Bill Robertson (left) gave EAIA members, including Paul Van Pernis (center) and Don Rosebrook (right), a special tour of Singular Beauty at the Linda Hall Library in Kansas City.

PHOTO: PATTY MACLEISH

No trick photography. A finger gives an idea of the scale and detail of one of the miniature rooms at the Toy and Miniature Museum of Kansas City.

PHOTO: BILL MCMILLEN

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Welcome to e-Shavings

We hope you like this electronic version of Shavings, with its color illustrations and easy navigation. Please note that you can click on any item in the table of contents and you will be directed to the proper page. The contents of this PDF edition of Shavings is the same as the paper edition except that this version has color photographs and the contact information for all officers, directors, heads of activities, and members listed above has been removed in order to protect their privacy. You may find that information in the Annual Directory or contact the executive director at EAIAninfo@comcast.net.

All members receive the paper Shavings, and all members for whom we have an e-mail address will receive both editions. If you find the PDF satisfactory and are willing to forego the paper edition, please send an e-mail to eaiashavings@mac.com, and we will take your name off the mailing list for paper Shavings. Please put “Subscribe to eShavings” in the subject line. You will continue to receive all other mailings from EAIA on paper.

Shavings
Number 210 July/August 2009

Shavings is issued as service to members of the Early American Industries Association, Inc., and is published six times a year: January, March, May, July, September, and November. It is available in both a print version and an electronic version. All members who have notified EAIA of their current e-mail addresses receive notification of publication of the e-version of Shavings. Members may opt-out of receiving the print version of Shavings by e-mailing EAIAShavings@mac.com, and we will take your name off the mailing list for paper Shavings. Please put “Subscribe to eShavings” in the subject line. You will continue to receive all other mailings from EAIA on paper.
The President’s Page
From Microscopes to Mills—Our KC Meeting

by Judy McMillen, President EAIA

The annual meeting in Kansas City was a great one, as the eighty members who attended can attest. There was plenty to keep us all busy. Bill Robertson, EAIA member and our Kansas City contact, helped prepare and deliver a full schedule of activities.

After the threat of rain on Wednesday, the skies cleared and people were able to spend most of the afternoon in the Overland Park Marriott parking lot visiting and tailgating. Thursday dawned sunny and clear. We boarded our buses to drive to the Linda Hall Library which is the largest privately funded library of science, engineering, and technology in the world open to the public. Not only did we examine some of the rarest books available (an original copy of Diderot and not one, but two, Nicolas Bions), but we were encouraged to turn the pages to really look at them. The special exhibit, *Singular Beauty: Simple Microscopes from the Giordano Collection* encompassing 127 single-lens microscopes from the seventeenth to nineteenth centuries, permitted glimpses of some beautifully crafted objects—the types early naturalists used. The collection was the life’s work of EAIA member Ray Giordano. Next on our schedule was a visit to the Toy and Miniature Museum where we toured the thirty-eight-room house that boasts the largest collection of nostalgic toys, fine-scale miniatures, and marbles in the Midwest. The Museum’s current temporary exhibit *Laborer, Craftsman, Artist: 300 Years of Fine Tools* was curated and designed by Bill Robertson with loans from Bill and EAIA members Donald Kruse and Paul Hamler. Everyone agreed that the exhibit is spectacular! (If you weren’t able to make it to KC, visit these Web sites to get a flavor of what we saw: [www.practicalmachinist.com/vb/showthread.php/antique-tool-exhibit-museum-181838.html] and [www.practicalmachinist.com/vb/showthread.php/simple-microscope-exhibit-lots-180536.html].)

We had another special treat on Thursday night back at the hotel—the appearance of Ivan Risley to assist with the Whatsits session. To many of us, Ivan has been “Mr. Whatsits!” Although few real stumpers appeared, we still had a good time sharing stories.

Friday’s trips were to view the fabulous collections from the Steamship Arabia and a drive north of the city to tour the late-1850s Watkins Woolen Mill. Originally steam powered, the mill is the only remaining fully equipped woolen mill in the United States.

Saturday’s tool trading and displays were attended by those at the meeting as well as some local tool collectors. Brian Phillips presented the afternoon talk “Welcome to Poplar Heights Living History Farm” and “A Chip Off the Old Block: Stone Cutting in Western Missouri.” Brian had received an EAIA grant to complete his research on stone cutting.

The silent auction before the banquet had many lots on which to bid and raised around $2,000! After the short business meeting and awards presentation, Bill Robertson enlightened us with entertaining and illustrated stories of how he came to create miniatures and where his work is displayed today.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of this meeting and congratulations to the award winners.

If you couldn’t make it to Kansas City, why not begin planning for 2010 when we will be in Mystic, Connecticut, on June 2-5.

Finally, as your new president, I want to encourage you all to share your thoughts and ideas about EAIA’s operations and future with me as well as the rest of the board. We all want EAIA to be the best organization it can be.

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Taking Note

Thank You to Our Kansas City Hosts and Other EAIA Miscellanea

by Elton Hall, EAIA Executive Director

The Annual Meeting in Kansas City was a blast. Newly elected EAIA President Judy McMillen has given the details of the program in her column, but I want to renew my thanks to member Bill Robertson, who had principal charge of the program, arranged for many special events, and literally created a good deal of what we saw; to Bruce Bradley, Librarian for History of Science at the Linda Hall Library, for the time he spent not only with us but also in preparing a wonderful exhibition of early treatises on the mechanical arts; to David Hawley for the time he spent with us at the Steamboat Arabia Museum; to Brian Phillips for his talk on his ancestral home and the stone quarrying and cutting industries; Dana Shoaf for coordinating the Silent Auction; and to Judy and Bill McMillen and Ken Culnan for all the work they did putting it together.

At the board meeting, I reported that the 2008 audit had been completed by the firm of Adamowski & Adamowski. We have been given an unqualified opinion that our records correctly represent our financial condition. A summary financial report will be included in a forthcoming issue of Shavings. The audit becomes increasingly complicated each year as more and more detail is required both by the CPA association and the IRS. In many respects, we had a good year last year financially, but continuing decline in membership and interest income together with steadily rising costs have sustained the operating deficit of recent years, which adds urgency and confirms the validity of the board’s decision last fall to make a modest increase in the three types of regular membership dues beginning in 2010.

