



July 2012  
Issue 324

## Our Next Meeting

Thursday 7:00 PM  
July 19, 2012

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

## Lumber Inspection & Kiln Drying

Craig Norsen, owner of U-Pick Hardwood Lumber, will be giving a presentation on wood inspection and kiln drying wood.

## At Our Last Meeting: Constructing Objects Having Polygonal Shapes

by Don Snyder

At the June 2012 meeting, Professor Snyder enthralled the audience with a presentation on creating polygonal shapes out of wood.

I have to be honest with you. Don covered a LOT of material in his presentation – way too much for me to cover in a newsletter article, even if I did understand it all. Fortunately for all of us, Don included a 23 page handout with the presentation. You can find that handout on our website, at [slwg.org](http://slwg.org).

Don started off by defining, for those of us who didn't remember our grade school math, what a polygon is. By way of recap, a polygon is a closed object, obtained by connecting straight line segments, with each line touching the neighboring lines at only two points. A

polygon can have as few as three lines (a triangle), but there really isn't an actual limit as to how many more lines it can have. You could, conceivably, make a 100-sided polygon (a centagon?). Not sure why you would, but you could.

Polygons can be regular (if they eat enough fiber), meaning every segment is the exact same length and all interior angles are exactly the same. (Don's explanation was a bit more detailed, but that's the gist of it.) A stop sign is a regular polygon, as is a square.

Polygons can be irregular, as well. Any closed object with edges of unequal lengths is an irregular polygon. A corner cabinet would be a good example of an irregular polygon.

After all of us were brought up to speed on our grade school math, Don was able to go into more detail on the topic of the night – how to create polygons using the

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**Don Snyder** shows off a selection of projects with polygonal shapes.

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## Wayne's Sawdust July 2012

Talk about the dog days of summer. We suffered through over ten days with temperatures over 100 degrees. One of those days was, of course, the open house we held at our new shop in Faust Park. In spite of the forecast we had a great turnout. Food and good fellowship was the order of the day. A special thanks to Keith Lissant who provided a portable air conditioner which kept the interior of the shop at a positively balmy 85 degrees. I think everyone who attended was favorably impressed with the progress of the shop. We have the equipment to tackle just about any woodworking task.

Dan Coleman started the day early by training the group of volunteers who will eventually serve as "Safety Monitors" when the shop is opened for our members use. These safety monitors will be present to insure that the Guild's equipment is used in a safe manner. We want to be absolutely sure that no one has a serious injury. To that end, any member, regardless of experience level, will be required to participate in a safety course prior to using the Faust Park shop. I hope to shoot for a mid September date to open the shop to our members on the weekends.

Kurt Hermann will also be working on a series of workshops to be held at our new shop. To this end we really could use your input. To those of you who might be newer to woodworking, this is a wonderful way to jump start your woodworking education, at a very reasonable cost. All we need is what classes would you find most valuable. Please drop me an e-mail with your suggestions and we can set up experienced people to teach the topics you come up with. These classes don't have to be just the basics. For our more experienced members, we recognize that more advanced topics are in order. Again please send me an e-mail with your interests and we will attempt to meet them.

We also have a couple of surplus machines. We have a Craftsman 10in table saw with a 6 in. jointer, both mounted on a mobile cabinet. For you newer woodworkers just setting up a shop these two machines will certainly get you going in the right direction. If you are interested make us an offer.

*Wayne*

## New Web Address [www.slwg.org](http://www.slwg.org)

The guild website has a new address! It is [www.slwg.org](http://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.

# From The Editor's Shop – Sanding End Grain

By Ethan Sincox



Raise your virtual hand if you've ever put a finish on a piece of wood.

(Hopefully, that snagged pretty much every reader.)

Now keep your virtual hand raised if you've ever worried about the finish on your end grain being darker than the finish on your face grain.

(Do you still have your hand up? If so, read on...)

When I first started building things with wood, one area I always struggled with was the finish. It never seemed to go on easy.

No matter what kind I tried – varnish, shellac, polyurethane – I never achieved the kind of finish I felt I should have. One of the things that bugged me more than anything else was having any exposed end grain end up significantly darker than the face grain. So I read up on it on-line to see if I could figure out what my problem was.

The first thing I learned is that it had nothing to do with the kind of finish I was using. You can achieve a bad finish with any of them! And you can achieve a good finish with any of them, as well! The most common answer I found was that I needed to sand the end grain with a higher grit than I used on the face grain. But this gave me more questions than answers. How much higher of a grit should I use? Can I use too high of a grit? How do I know when I've sanded enough?

It raised enough questions that I started to doubt that answer, so I decided to figure it out for myself. I pulled out a few scraps of wood and treated them like they were finished projects. I experimented with different sanding techniques, but I limited myself to one of the finishes I'd come to love – General Finishes Armor Seal - in order to simplify the process. With five or so different grits in front of me, I went to work on my test pieces, sanding and taking notes and applying finishes and taking more notes.

