
KNOT KNEWS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE COLLINS WOODWORKERS GUILD

Volume 3, Issue 5

Cedar Rapids, IA

February 1998

Next Meeting

Tuesday, February 17, 5:00 p.m.
35th Street Cafeteria

The topic of the February meeting will be Jig and Fixture making. Expert fixture maker and Guild member Steve Mahar will give us a presentation on the subject. Be sure to attend, we always have a good time.

Trip to Des Moines

By: Wayne Hanson

We have a great field trip to Des Moines planned for Saturday, April 25 where we will visit the following:

- Meredith Publishing, publisher of *Wood* magazine. We will tour their construction shop and the Idea Shop III featured in the last several issues of the magazine.
- AugustHome Publishing, publisher of the *WoodSmith*, *ShopNotes*, and *Workbench* magazines. We will tour their construction shop and view displays of many of the past projects.
- *WoodSmith* Store - They describe themselves as a "died-and-gone-to-heaven" store for the woodworking enthusiast. I might not go quite that far but I've also never left without buying something.

Itinerary (more or less)

- 7:30 a.m. - Leave Cedar Rapids
- 10:00 a.m. - Tour Meredith Publishing
- 11:30 a.m. - LUNCH
- 1:00 p.m. - Tour August Home Publishing
- 2:30 p.m. - Visit the ShopSmith Store
- 4:30 p.m. - Leave Des Moines
- 7:00 p.m. - Arrive Cedar Rapids

Our plan is to charter a bus for the trip with the cost depending on how many folks sign up to go. Charter buses are available that can accommodate 47 or 36 passengers and are equipped with a bathroom and VCR/TV setup. Costs could range from \$15 for a group of 26 (kind of a minimum group) to \$11 for a full bus of 36 or

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Notes from the Library

By: Larry Lacy

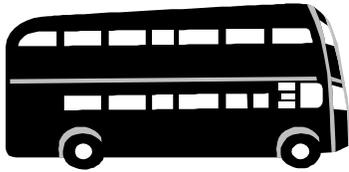
In the past week(end) I have "organized" the magazines donated to the library. They have been removed from the storage boxes, sorted by title and date, and filed in plastic magazine holders which are now located on the bottom shelf of the library cabinet. There are labels on the holders indicating the titles and dates or volumes each holder contains. This should make it much easier for you to access them (and to return them to the appropriate place!!). While we don't have 100% of the issues-- the following ranges are generally available:

Fine Woodworking	1982-1983 & 1991-1996
Fine Home-building	1995-Current
American Woodworker	1990-1996
Woodworker Journal	1979-1982
Woodwork	1994-1995
Woodsmith	Issues 48-58, 68-91 & 109-current (Guild subscription)
Shopnotes	Issues 31-current (Guild subscription)

In the process of this organization, I also reviewed the checkout sheets for "overdue" materials. There are several materials that have been checked out for several months (some back to April 97). An audit of the materials in the cabinet, and later checkout sheets, indicate that the materials are still gone, and that no one else has checked them out/in since the "delinquent" borrower. This issue was addressed at the Jan 27 Woodworkers leadership meeting. We concluded that materials should have a 2 week check out period. If you need something longer than that, please return to the checkout sheet within the 2 week period and extend or renew your check out by adding a new entry with the new date and closing the old entry by entering the current date in the "returned" box on the check out list.

In the near future, notices will be sent to the persons

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47. If you have any questions, call (or EMAIL) Wayne Hanson, Roger Thompson, or Larry Tjaden (phones and EMAIL elsewhere in the newsletter). Roger, Larry, and I did the tour over the Christmas holidays and had a great time.

