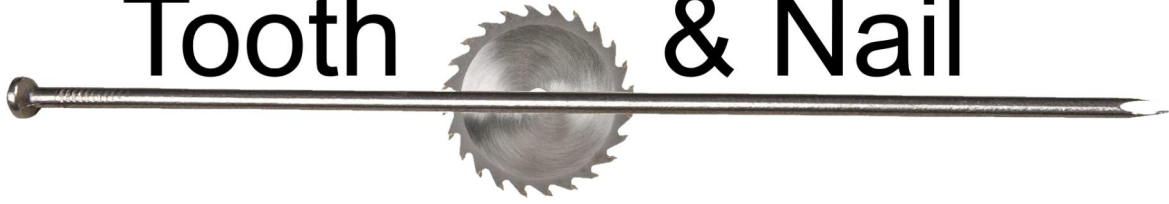
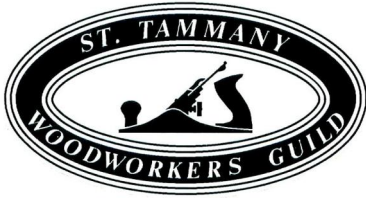


# Tooth & Nail



Newsletter of the St Tammany Woodworkers Guild Nov 2016



## OFFICERS

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pat\_robber@yadoo.com

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bjwthompson@bellsouth.net

Wooden Boat Show  
Coordinator:  
Henry Simon  
topsw@bellsouth.net

Librarian:  
Jim Suarez  
svpanoya@gmail.com

The October meeting was called to order by Brian Harrell, at Ben Bigler's workshop.

Wayne Thompson gave a treasurer's report. \$2,259.67 was collected from donations made at the boat festival. \$546.89 of expenses were paid concerning the boat festival. The bank balance for the guild is \$4,929.95.

Welcome to visitors J. Pat Baudier and J. Patrick Baudier, Jr.

Concerning the boat festival, we ran out of shrimp boat cabins. We will also need to make more hulls next year. Outboard motors were popular, but depend on the number of handles made by the Abbey. The four special boats made by Henry Simon were awarded during the festival and personal letters with photographs were sent to each of the four children.

The next meeting will be on the third (not the fourth) Tuesday in November, Nov 15, 2016 at the St. Joseph Abbey Woodshop.

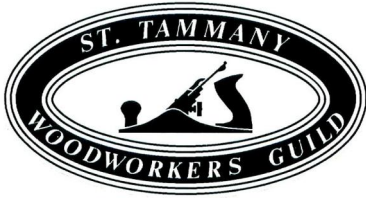
The Madisonville Boat Festival party to thank volunteers will be held on Friday Nov. 18, 2016 from 7 to 10 pm. Please see the invitation

elsewhere in the newsletter.

The guild's annual banquet will be on Thursday, Dec 8, 2016 from 6:30 to 9:30 pm at the Vintage Court on LA Hwy 25. The cost is \$15 per person or \$30 per couple. Spouses or significant others are welcome. Please plan to participate in the gift exchange. Make a gift out of wood and receive a gift. There is no regular meeting in December.

A question about sharpening card scrapers was posted on Google Groups and discussed at the meeting.

After Show and Tell, the owners of the property, Sharon Vercellotti (Vergez) and her husband John Vercellotti, talked to us about the history of the shop. Sharon's grandfather, Auguste Vergez, immigrated from France to New Orleans, and moved to Covington in 1901. The family home at 113 E 25th Avenue, next door to the shop, is still serving as a home to his descendants. Auguste was trained as a blacksmith and a wheel wright and a gunsmith and by 1905 had built and opened the Vergez Blacksmith Shop. It was the only building in Covington with an elevator. Because Covington was a trade center at the end of a wagon trail, the blacksmith and wainwright work was very important. Hundreds



## NEXT MEETING

Tuesday  
Nov 15, 2016  
7:00 PM

St. Joseph Abbey  
75476 River Rd  
Covington, LA 70457

Directions from  
Covington:  
Take US-190 W for 7.6 mi.  
Continue onto LA 25 north  
for 1.9 mi.  
Turn right onto River Rd  
for 0.7 mi.  
The Abbey entrance will  
be on the left.  
Cross the single lane  
bridge to enter the Abby.  
Turn right, go past the  
church, turn left.  
Woodshop is in the  
second block on left.

