

Steve Thomas, President
Joe Comeaux Treasurer

Officers and Directors

Barry Humphus, Editor, George Kuffel
Gary Rock, Jeff Cormier, Dick Trough

Mentoring Program - If you have a project, a problem in any woodworking area, these members have volunteered to help. Give them a call. Jeff Cormier: 582-3278; George Kuffel: 478-2707; John Marcon: 478-0646; Gary Rock: 433-1679; Eltee Thibodeaux: 436-1997; Dick Trough: 583-2683. Each have years of experience and knowledge.

April Meeting Highlights

Jack and Marie Stegall hosted the April meeting at their shop and of course many thanks go out to them. Gary Rock mentioned that Dick Trough is doing a bit better and we are pleased to hear that fact. Pie Sonnier mentioned that the annual Man Show in Sulphur begins Thursday, May 22, 2014 until Thursday, July 3 at the Henning Cultural Center, 923 Ruth St., Sulphur. If you need more information, please contact Eric Manuel at 337-52-0357.

Publisher Kern Hagg (haggpress.com) is soliciting stories from woodworkers particularly those that involved a woodworking near miss or actual injury and what you learned from that experience. Mr. Hagg wants 150 to 400 words per story. If yours is selected, they will re-write to fit the publication and ask you to approve any changes plus acknowledge your work. The intended audience is young people getting started in woodworking but we suspect that anyone at any level of experience would benefit from "Lessons Learned."

For his safety discussion, Steve Thomas talked about the dangers of burning any type of sumac plant with the warning that the smoke from this plant can be deadly. The smoke causes the lungs to blister inside and this is almost always fatal. Interestingly, sumac flowers and fruits are used in some mid-eastern spices, used for tanning leather and in various medical drugs. But these are not the poisonous types. The ones to be extremely careful of are better known as poison ivy, poison oak and poison sumac. By the way, poison sumac can be found as a tree in Honduras. I was able to bring back a sample a couple of years ago and found that it turns and polishes very nicely. Steve Thomas showed a home-made Fibonacci gage. The gage makes it easy to make drawings of work pieces that meet the so-called "golden" section. The Greeks noticed there was a common ratio in nature that was pleasing to the eye. This ratio is 1:1.618 (i.e. 1 to 1.618)

and is referred to as the golden section. Today, you will find this golden section reflected in design of buildings, logos, products, artwork, etc. Don Elfert did a discussion on using AutoDesk's AutoCAD software product and as he is a skilled teacher, his talk was clear and easy to follow. Don talked about the great accuracy that can be achieved using AutoCAD to design your projects. In addition, it is very scalable from segmented bowls to skyscrapers. Don described the screen layout and object controls. Several members currently use AutoCAD for their work or use alternative products such as Adobe Illustrator, Deneba's Canvas or Google's Drawing application.

Show and Tell started off with Mr. Eltee Thibodeaux presenting a scroll-sawn cross and Pie Sonnier showed us some business card holders of various woods. Joe Comeaux was inspired by Eltee and created his own 'pooping' puppy out of poplar, walnut and maple.

Ray Kebodeaux had a band saw box of mahogany with multiple drawers while Mark Underwood showed off a hornbeam hammer plus a cocobolo pill box. The common English name of "hornbeam" derives from the hardness of the wood and while there are 30-40 species around the world, only one grows in N. America. Steve Thomas showed off his latest segmented bowl creation – a snake charmer he said – of ash and walnut. Gary Rock showed us a two piece sycamore platter along with a "nut" bowl of white oak with a turned lid.

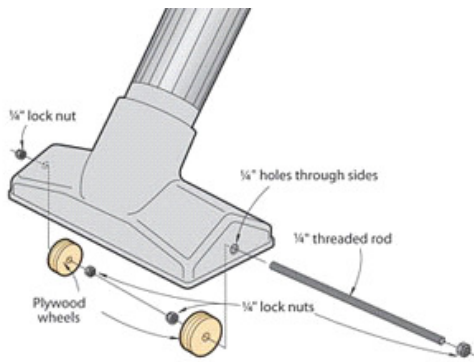
Coming Up . . . Saturday, May 10 at 9:00 A.M. at the shop of Mark Underwood in Orange, Texas. Please see Mark's map on the last page. This is a joint meeting with the South East Texas Woodworkers group. Please bring a folding or lawn chair as Mark has limited seating at his shop. Note that will be some lunch jsut after the meeting so stay close and enjoy the lunch. Please bring your best Show and Tell.

Dust Collection Tips

Looking for a better way to hook up sections of 4" flexible dust-collection hose? The solution is percolating in your pantry. The next time you empty a one-pound coffee can, cut off the bottom and use the can as a coupler. The rolled steel edges of the can prove much stronger than the crimped hose connectors sold in stores.

