

Tooth & Nail

March 2023

Newsletter of the St. Tammany Woodworkers Guild



Next Meeting

Time and Place

- Tuesday, March 28, 2023
- 7:00 pm
- St. Joseph Abbey
Woodshop
- 75476 River Rd
- St. Benedict, LA 70457

Note: The west end of River Rd
has been under construction.
You might need to enter via
Airport Rd.

Agenda

- Woodworking Questions
- Safety Moment
- Show 'n Tell
- Demo on stained glass
windows by Britta Higgins
- Pay dues \$25 for the year

Minutes

Tom Gustafson opened the February 28, 2023 meeting at 7 pm at the St. Joseph Abbey Woodshop. He welcomed visitors and then moved the meeting into the adjoining building for a demonstration of the Abbey Paint Works, given by Al Gahn.

The annual barbecue will be held on March 18 at noon at Gerald Gibson's camp. Please bring a side dish and beverage. Invitations will be sent to members.

The March 28 meeting will be held at the Abbey. The demonstration will be on making stained glass windows by Britta Higgins of Pain in the Glass.

The April meeting will be held on Saturday, April 22 at Brian Stauss' workshop, 9 W Kori Lane, Waggaman, LA. Brian will demonstrate turning a sphere on the lathe and show us his workshop.

We will cut boat blanks for the boat festival on Thursday, March 9 at 9:00 am at the dock behind the Maritime Museum and next to the caretaker's cottage. We will have enough 2x6x8' lumber to cut 12-inch blanks that will fill 40 boxes, 30 blanks per box. We need to get all of the boxes distributed to volunteers that day.

Tom asked for woodworking questions and tips. Pat Robbert showed the 60-degree-point drill bits for plexiglass that eliminated shattering for her and noted that a card scraper (but not a plane) works very well for removing plastic from the edges. Brian Harrell showed a Micro Jig GRR-Ripper-2 push block that he likes for ripping narrow wood strips on a table saw. It is quicker to setup than the original GRR-Ripper. He found it at Peachtree Woodworking. Wayne Thompson asked for a wood identification of a very dense, dark wood from a Mississippi supplier. Best guess was mesquite.

For Show 'n Tell Warren Dufrene, Jr. said he likes the WoodTurners Wonders website and offered to place an order with them for \$15 corded lamps with a permanent magnetic base if folks were interested. He also showed us some plates and bowls he turned on the lathe out of sapelle and maple.

Monty Hall said he sells his work in Minnesota during the summer at a farmers' market. He showed some bowls, a box, and a salt and pepper shaker he turned.

Mike Sibley built a chimney cabinet for his wife out of sinker cypress. He designed frame and panel doors that look almost like a solid door with a decorative line. He applied a golden pecan stain and then applied Osmo hard wax oil with a white 3-M pad (equivalent to 0000 steel wool).

Henry Simon showed a plant stand that he designed from the Abbey scraps that he picked up last month.

Pat Robbert showed a gear-linked twin screw vice that she built to sit on her workbench and elevate her work level.

For the demonstration, Bob Busfield told about the guild's history with building boats for the boat festival. He said that at first they used 2x4 lumber, but when the kids piled parts on top of it, the boats turned over

in the water. Then they tried adding pontoons but drilling accurately for the dowels was tough. Now we make the hulls from 2x6 lumber cut into 12-inch blanks so that the beam is one-third of the length as in real boats. About twelve years ago we started making more definitive parts. We currently make about 1400 boats a year. Assuming 8 to 10 parts on a boat, we require 14,000 parts. Bob then described how he makes cabins, treasure chests, canons, guns, seats, winches, rudders, outboard motors, guns, bumpers, ice chests, tackle boxes, and radar units, some from 2" strips of 2x wood and some from scraps from the casket handles, and some from 3/4" x 3/4" wood. To cut dowels for gun barrels and tables and radar units, he takes a stack of dowels and secures them with a spiral wrap of 4 yards of blue tape. Then he cuts them to length on the band saw. For fishing poles he gets 100 bamboo barbecue skewers (for a dollar) and hot glues on a small piece of 1/4" dowel. He said that you should make a simple jig to drill the angled holes in gun turrets.

Jack Terry does not work from boat hull scraps but prefers to use scraps of the casket wood to make guns. It is safer to work with strips of parts rather than individual parts at the power saws. He made a jig to make crosscuts at the band saw. His Gatling guns swivel because they have a radar unit glued to the bottom. He said he likes to draw a center line on the boat to aid in part placement.

Brian Harrell described how to make the forecastle (living quarters forward of the mast) and the poop deck (la poupe: Fr, the stern) for the pirate ships as well as outboard motors. He said we need 250 of these parts and distributed 10 bags of jigs and samples and instructions. His drilling jig is a 2x4 with a 45-degree groove cut in it. He uses a crosscut sled on the bandsaw so small parts don't get trapped. He suggested hanging a five-gallon bucket off the rail of the band saw to collect the parts coming off the blade.

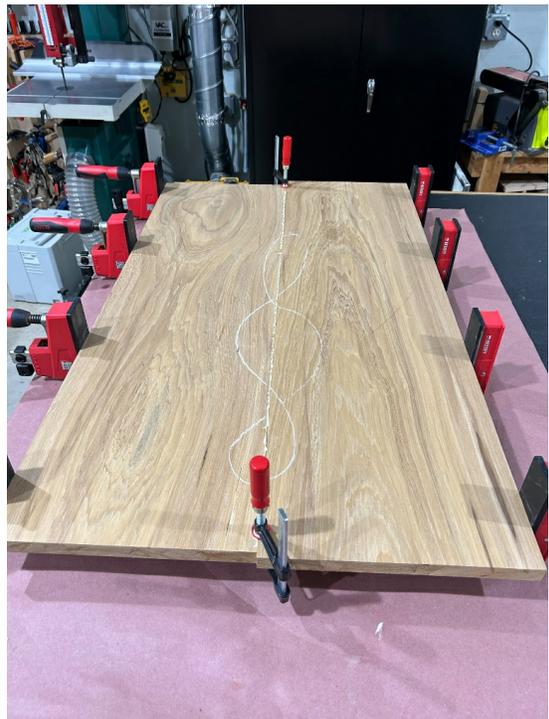
Pat Robbert noted that a small wooden handscrew clamp makes a good jig for drilling the center hole in table tops and radar units at the drill press.

Tom adjourned the meeting.

For those who need directions to the St. Joseph Abbey Woodshop, once at the Abbey entrance, take the single-lane bridge into the Abbey, turn right, go past the church, and turn left. Then proceed to the Woodshop, which is in the second block on the left.

-Pat Robbert, Secretary STWG

Show 'n Tell







Demo: Making Boat Parts



Demo: Abbey Paint Works



Barbecue



A big thank you to Gerald and Linda Gibson for hosting this event.

Set Building at Playmakers Theater



President: Tom Gustafson
Vice-President: John Fisher
Secretary: Patricia Robbert
Treasurer: Wayne Thompson

Boat Festival Chair: Henry Simon
Board Member At-Large: Brian
Stauss
Board Member At-Large and
Web- master: Rene' Maggio

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