

Meeting Notice:

- **January meeting: Tuesday the 15th at 5:00.**
- **Main Plant Cafeteria.**
- **A Discussion of Drawers**
- **January Project: Your New Years Resolution.**
- **Door Prizes!!**



Knot News

COLLINS WOODWORKERS GUILD NEWSLETTER

Drawers

This month we are talking about making and installing drawers. The club recently bought the Kreg Drawer jig and Loras checked it out. He may have thoughts on how it works. There are lots of other jigs, ways to install them without a jig and plenty of ways to install drawers without glides. We're going to get a discussion going about how we all do it.

Drawers are just a box with an open lid that slides into a slot. You run into a few problems. First, you can easily put more in a drawer than it can handle. You need really solid corner joints because you pull on the front and slam it shut. People also tend to overload drawers.

The traditional joint for the corners is a dovetail. It provides a mechanical lock and lots of glue surface. It's traditional because it works and is reasonably easy to cut. It does take a minimal amount of skill but most of us can make it work.

There are a lot of alternatives that take less skill but most of them have serious limits.

The quickest way is probably just to nail the sides. That's great for lightly loaded drawers that don't get used a lot.

Dowels work a little better for small drawers (like jewelry boxes). Most of the glue surface is end grain so it won't stand much stress. Miller Dowels actually

work pretty well.

Slides are great for drawers that will be used a lot. They are in almost all kitchen cabinets.

The down side is that they take an inch of width and a half inch of height. They look bad when the drawer is open and only work with overlay drawers.

Wooden runners on the bottom of the drawer are a very traditional choice and work well with insert or overlay drawers. Most well made dressers use them. They wear but aren't difficult to repair. If you use a dense hardwood (maple) they will last for centuries even if they are used a lot.

January Project:

Ok, you have been putting it off for a while. Maybe a long while, and it's not getting done by it's self. You got kind of a break between Christmas and New Years so you tackled it. Maybe it's not quite done but you can

Your New Years Resolution

see the progress. New years resolutions are the dark side of the Christmas season. Much like a hangover.

And we want to hear about it.

This time every year I spend several days in the shop just getting everything back in shape. Things like this get put off in the push before Christmas to finish projects. December in my house smells of curing finish. Planer noise and pejoratives from the shop are as traditional as carols. The next couple of weeks are spent cleaning everything, sharpening tools, replacing handles, whatever repair needs done.

Besides those things there is always he Honey Do list and some of us try to take on a project that takes more time from that. After all we have some time without a lot of commitments and this is an opportunity. It's a chance to lay hardwood flooring or gut your kitchen if you are ambitious and brave. But it's also a chance to take on smaller projects.

So we want to know about the projects you have taken on during the break. Bring in a picture if it's too big.



Hardwood flooring is practical but it takes time.



Screwdriver handles



November meeting

We finished the toy build in November and several members delivered them to the hospitals. They were well received:



Dear Steve Geurts~

Thank you so very much for your kind donation of wooden airplanes, trucks with crayons and games. Your generosity will help make several little ones stay at the hospital a little bit easier. We truly appre-

ciate you thinking of us and our patients during the holiday season. We hope have a wonderful Christmas!

*Michelle Divoky, RN
PICU/PEDS Supervisor*

St. Lukes Hospital

319-861-6891



Little libraries

Our "Little Free Library" project is back on again. Sarah Reasner will be talking with us about the project at the meeting. She was planning to have an article here but that didn't work out.

This could be fun.

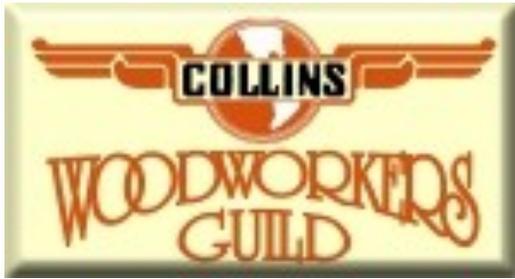


Upcoming projects:

February: Your Honey-do list: Stuff for someone else.

March: It's almost like woodworking... projects that are not strictly wooden.

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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GUILD BENEFITS

- Access to our EXTENSIVE library of books, magazines and Tool Collection
- Open exchange of ideas, from project help to house building; and a hand when needed
- Social Activities
- Workshops
- Toys-For-Tots and other Programs to help our Community
- Educational and Informative Presentations
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Meeting Notice:

- February meeting: Tuesday the 19th at 5:00.
- Main Plant Cafeteria.
- Program: Template Routing
- February Project: Your Honey-do list: Stuff for someone else.
- Door Prizes!!



Knot News

COLLINS WOODWORKERS GUILD NEWSLETTER

Template Routing

Ray has been using the library's router templates that form letters. They don't get a lot of use but he says that they work pretty well so he's going to show us how he does it.

You usually use these templates to make signs. If you want to route your house number and name next your door this is what you want. The set has large and small letters but even the small ones ate more than an inch high.

Of course the technique of routing patterns is more generally useful than just making signs. It's how we make the doll beds and crayon trucks for the toy build every year at Christmas. It's useful anytime you want to create a curved edge.

