

# WOOD



# WORDS

The newsletter of the *Kansas City Woodworkers Guild* [www.kcwoodworkersguild.org](http://www.kcwoodworkersguild.org)  
*Celebrating 25 years of Kansas City Sawdust*

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**Next Meeting: Wednesday April 15th, 7:00pm**  
**Program: Safety In Our Shop with Scott Engelmann and Chuck Slagle**

**Sawdust:**  
**The Presidents Corner**

John Johnson



I am sorry to see Mike step down as President of the Guild, especially knowing how much the Guild meant to him. The Guild will miss his leadership and I will miss his guidance. Fortunately, he is just an email away. Mike has been unemployed since July and much of his down time was devoted to the Guild. He will be working out of St. Louis and will be traveling a lot, so was unable to complete his tenure as President.

My first contribution to the President's Corner follows my last contribution to the Andre's Diaries. The Andre's Project has really been a rewarding experience for me. When I volunteered for the project, I had two personal objectives. First, I was seeking to establish a base of new friends who shared in my enjoyment of woodworking and second, I wanted to expand my woodworking skills. I am happy to report that both objectives were fully achieved! Andre's has

been a very rewarding experience for me and encourage everyone to get involved in the many activities available.

There is a special group of people that I would be remiss if I did not recognize for their significant contributions on the Andre's Table and Bench Project. So please extend a special thank you to Jim Bany, Scott Englemann, Steve Erickson, Bill Evans, Mike Jones, Brian Kemp, Bob King, Dave Kraatz, Bill Kuhlman, Joe Lesko, Ron Lomax, John Maciel, George Rexroad, Bud Schenke, Chuck Slagle, Ken Sokol, Terry Stair, and Jim Stuart. They stepped forward time and time again to keep this project moving. Thanks Guys!!!

Speaking about going forward, I am really excited to announce that we will be introducing our Safety Program this month, which is the precursor to opening the shop for membership use. Chuck Slagle and the Safety Committee Team have worked very hard in

*(Continued on page 2)*

PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR  
 SPONSORING MEMBERS

-  [www.Shop.MontereyWoods.com](http://www.Shop.MontereyWoods.com)
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[www.kcwtw.com](http://www.kcwtw.com)
-  **Re-View**  
[www.review.biz](http://www.review.biz)

**Sign up now for the Windsor Chair Program.**  
**May 2nd & 3rd**

preparing this program that will introduce the membership to safe operation of our shop equipment. The April Featured Program is only the beginning. It will be followed by Train-the-Trainer workshops and then hands-on to the membership. The Leadership Committee feels that the Guild should set the standard for shop safety, so any member wanting to use shop equipment will be required to participate in this program.

Another step forward is that we are also planning to open the shop the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month for open work sessions. There are still some details to work out before we fully kick this off and we also have some priorities to complete first, such as the Safety Program, completing shop set-up, and the last phase of the Andre's Project. But stay tuned!!!

Best Regards,

John

### **March Program: Different Stain & Glazing Processes by Peter Jilka with Merit Industries**

Peter Jilka, president of Merit Industries, gave an excellent presentation on stains and glazing at our March meeting. Peter is quite experienced in finishing wood and had many beautiful examples of his work to show us.



Peter began with noting that it's always important to prepare for safety whenever you start a finishing project. Wear an apron and gloves and work in a well-lit and well-ventilated room. A respirator may also be necessary, depending on the chemicals with which you're working.

Begin your project with the necessary surface preparation of your piece. Peter advises initially sanding with 120 grit and working your way up to 180 grit. This is adequate sanding for most pieces – too smooth a surface will not take the stain or finish as well.

Several stains are available, of course, and Peter explained the difference between NGR stains, wiping wood stains, and shading/glazing stains. An NGR stain is non-grain raising and is mixed with alcohol or acetone, containing no VOCs. It is espe-

cially good at evening out the color of wood. Wiping wood stains are also good for this purpose and are sometimes called pigmented stains. Shading/glazing stains, meanwhile, create interesting effects with different colors. In general, stains are grouped by the amount of solvent in the stain.

Peter proceeded to show us several examples of wood that he had stained. One was a piece of poplar that looked like cherry. This piece was a six-step process with a wash coat of shellac, followed by Mohawk's Light Golden Oak penetrating stain, another wash coat of shellac, then Behlen's Burnt umber shading/glazing stain, a seal coat of shellac, and finally, an optional lacquer top coat. And there you have it – poplar imitating cherry!

