

Chuck Middleton, President
Dick Hopes, Sec/Treasure

Officers and Directors

John Marcon, Barry Humphus,
Brent Evans, George Kuffel

JUNE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Annual June BBQ went off without a hitch with 45 members and guests attending. The wood working magazine swap was also a hit with members as we exchanged old issues and found the ones we needed. We had about 250 issues of various publications and few duplicates. A few items were actually worth a few bucks. The old Fine Woodworking issues are generally worth \$3 to \$10 dollars on the Internet. This is a great idea that Chuck Middleton came up with and as there were none left, so obviously a success that we hope to do again.

Several members brought Show and Tell items for us to admire. Barry Humphus brought a few of the maple bowels he's made as well as a couple of rolling pins made of oak, mahogany and walnut. Dick Hopes showed off some of his fine scroll work. John Fontenot brought several items including a wonderful turned Mahogany goblet. Brent Evans showed off his wonderful Shaker storage box that he completed this Spring. There were actually more show and tell items, but I couldn't find out who brought all of them!

Once again, Brent Evans was our chef. As we had had so many problems in the past with baked potatoes, they were definitely not on the menu this time. Instead, we were treated to BBQ pork ribs, BBQ chicken, BBQ sausage, Brent's Killer Beans, corn and rolls. As predicted, there were none left over (though I did manage to get a bit of the chicken to take home!). Brent promised to allow us to publish the rib recipe in a future issue of the Newsletter.

As always, Bob Baker came through with the use of the PPG Pavillion and we all need to thank him for providing such a great venue for our annual party. Thanks again, Bob.

While we didn't have a formal speaker this year, member Lee Frazier briefed us on the upcoming Millenium Park project due to start construction September 10th. Lee is a member of the committee responsible for the construction and design of the park. Construction will actually start a few days before the bulk of the volunteers arrive. This part will consist of grading the area and setting the main structural members in concrete. The committee needs some 3,000 volunteers for the project including non-construction duties (sign-in, food, childcare, runners), unskilled (carrying, painting, assembling, sanding, carpenter's helper, etc.) and skilled workers (familiar with the use of power tools, measuring, cutting, sawing, etc.). You can sign up for a shift on any of the four work days.

The committee will provide all of the material (but is calling for the loaning of tools such as power miters, drills, wood chisels, levels, wrenches, ratchets with sockets, wheelbarrows, circular saws, step ladders, etc. All tools will be inventoried and labeled and locked up at night. Any damaged or lost tools will be replaced or repaired).

The Lake Charles Woodworkers Club encourages you to volunteer for a shift for this worthwhile project.

For more information, contact Millenium Park Volunteers. P.O. Box 1437, Lake Charles, LA 70602 or call 430-3051. You can get a signup form from Barry Humphus or go by the Calcasieu Arts and Humanities office at Central School, 809 Kirby Street, Lake Charles.

FLATTENING YOUR BLOCK PLANE

Your block plane, or any hand plane, has the potential to be a precision tool. But it usually doesn't come out of the box that way. The primary problem is that the sole of the plane is not truly flat. And it needs to be for you to make precise, controlled cuts. Fortunately, it's easy to flatten the sole of a plane. Just follow the steps below.



STEP ONE Using a permanent marker, draw a squiggly line across the sole of the plane.



STEP TWO Then sand the sole on a sheet of 220- grit silicon carbide sandpaper that's taped to a piece of glass.



STEP THREE Any dark lines that remain indicate low areas. So continue sanding until the marks disappear.

This trick works for new planes as well as the older ones in your shop. You can reverse this technique to flatten any tool that requires a very flat work surface such as a joiner, table saw or other stationary tool by mounting the sandpaper on a piece of glass with spray-on adhesive, then turning the whole thing upside down to sand.

Visit the Woodworker Club web site at:
<http://org.laol.net/woodworker>

COMING UP.....

July 8th, Saturday — Richard Johnson, Architect.
Mr. Johnson will discuss his use of wood in commercial and residential designs and how he designs furniture to fit his residential and commercial building designs.

FLATTENING WAVY VENEER

The grain in wood is particularly important in its effect on the figure of wood. Different types of irregular (highly figured) woods may raise, crack or blister. Some of the best examples of this are the burls and crotch veneers.

The first prerequisite for a good veneering job is that the veneer must be flat, clean and dry. Because of the modern method of manufacturing veneer and the nature of some highly figured woods like burls and crotch having no grain direction, they are most often supplied wavy or buckled. The following procedure should be used to flatten wavy veneer prior to bonding it to a surface.

Prepare a solution of 10 percent glycerine (which can be purchased at a drug store) to 90 percent water. Pour this solution into a clean spray bottle (the type used to spray plants). Set the spray nozzle to spray a very fine mist. Next mist both sides of the veneer. Place the dampened veneer between two sheets of brown craft paper, (purchased at any art supply store) make sure there is no print on the paper. Next, place the veneer and paper between two panels. Any stable, flat panel material like MDF, particleboard or plywood will do. Add a minimum amount of weight to the top and leave overnight. Examine the next day, if the veneer is still not flat, repeat the process using new craft paper, this time the veneer should be flat enough so you can clamp it between the panels. Once again leave overnight.

Once the veneer is flat, do not apply any more solution, but change the craft paper every day for about 5 days allowing the dry craft paper to absorb the moisture that you have added during the flattening process. Keep the veneer clamped between the panels at all times until you are ready to bond it. Make sure you have everything ready to go (glue, clamps, roller etc.) before you remove the veneer from the clamped panels. (From ShopNotes)

WHERE'S THAT CHUCK KEY?