Latest Update - We've picked the last Saturday in April (25th) as the tentative date for the trip. The word *tentative* is used here because we don't have all the confirmations in from Wood Magazine and WoodSmith companies ... but we don't expect any problems there. Everything should be confirmed by the February meeting and we'll post updates to the homepage. We've also made plans to place a reservation for a 36 passenger bus for the trip. If we receive significantly more registrations than 36, we may be able to change to a larger bus, but that's pretty iffy. Elsewhere in this newsletter will be a reservation form to fill out and return. Reservations will be taken on a first come, first serve basis; so don't delay to guarantee your seat on the bus. Cost will \$15 for the trip. You may bring the form and \$15 to the February meeting or mail it to Wayne Hanson at 138-159. If we don't get 26 people registered by March 26th, we'll cancel the trip due to lack of interest. Another option under consideration is to open the trip to the rest of Collins after giving the Guild membership a reasonable time to sign up. There has ben some discussion of creating a standby list so that if anyone is forced to cancel at the last minute we can fill that empty seat.

This will be our first organized field trip. We hope it will be enjoyable for everyone and set an example for more to come. KK

Wel come New Members!

The following members have recently joined the Guild:

- ◆ Joseph Gorman
- ◆ John Hassman
- ◆ Stephen Kotalik
- ◆ Ray Liss
- ◆ George Saul
- ◆ Paul Tranter



We hope to see you at the next meeting ...

shown as having material overdue (checked out before Jan 98). If you have "overdue" materials, please return them or renew your checkout with a current date. I'll check one more time in early Feb. before sending out the notices that I have already prepared.

Webmaster Tjaden has provided a Woodworkers interest survey on the Woodworkers web page!!! (THANKS LARRY!!!) Initially this was hoped to provide me with some guidance in selecting books for the library. When the Leadership Committee discussed this several weeks ago, it was noted this could also be used to guide tool purchases and future meeting planning. If you have ideas on future meetings, tools, or books (or general topics) you'd like to see more information on-- access the web page, click on A&C menu "Activities and Services", then "Clubs", then "Woodworkers Club" to get to the Woodworkers home page. From there, simply click the "Library Interest Survey" and fill out the form. "Push" the appropriate buttons for the preprogrammed issues and/or add your comments in the "Comments or other ideas" box at the bottom of the form. Click submit and it'll show up in my E Mail in fractions of a second (plus or minus a day given network issues). I'll collect and analyze the data and forward it to the committee for their use. I'll also report the results in future news letters so you get some feedback.

Lastly ... for those without web access ... I'll try to have a few handouts of the library database content printout, and hard copy of the web survey sheet at the next meeting for those wishing them. KK

Use The Guild
Library ...
But Remember
to Bring 'em
Back When
Your Done.

Woodworkers Web Site

By: Larry Tjaden

Bring on those woodworking photos, I bought myself a scanner. Next time you have some extra film in the camera, snap a couple of shots of your favorite project and share them with the Guild. I'll load 'em into the *Photo Gallery*. I'm also looking forward to adding to our library page with a image of each book and a brief description it's contents ... as soon as things slow down a little. My group has been working on a proposal for a couple of months now.

Future Field Trip

By: Jim McCollum

This is a location we are considering for a field trip in late spring.

David Rath, a *WOOD@* magazine reader from Elmhurst, Illinois, told me about a small sawmill called Timbergreen Farm, near Spring Green, in southwestern Wisconsin. He said that craftsmen from near and far went there to buy wood because there's such a large species selection and it's dried so carefully that it machines perfectly. The description was enough for me to schedule a visit.

Spring Green is a beautiful, charming town. Situated in a valley, it's flanked by wooded hillsides, dairy cattle graze the green meadows and several trout streams ripple their way to the Wisconsin River. The area is so naturally pretty that Frank Lloyd Wright chose a site there for his famed home and architectural school, Taliesin. A few miles out of Spring Green, the notion hit me that I really was headed somewhere special. I saw young walnut trees, obviously planted, standing straight like soldiers in a field. The hills held bright white birch mixed with aspen, oak, and other hardwoods. Pines and cedars filled in. At a white dairy barn, I turned in the direction indicated by a sign, "TIMBERGREEN FARM 2 MILES." After making my way into yet another valley, there it was.

