



SUNFLOWER WOODWORKERS' GUILD

Established 1991

THE KNOT HOLE

"building of woodworking skills thru the sharing of knowledge"

THE NEXT MEETING **Tuesday, May 27** AT
Downtown Senior Services Center
200 South Walnut

VOLUME 24

ISSUE 5

Social Gathering @ 6:30 PM
Meeting Starts @ 7:00 PM

This months meeting

Clark Schultz will present a program:
woodworker's math, common and good to know
stuff for every shop.

From The President's Corner – May 2014

Time Spent

Something that I've been batting around in my head for a while and I'd like to put it out there to the membership as a rhetorical question (unless you really feel compelled to write me back, or bring it up at a Guild meeting). This primarily pertains to the hobbist woodworker, and of that group, the full-time working (at another occupation) hobbist woodworker. The subject has come to my consciousness while doing nothing more than reviewing my e-mail. I'm sure that most of you who suscribe to woodworking journals or purchased products on-line know what I'm writing about; all of the e-mail messages and adds luring you to buy the latest DVD showing how to build a particular woodworking project, or how to get the most out of this or that tool, or 24 years of monthly journals all rolled into one CD. My inbox is constently bombarded by these types of promotions. Eventhough I was not into

woodworking prior to the paperless information age, I don't think there were this many educational avenues available even 20 years ago. But to finally get to my rhetorical question; How do you decide how to spend your time (limited if it is) between: reading woodworking journals, watching woodworking shows, DVDs or on-line tutorials versus actually doing woodworking in your shop?

Most all of the topics and offers seem to be 'good deals' in the sense of what they're offering for the money they're selling. And many times, if you don't respond, they'll resend the notice after knocking several dollars off the initial amount. I've never purchased any of these, so maybe I'm missing out on some good informative books or CDs. Granted, the projects I've been focused on over the past several years are very basic and are primarily to organize my shop. I principally like to work during the daylight hours since I have a couple of good basement windows that face south that give me a good light quality. Most of the time that I can grab is over the weekends, sometimes an hour or two after I get home from work (during the daylight savings time months), before getting a bite of dinner. My TV time has gone down to practically nothing since I've become interested in woodworking; to the point of me cancelling the cable, and just going over-the-air, free reception. I try to read (and delete as

much as I can) e-mail during breakfast and again after work. So any time that I have to devote to reading or watching tutorial DVD or CD is when ever I can squeeze it in between the other things and times. I suppose just like everyone else who is taking the time to read this month's newsletter, you try to fit in the miscellaneous things in between the larger things that you want to accomplish.

On the other hand, woodworking skills cannot be acquired without woodworking. If you purchase any of these tutorials (as I will call them), are you viewing these to actually do a project like they're walking you through, some aspect of it, or just using it more for the entertainment value? I find that if I'm surfing through the TV stations and I come across a woodworking show, I'll watch and try to pick up some basic woodworking information or tips (pertaining to the main project), if not the project itself. But if I don't actually repeat any of what I just saw, I'll soon forget what I saw, if not the actual tip or process that I wanted to pull from the show. How do you (the woodworker) learn new skills or improve your existing? Have you actually learned new skills by acquiring and watching some of these tutorial lessons? Do you follow-up with actually doing the shop work, or do you store the basics of what you saw and where you saw it away in your head somewhere, so that when the time comes that you need that information, you'll know where to go?

One good thing about being such a novice woodworker; every project I undertake is a learning experience, so I'm getting double duty out of my projects.

Wishing you continued woodworking success and education.

Jim Huntley

Minutes April 22, 2014

Pres. Huntley called the meeting to order by reminding us to silence our cell phones, speak

loudly, and use the microphone when needed. He then reminded us to be creative in looking for "gift receiving" occasions, such as tax day or Easter.

We welcomed the following guests: Patrick McMichael described himself as a novice sent by the Big Tool Store. Cathy Harmon has done some turning and interested in expanding her skills. Ryan Vliem was presented as a new member.

Pres. Huntley announced that Dennis Fry, our Secretary of Meeting Snacks passed away the evening of our March 25th meeting. He asked for our prayers for Dennis' family.

Gary Boender was thanked for the loan of a power point capable laptop computer and digital projector. Rick Hester says they are appropriate for use at our special workshops or seminars as needed. Jim Huntley will take control of them at this time.

Bill Tumbleson introduced Jodie Besthorn, Director of 4H Programs for Sedgwick County.



