

Steve Thomas, President
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Officers and Directors

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

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 Truth: 583-2683. Each have years of experience and knowledge.

September Meeting Highlights

J.W. and Velma Anderson were our hosts this month at their great outdoor/indoor kitchen and as always we enjoy being there. A new member, Calvin Gleason joined us this month and we had two guests: Darrel Penison and John Miller.

For the safety discussion, Bob Theaux showed off a self-contained air respirator system he has had for several years he purchased from Woodcraft. Bob demonstrated the battery-powered unit for us. These tend to be the safest systems for keeping dust out of your lungs when working in a high dust area as they almost completely isolate you from the exposure. The high end units cost from \$300-400. If you are very concerned about dust, then spend the money and get one.

Another product Bob showed was a filter mask called the Dust Bee Gone. It is touted as a Nuisance Dust Mask, comes in three sizes and is washable. However they are expensive (\$37 - \$65 depending on where purchased). A few members own these (including Bob) and reported that they could still detect dust in their nostrils after proper use. Several of the reviews I read seemed to indicate that it was a very good dust mask but note that reviews are sometimes faked and their were actually very few reviews given the several years the product has been available.

Steve Thomas discussed the various types of gloves to use under different conditions and showed us everything from welder's gloves to Kevlar gloves for working with glass. There are also special gloves for carvers. For finishing, particularly with products that contain oils and polyurethane, a nitrate-based glove works well and won't break down. These are readily available in the pharmacy section of Wal-Mart. Latex gloves are slightly less expensive but are really only good for alcohol-based or water-based products such as shellac or water poly.

Steve also discussed ways to clean and keep clean product brushes and showed several types. Synthetic fiber brushes are generally less expensive than natural fiber and

can work as well. Be sure to read the packaging labels to determine what products the brushes are for.

Members mentioned a couple of products that work well (besides commercial brush cleaners) including Goof-Off and a fabric softener (latex/water-based).. Bob Theaux suggested that if you don't finish the paint job in the time allocated, put the brush in a plastic bag and then it goes into the freezer. As soon as it thaws, it is ready to go.

For Show and Tell Bill Levy discuss building custom cabinets (and had photos) for a mobile home. There was also a discussion about mounting glass into a wood frame. He consulted past member Frank Thompson's technique of using clear silicone sealer as a good solution. Pie Sonnier showed off his finished water well drilling rig that now includes a truck to haul it about with cherry, walnut, purple heart and with lots of moving parts.

Steve McCorquodale brought a great cypress slab top table finished in water poly. Ray Kebodeaux (with Mark Underwood) showed photos and discussed the construction of a home built surface sander. The motor came from Harbor Freight, steel frame from a machine shop and belt driven. Ray said the plans came from the Internet. Don Elfert showed us a steel tape measure holder, an extension cord holder and a great bird house for four families. Don described the complicated cutting of the roof ridge. Don also showed off his first home built boat, constructed when he was about 13 years old.

Keith Welsh (also a member of the Bayou Wood Turners in Baton Rouge) brought us a Katrina bowl made from ash root recovered from the storm debris. Steve Thomas brought a spectacular ash and walnut segmented bowl that contained 16 hand cut mirrors plus one of his incredible kaleidoscopes in an open frame that is hand cranked. Gary Rock did another great vase of mixed materials including white and black ebony, cherry with an aluminum fennel.

J.W. Anderson won the S&T drawing. Steve announced that our annual holiday meeting will be a the Cooper's but start at 10:00 A.M. and will feature a gumbo

Comming up . . . Saturday, October 12, 9:00 A.M at the shop of Steve Thomas.



Don Elfert Bird House



Keith Welsh 'Katrina' bowl



Steve Thomas kaleidoscope



Gary Rock Mixed media vase



Stve Thomas Mirrow Bowl

Sorry we could not get them all in. Hopefully soon we'll have evrything up on the web site.

Essential Planes for Rough Boards

Hand tools seem just too imprecise and hard to master sometimes. Somewhere along the way, I developed affection for hand planes and began to unlock the mysteries of their use. With their secrets solved, they are a regular part of my wood-working practice as they can be for you.

Although a wide variety of planes are available on the new and used markets, most applications involve what are known as “bench planes.” The most practical of these, as denominated by the Stanley numbering system, are numbers 3, 4, 4-1/2, 5, 6, 7 and 8. Together with a block plane, these make up most of the planes you'll ever need. And you won't even need all these. At a minimum, you can do perfectly well with one jointer plane (a #7, 7-1/2 or 8), one smoothing plane (a #3, 4 or 4-1/2) and a block plane.

Although it's possible to build up a large stable of planes designated for specialized purposes, you can do everything you need to do with just three essential planes—a block plane, a jointer and a smoothing plane. My recommendations are a low-angle, adjustable mouth block plane like the Lie-Nielsen #60 1/2; a #7, #7 1/2 low angle or #8 jointer; and a #4 or #4 1/2 smoother. Though you can find restorable planes on the used market, you won't go wrong by spending a little more for the best quality, like Lie-Nielsen. Once you have these basic planes, you can fill in other, more specialized planes as your needs require and your budget permits.

