

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. Jeff Cormier: 582-3278; George Kuffel: 478-2707; John Marcon: 478-0646; Gary Rock: 433-1679; Eltee Thibodeaux: 436-1997; Dick Trough: 583-2683. Each have years of experience and knowledge.

April Meeting Highlights

The great shop of Jack Stegall was our location this month. Thanks to Jack and Marie for the hosting. Jack has a nice Delta Sidekick sliding compound chop saw for sale. It can fold up for transportation or to reduced size if you have a small shop (as I do and why I have one). Give him a call should be interested.

Darrel Mendard brought us some kiln dried cut offs for your use. Hope you got some and J.W. Anderson brought us some nice Bradford pear that he gave away.

Steve Thomas' safety discussion was about surface planers. First and most important: always unplug the unit prior to and adjustment including replacing the blades. Another important thing to do is to always wear hearing protection when using your planer as they are very loud when in operation. Surface planers are made for rather straight grained wood but not ever for man-made stock such as MDF. The other idea is to not ever be in a hurry with these as you need to go slow and it is even better to have an assistant to handle



the outfeed. Watch for exiting debris and clear any nails or other hard material particularly with recycled stock.

A few members talked about the best planers and it was suggested that the Dewalt and the low noise Makita are about the best.

Mark Underwood suggested an app for the iPhone that discovers power machine noise and that even earbuds reduce noise substantially at about 32db.

Show and Tell brought us Eltee

Thibodeaux who had a home address painted sign while the marvelous Pie Sonnier did a tractor with bush-hog combo. Very good work. Bubba Cheriemie showed a nice yard art item from scrape landscape timers as well.

Bill Levy had a mesquite cross pistols scroll work design while Steve McCorodale has done a structural beam table and laminated table with a poly finish. Dustin Guidry had a nice pine box with finger joints using his new table saw.

Steve Thomas always does nice segmented bowls and this one was a 'long bowl' in a oval that he cut from a regular bowl and reglued to create an oval shape. The finish was spray-on poly on coffeenut wood.

Finally one of our master turner, Gary Rock brought us a silver maple burel bowl with lots of great worm holes, simulated stone painting and wipe-on poly for the finish on top. Gary does so much great work and presents his work all over the Southwest



area. Pie Sonnier won the Show and Tell gift card.

Here is the deal for our next meeting. First of all, our May and June meetings will be at the wonderful facility at the Stine store on Nelson Road in Lake Charles at 4501 Nelson Rd, Lake Charles, LA 70605. When you arrive, go to the very back of the store to find the meeting room.

The other wonderful thing is that our commemorative shirts celebrating the 25th year of the Lake Charles Woodworkers Club will be available at the same event. Bring either cash or a check payable to the Lake Charles Woodworkers for \$30.00. You will get a great shirt celebrating your membership that you can wear proudly with the LCWW logo.

Coming Up . . . The Stines Store on Nelson Road in Lake Charles is our meeting place this month at 9:00 A.M on Saturday, May 5, 2015. Go to the back of the store to the meeting room..

Get Dust (Before It gets You)

While no single accessory will catch all the dust and chips that go airborne when turning or sawing wood, the Big Gulp Ultimate Dust Hood gobbles up a lot of it. When tethered to a 1-hp or larger dust collector with 4" hose, the Big Gulp gathers in most of the chips made when hollowing out a bowl or vessel. It's especially effective at sucking up sanding dust from turnings--the stuff you'd breathe into your lungs otherwise.

The Big Gulp mounts between the ways of any lathe bed on three slotted arms with locking knobs, allowing you to position the hood where you need help most. You can also get it on a floor stand (model #DBU30, \$120) or the long-armed Dust Picker (model #DPICKER2, \$60), which has a smaller hood, for dust collection behind a mitersaw, radial-arm saw, or other dust-spewing tool. Big Gulp Ultimate Dust Hood Model #DLGULP, and about \$60.

When you've got to have dust collection in hard-to-reach areas or places where a 4" hose gets in the way, attach a Loc-Line articulated hose to your shop vacuum (or with a reducer to a larger dust-collection system). Bend Loc-Line to almost any configuration, and snap on a nozzle to place the suction right where you need it. Use couplers to join multiple lengths of hose. We like Loc-Line for use with any stationary sander, as well as drill presses and router-table operations when you can't use a fence-mounted dust port. The Loc-Line Modular System with 2 1/2"x23" hose, is about \$26.

