

# St. Louis Woodworkers Guild



September 2011  
Issue 318

## Our Next Meeting

Thursday 7:00 PM  
November 17, 2011

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

## Spray Finishing with Scott Wunder

Join guild member Scott Wunder, as he walks you through the world of spray finishing. Scott uses a lacquer spray finish on almost every job that he produces for his custom woodworking business, and he will show you what it takes to quickly and consistently produce a beautiful finish on your projects.

## At Our Last Meeting: Holiday Gift Ideas With Guild Members

October was the month set aside for the planners in the group to start thinking about the holidays and what they were going to make. Lucky for us, we had four super-planners as presenters that already had their gifts done (mostly). Guild members, Bob Colegate, Kurt Herrmann, Jeff Morgan, and Mike Sistek showed off their handywork to get us procrastinators motivated. No waiting until late December, now is the time to get going.

**Bob Colegate** / Bob is known for his bandsaw boxes. Usually they are cut from one piece of wood, but he mixed it up this time. The boxes he showed were butterfly boxes, made from several woods, with a pivot top. Bob showed how he made the body of the box by gluing two pieces of 3/4" plywood together and then cut out the middle. He attached a plywood bottom to complete the box minus the butterfly top. The top piece was first fancied up with decorative inlays. Next, Bob cut out contrasting woods to make the butterfly shape for the top. After rounding over all the edges and assembling on a thin piece of plywood, he drilled and installed the pivot hinge. Lastly, Bob did some sanding, finishing, and flocking to complete the box. The butterfly box is a great little 6" x 6" keepsake box that any butterfly lover would appreciate.

**Kurt Herrmann** / Kurt likes to make smaller projects with impactful wood – his gift ideas are no exception. Made from contrasting and figured woods, Kurt's gifts really stand out. His discussion focused on candle holders that he also makes with contrasting woods. He starts by laminating the wood and then cutting 45 degree angles on the table saw. Kurt said that he has discovered that the

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Mike Sistek shows off his  
cutting board



## Guild Officers

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## Wayne's Sawdust November 2011

I was privileged to attend the Guild's second Mini-Workshop, held by Don Snyder, after a last minute cancellation. Boy did I luck out! Don went above and beyond in presenting this two day class in his shop. His topic, "Decorative String Inlay", was of great interest to me, as I dive more deeply into the nuances of American period furniture. Don was, as usual, very well prepared. Each of us was provided with special tooling, jigs, and patterns, as well as all the other materials necessary to practice. I was out of town for last month's meeting, but I hope you had an opportunity to see what was accomplished during the Show and Tell segment of our meeting. First, Chris Law, and now, Don Snyder have set the bar for all future Mini-Workshops. Thank you both!

Kurt Herrmann and Don Snyder are co-chairing these Mini-Workshops, and I can't praise them enough for the way it is turning out. If there is a topic that you would like to see covered in a future Mini-Workshop, please contact Kurt or Don, and discuss it with them. Likewise, if you have a woodworking skill, why not share it, by hosting a Mini-Workshop.

With the arrival of November, and the end of Daylight Savings Time, many of us are able to spend more time in the shop making sawdust. With Thanksgiving just about upon us I was thinking about the strides the Guild has made in just the last few years. Our new meeting space is large and comfortable, and our monthly programs have, by and large, been excellent. The newsletter is top of the line thanks to our editor. The shop at Faust Park is still a work in progress, but shows great potential. The Mini-Workshops have been an enormous success to date. The library is once again accessible to us all. These things didn't happen by accident, but by the dedicated work of many of our members. Our Directors and the other members of the Board have been very instrumental in insuring that the Guild continues to improve into the future. It is only appropriate that I give my personal thanks to everyone who has in their own way made this Guild what it is today! May you all have a wonderful holiday season and keep the sawdust flying!

*Wayne*

# Tool Review: Stanley #271 Router

by Ethan Sincox



Stanley #271 Router ▲

1973, according to [www.handplane.com](http://www.handplane.com). It is a very petite 3" long and came with a 1/4" blade. The router could be converted to either an open-mouth setting or a closed-mouth setting by reversing the position of the blade. A slot in the blade allows the fitting screw to hold it in place, preventing it from twisting when you push it into a cut.

It only came with the one blade, but I've seen people take spare 1/4" blades and grind them down into something thinner to suit their purposes. I've also seen people use old hex wrenches, grinding an edge on the shorter end, but the results are only as good as your grinding skills.

Setting the router up is quite simple. This is one plane where you really don't have to worry too much about the bed being perfectly flat. I've never touched mine, in fact. The easiest way to adjust the blade height is to use the object you're recessing as a reference point. In this case, I used the thickness of the various parts of the lock to adjust my router bit depth. That way, I'm always dead on.

The blade can be a little awkward to sharpen; it has to be done free-hand and you have to be able to drop most of the stem of the blade below the height of the sharpening stone. I just move the stone to the edge of my sharpening station and work it that way.

If you would rather not mess with antique tools, there are several companies who make similar versions of this plane brand new – Lie Nielsen and Veritas both have miniature routers, each with their own pluses and minuses.

It is probably one of the smallest planes commonly found in a workshop, but that doesn't mean you should overlook it in yours. Used ones can go for as little as \$20 or \$30 (less if you're lucky), so it isn't a huge investment. And it's a heck of a lot quieter and safer than a palm router! If you don't already have one, you should consider it!

