



# Newsletter of the St. Petersburg Woodcrafters Guild

September 2002

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On August 27, 2002 the St. Petersburg Woodcrafters Guild was called to order at 7:00 PM by our President, Jim Nelson. Our NEW Guild Banner was proudly on display again. Jim reminded us what a Guild is. He asked for any visitors to introduce themselves. We had 2 visitor this month.

#### Committee Reports:

**Treasury:** Ernie Barta gave a treasury report. The Guild currently has \$ 4078.24.

**Resources:** Ernie Barta stumbled upon a source for castors of all kinds. Check out the Price Cutter store at the NE corner of Central Ave. and 34<sup>th</sup> St. N. in St. Pete. Lots of free magazines were available at the meeting. **Library:** Books, videos and plans are available for \$1.00 per month.

**Toys:** John Miller has been working on birdhouses for the birding festival in September. Forty doll beds and cradles have been completed and delivered to The Children's Toy Shop. Contact John Miller if interested in helping to make more toys for Christmas.

**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:** We now have 70 members.

**Programs:** If you have ideas for a program you would like to see, call Mark Miller. Mark has a demo from Pinellas Paint, Whisper Abrasives and a Guild member demo night tentatively scheduled for the rest of this year.

#### Website:

[www.stpetewoodguild.com](http://www.stpetewoodguild.com)

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

Nov.26 Nomination of Officers

Dec.10 Christmas Party

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**Meetings are held the 4<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday of every month.  
NEXT MEETING  
TUESDAY September 24, 2002**

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



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**SPEAKER: Whisper Abrasives is  
our planned speaker this month.**

Our speaker this month is subject to change as Mark Miller is out of town due to an illness in the family. At the time of publication we are still trying to confirm the speaker.

## Officers and Committees for 2002

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

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:** Since we have changed the design of our logo we want to order new Guild merchandise with the new logo if there is enough interest. In the meantime, all existing Guild merchandise is being cleared out at 50% off. Caps are now \$3, shirts \$8, and shop aprons \$10. Get them while they last.

The minutes of the May meeting were accepted.

**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 18<sup>th</sup> 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:

**Guild website:** Wayne Hyman is working on developing our website. The Board has authorized Wayne to check out different servers to put the website on so that we can add new features and do away with the annoying pop up ads. Wayne is currently trying one out to see how it works prior to switching our webpage to it. Please be patient and watch our site develop over the next few months. If you have forgotten the User Name and Password to get into the Members Area, contact Wayne or Bob Bistor.

**Open Shops:** We are a Guild, and as our definition states, we are dedicated to learning and teaching. Ernie Barta has volunteered to host another Open Shop. This one will be on Shop Made Jigs and Fixtures. Have you ever had to drill a hole or put a mortise in a piece of wood at a 12° angle, and you don't have a tilting table on your drill press. Or you don't trust the accuracy of the table? Or you are afraid that the hole will also end up skewed? Well then you need to make a jig to aid you in drilling the hole. Once you have the jig, you can drill a perfect hole each and every time. There are many commercially available jigs out there, but often times we can make one as good if not better right in our own shops and for a small fraction of the cost. Ernie will give us tips and ideas. The date will be announced at the meeting and a sign up sheet will be available.

**International Woodworking Show:** Bruce Hickman, Charlie Webster and our newest member Don Andrews all attended the International Woodworking Show in Atlanta last month. They went as part of the chartered bus group that goes from the Tampa club. Bruce gave us a summary of their trip. The show is the largest woodworking show in this hemisphere with 800,000 square feet of exhibit space for approximately 1250 exhibitors. It is held in Atlanta every other year, so you will have to wait 2 years until the next one. Besides the overwhelming number of exhibits, Bruce said the people occupying the exhibits were often the

designers, and engineers, not salespeople. These were the people who knew all the little details and capabilities of the tools. And they were more than happy to discuss the details with you and listen to your opinions and suggestions. Whether you were looking to learn about the latest models of hand held power tools or huge, robotic, automated systems, there was something for everyone. There were also many demonstrations and classes put on by the top names in the business. And you had the opportunity to mingle and talk with the master woodworkers we have idolized for years. Unfortunately we have to wait 2 years until the next one, but it is something to try to attend.

**November Show & Tell:** The Board has decided to set a theme for the November meeting Show and Tell. The theme is Holiday decorations/ornaments. In addition to whatever other items you may bring in, think about making some kind of Holiday ornament or decoration. It can be anything from something to hang on the tree to a house or yard decoration. So get your mind going and your hands working to create your Holiday piece to show. We also plan to put all decorations on display at the Christmas party.

