

Tooth & Nail



Dec 2024 Newsletter of the St. Tammany Woodworkers Guild

Next Meeting

Time and Place

- Tuesday, Jan 28, 2025
- 7:00 pm meeting
- St. Joseph Abbey
Woodshop
- 75376 River Rd.
- St. Benedict, LA 70457

Agenda

- Show 'n Tell
- Woodworking Questions,
Tips, and Safety
- Pay dues \$30 per
household
- Demo: TBA

[Map to the
Abbey](#)

Minutes

- The Tuesday, November 19, 2024, meeting was held at the St. Joseph Abbey and was conducted by STWG president, Tom Gustafson. Tom welcomed guests, Linda Lodato, C.J. Bergeron, and returning member Barry Campos.
- Wayne Thompson was not present to give the treasurer's report. In his place, Pat Robbert collected ticket money for the banquet, \$30 per person, and 2025 dues of \$30 per household. Members who still need to pay for the banquet can

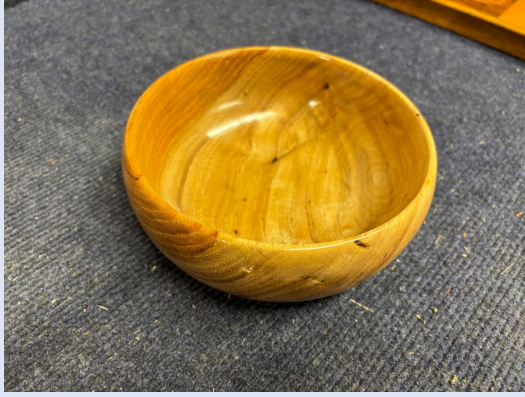
mail checks, made out to St. Tammany Woodworkers Guild, to Wayne, at P.O. Box 1812, Covington, LA 70434.

- The annual banquet will be at the Maritime Museum on Thursday, Dec 12, from 6-9 pm. Invitations have been sent out to all members and an RSVP was requested by Nov. 19. Tickets, as we mentioned above, will cost \$30 per person. Tom encouraged everyone to participate in the wooden gift exchange. It was a lot of fun last year when almost everyone made a gift. It's time to get started on those gifts. If you have any questions, please contact us at the email below.
- The next general meeting will be on January 28, 2025 at 7 pm at the St. Joseph Abbey.
- The Maritime Museum is setting up five-foot tall Christmas trees and offering the opportunity to decorate and sponsor a tree. We could display the club logo and a QR code directing people to the club website. We need to make wooden ornaments reflecting a nautical theme, such as boat building, boats, fish, light houses, and anchors. A sign-up sheet was passed around. The decorating will take place on Dec 1. Dale Mahnke showed us some ornaments he had made: a bench plane, a hammer, a saw, and a red circle.
- Tom has received the donation of a drill press and a router, which, can go to a new woodworker or a school. Tom asked for ideas about recipients. Sonny Gonzales said he can check with a woodworking teacher he knows.
- Tom asked if there were any woodworking questions or safety issues. Brian Stauss related trying to cut dovetails with an old router bit and getting ragged results. Changing to a new bit made the cutting smooth and easy and the results much improved. Pat Robbert mentioned that under similar circumstances she ordered a new router bit from **PMC** and it was delivered by mail the next day. She liked supporting a local business and she got a STWG discount.
- Jim Suarez asked if anyone had success with sharpening router bits. Tom said he had sent a set off for sharpening. Gerald Gibson and Warren Dufrene said they had touched up the edges with a diamond file and tiny triangular files.
- Bob Busfield asked about getting an instruction manual for a DeWalt 734 planer so he could flip the blades over. Barry Campos found a copy on the internet for him.
- Concerning safety issues, Brian Stauss showed a bowl he had attached to the lathe using a screw chuck. When he kept getting catches, he stopped working and thought about it overnight. He realized that the screws did not provide sufficient holding power and that he needed the tail stock. An oversight, indeed. The main lesson, he says, is to stop and think when problems present.
- Ron Walker and Sonny Gonzales gave a report about the Texas Woodworking Meeting they attended in Austin, TX. They spoke with Bob Binkey, the Titebond rep, and learned that there were more types of glue than they were aware of and that there are some important techniques to use. They spoke with

Tom Monahan from General Finishes who has presented to BRWC. They also met Mike Pekovich from **FWW**, Thomas Lie-Nielsen from **Lie-Nielsen Tools**, Frank Strazza, fine furniture maker, who recommended **Bad Axe hand saws**, and **Rob Cosman**, who described the Purple Heart program he runs to teach woodworking to disabled veterans.

