

# Peoria Area Woodworker's Club Newsletter

## 2014-03 March

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### Notice

#### **Peoria Area Woodworker's Club Meeting** **Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> - 6:30 pm** **The Woodworker's Shop on Manito Rd., Pekin**

**Program:** Local woodworking artist, James Pearce, will tell us how he finds form, function and uniqueness in wood to create one-of-a-kind pieces of art and furniture.

The picture is from the "James Pearce Creates Art with Wood" article in a past issue of Playing Peoria. There are other articles about Jim and his work on his website [www.pearcepearce.com](http://www.pearcepearce.com) and those for the Central Illinois Artists Organization (CIAO) and the Peoria Art Guild.



**March 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting Notes:** Our meeting on March 19<sup>th</sup> marked our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a Peoria Area Woodworker's Club. The evening's activities provided nostalgia, some fine "tailgating" and plenty of good fellowship. Thanks to the "willing hands" that made it happen.

Charter member, Norm Bartlett, was our featured speaker. He has also been our club Treasurer for nearly the entire 30 years and, he is our resident club historian. We're grateful that he took the personal initiative to organize and save the club's financial records, membership lists, newsletters, photos and more for all these years. Everything is neatly assembled in albums for just such an occasion as an anniversary.

Here are some of the highlights of what Norm presented. Not everything is here but more, particularly photographs, will be made available at subsequent meetings.

How did it all start? A local woodworker, Ray Wallace, organized the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting on March 7<sup>th</sup> in 1984. He circulated flyers to invite those that might be interested in a woodworker's club to meet at the Trinity Presbyterian Church in Bartonville. Some 37 interested/curious woodworkers came that evening and a fledging woodworker's club emerged. Six of the original 1<sup>st</sup> year members are still members today...Norm Bartlett, Dick Coers, Mark Padesky, Doug Cobb, Dave Esme and Bill Webster.

In that 1<sup>st</sup> year, Ray Wallace served as President. Dick Rundle was the Vice President and Norm agreed to serve his 1<sup>st</sup> term as Treasurer.

A contest was held to name the club. The winner was the **Peoria Area Woodworker's Club**. A second contest was held to design a club logo. Dick Coers designed the winning entry and it is what we use today.

Dick Coers also published the first Peoria Area Woodworker's Club Newsletter in July of that first year.

In October the club more/less started a library with their purchase of a beta vcr tape entitled "Hand cutting Dovetails." From that grew the collection of reference materials we have today.

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Beyond the initial meetings at Trinity Presbyterian, we have, over the years, also met at the Unfinished Business facility in Peoria, the Peoria Metro Center Town Hall, Dick Coer's Custom Woodworking Shop, Liberty Hall in Creve Coeur, the Woodcraft store in Peoria and now, The Woodworker's Shop on Manito Rd. in Pekin.

The Show & Tell feature of today's meetings started in March of 1988. It was well received then and remains so today. Beyond skill building, instruction, bragging rights, and more, it fosters a great deal of fellowship related to common interests.

In these past 30 years, we have grown as a woodworking club. We have endured no small amount of change. Perhaps, the journey resembles that of woodworking in general. The more things appear to have changed, the more they remain pretty much the same. But in our case, thanks to willing hands, member participation and the fellowship we enjoy from sharing our common interests, we're still here after 30 years... and in most ways, we're doing ok.

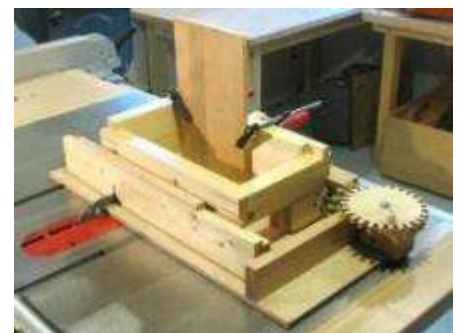
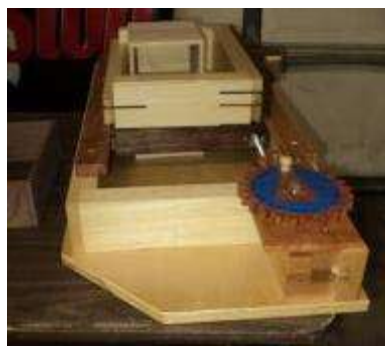
More photos are being collected and you will start seeing them as laptop and e-picture frame presentations evolve for at future meetings.

