

St. Louis Woodworkers Guild



April 2015
Issue 353

Our Next Meeting

Thursday 7:00 PM
March 19, 2015

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

40,000 Toys Donated

Join us (and bring wooden toys if you have them), as we celebrate the delivery of our 40,000th toy for hospitalized children.

At Our Last Meeting: Show and Tell & Silent Auction



See more Show
and Tell photos
on pages 5 & 6

Guild Officers

President	
Don Snyder	314.780.5443
Vice President	
Wayne Watson	314.846.1172
Secretary	
Keith Lissant	314.962.1907
Treasurer	
Tom Tupper	636.236.3313
Directors	
Bob Brinkman	314.378.1893
Brad Bernhard	314.984.0764
Kurt Herrmann	314.608.8602
Mike Sistik	618.830.4516
Newsletter	
Brian Zirkle	804.687.7192
Scott Wunder	636.922.7629
Librarian	
Kevin Weisner	618.355.0185
Webmaster	
Cecil Robertson	314.605.1410
Membership Committee	
Brian Teixeira	314.282.0062
Brad Bernhard	314.984.0764
Toy Committee Chairmen	
John Patton	314.843.0616
Steve Briner	636.866.6121
Woodworking Show Committee	
Wayne Watson	314.846.1172
Sponsors	
Hibdon Hardwood Inc.	
hibdonhardwood.com	
314.621.7711	
Hydraflow Equipment Co.	
hydraflow.com	
314.644.6677	
Kohler City Hardwoods	
kohlercityhardwood.com	
636 464-5212	
R&B Rare Woods	
woodveneers.com	
303-986-2585	
Rockler Woodworking	
rockler.com	
314.209.1116	
Saw Blade Express	
sawbladeexpress.com	
St. Charles Hardwoods	
stcharleshardwoods.com	
St. Peters	636.926.2000
Fenton	636.717.1770
Shellac Finishes	
shellacfinishes.com	
858.780.2865	
U-Pick Hardwood Lumber	
upickhardwoodlumber.com	
636.485.5217	
Woodcraft	
woodcraft.com	
314.993.0413	

A Brief History of the SLWG Toy Program

The construction of wooden toys by members of the St. Louis Woodworkers Guild goes back over thirty years when a group donated over a hundred toys to the US Marine Corps' "Toys for Tots" program in November of 1984. Rich Weitzman is the only remaining Guild member from that early start. 1993 was the final year for handcrafted toys as the Marines "Toys for Tots" program changed their requirements to commercially manufactured toys in their original packaging. 1994 brought changes; Leo Kusher chaired the new toy committee which changed the direction to provide toys to children in local area hospitals. John Patton joined Leo on the toy committee shortly after his retirement in 1992. At the time the Guild also provided Christmas gifts to the Brotherhood of Religious Organizations for needy children as well as Ronald McDonald House. Leo Kusher then left the Guild and the Toy Program was Co-Chaired by John Patton and Clarence Wasser. As time passed eventually Clarence left the Guild and Steve Briner stepped forward to serve as Co-Chairman with John Patton, a superb team which continues today.

Creativity within the Guild abounds, Jerry Lammers is well known for his wonderfully crafted tops which are highly prized by children who complete difficult therapies. From pull toys to cars, trucks and airplanes, our members construct original designs which always delight children. Former Guild President Bob Colgate contributed thousands of toys and also designed many toy patterns which are still in use. Past Guild President Mark Koritz partnered with Eddy Wilson, Owner of St. Charles Hardwoods to have special molder knives ground to manufacture race car profiles. For at least ten years Eddy has been providing untold quantities of race car bodies from high quality hardwood at his own expense as a result of this collaboration.

On a sadder note, not all of the children treated have a positive outcome. Steve Briner, at Mercy Hospital's request has been providing "Memory Boxes" to honor those deceased children over the past several years.

When the program first started, all of the donated toys were sent assembled. Therapists at the hospitals asked for unassembled toys so the children could benefit from gluing them together. Each unassembled toy comes with a warning about small parts around young children. Items such as rabbits, clover leaves and so on are sent unassembled for the hospitalized children to glue together and then paint.

Through the leadership of John Patton, Steve Briner and others the Guild's Toy Program has become the largest community service project of the St. Louis Woodworkers Guild with a large percentage of our members participating throughout the year. As we have reached the milestone of 40,000 toys delivered since the program's humble beginnings we can all take great pride in the positive impact which our Guild has had on many of the most deserving in our local hospitals.

Letter from Marissa Hirlinger

Hello Friends, My name is Marissa Hirlinger. I'm writing to thank you on behalf of a dear, sweet friend of mine, Robin, and her 8yr old daughter, Keira, for the beautiful wooden toys you all put so much love and work into making and donating to Mercy hospital.

Please let me begin by sharing a little of Keira's story. In May of 2014, Keira was diagnosed with a rare cancer Rhabdomyosarcoma, stage 4. Due to the very rare and aggressive nature of her cancer, Keira's plan of treatment calls for radiation and over a year of intense chemotherapy.

Keira is a very brave and very feisty little warrior. Her feistiness always matched her beautiful red curly hair. Keira is smart, funny, has endless energy and has a beautiful love for Jesus!