- For Show 'n Tell, Brian Stauss showed the finished bowl he turned from pecan. It is finished with Watco Butcher Block Oil and will be donated for his church's auction. He also turned pens of cocobolo and leopard wood for the auction.
- Pat Robbert showed a **Paul Seller's router plane** that she made. The height adjustment is very smooth due to spring washers under the retaining bar.
- Clark Gristina showed the Roman tablets that became part of a history experience for his grandchild's school. Rene Coil used the CNC machine at the Abbey to make forty pairs of the tablets.
- Clark also told us of a leakage problem that developed in his Koi fishpond. After digging up and inspecting every pipe connection, it turned out that the vertical taut portions of the pond liner had developed many small holes. He is asking Firestone to honor their twenty-year warranty on the product.
- Ron Walker has made a collection of dovetail marking guides from those used by Paul Sellers, Rob Cosman, and others. Ron likes the Rob Cosman saw with finer teeth, 22 tpi for the first inch, and then 15 tpi. To cut the interior waste from the dovetails, Ron uses a coping saw. He trims the inner walls with a 17-degree chisel in softwood and a 25-degree chisel in hardwood. He mentioned an invention by the veteran, Sean MacDermott, in Rob Cosman's program. A shim of the same thickness as the saw kerf is used in the marking/cutting of the dovetails. Thanks to Ron for raffling off a set of his dovetail marking guides.
- The demonstration on Intarsia was done by Craig Bond. He defined Intarsia as an art form in which the colors, grain patterns, and thicknesses of wood are used to create a picture. He uses a master pattern and seven copies of the template. The work is divided into sections, such as neck with head, body. Marquetry presents a flat picture. He showed an example of marquetry done by Bill Pecoul. In contrast, Intarsia is three-dimensional. He does not apply any stain to the wood. It will receive a clear finish which, of course, enhances its natural color. The heron he showed has 32 pieces and is classified as easy. Before adhering the paper template to the wood, he covers the wood with transparent shelf liner. Lessons he suggests are to cut outside of the lines, fit the cut pieces together, and then shape the pieces. He showed the tools he uses to sand: flap sander, Dremel, and custom sandpaper holders.

-Pat Robbert
STWG Secretary



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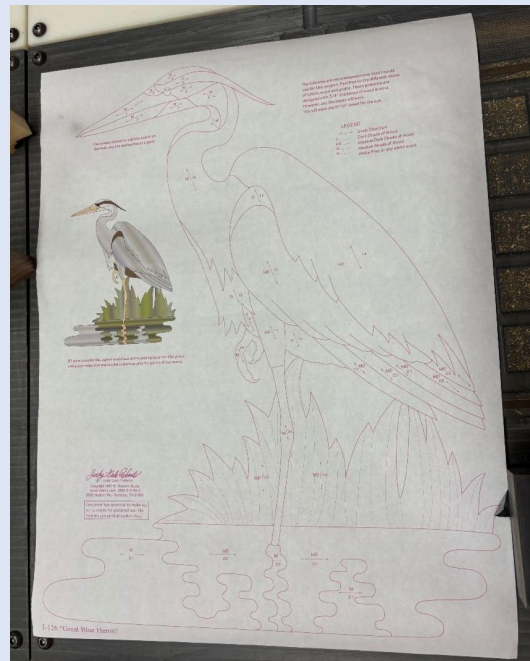
taut portions of the pond liner had developed many small holes. He is asking Firestone to honor their twenty-year warranty on the product.



Ron generously raffles off a set of his dovetail marking guides. Barry Campos was the winner.

Ron Walker shows a collection of dovetail marking guides styled after those used by Paul Sellers, Rob Cosman, and others.

Demonstration



Craig Bond gives a demonstration of Intarsia.



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