



Encouraging all woodworkers in self-expression, craftsmanship and knowledge

Colorado Woodworkers Guild December 2023 Newsletter

President's Corner



Dennis Edmonds, President

2023 Colorado Woodworkers Guild Accomplishments

Over the past two years the Guild has recovered nicely from the COVID interruption. We have grown membership from 70 to 153 and made significant progress in rebuilding our programs and capabilities.

While much has been done, we still have work to do. We hope to grow membership above 200 and to offer several new programs for members. The Board will meet in January to develop the 2024 action plan. Securing committed volunteers will be key to making those programs successful.

At the beginning of 2023 the Board set five goals. Here is a summary of some of what we accomplished in each of these goal areas.

1. **Education** - Provide Member Education and Skill Development

- Excellent monthly educational presentations
- Timely and informative monthly newsletter
- Updated Library
- Began member mentoring
- Marquetry Guild offered our members marquetry classes

2. **Social** - Connect Members, Share Ideas and Have Fun

- 3 shop tours.
- 225 toys built for Santas
- Reinstated Urns for Veterans
- Summer picnic
- Tools collected for a January Sale
- Subgroup database created for 2024 implementation.

3. **Community Service** - Contribute to Our Community

- 2 classes for Westminster STEM Academy eighth graders
- 3 instructors for Denver Tool Library joinery classes
- Met with Ft. Collins Creator Club

- Met with Red Rocks Community College
- Exploring opportunities with CSU SPUR Campus in Denver

4. Membership - Maintain, Grow and Diversify Membership

- Recruited 33 new members and several past members rejoined
- Current membership grew to 153
- New member orientation
- Women's Group met socially
- Chapters in development for Colorado Springs and Ft. Collins

5. Guild Organization - Strengthen Guild Capabilities and Funding

- Board developed and implemented 2023 Action Plan and Budget
- Recruited board members, committee chairs, vice chairs, project leaders and volunteers
- All Guild sponsors visited. New sponsors recruited.
- Enhanced, and refined AV capabilities
- Created new member materials
- Reviewed Bylaws with recommendations to January 2024 meeting
- Maintained website
- Accounting and reporting refined
- Updated bank records

Dennis Edmonds, President

Show and Tell

At the November 21st 2023 meeting we had seven entries from six presenters.

Listed below are the video links to each entry that was presented.

- Dennis Edmonds "From A Tree To A Tree" video [here](#)
- Jonathon Carlyon "Tissue Box" video [here](#)
- Linda Lewis "Silver Inlay Box Lid" video [here](#)
- Brian Kelly "Colorado 3D Map" video [here](#)
- Bill Bixby "Hammer Time" video [here](#)
- Cori Preftakes "Hand Tool Fun" (two entries) video [here](#)

Below are pictures of the entries in the order they were presented

Dennis, as is often the case, made some art of scrap wood. This is titled "From a Tree to a tree"



He turned two small trees made of Maple finished in Tung Oil.



Jonathon showed off a “Tissue Box” made from Beetle Kill Pine finished in wax.



Linda presented the lid from a box made by her husband. The lid was all that was left of the box after a robbery years ago. It is made of “wood” inlaid with silver.



Brian showed us a CNC routed “Map Of Colorado”. The blank for the map is layers of Maple separated by thin layers of Walnut. As a result, the “carved” map appears to have topographic lines in walnut.





Bill Hammered us with his entry titled “Hammer Time”. A tiny “MC” hammer made of Philippine Mahogany and Maple, finished in Seal-A-Cell and Arm-R-Seal.