Peter also showed us an actual piece of cherry that he finished in a five-step process as follows: wash coat of shellac, Behlen's Solar-Lux Cherry NGR stain, wash coat of shellac, Behlen's Dark Red Mahogany shading/glazing stain, and a seal coat of shellac. The result was a nice deep red cherry finish.

A piece of walnut that Peter finished in a 7-step process resulted in a very rich and antique looking finish. He began with Behlen's Solar-Lux Lemon Yellow NGR stain, followed by a wash coat of shellac, then Behlen's Burnt UMBER shading/glazing stain, a seal coat of shellac, and finally, a topcoat of lacquer.

A final piece that Peter showed us was mahogany finished with stain and two glazes. This 7-step process went as follows: Behlen's Solar-Lux Nutmeg Brown NGR stain, wash coat of shellac, Behlen's Dark Red Mahogany shading/glazing stain, wash coat of shellac, Behlen's VanDyke Brown shading/glazing stain, wash coat of shellac, and a final topcoat of lacquer.

Peter briefly talked about set-up times between the steps of finishing. NGR stains (also called dye or sap stains) dry within minutes. The shellac he often uses is also quick to dry. Wiping wood stains generally dry within 30 minutes. Glazes, on the other hand, are generally oil-based and so take longer to dry.

Two books that Peter highly recommends as excellent resources for any finishing project are *Fool Proof Wood Finishing – For Those Who Love to Build and Hate to Finish*, by

Teri Masaschi, written in an easy -to-follow recipe format, and *Understanding Wood Finishing – How to Select and Apply the Right Finish*, by Bob Flexner, virtually the “bible” on the subject.

Peter ended his presentation with advising you to record whatever steps you take to finish a piece, whether it’s three steps or seven, or more, so that you can repeat the process. Of course, this can always be written documentation, but you can also do a sample “step” board that visually records the process. No need to reinvent the wheel whenever you have a piece to finish!

For your information, Merit Industries is located at 10<sup>th</sup> and State in Kansas City, Kansas, and has a showroom for you to see stained and glazed pieces for yourself. Peter’s company carries many furniture-related products and can also be visited on the web at [www.MeritIndustries.com](http://www.MeritIndustries.com).

Thank you, Peter, for a very informative presentation on staining and glazing!

### The Tree

By Fred Chael

The orange and blue flames leap wildly in their ritualistic dance in the fireplace. I’m sitting there mesmerized by both the flames and the warmth, reminiscing about bygone years. This fire was special, for it was fueled by remnants of “The Tree”.

A unique tree it was, a nondescript walnut, bowing gracefully to the north, possibly to escape the shadow of it’s parent across the south fence, or possibly just reaching for the sun as nature intended. But it also seemed to possess magnetic powers as it attracted my four sons and other assorted young male mischief makers, from the neighborhood, to it’s boughs. In retrospect, it’s probably fortunate that I didn’t see all the activity in, around and among it’s leafy branches. Conversely, had I seen it, I probably could have saved myself a ton of frustration about what happened next.

Fast forward a few years. It is now obvious that the tree has to be cut down, since it is losing it’s struggle to thrive between a couple more mature of the species. However, since the trunk had grown to exceed 16 inches in diameter, I had visions of a bo-

nanza of cheap walnut lumber for the mere cost of felling and slabbing. WRONG!!

After the trunk was cut into logs, I asked a fellow guild member, with a self-made lumbering saw, To help fulfill my visions of a cache of valuable, yet inexpensive hardwood. Unfortunately, the “Rest of the Story” is not exactly pleasant. The saw encountered dozens of nails, many in rigid military formation, while numerous others popped up randomly. The saw blade was no match for these metallic invaders. But, to make a long story short, we did persevere and managed to harvest some slabs. However, I’m not sure the sawyer ever forgave me for inviting him to my back yard to “test out” his new unit.

To continue, I’ve stored the slabs since, hoping to find some project “worthy” of this wondrous walnut. None really seemed appropriate until recently, my bride requested that I make frames for artist’s sketches of the boys, which were unearthed during our continuing “downsizing foray”. “Why not?”, I hesitantly responded.

