

Dick Trouth, President
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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.

February Meeting Highlights

It is a long haul up to J.W. and Velma's place in DeQuincy but always well worth the trip as they have a most wonderful outdoor kitchen and meeting place. Of course Velma made such a wonderful effort and provided such great goodies for us - thanks as always.

We had several guests this month including Ronald and Sandy Cramer, Johnny Smith and Pastor Joe Poole of DeRidder.

Mr. Gary Rock talked about safety this month specifically about grinders. Most of us have a grinder or three and can likely use it in an unsafe way. Gary suggested that you always set the angle of the bevel support first prior to turning on the unit, make certain that there are no flammable about (sparks) and always wear personal protective equipment when using one of these devices. Note that some of the famables may include saw dust, not just volitable materials. Eye protection is a must and always stand to the side when you start up a grinder. You never really know if the stone wheel has complete integrity.

Other members mentioned not grinding aluminum and then steel on the same wheel as this can cause a very serious reaction. We have certainly had an interesting fire when doing this in our shop. Thermite is the reaction of steel particles



and aluminum. This reaction causes and creates short bursts of extremely high temperatures focused on a very small area for a short period of time. Don't burn up your shop! Thermite is what is used to to cut railroad rails.

For Show and Tell, J.W. Anderson showed off a neat cooking rack of sycamore with a spray poly while Mr. Eltee had such a wonderful steam engine scrollsaw image in a nice frame he also built.

Dr. Don Elfert had a Last Man Standing box of wal-

nut rescued from an old bed frame and told the story of a friend for whom he had built this item. A very nice bottle of a delicious something special was included in the box.

Pie Sonnier of course had something special as well with a 1934 Ford Touring Car. Pie said that it has a straight flat head 6 engine and was made of tupulo cherry, black walnut and paduk.

Ray Kebodeaux is a most remarkable artist as he does the most beautiful bows. Can you imagine the stress that his creations withstand - wow! This particular bow was Brazilian Walnut with a hickory backing and diamond willow handle..

And of course, our Mr. Rock did his ornimental tree decorations as well of sycamore, elm, artist oil stained including Beal buffed mahogany and cedar. The great little birds on these orniments were from another soucre.. Gary also had some items of cotten wood and he said that his work had recently won Best of Show at the Houston Turners recently. A great bowl as well with twine about the top.



Mr. Irwin Monroe showed off a few of his wonderful bird feeders - he has built more than 800 of these over the years for individuals as well as agencies

Bill Fey won the Show and Tell drawing while J.W. won the Bring-It-Back item.

If you have not renewed your membership in the Lake Charles Woodworkers Club, this is the last time you'll get a notice. After this month's issue, then no more will follow. Please renew as we believe that you will be a better woodworker if you get this publication each month. Send your \$20 to Joe Comeaux, 1675 Campfire Rd., Lake Charles, LA 70611.

Coming Up ... Saturday, March 12, 9:00 A.M. at the shop of Pie Sonnier in Sulphur.

Wood Beetle and Powderpost Beetle Protection

Pest control products designed for treating wood against wood destroying beetles have vastly improved over the last few years. Through the mid 1980s, most homes were treated with chlorinated hydrocarbons (Lindane, Chlordane, Heptachlor) to kill powderpost beetles or wood beetles in the wood members of the structure. For soil treatment, some of these products offered excellent long-term protection from termites. Their performance for treating for powderpost beetles or old house borers was lacking in many ways. Sadly, chlorinated hydrocarbons are no longer available for use in the United States. You folks know why - these products are dangerous and are harmful to the environment.

We have all experienced these creatures around our homes in Southwest Louisiana. In my wood log collection, they invest each Spring and during the Summer. While I mostly turn and boring creatures may end up enhancing what I do, at least I have a supply of wood that they attract to rather than my home (at least for the most part).



Today, homes and buildings are being treated with safer, more reliable products to protect them from wood destroying organisms. These new products



are based on using ingredients that have been around for a long time.

Borate products (insecticides whose active ingredients are derived from boron) have been approved to the point where we can rely on them for long term protection from organisms that feed on cellulose in our homes. These new borates contain a heat treated boric acid. By treating and formulating these pesticides in such a manner, the active ingredients actually penetrate into the wood where damage is done by wood pests.

Trying to use regular boric acid products (such as [Borid](#)), mixing this product with water and spraying it on

wood, to protect your home is not a good idea. Regular boric acid is not heat treated nor designed for killing powderpost beetle larvae inside of lumber. But heat treated products (after penetrating past the surface of wood) will crystallize inside the wood. This gives you the long term protection you need and delivers the active ingredients to the area where real damage occurs.

Adult powderpost beetles and old house borers do not feed on the wood. Their larvae are the real culprits that spend many years inside the wood of your home, feeding as they meander through the wood grains. It is inside the wood where damage is done and it is inside the wood where you want your wood protection products to go - and stay.

To protect your home, decks, barns or other structure from wood destroying pests (powderpost beetles, termites, Drywood termites, wood decay fungi) use a professional borate product designed for the job. The two most trusted products used by professionals and do it yourselfers are [Bora-Care](#) and [Timbor](#) concentrates. Bora-Care offers the longest control and deeper penetration than other borates. Timbor is often used as when a dry dust application as well as liquid spray is required for certain jobs.

