

## Kansas City Woodworkers' Guild

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# **Wood Words**

#### President's Corner

t is August and the traditional Back-To-School time. And that brings my children to mind. Unlike any of your children, my kids believe that we have long ago moved into the world of the future. a world of automation that relieves us from all of the troublesome daily tasks. It may surprise you to know that our house is totally self cleaning. Put your dirty dishes in the sink and they will wash themselves, returning to the cupboard in an orderly fashion. Clothes need only be dropped on the floor anywhere in the house and they will return to your room clean and folded. All of this happens while the lawn mows itself

and the trashcans follow suit. At this time I pick up my medal for World's Worst Dad, place it around my neck, and proceed to crush my children's vision of the world. I explain that the house does not run itself and that it only avoids condemnation because the whole family pitches in to help out where they can.

Why am I sharing this heart warming story? My friends, the Guild does not run itself. The Guild is powered by our membership giving of their time and effort to keep the doors open, the lights on, and the floors clean(ish). There are many opportunities for you to get involved and help with the care

and feeding of your Guild. Whether you have an interest in serving on the Leadership committee, assisting with the various fund raising or community service projects, or offering your assistance for Open House, the Auction or whatever, it is important that you are involved. Your involvement provides the Guild with the manpower and creative initiative to keep things fresh and interesting, along with creating a better, more fulfilling experience for yourself. We are the Guild and we need our help. And those planes aren't going to sharpen themselves.

We're all in this together

— Chuck Saunders

## Next General Meeting : August 20<sup>th</sup>, 7pm KCWG Shop Program : "My Experience at the North Bennet Street School" presented by Meredith Hart

Meredith Hart, former member of the KCWG and now recent graduate of the North Bennet Street School Cabinet and Furniture Making prooram tells us:

"I will be talking and showing pictures of my experience at North Bennet Street School in Boston, where I spent two years in their intensive, full-time furniture making program. It will include an overview of the program ,some of the tricks and techniques I learned, and some of the projects that I and other students completed." — Cliff Schuette



Newly remodeled bench room at NBSS.

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#### **Guild History Wanted!**

I am requesting all past Presidents of the KCWG to email me with their dates of service. I wish to contact all for interviews. Any member with KCWG historical information is also encouraged to email or call me.

— Ann Creek, KCWG Historian

g.creek@att.net

(913) 449-3377

#### **Wood Words**

### Eves on the Blackboard

n the training front, be ready to sign up for George Walker, co-author of "By Hand & Eye". He will be presenting a free lecture on Thursday night, September 18th from 7-9pm. His 2-day clinic will commence on Friday morning and conclude Saturday afternoon. He will teach us everything we need to know on design, layout and the process of simplifying that whole process of committing an idea to paper. Fee is \$250. Check out his book on Lost Art Press. He will likely be bringing copies for sale and personalization with autograph.

We are firming up the details for the joint Guild/ SAPFM event in October by hosting Freddy Roman with a clinic on banding, inlay and adornment in the style of the Federal Period. The plan at this point is to learn how to make a serving tray that will make one proud. We will have fee, details and all the things you will need to motivate yourself to sign up. Space will be limited since we will be sharing Freddy with the SAPFM folks who are holding their annual gettogether at the Guild.

Due to the overwhelmingly favorable response to Rob Young's Hand Tool Pre-school in August and October, we will be offering this class again later in the year.

We are also working out the details with the Woodturner's Club to offer an intro to Woodturning class probably sometime in October or November, so keep an eve out for that

We are also bringing back the Intro to Machine Woodworking with Kara Paris in late September. If you are a beginner looking for a way to gain some confidence in the shop, this is vour class. Kara, a former High School woodworking teacher. will guide you through all the instruction you need to learn to safely and effectively use the shop equipment. The first 2 sessions will include the safety orientation that nets you a "green card" for access to the shop equipment. The class usually lasts about 13 weeks. More details below.