We have several ways that we

can use to route templates and lots of equipment that uses the technique. The template set that the club owns uses a bushing that mounts on the router. These bushings come in sets that only work with one router design. For example if you have



a Bosh router you need their bushings.

When you are making shallow cuts with the lettering template

there are only a few things that can go wrong. First you need to make sure that the bit is pretty close to where you want it before you plunge. Otherwise you can trash a pattern quickly.

The router jerks a little when you start it. If you aren't using a plunge router make sure the bit isn't engaged in the work piece or close to the pattern.

When you are routing an edge (not an issue with the lettering set) trim the work piece as closely as you can. Otherwise your bit can hook the scrap piece and trash the good part.

Pay attention to the direction of the bit turns and the direction the grain runs. Try not to climb into the grain or it's going to tear out.

February Project:

Our daughter was over for lunch a few days ago and she very politely reminded me that I needed to finish the shelves in her apartment. I couldn't forgotten them; my cordless drill is at her place. The only difficult part is finding a couple of hours free where our schedules line up. She has a full course load at school, a job, and a social life.

We all live that way to some degree. Well not the social life part, middle aged guys can 't compete with college kids there but we tend to be busy. We also tend to have projects that

Your Honey-do list: Stuff for someone else

people bug us to finish and occasionally (not often) we actually do finish one of them. We want to hear about yours. Because these tend to be home improvement projects you may need to take a picture.

I don't know for sure but your list may have a little different priority than anyone else's. Mine includes shop projects, my Mustang and a fishing rod. My wife doesn't include any of those things but includes things for her office. Our daughter's list is pretty much the shelves and her car. These lists are mutually

exclusive. Our son's list generally includes a round of golf. We better start there. That's how you establish priorities.

And there are other approaches: If you screw it up really badly you won't be asked to do it next time. It can be used as a vehicle to buy tools. You need to be careful there; She's never going to believe replacing a \$300 dishwasher requires an 8" jointer. You can probably finagle a cordless drill out of it though, just don't leave it at your kid's place.

January Meeting

Last month we talked about drawers. There were a surprising number of ways shown to build and install them. Most used commercial drawer slides along the sides. Smaller drawers almost always ran on the bottom of it's hole or on wooden runners.



Ray brought in a drawer that he got for a nickel. Even if he uses it for firewood it's a bargain.



Bryan brought in a whole jewelry box with several drawers.



You can use a KREG jig for drawer joints.

Drawers



Little libraries are back

Sarah Reasner contacted me again and her proposal to build libraries based on some of the historic buildings has been approved. I have started the first one. It's based on the C. S. P. S. (Czech - Slovak Protection Society) building on 11th Ave. and 3rd street NE. This place has a colorful history; Originally a combination insurance company, fire department, dance hall, and school, it must have quite a place. It was said to be haunted

before the flood but the ghost must have moved to higher ground.

It's essentially a rectangular building with some interesting details so not all that difficult to duplicate. It looks like the post flood reconstruction was successful. The building is open now with businesses on the first floor and probably more upstairs.



Upcoming projects:

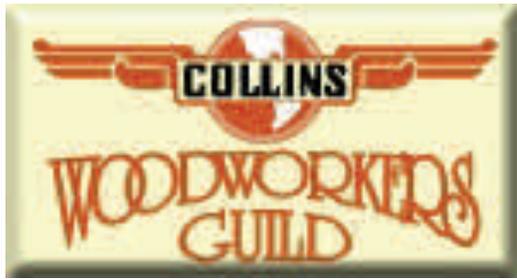
March: It's almost like woodworking... projects that are not strictly wooden.

April: Painted projects

May: Mothers' day

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:

- **March meeting: Tuesday the 19th at 5:00.**
- **Main Plant Cafeteria.**
- **Program: Picture framing**
- **March Project: It's almost like woodworking... projects that are not strictly wooden.**
- **Door Prizes!!**



Knot News

COLLINS WOODWORKERS GUILD NEWSLETTER

Picture Framing

Steve Geurts has been framing some pictures. Most of us have tried it; a few have even succeeded. From what I've seen Steve is one of those few.

His frames are made from conventional stick moldings. He miters the corners (and they



look fine). He even cut his own matting.

The club owns a matt cutter that gets little use. While Steve used his own for this project maybe he can talk about how they work.

March Project: Almost Woodworking, Projects that are not strictly wooden.



Definitely not wooden

Occasionally we all work with materials that aren't strictly wood. Dave showed us how he turns deer antler to make pens. Many of our wood turners have worked things that are not wood and we want to see examples.



We use laminates and solid materials like Corian when we make counter tops. This month

we would like to see what you do that isn't necessarily wooden.

Plastics, bone, and bamboo and even your ice sculpture would count here. Whatever you have made that isn't necessarily wooden we want to see.

This is another project that may require a picture. That Corian counter top would be tough to bring in and that ice



swan might be no more than a puddle now. So whatever you have done -- we want to see it.

