

## Meeting Notice:

- **January meeting: Tuesday the 17th in the Main Plant Cafeteria, 5:00**
- .
- **January Project: A simple project.**
- **Door Prizes!!**



# Knot News

COLLINS WOODWOEKERS GUILD NEWSLETTER

## January meeting

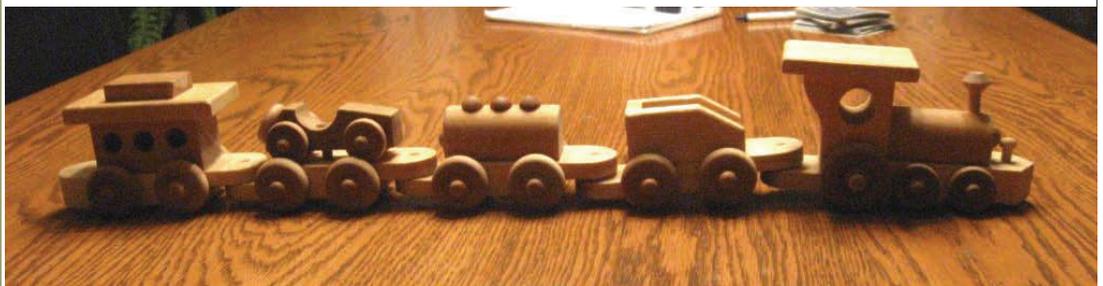
We are always looking for projects for the Christmas toy build. Generally the best ideas come from projects that we make for our own children and grandchildren. If they like the toy chances are that a lot of other kids will too. These toys also need to be simple enough that we can make several in a short timeframe. We have a couple build sessions in a shop and a

meeting to finish everything off.

Dave Huovenin came up with a new project this year that looks like it has real potential. He made a train for his grandson and is willing to come talk with us about it. He also made a set of drawings so we don't have to "wing it" from pictures and memory.

## Projects

Do you have a project that you are proud of? Not necessarily just toys but anything that may be interesting. Dave isn't the only bright, creative guy in this group. If you have something that you would like to share please bring it. We are all interested.



## January Project:

Norm Abrams was at a wood-working show in Des Moines several years ago speaking about a house that he was building. His wife was sitting near us so we struck up a conversation. She made the comment that it was another big complicated project that he hadn't finished. (Sound familiar??) She seemed frustrated. (yep, that's familiar too, right?)

A simple project that is well executed is better than a complicated one that never gets finished. We have all tied into projects that are more complicated when you get into to than they looked when you started. Some of us do that a lot.

This month we want to see your simple projects. Those are the things that you can start and finish with a few sessions in the shop. If it took you weeks to research and months to make it's too complicated for this project.

We all have different things that we consider simple. I can turn a pen in an hour start to finish so that would qualify. If you re-

## A simple project

produced a Ruhlmann dressing table it's more complicated than we are looking for. A Craftsman style plate rail probably qualifies.

What you think is simple depends on what you are comfortable with and what you are set up to make. A lot of lathe projects are simple unless you don't have the right chuck or are unfamiliar with a process.

Of course we make things besides furniture. A conventional bird house is a simple project but a martin house can be quite complex. So use your judgment, we want to see simple projects.



This plate rail counts



Ruhlmann dressing table – Too complicated

## November Meeting:

During our November meeting we traditionally finish our toy build and that's what we did this time too. We finished off a squadron of airplanes and a fleet of crayon trucks and a pile of



## Upcoming projects:

February: Oak.

March: Small furniture projects.

## Off topic:

Ok, Here is an odd one. Christmas day is the most likely day of the year to have a heart attack. Seems like a strange tradition; we have 364 other days every year to do that, why Christmas? Nobody seems to have a good answer. Maybe stress or cold snowy weather? You got everybody together anyway so you may as well do something exciting? No idea.

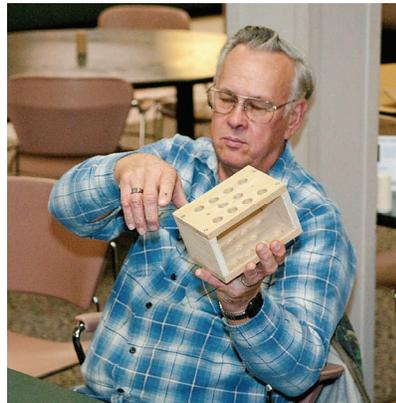
I decided to try it this year. I thought I had heartburn that evening. I didn't think much of it, after all heartburn goes with another Christmas tradition: eating too much. When it didn't go away by Sunday I stopped by St. Luke's figuring that I would get an expensive bottle of Maa-lox. Two days later I had a triple bypass.

The people at Luke's are great, and they saved my life. It's still a crappy way to spend Christmas break.

There are several big risk factors that affect your heart: Smoking, being male, family history,

puzzles. Bryan and Ray delivered them to the Children's centers at St. Luke's and Mercy Hospitals.

The project in November was anything made from softwoods. That left a whole lot of options.



April: Architectural woodworking

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

uncontrolled high blood pressure, diabetes, and cholesterol. The only item on that list that seems to apply to me is "male" so I should have been pretty safe. Statistics work that way sometimes.

You really don't have much to say about gender and genetics. The rest of the list you do control, and trust me, you want to control it. If you smoke it's hard to quit but you need to find a way. All of the others respond to diet and exercise and if that isn't enough they can be treated medically.

Your heart is a lot like Dorian Gray's portrait; it bears the scars of sins long forgotten. Heart damage accumulates. The extra couple of slices of pizza have consequences more serious than a few calories. So does driving to the mailbox rather than walking.

We all know that we need to see our regular family doctor. It's something I blow off too but

## Toy Build



(Continued on page 3)

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

## An odd Christmas tradition

my wife won't. The numbers in the lab work are important. They were always in the "normal" column or at least close enough that the doctor wasn't concerned. I'll be paying a lot more attention now.

Sometimes it's hard to tell if you're having a heart attack. One of the most common symptoms is death. Short of that though are chest pain (a lot like heart burn), felling of pressure on your chest, shortness of breath, and sweating. If you even think it might be a heart problem have it checked out. Your life depends on it.

The priest at St. Jude's says that there were six funerals in the week between Christmas and New years. In a normal week there are two. Mine could easily have been number seven.

So please watch it, I have things I would rather do next Christmas than go to your funeral. So do you.

Bryan & the Collins 12/2010  
Woodworking Club -

Thank you for thinking  
of our children in the  
hospital.

They love the crayon trucks,  
wooden puzzles & the  
airplanes are a huge  
hit with the older kids

Thank you once again  
The staff at St Lukes Children  
center

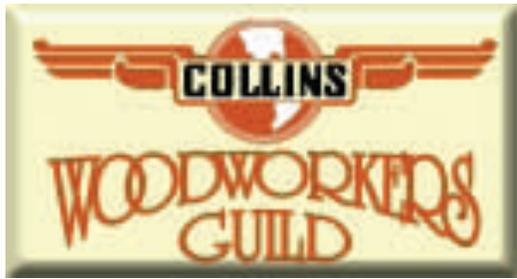


(Continued from page 2)

### Other things:

Hey, this is kind of cool. Neil Olsen built this rocking motor cycle. Most of it is oak but the base for the headlight is redwood and the handle bars and front forks are maple. Looks like we need to teach a kid to sing "Born to be Wild".





