



July 2013
Issue 335

Our Next Meeting

Thursday 7:00 PM
July 18, 2013

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

Large Turnings

At our July meeting, Wes Kolkmeier is going to talk to us about large segmented turning. Wes, a retired carpenter of 45 years, started turning when he was working on restoring an old home and he had to replace a number of spindles. This led to other turnings (bowls and the like), which eventually turned into the large segmented turnings he does today.

At Our Last Meeting: Segmented Wood Sculptures by Steve Frank

At the June meeting, Steve Frank spent a bit of time with the guild discussing his woodworking business, which is a shop on Etsy.com where he sells segmented wood sculptures. Steve has been a journeyman carpenter for almost 40 years, but that is apparently not enough time for him, so he spends much of his free time in his workshop building wood sculptures.

For the most part, the sculptures are free-form works he just allows to “happen on their own”. Most of the wood and other materials he uses is recycled from wood off the job or scraps from the sawmill he uses for wood for more traditional projects. Rather than work on one piece at a time, Steve almost always has six or seven projects going on at once. This helps to keep his creativity fueled and reduces project boredom.

His sculptures are comprised of small sections of wood with compound (angled and beveled) cuts. These pieces are then arranged one at a time into three-dimensional works of art. All cuts are made on a table saw. He used to use a contractor table saw, typical of most woodworking shops in America, but recently upgraded to a SawStop, when he realized how useful the technology might be, considering how close his fingers are to the blade all the time. So far,

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Steve Frank and his
array of segmented
wood sculptures.

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Wayne's Sawdust July 2013

Education has always been one of the most important foundations of the St. Louis Woodworkers Guild. Our monthly programs are always selected with an aim to provide our members with practical information which can be applied in their pursuit of the craft of woodworking. No matter what your experience level, some kernel of knowledge can be found in each of our monthly programs.

In addition to our regular programs, the Guild has brought in nationally recognized experts for specialized seminars. We most recently had the "Saw Wright," Matt Cianci to present a two day class on building, sharpening and using a backsaw. At this month's meeting you will see the results of that class. In the recent past Mark Adams, Jeff Jewett, Frank Klaus and Graham Blackburn have all traveled to St. Louis to provide top level instruction to our members. Unfortunately instructors of this caliber do not come cheaply. While we make every effort to hold the costs to a minimum, between the travel and other expenses, these seminars although a great value, can be a bit pricey. Mike Sitek is in the process of bringing in another woodworking "rock-star" for a two day seminar at our regular meeting place, the Creve Coeur Government Center. Mike Van Pelt is scheduled to be in St. Louis on September 21 and 22, 2013. The fee will be very affordable so this seminar is one you will want to put on your calendar. More information will be available at our meetings and on our website.

We also have been holding mini-workshops both in Guild member's homes and in our workshop located in Faust Park in Chesterfield. These mini-workshops are quite inexpensive (typically \$20.00 plus materials if required) and are packed with techniques that will broaden your woodworking bag of tricks. From mortise and Tenon joinery, box making, tuning and using hand planes to building crosscut sleds and tenoning jigs and using inlay these mini-workshops have provided the attendees a wealth of knowledge to help them broaden their skills. Bob Brinkman and Kurt Herrmann have been chairing this activity and they are working on additional topics. Let them know if you have a particular area of interest. We especially need to hear from our members who are new to woodworking. Sometimes we tend to overlook the basics but without a strong foundation the path can get a bit rocky as you continue your woodworking journey.

We also have several members who are taking advantage of the Guild's mentoring program. We try to pair new woodworkers with Guild members who have the experience to assist the mentored members in their pursuit of the craft. Typically you would meet with your mentor in his shop (or yours) at a time that is mutually convenient. This is a wonderful way to learn about which tools to own, and how to use them.

The Woodworkers Guild Executive Board has just approved a budget that continues to invest in the Faust Park Workshop. We have purchased an air conditioner and will be adding insulation to the building to improve the comfort level. We have also appropriated funds to build sufficient work benches to support future classes.

Wayne

Show and Tell



Cecil Robertson brought in a section from a 150 year old white oak tree!

Jeff Nasser brought in his latest pepper mills and some pen blanks made with real snakeskin imbedded in acrylic.