And so, after an inordinate amount of resawing, jointing, planing, trimming, and dadoeing, the frames were crafted, but with mixed results. Reaction wood reared it’s ugly head, not severe, but sufficient to affect some mitered corners, which bothered this compulsive woodworker. In retrospect, I think the tree had the last laugh. But regardless, I’m passing these frames onto my beloved sons in “As Is” condition, with the admonition that “ It serves you right”.

And now, here I sit enjoying my fire with some small regret that my expectations far exceeded reality. However, think of the one important lesson I learned, “Beware of Backyard Lumbering.”

Meanwhile, backyard walnut sure makes great firewood, that is if you can tolerate the pain of seeing your “Backyard Bonanza” go up in smoke.



**Probotix**

**Len Shelton** owner of Probotix, and his brother, **Danny**, came to our meeting in March all the way from Illinois, to show us the amazing Fireball V90 Desktop CNC Router. The V90 is a general purpose machine, suitable for many uses, such as clock making, signs, plaques, and much, much more. The software of the CNC involves three main parts: CAD (Computer Aided Design) software for designing your project; CAM (Computer Aided Manufacturing) software that converts your CAD drawing into the G-code programming language that the CNC control software understands; and finally, CNC control software that reads the G-code and turns it into *motion* to drive the machine. The cutting is fast, easy, and accurate! Check it out online at [www.probotix.com](http://www.probotix.com).



Guild member Arnold Baker will be testing out one of these machines for Probotix. When Arnold has it all figured out he intends to give us a full-blown CNC program at a meeting later this year.

**Treasurer's Report 1st Quarter 2009**

**Statement of Cash Flows  
January thru March 2009**

<b>Beginning Cash Balance</b>	<b>\$13,469</b>
<b>Net Income-</b>	<b>\$17,624</b>
<b>Investment in Tools &amp; Equipment-</b>	<b>(\$2,395)</b>
<b>Net Increase in Cash</b>	<b>\$15,229</b>
<b>Ending Cash Balance</b>	<b>\$28,698</b>

**Meeting Minutes March 18th ,2009**

**News/Business:**

**John Johnson** opened the March meeting as the new president of the Guild and thanked previous presidents – **Mike Jones**, **Jim Bany**, and **Wayne Wainwright** – noting that he has some big shoes to fill in following their remarkable leadership. He is honored to take on his new position with the Guild.

John went on to talk about the success of the hand plane workshop that took place at the Guild site a couple of weeks ago. It gave us an idea of the demand for such workshops and also helped us see that we need to better prepare for them, as our shop wasn't returned to the pristine condition in which it began prior to the workshop.

John asked members to volunteer to assist the various directors, as well as officers of the Guild. Each position needs an assistant, in particular, the Director of Assets (**Scott Engelmann**) and the Director of Programs (**Bill Evans**). We also need a new editor for the monthly newsletter and both the Secretary of the Guild (**Shelley Taylor**) and the Treasurer of the Guild (**Mary Ripka**) need assistance. If you are able to help with any of these positions, please see the appropriate person. They will be glad to talk with you!

John mentioned that **Scott Engelmann**, who is in charge of our shop as the Director of Assets, has a list of items that he needs for the shop. Please see Scott if you have a workshop item that you can donate.

John reminded us of the Windsor chair workshop that is taking place the first weekend in May. If you have not yet signed up for it, please do so a.s.a.p. or you may miss out on this wonderful opportunity.

John also reminded us that we will be having an open house in June, commemorating our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. **Larry Morse**, Director of Events, needs help with planning this special celebration so please contact him to see how you can be of service.

John talked a bit about two other events. The Marc Adams workshop takes place in December while Ben Hobbs pencil post bed workshop will be held in spring of 2010. Keep posted for upcoming details in regard to both of these workshops.

John talked a bit about the Leadership initiatives, namely, drawing up a floor plan of our site, writing the bylaws, and establishing a three -year plan. In particular, the bylaws will be presented at the May

## The Antique Tool of the Month

By Don Kruse

For April, I will change the subject a little. Instead of a tool for working wood I will shift to a tool for making sure that the wood you are using is dried sufficiently. The tool, a "GRAND RAPIDS MOISTURE TESTER" is a balance scale graduated to compute the moisture content of a wood sample. The test is done by cutting a 1/4" thick end grain sample from the board being tested. The sample is weighed with the weight being recorded and then placed in an oven to eliminate all remaining moisture. Next, the sample is reweighed and the original moisture content read from the graphs on the balance beam. This is the method that would be used in a science lab except for the accuracy of the scales and the moisture content would be computed instead of read off of the chart on the scale.

