

Gary Rock, President
Dick Hopes, Sec. / Treasurer

Officers and Directors

Barry Humphus, Editor, Bubba Cherie
George Kuffel, John Marcon, Chuck Middleton

AUGUST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Our August meeting was held at the shop of J.W. Anderson. In fact it was in the very nice pavilion on the grounds of his estate near DeRidder. The pavilion is open, had plenty of space for the 25 members and guests attending and a kitchen area where Mrs. Anderson served homemade sweet rolls and delicious berry muffins.

Gary Rock started by discussing fatigue in the shop. Recently, we had a special toy-making meeting where eight members made toys for the Calcasieu Women's Shelter from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Most of us are not used to working that long on repetitive projects so fatigue set in for a few. This led to minor accidents with power tools. No one was seriously injured but it brought to light the importance of mental focus when using a power tool for a long period of time. Take a break when using any tool for more than an hour. The mind wanders so always stop what you are doing at least every at least fifteen minutes to an hour. It just makes sense and will lead to a better project and no loss of soft parts.

Dick Trough, our official Toy Master, reported that the first toy meeting created 91 sawn toys and about 80-100 turned ones. The second meeting made 100 sawn and about 100 turned toys. There is still work to be done mounting wheels and painting so another meeting will be called some time in late August or early September.

We held our first raffle for a very nice air brush donated by Dick Trough. You can purchase tickets for \$1 each or 6 for \$5 at the meeting. George Giltner was our first winner. Next month, we'll start the Bring-It-Back program where a member makes and gives away through a drawing an item he/she made or purchased. Participation is voluntary. If you participate and win, you need to bring the won item to the second next meeting hence or replace it with something you make.

Beautiful work was displayed for Show and Tell this month. Among the items were an oak box by Jeff Cormier. Jeff is experimenting with the combination of water- and oil-based poly and will report

the results over time. Jeff constructed a nice jig to do the box joints that has up to 1/64th inch adjustment for fine tuning the box joints. Mr. Thibodeaux brought several items including a ebony pen, and mixed media pen and a "bowling" pen. The bowling pen was turned in the shape of an actual bowling pen complete with stripes. Eltee also had done a scrollwork clock in a duck motif.

Aaron Andrepont (where our next meeting will be held) brought photos of a beautiful oak hall tree seat. J.W. Anderson showed off an oak bar stool and plant stand of cherry and aspen.

Pie Sonnier brought a 1936 SSJ Dusenbergs that he designed from a cast model that is to be entered in the Wood Magazine woodworking contest. The car contains cherry, ebony, walnut, bloodwood and maple. Once again Pie's skill at making automotive replicas in wood is most outstanding.

Jimmy Everett makes canes because they are works of art and because he needs one. What a wonderful combination of skill and need. This month, he showed a leaf and vine design the head of which was made up and carved with his new Dremel carver, a mallard head cane and a neat one with Pierre and Boudreau, their dog and a caught rabbit.

Gary Rock showed off some cottonwood bowls, a crepe myrtle vase and a blackjack oak and cherry solid piece.

George Giltner showed us his first turning, a magnolia and walnut candle stick. Other items of interest was J.W. Anderson's log home complete with gorgeous cedar benches and swings.



Coming up . . . Saturday, 9 September, 9:00 a.m.
at the Shop of Aaron Andrepont.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I want to "THANK" J.W. Anderson and his lovely wife for opening their shop and home to us for our August meeting. After the meeting we got a tour of his shop and some got a tour of their lovely home. It was nice and cool inside his shop compared to my shop. Mrs. Anderson made hot blue berry muffins and cinnamon rolls for all of us to do a taste test on. They were GOOD.

If you have an idea, host the monthly meeting or want to see something demonstrated at one of our monthly meetings, please contact one of the board members or me and it will be placed on the agenda. Also, if your E-mail address, mail address or phone number has changed, contact Barry Humphus. Our board meetings are open to all of the membership. Also if you haven't turned in or sent your write up on "How you came to be a Woodworker" send it to Barry Humphus, our Newsletter editor.

Our first raffle was won by George Giltner. He went home with a new "air brush" system. We will alternate between a "Door Prize and a Raffle item" every other month. The "Bring Back Item" drawing will be done every month. The person who's ticket is drawn will have two months to bring back their "Bring Back Item." They can at the time of the drawing, ask to have another number drawn if they do not wish to participate in this or at the end of the two months bring back the "Bring Back Item," they received two months ago. At the September meeting, the first "Bring Back Item" drawing will take place. The winner will have two months to do a small "Bring Back item." At the October meeting we will do another "Bring Back Item" drawing and the winner will have two months to do their item. At the November meeting we will get to see what was made. At every meeting afterwards, we will do the "Bring Back Item" drawing. I know that we have in our club great carvers, turners, toy makers, carpenters, cabinet makers, scroll sawyers and I am looking forward to owning one or more of their treasures.