February Meeting

Last month Ray Collins talked to us about his experiences routing signs with the templates that are in the library. Ray has been using the library's router templates that form letters. They don't get a lot of use but he says that they work pretty well.

He did have a few problems. The kit doesn't include the recommended bit or the collars that fit his router. The collars make some sense because they need to match whatever router you are using.



Ray set up the router with the the required collar and bit. The templates fit in a frame that lays

Template Routing

over the piece to be routed. The frame needs to be held down. The conventional method is blue painters tape.

Ray also talked about routing



February Meeting



(Continued from page 1) height of the collar.

other patterns. The critical thing to keep in mind is the thickness of the pattern needs to be more than the

The project for February was "Something from the Honey-do list". This is a fertile field because we all have those lists and there really is no end point.

Well, it's sort of like woodworking...

These things start innocently enough. It looks like something that won't take all that much work and it should be fun. In this case a couple of us ran across a large fishing rod at an antique show. In an hour the show would close and I could have it for \$20. I had \$20 and that's not so much that my wife would protest.

It's obviously very old; people rarely build rods from bamboo today. While lots of fly rods are longer than seven feet this was no fly rod. With grips both above and below the reel seat it was intended for fighting with both hands. And it's much stiffer than a fly rod. No flathead is going to break this one.



Bob Young is a local collector of antique fishing equipment and a good guy to know. He has a booth at Antiques of Marion, just look for the one with all the fishing stuff. He says it was "made for killing salmon" about 1920. Then he sold me a reel.

That explains the two handed grip and the weight. It should make a great bridge rod or for trolling. Maybe not much of a casting rod. The only obvious flaw was the guides were coming off. A couple of them were missing and I brought two others home in my pocket. The rest were held in place with ancient friction tape. Old replacement guides can be found on e-bay. Lots of places sell new guides but none that look like these.

Upcoming projects:

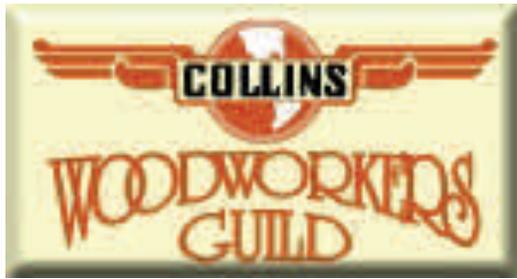
April: Painted projects

May: Mothers' day

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Template Routing





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Meeting Notice:

- April meeting: Tuesday the 16th at 5:00.
- Main Plant Cafeteria.
- Program: Toolboxes
- April Project: Something Painted.
- Door Prizes!!



Knot News

COLLINS WOODWORKERS GUILD NEWSLETTER

Your Toolbox

At the most basic level a toolbox is just a place to store your tools. They can be as simple or elaborate as you like. They take form based on what kind of work you do and where you do it. Last week there was an antique show in Cedar Rapids and one

vendor had a small row of Gerstner tool chests. These were machinist style chests made from quarter sawn oak. She had some smaller



items stored in the drawers and several boxes that were in rough shape were for sale. Even the rough ones were beautiful. Her com-

(Continued on page 2)

April Project:

Sometimes we think of paint as a pedestrian finish. We use paint to cover things we aren't all that proud of and to hide problems we couldn't really solve and cover wood that isn't particularly attractive.

We can use paint in better ways. To emphasize one part of a project and deemphasize another. To add color that we can't get in nature or to contrast a color we like. Have you seen a frame and panel door with a natural

wood panel but painted frame?

When you want to protect a project that's going to be used outside paint is about the only finish that will protect the. Spar varnish will help but you are up for a terrific amount of maintenance.

Have you looked at the local barns lately? We are picking up lots of painted quilt patch designs in the last few years. They (very loosely) follow in the Penn-

Painted Projects

sylvania Dutch barn hex tradition.



Or we can use paint to cover wood that isn't all that impressive. However you use paint bring it in

this time and talk about it. If you painted a hex on your barn bring us a picture.



Anybody do Tole Painting?

March Meeting

Steve Geurts collects wildlife art. Last month he brought in several prints to show us how he makes frames and mounts the



prints.

He makes the frames by laying up moldings in layers. The joints are miters he cuts using his table saw. Steve built a jig based on a table saw sled that keeps the corners at 45 degrees. His jig has stops so the opposite sides can be the same length. His corners are

Picture Framing and Matting

glued and on the larger frames reinforced with small nails.



February Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

He uses conventional glass most of the time. Nonreflective glass is also available from most glass vendors.

Steve has a mat cutter but the club has one in the library that we can check out. He chooses the color to match something in



cuts on the back side of the mat making sure where the corners fall. You cut both directions to those corners and the cuts need to meet exactly. Sometimes he

the picture. In this case the mat matches the color of the bird's wing. He lays out the

makes the cutouts in the mat to display the title or the artist's signature.

The stack of glass, matting, backing and artwork are laid in the frame and backed up with cardboard. The whole sandwich is held in place with staples he presses in place with ChannelLock pliers.

