



KNOT KNEWS



Monthly Newsletter of the Collins Woodworkers Guild

Volume 5, Issue 1

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

October 1999

Toys For Tots Program Kick-off Meeting

The next Collins Woodworkers Guild meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 19th, in the 35th Street Cafeteria at five o'clock p.m. The topic of the meeting will be our annual wooden toy construction program - "Toys For Tots".

1999 Toys Committee members Emil Krepcik and Bob Flood will have a presentation on plans, patterns, materials, finishes, and goals. They will discuss when the finished products are required and where and how the toys will be distributed this year.

The Guild has purchased a quantity of wheels and axles for those members manufacturing cars and trucks etc. Allen and Linda Foot from *By The Foot Sawmill* has contributed a big box of 4/4" Pine-ends for use by the club. These pieces are perfect for the type of small toys we make. Larry Tjaden will bring the material to the meeting.

Emil will bring this month's feature toy pattern to the October meeting.

Bob has constructed a train-load of wooden trains and has intentions of bringing some to the meeting for final assembly...

Let's build some TOYS!

Marc Adams Seminar Scheduled for Special November Meeting

The Guild leadership is in the process of planning a Marc Adams Woodworking Seminar to be held Saturday, November 20th, 1999. While planning is still tentative and subject to change or revision at this point, the basic information to date is as follows:

We will be inviting Mr. Adams to present a one-day session on some combination of cabinet-

making and or furniture making (maybe something like entertainment centers, desks etc - somewhere between kitchen cabinets and Windsor chairs). Ultimately Mr. Adams will customize this from existing material he has, so what we get will be something he can easily work up. The session will most likely be at the Indian Creek Nature Center, 6665 Otis Road SE in Cedar Rapids.



(Continued on page 2)

November's Regular Guild Meeting By: Mark Clark

Roger Anderson *has* agreed to give us a presentation on making stringed instruments for our November 16th meeting. He will bring examples of his work and some specialized jigs and fixtures. Roger is a very knowledgeable woodworker having built everything from fancy musical instruments to whole houses including his own brand new Victorian home overlooking the town of Marengo. This should be a very interesting meeting!

The Last Meeting By: Larry Lacy

The last meeting was held Tuesday September 21st in the 35th Street Cafeteria.

Joan West described the SAW 2000 conference planned for April and asked for support in the form of volunteers. She was asked to put together a blurb for the next *Knot Knews* and told to have it to Emil by very early October. It appeared that she had pretty well defined tasks and task descriptions.

Larry Lacy presented an overview of the past year's guild activities, and some of the very tentative plans for next year.

Pizza and pop were had by all!

(Continued on page 2, The Last Meeting)

(Continued from page 1, Marc Adams)

The session will run from approximately 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, November 20th. We will provide a lunch opportunity (tentatively planned as Sloppy Joe's, baked beans, etc. but subject to refinement and change). There is a possibility that there may be an "Introduction and Overview" session Friday night November 19th. This would be an overview of what the plan for Saturday's session would be. Mr. Adams would likely overview principles, provide project descriptions, discuss his school, and generally do the "ice breaking" to allow a fast start to real woodworking Saturday morning. This session is likely to be at the cafeteria at our Main Plant.

To preserve a "small group" atmosphere and better enable viewing and questions, we will limit attendance to approximately 40 to 45 participants. We have established a participation cost of \$25 per Guild member, and \$35 for non-members and guests. We expect to sell tickets in advance of the seminar in order to assure adequate income to cover the majority of the costs. The intent is to give Guild members first choice at seats by allowing ticket purchases by members several weeks prior to opening sales to the public (which will include the Des Moines Woodworkers Club) and any other interested parties. If you're interested, you may purchase a "ticket" from our new treasurer, Rich Beckett as soon as possible. More information on Mr. Adams and his School of Woodworking is available in the September *Knot Knews*, or at his website at www.marcadams.com. Sign up soon if you're interested as seats may go

**Register
Early!
Use the
form on
page 5.**

fast, and they will be offered outside of the Guild shortly after the next meeting!

If you have specific questions, please contact Wayne Hanson or Larry Lacy and we'll try to answer your questions. More information on exact schedules, topics to be covered, and locations will be provided at the October 19th meeting.

