total of 150 items were delivered in July. So far this year, the guild has delivered 922 items, bringing the grand total to 33,208 since 1994. We currently have need of a lot of craft items and cars for future deliveries. Trinket boxes, bird houses, animal kits, flowers, heart medallions, butterflies, coyotes, cats, and bears will all make nice craft items for the kids to assemble and paint.

If you need patterns, see the website www.stlwoodworkersguild.org to select and print a pattern, or call John Patton at 314-843-0616 or Steve Briner at 636-922-1947 to receive patterns by mail or to arrange pickup or delivery of toys.

Vice President's Report

Mike Sisteck passed around a survey for everyone to complete (both front and back). The purpose of the survey is to find out what kind of presentations have worked in the past and what kind guild members want to see in the future.

He also mentioned that he is looking for people to volunteer about 10 to 15 minutes of time during the October 2011 meeting to do a short presentation on Christmas gift ideas. Please contact Mike via e-mail at sistekmw@charter.net or by phone at 618-830-4516 if you are willing to help out.

Industrial-Sized Woodworking (continued from cover)

dovetailer, a dowel maker, a louver groover, or a resaw machine, present their own special challenges, including a scarcity of parts.



Nice jointer restoration that Eric labeled a minor challenge ▲

Obviously, we can't go through every restoration presented, but Alan did provide the guild members present with some great general tips for any woodworking machine restoration. For starters, keep a box of everything you take off the machine until the restoration is complete.

That ratty old piece of leather you found in the bottom might actually have a purpose somewhere! Take lots and lots of pictures during the disassembly process. Invest in a few boxes of Ziplock baggies and group the smaller parts together into bags. Be sure and label the bags with a Sharpie marker so you know what you're looking at six months down the road when you finally try to put it all back together! Always look for a second set screw in the bottom of any set screw hole and keep in mind that not all threads are right-handed (RAS). Finally, before pressing out bearings, be sure to look for any hidden snap rings.

Disassembling such large machines can be challenging. You might be tempted to grab a hammer to assist you with a stuck part. If you find yourself reaching for a hammer, then stop. Leave the work space. Go somewhere and think about it for a while before you commit to beating your newly acquired woodworking



Restored Sweepstakes planer that Eric labeled a major challenge ▲

machine with hardened steel. Speaking of acquiring the machines... you can never have too many straps on-hand when you're moving large woodworking equipment around in a trailer. Always use that extra strap when moving. And after you get on the road for a bit, pull over and double-check all of the

straps. And if you're transferring equipment from one trailer to another, don't forget to block the ends of the trailers when loading/unloading. If your machine happens to be a planer, you can save yourself a lot of hassle down the road by putting a board in the planer and raising the bed as high as you can to hold it there during the move. This will prevent parts from shifting unnecessarily.

When dealing with bandsaws, be sure to lower the upper blade guides onto a board across the trunnions. While you're at it, remove the table from the bandsaw, as well. And, for Pete's sake, don't ever lift your bandsaw by the table or use the trunnions as strap-down points! Be sure to remove the knobs (and any other loose parts) that might easily come off during transport – this is true of all machines, not just table saws (ask Alan how he knows). When removing a pulley, use a bearing separator or two sets of opposing wedges if the bearing offers any resistance.

Some common problems you'll run into when restoring old machines include dirt, rust, bad paint, bad bearings, and bad electrical starters. These are the easier things to fix. But when you start finding cracked castings, high voltage motors, worn or broken machined parts, or even missing parts, then you really have a rough road ahead of you!

After Alan went into greater detail about removing dirt and rust, painting, replacing bearings, possible electrical issues you might find, and what to do with cracked, worn, or missing parts, Eric took over the slide projector. He spent the remaining fifteen minutes of the presentation going through some of the old iron he's restored over the years, including a Monarch jointer, a drum sander, several band saws, and a Sweepstakes planer-matcher. They ended the session by providing everyone with a list of suppliers they regularly use. If you would like this list, please send an e-mail to the newsletter editor.

A great many thanks to Eric and Alan for taking the time to visit with us and share their experiences with using and restoring antique and industrial-sized woodworking tools!

Show and Tell

Steve Briner brought in a memory box he'd made for a hospital.



Jeff Nasser brought in a pepper mill made out of mopadi and bird's eye maple.

Don Schneider passed around sample pieces of pierced dovetails and discussed how he made his "Peace" bench with dove-shaped dovetails.

Bruce Shockley informed the guild that Sam's Club can enlarge and print digital images onto poster board. This might come in handy for the woodworking show early next year!

Faust Park

The board is currently working on coming up with some set times when guild members can have access to the workshop at Faust Park. It will require having designated guild members there to open and close the shop on those days and, most likely, a power equipment safety class will be necessary, as well.

The Faust Park workshop still needs some tools, if anyone is interested in making a donation. It still needs:

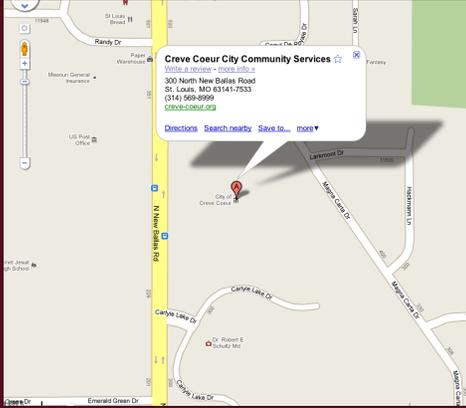
- 6" – 8" jointer
- 12" – 15" planer

Faust Park also has a project available for any guild members who feel so inclined to volunteer. They have a large amount of period shutters that need restoration (repair, stripping, painting). Contact Wayne Watson, guild president, if you want to assist them with this project.

September 24th and 25th is the Fall Folk & Fine Arts Festival at Faust Park. They are looking for anyone who might be able and willing to demonstrate old-time skills at the festival. Anyone interested in volunteering their skills and services should contact Keith Lissant by e-mail at lissants.dragonhold@juno.com or by phone at 314-962-1907.

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.