

Gary Rock, President
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Barry Humphus, Editor, Bubba Cheramie
George Kuffel, John Marcon, Chuck Middleton

NOVEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Leonard and Theresa Wilfert were our hosts this month and everyone who got there early really appreciated Theresa's biscuits and sausage (especially with Leonard's comb honey from his own bee hives).

Gary Rock started the meeting by thanking all of our vets on this Veterans Day. Some Vietnam and Korean vets were present. Gary had a brief discussion on fire extinguishers for the shop. The universal (ABC) type are likely the best in a shop environment. For small fires, start away from the flame source, waving the extinguisher back and forth toward the source until the flames are out and watch carefully for flare-up. Always have a way to escape and always call 911 if there is any slight hesitation about the size or intensity of the situation. Gary and others mentioned that you should have an extinguisher near the entrance of the shop and check it's condition once a month. If it needs recharging, it is best to dispose of it and purchase a new unit as the cost of a recharge exceeds the cost of a new one.

John Perry reported that his shop was saved by having an extinguisher at hand with an electrical fire in a shop motor.

Bring It Back was won by Pie Sonnier. The item is a wooden coin bank created by J. W. Anderson while Gary Rock won a ratcheting screw driver set as the door prize.

The Board approved having a woodworking mentoring program where a member will come to your shop to assist you in dealing your particular needs. See the article later in this issue for details.

We have new members: John Shipman. John is a former carpenter, does general woodworking and wants to learn more about fine woodworking and Larry Eagle plus an old member, James Couvillion. We hope to see them at the next meeting. A guest this month, Julien (Sonny) LeBlanc is an engineer with an interest in pendulum clock restoration. We hope to get Sonny to show us a few tips and techniques in the near future.

Gary Rock mentioned that we are in the planning stages of an all day "retreat" meeting, coming and going as you want with hands-on woodworking and finishing. We'll announce plans in a future Newsletter as they are developed.

Dick Trough needs some help painting of toys for the Annual Toy Program. While a few hundred to paint, please give him a call.

Pie Sonnier is the winner in one of the Wood Magazine design contests. His entry, a Duesenburg car got him a Makita 18v Cord-less Drill for his efforts. Wood Magazine [www.woodmagazine.com] has both a monthly and several annual contests and sweepstakes plus a great magazine with lots of great ideas.

Dick Trough is conducting a continuing series of presentations on jointery. This time Dick presented basic joints with examples of long to long, long to short and short to short grain joints using standard wood gluing techniques. Shown were non-reinforced joints (i.e., joints without biscuits or pocket screws or other reinforcing techniques).

John Perry pointed out the advantages of reverse grain orientation gluing. Dick added that short to short requires multiple sizing the joint with reduced (water) Titebond type glues. John Marcon said that the folks at Franklin International (makers of Titebond) have an excellent web site as well as call in regarding advice on use of their products and general gluing techniques. We'll do a series of articles featuring Dick Trough's presentations after he finishes his series.

Show & Tell brought lots of great items. John Perry showed a sample of the sliding dovetail jointery he used from a recent cypress and described their making. Gary Rock showed a couple of cotton wood bowls as well as two cherry tree ornaments.

Eltee built his first box — a clothes hamper in pine. Theresa Wilfert has been turning some composited billets purchased at the N.C. turning school she and Leonard attended this past summer. The candle and lamp oil holders were finished with spare urethane. They also showed a box built by Martin Stover, a N.C. woodworker of some fame. Theresa also showed some glass work she did at the school.

Aaron Andrepont continues to do great scrollwork with several tree ornaments plus a very neat painting box rig. Tom Bergstedt turned a cherry handle for a multipurpose driver. The driver kit comes from Rockler.

Besides the wooden bank J. W. Anderson brought for Bring Back, he showed us some of the old tools he collects. Of course you can see these and much more at the LCWW's web site at www.lcwoodworkers.com.

Coming Up . . . 9:00 a.m., Saturday, 9 December at the Shop of Gail and Mickey Hart for the Holiday meeting.

WOODWORKER: CHUCK MIDDLETON

I was initially exposed to woodworking by helping my father in a basement workshop — we called them “cellars” in Massachusetts. My woodworking took a long hiatus, 20 + years, until Charlene and I were married in 1990. At the time Charlene was doing a lot of “Tole” type painting and was using a friends’ bandsaw to cut out the work pieces. After we married, Charlene “retired” from her job at a local bank and for her retirement gift I bought her a Scroll Saw!