The "Safety Talk" was on "Tiredness." When you enter your shop to do a job or project, if you are physically or mentally tired, shut up the shop and go rest. If you don't, that is when the accident will happen. It takes less than a blink of an eye, to lose a finger, have a piece of wood fly up and hit you in the eye or even involve one of your grand children or loved one. Always "Think SAFETY" in the shop. If you do, you will leave at the end of the day with everything that you had when you entered your shop.

We had another get-together at Dick Truth's shop to continue working on our toy project for the Women's Shelter. A great time was passed, sawing, turn-

ing, routing and sanding the cars and few tales were told. When all the turned toys are finished, there will be around several hundred. At the next get-together at Dick's, paint will be flying.

We had a real nice "Show and Tell" at J.W.'s place. From a model car from Pie Sonnier to a scroll saw piece by Mr. Thibodeaux to a set of shutters that yours truly did. *Gary Rock.*

FROM THE EDITOR

As woodworkers we are most fortunate people. You provide a tremendous growth opportunity and personal satisfaction for those that take on this beautiful task.

What makes woodworking so satisfying is the personal reward of creating a piece from a tree to finished lumber. In most cases, each piece you build is better than the previous and with forethought, each piece you create will continue to improve. This idea gives a woodworker the dream of something he or she will create someday and knowing it will only be better than what he or she has made today.

Woodworkers are also rewarded by the admiration of our work from those who normally wouldn't appreciate ordinary items like the furniture and keepsakes we make. Many times I have had neighbors, friends or strangers in my home. They almost always ask about the furniture and bowls and cabinets I have on display. I am proud of creating them and they are admiring of my work. What a very satisfying experience that is.

Though all of us have furniture and wood items in our homes, those which have been hand-crafted by us or another woodworker, retain an uncommon and secret beauty. These are items that have the unique connection between the woodworker and the rest of the world. They are the link between the maker and the user.

For most of us, it's not a competition to be the best woodworker but the desire to be a better woodworker. Ultimately, our goal is to develop new skills and create something more memorable than the last. Regardless of whether our woodworking endeavors are criticized or celebrated, a talent will have developed in the process.

Barry Humphus.

IN MEMORY

Rod Nunnally, a long time member past away last month. His close friend Kip Patterson said, "He exuded a child-like faith and simplicity that could melt any hard exterior that came into his sphere. Through his jokes and jovial display of those crazy little pins he tacked on his signature cowboy hat to those string ties he wore, his originality shined through." As did his fine woodworking. Please remember Rod Nunnally.

GETTING STARTED WITH WOODWORKING

You should ask yourself a few questions:

What kinds of projects do I want to build?

Where will I set up a shop?

What time commitment will I make?

How much money will I be able to earmark for equipment, supplies, etc.?

What are my personal abilities?

What do you want to get out of this?

Perhaps the question is more appropriately posed: what is your passion? Do you want to tackle large projects, such as furniture or cabinetry? Or something more modest, such as scrollwork, birdhouses, woodcarving, turning or picture frames? Woodworking covers a broad range of possibilities, limited only by your imagination (and your wallet). Give this question some serious thought — delving into something halfheartedly will only lead to disappointment. You will quickly lose interest and end up with a lot of costly equipment gathering dust.

If you like power, speed and efficiency in creating your projects, you are probably a good candidate for working with power tools. This is especially true if you wish to get your projects completed in a limited span of time. On the other hand, if you like a more hand-crafted approach, have the time to work the wood and don't want the noise and dust associated with power equipment, you may gravitate toward hand tools. Keep in mind that one approach is not necessarily cheaper than the other. You can spend a lot of cash on power tools, and you can also spend a lot on nice planes, chisels, scrapers, carving tools, etc. But the two categories are not mutually exclusive. I use power tools quite extensively for my projects. However, I also use many hand tools, such as planes, chisels, saws, files, etc., for various operations.

If you really want to do something, you will find a way. Woodworking is no exception. If you have a spare room, garage, or shed, you can easily set up a shop. However, there are limitations to consider and you need to be realistic. Obviously, it would be impractical to build large cabinets in the spare room down the hall. On the other hand, living in an apartment, condominium or small house should not preclude you from crafting woodworking projects. For example, I built a dining room table, two end tables and a coffee table in a two bedroom apartment while in college. Some types of projects, such as pen-making or small turning, can be performed with very little mess or noise on a kitchen table.

Regardless of what kinds of woodworking projects you plan to create, be thoughtful of your neighbors. Loud power tools, dust, finishing fumes, and unsightly piles of materials laying around can create tensions in a neighborhood, and potential legal liability.

If you plan to make any modifications to the facility, such as remodeling or electrical wiring, you may need to consult the cities' building inspector and obtain the necessary permits. There may also be private covenants restricting the uses of the property you reside upon. Make sure your proposed activities are cleared with any homeowner associations whose rules you may be subject. If you rent, be sure to check with your landlord before proceeding.

