

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: George Kuffel: 478-2707; John Marcon: 478-0646; Gary Rock: 433-1679; Eltee Thibodeaux: 436-1997; Steve Thomas: 302-8296. Each have years of experience and knowledge.

### October Meeting Highlights

Our host this was was the wonderful folks at Stine's at their Lake Charles store. It is a great place for us to meet and you get to shop afterward.

Steve Thomas reminded us that he will step down as president at the end of the year. There was some discussion regarding actually needing a club president with some alternatives suggested. However, as the LCWWC is a registered Louisiana corporation, we do need a chief executive and treasurer at minimum under our Louisiana corporate charter and by-laws. While there are still alternatives, naming a new president is by far the easiest course. Barry Humphus, a former bank president and entrepreneur can discuss these issues during the November meeting.

Steve reminded us as well that the December meeting will be at the shop of Lede and Larry Cooper and that the LCWW will supply the food. We will raffle off the Work Sharp tool system at that meeting though George Kuffel has asked to use it during the month before the raffle.

For Safety, Ray Kebodeaux had a slip with a push tool as the tool was too thin for the stock being pushed through his table saw. The take-away is to always use an appropriate push stick regardless of the saw type. Ray also has a table saw for sale (Ridged brand for \$200) as he has replaced this current unit with one of the SawStop table saw products. There was also some discussion regarding table saw hold-downs -- something you should consider should you be sawing thin stock.

A member mentioned that the product Totally Awesome that does an excellent job removing pitch from saw blades is appropriate for blades with carbide teeth. The standard oven cleaners that folks use can deteriorate carbide (actually, it can damage the solder that binds the carbide teeth to the steel blade).

Another member mentioned that there

are great videos on Youtube.com by Marius Hornbeger on turning and sharpening gouges should be interested in turning. Another web resource is from Wood Magazine on home made wood clamps. Steve Thomas showed us a few during Show and Tell and you can call him or email him should you want a copy of the plans for these clamps.

Show and Tell first brought us Bubba Cherimie who brought copies of a drill size document and passed these out. Bubba also showed us some Christmas medalions he created. Mr. Eltee Thibodeaux showed us a nice scroll work light switch plate he created as well as a great shop sign he created with his CNC machine. George Carr showed a lovely chip carving with both positive and negative images using the same pattern. while J.W. Anderson showed a neat nut cracker.

John Griffin had a very nice oak and cherry push stick he built -- almost too nice to use. Darren brought a great jabsba wood platter plus an oak burl bowl from a Rita tree. Steve Thomas did a particle board bowl with 9



segment rings and described the difficulty of doing this in this material. Finally, Gary Rock showed a ponderosa pine bowl with paint and brass using the Modern Masters finish products. Steve Thomas won the Show and Tell Drawing -- a \$25 purchase card at our good friends at Stines.

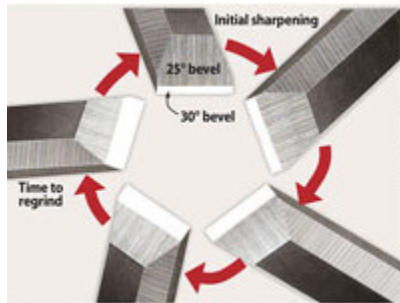
Comming Up . . . Saturday, November 14 at 9:00 A.M at the shop of J.W. and Welma Anderson. Be there!

## Sharpen Once, Cut Twice: The Circle

As woodworkers, we'd much rather be working with tools than working on them, so we tend to put off sharpening until we absolutely have to. The tools get too dull to make clean cuts, and the drudgery begins. But with this simple, easy-to-remember technique, you can put your chisels and plane irons back to work with scalpel-sharp cutters in mere minutes.

A chisel or plane iron must have a dead-flat back to cut properly. Spritz the coarse side of a 325-grit diamond stone with water and rub the back of the tool side-to-side until you get an even scratch pattern. Repeat the process on the extra-fine face of the diamond stone (1,200 grit), and then on the ceramic stone (6,000 grit) to polish the back. Stop when you achieve a flat, mirrorlike surface. Once the back shines, you'll never have to repeat this step again.

If you don't have such stones, an easy solution is to use the same grits of wet/dry sand paper on a piece of plate glass. Spray the paper side and the glass with a squirt of contact spray-on glue and flatten the back. An easy, inexpensive option for flattening stones is to use sandpaper, as shown right. Start with a reliably flat surface, such as a piece of 1/2" thick glass (with edges ground smooth). Apply 100-grit, self-adhesive, wet-dry sandpaper and rub the wetted (or oiled) stone over it until flat. Repeat with a few strokes on 400-grit



paper to remove any coarse scratches. If you flatten your waterstones every time you sharpen and these stones show little wear, skip the 100-grit step. If you flatten your chisel or plane iron the same as you would on stones. Wet/dry sand paper can be purchased

at most home supply stores as well as auto parts stores.