(Continued from page 1, The Last Meeting)

Wayne presented some ideas of what the Marc Adams seminar might turn out to be. We took informal polls on several issues with the following results captured for use by the steering committee in making actual determination.

Topic interest (first number is how many would consider attending if one of these were offered (vote multiple times), second number is what is your first choice in topics (vote for only 1 topic).

Joinery Techniques 20/10, Veneering Techniques 3/0, Router Techniques 19/14, Cabinetry Techniques (full day) 19/7 (there were questions about whether this included some joinery techniques, we concluded it must have), Furniture Making Techniques 19/11, Other 0/0.

How many would NOT come regardless of cost, even if free 0, How many would come if it cost: \$50 6? (pretty iffy and slow at hand raising), \$30 25 (much better response and quickness), \$20 32 (every one in room and quickly).

Emil Krepcik overviewed the "show & tell" for *Toys for Tots*, displaying several items he and Wayne (and others??) brought and offering wheels and parts to anyone interested.

Kelly advised we received 24 new memberships at this meeting, and that she had membership cards for those

that paid prior to this meeting.

Door prizes were drawn -- due to the lateness of the meeting (nearly 2 hours). Anyone in attendance could win -- \$10 gift certificate to Dave Wetzel (present and accounted for! He chose a Janda gift certificate). \$10 gift certificate to Dennis Bee-man (not present but when contacted admitted he had been there and left about 6:30 -- I sent him the gift certificate at Pucketts).

It was noted that new officer positions were in effect as of the end of this meeting. On behalf of Scott (who could not attend), the past officers and supporters were thanked, and the official president's gavel was passed from Scott (in absentia) to Emil (sorry if anyone mistook the "ceremonial gavel" for a "toys for tots sewing machine" -- I have to admit they looked alike) Meeting ended at 7:10 ish as I recall.

SSAW Show to be in Cedar Rapids

The Scroll Saw Alliance of the World (SSAW) is going to present a two-day show at the Hawkeye Downs Center April 8-9, 2000. SSAW president, Joan West is organizing the event and is looking for some assistance from our club. In a brief meeting with Emil Krepcik, Joan mentioned that one area to assist would be to supply the necessary security at the show. Emil has looked into the subject and found that most anyone with the right presence can perform these duties. The city police will provide security but at a substantial cost. Stay tuned - we will learn more next month. Check the SSAS website at <http://members.spreed.com/saw-online/frame.htm>

Computer Aided Design (CAD) Software

By: Lee Johnson

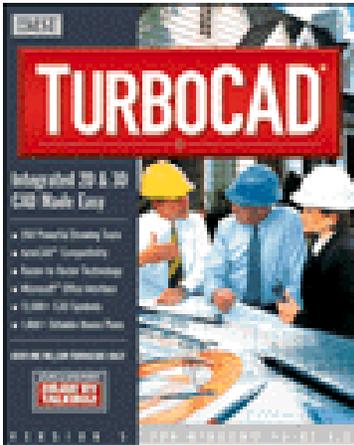
Recently I decided to look for a CAD program that I could use to make drawings for my woodworking projects. My goal was to find one that I could afford to buy at a reasonable price and that would provide features that I wanted to see. So I got on the internet and did a search for CAD programs to consider. One of the programs that looked like a good one was standard TurboCad version 5 by IMSI. It does 2D and 3D objects and all sorts of other interesting things. It even comes with a voice interface module which lets you input commands via voice commands.

In searching for where I could get it I ran across a place where I could get it for **\$1.95**.

Not too bad for a program that retails for \$149.95.

Too good to be true you say? I thought so too, so I checked into it further. What the package consisted of was TurboCad Version 5 bundled with Learn English for a total of \$51.95. How do you get to \$1.95 for TurboCAD version 5? The Learn English program comes with a \$50 rebate. Even if I don't want or use the English program the CAD package is almost free!

I decided to order it and check it out, figuring that even if I threw it away I could afford \$1.95. It came within 3 days via UPS that cost me \$5.00 for shipping so that upped the price



to \$6.95. To me, still a bargain. I have sent in my rebate request and haven't got the money back so maybe I could still get stung ... but I guess I have to take that chance now.