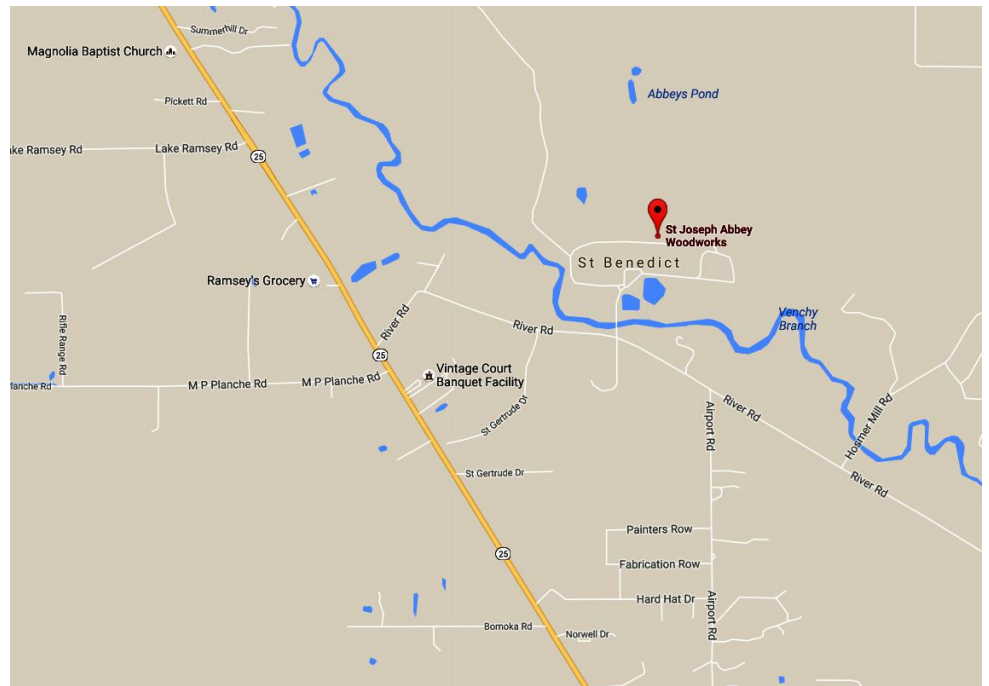
Bring folding chairs.

of ox carts would camp a few blocks away, by the current court house, carrying cotton bales and simple syrup bound for New Orleans. Auguste's son and Sharon's father, Henri, used a steam bender for the ash used to make wagon wheels. He could shape the spokes and fashion the rings to go on the axels. Wagons were lifted in the elevator to the second floor of the shop for artistic work because the light was good

there. Covington's first horse drawn pumper (fire engine) was built in this machine shop. Sharon's grandfather and father served as volunteer firemen. In 1950, Henri built a new Vergez Machine Shop next to the old shop. This is the building we are in. It currently houses Ben Bigler's woodworking and a stained glass artist's shop.

-Pat

## MAP TO ST JOSEPH ABBEY WOODSHOP



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

Website Manager: Tom Gustafson, [tom@gustafson.us](mailto:tom@gustafson.us)



## OCTOBER MEETING

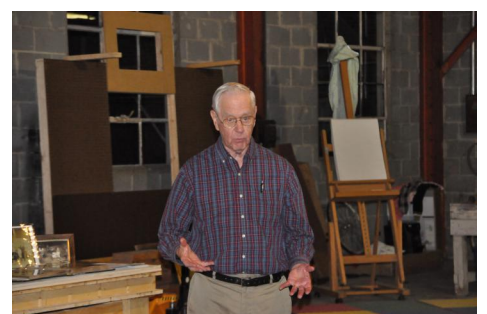
### MISSION

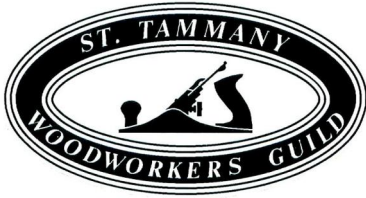
The Guild is an organization founded in 1991 by local woodworkers for the purpose of education and inspiration in the art of woodcraft. The Guild is open to anyone who has an interest in woodworking at any skill level. Most members live in St. Tammany Parish but some come from Washinton Parish and Orleans Parish. Meetings are on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM except July when there is no meeting, November when the meeting is on the third Tuesday, and December when the Banquet replaces the meeting.

No matter what your level of experience is in the field of woodworking or where your interests lie, e.g., woodturning, flatwork, or carving, the Guild is there for your enjoyment and fellowship. Regardless of how many tools you own, whether you have a shop or not, come and see what the Guild is all about.



Above, Brian Harrell conducts the meeting. To the left, Wayne Thompson and Ben Bigler. Ben demonstrated his CNC machine. Below, Sharon and John Vercellotti, owners of the workshop, gave us a talk about the history of the workshop (and of Covington).





## LENDING LIBRARY

Please contact our librarian by email to request a book or DVD. Jim will bring the book or DVD to you at the next meeting. A complete list of titles is available on the website.

Librarian:  
Jim Suarez  
svpanoya@gmail.com

Website:  
www.StTammanyWoodworkersGuild.com

## SHOW AND TELL



Brian Harrell made a toy cricket. The wheels came from Hobby Lobby. Electrical wire was used for the antennae.

John Glover built a special bedroom set for his daughter's return home (not shown). While in the hospital with her, he worked on this carving.

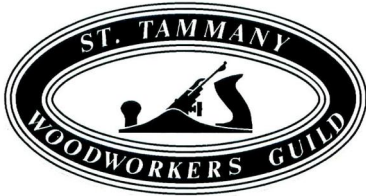


Matthew Mohon built a serving tray with dovetail joinery using hand tools.



Michael Gaule turned these pens.





## BEN BIGLER'S DRUMS AND CNC MACHINE

### INVITATION

As a Treasured Volunteer  
of the  
2016 Wooden Boat  
Festival

You are invited to attend  
A Volunteer Appreciation  
Party

Friday, November 18,  
2016  
at the

Lake Pontchartrain Basin  
Maritime Museum  
Music, Food, and  
Beverages provided

Please RSVP by 11/14/16  
to

(985)845-9200 or  
e-mail to [info@lpbmm.org](mailto:info@lpbmm.org)  
(Adults Only)

Join us in our 6th year in  
support of "Toys for Tots."

Bring an unwrapped toy  
and make a child's  
Christmas special!



Ben Bigler designed, built, and wrote the code for this CNC machine to make his snare drums. He also designs furniture, such as this walnut chair.