Mixed species provide a woodworker's candy store

Jim Birkemeier was piling logs with his tractor when I arrived at Timbergreen Farm. His navy blue baseball cap and matching coveralls, his working "uniform," displayed the dust of his morning's efforts. (A consulting forester by profession, Jim works with his mom and dad, Helen and Bill, in a family operation.) The heart of "Timbergreen Farm's" lumber business, Jim pointed out, was the open-sided sawmill a high seven-year-old, 24-hp Wood-Mizer LT-40 band-saw mill. "One man, mostly me, can operate this," Jim noted. "It has a hydraulic lift, but I prefer to roll logs onto the mill from a raised deck. It's faster." "How much wood do you saw in a year?" was an obvious question. "Maybe 100,000 board feet," he said. Then, with obvious pride, Jim told me that nearly all the logs he saws come from the farm's 200 wooded acres. As a forester, he has developed a management plan with a goal of growing quality timber trees, such as red oak. But to give those trees room to grow means the selective harvest of lesser-used trees, too. Unlike clear-cutting, where an entire forest or portion of it is cut down, Jim's forestry

practice takes but a few scattered trees at a time. This keeps the Timbergreen forest—and others that he manages—productive forever.

"As a result," he said, "we harvest, saw, dry, and sell aspen, white oak, red oak, basswood, butternut, red maple, red elm, white elm, cherry, white ash, hickory, some walnut, white pine, and a little eastern red cedar. In our salesroom, I can have 40,000 board feet of kiln-dried wood in a mix of all those species."

Wood you have to sticker only once

"The wind always blows right up the valley into the stacks, no matter which direction it's coming from elsewhere," Jim pointed out, feigning wonderment as we gazed at part of the drying facility, one of two solar kilns that he designed and built. "The buildings add a venturi effect. That is, the wind whips through the stacks at a faster speed than we can feel outside. So, the wood air dries to 12 percent moisture in three months, winter or summer, instead of the usual six months to a year." As we inspected the air-drying wood that filled one of the buildings' three side-by-side chambers, Jim explained the process. "After the stickered wood in a chamber – 3,500 board feet divided into two piles – has air dried to 12 percent, we close the chamber with the sliding doors, making that chamber into a solar-heated kiln. "The air re-circulates from the lumber piles back up and through the solar collector," Jim added. "It takes about two months to get the boards to six percent moisture content." Having personally stickered wood to air dry, only to resticker it later in a kiln, I was impressed. Keeping the wood in one spot was something I hadn't seen anywhere before in my travels. Of course, Jim has learned about drying variables. "There's the thickness of the wood, and our Wisconsin weather," he chuckled. "I prefer to kiln-dry boards of the same thickness. When we can't do that, the thicker wood goes on top. At night, the heat rises, drying the upper boards a little faster. "The industry standard for loss [checking, cracking, etc.] during drying runs about seven percent," said Jim. "We have next to none. And there's no stress in the wood. That keeps customers coming back again and again."

I copied this from the Winter 1997 issue of *Wood magazine*. The last comment in this article said "**Don't call, drop by!**" Timbergreen Farm welcomes company and customers. The Birkemeiers do have a lumber price list ... but they

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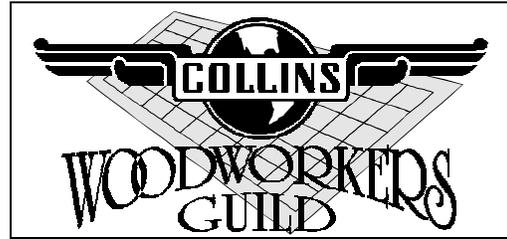
Timbergreen - Continued from page 3

don't sell by mail-order.

