

# WOOD WORDS

## "HOBBS"ERVATIONS - PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS AND COMMENTS

PUBLISHED BY THE KANSAS CITY WOODWORKERS GUILD

1717 WASHINGTON ST \* KANSAS CITY \* MO \* 64108

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**H**appy New Year to all of you out there associated with KCWG!

As usual, starting a new year allows us to take inventory, decide in what direction you want to head, and set goals to make things happen in the next twelve months.

I'm very interested in what you might have on your list. At the risk of being held accountable by each of you, here's some of my items for this year:

1. Complete my bathroom renovation. You'd heard me mention this one before, but it's still making progress. Big items left are completion of the vanity drawers, and installing the heated floors.



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2. Finish my pair of Queen Anne footstools. One was mostly made by my dad, and the second was made during a class at the Guild. And they are taking up space in my shop so getting them completed would be a win-win.
3. Build something simply for art purposes, whether it's a relief carving, a marquetry panel, or a pottery collaboration with our very own Kacey Ziegler, I hope to work on new skills and creativity.
4. Visit my dad and help him with projects back in North Carolina.
5. Teach one class at the Guild

At first glance, these seem doable. But at the same time, if all of these are completed, it will be an excellent year. I'd encourage you all to keep tabs on me which will keep up my competitive nature. Just remember I might ask about your list as well!



**Cal Hobbs**  
KCWG President  
[president@kcfg.net](mailto:president@kcfg.net)

## SIG-NAIS FROM THE SHOP



**CNC SIG** - January 19th - 6PM

**Handtool SIG** - January 25th - 4PM

**Carving SIG** - January 27th - 6PM

**Laser Engraver SIG** - January 28th - 6PM

**Finishing SIG** - *NEW!* March 24th - 7PM



**Lance Wilson**  
Director of Special Interest Groups  
[dir.sigs@kcfg.net](mailto:dir.sigs@kcfg.net)

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS FOR 2026

If you have not renewed yet, please take a moment and do so. We are looking forward to seeing you sawing and sanding away with us in 2026. For those that have renewed, THANK YOU!! Your membership cards for 2026 are located in the wooden index box for your sponsor discounts.

P.S. Good news! Metro hardware is back with us for sponsorship for all our members on the East side of K.C... YAY!



**Carole Shelton**  
Director of Membership  
[dir.membership@kcfg.net](mailto:dir.membership@kcfg.net)



## Kansas City Woodworkers' Guild 2026 Elections

Each April, our Guild stands at a crossroads of leadership. This is when we vote to elect one-half of our Board of Directors and one-half of the Leadership Committee—the dedicated volunteers who manage our finances, maintain our shop, and steer the future of the organization we all support.

Terms of service for these positions are two years, and this year, we are looking for dedicated individuals to fill the following roles:

### Board of Directors:

- President
- Vice President of Member Services
- Member-at-Large
- 

### Leadership Committee:

- Director of Training
- Director of Safety
- Director of Membership

**How to Vote:** Consistent with our recent successful elections, we will utilize electronic ballots. All members in good standing will receive a link to vote via phone, laptop, or tablet. For those who prefer the tradition of the meeting hall, you can also cast your vote in person at the April Membership Meeting on Wednesday, April 15, 2026. Ballots (both digital and physical) will be tallied that evening, and winners will be announced immediately.

## Nominating Committee

To ensure we have a strong slate of candidates, the 2026 Nominating Committee has been reconstituted. This year's committee members are:



**Ron Haw**  
2026 Nominating  
Committee



**Craig Arnold**  
2026 Nominating  
Committee  
[nominations@kcwg.net](mailto:nominations@kcwg.net)



**Tim Locke**  
2026 Nominating  
Committee

**Get Involved:** If you have a desire to serve or know a fellow member whose skills would benefit the Guild, please forward nominations to [nominations@kcwg.net](mailto:nominations@kcwg.net).

- Online Nomination Deadline: March 31, 2026.
- Floor Nominations: We will also accept nominations from the floor during the April 15th meeting.
- Preview: A preliminary list of candidates will be published in the February Wood Words newsletter.

## Parking: Being a Good Neighbor

Our Guild is growing, and with that growth comes a bit of a "parking puzzle." Several members have recently arrived for Open Shop only to find

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the upper lot full. We have addressed this with our landlord, who is taking steps to improve the situation.

In the meantime, we have a critical request: Please do not park at the curb on Washington Street. To maintain a good relationship with our neighbors—specifically the steel fabricator and Sequence—the Guild has agreed that members will only use the adjacent south lot or the lower back lot. Leaving the street clear for their operations is essential; if you park on Washington, the foreman will likely ask you to move. Let's show our neighbors the same respect we show our fine lumber!

### Equipment Update: The 18" Planer

There is light at the end of the tunnel for our Powermatic 18" planer (originally sourced from the Kansas City Art Institute). After being out of commission due to excessive wear on the cutter headshaft, the component has been professionally machined back to factory specifications. It was returned to the shop just a few days ago, and we expect to have this workhorse back in service very soon.

### Membership Growth

A huge "thank you" to Carole Shelton, who has been doing a phenomenal job. We welcomed 51 new members in the last month alone!

As you see these new faces in the shop, please take a moment to offer a warm Kansas City Woodworkers' Guild welcome. This influx also means a higher demand for our Safety Orientation and Rough to Ready classes. If you've considered helping out, now is the time. John Sloss and Ed Stewart are looking for Rough to Ready instructors, and Safety Director Steve Hicks could use a hand with orientations. It's a great way to give back to the craft.

### Foremen: The Lifeblood of the Guild

Open Shop periods are only possible because of our Foremen. Recently, we've seen several veteran Foremen retire or relocate, which directly impacts the number of hours we can keep the shop doors open.

If you've ever thought about stepping up, the commitment is surprisingly low: just three hours per month. If you want to help keep our "lifeblood" flowing, contact Chuck Saunders, Director of Assets, at [assets@kcwg.org](mailto:assets@kcwg.org).

### Training Success

Rich Higgason and his team hit a home run in 2025. Last year, the Guild offered 51 classes, with nearly 40 of them priced under \$125 to keep woodworking education accessible. The response was incredible: 318 members (over one-third of our total membership!) took at least one class. Thank you, Rich, for your monumental effort in keeping our skills sharp.

### Holiday Dinner Recap

If you missed the December meeting, you missed a fantastic Holiday Dinner. The food was excellent, but the camaraderie was even better. Matt, Terry, and their committee did a superb job creating an evening of genuine fellowship. It was the perfect way to cap off the year.

### Special Interest Groups

#### New Special Interest Group (SIG)

We are thrilled to announce the kickoff of the Finishing SIG, led by Craig Arnold. Craig has been planning this for months, and the inaugural meeting will be held on March 24th.

#### As a reminder, SIGs are:

- Free: Included in your membership dues.
- Regular: Most meet monthly.
- Accessible: Dates and times are posted in the Monthly Shop Schedule, the newsletter, and

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around the shop.

· Easy: No registration required—just show up and learn!

