

February Meeting

Tuesday, February 10 at 7 PM

The February meeting will be at the shop of Ralph Alvarez, 1404 Gardner Lane (directions on Page 4 of the newsletter). The meeting will open with our usual short business meeting and a sho-n-tell time where you can show off what you have been doing in the shop on the winter days. Our program will be presented by Randy Bowe of Savannah, Missouri. Randy has a commercial cabinet shop a small saw mill, and kiln. He is also a custom woodworker and sells hardwoods. Come and hear about his 50 years of woodworking experience and knowledge.

January Meeting Notes

Our January meeting at Ralph Alvarez's shop was a full house with lots of enthusiasm for a new year. Lynn welcomed a visitor and then asked the treasurer, Rusty Cook, for a report. Rusty said our bank balance was good and reminded the audience that January was dues renewal month. He had a printout of the income and expenditures for the month that he shared with the audience. He also had a list of the projects that were done in the past year to pass around. He gave a shop update saying that the shop was generally cold now and not a good working environment. He had been working to install the donated table saw with the donor, LeRoy Gray. They are going through the saw repairing or rebuilding whatever needs to be done. Our building next door neighbor, Sunshine Sign, is building a metal box to cover the motor and help with dust collection.

Lynn updated the group saying that members were working on keel boat bodies to be used for the Pony Express Museum summer program. They want to have 200 ready for the July dates. They were also making some airplanes to be given away. The Pony Express Museum also asked if we can build some sort of hand cart for the kids to race.

Lynn updated the group on the work to build a mace for North Central Missouri College at Trenton to help celebrate their 100th anniversary. A prototype stand has been built and work is started on the mace itself after meeting with College officials and getting input from both the College staff and students. The mace will be 48" long and set on a 52" high stand. They want to incorporate a metal medallion on the top of the mace and on top of the stand. There will be 17 northern Missouri woods in the mace to honor the 17 counties served by the College. A long screw made of wood will hold the 17 segments together and a legend will be engraved on the back of the stand telling to different species of wood. The college will donate \$2500 to the Guild for the mace and stand.



Meeting with Kristen Alley of North Central at Ken Gerber's house (l to r: Kristen Alley, Ken Gerber, Rick Tolbert, Dave Halter, Ralph Alvarez, Ed Roberts)

Lynn mentioned that the Guild will again be making boxes for the Noyes Home students graduating this spring. Ed Roberts has a pattern for a hex box with splined corners and that is the type of box to be given to graduates. There will also be an extra box made to donate to the Noyes Home auction in August. Other Noyes Home news is that the Guild will also be building shelving in the Noyes Home building as soon as the Noyes staff gets the 2 x 4 material for the shelf unit uprights.

Rusty stated that he had received a \$65 check from the Bee and Thistle store. He said the inventory in the store is getting sparse and that we needed to make some items to sell. Bee and Thistle sells the items for a 30% commission. Most of the items sold have been the items that were left in the Tobiason showroom to be sold when they had bus tours visit the glass

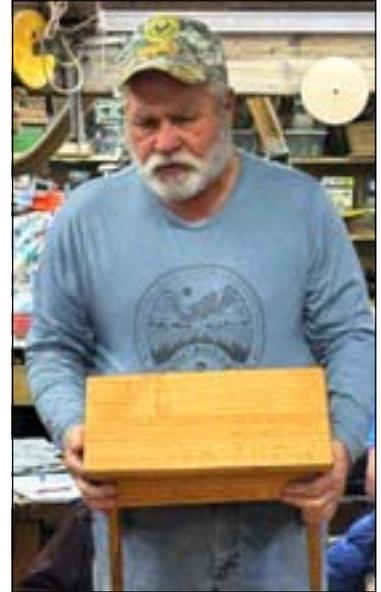
shop. Those have ceased so we are now selling in Bee and Thistle. Several ideas for new items were mentioned such as cutting boards, rolling pins, and various wooden toys.

Lynn announced that he had been informed by Teri Rader that Sunshine Sign is purchasing the Tobiason building including the Guild shop area. Lynn has been in contact with the Sunshine Sign owner who seems to be favorable to allowing the Guild to retain the space for the shop. Lynn did not know what will happen with the upper floor and all the Tobiason material and tools.

Jennifer Persell mentioned that Cherie Riddle had been helping her at Sisters Of Solace to teach the women scroll saw operation and has been working with them to build projects. Jen was very happy to have Cherie help out with the women.

Sho-N-Tell

Jim Jones — a stool he made for his grand kids to use. The stool was made from wood rescued from the Savannah landfill. Jim said he was dumping a load and saw the logs and did not want them to be destroyed. He loaded the logs, milled and dried the lumber, and built the stool from some of the lumber. He did not know the species but the top of the stool was highly figured.



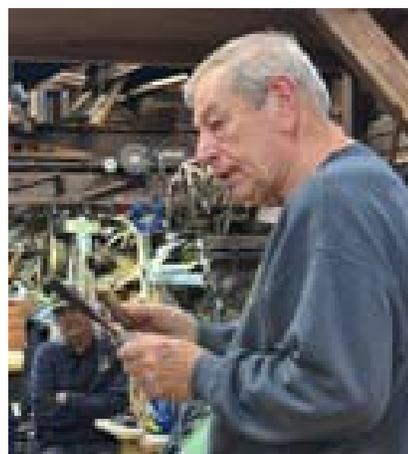
Jim explaining how he obtained the wood for his stool.

