

MAY 2026

WOOD WORDS

**MEMBER PROJECT -
ALEX BEAR**

**PUBLISHED BY THE KANSAS CITY
WOODWORKERS GUILD**

1717 WASHINGTON ST* KANSAS CITY* MO* 64108

EDITOR: STEPHAN VANDENBROUCKE



**Alex Bear
Stick Chair**

Materials Used: Oak and Elm

Finish Used: Milk Paint and Soft Wax

Photos Courtesy Neal Ray Shoger

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A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

This issue was originally published without the usual From The Shop column or the schedule for an exciting Home Shop Crawl coming up in late May and early June, organized by Russ Amos. These will be the first two articles below in case you already browsed the previous version of this issue. While I certainly do my best to avoid mistakes and omissions like these, I greatly appreciate folks letting me know when I've missed something so that I can get it worked in. Such is the beauty of digital publishing; I can always edit the file and push an updated issue for posting to the website.

With that being said, please don't ever hesitate to reach out if you have a question, concern,

suggestion, or compliment for what you're seeing here in the newsletter. While I may not be able to get back to you super quickly (thanks, day job!), I'll always get around to replying once I'm able to sit down and type something up. I'm excited for all the updates and modernization we have happening at the guild and hope to bring you some updates and modernization here in the newsletter as well when the time is right.

Enjoy!

Stephan Vandembroucke

Newsletter Editor

newsletter@kcwg.net

FROM THE SHOP

I'm writing this on Mother's Day so in the spirit of Mothers everywhere let me say "When you're finished playing, put things back where they belong". Remember that the Guild shop is different from your shop at home. Many members are using the same tools and other resources throughout the day. It is much easier for all if things stay in the same place. I know in your own shop it makes sense to leave a clamp by your saw or a broom by the tool you will be working with on your project for the next week.

But you are not alone.

This may explain why the Handtool Room ends up with 6 brooms and 3 dustpans. I know, those hand tool folks are messy, but they are not the only ones. So we keep the brooms in the corner by the

kitchen instead. We have 4 cleaning carts with a broom, dustpan, trashcan, and bench brush. When you remove one of the items, good you're cleaning up, make sure you put it back on the cart.

You're no doubt thinking "what's this guy's thing with brooms?" It's more than brooms I assure you. Bandsaws have a small table and the fence is not always needed. So the fence is removed and placed on the floor beside the saw. How come the fence doesn't get back up on the saw when you finish? I don't know either. I can assure you that "on the floor" is not a safe place for bandsaw fences.

These are just a couple of examples. Put things back where they belong when you are done, your mother would be proud of you.



Chuck Saunders

Director of Assets

dir.assets@kcwg.net

HOME SHOP CRAWLS

MO Shop Crawls, May 30th -- 9-Noon

Gary Schultz White River Woodworks Shop

2104 Hollow Log Drive

Kearney, MO 64060

Cul-de-sac parking available for easy access.

Located in the lower level of a three-year-old reverse ranch house plan, the 850 sq. ft. shop accommodates an expansive line of equipment including Powermatic machines like cabinet saw, jointer, and lathe. Additional items such as a 38" drum sander, dust collection system, Sjobergs work bench, and much more can be seen.

Careful attention was given when the area was finished to assure the shop had natural light exposure, along with restroom access. The double door exit out of the shop serves as an option for delivery and loading. The custom lighting was provided by Hi-Lite, made in California. An under-stair closet creates convenient storage for paint and accessories. The walled-off HVAC area features removable wall panels in the event a unit should need replacement. If interested, ideas for garage storage of lumber will be shared, too!

John Kimball

1606 Madison Ave.

Kansas City, MO 64108

The shop is accessible from the alley west of Madison between 16th and 17th St. next to the schoolyard. Parking is available on 16th St. or on the east side of the alley.

My shop is a 20'x25' freestanding building that I recently constructed in my backyard using about 60% recycled lumber. The tools in it are primarily vintage (50+ years old); Powermatic tablesaw, jointer and Delta bandsaw from my early career as a carpenter, picture framer and cabinetmaker. I have replaced some of my heavy, industrial machinery with newer, lighter machinery; router tables, Makita 12" planer, Ricon 10" bandsaw and mortiser. There is really nothing fancy, innovative, or highly organized but it is a working homemade shop.

KS Shop Crawls, June 6th -- 9-Noon

Russ Amos

7018 Bell Rd.

Shawnee, KS 66217 (4th house on the left)

I've been a Guild member since 1998. Come see my small shop on June 6. It is full of innovative ideas like a router table that doubles as a full shop air cleaner, a large, Delta, cabinet saw that has an out feed table that doubles as an assembly table/MFT table, and a work bench made from an old bowling alley. I utilize lots of Kreg, Micro-Jig and Inkra-Jig devices and have a wall full of clamps. I also have numerous jigs and fixtures that I use daily. I have several ways to store sheets of plywood, large cutoffs, and wood scraps. I have a dedicated finishing/painting room. Park and enter at the lower garage area please. Treats will be served.

Terry Johnston

570 Hithergreen Dr.

Lansing, KS 66043

Onstreet parking. Garage doors will be open.

Ron, my late husband, wanted me to have a shop where I could explore crafts and woodworking. He found plans for many sources, building features like a disappearing workbench, slat walls, and plenty of hinges and swivel casters. My workshop is packed yet portable— it lets me work both indoors and outdoor outdoors whenever needed.

Why should you visit my shop? It's not about a fancy tool collection – the tools are simply practical, and I didn't follow Dave Kratz advice to invest in top-tier equipment. Nothing here is costly a meticulously planned; instead, it's an assortment of functional cabinets that suit me right now. The real draw is seeing how shelving, tables, and dust control systems can be fashioned from particleboard, two by fours, and plywood. Everything is made from rough unrefined materials. This isn't a showcase workshop – it's one for creating dust and finding solutions after mistakes.

Take a scenic drive west from the Kansas City Wood Guild Shop, which takes about 35 minutes, and pay a visit. You'll find me just inside Lansing, Kansas, in a cozy, family – friendly neighborhood. I'll have swept up the dust and wood shavings, tools will be in their respective places, and there will be treats. Come see the shelving in action, watch the slat walls move, and enjoy a relaxing visit.



