



Wood Words

Kansas City Woodworkers Guild www.kcwoodworkersguild.org

Volume 22 Issue 2

March 06

Guild Meetings:
Jacob's Well Church,
1617 W. 42nd St.,
KC Mo. 64111

March is "voting" month. You must be present to vote!

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Books
George Rexroad

Editor/Web:
Wayne Wainwright

February Raffle: Bill Evans will have his usual assortment of items

Next Meeting Wed. March 15th, 7 PM

Program: Dave Roth - Intarsia

Sawdust: The Presidents Corner

Wayne Wainwright



It is done! The Chair project is complete. Mike Jones, Chris Kunzle and I delivered the last of the chairs to Andre's last week.

Marcel (the owner) and his family are quite happy with the chairs. Their customers have made comments such as "you got these from home"? Note: Home for Marcel is Switzerland!

All of you who participated should be very proud of the quality of workmanship you provided. The chairs have been a big hit. So much so, that Marcel and his wife are currently in Switzerland, taking pictures of tables and benches to get an idea of what they would like for us to make them for the

next project, but more on that later.

We added another 6 new members in February, so please reach out to them and make them feel welcome (see their names in the meeting minutes section). If you invited them to the Guild, make sure you take the time to introduce them to other members.

As promised, Chuck Slagle is scheduling a Town Hall type meeting, I think in the August timeframe, - and I hope you will all attend. This will be an opportunity for "your" voice to be heard. I will make sure it is noted in the newsletter on a regular basis.

This year, we will host at least one "Town Hall" type meeting as we did in 2004 to discuss where we want to go and what our "options" are in the years ahead.

As you know, the KCWG

has always had a Mentor program where someone knowledgeable in a particular task or technique has been willing to help

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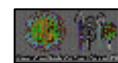
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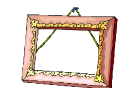
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someone else learn how to do it. You just call on the person who had the skill, arrange a time to meet with them and show up at their shop (or invite them to yours). A customary beverage of choice and a doughnut was usually all it took to get their help (smile). Over the years, we have learned doughnuts are not so good for you, so an apple or other piece of fruit might be more rewarding.

Last year, we “formalized” that process by posting mentor sessions at each Guild meeting that you could “sign-up” for. In most cases, the “class” filled up rapidly and someone who wanted to learn a particular technique was almost always left out.

I wanted to point out to everyone that the “informal” process of just calling someone up for assistance has not died! Every month, I hear a story of someone who went to a members’ shop to work on a project together. It warms my heart to hear when that happen.

However, there are 2 issues. New members do not know the names of existing members, and they do not know what skill that member may have to assist them.

Some of that is helped when someone on the leadership team gets an email and we are able to direct the new person to someone who can help, but to facilitate that further, we are going to add another section to the newsletter and website that highlights our Mentors and their skills. This way, everyone gets to know who does what. Look for this feature in the next newsletter.

Now, I would like to close with an open letter from Roy Lutes for some assistance he got last year. Roy needed some assistance getting some trucks made and a general plea to the membership resulted in help that made it happen!

March is “voting” month. Make sure you are their to vote in the newest leadership team. Your vote matters!

Trucks

Thanks to Krista Graham and Terry Stair for their assistance and craftsmanship. Without them, the Halzal’s would never have gotten off the assembly line.

Thanks Krista and Terry: From Roy

Program: Jim McCord - Making Boxes

David Roth

Jim McCord was our presenter this month. Jim started his career with Hallmark but is now is retired and builds boxes professionally. He builds them from a variety of woods and materials. He brought in one box tonight and is going to explain how he makes them. He also passed out samples for us to look at.

Boxes come in a multitude of colors and you can make them any way you want. Your imagination your only limitation. Jim likes to start out with 5 quarter stock. He will cut a 1 ½ in piece down the middle.

Jim buys rough stock and then runs it through his jointer. He uses his jointer to put a straight edge on the short piece and then flips it over and faces it. Then he goes to the band saw and cuts it into 1 ½ strips. Then he’ll take veneer and wood that he is going to put on the sides, cur them up, glue them and then put them aside to dry and will come back to clean them up. He now has two clean surfaces.

