



**SUNFLOWER WOODWORKERS' GUILD**

*Established 1991*

**THE KNOT HOLE**

**"building of woodworking skills thru the sharing of knowledge"**

THE NEXT MEETING **Tuesday, September 26** AT  
**Kechi City Hall building** located at 220 West Kechi Road, Kechi

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

### **This month's meeting**

Our regular September business and show and tell will be at the Kechi Community Center. At the last part of meeting we will get a tour of Richard's workshop. Thought since we were already in Kechi that we could use that opportunity. Members will also have a chance to learn of his for sale wood and buy some if they wish.

### **From The President's Corner – September 2017**

Hello everyone.

Let me just start with a simple thank you to all who have showed up for all of the activities that we have had over the last couple of months. There has really been a lot going on and there is that group that always pulls through and shows up and helps out. This is especially true for those that have done the majority of the coordination for these events.

Well, here it is fall already! Believe it! With Fall comes the Holidays and it seems appropriate to talk about some ways we can enjoy our shop and

give back at the same time. There are obviously lots of ways to get involved or contribute to a wide array of different charities. Especially as we come into this season, but I would like to keep this more focused on woodworking related activities.

Last month during our meeting we touched a little on some ways to give back to our community. As shared during that discussion there was a great article in Wood Magazine highlighting a group that made urns for Veteran's. There are a couple of people in our own guild that make hundreds of toys for kids every year. For things less local there has been things like Woodworkers Fighting Cancer that has several ways to contribute.

I have also been reminded that there are many other ways to contribute locally. They do not necessarily have to be big items or high quantity efforts. In fact, sometimes some of the smallest things are the most appreciated. I was talking with Bill the other day and he shared something as simple as small trays for domino's at a senior center and they get used all the time. My guess is that many more of you already do similar things .

I would love to hear some of the other ways that you all contribute. Is it something you have organized with other woodworkers? Or something you do yourself? In the end I have come to the conclusion that the best thing we can do is encourage each other to pick something that is important to each of us no matter how large or small.

Vince

## **Sunflower Woodworkers Guild Minutes July 2017**

### **FIRST TIME GUESTS**

Barbara Almy was here with her husband Bill who joined the Guild last month.

Nickalus Johnson from San Mateo, CA was here with his father, Bob Johnson.

Chris Cassidy, who was recently bit by the woodworkers' bug, was here with his father, Galen Cassidy.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Bill Tumbleson reminded us of the Demo we will do at the upcoming Kansas State Fair, September 16, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. Bill will be there, along with Jerry Carpenter, Bob Johnson, Bill Woods & Mike Hutton. If you are at the Fair please stop by and say hello.

Free passes will be available to us for the day, and maybe for the entire Fair.

Our Demo will be in the Oz Building (Arts and Crafts Bldg.)

Our **Contest** is still going—deadline in November. For details, see Larry Bakula.

Burt's Barn will be held on Saturday for some more veneer work, as well as other projects you might have. This will probably be the last summer

Burt will host the Barn, but he will always start it up again in September.

Eric Lamp reported on the state of the woodworkers' library, some of which he brings with him to each meeting so that we can check them out. Currently, the books are overflowing the space For them at MakeICT. Probably 30% of them are old or outmoded and need to be weeded out. That means around 100 books will be available (on a shelf at MakeICT) for anyone who wants them. The space gained in the library could be used for magazines, and the books we retain might better be organized by the kinds of projects they cover.

If you want to check out a book when you're at MakeICT, you can simply take it with you. If you have a key, you will be trusted to bring it back.

An article about the Maker Fair at Exploration Place (22-23 July) is in the works. Those who participated will get a call from the secretary so they can add some details about what they did in their demo that weekend. Someone suggested we send the article to a magazine, and that's possible, but one thing at a time.

*Wood Magazine* recently had a piece describing a project making urns for veterans. Next month, let's discuss what we as a club can do for the public good. Think about this for the next meeting.

Somone suggested that notices of our meetings might be announced in the *Wichita Eagle*. Any interest in this? Is it a good idea?

An in-law of one of our members has a 14" Jet bandsaw to sell. It probably cost around \$1100 new, and the seller wants \$400 for it. If you're interested, get in touch with Vince Meyer ([woodhobbyist@aol.com](mailto:woodhobbyist@aol.com)).

### **SHOW AND TELL**

Mike Hutton brought and demonstrated a couple of small scrapers, scratch stock with a screw tightener, each made from a small block of wood. They form nice, clean grooves with surprising little effort.



Bob Johnson had devised a cylindrical shell (polished maple, about 5" diameter) with rounded ends that came apart in two halves . . . somehow, although none of the woodworkers could figure out how. Bob did show us how—something like an interrupted screw arrangement, although I did try that and it didn't work for me either. Fiendishly difficult!