## In Conclusion

There is an incredible amount of "stuff" happening at the Guild every single day—from community projects and Skill Builders to SIGs and Open Shop.

Our participation in “First Friday” during the warmer months helps us to promote the Guild to both the other businesses nearby and the nearly twenty thousand people in the general population who take advantage of and attend the event and

come into our neighborhood at each First Friday event.

The secret to getting the most out of your membership is simple: Show up. Say hi to the Foreman, start a project, and watch what happens. Before you know it, you’ll be trading tips, receiving a bit of "shop talk" admiration, and making new friends. Whether you need a hand or can offer one to a struggling member, we are thrilled that you’re here.

Thank  
You.

**Ron Haw**  
Vice President  
[vicepresident@kcwg.net](mailto:vicepresident@kcwg.net)



## THE DEADWOOD TENON

### The Deadwood Tenon: A Mystery on 17th Street

*Submitted Anonymously*

The morning light on **17th Street** usually brings the comforting scent of freshly milled cedar and the low, rhythmic hum of the dust collection system. But on this particular Tuesday, the air in the 12,000-square-foot facility felt heavy, as if the wood itself were holding its breath.

When the Shop Foreman performed his 9:00 AM walkthrough, he found an object that defied every safety protocol and tradition of the Kansas City Woodworkers’ Guild. Resting dead-center on the bed of the still running prized 20-inch helical head planer was a miniature mahogany casket. It was a masterpiece of joinery—hand-cut dovetails so tight they looked grown rather than made. Inside, nestled on a bed of aromatic walnut shavings, lay a single, hand-carved ebony King. Branded into the base of the chess piece was a member’s shop ID: #172412.

For Elias, a “Rough to Ready” instructor, the message was a chilling challenge. ID #172412

belonged to a veteran member who hadn’t been seen since the **the early days of the Guild in the basement of Jacob’s Well.**

### The Shop Under Siege

Over the next week, the Guild was plagued by a series of “mechanical ghosts.” It started subtly. A SawStop fence in the main gallery was found a hair out of square—just enough to ruin a project, but not enough to notice at a glance. Then, a fresh batch of Titebond III was found to be thinned with water and a mysterious UV-reactive dye, invisible to the naked eye but glowing like a radioactive warning under the blacklights of the Finishing Room.

Most alarming was the digital breach. “Digital Dave,” the Guild’s A/V specialist, discovered that the safety certification servers had been wiped clean. Every “Rough to Ready” record and safety video produced by the members had vanished, replaced by a single looping video of a hand-planing operation—shaving after shaving falling in slow motion.

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## FROM THE SHOP

**N**ew Year's Goodbyes, Welcomes and Resolutions. Cliché? Sure, but it's the season.



I want to thank two of our longstanding Shop Foremen for the contribution they have made to the Guild over the years. Gary Creek and Bob Caldwell have decided that they can find other things to do with their time and are stepping down. Both of these gentlemen have given countless hours to keeping the shop open on a regular basis for the membership to have access. While we have paid them nothing for their efforts we owe them a great deal of thanks.

But in the same breath I welcome our newest Foreman onto the shop floor. Wyette Spotts will be expanding our Open Shop time with a shift on the 4th Friday of the month from 10-2. Wyette is one of the instructors teaching how to use the CNC so if you come in during his shift he can help and he won't be tying up that machine so win-win.

There has been a fair amount of shuffling, so it is important for you to take a look at the Open Shop Calendar as times and Foremen have changed.

Below are some resolutions that would do us all good to consider for the new year. Please embrace them as simple everyday universal truths.

Resolutions:

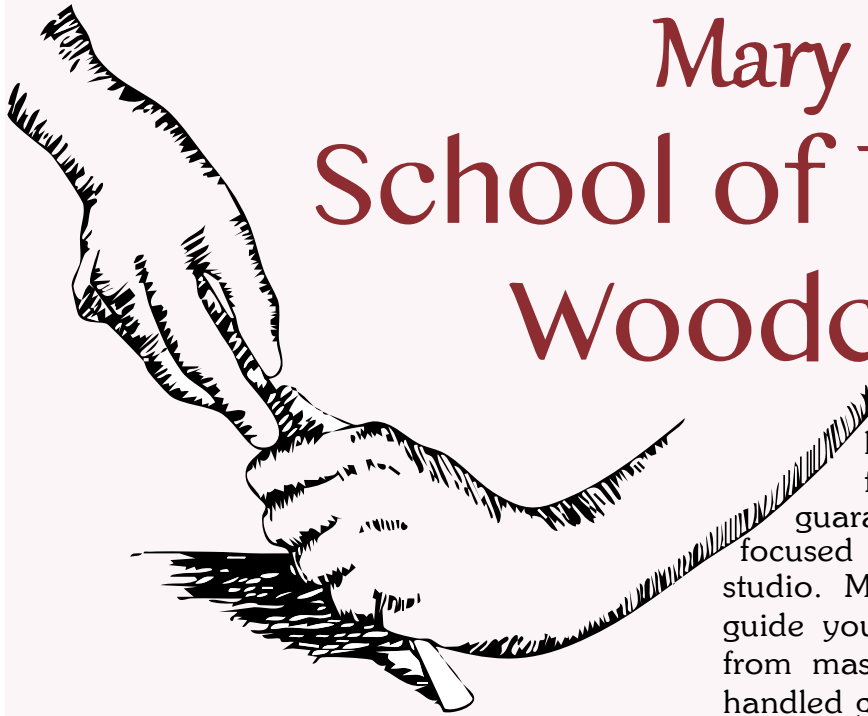
1. I will make sure the Dust Collector is running.
2. I will prove that I can clean up after myself and empty a trash can.
3. I will release the Red STOP buttons with a slight twist, not a crank.

4. I will not grab my scrap before the blade comes to a complete stop.
5. I will tell the Foreman when I trip the SawStop (see #4).
6. If I don't have a storage space, I will take my work home.
7. I will park in the parking lot and not on the street, leaving those spaces for neighbors that don't have a parking lot so they will be less likely to use ours.
8. I will not display my Herculean strength when tightening things.
9. I will loosen before trying to move parts (see #8).
10. I will try not to fill the shop with dust when I want to blow off my workpiece.
11. I know that the Hand Tool Room is for Hand Tool Use exclusively.
12. I will always wear my safety Glasses in the shop, Real Ones!

There you go, a nice dozen, not 95 like Martin Luther. Don't go posting these on the door of the church, don't need another Protestant Reformation.

**Chuck Saunders**  
 Director of Assets  
[dir.assets@kcwg.net](mailto:dir.assets@kcwg.net)





# Mary May's School of Traditional Woodcarving

**N**estled amidst the scenic beauty of the Lake of the Ozarks, nationally renowned woodcarver Mary May invites you to immerse yourself in the timeless art of traditional woodcarving. This intimate, in-person school, located at 15251 Fleener Drive, Gravois Mills, MO, offers a unique opportunity to learn directly from a master in a serene, lakefront setting. With small class sizes ensuring personalized attention, students will delve into the intricacies of using traditional long-handled gouges, mastering hand-sharpening techniques, and crafting exquisite pieces through centuries-old methods. Whether you're a beginner eager to learn the fundamentals or an experienced carver seeking to refine your skills, Mary May's school provides a supportive and inspiring environment to cultivate your passion for woodcarving.