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## Meeting Notice:

- February meeting: Tuesday the 15th, at Cabinet Creations shop, 5:00
- February Project: Oak.
- Door Prizes!!



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## February meeting

This month we have the opportunity to tour the shop at Cabinet Creations in Marion. We will meet at their shop at 5:00. They will host a tour of their operations and discuss services and supplies (hardware, sheet goods, wide belt sanding...) they have available.

Cabinet Creations is a custom cabinet shop. Besides kitchen and bathroom cabinets they make other architectural woodwork like bookcases, fireplaces

and entertainment centers and custom furniture and entertainment centers. If you are looking for a shuffleboard table they make them.

Besides making all these things they will machine lumber for guys like us. Shop time costs \$75/hr and a \$15 minimum. That's pretty reasonable for some processes. They have a wide belt sander. If you have a bunch of door panels that need to be cleaned up you can break

## Shop Tour

out the random orbital sander and spend a weekend. These guys will have it done in a few minutes and the panels will be flat when they are done.

We visited them several years ago and they have moved since then. Cabinet Creations is now located just south of Hwy 151 east of the Hwy 13 intersection in Marion. The address is 801 62nd St.

We'll see everyone there...

## January Project:

We're pretty fortunate here in Iowa. There are lots of places where you can't throw a stick without hitting an oak tree. The local stuff is reasonably priced too.

Oak is sold under the trade names "Red oak" and White oak" but there are hundreds of named species and lots that aren't named. Beyond that oak forms hybrids and there is a lot of regional variation. If you have a Pin Oak that grows here in Iowa it's going to have growth rings that are much more obvious than a similar tree that grows in Texas.

Most of the trees that you can find in the woods will be small; maybe two feet in diameter or less. Oak grows much larger when it has the chance. Old growth trees in many species can be more than twice that size but it takes hundreds of years.

Most people harvest it before that.

Lots of the "Oak" furniture in the stores is actually ash or elm. Even in the antique shops there is a lot of misidentified wood. Look for the ribbon figure. It's really obvious if the wood is quarter sawn but still visible in flat and rift sawn lumber. You can also tell by weight; oak is heavy.

Oak has a couple physical characteristics that you should know about. First, it's not all that stable. A 12 inch wide red oak board can shrink about 1/2 inch because of normal humidity changes in this area. A good finish will slow that down some but won't stop it. White oak is more stable and it gets better when you have it quarter sawn but it still moves a lot more than most woods.

## Oak

There is almost no end to what you can do with oak. It makes great flooring, furniture, and cabinets. White is one of the best choices for outdoor projects because it doesn't decay easily and resists insect attack. It's commonly used for docks and railroad ties. Everything from casks to caskets.

So have you made anything from oak? Bring it in. If it's too big bring in a picture. We would like to see anything from a craftsman picture frame to an oak floor.



Ribbon figure in oak



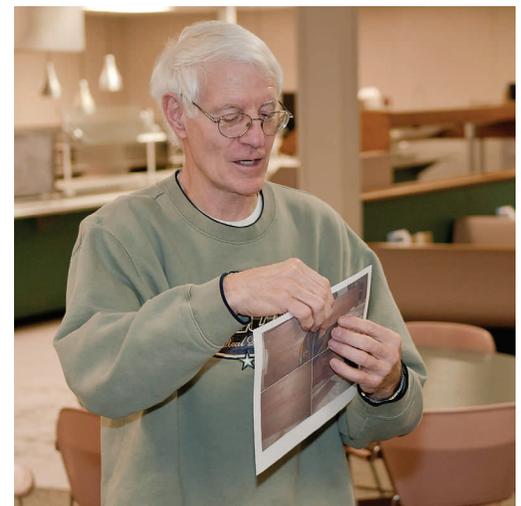
Rays in rift sawn oak

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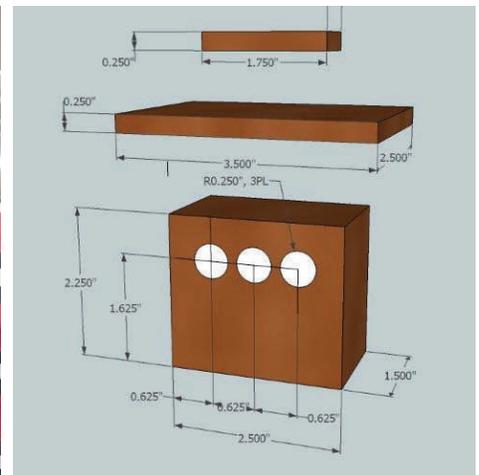
## Projects



Last month we talked about projects. Dave Huovinen showed us a train that he had made. (How long do you need to know Dave before you can spell his name? Apparently 10 years isn't enough.) He has pictures and drawings of each piece. We will probably make some for the toy build next year.



Project: Lots of people had projects. Richard Wolfe showed photos of a toy box he built for his grandson, and Ed Kalous had a toy grader as a possible for toys for tots as well as the turned finial box. Dave Wetzel had several pens that he made.



## Upcoming projects:

March: Small furniture projects.

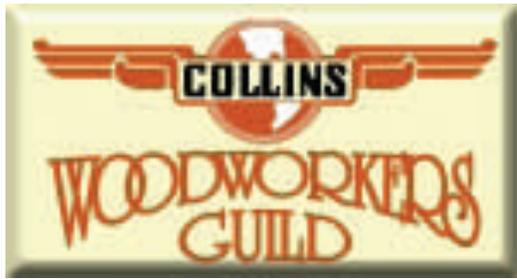
April: Architectural woodworking

May: Craftsman style

June: Cherry

July: Project from a tree in your yard

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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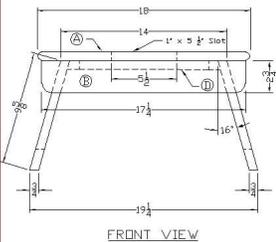
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Classic step stool plan

# Knot News

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## March meeting

It was the best of tools, it was the worst of tools...

Ok, we end up buying tools that disappoint us. They seem like a good idea at the woodworking show or a friend had one.

We need you to participate in this one. Bring in either your favorite tool or your least favorite one. What that is depends on you. The tools you depend on are of course related to what you like to do. There is a pretty

## Best or Bust: Favorite and Least Favorite Tool



time and have tools that we bought decades ago. Second, we inherit tools and buy them used so if your favorite tool has been around a while bring it anyway.

