

# WOOD WORDS



The newsletter of the *Kansas City Woodworkers Guild* [www.kcwoodworkersguild.org](http://www.kcwoodworkersguild.org)  
*Celebrating 25 years of Kansas City Sawdust*

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**Next Meeting: Wednesday March 18th, 7:00pm**  
**Program: Peter Jilka with Merritt Industries**  
**Different Stain & Glazing Processes**

**Sawdust:**  
**The Presidents Corner**  
 Mike Jones



Well, since this is my last hurrah, I am excited to report on our hand plane workshop that we held today. I just returned home from a tremendously successful workshop today at the hall. In follow-up to Bill Johnston's fabulous presentation on "de-constructing your Stanley plane", we had over 35 people descend on the shop with antique planes in hand and chomping at the bit to learn how to tune up their planes and find a sharpening method that they could learn and use at home. We had several facilitators stationed at each bench offering their instruction on how to clean-up, tune-up and sharpen. I sincerely believe everyone, facilitators included, enjoyed a morning and afternoon filled with learning, insight and fellowship.

If you left today not knowing how to sharpen your plane blade, you must have been in the wrong building. A good time was had by all, and once again, we didn't quite get to do everything we wanted to do, so we will plan on offering another weekend workshop on how, when and where to use your plane, be it a #3 or larger.

Mac Dressler has agreed to come back and demonstrate what plane is appropriate for which use. If today is any indication of how well that will go, you better start making plans now to be at this next workshop. Today was fantastic.

My thanks to Bill Johnston for a great idea and follow-through on a very worthwhile program. Also, I would be remiss if I didn't send out a big thank you to Jim Stuart for putting together the food for our lunch. Nobody went home hungry! Please make sure to find a way to make time for our next hands-on workshop. You won't go away disappointed.

Since this is my last column, I will say a fond farewell to you all. This has been a terrific experience for me as President. I step away from my leadership role with great trepidation, but I do so with great confidence that John Johnson will pick up where I have left off, and lead with great passion and knowledge of our craft. John is and always will be a great asset to our Guild. My best to John and the leadership team. As always, I look forward to seeing you all in the shop! God Bless you all!

PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR SPONSORING MEMBERS

-  [www.Shop.MontereyWoods.com](http://www.Shop.MontereyWoods.com)
-  **Schutte Lumber**  
(816) 753-6262
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Overland Park, Ks
-  **Kansas City Windsor Tool Works**  
[www.kcwtw.com](http://www.kcwtw.com)

**2009 Dues are now Due.**

If not paid this month membership privileges could be suspended.

## February's Program: William Johnston- Reverse Engineering the StanleyBailey Bench Plane

By Shelly Taylor

William Johnston treated us to an interactive presentation on understanding, tuning, and creating a Stanley-Bailey bench plane into a user-friendly tool at our February meeting. Bill is quite an aficionado of planes and notes that Stanley planes are plentiful and can be bought in varying degrees of condition at garage sales, flea markets, antique stores, and eBay. Bill usually gets away with spending a mere ten to fifteen dollars. He also suggests buying planes for parts and building one plane from many. With a little restoration that includes taking the plane apart, cleaning it, tuning it, and putting it back together, you will have a tool that works very well for very little money out-of-pocket.

Bill focused on Stanley bench planes # 3, 4, 5, 6, and 8. Numbers 3 and 4 are called smooth planes, number 5 is a jack, number 6 is a fore, and number 8 is a jointer. The number indicates the width of the blade – the higher the number, the wider the blade. A narrow blade is easier to push, while a wider blade removes more wood in a single pass but is more resistant. However, as Bill went on to show us in his presentation, you can modify a given plane with the shape of a blade and use it differently than its original intent.

Bill's presentation was in a question/answer format that got even the most experienced woodworkers thinking. He began with a discussion of the parts of the plane, starting with the most important part of the body of the plane – the sole. The sole of the plane must, of course, be flat, or the board will never be, and it needs to be square to the sides. If a sole is warped or twisted, it will be difficult to plane at all. Bill has not encountered a less than flat sole in an old plane but you might find newer planes with a warped sole. In this case, you will need to flatten the sole by the process of lapping. If you find a plane with a cracked sole casting or one where the sole has been repaired, consider buying it for its other parts.

The mouth of the plane located on the sole is small so that not a lot of pressure is needed to cut. Too much pressure and the wood would split and cause

tear out. The mouth should be milled smooth and have no burrs or paint or buildup of gunk on the milled surface. If defects exist, then correct by cleaning and/or filing away a burr. Likewise with the throat of the plane, the opening through which the wood shaving passes through – remove any burr so that shavings and chips can pass through unimpeded.