Bill Almy showed two small cabinets, one for tools with six drawers, the other for jewelry, with three. The tool cabinet is made from 1/4" plywood using a router. He showed it because it's a cheap, fast and useful project. The beautifully finished jewelry cabinet is made from elm—all

from one board—with dovetail joints and walnut runners. The elm, the workmanship, and the designs came from his experience in Eastern Montana.



Russell Thiel had made two serving trays, the bottoms with diamond designs in elm and walnut, and both with a nice oil finish. The elm and walnut were native lumber, as they came from the Newman University campus.



George Hanson came with two beautiful walnut boxes and a box cutter. Both boxes had perfect Dovetail joints (he handed around another unfinished sample box joint that hadn't been glued but was so well made and tight you could hardly move it). The smaller box—he called it a “cat casket”—is an example of three-panel construction. The fine finish on these boxes comes from Min-Wax Antique Oil.

Also, George had two Benchdog router plates he was giving away to someone who could use them.

Bill Tumbleson had made two “barillettes”—hold fasts made from white oak dowels and mesquite wood that fit into holes in his work bench and, in fact, hold fast what's worked on. The dogs have leather pads to prevent slipping. He also brought two very strong Gramercy steel hold fasts borrowed from Jerry Carpenter which are actually made from heavy wire that has a spring to it (for that reason it's used to construct suspension bridges).

Bill also showed a couple of adjustable cam clamps he made. A lozenge of wood pivots on an eccentric center (so it's a cam) to intersect one side of a square frame attached to a dowel that fits into the bench and clamps down your project. (Hard to describe but a neat tool).



Dan Burch brought three beech handles for lathe tools, one finished and the others as examples of his first attempts. He did this with off-set turning on his lathe.



## PROGRAM

Tonight Les Hastings gave an amazing illustrated account of how he built an inlaid bow-front bar (8' long) from four meticulous hand-and machine-drawn planning sheets.

He started with the round frame, getting the ribs screwed together and assembling it upside-down.

To bend the horizontal pieces around the curve, Les used an old-style bending, using biscuits to hold the bent wood in place. (Wood can be steam-bent, but it tends to spring back later, spoiling the work). But bending wood around the whole eight-foot diameter would take too much force, so Les decided to “bricklay” it together, using several curved pieces that he then glued end to end. He used an epoxy glue (two-hour drying time).

The skin wood (1/8" oak) went on in three layers. The diamond frame pattern that ran across the front of the bar was also bricklaid—easier that

way because everything that moved laterally and down across the front of the bar would have a twist in it.

In fact, all the large and small triangle pieces that formed the diamonds had to be cut on a curve.

To make these twisted moldings he made a scratcher (scraping with a twist—taking 30-45 minutes to make a molding). Small radius pieces were harder to shape (the grain catches and it blows up on the machine), so he used a router bit, then another ... ultimately five different bits to get the shape (and the curve) he needed. The cove molding around the top of the bar needed two different radiuses. The shaper blew up the pieces he tried, so he bricklaid it, using several jigs and a hand-held circular cutter, then sanding, and biscuiting it in back for reference.

The finished bar took three color applications, as well as distressing. It was eight feet long, 42" high, with a 2" stone top. It took 348 hours to make, and was sold for \$38,600.

Frankly, it was fascinating to hear, and see, how Les solved one problem after another to make this ambitious (some would say *impossible*) project. These notes give only a dim idea of what it actually took to complete it.

## MAKER FAIRE ARTICLE

On a hot, bright Saturday toward the end of summer (22 July), Exploration Place hosted a Maker Faire for local and regional artists and craftsmen, and the Sunflower Woodworkers Guild was at the center of it.

If you haven't been there yet, Exploration Place is across the river to the west of downtown, on McLean just north of Douglas—a beautiful, modern building with a complex interior design that serves its educational function well.

The Woodworkers were there early, setting up in a large bay on the first floor. On one side, a man

who made hi-fi speakers from 50's suitcases and two ladies who could show you how to spin yarn (yes, "spinsters"); on the other, a pile of sophisticated-looking electronic items that boys and girls were learning to disassemble with screwdrivers. And in the middle, tables and booths where lathes and routers, draw shaves, hand saws and other woodworking tools were starting to make sawdust and long curling chips.

Jerry Carpenter was busy most of the day, showing folks of all ages how to get astride his shaving horse, push on the foot lever to secure the rough wood (usually a tree branch), and then gradually get the feel of drawing that two-handed, razor-sharp knife across the wood to get a nice smooth surface. He had spoke shaves and draw shaves, big and small, some of them antique, and every one a connection with artisans centuries ago.