The new DVD of The Chronicle has been selling well for the few months that it has been available. Gary Roberts, who did the real work on the production, helped sales along with a link on his blog (www.toolemera.com) to our PayPal account, which brought in a stream of sales from outside our membership.

Walter Jacob has now written about forty articles on Stanley tools for The Chronicle. There appears to be considerable interest in reprinting them in electronic form for the pleasure and convenience of Stanley enthusiasts. The principal value we could add over the appearance of those articles in The Chronicle DVD is that we could reprint many of the illustrations in full color.

EAIA member Jim Esten has recently set up PayPal buttons on our Web site with which you can order and pay for our three most recent publications (The Pattern Book, the Directory of American Toolmakers CD, and The Chronicle DVD). The PayPal set-up also allows you to get the member’s discount and the additional discount for buying all three. A customer who is not an EAIA member can also click on a button to join. Future plans include adding all of our sales items along with a full membership form for joining and renewing at all levels and including extra gifts to the Endowment or the general fund and paying for it all by PayPal.

We now have about 165 members who have opted out of the paper edition of Shavings. While we want every member who prefers the paper Shavings to have it, it’s worth noting that for every one hundred members who opt out of it, we save about $650 per year on the cost of printing and mailing Shavings.

Paul Van Pernis has continued his work on the new EAIA Policy and Procedures Manual, which even in its current draft form is a useful document. He has circulated copies to the Long-Range Planning Committee for a review with the intention of having it adopted by the Board at the fall meeting. The manual is to be considered a constantly evolving document as times and circumstances change, but we need a reference for board members to consult in connec-
tion with anything they may do for the EAIA and to inform incoming board members about the ways the EAIA is supposed to function as an organization. Many thanks to Paul for his work on this important project.

The Long-Range Planning Committee has also been at work on revisions to the bylaws, to bring them into conformity with the way we are doing certain things now, clarifying the language, and assuring their conforming to current laws and regulations governing non-profit organizations. It is planned for the board to approve the changes at the fall meeting, and request the membership to ratify them at the 2010 Annual Business Meeting.

Ken Culnan, in preparation for last year’s Annual Meeting in Albany, revived the Publicity Committee and put together a program for publicizing the meeting both to the media, related historical organizations in the vicinity, and individuals. During the past year, he has refined the plan and ran it again in the area surrounding Kansas City, with the result that a few non-members showed up at the portions of the meeting open to the public and some are now on our membership rolls. Ken also has a PR model for use in conjunction with regional meetings and will be happy to provide information to anyone planning a regional meeting.

Paul Van Pernis reported that the total gifts and accumulated interest on the Endowment had reached $255,270, although due to unrealized losses in our investments, the current market value is slightly down. To date, 169 donors are responsible for reaching the first stage goal. That is less than 10 percent of the membership, and we hope very much that others will be inspired by that splendid showing to do their part in carrying us along to the next phase of this important effort to secure the future of the EAIA. Many donations have come in through the sales of tools through the major tool auction houses with the proceeds designated to come to the EAIA Endowment. It is a painless way, often beneficial to the donor (or spouse), to make a significant donation to EAIA without reaching for your checkbook.

Dave Englund completed his six years of service on the board this year. It is only the most recent of several periods of service on the Board that Dave has contributed over the years during which he chaired the Finance Committee, the Long-Range Planning Committee, and probably several others as well, earning a Long-Time Service Award in 1997 before even starting his most recent stint on the Board. As the final item on the agenda, he reminisced briefly on the development of the EAIA since he joined in 1974, declaring that he is proud to have been a part of it. Thanks, Dave.
The Kansas City Meeting—Two Views

Going to KC? You Might Take a Train, You Might Take a Plane
by Doug Dayger

This is a story about my trip to Kansas City, but also includes some descriptions of one of my favorite old tools. I have a more than adequate collection of old wooden planes, which I often fondle, clean, study, and even sometimes use. The tool I am describing today is not a wooden plane, is not a transitional plane, nor even a metal plane; it is an airplane!

Kansas City is a long way from my home in Binghamton, New York. I stand in awe of those that drove two or three days to get there, but I wasn’t going to be one of them. To fly commercially from my home to almost anywhere requires a considerable amount of determination. I figured that I would have to take three flights to get from Binghamton to Kansas City, I would have to suffer the indignities of the TSA, and pay a lot of money, and I wouldn’t have any fun. Therefore, I decided to fly in my old airplane.

My plane was made in 1948, just after World War II. Her birthplace was the Cessna factory in Wichita, Kansas. She is slightly younger than I am, but I like to think we are both aging gracefully. She was intended to be a business airplane, with a rear seat that is wide enough for one boss and two secretaries. There is only one door, into the rear seat area. The crew would have entered first and climb forward into the cockpit, and the boss and two secretaries entered last. The Cessna is powered by a seven-cylinder radial engine produced by the Jacobs Engine Company of Pottstown, Pennsylvania.

Going to KC and Coming Back to EAIA
by Mike Urness

Let me begin by saying that after more than ten years as a member of EAIA, I allowed my membership to lapse three years ago in part because I’d never been to any EAIA meetings, since they were mostly held in the Northeast and because historically this club has stressed the study of tools and technology rather than the buying, selling, and collecting of tools and it was getting harder and harder to find any stories in The Chronicle that I wanted to read. After convincing her to join M-WTCA last year and attend the Decatur show, my friend, Sara Holmes, convinced me to re-join EAIA and attend the Kansas City show with her.

I nearly choked when I sat down to fill out the registration form and saw that the registration fee was $171. (By comparison, M-WTCA meeting registration fees are usually not more than $50.) Sara explained to me that the EAIA registration was more because all attendees are expected to participate in all of the bus tours.

The show in Kansas City started out Wednesday afternoon with tailgating in the parking lot beginning at about 12 noon (the flyer said 2 p.m., but EAIA guys jump the gun just like M-WTCA guys), and there were twelve to fifteen people set up including a dealer/director from New York, an author and former EAIA president from Louisiana, and one of the hosts of the meeting who lives in Kansas City who had tons of precision or machinist tools. Prices ranged from downright reasonable to stratospheric.

