



SUNFLOWER WOODWORKERS' GUILD
Established 1991
THE KNOT HOLE
 "building of woodworking skills thru the sharing of knowledge"

THE NEXT MEETING **January 22** AT
THE TABLE TENNIS CLUB
 1407 E HARRY

VOLUME 15

ISSUE 12

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

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no one would have to present twice. "This is your Guild, give a little, get a lot."

See you in January. Enjoy the Holidays!
 Gary

Last Months Program
 (From the Editor)

Last month's meeting (December) was held at the City Arts Building in Old Town. It was the regular year end blow out with a full buffet dinner.



All of the toys we built this year, John Belt said we had almost a thousand, were all on display.



President's Corner – Gary Vreeland

We have completed the last task of 2006, which was to present Dawson Grimsley our hand made plaque with the antique truck painted with the Davis-Moore Logo. I am sure he has received a hundred such awards, but I really think he liked this one. He told one of his people to make sure it was displayed in the the showroom where it will be seen by everyone. Now, on to bigger and better things. Mainly, the Sunflower Woodworkers Guild. This organization is woodworkers to share knowledge and learn from each other. I like the show and tell as well as the programs presented at the meetings. I have learned a great deal from each of them. To continue this tradition, bring a project to show and volunteer to give a program on any related topic you have an interest in. I know I learned more about vacuum clamping than I knew before I started preparing for the demo I gave a couple of years ago. It teaches you more about your specialty and shares the knowledge with the others. Win-Win. If each of us would share something we have done, we could have outstanding presentations for years to come and



David Childs a representative of the Salvation Army gave a speech and thanked us for the labor and thought that had went in to making the toys.



Phil Bump presented a plaque to Tom Bontrager to thank him for the large donation of wood from which we made the toys

9:00 AM Monday December 4
 Time to load up all of the toys at City Arts and take them to the Salvation Army distribution center. We carefully packed all of the toys then carried them to the back of the building to the loading dock. Phil was in the loading dock first with his big Yukon SUV, then John, then Guy Waldo, then Dave Hostetler – all with nice covered vehicles. Everyone left for the distribution site as soon as they were loaded. By the time it was my turn the toys were all in the other vehicles, none for my open truck. So, I went over to the distribution site to help unload – lesse - right behind Star Lumber, Maple and West street, the old Venture store, “Don,t worry you can’t miss it”. Well I did miss it. After about 30 minutes of driving in that highly trafficked area and through empty parking lots I finally decided to go home north of Valley Center. 20 Miles North. About 6:30 that night John called and said that the rep had

forgotten to open up but was there now. Have a nice day John.

Ray

From Phil Bump

Wednesday December 20 at the distribution Center:

The Salvation Army Toy distribution went very well. All the toys were gone by 4:00.

(Editors Note: There was a Salvation Army Volunteer with each gift recipient, they are the ones with the red ribbons around their necks.)



The larger items like cradles and stools were the first to go and then the "actual" toys would be



picked with no one particular toy more popular than the other.



The people, are always amazed at the quality of the toys and selection from which to pick from,



it is almost overwhelming for them. We put the keepsake boxes on the gift table for the older children and they just evaporated, we could have given away a 1,000.



My wife Emmy and Bill Degarmo were also there to help with the distribution. It is a lot of work, but most gratifying. It is a

wonderful way to get into the Christmas Sprit. It is a project we can be proud of and the recipients really appreciate our efforts.

One funny thing to report...the race car I made was no doubt painted by a high school artist.



It was given to a very nice black lady who started laughing when she looked at the car more closely and asked me if the lettering on the side said what she thought it said. I looked at it, the car was cleverly painted in various shade of black and gray and on one side it was lettered WICHITA and on the other side PIMPS.



The lettering was done kind of in the style of gang graffiti. (Editors note: Phil was as red as a beet) I told her she could have another car, but she wanted to keep that car. I told her that I didn't know "Pimps" were advertising now and we all laughed. After she had left I wished I could get it back to bring to "show and tell".

The TV stations were all there and I tried to get some publicity for SWG.

Channel 12 took a lot of video and interviewed me, Channel 3 and 10 took video of the toys and the newspaper was There.



I think the snow storm pushed us out of the news. Channel 12 at 6:00 was the only station that had an article on the Salvation Army distribution, but there was no mention of the SWG toys. The newspaper had a story in the local section and a picture of a girl holding the locomotive bank.

Phil Bump

From the Treasurer – Wendell Parks

We had 41 paid in attendance plus 3 guests, for a total of \$410. We need to thank Truffles for the excellent meal. Truffles billed us for \$637.15. I understand from Guy Waldo that they planned for 50. They will be awarded a \$700 for their efforts.

Wendell

Review of This Year's Toy Project - John Belt

As 2006 draws to a close, we can look back proudly on another very successful toy project. One of the things we have been working on during the four years of this community service project is to increase the quality of the toys while maintaining the number produced at 1000. We certainly accomplished that this year.

Early in the year we worked with the Society of Decorative Painters toward getting a special exhibit of their work at the Wichita Art Museum. We determined that we would have to make and paint at least 75 toys to interest the museum in a Christmas showing. The artists

requested that we provide the toys early, before May 1, so that they would have sufficient time to work their magic. The final result of all this planning and work was our first ever exhibit of 85 superb toys at the Art Museum. And best of all, the exhibit was up for one entire month.

