

January, 2009

Meeting Notice:

- Our January meeting will be Tuesday the 20th in the Main Plant Cafeteria.
- We will be talking about sharpening.
- January project: Unfinished projects.
- Door Prizes!!



Knot News

COLLINS WOODDOEKERS GUILD NEWSLETTER

Sharpening

Everyone that works with wood has to sharpen his tools sometimes. You don't have to be a real dedicated hand tool person. If you have a pocket knife it needs to be sharpened.

We have no shortage of ways to sharpen a blade either. Anything that is a little bit abrasive can do the job — depending on how sharp and how much messing around you are inclined to do. You can produce a usable edge for a turning tool right off of a bench grinder. A chisel or plane blade needs a more re-

finer approach or it will frustrate you.

Pick up that tool catalog in front of you and it will have dozens of stones, hones, grinders and jigs. Anything from Arkansas stones to Japanese water stones. You can buy a set of training wheels so you can get the “correct” angle, what ever that is. And a jig to measure that angle.

Most of that is silliness. The only thing that matters is whether the edge will cut the piece of wood on your bench. You can sharpen the edge on the sidewalk if you want to. If it works the method is fine. Sand paper works. So do water stones. Microabrasives work but work slowly. Diamond encrusted plastic sticks work



just fine. So does the edge of a crock.

If every tool in your shop has a power cord they can set you right up. Got an extra \$600? Get a Tormek system. Looks like a nice system.

So Tuesday bring what ever you use. And be ready for some active discussion.



November Meeting

In November we finished off the toy build. We had 32 crayon trucks. I think that's a new record. We set a record for flipper games too. Big bunches. Also cell phones and puzzles made by members.

Everything was given to the pediatrics units of the two hospitals here

Toy Build



in town. A few of the “Adopt a Family” groups also received some toys.



December Project

Ok, New year's resolution time. Have any project that you still need to finish? You know, the things that you ran out of time on. Not really turning out like you wanted but you think you can still recover.

When Norm Abrams was in Des Moines several years ago someone asked his wife about the

Something you still need to finish

house he was building. She said that it was his biggest, most expensive unfinished project yet. Ouch.

Some of our projects hang around for years. And they aren't unique to woodworkers. My sister has a quilt top started by my great grandmother. Four generations and a century beat

anything I have. First mine don't fit neatly in a drawer. Second I have a fireplace that gets a steady diet of workshop screw-up's and other bad ideas.

Bring one of your projects to the meeting Tuesday. Then maybe finish it off.

The Fine Woodworkers Store

Woodworkers in the area are losing another resource. Most of us have noticed that Mike wasn't keeping his inventory up for the last several months.

He's closing the store completely at the end of January. Until then he's only open on Saturdays and limited to the inventory he has left.

There is some good news though. Mike is working at Acme across the street. Acme is also picking up the Rockler line.

Sharpening

We generally pick a sharpening technique that works and stick with it. Some of us get really attached to our method and decide that's the only thing that works. It's like talking politics with another woodworker. Just suggest that you use sand paper to a water stone guy and see what happens.

So at some significant risk: Here are some things to think about when you sharpen a blade.

The material matters. It's really easy to buy a tool with a blade that won't take an edge. Steel can be designed to be hard, tough or to resist rust. Generally blades that

always stay shiny won't take an edge. Watch out for stainless steel. Besides the chemistry the steel needs to be hardened. Ax bits are relatively soft, carving tools are harder than most plane blades.

The back of the tool needs to be lapped. You will get a toothed edge if you don't lap the mill marks off the back side. Generally the same method works for the bevel and the back. Carving tools can be challenging because they are curved.

Course abrasives will cut fast but won't get the tool very sharp. Fine abrasives are slow. Most systems have a graduated series of abrasives

so you can get a good edge quickly.

Watch it with the grinder. You can use a regular grinder for rough shaping and taking a ding out of an edge but go easy. If you burn an edge and turn it blue you have created a soft spot. The same thing will happen with a cloth buffing wheel.

Grinders that use a stone running in a water bath or a slow speed grinder won't burn the blades but those are specialty tools and kind of expensive. You can try the white wheels on a conventional grinder. They can still burn the bevel but not as easily.

Upcoming projects:

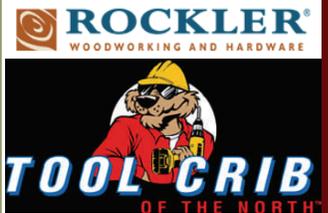
February: Something romantic.

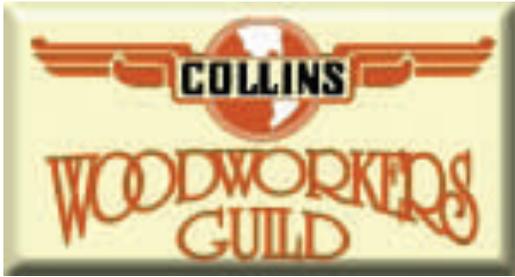
March: Anything with a door.

April: Cut to length, beat to fit, paint to match.

We need some ideas for new projects. Here is an opportunity to show off something that you have made. Sug-

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February, 2009

Meeting Notice:

- Our February meeting will be Tuesday the 17th in the Main Plant Cafeteria at 5:00.
- Mike Hunting will be talking about Google SketchUp.
- February project: Something romantic.
- Door Prizes!!



Knot News

COLLINS WOODDOEKERS GUILD NEWSLETTER

Google SketchUp

Once you get beyond building from someone else's plans you need some way to design your own projects. This doesn't necessarily mean software. Most really great projects from the Parthenon to the '69 Camaro were been designed using no more than pencil and paper. The technique still works.

The advantage to that approach is that it's simple, intuitive, and cheap. And minimal hardware requirements. That simplicity comes with some limits. Paper is two dimensional (you heard it hear first). Revising drawings is a problem. Dimensions are tough to get directly. That's why most professional designers use some CAD package.

The problem with professional

CAD packages is that unless you use them a lot they are unwieldy. There is nothing intuitive about most of them. Professional packages are also kind of pricey and run on workstations and large networks. They don't work well on a single computer.

There have been some inexpensive CAD packages out there. And you can buy an outdated version of a professional package. TurboCAD gets a cheap as \$5 for a copy that is 4 versions back. They are still clutzy if you don't use them a lot.

Google introduced a package that's free. I like free. It's almost a cheap as pencil and paper. I mean you need a computer and that's not free. But you probably have one anyway.

This package has some system requirements. You need Windows XP or Vista or the current MAC operating system. And you need some horsepower behind your graphics.

It's supposed to be easy to pick up and really flexible. There are supposed to be lots of existing drawings on the web.

Google has a professional version available that is supported. It gives you some features that most of us won't care about unless we try to use it at work.

It sounds almost as practical as pencil and paper. We are going to hear a lot more about it on Tuesday from Mike Hunting.

January Meeting

There are a lot of ways to sharpen a blade and in January we talked about them.

Perry brought three different systems. First, sandpaper, known as the "scary sharp" system. He had 6 different 1/3 sheets bonded to a piece of Masonite; ranging from 360 grit up to 2000 grit. You can get an assortment from an automotive supply store and just bond it with a spray adhesive onto a flat, smooth surface. The important thing to know is that you have to move the blades from side to side or with the sharp edge on the

trailing side or you will slice up your papers. They are generally used dry. They sharpen very quickly, are very cheap and can polish an edge to a mirror finish. He has about \$6 in the system.

