

Kansas City Woodworkers' Guild

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Wood Words

President's Corner

y the time you read this we will have taken delivery of our new CNC Router from Legacy. While it has taken a little longer than expected, We surely appreciate the generosity of support that Legacy is showing towards our Guild. I must take a moment to celebrate the tireless efforts of Jerry Jennings in procuring this addition to our shop. His efforts to provide quality merchandise for the auction cannot be overstated. Jerry is relentless in making connections, asking for donations, and like a bulldog he doesn't let go until the donation reaches us. I want you to join me in thanking Jerry for all that he

does in service to the Guild, we all benefit from his efforts.

But we best not sit back and rely on Jerry to do all the work. We each need to get involved and volunteer our skills. Currently we have need for a Director of Communications and a Publicity and Promotions person, let me know if you are interested. The Auction has need of assistance in many areas, let Tim Locke know that you want to help. Every time we announce a shop cleanup we need everyone's help to keep our facilities in good order.

Remember that the Guild is not a location but a community and a

community survives by the efforts of it's membership.

Or, now that IKEA has opened we can all quit woodworking and go fishing.

- Chuck Saunders





Next General Meeting: Septemberer 17th, 7pm KCWG Shop Program: "Building the Cedar Strip Canoe and Kayak" presented by Mike

Have you ever wanted to build your own canoe or kayak? It may be easier than you think. Mike Mollohan, a KCWG member since 2012. will take you through the process from planning, to preparation, then to execution. Mike will have a photo slide show of the process as well as the actual canoe and kavak he has built since he retired. The canoe was his first woodworking project as a neophyte woodworker. You are sure to get a good feel to determine if you want to take on boat building. Or, you might say that this program could float your boat. - Cliff Schutte

Mollohan



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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

or this month's guild
library book review, I
have decided to keep with
the September guild
meeting's presentation theme.
To that end, I want to highlight
three of the guild owned books
on canoes and kayaks: The Canoe: A Living Tradition by John
Jennings, Building a Birchbark
Canoe by David Gidmark & Canoe
Design and Construction by Alan
Byde.

Jennings' book, <u>The Canoe: A</u>
<u>Living Tradition</u> is a wonderful overview of native watercraft (canoes, dugouts, kayaks, and umiaks) as well as more modern

recreational canoes. This book is a nice collection of historical information/photographs and would serve as a good source of design inspiration for anyone considering building a canoe. Gidmark's Building a Birchbark Canoe, on the other hand, is exactly what its title suggests and is a review of historical and modern day Algonquin techniques for constructing birchbark canoes. Of note, Gidmark's book concludes with a chapter on paddle making and covers wood selection, as well as hand tool creation for the paddle carving process itself. Last, but not least, Byde's Canoe Design and Construction is a very

thorough discussion of thedesign, calculations, and steps necessary to build a custom kayak. If you are interested in kayak construction, this book's deceptive title might make you pass it by. However, for whatever reason, this book actually deals very little with canoe construction and is, in fact, a wonderful review of kayak construction techniques and considerations!

I hope that one or more of these books can help you in your canoe or kayak construction goals - happy paddling!

— John McKee

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chefroth@everestkc.ne



Re-View 1235 Saline St N. Kansas City, MO 64116

2014 Auction News

The annual KC Woodworker's Fundraising Auction is approaching on November 1. The event is quite significant on the financial operations of the KC Woodworkers Guild and KC Wood Turners. Everyone who enjoys the benefit of member-

ship will feel a bit more ownership preparation of in the Guild if they can contribute some effort or items. The Events director Tim Locke is asking for assistance with the following areas (more requests will come later):

 Auction promotion in local publications and message boards – Craig's List community bulletin boards, etc..

 Contacts with wood workers suppliers for donations:

Please contact Tim Locke

events@kcwoodworkersguild.org

or 816-392-9889

Woodworking Show 2015 Jan 30 to Feb 1

The woodworking show has offered to promote the guilds and clubs that participate if the organizations offer entry/beginner woodworking clinics and educational sessions. We are looking for Volunteer demo topics and demonstrators. We have commitments for the following:

- Simple box making with inlay and hand tool use with inlay.
- High quality knife making.
- You demonstrating _____..