Always misplacing the chuck key to your drill press? Just fasten it to a retractable key chain that's attached to the column of the drill press, see photo.

The key chain is held in place with an ordinary hose clamp. And it's connected to the chuck key by means of a short dowel.

A hole drilled in one end of the dowel accepts the handle of the chuck key. (used epoxy to hold it in place.) An eye hook is screwed into the opposite end of the dowel. Now the eye hook is simply slipped onto the ring at the end of the key chain. You can attach the keychain to the drill press column with a hose clamp.



A BIT TOO FAR

When changing bits in your router, one thing you want to avoid is inserting the bit too far into the collet — the radius (fillet) at the point where the cutting head meets the shank may prevent the collet from gripping the shank tightly.



But it's hard to hold the bit and tighten the collet at the same time. So slip a common rubber O-ring around the shank of the bit, see photo. It holds the bit at the correct height. You can use this same trick for properly positioning the shank of a drill in your drill press. From ShopNotes.

VIBRATION AND MORSE TAPERS

If you have ever used sanding drums on your drill press you might have experienced the chuck shank falling out of the Morse taper while you were using the sanding drum. Morse tapers are wonderful locking mechanisms as long as the pressure applied is axial. As soon as any radial pressure is applied, particularly in the absence of axial pressure, there is a tendency for the mating parts to disengage.

Anyone using a lathe should not rely on any accessory to be held in a Morse taper unless there is a restraining bar holding the main parts together. A typical case where restraining bars would be needed is when using buffing wheels on the drive head of your lathe. Without a restraining bar, the axial pressure applied to a buffing wheel may cause the shaft to release from the Morse taper. The restraining rod does not have to be very large, 1/4-20 is ample restraint. From Lee Valley Tools. Editor's Note: My Delta lathe's morse taper (the one that came with the lathe) has a pre-drilled hole exactly for this purpose. I didn't really realize what it was for until the sanding disk fell out when I released pressure from it!

FOR SALE

Lois Ferguson wants to sell Bob Ferguson's collection of Fine Woodworking magazines. The collection is extensive going from 1982 to 2000 with just a few issues missing (they are probably stuck away in your shops as you didn't get them back to Bob!). While she would like to get the most for the collection, the price is negotiable and she may break them out by year. She also has several woodworking books and other related publications from Bob's library including "The Art of Making Elegant Wood Boxes" (new), "Home Furniture" series 1996 to 1998 from Tauton Press and Volumes 18 through 21 of WoodSmith already in binders.

Please give her a call at 478-1157 if you are interested in purchasing all or part of the collection. We noticed on EBAY that some of the individual Fine Woodworking issues go from \$3.00 to as much as \$15.00 per copy. This is an opportunity to get an extensive wood working reference library.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT CIRCULAR SAW BLADE

When you are cutting wood, one of the first decisions to make is what type of blade will give you the results you need. There are several saw blades to choose from. Each of them is designed for a specific purpose. A crosscut blade is designed for cutting wood against the grain. Rip blades are designed for cutting with the wood grain. Combination blades are available that can make both crosscut and rip cuts, however the results will not be as good as using a blade designed specifically for that cut. The degree of smoothness you desire will also determine your choice of blade. The more teeth a saw has, the smoother the cut will be. More teeth on a blade also increases the cost of the blade and the time it takes a saw to cut through a piece. If you're looking for an attractive finished cut, the increase in time and cost will be worth it. If the smoothness is not a factor, the less expensive, faster combination blades should suit you nicely.



For a blade to be effective it needs to be sharp. Dull blades not only give poor results, they are dangerous as well. Once a blade becomes dull or damaged it needs to be replaced. There are a few steps you can take that will enable your blades to last longer: When not in use, keep your blades stored between two pieces of thick cardboard. Cutting certain types of wood can cause a blade to become sticky and gummy. You can remove this build-up by soaking the blade in turpentine. This will soften the unwanted resin, enabling you to remove it with steel wool. After each cleaning, apply a light coating of machine oil to the blade to help it resist rusting. An important reminder that should never be overlooked: Whenever you change or adjust blades, don't take short cuts. Make sure that the saw has been unplugged!

There are several different types of blades, plus they are available in varying price ranges. The level that's right for you is usually determined by your budget. Steel blades are the least expensive, but they will become duller, quicker. If you use your power saws only once in a while, this may be your best option. Carbide tipped blades on the other hand are ex-

tremely durable and will last longer. If you perform a lot of sawing chores, the higher initial cost will be offset over the life of the blade.

SAW BLADE USE TIP

Cutting wood that is thicker than the saw blade? Say you are building a deck in your yard and have to cut a 10-in. thick post in half. How do you do this with a circular saw with just an 8-in. blade? Make matching straight cuts on opposite sides of the timber. Set the thickness guide to just over half the wood's width.

The proper height setting for a table saw blade: Before turning on your table saw, make sure that the height of the saw blade is no more than 1/2-in. above the surface of the work piece. The goal is to leave as little exposed blade as possible. When too much of the blade is exposed above the work piece, friction is increased and the chance of chipping is greater.

FOLDING YOUR BANDSAW BLADES

It always amazes me how simple this is but rarely do I remember just how to do it. So here are the three steps in picture form. Just cut this out of the Newsletter and tape it to the cover of your bandsaw.