One day last winter, I went to visit Keira while she was in the hospital because the chemotherapy had completely depleted her immune system. This meant that she really needed to stay in her sterile hospital room, but trying to keep Keira down is very nearly impossible! She was begging her mommy to let her take me on a walk around the floor. Her mommy was on an important business call and eventually gave in under the condition that Keira wear her mask. As soon as she got the "ok" from her mommy Keira literally jumped out of her hospital bed, grabbed her IV pole, unplugged it from the wall, grabbed her stuffed animal friends and was walking out the door before I could catch up to her! She told me I was in charge of her IV pole while she pulled her stuffed animal friends in the wagon. Just like that, we were on our way!

As we were walking down the hall, (at a pretty good pace, with me practically running to stay ahead of her with the IV pole) she was telling me about all the places she was going to take me. Her favorite place was first...the arts and crafts area! She wanted to paint. She decided on a cute little bear, and gave me a car! She was so excited to gather our paints, brushes, and cups of water! As I watched her expertly guiding her pole around the room, I was so incredibly impressed how she was behaving like a typical child rather than a very sick little girl. She is amazing! Her mom, Robin, once said to me that her favorite scripture is one that reminds her of Keira and her aunt Shelly (who battled breast cancer a few years ago). The scripture is,

Proverbs 31-25: "she is clothed in strength and dignity and she laughs without fear of the future."

I can't think of a better way to describe Keira! As we painted our beautiful wooden toys, she began talking about...well, just about EVERYTHING! It was such sweet time with her as she shared her heart with me. It nearly brought me to tears as I listened and laughed with her while we painted our new toys. After a while, even I had forgotten where we were and why we were there.

The sweet and beautiful woodwork you all are so skilled at making and donating to hospitals in the area for some very sick kiddos means so much to the children and their loved ones! It provides them an opportunity to play like all children should be able to! It provides an outlet for stress and the many emotions they are feeling and learning to live with! It provides an opportunity for them to have fun and make some great memories that they will always carry with them! It was so much fun to have that time with Keira! I will treasure it always, and I have each of you to thank for the great memories from that day!

Thank you, Marissa Hirlinger



Announcements

There were 78 attendees, including guests and members, at the March Guild meeting.

Future Workshops

April 18th - Spindle Turning

April 19th - Bowl Turning

May 16th - Inlaying Corners and Borders

May 17th - Inlaying Patterns

June 20th - Pen Turning

Contact Bob Brinkman to sign up for any of the workshops.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

May 21st
Medieval Woodworking with Thomas Rowland

June 27th & 28th
Veneering, Banding and Inlay with Freddy Roman, Massachusetts maker of fine period furniture.

Toy Report

We made a good delivery of toys this month (210 toys). Our year to date total is 540 items. Grand total since 1994 total delivered is 40,506.

Steve collected 101 items at the March meeting. Thanks to all who devoted their time to this program. For the next delivery in April 2015 we have sufficient cars on hand, but Memorial Day crafts, and Independence Day, and Mother Day, Fathers Day, Grandparents Day (Heart Necklaces, etc.) would be appropriate for the holidays coming up.

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 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: Show and Tell & Silent Auction
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Dan Sudekamp – Dan showed some segmented bowls.



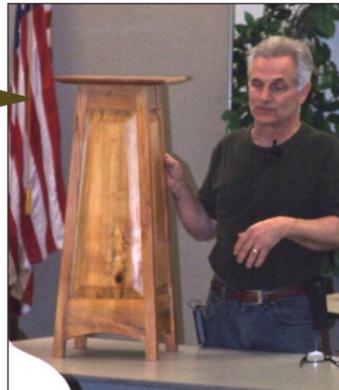
Ethan and Finley Sincx – Ethan and Finley showed a few toy cars.



John Bronson – John showed a pair of doll beds.



Larry Alvarez – Larry showed a fruit bowl, Christmas ornaments and confetti glass.



Steve Briner – Steve showed a mission style plant stand.



Jeff Nasser – Jeff showed a couple of his many pepper mills.



Steve Palmer – Steve showed an Ambrosia Maple jewelry box.



David Brown – David showed a box elder bowl and a dovetailed jewelry box.



Jerry Lammers – Jerry showed a shaker stool and a boomerang go-cart.

Open Shop Hours at Faust Park

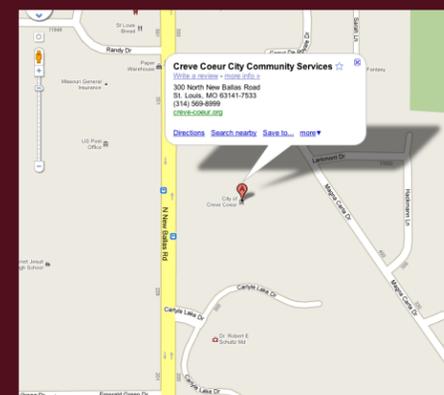
The St. Louis Woodworkers Guild workshop located within Faust Park will now have scheduled open shop hours so that Guild members may utilize the shop without making an advance reservation. The shop will be open on the first and second full weekends of each month. In May the dates are the 2nd and 3rd and the 9th and 10th. On both Saturdays and Sundays the shop will open at 9:00 am and close at 5:00 pm. The shop will be also be open each week on Thursdays from 8:00 am until 2:00 pm.

You must be a current Guild member and have taken the Guild's safety class, as well as, signed the liability waiver. You must bring your membership card with you. Eye protection must be worn at all times while in the workshop. A Guild Safety Monitor will be present and has the authority to stop any member from undertaking an unsafe operation. The Safety Monitor's decision is final.

If you have any questions please contact Wayne Watson at 314-541-3047 or at vicepresident@slwg.org

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