She told us there are 19 clubs across Sedgwick County serving youth ages 7 – 18. Each club polls its members as to their interests and then seeks help to provide mentors for those projects. Woodworking is one of the projects that usually is requested. Group sizes are limited. Skill levels

are highly varied as are the needs of the groups. She then showed some examples of previous projects; wooden toys, a small stool, a serving tray, turned work, display racks, and outdoor ice chest holder.



David Fowler reported on the Hand Tool Special Interest Group that met on April 12. The next meeting will be at the Kansas Tool Meet sponsored by the Southwest Tool Collector's Assoc. on May 10.

Bill Tumbleson announced that about 41 people attended the Winter Dining Event at the Bentley Restaurant on 3-26-2014. Many received door prizes.

Larry Roth volunteered to present a program at his shop on table-saw techniques. Interested members are to sign up at the sign-in table. The members voted to purchase 4 dozen more of the Sunflower Guild caps. Price is expected to be \$12.

Burt Unruh announced Burt's Barn, 2506 W 15th St is the place for members to meet, 9 to noon, on the Saturday after each meeting to practice and learn. Current project is making shop stools.

Greg Featherstone of Intermountain Wood Products announced the opening of a new store at 2211 S Edwards, 316-303-2809

www.intermountainwood.com. They will specialize in hardwoods and sheet-good products mostly targeted to cabinet and furniture makers.

Show N Tell: Bill Tumbleson showed a container he made to hold sewing products for his wife, and a device for setting dado sets with precision.



Lou Ortega showed a small Walnut box, and wooden hinges.



Larry Roth showed photos of a display case he made for Boy Scout pinewood derby cars.

Roy Hayden showed a piece of beautiful Walnut with a cross carved into it.



Mike Hutton brought a traditional machine made rasp to compare with a hand stitched one from France. Richard Jackson donated to the guild a 10 x 10 EZ Up awning. He also brought some antique tools to sell to the guild members before putting them on E-Bay.



Robert Johnson showed how to make the so called Living Hinge. The Hinge leaves are carved out of a single piece. He showed three items he had used the technique on. He went over the layout lines required. He also suggested a way to use a scroll saw blade to define the sides of the hinge leaves before carving out the hinge barrels. He had several tips on ways to modify the design to suite special items. Interesting technique.

Ed Griffith showed clever nail pouches made from the back side of old blue-jeans.





Next meeting will be May 27th, 2014. Remember it is the 4th Tuesday in a month of 5 Tuesdays.

Book Nook

Most of you probably don't think of wood, or trees, in the context of American history but the book we examine this month is an eye-opening study of how important trees are to the United States. The book, *American Canopy: Trees, Forests, and the Making of a Nation*, by Eric Rutkow, provides a wealth of data of the history of America via wood. Let's review three examples.

Shipbuilding

One of the reasons that the "new world" received a charter from the King of England, William III in October of 1691, was due to its trees. By the early 1600's most of the trees in Europe had been cut down so shipbuilding companies in England needed new sources of trees. Surprisingly it took

two thousand mature oak trees to build a single large naval ship and that reflected fifty acres of forest that had to be stripped.

So William III ordered all trees 24 inches in diameter or larger belonged to the Crown, for the purpose of shipbuilding of course. The order took years to be enacted because there was no British authority in charge of that task living in the colonies at that time. Eventually a person was appointed that job and initiated the difficult task of cutting them down and shipping them home.

As it turned out British shipbuilders coveted the huge pine trees for masts of their vessels. These trees were to be 24 inches in diameter (or wider) and were huge, 150 to 200 feet tall and had the right properties needed for masts. The problem was getting them to the port for the journey to England. As it turned out the process of cutting down the trees and getting them to port was rather comical. Let's review two issues here, falling them and transport.

Falling such huge trees was a labor intensive job and it was difficult to find men to do the job. Remember, there were no power tools at that time, so a large saw was brought in and it would take days to cut down one tree. But cutting it was just one issue. Getting it to fall properly was critical too. Lots of brush and surplus timber had to be laid down along the path where the tree was supposed to fall. Sometimes the tree fell correctly, but there were times when it fell other directions. When that happened the tree might split, crack, or break in half. And sadly, there were some loggers killed in the process. Also, just because the tree looked good while standing, if it was not up to the standards for masts (rotting, cracks, etc.) it had to be used for regular wood.

Transportation was also an issue. Imagine hauling a 150 foot log through a forest and you got the idea. Combine the length and the hilly New England area there were many travelling challenges. For example, when a mast went up a hill, the front part was off ground and would raise

up the oxen team and the yoke would strangle them. And when the mast went down steep hill it could get away from the handlers and crash through barns, homes, villages, and destroy everything in its path.