Across from Jerry, Ray Chipman (from the South Kansas Wood Turners) was bent over his lathe, turning pieces of stock into tapering, grooved, rounded, or spiraling forms. People watched, fascinated as these shapes grew from where the tip of his big knife touched the wood. Mounds of shavings piled up around their feet.

Eric Lamp had brought his router plane—he made the cutter from an Allen wrench (hard metal, good for a blade) and an I-bolt—and showed how easily it cut out the center of a piece of wood. First he marked the outlines of the cut with a chisel, then drilled a hole, inserted the cutter and followed the lines around. People watched, then got to do it themselves—and become instant woodworkers.

Bill Tumbleton brought two hand routers, one for carving a person's initials in one of the pine blocks he brought, and the other upside down, clamped firmly into a setting to be used as a table router. People of every age—but most of them girls (about 14 and up) and women (men usually pretended they already knew how)—were astonishingly quick to get the knack of routing a

design, then rounding the edges with the table router. In fact routing was so popular that Bill had to make a whole new batch of blocks for Sunday's demo.

While Bill and his assistant supervised the routing, Bill's wife Janey sat in the next booth showing kids how to play tic-tac-toe by tapping, screwing or just pushing screws into holes in the game board—one hole to a square, of course. This was a hit with the younger kids, of whom there were many at the Maker Faire. It's a good little game, and also a chance to practice fine motor skills and eye-hand coordination.

Bruce Witbart showed two fine pieces, a decorative box (nice joints on this one) and a walnut and maple chessboard— $\frac{1}{4}$  inch thick pieces of walnut and maple glued to  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch baltic birch, then cut into strips, slotted for splines, fitted with  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch splines, glued, crosscut, then reversed for every row of squares, glued again and planed to get that beautiful smoothness you want in a chess board. It sounds difficult . . . and of course it is.

Larry Roth, who had until recently made fine cabinetry for the interior of Lear Jet planes, came to the MakerFaire with a heart-shaped jewelry box (for his wife), a trivet and a lazy susan (wavy lines of different woods) made by clever use of a bandsaw.

But Larry also brings a story that sums up what MakerFaire was all about for us. A young girl had taken home one of Bill Tumbleton's round blocks, and by Sunday had drawn a really nice floral design, which she enhanced, carving and edging with Bill's routers. Excited, she showed it to Larry, who invited her to Maker Monday at MakeICT—she could make it into a lazy susan for home. So the next day he showed her how to use a bandsaw to make the base (he had a jig for that), then attach it to her floral block. It spun, and having completing her first entire project as a woodworker, she was delighted. So were Larry and Bill, so are we all.



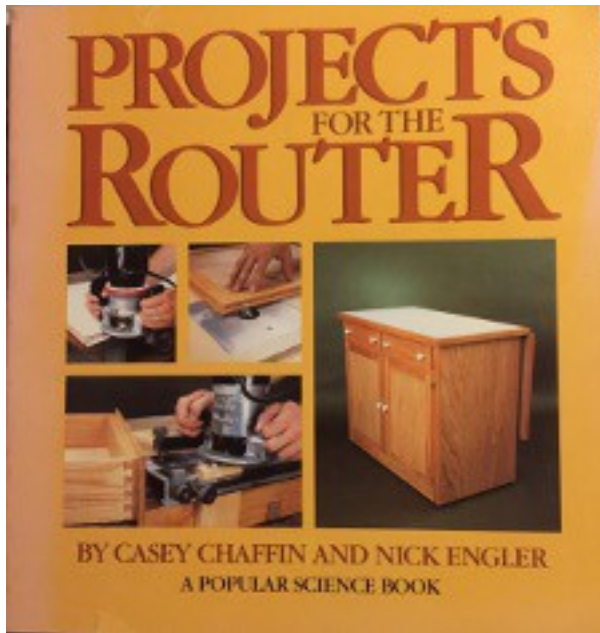




learn a significant amount from this book. Since its publication routers have become more of a mainstay in woodworker's shops across the country. With half inch shaft routers and commercial tables most shops can perform tasks that used to be only capable with a shaper. Noise and dust collection remain valid criticisms of the router, but their versatility and precision earn them a solid place in any shop.

Eric  
Librarian

## Book Review



Projects for the Router  
by Casey Chaffin and Nick Engler

If you were to flip through this book you might be tempted to discard it. Of the "over 20 projects that you can make" only a handful of them would serve much purpose or justify the woodworkers time. It was published in 1987, which may excuse some of the design and project choices, such as, the shaving mirror, the tissue box, or the herb clock. However, the benchtop router table is extremely well designed and the plans are easy to follow. The pedestal table is another example of a very worthwhile project. As a woodworker who uses a router as a tool of last resort I was able 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.

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