

## Bill Steffen

Bill Steffen grew up in Indiana his entire life. His first experience with woodworking was in high school when he joined shop class. From that time on he was hooked. He was able to attend guitar building school in Phoenix, Arizona, in 1992. His love for woodworking continued, but he had little time or resources to pursue that interest. It was not until 2011 that he was able to continue pursuing this interest with earnest. He began with a few woodworking tools in his garage and continues to work from there. He is also currently a member of the Hometown's Woodworkers CoOp.

Bill's work is best described by "bringing out the natural beauty of wood." Bill believes that each piece of wood has a perfect work of art inside of it that he helps bring out. Bill believes that each step of the piece should be done as if it were the most important step. The most common thing that people do when they see his boxes is to reach out to rub them. People often say that the works make them just want to feel the pieces.

Bill has been working to learn how to make a wide variety of wooden pieces. Bill first began working on the lathe making decorative bowls and vases, but soon he became known as "The Box Guy". He makes keepsake boxes out of local natural wood with some more exotic wood added in for variety. Bill enjoys learning how to make works of art that people cannot figure out how they could possibly be made. Examples of this are optical illusions built into serving trays or boxes wrapped with wooden bows. Bill's favorite thing is to have people, especially other woodworkers, come up to him to ask, "How in the world did you do that?" He will smile and say, "Magic!", but then goes on to teach anyone interested the secrets behind this work. Bill still considers himself in the learning phase and wants to continue learning as much about fine woodworking as possible. He spends as much time as possible studying other techniques and styles to apply to his current work. Recently, Bill has been working on two new techniques. One he calls "The Melting Pot" which has wooden bowls and vases that appear to be melting down on themselves. Secondly he has been working on making wooden seashells that curl in on themselves. Bill feels like his woodworking will always be a "work in progress."