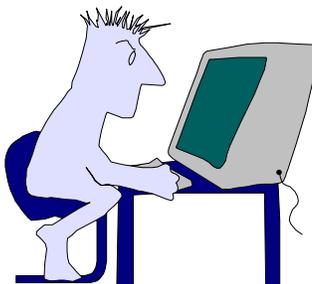
The package comes on two CDs with a nice printed manual that details the features of the program and how to use them. It also has several thousand symbols that are identified in another manual. The last week or so I have been playing with it learning to use it. So far I like it and most of the problems that I have had have been operator induced. I did have a problem with initially installing it under Windows 98 and had to get on the IMSI

web site to download another DLL file that had to be changed. After doing that it installed and worked just fine.

Now that I've told you all about it maybe I should tell you where I got it and how to find out additional information. Information on the program can be obtained at www.imsisoft.com.

The company that I purchased it from with the package deal is Most Significant Bits, Inc. They also have a web site at www.msbcd.com. I think their offer is good through December.

If you are looking for a drawing program, this is an offer that you might want to



look into. It should be noted that the author has no financial interest in the subject company and that this article reflects his thoughts and ideas only.

FOR SALE

As a result of shop reorganization and acquisition of equipment over the year(s), I have a few items I'd be willing to part with:

- Older model **Craftsman 10" Contractors Saw** with a real 1HP motor. (\$130)
- Gil-built 12" bandsaw (a kit I assembled and used for a number of years, throat depth about 7"). (\$100)
- Mechanic home made 11-1/2" **Bandsaw**, good for re-sawing but a bear to change blades on. (\$50)
- Veritas stainless **Router Table Top**, precision adjust fence, and accessories (never used, universal router mount, comes with instructions and plans for router table – in current Lee Valley catalogue at \$250). (\$200)

Contact Larry Lacy for more information (295-8471, e-mail ld-lacy@collins.rockwell.com). Prices are negotiable; make an offer.

I may be able to e-mail pictures and more information upon request.



Forrest Saw Blade Purchase

Were still looking for a volunteer to handle the Forrest saw blade purchase. There has been some interest in making purchases. Handling the project is basically easy. The tasks are: accepting the orders, collecting the money, placing the order with Ray Collier, and distributing the items when they arrive. Wayne say's he can help the volunteer with contacting Ray.

More Input

Got an idea for a newsletter article? We're looking for a couple of additional writers each month to submit material that our fellow club members like to read about. Let's fill these pages with wood-related facts and experiences. Everyone has a story to tell ... write it in the *Knot Knows*.