If your dust collector's filter bag puffs up like a taut balloon, you're probably not getting maximum airflow through your collector. Although many manufacturers offer high-efficiency filter bags (1 to 5 microns) as standard or optional equipment, most don't do anything to optimize airflow. American Fabric Filter custom-makes oversize 1-micron bags that increase airflow by not restricting it. Top bags cost from \$120 to \$150, and bottom bags from \$70 to \$85. See them at many suppliers.

Debris can build up in the grooves of typical blast gates, preventing them from closing fully, so they leak air and ultimately reduce suction where you need it. Lee Valley's self-cleaning gates extend through the bracket to push debris out of the groove and prevent such buildup. Go to Lee Valley to find them.

Flexible dust-collection hose has a metal supporting wire that spirals throughout it to prevent the hose from collapsing under suction. But with ordinary hose clamps, leaks can occur where the clamp crosses that wire. Bridge hose clamps straddle the metal wire, as shown, which allows the clamp to fully seal the hose to the connector or dust port.

There's an accessory for those of us who don't have the luxury of a central dust-collection system and have to move the collector from tool to tool. Fazlok Quick Disconnect male and female fittings allow you to make changes quickly and without tools. You simply twist and turn to lock and unlock the hose from the tool. Install female Fazlok fittings on your collector's inlet and on the dust ports on your tools; then clamp male fittings onto both ends of your flex-hose. To maximize airflow, you can have several hoses of different lengths, and use the shortest hose you need to get from the collector to the tool. Fazlok Quick Disconnect Hose Fittings for 2 1/2" & 4" systems.

Okay, you've got a shop vacuum that you attach to your portable power sander for dust extraction, but the hose proves too bulky, too stiff, or the ribs catch on edges. Bosch's crushproof lightweight hose eliminates those worries. With an adapter on one end to fit any 2 1/2" vacuum opening, the soft, flexible 19mm hose easily attaches to many sanders. We also recommend Fein's universal rubber adapter that enables attachment to virtually any sander, even those with rectangular dust ports.

We've all been there: To remove the caked-on dust from the pleated paper filter of your shop vacuum, you tap it, beat on it, or blow it out with compressed air, but you still can't get it fully clean. Not so with Cleanstream filters, made of non-stick Gore-Tex material you can clean with air or water, so it works on wet and dry pickups. They deliver finer filtration than paper varieties--trapping particles as small as 0.3 micron. Filters fit Shop-Vac, Craftsman, and Ridgid brands. Cleanstream Wet/Dry Vacuum Filters available from Amazone and other suppliers.

Mirka's Abranet sanding discs are made of a porous, meshlike material, with grit on one side and hook-and-loop-style fasteners on the other. The result: You get effective dust collection through all the pores without taking the time to line it up with the sander's dust-collection holes. Abranet comes in 13 grits from 80 to 1,000, and costs nearly twice as much as Mirka's Gold sandpaper discs. But the better dust collection means the abrasive won't load up with sanding dust, so it lasts longer than typical sandpaper. And it means you'll put less dust into the air. Abranet also comes in sheets and rolls. Get them at Amazon.

Dust-collection hoods for Leigh and Rockler dovetail jigs do a remarkably good job of corralling the spray of chips and dust created when router-cutting dovetails. Each fixture mounts directly onto the jig's front--including older models with the help of special mounting kits--and you sim

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Dust Collection continued

ply attach your shop vacuum hose to the 2 1/2" port. The Leigh VRS, features a flat top that supports your router flush with the tops of the jig fingers. A sliding dust port glides underneath and follows the router.

The Rockler dovetail dust-collection hood has soft bristles that stick up from a dust hood, allowing the router bit to pass through without harm. See them at the Rockler store or online. Barry Humphus.

More Dust

After adding a garbage-can chip separator to a dust-collection system, you may decide it would be easier to take the chips to the curb if you put a trash-can liner in the can. Oops! The first time you turn on the collector, it sucks the liner into the hose, rendering the system useless.

To remedy this situation, fashion a sleeve out of 2x4" welded fencing that fits inside the trash-can liner. You need to make yours an inch or so smaller in diameter than the bottom of the can to keep from damaging the liner as you insert the sleeve. When it comes time to empty the can, lift out the sleeve, wiggling it from side to side. Then, just pull out the bag, tie it up, and take it to the curb.

Looking for a better way to hook up sections of 4" flexible dust-collection hose? The solution is percolating in your pantry!

