

Bubba Cheramie, President  
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George Kuffel, John Marcon, Chuck Middleton

### JANUARY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Bubba Cheramie was our host this month at his shop. For an after holiday meeting, the shop was full of members. Treasurer Dick Hopes gave his annual financial report (appearing later in this issue). And we welcomed a new member, George Giltner of DeRidder.

Members have had some time during the holidays to get some interesting work done. Included in the Show and Tell this month were three scrollwork pieces by Rod Nunnely — a picture of his late wife and one of the late Frankie Mitchell plus a NASCAR image. Bubba showed a great jig for picture frames.

Speaking of cars, Pie Sonnier has been busy, bringing a 1964 Mustang and a 1934 Ford pickup truck done in various woods. For these Pie said he used a cast model rather than a pre-printed plan to create these works of art. J.W. Anderson had carefully turned a spalted pecan box while Mickey McMullen brought a turned cedar platter and a cypress bud vase. Aaron Andrepont brought a scrollwork heart with a cross, an LSU Tiger (Mike V) and a large (2 feet across) platter. The platter came from Belize and was hand carved from what is probably mahogany.

Kyle Andrepont brought a few of the tools he makes including a portable router table (great for small shops). The table clamps to your workbench and was from a design appearing in “Jigs and Fixtures” from the Popular Woodworking Books collection. Unique about this table is that the surface was made from a peice of Corian. Kyle also showed off a purpleheart and maple mallet plus a couple of file handles. He doesn't have a lathe, so he makes them with rasps and a sander.

Dick Hopes has been testing out his scroll saw with a flying duck theme. Leoard Fontenot used some more of his “trash” wood, juniper, to turn a small bud vase for his son. Eltee Thibodeaux (“Mr. Thibodeaux” to the rest of us) had a couple of his lathe and scrolwork trivets & a re-mount of his award-winning education themed scrollwork. He also brought a tool he likes: the Magic Miter. While these

retail for as much as \$90, they can often be had for less than \$60 from some tool dealers and QVC. Eltee also brought a lubricant product he finds useful: PG2000 Penetrating Lubricant from Progold Manufacturing (about \$10 for a 12 oz spray can). The product substantially reduces friction on surfaces such as your table saw and its moving parts.

Gary Rock is still working on Christmas gifts! In fact he has turned some very nice tree decorations that you'll see on the LCWW website. Lee Frazier brought a great tool holder for storing your dado blade sets. He said he had to build four of them to hold all of his. Lee also brought photos of a ship he worked on a few years ago: a full size replica of the sailing ship Nina (Christopher Columbo, 1492). Lee spent a month aboard the ship acting both as a tour guide and ship's carpenter. Captained by Morgan Sanger since 1992, Sanger has logged more than 25,000 miles. The ship tours the US East and Gulf coasts as well as the Caribbean. The 93 ft. wooden boat was built with traditional hand techniques in Brazil for the Columbus quadra-centennial and starred in the 1992 film “1492: Conquest of Paradise” seen on PBS and other documentary channels.



Coming Up: Saturday, February 12, 9:00 am at the shop of George Kuffel.

## TREASURE'S REPORT 2004

Lake Charles Woodworkers Club, Inc.

Annual Financial Report for 2004

Balance Carried Forward from 2003		645.31
Receipts		
Year 2004 Dues	370.00	
Bar-B-Que	499.51	
Year 2005 Dues	<u>380.00</u>	
Total Revenue	1,249.51	<u>1,249.51</u>
Total Revenue and Carry-forward		1,894.82
Expenses		
Postage	148.00	
Printing	244.09	
Bar-B-Que	334.05	
State Fees	5.00	
Refreshments	<u>119.45</u>	
Total Expense	850.59	<u>850.59</u>
Balance as of 12-31-2004		1,044.23

*Dick Hopes, Secretary/Treasurer*

### HACKBERRY WOOD

Not the local community, but the wood! Member Lee Frazier mentioned that hackberry (*celtis laevigata*) is a fine wood for consideration of woodworkers.

