

Dick Trouth, President
Joe Comeaux, Treasurer

Officers and Directors

Barry Humphus, Editor, Bubba Cheramie
Gary Rock, Jeff Cormier, Chuck Middleton

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; Chuck Middleton: 625-3134; Gary Rock: 433-1679; Eltee Thibodeaux: 436-1997; Dick Trouth: 583-2683. Each have years of experience and knowledge.

October Meeting Highlights

This month we meet at the shop of Barry Humphus - actually, the shop is way too small for a meeting so it was on the patio. We had a guest today - Dr. Stan Klenetson - Barry's neighbor. Stan's wife, he said was much more interested in woodworking than he, but she was out of town. Stan is the Chair of the Engineering Department at McNeese.

Gary Rock started us off with a discussion regarding winter heater safety, reminding everyone to check the heaters for dust and debris. If you have a fireplace, always have a professional clean it as they have the training to make it safe for use. Jack Stegal reminded us that fire extinguishers need to be shaken periodically to prevent the materials settling and not ready to use. Gary also talked some about his recent trip to the Waco turning convention that featured many well known turners from across the country.

For show and tell, Don Elfret showed off a neat loom that allows you to make 6 sided trivets and hot pads. Mr. Thibodeaux brought a laminated mug that looked turned, but did this one with a scroll saw.

J. W. Anderson brought a three legged table of sycamore. Dick hopes brought a carved hiking stick of walnut stained oak that his son-in-law carved for him as well as photos of a mortise and tendon joint bed frame he constructed some years ago. Barry Humphus showed one of his new folding Stebbins tables that Gary won as the Bring Back.

Jack Stegal showed a lovely spalted sycamore box with paduc highlights. Jack also showed a walnut cross made using a scroll saw. Larry Eagle showed off some square cut nails he pulled while working on his daughters 1890's home located on Kirkman. Along with the nails, he brought long thin wood shaving from a workman's plane Larry found between some walls he removed.

Irwin Monroe showed some interesting cherry candle holders he turned along with a jig. It was also mentioned there will be an exhibit in Sulphur starting October 22, 2010 titled Works For Men at the Henning Cultural Center.

Jim Couvillion showed us some of his Christmas deer toys as well as gave away sand paper and stacks of woodworking magazines.

Gary Rock brought several bowls including a cut

bowl of aspen along with a candy platter of the same wood. Another bowl was of black walnut on which he used the Beal Buffing System. There was a beautiful bowl of Russian Olive that was highly polished on the inside and fluted on the outside - a wonderful effect. Finally, Gary showed a gorgeous oak burl bowl. Dick Trouth sent the following.

The **Bring Back Item** is a method for club members to acquire items other members have made without having to purchase them. When a bring back item is shown at a meeting, anyone wanting that item takes a ticket and a drawing is held. The winner takes the item home and makes a replacement for the next meeting. At the next meeting this procedure is repeated. If for some reason the winner is unable to make a replacement, he returns the item he previously won and the drawing is done again and that person is not eligible. If an item is made and no one wants a ticket, for whatever reason, the maker has to return the item he won previously. If you are a winner in the drawing, you must not give the item away as a gift until the replacement item you make is won by someone else. Otherwise, you may have to ask whomever for the item back so you can return it. Since other members may display your work on a shelf in their home for their friends to look at, it is important that you do your finest work.

Show and Tell in our club is the same thing that kids do in school. Members or guests make something in their shop and bring it to the meeting. At the meeting, we take turns showing the item and tell about the methods and answer questions about it from the membership. There is a drawing after all items have been shown, and the winner gets a \$25 gift card from Stine Lumber Co. The purpose of the gift card is to encourage members to do more woodworking. To be eligible for the drawing, you must bring an item that you have made recently (within the last 2 or 3 months), it must be finished, and it can only be shown one time. If the item is too large to

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Coming Up . . . Saturday, November 13, 9:00 A.M. at the shop of Dick Trouth where we will discuss finishing technology and techniques.

Show and Tell continues . . .

to bring to the meeting, a photograph may be substituted. The Host of the meeting is also entered into the drawing. Items other than woodworking projects may be brought to the meeting (tools, supplies, etc.) to show and discuss but are not eligible for the drawing.

Dues Time

Something we forgot to mention at the October meeting is that it is Dues time once more. Your \$20 pays for a family membership, production of the Newsletter and the refreshments each month. While the cost of toner, paper, stamps, donuts and coffee has risen a lot over the past 20 years, the price of a LCWW Membership has not. Bring your \$20 (cash or check) and pay Joe Comeaux.

Fast Finishes for Small Turnings

Because the focus is on finishing this month, I thought we'd take a look at finishing small things, particularly those that are finished on the lathe. When it comes to finishing pens, bowls, and many other small turnings, you won't find any easier way than applying the finish while the project spins on the lathe and here are two finishes made just for that.

