



June 2013
Issue 334

Our Next Meeting

Thursday 7:00 PM
June 20, 2013

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

Segmented Sculptures

Steve Frank will discuss the techniques he uses to turn out beautiful segmented wood sculptures.

At Our Last Meeting: Collecting Wood with the International Wood Collector's Society by Gary Roux

At the May meeting, Gary Roux from the International Wood Collector's Society dazzled the Guild with wood samples from all over the world as well as a good dose of wood information and trivia. Most of the presentation was an introduction of a species of wood followed by interesting facts and samples.

Gary started off talking about Camphor. It is one of the most fragrant woods around. It smells like Vick's cough drops and really opens up the nasal passages when you are using it in the shop. The smell isn't unpleasant, but can sometimes be overpowering.

Next Gary turned to African Blackwood. It is super hard and heavy. Gary said that it is so hard that it can be turned on a metal lathe.

After the Blackwood we got to hear about Carob wood and more specifically about the Carob seed. The Carob seed is used to make an artificial chocolate, much like the cacao bean. The Carob seed is very consistent in size. So much so, that it was used as a unit of measure. It was a precursor to the carat, which is a measuring system for gems.

Next we talked about Logwood, which looks like bloodwood. The weird thing is that logwood is used to make blue-jean dye, which is blue, but the Logwood is red.

After the Logwood, we got back on the heavy and hard woods. Gary pulled out some Ziricote

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Gary Roux from the International Wood Collector's Society



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U-Pick Hardwood Lumber
636.485.5217

Wayne's Sawdust June 2013

I wish to send a fond farewell to Chris Law, as he and his family, are relocating to the Atlanta area. Many of you may not have had the chance to meet Chris but his efforts touched everyone in the Guild. A little over two years ago Chris took on the challenge to update our website. He had the site revamped in just a couple of weeks and has maintained it ever since. Chris also supported the Guild in many other ways. He hosted the very first mini workshop in his home and set a standard that has become a benchmark for all of the mini workshops that followed. I hate to see a valued Guild member leave us, and I wish Chris and his family well.

Another trait within the Guild is the willingness of our members to step up when something needs to get done. Cecil Robertson is one of my "go to" guys and once again he has stepped up to address a Guild need. Cecil has agreed to take over the website with Chris' departure.

Matt Cianci aka "The Saw Wright" spent last weekend in the Guild's Woodshop teaching a dozen of us how to build our own back saws. Matt is a very personable professional Saw Wright from Rhode Island. The majority of his business is sharpening and repairing vintage saws but he has a lovely back saw that he sells as well. He went over the basics and then we were quickly on to the first task, roughing out the tote (handle) for the saw. This allowed us to totally customize our saw for hand size and look. Sawing the kerf in the tote to accept the saw plate was a bit intimidating as it has to be dead straight. Matt showed several ways to do this and suddenly it wasn't all that scary. The whole process of building a back saw went that way. Tuning the saw plate, jointing and setting the teeth, sharpening and stoning the teeth all went fairly easily with the techniques that Matt taught us. I was very impressed with how well the saws cut. Everyone at the class left with a very high quality back saw.

Bringing Matt Cianci to St. Louis happened because one of our members (Ethan Sincox) suggested that he would be an excellent choice for a Guild Workshop. This is the only way that I know of arranging for these special programs. Your woodworking experience level is not important. If you would like to see a "rock star" woodworker come to St. Louis in the future please contact anyone on the Executive Board and we will see if it's feasible. Special programs come with a higher cost but do not overlook our Mini-Workshops. I have been a little disappointed in the turnout for the last couple of our workshops. The cost is very reasonable, so perhaps it has been the topics that we have chosen. Again, I urge each member to provide the topics of interest to you. I know Bob Brinkman will do his best to set it up. Education is one of the primary objectives of the Guild but we can't do it in a vacuum. Let us know what you want.

Wayne

Show and Tell



▶ **Jim Hoeller** showed and discussed jack and scraper planes.

Jeff Nasser showed some new species of turned wood eggs.

Scott Wunder showed a piece of petrified White Oak.

Rich Sanders showed a “chainsaw” that he cut out of a solid piece of wood in the shape of a chain with a handle.



▶ **Keith Lissant** showed a dream catcher from a recent mission trip.



▶ **Bob Brinkman** showed a couple of sliding dovetail boxes.

Phil Haskins showed some figured ash.



Upcoming Events

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!

Mini Workshops

Pattern Inlay

On Saturday, July 20th Don Snyder will be hosting a mini workshop on pattern inlay.

Oil and French Polish

On Saturday, August 17th Mike Sisteck will conduct a mini workshop on finishing techniques, including French polishing.

Toy Report

We delivered 120 toys in May. The total delivered since 1994 is 36,861. Year to date total is 759.

We can use items such as; cars, bird houses, airplanes, animal kits, (coyotes, cats, bears, coyotes.), Tulips and other flowers at the next meeting in June.

If you need patterns see our web site to select and print a pattern or you may 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: Collecting Wood with the International Wood Collector's Society

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and then Snakewood and then things got crazy – crazy technical. Snakewood has a specific gravity or density of 1.37. Under 1.00 and wood floats, over 1.00 wood sinks. At a 1.37 Snakewood sinks like a rock. To give you an idea of how hard 1.37 is, consider that “regular” hardwoods like cherry and walnut are under 60. It is more than twice as hard as both of them and still twice as hard as oak. That is some hard wood.