Another part of the plane is the rosewood knob and tote. Often you will find that the tote of a used Stanley plane is broken due to the fact that the tote has been not been made on the cross grain. It therefore shrinks along its length, while the screw attaching the knob to the tote, of course, does not. In this case, epoxy glue the tote, and always keep your eyes open for a good tote, even if the rest of the plane is junk. If the tote is simply loose, you must tighten it before use, not only for ease of planing, but it will break if you don't. Most knobs, by the way, are finished in lacquer and with prolonged use a lacquer finish will raise blisters. For this reason, Bill removes the lacquer and refinishes the part with a penetrating finish followed by a mixture of bee's wax and lanolin.

Next, Bill discussed the removable frog of the Stanley plane. One function of the frog is that it allows you to adjust the mouth of the plane, because the frog itself is adjustable, moving back and forth and toe to heel. The mouth opening must be wide enough for a chip to pass through, but not so wide that tear out occurs due to the lever action of the blade trying to lift the chip as well as cut it. Another function of the frog is to support the blade. If a thin (1/8 inch) Stanley blade is not firmly supported, it will chatter and turn a cut into a series of stop and start gouges. An additional cause of chattering, among other possible problems, is surfaces that are not flat. The frog is milled to a flat smoothness on the top and on the bottom and sits on the milled flat surface. Remove any gunk and file any burrs that exist on these surfaces. The frog also has a screw, for the lever cap, easily removed, that can be adjusted to allow proper pressure on the blade by the lever cap. This screw should be removed, cleaned, and lightly lubricated to allow for ease of adjustment and prevent rust. A final function

of the frog that Bill discussed is its vertical adjustment that allows you set the depth of the cut. Bill warned that you should not attempt to remove the screw with the vertical adjustment nut; however, its threads must be clean and lightly lubricated. With care, you can remove the pin holding the yoke, then remove the yoke and nut, and probably clean a few years of gunk from the screw.

The part of the Stanley plane that Bill talked about next was the blade. Stanley blades are commonly known to be too thin – less than an eighth of an inch, but more than one sixteenth. Some believe that is so they can be easily sharpened, but Bill thinks Stanley was just too cheap with their carbon steel! You can replace the blade with a thicker one if you want, as a thicker blade will go a long way in reducing chatter and transfer the pressures on the blade to the cast iron body and frog.

Regardless of whether or not you replace the blade, you have choices as to the shape of the cutting end of the blade. Essentially, there are three shapes – square, square with the corners slightly rounded, and an arc shape. Generally, a square blade is used for jointing, and #8 is the designated jointer plane, though you could use a #6 or a #5. But what if you want to use one of the planes to flatten the face side of a board? You risk digging into the board with the pointed corners of the square blade. So why not change the shape of the blade in your jointer plane into one with slightly rounded corners like the smooth planes (#3 and #4) have? This shape will also track better. An arc shape, meanwhile, is easier to push through wood and a #4, jack, and especially, a scrub plane containing this shape of blade will remove a lot of wood fast. The point Bill made in these and other examples is that every shape has its purpose and the shapes can be transposed between planes depending on the purpose.

Finally, Bill discussed the chip breaker (cap iron) part of the plane. One obvious function of this part is to prevent chipping out the piece and leaving tear outs, but another is that it gives the Stanley blade stiffness and straightens the blade. How close do you put the chip breaker to the edge of the blade? Just where the honed edges meet the sole of the plane and test it from there, moving it back further if you must. The chip breaker must fit the blade perfectly. To

check this, place the cap iron onto the blade and look between the blade and the cap iron against a light. If you see any light coming through where the cap iron meets the blade, a shaving can pass through that space and jam the cut.

And there you have it. Bill has shown us that you don't have to have every plane under the sun and the empty pockets that brings. You can take a Stanley plane that doesn't cost very much, take it apart, clean it up, tune it, and use whatever blade fits your purpose. You can amply get by with a #3, a couple of #4s and #5s, you may or may not need a #6, and you definitely don't need the monster #8. But whatever collection of planes you have, Bill says to make sure you have a good bench with a clamp that holds the board you're planing tight and flat. Thanks, Bill, for an excellent presentation!

P.S. Bill occasionally conducts a workshop on tuning Stanley planes. Check our website or con-

## STORIES OF A WOODWORKER

As told by John Tegeler aka Mr. Radial Arm Saw

### CHAPTER 2

#### MUCH MORE TO DO

Recently, I reflected back to the time that I bought and brought home, my radial arm saw. An abundance of memories crept in like a drill bit boring its way into a new piece of maple. I have been called a block head from time to time, however, that sounds a little endearing to me. Oh well, I digress.