**Christmas Party:** Our Christmas party is coming up quickly. Those who attended last year know what a good time we had. This year promises to be just as much fun. The date is December 10, and will be held at our regular meeting place beginning at **6:00 PM**. We will have a chicken and fixin's dinner, desserts, beverages, door prizes, toy contest, etc. all for just \$5.00 per person. Tickets will be on sale beginning with the September meeting. Tickets may also be purchased via mail. Send your check or money order made out to E. Barta, Club Account, for \$5.00 for each ticket you wish to purchase. Send your request to Ernie Barta, 7200 Skyway Lane So, Apt 12B, St. Petersburg, FL 33711. All mail in orders need to be received by December 1, 2002.

**Christmas Party Toy Contest:** Those of you who were members of the Guild last year, remember the wonderful response we had to the Christmas Toy Contest. We will be doing it again this year. The rules: Make a toy and bring it to the Christmas party. It can be any size, made from any kind of wood (although it is recommended that

you stay away from toxic exotics), the toys can contain no small pieces which could be a choking hazard and it must have a child safe finish. The finished toys are to be brought to the Christmas party where everyone in attendance will vote on them. There are a total of **10 CASH prizes** up for grabs!! First place will win \$30, 2<sup>nd</sup> place \$25, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place \$20. The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> place runner ups will each get \$15, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> place honorable mentions each get \$10, and 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> place each get \$5. That is a total of \$140 in prize money up for grabs. You may enter as many toys as you want, but may only win one prize. Besides being fun, it is also for a worthy cause. All toys submitted for judging will be donated to the Christmas Toy Shop and will put a joyful smile on some needy child's face on Christmas Day.

**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. Nobody had anything to sell this month. Ernie Barta did tell us that the Ben Franklin store on 49<sup>th</sup> Street just north of Park Blvd, takes in craft items from local craftspeople and will display and sell them for you. The only fee is a 25% commission on the sale. If you want to display and sell things you make, stop in and check them out.

**Show & Tell:** John Miller started out our show and tell this month with a cutting board he made out of hard maple. He added a border around the edge made out of sugar maple. Since it will be used for food, a non-toxic finish was required so he finished it with mineral oil.



A couple of members mentioned that although the sugar maple edge is a nice touch, it may cause

problems as the hard maple expands and contracts. Regularly coating the board with oil will help minimize these changes. This reminded us all that when we build anything we must consider swelling and shrinking of the wood.

Francis Ricottilli was busy this month! He brought in a country paper plate holder, a jewelry box, and he made one of the kids banks he showed us as an idea last month. The image on the paper plate holder was a picture that he found and decoupled onto the front of the paper plate holder.



His beautiful jewelry box was made from black walnut. A mirror adorns the back of the upper compartment.



Art Mowry showed us another style of plant pot holder he made. They are shaped like a parrot on a perch and he has painted them in tropical colors. He is making them in several different sizes to accommodate different size pots.



Ernie Barta brought in 3 of the wonderful boxes he loves to make. His latest one he decided to add legs to. Just this little touch adds a great deal to the appeal of a basic box.



the third of the three boxes that Ernie showed us was a unique surprise.



As he began to open the lid of the box, it immediately blew completely apart sending pieces flying all over. Was this the result of faulty glue? The result of stresses from expansion or contraction, built up within the wood? What could possibly have caused such a catastrophic failure in a work created by such a Master craftsman? Maybe it was the loaded mousetrap he had hidden inside !!!! Clever construction held the box together keeping the mousetrap from snapping until he attempted to open the top.

Wayne Hyman brought in a photo of a beautiful lingerie chest he built at home. The chest itself was too big to bring in, plus it was immediately put to use as soon as the finish was dry!! And shame on Wayne for even thinking that he could make just one of these with more than one woman in the house. So now he needs to build another one.



Wayne took another photo of the chest to give us a better view of it.



**50/50 and Raffle:** Eric Keeney won \$25 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.

**August Program:** Due to a last minute cancellation by Pinellas Paint we did not have a speaker this month.

### **Member Spotlight: Ernie Barta – current Guild Treasurer**

Captain Ernest Barta was born in the Chicago suburbs and is of Bohemian Ancestry. His paternal grandfather came from Czechoslovakia where he worked as a cabinet maker and carver. Ernie learned woodworking from his grandfather as well as his own father, who was also a fine craftsman. After serving in the U.S. Navy and attending the University of Illinois, Ernie went to work in the heating and ventilating industry. He eventually owned his own heating and air conditioning company. He built several homes acting as general contractor and personally doing all the carpentry.