Crafting Our Future: The Steering Committee: Our Guild Secretary, **David Roth**, will be working over the coming month to establish our new **Steering Committee**. This group is tasked with looking toward the horizon to determine the goals and needs of the Guild over the next 2, 5, and 10 years.

By reporting directly to the Leadership Committee (LC) and the Board, the Steering Committee will ensure that our long-term planning is intentional and sustainable. If you are interested in helping shape the future of our organization, please contact David at secretary@kcwg.net to express your interest.

Leadership Updates & Election results: Please join me in welcoming and congratulating the following members who have stepped up to serve our community:

- **Norm Carpenter:** Elected to the Board as our **Vice President of Membership**.
- **Alex Bear:** Assuming the role of **Assistant Director of Training** while continuing his excellent work as **Assistant Director of Social Media**.
- **Alex Mosley:** Elected by the membership as our new **Director of Safety**. Alex is a long-time instructor for our *Rough to Ready* classes and a constant help around the shop.

- **Roland Mohler:** Our past President will be lending his experience to the safety team as the **Assistant Director of Safety**.

- **Terry Johnston:** Moving from her role in Events to assist Don Steele as the **Assistant Director of Library Services**.

• I also want to extend my sincere thanks to **Carole Shelton, Rich Higginson, and Craig Arnold**, who have graciously agreed to continue in their current roles for another term. Our Guild thrives because of the time and sacrifice these volunteers provide.

Community Outreach: Santa's Workshop and Scouting America Pinewood Derby - Santa's Workshop: At our last LC Meeting, it was confirmed that **Chris McCauley** will continue to chair this project. It has become a holiday staple in Kansas City, and we look forward to beginning the planning and production process soon.

Scouting America Pinewood Derby: The Boy Scouts of America has transitioned to a new name, **Scouting America**, and the Guild is proud to partner with them. Beginning **January 22, 2027**, the Pinewood Derby season kicks off, culminating in the National Championship in late May.

Continued on Page 6



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**OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING
IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER**

**THIS MONTH'S MEMBERSHIP MEETING
WILL BE HELD AT THE KCWG SHOP AT
1717 WASHINGTON ST ON
WED, MAY 20TH, BEGINNING AT 7PM**

Continued from page 4

The Scouting America Kansas City Council has asked the Guild to assist Scouts and their sponsors with cutting out car bodies and preparing parts. We will provide cutting, drilling, and sanding stations using official kits provided by the Scouting Council. We will also have a test track on-site so Scouts can fine-tune their entries. Our **VP of Information Services** is currently finalizing dates, so keep an eye out for volunteer opportunities.

National Craft Open Studios Weekend: On **July 18–19, 2026**, the American Craft Council will launch the inaugural **National Craft Open Studios Weekend**. This nationwide event invites the public into creative spaces to highlight craft as a living art form.

The Guild is excited to participate by opening our shops for this event. It is a fantastic opportunity to showcase our tools, processes, and the incredible talent within our membership. Stay tuned for more details on how you can get involved.

Digital Evolution: New Website & Code of Conduct: Our Director of Web Services, **Scott Diffin**, has been hard at work on our new digital home. While the transition has begun, the full site will not launch until July.

Important Action Required: To ensure a smooth transition, **every member** will be required to create a new account on the updated site. This will be the

only way to sign up for future classes and events, as we will be moving away from SignUpGenius entirely.

Additionally, as part of this transition, members will be required to electronically sign an updated **Guild Code of Conduct**. As we grow in size and diversity, it is essential that we clearly define the etiquette expected in our shop—whether you are taking a class, working a project, or just visiting. We are taking this rollout “slow and steady” to avoid the technical bugs that often haunt major software changes.

Preserving Our Legacy: Guild Historian

Finally, we are seeking a chairperson to serve as the **Guild Historian**. This individual will form a committee to maintain an accurate record of our Guild’s history, documents, and milestones. We want to ensure that future members always have a clear reference for “where we came from.” If you have a passion for preservation, please reach out to David Roth.

Until next month, enjoy the spring weather and make some sawdust!

Ron Haw
President

president@kcwg.net



VISIT
THE KANSAS CITY
WOODWORKERS' GUILD
ONLINE AT
WWW.KCWG.ORG



MEMBER PROJECT - MIKE JONES



Mike Jones

Windsor Chair Repair

Finish Used: Black Milk Paint and Paste Wax

Point of Interest: Built by Cliff Bell in 2004

Challenges Encountered: Firming it up

Photos Courtesy Neal Ray Shoger

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



Carole Shelton



Glenn Carney



Kitzi Dingley



Kurt Battles



Mike Jones



Steve Hicks



Suresh Narayan



Talon Spittles



Terry Johnston



Susan Lawlor



John Waltemeyer



Alex Moseley

MEMBER PROJECTS - GRACE AMBROSE



Grace Ambrose

Dear Donna Stools

Materials Used: Oak and Sycamore

Finish Used: Milk Paint, Enamel, Spar Urethane, BLO, Mineral Spirits

Point of Interest: Made a set of six for a restaurant

Challenges Encountered: Drying/Checking of the sycamore

Photos Courtesy Neal Ray Shoger

JOINT EFFORT

Hello everyone, my name is Norm Carpenter, and I've just begun my term as Vice President of Member Services for the Guild. I'd like to share a little about my background.

My woodworking journey started much like many others'—in a seventh-grade woodshop class. Of course, if you ask my father, he'd probably say it started much earlier, when he handed five-year-old me a hammer and some nails to keep me busy while he worked in the shop.

After that first class, my dad brought home a scroll saw, and I spent countless hours experimenting and having fun cutting wood into all sorts of shapes. Around age 15, my father and I took an evening woodworking class together, where I completed my first serious project: a reproduction music stand based on a piece from Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson.

For the following 50+ years, I've explored many areas of woodworking—furniture, small projects, toys for the kids, built-ins for our homes, and just about anything else that sparked my interest. Along the way, I've enjoyed learning new skills and trying new techniques.