This is your Guild, so if there is something you are particularly interested in learning, let me know. I love a challenge. I will bet we have someone who can teach you how. Don't forget, you can also get some great one-on-one instruction from Erwin Kurtz in his "Rough to Ready" class. It usually takes about 4 hours to complete the class. You will learn all the skills necessary to take a rough piece of lumber, mill it, size it and leave with a pretty nifty box to show off your skill to your significant other. If this is of interest, reach out to Erwin at assets@kcwoodworkersquild.org and he will get with you to set a date and time.

I hope to see you all in the shop very soon!

— Mike Jones

## NC101 — Introduction to Machine Woodworking

The Kansas City Woodworkers Guild will be offering once again "Introduction to Machine Woodworking" NC101, 12 week night class, 7:00PM - 10:00 PM. Classes will be held Thursday's, September 29 through December 18, 2014 (skipping Thanksgiving of course). Tuition is \$ 215.00 plus \$50.00 materials, total \$265.00 or Woodworker's plus get a 20% discount on tuition \$172.00 plus \$50.00 materials, for a total of only 222.00.

You will need a green name tag to take the class (safety orientation and test). Orientations are scheduled for August 23, 9:00 AM or September 21, 3:00 PM.

The class size is limited and you must be a KCWG member, so be sure you purchase the "Saw Dust Maker" or "Woodworker Plus" membership to be allowed to work in the shop.

The class emphasis will always be on SAFETY! Class will start by learning how to safely use all the machines in the pockets. shop. The correct way to prepare the wood you will use to make your projects (from rough to ready), squaring up your boards, lay out and proper gluing methods.

This is a "hands on project based" class where you will gain knowledge and skills in the safe use of machines and tools. You will learn some wood identification, and characteristics, how to read and follow plans, steps in project planning, problem-solving, beginning joinery, fastening, clamping, gluing, sanding, and finish-

There will be a limited choice of projects. You will be learning processes to build on, by learning some basics in machine woodworking. There are three other items you will need for class; safety glasses, a tape measure, and a 3 ring binder or a folder that has

Three projects will be assigned of the instructor's chnice

— Kara Paris

Sign up via Mike Jones



## Shhhh, From the Library

his month, as with many previous months, Guild library volunteers and I have been busily organizing our collection of books, magazines, and DVDs. While sorting through these 1,400+ resources, I came across the book "Wooden Puzzles and Games" by Kenneth Wells. Although only one of more than

thirty books the Guild has on toy making, this book and its projects seemed like a wonderful read. 'Wooden Puzzles and Games' contains 21 different projects (15 brain teaser type puzzles and 6 games), clearly labeled drawings, detailed photographs, and thorough written project descriptions. In addition to this wonderful collection of project-by-project

detailed information, Kenneth
Wells has also included excellent
chapters on wood preparation,
jigs/devices, and finishing tips
(with project by project recommendations). I originally picked
this book up in order to make my
children some nice toys but I
might end up building a few of
these for myself!

— John McKee

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## AUGUST OPEN SHOP

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## **Next Safety Orientation**

August 24th, 9am at the shop.

Members, bring your waiver and completed test to get qualified to use the KCWG Shop!

## Special Interest Groups — All KCWG Members Are Invited

#### Coming up!

Hand Tool SIG: Sunday August 24th 2pm

The Gottshall Block

Sure, it is the day after the KCWG Open House, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't try to improve your skills.

By hand, you are instructed to create a block precisely 7" x 3" x 3" and then layout a rabbet, two dados, a mortise, a radius for a corner, a beveled corner and a fair curve for one edge. All of these tasks are to be done by hand. To keep things just a little bit simpler, we will start out with machine cut blocks that are close to our desired size, only doing a little bit of final sizing by hand. But feel free to work from a rough sawn piece, it is up to you. But the finished block

should not show any machine marks, only those made by your hand tools!

#### Coming up!

Scroll Saw SIG : Wednesday August 13th 7pm,

Harold Sickles will be demonstrating the making of "Sea Shells". Sand not included.

#### Coming up!

presenter's wife.

Power Tool SIG: Sunday August 17th 3pm

We will be starting to reassemble the bandsaw. I will have more Bandsaw tires to put on wheels as well as crowning the tires we put on last time.