Hackberry trees can reach heights of 130 feet, with a diameter of 4 feet. The hackberry's fleshy berry is suspended on long stems as it ripens to a deep purple color at maturity in September and October in most parts of the country.

Turns out that the wood is an important food source for animals and large quantities of the fruit are consumed by wild turkey, pheasant, quail, grouse, prairie chicken, cedar waxwing, yellow-bellied sapsucker, mockingbird, robin, bobwhite and others.

Hackberry sapwood is pale yellow to grayish or greenish yellow. The heartwood is yellowish gray-brown to light brown. Hackberry wood is straight grained, moderately hard, strong in bending. Lee said that as it ages, it gets harder and tougher.

It also possesses excellent gluing properties, holds screws and nails well, and machines well. Despite this, commercial use of the hackberry is rather limited. The technical qualities of hackberry wood resemble those of elm and white ash, and it is sometimes used as a substitute for these species. Typical usage of this tough, flexible wood is in crates, pallets, boxes, farm implements, carving, athletic goods, millwork, and interior cabinetry, furniture and barrel staves. When spalted, it is often used by woodturners.

Hackberry belongs to the Elm family and has many similarities to elm trees. In Hugh Johnson's Encyclopedia of Trees, he says, "It is the fruit that distinguishes hackberries from the elms." Hackberry trees yield red,

yellow or blackish berries compared with elm's dry, flattened or winged fruit."

Hackberry trees will root deep, Johnson says. Their deep roots, once they have found their depth, "...are virtually drought-proof," he says. Johnson adds that the best part about common hackberry trees in North America is their highly original bark which is described as corky.

While most hackberry comes from *celtis occidentalis*, another similar species, *celtis laevigata*, or sugarberry, is sometimes sold commercially under the name hackberry. Sugarberry is also another common name for hackberry trees, which further confuses things.

Alternate names include Mississippi hackberry, Louisiana hackberry and sugar hackberry. The trees are very similar and grow in many of the same areas, although sugarberry grows in the Southern and Southern Atlantic states.

### RISKY NAILING AND SCREWING

Sometimes the nail or screw you are using does not mix well with the wood you are using. Using the correct nail will not only give your project or task more life, but will be free of many deleterious effects between the wood and metal from which the fastener is made.

One of the wood types we regularly use is so-called pressure treated. It is a great product for outdoors as it is very resistant to rot and insect damage. But over the past several years, the pressure treated wood business has been forced to radically change the chemicals with which the wood is treated. With very few exceptions, manufacturers have had to pull wood preserved with chromated copper arsenate (CCA) off the market because of the known carcinogenic effect of these chemicals.

These manufacturers responded by changing the formula to alkaline copper quaternary (ACQ) or copper azole (CA) to retain the preservative power of the old chemicals. The new products have a very high level of copper. The copper wards off rot and insects, but when paired with standard deck nails and screws, joist hangers and flashing that were fine with CCA-treated wood, it creates a corrosive reaction similar to a leaky battery.

Today, there are few solutions to this reaction between steel nails and CA or ACQ-treated wood. The easiest way to avoid problems is to use stainless steel nails and screws, stainless steel joist hangers and copper flashing. While stainless steel is not 100 % non-reactive, it is close. Copper flashing will not react at all with this wood.

The next best thing is to use heavily galvanized nails, screws or joist hangers. But remember that if you use galvanized joist hangers, you must also use galvanized nails or screws to avoid accelerated corrosion (or stainless and stainless). *Barry Humphus*

## WOOD SOURCE CORRECTION

Master turner Bill Berry wrote to point out that a source of wood in Houston we mentioned (Houston Hardwoods on 34th street) is not the one I thought it was. The one I wanted to send you to is also named Houston Hardwoods but is located on 5-1/2 Street in the Heights. This is in fact the folks who purchased All-Woods Schroeder. They have an excellent selection on common and exotic hardwood but like the other place, bring a large bag of money.