I've been a member of the guild for a bit over 10 years. During that time, I began helping with the training team and later served as Director of Training. That role became especially interesting during the COVID-19 pandemic, when we had to rethink how training could be delivered and supported.

As Vice President of Member Services, I oversee five director areas: Assets, Events, Programs, Safety, and Training. My goal is to support these directors as they work toward their goals and to help the guild continue to grow over the coming years.

If you have ideas, suggestions, or would like to volunteer, please feel free to reach out. I'd love to hear from you. I look forward to sharing more in future newsletters.

Until then, enjoy making something out of wood, try to spend a little time in the shop every day, and above all, stay safe.

Norm Carpenter
*Vice President of
 Member Services*
vicepresident@kcwg.net



PLEASE WELCOME THESE 16 NEW GUILD MEMBERS

FIRST NAME.....	LAST NAME.....	HOMETOWN.....	STATE	MEMBERSHIP
Vy.....	Doan.....	Lees Summit.....	MO.....	WW+.....
Roger.....	Gillespie.....	Greenwood.....	MO.....	Sawdust.....
Mark.....	Kimsey.....	Shawnee.....	KS.....	Senior.....
Bob.....	Landzettel.....	Leavenworth.....	KS.....	Senior.....
Michael.....	O'Connell.....	Raytown.....	MO.....	Sawdust.....
Dave.....	Rukavina.....	Stilwell.....	KS.....	WW+.....
John.....	Willis.....	Independence.....	MO.....	WW+.....
Emily.....	Caver.....	Kansas City.....	MO.....	WW+.....
Blake.....	Coffee.....	Kansas City.....	MO.....	Sawdust.....
Weston.....	Erbert.....	Kansas City.....	MO.....	Sawdust.....
Jonathan.....	Fleming.....	Kansas City.....	MO.....	Sawdust.....
Greg.....	Gangel.....	Olathe.....	KS.....	WW+.....
Ben.....	Hazlip.....	Kansas City.....	MO.....	WW+.....
Patrick.....	Krim.....	Kansas City.....	MO.....	Sawdust.....
Joe.....	MacCracken.....	Kansas City.....	MO.....	WW+.....
Hannah.....	Waddle.....	Osawatomie.....	KS.....	WW+.....

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP ⇒ 809

TAYLOR TOOLWORKS



VISIT TAYLOR TOOLWORKS at
WWW.TAYTOOLS.COM

EVENTS UPDATE

Craig Arnold is coordinating the next major event or activity for the Guild, that is, the first ever National Craft Fair Weekend hosted by that American Crafts Council. This is a national shop-tour visitation on the weekend of 18-19 July. I'm sure that Craig will offer a fuller explanation of this interesting event.

In the meantime, we continue to prepare for other events like Santa's Workshop in November and Christmas Dinner in December. We are considering an Open House possibly in October - we'll see.

We continue to make puzzles, trucks, tops, and boxes for the kids at Children's Mercy. Norm suggested that we bag up some of the trucks unassembled and let the families work with their kids to assemble them so that they not only get a truck, but they also have fun putting it together. To that end, we produced more than a dozen trucks which we will bag up and deliver to Mercy very soon - probably before you are reading this.

One of our members has volunteered to coordinate a truck-build day at the Guild during which you can sign up to help build lots of trucks for the kids at Mercy in one day. Rumors are that there could be pizza for those who sign up, so keep an eye open for that event. I know that I'll be there.

We plan to do presents for all Christmas Dinner attendees again this year and we are encouraging you to make appropriate gifts that will go home with nice folks. Allen Lisko has already volunteered to make more of his fabulous little Christmas trees again and he says that they will be slightly larger than last year's, which were very popular.

We encourage you to also consider making and donating nice items for the Silent Auction at the Christmas Dinner. This was a great fund-raiser for the Guild last year and we want to do it again.

Finally, Russ Amos is coordinating our own Shop Tour coming up pretty soon. One Saturday will be for shops in Missouri and the other Saturday for shops in Kansas. This was always a fun event in past years, although it's been quite a few years since our last Shop Crawl. Please coordinate with Russ to sign your shop up and the Guild is offering to help cover your costs if you decide to include some snacks and refreshments at your shop.



Matt Nowak
Director of Events
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

MEMBER PROJECTS - BRYAN & ANDREA RING AND ALEX BEAR



Bryan & Andrea Ring
Cherry Boxes
Finish Used: Soap



Alex Bear
Shaker Oval Boxes
Materials Used:
Cherry, Brass Tacks, Toothpicks
Finish Used: Soft Wax

Photos Courtesy
Neal Ray Shoger

SAFETY ARTICLE

Our Guild is the amazing organization it is because of the generous work of our volunteers and leaders. As the incoming Safety Director, I want to give my heartfelt thank you to Steve Hicks for his service in the role. Steve came to the role after a career in occupational health and safety, and the maturity of our safety program is in no small part due to Steve's professionalism and dedication.

I'm excited to step into the role of Safety Director. For the past few years I've been a Rough to Ready instructor, and I've had the pleasure of working with a number of fantastic new Guild members of all ages and skill levels.

Our Safety program is typically a new member's first experience of the Guild, and we have the opportunity to get new members off to a strong start. Rough to Ready is first and foremost a safety class, but it also introduces some woodworking fundamentals and fosters a sense of community. If you're passionate about building our community and getting new woodworkers off to a great start, please consider volunteering for Rough to Ready. It's an incredibly rewarding way to contribute. If you've just joined and need to earn your Green name tag, now is a great time.

I'm grateful to John Sloss and Ed Stewart for their dedication in running Rough to Ready, and to my fellow instructors (John Kimball, Kitzi Dingley, Alex Scott, George Rexroad, Tom Vece, and Tom Smoller) who give so generously of themselves to make sure new members get off to a good start.