Traditional oilstones. He had a Smith 3 Arkansas stone system and old straight razor Arkansas stone. They are used with a light oil. Arkansas stones can be expensive. His 3 stone system costs about \$40 when he got it 10 years ago. Soft (course) natural stones run about \$35 for an 8" x 2" stone and \$75 for a hard (fine) stone.

Sharpening

Diamond stones. Perry had 3 diamonds stones, medium, fine and extra fine. Their main advantages are that they cut quickly and stay flat; never wearing out. These are generally used with water but can be used dry. They cost around \$40 each.

Perry also discussed the importance of having some kind of magnification to be able to visually inspect your edge. A truly sharp edge doesn't reflect light whereas a dull one does. The magnifier allows you to see the edge in greater

(Continued on page 2)

SHARPENING

(Continued from page 1)

detail to see the light reflections, view your edge quality and see mistakes made along the way.

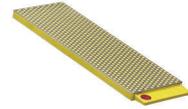
John had his Tormek sharpening system and gave a short overview on how it works. The Tormek is a low speed grinding wheel that is water cooled. It has a series of jigs

that hold what ever blade you are sharpening. The other wheel is a leather strop that is impregnated with a fine abrasive.



There was some discussion about the value of flattening the back of the blade. If the back isn't cleaned up the blade can't be sharpened.

There was also a discussion of jigs that hold the blade at a constant angle.



February Project

Well we just finished the most dangerous holiday on the calendar. As woodworkers we are sometimes tempted to make gifts this time of year. You can do it but there is some significant risk. Red Green even has an episode on the subject. It doesn't go well. The trick is to

know your audience. Pay attention during the year and start early. (I'm doomed.)

Obviously what one person thinks is romantic another won't. That's part of the risk. I know a guy who gave his wife a sinker mold. She thought it was

Something romantic

a great idea. I wouldn't recommend it anyway.

So charge on in where angels fear to tread. Bring in something that you have made that's romantic. How you define that is up to you.

December Project

We have to have more than three members that have a project they aren't done with. I don't just mean something that is still in process but something that is way beyond schedule.

Perry stepped up. He has a rocking horse that grand kids



grew before he got it done. The interesting thing there is the



patterns that he made that can be used to make any number of them.

Bill has a flag box that isn't done. He also has a peg pounding game that might make a good toy project for this group

Project that isn't finished

next year.

Paul had a camping cabinet to hold all of the camp cooking needs he was in the process of finishing.



that you have made. Suggest it as a project of the month.

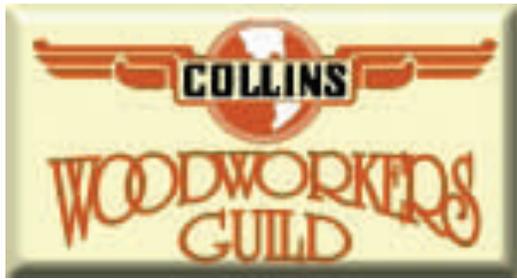


Upcoming projects:

March: Anything with a door.

April: Cut to length, beat to fit, paint to match.

We need some ideas for new projects. Here is an opportunity to show off something



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March, 2009

Meeting Notice:

- Our march meeting will be Tuesday the 17th in Spur Millworks in Marion
- March project: Something made from wood we got from Spur
- Door Prizes!!

Knot News

COLLINS WOOWDOEKERS GUILD NEWSLETTER

Spur Millwork revisited

We visited Spur millwork in June of 2007. For the most part they make architectural pieces. Doors, moldings, big beams. Really interesting and really big stuff. We got to look at their robotic routing system and see some of the work in process and a few of their smaller projects in the office. They make several long shuffle board tables in some of their down time. One was in the office that looked like it got some use.



Last June all of that was wiped out. The flood took out that entire part of the city. Water covered everything but the roof.

Spur has moved now. They are in Marion at 530 57th

St. That's in Marion near Hwy 13 and Linn Aire Ave. south of the 151 stop sign.

I don't know how much the salvaged. The water probably didn't do anything good to the robotic system or anything else in the shop. Tuesday we will have the chance to look at how they have recovered.

February Meeting

Last month Mike Hunting talked about SketchUp, the free CAD package that Google provides. It looks like it has a lot of potential.

Lots of the 3D packages are essentially extensions on a

2D program. SketchUp was designed as a 3D system.

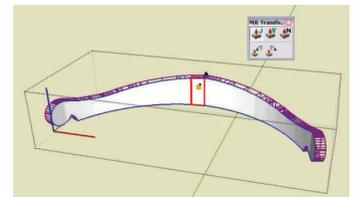
It looks like you can move around the drawing and zoom in and out easily. You can create and place subassemblies. Mike created tapered table legs, placed them then added a skirt and top. He played with adding a drawer in the skirt.

He showed us a dresser that he is working on. It uses the subassembly feature for the dust panel / drawer sup-

Google SketchUp

port structure. He added texture shading on all of the surfaces to make them look like wood grain. It looks pretty realistic.

SketchUp comes with libraries of components. It looks like there is a lot of existing work on the web that can be used as starting points and components in larger drawings. Check out the Taunton Press web page for some interesting examples.



March Project

Ain't technology wonderful. We had a plan and changed it just like that... Without e-mail it would have been a problem. Now we can be indecisive faster than ever before.

Spur donated a lot of off cuts from their process and we have

February Project

In celebration of St. Valentine's day last month we bought in anything that was supposed to be romantic. The word romantic has a variety of meanings. ("impractical" is one). It's an almost dangerous thing in a group like this. We can all envision a "Red Green" event.

April Project

There are a lot of ways to make a door. Even if you limit your interest to cabinet door there are lots of ways to make one.



Upcoming projects:

May: An outdoor project.

June: Cut to length, beat to fit, paint to match.

Project from Spur lumber

been using to build toys at Christmas for the last few years. Floyd Wesselink had it all in his van for a while. It was quite a bunch of wood and it's rough way to treat a van as nice as his.

A couple of months ago we distributed some of it to anyone who wanted it and attended that meeting. Well, now is the time.

Bring in what ever you have made from that wood.

Only a couple of rules: You have to use that wood. Ashes and sawdust don't count as a project. Beyond that bring in what ever you have been working on.

Something romantic

The trick is to turn the arrow and carve it slightly over size. Crush the head in a vise so that it barely fits the hole. Slide it through and soak the (crushed) head in water. While it's still wet heat it with a cloths iron or a heat gun until it expands. When it's dry finish carving.



Anything with a door



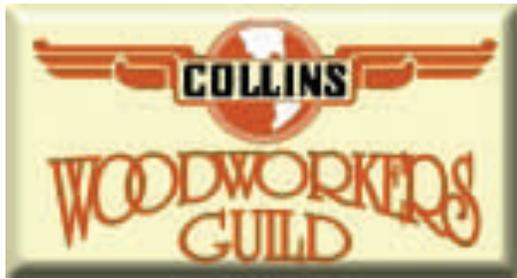
Even then there are a lot of ways to make one. Flat or raised panels, glass and battens. Frames can be cope and stick, mortise and tennon, miters. Stub tennon, loose tennon, full size pinned tennon, Lots of different choices.

Everyone has a favorite. So bring in something that you made that has a door.



Quick and easy is a slab of MDF the right size. Frame and panel doors generally look better and they stay flat.

We need some ideas for new projects. Here is an opportunity to show off something that you have made. Suggest it as a project of the month.



