



# OFF-CUTS

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



## Dust in the Workplace

- Joe Pettit

Sawdust can be the bane of a woodworker's existence. You'll be hard pressed to find a woodworker that enjoys sanding his pieces. And every finisher has gone through the agony of a bit of dust landing on his otherwise perfect finish. But I'm going to focus on the health dangers of dust this time. Dust can get you four ways: Irritation, Sensitivity, Allergy and Toxicity.

Some wood dust cause an irritation. This may be the skin or eyes or even just breathing it in. Just about all woods are an irritant, the human body isn't meant to be inhaling dust. I've worked with some species that send you running for the dust mask though. Watch out for the skin and eye irritation species though. Cocobolo is notorious for that, so much so that I've heard it called a 'winter wood' since you need to wear long sleeves while you work it. Also, the eye irritants can get by standard safety glasses and ruin your day.

Sensitizers go one step further. They may not be bad at first, but each exposure adds up. Eventually, they all hit a threshold capable of sending you to the hospital. Cocobolo is like that, as are most rosewoods and the aromatics.

Occasionally, you get allergic reactions out of woods. Sometimes that's simply a sensitivity build up. Some people are simply allergic right off the bat. Then we've got the toxic woods. Sometimes it's just the bark or leaves, sometimes it is that layer between the bark and the heartwood. In any case, this wood requires very special precautions to work with. My general advice is not to work it at all... and don't think you can just burn it. Burning the wood may put the toxins right into the air.

So how do you protect yourself? Education is the first step, learn from other people's mistakes.

Use personal protection, like dust masks and respirators. Get a whole shop filtration system. Collect the dust at the source with dust collectors.

When it comes to shop filters and dust collectors, I have found that canister style units work significantly better than the bag style filters. The bags just clog up too fast and then they stop working. After a big job with lots of sanding, I've finally replaced my bags with canister filters and it is the difference between night and day. And if you don't have a whole shop filtration device, you can just open up the port on the dust collector and let it run for a while. Not terribly efficient, but it does clean the air, particularly in a small shop.



### In This Issue....

November Guild Photos and Christmas Photos.....pg. 5 & 6



**Featured Member of the Month.....pg. 2**  
*Richard Samay*

Officers contact List.....pg. 3

Event:  
Pinellas Folk Festival.....pg. 3

Scrollsaw Workshop.....pg. 4  
Internet resource review

Event: Florida State Fair  
(Feb 9th through 20th)

Event: Feb 17-18, 10am-5pm.  
Lie-Nielsen demonstration forum.  
At Salt Creek Artworks  
1600 4th St. S, St. Petersburg.

Event: Woodworking Shows  
(March 16-18)

Canister filters aren't cheap, but they are an option on most dust collectors. I got mine from Wynn Environmental (WynnEnv.com). They were easily half the price and have better air transfer ability. Their kits typically require a little modification to fit the many types of dust collectors, but they've got fairly detailed instructions for the common collectors.

**The Tues. Jan. 24th program will be 7PM at Grace Lutheran  
4301 16th St. N. & Haines Rd.  
St. Petersburg.  
Bring your friends and show-n-tell items too!**

## Featured Member of the Month, Richard Samay

Richard and Jan Samay live a little south of the Tyrone area of St Petersburg. Richard moved to St Petersburg after completing his service with the US Army and settled here. Richard got his start in woodworking in about 1980 while employed at what was then called St Petersburg Junior College. A co-worker was a wood carver and stimulated Richard's interest in carving. Although he has done other types of woodworking as well, including building his own kitchen cabinets from Oak recycled from church pews, carving remains his favorite aspect of woodworking. He has won both Honorable Mention and a First Place in woodcarving at the Florida State Fair.

Richard and Jan serve currently as the Guild Librarians and over their approximate 7 years in the Guild, Richard has served in a number of positions including, Member at Large, Christmas Toy Store Coordinator, and Publisher of Woodcuts, the guild newsletter.

Richard has a small shop in his home which he says shares space with the family washer and dryer. He told me that one of the best facets of

wood carving is that he can do it anywhere and even sits in his car with the door open carving while waiting for his passenger. Richard's favorite project so far was the work he did on the Coast Guard tables where he spent hours removing epoxy and re-carving the plaques and details. His favorite wood to work is basswood due to its particular qualities for carving. I asked if there was an area of woodworking he would enjoy learning more about and he told me he would like to master the installation of crown moldings.

