



SUNFLOWER  
WOODWORKERS GUILD

# SUNFLOWER WOODWORKERS' GUILD

Established 1991

## THE KNOTHOLE

"building of woodworking skills thru the sharing of knowledge"

THIS MONTH'S MEETING **MARCH 28** AT THE TABLE TENNIS CLUB  
1407 E HARRY

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### President's Corner

#### **Guild Members**

This month I would like to start off by thanking Lou Ortega and other members for their volunteer work with the wooden airplanes and of course, for their generous donation of \$500 to the Guild's general fund. Also, a round of thanks goes to Steve Werner for his slide presentation on box joints—very well done. Thanks everyone.

As we move forward into 2005, I continue to encourage everyone to become actively involved in the Guild, its programs, its resources, and with its

members. Let me remind everyone that one of our Guild's greatest assets is its members and their diversity of experience, skills, and knowledge. If you want to get on the fast track to improving and expanding your own skill level, then tap into this resource. To help facilitate this exchange, we are actively working on a mentoring program. This program will focus on the sharing and the exchange of ideas, knowledge, and expertise. The idea behind this program is that of taking the learning of fine woodworking and the social aspect of the Guild to another level. One where new members and existing members alike can learn and expand their woodworking skills by meeting with another member one on one. To help make this program a success and also one that members enjoy and will actually use, I am asking for your assistance in shaping the program's benefits. Anyone who is interested in using and participating in a mentoring & educational program, please sign up with myself or member Randy Croley as we would like to hold an informal meeting discussing the workings of this program.

To finish, I would direct your attention to the proposed revisions to the Guild's By Laws. I am in favor of both revisions. First, it only makes sense to change the month in which we vote on the new officers so as to avoid the end of the year holidays and vacations and to give this important event the attention that it deserves. Second, by incorporating a Board of Directors the Guild will have something that it has not had in the past: a plan for the future. Please take the time to read over these proposals and be prepared to vote on them at the April meeting.

One final note, I am still looking for a Social Chairman and would appreciate it if someone would volunteer for this position. This position is not a huge commitment of time and it would be a great opportunity to meet other members.

David

# 30 Day Notice of Intent to Revise By Laws

## Proposal 1 From John Belt

It is proposed that the Guild revise its organizational structure to incorporate a Board of Directors. The proposed addition to the By Laws is listed below.

The Guild will establish a Board of Directors to provide management oversight and continuity to the Guild. The purpose of the Board is to provide guidance, direction and support to the President and the Executive Committee. The Board will be responsible for developing policy and ensuring that the Guild's By Laws are adhered to.

The primary responsibilities of the Board will be:

a) Planning. The Board will be responsible, along with the President and Executive Committee, for year-to-year planning. The Board shall also develop a long-term strategic plan (3 to 5 year) for the Guild that will guide the overall direction of the organization.

b) Nominating Committee. The Board will be responsible for presenting a list of nominees to the membership for the positions of President, Vice President (Programs), Secretary and Treasurer. These nominations shall be presented to the membership at the January meeting.

Board Membership. The Board shall consist of no less than three (3) or more than five (5) members, all of whom will be past Presidents of the Guild. The terms of office for the Board members shall be three (3) years. Board members may not serve more than two (2) consecutive terms. A Board member may not serve concurrently as a member of the Executive Committee. The terms of office shall be staggered so that at least one (1) new Board member joins the Board and one (1) member departs each year. Initially, the President of the Guild will appoint three (3) past Presidents to serve as Board members. From that point forward, the Board shall be responsible for selecting and appointing new Board members.

Reasons for Adding a Board of Directors:

- 1) Continuity – under our existing structure each new body of officers determines what their goals and intentions for the guild will be during their one year in office. While this has worked reasonably well, it also can represent a series of non-linear, unconnected initiatives, none of which build upon the past. A Board would allow the Guild to project some major long term goals, the accomplishment of which would require more than one year.
- 2) Utilization of Past Presidents – serving as President is an intense learning experience. However, once a person has served in this capacity there is no real method of using his knowledge and expertise to the guild's advantage. A Board would provide a meaningful opportunity for past presidents to continue to serve the Guild.
- 3) Support of Guild officers – being a Guild officer for the first time can be an intimidating experience. It would be desirable if the officers had experienced individuals they could call upon for advice, counsel and support.
- 4) Nominating function – a real problem the Guild has experienced in the past is no formal method of selecting officers for the coming year. One of the Board's functions will be to serve as the nominating committee for the Guild.
- 5) Size and Timing– virtually all non-profit organizations of our size have a Board of Directors. All woodworking guilds in our region have Boards, e.g., Kansas City, Lee Summit, Des Moines, St. Louis, etc.