Please contact the Events Director Tim Locke at events@kcwoodowrkers.org

or 816-392-9889

Next Safety Orientation

September 21th, 3pm at the KCWG shop.

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

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Special Interest Groups — All KCWG Members Are Invited

Coming up!

Hand Tool SIG: Sunday September 28th 2pm

At that meeting we will have patternmaker, Fred Früh's Tool box, circa 1910, on display with his original collection of handmade planes and tools. Attendees will have the opportunity to "carve' mahogany and freely use the tools hands on during the meeting. See the article, "Patternmaking, Handcrafted Tools, and Fred Früh" in this issue of "Woodwords" for Fred's story.

Also, courtesy of member, Bill Bysel, owner of Ace Foundry ... a local aluminum foundry ... we will have at the SIG meeting Gary Wilson, Wilson Pattern, who will provide insight into wood pattern making for metal foundry casting. My understanding is that Gary Wilson will have some hand-

crafted specialty tools on hand as well.

Questions may be directed to William Johnston, <u>johnston@everestkc.net</u>, 913-492-6942.

Coming up!

Scroll Saw SIG: Wednesday September 10th 7pm,

Coming up!

Power Tool SIG : Sunday September 20th 3pm

More bandsaw shenanigans as we finish off the tires, get them crowned and start to reassemble the bandsaws!



— George Carlin

er's next"



2014 Open House Report

The Guild Open House had visits from lots of wonderful people. Guild Members, family members, and guests and future members enjoyed an introduction to woodworking by Bill Johnston's now famous "Woodworking with Children". I do not understand how he can keep so many children gainfully busy.

Dave Kraatz with the assistance of many current Guild members assisted future Guild members with toy truck fabrication. John Johnson was ably assisted by his granddaughter is the truck assembly line.

George Rexroad has 4 new members

signed up and paid at the open house and quite a number of interested potential members considering the benefits of membership.

Erwin was responsible for a great lunch. We all owe a thank you Erwin and to the guild clean up crew.

— Tim Locke









Patternmaking, Handcrafted Tools, and Fred Früh

Text and Photos by William Johnston

Perhaps you appreciate and collect old tools ... incorporate the use of old hand tools in your woodworking ... are interested in tools that were handmade by the user ... or just wish to make woodworking tools for your own use. Many who appreciate old tools have a dream ... to come across the toolbox filled with tools that once belonged to a lifelong woodworker years after he has passed on to that great workshop in the sky.

This story starts with a man named Fisher who built coach bodies in the late 1800s in Ohio. Coach builders, like ship builders, rarely employed straight lines ... coach bodies bellowed ... partially to add elegance ... and more importantly to maximize the space inside for the passengers over a standard wheelbase, that allowed different vehicles to track in the ruts pressed in the road. Coachwork was designed to keep weight down, as the coach was drawn by horses, not an gasoline engine. Each piece of wood was hand fitted. Later Fish-

er's sons, the Fisher Brothers, took over the family business, moving it to Detroit. By 1910 the Fisher Brothers had begun making bodies for three different automobile manufacturers. And as you know they later became the "Body by Fisher", owned by General Motors.



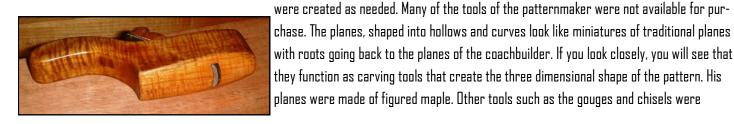
First, to the surprise of many, there were a number of automobile manufactures. After all, this was the year of the first "Great Race". The Model T Ford had just been introduced the year before in 1909. The Great Race was run from Chicago to Seattle, coming through Kansas City. Over much of the course there were no roads ... and certainly no roads designed for automobiles. It was an endurance race. A Model T won, driven by a man from Lee's Summit, Missouri. His family still lives there.

So at this time, 1910, Fisher undertook a major retooling effort. Automobile bodies required heaver and stronger components drawn by engines and unlike the hand fitted parts of the coach, each part now had to be interchangeable with another just like it.

The retooling was to facilitate the making of heaver, stronger, interchangeable parts for the developing Automobile industry.