A new way of life started when he sailed his

small sailboat from Chicago to Florida and the islands. Ernie became employed in Florida shipyards where he worked as a ship's carpenter doing repair as well as building new boats. Staying with the marine industry, Ernie managed a sailing school for 25 years while doing the wood maintenance on the school's fleet of boats. Ernie has held a 100 ton merchant marine Captain's license for over 30 years.

Now retired Ernie has the time to devote to his lifelong passion for woodworking. Specializing in Antique Reproduction furniture he also makes decorative inlaid boxes, games, and puzzles. Ernie is a past President of both the Tampa and St. Petersburg woodworker's guilds and is very active with the Fine Furniture competitions at the Florida State Fair. Three years ago, Ernie was awarded the Best of Show award for his walnut slant front desk from the George I period.



**Plans by Bob Bistor:** Where should we look for plans when we want to build something? Often we want to build something and wonder if there are plans out there somewhere to build it. Some people are good enough to build from scratch using just an idea in their head, but most of us need a little help. There are many places to look. Consider some of these sources: As a Guild member you have access to all the books and plans in the Guild library. We have a great variety of

books, plans and videos in it. Try asking at a meeting. We have 70 members and each of us have our stash of books, magazines and plans in our homes and shops. Between all of us we probably have enough ideas and plans to fill a room or two. Check your local library for books on woodworking, furniture making, etc. These sources are all FREE! You can check with your local lumber and hardware suppliers. Often they have books and plans on a variety of topics. Is there a local business that makes a similar item such as a local furniture maker, or cabinet maker, etc. Maybe they could lead you to a source. Check your local bookstores. Maybe they have a book on what you are looking for, or maybe they can order it.

Have you exhausted all the **LOCAL** resources and still not found what you are looking for? Well then let's go **INTERNATIONAL** ! But how? Buckle your seat belt and go for an expedition on the world wide web! Do you like the lingerie chest that Wayne Hyman built and showed last month? He found the plans in the newspaper but I found a photo at [www.newwoodworker.com](http://www.newwoodworker.com). Last time I looked there were over 3800 FREE plans at [www.freewoodworkingplan.com](http://www.freewoodworkingplan.com). Most of the woodworking magazines have websites and offer free or low priced plans as well, like [www.woodmagazine.com](http://www.woodmagazine.com), [www.americanwoodworker.com](http://www.americanwoodworker.com), [www.woodworkersjournal.com](http://www.woodworkersjournal.com) which had over 1500 plans last time I looked. Do a search on the web for free woodworking plans and then the item you are looking for. Example: **Free woodworking plans cradle**. Or just **woodworking plans cradle**. There are literally thousands of websites worldwide with plans. Try asking in newsgroups. What are newsgroups? They are message boards on the internet dealing with a wide variety of interests. A real life example is a bulletin board on a wall labeled Woodworking. Anyone who wants to post a message on the bulletin board can and you can read every message posted there by others. They are a great way to meet, chat with, exchange ideas, plans, etc., with other woodworkers **WORLDWIDE**. You can post pictures for others to see as well as see what others have posted. I have chatted with woodworkers all over the world and it doesn't cost you a penny! Where do you find these newsgroups? Many of the larger Internet servers host newsgroups. Go to [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com) and look for Groups. You can search for groups

dealing with a particular interest. Last check there were 278 groups regarding Woodworking. Imagine 278 bulletin boards to post your messages on or ask for plans to make something. Go to [www.msn.com](http://www.msn.com) and they have 209 groups dealing with woodworking. Plus 16 on woodturning, and 51 on wood carving. And there are thousands more out there. And if you can keep up with even a fraction of these newsgroups, then there is a whole realm of internet chat. But trust me you won't have time to even keep up with even a small number of newsgroups! Just to give you an idea. I personally am involved in about 10 newsgroups which

between them create over 250 messages a week for me to read.! Not everyone has a computer or knows how to use one, but many of us do. If you are looking for something and can't find it, ask another member, or a friend or neighbor who does have a computer and maybe they can help you find it. Or most public libraries have computers available for use by the public and if it is not too busy, the staff can help you look for what you need. If you have exhausted ALL these resources and still not found it, trust me you will be about 500 years old and too tired to build it anyway.