Lake Charles Woodworkers Club, Inc. March 2009

Mentoring Program - If you have a project, a problem in any woodworking area, these members have volenteered 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 has years of experience and knowledge.

August Meeting Highlights

The very clean and neat shop of George Kuffel was our meeting place this month. George and Barry moved some of his equipment into the back storage area so he would have plenty of room for the crowd.

We had several guests this month including (hope we got all the names spelled correctly): Donnie Martin, Alvin Geheb, Sam Mancuso, Frank McDonald and Mike Cross. Thanks for the visit and hope to see each of you at another meeting.

Jeff Cormier's talk on safety included ladders this month. Ladder-related injuries is one of the most frequent home injuries in the U.S. Jeff suggested a few simple rules to go with ladder use. First, inspect the ladder - the rungs, feet, side supports and fasteners carefully. Next conside what you are about to do on that ladder. If that is carrying a load up it, conside that ladders are generally built for about 3 times intended load. That is, the average person's weight times three. Ladders are generally sold as consumer, commercial and industrial use. A consumer ladder is typically rated for up to 250 lbs. Don't exceed the load rating.

If the ladder is to be leaned against a structure, tie it to the structure if at all possible. You'll need to lean a ladder one foot out for every 4 feet up. Be certain the the feet are on a solid surface. If not, put a piece of 1/2 inch ply under the feet to distribute the load of the feet. If you ever see a lineman use a ladder, as I recently did, you will understand about securing the ladder. Once he got up there, he clipped the ladder to the pole such that it would not slip sideways. That is a rule that is built into their proceedures. You should do likelwise.

For Show and Tell, Pie Sonnier brought the tracktor and bush hog he's been building for a client. It includes cherry, walnut, oak, purple heart and more. Pie also brought a sample of osage orange to pass around.

Speaking of wood, Barry Humphus mentioned that after the September meeting, we are all invited to get some. See the article later in this issue.

Mr. Eltee Thibodeaux, brought us a cute gum ball machine he built from a design plus a "Kiss My Bass" scroll work peice.

Tom Bergstedt had a very nice water oak bowl he had turned while Jim Couvillion brought a spinning wheel he constructed a few years ago. from a design. The unit was entirely of walnut and he said he would never build another as it was a really difficult construction.

Ray Kibodeaux described the use of shoe polishes as finish on many projects while Jack Stegal showed us a very nice cross made of paduke, ebony and lacewood. Jack used the Zenser Quick-15 poly as a finish.

Mr. Gary Rock brought bowls of cherry, blackwood and sycamore and decorated some with ebonized cherry. Gary uses various dyes to get the effect and sometimes mixes his own colors as needed. Most of his bowls are highly polished and he generally uses so-called Danish oil as the finish. Danish finishing oils are easy to make and consist of 1/3 paint thinner (turpintine is better in my view), 1/3 boiled linseed oil and 1/3 long-oil poly (marine varnish). Add a few drops of Japan dryer and you are done. You can vary this by adding more poly as desired.

J.W. Anderson showed a really nice Adirondack style childs chair of cypress from a plan he has. Chris Smith, who's expertise with a CNC router is just remarkable, showed off a sign he is making for a client.

Jeff Cormier announced that the October meeting will be at the Porter Hall PPG Family Center in Westlake on Thursday, October 15th begining at about 5:00 p.m. This is our annual BBQ.

Please purchase your $10 tickets from Joe Commeaux at the September meeting as we really need a head count for this event. The food will not be from our long-time supplier, but be prepared in part by Jeff and others. Like always, it will be a fun evening and your spouses, children and others are welcome. Be sure to bring any woodworking magazines you want to trade and of course, bring your best Show and Tell. Bring a desert, if you want, for all to enjoy.

Also, remember that the November meeting will be at the shop of Bob Theaux.

Coming Up . . . Saturday, September 12, 9:00 a.m. at the shop of Joe Comeaux. We haven't been there, but we are certain that it will be wonderful.

