



Encouraging all woodworkers in self-expression, craftsmanship and knowledge

Colorado Woodworkers Guild

August 2022 Newsletter

President's Corner



Dennis Edmonds, President

Wishing you a "Scrappy Holiday"

Introduction

I used to begin thinking about making holiday gifts each October. But by the time I began working on gifts, I was already under a tight deadline. I should really have started in the summer. So, this article is intended to encourage you to begin now to make holiday gifts

- Clean out your scrap box
- Have fun
- Make beautiful gifts for family and friends

The Problem

- Normally we design a project and then go buy the lumber (plus 20%)
- We create scrap every time we do a project.
- Most of us hoard wood scraps that are just too beautiful to burn
- Our scrap box grows (and grows) into a collection of small, mismatched pieces
- How can we possibly use these hidden gems?

The Solution

- Change your paradigm, unchain your imagination and free your creativity
- Try an alternative approach ... Reverse Design a Project!
- Start with the wood you already have and design a project to use it

Inspiration is Everywhere

- Observe Things Around You.
 - Closely examine how things are made.
 - When you see something you like, ask how could I make that?
- Read Books and Magazines
 - Woodworking Magazines and Books
 - Art, Architectural and Furniture design books
 - Bandsaw, scroll saw, woodturning and carving books
- Learn about design principles
 - Proportions and The Golden Mean (1 to 1.6 Ratio)
 - Perspective (Big Drawer on the Bottom)

- Broaden your horizon
 - Visit museums, art shows and craft fairs
 - Skim coloring books, nature magazines and quilting magazines
 - Search Google Images
 - Go on Pinterest
- Maintain a Project Idea File
 - Photo copies of pictures and patterns from books and magazines
 - Photographs of objects
 - Drawings and rough sketches
- Begin to design your own simple projects.

How do I Get Started?

- Store scraps in easily accessible bins (sorted by wood type and size)
 - Clear Stackable Plastic Boot Boxes for Pieces shorter than 14"
 - Vertical Storage Bin on Casters for Pieces 14" to 48"
 - Lumber Rack for long boards
- Lay out scraps on a table to critically examine what you have
 - Start with the smallest pieces
 - Arrange them by type of wood and size
 - Rearrange the pieces that might look good together
 - Look for contrasting colors and unusual grain patterns
 - Could you incorporate (or work around) knots, cracks or wormholes?
 - Could you resaw pieces and run them through a planer or thickness sander to "increase" the number of matching pieces?
 - Could you cut and glue small pieces together to form a larger blank?
- Now design a small project to use that wood
 - Check your project idea file
 - Ask what could I make from these pieces of wood?
 - Consider stain, dye, paint, contrasting woods, colored epoxy, turquoise or mother of pearl fillers
 - Incorporate grain, natural edge, defects and depth differences into your design
 - Emulate natural forms (Nothing in nature is straight or square)
 - Consider resawing to create book matched panels
 - Look for lamination options
 - Combine different materials (Wood, glass, metal, plastic resin, stones)
 - Rough sketch some ideas
 - Build a cardboard, Styrofoam or pine prototype
- Practice on Small Projects
 - Requires relatively little time or money
 - Develop and practice your skills
 - Experiment... Learn ...Fail ... Adapt ... Succeed!

The Bottom Line

- Start now
- Handmade gifts don't need be masterpieces to make someone happy
- Use your creative side to make something nice
- See below for some project examples to stimulate your thinking.