The other thing we want is the tool that has been a big disappointment. We have another door prize for people who bring in a tool. Like always, if your tool is impractical to bring in bring a picture and tell us about it.

good chance that one persons favorite is going to be less favorable to someone else. This doesn't really need to be a new tool. First, a lot of us have been working wood for a long

## March Project:

We end up building small projects once in a while. These are



the kind of furniture that you can make from scraps and usually don't take long. These can be just about anything as long as it's small. Jewelry boxes, step stools, and picture frames all

## Small Furniture Projects

count. This is the time to bring out that humidor you made.

It's also a good time to let us see your knickknack shelf. There is no real limit to the possibilities.



Have you ever built a desk clock? That counts. The long case grandfather clock probably doesn't unless it's for a doll house.

Whatever you built counts as long as it's small.



## Bargain on Kreg Bit Maintenance

If you have a Kreg Jig, you might be interested in this. The company will sharpen your Kreg drill bits for a pretty reasonable price. Its not documented on their website but Wayne called and confirmed the prices. They will sharpen and re-

turn the bits to you for \$4 for the first bit and \$2 each for any additional bits. That includes shipping for that price. He checked several other places in town and they charge in the \$7-8 range (each) so this is a bargain. You can send the

bits to the Kreg company at the address on their homepage. New drill bits are in the \$17-18 range so sharpening is a good deal. Wayne sent 2 bits to Kreg for \$1.56 postage so that won't break the bank either. It takes 24 hrs after they receive it.

## February Meeting:

Last month we visited Cabinet Creations in Marion. Our Project of the month was "anything made from oak".

We had several projects, some that were small enough to bring in and a few that were large enough that all we could see was pictures.



Once the tour started we got to spend a couple of hours with Jim Moller touring the facility and talking about how they build cabinets and furniture.

Some of Cabinet Creations designs are right out of an Agatha Christy novel. Their cabinets frequently have secret com-

## Upcoming projects:

April: Architectural woodworking

May: Craftsman style

June: Cherry

partments and parts that swing out of the way to reveal hidden passages. Their entertainment centers use slide out compartments that make it easy to maintain the wiring. Jim gave all of us ideas that we should think about when we design our projects.

They offer the local woodworkers a lot. First they offer us access to lumber and other materials that small private shops don't normally get. Do you need a piece of Corian? How about quilted maple? They can get it for us at competitive prices. They also have access to all of the Blum hinges and drawer



slides. They can get all kinds counter top materials that we normally can't.

Most of the tools in their shop are pretty typical for a small shop. Powermatic table saws, a nice eight inch jointer. They have a large planer. No numerically controlled processes or robotic finishing systems. It's pretty much the professional grade version of the tools we all use in our own

July: Project from a tree in your yard.

We need ideas for new projects. Here is an

## Shop Tour, Cabinet Creations



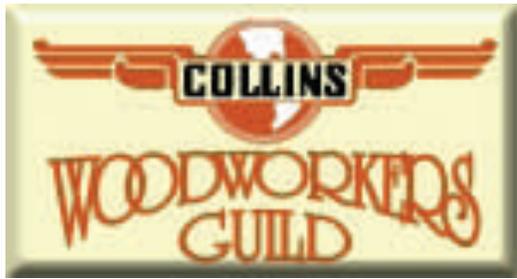
shops. They use a lot of engineered materials and do their own veneering.

They offer hobbyists like us access to processes that are much too expensive for small shops. They have a wide belt sander that's the fast way to clean up panels, face frames and other flat work. They have a vacuum veneer press that works on both flat panels and curved parts.

Cabinet creations has a very nice finishing system in a well lighted, vertical draft booth. They typically spray a two part conversion varnish that produces a substantial water resistant finish. They can spray lacquer or just about anything else you can put in a gun.

If you decide that you need a veneered panel, have something that needs to very substantial finish, or need a face frame sanded give them a call. If you need a couple of hinges they can get them for us at a reasonable price.

opportunity to show off something that you have made. Suggest it as a project of the month.



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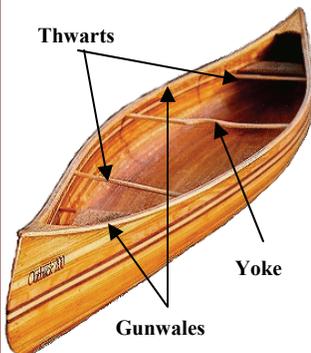
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Woodworkers have been building boats since Noah, probably before that. Mike got his as a kit from Pygmy Boats. It's the "Osprey Standard" from Pygmy Boats. Construction is "stitch and glue" using okoume plywood and walnut and rosewood veneers. It's covered with fiberglass and epoxy.

Mike started in December 2005 and finished in the summer of 2008. Like most of us these things take time when you have other commitments.



## Anatomy of a boat

While there are thousands of designs for small boats they have some things in common. A kayak like Mike's is a lot like a conventional canoe except that it has a top. That allows you to use it where it might roll over or when the water is very cold.

## Mike Wobbe's Kayak

Mike says that "functionally, it is a great boat to paddle. It has excellent

tracking and really moves through the water nicely. I would hope someday to be able to build another



The rails around the top of a boat are called gunwales (silent 'w'). They make the sides rigid and keep it from getting beat up as you paddle. In a kayak the gunwales are the rim around the cockpit and you can attach an apron to keep water out if you roll the boat. They also serve as a place to attach seats, thwarts

and yokes and to tie down cargo.

Thwarts keep the canoe from twisting and stiffen the sides. They are frequently in the way when you are moving in the boat. The yoke is a specialized thwart that lets you balance the boat on your shoulders when you need to move it on land.

## April Project:

Do you ever work on your house? Most of us do. Anything from replacing some trim to building kitchen cabinets. These are the projects that we want to see this week. You are likely to need pictures unless you really want to being in a stair case or a set of kitchen cabinets.

You can buy cabinets from just about any lumber yard and from specialized dealers. Some of the nicer cabinets come from this area. Besides standard cabinets

lots of shops will make them. The main advantage of building your own or having a contractor build them is that you can get whatever you want. That matters when you have an odd corner in your kitchen that needs a cabinet.

Conventional cabinets are designed to be usable for the "average" person. The counters are three feet high and you can reach the top shelf if you are about 5' 10". If you are tall, short, confined to a wheel chair,

## Architectural woodworking

or frequently have children in your kitchen you probably need something else.

Bathroom cabinets are always a compromise. They are too short for an adult and too tall for small children.

Fire place mantles, built in bookshelves, stair cases all have very similar tradeoffs. If you have ever done any architectural work please bring in pictures. Or the actual staircase. If you can...