As a substitute, John Tegeler was enjoined by the Safety Committee to critique the test for the scroll saw safety test. The test was taken by the attendees. A lively critique and discussion followed. Several questions were editorially modified, some questions rewritten, and spelling and grammar errors were corrected. A summation will be returned to the Safety Committee.

Show and Tell was next. Bill Kuhlman demonstrated his

"In order to succeed,
your desire for success should be greater than your fear of
failure."

- William Cosby



'Marble Maze' project. David Albright commented on his 'trout fish' fretwork plaque. Bill Nagle presented his 'fish jigsaw' puzzle. Ron Hill showed his segmented bowels.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Our next meeting will be held August 13, 2014 at 7:00 PM.

## July Scroll Saw SIG Meeting Summary

The Scroll Saw SIG met Wednesday, 07-09-14, 7:00 PM, at the KCWG shop. The facilitator was John Tegeler and there were fifteen people in attendance.

Volunteers will be needed for the KCWG Open House on Saturday, August 23, 2014. The hours will be from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM. Scrollers will be needed for demos, giving out information, and providing their work for display.

## Events

oming soon to a KCWG shop near you: Open House! If all goes to plan on August 23rd from 10am to 2pm it will rain cats and dogs in the Kansas City area. We have a near flawless record in selecting the date of Open House to coincide with the wettest day in August. Help us make this another successful Open House by contacting Tim Locke about demonstrations, showand-tell items and shop tours. Invite your friends (but don't mention the rain).

Visitors who would like to build their own toy truck will have an opportunity to do so at the Guild (no tools required!) And remember that you can clean out your now soggy shop and basement by donating items to the KCWG auction on November 1st.

The auction will open its doors at 9am for previews with bidding starting at 10am. This has been a fun co-event with the KC Wood Turners and there will be plenty of radial arm saws to go around this year. Promise.



## Show and Tell



Anthony Harris, Balustrade of oak. Difficult to turn skinny spindles!



James Childress, Picture frame of many woods with many small carvings and lots of tiny joinery!



Sergio's Bandsaw box of walnut, maple, yellow wood and cedar. Can you find the hidden drawer?



Russ Amos custom car door of Baltic birch and fiberglass. Curves and lift-off design presented challenges.



Ted Wakeman, custom backsaw with walnut handle. "Sharpening? Yes I could use more practice," Ted was heard to say.

# Kansas City Woodworkers' Guild

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Kansas City Woodturners

Saturday, August 23 10:00 am - 2:00 pm



Come and join us for Woodworking Demonstrations, a shop tour

8

## **Woodworking with Small Children**

If you have the privilege of knowing a small woodworker, bring him/her to the Kansas City Woodworkers' Guild Open House to enjoy Woodworking Tool Play using antique and handcrafted woodworking tools and benches.

> Planing Splitting Dowel Making Dowel Pointing Drilling & Boring Sawing





Mallet and Cobblers Hammerer

Tool Play using antique and handcrafted woodworking tools at a child sized

European workbench

Specializing in ages 1 to 5 but we can accommodate any age child, including interested adults.

Free and open to you, your family, your neighbors, friends and the public

The following article, "Woodworking with

Small Childred" was previously published in the Kansas City Woodworkers'

Guild Newsletter, "Woodwords" many years ago. It has been edited and updated with new photos from Open Houses of recent years. Please enjoy. Questions & comments are welcome and may be directed to William Johnston, johnston@everestkc.net (913)492-6942.



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#### Woodworking with Small Children

Text by William Johnston

A neighbor sees a small boy running down the street.

"Where are you going in such a hurry?", she asks.

"I'm aaina ta mv Grandaa's ta hela him wark in his waadshaa". he replies.

"Does your Grandpa pay you?" asks the neighbor.

"Yes", says the boy!

"What does he pay you?", asks the woman.

"He pays me attention", answers the boy.

... adapted from an old T.V. commercial

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#### Prolog

Early in the 1950's, an old woman walks down her dirt driveway to her mailbox at the main road. She checks her mail and finds the expected copy of the Saturday Evening Post. She smiles as the cover intrigues her and reminds her of a time as a small child over 80 years earlier.

