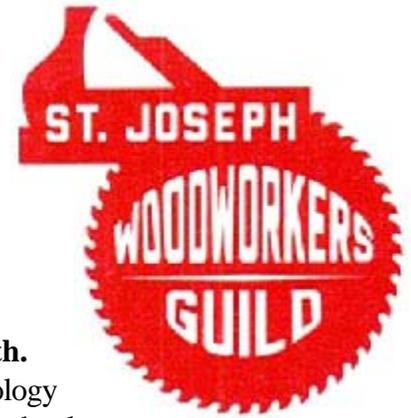

ST. JOSEPH WOODWORKERS' GUILD

Volume 17 Issue 8

August 2025



August Meeting

Tuesday, August 12 at 7 PM

The August meeting will be at Tobiason Studio, the upper level of 302 South 8th.

After the business meeting and Sho-N-Tell time, Jennifer Fitzpatrick, Industrial Technology instructor at Central High School, will provide a program about woodworking in high school and what is in the future of our craft. Bring your project to show off to the audience and a chair and enjoy an evening with others who wear sawdust for fun!

July Meeting Notes

Our Guild president was off fishing in Canada at meeting time, so our vice-president, Jennifer Percell presided over the meeting. After greeting the audience, Jennifer looked for visitors and asked the one visitor to introduce themselves and tell a little about their woodworking experience. Jennifer went on to ask Rusty for the usual treasurer's report which Rusty gave and said we had a good positive balance. Rusty also talked about shop activities. He stated that the rocking chair project was going well with most of the builders assembling the chairs and getting ready for finish. They are still working on a rocker for the Noyes Home auction in September. Rusty said that the crew had built 196 wagon bodies so far for the Pony Express Day Camp activities. He stated that 10 or 15 more bodies to complete and 60 to 70 of the 196 yet to be flap sanded smooth. But, he remarked, all will be done for the Day Camp event. Jennifer listed the dates of the Day Camp as July 14, July 17, and July 21. She said the older kids will be on July 14 and 21 with the preschool on July 17. She also said volunteers are still needed and had a sign up sheet available for people to list the dates on which they can help. Rusty said that there process will be somewhat different this year because of the cover which will be added to the wagon. The kids will come in and pick out a wagon body and go to a table to paint the wagon and the wagon cover. An adult will then hot glue the top on the wagon and then the kids will come to our table to add the axles and wheels. Jennifer mentioned that we could make a larger wagon next year and give it away as something different.



Jennifer leading the meeting.

Ed Roberts gave a summary of the rocking chair project which is happening on Thursday evenings. Chairs for the individuals and getting close to the finish stage deciding between

wipe-on polyurethane or oil. Ed and Ralph Alvarez have been the teachers for the classes. The one rocker made for the Noyes Home Take-A-Seat Auction is being made from a Burr Oak tree that came from Hyde Park. Called the Liberty Oak because it was calculated to start growing in 1776 according to the rings, the tree had to be taken out by the city due to age and damage. Ed said that he hopes the chair will be completed by the next meeting in August. He mentioned that they are working on the possibility of building another chair from laminated material similar to plywood. Kevin Crawford is using his CNC to cut the parts. It is an experiment, so more on that in the next newsletter.



Ed showing the Noyes Home rocker.



Noyes Home logo



Guild logo (on back)

Jennifer asked if anyone had a member update. Ralph said that Darwin St. Myers came by the shop one morning and is slowly improving. Rick Tolbert continues to improve and Roger reported that Bob Donaldson had called to inform him he had heart bypass surgery earlier in July and is recovering.

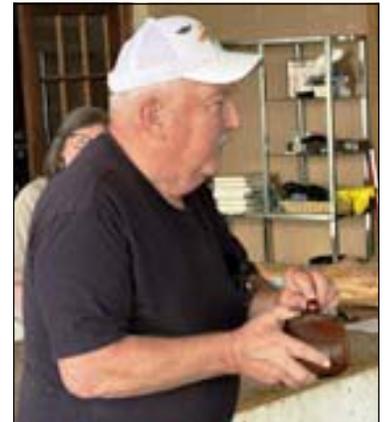
Sho-N-Tell

Frank Shores — a compound cut scroll sawn name and birth date of one of his grandsons made from cedar. The name is on one side and the birth date is on the other.

Ed Tomlinson — a walnut pet urn. He said he gives several of these away or sells them for \$45 each. He went on to explain that he makes larger urns and 60 to 70 bowls each year.



Frank holding the compound cut name.



Ed showing the pet urn.

July Program

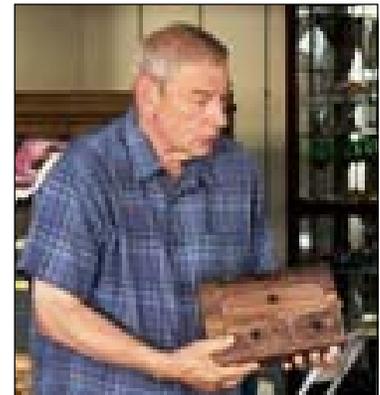
Ralph Alvarez was kind to fill in for our program after a scheduling hiccup on our original presenter. He brought many examples and provided a presentation on bandsawn boxes. Ralph said the bandsawn box is an easy project with almost any chunk of wood and a band saw equipped with a 1/4" blade. Smaller blades can be used but will not provide with a cut that is as straight for some parts. Using a log or piece of firewood is a good start. Looking at the stock and deciding the height and width and a horizontal or vertical orientation is the first step.



