

Gary Rock, 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 Trouth: 583-2683.

President's Message

I want to "Thank" Jeff Cormier for taking my spot last month at the meeting. "Thank You." From what I have heard the meeting / eating went good. There was a good showing for the "Show and Tell." I also heard that there wasn't enough food, I guess someone took my place on being hungry.

At the time of the meeting (I spent the night in Wichita Falls, TX.), I was on my way home. Earlier I went to Wichita Falls, TX. for a turning seminar of 3 full days. SWAT (South West Association of Turners) had at least 4 if not more national turners along with turners from Texas, Oklahoma, Utah, Maine and probably some states that I am forgetting. You were sitting a few feet from the national turners and if you were in the back. They had 2 giant TV's set up with around 6 different cameras that were set up to the TV's. The sessions were 1 1/2 hours long. In-between the sessions you could go shop in a big, big area full of vendors. In one of the sessions that I attended was by a turner (forgot who he was) that after roughing out the piece, he demonstrated the you can use any thing with in reason as a turning tool with a good sharp edge. From a machete, hoe (the kind that you use in the garden) to wood chisels to planes. Have already used the last two before going to the seminar. It was tuff trying to stay awake after eating the lunches that you were fed (the food was great) in the afternoon sessions. Ended up spending around \$300 for wood which I could have spent more on burls from Australia. If you needed the need to turn, the Houston club had a couple of lathes set up with club members doing and demonstrating turning. If you need help from tool holding, to the presentation of the tool to the wood they would help you. Along with showing how to sharpen the tools. I know that I am being a bucket mouth on this, so I will move on.

Our next meeting (Nov.) will take place at the Stines store in Lake Charles on Nelson road. The meeting will kick off around 9 a.m. with our club business. Arron Andrepont will have the "Bring Back Item," for this month with Chuck Middleton having it for December. Remember to bring your "Show and Tell." After our business meeting we will move

out to a trailer where the demonstrations will take place.

Something I want ya'll to think about is at our Christmas meeting at Chuck Middleton's shop. Do you want to have a "White Elephant" gift wrapped presents. This is a gift that could be something good such as a small turned bowl, carving, a box to a broken table leg use your imagination. It will be all in fun with everyone bringing at least 2 gifts wrapped so that everyone can have a chance to get a gift and a good laugh. Everyone bring a goodie or two to eat if you want to for our December meeting.

Moving on, as of Dec. 31, 2007 I will resign from office. In the newsletters that I got from Bob Patin, (in the beginning of the our club) the time limit for the president was set for one year, as of Dec. 31, I will have been in for almost a year and half. I feel that its time for someone else to take my spot. So between now and Dec. 31, 2007, ya'll need to be thinking on who you want for your next president.

At the board meeting held here at the house (which is open to the club members), the schedule for the up coming monthly meetings (2008) follows : January will be at George Kuffels; February will be at John Marcons; March will be at John Marcons; April will be at J.W.Andersons; May will be at Dick Hopes and June will be at Dick Trouths. If you have an idea for a topic or want to see a demonstration see either me for now or one of the other board members and it will be put on the agenda. "Remember to be safe, you must and need to work safe", so at the end of the day. You can close the shop and go into the house with everything that you entered the shop that morning, afternoon or evening. And not make an emergency trip to the hospital or worse. Gary Rock

Annual Dues

This month we will start collecting dues for 2008. The price remains the same at \$20 for a family membership. With that, you get all of the meetings, the Newsletter and much more. See Dick Hopes or mail your check to Treasurer, 1139 Green Rd., Lake Charles, LA 70611.

Coming Up . . . Saturday November 10, 9:00 a.m. at STine Lumber in Lake Charles for a Frued Saw Demonstration.

For Sale

Member DDick Trough has a couple items for sale this month.

1 - G-1018 8"x65" Grizzley jointer w/knife setting jig and extra set of knives-\$650.

