



October 2013  
Issue 338

## Our Next Meeting

Thursday 7:00 PM  
October 17, 2013

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

## Saw building

Ron Bontz will discuss his hobby-turned-business, Bontz Saw Works, and the backsaws he makes.

## At Our Last Meeting: Turning Peppermills by Jeff Nasser

Anyone who has attended more than three guild meetings in the last few years has seen some of Jeff Nasser's work. This month, stepped up to the plate and gave us a nice presentation on making peppermills, discussing the details of the process as he does it in his shop.

Now, keep in mind it is outside the scope of this article to provide step-by-step instructions for turning a peppermill; some of Jeff's instructions were very detailed and would benefit from accompanying images of certain steps. Reviewing several other written instructions on-line, some were as long as 14 pages (including pictures). Instead, we will try to highlight some of Jeff's methods, tips, and tricks. But if you would like to speak with Jeff about making peppermills in more detail, you can contact him at [peppermil1974@gmail.com](mailto:peppermil1974@gmail.com) or catch him at the next meeting!

Jeff has been turning wood for about 30 years now, with the last 15 years spent turning pens and peppermills. He learned his turning skills from his father, another avid woodworker. At first, his peppermills were made from solid wood blanks. As his skills developed, he wanted to challenge himself, so he moved up to turning segmented peppermills.

Comfort means a lot to most woodworkers, and Jeff is no exception. For him, comfort is reliability and consistency, so he tends to stick with the same turning tools he has used for years. He roughs out his stock using an old HSS turning chisel. When it is time to smooth the

**Continued on page 4**



**Jeff Nasser and  
his assortment  
of turning tools  
and finished  
peppermills.**

## Guild Officers

### President

Wayne Watson 314.846.1172

### Vice President

Denny Krupinski 636.677.1678

### Secretary

Keith Lissant 314.962.1907

### Treasurer

Tom Tupper 636.458.3669

### Directors

Bob Brinkman 314.378.1893

Mark Koritz 314.579.0401

Kurt Herrmann 314.608.8602

Mike Sistek 618.243.6071

### Newsletter

Ethan Sincox 314.303.2297

Scott Wunder 636.922.7629

### Webmaster

Cecil Robertson 314.605.1410

### 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 October 2013

September was an extremely active month for the Guild. In addition to our regular monthly meeting, we had a wonderful weekend of woodworking knowledge presented by Mike Van Pelt. Thanks to the efforts of Mike Sistek, we had an expert cover the waterfront from routers to steam bending. Next was our annual tour and picnic. Denny Krupinski set up a very interesting tour of DNC Resources. This is a relatively new sawmill operation in Dow Illinois. While there they demonstrated a large chainsaw mill. They were slicing 12/4 slabs of Walnut Burl for woodturners. The chainsaw was powered by a Kohler 40hp engine and it had a bar at least ten foot long. It was quite impressive. They also had quite a bit of wood available at very reasonable prices and I saw quite a few of our Guild members take advantage. After our tour, we relocated to Pere Marquette Park where we were met by Denny's lovely bride Margie. She got the grill going in short order, and we ate and ate and...well you get the picture. Denny even arraigned for excellent weather.

A special thanks needs to go out to Guild Members Al Carlson, Kurt Herrmann, Mark Koritz, Jerry Lammers, Jim Payne, Rich Sanders, Mike Seevers and Don Snyder, who turned out to help Variety, The Children's Charity, by building three beds for their upcoming production of Peter Pan at the Touhill. I am very proud to be a member of the Guild because as a group we have always risen to the occasion for our community. Thank You!

I just returned from New Orleans, where I visited the National World War II museum with my Father-in-Law, who is a WWII veteran. We were on a special three day tour which took us behind the scenes with museum curators. One of our first stops was to the restoration facility. Undergoing a complete restoration to bring it back to its WWII configuration was PT 305. This seventy eight foot Torpedo Patrol Boat that served in the Mediterranean was well on its way. I had always believed that PT boats were constructed of plywood. Not so at all. The Frames and internal structure were laid up with specially constructed plywood but the hull was actually two layers of 5/4 Mahogany with a cloth skin and sealant in the middle. In fact by the end of the war, Higgins Industries had built 20,094 landing craft, PT boats and other craft, almost all of them out of high grade Mahogany. Without his design and the landing craft (known as "Higgins Boats") that he built in New Orleans, the seaborne invasion of Europe and island hopping campaigns of the Pacific would not have been possible. If you are planning a trip to New Orleans, a visit the National World War II museum would be well worth your time.

*Wayne*

## The Guild's Workshop Needs Your Help

In order to make the Faust Park workshop more comfortable for use during the winter months, a work "party" is going to be organized for some time in December to help get the shop insulated. If you are interested in helping out with this, contact Bob Brinkman or Wayne Watson.