If you've taken Rough to Ready with me, you know that I am not the kind of woodworker who has never injured himself. Thankfully I have all my digits, but an incident at a table saw several years ago resulted in a trip to the emergency department, five stitches in my left ring finger, and a hospital bill that would have paid for a SawStop. I know from experience that accidents happen for

many reasons, not just ignorance. Sometimes we lose focus, or we let bad habits creep in, or we get in a hurry. Because of that, I try to get back to basics every few years, checking in with my own shop practices.

In March I started that cycle anew. This time around, I'm working on being more mindful, more present in the shop. There aren't a lot of safety rules you can enforce around mindfulness (other than to disallow distractions such as headphones). It's more about encouraging a mindset. With so much going on in our lives, it's easy to get in a hurry. Even if it doesn't lead to injury, that hurry has a way of telegraphing through our work. I'm looking forward to the ways a more mindful approach improves both my time in the shop and the work I produce.

During this very busy time of year, with Mother's Day leading into graduations and Father's Day, I hope you get some focused time in the shop, free for those few hours from the hurry of the outside world.



Alex Moseley
 Director of Safety
dir.safety@kcwg.net



MEMBER PROJECTS - WAYNE PETERSON AND MATT NOWAK



Wayne Peterson
Box
Materials Used: Walnut



Photos Courtesy Neal Ray Shoger

Matt Nowak
Box
Materials Used: Sycamore
Finish Used: Poly
Point of Interest: Grain
Challenges Encountered: Fitting lid



2026 Christmas in July Craft Fair
Saturday, July 11, 2026
9:00-5:00

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
4047 NE Chouteau DR. Kansas City, MO. 64119

Proceeds and donations will support our Backpack Shepherd Program.
Backpack Shepherd is a program for elementary students at risk to
experience hunger.

(More detailed Information regarding this program will be provided at
the fair.)

Loving Hands Catering
13425 Terrace Park DR, Kansas City, MO 64152
816-786-1333
www.lovinghandscatering.com
will provide a sandwich selection, salads, etc. for
reasonable prices.

2026 CHRISTMAS IN JULY CRAFT FAIR

Space is limited! The sooner you apply, the better chance you have of receiving the space requested.

The vendor fee will be a donation equal to 15% of your sales and due at the end of the event. Your generous donation will support our Backpack Shepherds Program, a collaboration of Good Shepherd and Bethel United Church of Christ. Harvesters Backsnack Program is a program for elementary school children at risk to experience hunger. It is offered through Feeding America and currently serves 64 students at Eastgate 6th Grade Center, Greenway Elementary School and Winnetonka High School food pantry.

Set up times will be limited to Fri., July 10th 5:00-7:30 PM & Sat., July 11th 7:30-9:00 AM.
No tear down before 5:00 PM the day of the fair.

If at anytime, you find you can not participate, please let Katy Clapp know as soon as possible.
kclapp1951@gmail.com

A map of table layout and your table number will be given to you when you set up.
Following set up, please park at the back of the parking lot, or to the right of the parking lot.

Loving Hands Catering will provide a sandwich selection, salads, etc. for reasonable prices. Tables behind the kitchen will be available for people to sit, eat, and relax.

VENDOR APPLICATION

Application deadline is June 1st, 2026.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Please list what you plan to sell below. *No political items are to be sold or displayed.*

Please indicate the size space needed. Due to limited space, we ask that you use our tables.:

10 ft by 10 ft: _____ 10 ft by 5 ft: _____ 10 ft by 6 ft: _____

Will you have displays behind your tables? Yes: _____ No: _____

There will be no electrical plug-ins available. We will do our best to give you the size space you requested. You will know ahead of time the size of your space.

Please send completed vendor application to kclapp1951@gmail.com
A confirmation letter will follow soon after your application is received.

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- Walnut 4/4 & 8/4
- White Oak 4/4
- Plywood for Cabinets
- And many other Local Hardwoods