On Thursday morning, we boarded buses which took us to the Linda Hall Library, one of the largest libraries of science, engineering and technology books in the world. On display upstairs was the collection of single-lens microscopes and related books belonging to Raymond Giordano. At least two of the microscopes were made in the seventeenth century. On arriving at the
Seven cylinders, firing around in a circle produces an interesting effect that resulted in the engine being nicknamed the “Shaky Jake.” The engine at cruise turns a modest 1800 rpm. The low rpm produces a throaty rumble, which I think is the way God intended airplanes to sound.

She is a tail-wheel airplane, which means that on the ground, she points somewhat skyward, rather than level. With that attitude, and a big round radial engine up front, the forward visibility is somewhat limited. Taxiing this airplane is like navigating a submarine without the aid of a periscope. In the air, the visibility is considerably improved, and the view is far better than any airliner seat. Cruising over Illinois, Indiana, and Missouri, I saw little but plowed fields from horizon to horizon. I tried to figure how many tractors it must take to plow all those fields.

The trip started early Tuesday morning in Binghamton in clear and sunny weather. The first stop was in Youngstown, Ohio, in light rain and low clouds. The weather was not trending in a good direction but was still flyable. By 10:30 A.M., we were off again on our way to Terre Haute, Indiana. It was still raining when we landed there. The aviation weatherman had some bad news: imbedded thunderstorms between us and Kansas City. A little rain doesn’t bother me very much, but flying into a thunderstorm can ruin the whole trip. I decided to stay over night and fly to Kansas City in time for the tailgating the next day.

Generally, the weather is better in the morning, but not this time. The thunderstorms were more prevalent than the previous day and were concentrated right along my route. The weatherman was not encouraging about any improvement, so I decided that maybe a tailgating session wasn’t all that important after all. At the suggestion of some locals, I rented a car and visited half a dozen covered bridges just north of Terre Haute and stayed another night.

Thursday morning, the weatherman was a more encouraging. By deviating a little bit south, I could avoid most of the thunderstorms. Well almost. I had to make a further deviation south when I ran into a moderate rainstorm. Even a moderate rainstorm can be a little exciting when you are flying through it at 140 mph. I arrived in Olathe, Kansas, just south of Kansas City and the closest airport, about 10:30 A.M. but it was too late to make the days tours. A local gentleman was kind enough to drive me to the hotel where I had lunch, a shower, and a nap. In the evening I enjoyed Ivan Risley explaining all the strange items at the “Whatsits” session.

The next two days, I followed the conference schedule, conversed with old friends, and made some new friends. The Steamboat Arabia Museum was the highlight of the trip for me. The banquet ended the meeting. I arranged for a cab back to the airport at 5 A.M. Sunday. The flight back was clear and sunny with increasing tail winds. We were back home in Binghamton by late afternoon. My old airplane had performed flawlessly, and it’s not bad when getting there is half the fun.

Displaying Their Best

One of the highlights of each annual meeting is Saturday morning’s tool display. The Kansas City meeting was no exception. There were many excellent entries, from which judges Tom Elliott, Anne Wing, and Jay Gaynor chose the award winners. The displays were judged by their great interest, depth of research, and clarity of presentation.

The winners, in no particular order, were: Laurent Torno for his gauge display, Jane Kruse for her Grindle spinning wheel display, and Sue and Milton Bacheller for their display on miniature textile tools. Pat Lasswell received an honorable mention for his display, “Maker’s Ads of Tools in Old Newspapers.”
The featured exhibit at the Linda Hall Library was Singular Beauty: Simple Microscopes from the Giordano Collection. The collection belongs to EAIA member Ray Giordano. The exhibit featured simple microscopes and books from the library collection by naturalists such as van Leeuwenhoek, Carl Linnaeus and Charles Darwin who used the microscopes on exhibit. Members got to get up close and personal with some of the other rare books at the library including not one, but two editions of Nicolas Bion’s Traité de la construction.

Photo: Bill McMillen

"Coming Back" continued from page 6

library, we were divided into two groups. One group stayed upstairs for a tour of the microscope collection by Bill Robertson who had arranged the display. The other group went downstairs to see some of the rare books the library owns. I was in the other half that was led to the rare book department. Bruce Bradley, librarian for History of Science, had selected thirty-five to forty books from 1540 to 1760 and had them laying out on props on the tables of the room. Most of the books he had selected depicted tools, and he encouraged us to thumb thru the books. It blew me away that we were allowed to handle these books with bare hands but the librarian explained that more pages get torn by gloved hands, so he said they preferred bare hands that are clean.

After the Linda Hall Library, we were taken about a half mile away to the Toy and Miniature Museum of Kansas City where we were fed a great box lunch, and divided into four groups and given a tour of the museum that ended with a rare tool exhibit that was put together by Bill Robertson. The tools on display belonged to three area collectors and there were cases of rare machinist tools, patented planes, inclinometer levels, early power tools, and intact tool chests. This display will be on exhibit until the end of August, and I’d encourage anyone who is in or will be in the Kansas City area to check it out.

On the way back to the hotel, we talked the bus driver into stopping at a local Dairy Queen for a sweet treat. It seemed that the majority of people on the bus enjoyed the stop.

On Friday, we again boarded buses at 9 A.M. and went to the Steamboat Arabia Museum in downtown Kansas City. The sidewheel packet Arabia had hit a snag in 1856 and went down with a full hold of cargo (including tools) that were bound for the wild west. She was found forty-five feet below a Kansas cornfield in 1987 and her cargo and machinery are now in a museum in downtown Kansas City. After touring the Arabia museum, we boarded the buses and drove thirty-five miles or so to the Watkins Woolen Mill, a four-story brick mill that was built in the 1850s and still has all of the original machinery on all floors. It’s one of only two such mills in North America (the other is in Canada) with all the original machines.

A tour to any two of the four places we went would have been worth the registration fee.

The trade room opened at 9 A.M on Saturday and was closed by 1 P.M. There were about as many people selling and displaying as you would see at an average M-WTCA regional show.

The meeting ended with a not-so silent auction and dinner banquet on Saturday evening. During the banquet, Don Rosebrook was honored with the Hatch Award and new EAIA President Judy McMillen was installed. A woman president, you say? Yes, EAIA is an equal opportunity organization.