Fred Früh was born in Germany in 1890. At age 20 he came to Detroit and began work for Fisher Body near the start of Fisher's retooling. Fred worked for Fisher Body as a patternmaker for 30 years until he retired in 1940. When he retired he came home with the tools of his trade and put them away without ever opening his toolbox again. Fred's thumb size salt shaker (salt boiled eggs for lunch? See sidebar) was still sitting in the top tray of his toolbox when he died two years later in 1942 at age 52.

Early in his career Fred fashioned the planes, rules, slicks, marking gauges, and other tools needed for his work as a patternmaker. Tools





Salt for Gluing

Carved patterns glued from smaller pieces were rarely square. Gluing was not as smple as slipping on a bar clamp. Pinch dogs ... like staples with slapping paints ... were aften used.



Salt sprinkled onto the glue kept components of the pattern from slipping past each other when compressed with a clamp. Try it sometime ... you might find it as useful as the patternmaker did.

adapted from manufactured tools of the time. He took gouges, cut off the handles, fashioned an offset handle, and brazed the new handle



onto the stub of the old. This produced a really ugly tool with its outstanding lump of brass on a steel handle in unsightly contrast to the beautiful curly maple bodies of the planes that he created. Fred also made a spokeshave and a coachmaker's plane cast out of aluminum, no doubt shop cast from existing tools. While useful and practical in



patternmaking, these tools lack the beauty that only their father could truly love.

In the pre-plastic industrial patternmakers' world, thin sheets of red (pre-petroleum plastic from vegetable sources) material know as "composite" was available for the patternmakers' use as parts of the pattern in addition to mahogany, the most common wood for patterns. Clear white pine was also used. Fred incorporated this red composite into his planes, usually in the traditional wear spots. Whether this pre-plastic composite was used originally or incorporated later when wear appeared is not known. Wear was certainly expected, especially from a small,

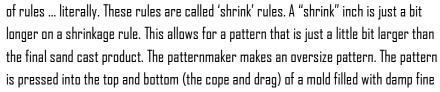


oft used tool. Likely the composite was applied from the beginning and replaced as necessary. Composite is slick but not particularly hard.



Fred also made sweeps and straightedges of nice thin pieces of figured maple or of the same red composite. Sweeps are like rulers, some marked off by hand in inches, some not, that make gentle curves in three dimensions. They are thin and flexible and allow the drawing of gentle curved lines on flat or three dimensional surfaces (think drawing a curved line on a globe's surface).

It is common for patternmakers to work with a different set







sand and clay which acts as a binder. The pattern is removed and the depression remains. The cope and drag are put together. Molten metal (brass, iron, bronze, aluminum) is poured into the mold, at the foundry. Each of these metals shrinks in the mold on cooling to their final specifications. Since each metal shrinks a different amount a different shrinkage rule for each type metal has to be used to create the pattern. There were no shrinkage rules in Fred's toolbox. However, Fred did make a

normal rule. Since it was twice the length of his toolbox, he made it in two pieces. The pieces are joined together in a brass mortise and tenon secured together with a small thumbscrew. The markings are hand stamped with numbers using a metal stamp with the line graduations drawn by hand.

You can learn a great deal about a man from the tools that he uses. Learn even more from the tools he makes. A word about Fred Früh's name is in order to understand this man. (Früh means "early" in the German language). Fred came to this country just prior to World War I and probably made some of the patterns



for war vehicles. He retired just prior to the United States' entry into World War II. The "ü" in Früh changes the pronunciation of this word.

This "umlaut" over the "u", as the double dots are called, caused Fred two distinct challenges, as marked on his tools. Craftsman who make tools, and especially craftsmen who use their tools outside of their own shop, liked to mark their tools with their names. Secondly, everyone likes to have their name pronounced and spelled "correctly". When Fred made a tool he looked to his set of "American" metal stamps to stamp his name. This set had the alphabet, the numbers, and a few other characters, such as the period. Nowhere, in Detroit, it seems, was a metal stamp set with a "ü". Even it there was, only his fellow German immigrants knew how to pronounce a word with an "umlaut". So Fred used variations of spellings of his name to facilitate both pronouncing his name correctly and to overcome the limitations of his metal stamp set. He used "Friih". The "ii" looked somewhat like a "ü" but made pronunciation even more difficult. He finally settled on "Frueh" which his descendants use today.