MEMBER PROJECTS - DOUG COURTRIGHT



Doug Courtright

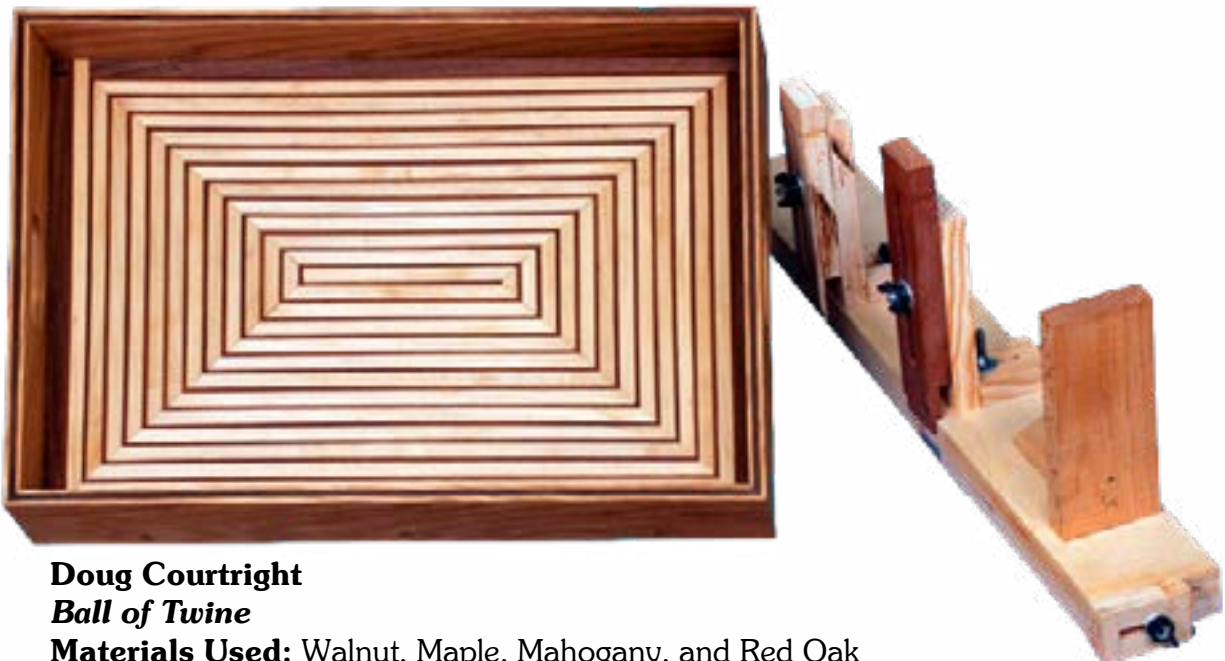
Trays

Materials Used: Eclipse - Maple, Red Cedar, and Walnut

Hummingbirds - Cherry, Maple, Walnut, and Mahogany

Finish Used: Shellac

Point of Interest: Router Inlays



Doug Courtright

Ball of Twine

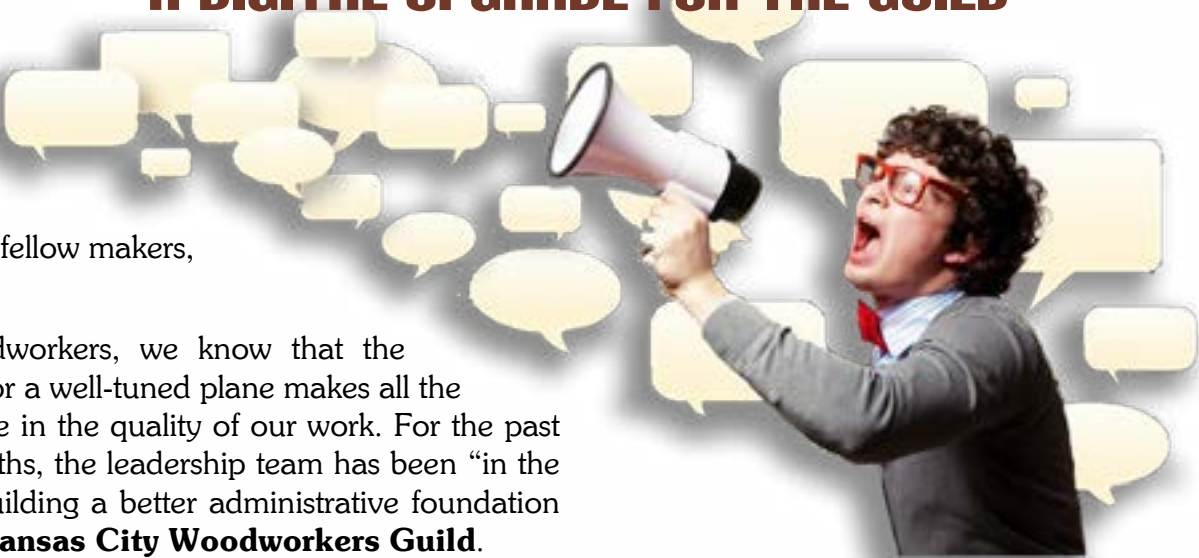
Materials Used: Walnut, Maple, Mahogany, and Red Oak

Finish Used: Boiled Linseed Oil

Point of Interest: Hand Design

Photos Courtesy Neal Ray Shoger

A DIGITAL UPGRADE FOR THE GUILD



Hello fellow makers,

As woodworkers, we know that the right jig or a well-tuned plane makes all the difference in the quality of our work. For the past few months, the leadership team has been “in the shop” building a better administrative foundation for the **Kansas City Woodworkers Guild**.

I am excited to announce that we are officially migrating to a **new, streamlined membership management system**. This upgrade is designed to make it easier for you to manage your dues, update your profile, and stay connected with our community.

What to Expect in Your Inbox

In the coming days, keep a close eye on your email. You will receive an invitation from our new platform. This isn't spam—it's your key to the new digital system!

Here is the simple 3-step process to get started:

- 1. The Email:** You'll receive a message inviting you to sign up to our new website
- 2. The Link:** Click the secure link provided in that email to reach our new site.
- 3. The Password:** You will be prompted to create a new password and verify your contact information.

Why Registration is Essential

While the transition is a big step forward, it is also a requirement for active participation. Starting in the coming months, you must have an active account in the new system to register for any future classes or Guild events. By signing on and creating your account now, you ensure that your spot in the shop is protected and that you won't experience any

delays when our next round of popular sessions opens up.

Why the Change?

Our old system served us well, but as we grow, we need tools that work as hard as we do. The new system offers a chance to consolidate outdated systems and offer a better user experience. Soon we will be able to change the renewal dates for individuals to a more budget friendly month! I for one have always wanted to renew sometime other than the holidays.

Need a Hand?

We realize that technology can sometimes be as stubborn as a knotty piece of Osage Orange. If you encounter any issues logging in or navigating the new site, please don't hesitate to reach out. I will be available at the next guild meeting to walk anyone through the process in person.

Thank you for your patience as we “sand down the rough edges” of this transition. We're building a better guild, one byte at a time.

Brian Rorabaugh

*Vice President of
Information Services*

upinfoservices@kcwg.net



MEMBER PROJECTS - UNCREDITED AND JIM MARTIN



Uncredited

**Jim Martin*****Paper Towel Holder*****Materials Used:** Old Shovel Handle and Pine**Finish Used:** Tea, Amonia, Iron in Vinegar, and Brown Mahogany Stain**Point of Interest:** Finish is only half way through**Challenges Encountered:** Flaming off alcohol wash without setting off fire alarm.***Photos Courtesy Neal Ray Shoger***



grateful to all the individuals who not only have helped me develop my skills but who, more importantly, make our training program happen.

One such individual is Mike Jones. Not only does he teach a knife making class (keep reading for an upcoming class!), but he also taught a Skill Builder on how to make a table saw sled during the May Skill Builder. I remember back when I decided to make my first table saw sled. I spent over

a month researching all the different

ways to make a sled and watched hours of YouTube videos to see how it was done. Yet, in roughly an hour, Mike showed participants how to make a sled from start to finish. He demonstrated how it can be done easily and what aspects to consider while making a sled. He even demonstrated the five-cut method for checking the sled for accuracy. It was a very informative session!

