

Jeff Cormier, President  
Dick Hopes, Treasurer

Officers and Director

Barry Humphus, Editor, Bubba Cheramie  
George Kuffel, John Marcon, 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 Truth: 583-2683. Each has years of experience and knowledge.

### June Meeting Highlights

Dick Troth's fine shop is always a delight to visit and not only did we meet there, but Dick and Bill Fey did interesting demonstrations for us.

We also had a couple of guests - Frank Kelly and Kenneth Dupre. But there was also sad news. In early June, member Roy Lee LeBlanc and Elwood Manual passed. Both will be very much missed by the Lake Charles Woodworkers and their families.

There were two door prizes and Mr. Eltee Thibodeaux won a book while Jack Stegal won a roll of craft paper. Someone mentioned that the LC American Press has sadly stopped selling end rolls of newsprint. Gary Rock won the Bring Back Item - a hackberry bowl turned by Dick Truth.

Show and Tell brought us a camphor bowl from Gary Rock, a willow bowl with a sisal string decoration, a pine bowl with sisal decoration plus a willow, cherry and black walnut vase. Bill Fey brought some of his work from the school he recently attended - an unfinished walnut occasional table. Bill cut all of the mortises by hand.

Besides the hackberry bowl Dick Truth did for the Bring Back Item, he showed off some of the great turned pens he does. Larry Eagle, one of the truly artistic members, showed some carved fish in varying colors. He used a bronzing finish to get the effect. I don't think anyone but Larry would have thought to use this on wood. But then, he's an artist - they think that way.

Joe Commeaux brought a very nicely turned sycamore bowl and Jack Stegal a miniature work wagon of walnut he built from a plan. Mr. Thibodeaux showed off a neat puzzle (but wouldn't tell us how it worked) plus a vase he "turned" on a scroll saw - yes, you can make a bowl with a scroll saw but you'll have to get with Eltee to find out how. Finally, Jimmy Everett brought us a couple of his sensational canes plus some metal finger rings he had fabricated.

Gary Rock briefly discussed the Beal Buffing System. Wood buffing has been used by pipe makers for years to polish their work. Not until recently has it been widely accepted and utilized by wood workers. The buffing pro-

cess is a very easy one and with the components in the kit, it is made even easier. We'll review it in another issue.

Dick Troth started the demonstration phase of the meeting by showing how you can taper table legs on a jointer.

The key to this is to measure the finished taper length of the leg, divide that in half, making a mark at the middle on the top side that is not jointed. In other words, you want to run the work piece through to the mark you made that represents 1/2 of the distance to be tapered. Set the jointer to about 1/8 inch or less depending on the hardness of the piece. If the work piece is hardwood, you may have to set the cut to 1/16 inch and make two passes. Joint one half of the work piece then turn it around 180 degrees and run it through again. This is so simple and easy that it is a wonder that I have been using a table saw to do this all these years.

The real advantage is that there is almost no setup (given that you have a jointer) and you will not likely have to sand much after the taper is done.

Bill Fey is a doctor and very comfortable dealing with patients in a one on one situation. He was not so comfortable doing a presentation to a bunch of crusty woodworkers, but he managed to demonstrate a wonderful skill he learned at the Homestead Heritage School near Waco, Texas. Bill cut a complete dovetail joint (both sides) in about 8 minutes, pausing to describe what he was doing with a dove tail saw and a 1/2 inch chisel.

Bill began with carefully marking the tails by first choosing the best surface. Using a standard dovetail marking gage (which you can purchase or make yourself - see Woodcraft's catalog or go on-line), he laid out the tails using a sharp pencil and his gage, being certain to mark the waste. Bill described the approach of the dovetail saw and completed the cut in just a few moments, cutting just outside the lines he drew then refining with a sharp chisel. With the tails cut, he used them to lay out marks for the pins. Once completed he showed the result. While it needed refining with the chisel, it was fast, neat and showed what you can do with ease.

Coming Up . . . Shop of George Kuffel, July 12 at 9:00 a.m. for some post 4th of July entertainment.

## Rust Never Sleeps

Unless your shop is as dry and sterile as an operating theatre, your tools will get rusty. Even stainless can rust under the right conditions. Even in a climate controlled shop, rust can start to eat the surfaces of your hand and power tools. You really can't prevent rust – you can only limit the damage it does or at least stall it's formation. Anything that comes in contact with oxygen will oxidize eventually. Rust is simply the oxidation or reaction of oxygen and iron.

The first step in limiting rust is to remove any corrosion, dirt, and grime already on your tools. A little solvent like paint thinner, lacquer thinner, or denatured alcohol on a rag will tackle most grime. You can also use such products as Sandflex Rust Eraser if there is only light rust. For heavy rust and rust-pitted surfaces, you have to use more mechanical or chemical means.

A product I've had good service with is "The Right Stuff De-Ruster." Available at auto supply retailers, it generally comes in half or gallon sizes and is a liquid about the consistency of detergent. It will leave a patina on the surface of tool steel such as a hand plane and you should wear nitrite gloves and eye protection as it contains reduced nitric acid.

Remove all of the parts you can and immerse the tool in a plastic bucket of The Right Stuff. In a short time, the tool will have no rust, even pitted rust areas will be cleaned out. Remove the tool and wash it off with water, then coat the tool with a light oil. The Right Stuff is reusable, so just pour it back into the container. It is especially good if you have a large surface to clean such as the top of a table or band saw or jointer.

Another chemical treatment is actually electrochemical. With a plastic bucket, water, some baking soda and a battery charger, you can also clean off heavy rust including pitting. I've used this technique many times – even on large objects in a plastic wheel barrel. You have to do this correctly or it won't work. If you need any help with this, just ask Barry.