In 1978, I roamed the countryside in my work as an insurance company marketing representative. This provided the opportunity to check out garage sales on many Thursday's. Detroit had many opportunities to collect high quality old metalworking tools at almost giveaway prices, as you might suspect from the motor city of tool & die makers. Woodworking tools were equally scarce in Motown. Worse yet, a single old geezer (I are one now) always seems to be one step ahead of me. The scarce woodworking tools I wanted, always seem to be "just sold to this guy that bought them all". They showed up at his "Mall Show" antique booths at very high prices. So when I stopped at a Detroit suburb garage sale that day in 1978, Mrs.

Frueh, wife of Fred's grandson, living in the same old house that Fred came home to in 1940, say's to me, "Looking for anything special?" Usually my answer is, "Nah! I try to keep an open mind at garage sales." This was, of course, to not give away that I am looking for tools and thus to cause the asking price to rise. You've got to be casual or they will find you out. I spotted a handmade wood "saw vice" on the floor of the



garage that was once mounted on a workbench. It was oak, old, and black (oak turns black on exposure to moisture and iron filings). It cost a dollar. Now that garage was for a single car and much too short for any car made after 1950. So, as was typical on houses built in Detroit prior to 1940, the back of the garage had been removed and a four foot deep lean-to was added on to accommodate the "modern" car hood allowing the garage door to close. I looked around the dirt floor for additional tools. Seeing none I broke down and said, "Got any tools?" Mrs. Frueh led me to the back porch ... not

a real part of the garage sale. There was Fred's

handmade toolbox, just like he left it in 1940. "Yah! Hay, that's nice!" Doesn't hurt to be polite. "What are you asking?" "Oh!

My husband wants \$150". Now, I'm thinking \$150 is a bit high (in 1978) for a handmade



tool box, Kennedy style ... the kind with a locked top compartment, the front panel comes off

(for a writing surface??) revealing several drawers. It wasn't that well made anyway. Well, let's look at it. Open the lid. There's the thumb size red salt shaker! And sure enough, almost all of the tools in the compartment are a rusty mess, many beyond repair ...salt, humidity, time. "I don't believe anyone has even opened that since Grandpa died", she apologizes in embarrassment. I looked in the drawers. The handmade tools, planes, sweeps, were all perfect ... none of the rust of the top compartment on

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the metal blades. The box was full of Fred's handmade tools and other tools of all kinds ... just like Fred left it. My heart pounded ... how to sneak away with the tool box full of tools for \$150 and

second, how would I pay for it? This could well have been my single largest tool purchase ever. How could I explain the expense to my wife? The cash flow came easy. I had my \$250 expense account cash from a recent expense draft. Now to just deal with the wife problem ... one of



many such instances involving tool purchases. Sneak it to the basement. "Did you just buy that?" "Nah! I bought that a long time ago, haven't you seen it before".



Okay! I forked over the money fearing that Mrs. Frueh would come to her senses and not be so foolish as to part with such a valuable piece of family history. My mother had done much the same some years earlier when my dad died, selling among other unforgivables, a similar actual "Kennedy" toolbox and a ship's bell clock made aboard my dad's navy ship with the brass case made out of a cannon

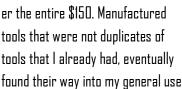


shell. With the money accepted and the toolbox safely in the trunk of my car, I engaged Mrs. Frueh in a con-

versation to elicit as much history about Mr. Fred Früh as possible.



My sins! I cleaned the rust off of as many of the tools in the top bin as possible. To recover my investment, I re-sold the manufactured tools that were duplicates of tools that I already owned. This easily, in a single garage sale, allowed me to recov-





collection. Fred's handmade planes were carefully stored in his handmade tool chest as they are today. I hang his handmade yardstick on my wall along with his sweeps. A steel



triangle, still showing the effects of storage in the "salt shaker" top compartment, hangs on my wall above my Shopsmith to check the square of my miter gauge to the sawblade.

Redemption! A few years later I came across a 'sale' in a ladies home. She had a number of small handmade wooden planes that her late husband had made. They were beautiful.

