



# Wood Words

Kansas City Woodworkers Guild [www.kcwoodworkersguild.org](http://www.kcwoodworkersguild.org)

Volume 22 Issue 8

September 06

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

**"By all means read what the experts have to say.**

**Just don't let it get in the way of your woodworking" By John Brown**

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**Video**  
Don Kruse

**Books**  
George Rexroad

**Editor/Web:**  
Wayne Wainwright

**September Raffle:** Bill Evans will have his usual assortment of items

**Next Meeting Wed. September 20th, 7 PM**  
**Program: Randy Johns: New Jet Tools & Products**

## Sawdust: The Presidents Corner

*Jim Bany*



This month our meeting presenter is the tool rep for Jet Tools. So I'm going to take this opportunity to talk about brand loyalty. I'm finding with today's market we've got more choices than ever. In my opinion brand loyalty is a thing of the past, and that's okay, even though I've been accused of owning stock in Delta and Porter Cable. What I want to remind you is the golden rule of tools still applies. "You get what you pay for." Quality is still quality and cheap is still cheap. This hasn't changed.

Now I know there are exceptions to every rule, but in the long run this has saved me a lot of money and time. My table saw is the best example I can give. My first table saw was an old

Craftsman that was given to me. Eventually I outgrew it and wore it out. I then had a choice to make. It would cost \$500 to replace what I had or \$800 to upgrade to a contractor's saw. I also could spend \$1800 to get what I really wanted, which was a cabinet saw. I managed to fix my old saw enough times that this decision took two years to make.

Finally, in a moment of high risk, I plunked down the \$1800 at Tucker Hardware in Kansas City, Kansas, in 1986. It's the best woodworking decision I've ever made. I can honestly say I've built the rest of my shop tools around my table saw. I've kicked myself a number of times that I did not purchase it sooner. I've owned this saw for 20 years now and I continue to appreciate its value. I know its limits and ca-

pabilities, and how it is supposed to feel and sound. It's like an old friend I can count on - and I know I probably

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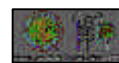
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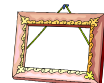
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**Ozark Lumber** 479 253-5994

won't outgrow it in the next 20 years either. Looking back, I probably would have upgraded to a cabinet saw eventually, so I figure I saved myself the price of a lower model.

Back in 1986 when I purchased my saw, there were only a few choices to make. Now there are many more saws on the market as well as accessories, so making the right decision is probably harder to do. I've seen manufacturers produce high quality tools one year and low quality tools the next, which makes it even more difficult.

In the May 2005 newsletter, James Childress was featured as Member of the Month. James made a statement in his interview that struck a chord with me: "I try not to think about the cost of a tool, but rather how well it performs. If a tool doesn't work very well, it doesn't matter how little you paid for it."

I'm not trying to sound arrogant (as my wife thinks) when I say "you get what you pay for" I'm not discouraging looking for a bargain. The point I am trying to make is that there is no substitute for quality. So what's going on in your shop?

## Program: Project Ideas with Ken Sokol

David Roth

### PROJECTS/IDEAS

Where do they come from?  
 What do we make?  
 What type of wood?  
 What type of hardware?  
 What type of finish?

Ken opened by talking about that often we might make items for our grand children. We make Christmas gifts, things for our spouses. (Honey do list). Ken made some simple bread boards for people and some rattles for his grand kids. Where do these ideas come from?

Wood magazine, Fine woodworking magazines, woodworkers journal, Woodsmith, ShopNotes, Popular Woodworking, Woodwork and American wood worker. Catalogs:Pottery Barn Restoration hardware.

Stores / flea markets We go to stores and look around at furniture. We also can go to antique stores and look around. Muse-

ums are another good place to look round. Web sites

We have our ideas - now where do we find our plans?

Russ Amos Works with a mathematical program on his computer for his remodeling project of kitchen cabinets. Russ put in his dimensions, thickness of wood how tall, width, and the computer will print out the list of material for him.

Drawing plans yourself, Plans now were there are plans for you to buy. Wood magazine is online were you can buy plans, Cherry tree, Rockler also sells plans, Woodcraft also has plans. Even our own library has plans for woodworking.

There are also a lot of books on antique Furniture and manufacturers catalogs will give you the sizes and dimensions of their piece of furniture.