Project Examples

Type of Scrap	Potential Uses
1/8" or 1/4 " Plywood Pieces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Floating Box Tops and Bottoms • Stack Scroll Saw Christmas Ornaments • Scroll Saw Refrigerator Magnets or Applique
Thin Hardwood Strips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laminate Cheese Boards, Cutting Boards or Small Box Top Panels • Laminate Picture Frames • Make Edging for Plywood Shelves or Panels • Cut Angles for Segmented Turning Projects
3/4" or 1" Boards, 1 1/2" to 3" Wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resaw for Serving Tray Sides, Small Box Sides, Oven Rack Puller • Rip strips and laminate for Cheese Boards, Cutting Boards or Small Panels for Box Tops
3/4" or 1" Hardwood Cut-offs, 4" wide, over 4" Long	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stack and Laminate for Bandsaw Box, Bowl or Box Turning Blank
3/4" or 1" Hardwood Cut-offs under 4" Long	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stack and Laminate 2"x2" Squares for Bottle Stoppers • Stack and Laminate 2" Strips for napkin rings • Stack and Laminate 3" Squares to Turn Tea Lights
1" or Thicker Boards 6" Long	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rip for Turning Pen Blanks or Finials • Stack and Laminate Squares for Bowls
2" X 4" Cutoff 12" Long	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rip 3/8" Strips for Oven Rack Puller • Rip 3/8" and Add 1/8 Tongue and Groove for Cabinet Back
1" x 6" Board 12" Long	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrollsaw or Route a Sign • Cut in Half and Scrollsaw two sides for a napkin holder
2" X 2" over 5" long	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compound scrollsaw for 3-dimensional Christmas ornament • Turn on lathe for Bottle Stopper or Christmas ornament
Cedar Fence Cutoffs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cut and assemble a bird house • Cut for Outdoor Planters
1" X 8" Hardwood 8" Long	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Route both sides with bullnose bit for trivet • Resaw and rip for Wooden Box Sides
Angled Strips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laminate for sunburst table top
Small Miscellaneous Pieces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrollsaw Parts for Toy Cars, Boats and Airplanes • Scrollsaw for Intarsia Pictures or Mobile in Baby's room • Scrollsaw for Christmas Ornaments or Jewelry Pieces • Cut pieces of contrasting wood for abstract wall art • Laminate short pieces for end grain butcher block table top • Laminate small pieces in herringbone pattern for a Lazy Susan or parquet table top • Key fob, business card Holder or small box
Other Ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chess Board, Wooden Quilt, Saw Blade Cabinet, Clamp Rack, Glue Bottle Holder, Chisel Rack, Lamp, Wooden Mallet, Hand Plane Rack, Picture Frames, Center Piece Candle Holder, Serving Tray, Coasters, 2x2 Planters, Remote Control Box

Dennis Edmonds, President

Show and Tell

The show and tell items at the July meeting included six entries from four members. If you were unable to attend the meeting, either in person or via Zoom, the entire meeting can be viewed online at the guild's website [here](#). I've added a link to the start of each S&T portion below. You have to "right click" and select "open hyperlink" to get to the video.

Our first entry is from Don Prorak. Don showed off two wall sconces he made of pine finished in poly. [Here](#) is a link to the beginning of the video of Don presenting his sconces.



Don's design came from Wood Magazine. Below is a pic from the article. Wood Magazine's sconce is made from Walnut and Cherry. Don used beetle kill pine.



Next up Don showed off a "Glass Smoker" which is used to imbue alcohol with smoke from wood. One is made from Walnut and Mango, the other is made of Mango and Angelicae (*Angelica archangelica* [wikipedia](#)). [Here](#) is a link to that part of the meeting video.

And below are two pics grabbed from the video. The first is the smoker itself. The second is the smoker on top of a glass (which would contain the liquor to be smoked). The third pic shows how the wood chips would be started with a torch.



Next Don showed off a bowl made of Maple with texturing on the bottom side. Apparently the texturing was accomplished using a texturing tool from Sorby, pic below. [Here](#) is a link to that part of the video.



Next we had two “Prayer Crosses” made by Jim Barry. One is of Walnut, the other Aspen. Please excuse the side angle picture which does not face the camera. The link to the video is [here](#).



Next up, we have Jafar (Jeff) Soolari presenting a table centerpiece made of Siberian Elm finished in Minwax and Tung Oil. Link to video [here](#).



Last we had a CNC routed map of the Colorado Rockies made by Doug Pinney. The link to the video is [here](#). This was made from a 3D image obtained from <https://jthatch.com/>.



The S&T winner for the evening was Doug Pinney with his relief map of the Colorado Rockies. Jamar was a close second with his table centerpiece.

Thanks to all who participate. Please consider sending me some pictures prior to the next meeting. Include a brief description of the project and a couple of pictures. If possible, get them to me a week before the meeting so I can prepare for the meeting itself. I can be reached at showandtell@coloradowoodworkersguild.org

Cary Goltermann, Show and Tell Administrator

Meeting Presentations

July 2022 Meeting

On July 19, 2022, we were honored to have an in-person guild presentation by **Mr. Dick Dailey**, a current guild member, and someone who graciously did a speech at the last minute as our expected presenter unfortunately had to cancel.