Long story short, I got hooked on scrolling. Charlene’s Uncle John is a woodworker, now living in Houston, who was doing a lot of “Intarsia” at the time and I really liked what I saw (pun intended). He gave me a few Judy Gayle Roberts patterns and, as they say, the rest is history.

I am presently building a new shop — we moved in a new home in 2004 and I am now almost finished with the shop. It is built to compliment our home which is built in the ‘Country French’ theme. It has a porch across the full 40’ width of the building and it even has black cast iron posts to match the front porch of the house. The shop slab is 30’ X 40’; the main shop area is a 30’ X 40’ room. There is also a 10’ X 10’ bathroom and a 10’ X 14’ storage room for lumber and the lawn mowers, etc.

I like to scroll saw and have a RBI unit; this is one of the top of the line saws that are always debated on the wood forums. Besides scrolling, I have been enjoying turning as well. I bought a Delta Midi lathe that was on sale at Sears and have been having a ball with it ever since. Dick Trouth and Gary Rock have tutored me on its use and have been great inspirations.

Lately all of my woodworking has been the building of the shop. I am now building some work benches and tables. I hope to start making some nightstands for our bedroom soon and I have a Long list of “Honey-do’s.”
Chuck Middleton.

A BRACE OF HISTORY

J.W. Anderson brought us a boring brace he picked up at an antique shop in North Carolina. It was apparently built of a light colored rosewood with brass supports along its body. The unit has a unique (and patented) bit holder and is in very good condition. He said he didn’t know much about it even though he looked on the Internet for examples.

As a long time Internet user, I was able to find his brace after a few tries. What I found is an interesting story of a firm in the UK that is still in business (under a slightly different name) and still making beautiful hand tools.

In 1849, the I & H Sorby company was acquired by the Lockwood Brothers and later by both Turner,

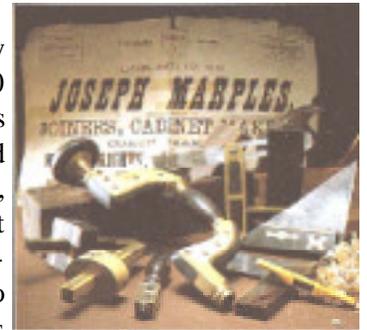
Naylor Co. and finally by William Marples. Even after Marples bought I & H Sorby, he continued to use the I & H Sorby label for several years while Marples also produced his own line of hand tools.

The earliest recorded mention of ‘Marples’ is about the 1540’s, in Baslow, Derbyshire. There the family stayed until about 1750, when they moved to Sheffield. The years 1772 to 1774 saw the birth of two sons, William & Robert, both of whom were listed as Joiners Tool Makers. William’s son, also William, was the founder of the firm William Marples & Sons (also joined by George Marples) and later becoming Record Marples (ever seen a Record Plane — they made the originals). The other son Robert, produced the first of the long line of Joseph Marples. This Joseph being the founder of the company in 1840. During this period there were no less than seven Marples companies operating out of Sheffield, all being related, and very confusing.

The earliest of their factories was called York Works and produced principally framed braces, one design was called the ‘Trial 1 Brace’ referring to the firms corporate mark. Since then a succession of Joseph’s have owned the company: Joseph, Jos. Cooper, Jos. Edward, Jos. Ronald and currently Jos. Anthony Marples.

In October 2001, they relocated the company to a new factory (called York Works), and have reintroduced the old Corporate mark, ‘Trial 1’ on a special, superb quality selection of tools.

J. W.’s brace was likely made between 1875 and 1880 given the design by W. Marples and imported into the U.S. and sold here. U.S. made hand tools, while made and sold, were not of the quality coming from England at this time. A small photo of a few of their original tools



from their web site (www.marples.co.uk) is shown above. The brace also has the name of the original owner (J. Heaton) stamped into both sides of the brass as well as into the rosewood. The model is “Ultimatum.” One in this condition would probably sell in the neighborhood of \$300 to \$400 on eBay and even more at an antique tool auction. We hope J.W. paid less at the antique shop!

2007 DUES REMINDER

To continue to receive this Newsletter and participate in all of the wonderful activities at LCWW meetings, please send your \$20.00 annual family member dues to our Treasurer, Dick Hopes at 1139 Green Road, Lake Charles, LA 70611. Make your check to Lake Charles Woodworkers.