To arrange for a tour or lumber shopping, write:

Timbergreen Farm
S11463 Soeldner Rd.
Spring Green, WI 53588
or view their website at:

www.execpc.com/timbergreen



Check Out the Guild's Web Page

*RWEB / Activities&Services / Clubs /Collins Woodworkers
<http://rweb.rockwell.com/data/clubs/cwc/index.htm>*

Janda Tool Center Open House

By: Roger Thompson

Janda Tool Center is going to host an open house for the Collins Woodworking Guild on March 17th. President Jim McCollum and I talked with John Kleckar in December about doing this for us. Owner - Larry Janda, John, and I have been discussing the idea for some time now. John says there will be tool company representatives present and food will be provided. Door prizes or promotional items have not been determined.

Larry Janda suggested that he has considered bringing in speakers to present instructional seminars and requires the Guild's input on topics. He is thinking to do this quarterly. My opinion is this has **great** possibilities so ... let's provide Larry with lots of ideas.

What Happened At The Last Meeting

The January meeting was held in the 35th street cafeteria - approximately thirty members and guests in attendance - President Jim McCollum presiding. Wayne Hanson gave a brief discussion of our planned trip to Des Moines. A call of hands indicated seventeen members have an interest at this date. If you are interested be sure to fill-in the form included in this issue. We are looking forward to an exciting field trip.

Unfortunately our scheduled speaker could not be present because of threatening weather in Des Moines. *No problem*; several members filled-in with last-minute presentations and provided an enjoyable two hours for everyone. Jim McCollum brought an excellent example of a jewelry box and a cool branding-iron he purchased to personalize his creations. Maybe the Guild should buy one to brand our Toys-For-Tots creations... Roger Thompson gave an interesting review of how to restore aged bench planes and a brief history on several he brought along. Dave Yeoman showed a home-made enclosed picture frame containing a Collins-published Apollo 11 booklet signed by **all three astronauts**. Dave Wetzel gave a brief talk on router safety and the raised-panel door that helped cause his little ouchie. Wayne Hanson brought the Guild's new drill-bit sharpener and a couple of CD storage boxes to demonstrate some of his fine joinery. Larry Lacy reviewed one of the latest books inducted into our Guild library. *As always, a good time was had by all!*



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Vice President:

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President & VP

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Curt Brown 393-5752
Dean Robison 5-1981 fdrobiso@collins.rockwell.com

Membership in the Collins Woodworkers Guild is open to all Rockwell Collins, Inc. Employees and Retirees.

Everyone is Welcome at our Meetings.

Yearly Dues, Renewed in September, are \$10.

Join us in Des Moines
April 25, 1998*



* The date is not quite frozen yet ...

DES MOINES TRIP REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____ EXT _____ MAIL DROP _____

HOME ADDRESS _____ HOME PHONE _____

CITY _____ CHECK # _____

MEMBER(Y/N) _____ SIGNATURE _____

NO. ATTENDING _____

Cost of trip is \$15 and covers bus rental (noon meal not included). Trip is subject to cancellation due to lack of interest. Refunds will not be provided unless notice is given three days prior to trip. Collins Woodworkers Guild members will be given priority for seats prior to March 26th.

Send form and payment to Wayne Hanson MS 138-159 (or at the next Guild meeting).

Discount Prices for Forrester Blades

By: Roger Thompson

I had the opportunity to visit with the *Forrester* saw blade distributor at the woodworking show at Hawkeye Downs in January. Having known Ron for some time through other area shows, it was easy enough to strike up a conversation. Because it was later in the evening on Friday, and that he was not busy with his demonstrations, Ron had the time to talk woodworking. In the course of the conversation a discussion of the Collins Woodworkers Guild came up. The result of which is; we now have the opportunity to buy premium quality *Forrester* saw blades, in quantity, at a discount. At Ron's request, I wrote to him after the show to arrange the specifics of our agreement. He will give us a price list and breakdown soon. Also; by shipping to a single address and by prepaying, the cost can be held to a minimum.

A new item Ron had at the show was a fixture to locate holes for hinges, drawer pulls, adjustable shelving pins, etc. Is it called the "True Position Drill Guide". He gave me a video of it's operation which we reviewed at the last Guild steering committee meeting. I have recommended that the committee consider purchasing one of the fixtures for our library.

