
ST. JOSEPH WOODWORKERS' GUILD

Volume 18 Issue 3

March 2026



March Meeting

Tuesday, March 10 at 7 PM

The March meeting will be at the shop of Ralph Alvarez, 1404 Gardner Lane (directions on Page 4 of the newsletter).

Location will be Weather Dependent - Watch for email for final decision.

Bring you projects for the sho-n-tell after our business meeting and show off what you have been doing in the shop. It is baseball season and what is more iconic than a baseball bat. Our program will be presented by Trevor Moss, owner of the Walk Off Wood Bat Company located in Savannah. He will be talking about his business, making bats, and what goes into a custom-made baseball bat. Come and enjoy a fun evening with other woodworkers.

February Meeting Notes

Having no visitors, Lynn Anderson, Guild president, welcomed the audience and asked Rusty for the treasurers report. Rusty said the balance in the account is good and no bills are pending. He said he had started a savings account of \$300 for the Guild to save for special projects and other uses. He stated that he and David Halter have access to the account at this time. As shop manager, he said there was nothing happening in the shop due to the weather. He will start doing some maintenance projects as the temperature begins to warm.

Lynn reported the mace project for North Central Missouri College is in process. Ken Gerber, Kevin Crawford and others are working to have the mace ready for a meeting with the faculty members and students on March 27. The mace will have 17 different species of wood representing the 17 counties the College serves in northwest Missouri. The 17 species are cut in 3" x 3" squares with a piece of holly wood separating the squares.



The 17 segments of the mace in the process of being turned.

Lynn mentioned that the Pony Express Museum will have Family Day on Presidents Day, February 16, and the Guild will participate from 10 AM to 1 PM. There will be three shave horses and the Guild scroll saw for the kids to try out their woodworking skills. We will also have on display the beginnings of a large (about 6 feet in diameter) wheel similar to a wagon wheel that the Guild is building for the Museum. The Museum asked the Guild to build two carts similar to those used in the mid-1800s to be used for kids races. Harshman Machine and Tool Company has agreed to make two metal axles for the carts and donate them to the Guild for the carts.

Lynn said there were several members interviewed by the Noyes Home before the evening's meeting for the Kindness Project. The Guild will be awarded a Kindness Award at the dinner later this year and a video of the interviews will be shown at this dinner.

Cherie Riddle asked the Guilds permission to use the Guild's scroll saw at the Sisters of Solace if she needs it. The Sisters of Solace has three scroll saws that were donated for teaching, but all three have some maintenance issues that make it hard to use them. This would be a temporary loan until the others are repaired to be able to be used reliability. Ralph Alvarez made the motion to allow the loan and Rusty provided the second and the motion passed. Cherie will make arrangements to move the saw to the Sisters location.

Lynn said that there were four individuals interested in making projects for the Noyes Home auction in August. Projects considered were a bookcase and a cabinet. The Guild will also be making boxes for the Noyes Home graduates. The graduates last year really liked the boxes we made according to the Noyes Home staff.

Sho-N-Tell

Lynn Anderson — one of several cutting boards he built for family members of various woods and finished with butcher block oil. This one had a juice groove cut into the face of the board.

Ralph Alvarez — a larger carved gnome made of an unknown wood species and a carved sign of a Biblical carpenter associating us as woodworkers and Jesus.



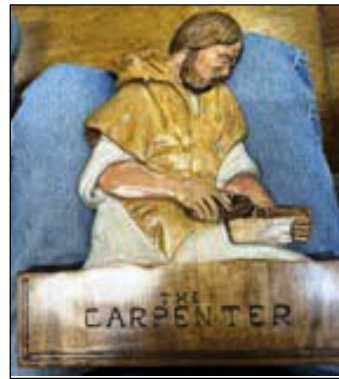
Lynn and his cutting board.



Ralph and his carving.



Ralph's gnome.



Ralph's carpenter carving.



Ralph and the carpenter carving.

Kevin Crawford — a laser cut fire truck from basswood plywood. The truck comprised over 400 parts that Kevin assembled including doors that open and a full engine.

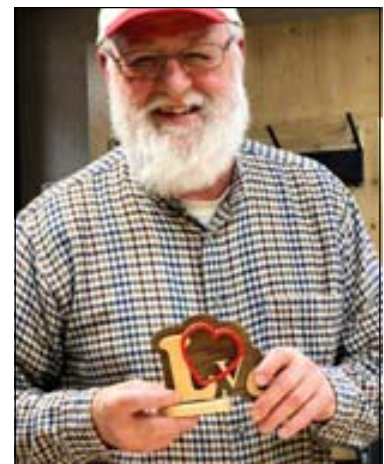
Roger Martin — two scrollsawn projects for the Valentine holiday.