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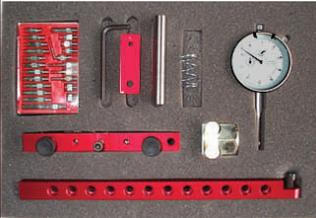
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Tool Maintenance

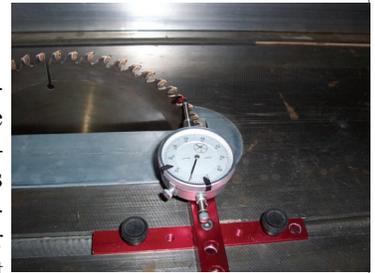
It's hard enough to find time to work in the shop. We generally focus on the project that we are already late in finishing. Messing around with the tools seems to be the last thing that we have time for.

Tools don't work without maintenance. At least they don't work very well. Blades need to be sharp, bearings and surfaces that slide need lubrication. Sawdust gets in places it shouldn't.

We are going to talk about that during our next meeting. The guild library has a few things that help the process and we are going to talk about how to use

them. One of these tools is the A-Line-It system from In-Line Industries. <http://www.in-lineindustries.com/a-line-it.html>. This is a kit that includes an aluminum bar that rides in the miter slot and a dial indicator that measures the position of the blade and the rip fence.

Start the process by marking a tooth on the blade that you generally use. Slide the short rail into the miter slot and with the dial indicator on the marked tooth set the scale to zero.



Roll the blade so the marked tooth is in back and measure again with the dial indicator. Be sure the top of the dial indicator is measuring the tooth in the same spot. The sides of the tooth aren't generally parallel.

Different sources say different

(Continued on page 3)

March Meeting

Anyone want a slightly used robotic router system? Cost a couple hundred thousand dollars new. It got soaked in river water tainted with raw sewage and who knows what nasty chemicals.

Last June Spur was soaked in the flood. They were down for a while but are back in operation in Marion. The router along with most of the rest of

their tools are scrap. Our March meeting was at their new shop. Dale Albaugh is the production manager at Spur and he gave us a very good

and detailed tour. He showed us several projects that are currently in process.

They have several new tools to replace those destroyed by the flood and it sounds like they are getting used to them.

Spur has several large scale projects

Spur Millwork



in process. We saw an arch that will set thirty feet in the air and a door that was in the assembly process. They also showed us a door that was made the wrong size. Be glad that you didn't have to explain that to the customer. Or your manager.



March Project



bring anything that was made from

We changed the project last month. When Spur agreed to host the group we decided to

scrap they had given us. Ray Collins won the drawing for his coat rack.

Dave made several pens. Floyd had several projects including tea candle holders, coasters, and a Boy Scout trophy for cars race winners

Bill Barvinek made a hammer and toy bench And Ed Kalous made

Project from Spur lumber



some mahogany trivets. How many did I miss?



Miscellaneous updates

Dave Huovenin is continuing to head up the efforts at the **Indian**



Creak Nature Center. Last June flooding damaged several cases that we had built. If you have some time please call Dave. The picture is of the newly expanded cabinet base that will hold the corn grinding stone.

A few weeks ago several people took inventory of the **guild library**. We are missing several books that have not been checked out. If you have then please let Wayne Hanson know about it. You either need to check it out or bring it back. We will discuss the library at the next meeting.

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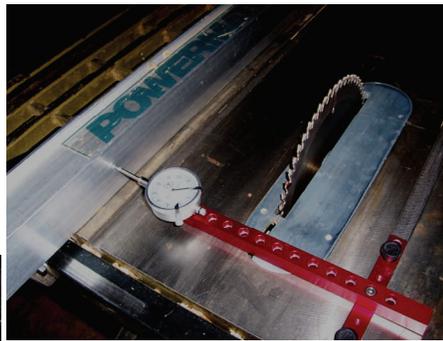
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Tool Maintenance

Continued

(Continued from page 1)

things but in general a table saw blade needs to be no more than a few thousandths out of parallel with the miter slots. This one is about 0.004" so it could be better but in general not too bad.



fence. You can see from the picture that this one is about .012 from the slot *the other direction* from the blade. That's actually typical but undesirable and it needs to be adjusted. It happens when you bind wood in the back of the blade and it kicks back.

Different manufacturers have different processes to make this adjustment. This saw's owners manual indicates two bolts that get loosened. You tap on the rear trunion with a block of wood and a hammer when it's close then tighten the bolts and check it again.



Next, the rip fence should be slightly further away from the blade at the back than the front. Maybe a couple of thousandths at most. Set the short rail in the miter slot just like measuring the blade and mount the longer rail in a hole so that the dial indicator touches the front of the fence. Set the dial indicator scale to zero again then check the back of the

You can also check the run out in the arbor by setting the tip against the blade washer and running the arbor all the way around. That will tell you if the arbor is bent. That's serious and can't be adjusted out.

The A-Line-It manual describes ways to set up jointers, drill presses and router tables. There are much easier ways for some of these.

The easy way to set a drill press table perpendicular to the chuck just requires a bent wire. Clamp one end in the chuck and bend it until the other end rides just above one corner of the table. Then turn the chuck all the way around. The end of the wire should be the same distance above the table all the way around.

Jointers just require a straight edge and a good square. When you install a sharpened set of knives set them to the same height as the outfeed table. You can buy a magnetic jig for that but a steel ruler works. Set the fence square to the outfeed table.



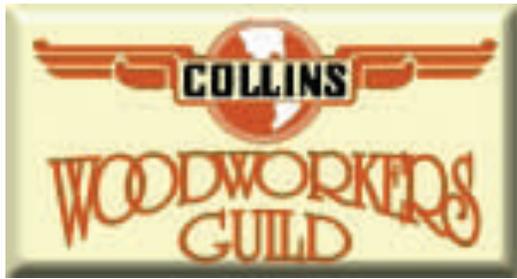
For Sale

Wayne has been cleaning his shop and found a couple of items that he'll probably never use.

2 bandsaw blades, 93 1/2" x 3/4" x 3 TPI.

That's the size of most 14 inch bandsaws without a riser block. 1 has never been used and 1 is slightly used. The new one is a Timber Wolf and has the original sticker price of \$29.99.

Two Aromatic Red Cedar boards milled to 5/16", 1st is 79" L x 3 1/2" W, 2nd is 72" L x 5" W. Make him an offer.



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- Open Houses
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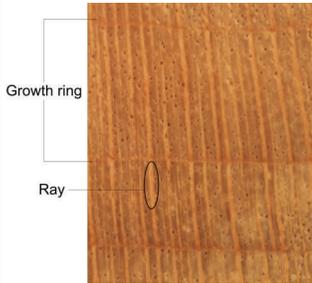
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May, 2009

Meeting Notice:

- Our march meeting will be Tuesday the 19th in the Main plant cafeteria.
- Wood identification presentation
- May project: Something with a door
- Door Prizes!!



Maple

Knot News

COLLINS WOOWDOEKERS GUILD NEWSLETTER

Wood identification

It's a simple enough question. Perry asked "You sure that's white oak"? My first response was "Yea, I think so. Does it matter"?

We have lots of different kinds of oak. Something like 375 different identified species. Most of the time the differences don't matter as long as it looks right.

White oak doesn't rot so we use it for outdoor projects. The USS Constitution, the oldest ship currently commissioned in the US Navy, was made from white oak. You use it for docks, railroad ties, and fence posts. The pores that make up it's

course grain don't leak so it's a good choice for casks and caskets. The pores in red oak are clear so it takes on moisture. It leaks.

Perry makes spoons. It matters. Even though you might care whether you have "red" oak or "white" oak you probably don't care that you have "Pin oak" or any of the dozens of other species of red oak. It's difficult to keep sorted out because these trees form hybrids.