Toolboxes

ment was "They don't make them like that any more." Fact is they do; Gerstner is still very much in business. Sears sells them, so does Woodcraft. They aren't cheap but they look nice.

These toolboxes are great but most don't need to be as artistic as that. A whole lot of people use a drywall bucket; some times with fabric pockets on all sides to lend organization. That approach is easy and cheap. It does little to protect your tools or keep them organized The one you need will always be on the bottom. A drywall bucket is water proof unless you have pockets on the outside.

An open top tool tote is a very traditional and practical toolbox. You can add slots and blocks to hold any tools you need and it can be easily adapted as your needs change.

A great way to keep everything organized and protected is a chest with drawers sized to the tools contained. Because your tool collection changes you shouldn't get too specialized. There is something to be said for fitted compartments in the drawers because you always know where things are and can tell when something is missing. The problem with that approach is when you add tools or replace something and it no longer fits.



It's probably a good idea to have more than one. Automotive stuff in one, electrical tools in another, wood-working tools in a third box. Also keep in mind that these things get heavy if they are too big.



Tool chests can be as elaborate as you like. The classic example is the H. O. Studley chest now in the Smithsonian. That one is nothing short of a work of art but you have to wonder what would have happened if he had lived a few years later and picked up a pair of Vice Grips. They wouldn't fit.

This chest is going to be in Amana at the Handworks show in May: <http://www.handworks.co/>

All of us have different requirements for our tool storage. We do different things. Some need to be portable, others need to be secure. Some of us have large numbers of hand tools and some just use a couple of screwdrivers and a pocket knife. If you have a chest that you like bring it in.

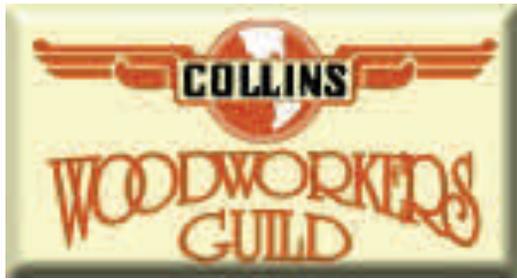
Upcoming projects:

May: Mothers' day

June: Storage

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



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Meeting Notice:

- **May meeting:** Tuesday the 21st at 5:00.
- **Main Plant Cafeteria.**
- **Program:** The Craftsman Style
- **May Project:** Mothers day: Projects for family members.
- **Door Prizes!!**



The Original Morris Chair

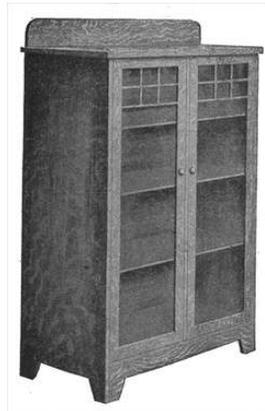
Knot News

COLLINS WOODWORKERS GUILD NEWSLETTER

Craftsman style

Craftsman (Mission) style has been popular with woodworkers for a very long time. It started as part of a movement in Europe that was a reaction to the industrial revolution. Working with machinery was thought of as dehumanizing and repetitive work was boring.

William Morris promoted the idea that the ordinary person could be much more self suffi-



cient. He could make everything he needed and support his family without working for a factory.

Morris was a weaver, book binder, poet, preacher, architect, painter, and occasional furniture designer. His writings are naively Socialist and he offers no respect at all to the "idle rich". Ironically he owned a factory to build his designs.

(Continued on page 2)

May Project:

Ok, we're a little late for the actual holiday (were you wondering why she's upset?). Mothers day was a week ago but we are definitely in the gift giving season. This month we want to know what you have been making as gifts. There are more birthdays in the summer than



Mothers (and other) day

any other time of year, more weddings (and anniversaries), and a couple of holidays where gifts are appropriate. No shortage of reasons to give gifts.

Us being creative and very generous folks have likely made some of those gifts. We want to know what you made.

April Meeting

Last month we talked Joanne West talked to us about her project to set up shop space for veterans. There is apparently shop space available for free down town and she is looking for people to donate time and tools to get it going. She also needs some help getting it organized and launched. There is a similar

organization in Dubuque that is fairly successful.

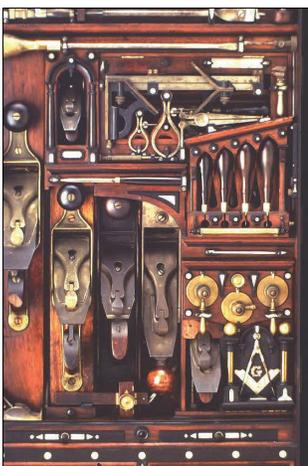
After Joanne spoke with us we discussed tool chests. We all store our tools somewhere. Most of us have a permanent shop



Toolboxes

with at least some storage. None of us are itinerant craftsmen and none of us are planning on going to sea

(Bryan's occasional trips don't count). We really don't have much use for the classic large chest that contains virtually our entire shop. We do, however, occasionally haul tools to wher-



April Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

ever they are needed: our kids' place to install shelves for example. Some kind of portable tool box is almost a necessity. Most of us have something and several people brought theirs. Of course there are an awful lot of designs for tool chests, hundreds of published plans, antique chests to

use as models, and lots of ideas that aren't yet built up.