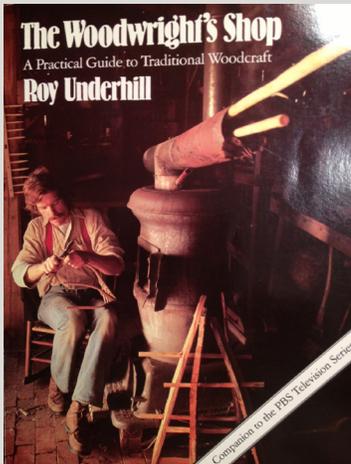
Gary also talked for awhile about Lance wood from Australia and how hard it is. He didn't offer a lot of details about Lancewood except that it seemed to be one that has eluded him through the years.

After discussing specific woods, Gary talked more about collecting. As a wood collector it is common to have samples of the wood that you have collected and as a serious collector it is important to have the samples be the right size. The standard for wood collectors is 3” x 6” x 1/2”, which is big enough to get a good view of the wood, but not so big as to get in the way when you have 20,000 samples.

When collecting wood it is important to identify the wood to make sure your collection is accurate. Gary shared a few secrets on how to make sure that your sample is what you think it is. First of all, it is important to compare your sample to a vouchered piece of the same wood. It is also important to look at the seeds, flowers and leaves as well as the wood to verify the species. The final thing to verify is the name. One tree can have many different local names, and Gary had a giant binder to help with that. He had a reluctant audience member (Denny Krupinski) come up and read the different known local names for maple. There were at least twenty different names for the same maple tree. Imagine how many different names there are in other countries that are more tribal with very localized languages. The naming part can be the hardest part of the equation.

Gary wrapped up with a few other notes about other woods and then answered questions for a bit. There is no doubt that Gary knows a lot about wood and he will be getting plenty of questions to help others identify wood in the future.

Book Review: *Woodwright's Shop* by Roy Underhill review by Ethan Sincox



In honor of Roy Underhill's 30th season on PBS with *The Woodwright's Shop*, I thought I'd write a little something about the companion book, under the same name, this month. For those of you who don't know, *The Woodwright's Shop* is often filmed in just one take, with no going back to correct any errors or mistakes or to clarify something that might be confusing. I imagine this is partially done in order to save money, but it also perfectly exhibits one of the more important lessons one can pick up from watching and reading Roy Underhill. Go. Do. Make mistakes. Learn from them, but do not focus on them. And then try again. The show also tries to pack a whole lot of information into each 30 minute episode.

Because of these techniques, however, the TV show isn't exactly a complete source of information for making a shave horse or rocking chair or dovetail box, which is why we are lucky Roy put out a companion book! The book follows the first season (which, incidentally, is available from www.shopwoodworking.com, along with the second through the thirteenth seasons) in the scope of projects and techniques taught, but takes more time to explain everything in greater detail.

The main idea behind *The Woodwright's Shop* is to return your mind and spirit back to a time when we were more self-sufficient. Starting with just an axe and a tree, we made our own tools and farm implements (mauls, gluts, shave horses, rakes, and hay forks), we created our own creature comforts (chairs, baskets, and bowls) and we built the house we lived in and the shed in which we stored the tools!

By following this process, we create a more intimate connection with our primary material - the wood we are using. We begin to understand what species of tree has better qualities for a specific function, whether you are chopping out a glut to help split a log (dogwood) or weaving the seat for your new rocking chair (white oak) or making a maul (hickory). If you were to follow through the book and make every project from this season, you would touch upon pretty much every essential skill in woodworking.

For the most part, there is a chapter for every episode of the first season. Obviously, there will be some overlap on some of the subjects covered, and a few of the subjects from the first show (trees and tools) got their own chapters, as the topics are important enough on their own.

If you already own this book, something you might want to consider doing is picking up the first season of the show on DVD. In that way, you can make the show become a companion to the book! It is all good and well to read about a technique, but you can learn even more from watching the technique being done.

This book has many editions in print at this point. My copy is the 6th edition. This means it is plentiful and inexpensive. You can pick it up used off of Amazon for \$5 plus shipping. While you're at it, you might want to consider getting *The Woodwright's Companion*, which is based on the second and third season of his PBS show.

Announcements

There were 51 attendees, including guests and members, at the May guild meeting.

The winner of the 50/50 raffle drawing was Don Snyder. Congrats, Don!

Charlie Hoehn also won a raffle item – a piece of Camphor from Gray Roux

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

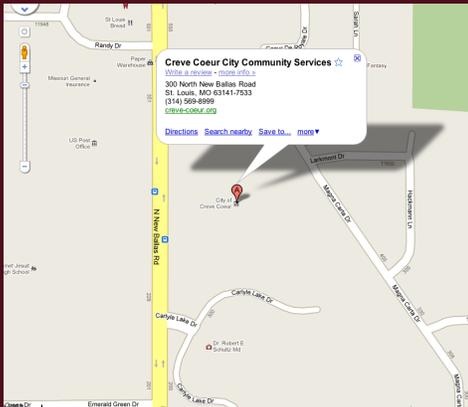
Mike Sistek – Director

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*