I recently built a box for a colleague of mine who is retiring. As I built this, I was reminded of the numerous ways that I have benefitted from being a member of the Guild. The box I made started out as a simple pencil box. I learned this design through a box-making class taught by Ron Lomax. He taught me how to create the finger joints using a simple jig on the table saw with a flat-toothed blade. He also taught me how to create the sliding top and the small brass pin that serves as a stop and keeps the lid from completely sliding off. After I built the basic design, I decided to make it a little fancier by using some techniques, such as the routed cove running down the sides, that I learned from Bill Lintner. I ran short on time, so I wasn't able to put into practice some of the many finishing techniques I learned from Craig Arnold. However, I did grab the Odie's Oil (thanks, Jim Bany!).

Skill Builders

Speaking of Skill Builders, there are a number of upcoming sessions that you won't want to miss:

- June 6: Making Milk Paint with Grace Ambrose
- July 4: No Skill Builder
- August 1: Wood Gluing with Bob Behnke (Titebond)
- September 5: Sanding and Gluing with Chuck Saunders

Just a reminder that the Skill Builder sessions are on the first Saturday of the month at 2 p.m. These sessions are free and available without reservations.

In addition to the Skill Builders, we also have a number of fantastic classes coming up:

Upcoming Classes

Bandsaw Box:

In our Rough-to-Ready classes, we introduce students to one type of box-making. This class



One of the best parts of this Guild are the many people who are more than willing to share their knowledge and talents with others. I am forever

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introduces students to another. In this beginner+ class, George Rexroad will guide students in creating a traditional bandsaw box. In this two-session course, students will learn how to glue up a block of wood and transform it into a beautifully crafted box using the bandsaw. This class is an excellent opportunity to become more familiar with the bandsaw and expand your knowledge of what it can do. In addition, you'll come away with your very own unique box. Trust me—once you make one, you'll find yourself wanting to make more!

There are actually two classes. Both meet on **Thursday, June 18, 6-8 p.m.**, where participants will prepare the blanks for their boxes.

Then, there is an option when students will complete the boxes:

- **Friday, June 19, 5-9 p.m.**
- **Saturday, June 20, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.**

This class opened for enrollment on **Tuesday, May 12th at 7 p.m.** There may still be slots available.

Please note that you'll sign up for this class based on the date of which second class you choose. BOTH classes will also meet on Thursday, June 18th, 6-8 PM to glue up the block for the box. The sessions build on one another, so it is imperative to make the Thursday night session.

Intermediate Woodworking

The Intermediate Woodworking class is once again going to be offered. This is a 10-week, fast-paced class that has been designed to be a continuation of the Basic Woodworking class. Participants will make a Shaker side table and wall cabinet. More importantly, Intermediate Woodworking focuses on developing skills and techniques in woodworking beyond the basic course. *All students must have taken the Basic class before taking Intermediate Woodworking.*

The class meets on **Thursday evenings (July**

2-September 3), 7 -10 pm. Enrollment starts on **May 26th.**

Sugita Joinery

Our friend, William Fehrenbach, is returning to the Guild to teach another class on the Sugita method for hand tool joinery. For those who may not know (or remember) about two years ago, William presented the Sugita method during one of our member meetings. He then returned to present during a Skill Builder, and last summer, he was instrumental in arranging for Toyohisa Sugita himself to teach a class at the Guild.

As described in the book, *Woodworking Joinery by Hand: Innovative Techniques Using Japanese Saws and Jigs*, the Sugita method involves using specific jigs with magnetic sheets to position the saw blade for precision cuts. Participants in the class will receive the aluminum ripping guide, a cushion-grip MIRAI flush-cut saw, a wooden cross-cut guide, and much more of the equipment needed for this method.

The class meets on **Saturday, July 25, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.** It will open for enrollment on **June 16th.**

Freehand Sharpening

After his popular, *Hand Planes for Novices* class, Chris Fontaine is returning to provide some instruction on sharpening tools. In this class, students will learn to sharpen and maintain a wide range of hand tools including hand plane blades, chisels, spokeshaves, cambered blades, router blades, and combination plane blades. This two-session, hands-on class will cover tool preparation, bevel geometry, burr formation and removal, grit progressions, and stone maintenance. Students will also learn how steels like O1, A2, and PM-V11 respond differently on the stones. Guided and freehand techniques are both covered, with enough practice time to leave you confident sharpening anything on the workbench.

The 2-day class meets on **Saturday and Sunday,**

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August 9-10, 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. It will open for enrollment on **June 30th**.

Knife Making

Mike Jones is going to offer his popular Knife Making class again. 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 2-5" Santoku knife frames, scale materials to choose from, aluminum pins, a set of carving burs and a package of Micro Mesh sanding pads. Unlike past knife classes, you will receive 2 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 Santoku knives will last you for generations. The knives come in a presentation box that you will be able to keep your knife in and are great for giving as a gift to a loved one or a friend.

This class meets on **Saturday, August 15, 8 a.m-1 p.m.** and opens for enrollment on **July 7th at 7 p.m.**

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

This is one of the major classes we're offering this year with a visiting artisan. Patrick Moore is going to be at the Guild **October 26-30** to lead a five-day session on building a patio table. As impressive as the table is, the real selling point of this class is the opportunity to learn about the technique of Stereotomy. 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!

This class is open for enrollment. There may still be slots available.



As you can see, there are a lot of training opportunities opening soon...and there's even more on the way. So, keep watching the newsletter for information about upcoming classes. If you see a class you want to take, I recommend setting an alert and being ready to sign up a little before 7 pm (all enrollments open on Tuesdays at 7 pm). Some of these classes fill up very quickly (as in less than 5 minutes).

Also, please keep in mind that **starting in July, you'll need to have a Wild Apricot account in order to sign-up for classes.** If you don't have one yet, keep an eye open for an email from the Guild inviting you to set up your account.

Until next month, I'll see you in the Shop!

