



May 2013  
Issue 333

## Our Next Meeting

Thursday 7:00 PM  
May 16, 2013

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

## Collecting Wood

Gary Roux, from the International Wood Collectors, will give a presentation on collecting wood.

## At Our Last Meeting: Building a Maloof Rocker by Brad Bernhard

At the April meeting, fellow guild member Brad Bernhard spent some time reviewing with us his process for making a Sam Maloof-style rocking chair. Sam Maloof (1916-2009) had a woodworking career than any woodworker would give their Stanley #52 for – he had two presidents sitting in his chairs (Carter and Reagan), a prosperous business, and pieces in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the Smithsonian. In 1985, he became the first craftsman to receive a MacArthur fellowship, which is a no-strings-attached award considered to be an investment in a person's potential (currently \$500,000). Through all of this notoriety, Sam still just called himself a woodworker. He thought it was an honest word.

Brad became interested in Sam Maloof's style several years ago and has made several chairs since (he would point to the two chairs in the front of the room several times during his presentation). After a bit of a historic review of Sam's life, Brad jumped straight into the build.

In order to make a typical Sam Maloof rocking chair, you're going to need about 40-50 board feet of lumber. There is not a lot of bending wood with this build; instead, it uses thicker stock that is shaped with bandsaw and hand tools, so some of your stock has to be thicker. For example, you need common-grade 10/4 lumber for the headrest. You also need 8/4 lumber and 6/4 lumber for various parts, like arms and legs. And then it is a good idea to get some large sheets of paper and MDF or quality plywood, because you're going to want to make patterns and you might even want to build a model or mock-up.

When building a Sam Maloof chair, Brad recommends starting with the spindles and the seat. As with most any other chair, you want straight-grained wood for the spindles in order to avoid having the grain run out. This makes for a stronger spindle. After the spindles are shaped, you should work on the seat.

You can use 12/4 lumber for the seat, but it is less expensive to use 8/4 lumber and modify the technique just a little. The seat should consist of five boards. The first, third, and fifth boards will have sides cut perfectly to 90°. The second and fourth boards should be cut with parallel 3° angles cut on the sides, so they end up being parallelograms. When assembled, the second and fourth

**continued on page 4**

**Brad Bernhard shows off his Maloof rockers**



## Guild Officers

**President**  
Wayne Watson 314.846.1172

**Vice President**  
Mike Sistik 618.243.6071

**Secretary**  
Keith Lissant 314.962.1907

**Treasurer**  
Larry Grzovic 314.846.4882

**Directors**  
Bob Brinkman 314.378.1893  
Mark Koritz 314.579.0401  
Kurt Herrmann 636.394.4517  
Rich Weitzman 314.872.7866

**Newsletter**  
Ethan Sincox 314.303.2297  
Scott Wunder 636.922.7629

**Webmaster**  
Chris Law 314.401.8284

**Membership Committee**  
Bill Hobson 314.863.6437

**Toy Committee Chairmen**  
John Patton 314.843.0616  
Steve Briner 636.866.6121

## Sponsors

**Woodcraft**  
314.993.0413

**The Wood & Shop**  
314.739.0001

**St. Charles Hardwoods**  
St. Peters 636.926.2000  
Fenton 636.717.1770

**Rockler Woodworking & Hardware**  
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 May 2013

The month of April was a memorable one. The Guild helped out in two very worthwhile community events. The first was an opportunity to participate in the Veterans Administration's National Creative Arts Competition. Rich Weitzman, Denny Krupinski and I were judges in the woodworking and carving categories. This nation-wide event was held at Jefferson Barracks VA Hospital in South Saint Louis County. A panel of six judges (including the Guild members) met and evaluated the numerous entries from as far away as Hawaii. Working from slides of the submitted work was difficult at times, but many of the entries were truly outstanding. Other categories in this annual competition include dance, singing, drawing and painting. The use of the arts is an important part of veterans' therapy in overcoming wounds, both physical and mental. The top winners in each category are then invited to attend an annual gathering for the Arts which will be in Reno Nevada later this year.