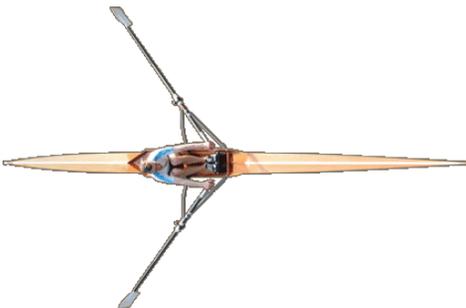


## The perfect canoe

Have you ever had a salesman try to explain why something is perfect for every application. He's been never right. Just talk to the guy in Scheels about canoes. They can show you what they have and promote the virtues that they know about. They are a great store and they generally sell some of the better brands. But there is no such thing as a perfect canoe that will perform in all conditions.

Mike is bringing his kayak to our meeting this week. It's a fairly long boat, almost 16 feet and at 24 inches wide it's on the narrow side. A long narrow boat is going to be fast in flat water. You might want something else in serious white water but we don't have class 5 rapids in this area. It's a great choice for Lake Macbride or the Wapsipinicon river.

Because it's a kayak it can be rolled completely over and not take on water. It's a "one hole" kayak so only one person at a time. Generally you have trouble coordinating the more than two people paddling so if you are taking the family you might want an open canoe.



A long narrow boat is going to be fast in flat water. If you want agile to shoot rapids you want shorter and wider in the middle. You may want to get rid of the seat and kneel on the bottom so you can move around and shift your weight to cut hard turns.

## Upcoming projects:

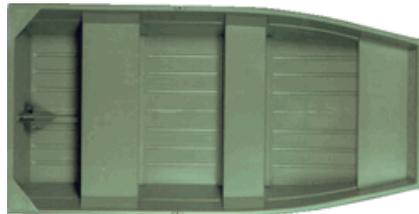
May: Craftsman style

June: Cherry

July: Project from a tree in your yard.

A round bottom will be tippy in rough water but it will be fast. A sculling shell is long and skinny with a round bottom. It will tip easily so you want to use it in flat water.

Conversely a boat with a wide flat bottom will be stable unless you are in rough water where it will bobble around a lot. It will be slow and hard to paddle. Try to paddle a jon boat sometime when the water is rough and you will get the idea. Great design if you want kids to play in the boat or if you are fishing and moving around a lot but you will wear yourself out on a long river trip.



A boat that flares out at the top will be dry but you have to lean over the side to paddle. When the sides close in at the top the boat is said to have "tumblehome" so it can be tipped and it will right itself. A tumblehome design is much easier to paddle but a little wetter.

If you want a classic, drop dead gorgeous boat nothing beats wood. Mike's boat is a stitch & glue design which means that the panels are wired together and sealed with epoxy and fiberglass. It makes a solid, light weight boat that can be built with minimal specialized tooling.

Another really classic design is the cedar strip. Traditional designs use narrow strips that are nailed and glued to ribs and



covered by canvas and glue. Old Town still makes them that way and they are beautiful.



Today most "strippers" are built without the ribs and have fiberglass both inside and out. They are very strong and light. Several manufacturers produce a pair of router bits called canoe bits that make a half round cut, one concave and the other convex so the strips fit tightly together.



There is a lot of information on canoes and kayaks on the web and several good books on the subject. One of the best is "Canoeecraft". It includes plans for several canoes and kayaks.

Web sites: [http://www.canoe-swannee.com/cedar\\_strip\\_canoe.htm](http://www.canoe-swannee.com/cedar_strip_canoe.htm)

<http://shawnwaite.com/canoe/>

[http://www.wcha.org/build\\_restore/plans.html](http://www.wcha.org/build_restore/plans.html)

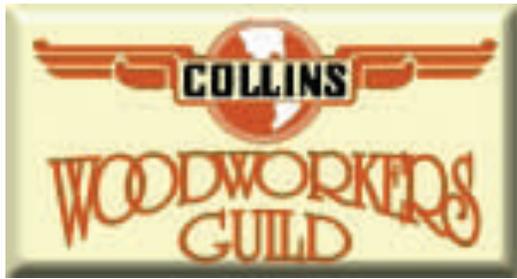
Many companies sell kits for both stitch & glue boats like Mike built and cedar strip designs:

<http://www.clcboats.com/shop/boat-plans/>

<http://www.pygmyboats.com/>

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

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



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	Lee Johnson	

**Meeting Notice:**

- **May meeting: Tuesday the 17th, at Buresh Architectural Millwork, 5:00**
- **May Project: Craftsman Style**
- **Door Prizes!!**



# Knot News

COLLINS WOODWORKERS GUILD NEWSLETTER

**May Meeting**

This month we are touring Buresh Architectural Millwork in Urbana. It's located at 2815 Bing Miller Lane in Urbana. Just take the Ur-



bana exit from I380 North of Cedar Rapids and follow the map.

The Buresh family has been involved in the construction industry in this area for a very long time. Brian had worked for another millwork shop before opening his own in 2008. Starting a new business

**Buresh Architectural Millwork**

was rough in 2008. Besides all of the normal start up issues he had to deal with the flood.

He has his shop up and running now and has invited us in for a tour.

Here is his web page <http://www.bureshmillwork.com/>

See you all there...

**Special Projects**

This month we received a request for several pieces that were needed by Foundation 2. A couple of our members stepped up and this is the

result. Doug Beeks built a pair of end tables. There were a couple of other members that were building projects for Foundation 2. I haven't

heard how those turned out. Anyway here is one of Doug's tables.

Great work Doug!

**May Project:**

Do you ever ask yourself why you work with wood? It's pretty easy to convince yourself that you are saving money but that's not all of it.

My wife has a dressing table that her great grandfather made around 1900. It's interesting for a lot of reasons and it tells you a lot about the guy. It would be great to talk with him about it but of course he died before I was born.

Nobody seems to know why he made it and as far as anyone knows it's the only thing that he made that has survived. It's basically a Craftsman design with straight lines and honest

joinery. Craftsman furniture was very stylish in 1900 and he could have used published plans. That doesn't seem all that likely; the bottom rail is pretty light and the top overhangs the front apron a long way. It seems likely that he built from a picture or at least a mental image.

The workmanship is pretty good. The apron is tenoned into the legs and the joints are still sound a hundred years later. The miters that hold the mirror are still tight. Legs are tapered on two sides and they match. This couldn't have been his first project.

**The Craftsman Style**

Craftsman furniture is like that. Woodworkers tend to like it because it's solid and straight forward without a lot of ornament. The joinery is simple, solid and generally visible. It does exactly what it looks like it does.

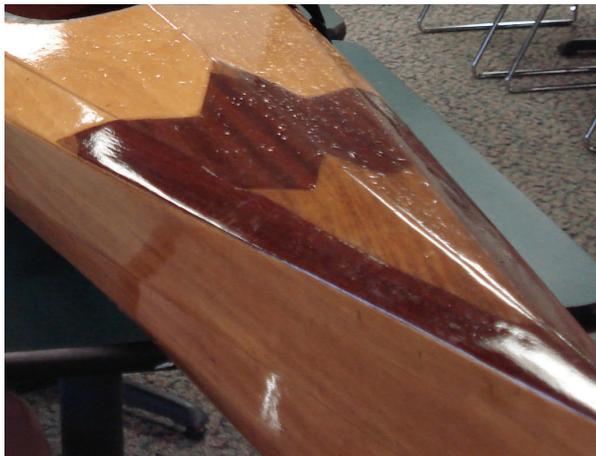
So bring one of your Craftsman projects to the next meeting. We would all love to see it. With a little luck a hundred years from now one of our progeny will take a good close look at one of our projects and wonder what the old boy was like. That's one of the reasons we do this. And maybe to save a little money.