If you are interested in buying a quality saw blade at a lower price, let me know. Hopefully, we can put together an order large enough to get the best price. By meeting time, I hope to have all the information.

Guild Benefits

- Access to our Extensive Library and Tool Collection
- Open Exchange of Ideas
- Social Activities
- Workshops
- Opportunity to Help our Community through Toys-For-Tots Program
- Educational Presentations
- Open Houses
- Tours

Discounts at:

- ◆ Janda's Tool Center
- ◆ Eastern Iowa Supply
- ◆ Woodsmith Store
- ◆ Pucket's Tools & Fasteners



These Suppliers Deserve
our Support!

Future Meeting Topics

(Some dates scheduled ... most not)

February: Steve Maher, Jig and Fixture Building

March: John Kleckar, Janda's Tool Center Open House.

April: Matt Versteeg, Saw Sharpening.

April: Field Trip To Des Moines

May: Marlan Modrow, Fancy Box Building (return).

June: Timbergreen Farm - Spring Green, WI Band Saw Mill Demonstration.

September: Membership Drive, Election of Officers, Show-N-Tell, Pizza & Pop.

???: Sharpening Plane Irons, Chisels, etc., Scroll Saw Demonstration, Router Workshop, Rob West (return), Cabinet Making, Dave Huovinen.

Any More Ideas for a Meeting Topic?

Give them to Roger Thompson 124-100 5-2211

For Sale

Steel woodworking vice with wooden jaws, bench dog, & quick-release feature, \$45. Two 18" bar clamps, \$8-pair.

Roger Thompson

854-7229 Springville

For Sale

6" *Craftsman* Jointer with steel stand and 1/2 horse-power motor. 14" *Craftsman* Bandsaw with steel stand and 1/2 horsepower motor.

Dave Wetzel

393-6763

For Sale

I recently purchased a new cabinet saw, and would like to sell my old table saw. It started life as a Sears cast iron 10" table saw. I have added extension tables on both sides of the saw (about 18" on the left and 48" on the right), and one of Larry Hoff's famous Biesmeyer-clone fences (completely indistinguishable from the real thing, some of the parts are even from Biesmeyer). The fence allows rips to 50" to the right of the blade. I have also added a dust collection port to the bottom. In addition, I have added the anti-vibration red link-belt and cast iron pulleys to the system. To top it all off, the whole thing is on a mobile base (the saw and extension tables move as one unit on a very sturdy base). I am looking for \$500 (or make an offer).

Steve Maher

848-3177 (home) 295-1547 (work)

Knot Knews Distribution

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Lee	Johnson	106-191	Larry	Scott	108-165
Kelley	Kirtz	105-167	Peter	Sheyko	109-127
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Scott	Knotts	138-149	Rod	Simonson	106-176
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Ron	Kositzky	164-100	Roger	Thompson	124-100
John	Kraemer	106-183	Dave	Tiedeman	124-111
Tom	Kreel	112-103	Larry	Tjaden	124-317
Emil	Krepcik	106-181	Paul	Tranter	137-125
Larry	Lacy	124-217	Kathie A.	Waite	106-183
Curt	Larson	143-100	Dave	Wetzel	105-101
Ken	Liske	124-216	Al	Willenborg	105-175
Ray	Liss	124-300	David C.	Yeoman	124-111
Gary	Livengood	121-100	Jim B.	Young	107-140

Ed	Kalous	2525 2nd Ave.	Marion, IA 52302
Dick	Meuler	10050 NE 12th Avenue	Runnells, IA 50237-1067
Roman	Schuh	3005 18th Ave.	Marion, IA 52302
Wayne	Walter	1315 14th St.	Marion, IA 52302
John	Wheeler	1213 Rainbow Blvd	Hiawatha, IA 52233
Larry	Wood	140 Northwood Drive	Hiawatha, IA 52233

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