The second event was the first annual St. Louis District TEAM Technology and Engineering Exposition to be held in many years. The competition was at the Florissant Valley Community College. Over sixty projects were submitted by the middle and high school students. The Guild had a strong presence for this event. Keith Lissant demonstrated the scroll saw and Cecil Robertson demonstrated the shave horse to groups of students as their projects were judged by Bob Brinkman, Al Carlson, Mark Koritz, Denny Krupinski, Jerry Lammers, Ethan Sincox and I. The majority of projects submitted were wood and many were of very high quality for first and second year woodworking students. The winners will go on to the TEAM State Contest which will be held at the Lodge of the 4 Seasons, Lake of the Ozarks on May 7th. Dan Coleman and I attended the State Contest last year and were very impressed with the quality of work we saw while there. I believe the St. Louis District competition will become an annual event and our Guild will play a key role in the future to insure that it does. Thank you to all of the people who volunteered their time.



## Build A Backsaw Class with Matt Cianci

Due to the class instructor, Matt Cianci, coming down with a bad flu the day he was supposed to travel to St. Louis, the class was postponed until June 15th-16th. If you have signed up for the class and cannot attend that weekend, or if you are interested in attending and want to see if there are any openings, please contact Wayne Watson at (314) 846-1172 or via e-mail at [workwood@earthlink.net](mailto:workwood@earthlink.net).



## Upcoming Events

### Segmented Woodworking

On Thursday, June 20th, Steve Frank will present his ideas on segmented woodworking techniques.

### Woodworking With Mike Van Pelt

On Saturday, September 21st and Sunday, September 22nd, Mike Van Pelt, former owner of Sycamore Woodworking School, will conduct a two-day seminar on woodworking. Details will be forthcoming, but the cost will be very minimal. If you have not yet attended one of the Guild's woodworking seminars, this would be a great one to attend!

## Show and Tell



**Dave Vitale** showed everyone crosses he made with his boy scout troop in order to raise money. He also showed pictures of a totem they'd made, as well.

**Phil Haskins** brought in a bunch of veneer he was helping Ron Diefenbacher sell.

**Ethan Sincox** brought in his latest tool acquisition, a Bad Axe Miter Saw with a bog oak handle.



## Toy Report

We delivered 150 toys in April. We received Thank You letters from Children's and Glennon Hospitals, showing how much they appreciate the Toy Program. The total number of toys delivered since 1994 is 36,741. The year-to-date total for 2013 thus far is 639. We can use items such as: cars, bird houses, airplanes, animal kits, coyotes, cats, and tulips and other flowers at the next meeting in May.

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 really need about 20 to 30 each of any craft pattern you select.

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

## At Our Last Meeting: Building a Maloof Rocker continued from page 1

boards should be set so as to cause the third board to sit lower than the first and fifth boards. Once this arrangement is established and the boards have been glued and allowed to cure, you can begin shaping the seat. In order to reduce time and dust, a bandsaw or scorp should be used to rough out most of the waste instead of a grinder.

The legs will all be made out of 8/4 material. The front legs, being mostly quite straight, will be easier to make. You want to fit the mortise that connects it to the seat exactly to the width of the tenons and notches. The back legs, having a much more dramatic shape to them, should be made from a pattern. Again, you want to use straight grain for strength here.

For the armrest, you again want to use 8/4 stock. Lay it out so there is a 6° slope from the back legs to the front legs. This will make the rocking chair more comfortable.

You will spend many, many hours of work fitting the arms to the front and back legs to make sure they fit properly. These joints require strength and are highly visible, so you want to make sure you get them done right. Upon final assembly, all of the joints between legs and the seat and the armrests should be backed up with wood screws and the holes plugged.

When making the headrest, you're going to use 10/4 stock. Since this piece has a larger amount of visible face, you want to pick lumber with movement or character. It will be one of the first things a person sees when they look at the chair.

Finally, Brad discussed the sleds. The sled does end up being a laminated part of the project. Again, straight grained wood, for easy lamination, is suggested. Brad adds a much harder wood, such as ebony, to the bottom of the sled. He also then adds the same wood to the middle of the lamination for an accent.