Kevin talking about his fire truck.



Roger explaining his project.



Roger and his Valentine cutting.

Cherie Riddle — one of several urns she made to memorialize her brother and his wife who died last year. The urns were made of spalted walnut with red Narra from the Philippines and other Asian areas. She also made two pens from the Liberty Tree scraps for the Remington Nature Center visitor sign-in book. She mentioned that she had completed a rotating holder for the sign-in book.

February Program

We were privileged to have Randy Bowe, 50 year carpenter and worker in the building trades, provide our program. Randy is now a cabinet maker who has a portable sawmill and solar kiln. He was the previous owner of the Coast To Coast Hardware store in Savannah. Randy started working wood with his grandfather in his grandfather's cabinet shop. He still tries to look at what he does with the attitude of what would his grandfather think of his completed projects. Now, as he tries to slow down some, he works with one helper in his cabinet shop. He says building cabinets pays his rent, but working with his sawmill and the solar kiln are the fun part of his life. The Wood-Mizer sawmill has a 30" capacity. Randy started watching Hobby Hardwoods Alabama on YouTube and got interested in cutting his own lumber for his own use in order to get the best material out of the tree. He runs his solar kiln up to 150° to kill insects and to correctly dry the wood in the kiln.



Cherie holding one of the urns.



Talking about cabinet making.



Randy talking about his work history.



Listening to a question.

Randy has built unusual cabinets because he builds what the customer requires. He uses quality products and likes Koch and Co in Seneca Kansas to buy factory manufactured cabinets in addition to building his own. He has built unusual projects such as a settee from a partly destroyed trundle bed. He stated that he buys tools that save him time without sacrificing his quality. He uses prefinished plywood so that he doesn't have to finish the interior of his cabinets. Randy mentioned that trying to match stain or matching profiles on trim and doors to existing cabinetry is very difficult process in cabinetmaking. He finished up his presentation talking about the evolution of cabinet construction, the changes in hardware like hinges and drawer slides, the differences in tools, and the methods of work and what has changed in his 50 years of cabinet making. He then opened the floor to questions and answered everything that the audience asked. We want to thank Randy for his time and his very interesting presentation talking about his life.



Randy answering Dave's question.

Pony Express Museum Family Day

The Guild participated in the Pony Express Museum Family Day on Presidents Day, February 16. The Museum invites the community to come and see the Museum for free and also participate with a number of activities like a biscuits and gravy breakfast, sewing quilt pieces, making candles from deer tallow, and the Guild members helping kids learn about shave Horses and the scroll saw. We stayed busy with kids from 10 AM to after 1 PM when we were scheduled to leave. The Guild volunteers were busy helping kids use drawknives to round wood pieces from square to round. Many of the kids seemed to want to make a spear-like object at the completion. They were also able to cut out animal shapes using the scroll saw. The kids were quite interested in learning about the tools and making projects. A big thanks to volunteers Lynn Anderson, Ralph Alvarez, Pete Peterson, Rusty Cook, Jim Jones, Tom and Jan Engel, Dave Halter, and Roger Martin for spending some time making kids happy.



A young man working hard with the draw knife.



Kids working on the shave horses and the scroll saw.



Lynn helping a kiddo get started.



A young lady working on the scroll saw.



Ralph showing carving.



Volunteers warming up before the kids come in.



Jim holding the wood for a participant.



Tom helping cut an animal.



Pete, Jim and Lynn helping kids.



Pete, Rusty and Lynn working with the kids.

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

- Arbor Day April 25 from 10 AM to 1 PM

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

President	Lynn Anderson	fiveafamily@hotmail.com	(816) 244-5869
Vice-President	Jim Jones	jonesj51@hotmail.com	(816) 261-5090
Secretary	Roger Martin	rhandyperson@hotmail.com	(816) 752-0893
Treasurer	Rusty Cook	treasurer.stjwwg@gmail.com	(816) 390-5983

302 South 8th Street, St. Joseph, MO 64501

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.



4243 South Noland Road
Independence, MO 64055
(816) 373-1710



9645 Blue Jacket Road
Lenexa, KS 66214
(913) 599-2800



15340 W 119th St.
Olathe, KS 66062
(913) 815-2002
