

# St. Louis Woodworkers Guild



March 2012  
Issue 321

## Our Next Meeting

Thursday 7:00 PM  
March 15, 2012

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

## Show and Tell & Silent Auction

Get your stuff together for this year's show and tell & silent auction. Member's will show off their best creations and be able to buy tools at the same time – what a country! Details are inside this issue.

## At Our Last Meeting: Stairbuilding with Brian Berger of Kirkwood Stair

At the February meeting, Brian Berger, President of Kirkwood Stair and Millwork, joined us for an hour or so to talk about his company and what they do. Kirkwood Stair and Millwork has been in business since 1899.

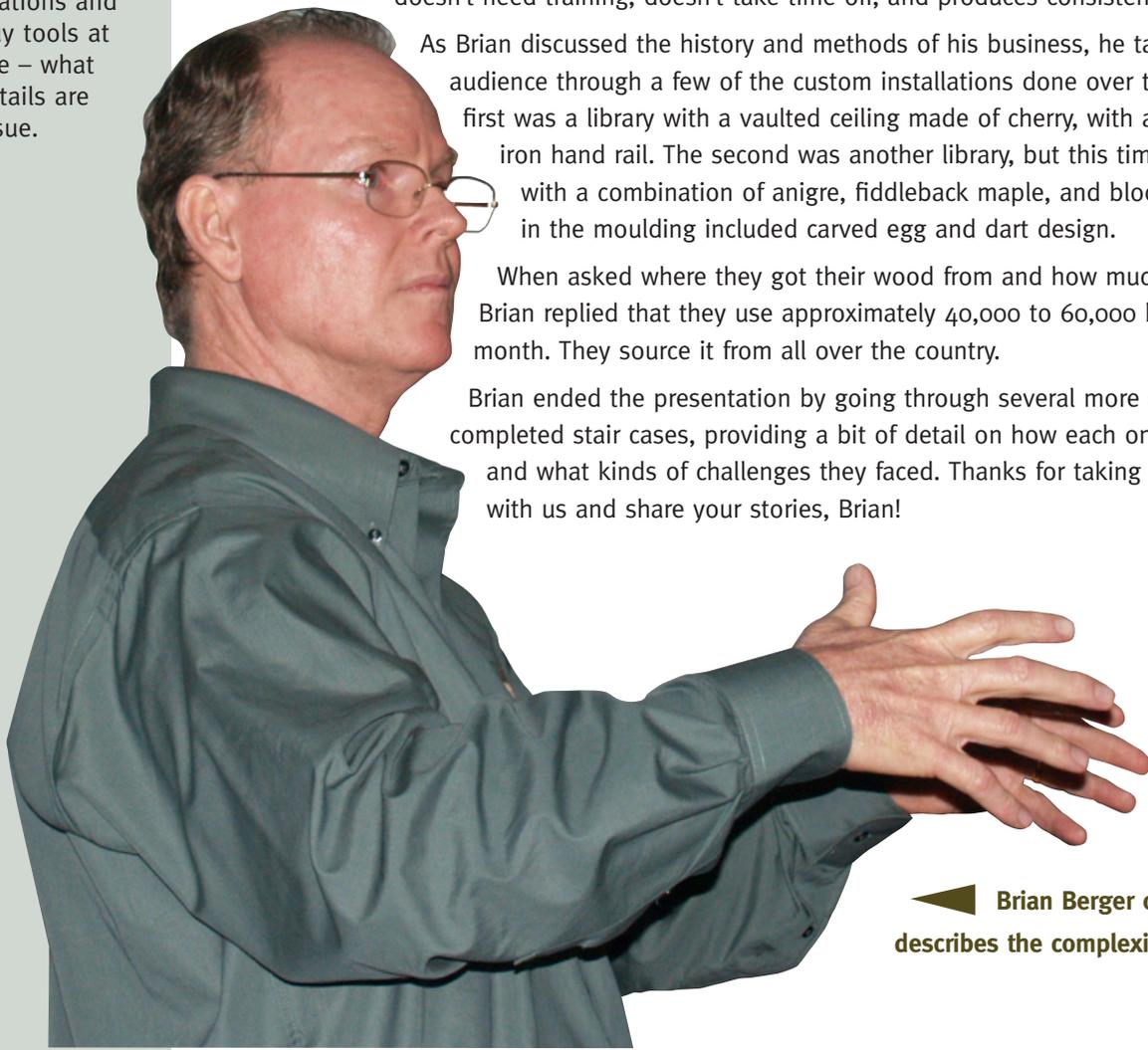
The company has been in the Berger and Barr families since 1994. It has a showroom located in Brentwood and a 40,000 square foot manufacturing facility in Pacific, MO. Today, Kirkwood Stair and Millwork creates grand stairs that become focal points in a house, they offer a full line of mouldings made from domestic and exotic woods, and build custom doors for any kind of opening you can imagine.