Sorting out wood species is a lot like solving a puzzle. Color and texture are good information but not enough to make a

definite identification. You get the most information by looking at the details of the end grain. It's a game of "more like this and less like that". You compare the characteristics of your sample to a description in a published table.

You need a hand lens, a sharp blade and a good reference book. That's it. Get a clean cut across the end grain of the sample. A pocket knife works if it's sharp enough. A razor blade works too.

Now take a look at the spot you just cut. Hardwoods have easily seen pores, softwoods don't.

(Continued on page 3)

April Meeting

Last month we talked about maintaining out power tools. The guild library has several things to help the process and we showed off a couple of them.

In a perfect world tools would always work right and we could focus on the project at hand. Blades would stay sharp, fences would be parallel to the blade and all the sawdust would go up the chute. Unless you're Norm Abrams it doesn't work that way. In my shop dust gets anywhere it shouldn't be and my fence is a little wide at the back end.

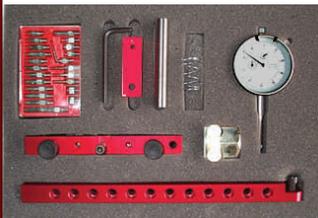
Tool Maintenance

We talked about that In April. Any member can check out these and other tools. We have a nice set of the kind of tools that you don't need of all that often but when you need them you really need them.

One of these tools is the A-Line-It system form In-Line Industries. <http://www.in-lineindustries.com/a-line-it.html>. We talked about that at some length. This system is really useful for setting up your table saw. It can be used for other things too but there are better ways for some of the other processes.

This is a kit that includes an aluminum bar that rides in the miter sot and a dial indicator that measures

the position of the blade and the rip fence. It's operation pretty obvious so it's easy to use.



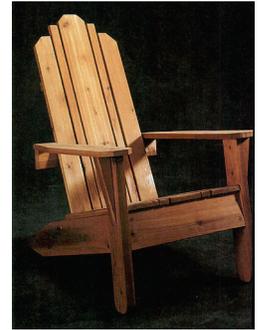
May Project

It's officially spring. The Yard needs mowing more and there isn't so much of a problem with snow. All of us are spending time outdoors now. Somehow it seems right to be working on outside projects.



An Outdoor Project

And we want to see those. It can be as complicated as a gazebo or something simpler. Maybe a potting bench or an Adirondack chair. A bird house. Some garden tool. If it's used outside we want to see it.



Creak Nature Center

Dave Huovenin and several other members are wrapping up the work at Indian Creek. At last report they were finishing and installing doors.



April Project

We had a bunch of doors. And one step stool with a paper door.

Several people make cabinets



with doors made a couple of different ways.

Wayne cheated but we let it pass. He made a really nice step stool but that didn't fit the theme so he drew a door on a sticky note. Maybe it's just a different way to make a door. Paper is a wood product after all.



Anything with a door



Wayne (cheating)

Upcoming projects:

June: Cut to length, beat to fit, paint to match.

We need some ideas for new projects. Here is an opportunity to show off something that you have made. Suggest it as a project of the month.

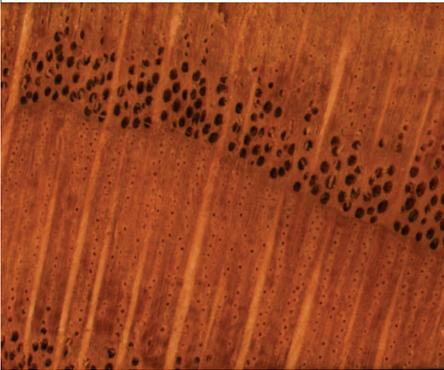
Wood Identification

Continued

(Continued from page 1)

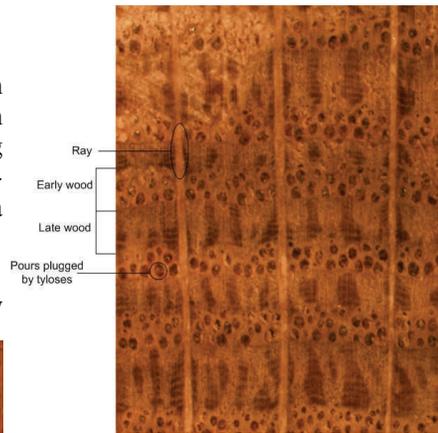
These pores are distributed differently in different woods. All Oaks have them in tight rings that are formed in the spring (Early wood). Wood formed in the summer and fall doesn't have them. Oak is a ring porous wood.

Maple has the pores distributed evenly



throughout the year. It's a diffuse porous species. Those are the extremes. There are also semi ring porous woods (walnut) and semi diffuse porous woods.

Oak has obvious rays that you see in quarter sawn boards. You can see them in the end grain as lines perpendicular to the growth rings. The rays in white oak tend to be more pronounced than in red oak but there is a lot of variation in both so you can't count on that either.



The characteristic that really divides the two is that white oak has tyloses and red oak doesn't. Tyloses are crystalline plugs in the large early wood pores. They form in the heart wood of many species and keep moisture out. Most species that resist decay have them: White oak, Teak, and Black locust.

Several people publish reference books with the anatomical characteristics of woods. The National Forest Products Lab publishes one. Bruce Hoadley has written two excellent books with descriptions and nice clear pictures. They tend to lean to eastern U.S. species but that covers most of ours too.

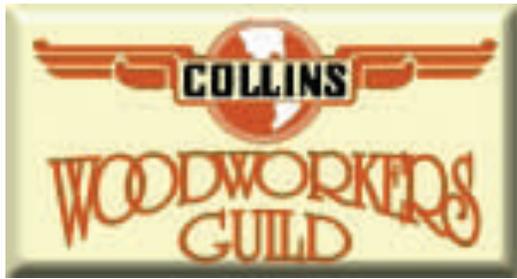
There is no way to include every species because there are millions. Even lots of the local species form hybrids so the definition of a species is questionable.

Details of end grain don't always help. Look at sugar maple, silver maple and boxelder look a lot alike. The hard maple rays, visible in quarter sawn wood are larger than their soft maple counterparts. Boxelder rays are almost not visible. Also if there is any spalding in your sample it will be red in boxelder and black in most other maples.

Sometimes smell is a dead giveaway. You know western red cedar by its smell. It's really a member of the juniper family and most of them smell like that. True cedars have a sent too but it's not the same. Chinese elm has a distinct sent when it's wet.

The final authority for identifying woods is the National Forest Products lab in Madison. You have better access to them than you might realize. They will identify up to five samples during any year. It's free. Or at least the money you pay in taxes covers the cost. <http://www.fpl.fs.fed.us/>.

You send in a sample and what information you have and they let you know what you have. It's best to talk with them before you send the sample because there are some requirements. A minimum size for example. Also if you have some valuable antique they still need to cut a piece out of it to make the identification but they will work with you to minimize the damage.



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June 16, 2009

Meeting Notice:

- Our June meeting will be Tuesday the 16th in the Main plant cafeteria.
- June project: Cut to length, beat to fit, paint to match
- Door Prizes!!



Bruit force method



Seemed like a good idea at the time

Knot News

COLLINS WOODDOEKERS GUILD NEWSLETTER

Flat, straight and square: How do we deal with wood movement

Group discussion

Most projects start out with most of the parts flat and square. Even when we turn or carve parts they start out with pieces that are flat and straight. They need to so we can lay up blanks and cut joints.

Making a panel stay flat is half of what we do. Wood is a product of nature. It's inclined to shrink, swell and bend itself out of shape. We have a lot of ways to prevent that or at least minimize the effect. That's what we are going to talk about Tuesday.