The cover depicts a woodworking shop. An older man stands at a workbench against a wide paned window. Its winter. Snow can be seen through the window as the man makes use of the short span of winter daylight on the bright snow to build a blanket chest. Tools hang from pegs on the wall, from a rack in front of the window, and on small shelves. Patterns hang from the rafters. At the left is a black iron stove, glowing red around its big belly, used to burn scrap and keep the shop warm. The workshop is likely attached to the farmhouse, not out in a barn, so as to enable the farmer to transform himself into a woodworker during the long idle winter.

What intrigues the woman most is located at the lower right of the picture. In the corner of the workshop sits a small child, on the floor, at a very small workbench, working with a few sticks of wood, surrounded by a mallet, small plane, and a saw. She remembers a similar time in her grandfather's shop when she was a child. "Grandpa, can I have a piece of wood?", she would say. Grandpa always had a few sticks of wood, not scrap, but small pieces, specially prepared and set aside, for her "work".

If you Google "Woodworking with Children" you will acquire over three million links accumulated by this wonderful search device in just over a quarter of a second. There is a lot of useful information on the web about this subject. If you read even a small portion of this plethora of information you will notice similarities. Most of the articles and books deal with woodworking with children generally starting at 5 or 6 and up. The material is often directed at teachers. Teachers are usually dealing with 5 to 15 children. Safety is stressed, as it should be, but especially problematic because children

with other children strike each other with the tools just about as much as the wood. Multiple energetic children together, as any parent can testify, are a challenge to manage. Many books deal with projects. "What can I make?", "I want to make something." Covers show an older child choking up on a hammer and pounding a nail to make a birdhouse. Many authors of these books convey a great deal of knowledge about how children think and grow. This is extremely important and perhaps the greatest piece of information that you can distill from these books. You will also note, as a woodworker, even as a novice, that the authors often lack even the basic woodworking experience. I wanted to approach

> "Woodworking with Small Children" in an area not covered well at all. I wanted to develop my personal skill in working with very young children, starting at just the age for walking (about 1 year) and going up to 5 or 6. I wanted to build safety (enough to satisfy Mom) into the experi-

ence. Re-read the short episode at the beginning ... "He pays me attention." Attention becomes the

key to safety. One Grandparent's focused attention on one child bypasses the dangers from other children, and affords you the opportunity to pass on your love of woodworking through relationship building between a small child and a Grandparent.



Small children do not want to build anything. As the child gets older he/she will ask to build something substantial. They may request this at about age 5-6. The younger ones are satisfied to "play with tools". Attention span is very short at this age. Ten minutes (is it even that long?) and he/she is off to another

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"attraction". It may be some other attraction in your shop or to unrelated toys. They may come back shortly to do more "woodworking" or bring another object to the bench to whack with a mallet. There will never be enough time (attention span) to complete even the most basic project. Don't try! It will only cause you frustration which will transfer to the child. Provide a continuous flow of tools, pieces of wood, opportunity, simple demonstration, and encouragement. Relax and enjoy the show. You won't be disappointed.

Small children do not like loud noises. All of your power tools and your shop vac make noise that small children are sensitive to. Don't run power tools around small children. Don't experiment. If it makes noise in your shop don't use it. The only power tool that I have successively use with small children is a cordless drill. The child is not afraid of the tool ... just the noise. Stick to hand tools.

