

St. Louis Woodworkers Guild



June 2012
Issue 323

Our Next Meeting

Thursday 7:00 PM
June 21, 2012

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

Cutting Polygonal Shapes with Don Snyder

Don will show easy ways to calculate and then cut accurate polygonal shapes in the workshop. He'll also show a easy to make tablesaw jig and will also explain an app that he's developed for the smart phone that makes the calculations for you.

At Our Last Meeting: Sharpening System Demonstrations by Rockler staff, Mike Sistek, and David Knudson

It is often said that a dull tool is more dangerous than a sharp one. With that in mind, Mike Sistek decided to set up a meeting where we focused on sharpening. Three stations were set up – one for the Work Sharp Sharpening System and the Drill Doctor, one for the Tormek, and one for the Worksharp 3000 and the Scary Sharp method. All those guild members present sounded off into groups of three and shared time at each station to learn a bit more about them.

The Work Sharp Sharpening System/ Drill Doctor

This station was manned by one of the staff from Rockler. First, he did a quick demonstration of the Work Sharp Sharpening System, which is basically a small flexible belt sander, can be used to sharpen knives, scissors, serrated edges, etc. This is the same technology professionals use. It comes with two jigs; one for outdoor knives and scissors, and another for kitchen knives and serrated knives. It sells for about \$70 or so.

The presenter showed us three different models of the Drill Doctor – the 350, the 750, and the SM (really, just a 350 with the ability to sharpen spade bits) and the prices for each. The Drill Doctor can be used to sharpen split point bits and, in the case of the SB model, spade bits.



The Tormek

Mike Sistek and David Knudson demonstrated the Tormek sharpening system. The main benefit to the Tormek is that it is flexible – it can sharpen plane blades, chisels, turning gouges, knives, etc. It has a leather disc attachment you can use to buff and add microbevels. It is fairly easy to set up and you can get repeatable results. The first big downside to the Tormek is the cost. At \$375+, it is definitely the most



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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 June 2012

Half of the year has rushed by and I am way behind on a bunch of things that I wanted to accomplish. One item though, which has been a high priority with me, is getting the Faust Park shop in shape so that the Guild can hold classes there. We also plan to eventually open it to our members for their personal use. More needs to be done in this regard but we are working on it. We have a group of Guild volunteers to act as safety monitors for when the shop opens for our members use. Dan Coleman will be training this group in the necessary safety requirements that we in the Guild expect from our members.

We have been very fortunate as we have been able to equip the shop primarily through donations. Over the past year we have acquired a Darra James 12 inch table saw, a Delta 14 inch bandsaw, a Delta lathe, 12 inch thickness planer, bench top mortiser and a radial arm saw. We just purchased an 8 inch jointer. We also have two drill presses, two scroll saws a second lathe, belt and disc sanders, a dust collector and a small selection of hand tools. The Executive Board and I will be working on the details which we need to address to allow us to use this great new asset to its maximum advantage.

We are planning an open house on June 30th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm so each of you can look the shop over and try out the machines. We even plan to have burgers and brats so mark the date, come on out and enjoy the shop and explore the historic village while you are there.

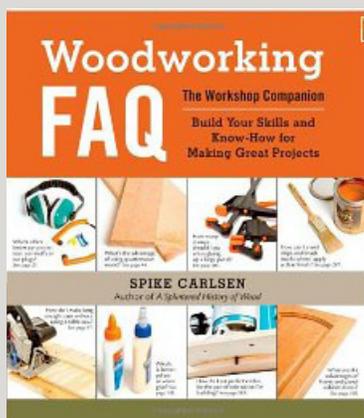
Wayne

New Web Address www.slwg.org

The guild website has a new address! It is www.slwg.org. The old web address will still work until 2014. Until the old URL expires, anyone trying to access the old address will be automatically redirected to the new URL. This new address will be much easier for our aging minds to remember and easier to give out to people who might be interested in joining the guild.