EAIA would do well to adopt the M-WTCA tradition of having a hospitality suite where members could gather and visit, and it would be nice if they would adopt the practice of a room trading or room hopping on Wednesday and Thursday nights too, since nearly all of the members are collectors of something and more buying and selling opportunities would benefit all members and provide an activity for times when nothing else is scheduled.

I now consider myself a convert. When Gary Robert, Chris Schwartz, and others were extolling the virtues of EAIA membership last year, I still thought that EAIA were a bunch of snobs who looked down their noses at collectors, but I was wrong. Yes, the EAIA does not stress the collecting or the buying and selling as much as M-WTCA, but its members are down-to-earth regular guys and gals who should not be mistaken for snobs.

For the past fourteen years, I’ve attended two M-WTCA semi-annual events a year. Starting this year, I’m splitting my time and money between the two organizations and attending one big meeting of each for the next few years.
EAIA Honors Members at Annual Meeting

Each year at its annual meeting the EAIA recognizes those individuals who have served the organization and who have advanced the mission of the EAIA through their scholarly writing. The EAIA has two awards, the Long-Term Service award and the J.D. Hatch Award. Both recognize those whose outstanding contributions of time, effort, and research have enabled EAIA to better serve its members and to increase the knowledge and understanding of early American industries.

Recipients of the Long-Term Service Award have at least ten years of service to EAIA, have demonstrated a high level of commitment to the organization through the contribution of a substantial amount of time, effort, and creative imagination to EAIA, and have established a record of effective participation in the affairs of the association. Up to two awards are presented each year. This year, Long-Term service awards were presented to Ken Culnan and George Lott.

The recipients of the J.D. Hatch Award are individuals who have demonstrated excellence in the advancement of general knowledge of early American industries through scholarly writing in articles, books, or public presentations consistent with the mission of The Early American Industries Association. Recipients of this award are not required to be members of the Early American Industries Association, and there is no requirement that this award be granted annually.

The award is given in memory of J.D. Hatch, who was the fifth president of EAIA (1946 to 1947) and editor of The Chronicle from 1942 to 1949. Mr. Hatch provided more than fifty years of support and service to EAIA. The 2009 J.D. Hatch award was presented to Don Rosebrook.

The presentations of these citations were made by Elton Hall (for Ken Culnan), Paul Van Pernis (for George Lott), and Roger Smith (for Don Rosebrook), and are reprinted below.

Ken Culnan
Long-Term Service Award Recipient presented by Elton W. Hall

My father used to tell me that you get out of an organization—or for that matter life itself—about what you put into it. The lifeblood of the EAIA are the members who show up and participate, and from time to time a member shows up who participates so persistently and enthusiastically that we take notice of him and show our appreciation by asking him to do even more. In such a way did Ken and Carol Culnan come into our sights some years ago. Ken had graduated from the Virginia Tech School of Architecture and practiced in the Washington, D.C., area for several years until becoming enthralled by the construction side and traded in his T-square for a hammer. In due course, the Culnans moved to the Shenandoah Valley, built a house, and as a team undertook the restoration of nineteenth and early-twentieth century houses in their area.

Somewhere along the line, Ken bought a Stanley 45 with a box of cutters at an estate auction. An ad in the Astragal Press catalog led him to EAIA membership in 1996, and I don’t believe the Culnans have missed an annual meeting since. They came to my closer attention at the Sturbridge meeting some years ago when we took turns plowing behind a horse. Ken participated in everything there was to do, both the fun things like trying his hand at whatever skill was being demonstrated and the needful things such as registration, book sales, and the silent auction. At the auction, he not only performs yeoman service at setting up and tallying, but he is not shy about the most important part of the auction, bidding, often on more than he really needs, in order to help assure the success of the event. Of course, as all true tool enthusiasts know, it’s always a good idea to have pretty much everything as you never know what you will need or when. For example, one summer day not long after the meeting in New Orleans, Ken entered his shop and found a copperhead curled up in a menacing stance on one of his machines. Seizing a chisel with a handle turned by Hal Logan and donated to the silent auction at which Ken had been the successful bidder, he smartly dispatched the serpent.

The Culnans became full participants in EAIA programs by including the Eastfield Workshops and Tool Tours in their activities, usually participating in one or the other and sometimes both. They always found ways to make themselves useful, enhancing whatever event they were involved in. Eventually they became

Ken Culnan after receiving the Long-Term Service Award in Kansas City at the EAIA Annual Meeting.

Photo: Bill McMillen
I don’t think for a moment that the Long-Time Service Awards was part of Ken’s personal long-range plan, but I am very happy to be able to present it to him with the gratitude of the EAIA for all that he has done and is doing for us. Of course, I must remind him that thanks are rendered not for services received but for services anticipated.

**George Lott**

**Long-Time Service Award Recipient presented by Paul Van Pernis**

The second recipient for our Long-Time Service Award is George Lott. Unfortunately, George could not be here to receive it in person. However, his plaque has already been shipped, and I am sure he has it mounted on his wall as I present this citation.

George is originally from New Jersey and is a graduate of Elizabethtown College in Pennsylvania where he received a B.S. in secondary education. After a short career as an English teacher, he entered the world of business and spent the last twenty-six years of his working life with Merck and Co. in the field of human resource administration. It was during those early years with Merck, in the 1970s, that George was introduced to EAIA by Bill Holt, owner and operator of The Curiosity Shop in Elkton, Virginia. It was there that George purchased the tools that he needed to pursue his interest in cabinet making and early technology. He has never considered himself a collector in the purist sense.

It was not, however, until the late 1980s that he became a member of the EAIA and credits his joining to the encouragement of Carl Bopp. He has fond memories of spending Friday evenings with Carl and Don Wallace and absorbing the vast amount of tool knowledge that each of those individual was willing to share with him. It was Carl’s encouragement that led him to submit his first article to *The Chronicle* on his research of Adam Kersh, a mid-nineteenth-century Virginia cabinetmaker. It was also Carl who encouraged him to bring his bagpipes to his first annual meeting in Mystic, Connecticut.

Although she doesn’t share his interest in tools and doesn’t always understand his passion, Barbara, his wife of forty-five years, along with their three children, have always been a major source of encouragement.

In addition to EAIA, George has been a member of CRAFTS about as long. Twelve years ago, he was asked to serve on the EAIA Research Grant Committee and has remained a member ever since.

