

St. Louis Woodworkers Guild



July 2015
Issue 356

Our Next Meeting

Thursday 7:00 PM
July 16, 2015

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

Period Furniture

Kent Adkins will be discussing period furniture making and, if you twist his arm, might even talk about his to-die-for shop.

At Our Last Meeting: Medieval Woodworking with Dr. Thomas Rowland

Dr. Thomas Rowland gave an interesting talk consisting of two major sections: The first part was more of a history lesson and covered misconceptions about the medieval time period, technology and architecture – mostly churches, furniture, tools & living conditions. The second part focused on drafting & layout techniques used by medieval craftsmen to create scale & proportion, such as the relationships between drawer sizes or different elements of a building.

You can tell that Dr. Rowland is excited about this subject and teaching in general. He knows more than most about the medieval time period and enjoys the relationship between what most people view as an archaic time period and quality craftsmanship.

The talk started off with several paintings depicting life from the time period that just so happened to include woodworking or woodworking tools as the subject matter. There were, of course, illustrations of the most famous woodworker/carpenter of them all, Jesus (sorry, not Norm Abram). All of the tools were recognizable by today's woodworkers, including saws,

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Dr. Thomas Rowland
discussing medieval
woodworking techniques

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President Letter July 2015

Have you ever had a weekend of woodworking that went so well that you got excited and re-invigorated about the craft all over again? Well, I had that experience recently after the Freddy Roman workshop that was held at the Faust Park Shop. Freddy is not only a talented woodworker, but is also a very gifted instructor. He is able to guide his students through somewhat complex techniques and make them not only seem do-able, but easy to accomplish. We went through the basics of preparing substrates using traditional methods, sharpening and preparing veneering tools, preparing veneers, hide glue preparation and gram strength, hammer veneering, inlay and scraping. The end result was a decorative panel that would be great to use as the bottom of a traditional serving tray or as a decorative panel for furniture. It was a very aggressive program, but with Freddy's outstanding instruction each of us was successful regardless of our skill level coming into the weekend. Wayne Watson arranged for Freddy to give the workshop for the guild and I've got to say that Wayne really hit a home run with this one. Great job Wayne!

Through the years I've been with the guild, its programs like the Freddy Roman weekend that have really helped me grow as a woodworker. Each time I've attended one of these workshops I come away from it with not only a better understanding of woodworking, but a better appreciation for the guild and what it has to offer. In the past, we've had Frank Klaus, Jeff Jewitt, Graham Blackburn and Marc Adams just to name a few. I'm really excited to announce that we have another great woodworker coming to the guild to give us a weekend workshop. Brad Bernhard has arranged for Jeff Miller to visit us March 12-13 in 2016. I'm sure most of you know who Jeff Miller is, but Jeff has been making furniture professionally in the Chicago area for over 30 years now. He operates a woodworking school there as well and is the author of many woodworking books to include Beds, Chair Making and Design and most recently Foundations of Better Woodworking. I had the pleasure of meeting Jeff at the recent Handworks 2015 event at Amana and he is not only a very knowledgeable and gifted woodworker, but is also very personable and approachable. Brad will have more details at the upcoming July meeting, but once we start sign-ups for this weekend program, you'll want to reserve your spot early.

In keeping with the knowledgeable and gifted woodworker theme I've got going in this letter, I'm also really looking forward to this month's program. Kent Adkins is a local St. Louis woodworker who will be presenting a program on Period Furniture this month. I've known Kent for a few years mostly through the Gateway Chapter of the Society of Period Furniture Makers (SAPFM). He has hosted several meetings of the SAPFM chapter in his remarkable shop. He has produced pieces of furniture that are simply awe inspiring and are of museum quality. To say that Kent is a gifted woodworker is an understatement and I, for one, am really looking forward to his presentation. I hope to see all of you there.

Mike

Marquetry: The Art of Veneering

by Marc Adams

The DVD takes you from the methods used to produce veneer to a finished product. The DVD can be broken into two main sections. The first part of the DVD talks about the making of veneer, tools, pressing techniques, cutting, and glues. The second part of the DVD parts it all together and walks you through the steps of creating a marquetry masterpiece.

Marc uses the double bevel cutting method and he demonstrates how to set up the scroll saw to produce the cut and create perfect matching pieces. He shows you his methods for tracing the image to the veneer, cutting the pieces, and joining them together to produce the final product. As with all woodworking techniques there is always more than one way to accomplish the task.

If you are interested in using veneers in your woodworking projects this is a good DVD to familiarize you with the basics of veneer.