If you haven't built one just look at examples, decide what you want and maybe sketch one up. Consider what you want to go inside and how you are going to use it. Think



smaller rather than larger. It's easy to make a chest that's bigger than you you can carry. Just build one and use it a while. You can always make more than one.

Craftsman style

The idea (as it applied to furniture) was that the design should be straight forward, and could be executed by anyone with hand tools. Victorian furniture was heavily ornamented and in the US very light. Craftsman style is heavy by comparison, the joinery is visible and its function is obvious and uncomplicated. While most Victorian furniture is mahogany,



Craftsman style is made from local hardwoods. In the US most of it is made from white oak. In Europe maple and cherry are used more often.

Morris inspired a lot of people including Gustav Stickley and Elbert Hubbard in the US. In keeping with his Socialists convictions Stickley set up several factories in New York that had a profit sharing plan (very progressive for the time). The efforts were focused on making oak furniture.

Hubbard formed the Roycrofters artist colony; a group that worked a

lot like a hippy commune in the sixties. This group included weavers, metal workers, and ceramicists.

The style fell from popularity with the depression and the rise of the Modern style with painted metal surfaces, glass and chrome. It didn't die completely and regained popularity in the early 70's. It resonated



Desk by Kevin Rodel

with the era of natural products and self sufficiency. There are still vestiges of both Stickley and Roycrofters around. Stickley was bankrupt when he died but his brother still had one of his factories and it still exists. Hubbard and his wife died on the Lusitania and the organization didn't survive the depression. The Roycroft campus is now a park.

Lots of other people worked in the style — and still do. Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie style is definitely Craftsman. The brothers Green's furniture in the Gamble house is too.

The style has never really gone away and people are still designing. Kevin Rodel in Maine is one of the more prominent current designers. There are lots of others. The concepts are the same. Locally available materials, straight lines, substantial construction and exposed joinery are all still elements.

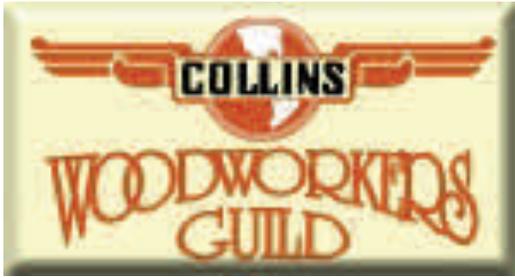


Upcoming projects:

June: Storage

July: To build a fire: Stuff that just didn't work out. (Any similarity to Jack London's novel is purely coincidental).

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:

- **July meeting: Tuesday the 16st at 5:00.**
- **Picnic in Guthridge park in Hiawatha**
- **No project this month**
- **Door Prizes!!**



Knot News

COLLINS WOODWORKERS GUILD NEWSLETTER

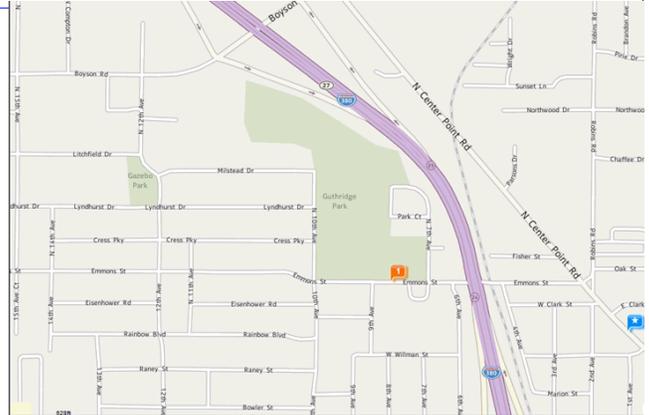
Picnic

Well our history for this event hasn't been good. Three years in a row now we've re-scheduled because of the heat. This time the forecast calls for low 80s and no rain. Maybe a little sticky but nothing like what we had last year.

We are meeting at the Green pavilion that is in the south East corner of Guthridge park in Hiawatha. We planned this last year too but didn't make it.

BBQ-This (<http://bbq-this.com/>) will cater so we have the basics covered but you should bring your own beverages. If you like you can bring something to share. Use some judgment though; pota-

to salad doesn't do so well when it sits in the car at work all day. At least not in July.



June Meeting : Brucemore tour

Last month several of is toured Brucemore. Though it was sparsely attended, those of us that went enjoyed ourselves.

Brucemore is an interesting place. When it was finished in 1884 American Queen Anne was high style on the east coast and Brucemore was one of a very few examples in this part of the country.

Fashion changes and when the Douglas family moved in they redesigned it adding some Craftsman features and redesigning the landscaping.

From a woodworking perspective the inside is interesting. Most houses of that era use much better woods in the parts that guests see. Living and dining rooms have oak floors and window frames. The kitchen generally uses maple and the

bedrooms use wide pine flooring. Not this place. They used white oak flooring and stair treads through the whole place including the servants quarters. A great choice but not cheap.