**Mike Wobbe's Kayak**

It was a dark and stormy night... Ok it was actually just a cold and rainy afternoon. When Mike brought in his kayak. It was strapped to the roof of his car. My first thought was that we better get it in and dried off before the water trashes the finish. It took a second before the obvious sunk in: it's a boat; water had better not be a problem. Still you had to wonder whether to take it out gunk-holing in lake MacBride or throw a table cloth over it and serve drinks.

Mike started by explaining that he isn't a woodworker. He does a pretty good imitation.

The inside is covered the same way and the top deck is added to the hull with more fiberglass and epoxy. A block of epoxy is poured into the ends to seal it and provide a point where the line called painter can be attached. Curing epoxy is an exothermic process so he stood the boat on its end in a bucket of water until it set.



Once the epoxy is sanded on the outside its finished with spar varnish. It needs to be refinished once in a while because light will eventually damage epoxy.

[http://www.canoe-suwannee.com/cedar\\_strip\\_canoe.htm](http://www.canoe-suwannee.com/cedar_strip_canoe.htm)

<http://shawnwaite.com/canoe/>

[http://www.wcha.org/build\\_restore/plans.html](http://www.wcha.org/build_restore/plans.html)

Many companies sell kits for both stitch & glue boats like Mike built and cedar strip designs:

<http://www.clcboats.com/shop/boat-plans/>

<http://www.pygmyboats.com/>

There are lots of web sites out there with information on building boats and epoxy and

He described how he ordered the kit and worked through the project. It came pretty much cut out he used epoxy to make sealed joints and held them with wire while it cured. When the joints were all make (several weeks worth) he did some really nice looking veneer work on the ends. After that was sanded out he laid fiberglass sheets over the outside of the hull and worked epoxy into the weave. He then added more coats of epoxy to make a smooth finish.

fiberglass construction:

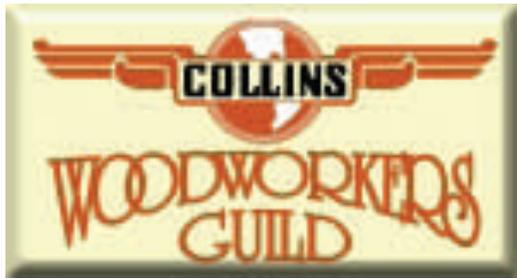


**Upcoming projects:**

June: Cherry

July: Project from a tree in your yard.

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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	Lee Johnson	

**Meeting Notice:**

- **June meeting: Tuesday the 21st , at the Main Plant cafeteria, 5:00**
- **June Project: Cherry**
- **Door Prizes!!**



# Knot News

COLLINS WOODWORKERS GUILD NEWSLETTER

**June Meeting**

Every Friday night during the summer there is a car show in the Sycamore Mall in Iowa City. Not really anything official but a bunch of car guys that show up with their latest accomplishments. It's everything from the high school kid that painted the LTD with cans of Rust-Oleum to real works of street rod art.

If you stick around a little and chat with the people you figure out that paints have changed a lot in the last couple of decades. Lots of us grew up with lacquer and high pressure spray guns. You could get versions that work with wood or metal, clear or colored. It's pretty simple to apply and it dries fast.

**June Project:**

Wood is funny stuff. On one hand we have Cotton wood that shows God has a sense of humor. When the humidity changes it moves more than almost anything else, doesn't look good unless you paint it. Cotton wood rots easily, drops fuzz in June and drops sticks whenever the wind blows. It burns like mould and the smoke smells terrible.

Cherry on the other hand has to be the most useful tree there is. It shares a genus with plums, peaches and almonds and the lumber from these species are all very similar.

Most of us are familiar with the wood. It's light pink cuts beau-

If you were working with wood you could also use varnish on outside projects and urethane on interior woodwork. Maybe oils if you wanted the tactile sense of the wood and didn't need much protection from wear.

It's more complicated now partly because there are many more choices. High Volume Low Pressure systems get a lot more of the finish on the project and less goes out the vent fan. Conversion varnishes are more durable than lacquer and more water proof but dry just as fast. Of course there are water based finishes that you can apply in the house without gassing your cat and varnishes and urethanes that don't have

tifully no matter what you are doing with it. Cherry takes most finishes well but nearly darkens to a redish brown with age.

While we deliberately plant Cherry trees for fruit growth of these trees is almost always deliberately stunted. Left on their own they go anywhere from a shrub like a chokecherry to the hundred foot black cherry. They all produce edible fruit but it's hard to get when it's that high in the air.

For this project we are interested in any cherry you have including what you can get that from the trees in your yard. They tend to be short and some-

**Finishing**

that amber shade and even provide UV protection so you can keep that oak looking like actual wood and not a plastic imitation. There are lots of new things out there.

Sean from Sherwin Williams on Collins Road is going to talk with us about those changes and how they apply to woodworkers. If you have questions don't hesitate to ask.

Of course if you are happy with the conventional finishes Sherwin Williams makes urethanes, oils and paints too. They can even sell you lacquer for your car. And they have spray paint if your LTD needs some help.

**Cherry**

times mostly reaction wood. Even that smells nice when you burn it. You almost always get pieces big enough for small projects especially from the lathe.

So bring in whatever you have made from Cherry. If you have something too big bring in a picture.



**May Meeting**

**Buresh Architectural Millwork**

Last month Brian Buresh gave us a tour of his shop: Buresh Architectural Millwork in Urbana. The Buresh family has been involved in the construction industry in this area for a very long time. His web page is <http://www.bureshmillwork.com/>

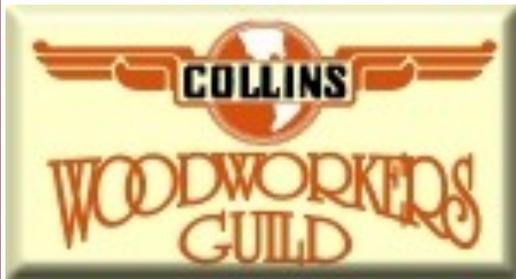


**Upcoming projects:**

July: Project from a tree in your yard.

opportunity to show off something that you have made. Suggest it as a project of the month.