At some point early in the new year, another work party will be scheduled

to build four workbenches for the shop. It would be a great opportunity for someone to get some workbench building experience under their belt before they tackle their own! Details for this are still being worked out, but contact Wayne Watson if you are interested taking part in this workshop.

## Show and Tell

**Jim Schneider** – Jim brought in a drill bit guide that lets you adjust the angle of entry; used for drilling holes for Windsor chairs.



**Brad Bernhard** – Brad brought in his pattern inlay practice piece from a recent class he took with Don Snyder. He also passed around a bowl he turned and then used a gouge to add fluting to the outside.



**Bob Brinkman** – Bob brought in his pattern inlay practice piece from Don's class, as well. He also brought in a box lid with a leaf carved into it that he made in a recent carving class.



**Cecil Robertson** – Hard to believe, I know, but Cecil brought in a Windsor chair! This time, it was a Windsor side chair.



**Jerry Lammers** – Jerry brought in everyone's favorite show-and-tell item – free wood!



**Brian Teixeira** – Brian's debut show-and-tell item was a knife handle he'd made, complete with inlay!



**Dan Vize** – Another new member with his first show-and-tell item, Dan passed around a handplane he made for a plane swap on Lumberjocks.com.

## Mini Workshop

### Oil, Shellac & Spray Finishing

On October 19th, Jeff Morgan and Mike Sitek will be giving a workshop on finishing techniques. Processes covered will include oil finishes and French polishing.

We'll be able to support 12 in the class and it will be held at Jeff Morgan's shop in Aviston, Illinois. If you are interested in attending, you can contact Bob Brinkman at (314) 378-1893 to get signed up for the workshop.

Next year, the Mini Workshops program will expand and we will start offering workshops where you end the class with a finished product. If you would like to suggest a mini-workshop project or idea, contact Bob Brinkman ([r\\_brinkman@hotmail.com](mailto:r_brinkman@hotmail.com) or 314-378-1893).

## Shop Tour

In November, Tom Tupper will host a shop tour. Details will be provided at the October guild meeting or you can contact Bob Brinkman for more information.

## Toy Report

We delivered 120 toys to 3 hospitals in September. The total delivered in 2013 is 1320. Since 1994 the total delivered is 37,422.

We really need items such as: cars, bird houses, airplanes, animal kits (coyotes, cats, bears), tulips, and other flowers at the next meeting in October.

We continue to receive “thank you” notes from the Hospitals expressing the value your toys mean to the children.

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 may 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: Turning Peppermills

### continued from page 1

blank, he relies on a skew chisel. And then during the final turning process, he uses a large variety of gouges.

Other tools that will make the process go more smoothly are a good, quality lathe and a steady rest. The rest helps to keep the blank steady while the boring process is completed. Rests can be made with some scrap plywood and a few inline skate wheels or purchased through a woodturning supplier.

Because Jeff is not really comfortable with grinding his turning tools himself, he takes most of them to someone else when they get dull. In order to prolong the time between grindings, however, he does touch up edges with a diamond stone.

Assembling the blanks he is going to use is his biggest challenge. Before he begins, he checks his stock of Titebond III, his wood glue of choice, to make sure he has plenty on hand. Then he uses a table saw to cut his wood to proper length, width, and thickness. The dimensions of the blank depends on the design he is going to use, but peppermill blanks generally start somewhere between 4” and 6” in width and thickness.

When it comes to wood selection, some of the domestic woods he likes to use include cherry, walnut, and sycamore, though he’s used other species, as well. Some of the exotic woods he uses include cocobolo and blackwood. If he is making a blank using a design he is familiar with, he will start with the wood he’s selected for the project; but if it is a new design, or one he is still experimenting with, he often uses inexpensive woods, like 2x4 material, to create a test piece.

Jeff was kind enough to demonstrate his glue-up process, which he practices before every glue-up, to make sure he has everything on-hand. First, he stacks the pieces up in the proper order and position. As he stacks them together, he spreads a thin, but consistent layer of glue on mating pieces. Next he clamps small blocks on the two ends to make sure the pieces are properly lined up. A long clamp holds these blocks in place and keeps the assembly together until he can clamp the sides. The clamping blocks he uses on the sides are all covered with packing tape and/or waxed to ensure he doesn’t end up with a larger blank than intended. Once he has clamping blocks on two opposite faces, he puts them on the other two faces, using C-clamps every few inches to insure good contact throughout the entire blank.