When he cuts the box, he will cut it down the middle and make them 13 inches long. The box is 8 X 4 inches. He then splits the piece and now he has a box. Then you cut a groove in the bottom and cut a groove on the top for the lid to sit in. When you miter them the box is basically made. This method is quick. This is what Jim does differently then most people. Some people only make one or two boxes at a time. Jim makes them a hundred, or two hundred, or five hundred at a time.

Jim says that is were the money is at if you want to sell them. That what Jim does. He makes his boat rich. It not a income for him to do this. He gets paid to play when he sells his boxes though Jim said could he make a living at it and it wood be about

a \$20.00 to \$25.00 an hour job if you work at it. But you would have to work at it to make that kind of money.

Can he make the boxes nicer? You bet he could but it would take a lot longer time to build them. Jim taught Bob King how to make boxes. And Bob makes them much nicer than Jim but it takes Bob a lot more time to make them.

Jim showed a piece that was split down the middle. When you split these down the middle, the things you can do are unreal. If you want to book match you can. You can put the grooves in the board "before" you split them. Does Jim match them up? Once in a while when he gets really nice figured wood, but most of the time he doesn't.

After they are cut and mitered, he glues a plywood bottom into the groove. Jim glues the boxes together with picture frame clamps. Some are made from plastic from woodcraft supply in Mexico and you can use standard all thread in them. Picture frame clamps have a fine thread. Jim suggest that the guild if there are enough people interested in making boxes and the for need clamps, if you go to a machine shop and ask them to make a hundred or two hundred at a time you can pick these up for around the \$2 and \$3 range.

Jim miters the boxes with his table saw with the blade straight up. 90 percent of his boxes are less than 2 and 7/8 inches high. Jim does not like to turn the blade over to make his miter cuts. Laying it over when you are making 300 miters in a day, you spend a lot of time to brush the saw dust from underneath it. When you cut it upright you don't have to worry about that.

Jim puts one clamp on the bottom and one on top during glue up and has 4 sets of clamps. By the time he is done gluing up the fourth box the first box is ready to come out of the clamps and another one is glued. Jim says you only need to clamp these boxes for about 10 minutes after glue up. Jim's main tools are a jointer, band saw, table saw and sander. With all of the boxes that Jim makes, he needs a good sander. If you have straight grain stock of cherry, walnut, or oak a thickness planer will do, but with the figured woods, you need a sander (or scraper) so you don't tear out the figure that is in the wood.

Jim sells a lot of these boxes. In the stores, they sell for \$40 to \$60 dollars a piece. Jim sells them for \$20 dollars a piece, but he makes a hundred in a week and it only costs him around a dollar to a dollar and a quarter to make.

Jim buys a lot of good material for his boxes and travels around different places to get his wood, but he doesn't pay a lot for it. There are a lot of ways to buy stuff. One thing about making little boxes, you don't need 12 inch wide and 10 foot long boards to make these them. You can make these boxes from shorts, and out of 3/4 inch stock but it is a lot more work and cost because you are wasting a lot of wood when you need 1/2 in. to 3/8th material.

Also Jim doesn't measure anything when he makes his boxes. That's about right, that's about the right height. It's a little bit of an exaggeration but if you line his boxes together that he has made in the past, none of them will be the same height, but they will all be the same in the same run.

Another thing is keeping costs down. Jim lines the inside of his boxes with Doe skin. The best kind of material is upholstery velvet. If you buy it from the upholster it is about \$40 a Yard But if you buy it from the source you buy it for around \$18.00 a yard. The next one Jim likes is altered Suede. If you go to the store it's around fifty to forty dollars a yard, but if you buy a ream, it will cost you nine dollars a yard.

Jim goes through around 40 to 60 yards a year. The dollars add up quickly. Jim also uses matt board for the upholstery as wrap-around.

