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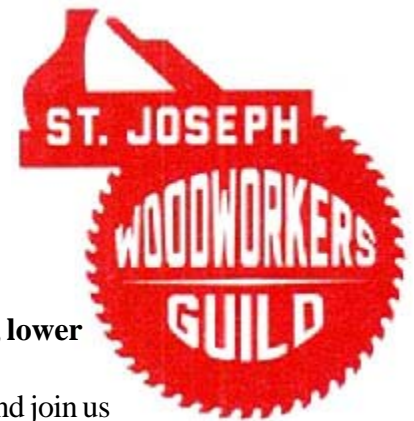
# ST. JOSEPH WOODWORKERS' GUILD

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Volume 18 Issue 4

April 2026



## April Meeting



**Tuesday, April 14 at 7 PM**

**The March meeting will be at the Guild shop, lower level of 302 South 8th Street.**

April is National Woodworking Month!! Come and join us for a Guild meeting to catch up on our projects and to share what you have been doing during the sho-n-tell time. After the short business meeting, Roger Martin will demonstrate the advantages of the L-fence. Never heard of an L-fence? Come and find out how it can help your woodworking.

## March Meeting Notes

Starting the meeting off, President Lynn Anderson welcomed the group and recognized a visitor in the audience. Rusty provided the treasurer's report and also talked about the shop update. Guild members have been working at Ralph Alvarez' and Ed Roberts' shops through the winter due to the cold in the Guild shop. One of the two carts being built for the Pony Express Museum is about complete. Harshman Machine Tool has furnished the steel axle and Rock Ridge Steel has provided the steel treads for the large wheels, both as a donation to the Guild. Home Depot provided a \$50 credit for some of the material. Roger will send a thank you note to each one for their donation.



*Parts for one of the carts.*



*Cart plans and photos of other carts.*

Rusty said that he had been working on the table saw donated by LeRoy Gray to get the electrical problems resolved after some other parts were received. He will build an outfeed table after the saw is completed and placed. The shop had been closed on Mondays and Wednesdays through the winter. Now, as weather is warming, it will be open on those days again. There was a brief discussion about having the shop open in the evenings, but no decision was made.

Lynn said that some projects have been completed. Rusty completed two display stands that were built for the Pony Express Museum. A rotating guest book stand made from remnants of the Liberty tree was completed by Ralph Alvarez for the Remington Center. A current project is the North Central College mace and stand. Ken Gerber and Kevin Crawford are the primary turners building that project. It should be completed for presentation to some of the College staff and students on March 27. On March 28, the Noyes Home will have the Kindness Saint Joseph Awards Banquet at MWSU's Fulkerson Center recognizing individuals and organizations for their kindness. The Guild will be recognized as one of those organizations. Several of our members will be there to accept the award.



*Lynn holding the rotating guest book holder.*

Lynn listed the coming events and activities. On April 24, the Guild will be helping judge high school student projects for NW TEAM judging at the Houlne Center on the MWSU campus. The next day, April 25, is the Arbor Day Event at the Missouri Conservation Department office on MWSU's campus. The Guild will have three shaving horses and a scroll saw to use in activities with kids and adults. Volunteers for both events will be needed. The two carts for the Pony Express Museum will need to be completed for the summer events at the Museum along with completing an eight foot tall wagon wheel. Guild members are also working on hex boxes to be given to the high school graduates at the Noyes Home. Pony Express Museum also wants the Guild to build a quilt rack that will have no finish so it won't damage the quilt that will hang upon it.

Lynn asked the status of any members who are ill. LeRoy Gray is at KU Medical Center in KC. Ed Roberts will have a knee replacement later in March. Ralph Alvarez was in the hospital just after the meeting date. We will keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

## **Sho-N-Tell**

Pete Peterson — a photo of the new miter saw stand he built in his new shop made from 2 x 4 lumber he had. He covered it with melamine and other materials he obtained from the Guild shop free materials.



*Pete showing his miter saw cabinet.*

Frank Shores — He has been working with the Andrew County Museum and told us the Museum needs items that they can sell in their gift shop. The Museum is looking for smaller items that can be sold to fund other projects at the complex. Frank urged us to think about what could be donated to them.



*Frank talking about the Andrew County Museum.*

## **February Program**

We were happy to have Trevor Moss, owner of Walk Off Wood Bat Company located in Savannah MO, speak to us about wood bat production. Trevor started by buying a Grizzly lathe in 2015 not knowing anything about turning bats or anything else. He started turning as a hobby learning as he made wood bats. He knew nothing about the requirements for making bats or the specifications required for professional playing. He loved playing baseball and started making wooden bats in his garage for himself. His friends started asking if he could make them a bat. At \$70 each, he would make



*Trevor starting his presentation.*



*Trevor showing a wood billet.*

6 or 7 a year turning them himself at 30-35 minutes per bat in his free time. Trevor finally decided to go full time with his bat making building a 40 x 40 shop at the east side of Savannah. He bought a CNC lathe in 2021 that can turn a bat from a round billet in 3 to 3 1/2 minutes. Now he can complete between 3,000 to 4,000 bats per year.

