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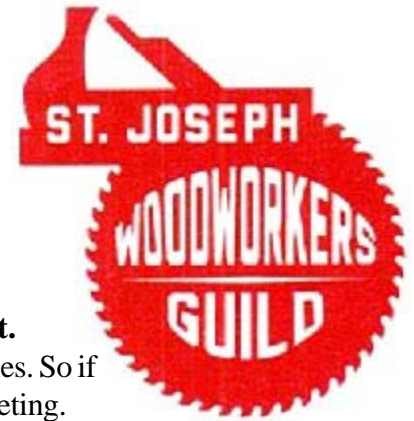
# ST. JOSEPH WOODWORKERS' GUILD

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Volume 18 Issue 5

May 2026



## **May Meeting**

**Tuesday, May 12 at 7 PM**

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

Spring is here and that sometimes shortens our time in the shop due to outdoor activities. So if you want get your monthly dose of woodworking, come and be a part of our May meeting.

We will have our usual update and business meeting and a show and tell time just so you can show off what you have been building. After refreshments, our Guild vice-president, Jim Jones, will give a presentation on operation and safety concerns of the thickness planer. Have a planer and you're unsure just how to operate it in the safest manner? Come and learn from Jim just what to do to be safe and get the best output.

## **April Meeting Notes**

Lynn Anderson, Guild president, welcomed two visitors to begin the meeting. After the welcome and introduction of officers, Lynn asked treasurer Rusty Cook for his report. Rusty stated that our bank balance is down some due to the expense of materials and supplies for building the carts for the Pony Express Museum. He also said that the insurance for the shop went up from \$465 to \$538 and was paid. He thought the Museum would reimburse us for the cart cost later this summer as they have in the past.

Under old business, Lynn mentioned that the carts for the Museum were almost completed. Kevin Crawford cut the wheels from plywood on his CNC and the majority of the wood used to build the carts was from shipping dunnage that Altec provided. The carts will be painted and assembled in the next month for delivery to the Museum before the Day Camp in July. Ken Gerber reported that the mace for North Central Missouri College was progressing and would be ready for the late April delivery. The stand is almost complete and awaiting a yoke to hold the mace for display. Kevin Crawford did the carving and epoxy work on the stand.

Lynn said there were several items of new business. The Pony Express Museum has asked for a quilt rack to be built for an antique quilt they want to display. The rack must be raw wood without any stain or finish so that the quilt will not be damaged. They are also asking if we can build a miniature wagon for a display. Ralph Alvarez said that he has been contacted by an individual who asked if the Guild can rebuild an antique wagon he has. Ralph also said he had a friend who would like us to build a chuckwagon to mimic a 1880's wagon. Ralph passed around a sign up sheet to gauge the interest in working on those two projects and had a number of signers. Lynn also mentioned the need for someone to build a suitable display case for the Kindness Award received last month from the Noyes Home. It is currently placed in a plastic cover, but needs a more stable case to protect it from the elements of the shop. No one volunteered immediately to make the case.

Rusty gave a shop update saying he and David Halter are working on the Powermatic saw that was given to the Guild. He also said that another lumber rack has been built allowing us more room for the stock that is air drying in the shop entry. The new rack has a solid bottom shelf so small pieces can be stored more readily.

Lynn reported that he didn't know any more detail on the sale of the Tobiason building where the shop is located. He is trying to have a meeting with the new owner, the Raders and Guild representatives to find out a time line of the sale and to understand where the Guild fits into the entire process.

Cherie Riddle requested some help moving lumber from her late brother's house near Barry Road in Kansas City back to St. Joseph. The house is going on the market and she is going to salvage the wood her brother had stored both in the house and an outbuilding. She asked if there were some people available with trucks and trailers to help haul the materials. Several volunteered to help with Cherie coordinating the date and time in the next week or two.

Dale Andrews reported that LeRoy Gray has been diagnosed with cancer and is undergoing chemotherapy at KU Med Center in Kansas City. Please remember him in your thoughts and prayers.

## **Sho-N-Tell**

Leslie Crum — a carving of a trout which she then colored along with the beautiful background.

Tom Engel — two crosses which he cut on the scroll saw. Both are made from plywood and walnut and were finished with polyurethane.

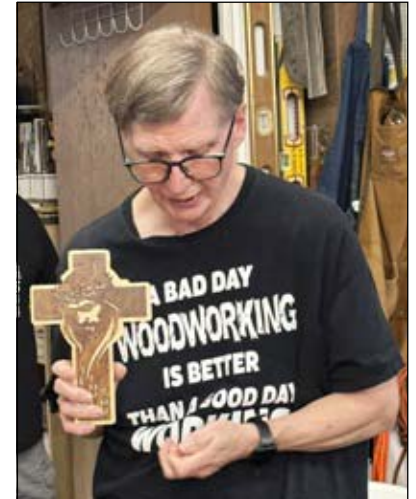


*Leslie and her trout carving.*

Andy Hastings — two bowls from a spalted maple burl. The burl had a number of voids (open areas) so Andy immersed the burl in a bucket of epoxy before turning the bowls. When completed and finished, the bowls appeared to have see through places in several spots.



*Tom and his first cross*



*Tom talking about the second cross.*

Jim Jones — a walnut serving tray he built with scraps obtained from Hewins saw mill in Wathena.