We need ideas for new projects. Here is an



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**Meeting Notice:**

- **August meeting: Annual picnic, Tuesday the 16th.**
- **Main Plant Cafeteria**
- **August Project: A project form a tree in your yard**
- **Door Prizes!!**



Deer Antler Pen



Goose quill pen tips



Boxeldar

# Knot News

COLLINS WOODWORKERS GUILD NEWSLETTER

**August Meeting**

This month Dave Wetzel is going to talk with us about turning pens. Dave has turned dozens of pens in several materials besides wood. He has been experimenting with wood too. c

**A little bit about pens**

Making pens as a hobby is a pretty recent endeavor. It got started with the hobbyist wood-working revival in the 1970's.

Actually a hundred years before that you would have made your own pen too but there wasn't much art to the process. You simply persuaded your favorite avian donor to come up with a primary flight feather and dried it out. For a practical writing instrument the fuzz is trimmed off Hollywood seems to like impractical writing instruments. Shape and split the tip and dip it in ink. If you really want to do that here is an interesting link: <http://www.flickr.com/~liralen/quills/quills.html>

**August Project:**

Lots of us end up with wood that grew up where we did. We end up with a tree that has to come down or a limb that drops in a storm. Most of it ends up as firewood because it's a species that we really don't want to bring into the shop, it's too small or split so that it can't be used. Face it: Chinese elm smells terrible, cottonwood

**Pen turning with Exotic Materials**

He makes some of his pens using deer antler, buffalo horn and Corian. He has been experimenting with turning the wood off of vertical so some of the end grain is exposed giving a deep lustrous finish. He will bring

several pens and we can see how they turn out.

He is planning to bring his lathe and turn a pen for us. He will also talk about some of the specialized tools.

Quills were used until the steel pen points became popular in the early 19th century. Hamilton Madison tried them but preferred a quill and used one to write the Federalist Papers.

Steel points and variations on them can still be bought and there are pen kits that use them. They were common through the 1950's when ball point pens took over.

Of course most if grew up with the 19 cent Bic. It won't write if it's not horizontal and explodes if you keep it in your pocket. The only real virtue was the price. Rather than buy better pens we let

pocket protectors and cheap shirts become the uniform of the engineer.

Today we can buy anything from goose feather quills to steel nibs to Bic pens that cost a quarter to Dave Wetzel's hand turned pens. You can buy really nice domestic pens that run about \$100 and some imports that cost thousands.

Pocket protectors and polyester shirts on the other hand, are hard to come by.



**Project from a tree in your**

doesn't make great lumber and that limb form the apple tree is all reaction wood.

Occasionally we end up with a Green Ash trunk that's big enough to work or a limb of an oak that yields some useful lumber. Wood turners are famous for digging through the firewood pile and sometimes we

can come up with some really interesting stuff. That's where you find spalped Maple and while Boxeldar is ordinarily a weed its wood frequently has blood red streaks.

If you have something that you made from a tree in the yard bring it in. We want to see it.

**July Meeting**

Well, that's how it goes sometimes. A picnic when the heat and humidity are both hovering around a hundred somehow doesn't sound like much fun. The meat is now frozen and we will haul it back out in time for the September

meeting when we elect new officers. The potato salad wouldn't keep so the guys ate it at the planning meeting.

So for the September meeting (next month)

**Upcoming event**

August 26th – 28th. Woodfest in Amana.

The Woodfest is a collection of skilled wood crafters from throughout the country. They will display and sell their unique creations as well as demonstrate their craft. Commercial companies and sales

reps will have the latest in tools, supplies and techniques for the public to see and purchase. Seminars are scheduled through the three day event.

After a successful first year, the coordinator can provide information and applications

**The poison Pen**

Dave isn't the only pen maker in the group. Several members make the occasional pen and a couple actually make quite a few really nice ones. John Cox was discussing penmaking a while ago and mentioned an article about making a pen out of poison ivy...

That sounds like a really bad idea, first because of what can go wrong and second because local poison ivy is generally a really small plant. Lots of plants have woody stems and poison ivy is no exception, but the stem is no bigger than a pencil anyway. Under the right conditions it can grow as a substantial shrub and even climb like Virginia creeper but not generally here.

On second thought though the idea has some virtue. Think of the acerbic prose that could be created, and not just nasty letters. Lawyers should always have a poison ivy pen handy for divorce proceed-



ings. There is no telling what a politician could create with one. Think of how many could be sold on Wall Street. Know anybody that wants to quit chewing their pencil?

So what else could you use besides poison ivy? Poison Sumac comes to mind. Poison Sumac ( Toxicodendron vernix) is related to poison ivy (Toxicodendron radicans) but it grows to twenty feet tall. Both produce a toxin called urushiol that can cause a very painful rash if you are sensitive to it.

The problem is identifying poison sumac. Most of the local stuff is Staghorn (Toxicodendron typhinais) and is completely harmless; the berries are even edible. A neighbor several years ago came out with a sprayer and started hosing the sumac in the back of his yard and along our common boundary. When I went out to stop him he said he was planning to do me a favor by spraying "all the poison sumac", even the stuff in my yard. He didn't believe it when I told him he was killing a desirable plant but quit when I took a handful of berries and rubbed them on my arms and

opportunity to show off something that you have made. Suggest it as a project of the month.

We need ideas for new projects. Here is an

**Picnic is a bust**

make a new batch of whatever you were planning to bring and we will try again but indoors.

**Woodfest**

for interested exhibitors. Held in air conditioned buildings with food and refreshments available. The Woodfest supersedes the former and long running "Holzfest" by the same coordinator.

For more information go here: <http://amanacolonies.com/>



face and ate a couple of them (sour and almost citrus flavor, not bad but they have a kind of herry husk).

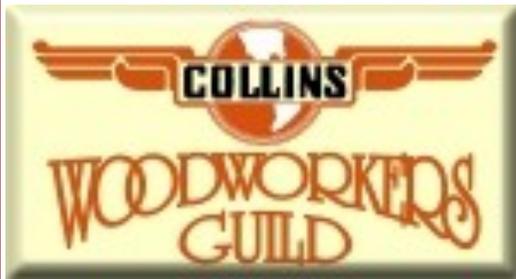
The real easy way to tell the difference is that poison sumac only grows in swampy soil. If you are fishing or canoeing look out but in you back yard you are pretty safe.



You should know about a couple of other members of the family, the poison oaks. Two varieties exist in this country, Toxicodendron diversilobum on the west coast and Toxicodendron pubescens in the deep south. Neither will survive our winters.

**Upcoming projects:**

August: What are you working on now??



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**Meeting Notice:**

- August meeting: Annual picnic, Tuesday the 20th. at 5:30.
- Main Plant Cafeteria
- September Project: What are you working on right now?

**Door Prizes:**

- 50" clamp/saw guide
- Slick Saw table cover 27" x 27"
- 29 pc impact driver bit set
- 18" Bessey clamp
- 6" Bessey clamp
- Cross back Shop apron
- Precision brass setup bars
- Slickplane hand radius plane
- 10, 1/2" rare earth magnets
- Magnetic push stick
- Set of 4 Bench Cookies
- Two \$25 Acme Gift Cards
- One \$50 Acme Gift Card

# Knot News

COLLINS WOODWORKERS GUILD NEWSLETTER

**September Meeting**

What a difference a couple of months makes. We scratched our picnic meeting in July because the temperature and humidity were both pushing 100. Now we have frost.