Cabinet maker's reference is a good book on custom sizes and cut sheets Measure shop drawing for American furniture.

You can go into a furniture store and say I like that piece of furniture. What are the dimensions? I want to see of it will fit in my space at home. Do you by chance also have a picture of that piece of furniture?

Ken will sometimes go into stores and asked if he can take a picture of a piece of furniture and sometimes they say yes and sometimes no.

Jim McCord said if you ask for a picture of a piece. They will usually give you a picture of that piece.

### WEBSITES:

[www.woodproject.com](http://www.woodproject.com) They go to other websites you can go to. 9,000 woodworking plans and around 2,500 plans are free. You go to their web site and they index you to other websites on the design you want.

Norm Abrams has his collection of projects, plans, and videos of the things he makes at the New Yankee Workshop.

### MATERIALS AND WOOD

Where do we get the wood?

Liberty Hardwoods one of our sponsors, and they will mill the wood for you. Also there is Paxton's lumber - They carry exotics.

There is a company in Paola Kansas that has a good selection at reasonable prices. Maple oaks, walnut, coffee bean, Chris says look in the yellow pages in Paola. Family

owned.

Schutte Lumber has a good variety of lumber, if you want to buy one board, but if you want to buy a large quantity of wood then buy it at a lumber yard where you can buy it a lot cheaper.

If you are buying 100 to 200 board feet, Schutte's wood is also already planed for you and you can pick it out. Bloomer Hardwoods in Platte City

Estate sales and auctions

Also there is a place in Windsor Missouri (Amish) that has red oak 8 to 12 inches wide and sells it for 1.50 a board foot but they send you a post card when the wood is available.

Chris Kunzle had a question on buying lumber on the internet. Jim McCord has purchased birds eye maple from a company and 20 percent of it is nice and 30 percent is useable and 50 percent of it is trash. So instead of paying 8.00 a board foot it is costing you around 20.00 dollars a board foot.

Chris Kunzle has bought veneers and turning blanks from mail orders and it has turned out excellent for him. When you want to use exotic woods when they are not available locally.

Jim McCord says Goose Neck in Minnesota is real good and they will cut it to the size you want and will mail it to you.

Also there is Ozark Lumber Co. Which is one of our sponsors and we used their wood for the chair project for Andres Restaurant.

David Roth uses wood for his intarsia from places like woodcraft when they have a sale on wood like curly cherry, Paxton's, Schutte Lumber, also some wood from guild members if they have extra pieces of wood that might look interesting for an intarsia project.

Wayne Wainwright also has some Sycamore, Cottonwood, Oak and Walnut at his house and it is still available.

#### HARDWARE

Ken was looking for European hinges. And he checked out Lee Valley supplies, Woodcraft, Lock and Pulls, Woodworkers Supply, and McFeellys.

When buying in bulk shop around. Russ Amos buys a lot of his hardware from Liberty Hardwoods and Chris Kunzle says that Liberty is very competitive. Ball Bearing drawer slides for around 5 to 6 dollars a pair.

Woodworkers hardware is another good place to look for hardware. Russ had a sign up sheet for people to receive a free catalog.

Where do some people get their veneers. Chris Kunzle said

Consentines is a good place and Jim McCord says Certainly Woods is also a good place to get veneers.

Also another good source is our own guild members.

Bloom Hardware has a lot of hinges and they also will help you out if you have a question on how to install them.

Jim Stuart mentioned a website called Cutlist Plus. How to get your parts out of a piece of plywood. It's a free download. It shows you the best way to cut your wood with out a lot of waste.

Wayne Suter Referred TWO BOOKS

Understanding wood finishing by Bob Flexner and Great wood finishes by Jeff Jewitt.

**Thanks for an exciting program everyone!**

### Special Member Benefit from



15% off any purchase. Use code: 1F288.  
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Read more about our newest Sponsor on our web site or visit them at: [www.PlansNOW.com](http://www.PlansNOW.com)

## Member of the Month

By Nan Melton



John Morrison, our August Member of the Month, has been woodworking most of his life, starting at age 10, making orange crate cars to drive. He still has a special towel hanger he crafted for his mother from that period. Woodworking is just something he's always been interested in.