The second major break through for the year was the inclusion of the W.S.U. decorative arts program in our project. The students painted 50 toys and there was a special showing of their work at W.S.U.'s Ulrich Museum. Their toys were then shown again at City Arts along with all of the other toys.

The City Arts exhibit was once again an impressive showing, with 800 toys on display. Unfortunately, the exhibit's duration was only 3 days and those 3 days coincided with the year's first snow storm, which limited traffic. Still, there were 300 visitors, despite the inclement weather.

We involved two new groups of professional artists this year, Studio 5 and a group of unaffiliated graphic artists, and together they painted 100 toys. Unfortunately, they didn't get their toys done in time for the City Arts showing. Nevertheless, their work was superb. With their 100 toys, the 85 from the Art Museum, and the 800 from the exhibit at City Arts, we delivered 985 toys to the Salvation Army. Best yet, these were the best toys we have ever donated.

Our annual banquet was a fun affair and allowed us to show our spouses that all of those hours spent in the shop were truly worthwhile. David Child of the Salvation Army thanked us once again for our hard work and exhorted us to continue this project because of the impact it has on so many lives. A high light of the evening was the presentation of a plaque that Phil Bump made to Tom Bontrager of Holtzen Woodworking in appreciation of the countless pickup loads of lumber he has donated to this project over the years. Thanks again, Tom.

On Friday, Dec. 22, Gary Vreeland presented a plaque to Dawson Grimsley for his ongoing financial support of this project. The

presentation was made at his place of business and attended by about 25 of his employees. Dawson seemed to be genuinely touched by this recognition and promised that the plaque would be prominently displayed outside of his office.



This project seems to build on its successes. One example . . . we have been able to convince City Arts that 3 days of exhibit time is not sufficient for the quality of our work. They have agreed that we will have one week next year and two weeks in 2008.

What are our challenges for the future?

- 1) We need to get greater participation from the membership. We have 80 members but only about a quarter of the members participate. It would be nice to spread the work out so that a few didn't have to do so much.
- 2) We need to make more toys. Friends University and Newman University wanted to be involved this year but we didn't have enough toys to accommodate them.
- 3) Get more press coverage of our activities. We had several small newspaper notices about the exhibits but no major TV coverage nor a feature story in the Eagle. We need to do a better job next year.
- 4) We need to be better organized. We have to realize that this a major project and do the necessary planning to make it work efficiently, and then adhere to our plans. This year it was almost a Keystone Kops comedy as we madly made toys and rushed them to the artists at the last minute.

All said and done, though, this was a great year and we have a right to be really proud of what we have accomplished. While other guilds make toys, none of them do what we do – get artists to help us produce not only heirloom toys, but (and we can say this now) museum quality toys.

There is no doubt that this is a great and worthwhile activity but let me add a cautionary note. While we want to continue to support and grow this project, we can't allow it to become the only thing we do in the guild. This project should be only one of several things we are involved in during the year. We have several members who, for whatever reason, aren't interested in making toys and we need to have other activities for them. This will be a challenge for next year's leadership team

- John

From the Editor:

John and I have been conversant with the Wichita Eagle Newspaper. It is my understanding that there will be an article on the guild in the (?) **Automotive** (?) section of the Sunday paper.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND

**A HAPPY
NEW YEAR**

(Editors Note: This came in unsolicited but I thought someone might be interested in it)

Dear Mr. Smith

Can you spare a couple of minutes of your valuable time to allow us to introduce two new concepts/products that will more than likely make woodworking easier and even more enjoyable for members of the SWG?

RENAISSANCE FIGURED HARDWOOD COLLECTION

One of the most difficult problems within our industry is to explain the differences between figured hardwoods re: the curly types, to the general public. Try it yourself. Ask anyone to tell you the differences other than species

These kinds of lumber are beautiful, yet are not incorporated into many projects because the definitions are not clear and/or easily understood by the client, customer, and in some cases the interior designer or woodworker..

The result is these figured woods are not as prevalent or popular in the main stream of wood choices that are available.

Renaissance, as you know, means rebirth.

Eco Woods has developed a new vocabulary that is much more descriptive, easily understood and communicated as to what the lumber actually looks like. We did this to increase the awareness of these natural, original works of wood art thus a clue to the names that were chosen to describe these woods Hopefully these new terms will increase the demand and allow us to service those needs.

Please go to our web page- www.ecotreesystems.com .

On the main page scroll down and click on Classic & Artist Hardwoods definitions. This will hyperlink to the new, exciting descriptions.

If you like what you have read, then scroll to Glued Up Panels and view each of the Artist Series woods in a finished and unfinished format.

PRE MADE GLUED UP PANELS (GUPS)

We recommend that the Artist woods be used as accent pieces on projects. As such, we make glued up panels with the grain hand matched to magnify the outstanding figure characteristics. GUPS also eliminate the need to have a special attachment to plan these kinds of woods Pre made glued up panels are a great time saver. Hours spent in cutting, squaring up and sanding are saved and can be spent in other areas of the project (s).

Renaissance Hardwoods are available in a variety of widths and lengths to service a broad range of applications.

Free sample kits are available of the Renaissance Figured Hardwood Collection, catalog insert sheets showing the various woods with the colorful names and their descriptions are also available upon request to show folks that are interested.

Email us with your particular needs and/or requests.

Thank You for your time and

Have a Great Day

Jennifer Lynn Summers

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