September is why we live in Iowa. The weather is beautiful, the leaves are starting to turn and we are finally holding our picnic. This time the weather really doesn't make much difference because the picnic is indoors anyway. We are setting up grills in Kenwood park and carrying the food across the street to the cafeteria. We will be grilling brats and hamburgers and the club is providing potato salad, sodas, bottled water condiments, glasses, napkins, paper towels and ice. If you'd like

**September Project:**

Ok if we walk into your shop today what will we see? Not counting the mess. If you're like me there are a couple of things going at the same time. It's not that you intend for that to happen nor is it an efficient way to work.

You are in the middle of a project and your coworker tells you that they need props for the school play, they're stuck and you can help. It's no big deal and the fact is that you can actually help.

It turns out that the other guy making props has to leave town

something special cooked, bring your own and we can cook it or we'll even let you do it.

We suggest you bring your own place setting, silverware and a pot luck dish to share. We'll start setting up around 5 or so and hope to have the meat ready by 6.

Spouses are not specifically invited, as was the case for the picnic but won't be turned away either. We suspect they might be bored with our meeting activities anyway. Use your own judgment here.

Besides the picnic it's time to renew your membership. There should be a form attached to this newsletter. You can also find

**Picnic and Officer Election**

one on the CWG homepage.

The final thing on the agenda for this month is the election of officers. We need fresh blood to run this group and we think you should consider stepping up. Bryan is going to be traveling a lot next year so he's going to miss a lot of meetings. This isn't rocket science. This place has rocket scientists and they aren't running this particular show (zing...).

Also take this into consideration: We are going to elect somebody. If you really don't want an office you need to be there to defend yourself.

**What are you working on now?**

for a couple of weeks so what was no bug deal turns into kind of a pain but you can still cover it. And your project gets pushed back.

You wrap up the prop project in time but the paint is still wet for the dress rehearsal and the music teacher wants one more.

You clean up the dust, sharpen your tools and get back on your original project but it's a month later. You find your drawing and remake the two parts you had to cut up to make jigs for the props.

Cars, lawns, and kids all require maintenance and that takes time. You do what you can but the time to do those things comes out of the time allotted to wood-working projects. That's why it takes forever to finish these things.

So blow the dust off that long neglected project and we can take a look at it. Or if you haven't been interrupted yet bring it in and we can set you up with some other priority.



We know what Dave is working on.

**August Meeting:**

Last month Dave Wetzel showed us how he turns pens. He made one from deer antler and a double ended pen from wood and buffalo horn. Dave brought in his lathe and tools and

demonstrated the whole process.

Dave uses a scraping cut with antler and horn material and he uses glue applied with an abrasive pad for a finish.



The project this time was anything from a tree in your yard.



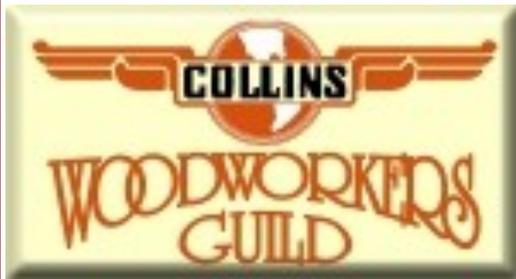
**Upcoming projects:**

October: Light – Lamps, Lanterns and Candle Holders

January: Scraps and Firewood.

November: Boxes

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**Meeting Notice:**

- **October meeting: Annual picnic, Tuesday the 18th at 5:30.**
- **Main Plant Cafeteria**
- **October Project:**
- **Door Prizes!!**

**Toy Build**

We have a plan.

We will be building toys again this year. **Please save the evenings of October 27th (Thursday) and November 7th (Monday).** As in previous years we will be working in the Marion High School Industrial technology shop.

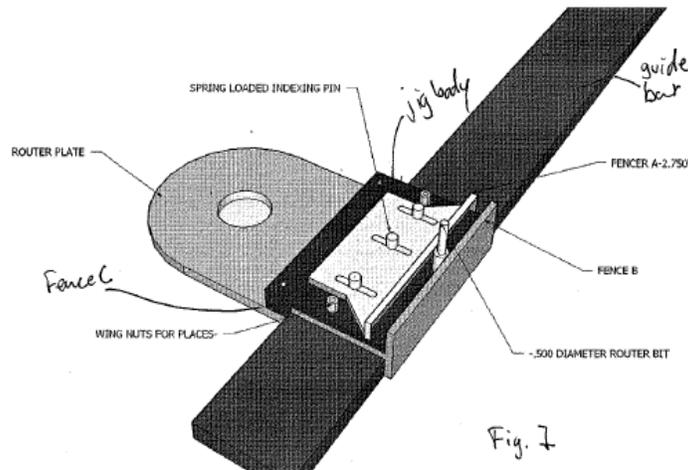
There will be another announcement with more details closer to the dates.

# Knot News

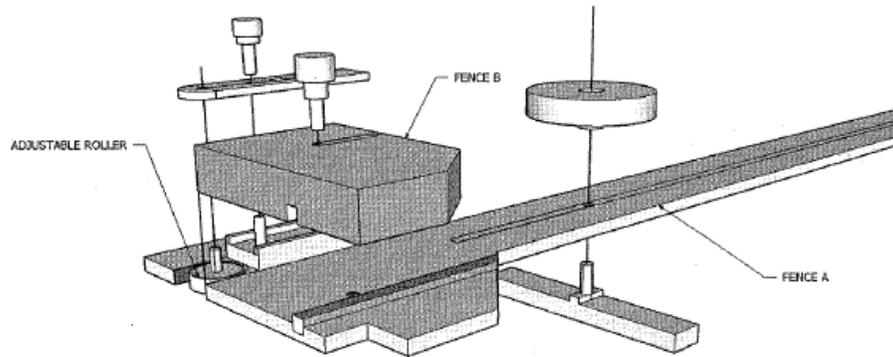
COLLINS WOODWORKERS GUILD NEWSLETTER

**October Meeting**

**Dave and Ron's Dado Jig**



Dave Huovinen and Ron Bently have come up with a new jig to make dados. They have been uncharacteristically quiet about it until recently because they have been nailing down the patent rights. Now that the application has been filed they are free to tell us about it.



**October Project:**

**Light - Lamps, Lanterns and Candle Holders**

Candlesticks and lamps are both very popular projects. Every industrial arts class has a couple of lamps made by high school kids. Candlesticks are a staple project from the lathe.



available. is well made is much better than a complicated one that isn't. Candlesticks of course We want to see don't need to be one that you are wired but you probably have made a lamp, candlestick or about anything else that holds a light bring it in. We want to see it.