This scale does not have a patent date but does say that the patent was applied for. The scale on the beam is marked as copyrighted in 1916 by GRAND RAPIDS VAPOR WORKS and that it was made in USA. The original instructions and parts list is included with the file. The instructions state the accuracy is within 1/2%.



## Annual Elections

We are now accepting nominations for the annual elections in April. This year the following officers and Directors are up for elections:

**Treasurer-** Currently held by Mary Ripka

**Secretary-** Currently held by Shelly Taylor

**Director of Sponsorship** Currently held by Kevin McAndrew

**Director of Programs** Currently held by Bill Evans

**Director of Events** Currently held by Larry Morse

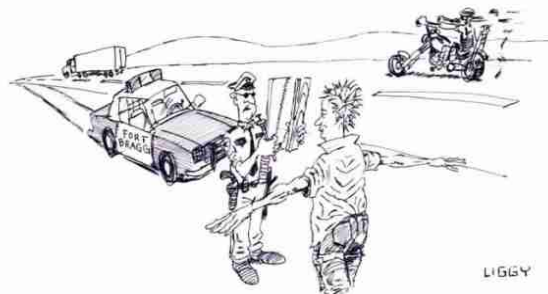
If you wish to put your name in nomination for one of these positions, please contact Shelly at

toushay929@gmail.com



## Woodlaughs By Liggy

www.woodlaughs.com



"Now I'd like you to make a double half-blind dovetail."

Printed with permission of Liggy at  
www.woodlaughs.com

## Member of the Month Sidney Steinhaufel



### What is your specialty in woodworking?

I enjoy making furniture. I have built a number of tables and I enjoy using natural forms and edges when the wood and the piece call for it.

### How many years have you been woodworking?

As a child I was interested. However, after cutting a part of my left index finger off with a bandsaw at 12, my interest waned. I reacquainted myself with woodworking six years ago when I rehabbed a kitchen in an old house I owned in St. Louis.

### What is your favorite hand tool and why?

My Lie-Nielson low angle block plane. I use this tool often. Even total power tool people should have a good block plane. My Lie-Nielson was costly but given how much I use it and the quality of it I have not regretted it. However, for my bench planes they are old, tuned Stanley's and Miller Falls.

### What is your favorite wood to use and why?

American Walnut. Claro walnut is wonderful but WAY too expensive. It is the Eastern variety I use. I much prefer un-steamed walnut. Steamed walnut has a more mud color to it and does not show the lovely purplish hues I find in the un-steamed lumber.

### What is the most favorite project you have built and why?

A coffee table I made of white oak was one of my favorite pieces. Technically it was not hard to do but I was very pleased with the proportions of it.

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

My Unisaw. I bought it new four years ago for \$1500 delivered. It is a left tilt, Biesemyer fence, 3hp model. While \$1500 is a great deal of money to me it is exactly what a table saw should be: smooth running, powerful and reliable. I bought quality and have not regretted it since.

### What has been your favorite guild activity?

The presentations at the meetings. I hope to not know it all until the day I die. I learn from my own mistakes but learning from others is far less painful!

### What shop tip can you give us?

Try new things. Find your own voice and express it through the wood. Research furniture design and take elements of it into your work. The Nelson -Atkins museum

has a wonderful library.

### What safety tips can you share with us?

Think. If something does not feel right then do not do it. Keep your blade tools sharp. Do not stand in kick-back zones, especially behind table saws and joiners. If you are tired, even if a project has to get done, stop and sleep. Set your power machinery up correctly and maintain it: try not having the blade and fence not being parallel and see what kick back can take place. Throw out router collet chucks when they wear out and replace them. Use push sticks and blocks, hearing protection and **WEAR EYE PROTECTION.**