Escape to the tranquil shores of Lake of the Ozarks and immerse yourself in the art of traditional woodcarving at Mary May's intimate, in-person school. This unique

learning experience, designed for small groups of 6-8 students, guarantees personalized instruction and focused attention in a naturally lit, lakefront studio. Mary May, a seasoned expert, will guide you through centuries-old techniques, from mastering the use of traditional long-handled gouges to the essential skill of hand-sharpening.

Beyond the focused instruction, the school offers a truly enriching experience. Detailed demonstrations are projected onto a large screen, ensuring clarity and understanding. Each project is carefully structured, with step-by-step guidance, while experienced carvers are also welcomed to pursue their own advanced projects. The location itself provides an idyllic setting, with convenient accommodations and dining options nearby, and even the opportunity to combine learning with family fun at the lake. Plus, enjoy the added perk of free dock access for fishing or boating. Discover the timeless beauty of woodcarving in a truly inspiring environment.

<https://marymaycarving.com/home/page/5>

# 2025 RECAP FROM INFORMATION SERVICES

The 2025 year for the Kansas City Woodworkers Guild was described by President Cal Hobbs as a “**steady and fruitful year**” defined by significant membership growth, major facility upgrades, and successful community outreach events.

## Membership and Leadership Growth

- The Guild saw a substantial increase in its community, growing from **723 members in March to 895 members by December**.
- To manage this growth, several new leadership positions were created and filled, including **Directors for Special Interest Groups (SIGs), Social Media, Web Services, Library Services, and Video Productions**.
- The Guild also launched a **Guild Ambassador program** (identified by blue nametags) to help orient new members and provide guidance on specific projects.

## Shop and Facility Enhancements

- A major milestone was reached in **automating the shop’s dust collection system**. By July, the system was configured to activate and deactivate automatically for the radial arm saw, edge sander, OSS, belt/disk sanders, planers, and jointers.
- The shop upgraded its equipment by acquiring a **new Powermatic 18-inch planer** and a tenon cutting machine.
- Safety standards were elevated through the production of **new safety videos**, including a comprehensive guide on Router Table safety, and the development of formal **Tornado Shelter-in-Place and Fire Evacuation procedures**.
- Internal shop maintenance included the implementation of a **new lock-up procedure** to prevent accidental alarm triggers and ensuring members utilize the new “**wood scrap**” program to purchase premium hardwood pieces for \$1 to offset operating costs.



## Training and Education

- The training department, led by Rich Higgason, maintained a robust schedule where **course enrollment continued to swell**.
- The Rough to Ready program provided onboarding training to the highest number of students since 2022. Providing valuable skills and potential legacy training to new Woodworkers of all backgrounds..
- A major highlight was hosting **International Master Woodworker Toyohisa Sugita**, who presented his precision hand-tool joinery method to the Guild.
- The Guild continued to offer its core curriculum (Basic, Intermediate, and Hand Tool woodworking) while introducing specialized sessions like **Marquetry, Bird Carving, and “Holiday Quickie” classes**.
- The Library expanded its resources, ending the year with **over 2,000 books and DVDs** in its online catalog.

## Community Outreach and Events

- **First Friday events** in the Crossroads district were highly successful, leading to a policy change where the Guild stopped taking a percentage of sales, allowing **members to keep 100% of their revenue** through direct Venmo payments.
- The special **three-day Tool Sale in Westport**

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was a “huge success,” attracting long lines of collectors and providing a significant outreach opportunity.

- The **4th Annual Santa’s Workshop** welcomed the public to build wooden toy trucks for free, creating lasting holiday memories for local families.
- The Guild demonstrated its philanthropic impact by selling nearly \$1,500 in handcrafted goods at the Fall Harvest Market, resulting in a **donation of over \$300 to War Horses for Veterans**.
- **Internal Community and Legacy**
- The Guild mourned the **passing of David Kraatz**, a “pillar of the community” who designed much of the Guild’s current training curriculum.
- Volunteers successfully completed several **large-scale “Turf Box” builds**, which served as a vital source of income to keep membership dues affordable.

- The year concluded with the **Annual Christmas Dinner**, featuring the People’s Choice Awards, a silent auction, and handmade wooden gifts for every guest.

In many ways, the Guild in 2025 functioned like a **well-oiled cabinet saw**: while the “blade” of training and projects did the visible work, it was the “sturdy cast-iron base” of volunteers and the “integrated dust collection” of new administrative systems that kept the environment clean, stable, and productive for everyone involved.


**Brian Rorabaugh**

Vice President of  
Information Services

[upinfoservices@kcwg.net](mailto:upinfoservices@kcwg.net)

## KNOW YOUR FOREMEN


**Rich Higgason**

Director of Training, Manages Monthly Skill Building meetings and Guild Instructor. Makes mostly small projects like boxes, cutting boards, spice cabinets and toy trains.


**Nik Hiremath**

Prior to joining the Guild, I ran a small backyard bird feeding store in Leawood. Most corporate career was in the packaging industry responsible for a global supply chain. Mostly enjoy working with the laser. I’ve benefitted greatly from learning from other Guild members. Enjoy travel, spending time with family and golf. Otherwise ... just another DUDE!!


**Henry Fatino**

I’m a retired engineer; woodworking is something I do between fly fishing trips. I like the Guild because of the vast amount of people willing to take the time to help and teach on my woodworking

knowledge. My latest and favorite project was a white oak and cherry baby cradle. I enjoy using hand tools. *Henry is on Foreman hiatus at the moment, but we are looking forward to his return!*


**Barb Hinton**

Scrollsaw wood puzzles, mini compound cut puzzle, currently working on second automata. Master at starting projects and leaving them 90% complete...


**Carole Shelton**

Director of Membership

[dir.membership@kcwg.net](mailto:dir.membership@kcwg.net)

# MESSAGE FROM THE SAFETY DIRECTOR

## Safety for Operating Sliding Miter Saw



One of the great strengths of the Kansas City Woodworkers' Guild is the wide array of machinery and hand tools we have in the shop. The overall number and variety of them that we make available to the membership is a tremendous advantage the Guild has to offer any woodworker. In my roles as the Director of Safety and as Guild Ambassador, I always emphasize to new members that joining the KCWG offers one of the best value propositions in the KC Metropolitan area. Anyone interested in learning and growing in the art and craft of woodworking would be hard pressed to find a place where so many excellent power tools and machinery are available for use in one working environment that features integrated dust collection, excellent lighting, adequate bench space, and plenty of expertise and knowledge to tap into. But along with such an impressive array of woodworking machinery comes risk of injury. As KCWG members, we're all aware of these risks. However, I sometimes wonder whether certain woodworking machines are used so frequently and have become so common and familiar to us that, over time, we begin to develop



a "blind spot" to their capacity to cause injury. To reinforce the need to continuously follow safe working practices, the KCWG Safety Committee intentionally tries to run periodic reminders of major risks associated with our power tools and remind everyone of the critical safety rules and practices needed to help minimize risk. An example of one of these reminders is the following discussion of the **sliding compound miter saw**.