Liberty Tree

In 1646 the Massachusetts Bay Colony planted many trees in and around an area that came to be known as “Boston.” One hundred twenty years later one of those elm trees had grown to over 100 feet tall and was on the front lawn of Deacon Elliot’s house. On August 14, 1765 a stuffed dummy hung in effigy from that tree with the name “Andrew Oliver” attached. Oliver was the British official assigned to collect taxes in America. And one of the taxes that the American despised was the Stamp Act.

Just one month later, on September 11, 1765, the Sons of Liberty, a leading group of patriots that included Samuel Adams, Paul Revere, and others, attached a copper plate with gold letters to the tree identifying it as “the Tree of Liberty.” For the next decade the Tree of Liberty became the rallying point for American rebels. In fact, a flag pole was erected close to it and if a flag was flying, a meeting had been called and thousands showed up.

In 1770 the British Parliament repealed many of the American taxes, with the single exception of the Stamp Act. But in May of 1773 Parliament revived the control of the East India Company as a monopoly over colonial tea. In other words Americans could not sell their tea to any other country without going through East India Company. There were a series of skirmishes between the American and British soldiers in August, October, and November. There were even political efforts to solve the problem, but nothing worked. On the night of December 16, 1773, the Sons of Liberty, dressed as Indians, raided the British ships and tossed all of the tea overboard.

The British, of course, saw the Tree of Liberty as the “tree of rebellion.” So in August of 1775 a group of British soldiers attacked the Tree of Liberty and fell it to the ground. The elm tree was over 100 feet tall and it must have taken a long time for they would have had to strip the branches and the top it off in sections. A year later the citizens of Boston erected a pole on top of the Liberty Tree stump that is still there to this day.

Paper Products

Newspapers have been a part of America beginning in the colonial period with Ben Franklin. But what most folks don’t know is how that paper was made. The main ingredient is cellulose, a carbohydrate that forms the chief component of all leafy green plants. Cellulose fibers are separated from the rest of the organic matter by a chemical process and the rich pulp that remains was spread out in a thin layer along a screen which is drained, pressed, and dried, leaving behind a solid sheet of paper.

Over the centuries other fibers were used such as cotton, flax, and linen. By the middle 1800’s all paper was made from cloth rags. The manufacturing of textiles reduced cotton and linen to almost pure cellulose so worn-out fabrics provide the “base” source for paper. To put this in perspective America was purchasing 2 million pounds of rags from foreign sources in the late 1840’s, but less than 20 years later (in 1857) that volume exploded to 44 million pounds a year.

But the Civil War created a serious crisis for two reasons. First, there were trade restrictions that limited imports, but second, the cotton crop collapsed and dried up the domestic rag supply. Obviously something needed to happen for the newspaper industry. And wood was the solution.

In 1850s a German inventor discovered a process to convert wood into pulp. In 1866 two American brothers from Curtisville, Massachusetts bought the patent rights and produced their first batch of pulp in March of 1867 and a paper mill brought forth its finished product a few days later.

Around the same time an Englishman named Hugh Burgess invented a process that separated fiber from wood using caustic soda. Burgess took out an American patent in 1854 but it took a decade to perfect the process. It took another ten to fifteen years for the newspaper industry to absorb the changes, but it accepted wood-pulp paper and it was here to stay. In fact, these new paper products revolutionized not just the news business, but common folk began buying paper of all sizes and quality and writing letters to each other. This, in turn, helped promote the development of the Post Office.

So here are three examples of how wood impacted American history. And the Guild needs to thank John Rhoades for donating *The American Canopy* because it is such a great read.

Enjoy your shop fellas.

Bob Ziegfeld

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Meeting: 2 nd Tuesday of each month, dinner at 6:00, meeting 7:00 at the Hometown Buffet, 6820 W. Central. sjclarke@juno.com

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The Sunflower Woodworkers' Guild of Wichita Kansas publishes the Knot Hole newsletter monthly. Deadline for articles and information is the 2nd Monday of each month. Mailing date is the 3rd week of each month. Permission to reprint original material is granted to other woodworking groups, providing proper credit is given. *Articles attributed to publications other than the Knot Hole Newsletter should be used only with permission from that particular publication.* Send articles, photos and information to: Jerry Keen
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Sunflower Woodworkers Guild membership is voluntary. Our paid dues list are consolidated after the June meeting, eliminating from that list all those who have not paid their 2013 dues. This list determines who gets the Knothole. New and previous members will need to submit new applications when joining.

Newsletter of the Sunflower Woodworkers Guild
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