In the end, it turned out the solution was quite easy. The key to achieving an even finish on your face grain and your end grain is that you just have to sand it enough. If it is important not to skip grits when sanding your face grain, it is imperative you don't skip grits on the end grain! Sand until you have uniform scratches of the grit you're using, then move on to the next grit and sand until you have completely uniform scratches of that grit. Continue working the end grain right along with all of the faces of your boards. After a bit of practice, I figured out what to look for and it became quite easy to tell when I'd sanded enough.

Today I have a stack of high grit sand paper I rarely touch because I never use anything over 320 grit on wood anymore. And I never have to worry about my end grain being darker than my face grain. Still have doubts? Check out the picture. All three sides of that mahogany board were sanded to 320 grit. Now what do you think? Give it a try on your next project. I think you'll be happy with the result.

## Announcements

### Upcoming Meetings

Thursday, August 16th

Doug Edmondson will give a presentation on sculptural techniques in wood.

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)

### June Attendance

There were 47 people in attendance at the June 21st meeting.

### Raffle Winners

In addition to the normal gift cards, two books were raffled off this month. Congratulations to the following winners:

\$50 Woodcraft Gift Card  
Kurk Hermann

\$20 Rockler Gift Card  
Cecil Robertson

The Furniture Doctor,  
by George Grotz  
Dan Banks

FAQ Woodworking  
by Spike Carlsen  
Mike Sitek (Mike has donated the book to the guild's library)

## Toy Report

We delivered 150 toys in June. The total number of toys delivered for the year so far is 903. Since 1994, the guild has donated 35,110 toy and craft items to the local hospitals.

We are very short of toys! If anyone has any free time available, please consider making cars, bird houses, animal kits, and flower kits. We have a new supply of wheels and axles, so cars would be an easy project for those new to the program.

If you need patterns, see our web site to select and print a pattern. Or you can call and we will send you the patterns by mail. We would prefer it if you would complete at least 20-30 each of any craft pattern you select.

You can call John Patton at 314-843-0616 or Steve Briner at 636-866-6121 for any patterns or to arrange pickup or delivery.

## Constructing Objects Having Polygonal Shapes

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table saw. The first method he discussed was to adhere a cutout of the shape to your block of wood and cut to the lines. This is one of the easiest methods to use, especially if you are only cutting one or two shapes. Set the table saw blade angle to 90° and adjust the miter gauge to hold the block at the proper cutting angle (using an adjustable bevel gauge to take the angle from the pattern and transfer that angle to the miter gauge). Then cut to the lines in the pattern.

Don then covered a method used to cut hexagons on the table saw. This method is safe, accurate, and repeatable, so it is especially useful when many copies of the same sized hexagon are desired. This technique is referenced in Section 3.1 of Don's handout, on pages 6-10.

Another method Don discussed during the meeting was a pattern-following method that can be used to cut regular and irregular polygons of practically any size with consistent results every time. This technique involves first making a pattern with the desired shape and dimensions and then building an auxiliary fence that serves to guide that pattern. With the pattern affixed to the wood blank, and the auxiliary fence properly set up on the table saw, all you have to do is place one side of the pattern against the fence and then run it through the blade to create the cut. This process is fully detailed in Section 3.2 of Don's handout. One aspect of this technique that should be highlighted is to make sure your auxiliary fence is long enough that you can engage the pattern to the fence before it hits the saw blade.

The last topic of discussion for the evening was compound miters. With a dizzying amount of information, Don explained in great detail how to calculate measurements and angles for compound miter cuts and then how to safely make those cuts on the table saw. This information can be found in Sections 4, 4.1, and 4.2 of the handout and is useful for the creation of the three-dimensional objects (polyhedrons) discussed in Section 5.

Don, thank you for taking the time to show us yet another aspect of woodworking that many of us would be afraid to tackle on our own. You continue to amaze us with your wealth of information!

## Show and Tell



**Brad Bernhard** brought in a box he'd made, using the inlay test piece from the last mini workshop with Don Snyder.



**John Bronson** showed everyone his patented idea for joining two long boards face-to-face without having to have 20' long clamps! That is Dan Coleman playing with the clamp.

## Mini-Workshop

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 Hermann by e-mail at [kurtdee@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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.

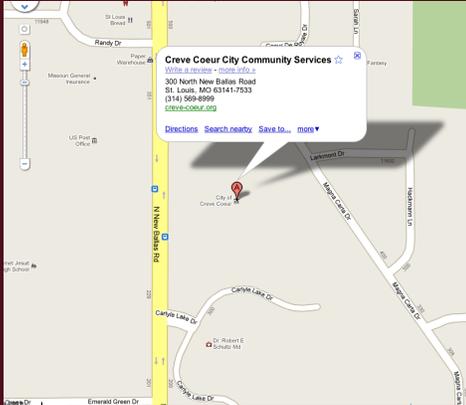
## Faust Park

On Saturday, June 30th, the guild had an open house from 10 AM to 2 PM for the new workshop located in Faust Park. Burgers, brats, and hot dogs were provided by the guild, along with chips and soda. A safety class was provided by Dan Coleman from 8 AM to 10 AM that morning, as well.

For those of you who couldn't make it, the new workshop looks great! It could maybe use a little more de-cluttering, but, hey! What workshop couldn't? If you are interested in using the workshop for personal use, please contact Wayne Watson at (314) 846-1172 to find out what steps need to be followed.

## 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.*