- 6) 501C formation – should the guild ever decide to apply for 501C status, we would need a Board of Directors to qualify. There are all kinds of benefits to being a 501C organization – do not have to pay sales tax, no legal action can be taken against individuals, all donations to us would be tax deductible, etc.
- 7) More focused programs – Without a method of addressing business issues, we waste too much time in our meetings talking about business affairs. With 50+ members at a meeting, these discussions get to be very time consuming and often eat into the time available for our planned programs. A Board of Directors, working in combination with the Executive Committee, can address these issues in advance of the meetings, and the membership need only be involved where a vote is necessary, or where it is desirable to keep the membership informed of developing issues.

## **Proposal 2** from David Fowler

It is proposed that the Guild revise its By Laws concerning the timing of elections of the Board of Officers. The proposed revision is listed below.

Section 7a second sentence be revised to state “These officers shall be elected by the membership at the **January** meeting and will take office at the February meeting.”

Reasons for changing the month in which the Guild votes in its new officers:

1. Participation – it is historically accurate that the December meeting is one of the least attended meetings—vacations, parties, holidays, etc. By changing the voting month from December to January it will increase the number of members actively taking part in the Guild’s elections.
2. Importance – while not all of the members take part in this process it IS one of the Guild’s most important annual decision’s to be made. By changing the month, it brings more focus to the event and would not be overshadowed by the holidays, the toy program, and other events.

**The proposed revisions will be discussed at this month’s meeting. A formal vote will take place at the April meeting.**

February 2005 Sunflower Woodworkers’ Guild Meeting Minutes – From Mike Hutton

The meeting opened at the new home of the Guild at the Table Tennis Center at 7PM. President David Fowler introduced the members to the new permanent meeting location.

**Guests-** Dave Hostetler

**Business** - The business portion of the meeting began with discussion and voting on printing new business cards for members to give out to interested persons as to where and when the Guild meets. Motion carried, cards will be printed.

Lou Ortega motioned that we print a member ID card with a number on it to use for obtaining business discounts on items purchased. Wood Craft in Lenexa (Kansas City) will give members a 10% discount on purchases when they know that you are a member of the Guild. Motion was voted and carried.

Lou Ortega presented a check for \$500.00 to the guild general fund for toys built and sold to City Arts for a fund raising project for this fall at City Arts.

Larry Schauner donated a 1 gallon shop vac to the Guild for cleaning up after our hands-on demonstrations!

David announced that we have met one of the Guilds’ goals this year by finding a permanent home! If you have a portable PA system that you would like to donate to the guild, we would be more than happy to accept.

With the new meeting location, we must set-up and take down all tables and chairs for every meeting, so help out.

Wichita Center for the Arts is sponsoring a show of all artworks, including wood, beginning in June. Cost for entry, \$25.00.

Membership dues are due per the bylaws; non-paying members will be dropped from the books. Pay your dues if you haven't yet, it's the best buy in town for education and networking with fellow woodworkers.

**David announced the following positions have been assigned for 2005:**

Vic Shore has agreed to be our new Librarian, books and videos can be checked out thru him on meeting nights.

Randy Croley will be our mentoring and growth chairman, so he may be calling on you to help mentor a new member, please help him get this program off-the-ground.

Ray Smith agreed to take over as newsletter editor. Please provide him newsletter inputs, as he is supposed to edit and not write the newsletter.

Ed Dems will be our Guild webmaster, as he has been tasked with getting a website developed and on the Internet.

Gary Vreeland will be the 2005 Toy Project Chairman, with the emphasis on Chairman; he will need lots of help and participation to make this year a success.

John Belt is to find out if the KC wood guild was ever sued for the toy project as has been humored. This will guide us in making ever-safer toys.

