



SUNFLOWER WOODWORKERS' GUILD

Established 1991

THE KNOT HOLE

"building of woodworking skills thru the sharing of knowledge"

THE NEXT MEETING **Tuesday, August 22** AT
Kechi City Hall building located at 220 West Kechi Road, Kechi

VOLUME 27

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

This month's meeting

Come and be surprised.

From The President's Corner – August 2017

Hello Everyone!

Is it really August in Kansas and temps in the 80's? I am sure we will pay for this somewhere down the line, but for now I hope everyone is getting an opportunity to take advantage of it.

Over the last couple of years my shop area, which is definitely a multipurpose space, has seen many changes. Right now, when I go to work in the shop I have to do quite a bit of rearranging to make a semi-functional shop. This provides many opportunities for improvement in my working conditions. However, it also can shed some light on a few improvements that you may not expect. Lighting being one!

Lighting is something that is easy to take for granted. I know I have. However, after having spent some time in a well lit shop, I can promise you that it can certainly make your time in there

more enjoyable. Not to mention more accurate. Proper lighting can also affect safety in much the same way as trip hazards, messy work area, slick floor, etc.

Since my shop area gets moved around a lot any kind of permanent lighting has been difficult to configure up to this point. Because of this I find myself doing a lot of creative positioning to try to keep shadows off my work or moving around a task light on a stand. This has been a workable solution for me so far. As my own shop evolves, I have come to realize just how it affects the way I work.

While researching for some of my own lighting needs, I can say for certain that lighting can get quite involved. I suppose it is one of those things like dust collection or shop flow or sharpening. It can be as simple as an inexpensive fixture or as elaborate as Hue lighting that allows you to control the color via an app on you phone with built in Bluetooth speakers. There are volumes of options to choose from. No matter how elaborate, at least make it a priority to properly light your main tools and work areas. It can go a long way to making your time in the shop a more enjoyable and safer experience.

Vince

Sunflower Woodworkers Guild Minutes July 2017

FIRST TIME GUESTS

Bill Almey was here from Wichita. He's been woodworking since he was ten.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clark Shulz is in good shape after his operation and rehab. Congratulations, Clark!

The Make ICT exhibition had a good turnout on 22/23 July at Exploration Place.

This month Burt's Barn will concentrate on basic techniques of veneering and iron-on methods.

Remember that there are 126 days left to the November contest, sponsored by the Big Tool Store.

On July 27 the McConnell Wood Shop will be open. Dues are 6-8 dollars per month.

The deadline for displaying projects at the Kansas State Fair is August 15.

GUEST



Haley Siewert was here from MakeICT, reporting on the Power Scholars summer school program held in Goddard with the help of the YMCA and some woodworkers. In the a.m. the program offers literature and math enrichment (it helps kids retain their knowledge over the summer), and on Friday, field trips.

About 60 boys and girls from grades 2-3 were on hand this time to learn to improve their fine motor skills and handle tools. The routine we had for them included:

- Listen to instructions
- Use a hand drill
- Learn to drive a screw
- Try hammering nails
- Get acquainted with measuring, levelling, using the square
- Saw a piece of wood

All the kids played Tic-Tac-Toe (with nails to mark places), and everybody took home a block of wood with his or her name on it.

Next year we will do this for them again.

Haley joined the guild at this meeting.

SHOW AND TELL

Bill Tumbleson had made a couple of neat toys—a rabbit with wheels (waxed walnut around pine) and a bi-plane made from pine, fastened with square drive screws.



Jerry Keen showed a big model tractor he'd made from a one-piece plan that he had modified. The tractor is made from walnut, maple and pine, with wheels from oak and a jointed back. John Deere would be proud to see this one.



Garry Dougherty brought an Atlas lathe that he had converted to a wood lathe. It has a one-horse four-speed motor, accepts a 33" stock, and has a 12" diameter. He'll sell it for \$175.

Jerry Carpenter had a four-legged pine stool he had made in six two-minute segments, with an eight degree angle on the drill press, and using a Veritas one-inch cutter for the legs.