When George retired from Merck in 2000, he and Barbara returned to the home they had built in the Shenandoah Valley on his first assignment with the company.

George has spent many hours of his non-vocational life as a volunteer. While he lived in Pennsylvania for twelve years, he worked in the joiner shop at Pennsbury Manor demonstrating for the public and making reproductions of seventeenth-century furniture for the site. During that same period, he demonstrated cabinet-making techniques in the Mercer Museum and was a regular demonstrator during its annual Folk Fest.

These days George can be found at the Museum of American Frontier Culture in Staunton, Virginia, where he has set up a nineteenth-century cabinet-making shop with the tools that he has gath-
ered over the last thirty years. In addition to visitor demonstrations, he is teaching the staff members traditional woodworking techniques, and making furniture for the museum’s most recent house exhibit.

Don Rosebrook
J.D. Hatch Award Recipient presented by Roger Smith

Tonight, I bring before you the citation honoring Don Rosebrook with our J.D. Hatch Award for 2009 for his many contributions in the study of early American tools and their makers.

Don graduated from Purdue University in 1958 with a B.S. in chemical engineering and from Kansas State in 1964 with a PhD in analytical chemistry. After twenty years in contract research, he established his own company to provide expert witness testimony in major environmental lawsuits and background research for other witnesses.

He began his career with Midwest Research Institute here in Kansas City and after nine years left here as a principal chemist to become head of analytical services at Syracuse University Research Corporation. In 1975, he joined Radian Corporation in Austin, Texas, beginning as the head of the organic chemistry department and eventually joining the operations staff and becoming a senior program manager. In 1981, he joined Gulf South Research Institute as director of life sciences, becoming the institute scientist and leaving in 1984 to become an independent consultant.

His father was a carpenter, so Don grew up around tools and spent his summers on construction jobs. When you consider that he was always fascinated by history and read history books for relaxation, you can see the basis for the last twenty years. He built his workshop and stocked it with tools from his father’s estate and finished that with tools that he found at garage sales. Some of those tools were antique and fascinated him and led him to actively seek more. South Louisiana did not contain many high quality antique tools, and so he settled on levels as a focus of a collection because they withstood the Louisiana environment better than most things, and he could repair and restore what he found. Levels were then the poor stepchildren of the tool-collecting fraternity and fit his budget. His work allowed him the freedom to travel about the country to auctions, flea markets, and tool shows, and the collection grew to well more than a hundred levels. His collecting progressed through three phases. The first was utility and curiosity. The second was research. The third was investment. He is still active in all three phases, but the first and second phases predominate now that he is retired. He is known to disassemble and photograph even expensive pieces to find out how they work and to document this information.

He served as president of EAIA from 2004 to 2006, after previously having been a member of the Board of Directors and a vice-president. He was on the Board of Directors of M-WTCA and was a vice-president of that organization; he served two terms as President of the Southwest Tool Collectors Association. In the mid 1990s, Emil Pollak asked him to write a book on collectable levels. At that point, he began to contribute talks and articles about levels to various tool collecting organizations including EAIA, SWTCA, PAST, PNTC, and CRAFTS. His first books, American Levels and Their Makers Volume I and American Level Patents were published in 1999. This was followed by Wooden Plow Planes in 2003. He has two more books on American Levels in progress. Volume II is being written as volume III is being researched. He has made an effort to make at least one research visit to every village, town, and city in the United States where levels were made or patented.

Last, but not least, we also recognize his wife Pam, who has provided support and encouragement during his extensive research and writing.

First-Time Annual Meeting Attendees

The books, microscopes, miniatures, steamboats, and mills in the Kansas City area impressed not only veteran attendees at the annual meeting, but quite a few first time attendees.

David Brown and Nina Kruschwitz of Ipswich, Massachusetts; Carol Coutinho and Jerry Coutinho both of Westport Massachusetts; Sara and Gary Gergeni of Windsor, Illinois; Sara Holmes of St. Louis, Missouri; Rick and Chris Kerns of St. Joseph, Missouri; Gary Kline of Ames, Iowa; and Kurt VanAchen of Eudora, Kansas, all made Kansas their first EAIA Annual meeting.

Hope we see them and many of you in Mystic, Connecticut, in June 2010.

The Watkins Mill, Lawton, Missouri
Illustration by Tom Elliott
Short Subjects

New Officers and Directors

The EAIA has three new officers this year. At the annual business meeting Judy McMillen was elected president. Well-known to many EAIA members for her outstanding interest in the association, service on many committees, and participation in virtually everything the EAIA has to offer, Judy brings great experience and enthusiasm to the position. Stepping up to the first vice president office is Ken Cuhlan, who currently chairs the Long-Range Planning and Publicity Committees, and whose record of participation and service earned him a Long-Time Service Award this year, and you may learn more about him by reading the citation for that award on page 9.

EAIA Web Site Committee Appointed

As one of her first official presidential acts, Judy McMillen has appointed a Web Site Committee consisting of Jim Esten, Elton Hall, Patty MacLeish, and Gary Roberts, with Jane Rees as chair. This formalizes what has actually been going on for some time as a few willing members with relevant skills have been assisting Web Master, Jane Rees, with adding matter and technical improvements to the EAIA site. Establishment of this working committee recognizes the increasing importance of the World Wide Web in promoting the EAIA, providing services to EAIA members and the larger field of early industries and mechanical arts, communicating with everyone, and conducting our business. This team has already moved our Web site along, and is full of ideas for further improvements. Keep an eye on www.EAIAinfo.org.

EAIA-Eastfield Summer Workshops July 20-24

At this writing there is still space in the overall EAIA-Eastfield Summer Workshop program, although three of the workshops are already fully subscribed. For the complete program, consult the March/April Shavings, visit www.EAIAinfo.org, or contact Elton Hall at eaia@comcast.net or (508) 999-9578. These workshops blend instruction and camaraderie in a unique setting and more than any other program implement the mission of the EAIA.

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You can reduce the paper coming into your home and help the EAIA by switching to eShavings. If you are on line, consider joining those members who now receive Shavings three or more weeks ahead of members who receive the paper edition. Plus, your copy of Shavings is published in color. The EAIA receives a savings of about $650 per year for every one hundred members who opt out of the paper version.

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Please pass your e-mail along to eaia@comcast.net so that we can improve our service to you. The EAIA does not share its e-mail address list.