Even though it has been around for more than 100 years, Kirkwood Stair is anything but behind the times; they have invested heavily in electronic equipment. They have embraced the latest manufacturing concepts and principles, using “Lean Manufacturing”, which is a cell-based approach to shop layout that helps you move material through the floor faster. Using Compass software, designed by a German company, they are able to create fast and accurate parts lists and then cut the parts they need on a 3 & 5-Axis CNC routing machine. This machine reduces production time, doesn't need training, doesn't take time off, and produces consistent work.

As Brian discussed the history and methods of his business, he talked the audience through a few of the custom installations done over the years. The first was a library with a vaulted ceiling made of cherry, with a hand-made iron hand rail. The second was another library, but this time it was made with a combination of anigre, fiddleback maple, and bloodwood. Detail in the moulding included carved egg and dart design.

When asked where they got their wood from and how much they used, Brian replied that they use approximately 40,000 to 60,000 board feet a month. They source it from all over the country.

Brian ended the presentation by going through several more examples of completed stair cases, providing a bit of detail on how each one was made and what kinds of challenges they faced. Thanks for taking the time to visit with us and share your stories, Brian!



◀ Brian Berger of Kirkwood Stair describes the complexity of a large job.

## Guild Officers

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## Wayne's Sawdust March 2012

Why are you a member of the St. Louis Woodworkers Guild? Is it a convenient and meaningful way to provide a service to the community? We do provide toys for hospitalized children, and assistance at both Faust Park and the Museum of Transportation. Perhaps after all those lonely hours in the shop, the comradeship of other woodworkers is important to you. We have monthly meetings, an annual picnic and tours. All these Guild activities bring us together in good fellowship. I suspect the strongest motivation to becoming an active member of the Guild, is education. No matter how experienced we might be, there is always something new to learn or another way to accomplish a given task. I have lost count of the number of times that I have slapped my forehead while saying "Why didn't I think of that!"

How does the Guild contribute to its member's education? To begin with, we have a very fine library. The books and videos that can be found cover the woodworking waterfront. Always available during our monthly meetings, the library contains enough knowledge to keep anyone busy just reading about woodworking. There are also a growing selection of woodworking DVD's. Now it is possible to go into a "master's shop" and observe the techniques that made them famous. For some of us, watching something is a huge improvement in understanding over the printed page. Look to the popularity of Norm Abrams "New Yankee Workshop," and other woodworking shows now on TV. Our monthly meetings remain the backbone of the Guild's educational programs. Having a subject matter expert, in person, to explain or demonstrate a technique, to answer questions and offer tips is an invaluable education experience. New last year, the Guild has initiated new mini-workshops and the reviews have been fantastic. The instructors are members of the Guild who have an expertise that they are willing to share. These have all been small, hands on, programs held in the member's shop. We are planning on having the Faust Park shop open this summer. This will permit larger workshops in the future. We have also brought in recognized experts from around the country for seminars and workshops. Marc Adams, Jeff Jewett, Graham Blackburn and Frank Klausz have all been to St. Louis to pass on their hard earned knowledge.

If you have a subject you would like to see covered in the future please educate us. The Executive Board is always open to new ideas. Talk to any of the officers about hosting a mini-workshop, suggesting a meeting topic, or other educational opportunity. This is the way we can keep the Guild fresh and viable.