Small children should not be given "children tools and sets". Use real adult tools. For many tools there is an "economy of scale". That means that that often a smaller tool will not work as well as the full size equivalent. A common tool in a child's tool set is a small hammer. The head is too small. The weight is too light. The handle is round, the size of a large pencil ... too small to grip, even for a little hand. A child can not orientate the face to

strike anything, let alone a nail head. Do

not frustrate the child with such a tool. I
introduce, as a first tool, a cobbler's hammer. It has a very large face on the head that just about can't
miss. The head is heavy and will drive a wood dowel or a roofing nail. The larger face will not pinch your
fingers (you will be the one holding the nail). The handle is oval in shape. This larger diameter and shape
is easier for little hands to grip and orientate. The short handle is okay and actually an advantage for the
child. Long handles get in the way when a small hand chokes up. I introduce a bench style smoothing
plane, a Stanley #3 to play with. My grandson saw me using a #3. While he wanted to use it, he spotted a
much smaller rattail plane on the shelf. He rationally concluded that the much smaller plane was best
suited for a much smaller person ... himself. However, the lighter plane requires much more downward
pressure to get a reward ... a curl of wood shavings, than the heaver #3. Also, the small hands can not
get much of a grip on the rattail. The #3 has a tote and a knob. This facilitates two hand use with enough
room for Grandpa's hand as well ... at least in the beginning. (note: don't press his/her hand to hard ... it



A few words of note about helping. Show and demonstrate. Let the child "do" as much as possible. Don't do a lot of correction, especially early on. Just show again and demonstrate ... often silently. He/she will surprisingly pick up on it when ready. Make sure there is a reward imbedded within the tool play and that you point out the reward. Rewards are learned as well as earned. The shaving is the reward for planing. Point out the shaving! Make sure that the wood is thin enough (1/4 to 3/8 inch) on the edge. Prepare the wood ahead of time. Don't rely on scraps. The plane must be sharp and set shallow. Mom might think a plane is dangerous of cutting. The real danger is when the child drops it on his/her foot or picking up new vocabulary when dropped on your foot. The risk of cutting the skin is smaller because the cutting edge is down (pressed on the wood) in use. The plane should be extremely sharp without any burrs on the blade or the plane. Burrs will rip. A sharp edge will not. A sharp edge will not have to be forced to get a shaving ... reducing the risk of the plane becoming a projectile. The blade should be set extremely shallow ... to take a cut between .001 inches and .003 inches (less than the thickness of a sheet of paper). A cutter set this shallow will push easily. The cut is less than the thickness of the skin ... so no cut skin. I have never broken the skin with a hand plane ... mine, the child's or mom's. Try it on your own hand! I learned "economy of scale" with a hurdy-gurdy drill. I was given a half-size such drill that was intended to fit more compactly in an adult tool kit (French Army actually). It looks perfect for a child. However, it is harder to crank than the full size version ... too hard for a child ... yet not easily noticed by an adult.

On the subject of small crank drills ... a small nail works better in a crank drill than a small bit. Bits must remove wood to make the hole. A nail actually punches through the wood by moving the fibers apart with no wood or shaving removal. Therefore, a nail is easier to turn. I use a hardened nail with the head ground off. Prepare a ¼ to 3/8 inch thick piece of wood to use. The reward is obvious when the nail breaks through to the other side. Note: the smaller the bit the faster it needs to turn. It is not the revolutions but the speed of the cutting edge that determines the cut. A small bit needs to turn faster than a larger bit. Small children often have trouble getting enough speed. They love to turn the crank, though. Another reason to use a nail. A sharp nail can puncture the skin ... remember "pay me attention!"

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Let's talk about tools to play with in general. You must plan for tools and benches well before the child is introduced to them. I built a child size workbench some years back. Its top is just over chair seat height. Of course, no height is perfect. Children grow! It's a moving target! Actually, I built the bench for me ... to use sitting down. Now I use it with the kids. It's a smaller, fully functioning version of an adult European style workbench. Despite any one style, what is important is that the bench has a functioning vice and bench dog system. Holding the work is critical. It should hold small pieces of wood, averaging 3/8 by 3 inches x 8 inches, in every possible configuration. My bench uses a wood threaded bench screw which is easy for a child to turn. The bench has two bench dogs for clamping the stock. The bench itself is a great toy without the other toys. I sit on a small, low stool with the child between me and the bench. Early on a step-up the length of the bench will need to be provided, which can be removed as the child grows taller. Care must be taken to make sure that the child does not fall off the step. The first tool I introduce is a round head carver's mallet that I turned myself. We play whack-a-mole with the mallet and my bench dogs ... at or before I year. It's great fun for the "baby". A the children get older they still do it ... only they learn to push the dogs back up by themselves, pull the dogs out, and place them in different holes. A slightly small, lighter mallet is best ... one that you might use for fine carvings. Mallets teach

picking up and handling tools. Orienting them to strike a dowel in a hole (or a

bench dog) facilitates coordination. Kids love to hit things with a mallet. At later sessions I introduce square head mallets and the cobblers hammer. All of the tools need to be <u>named</u> and demonstrated. The child will quickly learn the difference between a generic mallet (wood head) and a hammer (metal head). They are proud to be able to name all of the tools.