Sometimes it's fun to take a look at really old woodworking projects. We can see what worked and stood up for centuries. They really didn't make

anything better than we do but the stuff that we still have worked and stood up until now. Most of it didn't survive.

One obvious way to keep wood from moving is to bind it tightly enough that it can't move. There are plenty of old chests and doors that are bound in iron straps. The wood swells around the straps and is split at every nail but it holds together.

Most of us take a different approach: We just let the wood move. That's why we use frame and panel construction. Bread-board ends, battens and most table skirts allow for movement too.

We have a few other advantages today. Engineered materials like plywood and particle board are stable. They have other problems but they don't move.

Come to the meeting Tuesday and we can talk about how you make things straight, flat and square and how you keep it there.



June Project

We all understand that when it doesn't fit that you aren't supposed to force it. Sometimes we do it anyway. Not the "Bigger hammer" approach, just a little stronger tap than it should really take. A twist that shouldn't be necessary. Sometimes you get away with it but generally it doesn't end well.

We're not talking about those mistakes that make it into the fireplace either. These are the times that you break out the plastic wood to fill the crack, maybe some more glue to make it stay together. Sand it down so that it doesn't show too bad and paint it.

Cut to length, beat to fit, paint to match

It happens when we get in a hurry or when you have already messed with a project more than you wanted to. Or maybe you don't have enough material to remake that part.

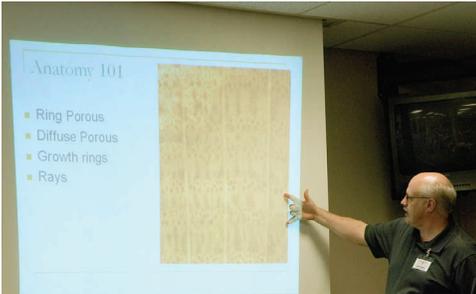
Sometimes there are good ways to recover. If you cut a mortise offset the wrong way on a table leg you can plug the hole and turn it to the inside. Unless someone crawls under the table and looks no one will ever know. That same mistake in the stretcher mortise is harder to cover. Look at the picture on the right, just above the yellow flower.



Misplaced stretcher mortise

May Meeting

In May we talked about how to identify wood



Sorting out wood species is a lot like solving a puzzle. You get the most information by looking at the anatomy of the end grain. It's a game of "more like this and less like that". You compare the characteristics of your sample to a description in a published table.

You need a hand lens, and a sharp knife or a razor blade.

May Project

Last month our project was "An outdoor project". We had quite



Upcoming projects:

July: Anything dealing with an Animal.

August: Sporting equipment.

Get a clean cut across the end grain of the sample.

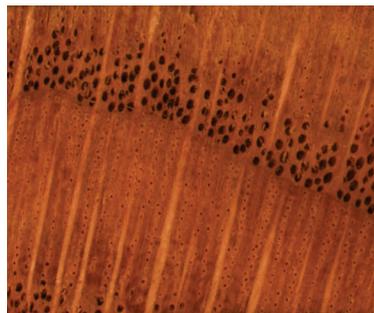
If you examine the area you cleared there will be a lot of really useful detail. Hardwoods have easily seen pores. Sometimes in tight rings and other times distributed evenly. Sometimes you can see rays and other times not. Compare this information to the reference.

You probably can't identify the sample to the species but you can likely get really close. Realize that there are hundreds of species of Oak for example not counting hybrids but only three Geniuses. Generally you just want to sort red from white

Wood Identification

oak. You don't care that it's Pin Oak.

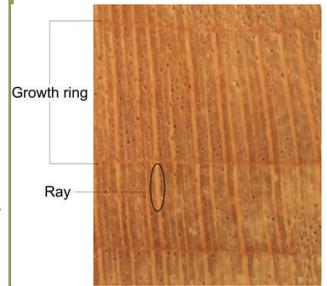
The National Forest Products Lab in Madison has a wealth of information and they are generally willing to help identify trees and wood samples. They will identify up to five samples per year for anyone. There are some requirements for the sample. Check out their web site for the requirements the address: <http://www.fpl.fs.fed.us/>



Red Oak

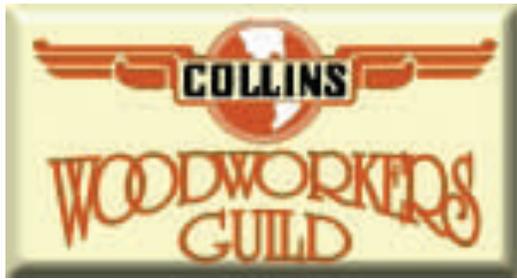
An Outdoor project

There were a lot of "bird projects". Bird houses and a container to distribute nest building materials. Kind of an avian version of Lowe's. Bryan's project was almost bird related... He made a grill stand for his Big Green Egg.



Maple





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July 21, 2009

Meeting Notice:

- Our June meeting will be Tuesday the 21st in the Noelridge park pavilion.
- July project: Anything dealing with an animal.
- Door Prizes!!

Knot News

COLLINS WOODDOEKERS GUILD NEWSLETTER

Annual Picnic

The Guild is providing burgers and brats, drinks (soda & water), and table settings.

Bring salads and deserts to share.

Woodworking can be kind of dangerous. We all know guys that have trimmed their fingers with power tools. Sometimes hand tools too. Well, we're about to really go off and do something almost crazy.

It's time for our annual picnic. The three "F's" (Fuel, Fire and Food). No matter how bad we are at woodworking we can always use it for fuel to make fire and cook food.

The food is probably the dangerous part. It's not just the salt and cholesterol. The stuff in

hotdogs makes political deals sound pure. And people die of potato salad every summer.

As it turns out it's not the mayonnaise in potato salad that is the problem. Or at least not the biggest one. It still has raw egg that can spoil but in this country commercial mayonnaise is pasteurized to take out the salmonella. Unless you are making your own (and people do) it's not much of an issue.

The potatoes are more of a problem. It turns out that *Bacillus cereus* and *Staphylococcus*

aureus (staph) are common in dirt. Potatoes grow in dirt. (Remember, you heard it here first.) You can't really wash it enough to get rid of all of the bacteria and both of them produce things that are nasty. These particular creatures especially like things that have a lot of starch so pasta and rice are targets too.

Your best bet is to keep it cold. The FDA says that you can keep potato salad out for two hours. Beyond that you are pushing your luck. It's probably a bad idea to keep it in your car all afternoon.

July Project

We've done bird houses and they still apply here. What other projects have you done for animals? We want to know

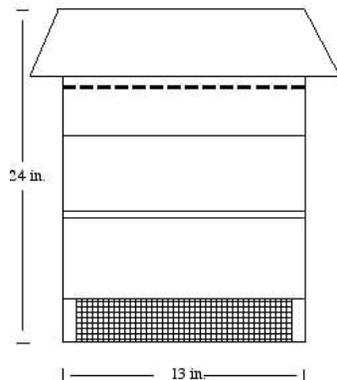
about it. If you spend a lot of time in a dog house maybe you made a nice one.

Ever build a bird feeder or devise a good way to keep squirrels out of it? How about an actual squirrel feeder? Take a picture and tell us about it.

Ever build a bat box? No urban yard is complete without one.

We want to see your rabbit hutch, butterfly house, and mouse trap. How about a Scratching post, beehive or chicken coop?

Anything dealing with an Animal



Bat house



Really spiffy Chicken coop

June Meeting

There are a lot of ways to keep a panel flat. In June we talked about it.

