

The Pitch

GROUP ON

Touring KC's growing community of open artist studios.

BY THERESA REMBNIESTER



KANSAS CITY WOODWORKERS' GUILD
3189 Mercier, kcwoodworkersguild.org

Established: 1984

Notable equipment: 30-inch planer, 37-inch-wide belt sander, SawStop table saw with skin-sensing technology

Usage fees: A \$75 "Sawdust Maker" yearly membership gets you open-shop privileges. Classes are open to members at an additional charge.

Materials: Bring your own wood.

White, green and orange name tags cover one wall of the foyer inside the Kansas City Woodworkers' Guild. This color-coding system is a visual testament to KCWG's commitment to safety and education. White means that the member has yet to finish the safety-orientation class and pass a quiz. ("True or false? You must use both safety glasses and a face shield while using the bench grinder.") Those with a green tag awaiting them are safety-certified. Shop foremen wear orange.

According to KCWG vice president Chuck Saunders, education is key.

"We're here to promote the craft of woodworking and to get people past the 'No, I can't do that' hump," he says. "Woodworking is a skill. You can learn any skill."



So you'll also find a library here, as well as a classroom that doubles as a meeting area – and, of course, a wood shop, originally equipped by the guild to provide its members with a "try before you buy" experience and that now includes tools and machines not found in most home work spaces.

Apartment dwellers with little or no space for their own tools make up a growing membership segment. Common member projects include furniture, cabinetry and box work



Great planes and other tools draw woodworkers here.

(think jewelry boxes and blanket chests). Many members are retirees, several of whom labored in the woodworking trade. "What other club would they belong to?" Saunders asks.

The shop is busiest on weekends – except during football season. "As long as the Chiefs are winning, we aren't very busy on Sundays," Saunders says.

See the clearer text below.

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