So far we have discussed hammers and mallets, planes, and drills along with the workbench and vice. A saw would be the next logical choice. Cutting a board brings a great reward, especially cutting it in half. I introduce, as a first saw, a Japanese flush cutting pull saw. It's easy to damage these saws so an inexpensive one is suitable. Buy one for the purpose. As an alternative any pull saw would do. I also employ a razor saw. This has fine teeth and also cuts on the pull stroke. Never consider the saw that comes with a child's tool set. An alternative to cutting a small board is to drill a ¼ hole in a board, insert a short dowel with the mallet and cut it off with a pull saw. You can help on the pull stroke. Small children can not easily master a push stroke. I have a large antique wood brace that I use with a child to bore larger diameter holes, say a



quarter inch or more. It's easier for a child to turn while I hold the knob on top for balance. Children love splitting wood. Some time back, I had a black-smith at a local festival forge me the makings of a froe knife from a railroad spike. I finished the blade with a grinder and file. The blade is ¼ inch thick opposite the blade so it can be hit with a mallet. The blade looks like it tapers to a sharp edge, but it does not. A sharp edge would cut. You want the froe knife to split. This requires a somewhat rounded over edge that will split the wood without cutting it. For reference a split occurs ahead of the edge of the blade. A cut occurs at the edge of the blade. I made sure the froe knife was also not pointed as a froe would be. I prepare ¼ inch thick pieces of easy to split wood. I hold the froe knife to the wood and let the child strike it with the mallet. This, repeated, usually results in several ¼ x ¼ pieces of wood about 2 inches long. We use a mallet to pound these into a slightly undersize hole that the child has drilled and cut off the excess with a pull saw.

Woodworking Tool Play is a wonderful way to bond with small children and introduce them to your woodworking hobby that can be built upon and put to use as they grow. Hand tools introduced include mallets and hammers, pull saws, hand powered drills, planes, froes for splitting, small work benches and vices and, of course, "pieces of wood". All tools introduced are adult tools and fully functional. Safety is important and improved through avoiding distractions by "paying full attention to the child".

Increase your Woodworking skill and knowledge



August 2014, No 8

Next General Meeting : August 20<sup>th</sup>, 7pm KCWG Shop Program : "My Experience at the North Bennet Street School" presented by Meredith Hart

## Find us on the Web at www.kcwoodworkersguild.org

Have a suggestion for the Guild? Idea for a program, clinic, workshop? Contact us using the emails to the right.

Find Us : KC Woodworkers' Guild 3189 Mercier Kansas City, MO 64111-3631



# WODCRAFT 3rd ANNUAL TOOL SWAP & SHOP Saturday, September 20 · 9 AM to 2 PM

Here's a chance to rid your shop of those tools that do nothing but collect dust or to look for that hidden gem someone is selling for a bargain price.

- WOODWORKING TOOLS ONLY
- Tailgate-/Trunk-style sale
- · Rear parking slots Only
- · First come, first serve basis
- One parking slot per person/vehicle
- · Tables are allowed
- The store is unable to make change for you, plan accordingly.

To help make this a fun day for all, there will be tool reps showing off their cool tools and plenty of demonstrations.

# Free hot dogs and soft drinks from 11am to 1pm.

8645 Bluejacket Rd. Lenexa, KS Off 87th St, a 1/2 mile East of I-35 4th building North of Wendy's!

"Small minds are concerned with the extraordinary, great minds with the ordinary."

— Blaise Pascal

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