Linda Hall Library’s Bruce Bradley speaks to outgoing EAIA President Bill Curtis (center) and newly elected President Judy McMillen during the EAIA tour of the Library’s rare book room at the annual meeting in Kansas City.

PHOTO: PATTY MACLEISH
**Tool Tour to Ireland & Scotland**

The 2009 Tool Tour, Monday, September 21 through Thursday, September 25, will offer a two-part experience. Beginning in Dublin and working our way to Belfast, we will see many sites of historical, academic, mechanical, and agricultural interest as well as scenic beauty on our way to Belfast. There we will see among other things the folk and transport museum, the Giant Steps, and the Bush Mills Distillery. Crossing the North Channel to Glasgow we will explore their great industrial and maritime history. Along the way, we will be vigilant for opportunities to collect tools. For those who want more tools, we propose the optional addition of the Stanley tool auction with its celebrated boot sale now held indoors with the boots off as a protection from any inclement weather that would hinder trade.

The EAIA Tool Tour is a pleasant way to travel. We set a reasonable pace; there is a nice group of fellow members with many interests in common accompanied by an experienced courier who takes care of the details of travel, solves any problem that may arise, and is ready and able to act on good suggestions that may come up along the way. I take note of tours offered by other organizations, and clearly the EAIA tour is a good value. For a complete itinerary and registration form, contact Discover Europe Ltd. at (866) 563-7077 or discovereurope@earthlink.net

**Library Books Still Available—but Don’t Wait**

The stock of books for sale from the EAIA Library has shrunk to 247 titles, but there are still some interesting and valuable books and periodicals left despite the reduction in scope. Among the delightful items still available is a complete run of *The New England Galaxy* published by Old Sturbridge Village from 1959 to 1979, a rich feast of New England life and lore, and a complete run of *Old Time New England*, 256 issues published during most of the twentieth century by the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities (now known as Historic New England) and containing some of the earliest and most important articles on the building trades and American material culture. As the operation winds down, our reluctance to listen to reason on the already quite moderate prices has also weakened. Request a free list as two Excel files from eaia@comcast.net or lists on paper by calling (508) 993-9578.

**Research Grants Announced**

The Research Grants Committee made one award this year. Marshall Scheetz of Williamsburg, Virginia, is the twentieth recipient of the Winthrop L. Carter Memorial Award. Mr. Scheetz’s project, “Degrees of Separation: Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century Cooperers from Rural Virginia and Maritime New England,” will examine the trade of the cooper in the late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth centuries, with an emphasis on the flour industry in Virginia and the whaling industry in maritime New England. This project will first focus on the history of the trade and its practitioners and then examine the role of documentation and its practical application to the practice of coopering through demonstration. The goal of this research will be to disseminate understanding of the cooper’s trade and the Early American Industries Association. A final report will be published.

This award is given in memory of Winthrop L. Carter, a long-time friend of EAIA and a staunch supporter of its publication and grants program.

**History of the Arts and the Economy Conferences**

Two upcoming conferences may be of interest to EAIA members. “Visual Arts and Global Trade in the Early American Republic” is tentatively scheduled for March 6, 2010, in Salem, Massachusetts. The conference will investigate the state of early American internationalism and how global trade contributed to knowledge and culture in the early Republic, particularly in the arts from the 1780s to the 1840s, including all aspects of visual art production: painting, sculpture, architecture, garden design, ceramics, furniture, silver, wallpaper, textiles, fashion, and other media. Organizing institutions include Salem State College, the Salem Maritime Historical Site (National Park Service), and the Salem Athenaeum. The conference will provide opportunities to tour Salem’s magnificent Federalist architecture and museum collections. For more information or to submit a proposal for a paper, contact Patricia Johnston at Art Department, Salem State College, 352 Lafayette Street, Salem, MA 01970 or e-mail to pjohnston@salemstate.edu.

The Center for the History of Business, Technology, and Society at the Hagley Museum and Library in Wilmington, Delaware, will host “Crisis and Consequence: A Conference” on May 14, 2010. The conference will explore the long-term consequences of panics, depression, financial contractions, and other episodes in which the American economy dramatically declined. Please direct proposals or queries to Carol Lockman, clockman@Hagley.org, or 302-658-2400.
Regional Meetings Update—Have you Marked Your Calendar for Staunton and Tuckerton?

T he plans are set for two upcoming EAIA regional meetings. The first is on August 22 at the Frontier Culture Museum in Staunton. The registration fee is $12 per person and includes museum admission and tours, morning refreshments, box lunch, and all meeting events. To encourage new membership, non-EAIA members who join at this meeting receive free admission. If you know someone who you think may be interested in joining, this meeting will be a great introduction.

The Frontier Culture Museum is an outdoor living history museum and an educational institution of the Commonwealth of Virginia. It features six permanent outdoor exhibits of original farm buildings from Britain, Ireland, Germany, and Virginia that show how people from different cultures created a new way of life on the American frontier that was the Shenandoah Valley.

The program begins at 7:30 A.M. with tailgating, schmoozing, coffee, and donuts. From 9 AM to 12:30 P.M. there will be speakers and demonstrations including “Historic Masonry” with John Friedrichs, “The Iron Industry in Virginia and the Shenandoah Valley” by Chris Furr, and “Hand Woodworking and Treadle Lathes” with George Lott.

Frontier Culture Museum’s Karen Becker will discuss “Valley Food and Foodways” during lunch from 12:30–1:30 P.M. (A box lunch from Rowe’s Family Restaurant is included in the registration fee.)

Following lunch there will be free time to visit the rest of the museum. Pre-registration is requested. For more meeting information and meeting registration forms visit www.EAIAmfo.org (click on “Meeting” button), or contact Tom Graham, PO. Box 211, Round Hill, VA 20121, 540-338-7738, or e-mail: tmajgraham@erols.com. For more information about the museum visit www.frontiermuseum.org. The museum is located at 1290 Richmond Avenue (Route 250), Staunton, VA. Take I-81 to Exit 222. Head west on Route 250. The museum is one-half mile on the left.

