



**THIS MONTH'S MEETING OCT 24 AT THE TABLE TENNIS CLUB  
 1407 E HARRY**

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**This Month's Meeting - Galen Cassidy**  
**October's Program:**

**Back to Basics, the Essentials of  
 Furniture Making  
 Part Three: Carcass Fabrication**

This month will be the third part of the Back to Basics series. This program will set the stage for the construction phase of the series with the building of the top and carcass. The instructor for this program is Les Hastings. Les will be discussing the various types of joinery appropriate for carcass and top construction. Les has chosen to use sliding dovetails for the carcass and will be demonstrating the process of making this joint. Plan to attend this program, as it will be a good one!!!

**President's Corner – David Fowler**

Guild Members,

This month thanks goes to Tom Bontrager, President of Holtzen Woodworking, for his talk and the tour of his facility. While I found the description of his business very interesting and informative I found myself more inspired by the man and his philosophy on life and running a business. Condensed, Tom is the kind of owner that people want to work for, that other owners want to emulate, and that people want to buy from. He treats his employees as family, shares his knowledge and work with his competitors, and goes home every day knowing that he gave his best in everything he did.  
 Thanks Tom

Thanks again go to Phil Bump for the treats.

As we begin the construction phase of the Back to Basics series I am reminded of the Guild's mission statement "building woodworking skills through the sharing of expertise and the exchange of knowledge." This statement could be the sub title to the series as this statement is what the series is all about; members sharing their time, knowledge and

expertise to help other members realize their own woodworking goals.

It is the goal of this Back to Basics series, to provide a unique opportunity for members to experience, first-hand, the logic, details, and the actual building of a piece of furniture. While we are only building one piece, members are encouraged to attend the Saturday follow-up programs for hands-on practice or to have an opportunity to work on one of their own pieces.

On a personal note, I would like to thank all of the program directors for contributing their time and knowledge in making this series a productive and beneficial project.

David F.

## **Last Month's Meeting – *Mike Hutton***

**Guests-** Henry Alcaraz

**Toy Program** – If you are still interested in helping to build toys, let Gary Vreeland know and he will arrange for you to help out the other members. Remember; set aside the evening of December 1<sup>st</sup> for the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual toy celebration dinner down at City Arts.

## **Show and Tell-**

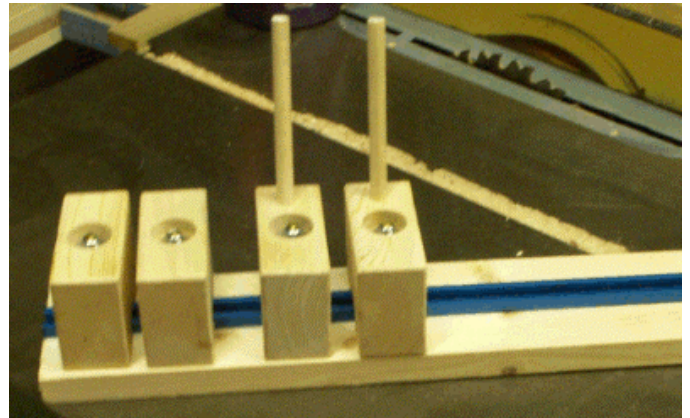
David Fowler showed a calendar holder that he gives away for Christmas presents (then he always knows what to give them in the future (the new calendar inserts)).

Larry Schauner showed an adjustable box joint jig that he found the plans for in Shop Notes.



Larry Frank brought in a walnut deadblow hammer that he built from a downed walnut tree in his yard. The lead shot was obtained from the Yard Store.

Vic Bender showed an adjustable clamp rack that was based on extruded T-track.



He just moves the blocks as required to hang his clamps neatly on the wall.

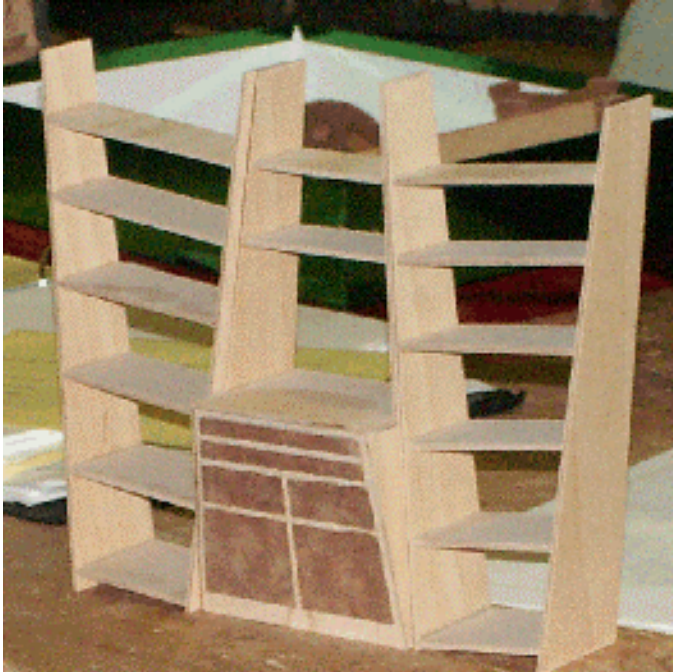
Mike Hutton showed and explained how he designed and cutout the MDF chairs that he made for the toy program. The parts were cutout using a CNC (computer numerically controlled) router. This allowed such tightly stacked part arrangement, that the waste left over from a sheet could be held up by one finger. Sealing the raw edges proved to be much more effort than was originally imagined! The chairs were painted with white lacquer as a base coat for the decorative painters.

