



Newsletter of the St. Petersburg Woodcrafters Guild

June 2002

off-cuts

On May 28, 2002 the St. Petersburg Woodcrafters Guild was called to order at 7:00 PM by our President, Jim Nelson. Jim reminded us what a Guild is and asked for any visitors to introduce themselves. We had 2 visitors this month.

Committee Reports:

Treasury: Ernie Barta gave a treasury report. The Guild currently has \$ 4556.57

Resources: Ernie Barta told us that Highlands Hardware in Atlanta (www.highland-hardware.com) has band saw blades for under \$30 that are alternating 2 and 3 teeth per inch, which perform almost as good as more expensive carbide blades. Bob Bistor told us about the new composite decking manufactured from sawdust and recycled plastics by TecWood (www.tecwood.net). It is stronger, longer lasting, and more stable than pressure treated decking. Also one of our guests mentioned a problem he had with African Mahogany warping. Comments from members indicated that it probably was not dry. **Library:** Books, videos and plans are available for \$1.00 per month.

Toys: John Miller has made new jigs for assembling the doll beds and cradles. We need to assemble what is cut out and get them to the Christmas Toy Shop so we can move on to other projects. Contact John Miller if interested in helping.

Newsletter: Anyone with items to sell or wishing to buy should contact Bob Bistor two weeks before the meetings. Also if you know a member who is ill, please let

Bob know so he can send out a card. **Membership:** Our membership is now at 60.

Programs: Mark Miller is still setting up programs for the next few months. The minutes of the February meeting were accepted.

Calendar of Events: Mark your calendars with these important dates for the year:

Nov.26 Nomination of Officers

Dec.10 Christmas Party

**Meetings are held the 4th
Tuesday of every month.**

**NEXT MEETING
TUESDAY June 25, 2002**

**Grace Lutheran Church in the
Fellowship Hall
4301 16th Street North
St. Petersburg, Florida
7:00 – 9:00 PM**



This month's speaker is a surprise guest.

Officers and Committees for 2002

President	Jim Nelson 576-2926
Vice President	Mark Miller 321-2022
Treasurer	Ernie Barta 866-2670
Secretary/ Editor	Bob Bistor 587-9027
Associate Editor	Mark Miller 321-2022
Membership	Bruce Hickman 898-2048
Toys	John Miller 443-2787
Projects	Jim Nelson 576-2926
Resources	Ernie Barta 866-2670
Hospitality	Bruce Hickman 898-2048
Programs	Mark Miller 321-2022
Library & Guild Merchandise	Jose Rivera 528-1774 Co-chairman Wayne Hyman 867-1708

Published monthly for the members of the St. Petersburg Woodcrafters Guild, a non-profit organization.

What is a Guild?

A guild is different from a club in that members are dedicated to teaching what they know and learning what they don't.

Guild Merchandise: Available in our library caps (\$6), shirts (\$16), and shop aprons (\$20) .

Guild Business cards: If you would like some cards to hand out, see Jim Nelson.

Dues: Anyone interested in joining the Guild may send your check to Bruce Hickman , 720 18th Ave. North, St. Petersburg, FL 33704 or bring it to the meeting. Make checks out to E. Barta, Club Account.

Old Business and New Business:

Tool Drawing: Those who attended the Dewalt

planer demo last month were eligible for the tool drawing. Seven tools donated by Dewalt were available: Scott Tiffany, Lou Merkt, and Larry Samluk won sanders, Jim Smoot and Eric Keeney won plate jointers, and Tom Barnhill and Mark Miller won the 2HP plunge routers. Congrats to all the winners.

Logo: The board is considering modifying our Guild logo. The reason for this consideration is the "St. Petersburg" on the saw handle being much smaller than the "Woodcrafters Guild". Although this may not be a problem on larger renditions of the logo, when it is smaller like on business cards, information pads, etc. the "St. Petersburg" is too small and is not noticed. Therefore we are looking for a new logo. A modification has been made to our current logo and is ready for approval.

Buy/Sell: If you are looking to buy a particular item or have something to sell, you may have it listed in the newsletter. Call Bob Bistor (587-9027) two weeks prior to the meeting and we will put it here. Bruce Hickman had a Craftsman 10" radial arm saw for \$75, Alex Panaglotacos had a Sears miter saw which needs a new handle for \$45 and a Dewalt radial arm saw for \$150, Scott Tiffany had a Sears 48" x 6" belt 12" disk sander for \$75, and Jim Nelson had a 6" jointer for a reasonable offer. If interested, contact these members and see if they are still available.