There's Nothing Quite Like Free

Just after Rita, when there was lots of trees down all over the area and beyond, my friend Steve Hedleski decided that he and his two boys would gather up some of this area's finest blown down trees and turn them into lumber, learning as they went, about this process

He and his sons went about this task in a very organized way - gathering logs, cutting them with chain saws as needed to haul back to his home and doing all of his neighbors a great favor by clearing driveways and giving great advice to those in need. He aquired a Wood Mizer bandsaw mill and he went about turning Rita trash into something beautiful and in the process, taught himself and his sons a useful skill.

Steve is a physician, head of Memorial's ER and it is just naturual to that profession that he wants to help. He has decided to help the Lake Charles Woodworkers.

So just after the September meeting at the shop of Joe Comeaux, each and every one of you is invited to the shop of Steve Hedleski. It is located at 1130 Mobile St. in Lake Charles. To get there from I-210, take the Lake Street exit and go South to Sale Road. At Sale, turn West (right). The first left is Canal and the second left is Heyd Avenue. Turn on to Hyed Ave. and follow it to the next right, Mobile St. At the end on Mobile St. just before you drop off into Nelson Bayou, is the gated property of Dr. Hedleski.

Depending on how many vehicles there are, Steve has some parking inside. I recommend that if you are going to bring a trailer, you park along the street and wait to move it inside.

The shop will be on your left as you enter the property. His actual house, will be on your right.

Now this is the best part of this story. The sticked and stacked lumber, air dried for 4 years, turning billets, timbers, etc., are free. No charge other than you have to haul it away yourself. Lets be very clear about this, everything except what Steve has reserved for himself, is free.

Included is elm, oak, walnut, cedar, magnolia, china berry, pine, maple, osage and likely much more. There are thousands of board feet of material, some cut especially for turners, some for bow makers (Ray - are you listening?). Most of the lumber is 2/4 to 4/4 at 6 to 10 inches wide and 8 to 10 feet long. The billets and timbers are 5 x 6 and 8 feet long.

Here's the rules: don't go by there early - Dr. Hedleski will only be available after 10:00 a.m. Saturday, September 12, 2009. Bring your vehicle to haul the material you want away. And by the way, thank him. Do that twice.

Notes and Requests

Jack Stegal is looking for a 7.2 volt battery that works so he can test his Makita 7.2 volt drill. He only wants to borrow the battery for a short time to be sure his unit works before he buys a pair of new batteries for it.

By the way, if you are looking for replacement batteries for you power tool, just search Google for 'power tool batteries' and you'll find lots of them. For the most part, you'll need the orginal model number to make certain you get the correct battery.

Jack also mentioned the use of the Zenser Quick-15 product again noting that it needs to be reduced before you use it on your project. He said it is important that you use lacor thinner rather than paint thinner to reduce this product.

Someone mentioned that Gary Breaux, a local painter, does faux painting as well as concrete staining. Now there are a couple of Gary Breaua's in the phone book so just call around and you'll get the correct guy.

Table Top Screw-up

Sending a screw up through a tabletop while attaching it to the apron is a disaster, there's no question about it. While I use the word Darn here, you can imagine that I may have used other, less family friendly words after discovering my error.

But I managed to do this a couple of times when I grabbed the wrong length screws from a misplaced bin! I did everything right: the top was finished and I'd flipped it over on a towel to protect the surface; I predrilled pilot holes for the screws; I even added a little wax to the screws so they would screw smoothly into the table top. I didn't, however, remember to double check the screw length directly against the thickness of the top. Opps - big mistake.

It may have been easier to just replace the top, but I really liked the grain of this particular red oak table, so I decided to fix it. The holes were relatively small, and oak is a porous wood, so I knew making these holes disappear would probably be easier than repairing a tight grained wood like maple or cherry.

First, I examined the top and holes. The screws had only punctured the surface and all the small mini-chips were still there. I didn't sand these off, as I knew I would need them to make this fix blend in perfectly.

I removed the screws and went to work. The first step to fixing the top was to apply distilled water to swell the fibers of the wood. It's easy to get water exactly where you want it with an inexpensive syringe or an eye dropper. I used

Continued on Page 3

Table Top Screw-up continued

distilled water because minerals in tap water can react with the tannins in oak, darkening the wood.