March Show & Tell



**Ryan Holder**- Turned Maple & Cocobolo Lamp



**Dan Lesan**- Serving Tray & Recipe Box \*



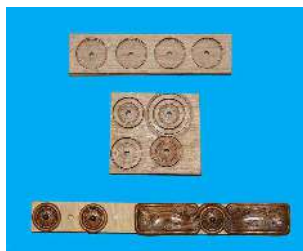
**Ken Grainger**- Bonsai Stand \*\*



**Ken Grainger**- Fly Rod Case



**Dan Grimes**- Turned Cedar and Cypress platters



**Mac Dressler** - Walnut Rosette & crown piece



**Ryan Hargrave** - Toy Car



**Blaine Allen**- Adirondack Chair



**Jerry Jennings** – Intarsia Cross



**Ron Lomax**- Oak Plant Stand



**John Johnson**- Spokeshaves

\*- denotes winner of monthly prize  
\*\*- denotes runner -up for monthly prize

### Meeting Minutes March 18th ,2009

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meeting and ratified in June.

**Shelley Taylor** reported on the upcoming April elections. In odd years, the positions of Secretary and Treasurer are up for election. **Mary Ripka**, who has filled in as treasurer for the past few months due to **Aaron Menning's** departure from the position, has agreed to stay in the position for another year. Generally, positions can be filled by members who have been some kind of director, however, the position of treasurer, requires an accounting background so if any member has this experience and would like to help Mary out this year and possibly take over next year, please let us know. Likewise, Shelley is the current secretary, also having taken over a few months ago when **Phil Akers** could no longer fill the position. She has agreed to stay on in the position but would like some help with the writing aspect of the job. If any of you would like to help with writing (meeting demonstration write -up for the newsletter, in particular) please contact Shelley.

Shelley added that three directorships need to be filled in odd years as well. They are Director of Events, Director of Programs, and Director of Sponsors. **Larry Morse** has volunteered for Events, **Bill Evans** is the current Program Director and will hopefully agree to a second term, while **Kevin McAndrew** is the Director of Sponsors and is completing a second consecutive term.

**Ron Lomax** gave an update on our next Andre's Project. We will be replacing four existing benches with seven new benches. Three of these will be 8 feet long, three will be 6 feet long, and one will be 6 and a half feet long. All will have separate backs that will attach to the wall with cleats. Each back will have three heart inlays and there will also be a heart cutout on the end of each bench. **Arnold Baker** has agreed to do all 21 of the heart inlays. We thank you in advance, Arnold! Ron's plan is to have training workshops to build the benches and to complete the first bench sometime in May.

**John Johnson** reported that **Scott Engelmann** will soon be conducting a program on safety in order to acclimate Guild members to our site workshop. This is being planned to take place in the latter half of April.

#### Visitors:

**Rick Mankameyer** from Shawnee

**Eric Markham** from Independence

**Geoffrey Hargrave** from Lamar, Missouri

**Ingrid Olson** from Kansas City, Missouri

**Glenn Nice** from Olathe

### Calendar

Executive Meetings, 7:00pm 9701 W 67th St Merriam, Kansas 66203 In the Basement

Guild meetings, 7:00 pm 9701 W 67th St Merriam, Kansas 66203 In the Basement

#### Executive Meetings

#### Guild Meetings

2009

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

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

**Marty Larson** from Kansas City, Missouri

**Alek Shelton** from Independence

**Harry Shelton** from Independence

**Ryan Holder** from Independence

**Brad Schrieuer** from Kansas City, Missouri

**Jerry VanLanker** from Independence

**Mike Millett** from Independence

**Dennis Reed** from Olathe

**Doug Blasiar** from Overland Park

**Paul Morphy** from Prairie Village

**Spring Fisk** from Shawnee

#### Raffles:

**White Tickets:** Freud Router- **Bill Evans**(Bill donated it to the Guild)

Eagle Jig- **Danny Sanders**

**Red Tickets:** **Paul Chafin** Pinnacle Square,

**Scott Engelmann** needle files, **Alex Shelton**

Corner Chisel, **Richard Davis** Multi-tool,

**Robert Young**- Veneer, **Dan Hurley**- Forstner

Bits & Birdie's Gift Certificate, **Leo Lutz**-

Scraper set, **Terry Stair**- Box Clamp, **Mike Cot-**

**tengim** Swivel pliers, **Geoffrey Hargrave**-

Schutte Gift Certificate, **Roger Claxton**- Birdie's

Gift Certificate