Some times the rest of the structure keeps large panels flat. The top span of a trestle table can



Battens keep this tool box lid flat

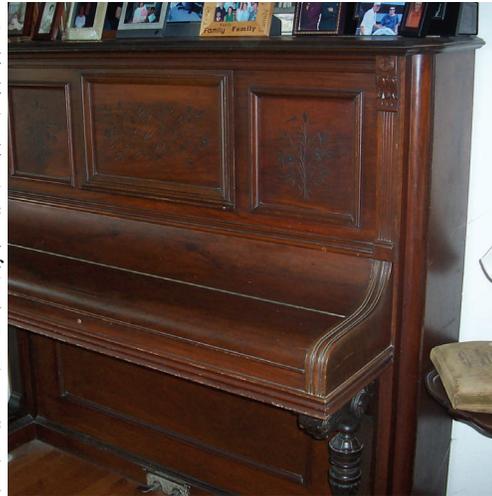
June Project

The only people who never make mistakes are the ones who never do anything. The rest of us just try minimize them and learn to recover. There is no end to the ways we can screw up.

The only project in June was a dovetailed drawer with the pins cut on the wrong side. Drawers are a lot stronger when you cut the tails on the sides and the pins on the front and back. The mechanical lock of the joint resists pulling when something is jammed. Normally you would just remake the side. In

keep a large top flat. So can a skirt under the top. Just two surfaces in any right angle joint will keep each other flat, like the sides and back of a tool box. Fairly of the though we need to add a feature to make sure the panel doesn't warp. That's why we use frame and panel construction and add battens to lids and doors.

Flat, Straight and Square



Frame and panel construction



Bread board end

Mistakes

this case the drawer was small enough that it wasn't much of a problem and it on the back so it would be buried unless the drawer was out.

We talked about several other mistakes that we have made. How do you deal with glue that you find while finishing? If you let the finish cure and try to sand it out the finish, especially urethane balls up and plugs up sandpaper.

The best bet is to scrape it off with a sharp chisel. That works well in corners too. Once the

glue is cleaned off just add finish in the area and rub it out.

The best bet is to avoid the problem and hit the surface with paint thinner before you finish. That will turn up most problems.

When you dent wood, even after it's finished, you can sop the dent in water and hold a damp paper towel against the dent while heating it with a soldering iron or a cloths iron. The wood fibers swell and pop out the dent.



Upcoming projects:

August: Sporting equipment.

January: Lap Joints.

September: Unusual repairs.

February: Anything that includes glass.

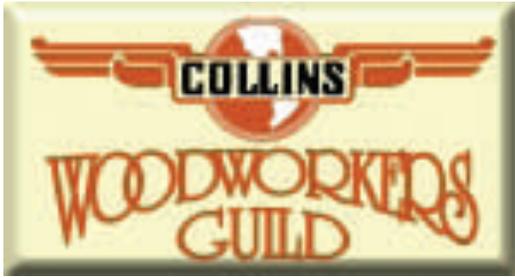
October: Mortise and Tennon joints.

March: Inlay & Overlay.

November: Laminates and veneer.

April: Bridle joints.

We need ideas for new projects. Here is an opportunity to show off something that you have made. Suggest it as a project of the month.



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July 21, 2009

Meeting Notice:

- Our July meeting will be Tuesday the 18th at ACME tool at 5:30.
- August project: Sporting equipment
- Door Prizes!!



Knot News

COLLINS WOODDOEKERS GUILD NEWSLETTER

Acme tool: Powermatic,

Of all the traditional manufacturers of stationary power tools we are down to two US manufacturers and one Canadian. Delta, and Powermatic are still in business here and General is still in Canada. Powermatic and Delta changed hands several times but the “home office” is still domestic. Delta was sold by Pentair to Black & Decker, and Powermatic has been part of WHM Tool Group that includes Jet.

The representative for Powermatic and Jet is going to be at ACME tool next Tuesday and we are going to get to talk with him. He also handles Festool and 3M Abrasives.

This should be interesting. Powermatic has always been a great brand. Their traditional Model 60 jointer is just a work of art from the Blanchard ground tables to the Baldor motor. You can almost hear “Tim the tool-man Taylor” grunt

when you turn it on.

They have a new Table saw that that would look great in my shop. Delta has introduced a new Unisaw too so



maybe we can see them side by side.

The speaker also handles 3M abrasives. While nobody likes to sand we all have to do it. The folks at 3M figured out that static electricity attracts sanding dust (Hmmm....). By repelling that dust the paper doesn't load up so it runs cooler and lasts a lot longer. Why didn't somebody figure that out a century ago?

Festool is less well known than the rest. They came up with the first portable chain saw. Also contributed significantly to random orbit sanders. They make really nice hand held and bench top power tools.



1880 vintage putter

August Project

Golf probably started about like any sport. Guys knocking a rock into a gopher hole with a stick sounds about right. Invite the guy next door to see if he could do it. Gloat when he couldn't. Baseball probably worked that way too until Abner Doubleday wrote it all down.

Nobody really knows when it all started but there are recognizable golf clubs from the 1500's and it was banned at least once in the 1400's. Clubs look like they were made by the same folks that made bows. A specialized woodworker that under-

stood how limber or stiff wood needed to be and how to make hidebound joints.

Some time about 250 years ago some Scotsman wrote up the rules for golf and started charging the neighbors to use his pasture. It was a brilliant move. Green fees brought in more money than sheep ever did and the pasture smelled better. You could gamble on the outcome and because it took specialized equipment you spent a lot of money.

The sport got a lot more popular

Sporting equipment

when the balls got better in the late 1800's and the industrial revolution brought prices down. Most communities in this country built courses about 1900.

There is certainly no reason that you can't make a playable wooden club. Will it work better than a Titanium driver with a graphite shaft? Ok, maybe make a tee. Or a display case. There are other sports too so bring in a baseball bat or show us a trophy case. Fishing is a sport, right?

Sam Maloof Workshop

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Mike will begin with a video and/or power point presentation of their work and his experiences working with Sam Maloof. He will then demonstrate how Sam's signature rocking chair (see the front cover of Fine Woodworking Oct. 2009) and a pedestal table



Baby cradle

Des Moines Woodworkers

are constructed, shaped and finished. He will show how each piece is cut, how they are band sawn to shape, how joints are made, how the piece is assembled, how the final shaping is done and discuss applying the finish. Although Mike will be demonstrating the Maloof rocker and pedestal table the skills and techniques learned in this workshop are not limited to these pieces or the Maloof style; they can be applied to many styles.

Time for hands-on practice shaping with tools used in the presentation will be available, as well as opportunities to ask Mike questions. The cost of this one day workshop is only \$85.00, and this includes lunch! The workshop will be held at Bob Saunders' Prairie Rose Woodworking Studio at 6718 73rd Ave., Indianola, IA (see directions).

Registrations are being accepted now - sign up early to guarantee a place as there are only 20 openings available each day and we expect this to sell out. August 21

we will open this up to non-club members. Send a check for \$85.00, made payable to Des Moines Woodworkers, to Elise Walker, 3270 NW 87th Lane, Ankeny, IA 50023. Include a note listing your name, address, phone # and e-mail address (if available). Indicate your first and second choice for the day you wish to attend: Thursday (8th), Friday (9th) or Saturday (10th). I will respond by e-mail (or phone) to let you know that I have received your registration.

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Maloof Style rocker

Upcoming projects:

September: Unusual repairs.

January: Lap Joints.

October: Mortise and Tennon joints.

February: Anything that includes glass.

November: Laminates and veneer.

March: Inlay & Overlay.

April: Bridle joints.