Woodworking FAQ: The Workshop Companion

By Spike Carlsen



In his book, *A Splintered History of Wood*, Spike Carlsen showed us how well he could write. In *Woodworking FAQ: The Workshop Companion*, Spike shows us that he also knows a lot about woodworking.

I still haven't figured out how Spike managed to get so much information a) out of his own head in such an orderly fashion and b) into a 300-page book and still keep it to a manageable size. At just a little over 6"x7"x1", it can easily be carried around with one hand, from workbench to sofa to nightstand. The spiral wire binding lets you open the book up to any page and lay it flat, without fear of having the pages turning on you in the

middle of a messy glue-up, when trying to turn them back may result in a sticky mess.

The formatting of the book is likewise well thought out. The font is easy on the eyes and there are no problems discerning question from answer. The writing style is clear, succinct, and Spike periodically injects small doses of humor to keep it interesting. The content is divided up into 13 chapters in what certainly seems to be a logical organization of information. And believe me, there is a LOT of information in this book. Of the total 303 pages, 281 of them are dedicated to the Question and Answer format. With an average of 2.5 questions per page, that's... well, that's a whole lot of answers for you to try and dig through.

Fortunately, the Contents section does a great job of pointing you to a general section of the book, broken down by topic, where you might find the answer you need. If that isn't specific enough, the last nine pages of the book comprise a very complete Index.

I obviously can't review every bit of information in such a book – there's just too much data to sift through. So I thought I'd just bring it down into the shop with me and start using it to look up answers to questions as I worked through a few projects. That worked out pretty well. After a few weeks of casual shop use, there wasn't really one question I had that the book didn't at least get me started on the right track. I should mention, however, that this isn't a book of detailed instructions on how to perform every woodworking technique. This is a quick-reference guide – someplace where you can go to find the quick answer to a quick question. For example, there are several questions and answers in the section on joinery regarding dovetail joints, but there is not a detailed answer that tells you how to cut a dovetail joint.

I think anyone who has been involved in woodworking for less than five years would definitely find this book to be a useful addition to their woodworking library. But I believe most people who have had more than five years of exposure to the craft will find it less useful. That isn't to say the book would be completely useless to you! After reading through the entire thing, there was definitely some information there that I copied down into my shop notebook for future reference.

The book retails for \$16.95 US in brick-and-mortar stores, but it can be purchased for \$11.41 from Amazon.com. Or, if you prefer using wood for making furniture, and not paper, there is a Kindle version for \$9.32.

Announcements

Upcoming Meetings

July 19, 2012 - Wood Inspection and Kiln Drying by Craig Norsen

Craig Norsen of U-Pick Hardwoods will present a program explaining Federal Wood Inspection Standards. He'll also discuss Kiln Drying and the problems associated with it. He'll also explain ways to minimize wood movement problems.

August 4, 2012 - Shop Tour of U-Pick Hardwoods at 80 Triad South Drive, St. Peters, MO from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm (lunch will be provided and there will be specials on wood)

May Attendance

There were 50 people in attendance at the May 17th meeting; this included one new member and a few guests.

Raffle Winners

Several prizes were raffled off last meeting. Congratulations to Mark Koritz, winner of the \$50 Rockler gift card and to Tom Tupper and Cecil Robertson, who both won t-shirts. The June raffle will include the usual gift card, as well as the copy of the book reviewed in this month's Library Corner.

Toy Report

There were 150 toys delivered in May. The year-to-date total through May is 753, which means that the guild has donated almost 35,000 toys and craft items to local hospitals since 1994.

The current needs for the Toys for Hospitalized Kids committee include cars, bird houses, animal kits (rabbits, coyotes, cats, etc.) and flowers. We have a new supply of wheels and axles, and Saint Charles Hardwoods provides blanks for the cars, so that is an easy kit to make if you have never helped out and want to give it a try. If you need patterns, see the website to select and print a pattern. Or call John (314-843-0616) or Steve (636-866-6121) for any patterns or to arrange pickup or delivery.