Brad finished the discussion by briefly discussing some of the other woodworking pioneers of this century, including Wharton Eshrick, George Nakashima, Art Carpenter, and Wendell Castle. I would also add James Krenov to that list. If you are interested in reading more about Sam Maloof, his book can be found new or used in various places still. As far as I know, this book is not in the guild's library at this time.

Thanks for taking the time to open our eyes to the works of one of the most inspirational woodworkers of our time, Brad!

Brad gives Denny a good talking to



## *Book Review: With Wakened Hands, Furniture by James Krenov and Students* by James Krenov

review by Ethan Sincox

This is my fifth James Krenov book and the last of five he wrote before his passing. My version is soft-bound, but the quality is still quite high. After 13 years, the spine and binding seems to be holding up very well. The paper is a good thickness, the text is easy to read and sans serif. Most importantly, the photos are high quality and matte finished. They are well-framed and properly lit to show you all of the grain detail as well as the form. All of this makes for a quality publication.

In truth, if you have not yet picked up any of the James Krenov books to read, this might very well be the best one to start off with! It is lighter on discussion than the other books, and heavier on pictures, with the main focus being to share with you some of the works completed by him and his students at the College of the Redwoods. His goal is, "... to bring this refined work to the attention of the public." He wants to connect with the kind of woodworker who strives for a greater degree of success, and inspire them to do just that.

The book is broken down into five sections: Workmanship, Teaching, Wood, Creativity, and Fingerprints. The first section is a discussion about the quest for quality. In covering this topic, Mr. Krenov gives us a pretty good synopsis of his life to-date and explains his current role in the school. With references to not buying freshly cut wood anymore or not working in the shop with the students as much as he used to, it is quite evident, he is aware of, and has come to terms with, his mortality.

The second section begins with greater detail about the College of the Redwoods, going into the reasons why he started there, though he was propositioned by several private schools, and giving us a rundown of how the program works. If you focus on any text in this book, please make it the second part of Section Two, where he discusses how to get the most joy and satisfaction out of woodworking.

In the section on Wood, Mr. Krenov highlights the absolute importance of not only picking the right wood for your project, but in understanding that wood and its properties in order to make an intimate connection between you and the project. But what should you really take from this section? "Get wood. Get all you can, and then get some more."

One thing Mr. Krenov hopes all students of the College of the Redwoods leaves with is the ability to follow the creative process, from beginning to end, with their work. This is covered in the fourth section, Creativity. Learning how to take an idea from sketch to mock-up to finished piece, dealing with mistakes along the way, is an important part of your work

Finally, in the last part of the book, he offers his insight on leaving fingerprints in your work, doing things to make it your own. This includes everything from wood selection to design, surface texture to joinery, hardware to finish.

After everything I've said thus far, I have to be honest with you. I'm not sure I can write a review or summary of this book that is better than the one-line inscription to the previous owner in blue sharpie on the first page:

"To my woodworker, May you continue to learn from life and be fascinated."

Yeah, that about sums it up.

## Announcements

There were 48 attendees, including guests and members, at the April 18th guild meeting.

The winner of the 50/50 raffle drawing was Mark Koritz. Congrats, Mark!

### Officer Elections

Elections for the guild officers were held at the April meeting. The new guild officers are:

Wayne Watson – President

Dennis Krupinski – Vice President

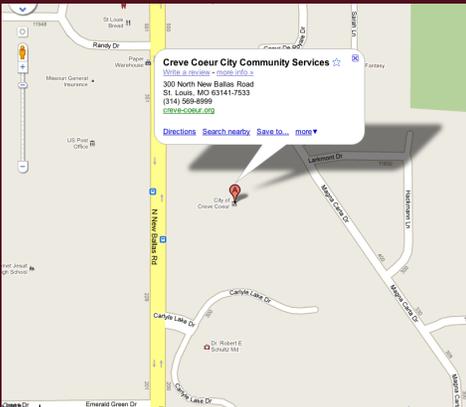
Mike Sistik – Director

Tom Tupper – Treasurer

Kieth Lissant – Secretary

## 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, P. O. Box 411766, St. Louis, MO 63141-9998*