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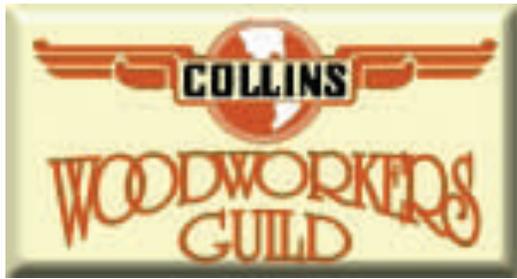
July Meeting

Last month we held our annual picnic. The weather was cool but rainy. At times we had to retreat to the pavilion but everyone had a good time.



Picnic





VISIT US AT:
WWW.ROCKWELLCOLLINSCLUBS.
COM/WOODWORKERS

KNOT KNEWS
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	Lee Johnson	

September 15, 2009

Meeting Notice:

- **Our July meeting: Tuesday the 15th in the Main plant cafeteria at 5:00**
- **This is our annual membership meeting**
- **September project: Unusual repairs**
- **Door Prizes!! The good ones this time**

Upcoming events:

- **Sam Maloof workshop presented by Mike Johnson. In Des Moines, October 8 - 10. See Page 3 for details.**
- **Scroll Saw Seminar by the Corridor Woodcrafters Club October 24th. See Page 4 for details.**



Knot News

COLLINS WOODDOEKERS GUILD NEWSLETTER

Membership meeting

It's time for our annual election. This time simply keeping the same officers isn't a possibility. Bryan and Wayne are still here but Perry is living in Illinois. Lee is only around part of the time.

But wait, There's more:

Much more. This is the meeting with the good door prizes, remember?



In fact Bryan and Wayne wouldn't be disappointed if you wanted to replace them. While you are thinking about it: Have you ever wanted to write a newsletter? You have a golden opportunity.

As a bare minimum we need a new vice-president and a librarian. If you are willing to serve please speak up. If you know of someone we can railroad speak up.

We have ACME Gift Certificates from \$25 to \$75, a bunch



of them. A gift certificate to By-The-Foot Sawmill. An 8" Prybar and Nail Puller, a 25 pc Dewalt Driver Set, a 20 pc Milwaukee Driver Set and a 16 ft tape measure.

And if that weren't enough: We have food. The Guild is buying pizza and pop.

A membership application is available on the Guild's web page.

September Project

As woodworkers we get dragged into an awful lot of repair jobs. And a lot of awful repair jobs. This month we want to see them. This doesn't have to be something that you messed up, maybe it's just one that came your way or that you straightened out.

A number of years ago I inherited my grandfather's violin. Nobody seems to know when he got it. As a kid I knew that he played it.

The instrument had a hard life. At some point it was crunched

by a rocking chair. The top was apparently broken beyond recovery. Normally you turn repair of any instrument over to a specialist. Professional luthers have been around for hundreds of years. Grandpa knew something about how violins were made and this one wasn't all that valuable. Besides that he was always up for a challenge like that.

He needed a single piece of spruce that was the right size. He had a bridge plank that was spruce.

An Unusual Repair

The resulting repair looks a little rough but when you string the instrument it actually doesn't sound bad.

I know a professional luther. When he gets a commission flies to Canada to get the spruce. He was amused by this one and I suspect that he won't be using a bridge plank any time soon.

August Meeting:

Last month Acme tool hosted our August meeting. We saw a demonstration of the new Jet thickness sander. It's a lot like a sander they have been selling for years under a different brand name except that now the drum oscillates. Everybody hates sanding and this one looks like it should work really well.

It's going to be a tough sell in a town where most cabinet shops will do that quite reasonably.



He also carries Festool. Before the demo I really didn't know much about Festool. They are a German company that makes the really high end handheld power tools. He showed us their cordless drill. It has a three phase brushless motor, several interchangeable chucks and runs from a Lithium Ion battery. It's a really interesting tool. Most cordless tools use a



“Universal” motor with brushes. The brushes are a common point of failure. Because this uses an inverter and a three phase motor there are no brushes.

Everything is controlled by a microprocessor so nothing can run hot. It looks like it should run through batteries in a hurry but Lithium Ion technology has great power density.

They have lots of other tools. He showed us a saber saw that has a really beefy blade and a zero clearance plate so the cuts are smooth and straight. They have a hand-held circular saw that runs on a track that doesn't tear out.



Acme tool

It's cool but of course this all comes at a price. The drill is \$575 at McFeely's. The saber saw is \$310. You could replace my Makita drill several times for that price. This one would do a lot nicer job and not need the maintenance. If you needed to use these to make a living and didn't want to deal with the down time it's probably worth it.



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March: Inlay & Overlay.

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Scroll Saw Seminar



Featuring

Dirk & Karen Boelman from

The Art Factory

Presenting their Scroll Saw Road Show

Patterns at 50% off the day of the show

CORRIDOR
WOODCRAFTERS
CLUB

Date: October 24, 2009

Time: 9:00 am 5:00 pm

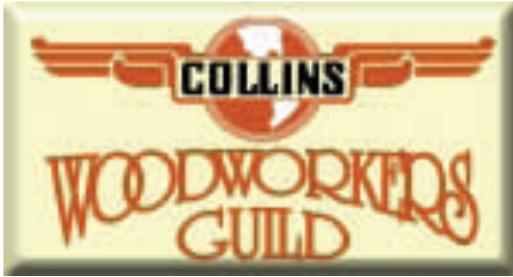
Place: Veterans Memorial Stadium

950 Rockford Rd. Cedar Rapids, IA

Cost: \$20.00 per person including lunch

R.S.V.P. to

John S. Sandor



CORRIDOR WOODCRAFTERS
CLUB

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October 20, 2009

Meeting Notice:

- **October meeting: Tuesday the 20th in the Main plant cafeteria at 5:00**
- **We will discuss the upcoming toy build**
- **Mortise and Tennon joints.**
- **Door Prizes!!**

Upcoming events:

- **Scroll Saw Seminar by the Corridor Woodcrafters Club October 24th**



Knot News

COLLINS WOODDOEKERS GUILD NEWSLETTER

Toy build discussion

We have been building toys for many years and have discussed safety of those toys before. We all know the general rules. No small parts for toys intended for small children, nothing sharp, nothing that a child could tangle and choke themselves. Most of our toys are not intended for children less than three so some of the rules don't apply. The toys meet those requirements anyway.

So... What's changed?

Well last year the scandal with a couple of companies in China exporting toys to the US with lead paint caused the Consumer Products Safety Commission to

rewrite their rules. The changed apply to us.

Lead causes neurological problems, especially in small children. It's been controlled here for decades.

Even here lead is still used in paint where the general public isn't likely to be harmed. It makes paint survive exposure to weather and sun light. We use it for road signs and to paint industrial machinery that we use outside. Farming equipment manufacturers use it.

What does it mean to us?

We can still build toys but we

can't finish them. The same rule also prohibits use of exposed metals. If we decide that they have to be finished they need to be tested and certified to be free of lead by an approved third party lab.

Our crayon trucks should be acceptable as they are because we don't finish them. The flipper games might be ok too because they are primarily used by children 12 or older. Paper is fine as long as it used normal printers inks so puzzles might be fine too.

The doll beds are probably not acceptable because we finish them.

October Project

Several months ago I saw a cabinet in a furniture store that looked like the frame was joined with through tenons. It was a little surprising because it was obviously not a well made piece. A closer inspection showed that the maker had just added a block of wood where a tenon would be if it were there. Later I saw an article in a wood-working magazine that covered screw holes with a similar fake tenon.

