



January 2014
Issue 340

Our Next Meeting

Thursday 7:00 PM
January 16, 2014

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

Woodcarving

At the next guild meeting join Mike Simpson, as he discusses the fine art of architectural woodcarving.



At Our Last Meeting: Making Bamboo Fly Rods By Bill Armon and Marv Loopstra

At our last meeting, Bill Armon and Marv Loopstra spent some time with us discussing the process of making bamboo fly rods. It is an extremely labor intensive process made up of over 4000 individual steps. They started with the acquisition of appropriate materials and walked the group through to a completed fly rod.

The preferred bamboo of fly rod makers comes from one 30 square mile area in the Guangdong Province in China. This bamboo is said to be one of the strongest species because of its high density of fibers. The density is what given the rod its strength and flexibility. This bamboo is also prized for its straightness, and well-spaced nodes. This particular bamboo can grow up to 3 feet a day. The limited growing area and the fact that there are only 2 active vendors in the US leads to higher material costs.

Next they discussed the tools and steps to build a rod. The bamboo is split using a froe or machine and cut to length. Up next the bamboo is straightened and the nodes are prepped. The rough bamboo is then heat treated. This tempers the rod by removing moisture and hinders the ability of the material to absorb more moisture in the future. Then a block plane or machine beveler is used to turn each piece of bamboo into an equilateral triangle. The 60 degree angle is to allow for proper fit in the planing form. Six of these triangles are glued together to make one rod.

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Bill Armon and Marv Loopstra show off their assortment of bamboo fly rods.



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Sponsors

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314.644.6677

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314.621.7711

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636.485.5217

Wayne's Sawdust January 2014

I am writing this instead of shoveling the driveway in sub zero temperatures. I'm happy to be retired and thus do not need to be anywhere important, so the driveway can wait for awhile. When I finish, it's back into the shop for some serious recreation (my wife won't let me go out sledding!).

I hope each and every one of you, have had a wonderful holiday and that the New Year is all that you hope it to be.

December was a very busy month for the Guild even though we did not have a meeting. We had a great turn out to install insulation in the shop at Faust Park and my thanks go out to everyone who attended. With the excellent turn out of Guild members we finished the job in one day. A special thanks to Denny Krupinski who fed us that day. The insulation has had a significant impact on the shop's comfort level. I believe the real pay off will be this summer, when air conditioning is required. We followed up with the construction of four workbenches. Each bench has two face vises and should be ideal for future classes that Bob Brinkman is planning. Almost all the material was donated, White Oak for the legs and stretchers and solid core commercial doors for the tops. These benches are massive and will remain stable for a long time to come. It took a few days to get them finished but they all turned out very well. Again a huge thank you, to all of you, who were able to help out.

Just about a month away is the Woodworking Show in Collinsville. As in years past, the Guild will have a significant presence at the show. This will require our members to volunteer to man our booth as well as provide items to display. We will have a signup sheet at the next meeting. Volunteers get free admission to the show. If you wish to volunteer but can't make the meeting give me a call and we will get you scheduled. If you have pieces that you would like to exhibit, we can make arrangements to transport them to and from the show. The Woodworking Show is our most important recruiting activity of the year, so please support it if you can.

Wayne

DUES ARE DUE! If you've not yet paid your 2014 Guild Member dues, then please do so as soon as possible! It only costs \$30 for the entire year – a measly sum, to be sure!

Show and Tell



Tony O'Discoll – Tony showed a Greene and Greene inspired mahogany table.



Allen Carlson – Allen's lighthouse is actually a puzzle. Drop the ball in the top and spin the sections until the ball makes it to the bottom.



Don Snyder – Don doesn't make anything easy. He made sure to add plenty of compound angles to this small mahogany chest.

Mini Workshop

Building a Shaker nightstand/side table
February and March

Bob Brinkman will be building an example of the shaker side table so that each participant can see a finished example of the project. The workshop will consist of 6 sessions and will have each participant ready for finishing at home. The workshop will begin with discussing stock selection and prep. Mortise and Tenon construction will be covered along with cutting dovetails for the drawers. The legs of each table will be tapered using a tapering jig built in a previous workshop.