Jim would like to put Bruce hinges on his boxes. But it will cost twenty six dollars for the hinges and that increases the box to \$56 dollars and Jim wouldn't make a dime. Jim signs the bottom of most of his boxes. But when some corporations buy his boxes as corporate gifts they want their name on it so they can give them away as gifts. This also applies to galleries.

Jim asked how you get business; if you do nice work they find you, you don't have to find them. It might take you a while, but if you do some shows they find you because they picked

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Jim also likes to use Titebond glue for its tack time. He also likes to use Titebond II. It takes a little longer time to tack, but it doesn't clog up his sanding belts. Jim doesn't care too much for the Titebond III. It takes too much time for it to tack.

Jim uses an oil finish for his boxes. The best on the market for Jim is General, but it is now double the price of Watco (because of its availability in Kansas City) so it is more expensive. The General brand dries quicker than the Watco finish.

Jim dunks his boxes in oil, takes them out and places them on the table to dry completely dry before he even touches them. For the second coat, he will wet them down and then uses 400 grit sandpaper. After 30 to 40 minutes, he'll wipe them dry. A Hundred boxes will take Jim an hour and a half to two hours. It takes three days for the boxes to sit in the shop to be done with finishing; that is the only drawback. Jim will put 3 coats on.

After the third coat he goes to the buffer with rouge but he doesn't wax them because he will have to wrap each box. The wax can show the scratches if it gets scratched. Jim doesn't use Paduk or Cocobolo and doesn't use Zircote.

When Jim Cuts his miters he will cut the wood on one side of his miter gauge. He will do three test cuts first to make sure his miter gauge is set up correctly for his miters. Using his machinist square, he holds the wood up with the square and checks to see if he can see any daylight. No Daylight means the wood is square. Sometimes it takes Jim 20 minutes to get it right but other times it is right on.

Thank you Jim for a great program.

Shop Safety

Ever wonder what criteria the Federal Government uses to determine Safety requirements in the workplace? The same rules you should apply in your workshop:

Basic Principles of Safeguarding

The list of possible woodworking machinery related injuries is as long as it is horrifying. The majority of these accidents occur on circular sawing machines. Other machines such as vertical spindle molding and routing machines and hand-fed planing machines, account for most of the remainder

Requirements for Safeguards

Safeguards must meet the following minimum requirements in order to be effective:

- ?? prevent hands, arms, or any other part of a worker's body from coming in contact with dangerous moving parts
- ?? be made of durable material and be firmly secured to the machine
- ?? create no new hazards or interference
- ?? allow safe lubrication, if possible without removing the safeguard

Methods of Machine Safeguarding

Safeguards can be grouped under five general classifications:

- ?? Guards: fixed, interlocked, adjustable, self-adjusting
- ?? Devices: presence sensing, safety trip controls, gates
- ?? Location / distance: enclosure walls and fences, positioning of the operator's control station at a safe distance
- ?? Automatic feeding and ejection methods
- ?? Miscellaneous aids such as awareness barriers may provide the operator with an extra margin of safety.

Operator Training

Even the most elaborate safeguarding system cannot offer effective protection unless the worker knows how to use it and why.

Read the manual!