Once the fibers of the wood were dry, I used a small piece of plastic laminate (an old credit card worked perfectly) to force the fibers back into place.

Then, I used the same syringe to inject glue into the holes from the bottom of the table. I applied enough pressure to the syringe to see the glue emerge from the top side.

After applying glue to each hole, I clamped the fibers down. I placed a small clamping block wrapped in plastic between the clamp and the tabletop to forcefully push the fibers of the holes flat. I wanted to make sure the fix dried thoroughly, so I let the clamp-up set overnight.

By the next morning, the glue was certainly dry, so I removed the clamps. I was pleased to find that my holes had almost completely disappeared. Once I sanded and finished the top, they would be nearly invisible.

Next, I removed the existing finish, (in this case, polyurethane) and prepared the top. To guarantee that no residual glue remained on the table top, I wiped the top with a rag wet with denatured alcohol. This not only removes sawdust, but exposes any remaining glue that remained. Once the top was clear of glue and debris, it could be refinished and attached to the apron. This time, I remembered to use the right length screw! *Barry Humphus*.

Table Saw Outfeed Support

When we think of table saw safety, we often think about how the position of our hands and fingers are relative to the blade, our position behind the saw to the left or right of any possible kickback and of course saw dust colection.

What is often the case, is that we need to feed rather long work pieces through the saw blade and avoid having them fall to the shop floor and possibly be damaged. Clearly, you don't want that expensive piece of material to be dinged or damaged as it falls away to the back.

So an outfeed is good insurance to avoide these problems. Sveral outfeed supports are possible, including a separate table at the same height as the table saw table that is a part of the entire mechanism. This is the best way to provide outfeed. The materia can be something as simple as plywood or a slicker surface such as a plastic laminate.

If you want to build one for your table saw and have the room, contact one of our Mentors and he can provide good and solid advice on how to construct on e of these.

However, not all of us have the space in our shops to do this. The alternatives generally fall into the category of rollers of some type. There are commercial product that work rather well, consisting of a metal stand on top of which is a set of ball rollers. You can also purchase the steel ball rollers separately and construct your own stand.

Another method is to use a shop-bult stand on top of which is a common rolling pin from the kitchen. Now don't go rushing into your kitchen and grab the 19th century rolling pin that your grandmother used.

Find a cheap one (from Walmart to garage sales). The key is to build both a sturdy and flexible stand - one that can move up and down to provide a rolling surface for now only the table saw, but for other equipment you may have in the shop such as a band saw, drill press or jointer.

With a piece of scrap 1/2 inch ply, a couple of short 2x4s and some bolts, you can build a study and servicable roll stand that will last for years. *Barry Humphus.*

The standard twist drill bit is the first one you're likely to think of for drilling holes up to 1/2" in diameter in wood, metal, or plastic. Inexpensive and readily available, twist drills come in a vast array of sizes. The most common bit sizes are the fractions of an inch from 1/16" to 1/2" in 1/64" increments. (You can buy inch-sized twist drills in diameters from 1/64" to 1 1/2".)

But, twist drills also come in wire-gauge sizes numbered from 1 through 80 — all less the 1/4" diameter. (Larger numbers are smaller drills.) Need more sizes? Try letter bits from A to Z. These range from just under 15/64" to a little over 13/32" in diameter, with drill size increasing as you go up the alphabet. If those aren't enough, you'll find bits in metric sizes, too.

You could gather scores of twist drills without any two being the same size. But for most woodworking chores, a set that ranges from 1/16" to 1/4" by 64ths plus the four bits from 5/16" to 1/2" by 16ths will suffice. You can buy the larger bits with reduced-size shanks.

Twist drills work best at higher speeds. In hardwood, you can run bits up to 3/16" in diameter as fast as 3,000 rpm. Cut the speed to 1,500 rpm for bits up to 3/8", and slow down to 750 rpm up to 1/2".

Titanium-coated bit. Some bits feature titanium-nitride or -nitrate coating. The hard, slick finish helps them cut better and last longer, the manufacturers say.

But Wood magazine testing found that the titanium coating offers few advantages for drilling wood. If you drill metal frequently, though, the gold-colored bits represent a good buy. *Edited from Wood Magazine.*