Showing the variety of bandsawn boxes



Box made from a log



A bandsawn box from a piece of walnut

If the piece is a log, Ralph recommends to either joint one side of the stock or cut it off flat before starting on the band saw so it does not roll while cutting - safety first! Draw a line to mark the cut for the back and then going to the band saw is the next step. Make sure you mark the orientation so you can glue the back on the same way it came off. Mark for location, orientation, and shape of the drawers on the stock. Angle cut into the body so the body can be glued together later without the cut being obvious. Cut out the drawers and mark both the top and bottom of each drawer for assembly later. Next, cut off the back of the drawer and then cut off the front of the drawer making sure the parts are labeled so they are not mixed up for assembly later. Ralph said next is cutting out the inside of the drawer. Use a spindle sander to smooth the inside of the drawer and sandpaper to slightly round



Starting a box from a log.



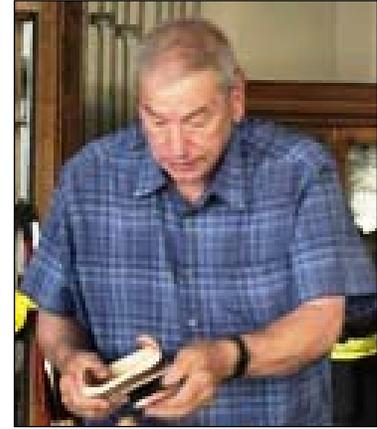
Gluing the body back after cutting out drawers



Showing sanding the inside of the drawer.



Explaining drawer fitting and sanding



Talking about putting drawers together.

over the inside edge of the drawers. Ralph cautioned that sanding the outside of the drawers must be done carefully to prevent the drawers from being too loose in the body. Ralph used regular wood glue to glue cuts where the drawers were removed. He said that the hardest part of making the box is keeping all the parts in the correct orientation and the correct location. Gluing up the drawers is next. While the drawers are drying, glue to back on the body. Small knobs or scraps of wood can be added to each drawer to provide a pull. The drawers can be flocked for a fancy box or left natural for a more rustic look. Ralph went through the bandsawn box examples he brought explaining the different processes used to built each box and the finish he used as he completed his presentation. Thanks to Ralph for providing an excellent and very complete program.

Pony Express Day Camp

The Guild was asked again this year to participate for several days at the Pony Express Day Camp. Several volunteers helped the kids, both preschool and elementary, to pick out a wooden wagon and help the kids add wheels to complete the wagon. There were a lot of smiles as they worked with the volunteers to slide in a preassembled axle and wheel, apply glue to a wheel, and hammer on the wheel to the axle. At the end, about 160 kids (and a few of the Day Camp staff) went



A preschooler paint a wagon.



Finishing a patriotic wagon.



Kevin assisting a camper with wheels.



Lynn working with a camper.



Tom helping a camper complete his wagon.

away with a memory of the event. A big thanks to Dave Halter, Rusty Cook, Steve Davidson, Pete Peterson, Tom Engels, Jan Engels, Kevin Crawford, Lynn Anderson, Ed Roberts, and Roger Martin for spending some times with the kids.



A preschooler's completed wagon.



Concentrating on painting!



Tom, Pete, and Lynn helping campers assemble wagons.

Membership

January is renewal month for the Guild annual membership dues of \$30. The membership helps cover the costs of our shop, the treats at most meetings, and this newsletter and to maintain our website and mailing list. Paid membership provides you with a card that allows you to get a discount at Metro Hardwoods, Woodcraft, and possibly at the new Rockler store. Guild Life Memberships (\$100) are for those 70 and above and that amount covers your dues forever! Treasurer Rusty Cook will be happy take your dues at meetings. If you are unable to attend, you can mail the check to him at the address at the end of this newsletter. If you would like the discount card mailed to you, please include a stamped, self addressed envelope when sending the dues to Rusty

Upcoming Events

- Noyes Home Take A Seat Auction - 6 PM on September 13 at Fulkerson Center on MWSU Campus
- Stoney Creek Craft Show - November 7 and 8 at Stoney Creek Event Center

Social Media

Don't forget that the Guild has a Facebook page, [St. Joseph Woodworkers Guild](#), and a website, www.stjosephwoodguild.com, that you can use to let others know about your hobby.

Caps and Shirts

Guild logo ball caps and tee shirts (in limited sizes) are available for sale. The cost is minimal for either. Contact Roger Martin if you are interested.

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WE THANK OUR SUPPORTERS — PLEASE PATRONIZE THEM AND SHOW YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD FROM THE GUILD FOR A DISCOUNT.



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