I picked up the original handbook, blew off years of accumulated dust and opened it with care. The first thing I found, and right where I left it, over thirty years ago, was the original receipt. I anxiously and unhurriedly read over the receipt:

Date: 11-20-1972

Place: Omaha, Nebraska

Purchase: Radial Arm Saw \$188.00

Saw Book 3.99

Tax 6.72

Total \$198.71  
Customer will pick up.

“Ah yes”, I said to myself, looking up, staring blankly, and wistfully remembering picking up and bringing home that new, marvelous saw. Of course with the help of the store employees, the saw, still safely packed in its carton, was gently placed into the trunk of my car. With several bungee cords and lengths of bailing twine, the trunk lid was secured and off I went smiling and dreaming.

While driving home, at less than 25 MPH, because I didn't want to damage this precious cargo, I began to wonder how I was going to get this 150 pounds of steel out of my trunk and into my basement. I reflected back and wondered if this wasn't an omen of many other worries and complications yet to come. I didn't care, I had my brand new Craftsman Radial Arm Saw.

Once home, I enlisted the kind help of my next door neighbor (Andy, I believe his name was). And so, on a pleasant Saturday morning, Andy and I hauled this beauty down the stairs and into the basement. We carefully set the box on a couple of saw horses. Once placed on the saw horses, Andy and I peeled open the cardboard box, carefully removed the Styrofoam and gradually the saw began to emerge. We both stood back and admired this piece of machinery with pride and wonder, hope, joy, and thoughts of all the wonderful things I was going to be able to do.

Andy said, “Man, I wish I could get one of those”. We both talked shop and told stories about making things and doing projects, and relived stories about when this happened and when that occurred and on and on we went. Was I ever proud.

Well, after about an hour of talk and a cold one, Andy, my friend, had to go. I was left there, alone, in my basement with my radial arm saw. All excited and happy, I sat on the floor, knees up, and manual firmly pressed against my thighs. I leaned back against the basement wall and started to read the manual.

Chapter one, ‘Your radial arm saw features’, chapter two, ‘Getting the most from your radial arm saw’, and many more intriguing chapters captured my at-

ention. As I scanned through chapter two, I read the subheadings, ‘Selecting a location’, ‘Leveling your saw’, ‘Preparing the work table’. “Leveling your saw?, Preparing the work table?, Location?”, defiantly and out loud I said, “What in the world does this all mean?” It was then reality suddenly reared its ugly head. When the purple cloak of doom began to descend. I realized that there was a lot more to do, a whole lot more to do, before I could even turn this baby on and cut a piece of wood.

(to be continued)

## **Book Review**

*A SPLINTERED HISTORY OF WOOD*

By Spike Carlson

I recently had the pleasure of reading Spike Carlson's book *A SPLINTERED HISTORY OF WOOD* and rarely have I so thoroughly enjoyed a nonfictional treatise on a subject.

Mr. Carlson writes with wit and humor, yet provides an illuminating portrayal of wood and its impact on history. As a high school woodworking instructor I read excerpts from Spike's book to my classes and the reaction from my classes was incredible, the students couldn't get enough! I have had many of them ask to borrow it and many more wanted check it out of the library.

The fact that teenagers were so interested and wanted to read it for themselves speaks volumes for Spike Carlson's book! If anyone wants to learn more about wood, woodworkers and many other topics I can't recommend this book enough. I have already told the school librarian to order as many as she can!

Scott Engelmann

## The Antique Tool of the Month

By Don Kruse

The tools chosen for March are the planes made by Stanley and others for cutting tongue and groove joints. This type of plane is called a “match Plane”. The particular planes in question this month are the Stanley No. 48 and the No. 49 “swing fence” match planes. They are designed with the fence mounted on the bottom of the plane with the pivot point on the fence offset transversely so that when it is set in one direction the plane will cut the tongue and when it is rotated 180 degrees it will cut the matching groove. The Plane uses two cutters. When the tongue is being cut, two of the cutters come into play to remove wood from either side of the tongue. If the fence is reversed, only one cutter is allowed to cut making the groove.

The number 48 is the larger of the two planes, it is designed to center the groove on 7/8” thick boards, number 48 will center the groove on 5/8” stock. Each will work on thicker boards since the blade that is not used for cutting the groove is wider than the other and will remove extra wood on thicker stock.