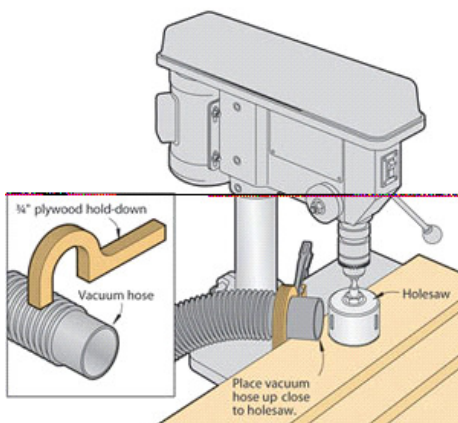
Attach the hose leading to the dust collector with a screw-type hose clamp, and if you want a quick-change fitting, connect the hose leading to the tool with a 4" spring clamp. If you have trouble holding the lower dust-collection bag while tightening the band clamp that secures it, try this. Buy a 1"-wide piece of hook-and-loop material (available from fabric stores) that's as long as the circumference of your dust-collector bag. Epoxy one of the strips to the perimeter of the dust collector, and sew the mating strip to the inside of the bag. Now, when you reinstall the bag, the hook-and-loop strips hold it securely in place while you tighten the band clamp. To keep the adhesion secure, vacuum the dust off the hook-and-loop strips from time to time.

It's great to have a powerful shop vacuum, but we often



battled with to keep it from sucking the floor nozzle tightly to the shop floor. You solve the problem by cutting and mounting a set of small plywood wheels to the underside of the nozzle as shown. The wheels roll easily across the floor, even through debris, and keep the nozzle from attaching itself to the floor.

If you struggle with dust collection every time you mount a



hole saw to your drill press, try this. We built a simple hold-down, that keeps the shop vacuum's hose close to the hole saw. With the hose clamped in place and the shop vacuum running, make a series of progres-

sively deeper cuts, lifting the hole saw clear of the work piece between plunges. This clears the sawdust from the saw's teeth and makes cutting holes faster and much less frustrating. If you have installed an air-filtration unit in your shop, plug it into a 60-minute timer-controlled outlet. This lets the blower continue to pick up any dust that might be suspended in the air after you leave. Now you don't have to remember to come back later to turn it off.

While no single accessory will catch all the dust and chips that go airborne when turning wood, the Big Gulp Ultimate Dust Hood gobbles up a lot of it. When tethered to a 1-hp or larger dust collector with 4" hose, the Big Gulp gathers in most of the chips made when hollowing out a bowl or vessel. It's especially effective at sucking up sanding dust from turnings—the stuff you'd breathe into your lungs otherwise. The Big Gulp mounts between the ways of any lathe bed on three slotted arms with locking knobs, allowing you to position the hood where you need help most. You can also get it on a floor stand (model #DBU30, \$120) or the long-armed Dust Picker (model #DPICKER2, \$60), which has a smaller hood, for dust collection behind a miter saw, radial-arm saw, or other dust-spewing tool. Of course, you could save \$120 and just build your own!

When you've got to have dust collection in hard-to-reach areas or places where a 4" hose gets in the way, attach a Loc-Line articulated hose to your shop vacuum (or with a reducer to a larger dust-collection system). Bend Loc-Line to almost any configuration, and snap on a nozzle to place the suction right where you need it. Use couplers to join multiple lengths of hose. We like Loc-Line for use with any stationary sander, as well as drill presses and router-table operations when you can't use a fence-mounted dust port. Loc-Line Modular System 2 1/2"x23" hose, \$26. Adapters and nozzles, \$4-\$6 each Lockwood Products, 800-423-1625.

If your dust collector's filter bag puffs up like a taut balloon, you're probably not getting maximum airflow through your collector. Although many manufacturers offer high-efficiency filter bags (1 to 5 microns) as standard or optional equipment, most don't do anything to optimize airflow. American Fabric Filter custom-makes oversize 1-micron bags that increase airflow by not restricting it. Top bags cost from \$120 to \$150, and bottom bags from \$70 to \$85. High-Efficiency Filter Bags Custom-made, \$70-\$150, American Fabric Filter 800-367-3591, americanfabricfilter.com. All of this is edited from Woodworkers.com

More Dust Collecting Tips

There's an accessory for those of us who don't have the luxury of a central dust-collection system and have to move the collector from tool to tool. Fazlok Quick Disconnect male and female fittings allow you to make changes quickly and without tools. You simply twist and turn to lock and unlock the hose from the tool. Install female Fazlok fittings on your collector's inlet and on the dust ports on your tools; then clamp male fittings onto both ends of your flex-hose. To maximize airflow, you can have several hoses of different lengths, and use the shortest hose you need to get from the collector to the tool. Fazlok Quick Disconnect Hose Fittings for 2 1/2" & 4" systems.

We've all been there: To remove the caked-on dust from the pleated paper filter of your shop vacuum, you tap it, beat on it, or blow it out with compressed air, but you still can't get it fully clean. Not so with Cleanstream filters, made of non-stick Gore-Tex material you can clean with air or water, so it works on wet and dry pickups. They deliver finer filtration than paper varieties—trapping particles as small as 0.3 micron. Filters fit Shop-Vac, Craftsman, and Ridgid brands. Cleanstream Wet/Dry Vacuum Filters from Cleanstream filters at <http://www.cleanstream.com>.