1 - 4"x24" Craftsman belt sander-\$40.

Please contact Dick at 583-2683

More On 'For Sale' Items

If you have one or more items for sale, please give Barry Humphus a call at 477-8474 or email him and give him a description and price. Mention if the price is negotiable and where item may be seen if needed. If the item is unusual, you should send Barry a photo that can be included in the newsletter.

Note that the newsletter is generally completed on the Saturday or Sunday prior to a meeting and that is the deadline for getting your For Sale item in the newsletter.

Limiting Torn Grain

Torn grain is a difficult challenge for woodturners, even those with considerable experience. Occasionally, even with the sharpest tools and the best techniques, you can get torn grain while turning. Reversed grain areas, soft or punky wood next to sound wood, density differences between early and late wood, wild grain and other situations can cause grain tear out while turning. Some species are more susceptible to grain tear out than others, but there are effective ways to deal with this challenge so your sanding will be easier.

An way to prevent grain tearout is to stop and sharpen your gouge if you notice any areas that are not cutting cleanly. The edge life on your gouge is highly variable, thus your first and best response to any cutting problem you encounter, is to stop and sharpen your tools. If that does not solve the problem, then you still have lots of options available to improve the quality of your surface.

One quick and easy way to improve the cut quality in a torn grain area is to apply paste wax to the area. Simply wipe a small amount of paste wax (Renaissance Microcrystalline Wax works well but is expensive, or even common Johnson's Paste Wax will work) into the stubborn area and take another cut with your freshly sharpened gouge. This can be quite effective on some timbers as the wax helps to stiffen the fibers slightly, so they can cut cleanly.

Another option is to spray a bit of clear lacquer onto the area. Allow the lacquer to dry and take another cut with your gouge. This is highly effective on many timbers, so give

it a try. Spray Shellac also works well, but if you do not always have it on hand, use Lacquer. Lacquer dries very fast and really helps to stiffen the torn fibers to allow them to be cut cleanly.

If you do not want to apply anything to the surface, consider shear scraping the area with a freshly sharpened scraper. When you shear scrape, hold the angle of the cutting edge at 45 degrees and lightly skim the area with the scraper. This will produce feather light shavings that look like goose down. Shear scraping is an excellent technique to deal with torn grain and offers a side benefit as well - less sanding.

A properly shear scraped surface can reduce your abrasive protocol up to 50%, by allowing you to start sanding as high as 320-grit. While you can use it primarily to reduce sanding, it works equally well to repair damaged areas.

Last but not least, you can power sand the torn grain and remove it with abrasives. This is the least desirable option for many people, as very few woodturners like to sand! However, at times this may be your last, best option. If you have a small patch of torn grain that you want to sand, lock your lathe spindle and lightly power sand the specific area before you begin sanding the rest of the bowl.

When you have removed the damage, unlock the lathe spindle, turn on the lathe and sand as normal. The area you worked on with the lathe off will be blended into the rest of the surface and should disappear. If your damage is very deep, this option may leave a dip in the surface. There are no doubt other ways to repair surface damage, but these have been the most reliable for me and I encourage you to give one or more of them a try the next time grain tearout rears its ugly head in your studio. *From www.woodturningvideoposts.com, edited by Barry Humphus*

Microcrystalline Wax

Mentioned above is a product I've used for many years - Microcrystalline Wax. Vince Vincent encouraged me to get some a few years before he passed away and I have never been more pleased with the results.

Wood items demand different finishing products because many of the items that we produce are designed to be used, or handled frequently. For example, writing pens and salad bowls vs. coffee tables or chests of drawers.

For finishes to succeed on functional woodturnings, they must be able to withstand constant, or frequent han

Continues on Page 3

Continues from Page 2

ding. This is a very different environment than what furniture is typically exposed to in use. While you probably touch your chest of drawers a couple of times a day getting clothes in and out, you do not hold it in your hands for extended periods of time, like you would with a writing pen. The end result of this is that many of the traditional finishes that work well on furniture, may not work as well on woodturnings.