If you are like me, you find yourself balancing a career, family and other obligations. There never seems to be enough time to do all the things you would like. Fortunately, woodworking is the ideal pastime for busy people. Your projects, whether simple or complex, can be worked on a little at a time. If it takes you a year to complete an end table, so what? The idea is that you enjoy your time spent working with wood. Of course, there are myriad shop jigs and aids that will help you become more efficient in your work.

How much money does it take to get into woodworking? That's like asking what it costs to go on vacation. It depends on many factors. The best advice I can give is this: it's not cheap. But you can save a lot of money by planning your shop and making some smart choices. Talk to the other members of the LCWW Club.

For retail tool purchases, there are many choices. There are the home improvement stores nearby (including our sponsors). There are on-line stores catering to woodworkers, such as Rockler, Woodcraft and others. These stores carry many of the hard-to-find items that are sought after by woodworkers, but due to their niche marketing, they tend to set rather high prices. There are countless mail order companies and many still offer free catalogs. Let us not forget the granddaddy of all Internet marketers — Amazon. They offer a huge selection of tools at very competitive prices, and no shipping charges for most orders over \$25.

You can look around and find good used gear for a fraction of new. Check out local auctions, yard sales and flea markets. Be sure to know your prices going in, as some unscrupulous sellers will try to pass off used goods for close to what you would pay for new. Be aware that many tools, particularly those that had been used in a commercial setting, may have endured extensive use and abuse. Look over the tool thoroughly and insist that the seller demonstrate it before buying. It is better to deal with sellers who live in your area, so that you can visit in person and look over the goods before buying.

One cannot expect to gain immediate proficiency as there is a certain learning curve involved. All you need to get started is a basic level of mechanical aptitude and good hand/eye coordination. Unless you are a total klutz and fall over your own untied shoelaces, you should do just fine. If you are a bit afraid of tools and other sharp objects, don't worry. A healthy bit of fear, developed into a healthy dose of respect for the hazards involved, will help ensure a safe woodworking experience.

The Lake Charles Woodworkers have several hundred years of experience in their membership regarding woodworking (and lots of other things as well). Take advantage of what we have and what we offer to you. Make yourself a better woodworker. *Barry Humphus.*

RED OAK FOR SALE

Former member Leo Parker let us know about some lumber for sale. It is red oak, quarter sawn, 5/4 thick, 8 to 16 feet long, 3 to 10 inches wide, air dried for a year (Rita wood!). Contact Don Elliot at 337-582-6690. He's at 2740 Hecker Rd, Iowa, LA 70647. Call Don for specific directions.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

This month we're going back to long-time member Aaron Andrepont's great shop.

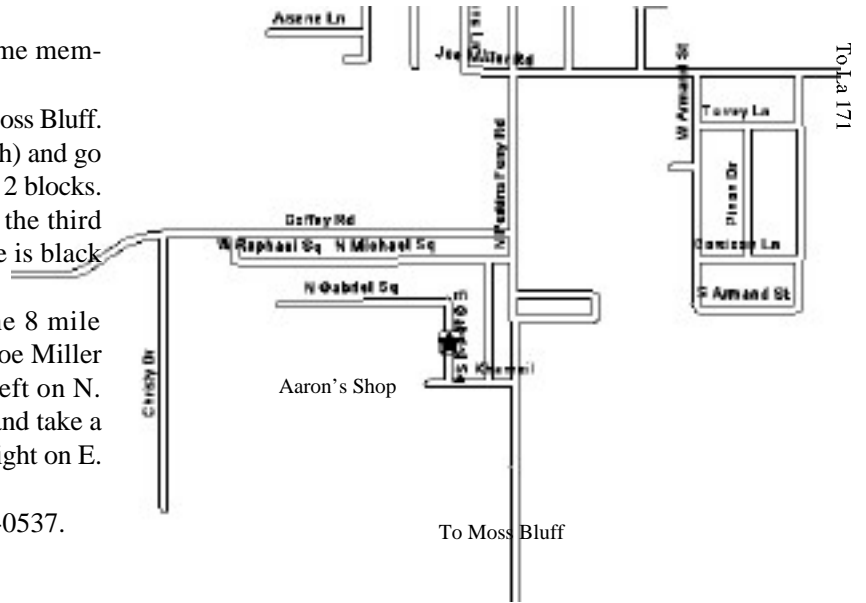
To get there, take 378 out of Westlake to Moss Bluff.

Take a right on N. Perkins Ferry Road (going north) and go about 2.5 miles. Take a left on Khamiel St. and go 2 blocks.

Take a right on E. Gabriel Sq. Aaron's home is the third one on the left at 2235 E. Gabriel Sq. The house is black and white bricks with a hot pink front door.

From L.C. take 171 north and go to the 8 mile marker and take a left on Joe Miller Rd. When Joe Miller Rd. intersects with N. Perkins Ferry RD take a left on N. Perkins Ferry Rd and go South about half a mile and take a right on to Khamiel St. Go two blocks and take a right on E. Gabriel Sq.

If you're still not sure, call Aaron at 855-0537.



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