Mr. Dailey did a presentation on his building a curved slat outdoor chair. It was originally featured in a 2014 issue of Fine Woodworking, by Michael Fortune.

He noted that the original design incorporated steam-bent slats out of mahogany; but because of the altitude in Colorado, steam bending doesn't work as well. He used on-hand white oak instead and built his first of two chairs at Red Rocks Community College, with help from the staff. Instead of steam bending, he sliced the oak to 1/8" slats and built lamination templates, using the school's vacuum press to help in the process. He then changed the original design by rounding off the back of the chair.

Mr. Dailey made a second chair later out of mahogany and recommends any fine grain wood for construction. He used polyethylene glue for the glue up as it gave him more working time. He finished the chairs in Cabot Oil which he feels is appropriate for Colorado weather conditions.

Mr. Dailey reports he is not planning on making these chairs again anytime soon, and he offered the templates to the guild members if anyone is interested.

Thanks, Dick for stepping in, in real time, to make this very interesting presentation to the Guild.

August 2022 Meeting

On August 16th, it will be our privilege to welcome Michael Morris to an in-house presentation to the woodworker's guild. Mr. Morris is a Tapered Lamination Artist in the Denver area. His background is in architecture and architectural illustrations and then he went back to Red Rocks Community College where he studied furniture design. His work has morphed into abstract art. Check out his website at Michaeldmorris.com for a preview of August's presentation.

Mike Zelman, Programs Chair

About Wood

This month we consider the wood **Sassafras**. The genus sassafras consists of three species of deciduous trees (and one that is now extinct) from the family Lauraceae native to eastern North America and eastern Asia. The most common species that we are likely to see is **Sassafras albidum**. Blackheart Sassafras is an unrelated species from Australia. Together, aspen, basswood, cottonwood, elm, gum, hackberry, sassafras, sycamore and willow represent 12.5 percent of commercially available U.S. hardwoods.



Sassafras Tree



Mature Tree



Leaves



Sassafras Flowers



Unfinished Boards



Lumber

Recall that in previous columns, we have defined the Modulus of Rupture (MOR), the Modulus of Elasticity (MOE), Crush Strength, and Janka Hardness. We will continue to use those terms. Most of the other terms are generally well understood and will not be defined further. If you have questions about other terms or questions about a specific wood, contact wood@coloradowoodworkersguild.org.

Sassafras

Sassafras albidum (common name **sassafras**) is the main species available in North America and is harvested from the eastern United States.

Here is a summary of the characteristics of **Sassafras**:

<p>Distribution: Eastern North America from New England to Florida and west to the plains</p> <p>Average Dried Weight: 31 lbs/ft³ (495 kg/m³)</p> <p>Specific Gravity: (Basic, 12% MC): .42, .50</p> <p>Modulus of Rupture (MOR): 9,000 lbf/in² (62.1 MPa)</p> <p>Modulus of Elasticity (MOE): 1,120,000 lbf/in² (7.72 GPa)</p> <p>Crush Strength: 6,600 lbf/in² (45.5 MPa)</p> <p>Janka Hardness: 630 lbf (2,800 N)</p> <p>Shrinkage: Radial, 4.0%; Tangential, 6.2%; Volumetric, 10.3%; T/R Ratio, 1.6</p> <p>Heartwood Appearance: Medium to light brown, sometimes with an orange or olive hue</p> <p>Sapwood Appearance: Paler yellowish brown; overall a strong resemblance to ash</p> <p>Grain/Texture: Straight grain with coarse uneven texture</p> <p>Stability: Good</p> <p>Relative strength: Fairly low, 14.18.9</p> <p>Decay Resistance: High</p> <p>Workability: Easy to work with; glues, stains, and finishes well</p> <p>Odor: Distinct, spicy scent while being worked; considered an aromatic</p> <p>Toxicity: A sensitizer</p> <p>Potency: Weak</p>	<p>Tree</p>
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Toxicity Source: Leaves, sap, bark, wood, dust

Reaction: Nausea and respiratory effects

Sustainability: Not listed as threatened, however limited availability

Uses: Boat building, furniture, millwork, mouldings, windows, doors and cabinets

Typical Cost: \$3-6/bd ft

If you have questions about a specific wood, don't hesitate to send a note to wood@coloradowoodworkersguild.org.

Lindy Baer, Newsletter Woods Contributor

Toolbox Alerts

Rockler

- The Rockler catalog is offering free shipping on orders of \$49 or more. The catalog lists weekly sale deals through 9/1/2022 of 25-35% off certain items.