Mirka's Abranet sanding discs are made of a porous, meshlike material, with grit on one side and hook-and-loop-style fasteners on the other. The result: You get effective dust collection through all the pores without taking the time to line it up with the sander's dust-collection holes. Abranet comes in 13 grits from 80 to 1,000, and costs nearly twice as much as Mirka's Gold sandpaper discs. But the better dust collection means the abrasive won't load up with sanding dust, so it lasts longer than typical sandpaper. And it means you'll put less dust into the air. Abranet also comes in sheets and rolls. See www.abrafast.com or call (630) 882-9010.

Some thoughts on Chisels

At the root of all woodworking lies a simple notion: A sharp tool can quickly and effectively change the shape of wood. And for several millenia, wood chisels have served as one of the fundamental tools for cutting and shaping wood. Chisels come in primarily two styles: socket chisels or tang-type chisels. That means the handle either slips into a tapered hollow socket, or it slips over a tapered square or round tang milled into the blade. Disassembled, you can see how socket and tang chisels fit together.

Fortunately, most woodworkers don't need dozens of specialized chisels. You can do the vast majority of your work with just a few common bench chisels. Bench chisels have 4"- to 6"-long blades with flat backs and beveled edges, as shown.

Butt chisels are a subset of bench chisels, with similar design but shorter blades and handles. These chisels work great for tasks where a longer chisel proves obtrusive or unwieldy, as with joinery on small projects, such as jewelry boxes or toys. These chisels should never be struck with a mallet. Most paring chisels use tang-style construction, although any really sharp chisel could be employed to do some paring, slicing off thin layers of wood as you fine-tune a joint. Chisels specifically designed for paring usually have slender 6"- to 8"-long blades used for reaching deep into joints. John Marcon knows this very well, indeed so ask him. Whether you're a hand-tool traditionalist or you just don't want to fuss with setting up a mortiser or drill press, you can, with a little practice, chop mortises by hand with these heavy-duty chisels.

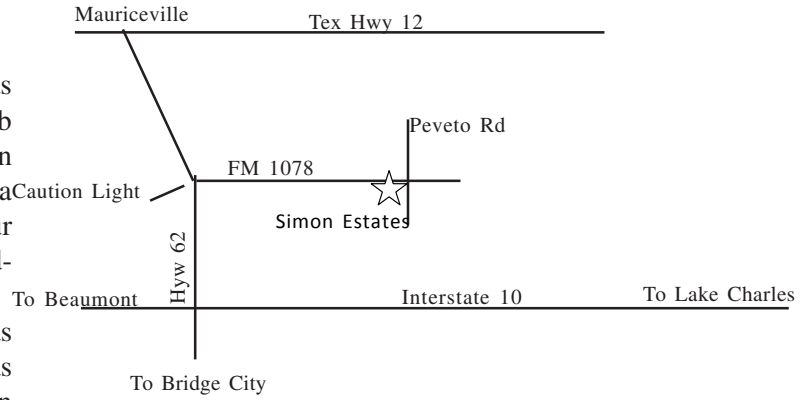
Corner chisels prove handy for squaring up corners of rabbets, dadoes, grooves, and mortises when struck by a mallet. So if you don't have a dedicated mortiser or mortising chisel, you can drill out most of the waste at the drill press, and then clean up the corners with one of these. Same goes for stopped channels made with a router.

A crank-neck chisel marries the best features of a hand plane and a paring chisel, a crank-neck slices away material while you rest the chisel blade flat on the workpiece. The bent handle lets you grip it comfortably without scraping your knuckles on the wood. These work well for shaving off proud wood plugs or dowels and for removing glue squeeze-out from inside corners. Another form of paring chisel, the angled cutting edges on these work great for reaching into difficult areas to trim away material. I have used one for paring dovetail sockets because I can hold the back flat against a surface and ensure a true cut. It's best to get right- and left-facing models for use on opposing sides of a socket. The Western-style chisels originated in Europe and are perfectly adequate for most work. Japanese chisels have no equal. Japanese chisels feature two layers of steel forged together into the blade: a harder, thin layer laminated behind a softer, thick front. As a result, the harder portion holds its sharp cutting edge longer than most Western-style chisels. Enjoy a chisel - please. Barry Humphus.

Meeting location for May

We have a wonderful event this month as the Southeast Texas Woodworkers Club and the Lake Charles Woodworkers Club will come together at the great shop of Mark Underwood in Orange, Texas. Hey - this is closer than J.W. and Wilma Anderson's in DeRidder so get with one or more of your colleagues and join us for a great meeting among great woodworkers. Also bring your best Show and Tell!

Please bring a folding or lawn chair if you can as Mark only has limited seating. To get there take IH-10 to Texas Hwy 62 and head North to the first Caution Light and turn East (right) onto FM 1078. Proceed 2.3 miles and the home is located on your right just before Peveto Rd. and Simon Estates. Call Mark or Charlotte at 409-886-4283 should need further directions.



May 2014

Lake Charles Woodworkers Club, Inc.
www.lcwoodworkers.com
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