

# St. Louis Woodworkers Guild



October 2012  
Issue 327

## Our Next Meeting

Thursday 7:00 PM  
October 18, 2012

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

## Holiday Projects

Thursday, October 18th is the Annual Holiday Projects Meeting. If you have an idea for gift-giving projects that you can present in just a few minutes, go ahead and bring some examples with you to the meeting!

## International Woodworking Fair

by Jeff Morgan with Mike Sistek and David Knudson

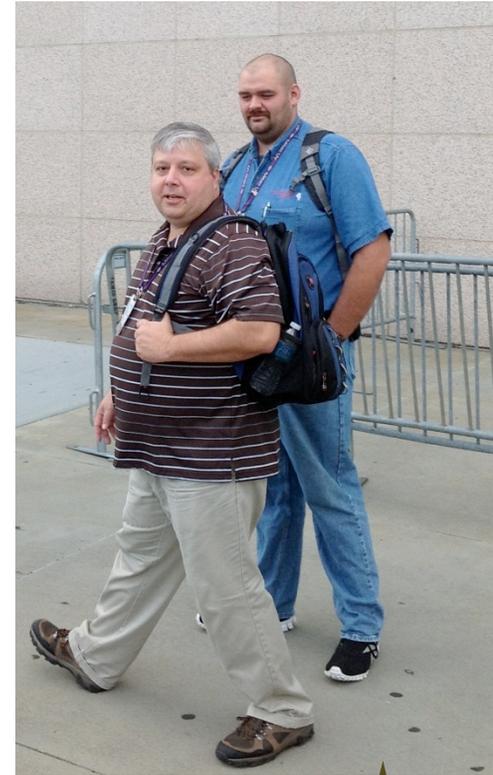
Guild members Jeff Morgan, David Knudson, and Mike Sistek returned from the 2012 International Woodworking Fair (IWF) alive and intact. At the September meeting, Jeff took some time to give us a brief overview of what the IWF was all about and why you might want to consider attending this convention in the future.

The IWF is a yearly event that alternates its location between Atlanta, GA (on the even years) and Las Vegas, NV (on the odd years). At this three-day convention, you can meet up with the manufacturers and suppliers of the tools you use to discuss problems or improvements with them. You can also look for ideas or products that might advance your business or attend educational seminars. And, of course, you can meet up with other woodworkers!

Aside from travel and room-and-board, the costs for attending the conference are pretty minimal. If it is just you attending, go ahead and just pay the \$20/person registration fee. But if you are attending with a friend (or several friends), you can buy a team pass for \$30 that covers everyone. Instead of getting a huge bag to hold all of the pamphlets and fliers one normally receives at a conference, you get a badge. Any time you want to get more information (fliers, pamphlets, e-mail newsletters, sales notices, etc.) from a particular vendor, you just swipe your badge at their booth.

There are several ways you can get to the conference. If you're lucky enough to land a hotel room close enough to the Georgia World Conference Center, you can just walk.

Most of the hotels by the convention center have shuttle services you can take advantage of. MARTA, Atlanta's light rail system, is always a good option (\$20 for a 5-day pass) if you are further away. You could drive  
*continued on page 4*



Mike Sistek (left) and David Knudson head to the show



## Guild Officers

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## Wayne's Sawdust *October 2012*

Here it is, October again. It must be after all – the Cardinals are in the post season once again! Can you say twelve in twelve? The Cardinals determination to excel has been a joy to behold, and I enjoy their competitive, never-say-die approach, but their success has really cut into the limited shop time that I have been able to carve out in the last couple of months.

To compensate, I decided to take Cecil Robertson's Windsor chair class. The first lesson was all about the seat and the majority of the day was spent drilling with a brace and spoon bits and then chopping out the seat.

I was very surprised at how easy the spoon bits were to use. After Cecil showed us the proper technique, it was full speed ahead. It took a little over an hour (there were a bunch of holes to drill!) to get all the holes for the spindles and legs finished. Then the real fun began. Our next task was to take a 8/4 clunky hunk of wood and chop on it, plane it, scrape it and sand it. Sure enough when you finish what you have created is sculpture! A few more lessons and I should have my very first Windsor chair. By the way, I don't want to forget the lunch that Cecil's wife, Dee, prepared. It alone was worth the price of admission.

If you are looking for a quality woodworking experience you need not drive all the way to Indianapolis to get it. Once again, I am in awe of the level of craft that can be found within our Guild.

*Wayne*

## Review – The Saw Wright’s Saw Sharpening Services by Ethan Sincox



I’ve been chatting with Matt Cianci, the founder, owner, and namesake of [www.TheSawWright.com](http://www.TheSawWright.com), for several months about details for the up-and-coming Saw Making Class our guild is going to host in the spring of 2013. In addition to teaching classes on how to build your own handsaw, he also offers saw sharpening and restoration services. So, when I recently acquired a 12” Disston backsaw off our favorite on-line auction service, he was the first person I thought of sending it to for sharpening.

Matt is happy to put a traditional rip or cross-cut filing to your saw, but he thinks there is a better way. And after a recent blog he’d posted on the benefits of an aggressive rake and a moderate fleam he had started giving 12” and 14” sash saws, I asked him if would give my new acquisition the same treatment.

Of course he said yes! It is his favorite way to sharpen a saw and has become his recommendation for the first saw a woodworker should have. Why? Because this tooth configuration allows you to smoothly crosscut and rip, both with the same saw.

Matt had my saw for about 4 weeks, which is pretty typical. I got it back just in time to make a few cuts I needed for a box I was building. It wasn’t even out of the box for 15 minutes before I had a bench hook out and was cutting off a piece of curly mahogany for an insert.