Perhaps like me, many of you have used a miter saw or a sliding miter saw often and feel very comfortable with this type of machine. But not everyone has logged an extensive number of hours using this tool and none of us can say that we haven't picked up some bad habits along the way. As we are all aware, inadvertent contact of the hands or fingers with the saw blade rotating at high RPM can present a severe risk. Fortunately, the KCWG has an excellent Shop Safety Rule related to the use of the sliding miter saw. To provide a reminder for everyone, I thought I would highlight some of the key safety rules and practices for operating the sliding compound miter saw. Please note the points below.

### **Critical Safety Rules and Tips for Sliding Compound Miter Saw**

**Tip:** *When starting the compound miter saw, it has a tendency to 'jump' slightly due to the torque of the powerful motor. I typically don't expect this, and it always makes me a bit nervous. To control this sudden start-up movement, gently push the cutting head all the way to the fullest 'up' position and hold it firmly in place. This technique will minimize the sudden start-up movement, which will help give you a feeling of control as you begin to use the machine.*

- Always hold the workpiece securely on the table and against the fence when making cuts. Where possible, use clamps to hold the workpiece in place. Always do so when cutting a workpiece so short that holding it would violate the 3-inch rule.

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**Tip:** A quick visual indicator of the shortest length of a workpiece that will comply with the 3-inch rule is to quickly hold the workpiece against the back of your hand while you clench your fist. If the workpiece is shorter than the width of your clinched fist, it is too short to cut safely on the sliding miter saw and should be held in place by a clamp.

- When using a sliding compound miter saw, make your cut in three steps:
  - First pull the motor head out.
  - Then start the saw.
  - Finally, lower the blade into the workpiece and steadily push the saw towards the fence to make the cut.

**Tip:** For 90° angle cuts, adjust both sliding fences as close to the blade as possible to avoid small pieces of off-fall from getting caught between the fence and the blade, which can cause kickback. *Caution* – only adjust the fences inward when cutting stock at a right angle. When cutting stock at 45° or other angles, ensure the rotating blade will not contact the metal fences as the cut is made.

- When cutting a cupped or bowed piece of stock, make sure the workpiece is oriented to leave no gap between it and the fence or the saw table at the point of the cut. If you don't ensure this, you risk pinching the blade and causing kickbacks.

**Tip:** If you're using a stop block to cut multiple workpieces to the same length, ensure the blade comes to a complete stop before removing the workpiece you've just crosscut. Otherwise, the workpiece could become pinched between the blade and the stop block. This could cause kickback.

- Never reach under the saw blade or perform a cross-handed operation. This places your arms in the direct pathway of the blade as it travels.

**Tip:** When cutting mitered angles, place the hand you're using to stabilize the stock on the wide or open side of the blade. This will help keep your hands and arms from the cutting path of the saw.

- Always ensure the sawblade comes to a complete stop after making a cut. Never try to remove the clamp securing a workpiece to the table while the blade is still rotating.



The sliding compound miter saw is a marvelous power tool that often plays a vital role in many woodworking projects. These power tools are also associated with high potential for severe injury. The safety rules and safety tips described above can help prevent severe injuries from occurring. But remember – these safety rules must be strictly followed **each** and **every time** you use this type of saw.

Happy and safe woodworking to all!

**Steve Hicks**  
Director of Safety  
[dir.safety@kcwg.net](mailto:dir.safety@kcwg.net)

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Elias teamed up with Dave and “Old Guard” Arthur, a man who believed the only tool a person truly needed was well-honed chisels. They began to track the “accidents” and realized they weren't random acts of malice. They were breadcrumbs following the specific disciplines of the craft: Marquetry, Woodturning, and Inlay.

**The Hidden Vault of 17th Street**

The trail led them to the basement storage, a labyrinth of lumber racks and forgotten jigs. There stood a replica of a **Newport Block and Shell Desk**, currently in “quarantine” after a mysterious crack appeared in its side panel.

Elias, remembering a lecture on 18th-century

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# KU FIELD STATION SERIES

## *An Ode to Eastern Redcedar*

### Juried Exhibition - Call for Entries



The KU Field Station celebrates the Rice Woodland Trail with a juried exhibition at the Lumberyard Arts Center featuring works crafted from eastern redcedar wood.

#### Entry Details:

- One entry per person
- \$15 entry fee
- Intent to enter form must be submitted by **April 4**
- Must fit within a 3'x3'x3' display area - smaller works are encouraged due to limited gallery space. If size is uncertain, please email photos to [director@lumberyardartscenter.org](mailto:director@lumberyardartscenter.org) for approval. Pending number of entries and available space, LAC reserves the right to limit participation.
- Name of artist, title of work, medium, price (if for sale), contact information, must be attached firmly to entry.
- Entries will be accepted **April 13-17** by appointment or during open hours (Wed-Fri, 1-5 PM). Please email the director at [director@lumberyardartscenter.org](mailto:director@lumberyardartscenter.org) to confirm drop-off time.
- Pickup by appointment following the close of the show, or by prior arrangement.

#### Exhibition Information:

- The gallery exhibit will run from April 25 through May 23. Visit during open hours (Wed-Fri, 1-5PM, Sat. 10AM-12PM)
- Reception will be held April 25, by invitation only. Awards will be presented.

#### Awards:

- Best in Show - \$200
- Best Use of Wood - \$100
- Original Design - \$100
- People's Choice - \$100

**"Intent to Enter" form due by Saturday, April 4.**  
Find form at LAC website or via Facebook event "An Ode to Eastern Redcedar"



Kansas Biological Survey & Center for Ecological Research  
Department of Visual Art



**KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY** Extension  
Douglas County



[www.lumberyardartscenter.org](http://www.lumberyardartscenter.org)