One of the most popular finishes for woodturners is wax. It may be used as the sole finish, i.e. Beeswax on a salad bowl, or as a topcoat i.e. Carnauba paste wax over a buffed oil finish. The key to using waxes on woodturnings is to understand the advantages and disadvantages of each wax and then choose the best product to meet your needs.

There are many different types of waxes available. However, for this discussion we will limit ourselves to insect waxes like Beeswax, vegetable waxes like Carnauba and Petroleum Waxes like Microcrystalline, as these are the most common types of paste wax that woodturners are now using. A quick review of these waxes is in order:

Beeswax is a glandular secretion from young worker honeybees that is used to build their honeycomb structures. Contaminants such as pollen, gums and resins add various colors to the wax, which can range from yellow to brown. Used by itself, Beeswax produces a nice, subtle satin luster. It is frequently used as a base ingredient in traditional paste wax finishes.

Carnauba Wax is obtained from the outer waxy coating of palm fronds from the *Copernicia cerifera*, the Brazilian Carnauba Palm. Carnauba wax is the hardest natural vegetable wax available. It produces a very high gloss and is frequently added to other waxes to increase their melting point, gloss level, durability and lubricity.

Microcrystalline Wax is a petroleum wax containing branched and cyclic saturated hydrocarbons, as well as normal alkanes from deoiled residual bright stock lube oil streams. Microcrystalline waxes have a crystalline structure much smaller than natural waxes and have a very high resistance to moisture, alcohol, acids and fingerprints. Microcrystalline waxes are obtained from the residual fraction of crude oil distillation (Petrolatum) or from crude oil tank bottoms.

Beeswax and Carnauba blended waxes are popular for wood finishing and are produced by numerous manufacturers.. Early in my woodworking career, I used Beeswax and Carnauba for some wax finishes, or as topcoats over other finishes. However, I learned very quickly that Bees-

wax and Carnauba was not always the best choice when used on woodturnings.

Fingerprints, and the occasional summer shower at an art show proved that Beeswax and Carnauba looked nice in the shop, but failed quickly in the real world of every day use. The acidic nature of our fingerprints is very hard on many waxes because most waxes have very little acid resistance.

As I grew tired of continually rebuffering my work, I fell back on my love of chemistry and started looking for a better quality wax, one that would work in virtually every situation I could throw at it. It would have to stand up to routine handling, resist water spots and fingerprints and keep its luster for a long time.

I also wanted a crystal clear wax, one with no chalky residue left behind after buffing. Lastly, my wish list included a wax that is pH neutral, so I didn't need to worry about the wax damaging the underlying finish, or delicate surfaces. This was a tall order for any wax to achieve, but I knew there had to be something better.

Vince Vincent told me about Microcrystalline wax. They have been used for many years by antique restoration businesses, by museums and also by high-end leather manufacturers.

Microcrystalline waxes are far and away, the finest wax you can put on your woodworking in my view. They offer excellent resistance to moisture, food acids, alcohols, moderate temperatures and are pH neutral naturally. Another benefit is that they will not show fingerprints on treated surfaces. Microwaxes will not show fingerprints on treated surfaces. Microcrystalline waxes also dry crystal clear, with no chalky residue and resist dust as well.

I use the Renaissance brand of Microcrystalline Wax, made in London England. It is carried by most of the woodworking suppliers now and at many other stores that carry specialty waxes. Microcrystalline waxes cost more than traditional waxes, about \$25.00 - \$30.00 for a small tin, but they last a long time and are useful for many other jobs around your home.

Besides waxing all of the cured finishes on your woodturnings, you can also use it on your furniture, on smooth leathers (purses, leather furniture etc) and appliances so fingerprints don't show. In addition, you can use it on glass decorative items; metal and wood picture frames and anything else that can be safely waxed. *Steven Russel, Edited by Barry Humphus.*