**Show and Tell-**

David Fowler - showed a wood movement stick to show how much cross-grain wood moves during the year. A nominal 50-inch wide piece of cherry, moved over 3/8 of an inch due to moisture changes thru the seasons. He also showed a curved canoe paddle that he made from laminated Ash, Basswood, and Purple Heart finished in epoxy and polyurethane. He shaped the tapered blade with mini-spoke shaves that he passed around.

Ed Dems- showed a mini Ebony hand plane that he loves.

Mike Hutton – showed that he built a modified Biesemeyer tee-square fence for a 9 inch tablesaw for his Dad. Dan Carlyle suggested that this fence isn't difficult to build and after studying an authentic fence, Mike built one for about \$25 and some time.

Bernley Asel – showed a beautiful walnut bench with wedged thru mortised tenons. As always, everybody wanted to know his finish.

Bill Harris – showed a finger-jointed oak box with scroll sawed leaf and nut embellishments. This box opens to reveal a brass and wood nutcracker inside that he built.

Gary Vreeland – showed a crown molding storyboard that he made after cutting crown backwards, as most of us have done in the past.

Jim Bradford – showed a paddleboat that he and his kids built together for playing in water. This boat is rubber band powered and goes really well, until the band unwinds and stops the boat, but he said it was fun to make!

Randy Crowley – showed an ebony salad bowl along with myrtlewood plates that he picked up at an auction.

## Program -

Steve Werner presented a slide show describing how to solve some of the issues with finger joints or box joints. The finger joint is probably the only practical joint for dealing with thin stock as you can get lots of long grain to long grain glue area to prevent the joint from failing.

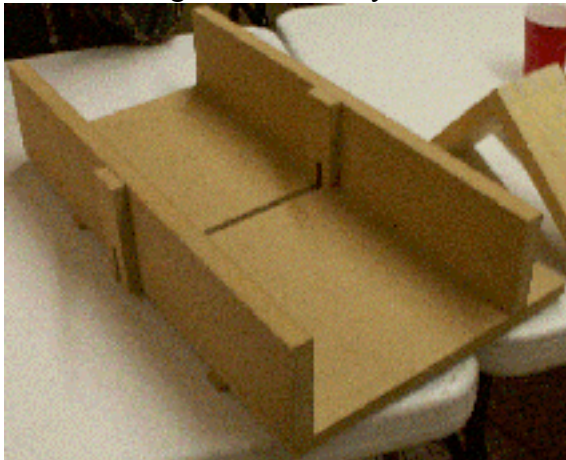
He showed us some techniques for eliminating or dealing with that annoying problem of the skinny left over finger at the end of the joint.

Some of the methods shown were,

- 1) leave the “fat” finger in the middle of the joint
- 2) carefully layout the fingers to make both outside fingers the same size
- 3) leave the fingers proud and chamfer to hide seasonal wood movement and add shadowlines for interest
- 4) combine finger joints with a miter joint at the end for use in drawer bottoms so that the drawer bottom dado does not show thru after the box is assembled.

The key to getting a good fitting joint is; knowing exactly the true kerf width of your blade. Steve’s technique takes into consideration the “wobble” in the blade or dado set.

The first thing to do is build you a crosscut sled with two fences instead of the usual one at the back.



A trick to getting the slides mounted correctly is put the first quarter-sawn slide runner on the bottom of the base using glue and brads. Put some shims in the tablesaw miter slots to allow the top of the runners to be just above the table surface. Apply glue to the top of the second runner and set the base into the first slot and apply weight to the sled until the glue has set up on the second runner, then, if you want, you can add brads if that makes you feel better. The back fence is where you will do most of your work, but the forward fence gives you the benefit of being able to “nibble out” or do special setups without changing the back fence settings. Remember, put a block on the rear fence to remind you where the blade will come thru to save those thumbs.

To establish the blade height for flush fingers, place your stock on the sled and raise the blade until it just moves the second piece of stock. To establish the side of the kerf, cut thru a scrap stop block that is less than the stock thickness clamped to the rear fence. Cut thru and now you know the exact side of the cut. Now, using a second thicker block, bump the second block over next to the first block, cut again and now the second block has the exact kerf (finger) width cut into it.