Shop Tip

Lazy Susan Tool Caddy

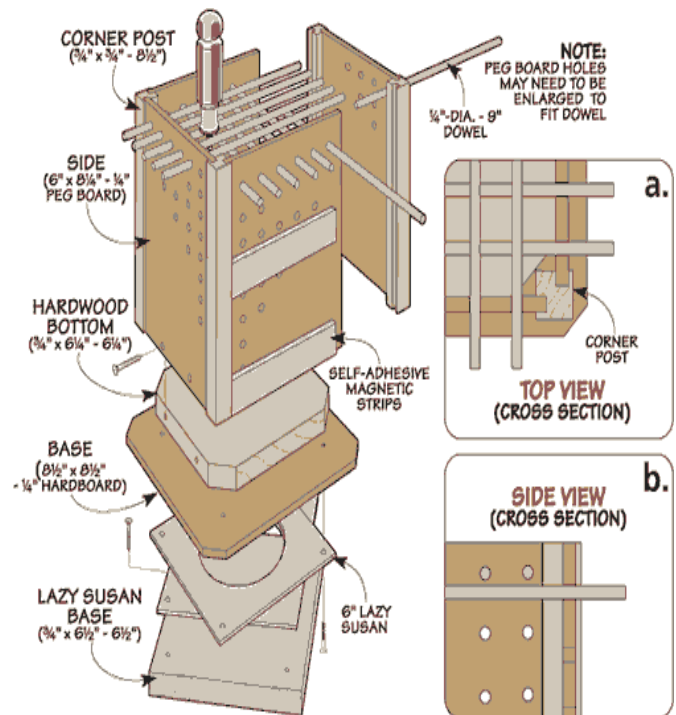
I needed a way to keep small hand tools organized, so I built the caddy shown in the photo at right. And to make it even more useful, it's mounted to a lazy Susan. The lazy Susan is sandwiched between a hardwood base and a piece of $\frac{1}{4}$ " hardboard, as in the drawing below.



The caddy is made with pegboard sides held in

grooved corner posts. Note: You'll want to make sure the holes in the sides line up with each other. A $\frac{3}{4}$ "-thick bottom screwed to the caddy keeps it square.

To divide the space inside the caddy, push $\frac{1}{4}$ "-dia. dowels through the sides. Note: Depending on the size of the dowels, you may need to enlarge the holes in the sides slightly. The extra length of the dowels makes a great place for hanging tools (like the wrenches shown in the photo above) on the outside of the caddy. Finally, I attached a pair of self-adhesive magnetic strips to the outside to hold the smallest tools like small driver bits, a riffer, or a short, metal rule.



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Want to help cut guild monthly costs? Consider receiving the newsletter via email. It is faster and comes in color. If you are interested, please send an email to Wayne Wainwright at: wwrig@kc.rr.com, or add your email to the Attendance list at the monthly meetings.

Newsletter Deadline: 1st of the month:

Please send all submissions for articles, tips, want ads announcements and anything else to Wayne Wainwright: 816 453-1073 email: wwrig@kc.rr.com
4214 N Brighton Ave KC. MO. 64117

Member of the Month

Brian Kemp

John Johnson



What is your specialty in woodworking?

I do not have any specialty, although I enjoy the steps involving fine joints when making furniture.

How many years have you been woodworking?

The first project I remember was an oak wagon that my dad made for me when I was about 6-7 years old. I helped select the wood, made some minor cuts.

What is your favorite hand tool and why?

Without any hesitation, my favorite is the hand plane. There is nothing like fine shavings from a sharp plane. I prefer this tool over any other because I like the sound of it slicing through the wood, the smell of the wood, and the feel of the tool in my hand. I have several hand planes and it is hard to choose one over the other, but a recent purchase of Lie Nelson's 60-1/2 Rabbit Block Plane is near the top.

What is your favorite power tool and why?

This is a tough question, but probably my router. Most of my tools have been second hand, but I purchased a new Porter Cable 890 and then a good quality table top. I like the horsepower and easy adjustments of this tool. I recently completed some cabinets with raised panel doors where this tool paid for itself.

What is your favorite wood to use and why?

Cherry historically has been my favorite because I like the way it machines and the smell as it is being cut.

What is your most favorite project you have built and why?

Several years ago I designed and made a queen sized bed of cherry, which to-date has been the most challenging project. It is my favorite because I collaborated with my father during the design which took over a year, and the construction. It was also my first major project on a lathe. On the first post, my dad completed the difficult cuts and I the easy ones. I completed most of the third post and the fourth post, I completed start to finish. This was also the first project that I sprayed the finish.

What is the best deal you have gotten on a woodworking tool?

I have received some pretty good deals over the years, but there are two that stand out, both of them hand planes. The first was a Stanley No. 6 that I paid about \$4. It was sitting in the rain at the time, but I have restored it to good working condition now. The second was a Stanley No. 8 that I pur-

chased at a garage sale last year for \$18. I was in the market for a No. 7 and saw this one sticking out from a stack of magazines. It was already in good working condition, needing just a good sharpening.