Lastly Cori presented a couple of entries titled “Hand Tool Fun”





And the evening's winning entry was our new member Cori's "Cribbage Board on a Stick"

Thanks to all who participated. 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

Thanks, and see you at the next meeting,

Cary Goltermann, Show and Tell Administrator

Meeting Presentations

November 21st 2023 Meeting

At November's meeting, the guild hosted Jason and Leah LaBonte of Just Rustic Custom Woodworking. They talked about how they grew their business from a car garage to a multi-acre farm; from making small tables to making Montana ranch-size dining tables. One of the most important aspects of their business model was keeping to budget. This focus on management allowed Leah and Jason to grow methodically. Recently they opened their first, privately-owned store front in Fort Morgan. The Guild is happy to announce, lastly, that Just Rustic is our newest sponsor! Please make an effort to visit their showroom at 224 Main Street, Fort Morgan, CO 80701. For more information, follow this link to their website: <https://www.justrusticco.com>

The entire presentation can be viewed online at the guild's website or by clicking [here](#)

Again, for the presentation, you may have to “right click” and select “Open Hyperlink” to get to the video. The presentation starts at 1h.04mm into the meeting video and goes until near the end of the meeting.

[There Is No December 2023 Meeting}

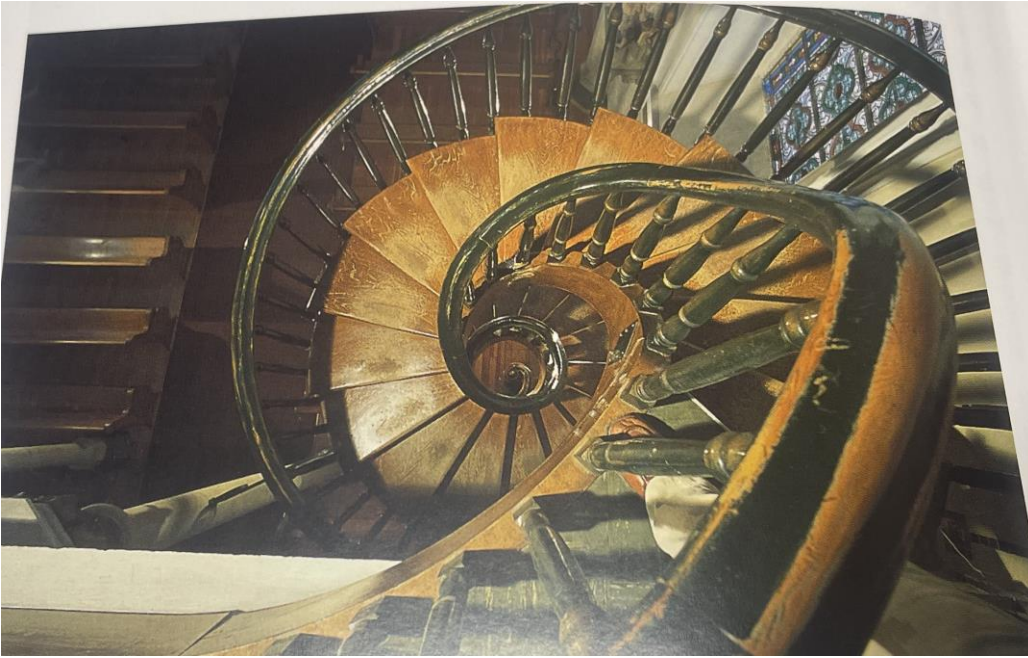
Jonathan Carlyon, Education Chair

Education Corner

The Santa Fe Sisters of Loretto Chapel Spiral Staircase (Part 2)

Did Saint Joseph himself build the staircase at the Loretto Chapel in Santa Fe, New Mexico?

One thing is certain, the handrail was not. This came nine years later and was built by Phillip August Hesch, who traded his labor in exchange for the tuition of his five daughters at the Loretto school. Hesch's beautiful handrail work can be seen in the picture below.



Images from Mary J. Straw Cook. Loretto: The Sisters and Their Santa Fe Chapel, 2002

The chapel staircase, however, is shrouded in mystery. The word chapel, likewise, is grounded in miracles and tradition. Saint Martin of Tours was said to have torn his military cloak in half to clothe a poor man. Later, this man was revealed to be Christ himself. When word of this divine appearance spread, a relic of Saint Martin's cloak became one of the most prized possessions of the barbarian rulers who succeeded Roman governors in Gaul (<https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/chapel>). Thereafter, every chappel (capilla) was supposed to include a piece of St. Martin's cloak (capella).