*Wayne*

## Tool Review: The Thin Slot Miter Box

by Ethan Sincox



A few weeks ago, a friend of mine from college contacted me with a woodworking question. She is an artist and uses small discs of wood she cuts from dowels to make jewelry. She wanted to know if I had a better way to cut small slices of dowel off without using a table saw! I immediately replied with, “Don’t cut another slice of dowel with a table saw,

Jen!” and offered her a much better (safer, quieter, easier, more controlled) option – the Thin Slot Miter Box for the Zona Razor Saw.

The one I bought was from Lee Valley, so that is where I directed her. I told her which saw to buy to go with it and gave her some quick instructions on using it.

The Thin Slot Miter Box is made out of anodized aluminum and is designed to work with the General-Purpose Razor Saw, a 24 tpi back saw (I bought mine when they first came out, several years ago). It measures 6 1/2” long and can handle stock up to 2” wide. It has guide kerfs cut into it at 90°, 45°, and 30° angles to the front. It’s easy to tell which side is the front and which is the back; the front has a small lip on the bottom of it, so you can hang the miter box off the edge of your workbench. In use, you apply pressure to the miter box and the piece being cut, holding both of them in place as you saw.

So far, I’ve found several uses for the miter box, from trimming up small pieces of stringing inlay to squaring off the ends of bits of wood I’m going to use for an escutcheon. It is safe and quiet and so very precise; it was a perfect accessory to one of my favorite hand saws. It is apparently also great for cutting dowels, as my friend e-mailed me last week to let me know how well the miter box and saw was working out.

The street price for the miter box is \$16.95 and the saw runs around \$10.50. Both are well worth the money if your woodworking involves the accurate trimming of small pieces of wood.

## Announcements

### Upcoming Meetings

April – There will not be a normal meeting in April; instead, members will meet on 4/21/2012 at 1:00 PM to tour the Bissell House at Jefferson Barracks.

May – The May meeting will take place back at our normal location in the Creve Coeur Community Center. This month, the focus will be on sharpening, and representatives from the following vendors will be on-hand to demonstrate and discuss the various methods: Tormaq, Worksharp, Scary Sharp, Norton. There should be some great door prizes and raffle items at this meeting.

### February Attendance

There were 63 people in attendance at the February 16th meeting! It looks like we had several new attendees and members as a direct result of the 2012 St. Louis Woodworkers Show!

### Raffle Winners

Congratulations to Walter Anderson, winner of the monthly raffle item, a \$50 Woodcraft gift card. Good luck to next month’s participants; remember, you can’t win if you don’t enter!

## Toy Report

We were able to collect enough toys to make a delivery of 150 toys this month. Once again we ask your help in providing toys for hospitalized children who are trying so hard to recover from terrible illnesses. The start of a new year is a great time to join the toy group!

To illustrate the kind of impact these toy donations make, here is a thank you note we recently received from one of the hospitals:

*"Dear Woodworkers, We wanted you to know that your talent, generosity and history of support during the past years continues to be appreciated and valued. Each day your donations provide hours of fun for our patients, but equally important, the projects allow our kids to just be kids. As we have done for countless years, we thank ALL of you from the bottom of our hearts! The Child Life Department, Mercy Children's Hospital"*

*Quinton, Alberta. Tara, Ali, & Kine*

We can use cars, bird houses, animal kits, rabbit kits, butterflies, coyotes, cats, tulips and other flowers. If you need patterns, please see our web site ([stlwoodworkersguild.org](http://stlwoodworkersguild.org)) to select and print one; or you can call John or Steve to have patterns sent to you by mail. We generally need about 20 to 30 each of any craft pattern you select.

You can reach John at 314-843-0616 or Steve at 636-866-6121 for any of the above or to arrange pickup or delivery.