## **April Program**

Guild secretary Roger Martin provided a program on the uses of the L-fence. He began showing an L-fence and how it connects to the existing table saw fence with clamps. He explained some of the advantages of the L-fence: straight edges, tapers, cutting odd shapes, cutting sharp angles, keeping hands away from blade, allowing cutoffs to fall away and not be kicked back toward operator. He showed the first L-fence he had built and used. It is simply two boards about the length of



*Andy holding the two burl bowls.*



*Jim showing his serving tray.*



*The L-fence attached to the table saw fence.*



*Showing the L-fence in its simplest form.*

the saw table jointed at 90° to one another. Roger attached it by clamping it to the table saw fence and adjusting it slightly higher than the work piece by using a shim (1/4" is adequate) on the work piece and then tighten the clamps. Next he moved the table saw fence so that the outer horizontal edge of the L-fence was aligned with the outer side of the table saw blade. The L-fence was ready to use at this point.



*Setting up to cut a taper.*



*Showing how to cut a steep angle quickly.*



*Showing the result of the cut.*



*Cutting a part using the L-fence.*



*Using two-sided tape to attach a guide.*

Roger went on to demonstrate several cuts using the L-fence. He showed how to straight line rip a board with a rough or uneven edge illustrating that the cut off fall under the L-fence and is not able to be propelled towards the user making it a safer cut. Attaching a board with a straight edge to the board being cut with double-sided tape or screws for a guide, he pointed out that, while making the cut, the operators hands were safely away from the blade which was under the L-fence. After drawing a multisided object on piece of scrap plywood, Roger showed how quickly and easily one can cut the shape or use a template to cut multiple straight line parts. He stressed the speed of using the L-fence over other methods of set up enabling similar cuts. Roger demonstrated or explained several other cutting processes using the L-fence and the advantages over a straight table saw blade and a miter gauge or table saw fence such as mitering large parts, cutting identical box sides, making rabbets, and cutting tenons. Roger donated his original L-fence to be used in the Guild shop at the end of the presentaion. We want to thank Roger for showing how to make our cutting easier and safer using the L-fence.

## **North Central Missouri College Mace**

The mace continued to be finished during the month of April. Ken Gerber brought it to the meeting in its partially completed state. Kevin Crawford brought the mace stand to show off the carving and epoxy work that he had been doing on his CNC. The College planned to pick up the mace at the end of April so it can be used for their Centennial Celebration on May 9. After that, it probably will be housed in the President's office at the College.



*Ken holding the almost completed mace.*



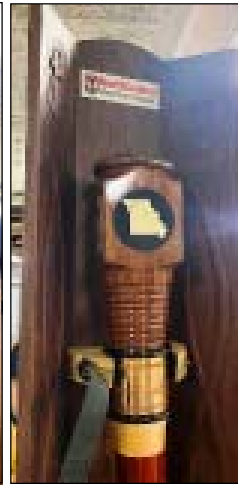
*Showing he burl piece that will be the top of the mace.*



*The back of the mace holder listing the 17 wood species in the mace handle.*



*Mace holder front view.*



*Photos L to R: The mace installed in the holder. The bronze band on the mace with stalks of wheat engraved on it. Top of the mace with epoxy date the college began. Another side of the top with epoxy state having two stars noting the college locations. Base of the mace in its spalted sycamore holder also showing the epoxy lettering and mascot.*

## **NWTEAM Judging**

The Guild provided judges for the NWTEAM project judging held on April 24 at the Houlné Center on the MWSU campus. The judges spent the morning judging woodworking projects from students at nine area high schools. The projects ranged from cutting boards and pens to a queen-sized bed frame and large dining room tables. Each project was judged



*The crew waiting on the projects to be set up for judging.*



*Two of the teams reviewing projects.*

using set criteria so that decisions would be fair and consistent. At the end, judges had to pick the best overall and that project goes on to a statewide competition at Lake of the Ozarks the next week. A big thanks to Ralph Alvarez, Rusty Cook, David Halter, Jenn Percell, Roger Martin, Kevin Crawford, Lynn Anderson, Steve Bunse, Jay Hale, Dan Matlack, and Jim Jones for spending their morning evaluating projects.



*Dave, Jay, and Rusty discussing the project qualities.*



*Rusty, Jim, Lynn, and Dave beginning the process for best in show which ended up*

## **Arbor Day Celebration**

On April 25, the Guild participated in the Arbor Day Celebration at the Missouri Conservation Office on the campus of MWSU. Two shaving horses and a scroll saw were used by kids to get a feel of woodworking along with stories from Guild members about the history and use of the tools. The kids had a great time making square pieces of wood into round sticks that they could take home to show family members what they did with primitive woodworking tools. Several kids were able to cut their own animal using the scroll saw with a little help from Guild members. Overall, a lot of shavings were made and chunks cut away and kids left with a little more knowledge of woodworking. Thanks to Ralph Alvarez, Rusty Cook, Roger Martin, and Lynn Anderson for brightening some kids morning and sharing what the Guild does.



*Ralph and Lynn helping kids on the shaving horses.*



*Lynn assisting a young lady.*



*Roger helping cut an animal on the scroll saw.*

## **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 Block Party, **June 6** from 4 to 7 PM, Noyes Home for Children, 801 N. Noyes Blvd.
- Pony Express Day Camp, **July 13-16, July 20-22** various times, Pony Express Museum, 914 Penn St.

## **Social Media**

Don't forget that the Guild has a Facebook page, [St. Joseph Woodworkers Guild](#), and a website, [www.stjosephwoodguild.com](http://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.

### **ST. JOSEPH WOODWORKERS GUILD OFFICERS 2025-2026**

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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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