NEW AND OLD MEMBERS

A new member this month is **John Shipman**. John is fairly new to woodworking and has joined to learn more. Also joining us is **Larry Eagle**. Please introduce yourself at the December meeting.

We also welcome back **James Couvillion**, one of the original founders of the LCWW. He recently moved back to Lake Charles and has rejoined the club.

At our December meeting, we'll have a supply of the latest membership list for any who want one.

MENTORING PROGRAM

Some of the members have volunteered their time as mentors and teachers of fine woodworking. If you need help with a project or need some advise, please call on one of them to assist you. They are there for you with nearly 100 years of experience between them. Just give one of them a call or email. Currently, the mentors include:

Barry Humphus, bhumphus@goexpress.net, 477-8474. General woodworking, finishing, turning, advise on used and new tool purchases.

George Kuffel, gnkuffel@goexpress.net, 478-2707. General woodworking, cabinetmaking, jigmaking and carpentry.

Gary Rock, 433-1679, ghrock@xspedius.net. Turning, finishing, and safety.

Dick Trough, 583-2683, dickt@camtel.net. Turning, cabinetmaking, joinery and finishing.

If you want to volunteer as a mentor, please contact any of the above and we'll put you on the list.

NEW SPONSOR: STINE, INC.

We welcome Stine, Inc. as a new LCWW sponsor for the coming year. See the ad on the back and on our web site.

In 1952, J.W. Stine and J.C. Starlin formed the Starlin Lumber Co. in Sulphur (member John Leonard Fontenot has a piece of lumber marked Starlin Lumber in his collection). Mr. Carlin left the company in the 1950's and it became Stine Lumber in 1974. Throughout the 1970's, Stine expanded stores in Lake Charles, Jennings, Iowa, Alexander, Crowley, Natchitoches and Natchez, MS with new locations and improved and expanded facilities.

While Stine, Inc. began was a typical "contractor yard," they changed their focus and became a Do-It-Yourself marketer and sales center. Today, Stine, Inc. is one of the top 100 building materials centers in the U.S and an Ace Hardware dealer as well joining more than 6,000 other dealers world-wide.

When you go to Stines, please let your sales associate know that you are a member of the Lake Charles Woodworkers and thank them for their sponsorship.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and ate and ate till they were full. With the rest of the holidays forth coming, now is not the time to let up on Safety. When you enter your, have your mind on the job at hand and be aware of your hand position to all rotating equipment you are running in the shop — not on the coming of the grand kids for Christmas. You want to close the shop at the end of the day with all your soft parts intact.

I gave our members a test at our last month's meeting about Fire Extinguishers. About 97% of our members at the meeting passed when asked if they had extinguishers in their shops and kitchens. If you don't have at least one, you can go to Wal-Mart to buy one. They run around \$30 for one that is rated for Class A, B, C fires. That covers paper, wood, liquids, grease and electrical.

A reminder from our treasure: "Dues" for membership next year are due now (2007). You can pay for your membership (just \$20 for a family membership) when you come to the December meeting at Mickey and Gail Hart's shop. While I'm talking about the Hart's shop, everyone should bring an item for "Show and Tell," even if we've seen it before and let's have the largest "Show and Tell" for the December meeting.

I want to thank our veterans again for serving our country. Without them we wouldn't have our freedom.

Pie Sonnier won the "Bring Back Item" last month. George Kuffel will have his "Bring Back Item" at this month's meeting. Wonder what it will be? This month's raffle will be as good one as James Anderson donated a Cypress swing that he has made for our raffle.

If you worked on out toy project for the "Women's Shelter," please be at the December meeting. We will gather as a bunch for a picture along with some of the toys. If you want to donate something other than toys to the Shelter, we recommend a "30 minute" calling card (available at Wal-Mart and other retailers). The women and kids usually show up with nothing but the clothes that they are wearing.

If you are having a problem with one of your projects you can now call one of the Mentors who will be listed in the newsletter for help. From my shop to all our members and their families, I send best wishes for a "Very Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year." *Gary Rock.*

FIRE SAFETY MONTH

More house fires occur in our area between Thanksgiving and New Year than at any other time in the year. We have extra heaters, fires in the fireplace, candles burning and we must pay extra attention to these. Do not leave your home with any of these on or burning. *Barry Humphus.*