Boxeldar



Wiring a lamp isn't difficult and the required hardware is commonly

dle. You can buy brass cups to hold the base of the candle. Of course a simple project that



## September meeting

The September meeting is always a big deal. We elect officers, Feed the group and have the good door prizes. This one was no exception.

If you remember last year Wayne Hanson missed the meeting and found out later that he had been railroaded as Vice President. We didn't do that this time; all of the officers had a fair chance of declining the nomination.

After much discussion Steve Geurts was elected President, Joel Gillett Vice President and Ray Collins remains as Treasurer.



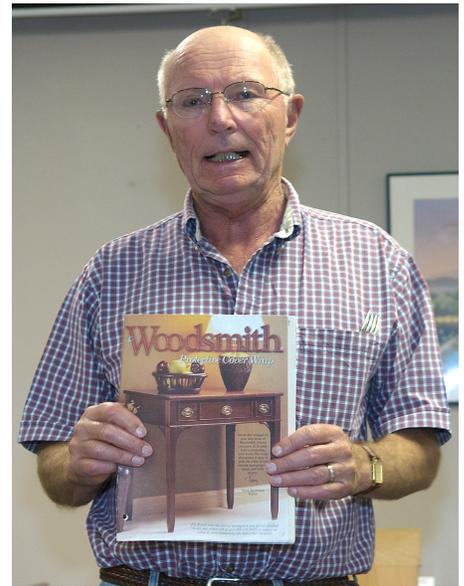
The September project was "Whatever is in your shop". We wanted to know what you are working on and several members brought projects.



Following the meeting we finally had the burgers and brats we tried to have in July. Bryan brought a grill and cooked in Kenwood park across the street. Lots of people brought food to round it out and we all ate more than we should have.

Door prizes were awarded as follows:

## Picnic & Election of Officers



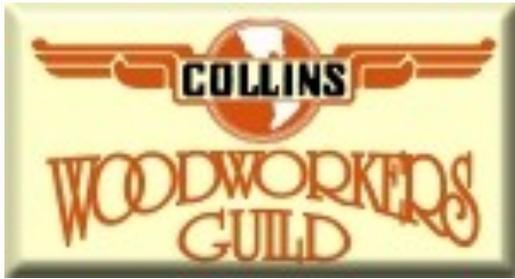
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 6" Bessey clamp,  
 Cross back Shop apron,  
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 Loras Overman: Slickplane hand radius plane,  
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 Magnetic push stick,  
 Bill Barvinek: Set of 4 Bench Cookies,  
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## Upcoming projects:

October: Light – Lamps, Lanterns and Candle Holders  
 November: Boxes  
 January: Scraps and Firewood.  
 February: Glass

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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**Meeting Notice:**

- **October meeting: Tuesday the 15th at 5:00.**
- **Main Plant Cafeteria**
- **November Project: A Box**
- **Door Prizes!!**

# Knot News

COLLINS WOODWORKERS GUILD NEWSLETTER

## November Meeting

A small group from the organization has been working in Marion High School's shop over the last

few weeks. We have parts for crayon trucks and airplanes. This Tuesday we will be finishing that effort. We still need to



mount wheels and a few other things. Please come and help us.

We are missing the patterns for the doll beds. Wayne took some of the parts home



## Toy Build

and is going to see what he can do with completed ends but no promises. If you know where the patterns are please let one of the officers know and we can put them back in the cabinet for next year.

## October Project:



minimalist can go for four sides but that's about the limit. It would look like a closed pyramid. The other extreme is a round box with an infinite number of sides all of zero dimension.

## Boxes



Besides form there are unlimited uses. From the tool box to the cabinet you store it in; they are all boxes. The monks at New Melleray Monastery make caskets that of course are boxes.

least bring a picture. We want to see it.

So if you have ever made a box, and believe me that's a very broad definition, bring it in or at

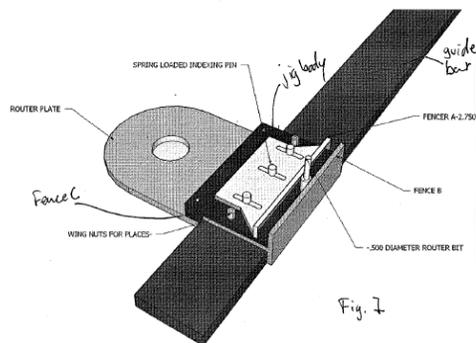


Boxeldar box

**October meeting**

Last month Dave Huovinen and Ron Bentley showed us their new dado jig. It's based on using a dado blade that is narrower than the joint to be cut. They showed how to use it on a table saw but the concept would work on a router table as well.

We have lots of ways to make joints like



these. They showed us a video of one method. It wasn't the hardest way to do it



but it was certainly not easy.

**Dave & Ron's Dado Jig**



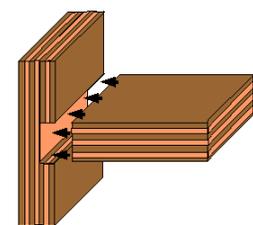
The project last

month was anything that produced light. That brought out light fixtures, lamps and candle stands. It was a pretty interesting set of projects.

**Dados**

You would think a groove in a piece of wood should be a pretty simple thing, and it is. Getting a second piece to fit into that groove is more of a challenge but still normally no big deal. You cut the groove about the right size and shave mating piece to fit.

We run into problems when we use engineered materials. Plywood doesn't look right when we shave off the outer veneers to make the wood the right size. To further



complicate matters plywood generally comes in metric sizes but our tooling is only available in fractional inches.

When you buy 3/4 inch plywood at Menards you actually are buying 18mm and that's about .041" undersized. That's enough to make a really sloppy joint and that's what Ron and Dave's invention was intended to address.

Last month they showed us a video showing a pretty complicated method of cutting a narrower joint but there are lots of alternatives that are easier. The really obvious choice is to use a metric dado head.

Not an option — even in Europe. The European standards require a saw blade to stop quickly when you turn it off. Their saws include blade breaks and the extra inertia would keep it from working. European saw spindles are also too short for a stack dado set.

Ok, second option: 18mm router bit. You can do that and it works as well as dadoing with a router ever does. You have to be really careful about keeping the router against the straight edge. A router table works as long as the piece you are dadoing is small.

Another easy choice is to use 5/8" worth of dado stack and .080" of shims.

Third easy choice: Cut 5/8" dado and trim the mating piece on the bottom to fit. That will be a bit weaker but not all that bad.

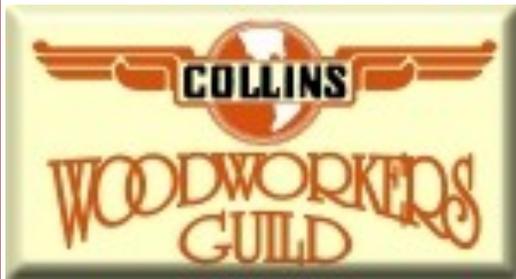
Fourth easy choice: Skip the dado entirely and use a batten instead if the design will work that way.

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