# PLEASE WELCOME THESE 51 MEMBERS WHO JOINED THE GUILD IN LATE DECEMBER & EARLY JANUARY

FIRST NAME.....	LAST NAME.....	HOMETOWN.....	STATE.....	MEMBERSHIP
Iman .....	Alsaden .....	Kansas City .....	MO .....	Sawdust.....
Jeff .....	Becker .....	Kansas City .....	MO .....	WW+ .....
Mark .....	Becker .....	Kansas City .....	MO .....	Senior.....
Sean .....	Bolte .....	Kansas City .....	MO .....	WW+ .....
Norm .....	Bowers .....	Kansas City .....	MO .....	WW+ .....
Lauri .....	Boyd .....	Overland Park .....	KS .....	Sawdust.....
Michael .....	Brown .....	Weatherby Lake .....	MO .....	WW+ .....
Riley .....	Burns .....	Shawnee .....	KS .....	WW+ .....
Mary .....	Burtzloff .....	Abilene .....	KS .....	WW+ .....
James .....	Comstock .....	Kansas City .....	MO .....	Sawdust.....
Jack .....	Cooley .....	North Kansas City .....	MO .....	WW+ .....
Dennis .....	Creason .....	Slue Springs .....	MO .....	Sawdust.....
Julien .....	Denis .....	Kansas City .....	MO .....	Sawdust.....
John .....	Draves .....	Raytown .....	MO .....	WW+ .....
Derek .....	Fleschow .....	Kansas City .....	MO .....	Sawdust.....
Dan .....	Gittemeier .....	Overland Park .....	KS .....	Sawdust.....
Garrett .....	Gordon .....	Kansas City .....	KS .....	Sawdust.....
Trent .....	Griffin .....	Kansas City .....	MO .....	WW+ .....
Mat .....	Haake .....	Kansas City .....	MO .....	WW+ .....
Christopher .....	Haynos .....	Kansas City .....	KS .....	Sawdust.....
Lance .....	Helman .....	Independence .....	MO .....	Senior.....
Jim .....	Hodges .....	Kansas City .....	MO .....	WW+ .....
Mark .....	Hollis .....	Kansas City .....	MO .....	Sawdust.....
Samuel .....	Howell .....	Overland Park .....	KS .....	Sawdust.....
Joshua .....	Johnson .....	Kansas City .....	MO .....	Sawdust.....
Bob .....	Jones .....	Kansas City .....	MO .....	WW+ .....
Randal .....	Kay .....	Lawrence .....	KS .....	Sawdust.....
Rachel .....	Krause .....	Kansas City .....	KS .....	WW+ .....
Kevin .....	Kreighbaum .....	Prairie Village .....	KS .....	Sawdust.....
William .....	Laycock .....	North Kansas City .....	MO .....	Sawdust.....
Luz Gabriela .....	Lopez .....	Parkville .....	MO .....	WW+ .....
Tim .....	McCray .....	Kansas City .....	MO .....	Sawdust.....
Robert .....	McKinzie .....	Overland Park .....	KS .....	WW+ .....
Robert .....	Megee .....	Overland Park .....	KS .....	Sawdust.....
Gavin .....	Pritchard .....	Kansas City .....	MO .....	WW+ .....
Luis .....	Rojas .....	Stilwell .....	KS .....	WW+ .....
Noah .....	Rolf .....	Kansas City .....	MO .....	Sawdust.....
Robert .....	Romey .....	Kansas City .....	MO .....	WW+ .....
Jason .....	Schwien .....	Kansas City .....	MO .....	WW+ .....
Daniel .....	Seymour .....	Raytown .....	MO .....	Sawdust.....
Lucas .....	Soares .....	Prairie Village .....	KS .....	WW+ .....
Justus .....	Standlea .....	Kansas City .....	MO .....	Student.....
Ashley .....	Stark .....	Kansas City .....	MO .....	WW+ .....
Elsa .....	Stoffel .....	Kansas City .....	MO .....	Sawdust.....
Andrew .....	Strayer .....	Oak Grove .....	MO .....	Sawdust.....
Courtney .....	Tramposh .....	Kansas City .....	MO .....	Sawdust.....
Laura .....	Tyler-Strawn .....	Kansas City .....	MO .....	Sawdust.....
Miles .....	Updike .....	Kansas City .....	MO .....	Sawdust.....
Phong .....	Vo .....	Kansas City .....	MO .....	Sawdust.....
Nicholas .....	Yowell .....	Kansas City .....	MO .....	WW+ .....
Vinsky .....	Yzon .....	Kansas City .....	MO .....	Sawdust.....

**CURRENT MEMBERSHIP ⇒ 948**



### **Knife Making**

If you have taken a knife class in the past and want to expand your knife arsenal and knife building skills, this is a great class to help you accomplish both goals. In this class, you will get two 3.5" paring knife frames, scale materials to choose from, aluminum pins, a set of carving burrs and a package of Micro Mesh sanding pads. Unlike past knife classes, you will receive two knives with the goal of finishing one in

the class and having all the necessary

tools and skills to build the second knife on your own. These knives are from the same company that makes beautiful Damascus style knives and happens to be a Guild sponsor. Katsura Cutlery has supplied us with knife blanks over the years, and you can rest assured, these paring knives will last you for generations. The knives come in a presentation box that you will be able to keep your finished knife in and are great for giving as a gift to a loved one or a friend.

This class meets on **Sunday, February 22, 8 a.m-1 p.m.** (Please note that this date has changed since the last newsletter due to a conflict). Enrollment opened on **January 13<sup>th</sup>**. There may still be slots available.

### **Hand Planes for Novices**

For those of you who've been craving more classes on hand tools, I'm happy to announce that Chris Fontaine is going to lead a 2-day workshop on hand planes. In this class, students will learn how to tune, sharpen, and use hand planes while building a precision shooting board they'll take home and use for years. This two-session, hands-on class will cover plane anatomy, sharpening fundamentals, plane technique, and accurate layout. Students will then build, tune, and practice using their own shooting board for easy, square, repeatable end grain.

**A**s we start a new year, I thought it would be a good time to provide a brief recap of what we offered for training in 2025. We had 51 class last year, 26 of those were priced at \$50 or less (at the WW+ rate). The classes saw enrollment of 318 Guild members. Of the 51 classes, only five were taught by instructors outside of the Guild. I am definitely appreciative of the willingness of Guild members to share their knowledge and talent with others. It is the reason we have as many classes as we have.

Looking ahead to 2026, we are already starting off with a very robust schedule.

### **Beginning Woodcarving Workshop with Mary May**

First, let me say that I'm very excited to have Mary May come back to teach at the Guild. In this beginning woodcarving workshop, Mary will go over how long-handled gouges are used in traditional woodcarving, will show how to carve in the correct grain direction and how to sharpen carving tools to a razor-sharp edge. She will then walk you through a step-by-step project of carving a multi-petalled flower. Mary will also share various tips and tricks on how to create the illusion of greater depth in a shallow relief carving.

This class will be held on **Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.** Enrollment will start on **February 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

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This class meets on **Saturday, February 28 and Sunday, March 1, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.** and opens for enrollment on **January 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.**

### **Introduction to Scroll Saw**

Led by George Rexroad, this class is a Basic introduction for the woodworker with no experience with scroll sawing. The students will learn the operation of the saw, safety considerations, blade selection, proper adjustment and tuning, material selection, and beginning project considerations. Each student will complete a basic project.

This class is being held on **Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 9 a.m.- 2 p.m.**, and opens for enrollment on **Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>.**

### **Spoon Carving**

Learn the fundamentals of traditional spoon carving in this hands-on woodworking class led by Shaun O'Kelley. Working with green wood, students will use shave horses and draw knives, along with carving tools and gouges, to shape and refine a functional wooden spoon. Shaun is an enthusiastic hobbyist spoon carver who brings a relaxed, approachable style to the craft. No prior experience is required — just a willingness to work with your hands and enjoy the process.