The walls on the first floor are frame and panel construction. Most grand houses of that period used mahogany for woodwork. The builders used butternut here. With a coat of redish brown stain it would have looked a lot like mahogany and that

may have been the idea. When the restoration of that area was done they left it closer to it's natural blond color.

As the families updated their furniture the old stuff was stored in the attic. The house is now maintained as the Douglas family probably used it in the 1920s with much of their original furniture. Fortunately they took lots of pictures that have survived.

There are some exceptions to the 1920s decorating. The original 1884 wallpaper in the nursery was located and used. There is a room that is used for meetings that was originally a bedroom. The mechanical systems have been updated to more recent standards. Air conditioning was running when we visited.

The grounds are spectacular. The property has 26 acres and



Brucemore in Late 1800's



The Addams Family house



June Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

they are very well maintained. There is a pond and several different gardens. A “cutting garden” provides flowers for the house and grounds. A “Night Garden” has plants that are light colored and shine in the moonlight. There are hundreds of trees. The driveway from First Avenue



was once lined with American elms until the Dutch elm disease wiped them out. This has been replanted with a mix of different species but the new trees won't be mature enough to give the effect for years.

Maintaining the grounds is a huge job.

July Project: Storage

We are talking about storage this month. The category “Storage” is wide open. We talked about toolboxes a couple of months ago and that would qualify. So would kitchen cabinets.

Have you made another flag box? Definitely storage. They are a simple project and generally appreciated.

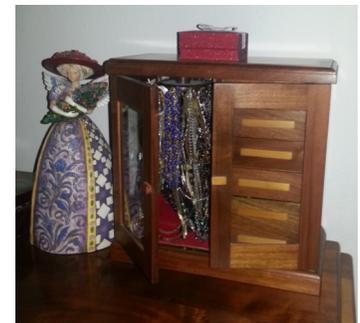


Have you made a case to store small parts for a game? That counts too. This card box has a flip up mechanism so the packs of cards can be removed. It was one of my first

inlay projects.

This toy box has a riser in the bottom so small children can reach their toys.

How about a jewelry box?



So if you have been working on a storage project bring it this time. As always there are projects that are too large or out of your hands bring in a picture. We'd love to see it.

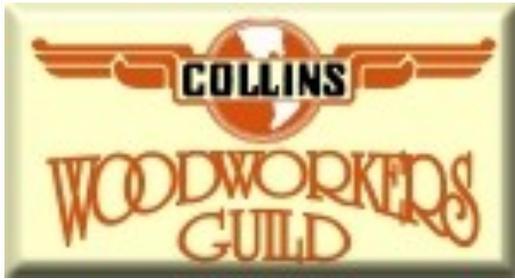


Upcoming projects:

August: To build a fire: Stuff that just didn't work out. (Any similarity to Jack London's novel is purely coincidental).

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.

September: Project from a Class



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Meeting Notice:

- August meeting: Saturday the 24th at 10:00.
- Amana Furniture Shop Tour
- No project this month
- Door Prizes!!



Knot News

COLLINS WOODWORKERS GUILD NEWSLETTER

Amana Furniture Store tour

This month we are touring the whole operation at the Amana Furniture Shop. If you have lived in the area any time at all you have probably been through the Amana Furniture Store. There is a lot more to the operation than the retail side though and we are going to get a much closer look.

The folks at Amana start with standing timber (wood after all grows on trees). Our tour will start with their sawmill.

After that we will tour the shop

where their furniture is actually



made.

We finish with a tour of their showroom.

We are going to meet in the Furniture Shop's parking lot Sat-

urday, August 24th at 10:30. The store is at 724 48th Ave. in Main Amana. Unless you know where to find the sawmill please try to be on time.

If you are interested in carpooling there a group will meet at Westdale mall parking lot. We will leave the parking lot by 10:00 so we can be on time. Look for the group on the north side of the parking lot along Williams Boulevard straight north of Penny's.

(Continued on page 2)

July Meeting

Last time we met in Guthridge Park in Hiawatha for our annual picnic. This event has been a bust for the last few years because of the uncooperative weather. This time we lucked out. It was warm but not beastly hot. The park had plenty of shade.



Picnic

BBQ -- This catered the event and they did a great job. Several members also brought food so there was plenty.

The project for July was "Storage". That was a wide open field because much of what we do involves storage. Several people brought interesting projects.

Upcoming projects

August: No project this time.

September: To build a fire: Stuff that just didn't work out. (Any similarity to Jack London's novel is purely coincidental).

October: Project From Industrial Arts Class

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.

July Meeting



(Continued from page 1)

Picnic



Amana Furniture Shop Tour.

The shop in Amana has been turning out furniture since 1855. They have many stock designs that they have made for generations and others that are much newer. They have been known to do custom work too and there are kitchens in the area that the owners say was done by the Amana Furniture Shop.