The next time you empty a one-pound coffee can, cut off the bottom and use the can as a coupler. The rolled steel edges of the can prove much stronger than the crimped hose connectors sold in stores. Attach the hose leading to the dust collector with a screw-type hose clamp, and if you want a quick-change fitting, connect the hose leading to the tool with a 4" spring clamp.

There's a dust-collection blast gate you can build quickly and easily without spending much money. First, cut all the pieces from 1/4" Baltic-birch plywood and bore a 4 1/2" hole with a circle cutter. Then, glue and clamp the plywood spacers to one of the 7x7" plywood pieces. Now, cut a 4" section of PVC cold-water drain coupling in half and epoxy the coupling halves in the 4 1/2" holes, flush with the inside surface of the plywood.

When the glue and epoxy cure completely, assemble the two halves of the blast gate with glue and brads. Now, slide the gate into the gate housing and connect your dust-collection piping to the PVC couplings/ You got it.

If you have trouble holding the lower dust-collection bag while tightening the band clamp that secures it, try this. Buy a 1"-wide piece of hook-and-loop material (available

from fabric stores) that's as long as the circumference of your dust-collector bag. Epoxy one of the strips to the perimeter of the dust collector where shown, and sew the mating strip to the inside of the bag.

Now, when you reinstall the bag, the hook-and-loop strips hold it securely in place while you tighten the band clamp. To keep the adhesion secure, vacuum the dust off the hook-and-loop strips from time to time.

A garden rake isn't standard shop equipment, but it sure comes in handy for separating hose-clogging chunks from a pile of shop debris. Just rake through the pile before you use the vacuum.

It's great to have a powerful shop vacuum, but you may often battle with your to keep it from sucking the floor nozzle tightly to the shop floor. Solve the problem by cutting and mounting a set of small plywood wheels to the underside of the nozzle. The wheels roll easily across the floor, even through debris, and keep the nozzle from attaching itself to the floor.

If you struggle with dust collection every time you mount a holesaw to your drill press, try this. Built a simple hold-down, that keeps the shop vacuum's hose close to the holesaw. With the hose clamped in place and the shop vacuum running, make a series of progressively deeper cuts, lifting the holesaw clear of the workpiece between plunges. This clears the sawdust from the saw's teeth and makes cutting holes faster and much less frustrating.

Several years ago I built home-made shop dust collector for my shop. I installed an air-filtration unit in my shop and plugged it into a 60-minute timer-controlled outlet. This lets the blower continue to pick up any dust that might be suspended in the air after I leave. Now I don't have to remember to come back later to turn it off. This is easy to do and you never have to recall that you left it running.

To make a limited number of ports serve more machines, consider some recreational vehicle (RV) sewer-hose fittings. With these, you can quickly disconnect the hose from one machine and connect it to another machine nearby. The crushproof rubber hose flexes easily and extends to reach several machines. The fittings lock down tight-thanks to their waterproof rubber seals-yet release with a quick twist. These are available from many sources including the box stores and RV centers.

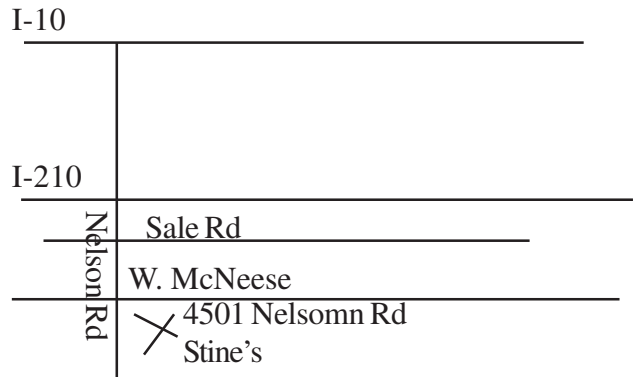
Stines in Lake Charles on Nelson Road
Please note our meeting locations for the next two meetings. The wonderful folks at Stines in Lake Charles have opened their meeting room to us for many opportunities. While you are there, please look around to find what you need for your home or shop.

May Meeting Location

We have the wonderful opportunity to meet at the Stines Lake Charles location at 4501 Nelson Road. both this May event as well as well the June meeting Please enter the store and go to the very back of the store to the meeting room.

To get there go East on Nelson Road in Lake Charles going East from I-10 or I-210 and tuen into the parking lot. Go to the back of the main entrance to the very back to the meeting room to find us.

Please take an opportunity to explore Stines before you leave to find the items for your shop or home that you may need. As always, thank the folks at Stines as you check out. Should he be there, say hello to one of my former students Artis, one of the store managers.



May 2015