Traditionally, hand plane blades were mounted in their bodies with the bevel facing down, toward the wood. Recently, however, a number of planes have been introduced with the bevel facing up. Aside from some advantages in how the effective blade angle can be changed by the angle at which the bevel is honed, the chief benefit of a bevel up plane comes in setting it up for cutting. A bevel up plane has fewer parts, no chipbreaker or lateral adjustment lever and is easier to set up. However, bevel down planes look more complicated than they really are and they can be easily learned. Both types of planes work well. So, the choice is yours.

To plane rough boards smooth, start with the jointer. Its long bed rides over the board's hills and valleys and knocks them down as it goes. Continue planing until the board is dead flat. Once you're there, switch to your smoothing plane and give it a few light passes to get everything nice and, well, smooth. When any ridges left by the jointer are gone, you're done. If you are taking your boards from a power planer, using a smoother is the only step you'll need to do.

The direction you plane matters if you want to avoid tearout. You want to plane with the grain, but on a rough board, how can you tell what that is? One method is to look

at the edge of the board to see which way the grain lies. You want to plane in the direction the grain is rising. The usual analogy is to treat the board as you would the fur of cat-plane so the grain lies down. Another method is to look at the end grain and identify the heart side of the board. It's the side toward which the rings are bent. The outer side of the rings is the bark side. With the heart side facing up, orient the board so the bottom or open side of the grain's cathedral is facing you. Then plane from the bottom of the cathedral toward its top. When you flip the board to the bark side, reverse the board so you are planing into the peaks of the cathedral. This will ensure that you are always planing in the right direction.

Unfortunately, rough boards don't always come flat from the lumber yard. They may be cupped from side to side, bowed from end-to-end or even twisted so adjacent corners are uneven. Check for these conditions before you begin to flatten your board. Place cupped boards with the concave side down. Then plane a valley down the middle of the convex side until it is even with the sides or a bit lower. After that, plane the board diagonally until it is level on that side.

For boards that are bowed from one end to another, place the concave side facing down and, with your jointer plane, make successive passes down the length of the board until you've achieved flatness. You will get best results if you cut the board into shorter pieces before planing. This reduces the amount of bowing that has to be removed. If the board is severely bowed, you may need to start by planing crosswise to reduce the high spot to the level of the rest of the board before planing along its length. Once you have one face flattened, turn the board over and work on the ends, which will be thicker than the middle, to bring them down to the desired thickness.

Twisted boards present the biggest challenge. You may need to shim opposite corners so they will be stable on your benchtop. Sight along winding sticks--perfectly flat sticks positioned at different points on your board--to see where the high spots are. Mark these, then plane them down until your winding sticks are in perfect alignment all along the length of your board.

Once you have one face flattened, plane the edges flat and perpendicular to the first face. This is not as hard as it appears. Hold your plane as close to 90° as you can and take a few strokes. Once the edge is smooth, test it with a square at several points. If one side of the edge is high, center your plane over that side and take a couple more strokes. Repeat until the side is square. Most of all, enjoy your plane.

Barry Humphus with help from Norm Reid.

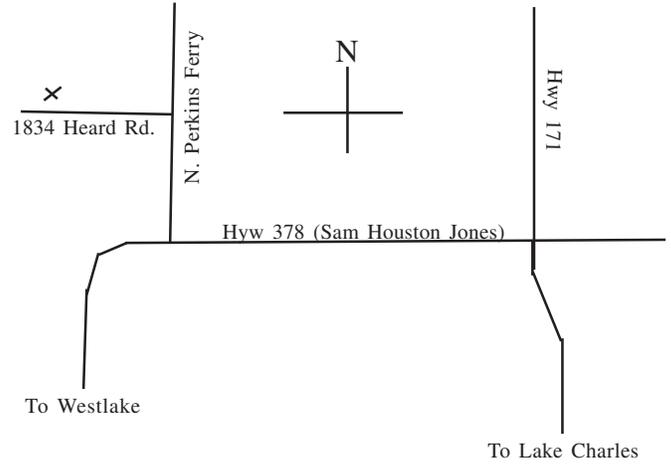
October Meeting Location

Steve Thomas will be our host this month at his shop and it will be the first time we've met there.

Steve provides the following directions:

"To get to my place take North Perkins Ferry Rd. off route 378 in Moss Bluff. Follow North Perkins Ferry about 1 mile and turn left on to Heard Road. My house is on the right side of the street. If it's not too wet, members should be able to park behind my shop."

The address is 1834 Heard Rd., Lake Charles, La 70611 in Moss Bluff. If you need further directions, please give him a call at 337-302-8296.



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