## HOUSTON WOODWORKING SHOW

The annual Houston Woodworking show will take place at Reliant Park (next to the stadium on 610 South) on April 1st through April 3rd, beginning at 12:00 noon. The admission is \$10.00 per person (children under 12 free) and is good for all three days. Watch out for those high-priced hotdogs!

## CASE OF THE ALTERED PLAN

Ethics 2911. Assignment # 3.

I used a woodworking plan from a book I bought to build a small desk. The book clearly states in large bold type that these plans are not to be made for profit. In other words, if I build the desk to the plans in the book, I cannot legally sell it for a profit as the project is for personal use only. So I altered the plan by building it deep enough to add two extra drawers. Does the restriction stated in the book still apply? No more than one page. Due Saturday, 12 February 2005, 9:00 a.m.

OK, you don't have to write an ethics paper to be in the LCWW Club, but it was one I recently assigned to the Ethics class that I teach. And it is one of those questions that may come up, especially if you sell your work. Publishers are particularly sensitive to copying their work without permission. Some publishers of woodworking plans provide them for free and explicitly state this. Others do not, even if you ordered the plan from them and paid their charges. The key here is to read the so-called fine print.

The question is usually specific to a particular book or plan that claims ownership of the design and allows the individual who buys the plan to build one or more for "personal use." A very unique design is their property providing they went through the required legal steps to prove it and register it somewhere (i.e. declared that it is a copyrighted plan and made that restriction very clear).

Most woodworking projects do not fall into that category. A chest of drawers, gun cabinet, outdoor bench or swing, desk, dinning table etc., are all things that have hundreds of versions existing in the public domain. It would be a challenge for a publisher of one or more of

these plans to claim a version as their own intellectual property or copyrighted design. But if you can modify a plan claiming protection, can you then sell the resulting work with a clear conscience?

My college teacher answer would be yes, if you modify the plan significantly. What does significantly mean? Now you need your lawyer, but basically it would have to pass what lawyers call the reasonable person test. That is, can a reasonable person claim (or demonstrate) that the project is not the same as the one in the plan? For example, it could be taller, wider, narrower, more or less drawers, that sort of thing.

In general, what the copyright of a plan protects is the plan and not the resulting project made from the plan. If you photocopied the plan and sold it on eBay as your own, for example, it is a violation of U.S. copyright law, theft and could subject you to very serious consequences (e.g., a \$250,000 fine to start).

Short of that, you are generally safe from trouble if what you sell is the project, altered or not. As stated, it would be difficult for a plan publisher to show that your project was not different from thousands of like plans.

Now what if you come up with that great and unique plan and want to copyright it to protect your intellectual property and sell the plan to millions of eager woodworkers? In other words, how do you copyright something, like a plan or even the work itself?

Fortunately, the Federal government has made that process very easy by changing Federal law extending and making easy the copyright process.

Unfortunately, there is a very large body of court decisions that apply to the copyright, mostly decided by the US Supreme Court. But the bottom line is that if you declare an original work copyrighted, it is copyrighted without having to file a copy with the official lister of copyrights (the Library of Congress) or fill out any forms or pay any fees. All you have to do is say that it is copyrighted and it is done. Now what you have to say is very specific. You must state that it is copyrighted, you must include your name (or the name of an organization if it is a corporation or other officially recognized entity), you must include the copyright symbol ( © ) and the year (2005). For example: Copyright © 2005 Barry Humphus.

Registering a patent is a different matter, costs about \$100 and you do have to file a form with the US Patent Office. The bottom line is, make that sawdust. *Barry Humphus.*

## PAY YOUR DUES

If you want to continue to receive this fine newsletter, you must pay your dues: make your check payable to LCWW and send your check to Dick Hopes, 1139 Green Rd, Lake Charles, LA 70611.