Rich Higgason
Director of Training
dir.training@kcwg.net



MEMBER PROJECTS - RON LOMAX AND UNCREDITED



Ron Lomax

Robin - Blue Jay

Materials Used: Tupelo, Butternut

Finish Used: Acrylic paint



Uncredited

Photos Courtesy Neal Ray Shoger

SIG-NALES FROM THE SHOP



CNC SIG - May 18th - 6:30 PM - Classroom

Handtool SIG - March 24nd - 2PM - Front Shop

Carving SIG - March 26th - 6PM - Hand Tool Room

Finishing SIG - March 26th - 7PM - Classroom

Laser Engraver SIG - March 27th - 7PM - Hand Tool Room

Lance Wilson

Director of Special Interest Groups

dir.sigs@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

KCWG LIBRARY ARTICLE

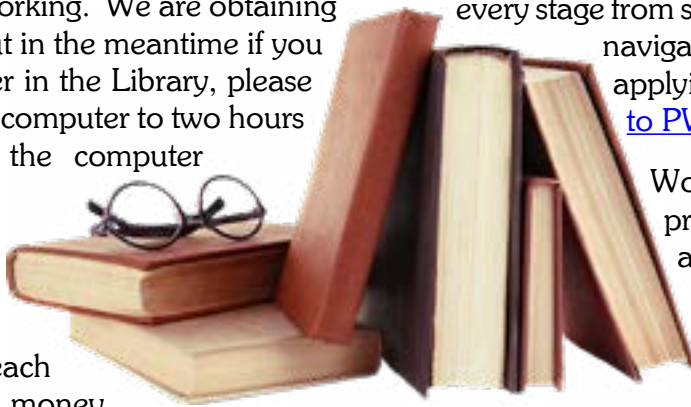
The computer in the Library has a cooling fan that is no longer working. We are obtaining a replacement part, but in the meantime if you are using the computer in the Library, please try to limit time on the computer to two hours and then shutdown the computer until it cools down.

The Library has different magazines available for a donation of 25 cents each or five for \$1. All money collected goes to the general operating fund for the Guild.

Magazines reviewed this month are WoodCraft, Popular Woodworking, and Woodworker's Journal. They all have questions and answers about previous articles, safety suggestions, workshop enhancement sections, suggestions for the workshop itself, jigs, and tool reviews/comparisons. These offer many projects for beginning and intermediate skill levels.

WoodCraft magazine (formerly published by Woodcraft - a Guild Sponsor) offers a blend of workshop design guidance, skill-building projects, and informative articles. Each issue includes several projects tailored to both beginner and intermediate woodworkers, accompanied by clear photographs that make these projects approachable and easy to follow. Project instructions are thorough, incorporating photographs, cross-sectional views, detailed measurements, practical suggestions, and a logical order of operations. This structured approach enables woodworkers to successfully complete projects while gaining valuable insights into the processes involved. This is no longer in publication. [Link to article website.](#)

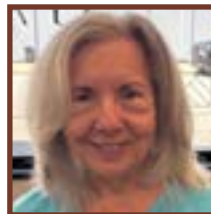
Popular Woodworking magazine issues also include step-by-step instructions for projects, such as a shop clamp rack or a horizontal router jig featured in both beginner and intermediate builds and projects that cover a wide range of interests.



These projects are thoroughly outlined, covering every stage from selecting the appropriate wood, navigating the building process, and applying finishing techniques. [Link to PW Projects website.](#)

Woodworker's Journal magazine proves a rich array of educational articles, delving into the history of woodworking and sharing interesting woodworking trivia. These articles broaden readers' understanding of the craft and its evolution over time. A distinctive feature of the magazine's project section is the inclusion of cut lists with each beginner through intermediate skill levels project, with quick builds to much longer builds. Within the outlined projects there are thorough instructions, such as making jigs, setting up clamps, and applying glue. Additional articles focus on workshop organization and provide practical tips to address common issues in woodworking. Readers will also find at least one woodturning article in each issue, catering to those interested in this specialized area of the craft. The magazine features articles focused on skill development with specific hand tools and provides recommendations for jigs that facilitate tool usage. One of the standout sections is "Design Matters." While technical expertise is essential, the magazine emphasizes the importance of incorporating design elements into projects. This is no longer in publication. [Link to archive.](#)

Additional magazine titles will be reviewed in future Newsletters. Thanks for reading.



Terry Johnston
KCWG Assistant Librarian
assist.librarian@kcwg.net



Don Steel
KCWG Librarian
dir.librarian@kcwg.net

FLEXIBLE VOLUNTEER SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

As often stated in this newsletter, the Guild relies on the volunteer service of its members to support and maintain a safe and creative environment for our members and the general public who visit our workshop. For those who want to support the Guild by volunteering their time and energy, but feel constrained because most of the volunteer opportunities conflict with daytime obligations, I assure you that service opportunities abound and are only limited by our own imagination.

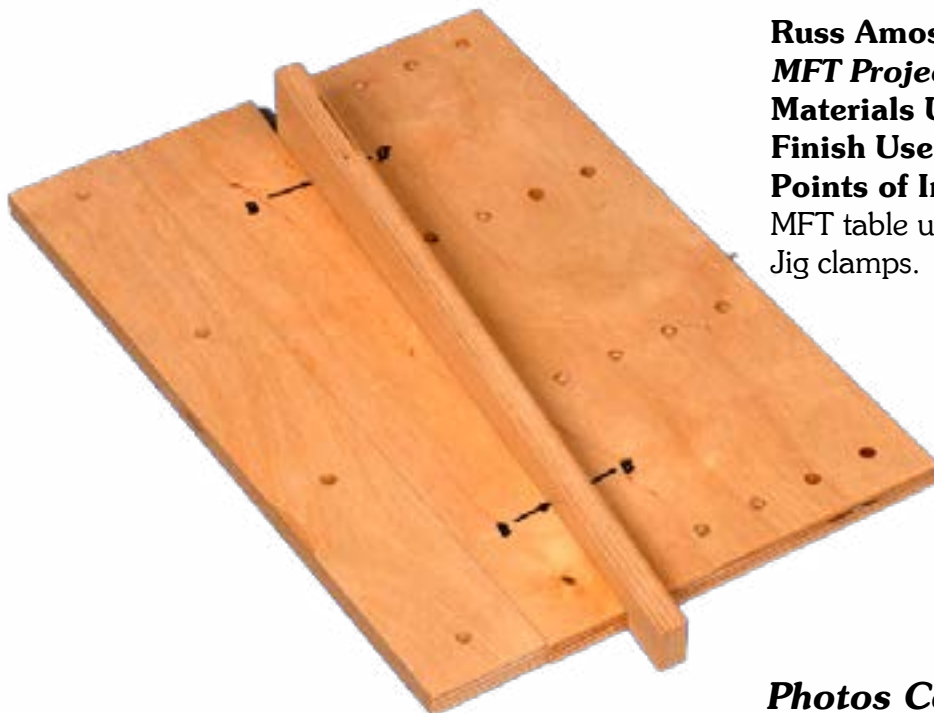
For a number of years, I have been in the position to give back to the Guild in the same spirit that the Guild freely gave to me with semimonthly (i.e., twice monthly) “housekeeping” volunteer services – cleaning each of the bathrooms and the breakroom. **Effective May 1**, I will be stepping back from this service commitment for an indefinite period of time.