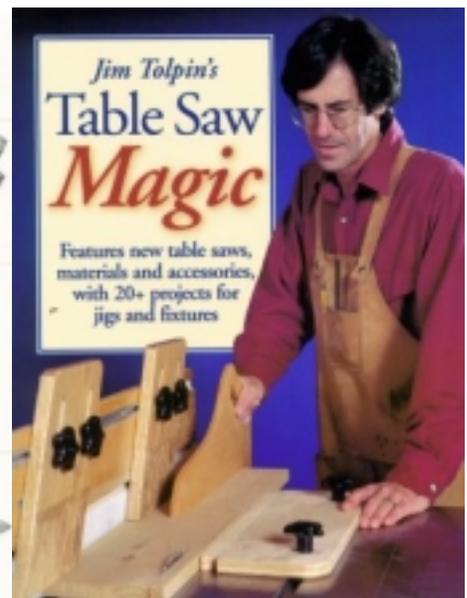
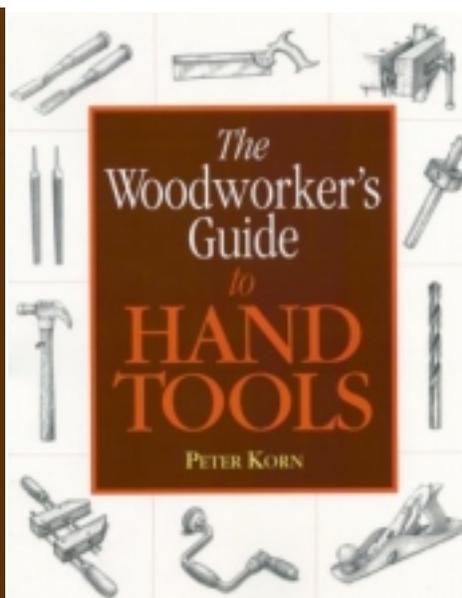
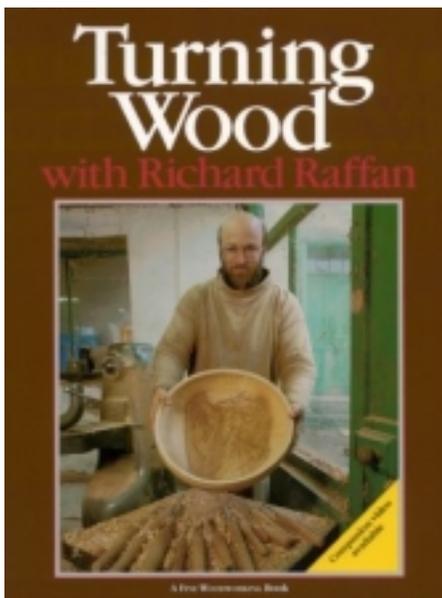
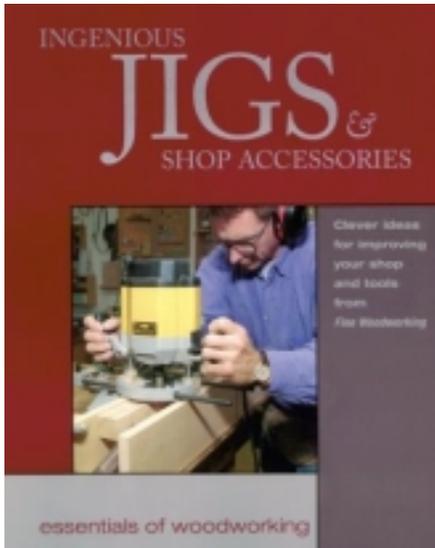
New Books in the Library ...

Several more volumes and video tapes in our ever-growing collection. Join our club and check them out!



Vol unteer Work at Nature Center

The marquee at the Indian Creek Nature Center's Wetlands Area looks pretty good! Thanks to Rod Simonson, Dave and Cindy Huovinen, Ray Collins,



Notes from the
Library
By: Larry Lacy

The Guild Library has recently received the three videos that were on back order from last month. I took the opportunity to view them last weekend and they are pretty good from my perspective. Here is a brief description of each - from memory - subject to correction.

Hand Applied Finished – Coloring Wood:

In this video Jeff Jewitt overviews coloring wood using three basic classes of materials (paint wasn't one of them). He describes the techniques and processes for penetrating type stains, surface pigmented stains and chemical stains. The first two are much like the seminar we previously had on finishing and material in many books. The section on chemical staining was of interest to me in that he treated a test panel (containing numerous wood types) with

a variety of chemicals that I would not usually attribute to "wood finishing" and demonstrates their unusual effects. These "chemicals" included vinegar, Nitric Acid, an iron solution made by soaking steelwool in water, and several other "nonstandard" solutions. The effects were very impressive (the iron solution turns Oak black and Maple yellow!) Also touched on were mixing your own stains from dry products, application, and preparation of the surfaces for finishing. The video runs about 40 minutes.

Small Shop Tips and Technique:

In this video Jim Cummins provides some discussion of general shop tips including how to re-saw thin material on the bandsaw (successfully), he demonstrated cutting bandsaw boxes, sharpening drills and other tools, drilling angled holes (like mounts for stool legs), angled mortise joints, making tenons, and various other tidbits. No new high tech tools or techniques here but it's a good review of

general practices with a new "new ideas" likely to be had. This video runs about 55 minutes.

Handplanes in the Woodshop:

Marion Rodriguez hosts this video which deals only with hand planes. It focuses on them from a user perspective (as opposed to collector) but also discusses "tuning" or refurbishing which he proclaims is necessary on any "just out of the box" plane as well as on used ones. In conjunction with the refurbishing portion, he discusses sharpening a drill bit. He then shows techniques for use for each of the three major plane types (Jointer, Smoothing Plane, and Block Planes). He winds up with a brief overview of special purpose planes. A pretty interesting video for those that have planes but don't know how to use them, or haven't been successful in getting the results they want. This video runs about 45 minutes.