One of the things they do that has always impressed me is their finishing. It appears to be a very durable film finish that still has



the tactile sense of wood. I have no idea how they do that but I intend to ask.

Stupidity

A discussion I was part of a few weeks ago turned to shutting down the Industrial Technology classes at one of the local high schools and selling off the equipment. It disappointed about everybody there. One person brought up the cost of buying and maintaining all the equipment and that very quickly turned to what it would cost to insure the program.

I wouldn't want to write an insurance policy to cover a room full of high school kids using power tools. Think of your own classes. Did anyone do a lot of screwing around that could have got them killed? That's about all we did. The teacher did what he could to ride herd on that crew and it wasn't a big class.

Marion High School had those two

Saw Stop table saws. They seem pretty nice and I know they cost about \$3000 each. That's cheap compared to even a minor injury. That's only the beginning though. If a blade or bit can cut wood it won't have any problem cutting through flesh and bone.

While nobody in my high school class lost any parts we sure were hard on equipment. We had a belt sander race. The Vocational Ag classes four inch Craftsman against our three inch Porter Cable. The teachers had stepped outside to look at something and most likely catch a cigarette.

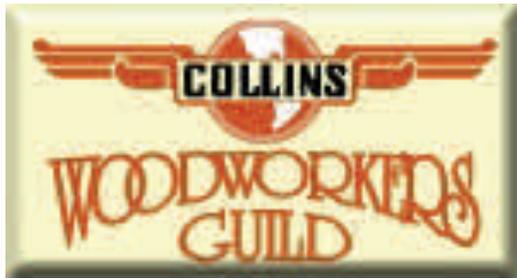
The Porter Cable won more or less. The Craftsman took a hard turn into a wall and the guy who was supposed to unplug the extension cord wasn't quick enough (go figure). Everybody

scurried back to their respective shop before we got busted.

Nothing actually broke off the sander but the belt wouldn't track after that. For some reason the teacher had the impression that it got dropped and nobody (out of about 40 guys between the two classes) straightened him out.

That was the early '70's and both teachers, the principal, the superintendent and the insurance agent have all since died. The guys still talk about it in a whisper. Any wonder why these programs are disappearing?

Did your class do anything really stupid? Sounds like a topic for further discussion...



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Knot News

COLLINS WOODWORKERS GUILD NEWSLETTER

Membership Meeting and Officer Election

Meeting Notice:

- **September meeting: Tuesday the 17th at 5:00.**
- **Main Plant Cafeteria**
- **Membership meeting and Officer Election**
- **We will discuss your summer project**
- **Door Prizes!!**

Ok, This is the big one. We are going to elect officers this week, we have food and the good door prizes.

If you have ever thought of holding an office in the woodworkers guild now is your opportunity. We can certainly get you nominated. If you haven't you should.

We are bringing in Zio Johnno's spaghetti. They catered for us

the last few times and have done a fine job. If you want to bring something please do. You need to bring your own beverage.

We will discuss whatever you have been working on this summer. Most people work on these projects over the winter. Summer has a lot going on. Home and yard maintenance take up major time and it's the



time that most people travel. Kids are out of school and have their activities. Summer wood-working tends to either be small projects that don't take a lot of time or really major projects that support something for your home. If you can, bring it in or take pictures.

August Meeting

In August we toured the Amana furniture shop. I had been in the store many times but this place is much more than the retail

space. There is a shop too that makes some of the inventory.

The shop employs eight people, two in the stock preparation area, some on the benches and the rest are finishers.

The equipment runs from the very new to the very old. There is nothing robotic or numerically controlled but they have a wide selection of current

Amana Furniture Shop Tour

tools. Some of the lumber preparation equipment is ancient..



Much of the lumber comes from their own forest and wooded pastures. The Amana Society



Upcoming projects

September: No project this time. trial Arts Class

October: To build a fire: Stuff that just didn't work out. (Any

similarity to Jack London's novel is purely coincidental).

November: Project From Indus-

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.

August Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

maintains the largest private forest in Iowa at just over 7000 acres. Two guys main-



tain all of that. They control planting and harvesting the trees and work with the DNR to control the deer population. If they are successful they will have trees indefi-



nitely.

Most of the specialty material that the shop requires comes from that forest and sawmill. If they need plain sawn common species they can buy that on the open market. The mill does some retail sales so if you are looking for something kind of special keep them in mind. We are giving away some of that lumber as door prizes this week.

Amana Furniture Shop Tour

They Generally have quarter sawn oak, walnut, maple, cherry, and the rest of the common local hardwoods. They also have local species that other mills don't carry. If you are looking for local exotics they are a great place to check.

The Amana colonies started as a communal religious organization. It changed to a more capitalist approach during the depression. Amana still



maintains some of the communal character. The community moved to Iowa from New York in the mid 1800's because there were large tracts of land available at the time. Each of the colonies had a furniture shop and when a couple married they got a standard set of furniture. While the designs weren't as austere as the Shakers or the Amish they did show some restraint in the ornamentation of their furniture and it was made to last. A lot of it is still around and the shop still maintains it.