Bob Brinkman showed everyone his latest project, a drop-leaf kitchen table.



Don Snyder brought in a chess board with chess pieces, all made by him.

Vic Barr has recently started making his own box hinges! He brought in a box with walnut hinges as an example.



Rich Sanders' latest projects included some boxes with flower designs and a sanding jig that uses green kitchen scrubbing pads.



Denny Krupinski passed around several wooden fly boxes he made from reclaimed mahogany he'd purchased from Greener Lumber.



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 teaching a pattern inlay class out at the guild's workshop in Faust Park from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you are interested in attending, he can be reached at (314) 780-5443 or you can contact Bob Brinkman at (314) 378-1893

Oil and French Polish

On Saturday, August 17th, Mike Sisteck will be teaching a class on finishing. He will cover using BLO (Boiled Linseed Oil), Tung oils, shellac, and French polishing. It will be at Faust Park, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (maybe as late as 6 p.m., if the time is needed). This class has a six person limit, so contact Mike (618) 830-4516 or Bob Brinkman to reserve a spot.

Toy Report

150 toys were delivered to three hospitals in June. The total delivered thus far in 2013 is 909 and over 37,000 toys have been delivered since 1994. If you assume an average toy value of \$2.50, then that means we've saved the hospitals over \$90,000 over the last 20 years by supplying them with toys, thus eliminating the need to purchase them.

We are currently looking for such items as cars, bird houses, airplanes, animal kits (coyotes, cats, bears, etc.), tulips, and other flowers. If you need patterns, please see the website (www.slwg.org) or call John Patton (314-843-0616) or Steve Briner (636-866-6121). For any pattern you use, please try and make around 20-30 items in that pattern.

At Our Last Meeting: Segmented Wood Sculptures continued from page 1

he has yet to set it off due to a danger to his hand. It did, however, shut down due to a computer malfunction once and he said SawStop was amazingly courteous and resolved his issue without any hassles, even providing him with another spare brake by way of apologizing for the problem.

Because of the shapes and angles involved, clamping his pieces, and still maintaining a productive rate, would be close to impossible. Instead, Steve glues and nails each piece as it is assembled. He uses Titebond II wood glue and 23 gauge nails. So far, he has not yet had a sculpture fail him. He demonstrated the strength of one of his sculptures by standing on it in front of the guild!

Steve tends to use native woods in his natural wood sculptures, including walnut, maple, red oak, and white oak. These pieces also require extra effort to make sure the wood tones and colors balance throughout the sculpture. He occasionally accentuates the natural colors by adding dowels of contrasting woods in various places.

When he is going to paint a piece, he uses poplar because of how easy it is to work and how evenly it takes paint. The painted sculptures require less time in the layout phase, because the species and color of the wood is not as important to keep organized. But they do require more time on the finishing end. Before a sculpture can be painted, it is given an initial sanding and then filler is applied to try and make the entire surface smooth. It is then sanded again before it is painted.

When possible, Steve likes to use an oscillating spindle sander to do most of his sanding. He has removed the table from his sander, which gives him a greater range of motion. He likes to use the 1" and 1-1/2" sleeves if he can, because they conform better to the pieces, but he uses the 3/4" sleeve when necessary. He sands each piece from 60 grit through 220 grit.

Painted sculptures will receive six or more coats of paint before they are considered complete. After trying several different methods and techniques, Steve has settled on using Rustoleum spray paint. In the summer, he sprays outside or in the garage, but during the winter, he uses a hair dryer and a cardboard box in order to create an environment where the paint can dry properly.

If you want to see more of Steve's work, you can find his shop on Etsy at www.etsy.com/people/SteveFrank71. Thanks for taking the time to visit with the guild, Steve!

Tool Review: Auriou Rasps

review by Ethan Sincox



When it comes to buying woodworking tools, you can be cheap or you can be thrifty. Though it might not seem obvious at first, being cheap will cost you more in the long run. Your cheap tool will ruin a key component of your project at an inopportune time or you will throw it across the room when it doesn't work the way it should or it will wear out too fast and you'll have to replace it again and again. The thrifty purchase, on the other hand, might cost more up-front, but you'll never curse your tool

for not working the way it should and, in many cases, the tool will outlast you, becoming something you can pass down to someone else when you no longer need it.