If you have ideas for future workshop please give those ideas to Bob.

Upcoming Meetings

February 20
Brian Romine from Rockler will be demonstrating a new CNC machine.

Toy Report

We delivered 279 toys to 3 hospitals in November. The total delivered in 2013 is 1749. Since 1994 the total delivered is 37,851.

For the new year (January delivery) we need items such as; Valentine's Day hearts, St. Patrick's Day shamrocks, cars, airplanes, animal kits (coyotes, cats, bears).

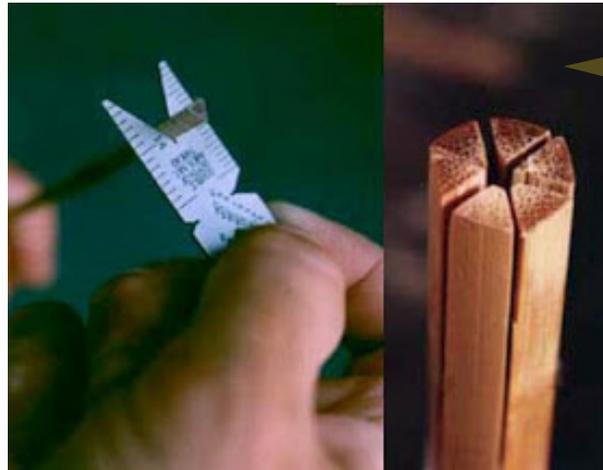
Steve and John thank you for your dedication to the Toy Program.

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: Making Bamboo Fly Rods continued from page 1

The strips are then glued together using Epoxy, Urac, or Gorilla Glue. The rod is then bound together with binding thread. The rods are allowed to dry either in an oven or air dried. The method, time, and heat applied are personal to each maker and vary widely. Once the glue is set the binding thread is removed and the rod is sanded or planed, taking special care to sand or plane equally on all sides. This process leaves the desired rounded shape and equal fibers on all sides of the rod.



Close-up of bamboo sections that make up the fly rod. Each section is made up of six pieces.

Photo from Scott Rods.

At this point a finish can be applied to the rod. Spar Varnish, Tru Oil, and Tung Oil are all appropriate finishes. Finishes are put on using either a dip tube or a drip tube to ensure equal finish distribution over the entire rod. One can also use a turkey baster or finish by hand.

The reel seat is applied and the ferrules are glued and bound to the rod. The cork grip is affixed and finished with a winding check being glued in place. This winding check protects the cork from chipping where it meets the rod and also provides a finish to the look of the rod. The rod is then signed by the maker and dated. The string guides are attached and the rod is ready for use.

Bill and Marv highlighted the fact that fly rods have makers and graphite rods have builders. A new maker can expect to receive approximately one thousand dollars for a rod. A midrange maker could charge 1500, while a better maker can get three thousand dollars per rod. The best makers command upwards of 5 thousand dollars per rod. A good maker can produce around 50 rods per year.

Bill can be emailed at goodloops@wildblue.net and Marv can be reached at bixjetmech@earthlink.net.

Thanks to both Bill and Marv for their in-depth and highly informative presentation.

New Guild Website

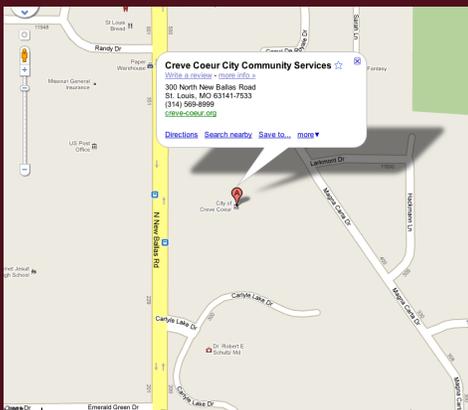
Anyone can access the public area of the Saint Louis Woodworkers Guild website. But you need to be a member in order to get access to the private site! As a member of the guild, you get some benefits:

- 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*