But, why do some people argue for a miraculous, divine construction of the chapel staircase? According to Mary J Straw Cook, the authority on this topic, when the chapel was completed, the religious sisters realized they had no access to the choir loft. They prayed a novena to St. Joseph to ask for help. On the final day of the nine-day prayer, "a white bearded man, carrying a tool case and traveling with a donkey, appeared at the convent door seeking work as a carpenter" (52). The carpentry done was that of a true master. The construction is a marvel. The spiral staircase has two 360 degree turns and no visible means of support. Also, it is said that the staircase was built without nails—only wooden pegs. However, once completed, and before he could be paid, the master craftsman disappeared.



In 2018, expert builders and engineers considered the "miracle stairs in Santa Fe's Loretto Chapel." They were not able to see inside the stairway to consider the fine points of its construction. However, their main takeaway was, "its light-framed, wood construction probably would not meet today's building codes." (https://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/local_news/experts-consider-miracle-stairs-in-santa-fe-s-loretto-chapel/article_ef483b1f-6cc2-5cd9-93e8-9e7c1d3d56f7.html)

Whether it would pass code today or not, the staircase has been standing since the nineteenth century. Certainly, the builder of this staircase, if not Saint Joseph, must have been a master craftsman, in the best spirit of the tradition handed down throughout the centuries. And, there is at least one documented reference to a builder that fits this description. In the Santa Fe New Mexican, from Jan 5, 1895, the construction was attributed to Frank Rochas.



Francois-Jean Rochas (1843-1894) spoke little English and communicated with the Religious Sisters in French. But why did historians not mention Rochas? According to Mary J. Straw Cook, "The staircase builder's identity was of little interest to the public until his accomplishment reached legendary proportions" (61). Legend and history seem to have mixed together. However, it is the exquisite quality of the fine woodworking that inspires people to see the divine.

Jonathan Carlyon, Education Chair

Toolbox Alerts

This section of the newsletter has two subsections to offer members items from other woodworkers that are for sale, and to allow members to ask others for items they need and want to purchase.

Items for Sale

Rockler

- The new Rockler Fall/Winter catalog was recently mailed out and it and the online flyer at Rockler.com both have some 20% and higher sale and new items, in addition to a long list of woodworking items. Check it out.

Woodcraft

- For the month of December Woodcraft has a Gift For You of \$10 off \$25 good until 24 December if you received their monthly flier. They also have some great sale items up to 50% off savings on a number of items'.
- Classes continue to be offered ranging in price from \$100 to \$400.

James Talbert

- Last time we talked to him James had an entire workshop of items he would like to sell. We do not have a current update, however, on status of his equipment as he has been hard to reach. His number is (303) 519-7773 and his address is in Denver.

Items Wanted

(No current requests)

[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.]

Joe Lenhoff, CWG Newsletter Editor/Publisher

Updated CWG Sponsors List

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

Baldwin Hardwoods, 1225 Red Cedar Circle, Ft Collins, CO 80425. Phone: 970-213-8608. Website: baldwinhardwood.com

CS Woods, 4355 Monaco Street, Unit A, Denver, CO 80206. Phone: 720-278-7797. Website: www.cswoods.com

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

Denver Wood Slabs, (By appointment only). 4903 Washington Street, Denver, CO 80216. Phone: 720-780-7752. Website: www.denverwoodslabs.com

Frank Paxton Lumber Company, 4837 Jackson Street, Denver, CO 80216. Phone: 303-399-6047. Website: www.paxtonwood.com/denver.aspx

Just Rustic Custom Woodworking, 224 Main Street, Fort Morgan, CO 80701. Phone: 303-324-4342. Website: justrusticco.com

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.signaturemedallions.com

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

Urban Forest Mill, 33S Pratt Parkway, Suite 100, Longmont, CO 80501. Phone: 303-746-6446. Website: urbanforestmill.com

Western Hardwoods, 8980 W 1st Street, Wellington, CO 80549. Phone: 970-966-4243. Website: westernhardwoods.com

Where Wood Meets Steel, 4903 Washington Street, Denver, CO 80216. Phone: 720-780-7752. Website: www.wwms.net

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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