John has participated over the years in the toy making projects and also the shows at Crown Center, when they

invited Guild members to exhibit their handiwork.

John's favorite hand tool is a good sharp scraper, because it produces a smooth surface and "can get you out of a lot of trouble." His favorite power tool is the table saw. He owns a 10" Craftsman saw, upgraded over the last 20 years with a larger motor and a Biesemeyer fence.

His specialty is building reproduction furniture, especially in the Craftsman style.

Red oak is his material of choice – he knows what to expect and has gotten comfortable working with it. He finds that Minwax red oak stain evens out the color variations that are inherent in boards from different trees.

However, his recent triumph, the magnificent grandfather clock whose picture we saw at the July meeting, is made of curly cherry, much of it purchased from a fellow woodworker who had been storing it for about 50 years. Using General Seal-a-Cell primer and their satin finish, he reports none of the problems finishing cherry can sometimes present.

He and his wife, Diana, pored over many catalogues before choosing the plans from Murray Clock Company in Canada, and a movement with three chimes. After two years of work on and off, we saw the amazing results!

His favorite project, though, is a garden bench of white oak. The tree fell on the acreage surrounding his home. He hauled it to the mill, dried it and then crafted it into a lovely piece of furniture that adorns a shady corner in their garden, surrounded by iris and wildflowers.

When asked to share general shop and safety tips, John provided the following:

"In order to organize smaller tools and supplies, arrange by category and store them in like-size plastic or wooden containers approximately 4x12x15 placed on shelves convenient to the workbench. Infinite categories may include...saw blades, small clamps, staplers and staples, wrenches and sockets, sandpaper, drill press mortising tool, etc.

Safety tip...For small shops (I) strongly recommend installing smoke detector on the ceiling between the table saw and planer. Excess particles airborne by using these and other tools will set off the alarm as a reminder to put on a respirator and start the dust collection/air filtration system.

John wants to express his appreciation to Guild members for the mentoring and assistance they have provided over the years.

Congratulations again, John, our August Member of the Month!





## Special Article

### Master Woodworker

*Battling a rare form of cancer, Cliff Bell builds his dream woodshop*

*Reprinted by permission*

Cliff Bell is very matter-of-fact about two things. One is a woodworking hobby that has inspired an impressive 900 square-foot shop behind his house filled with tools that would make “Home Improvement” star Tim Allen grunt in manly admiration.

The other is the sarcoma that has wrapped itself around his aorta and snaked it’s way around his lungs. The Liberty resident mentions the cancer briefly, then turns his attention to a passion that’s rapidly evolved since he built a front deck three years ago, a year before his doctor discovered the sarcoma.

He said he gets tired easily, but that it hasn’t stopped him from building a back deck that joins the woodshop with the back of his house and from painting the shops exterior.

“It’s always been something I wanted”, Bell said of his woodworking shop, “and it ended up being a year ahead of schedule.” That’s because after he learned he had cancer, Bell and his wife Debbie, decided to build the shop to give the master woodworker time to enjoy it. They finished it in January 2006.

The shop holds an oak mission style coffee table, cherry banister railings, an end table, and oak and walnut pens. It also has parts for 200 mahogany picture frames he and his fellow Kansas City Woodworkers are building in his shop for the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Kansas City.

He’s the envy of the guild members who’ve seen the Windsor chair he made under the tutelage of Mike Dunbar at the Windsor Institute in New

Hampshire two years ago.

“He just blew us away,” said fellow guild member Mike Jones. “He gave our monthly presentation and brought in his Windsor chair with a Power-Point presentation and pictures of the chair in different stages as he was building it.”

“Cliff runs silent and runs deep, but if you get him to start talking about his woodworking, he really opens up.”

Dunbar has taught more than 3,000 students how to make Windsor chairs at his school, the only one in the world dedicated to Windsor chair-making, according to the institutes web-site.

Though Bell’s shop is filled with routers, drill presses, a compound miter saw and other power tools, he made the chair using hand tools that are reproductions of ones developed around the beginning of the 20th century.

“The only difference between the chair I made and the ones made in the 1600’s would be that those would have had lead paint on them,” he said.

Bell made the Windsor chair entirely by hand with tools such as a spokeshave and drawknife. Its legs are made of maple and the arms of oak. He bent, shaped and steamed the wood himself. Handmade pegs hold the masterpiece together.