### March 19<sup>th</sup> Show & Tell

**Gene Lair:** A few months ago, Gene made this replica of an antique secretary from oak he harvested and air dried in his solar kiln. Today, it sits proudly in his daughter's home.



**Bill Wiese:** Bill Wiese used a Woodgears.ca plan to make a Screw Advance Box Joint Jig. Rather than indexing "finger-to-finger," it uses a screw mechanism to give absolute position to each finger in the joint. The picture to the left is Bill's. To the right is a view of the fixture on a table saw from their website. With a bit of "tweaking," it will do some quality work.



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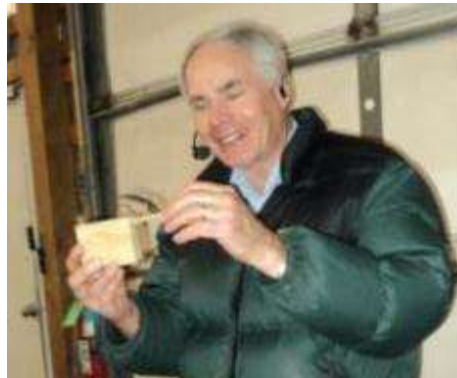
**A.J. Gatzmeyer:** A friend asked A.J. to see what he could do with an old radio case. Who could resist refurbishing such an interesting box? Beyond the wood and the brass, it has an unusual lid support. Though seemingly delicate, it holds the lid firmly if pulled forward but just the lightest touch on the backside of the support released the lid to close. Although it no longer encases a radio, it will make a great “memory box,” “photo box,” or something similar. Great “save” A.J.



**Vic McDonald:** Vic made this “welcome” sign for some of his Moose Lodge friends. At first, he used a rope light for illumination but heat became an issue. Now he has installed an led light and a reflective tin-foil backing. It virtually eliminated the heating problem and improved the illumination.



**John Friemuth:** John brought what every grandpa needs for his “bag-o-tricks”...an innocent little wooden box with a sliding lid. When the curious or the brave slowly pull the lid out, a frightful little “bug” or “worm” leaps up to peck you on the fingernail. Cool! The photo to the right is a piece of elm John turned as “practice.” Elm is a good “practice wood” because it doesn’t split/blow out like some other hardwoods.



**John Keen:** This jewelry box is John’s “work in progress” band saw project. John’s comment...he taught “himself” quite a bit on this one. Expect we’ll see this box again as he, like the rest of us at one time or another, either worked the kinks out or got used to having them around.



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**Les Linton:** Les made this mission style oak frame to encase the one-of-a-kind Motawi Tile shown in the picture. Together, the frame and the tile, make a fine looking piece.



**Bill Goff:** Bill is an accomplished scroll sawyer. He made these scroll sawn puzzle boxes for corresponding scroll sawn puzzles.



**Mark Padesky:** Mark kept this Frank Lloyd Wright inspired lamp as a “work in progress” for quite a while. The plan for it came from a 1996 Popular Woodworking magazine. He used reclaimed cherry, birds eye maple and the black pieces are painted popular. Impressive.



**Dick Coers:** Dick enjoys “natural.” Though it’s natural edge does trail off to one side, there is a box in there and it sits straight and level. The “leaning” that is so apparent in the photo came from the cameraman not the woodworker. Sorry!

The sides of the box are slices of a maple burl. The top is heavily figured walnut. It is easy to look at and so fine to the touch.



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We hope everyone enjoyed the "anniversary meeting." More photographs and thoughts will be sent your way in the coming meetings. Thank you also for your participation and interest in all things wood.

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