January Program

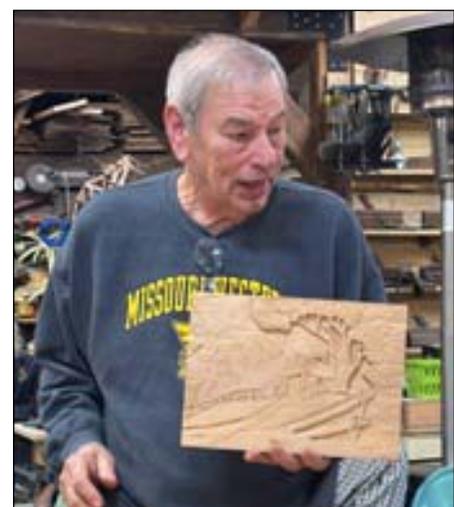
We are very fortunate to have Ralph Alvarez in the Guild. Ralph is talented in so many areas and one of them is wood carving. Ralph has been having a carving class every Tuesday evening (except for the Guild meeting night) since 1979 free of charge for anyone who would like to learn about carving. His class averages 12 students each week. He volunteered to provide a program for the January meeting and he had a couple of his class members there for support. Ralph started the program discussing the tools used for carving including V-tool, straight chisels, and gouges. Each tool has a variety of sizes to carve the different objects. Ralph demonstrated using a mallet to rough out a project and then go on using the other tools. He went on to talk about the different kinds of carving beginning with low relief. Low relief is carving of one side on a flat surface. He showed a fish carved on a flat board of basswood. He explained that low relief has the background carved out to raise up the image and to create images. He had several other examples of this type of carving. Ralph described in the round carving which he showed a fish as an example. The object is carved on all sides. Ralph held up several objects that were carved in the round.



Showing the tools for carving.



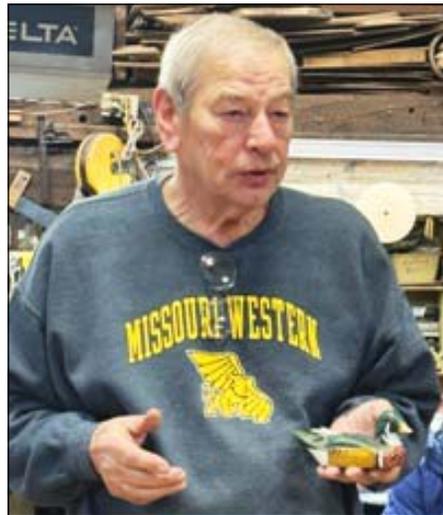
Showing the different sizes of the same tool.



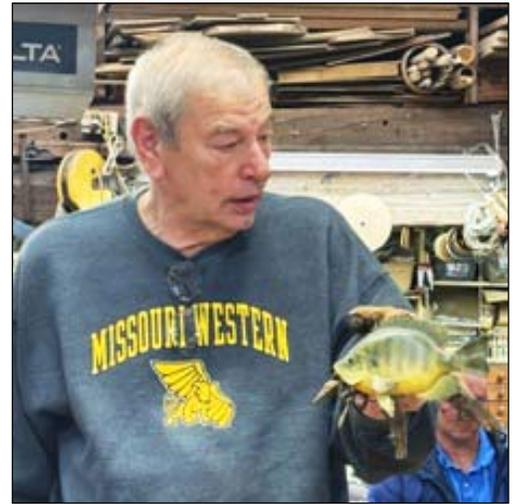
Describing a low relief carving.



An example of low relief carving.



Ralph showing an in the round carving.

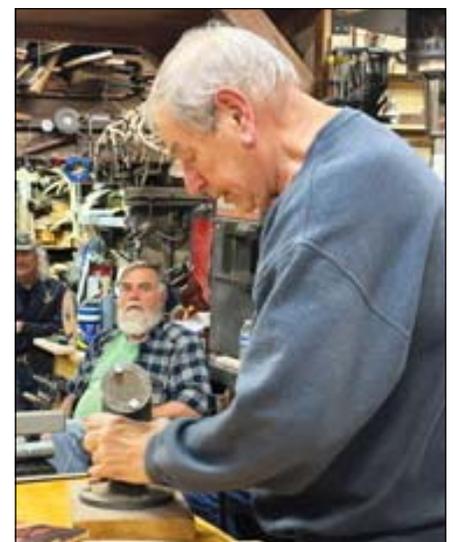


Holding another in the round carving.

In his classes, Ralph teaches how to use the tools and the techniques needed to carve the students object. He teaches the students how to use the tools, what is each tool is used for, and how to hold the tool. He does not give students assignments for the class, but asks what the student wants to carve and then helps the student complete the project. Helping students to understand facial and body proportions is an important part of Ralph's classes so that students can carve projects that include those features. Basswood is a very popular wood to use in carving because it is a softer hardwood and easy to carve. It does not have grain the causes the tools to be hard to control. Other wood is also used such a clear pine and several other hardwoods such as catalpa.



Showing a piece of wood that can be carved.



Talking about holding a carving on a third hand vice.

One of the things Ralph stresses is to not to get red on the wood! He said it is inevitable that body parts get cut using carving tools. Some of the students said that they do use protective gloves at times, but most commented that bare hands give better control and allow the worker to feel how the wood is being carved much better. Different tools are used to hold the wood being carved such as bench hooks, carving vises, or a tool called a third hand when carving objects in the round.



Steve carving a low relief project.



Jen working on a Santa face.

As Ralph finished the program, he described using a wood burner to complete projects along with paint and stain. He mentioned that he also teaches students how to sharpen the carving tools as they must be extremely sharp to do a good job on the wood. And, as a blacksmith, Ralph can teach the students how to make the tools using his forge.

Ralph provided a very interesting and diverse program about wood carving and we very much appreciated the time he and his students gave the subject. Thanks to Ralph for an excellent program.

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.



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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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