The bats start as a round stick, called a billet, of maple from New York or birch from Canada. They are straight grained for the best bats and cost about \$60 each. The billets are scanned before being sent to Trevor to be sure there are no knots in the wood. Trevor can enter the profiles and other specifications into the CNC and it turns the bat to those specifications. After the bats are initially turned on the CNC lathe, he mounts them on another lathe for sanding and finishing which he does himself. Trevor's bats are not approved by major league baseball (MLB) due to the cost of the approval process, but he makes all his bats to MLB specifications. Walk Off Wood Bats makes 297 different models of bats, many of which are used by farm club players, college players, and high school players. Some of the Kansas City Monarchs and St. Joseph Mustangs use Trevor's bats. Trevor can replicate a bat's characteristics if a player orders a replacement bat. Trevor said that about 90% of his bats are maple and 10% are birch. He mentioned that ash is not as durable for bats and that the last ash bat was retired in August 2025 from MLB play.



*Jim imagining hit home run hit!*



*Darrell looking at the striped bat.*



*Tom inspecting one of the bats.*

Once the bats are turned on the CNC lathe, then each bat must be finished. Sanding to 120/180/220 grit is completed on another lathe where he also does his finishing. Sanding over 220 grit causes the clear coat to not adhere to the wood. Trevor uses Trans Tint dyes to color his bats in order to allow the wood grain. He uses the same clear coat finish after dyeing as is used on Louisville Slugger bats. He had passed some of his bats around and was asked why is there a concave cup on the outer end of the bat. Trevor explained that the cup depth moves the balance point of the bat to a different location as specified by players. He commented that a birch bat gets harder the more times it is hit. He also explained "boning the barrel" It is using a cow femur bone to rub on the bat barrel to compress the wood of the barrel to help the bat hit better. When he finishes his bats, the cut-offs and defective billets are made into mallets and bottle openers.



*Bob checking out the finish on the bat.*



*Explaining the fine points of bat building.*

Now Trevor builds custom bats ranging in price from \$160-\$170 each. One-third of his business is on line. He mentioned that torpedo bats were popular in 2025, but other styles may be more popular this year. Metal bats are used by a lot of younger players. Walk Off Wood Bat sponsors several tournaments through the playing year. Trevor has one assistant who primarily works in the sales arena talking to customers and setting up tournaments that Walk Off Bat Company sponsors.

We want to thank Trevor for spending the evening with the Guild and educating us on baseball bat creation. It was a very interesting presentation and helped us understand another facet of woodworking.

## **North Central Missouri College Mace**

On March 27, several of the Guild members met with two faculty members and three students of the College at the MWSU Houlne Center to show them the progress on the Mace being built for the Centennial of the College in May. Both faculty and students were very happy with the progress of the mace and the stand. While there, they all discussed the design and engineering needed to build the mace along with the



*Describing how to finish a bat.*



*Trevor showing a mallet and bottle opener.*



*The students and part of the group of builders of the mace.*



*Ken and Kevin showing how the mace will look in the stand when completed.*



*One of the students getting a feel for the lathe.*



*Students examining the prototype of the screw running through the mace.*



*Dr. Kristen Alley trying her hand on the lathe.*



*The students posing with the mace.*

different components and woods used in the project. After spending time at the MWSU campus, the group they went to Ken Gerber’s shop to view and video some of the processes used to build the mace. The students and one faculty member were able to somewhat feel how the mace parts were turned on Ken’s lathe. The mace will be delivered to the school some time near the end of April or the first week of May. Thanks to Ken Gerber, Kevin Crawford, Ed Roberts, Lynn Anderson, and Andy Hastings for all the work getting this project completed.

### Kindness Saint Joseph Awards Banquet

On March 28, the Noyes Home held the Second Annual Kindness Saint Joseph Awards Banquet at MWSU’s Fulkerson Center. The event recognized 13 kids who wrote winning essays (out of over 1,700 submitted) about a person they knew who exhibited kindness. There were also awards for a school, teacher, and several other individuals. The Guild received the LUBA Legacy Award for a civic organization for the over 10 years of help we have given to the Noyes Home and the children. Lynn Anderson accepted the award with support for a number of other Guild members in the audience who were asked to stand during Lynn’s acceptance. We want to thank the Noyes Home for the recognition of our efforts to help their organization and look forward to continuing that relationship in the future.



*Lynn accepting the Kindness Award from Chelsea Howlett*

### 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

- NW TEAM Judging, **April 24** from 9 AM to Noon, MWSU Houlne Center
- Arbor Day, **April 25** from 10 AM to 1 PM, Missouri Department of Conservation Office

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