This class meets on **Saturday, March 28, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.** and opens for enrollment on **Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.**

### **Basic Woodworking**

We will be offering another Basic Woodworking class starting on **April 9<sup>th</sup>**. This ten-week class meets on **Thursday evenings, 7-10 p.m.** and concludes on March 26<sup>th</sup>. This course is designed to provide a basic introduction for adults with little or no prior experience with tools, materials and woodworking machinery. During the course of ten weeks, students will plan and build three projects. The projects are geared to provide hands-on practice in:

- Choosing materials
- Preparing and joining wood parts

- Cutting precise joints
- Creating dado joints and grooves
- Machining multiple component parts
- Mortise and tenon joinery
- Cross lapping
- Gluing

The course ends with an overview of general furniture and cabinetry finishing processes, tips, and techniques. It's a great course for those who are new to woodworking or have finished the Rough to Ready class and want to take the next step.

Enrollment opens on **Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.**

### **Introduction to Hand Tool Woodworking**

The first session of the extremely popular Introduction to Hand Tool Woodworking class is going to be held **April 9<sup>th</sup> through June 11<sup>th</sup> on Thursdays, 7-10 p.m.** Led by Wayne Peterson, Richard DeWitt, Steve Erickson, and Alex Bear, this class is designed to acquaint woodworkers with the use of classical hand tools such as planes, saws, chisels, and drills that were in common usage before the current power tool availability. The class will help students develop their skills with saws, chisels, and hand planes. In the process, students will build a Shaker-style bench.

This class will open for enrollment on **Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.**

### **Staked Stool**

Grace Ambrose and Alex Bear are teaming up to teach their popular Staked Stool class again. This class provides a perfect introduction to the fundamentals of staked furniture and techniques that are essential for chairmaking. Students will use a small kit of hand tools (with the occasional assist from the bandsaw!) to create a low staked stool, with plenty of opportunities for them to customize the design to their liking.

The stool class will be held **April 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>**, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. It releases for enrollment on **March 10<sup>th</sup>.**

Continued on Page 16

Continued from page 15

### **Build Your Own High Top Patio Table Using Practical Stereotomy with Patrick Moore**

Last, I want to put in a reminder that Patrick Moore is going to be at the Guild **October 26-30** to lead a five-day session on building a high-top patio table. As impressive as the table is, I think the real selling point of this class is the opportunity to learn about the technique of Stereotomy. As I wrote in the November newsletter, Patrick is going to teach students to combine geometry and craftsmanship to solve complex layout challenges. The project he'll introduce to the class incorporates a repetitive "Mandala" pattern, where each element interlocks to form a cohesive, self-supporting structure. Mark your calendars now. This is a class that you won't want to miss. And keep watching the newsletter for more information.

### **Skill Builders**

First, let me say that I am extremely happy to announce that Norm Carpenter has agreed to take over the management of the monthly Skill Builders. If you have any ideas or suggestions for Skill Builders you'd like to see (or, even better, want to teach), just let Norm know.

For the February Skill Builder, Doug Courtright is going to show how he uses router templates to create layered inlays. You may have seen some of Doug's work with serving trays and other pieces of furniture during the show-and-tells at the monthly Guild meetings. Now, Doug is going to show members of the Guild the techniques he uses to create these inlays. This promises to be a very interesting presentation.

The Skill Builder will be held on **February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2-4 p.m.**

That's it for this month. As you can tell, there's quite a bit going on with Training in 2026. This promises to be a year filled with opportunities to develop your woodworking skills. See you in the Shop!



**Rich Higgason**  
Director of Training  
[dir.training@kcwg.net](mailto:dir.training@kcwg.net)

## **DAVE KRAATZ MEMORIAL BOOK**

**M**ost of you have heard we lost a great one, Dave Kraatz. He passed away at the end of the year. Dave was a member, a teacher and a mentor that had been with us since the beginning of our Guild. We have a memorial book in the library that is available for anyone who would like to share a favorite moment or what you learned from Dave to share with his family. If you would like to contribute a story, the book is in the library on the table right as you enter the library. We will be presenting the book to his family towards the end of the month.



**Carole Shelton**  
Director of Membership  
[dir.membership@kcwg.net](mailto:dir.membership@kcwg.net)

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## MEET YOUR GUILD AMBASSADORS

Did you know we have a fantastic group of people in our community that want to help you learn your way around the Guild. Are you looking for that person with specific knowledge for your project? Seeking to understand the why's and who's of the Guild? Come find an Ambassador! We can help you get from point A to point B. If we don't know ... we'll go find out!

[Ambassadors@kcwg.net](mailto:Ambassadors@kcwg.net)



Carole Shelton



Glenn Carney



Kitzi Dingley



Kurt Battles



Mike Jones



Steve Hicks



Suresh Narayan



Talon Spittles



Terry Johnston



Susan Lawlor



John Waltemeyer



**Carole Shelton**

*Director of Membership*

[dir.membership@kcwg.net](mailto:dir.membership@kcwg.net)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

So far, based on feedback that I have received, it seems that the annual Holiday Dinner was a well-received event. I was very pleased that there were a lot of conversations going on as the friendly noise level was pretty high most of the time. We had outstanding support from members who set up the venue space, including from quite a few who were not even going to attend the dinner and then we had more than enough support to clean up and put the shop back together in a timely fashion. I was the last one out and locked the doors and got home before 9:30 and I have a 45-minute drive. Thank you everyone. Special thanks goes to Marcia and Lonnie Lane who inspired a lot of the table decorations. We hope that you liked the bright white linen tablecloths and the metal silverware, too. By the way, ticket income covered all the costs plus we took in over \$1,000 from the silent auction. Very successful.

If you are inspired to help, we are planning an Open House, possibly for the first Saturday in May. It's purpose is to invite all members and family plus the general public to learn more about the Guild and the Turners. We plan to have fun activities like maybe small truck and car racing on a shop-built Pinewood Derby-Style track. We hope to have a quickie-build day to build the track and make more trucks - this time for racing. I suspect that some of you may want to build your own racing trucks and cars. We may have different divisions. We may also have a food truck outside. Maybe we can build

some corn-hole game sets, too. I hope to repeat the success of the silent auction because any income helps keep the doors open without raising dues, so, keep us in mind if you have items including equipment and tools plus your self-made items.

We are developing our plans to support the giving program at Children's Mercy Hospital. We hope to utilize quickie-building days to create things like toy trucks, for example. We can also individually make puzzles and other wooden items suitable for kids from birth to age. The hospital staff will vet all items and distribute them on an as-needed basis, so that simplifies things for us. If this is your kind of philanthropy, then you might want to be the Guild's Champion for Children's Mercy Giving. No specific deadlines. We hope to get started this month by sending over a sample of our items to be vetted and they can be added to any time.

Don't forget the Lie Nielsen event on the first weekend (Thursday-Saturday) in March, especially if you are interested in hand tools. They usually do great, free, short workshops, too.

This is an eventful year for the Guild.

**Matt Nowak**

Director of Events

[dir.events@kcwg.net](mailto:dir.events@kcwg.net)



## TREASURER'S COLUMN

Our monthly Financial Statements are available in the Members Only area of the website in the Financial section. Please review the reports and let me know if you have any questions.