When I signed up for Matt Cianci's Build A Backsaw class, I knew I was going to need a few rasps to shape the tote. I also knew I'd had several situations in the past where a good modeler's rasp or cabinetmaker's rasp would have greatly simplified a task I was working on. So I decided to save up and buy some rasps I knew I'd never need to replace – Auriou (pronounced "Are-you") rasps from Saint Juery, France.

Auriou Toolworks is run by Michel Auriou, a 4th Generation rasp maker. His small shop consists of two stitchers, two blacksmiths/grinders, and one general assistant who is training in all aspects of the work. All Auriou rasps are hand-stitched. The slightly random pattern that is the result of hand-stitching a rasp causes it to make a cut that is much smoother than a machine-stitched rasp. This means you will have less sanding work to do when you are done shaping your piece. The rasps are tapered, as well, which allows them to be used more easily, especially when you're trying to work in a tight space. Auriou rasps are handled in French walnut, unless you purchase them through Lie-Nielsen (who handles them in maple).



The standard way of grading a rasp is by length and stitching grain. The grain is done on a scale of 1 to 15, where 1 is the most coarse and 15 is the finest. But the length of the rasp also plays a factor in the grading; an 8" Grain 11 will cut differently than a 10" Grain 11. The larger cabinetmaker's rasps are useful for quickly roughing out shapes, while the smaller modeler's rasps can be used to refine an edge that leaves you with a minimal amount of sanding.

I wanted rasps that would be useful in the saw-making class, but I also wanted them to be useful for other projects, so I went with a 10" Grain 9 cabinetmaker's rasp and a 7" Grain 13 modeler's rasp. Both of these rasps are half-rounds, which gives you the ability to work flat, convex, and concave shapes.

The cabinetmaker's rasp did a great job of taking my saw tote, fresh off the bandsaw, and adding the initial curves to the edges. The modeler's rasp then smoothed out most of the roughness left by the cabinetmaker's rasp, which allowed me to get to the level of smoothness I wanted with just a few minutes of sanding on each curve.

After using the Auriou rasps for about six or seven hours, I picked up the 4-in-1 rasp I'd purchased at a big box store a few years ago and tried using it, just for comparison. After about 15 seconds of use, I tossed it in a box of tools I'm getting rid of, never to be used in my shop again. I've tasted the quality of an Auriou rasp and I'm not going to waste my time with something less.

Is an Auriou rasp expensive? Yes, but I don't think it is exceedingly so. Once you get one in your hands and practice with it a bit, you'll quickly find it is a very useful tool that will earn its keep in your shop. And you'll be so pleased with the end result that you won't want to use anything less than a quality rasp ever again.

Announcements

There were 50 people in attendance at the June 20th meeting. Four of those attending were guests and several others were brand new members. Welcome!

The Raffle winner for the June meeting was Dan Sudkamp. Dan won a \$50 Woodcraft gift card. Congratulations, Dan!

If you are new to woodworking and would like to take advantage of our mentoring program, please contact Mark Koritz (314-579-0401) or Wayne Watson (314-846-1172). They will help set you up with a member who is in your area and willing to meet with you and show you what he or she knows about woodworking. If you have woodworking experience and knowledge you would like to share, then please contact Mark or Wayne and let them know you would like to be a mentor.

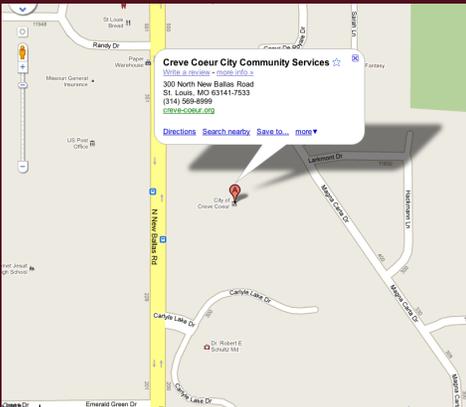
Upcoming Meetings

Bill Armon will be our presenter at the August 2013 meeting. Bill is going to discuss the construction of bamboo fly rods.

In October, we will be visited by Ron Bontz, one of the newer saw makers to hit the hand tool revolution scene. Ron is going to go into his saw-making background and discuss what goes into the making of one of his saws.

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*