With the tool clean and dry, you're ready to take the steps needed to help keep rust at bay. How you do this depends on whether it's a hand tool or a stationary power tool.

For hand tools, you are generally more concerned about keeping them sharp, but there are some simple things you can do to prevent, or at least limit, rust. The easiest is to simply give them a quick wipe with a nonstaining light oil, such as camellia. I've also found that ATF works very well as it is highly refined and acid free. Other possibilities are

aerosol sprays – go down the aisle of a hardware store and you'll find lots of products that claim to prevent rust. What most do is put a light coating of acid-free oil on the item. As I mentioned above, none of these will actually prevent rust. All they do is limit rusting.

But be careful of what you get. Some rust limiting aerosols contain silicone – something you don't want on a tool that comes in contact with wood. One woodworker friendly product to look for is Boeshield T-9 that leaves a thin waxy film. You can also use various paste waxes and impregnated cloths but what you want to achieve is a thin coat of something that limits moisture from coming in contact with the metal.

It seems like the cast iron surfaces on a stationary power tool are the worst for attracting rust. That is especially true if your shop is not climate controlled. But why does cast iron rust so fast? It's because it's so porous.

There are tiny openings in the metal, and these pores are great collection spots for any moisture in the air. So, like your hand tools, the key is to provide a protective barrier. To do this, you can use one of the many products I mentioned earlier. But there are a couple of low-cost, "unconventional" treatments you can try.

I mentioned the use of using paste wax, and that will do a good job. But there's a quicker, no-mess way to apply some wax. Crumple up some waxed paper and rub it vigorously on your table saw table and the beds of your planer and jointer. Besides protecting them from rust, it also forms a slick surface.

Another unconventional technique is using baby powder or talcum powder. When you think about its original use, it makes sense — talc repels moisture. But you have to make sure you use powder made from talc (a mineral) and not corn starch (an organic). While talc resists moisture, corn starch will react with moisture. Just sprinkle the powder liberally on the surface and rub it in with a felt chalkboard eraser. The talc works its way into the pores to repel moisture and leaves a smooth surface. *Barry Humphus*

### Formation of a SIG

A SIG is a Special Interest Group and Dick Trough along with Bill Fey want to form a SIG within the LCWW on jointery, especially hand cut joints. What they will do is notify us through the Newsletter or email or call those interested in learning how to do precision jointery with both hand tools and power tools. Their meetings of the SIG will not conflict with the regular LCWW meetings. Contact Dick or Bill for more information.

## Curved Tapered Legs

Dick Troth showed us a great technique for tapering stock on a jointer at our last meeting. But not all items you want to taper are straight. In fact you may want to produce curved and tapered legs. To do this, there is only one tool that satisfies both a taper and a curve at the same time and that is the band saw.

For example, suppose you want a bow front tapered leg to support a table. The leg is not only tapered but curved – something that cannot be done on a jointer. The first thing you do after squaring your stock is to cut a notch to accommodate the apron of the table. That is, you want to provide for the joint that connects the leg to the table. You can do this with a dove tail or back saw or with the band saw - your choice.

The next thing to do is to mark the start and stop of one of the tapers. Mark the first taper from one corner of the piece to the width of the final taper. Next, mark the second taper. This is done with a straight edge, generally using a long steel ruler. This is for the side taper – the straight portion of the leg.

Next, band saw just outside the lines with a freehand cut. You could do this at the jointer, but as you are already set up at the band saw, just go ahead and do it there.

The result will give you your straight taper of the leg. Once the two straight sides are tapered, you will need to sand the two flat areas smooth (unless you are using Dick

Troth's method at the jointer). That is the downside of using the band saw for this process rather than the jointer. With the jointer, there is generally no second step for sanding. So this is an opportunity to combine the use of the jointer and band saw.

If and when you are sanding, just make certain that

you do not go beyond the line you drew to indicate the where the apron notch starts and where the taper starts. Now, sand down to the taper line to achieve a smooth finish. Be sure to hit all of the spots on both sides of the taper. You can do this easily by marking a swigged line down the tapered surface and be certain that these are sanded.

The bow taper almost always requires a template that is your guide to the curve that you need. With a template of hard board or card board, you can easily reproduce the desired curve for the finishes legs. Lay the taper face down and trace the template for the curve. Hold the template firmly

on the work piece and trace it's outline. Once that is done, it is back to the band saw to cut the curves. Obviously, it is more efficient to do all of the legs you need insofar as the taper before going back to the band saw.

As you have done the taper on both of the faces, it is important that you keep the faces down and firm against the band saw table. Starting at the top of the piece (the apron end), and press down on the piece as it goes through the saw. Adjust the pressure to accommodate the curvature of the flat side of the piece. Keep pressure on the piece as it passes though the band saw blade.

Once you have completed the sawing of the legs, use a palm or random orbit sand to achieve a smooth finish. Now you are ready to mount the legs onto the apron of the table.

By the way, you can also purchase curved table legs from many suppliers for \$30-45 each, but doing your own is much less expensive and much more satisfying. *Barry Humphus.*



Hmmm . . . This might be the best place for the next hurricane. Which suggests that you need to be prepared for the hurrican season. Most of our shops and homes survived Rita but the next time, we all need to be better prepared.

For example, have bottled water, batteries, canned food and for me, the best thing was a working generator. Mine was not working prior to the storm so when I returned, I could not use it. Fortunately, I brought one from a friend in Houston, otherwise, the time we spent cleaning up would have been even worse than it was. If you have a generator, test it at least twice a month. It will serve you well. *Barry Humphus.*