Not overpriced. I talked her out of selling them. I hope she didn't sell them to the next "collector" that came by and kept her promise to "give" them to a local museum for display ... or at least keep them herself or in the family.

A number of years ago I began making woodworking tools for personal pleasure, for use in my woodworking, or to give or trade to woodworking friend for a future "draft' choice, usually an antique "find". My personally handcrafted tools consist of several wooden planes and several workbenches among marking, layout, and other tools. I have been making tools that incorporate brass and steel in the "wood infill"

style of English "Spiers" and "Norris" planes of the turn of the last century. These I have made using a small metal working lathe, mill, and hand tools while using my Shopsmith with metal in ways that other woodworking tools would envy. I often wonder if my tools with have a place in my family or will they go to a "garage sale" collector in the future when I go join Fred Früh in the great workshop in the sky.

As usual, questions and comments are welcome and may be addressed to William Johnston, johnston@everestkc.net, 913-492-6942.

Member Profile Mike Jones

Mike Jones is our current Director of Training. Mike has been a member of the Guild for more than 15 years, now. In that time Mike has also served as Vice-President and President. Mike has been woodworking for 50 years now and enjoys sharing that knowledge with you through the classes that he teaches or schedules for the Guild.

When asked whether he has any specialties, Mike answers with Furniture, Cabinetry, Woodcarving and knives. If you're ever at the old Empire Theatre, the Main Street Theatre in downtown Kansas City, check out Mike's handiwork in reconstructing the hand rails for the marble staircase inside.

Mike's favorite hand tool is his Lie- Nielson router plane. He loves it for cleaning up dadoes and rabbets. His favorite woods to use are walnut and rosewood. He likes the smell of walnut and rosewood makes beautiful knife handles.

Mike doesn't have a favorite project, they're all his favorite. His favorite Guild activities are teaching and being a Shop Foreman. While in the shop, Mike offers these tips. Stay alert and don't rush your work. Don't work with distractions. Pay attention to what you're doing, especially when the switch is on.

Thanks, Mike.







SEPTEMBER OPEN SHOP

8/31/2014 11:07

											8/31/20	14 11:07
Hour beginning >>:	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Mon, Sep 01	Labor da	ay										
Tue, Sep 02	Gary Cre	eek		Craig Ar	nold							
Wed, Sep 03											LC Mtg	
Thu, Sep 04	Mike Jo	nes										
Fri, Sep 05										Scott En	gleman	
Sat, Sep 06	Mike Jo	nes										
Sun, Sep 07		Chuck 9	Saunders	5								
Mon, Sep 08												
Tue, Sep 09	Jim Stua	art		Ron Lon	nax		Gary Fo	rister				
Wed, Sep 10												
Thu, Sep 11	Mike Jo	nes										
Fri, Sep 12										Dave Kr	aatz	
Sat, Sep 13	Dave Kr	aatz		Bud Scl	henke							
Sun, Sep 14		Rob You	ıng									
Mon, Sep 15									Gary St	rohm		
Tue, Sep 16	Gary Cre	eek		Craig Ar	nold							
Wed, Sep 17												
Thu, Sep 18	Mike Jo	nes									Present	ation
Fri, Sep 19	Fri, Sep 19 George Walker - no open shop											
Sat, Sep 20	George	Walker -	no oper	shop								
Sun, Sep 21		John Jol	hnson									
Mon, Sep 22												
Tue, Sep 23	Jim Stu	art		Ron Lo	max		Gary Fo	rister				
Wed, Sep 24												
Thu, Sep 25	Mike Jo	nes										
Fri, Sep 26										Dave Kr	aatz	
Sat, Sep 27	Dave Kr	aatz										
Sun, Sep 28		Rob You	ıng			Hand to	ol SIG					
Mon, Sep 29		Pat Bro	wn 9:30-	12:30								
Tue, Sep 30	Gary Cre	eek		Craig Ar	mold							

Increase your Woodworking skill and knowledge



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Next General Meeting : September 17th, 7pm KCWG Shop Program : "Building the Cedar Strip Canoe and Kayak" presented by Mike Mollohan

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, MD 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!

"Nothing will work unless you do."

— Maya Angelou

		Miss	
ition			Name
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