Woodcraft

- In August and September Woodcraft is offering numerous in-store classes ranging in price from \$160 to \$360 each at its stores in the Denver area and in Colorado Springs. Go to the Woodcraft store website for details at www.woodcraft.com/enter *store city location*) for details.

[Editor's Note: We are looking for inputs from members each month on great woodworking tool and accessory deals that you are aware of and that are available sometime in the next month or so. The input should include a short description of the item(s), where they can be purchased with web address or location and phone info, price, and any info on your experience with the item(s). Items can include excess tools and items you want to get rid of. Call me at (719) 964-9570 if you know of an item and then I will ask you to submit a descriptive paragraph to me at JoeLenhoff@gmail.com, or to newsletter@colowood.com to add to this column. Toolbox Alert descriptions will have to be to me about 9-10 days before each meeting to get them into the newsletter.]

Sponsor's Corner [A revived column]

[Editor's Note: We are looking for a monthly spotlight on a sponsor. Any members who know one or any of our sponsors fairly well, and would be interested in writing a short piece about them, please contact me at newsletter@colowood.com. Again, Sponsor Corner spotlight articles will have to be to me about 9-10 days before each meeting to get them into the newsletter.]

CWG Sponsors

A Cut Above 16512 16512 Arminta St. Van Nuys, CA 91406 Phone:800-444-2999

Website: www.acutabove.com

Austin Hardwoods of Denver, Inc., 975 W. Mississippi, Denver, CO 80223. Phone: 303-733-1292.

Website: www.austinhardwoods.com

Bear Woods Company. 6099 228 Street, Langley, BC V2Y 2L3 Canada. Phone: 800 565-5066. Fax: 888 599-1118. Website: www.bearwood.com

B & B Rare Woods. 871 Brickyard Circle, Unit C4, Golden, CO 80403. Phone: 303-986-2585.

Website: www.wood-veneers.com

Bridge City Tool Works, Harvey Industries International DBA Harvey Industries, 10830 Ada Ave, Montclair, CA. 91763. Phone: (800) 253-3332. Website: <https://www.bridgecitytools.com/default/> . Questions or comments to sales@bridgecitytools.com. Please allow up to 2-4 business days for email and phone call responses. Two orders per year (to be determined) and must be shipped to one address. 10% discount, when ordered directly from Bridge City Tool Works. Discount does not apply when ordered through dealers

Charlie's 2nd Hand Store, Inc., 2227 Larimer Street Denver, CO 80205. Phone: 303-295-1781.

Website: www.usedtoolsplus.com

Denver Woodworking Company, 2062 S. Bannock Street, Denver, CO 80223. Phone: 303-733-3130.

Website: www.denverwoodworking.com

Mile High Tree Care, Inc., 6010 W. 56th Avenue, Arvada, CO 80002. Phone: 303-292-9393.

Website: www.milehightreecare.com

Frank Paxton Lumber Company, 4837 Jackson Street, Denver, CO 80216. Phone: 303-399-6047.

Website: www.paxtonwood.com/denver.aspx

Rockler Woodworking and Hardware, 2553 S. Colorado Blvd, Denver, CO 80222 Phone: 303-782-0588.

Website: www.rockler.com/retail/denver-colorado-hardware-store.cfm

Sears Trostel, 1500 Riverside Ave, Ft Collins, CO 80527. Phone: 970-482-1928.

Website: www.sears-trostel.com

Signature Medallions, 4218 Ponce De Leon Drive, La Mesa, CA 91941. Phone: 619-303-2876.

Website: www.signaturesmedallions.com

TC Woods, 5406 County Road 23 Ft. Lupton, CO 80621. Phone: 303-666-8989.

Website: www.tcwoods.com

Tool Zone, Inc., 8651 Grant Street, Unit 1A Thornton, CO 80229. Phone: 303-252-8500.

Website: www.toolzone.com

Where Wood Meets Steel & Denver Wood Slabs, 4903 Washington Street, Denver, CO 80216. Phone: 720-780-7752. Websites: www.wwms.net & www.denverwoodslabs.com

Woodcraft of Denver. 6770 S. Peoria Street Centennial, CO 80112. Phone: 303-290-0007.

Website: <http://www.woodcraft.com/stores/store.aspx?id=305>

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