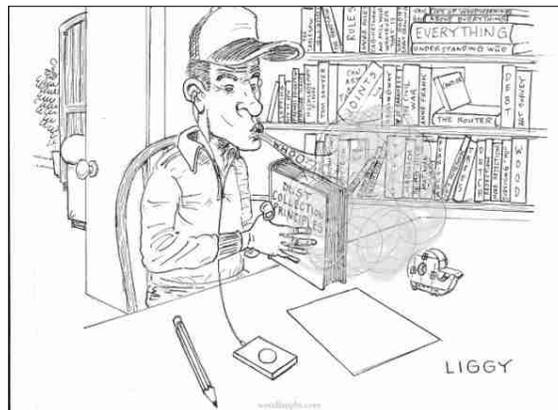
The planes were patented on July 6, 1875. On the first production run of the planes, this patent date was stamped on the bottom of the swing fence. Starting in 1877 the patent date was cast into the side of the body of the plane. Early versions are japanned and from about 1900 on they were nickel plated. Production stopped in 1942 because of the war.

One of the pictures shows an early Stanley 48 and the other shows Union’s versions of the planes. Their planes are numbered 41 and 42.



## Woodlaughs

By Liggy



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www.woodlaughs.com

## Annual Elections

We are now accepting nominations for the annual elections in April. This year the following officers and Directors are up for elections:

**Treasurer-** Currently held by Mary Ripka

**Secretary-** Currently held by Shelly Taylor

**Director of Sponsorship** Currently held by Kevin McAndrew

**Director of Programs** Currently held by Bill Evans

If you wish to put your name in nomination for one of these positions, please contact Shelly at

toushay929@gmail.com

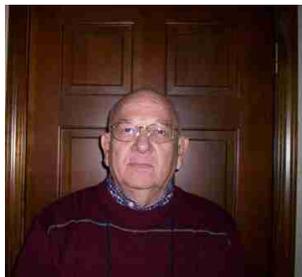
## Gallery Showing

Guild Member, **Anthony Harris**, would like to invite all to a showing of his artwork and wood turnings. It will be Friday March 20th, 2009 from 4:00 to 7:00pm at

**75th Street Gallery**  
**3500 W 75th Street Suite 210**  
**Prairie Village, Ks 66208**

Come out and support Anthony and the Arts

## Member of the Month David Bennett



### What is your specialty in woodworking?

I really don't have a specialty. I have done a lot of scroll saw work. My wife and I made many different small cutout items, finished or painted, and sold at craft shows for several years. Such things as wall hangings, frames, shelves, small tables, and boxes were common. We primarily used softwood varieties.

### How many years have you been woodworking?

Starting in high school nearly 50 years ago, I made some simple Mahogany bedroom furniture and turned several sets of lamps. For several years, I did mostly carpenter like work rather than fine woodworking, building room additions to our homes, etc. I built loft beds, tables...things for our sons' college dorm rooms, drum boxes. I have not built very much hardwood furniture. I regularly participate in charity fundraising efforts by doing cutout work. Examples are a dozen four foot Christmas trees last year and several years ago, 1100 tree ornaments for the Northland Christmas Store.

### What is your favorite hand tool and why?

Over the years I have restored several pieces of antique furniture. Various scrapers have proven to be a often used and favorite hand tool.

### What is your favorite wood to use and why?

I really like the look of the open grains in various kinds of oak, the light to dark contrast. But, I think the finished look of cherry furniture, with the closer grain has a really rich look.

### What is the most favorite project you have built and why?

I've built a few special items for family gifts, such as a small bookcase for a granddaughter. Time spent with simple projects for or with my grandchildren are probably my most favorite.

### What is the best deal you have gotten on a woodworking tool?

My late brother gave me a Dunlap lathe. It is small and old, but works and is also a keepsake for me.

### What has been your favorite guild activity?

I've enjoyed the Show and Tell. Now that we have the shop equipment, I really have enjoyed the recent programs. I understand better when the demonstration is live. For me, I have a lot to learn and just being around so many really good woodworkers and listening is a great experience.

### What shop tip can you give us?

I have not owned especially high quality tools. Looking back, I am now a little amazed at what I sometimes did accomplish with the wrong tools and techniques. So from experience...don't use substandard tools and make sure blades and bits are properly sharpened. Also measure twice, cut once. I hate it when I make that simple mistake!

### What safety tips can you share with us?

Don't work when too tired (mental or physical.) Don't lose focus. Any close calls for me have been the result of one of these reasons. I appreciate the recent attention directed toward safety when using the Guild workshop.