They also provide other things the community needs besides furniture. For example there was a casket in the finishing area while we were there. They supply all of the caskets that the society needs and some for the surrounding secular community. They don't advertise it; that's just where they come from: the shop supports the community wherever they can.

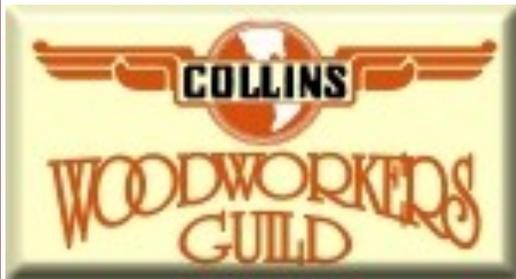


They have most of the common local hardwoods but they saw species that are not otherwise commercially available. For example they gave us a deal on quarter sawn sycamore, butternut and spalted maple for door prizes this week. Sycamore is light colored and

has a lacy character when it's quarter sawn. Butternut is like walnut (they are botanically related) but is much lighter colored. It was wiped out locally by a blight that went through about twenty years ago. There are a few trees that survive and they only take those that die naturally. Spalted maple is conventional maple that has been attacked by the bacteria that is the first stage of decay. The wood has black streaks but hasn't started to get punky yet. You can see all of these at the meeting.



Quarter sawn Sycamore



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Meeting Notice:

- **October meeting: Tuesday the 15th at 5:00.**
- **We will discuss using contrasting woods**
- **Project this month: To build a fire: Stuff that just didn't work out. (Any similarity to Jack London's novel is purely coincidental).**
- **Door Prizes!!**

Knot News

COLLINS WOODWORKERS GUILD NEWSLETTER

Using contrasting woods

Most of the time we go to lot of effort matching the lumber in our projects. We are going to change that this month. Most of us came away from the last meeting with a little pile of wood that probably won't match anything else we have. We'll see if there are some thoughts about what to do with it.

I generally try to stick with wood from the same log for the visible parts of a project so everything matches but in the right project you might want to think of contrasting woods. You can use contrast to highlight a particularly figured piece.

There are things that work and things that come out looking



kind

rough. Sometimes you want a little accent piece but you wonder how to accomplish that. We are going to talk about that and why things work and why they don't. If you have ideas please talk about what you have made work.



Walnut root / White Oak

September Meeting

Last month was the big one: officer election, bigger door prizes, food, the works. The project was "Your Summer Project" so whatever you worked on this summer was fair game.

We moved some of our officers around a little. Steve wanted to be replaced as president so Ray

Membership Meeting and Officer Election



Lumber from the Amana Sawmill



agreed to step up. That left us short a treasurer so Wayne accepted that roll (he had been treasurer before Ray). Joel agreed to keep the vice president spot.

Zio Johno's catered the meeting. The food was good but they

didn't include serving utensils. Woodworkers are a creative bunch so we worked it out.

Several people had summer projects.

We had a lot of door prizes. There was a stack from Acme

September Meeting

(Continued from page 1)



tool that included several Kreg accessories that included a really nice tool box, clamps, push blocks, and bottles of glue. We also had a stack of lumber



from the Amana Sawmill. Everyone got to pick three boards. There was a choice of Butternut, spalted Maple, and quarter sawn Sycamore. Everyone there came home with at least one door prize and a few people came home with two.

The folks at Amana reminded us that they have more of all of the species and have several others.

October Project:

I never really liked Jack London's novel by that name; most dog people don't. It's really not that tough to build a fire when you screw up as much stuff as I do and you don't have to kill your dog. A mistake, a fireplace and a match; it's that simple.

We all screw stuff up occasionally. Wood has the convenient feature that it burns. There is no real need to admit the mistake.

Ok, sometimes burning it is an over reaction. Most things we screw up can be recovered. a finish can be strapped and reapplied, a joint recut or shimmed tight. Don't look on the inside of anything I make, that's where you 'll find the missdrilled hole, planer tear out or where I sanded through the plywood veneer.

We want to see how you recovered from these things short of building



To Build a Fire: Stuff that just didn't work out.

a fire. We want to see the screw that came through the top of the "just finished" table, that time you cut on the wrong side of the line, the finish that should have been ok but just wasn't. Bring a picture if you need to. Or just talk about the one that you actually did burn, no actual ashes required.

My dog chewed the molding at the base a turning I had just finished a few years ago. I pried it off and replaced it. The dog was just being a dog. Frustrating but still a delightful animal.

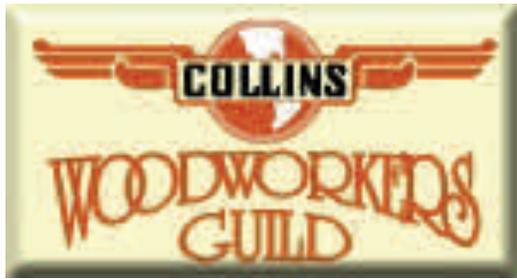


Upcoming projects:

- November: Project from a Class
- January: Put a lid on it.

you 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



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