The museum in located about 25 miles north of Atlantic City, on Route 9, just south of the intersection of Route 9 and Route 559 in historic downtown Tuckerton. The $10 registration fee will cover admission to the Seaport on the day of the meeting plus free admission the day before and the day after for those who pre-register. Space is limited. A full refund will be given if requested by October 1, 2009. Send for a registration form to The Tuckerton Seaport, att: Carl Bopp, 120 W. Main St., P.O. Box 52, Tuckerton, NJ 08087.

Tuckerton Seaport Museum, October 10

In October, EAIA will sail to Tuckerton, N.J., for a regional meeting at the Tuckerton Seaport. Registration is $10 per person; children 12 and under are free. The site is handicap accessible.

The meeting will start at 8 A.M. with a tailgate tool sale, along with coffee, juice, and pastries. After a short get-together, we will tour the seaport in guided groups, or you may tour on your own. About noon, there will be a break for lunch. You can bring your own lunch or dine at Scojo’s on site or one of the other restaurants within walking distance of the Seaport. (A list will be sent when you register.) After lunch, we will be treated to a special talk by someone whose name is synonymous with antique saws. From 1840 to the mid-1950s, the Disston Saw Company in Philadelphia made more saws than any other saw company in the world. The company was started by Henry Disston, and our speaker will be Henry Disston Jr., a descendant of this famous family. This is a not-to-be-missed talk.

After the talk there will be more special events at the Seaport. Do you know what a sneakbox is? What was it first made for? What was pound fishing?

Coming to the Frontier Culture Museum? Plan a Side Trip

If you are thinking about attending the meeting and have extra time before or after the meeting, Bob and Becky Roger invite you to tour the Tool & Teapot Museum at their home. More than 8,000 items from the past are on display, with weekly additions. You are guaranteed to see tools and domestic items that you have not seen before, many with accompanying patents. The museum is only 12 minutes from the Frontier Culture Museum. Visits are welcome by prearrangement only, please on Friday, August 21, Saturday afternoon or evening after the EAIA meeting, or on Sunday, August 23. For more information or to arrange a tour time, contact the Roger’s at toolman@edoppler.com, or call 540-885-0513, or see Bob at the meeting.

What is a life car? After this meeting ends at 5 P.M., you will know the answers to all these questions and a lot more.

The museum in located about 25 miles north of Atlantic City, on Route 9, just south of the intersection of Route 9 and Route 559 in historic downtown Tuckerton. The $10 registration fee will cover admission to the Seaport on the day of the meeting plus free admission the day before and the day after for those who pre-register. Space is limited. A full refund will be given if requested by October 1, 2009. Send for a registration form to The Tuckerton Seaport, att: Carl Bopp, 120 W. Main St., P.O. Box 52, Tuckerton, NJ 08087.
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The Chronicle on DVD
All the issues Volumes 1-61

The Chronicle is now available in the easily readable PDF format. Although the EAIA is continuing its work on indexing The Chronicle, the index is only useful if there is easy, inexpensive access to all the back issues. With this DVD the contents will be available to researchers. At $25 plus $5 S&H for EAIA members ($35 for non-members plus $5 S&H), the DVD costs the equivalent of five back issues of The Chronicle. Until the index is complete, the DVD is the only way to access the treasure trove of information found in The Chronicle.

The Directory of American Toolmakers

After many years out of print, the Directory of American Toolmakers is now available in CD format. The Directory is the largest single source of information on North American toolmakers ever compiled. With over 1,200 pages containing over 14,000 entries and over 5,000 supplemental names dating back to as early as 1636, together with cross-references, indexes, and lists of primary and secondary sources, this is an invaluable work has long been out of print. Cost for EAIA member is $20 plus shipping ($30 plus $5 shipping for non-members).

A Pattern Book of Tools and Household Goods

Containing 83 copperplates of tools made in Birmingham, England, ca. 1818, for woodworking, metalworking leatherworking, clock-making, gardening, gunsmithing, and dentistry, together with gent’s tool chests, sets of tools, combination tools, cooking and serving utensils, nut cracks, sugar cutters and cleavers, cork screws, jaggling wheels, skewers, forks, cheese tasters, zesters, curling irons, nail clippers, sewing tools, boot hooks, key swivels, sword swivels, military equipment, pliers, vices, sporting goods, and many other useful items. Inserted in a pocket in the back cover is a reprint of an 1810 W. & C. Wynn price list which almost exactly matches the plates, descriptions, and prices in the pattern book. The book includes an illustrated introduction by Jane Rees discussing the history of tool manufacture in Birmingham and the importance of the pattern books in marketing the goods. The plates are reproduced full-size, including nine fold-outs, and the book has been handsomely produced by The Stinehour Press. EAIA Members $40 (non-members $50) plus $5 S&H.

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Calendar

Shavings’ Bi-Monthly Listing of Antique Tool Events & Activities

AUSTRALIA
Melbourne, July 19. HTPAA Second Tool Sale For 2009, Glenferrie Primary School. Contact Ian Stagg at (03) 9769 5953 or ian@htpaa.org.au.

ENGLAND

IRELAND & SCOTLAND
September 14-24. EAIA Annual Tool Tour, including Dublin, Belfast, and Glasgow. Contact Elton Hall, at eaia@comcast.net or 508-989-9578.

CANADA
Ontario
Pickering, October 4. Tools of the Trades Show and Sale, 10 A.M.–3 P.M. at the Pickering Recreation Complex. The only antique tool specialty show in Canada with 30-plus selected dealers. Admission $5. Contact Gerry at (613) 839-5607 for information.

NORTHEAST
New Hampshire

New Jersey


New York

East Meredith, October 12. Miller’s Harvest Festival, Hanford Mills. The mill’s gristmill and other feed processing machinery will be in operation. For more information visit www.hanfordmills.org.

Batavia, September 20. Western New York Antique Tool Collectors Meet, Holiday Inn, just off the New York State Thruway at Exit 48. Contact Chuck Wirtenson, 315-363-7682 or cwirten1@twcny.tr.com.

Pennsylvania
Adamstown, August 23. M-WTCA Area P show/sale at Shupp’s Grove at dawn. Don Stark, Starkcd@aol.com, 717-367-5207.

York, January 23, 2010. M-WTCA Area P dealer show and public auction, Holiday Inn, Louck’s Road. Don Stark, Starkcd@aol.com, 717-367-5207, M-WTCA, EAIA, CRAFTS, PATINA, other tool groups/individuals invited.