Glen Hostetler showed a walnut and oak train bank that will be given away for the toy program.



His team dipped the completed assembly into sanding sealer to speed the finishing process.

Rocky Ruse showed quite an array of 1/8 scale furniture models that he built for clients to help visualize the designs he proposed.



Most of the models shown were never actually built, as clients tended to purchase the model if they had the full-scale item built.

## Program-

Tom Bontrager, owner of Holtzen Woodworks, a local millwork in downtown Wichita presented this month's program.



Tom's dad (an accomplished finish carpenter) bought the Holtzen Woodworks business in 1972 and built Anderson Windows as a subcontractor. They also built prototype work for the Pizza Hut chain, which was good money, but that left Wichita when the headquarters moved. They believe that if you build quality work, people will come back. They do not advertise, their work speaks for itself. The business is small, 5 employees, Peggy (Tom's sister) runs the office, Richard (43 years with Holtzen) Molder operator, Brian (32 years with Holtzen) knife sharpener, a young gentleman that works hard and will be around for a long time, and Tom (a licensed architect).

Tom has focused the business on one thing, custom hardwood moldings. He has two multi-head molders that are setup by Richard with a master's touch. By having a focused approach to building moldings, their quality exceeds most architects' specifications. Tom shares tips and tricks with his peers like Jerry Allen and Bob out at SBK millworks.

Holtzen built all of the millwork for the Eaton Hotel renovation project in the Old town area. They also built the millwork for the Hotel at Old town, the former Keen Cutter building. They have built moldings for customers all over the country, by word of mouth. Tom's experience as an architect, allows him to provide feedback to other architects on what works and what will be cost prohibitive.

Tom showed examples of the types of wood defects that he watches for when preparing stock for moldings but also affect general woodworkers. He believes that the quality of wood obtained today is much more inferior to that gotten just a decade ago. Some of the defects were; wind checking (where a crack crosses from one side of a board to the other), honey combing (a type of drying defect where internal stresses are imposed), and other general drying stress problems as kilns try to dry too quickly.

Oak has a 45% waste factor applied by the molding industry to account for knots, splits, etc. Tom only uses FAS superior lumber from the mills.

Tom explained how Brazil and Weyerhaeuser lumber teamed up 20 years ago to develop a hybrid

tree to provide a renewable substitute for mahogany. This hybrid is a cross between a eucalyptus tree and another species that reach maturity in 17 years. When the tree is harvested, the tree regenerates itself from the existing stump and starts over. Lyptus is a straight grained dense hardwood very much resembling true mahogany. Tom concluded the evening by touring us through the shop and stocked moldings that are available for purchase.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### **November,** Legs and Stretchers with Bernley Asel

Bernley will be continuing the construction phase of the series with the making of the legs and stretchers. He will be using the bandsaw in the making of the legs and the drill press for making mortise and tenon joints.

**Note:** This meeting will also include the elections for next year's officers

### **December,**

December will be the Guild's social meeting.

### **January,** Drawer construction with David Fowler and Randy Croley

This program will cover both hand-cut dovetails and machine cut dovetails for the drawers. David will be demonstrating cutting dovetails using a handsaw and a chisel while Randy will be using the Porter Cable Omni jig for the machine-cut dovetails.

### **February,** Frame and Panel Construction with Dan Carlyle

Dan will be completing the construction phase of the series with the building of the doors. The doors are traditional frame and panel doors with a veneered panel.

### **March,** Oil and lacquer finish

This program is when the sideboard will come alive with the application of and oil and lacquer finish. The oil will give the walnut its exquisite color and the lacquer will give the piece protection against the elements.

### **Saturday follow-ups:**

Most of the programs will include a Saturday follow program at one of the member's shop. These programs will be announced at the meetings and on the web site.

### FROM THE EDITOR



Have a Happy Autumn - Ray

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**NEXT MEETING**

**October 24 , 2005**

**Wichita Table Tennis Center**

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**The Knot Hole**

**Sunflower Woodworker's Guild**

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