Lee Valley offers the stones in their catalog and online: #05M09.01, Lee Valley, 800-871-8158, leevalley.com. Extra fine/coarse DMT DuoSharp diam; 6,000-grit Shapton GlassStone ceramic water stone.

With a grinder or the coarse side of your diamond stone, establish a 25° bevel on the front face of your blade. Secure the blade in the honing guide and sharpen the tip at 30°, starting with the extra-fine diamond stone and polishing with the ceramic stone. When your tool shows signs of dulling, sharpen that tip again at 30° using the 1,200- and 6,000-grit stones. After several sharpenings, the leading edge will take up more and more of the blade's front face. When it approaches one third to one half of that surface, regrind the blade at 25° and start the circle of sharpening over again.

## Flattening Your Sharpening Stones

So now that you have used the technique above and do this often to keep your tools razor sharp, you will eventually have to flatten the stones.

Over time, sharpening stones wear more in the middle than along the edges. If you continue to sharpen in the dished area of a stone, your tools' cutting edges will have slightly rounded edges. That's why it's critical to remove the high sides.

Waterstones and oilstones wear at greatly different rates: The softer of the two, waterstones, dish out faster and need to be flattened more often. We recommend flattening them at the beginning of every sharpening session—it's a 15-second job in most cases. Flatten oilstones about every 10 sessions. Another benefit of flattening your stones: You'll remove embedded metal filings that impair the stone's sharpening action.

An easy, inexpensive option for flattening stones is to use sandpaper. Start with a reliably flat surface, such as a piece of 1/2" thick glass (with edges ground smooth). Apply 100-grit, self-adhesive, wet-dry sandpaper and rub the wetted (or oiled) stone over it until flat. Repeat with a few strokes on 400-grit paper to remove any coarse scratches. If you flatten your waterstones every time you sharpen and these stones show little wear, skip the 100-grit step.

Add water or oil to the stone when flattening. A rubber mat holds the glass firmly, and a towel below it soaks up any stray moisture.

and bench stone. A flattening plate -- a harder, abrasive stone -- also makes quick work of dished-out stones. If your sharpening stones did not come with a flattening plate, you can buy an effective silicon-carbide. To flatten a stone, wet it with water or oil (depending on the type of stone) and rub the flattening plate evenly over its entire surface until all grayish evidence of previous sharpenings has disappeared. If you can't tell if it's flat, simply make a series of pencil marks across the stone, and then flatten until the marks vanish.

Finally, you must occasionally flatten your flattening plate as well. Use the sandpaper method described above. Make pencil marks down its length and rub until gone. For convenience and portability, I like Norton's three-waterstone kit, because two stones soak while you sharpen with the one sitting on top.

Flattening plate: #833914, Woodcraft, 800-225-1153, woodcraft.com. Norton waterstone kit: #IM83-W, Sharpening Supplies. Com, 800-351-8234, sharpeningsupplies.com.

## Chisels: Handy After All These Years

Though the chisel has been around since the beginning of woodworking, a sharp chisel can do a lot for you, even today.

Tools don't come much simpler than the chisel. Though the drawing shows one with a wooden handle, many today feature plastic handles. Plastic handles absorb shock and resist deformation at the end when driven by a mallet, making them ideal for general shop use.

If you buy a wooden-handled chisel and you'll be using a mallet on it, look for one with a leather washer between the bolster and the handle to help absorb shock. A steel hoop around the top of the handle minimizes mushrooming. (Stouter double-hooped handles feature one steel hoop at the top and another in place of the brass ferrule at the bottom.)

Over the centuries names by the hundreds have been heaped upon chisels. You'll hear references to the firmer chisel (an ordinary, general-purpose chisel with a blade 3-5" long), butt chisel (a shorter chisel), framing chisel (a wider, heavier one), mortise chisel (a longer version), paring chisel (one with a long, flexible blade), and more.

But when you're buying chisels, those names don't mean much. You'll do better to pick a chisel by looking at it and assessing how well it fits your needs than by relying on a name. A blade of high-carbon steel and a durable handle are the most important features.

Don't even try to use a dull chisel. Hollow grind the edge on a grinding wheel, maintaining the factory bevel angle. Then hone the blade on a flat oilstone or waterstone, using a sharpening jig. See the earlier article should you want to sharpen a chisel.

Be sure, too, to keep the back of the blade flat all the way to the cutting edge. If it curves up, the chisel may be hard to control and won't cut cleanly.