This Service Opportunity is flexible in the sense that there is latitude in the date and time of your service; you are your own supervisor, there are no Staff Sergeant inspections. We are all adults who know how to clean a bathroom and kitchen or breakroom. This work is both a matter of safety as well as taking pride in how we present ourselves to the general public.

All jokes aside, about the nature of the work involved in this particular service opportunity, making the commitment of volunteer service changed how I viewed my relationship with the Guild as well as about the nature of the Guild – I am more than a dues paying member, I am part of the Guild and I hold the firm belief that supporting the Guild is promoting a greater common good. I am stepping back from this volunteer service with the firm conviction that I have received far more than I have given.

Yours in Service, Karen Westberry

MEMBER PROJECT - RUSS AMOS



Russ Amos

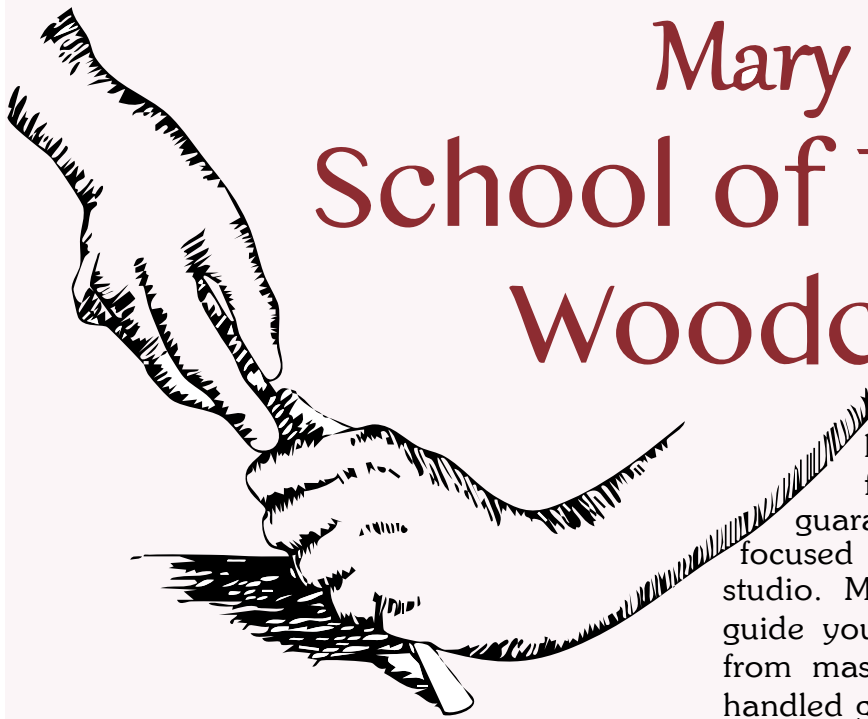
MFT Project Hold Downs

Materials Used: 1/2” Baltic Birch Scrap

Finish Used: Wipe on Poly

Points of Interest: Fits my 3/4” diameter MFT table using Bow “Pack of Dogs” or Micro Jig clamps.

Photos Courtesy Neal Ray Shoger



Mary May's School of Traditional Woodcarving

Nestled 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>

MAY 2026 OPEN SHOP SCHEDULE

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

TENTATIVE

JUNE 2026 OPEN SHOP SCHEDULE

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

Edited APRIL 19, 2026

GUILD ACTIVITIES AT THE SHOP

Always 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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Vice-President, Information Services	Brian Rorabaugh.....	vp.infoservices@kcwg.net
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Treasurer	John Steyer	treasurer@kcwg.net
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Director of Events.....	Matt Nowak	dir.events@kcwg.net
Assistant Director of Events.....	OPEN	assist.events@kcwg.net
First Friday Chairperson.....	OPEN	firstfridayschair@kcwg.net
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Assistant Director of Video Productions.....	Lindsay Byam	assist.av@kcwg.net
Director of Web Services.....	Scott Diffin	dir.web@kcwg.net
Assistant Director of Web Services.....	OPEN	
Guild Historian.....	OPEN	
Steering Committee Chairperson	OPEN	

ESSENTIAL LINKS & SERVICES

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

Hand Tool Safety Review

Compared to a lathe spinning at 4,000 RPM, hand tools may appear innocuous. And by and large, they are safer than power tools. Nevertheless, they can hurt, as anyone who has hit a thumb with a hammer or gashed a hand with a knife can attest.



Safety Rules

1. Use the right tool for the job and use it as it was designed to be used. Improvisation can lead to injury.
2. Make sure any edge tools you use – knives, chisels, carving tools, planes, etc. – are sharp. Dull edges require excessive force, and that can lead to accidents.
3. Carry pointed tools by your side with the points and heavy ends down.
4. Whenever possible, secure your workpiece with a vice or clamp.
5. Keep both hands behind the blade of a chisel or knife and out of the path of a saw. Don't cut toward any part of your body.
6. When you need to pull a knife to make a cut, make sure that you pull it to the side of your body.