Bob Johnson showed an interesting one-minute electric clock—he made the case, Stil Electronic Time Co. of Springfield, Mass. made the face, and Bob's brother-in-law put together the precision electronics (powered by four D batteries) that run the clock. It won't be off by more than 3-4 microseconds off in ten years.



Bob had also made a unique and pretty scary walking stick with a big diamond back rattler spiraling down it in a very lifelike manner. Bob's wife Anita painted the snake's skin, and in shape, color and texture it looks just like the real thing.



Kevin Allen saw plans for an inlaid walnut bucket in *Woodsmith Magazine* and recently made two of them, with screw-on lids (with threads made with a lathe) and round maple inlays (using bench mortises to make the holes). He rounded out the first bucket with a router, and the second one on his lathe.



This is also a good place to mention the library books from MakeICT—books on all aspects of woodworking—that Eric Lamp brings to the meeting every month. You can check one (or more) out for a month.

PROGRAM

Burt Unruh did a two-part program this time, first explaining the possibilities and advantages of the **MaxCut** (computer) program, and then giving a hands-on demonstration of how to use the apparently simple but extremely useful **cabinet scraper**.

The MaxCut program helps you organize your material in an efficient way, saving time and money and minimizing waste. For example, how much plywood do you need to make a certain size cabinet? The program lets you choose what size materials you want to use, and what blade thickness. Once you have entered this data, it instantly provides a diagram of where to make each cut in a sheet of plywood, showing how much waste there will be for that particular plan. Using this diagram, you will make fewer cuts and spend less time figuring them out.

MaxCut also prints labels (on self-adhesive paper) for each piece to be cut. That way it's easier to keep track of each piece, making assembly quicker.

MaxCut saves all your entries, allowing you to refer instantly to previous plans for your project. And if you make any changes to a plan, the program recalibrates the whole job for you, incorporating the changes.

The commercial version of MaxCut sells for under \$1000. For high-volume jobs, it can be a worthwhile expense. However, there is also a free on-line version of MaxCut available, as well as a \$20/month business version.

The **cabinet scraper**, Burt said, is the most undervalued tool in the box—just a piece of flat steel with a slight hook on its edge, but it helps you get excellent results on wooden surfaces.

A scraper needs to be sharpened. First, lay it flat and burnish each side to take any curl out of the edge (an oil stone or a diamond board are good for this). Then put a little light grease on the edge (you can get this from the skin of your nose) and take a piece of steel (a chrome screwdriver works O.K.) and holding the edge straight up, burnish along the top, gently, a couple of times. This should give you enough burr to make curled shavings when you draw it across a piece of wood.

You can use a scraper on either face grain or end grain. You can use it to remove nicks from the face of a wide board, or just to smooth it.

Scrapers can have straight or rounded edges. They are good for smoothing pieces of wood that have a grain change—tiger striping, for example. Also, if you have laid down some stain, and a mark shows up that you hadn't seen before, you can use the scraper to eliminate the mark while the stain is still moist, then lay down some more stain on the fair surface.

For fine finishes, you can use a diamond board to burnish the sides of the scraper, and then to give it an edge.

Tonight, Burt provided clear, detailed and easy to understand explanations of woodworking theory (**MaxCut**) and practice (**The Cabinet Scraper**). And once more, he showed us that he is a really excellent instructor.

Book review



This month rather than taking on a book I thought I would review my favorite magazine. Fine Woodworking has been around since the 1970s and has continued to provide some of the best woodworking techniques, tool tests, advice and projects to the woodworking community. Each magazine includes a short introduction to what's on their website followed by who will be contributing as authors in each magazine. Reader tips and techniques with a prize for the best submission used to be one of my favorite sections. The articles vary between a project, a tool test, and a technique. The readers gallery features submitted work that highlights the skills or creative ability of some of the readers. Our own Les Hastings was recognized in this section of the magazine! The back cover typically features a professional woodworker with some insight to how he or she accomplishes their unique work. The library has an impressive collection of Fine Woodworking.

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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:
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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 2016 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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