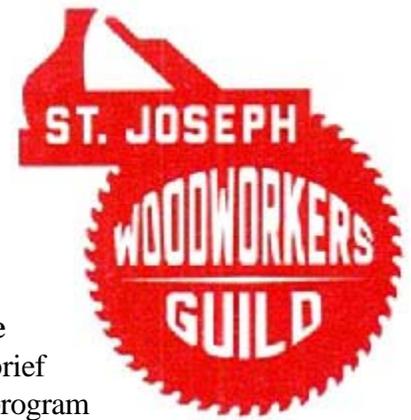

ST. JOSEPH WOODWORKERS' GUILD

Volume 18 Issue 1

January 2026



January Meeting

Tuesday, January 13 at 7 PM

The January meeting will be at the shop of Ralph Alvarez, 1404 Gardner Lane (directions on Page 4 of the newsletter). Starting off the new year, we will have a brief business meeting and our sho-n-tell where you can proudly show your projects, The program will be furnished by Ralph's carving class. It may be a demonstration, or an audience participation program, or something completely different. Come and find out and learn about carving by some experts. Bring a chair and your curiosity and enjoy the fellowship with other woodworkers.

December Meeting Notes

The December meeting was held at the Pizza Ranch in St. Joseph. The Guild December meeting is always a dinner meeting where we invite the members to bring their significant other and have a nice meal and socialize to prove to the wives that we really do have meetings about woodworking. The meeting was well attended with over 30 people in attendance who enjoyed the Pizza Ranch buffet and the fellowship. Lynn Anderson, Guild president, had a few announcements and then asked the attendees to introduce themselves and the person they brought and then tell the audience about the next project that they were working on and finishing. It was fun meeting the spouses and others and hearing about all the projects that were being worked on, some for Christmas and some just to be completed. After that LeRoy Gray provided the blessing and we had an enjoyable buffet. After the dinner, we had a short sho-n-tell time and then did a gift exchange for those who brought a gift. The meeting was fun and very different than our usual time together and just right for the Christmas season. Check out the following photos for a better idea of the enjoyment.



View of the crowd at the December meeting.



Another view of the December crowd at Pizza Ranch.



Rusty and his cedar stand made by Frank Shores.



Jim showing off his walnut board given by Brian Graham.



Frank looking over his cutting board that Cherie Riddle made.



Kevin admiring his two cedar lanterns done by David Halter.



Cherie examining the casserole holder made by Jim Jones.



Brian holding the three wood "coupons" that he exchanged for three walnut boards from Lynn Anderson.



Lynn enjoying the board present from Brian Graham.



Jan showing the laser cut ornament from Kevin Crawford.



Dave admiring his cutting board made by Rusty Cook.



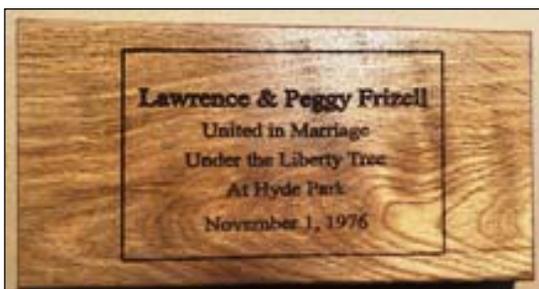
Brian and the laser cut ornament from Kevin Crawford.

Pen Kits For Sale

For those of you who turn pens, Cherie Riddle has a number of pen kits for sale that came from her brothers estate. There are several types and sizes which she is selling for \$1.50 and \$2.00 each, much below the normal cost. If you are interested, call Cherie at (816) 351-1779. Try not to call too early as she is a late morning riser!

Anniversary Plaque

The Guild was contacted by Darcy Collins after the story recently ran about the Liberty Tree benches. Her parents had been married in front of the Liberty Tree on November 1, 1977 and she asked if there were any scraps available so that she could give it to her parents at their next



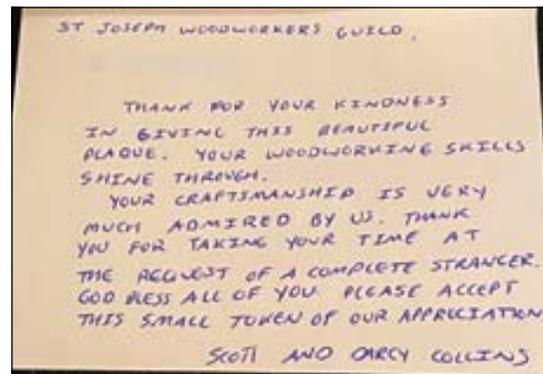
Front side of the plaque.



Backside of the plaque.



Darcy and Scott flanked by Ralph, Rusty, and Ed with the plaque.



Darcy and Scott's thank you note.

anniversary. Rusty Cook found a small piece of the leftover lumber from our bench project and, after a couple of emails for details, created a plaque for Darcy to give to her parents. Rusty engraved the information on the front and our logo on the back and finished the plaque beautifully. Darcy and Scott, her husband, were very happy with it and gave the Guild a donation for the work Rusty did. Thanks to Rusty for helping two couples to have a happy anniversary.

Sho-N-Tell

Ralph Alvarez — a lighthouse carved from basswood which he then painted.

LeRoy Gray — a set of four birds which Kevin Crawford had engraved on round pieces of slate. LeRoy was giving them to his wife.



Ralph with the lighthouse carving.



LeRoy showing the four birds.

Christmas Party at the Army National Guard

The Guild participated in the Army National Guard Christmas Party on December 7 making between 25 and 30 wooden cars with kids to help brighten their Christmas. A thank you to Jim Jones, Tom Engel, and Roger Martin for staffing the table and to Rusty Cook, Ralph Alvarez, Jim Jones, and Ed Roberts (and possibly others) for helping to make the bodies and wheel assemblies to bring to the event.



Tom Engel helping build a car at the Army National Guard.



LeRoy's donated table saw awaiting installation.

Guild Receives A Different Table Saw

LeRoy Gray recently donated a Powermatic table saw to the Guild to replace our current Craftsman saw. The Powermatic operates on a three phase motor giving us a more powerful and more efficient saw for Guild members use. We thank LeRoy for his very generous gift to the Guild. Rusty will be finishing the installation during the winter.

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

- Pony Express Family Day. February 16, 10 am - 1 pm (hours may change)

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.

Directions to Ralph Alvarez Shop

Ralph's shop is toward the south part of St. Joseph at **1404 Gardner Lane**.

Take Mason Road to 14th Street and turn south on 14th Street. Follow 14th Street south to the tee intersection with Joseph Street. Turn right on Joseph Street and continue on Joseph Street which becomes Gardner Lane. Follow Gardner Lane to the end which is Ralph's house and shop.



ST. JOSEPH WOODWORKERS GUILD OFFICERS 2024-2025

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Shop Manager	Rusty Cook	treasurer.stjwwg@gmail.com	(816) 390-5983

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



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