**John Steyer**

Treasurer

[treasurer@kcwg.net](mailto:treasurer@kcwg.net)



## SPONSORSHIP NEWS

**A**s Director of Sponsorship for KCWG, the scope of responsibilities spans multiple strategic areas. A primary focus is building and maintaining relationships with local retail outlets and suppliers connected to the woodworking industry. In parallel, the guild continues to seek financial support to help offset ongoing operational and program-related expenses.

These funding efforts include pursuing direct financial donations from corporations, individuals, charitable giving trusts, and personal or professional relationships within the guild. Additionally, KCWG is actively collaborating with other nonprofit organizations in the region to establish long-term, mutually beneficial partnerships.

One such effort includes recent discussions with Christmas in October, a nonprofit organization dedicated to raising funds to assist families in

need of home and household repairs. This emerging relationship may create opportunities for charitable giving and sponsorship through connections already established within the Christmas in October network, further supporting KCWG's long-term financial sustainability.

At any time, Guild members are encouraged to share suggestions or explore opportunities to make a financial contribution to the Guild through the Sponsorship Program. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly. Your continued support of the Guild is sincerely appreciated, and we look forward to the Guild's growth and success in the future.



**Mike Blake**  
Director of Sponsorship  
[dir.sponsorship@kwcg.net](mailto:dir.sponsorship@kwcg.net)

### Continued from page 11

“secret” compartments, examined the desk. He knew that the masters never used metal locks; they used the natural properties of wood. By applying pressure to a specific “berry” in the Line and Berry inlay while simultaneously sliding the bottom molding, a false dovetail clicked forward.

Behind it lay a ruggedized USB drive and a tattered vellum blueprint from 1945. Elias and Dave huddled around a laptop, bypassing a password—17thSt—to reveal a file titled **“Project: Heartwood.”** The blueprint showed a structural void behind the Tool Gallery wall—a Faraday-shielded cedar vault. Built during the mid-century era when the building housed government contractors, the vault was designed to protect sensitive prototypes. But the archives revealed a different treasure: a climate-controlled

cache of “extinct” pre-war hardwoods—Brazilian Rosewood and Cuban Mahogany—confiscated during the war and lost in the Guild's administrative handovers for forty years.

### **The Confrontation in the Dust**

The investigation reached its breaking point when security footage, recovered by Dave, showed the “Collector”—a developer known for wanting the 17th Street land—meeting with a shadowy figure in the lumber yard.

In the dim, orange glow of the basement's safety lights, Elias and Arthur were cornered. Emerging from behind a stack of slab-cut maple was the Guild Historian. He looked not like a villain, but like a man possessed.

“That wood is extinct, Elias,” the Historian whispered, his voice echoing off the concrete

**Continued on Page 28**

## CHAMPIONS IN WOODWORKING - GEORGE REXROAD

Here we are at the beginning of a New Year, and we have so many fantastic people in our community to talk about .... hmm, ... who to pick ... Dad gummit, I know! I'm going to start the year with one of my favorite people, George Rexroad! If you have not met George, you ... are ... missing ... out!! George is the KING on the Scroll Saw. If you ever have a question about how to work on them, George is the man to ask for. He is always kind and always willing to be of help. (two of my favorite things in the world!) If you were fortunate enough to attend our Christmas party last month, there's a chance you may have picked a gift that George made for our event. George and other fantastic members worked for months to help create enough presents so every guest could have a super nice gift to take home with them in the evening. I was so impressed I had a hard time picking what to choose!



Now that the holidays are behind us, He and Matt Nowak are already working on a new program

to donate toys to a local children's hospital. He is always thinking of others and creating items for good causes. My very first event I worked on at the Guild was First Fridays. Any time one of his items sold, he would donate all the money directly to the Guild. Have you seen Georges puzzles? Man-O-Man, they are so cool! So, which one is your favorite? I think I'm split between the dinosaur and the motorcycle!

George is a perfect example of what makes our community great. He is always willing to help a member learn a new skill on the scroll saw and any other machine on our floor. He also donates his time to be a Foreman at our shop and is one of the first in line to get involved in other events that we host. George lives in Roeland Park with his wife Karen, and I am so pleased to know him.

Please join me in a warm and heartfelt thank you to George Rexroad for being such a stellar human and this month's Champion in Woodworking!

**Carole Shelton**

*Director of Membership*

[dir.membership@kcwg.net](mailto:dir.membership@kcwg.net)



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# JANUARY 2026 OPEN SHOP SCHEDULE

day	January	Date	9am	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9pm
Thursday	January	1	Gary Mielke									Training			
Friday	January	2						Rick Chandler							
Saturday	January	3	Mike Jones					Basic Skills Class Free Just Show Up	George Rexroad						
Sunday	January	4		Chuck Saunders					Chris McCauley						
Monday	January	5			Dom Fiorella		Ron Haw					Gary Strohm			
Tuesday	January	6	Norm Carpenter			Craig Arnold							Kara Paris		
Wednesday	January	7	Barb Hinton				Art LaGrange					LC Meeting			
Thursday	January	8	Gary Mielke									Training			
Friday	January	9		Curtis Alexander				Ed Stewart							
Saturday	January	10	George Rexroad				Gary Mielke		Safety Orientation						
Sunday	January	11		Rob Young											
Monday	January	12	John Sloss				Ron Haw					Woodturners General Meeting			
Tuesday	January	13	Matt Nowak			Ron Lomax			Craig Arnold						
Wednesday	January	14	Roland Mohler				Mike Blake					Rich Higgason			
Thursday	January	15	Gary Mielke									Training			
Friday	January	16	Terry Humphries					Jon Lunde							
Saturday	January	17	Tom Smoller												
Sunday	January	18		Chuck Saunders					Chris McCauley						
Monday	January	19	Jerry Thompson				Ron Haw					Gary Strohm		CNC SIG 6:30	
Tuesday	January	20	Norm Carpenter			Craig Arnold									
Wednesday	January	21	Nik Hiremath				Tim Locke					General Meeting			
Thursday	January	22	Gary Mielke									Training			
Friday	January	23						Ed Stewart							
Saturday	January	24	George Rexroad				Don Steele			Joshua Baldwin					
Sunday	January	25		Rob Young				Handtool SIG	Wayne Peterson						
Monday	January	26	John Sloss				Ron Haw					Kolton Stimpert			
Tuesday	January	27	Matt Nowak			Ron Lomax			Craig Arnold				Carving SIG		
Wednesday	January	28	Roland Mohler				Mike Blake						Laser SIG		
Thursday	January	29	Gary Mielke									Training			
Friday	January	30										Norm Carpenter			
Saturday	January	31	Mike Jones												