**February Show & Tell**



**Cliff O'Bryan**- Stickley Coat Rack



**Calvin Hobbs**- Red Cedar Blanket Chest



**John Tegeler**- Oval Bandsaw Box



**Ken Grainger**- Silver/Tool Chest & Sliding top box



**John Van Goethem**- Table Saw Accessories



Unknown New Member - Model Ship



**Ron Lomax**- Hand Plane Jigs



**Anthony Harris**- Threaded Boxes



**Russ Amos**- Molding



**John Johnson**- Shooting Board



**Gary Landes**- Toy Tractors



**Mike Erickson**- Cross-cut sled



Unknown- Walnut Jewelry Box

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Kansas City, MO. 64141

### Meeting Minutes February 18th ,2009

#### News/Business:

**Mike Jones** welcomed the 40+ new visitors at our February meeting and, in the interest of time constraints, **Cliff Bell** read off their names from the visitor list. You'll find their names and where each is from in this newsletter. We're excited to have so many possible new members to the Guild!

**Mike** pointed out that we have a new seating arrangement that better accommodates a large group. Thanks to **Cliff Bell**, who found a great bargain on chairs, we have seating for everyone.

**Mike** announced that we have some key events coming up. Ralph and Karen Quick, who run a Windsor Chair Shop in Clarksville, Missouri, will be conducting a workshop at our Guild location on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Quicks dress in period costume and use authentic tools in their work. We advertised this workshop at the woodworking show and lots of people who are not Guild members expressed interest in attending, so we're going to let Guild members sign up first and then we'll extend any remaining availability to non-guild members. See the Guild website for more information and **if you can help with planning the workshop, please contact us.** Being a member of the planning committee will get you into the show for free!

Some board positions are opening up soon and **Mike** noted that we particularly need a Director of Events. Responsibilities include planning the annual woodworking show as well as planning workshops here at the Guild. Please let us know if you're interested in the position.

Finally, **Mike** announced that he may soon be leaving the Guild for an out-of-town job. In fact, this may be his last meeting. Mike certainly hates saying goodbye and says that his nearly two-year tenure as president of the Guild during a period of exciting progress has been a "great ride." **John Johnson** will leave his position as vice president and step into the presidency role.

**John Johnson** gave his final report on the Andre's Project, letting us know that all tables and benches have been delivered and assembled. The people at Andre's are thrilled with our work and say that had they gone to Switzerland, they couldn't have gotten work as fine as this. In fact, they want us to do more for them and we'll gladly take it on, but John says we're going to take a bit of a break before we start another Andre's Project. When we do, **Ron Lo-**

### Calendar

Executive Meetings, 7:00pm 9701 W 67th St Merriam, Kansas 66203 In the Basement

Guild meetings, 7:00 pm 9701 W 67th St Merriam, Kansas 66203 In the Basement

#### Executive Meetings

#### Guild Meetings

2009

January 7th  
February 4th  
March 4th  
April 1st  
May 6th  
June 3rd  
July 1st  
August 5th  
September 2nd  
October 7th  
November 4th  
December 2nd

January 21st  
February 18th  
March 18th  
April 15th  
May 20th  
June 17th  
July 15th  
August 19th  
September 16th  
October 21st  
November 18th  
December 16th

**max** will step up to the plate as project manager.

#### Raffle:

**Blaine Allen**- Router Bushings, **Phil Akers**-Insty Bit Set, **Stan Kumer**-Drill press hold down, **Brian Butler**- Needle Files & Pliers, **Roger Claxton**- Box Clamps, **Paul Chafer**- Woodline Chisels, **Dave Clark**- Spalted Maple board & diamond file sharpener, **Jack Dotzman** and **Chris Cassidy** - \$10 Birdie's gift certificate

#### Visitors:

**Jon Owens** , **John Beal** , **John Curry** , **John Peer** , **Dennis Banka** , **Vince Thompson** , **John Hendrickson** , **Tim White** , **Kim Stevermer** , **David Clark** , **David Seveland** , **Duane Youngquist** , **Dan Lesan** , **Gary Banka** , **Robert Hill** , **Gary Blandes** , **Ron Sheldon** , **Tom Smoller** , **Paul Murphy** , **Brian Butler** , **Alek Shelton** , **Jerry Meyer** , **Doug Sedgwick** , **Daniel Kenslow** , **Roger Claxton** , **Ron Bartekoske** , **Bob Thompson** , **Jerry Vanlanker** , **Eric Hewitt** , **Clint Schlosser** , **Pat Campbell** , **Chris Cassity** , **Jack Ostermann** , **James Hamilton** , **Chuck Boring** , **Johanna** and **Doug Ketzner** , **Russell VanVactor** , **David Kelman** , **Kent Benander** , **Eric Markham** , **Fred Markham** , **Paul Chaein** , **Chris Jones** , and **Stan Kumer**

Hope you all had a good time and come back next month.