You have to wonder why they bother. It's pretty easy to make through tenons. They have been around for thousands of years. Joints like that last as long as

the wood they are made of. They are easy to make and look good. Lets face it. It's a pin in a hole. Doesn't get a lot easier.



Mortise and Tenon joints.

Versatile too. You can use them in trestle table stretchers so it can ne taken apart. It's the traditional joint in garden gates and timber framing. And it's probably the best way to attach a chair seat to the back and legs.

You can make them with anything from a dedicated hollow chisel or chain mortiser to a chisel. Maybe drill them out and clean it up with a rasp.

This month bring in any project where you used a mortise and tenon joint. Talk about how you made it.

September Meeting:

Last month we held our annual Membership meeting with the Election of new officers. Well, at least some new officers... It's also the meeting with the good door prizes and pizza.

Bryan Wesner is still our president. Wayne Hanson moved from Treasurer to Vice President. Roger Collins is now Treasurer. Thanks to all of you for stepping up to these rolls.

Membership and Election of Officers

John Cox got a \$75 gift card to Acme tool, Paul Gibbs got a \$50 gift card there too. Duane Weber and Ken Bodensteiner each won \$25 cards to Acme. And finally Jim Rettig got \$50 from By the Foot sawmill.



chair.



We had lots of good door prizes. Gary Scheufele won a tape measure, Jerry Roland won a Dewalt Driver set. Richard Wolfe got the multiple profile router bit, Larry Lacy took home a Milwaukee driver set. Our president, Bryan Wesner took the other Milwaukee deiver set. Ron Kositzky won the pry bar.

But wait!! There's more...

Did I miss anyone?

Like last year there was an inordinate concentration of winners from one table. But not my table.

Our project in September was "An Unusual Repair". We certainly get into some interesting stuff.

We had a headless duck



And a violin that had an unfortunate experience with a rocking

While Brian Boggs says that he



drills holes for Windsor chairs using his eyeball this looks a lot more likely to work.



Following all of that we had pizza.

Indian Creek Update

Here are a couple of projects recently finished for Indian Creek by a some of our members. The triangle shaped cabinet built by Bryan Wesner for the Grassland Display was delivered to the Nature Center on Oct 6th. with the assistance of Dave Houvinen.

The larger display cabinet which was completed earlier is close to finishing installation of the information panels inside and across the top of the display. The Grassland Display will have a scenic background and information panels installed across the top of the display.

Indian Creek was damaged by the flooding last summer and several of our members are helping them recover. Dave Huovenin is leading that effort. If you would like to volunteer please contact Dave.



Upcoming projects:

November: Laminates and veneer.

January: Lap Joints.

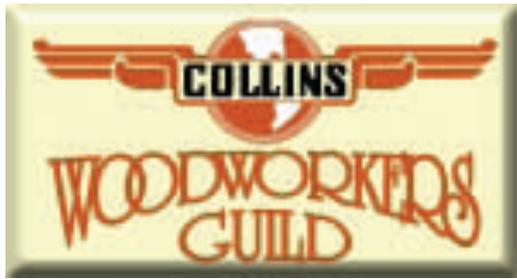
February: Anything that includes glass.

March: Inlay & Overlay.

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November 17, 2009

Meeting Notice:

- **November meeting: Tuesday the 17th in the Main plant cafeteria at 5:00**
- **We will be completing this year's toy build**
- **November Project: Laminates and veneer.**
- **Door Prizes!!**

Upcoming events:

- **Amana Woodfest: August 27–29th 2010 (You have plenty of time)**



Knot News

COLLINS WOODDOEKERS GUILD NEWSLETTER

Toy build

Well, we've been busy. After some trouble setting up shop time several of us spent two evenings last week making toys. We now have a fleet of trucks hauling crayons and a whole squadron of airplanes.

We also have a lot of parts to build "Close the box" games. Several members worked the weekend to assemble those

parts. There is still work to be done. Trucks still need wheels, the club logo needs to be burned into almost everything. There will probably be work remaining for the games.



Because of changes to the laws regarding toys the trucks and airplanes can't have finish applied. If we apply a finish we would need to submit a sample to a lab to confirm that

the finish didn't contain lead or anything else that shouldn't be there.

The toys will be distributed to any groups that participate in the "Adopt a family" program and to children at local hospitals.

November Project

We all get pulled into kitchen projects. Sometimes a repair and sometimes new construction but they frequently need plastic laminates. While there are a lot of choices for countertops laminates are very popular.

Laminates come in a lot of colors, patterns and textures. It runs about \$50—\$75 for a sheet. If you have \$150 you can get a picture imbedded.

Laminates are good for more than kitchen cabinets. We can use them whenever we need a solid smooth surface that will see a lot of wear or moisture. Think about it when you are making shop fixtures. Do you need a surface that glue and finish won't stick to? Need a router table top? Laminates are a good choice.

They are pretty easy to work with too, and they don't need a bunch of new tools.

You generally use an engineered material for a base. Plywood works fine. MDF is ok too but it's a lot heavier. Natural wood



Laminates and veneer.

products work too.

You generally start by covering the edges. The top will cover the raw edges and they will be less likely to catch on loose clothing. Cut the laminate a little over sized. It cuts with any saw or you can score and crack it.

Contact adhesive is traditional but any wood glue works. Follow the directions that come with the adhesive. Roll it with a wallpaper roller. Trim the overhang with a flush trim router bit, plane or file.

October Meeting:

Last month we talked about possible toys we could build and the changes to the laws that will affect us.

The biggest change in the rules is that we can't use finishes. If we do we need to have an independent lab certify that finish doesn't contain lead. It will be interesting to see how the rules evolve because this one will put a lot of small shops out of business.

We decided that we could build our traditional crayon trucks. They look good without finish and are very popular. The doll beds are

out. We also decided to make some new airplanes and the "Close the box game".

The project in October was anything that uses a Mortise and Tenon joint. It turns out that a lot is



Planning the toy build



use that joint. It shouldn't be a real surprise because it's a very traditional joint and it works really well.

Upcoming events:

Does anyone remember the woodworking events that used to be held in Amana? First there was Holzfest then there was Splinterfest. They ran for more than 20 years until the man who promoted them, RC Eichacker retired.

Well, he's out of retirement. The Amana Arts council has asked him to revive the shows. This time it will be called "Woodfest". It runs from August 27th through the 29th, 2010. His flyer will be attached to the e-mail.

RC has sent the real details but there are both "Craft" and "Commercial" classifications. Within each group there are subcategories with fees related to the category and the amount of

Amana Woodfest

space. Of course the public is free so just show up if you aren't selling something.

RC suggested that we could get a booth to recruit members. We might think about that because there will be a lot of woodworkers there including some retirees but most of the people coming through there aren't associated with Collins.

RC is also planning to have food vendors and a "Woodchoppers ball". There should be plenty going on. Because this doesn't start until August you have plenty of time to build inventory if you are inclined to exhibit and sell.

If you are interested check out the Amana Arts Guild at www.amanaartsguild.com or contact RC at 622-3908.

Upcoming projects:

January: Lap Joints.

February: Anything that includes glass.

March: Inlay & Overlay.

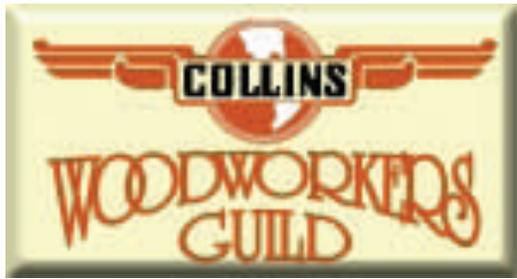
April: Bridle joints.

May: Dowels

June: Unconventional finishes

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