Edited JANUARY 1, 2026

**TENTATIVE**

# FEBRUARY 2026 OPEN SHOP SCHEDULE

Day	February	Date	9am	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9pm
Monday	February	1		Chuck Saunders					Chris McCauley						
Tuesday	February	2			Dom Fiorella			Ron Haw					Gary Strohm		
Wednesday	February	3		Norm Carpenter		Craig Arnold							Kara Paris		
Thursday	February	4		Barb Hinton			Art LaGrange					LC Meeting			
Friday	February	5		Gary Mielke								Training			
Saturday	February	6						Rick Chandler							
Sunday	February	7		Mike Jones					Basic Skills Class	George Rexroad					
Monday	February	8		Rob Young					Safety Orientation						
Tuesday	February	9		John Sloss			Ron Haw						Woodturners General Meeting		
Wednesday	February	10		Matt Nowak		Ron Lomax			Craig Arnold						
Thursday	February	11		Roland Mohler			Mike Blake						Rich Higgason		
Friday	February	12		Gary Mielke								Training			
Saturday	February	13		Curtis Alexander				Ed Stewart							
Sunday	February	14		George Rexroad			Gary Mielke								
Monday	February	15		Chuck Saunders					Chris McCauley						
Tuesday	February	16		Jerry Thompson				Ron Haw					Gary Strohm		
Wednesday	February	17		Norm Carpenter		Craig Arnold							CNC SIG 6:30		
Thursday	February	18		Nik Hiremath			Tim Locke						General Meeting		
Friday	February	19		Gary Mielke								Training			
Saturday	February	20		Terry Humphries				Jon Lunde							
Sunday	February	21		Tom Smoller											
Monday	February	22		Rob Young				Handtool SIG	Wayne Peterson						
Tuesday	February	23		John Sloss				Ron Haw					Kolton Stimpert		
Wednesday	February	24		Matt Nowak		Ron Lomax			Craig Arnold				Carving SIG		
Thursday	February	25		Roland Mohler			Mike Blake						Laser SIG		
Friday	February	26		Gary Mielke								Training			
Saturday	February	27						Ed Stewart							
Sunday	February	28		George Rexroad			Don Steele			Joshua Baldwin					

Edited JANUARY 1, 2026

## GUILD ACTIVITIES AT THE SHOP

**A**lways check the Guild website before leaving home to be sure that a scheduled event is actually taking place.

There will also be times when the shop will be closed to open shop periods due to a special meeting, class or event. These closures will be clearly noted on the monthly open shop schedule and are typically highlighted by a color other than the green background that normally indicates an open shop period.

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Director of Publications & Printed Materials	OPEN .....	
Asstant Dir of Pubs & Printed Materials .....	OPEN .....	
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Asstant Director of Special Interest Groups.....	OPEN .....	
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Asstant Director of Sponsorship .....	Allen Lisko .....	<a href="mailto:assist.sponsorship@kcwg.net">assist.sponsorship@kcwg.net</a>
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Asstant Director of Web Services .....	OPEN .....	
Guild Historian.....	OPEN .....	
Steering Committee Chairperson .....	OPEN .....	

### ESSENTIAL LINKS & SERVICES

Kansas City Woodworkers Guild Website.....	<a href="https://kcwg.org">https://kcwg.org</a>
Guild Training and Available Classes.....	<a href="https://kcwg.org/classes/">https://kcwg.org/classes/</a>
Members Only Section (Password Rqd) .....	<a href="https://kcwg.org/member.kcwg.org">https://kcwg.org/member.kcwg.org</a>
Place a Classified Ad .....	<a href="mailto:classifieds@kcwg.net">classifieds@kcwg.net</a>
Project Storage Area (rental and questions).....	<a href="mailto:storage@kcwg.net">storage@kcwg.net</a>
KCWG Facebook Page.....	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/kcwg">https://www.facebook.com/kcwg</a>
KCWG Videos.....	<a href="https://kcwg.org/videos">https://kcwg.org/videos</a>
<b>KANSAS CITY WOODWORKERS' Guild SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIG'S)</b>	
Carving SIG .....	<a href="mailto:carvingSIG@kcwg.net">carvingSIG@kcwg.net</a>
CNC SIG .....	<a href="mailto:cncSIG@kcwg.net">cncSIG@kcwg.net</a>
Finishing SIG .....	<a href="mailto:finishingSIG@kcwg.net">finishingSIG@kcwg.net</a>
Hand Tool SIG .....	<a href="mailto:handtoolSIG@kcwg.net">handtoolSIG@kcwg.net</a>
Laser SIG .....	<a href="mailto:laserSIG@kcwg.net">laserSIG@kcwg.net</a>

## Router Table

A router mounted in a table is used to create decorative edges and surfaces on a workpiece and to cut rabbets and dadoes.

### Safety Rules

1. Read and observe the [router safety rules](#) (p.10).
2. Adjust the fence halves so that the cutter opening is slightly wider than is required to clear the bit, then lock the fence into position.
3. Maintain proper adjustments for in-feed and out-feed fences.
4. Clamp a block of wood to the fence over the top of the bit to help protect your hands from the rotating bit.
5. Take time to examine your workpiece and make sure that all necessary precautions have been taken before cutting.
6. Feed the workpiece against the direction of cutting blade rotation. Otherwise, the cutter blade can grab and pull the workpiece.
7. Never feed the stock between the fence and the bit.
8. Stop the tool and unplug it from the power source before clearing a clogged exhaust port. After the bit has stopped, unclog the exhaust port with a stick.
9. Shaping narrow or small workpieces can be hazardous. Use a push block as needed to keep your hands protected from the revolving bit, and use feather boards to keep narrow pieces against the fence and the table. Use a clamping device to hold small workpieces.
10. Never reach under the table while the tool is running.



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walls. “You can’t buy it at any price. It’s the only material worthy of the legacy I’ve spent forty years building. The Collector? He’s a fool who wants the land for condos. I let him think I was helping him just to get the equipment I needed to open that vault. I used the First Friday crowds as a distraction and the ‘accidents’ to keep the shop empty.”

He moved toward them, holding a heavy brass-backed tenon saw. “The Newport Desk wasn’t just a project; it was the key. And now, I’m the only one who knows the final sequence.”

### The Final Cut

“The Guild isn’t a museum for dead wood,” Arthur countered, his voice steady. “It’s a living school for the people. You’ve forgotten the fellowship for the sake of the grain.”

As the Historian lunged to reclaim the USB drive—the only digital map to the vault’s electronic trigger—Elias made a split-second decision. He threw a handful of fine sanding dust into the air, creating a momentary cloud. They bolted for the freight elevator.

Dave, working remotely from the CNC lab’s terminal, overrode the basement’s lock-out. “The gates are heavy, Elias! Get in NOW!”

They scrambled into the lift just as the Historian reached the gate. The heavy steel mesh slammed shut with a thunderous *clack*, leaving the Historian alone in the dark with his secrets.

### Aftermath

As the sun rose over Kansas City the following morning, the “Deadwood Tenon” was finally pulled. The Historian was quietly removed under the guise of health-related retirement. Federal authorities took over the “Heartwood Vault,” declaring it a national heritage site, but granted the Guild a single board of the Rosewood to be displayed in the lobby—a reminder of what happens when the craft is separated from the community.

Elias, Dave, and Arthur stood together on the shop floor. The “Old Guard” and the “Tech Team” had found common ground. Elias picked up a hand plane, adjusted the blade by a hair, and took a single, translucent shaving off a piece of local walnut.

The curl was perfect. The shop on 17th Street was quiet. The craft, and the Guild, were safe.