Once his blank is glued and assembled, he lets it cure for several days. When it is ready, he drills out the middle of the block for the mechanism. After he puts plugs in both ends, he mounts the block to his lathe. And then he tries not to remove the blank from the lathe until the very end of the process to reduce inconsistencies when turning. That is the point at which he begins roughing the outside of the blank. Once the body is turned, he removes the head and adds the necessary tenon to the top.

Before it is ready for the finish, he sands the blanks through 300, 400, 600, and 1000 grits. After applying a few coats of lacquer, he wet sands with 0000 steel wool and Danish oil. After it dries, he repeats the wet sanding with Danish oil until he achieves the shine and protection he wants. When the peppermill has had a few days to dry, it is ready to get sent to its new owner.

## Tool Review: Blue Spruce Toolworks Marking Knife

review by Ethan Sincox



I still remember the Christmas I opened up the first “premium” tool I’ve ever owned. It was one of Dave Jeske’s Blue Spruce marking knives with a cocobolo handle. I remember examining it in detail... and in awe. It was quite sharp on arrival and very comfortable in my hand, like one of my favorite writing pens! I loved the little acorn turned on the end. Holding such a fine tool in my hand was inspiring! If Dave could

make such a great marking knife, then certainly I could put that much effort and quality into a box.

I must admit, at first it just received occasional use in the shop –marking out mortises for hinges and lock parts – but as my use of hand tools increased, I found myself reaching for it more and more and began using it to mark all of my joinery. The scribed lines were easier to see than pencil lines and more accurate, to boot. I used them to make more accurate saw cuts and as register points when making a final paring cut with a chisel. After rounding the tip just a little, it also became the perfect tool for outlining inlay.

When my first one got misplaced, I panicked. I tried using an X-acto knife. I tried using the Japanese double-bevel marking knife I’d picked up when I first started getting into woodworking. Neither of them came close to the comfort I got from my Blue Spruce marking knife. After a few weeks, I sent Dave some curly mahogany and had a second one made for me. And a week after my new one arrived, I found my first one. This is pretty much par for the course in my life.

But in this case, I’m not complaining – now I have two! I use one (or both) of them practically every time I’m in the shop now. Dave offers the marking knife in two sizes; one for marking stock up to 3/4” and the other for larger stock up to 2” thick. Both of mine are the smaller size (because the second one was a replacement, remember?). Being a small box maker, I mostly use it on material that is thinner than 3/4”, but I do occasionally work with thicker material. I’ve never really ever felt like I needed to get the larger knife in order to better mark something out. But... I’ve never used the larger one. Maybe I’m missing out on something.

I guess the only complaint I could make about these marking knives is the roll-factor. Having turned handles, they don’t necessarily stay in place if you lay them down on a bench. I get around that by laying the knife blade on the edge of a piece of wood. Rolling problem solved.

If you’re interested in picking one up, head over to Dave’s re-designed website: [bluesprucetoolworks.com](http://bluesprucetoolworks.com). I believe he offers them with handles made of Cocobolo, African Blackwood, and Curly Maple. Of course, if you send him a blank, he’s happy to turn a handle out of your desired wood for a small upcharge. They arrive sharp enough to work with right out of the box, but it wouldn’t hurt to flatten the back and hone the edges a little. Dave has a YouTube video on how to sharpen them the right way, if you want any pointers.

## Announcements

There were 51 people in attendance at the September 19th meeting.

The Raffle winner for the September meeting was Jim Schneider. Jim won a \$50 Woodcraft gift card. Congratulations, Jim!

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

In November, Bill Armon is going to take the guild members through the process of making bamboo fly rods!

There is no meeting in December – have a Merry Christmas!

## New Guild Website

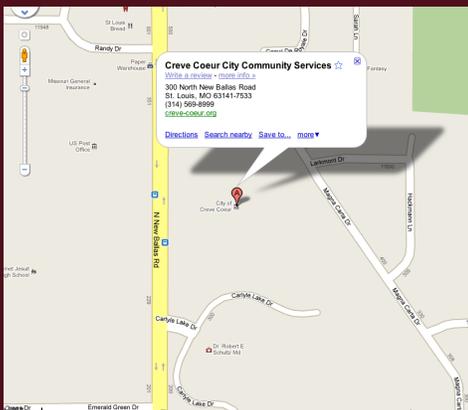
Anyone can access the public area of the Saint Louis Woodworkers Guild website. But you need to be a member in order to get access to the private site! As a member of the guild, you get some benefits:

- You can see what companies provide discounts to guild members.
- You can post questions or reply to the questions of other guild members.
- You have access to the Member List.
- You have access to the By-Laws.

If you do not yet have access to the private site, but would like it and are a paid up member of the guild, then please contact our webmaster, Cecil Robertson. He will provide you with the steps necessary.

## 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*