## March 2012 Meeting – Annual Show And Tell & Silent Auction

The meeting on March 15th will be our annual show and tell event, along with our silent auction. If you have any completed projects sitting around that you'd like to show off to everyone else, please bring them in! If you have any tools sitting around the shop that you can't or don't use anymore, bring them in, as well! You might just clean out your shop a little bit and you'll feel good knowing your old tools are being put to good use in someone else's shop. Here are the Silent Auction guidelines:

- Items to be entered into the auction must be in place by 7:00 PM. Doors will open at 6:00 PM.
- Auction will close at 8:30 PM.
- 10% of the sale price of each item is to be paid to the St. Louis Woodworkers Guild (SLWG).
- If an item does not sell, then 10% of the starting bid price will be paid to the SLWG. (This is excepting items that do not sell and are then donated to the guild.)
- The seller must remove all unsold items.
- All auction items must be related to woodworking.
- No reserves may be set on auction items. The starting bid is the minimum bid for which the item can be sold.
- All bidding must be in \$1.00 multiples.
- The SLWG reserves the right to limit the number of auction items.
- The majority of auction items will be in "used" condition. This is to be expected. The condition of the items is as represented by the seller. The items are sold "as is"; the SLWG is not responsible for defects, hidden or otherwise.
- Large items (such as table saws or jointers) should be left in your vehicle. A photo should be made available to stand in for the actual auction item. If one person can carry an item in, it should be OK.

## Show and Tell



▲ **Jeff Morgan** built some coin displays that are being bought by the U.S. Government.

**Phil Haskins** made a cabinet for a local restaurant and brought in some pictures of the end result.

**Jim Hoeller** used the scrap of a wooden countertop cut-out for a range to make a cutting board. ▶



**Cecil Robertson** brought in his continuous arm Windsor chair he'd entered in the St. Louis Woodworking Show competition. He took third place with his entry; congratulations, Cecil! ▶



**Jeff Nasser** passed around a segment-turned pepper shaker he'd made. ▶



**Dan Coleman** discussed some ideas for jigs used to grind turning gouges. He also passed around some of the jigs. If you are interested in making one of these jigs, he can help you get the information you need.

## Advice & Tips

One guild member asked where others took their table saw blades to get sharpened. The general consensus was that the best place in the St. Louis area to go to is the W.D. Quinn Saw Co.

## Mini-Workshop

Kurt Herrmann said the Mini-Workshop Committee is looking for people to volunteer to lead more mini-workshops. If you have a skill you would like to pass on to others, or have an interesting idea for a mini-workshop, please contact Kurt by e-mail at [kurtdee@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kurtdee@sbcglobal.net) or by phone at 314-608-8602. In the meantime, Phil Haskins will be hosting a mini-workshop in March on Veneering. If you are interested in attending, Kurt can sign you up and give you more details.

## Faust Park

The workshop at Faust Park is still in need of a 6" or 8" jointer. If you have an extra one sitting around, and are looking for a great way to help out the guild while receiving a tax deduction, then please consider donating it to the guild!

## Officer Elections in May

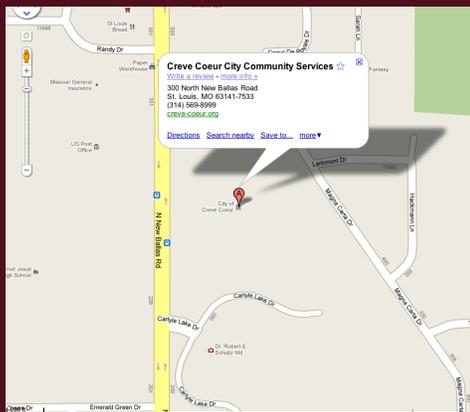
Our annual officer elections will take place in May. All paid-up members can vote in these elections. Our nominating committee this year is comprised of the following members: Vic Barr, Bob Brinkman, Dan Coleman, Alan Haden, and Mike Sistek.

# Dues Are Due!

It's that time of year again! If you haven't already paid your 2012 Guild Dues, then please do so as soon as possible. Maintaining your active guild status means you will continue to receive the monthly guild newsletter and will have access to the Member Only section of the new guild website. Bring your checkbook to the next meeting! (Your membership expired in November.)

## 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 \$30 for one years dues to: St. Louis Woodworkers Guild, c/o Treasurer Larry Grzovic, 2849 Championship Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63129.*