He’s visited doctors at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Texas and at Johns Hopkins University in Maryland, but they won’t operate on him because of the risk involved in his rare form of cancer.

He seems to have accepted that, though he said he’s had “a few moments here and there.” He and his wife will soon tackle building cherry cabinets, then there’s still a bathroom and a laundry room to be completed in the woodshop.

There’s still a lot Cliff Bell wants to do, and as for his fellow guild members, they know he’ll get it done.

## Tool of the Month

Don Kruse

### ANTIQUe TOOL OF THE MONTH

September 2006

By Don Kruse

This month's feature is a hand drill patented by McClellan with patents issued on NOV. 6, 1900 and on DEC. 2, 1902.

These patents are for a "Universal Brace and Drill" and a "Combined bit-brace and a chain and bench drill". All of these patents are incorporated in the drill pictured.

As can be seen in the pictures the user can bend the drill in the center to enable access to areas that are too short for the handle to be kept straight. The small iron knob that looks like it's from a water faucet is used to adjust the two hooks on either side of the stem just below the handle.

The hooks are used to attach a chain. The chain goes around the object being drilled, passes through the loop on either side of the drill and then to the hooks.

By tightening the chain via the knob, pressure is applied to bit to aid in the drilling process. It is estimated that there are only 30 to 40 of these drills in existence today.

It was too complicated and expensive to produce to be a commercial success.

See <http://www.sydnessloot.com/McClellan.htm> for more information.



### Show & Tell



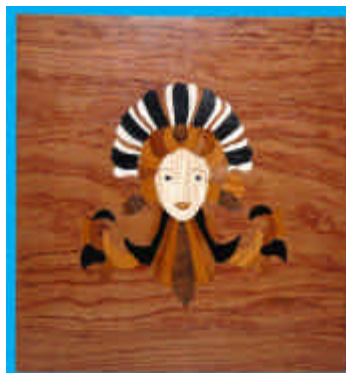
**Ken Grainger's** Sycamore clip board box



**Parker Nicholson's** Koa boxes and spline making jig



**Bill Donaldson's** Brass and Cocobolo Spoke



**David Roth's** Iris Marquetry, Walnut checkerboard, Louis the 14th Marquetry piece of colored veneers, and ornamental piece made from fiddle back maple.



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Kansas City, MO. 64141

### Meeting Minutes

#### **News / Business:**

Jim asked someone what they are working on and the said picture frames. Jim asked the Guild who is working on the picture frames. Quite a few rose their hands.

Jim talked about Habitat for Humanity and the dates are September 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 28th, 29th and 30th.

It is in Kansa City Kansas, 32nd and Parallel parkway. It starts at 8:00 a.m. and ends at 4:00 p.m.

Ed Bergstedt is interested in woodturning. In Louisville, he went to the woodturning show and as he registered, he entered into a contest and won a one-way lathe with all of the attachments.

#### **TICKET RAFFLE**

Russ Amos won a set of box clamps

Jim Ramsey won the screwdriver and bevel set

Bill Evans won a saber Saw

Kevin McAndrew won the dermal set.

Kevin Thomas a set of clamps

Bob LaDue won a set of clamps

Parker Nicholson won Straight line set

David Knight won the screwdriver set.

### Show and Tell:

**Ken Grainger** made a clip board box out of sycamore (from the Guild supply at Wayne Wainwrights house), that holds your tape measure pens and pencils and whatever else you want to put in it. It has button shellac and bees wax finish. Ken said that the sycamore would be good for drawer sides. The more you use the drawer the more the sycamore burnishes on the bottom of the drawer.

**David Roth** showed an Iris Marquetry that he made and showed a Checkerboard that he made out of walnut and fiddle back maple

### 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.

with a cheery and maple banding with a bubinga edge frame.

Dave also made a Louis the 14th Marquetry piece using natural and colored veneers. This was a challenging project for David.

David also showed an ornamental piece made from fiddle back maple.

**Parker Nicholson** showed a spline making jig and the three boxes he made with the jig. The boxes are made from Koa wood and curly Koa.

**Bill Donaldson** made a Spoke Shave from brass and cocobolo handles and the blade is ¼ inch tool steel that he tempered himself. Bill also had some shavings that the tool produced.