Bora-Care ([Boracare](#)) is a liquid concentrated borate insecticide that lasts for many years inside of wood. After mixing the concentrate with water, this solution is sprayed or brushed onto the surface of wood. After drying, this product is safe and non-toxic. This is the product of choice for treating most homes (due to the thickness and abundance of wood) and for those who want the longest wood beetle protection possible for their homes and the pile of wood you want for your projects. It is also used to treat antiques and furniture for protection from powderpost beetles, Drywood termites in wood furniture. Bora-Care is mixed one to one; each gallon of concentrate (when mixed with water) will make two gallons of wood spray solution.

Renew Your Membership - Please

Mr. Joe Comeaux is waiting for you. He will gladly renew your membership in the Lake Charles Woodworkers Club if only you will send him just \$20. That is just such a small amount for what you get back. This is a family membership so that everyone in your family can attend our meetings and enjoy everything we do each month including the Newsletter.

Why not renew your membership right now. It is only \$20 - so little for so much in our organization. With this small membership fee we do so much for you and our community. Please renew as we know that what you do is so very important for you as well as our community. Join us.

Setting Up A Biscuit Joiner

Woodworkers know that there are many approaches to joining two pieces of wood together. The key is to choose the appropriate joint for the application at hand. Sometimes a project might be subjected to heavy stress during its useful life (dining chair, step stool, etc.), and under such conditions you might call upon the industrial strength of mortise and tenon joinery, dados or other robust mechanical connections. On other occasions you might choose to make the joinery itself a showcase portion of the project, in which case you might choose the timeless beauty and symmetry of dovetails or finger joints. But sometimes you are looking for a joinery method that is quick, simple, and strong enough for light to medium duty applications. In these situations, you should turn to a biscuit joiner. Biscuit joinery is great for boxes, drawers, cabinet carcasses, face frames, miters, edge banding, and as a lightweight substitute for mortise and tenon joinery.

Nothing beats biscuit joinery when it comes to quick and simple woodworking joints. Just mill slots in the mating pieces, apply glue, slip biscuits in place, assemble, clamp, done. In about a minute, your joint is perfectly aligned, adequately strong for many applications, and the horizontal wiggle room provided in the joint makes it easy to make tuning adjustments at assembly time, just when other forms of joinery leave you high and dry.

Before you get started, tune up your biscuit joiner to be sure that it will serve you well during a project. When adjusted properly, the biscuit joiner will cut a slot $1/32$ " deeper than half the width of your biscuit. The additional $1/32$ "



provides a little wiggle room, as well as room for glue. If it is set too deep, the biscuits will be too far embedded on one piece, and won't deliver the holding power that we want. If it is set too shallow, the biscuits won't fit. You will notice the latter condition when

you dry fit, but the former condition won't be noticed until a joint fails.

The best way to test this is to mill a slot in a piece of scrap wood. Then, insert the biscuit into the slot, gently tapping it in until it bottoms out. Then, use a sharp pencil to draw a line across the biscuit where it meets the scrap board.

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Next, remove the biscuit, insert the opposite edge into the slot and draw another line.

At this point, your first line should be hidden in the biscuit slot, and if it is not, you will need to adjust for a deeper cut. Remove the biscuit and measure the distance between the lines. If it is approximately $1/16$ ", you are ready to start milling biscuit slots. If not, refer to your owner's manual to get instructions for adjusting the depth of cut on your specific machine. Also be sure that your fence is square to the face of the machine when it is set at 90-degrees, as an out-of-square condition can cause sloppiness in the biscuit slot.

The rule of thumb of choosing the right biscuit size is simple: use the largest biscuit possible for your application. Most of the time I use the largest common size; #20 ($1" \times 2-3/8"$). Occasionally if I am working with thinner or narrower material, I will scale back to a #10 ($3/4" \times 2-1/8"$) or #0 ($5/8" \times 1-3/4"$). For the smallest joints, I will occasionally use FF (Face Frame) biscuits ($1/2" \times 1-11/64"$) which are great for picture frames, small boxes, or face frames as we will use them in this article. Most biscuit joiners will accommodate the three most common sizes; #20, #10 and #0. Some will also cut a slot for FF biscuits, but a blade change will be necessary as the profile for FF biscuits is more round than football shaped, requiring a much smaller diameter blade.

If a #20 biscuit will not fit fully within your joint, you may choose to trim off the portion of the biscuit that would protrude from the joint if that area will not be visible. As an example, this may be possible in smaller face frames if they will be painted (and therefore hidden using filler) or on a narrow carcass that will be covered by a face frame. This gives additional strength by providing a deeper mechanical connection within the joint.

It is important to get an ample amount of glue into the joint when using biscuits because biscuits absorb glue, which causes them to swell and provides some of their holding power and precision alignment. If you fail to get enough glue into the joint, you can end up with a joint that is prone to failure and poor alignment. There are a number of ways to get an adequate supply of glue into the joint. You can simply place the tip of your glue bottle over the slot and squeeze the glue in, but that can be a bit messy and uneven. You can buy a specialty glue bottle which fits on the glue slot and delivers a perfectly portion shot of glue into the slot.

The solution I settled on is to use a flux brush (available at any home center, hardware store or woodworking specialty store) and normal glue bottle. The flux brush spreads the glue evenly within the slot, getting it up onto the walls where it can coat the biscuit. *From WGA edited by Barry Humphus*