Last week I was down in the shop, installing a half mortise lock in a box I'm working on. After carefully scoring the outline of the lock and measuring/marketing my depths with a marking gauge, I went to work removing the waste. The bulk of the waste was easily removed with a few rounds of a sharp chisel and a mallet. But when I wanted to finesse the last few millimeters, I turned to my Stanley #271 router.

The Stanley #271 was manufactured between 1929 and

## Announcements

### Upcoming Meetings

November 17 - Spray finishing  
by Scott Wunder

December - No meeting,  
Happy Holidays!

January 19 - Veneering with  
Martin Goebel from Goebel &  
Co. furniture

### Mini Workshops

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 Herrmann via e-mail at [kurtdee@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kurtdee@sbcglobal.net) or by phone at 314-608-8602.

### October attendance

There were a total of 48 people in attendance last month, including one guest.

### Raffle Winners

In what appeared to be a rigged raffle, Mike Sistik took home the \$50 Woodcraft gift card after trading with Rich Weitzman, who originally won the raffle.

## Toy Report

In October we delivered 150 items. For the year we have delivered 1412 items and a grand total of 33,718 since 1994.

Contributions in October were 245 items (J. Lammers, R. Sanders, W. Henderson, B. Colegate, B. Shockley and S. Briner contributed items). We have a pretty good supply for next months delivery. We could use trinket boxes, bears, and any Christmas related items for an early December delivery. Please join the program and make items for the kids in the hospitals. It supports the charitable goals of the Guild. Thanks to all those who made October a good month.

If you need patterns see our web site to select and print a pattern or you may call and we will send you the patterns by mail.

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

## Holiday Gift Ideas With Guild Members (continued from cover)

next step, which is gluing the pieces together to form a box, is best held together with a few rubber bands instead of clamps. To finish the glue-up, Kurt glues a piece of wood in the middle to make the assembly solid. The next step is what makes these candle holders stand out. After the glue-up Kurt goes to his spindle sander and contours the edges. His tip is to sand while counting to 25 – then stop and walk away so the sander can cool. The last step is to sand and finish, then add a turned piece of metal in the top to hold the candle. Kurt's candle holders do a great job of showing off the contrasting woods and make a handsome set.

**Jeff Morgan** / Jeff is both a procrastinator and cheater. Even though he got this project almost done early for this holiday season, it is quite late for last year's and possibly the one before. On top of that, he has the audacity to use his laser engraver to cut the templates. Jeff used the templates to guide a router for bowl making. This is a cool idea because you can make bowls that are odd shapes (even if you don't have a laser). Jeff showed a bowl that had two divisions and was an oval shape. This would be hard to make on a lathe. The process is pretty straight forward. Start with a large chunk of wood (glue-up if necessary) and use paddle bits in your drill press to remove most of the material. After that, it is just a matter of attaching the template and running a special bit with a collar on it to clean out the inside. Jeff had a couple of bowls in different states of completion that he showed for clarification. The bowls are interesting because you are not limited by the shape – the router can cut along any template. Jeff showed great hustle on these, and I am sure that next year one of his family members will be happy to find a special bowl under their tree.

**Mike Sitek** / Mike got the cover photo, not because he went first, but because he was the most photogenic presenter on the third Thursday in October. Mike was indeed the last presenter and did a great job, as always, bringing up the rear. He showed his take on endgrain cutting boards, which Mike likes because, as he says, "There is not a lot of thinkin' – just a lot of glue." He jazzed them up with contrasting woods and a pattern that was made from different-sized rectangles. Mike showed how he made the pattern by gluing up strips, cutting the strips, and then flip-flopping the pieces before gluing some more. To finish up, he ran the board through a thickness sander and then applied mineral oil to protect the surface. The end result was an elegant board with a pleasing pattern that only costs about \$15 in materials (glue).



Bob Colegate



Kurt Herrmann



Jeff Morgan



Mike Sitek

## Show and Tell



**Kevin Weisner** – Showed the tools that the class made at Don Snyder’s decorative inlay mini-workshop.

**Don Snyder** – Showed an example that the students followed during his mini-workshop



**Gary White** – Showed his version of inlay from Don’s mini-workshop.



**Keith Lissant** – Brought in a Christmas ornament that he turned.



**Jeff Nasser** – In honor of the St. Louis Cardinals, Jeff turned a cardinal egg.

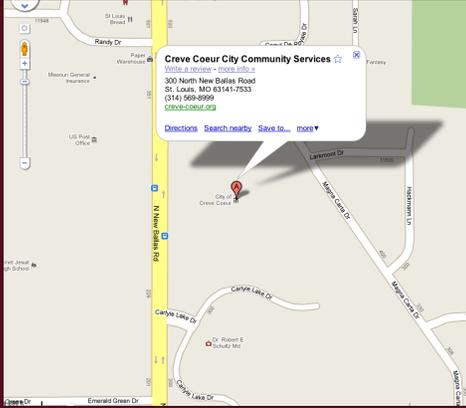


## Faust Park

We’re still looking for an 8” jointer and a 15” planer. Please contact Wayne Watson if you are interested in making a donation to the Guild workshop at Faust Park.

## 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.*