A liquid finish variously referred to as French finish, turner's finish, or padding lacquer gives turned work a rich, satin luster. A variation on the true French polish process,

this technique dates far back into history.

You can buy a ready-to-use finish such as French Polish (available from Craft Supplies USA, 800-551-8876) or make your own. For a home-brew finish,

mix equal parts of shellac, denatured alcohol, and boiled linseed oil and add a few drops of Japan Drier to the mix. You can play with the mix as well to see what you like as it is very forgiving. You can also substitute half of the boiled linseed oil with a long oil polyurethane (spar varnish) to give a harder final finish.

If you make your own shellac from flakes (shown in front in the photo), mix 2 pounds of flakes into a gallon of denatured alcohol for a two-pound cut. (Or mix 1/4 pound into a pint for a smaller quantity.) Shellac and turner's finish

work best when fresh, so I highly recommend mixing up small amounts.

Whichever formulation you use, application is straightforward. After sanding the turning to at least 220-grit, clean off all dust. Then fold clean, soft cotton fabric into a pad several layers thick and about 3x5".

Dampen the pad with the finish. Then, with the lathe running at about 2000 rpm, press the dampened pad against the bottom of the workpiece. Lay the pad on your fingertips and grip it with your thumb, keeping your fingers and thumb pointing in the direction of lathe rotation. You want the pad to be able to pull free from your hand if it catches on the turning.

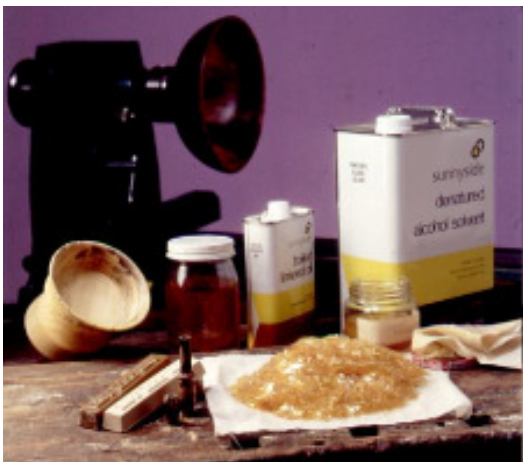
Press the pad against the work with moderate pressure, and move it from side to side for even coverage. Heat generated by friction dries the finish almost instantly, so you can assess your results as you go. Build up several light applications to achieve the best results.

I like turner's finish for decorative bowls, plates, vases, and other vessels. For small turnings, like pens, pencils, and similar projects, though, I think HUT Wood Finish (available from HUT Products for Wood, 800-547-5461 or Craft Supplies USA). This proprietary blend of waxes and polishing compounds comes in stick form, making application neat and virtually fool-proof.

HUT offers three varieties - HUT Wood Finish, a satin finish for general lathe work; Perfect Pen Polish, a satin finish formulated for pens; and high-gloss Perfect Pen Polish. You apply all three the same way.

Run the lathe at 2500 rpm or faster (or the highest speed that's safe for the size of your workpiece). Then, starting at one end of the turning, press the stick of finish against the surface, as shown in the photo at left. Move it slowly toward the other end, covering the surface evenly. Apply the stick to the lower portion of the turning, where it's rotating away from you.

Next, rub a cloth pad or crumpled-up paper towel hard against the rotating object to burnish the finish, as shown left. A piece of craft paper or paper grocery bag works as well and burnishes at the same time. The heat of friction melts the finish into the surface, and the pad picks up the excess. As with the French polish, hold the pad in such a way that it will pull free of your hand instantly if it snags on the turning. After burnishing, buff the rotating turning with a clean pad.



Filling for Fun and Profit

If you want a glass-like finish, such as on a desk or a table-top, you have to fill the grain-actually the wood pores in the grain. Oak remains the best example. You can see an oak piece with either filled grain that has a smooth, reflective finish or with unfilled grain and a semi-rough look. The difference in texture is like glass versus a fine fabric.

Yet, as with most anything, there's more to filling than smoothness. Filling is more a matter of preference for the look you want or an effect that you are trying to achieve. Because in addition to finish texture, you can either accent the grain or subdue it-making it striking or bland.

There are essentially four ways to fill the pores of a coarse-grained wood like oak, walnut, and mahogany. And from Jim's experience, none of them prove easy.

You can fill the pores with your finish material, whether it's varnish, lacquer, or water-base, master furniture maker Jim Kullhe (McKinney, Texas) explains. "It just takes repeated coats with sanding in between. This won't accentuate the grain any more than it is naturally. Secondly, you can use a prepared water-based filler right out of the can. It takes stain, so you can highlight the pores, but it also has distinct disadvantages - like drying too quickly - that make it difficult to use. I don't bother with it."