Man, what a pleasure it was to use that saw! It started easily (using just the lightest pressure possible) and tracked dead straight. Looking at the cut it made, you would have thought he’d imbedded some kind of polishing tool just above the teeth!

I made a few more test cuts, just to make sure it wasn’t a fluke, and achieved the same results every time, whether it was a cross-cut or a rip cut. Until I can get around to learning how to sharpen my own saws, I think Matt is going to get my business. He’s already given my old Tyzack dovetail saw a good sharpening, as well. And there is that nice early 1900’s miter saw I’ll be picking up in a few days... maybe I’ll see what Matt can do with it.

Check out his website to see if you could benefit from his services. I think you’ll be happy you did so. Matt Cianci can be reached at the following e-mail address: [matt@thesawwright.com](mailto:matt@thesawwright.com) via. His mailing address is: P. O. Box 6231, Warwick, RI, 02887.

## Announcements

### August Attendance

There were 46 people in attendance at the September 20th meeting.

### Raffle Winners

The Rockler \$50 Gift Card went to Merv Kuefner.

### What’s Coming Up

On Thursday, November 15th, Gary Hinegardner will give a presentation on turning a stool in 45 minutes.

There is no meeting in December – Merry Christmas!

## Toy Report

We delivered 195 toys in September. Through this last August, the year-to-date total is 1398. Since 1994, the guild has donated 35,605 toys and craft items to the local hospitals.

Many thanks to all who made items and delivered them at the September meeting. Your effort is greatly appreciated. For future items, we can use heart necklace medallions and Christmas items. We also need cat, coyote, and bear animal kits, airplanes, and any craft you feel the kids would like.

If you need patterns, see our website (<http://www.slwg.org>) to select and print a pattern or you can call and we will send you the patterns by mail. We normally need about 20 each of any craft pattern you select. You can reach John Patton at 314-843-0616 or Steve Briner at 636-866-6121 for any patterns or to arrange pickup or delivery.

## International Woodworking Fair

continued from page 1

your car, though you will incur daily parking costs that will add up.

If you attend, be sure to bring your walking shoes, because this event is big! No, it's HUGE! As in, almost one million square feet huge! It is the largest gathering of woodworkers in North America. This year's conference had over 23,000 attendees and over 900 exhibiting companies. If you've ever attended the St. Louis Woodworking show, then try to picture something eight times that size. Mike said the large conference hall is so large you can see 3° of the Earth's curve when looking down the main walkway.

It is so big that the IWF website has a GPS system you can use to help map out where you want to go by telling you the best way to go about doing it. You can even set up meetings with manufacturers before you get there! If you are of the technologically advanced era, they have an app for that, as well. If not, you get a large fold-out map and show schedule, along with an official guide book, when you register.

There are a variety of educational seminars you can attend while you're there. Some of them are all-day long while others last just 20 or 30 minutes. Topics for these seminars range from furniture/upholstery to business management to marketing and business development.

One of the main reasons to attend, though, is to get a chance to kick the tires of some of the tools you've always wanted to try before you bought. You can also just sit back and watch how some of the largest woodworking machines you've ever seen work, even if you aren't going to buy one. There are plenty of new products to see there, as well! Jeff brought back samples of real wood veneer that were forced to have repeatable grain pattern to them!

And if you plan on purchasing new equipment, this is the place to do it. You can save as much as 10% to 20% just by buying it at the IWF. And you can save even more if you buy the floor models they have there! Several companies also offered group-buy discounts to organizations like woodworking guilds (Bessey Clamps was one such company).

After the three-day bliss of all things woodworking is over, and you've crawled back home with lighter pockets and a more cluttered shop, there is still more to come. Pretty soon, your mail carrier will curse you as the follow-up letters, pamphlets, fliers, and SAMPLES appear in the mail! In addition to things like latex gloves, spray adhesive, and mixing cups, Jeff said he even received samples of corner protectors to help guard his products during shipping!

Jeff, thanks for giving us a look (the first time, for most of us) at what the International Woodworking Fair is all about. While we know you probably suffered endlessly gathering all of this information for us, we truly appreciate your hard work. Maybe we'll see you there in 2014!



## Show and Tell

**Jeanette Lewis** brought in a coffee table she made (with a little help from Wayne).

**Jerry Lammers** shared his idea for a beginners workbench.

**Phil Haskins** passed around pictures of a table he made out of flame birch and brought a box of scrap wood for anyone who wanted any.



**Don Snyder** brought in a shoji screen/window insert he'd made.

**Cecil Robertson** had more information for his next chair class. See him for details.



**Brad Bernhard** did a quick slideshow presentation of his trip to the Lie-Nielsen factory in Maine and showed off some of his latest turnings.



**Ethan Sincox** showed a presentation box that he made.

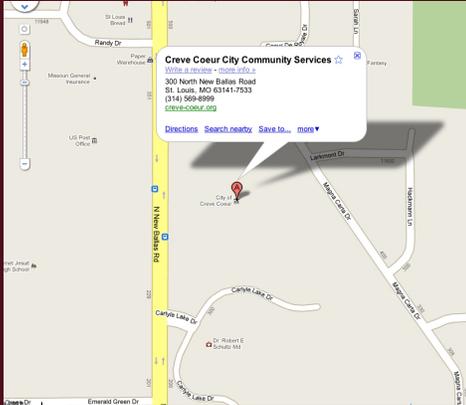
## Mini-Workshops

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.

If you are concerned about having enough room in your shop, then don't be. As of this point, classes can be held in the new 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 \$30 for one years dues to: St. Louis Woodworkers Guild, c/o Treasurer Larry Grzovic, 2849 Championship Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63129.*