At Our Last Meeting: Sharpening System Demonstrations continued from page 1

expensive system we saw throughout the evening. Not only is it the most expensive, but you also have to buy very expensive jigs (or try and make your own) in order to be able to sharpen some things. Still, if your primary goal is to buy a system you can use for many years to keep your woodworking tools at their most efficient, then this may be a good item to consider.

Worksharp 3000 and 2000, Scary Sharp Method

Another staff member from Rockler handled the third station for the Worksharp 3000 and the Scary Sharp method, using sand paper and float glass. The more expensive of the Worksharp models runs around \$200 or so. It is air-cooled and runs at around 580 rpms and can be used to do one thing the Tormek was not designed to do – flatten



backs. In addition to that, the system is easy to use, sharpens most tools in a normal woodworking shop, and you don't have to spend a whole lot of money on additional jigs. But the learning curve is a little higher and you have to buy replacement disks more often than you have to buy a Tormek wetstone.

The Scary Sharp method involves using plate glass (for a flat surface) and adhesive-backed sandpaper of varying grits in order to sharpen your tools. It is commonly touted as one of the least expensive sharpening methods. This may be true, when considering the initial expense, but considered over a period of several years, this system may prove to be costly.

Whether you liked one of the systems presented enough to go out and buy one, or you'd rather give water or oil stones a try, one rule from Chris Schwarz still applies. All sharpening systems work, as long as you know how to use them. Pick one method and learn it well. Use it for a year before you try a different system.

Many thanks to Mike and David and the staff from Rockler for letting us know what options are out there!

Show and Tell



▶ **Charlie Hoehn** brought in a casket he'd made for a rabbit as well as a kaleidoscope.



▶ **Jeremy Taylor** passed around some homemade vernier scribes he'd made with stainless steel. He also discussed his dislike of working with stainless steel.

Rich Sanders brought in some parquetry flowers he'd made.



▶ **Dan Coleman** showed everyone a pen he turned. The cool part about the pen is that it was made out of leather! Well... there was leather in the place where you usually have wood. The process involved gluing on small leather rings, similar to how old Eastwing hammers and hatchets used leather discs for their handles.

Mini-Workshop

The last mini workshop took place at Don Snyder's workshop on Sunday, May 27th. It was attended by Ethan Sincox, Wayne Watson, Bill Hobson, and Brad Bernhard. Not only did Don provide some great catered food and some excellent instruction on making fan inlays, he also provided the class with the templates needed to make fan inlays in the future and simple bench hooks used for squaring up your inlays at the proper angles. Everyone had a great time and learned a lot. If Don teaches any more mini workshops in the future, you would do well to try and attend one of them!

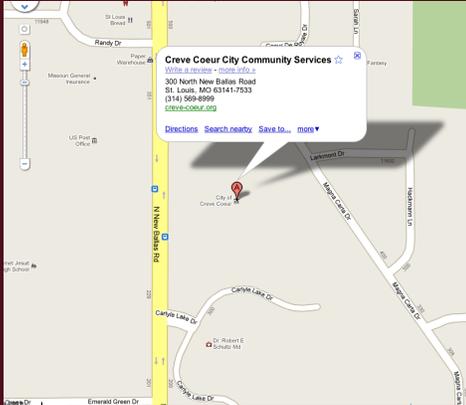
Also, the Mini Workshop Committee is looking for IDEAS for new mini workshops. So, if you have an idea for a topic or subject for a mini workshop you would like to attend, then contact Kurt Herrmann by e-mail at kurtdee@sbcglobal.net or by phone at 314-608-8602. Of course, if you have a mini workshop you would like to host, Kurt would like to hear from you, as well.

Faust Park

There will be an Open House at the Faust Park Workshop on Saturday, June 30th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. In addition to a workshop tour, there will be discussions on shop use and future workshop needs. Food will be supplied for lunch.

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.