Chisels handily meet many workshop situations. But, leave such things as opening paint cans or prying off door and window trim to the proper tool. You can use the chisel to clean off dried glue squeeze-out, pare down a tenon to fit a mortise, or trim a plug flush to a surface. Here are some other chores where the chisel comes in handy:

After drilling to remove most of the waste, go in with a chisel to finish a mortise. Work with the bevel up--that is, facing away from the mortise wall. For a through mortise, cut inward from both sides to prevent splintering the back.

The chisel shines for squaring up corners, as in this routed rabbet. First, hold the chisel vertically to make a cut extending each side to the corner. Then, remove the waste

with a cut into the side of the rabbet, as shown at right. Toward the bottom of the rabbet, turn the chisel over, and work with the bevel flat against the wood.

Set hinges and other hardware into shallow mortises so they'll sit flush with the surface. Trace the item's outline on the wood with a knife blade. Holding the chisel perpendicular to the surface with the back of the blade to the line, cut to the required depth. Then, clean out the shallow mortise with the chisel. Here you work with the bevel down.

Cut the sides of the dado to depth with a backsaw or chisel. Then, clear out the waste with a chisel of appropriate width, as shown at right. A scrapwood gauge block, shown, guides the chisel straight into the end of the dado for a flat bottom. (You don't need it as you cut farther in.) To bring the top of the gauge block flush with the bottom of the dado, shim it with a 3x5" notepad opened to the required thickness. Cut from both ends to prevent tearout.

## Marking Gages

When it comes to marking cutlines and laying out joints, it's hard to beat the simplicity and accuracy of a marking gauge.

A marking gauge provides a fast and accurate way to mark lines parallel to the edge of a workpiece, either with the grain or across it. A marking gauge's advantage over a pencil is that its pin, which you should sharpen to a knife edge, produces a very fine mark that does not broaden, and it scores the workpiece for chiseling and saw cuts (preventing splintering).

There are a number of ways you can use a marking gauge: Easily mark the center of boards for re-sawing; marking stock edges for joining; Lay out lines for cutting joints, such as dovetail or mortise and tenon.

The basic marking gauge consists of four parts: an 8- to 12"-long beam, a fence, a fence-locking device, and a marking pin. The fence slides along the beam to set the required marking distance to the pin. A locking device, such as a thumbscrew or wedge, secures the fence to the beam at the set position. Some gauges have a removable marking pin, which makes it easy to sharpen the pin or replace it. Also, the beams of some gauges are ruled to allow for direct setting of the marking dimension without the need for measuring.

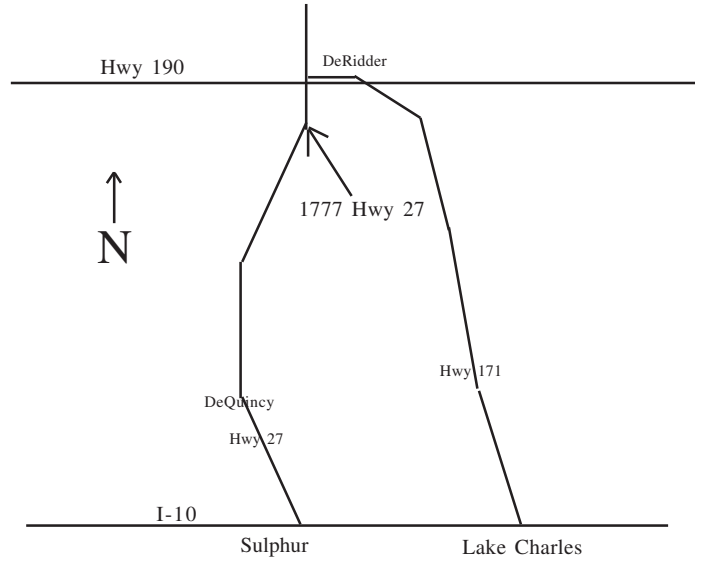
One type of marking gauge, a mortising gauge (photo at the top of the page), has a single marking pin for general layout and another pair of pins on the opposite side of the beam for easy mortise layout. One pin is fixed and the other slides in the beam to set the mortise width.



### November Meeting Location

The out door / indoor kitchen kitchen of J. W. and Velma Anderson will be the setting for our meeting this month.

To get there, go north on on Highway 27 from Sulphur through DeQuincy and Singer to just past the city limit of DeRidder. J.W.'s place is the 3rd drive on your right past the DeRidder city limits at 1777 Highway 27, DeRidder, LA., 70634. If you need further directions, feel free to give J.W. or Wilma a call at 337-463-5217.



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