When asked if he had anything he would like to share with the Guild membership he replied; "Don't be afraid to try something new! Whether that is a new tool or a new technique, just try it." He would like to see our Guild get involved in more shows and community projects.

Richard Samay, a man with a lot of varied experience who can teach you how to use carving to take your woodworking projects to the next level.



*Richard built all the kitchen cabinets in these 2 pictures*



*These are some of the tools Richard uses*



## *Saturday January 28th is the Pinellas Folk Festival - A Centennial Celebration!*

*I am so excited that we have nine members that are signed up to showcase our Guild and our talents (especially at such short notice). I would like to say thank you to all those who have volunteered. I have received quite a bit of positive feedback from the employees from The Village. They are so happy that we are going to be there. The ladies look forward to meet all of you. They have all been assisting me in finding tools to be displayed. They are quite excited about our participation in this most historical event.*

*This is a great opportunity to use our motto "teach others what we know about woodworking and to learn what we don't."*

*This is a great place for us to show our stuff!! As well as, recruit new members. We will have antique tools that will be displayed to visitors, to appreciate the modern new fangled tools we have now-a-days. I would like for us to have a hands approach to children and adults a like, on how to use a miter saw and hand drill.*

### Officers And Contact Info 2012

President - Joe Pettit [pettitwoodworks@gmail.com](mailto:pettitwoodworks@gmail.com)  
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727-341-3741

Webmaster - Wayne Hymen  
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The following paragraph is information from the flyer from Heritage Village.

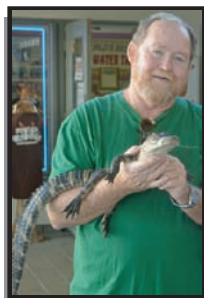
*Dozens of Tampa Bay area's premier folk musicians will be playing traditional folk, gospel, country and bluegrass music on stages throughout Heritage Village.*

*Sponsored by the  
Pinellas County Historical Society.*

*There will be historical demonstrations, old-time games, storytelling, traditional craft demonstrations, "Fleece-to-Shawl" activities, antique cars and more. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free to children under 12; suggested minimum donation of \$5 per adult. Heritage Village, 11909 125th St. N. Largo.*



## Internet Resources for Woodworkers



by **Bill Murphy**  
With his new pet dog

*This is the first in a series of articles designed to share Woodworking resources available on the Internet with everyone who has access to a computer and the Web. There are a multitude of websites available which offer instruction, video tutorials, blogs, forums, free advice, patterns for projects, and generally all types of beneficial information at your fingertips if you know where to look, or how to conduct a good search. Some are free, while others may charge a fee for a portion of their offerings.*

*The first site I am going to feature is one I visit on a daily basis. If you are at all interested in scrollsawing, this is an invaluable resource you don't want to miss.*

Steve Good, of Lexington, Kentucky, began this blog in May of 2007. It has grown since then to a subscriber list of 10,473 with roughly an equal number of regular readers who don't choose to subscribe. Subscription is free, and means you receive an email of the posts on a daily basis. This blog receives in

the neighborhood of 1000,000 visits a month.

The accompanying Community Forum opened in April of 2010, is also provided free, and currently has 2172 members from all over the world. It is not unusual for 50 visitors to be simultaneously on the forum browsing and making their own posts. I have personally found this forum to be a tremendous resource with a community of users who go to great length to support each other in the pursuit of scrollsawing.

Steve tells me, "The Scrollsaw Workshop is dedicated to the growth of the hobby. I am most proud of the fact It has been responsible for hundreds if not thousands of new people into the hobby. I have hundreds of free patterns, dozens of video tutorials and much more for anyone looking to get more out of their saw."

The blog is on the web at..... <http://scrollsawworkshop.blogspot.com/> , and the Community Forum can be accessed from the same site. Whether you are into intarsia, portraiture, toys, puzzles, or any other aspect of scrollsawing, there are patterns and information you will benefit from at this website.

# November Meeting and Christmas Dinner



Jim Smoot & Chris Rau

Richard Samay  
(librarian)

Ted Bateman  
(Member at Large)

Steve Stutts  
(secretary 2011)

Gary White



Joe Pettit  
(President)

Steve Stutts  
(secretary 2011)







4301 16th Street North on the corner of 16th Street N & Haines Rd. Guild meets every 4th Tuesday of the month at 7PM at the Grace Lutheran Meeting Hall.



## ST PETERSBURG WOODCRAFTERS GUILD

c/o Grace Lutheran Church  
4301 16th Street North  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33762

TO:

*We teach what we know and learn what we don't.*