What guild activities have you been involved in, how many time/or how long?

I joined the Guild in 2004 following the Woodworking Show. I have worked both Woodworking Shows since, the chair project, and beginning last year, took over the annual Shadow Boxes that the Guild makes for Turning Point and KC Hospice. I have been nominated as Director of Training and look forward to taking it to the next level.

What has been your favorite guild activity?

I really enjoy the monthly meetings. I joined for the opportunity to improve existing skills and learn new skills. The Guild membership includes some of KC's most talented woodworkers and I have learned a lot from the various demonstrations and programs these people have led. The chair project was also an exceptional opportunity to improve my skills.

What Shop Tip can you give us?

Safety is number 1!!!! Every task, no matter how routine, should be focused on safety.



Shaker Table



American Girl Bed



Wall Cabinet



Fountain Pens

Show & Tell



Brian Kemp's Postal office coin box of Walnut with 2 coats of poly on it.



Don Inbody's Tenoning jig made from Baltic birch.



John Johnson's Grief Box for Turning Point made from Baltic plywood. There is no finish on the project. The boxes will be finished in their therapy session.



Bob King's Jewelry Box made from Lyptus and maple with a lacquer finish



Rod Hanson's Lid for a box he made with his dovetail jig.



Tim Helfrich's Bird feeder and wood toys. Feeders were made from cedar and the toys made with pine.





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Meeting Minutes

New Members / Visitors: Kyle MacMillan, Kristy McKnight, Mark Heath, Michael Miller, William Bysel, Vincent Dittrich

News:

Wayne displayed pictures of the work of Livio DiMarchi. An Italian woodworker of superior artistry. The Guild and the Nelson Art Gallery are trying to bring him to Kansas City in 2007

TOOL TALK

Neal Shoger talked about the flip drill and a lifetime of batteries and was interested if anyone has purchased one.

Bill Evans said there is a recall on the 800 series of porter cable routers.

David Roth talked about the GripTite Feather boards he purchased at the tool show.

Someone had some table saw inserts for a Ryobi table saw.

Someone talked about the Keller dovetail jig and likes it.

Raffle:

Kevin Thomas safety glasses, James Tiller Lazy Susan, Bob Ladue Lazy Susan,
Jay Nichols wins the towels, Frank Lane safety glasses, Frank Hoog Safety glasses, John Morrison Lazy Susan

Aaron Menning Cold soldering gun, Bob Wilson Diamond files, Joe Lesko Floor mat, Kevin Thomas Cord reel Level and screw driver set, Bob Wilson Tool belt, David Roth Diamond sharpening stone and a set of small clamps, Trent Glamann large set of clamps.

Show and Tell:

Don Inbody brought in a tenoning jig made from Baltic birch.

Bob King brought in a Jewelry Box made from Lyptus and maple that has a lacquer finish

Calendar

Executive Meetings, 7:00pm Kansas City Public Library 1410 W 10th St. KC MO 64105

Guild meetings, 7:00 p.m., Jacob's Well Church, 1617 W. 42nd St., To reach us "during the meetings, call: KCMO. (816) 561-8177

Executive Meetings

Guild Meetings

2006

January 4th
February 1st
March 1st
April 5th
May 3rd
June 7th
July 5th
August 2nd
September 6th
October 4th
November 1st
December 6th

January 18th
February 15th
March 15th
April 19th
May 17th
June 21st
July 19th
August 16th
September 20th
October 18th
November 15th
December 20th

All members are welcome at any board meeting. A call to one of the Officers is all that is necessary.

Brian Kemp made a postal office coin box of Walnut with 2 coats of poly on it.

Tim Helfrich made a bird feeder and wood toys. Feeders were made from cedar and the toys made with pine. The points of interest is where Tim acquired the plans for the feeders.

John Johnson showed a Grief Box for Turning Point and are made from Baltic plywood. There is no finish on the project. The boxes will be finished in their therapy session.

Rod Hanson made a lid for a box he has made for his dovetail jig.