Show & Tell:



Bob Robertson showed us a photo of a mahogany clock he made which required 300 piercing cuts. He used a gel stain on the finished piece but the problem arose of how to get the stain into the

piercing cuts. I personally have just used a ton of stain to flood it, resulting in a huge amount of waste. Bob's technique was to use a pipe cleaner to get the stain into the cuts. I must now quickly sell my stock in stain and invest in pipe cleaners before this newsletter reaches everybody!



Ron Eddinger showed us a case he made for his lathe tools. Anyone who has done any turning knows the importance of SHARP, nick free tools. And throwing them in a tool box or letting them roll on a bench and bang together is a sure way to dull them. With the price of good turning tools, this project is worth it's weight in gold.



Ron also showed us this lidded bowl he turned.

What is especially interesting is that the blank he used to turn this bowl consisted of laminating the centers cut from molding that was being discarded from the sample area at Weiss.



Francis Ricottilli showed us this delightful wedding gift he made. This unique photo frame is truly a gift from the heart (of Florida! I think the palm tree gives it away).



Scott Tiffany showed us a miter gauge he made for the table saw.



Ernie Barta showed us an example of the stair treads he is making out of 1 1/2" plywood, capped with hardwood flooring.



Jim Smoot made a candy dispenser for M&M's, Skittles, etc. Editor's word of caution: Be careful of contact between wood and foods. Use "food safe" or "salad bowl" finishes on wood which will contact the food and avoid the use of exotics which may cause a reaction in some people.

50/50 and Raffle: Francis Ricottilli won \$27 in the 50/50 drawing. Remember to buy your 50/50 raffle tickets before every meeting or during the break. Half the proceeds go to the Guild.

May Presentation: Our speaker for May was Lynn Keiter from Porter Cable. He gave us a great deal of history on the tools. The original company was formed by two guys named Porter and two guys named Cable. Their first invention in 1906, was something a good woodworker can not live without – the pencil sharpener !! In 1924 they released an electric drill with a pistol grip. This was followed by the belt sander in 1925, the helical gear saw in 1926, the orbital jig saw in 1954 and the offset laminate trimmer in 1959. What is interesting is that there have been very few design changes since the originals were introduced. And there are a few parts which are the same today as they were in the 40's and 50's. Another company we are familiar with is Delta which started in 1919, and purchased by Rockwell in 1942. They soon bought Porter Cable in 1959. The Rockwell name was known for many years as a quality manufacturer of tools. In 1981 a company named Pentair which had acquired a couple of paper manufacturers decided to branch out and bought Porter Cable from Rockwell. Two and a half years later they bought Delta. Both names stand for quality and despite the changes in ownership over the years Delta and Porter Cable

are still known for their quality and service life.



Since the meeting:

Guild Website: Hurray, hurray!! Our website has been updated and has a new look. Wayne Hyman has graciously volunteered to become our Guild Webmaster. Wayne has experience in website design from his job, and has the tools and knowledge to give our Guild an impressive presence on the web. Already he has added the newsletter on-line. Want to see the newsletter in full color? Want to see it before it arrives in the mail? Check it out on-line in the Members section! Wayne will be working closely with Bob Bistor to bring you the latest Guild news, the latest photos, and many new things in the future. Wonderful job Wayne! If you don't have a computer to check it out, visit a fellow guild member who does, or visit your local library (most have computers you can use) to check us out at www.stpetewoodguild.com

Open Shops: Something we have had in the past and would like to get active again is "Open Shops". If you would like to open up your shop to teach a technique, make something, work on toys, etc. then let us know. A sign up sheet will be available at the meetings if you would be willing to open up your shop. The choice is completely up to you as to when you do it. It can be for a few hours on a weekend or even just an hour or two some evening to teach a technique, etc. Maybe you want to learn a technique. Invite members over to your shop to teach you! During meetings we will be asking as part of our Resource report if there is anyone who wants to learn something. If you know how to do it, we encourage you to help. We are a Guild because we are dedicated to

teaching and learning. Our goal is to have one open shop a month. With our current membership we could accomplish this if EVERY member would open up their shop just one time every 5 years!

Member Contribution: Don Montgomery has again submitted some woodworking tips and advice. **From My Shop To Yours:**

Just to let you all know the stable is completed and our mommy donkey had a little boy donkey. He weighed 25lbs. His ears are as long as his legs and both mom and baby are doing fine.

A lot of woodworkers are afraid of doing the finishing work on their projects. I can understand that fear. Finishing is just like any other part of woodworking and has to be approached with a plan. Sanding and preparing the wood is very important, but don't fall into the notion that you must sand to perfection with a very fine grit paper. I rarely sand wood any finer than 220 grit. The one exception that comes to mind is end grain which is going to be stained. End grain will accept stain better than face grain and will be darker after staining for that reason. One of the easiest ways to prevent the end grain from being darker is to sand it to a higher grit. This will close off a good portion of the end grain and reduce the absorption of the stain.