This step block will be used for setting up the finger “peg” and spacing. Another key feature of Steve’s technique is that both sides of the joint stock are cut together in a stacked cut to reduce the additive error of finger sizes. The step block is used to shift the stock exactly one kerf width from wherever you decide to start your fingers.

## K. C. GUILD STILL IN THE TOY BUSINESS

By John Belt

At our last meeting Bill DeGarmo related a story that he had heard from Charlie Wilson, the manager of the Woodcraft store in Kansas City, that the K. C. Guild had abandoned its toy project because “a couple of families had sued the guild over toys ” built by guild members. This was of real concern because the K. C. Guild was our model in launching our toy project back in 1994. As a matter of fact, David Kraatz came down to Wichita for a guild meeting and explained how the K. C. guild organized their toy project and shared with us patterns that they had used successfully. The fact that they were supposedly no longer making toys was a shocker. I volunteered to check out the matter and report back to the guild on what I had found out.

Since I was planning on attending the upcoming K. C. Woodworking Show, I contacted Dave Kraatz and made arrangements to meet him at the Show. We met there and he introduced me to Wayne Wainwright, the President of the K.C. Guild, Jay Helland, the President of the Lee Summit guild, and Charlie Wilson, the manager of the Woodcraft store. I had the chance to sit down with each of them and talk about the rumor.

The important news is that the K. C. Guild has not been sued by parents, or anyone else, and they have not discontinued their toy project. In fact, they made about 1,200 toys last year and are going to attempt to beat that number this year. This is their major project of the year and they are firmly committed to it and plan on continuing it in the future.

When asked about the story, Charlie Wilson said that “was what he had heard”. Charlie is not a member of the K. C. Guild, although his store is a sponsor. Consequently, he does not attend meetings and so had no first hand information about the rumor. He had just passed on what he had heard.

In talking with Jay Helland, the President of the Lee Summit guild, the origin of the rumor perhaps surfaced. Originally, the Lee Summit Guild was a part of the K.C. Guild, much like the Great Plains Wood Turners group was once a part of our guild. They split several years ago but continued to cooperate on the toy project. One of the Lee Summit members was a major contributor to the toy project. He has a large woodworking business and he devoted one day a year for his employees to build toys in the shop, usually producing about 600 toys in that day. He got concerned when a friend’s business (non woodworking) was virtually destroyed by a liability suit, and he asked his attorney to examine his business to determine if he had any potential liability problems. The attorney said that since he was involving his business in the toy project he had legal exposure and recommended that he discontinue his involvement in making toys, which he did. When this businessman then shared his story with other local wood shop owners, those who had donated wood to the Lee Summit Guild, they decided that they shouldn’t be involved either and stopped donating wood. Given that their wood supply was gone and given that a major source of toys was gone, the Lee Summit guild decided to stop making toys. However, the Guild still supports the toy effort. Last year they donated \$3,000 to the Marines’ Toys for Tots program.

When the K.C. Guild learned that their colleagues in Lee Summit had discontinued building toys because of legal reasons, they investigated the issue to see if they had reason for concern. Their legal advisors indicated that while “anyone can be sued for anything, the chances that a suit would prevail was minimal,” for the following three reasons:

- 1) They followed the federal guidelines in making their toys
- 2) They were a non profit organization that donated their time and talent for this charitable activity.
- 3) Toys were distributed by a large, well known entity (United Fund)

Well, on the basis of what we have learned, I think we can stop worrying about this issue and get back to helping Gary Vreeland make this year’s toy project the best ever

**Treasurer's Report For Feb - Wendell Parks**

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$4414.30</b>
<b>Debits</b>	<b>\$79.34</b>
<b>Credits</b>	<b><u>\$1016.00</u></b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b><u>\$5909.04</u></b>

**From the Editor:**

Watkins Sunflower Supply has moved its woodworking tools and supplies from the downtown location to the White Star offices located at 3223 North Hydraulic. Sid Hollon requests that Guild Members identify themselves in order to receive the usual discount.

**Letters to the Editor**

Bill Kluge completed this Chippendale dressing table recently. With its dovetail joints and ball and claw feet its bound to become an heirloom.



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## MEMBERSHIP

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