Marc Adams Woodworking Seminar Registration Form



Name _____ Ext. _____ Mail Drop _____
Home Address _____ Home Phone _____
Member (Y/N) _____
Guest Name (s) _____ Total No. Attending _____

Cost of session is \$25 each for members, \$35 each for non-members or guests.

Send this form and payment to Rich Beckett, Mail Station 120-110 or bring to the next Guild meeting. Make checks payable to the Collins Woodworkers Guild.

Register in advance of the meeting, the available seats will go fast!

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Cindy Barrett 1356 Fox Meadow Court NE, Swisher, IA 52338
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Don Whited 3836 Vine Avenue SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52403
Larry Wood 140 Northwood Drive, Hiawatha, IA 52233
Dave Yeoman 3410 St. Peter's Road, Marion, IA 52302

2000 Collins Woodworkers Guild Officers and Executive Committee

President:

Emil Krepcik 5-6869 eekripci@collins.rockwell.com

Vice President:

Mark Clark 5-3872 mwwclark@collins.rockwell.com

Secretary/Treasurer:

Rich Beckett 5-5192 rwbeckett@collins.rockwell.com

Membership:

Kelley Kirtz 5-3554 klkirtz@collins.rockwell.com

Library Staff:

Larry Lacy 5-8471 ldlacy@collins.rockwell.com

Lee Johnson 5-3014 lajohnso@collins.rockwell.com

Toys For Tots Committee:

Bob Flood 5-0341 rlflood@collins.rockwell.com

Emil Krepcik 5-6869 eekripci@collins.rockwell.com

Guild Photographer:

John Cox 5-3198 jlcox@collins.rockwell.com

Knot Knews & Website:

Larry Tjaden 5-8024 ldtjaden@collins.rockwell.com
larry@tjaden.net

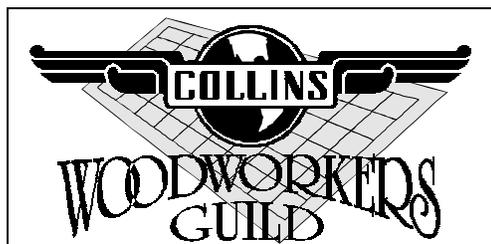
Joe Gorman 5-3030 jegorman@collins.rockwell.com

Steering Committee: (in addition to above mentioned)

Wayne Hanson 5-5893 wghanson@cacd.rockwell.com
hansen.wayne@mcleod.net

Scott Nessler 5-2278 shnessel@collins.rockwell.com

Ted Hess 5-4476 tfhess@collins.rockwell.com



Membership in the Collins Woodworkers Guild is open to all
Rockwell Collins, Inc. employees, spouses, and retirees.

Everyone is welcome at our meetings!

Yearly dues, renewed in September, are \$10.

Keep in touch! Don't miss a copy of the newsletter.

Send an e-mail to our membership person Kelley Kirtz at
klkirtz@collins.rockwell.com and give her your new (home) address.

Future Meeting Topics

November 16, Musical Instrument construction , Roger Anderson

November 20, Marc Adams Woodworking Seminar (Special Saturday Meeting)

December 21, Open for Ideas ...

Suggestions:

Visit WOODHAVEN - Durant, IA

Visit Pella Window Company - Pella, IA

Another Router workshop presentation.

Sharpening Plane Irons, Chisels, etc.

Have any Ideas for a Meeting Topic?

Share them with anyone on the planning committee.

Check out the Guild's website

<http://rweb.rockwell.com/data/clubs/cwc/>

The Collins Woodworkers Guild website
is now available for viewing on the
world wide web at

<http://www.tjaden.net/cwc/>

*Some pages (ie. membership list) are re-
stricted from view*

Guild Benefits

- ◆ Access to our Extensive Library and Tool Collection
- ◆ Open Exchange of Ideas
- ◆ Social Activities
- ◆ Workshops
- ◆ Opportunity to Help our Community through Toys-For-Tots Program
- ◆ Educational & Informative Presentations
- ◆ Open Houses
- ◆ Tours
- ◆ Discounts at:
 - Janda's Tool Center
 - Eastern Iowa Supply
 - Woodsmith Store - Des Moines

Knot Knews

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Attn: Larry Tjaden MS 192-101

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