Now don't get me wrong about sanding, I do use fine sand paper up to 400 grit, but I use it between coats of finish, not on raw wood. This smooths out the roughness, or high spots as you build a finish. It also scratches the last coat to allow the next coat to grab better. The real secret to a fine finish is feel. I like my projects to feel good when they are touched so I always wax my projects after the finish is done. Real wood invites the viewer to touch it, and the few minutes it takes to put a light coat or two of Minwax on, will be worth it every time someone touches it. Wax also helps to protect the finish and is easily touched up if needed.

God Bless. Don Montgomery (E-Mail Wooddon@aol.com.) If I can help with any woodworking questions I'd be glad to. E-mail me and be sure to put from woodworkers guild on the subject line.

Guild History: The St. Petersburg Woodcrafters Guild is about to be 9 years old! Several of our founders are still members. Through the efforts of Ernie Barta and some input from Don Montgomery we have a history of our Guild. If any other members have anything to add, please let Bob Bistor know and we will expand upon our History.

The first meeting of the St. Petersburg Woodcrafters Guild was held in the fall of 1994 at Dale Neff's shop. The club was the brainchild of Don Montgomery and we all owe him a debt of gratitude. It all started with one woodworker telling another and enough interest was generated to have our first meeting. In attendance at the first meeting were, Ernie Barta, Wally Howard, Don Montgomery, Dale Neff, Mathew "Doc" Nunkovich, Kevin Thopson, Bob Vinas, and Charlie Webster. Don Montgomery ran the meeting and it was decided that Ernie Barta would be the founding President as he had experience with both the Tampa and Sarasota clubs.

(Don Montgomery's comments: I remember the very beginnings, to my surprise that St. Pete. (a fairly old city) had no woodworking guild, or club. My dismay at the thoughts of driving to Tampa to attend the closest club meeting place. Tampa that scary place that that you have to drive thru to get to the airport. The place of crime, and crazy drivers. I complained to all that would listen that we must have our own club somewhere and nobody would, or could tell me where it was.

Every wood person I spoke to liked the idea of our own club and promised they would love to attend, and told me to be sure to let them know when it was formed.

Several of the regulars that dropped by H&D Hardwoods (to talk, to learn, but mainly to enjoy the smell and sight of wood being worked) said lets start our own club, I too mouthed these words. Then one day a note on H&D's bulletin board.

ANYONE INTERESTED IN FORMING A LOCAL WOODWORKER CLUB
PLEASE MEET ON SAT. @ 12 noon

HERE AT H&D

Signed..... Charlie Webster

This was IT. A new club being formed. That first Saturday approximately 10 people showed up. I can't remember them all but here are the ones I do remember: Charilie Webster, Dale Neff (H&D's owner), Niel Brown, Erine Barta, Matthew (Doc) Nunkovich, Kevin Thompson, and Don Montgomery

Mr. Erine Barta was at the time a current member (and past officer) of the Tampa woodworkers club and had a lot of information and knowledge about the formation of a guild. He graciously agreed to serve as interim president.)

We started to meet at Don Montgomery's shop and stayed there through the years until Don sold his business and moved out of town.

(Don Montgomery's comments: It was decided for everyone there to bring a buddy and meet again on the next Saturday. At that meeting I seem to remember that 15 or so people showed up. That was a pretty good start. The first meetings were in the evenings

at H&D Hardwoods. After the first few meetings it was decided to move our meeting place to the Montgomery Electric building. The official by laws of the Guild were prepared by the Board of Directors on Dec. 19th,1994 for submission to the membership at the next meeting.

Board of directors: President Erine Barta; Vice President, Don Montgomery; Secretary, Kevin Thompson; Treasure, James Davis.)

P.T.E.C. (Pinellas Technical – Educational Center) became our next home as we continued to look for better quarters. Victor and Sharon Arigi of Woodworks Warehouse offered the Guild the use of their facility for our meetings and it was a very satisfactory arrangement until the business closed in 2000. Our odyssey ended with our moving to Grace Lutheran Church School's student cafeteria. The Guild is still growing and offering more and more varied programs to our members and guests.

Past Presidents: 1994 – Ernie Barta, 1995 – Don Montgomery, 1996 – Doc Nunkovich, 1997 – Pat Brophy, 1998 – Don Green, 1999 – Lee Zandanel, 2000 – Sean Kelly, 2001 – Bruce Hickman



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