SOUTH
North Carolina
Raleigh, July 25. M-WTCA Area Q Meet. Displays including foot powered machinery.

CLASSIFIED ADS
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Send your event information to Shavings and we will be happy to publish it. And after your event, send us a report and photographs. Send upcoming events and reports to Shavings editor, Patty MacLeish, 401-846-7542; E-mail: <pmacleish@verizon.net> (Subject Line: Shavings); or mail to 31 Walnut St., Newport, RI 02840.

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Classified Ads
25 words or less—$4.00; 15¢ per word thereafter. Box around the ad—35¢ (A word is anything with a space on both sides of it.) Please make ad checks payable to EAIA. (Non-Members add 20% per ad for either display or classified.)

2009-2010 DEADLINES: August 1, 2009; October 1, 2009; December 1, 2009; February 1, 2010; April 2010, June 1, 2010.
a program of interest, tool sales, auction and a good old southern barbecue lunch. Pre-registration required. Notices sent to all EAIA members in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. Over 280 attended last year’s event. Contact Ed Hobbs, 919-828-2754 or hobbsed@portbridge.com.

Virginia

McLean, July 12. PATINA Bi-Monthly Meeting, American Legion Post 270, 1555 Balls Hill Road contact Lee Richmond at lee@thebestthings.com

Staunton, August 22. EAIA Regional Meeting at the Frontier Culture Museum, 1290 Richmond Ave. (Route 250). See story on page 4 or contact Tom Graham, 540-338-7738, tmaigraham@erols.com.

McLean, September 13. PATINA Bi-Monthly Meeting, American Legion Post 270, 1555 Balls Hill Road. Contact Lee Richmond or lee@thebestthings.com.

MIDWEST

Illinois

LaFox, August 2. M-WTCA meeting at Garfield Farm Museum. Contact George Cella, 630-377-3646 or geo38@abcglobal.

Iowa

Mount Pleasant, July 18. M-WTCA Area D Meet, Contact Ed Chabal, 319-385-4710 or Echabal@hotmail.com

Michigan

Dearborn, September 19. M-WTCA Area C Meet. Contact Del Galofaro, 734-676-0997 or sgalofaro@comcast.net

Minnesota

Rochester, August 16. M-WTCA Area A Meet. Contact Hollis Fesser, 507-282-3175 or clocktool@att.net.

Ohio


Wisconsin

Genoa, September 12. M-WTCA Area B Meet. Contact Larry Thorson, 608-779-0966 or lthorson@gensys-energy.com.

WEST

California

Sonoma, August 14-15. PAST Summer Tool Show, Bob Valich, 707-545-8812 or planepa@aol.com.

New Mexico

Albuquerque, September 5-6. RMTC & SWTCA Annual Labor Day Meeting, MCM Elegante Hotel And Conference Center. Contact Dave Fessler, 505-243-4905 or davesstf@gmail.com.

Oregon

Hillsboro, August 8. PNTPC Monthly Meeting. Bill Racine’s House, Contact Bill Racine, 503-628-1488.


Washington


Seattle September 12. PNTPC Monthly Meeting, Alki Masonic Hall. Contact Bill Racine, 503-628-1488.

Wooden shoe (sabot)

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Brown Auction Services and the Fine Tool Journal offer the one-two punch for selling your tools. The two together give you a way of offering your tools to all the collectors and users of old tools. We only group tools after careful thought and inspection. Our auctioneers sell at a steady pace of 100 to 140 lots per hour, giving each item the opportunity to reach its true value. We handle each tool carefully and select where that tool will be sold to ensure for the best possible return. Added to that, we make certain that each lot is accounted for and each consignor receives detailed information with prompt and full payment.

Our marketing includes not only a completely redesigned website with improved online bidding but also extensive mailings as well as ads in many major publications. Last fall’s mailing alone went to more than 31,500 addresses. This level of commitment ensures that all who need to know about our sales get the word. These mailings are expensive but they work and that is why we are still doing them.

Don’t be fooled; when the smoke clears, we are still the ones doing it right with your interests in mind. We have been committed to old tools and tool collecting, not just making sales, since 1970.

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It is plane to see who sells the best!
Please plan to join us for a Quadruple Joint Invitational Meeting of the Mid-West Tool Collectors Association, Early American Industries Association, the Western New York Tool Collectors and the Tool Group of Canada at our World Headquarters Complex in Avoca, New York. Plans call for tool trading beginning Thursday and continuing Friday and Saturday.

To register, please send $5.00 and indicate whether or not you will be selling. There is an additional fee of $5.00 for the first dealer space and $20.00 for a second dealer space. We have room for approximately 100 dealers. Please plan to join us for a pig roast on Friday evening. Please note on the Dealer Space Registration whether or not you plan to attend the pig roast and include an additional $5.00 per person to partially offset the cost.

*It will be high summer in the beautiful Finger Lakes Area. Please plan to make a long weekend of it and bring the family for a great time in the country.*

Our auction of 3001 Lots will feature the fully stocked woodworking shop of Dr. Nathan Geurkink of Hanover, New Hampshire. Trained as a surgeon, Dr. Geurkink used hand tools exclusively throughout his career to protect against an accident that might deprive him of his livelihood. At the time of his retirement he invested in a substantial power woodworking shop stocked with Powermatic and Delta professional woodworking power tools and other high-quality tools. Tragically, Dr. Geurkink became ill shortly after acquiring the tools and he is no longer able to use them. Nearly all of the tools are less than two years old and in nearly new condition. We will also feature the extensive tool and antique reference library of David Pierson of Woodland Hills, California and tools from more than 150 collections. We will sell 500 lots beginning Thursday, July 30th at 2:01 p.m. and sell 1250 each day on Friday, July 31 and Saturday, August 1. Our regular auctioneers Paul Wilmot of Henniker, New Hampshire, and Bill Baxter of Indianapolis, Indiana will call the sale. We expect to sell approximately 250 lots per hour. *Auction Preview and Open House All Day Wednesday, and before and during the auction on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.*

Please check our web site [www.mjdtools.com](http://www.mjdtools.com) for lodging information or give us a call at (800) 869-0695.

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**Registration Form for Dealer Space & Pig Roast (Not necessary to register for auction only)**

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Yes, I/We will be attending. Name(s): 

Address for name badge(s): 

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