A watery mix of insoluble materials is a slurry. To Jim, that means an oil/varnish, such as Watco Danish Oil, mixed with sanding dust. "The Watco darkens the pores for contrast," he says. "I pour a liberal amount on the surface, then sand vigorously with 100-grit-the paper has to produce sanding dust."

With burlap, a towel, or an old washcloth, Jim packs the slurry into the wood. "I don't wipe off any excess slurry," he notes. "I just let it dry overnight. Then, I sand it again, adding more oil if needed. The new sanding dust blends with the original slurry and further fills the pores when I pack it in. This time, I wipe off the excess before letting the surface dry. After the second slurring, all the grain should be filled."

The tinted oil in the slurry will have colored the entire wood surface. To color only the pores requires removing the dried surface oil with more sanding. "If you don't want to stain the wood," Jim advises, "simply use a clear or natural oil, such as linseed oil diluted about one-third with paint thinner. Then your slurry will take on the ambient color of the wood and tend to wash out the grain for an even look (see photo below left). In either case, I let the surface dry for several days before final sanding and the application of a finish coat."

"Paste filler comes from the can the consistency of peanut butter. So thin it with paint thinner, benzine, or naph-

tha to a heavy cream," Jim instructs. "And because a paste filler is generally off-white in color, you'll have to add stain or a tint to it if you want to accent the grain (as shown below left). Otherwise, the light-colored filler will obscure it. You can purchase colored fillers, but for better results, color your own."

Apply the paste filler to the surface with a small plastic spreader, pushing the creamy material across the grain into the pores of the wood. After the filler has dried, Then sand the entire surface with 120-grit to remove the filler from the non-porous areas. The remaining filler accentuates the grain. After cleaning the surface of dust with a tack cloth, he lays down a clear finish.

According to the finishing expert, a paste filler can provide some spectacular results. "You can stain the wood dark, seal it, then put on a lighter filler for contrast. Or vice versa. Myself, I like to make the wood jump out at you. Barry Humphus Edited from Wood Magazine.

Make a Home Brew Wipe-On Finish

With so many wipe-on finishes to choose from, you'll probably find one you like right off the shelf. But you can easily make your own.

To make an oil/varnish blend, mix equal parts of oil-base varnish, tung or boiled linseed oil, and mineral spirits. You can alter the mixture to suit your need. More oil increases penetration and color, but slows drying. Additional mineral spirits speed drying and decrease the thickness of the film. Increase the quantity of varnish to create a thicker film.

Making a wiping varnish is even simpler. Just mix conventional varnish with an equal amount of mineral spirits.

You can use turpentine instead of mineral spirits (paint thinner) and substitute 100% alcohol or even acetone for either for a faster drying time. With acetone though, you really need to do this in a well ventilated area. I would also add some Japan Drier. Japan Dryer is used to accelerate the drying of oil based finishes (such as polyurethane). Only 2 to 4 ounces treats 1 gallon and is not for use with synthetic finishes. It is especially useful for speeding the drying of slower colors. But always use a conservative amount as too much drier causes darkening and cracking of the finish. *Barry Humphus*

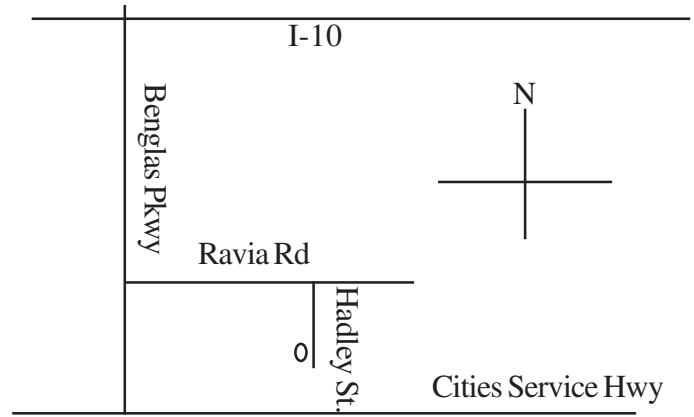
For Sale - Craftsman Scroll Saw

Mr. Rod Perkins has a virtually unused Craftsman Scroll saw for sale. He can be contacted at 477-6571 should you be interested. Check with him regarding the model and specifications (model, 16 or 18 inch, etc.).

November Meeting Location

Dick Truth will be our host at his neat shop for November. The shop is “L” shaped and so full of incredible tools and supplies, you need to be nice to your colleagues during the meeting. The meeting will be very special as we will discuss the mysteries and techniques of fine wood finishing from sanding to staining to final finish.

To get there, go south on Benglas Parkway (LA 3077) off I-10 to Ravia Road and turn left. Go to Hadley St. and turn right. Dick’s home will be on your right. If you need further directions, give Dick a call at 583-2683.



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