The SLWG Library also has the following books on the subject.

Tage Frid Teaches Woodworking: Shaping, Veneering, Finishing

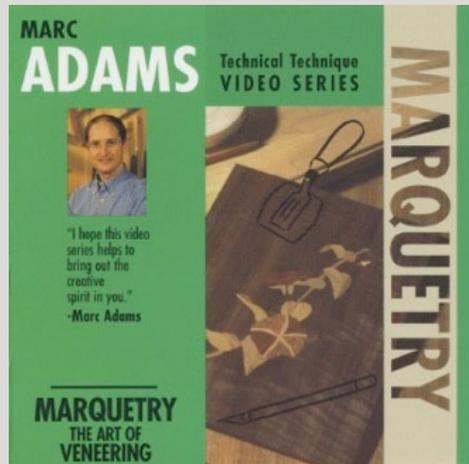
Woodworker's Guide to Veneering & Inlay

Decorative Wood Inlay

Veneering Simplified

Woodworking Class: Marquetry

Review by Kevin Wiesner, Guild Librarian



DVD: 87 Minutes

Publisher: Marc Adams Productions

Announcements

There were 67 attendees, including guests and members, at the June Guild meeting.

Congratulations to Jason Ottenson, winner of a \$50 gift card from Woodcraft.

Future Workshops

October

Infilled Plane Class (\$100 plus Materials)

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

Upcoming Meetings & Events

September

Shop Tour, Edwardsville, Ill
Sawmill

Toy Report

We delivered 225 toys in June. Our year to date total is 1185 items. Grand total since 1994 total delivered is 41,151.

Steve and Jason Ottenson collected 171 items at the June meeting. We have a large supply of cars on hand. Craft items would be good for the July meeting.

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: Medieval Woodworking with Dr. Thomas Rowland continued from page 1

chisels and hand planes. Dr. Rowland's discussion, however, focused more on the design and layout processes of the time.

Much attention was given to segments, and laying out projects based on segments. Most designs from the time period, from page layouts to designs of churches, revolved around the use of segments and segment proportions.

Dr. Rowland narrowed his focus even more by taking a closer look at the design of churches, which were the epitome of craft, involving woodworkers, ironworkers and masons. The secret is that churches, especially on their elevations, shared a code that made for a cohesive unit. In one example, Dr. Rowland pointed out that the main windows were one segment tall, the main entrance was two segments tall, the gables were two segments tall, and all of the smaller details were variations of segments in height.

None of the drawings were detailed with specific dimensions, but all included keys that allowed dimensions to be derived from the known value of a segment. This was useful back then and Dr. Rowland showed how it can be useful now with a video demonstration.

Dr. Rowland's video showed several layout techniques using only a straight edge, trammel points, and segments. You could tell by his enthusiasm that this portion of the talk was his reason for showing up.

He went crazy, drawing straight lines, swinging arcs, busting things into segments and somehow coming out with perpendicular lines and layouts in proportion – all without a ruler.

It is easy to see how many of the layout tricks that Dr. Rowland showed would come in handy in medieval times, especially without computers to do the layout for you. His layout techniques and tricks could easily make for a weekend workshop on their own.

Thank you to Dr. Rowland for sharing some of these tips and tricks and showing us the masons secret language.



Show and Tell



Rich Sanders – Rich showed his latest version of the cardinal logo.

Phil Haskins – Phil showed a photo of a table made from curly walnut.



Jeff Nasser – Jeff showed one of his famous peppermills.



Jerry Lammers – Jerry showed a jewelry box.

Keith Lissant – Keith showed a new horse design for a girl's toy.



Cecil Robertson – Cecil showed his newly restored backsaw.



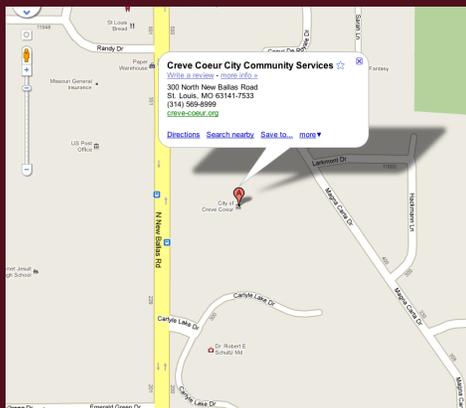
Dale Norman – Dale showed a sacrificial ladder for a macaw.

Brad Bernhard – Brad showed a mahogany clawfoot ottoman.



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