

Southwest Louisiana Woodworkers Club October 2019

Bill Fey, President

Officers and Directors

Barry Humphus, Editor, Eltee Thibodeaux

Patrick LaPoint Treasurer

Daren Hood, John Marcon, Robin Richard

Mentoring Program - If you have a project, a problem in any woodworking area, these members have volunteered to help. Give them a call. Frank Tartarmella 802-8989; John Marcon: 478-0646; Eltee Thibodeaux: 436-1997; Ray Kebodeaux: 583-2378. Each have years of experience and knowledge.

September Meeting Highlights

Our host this month was at J.W. and Velma Anderson's outdoor kitchen. The kitchen is actually indoors and a great place to meet. Club president Bill Fey started off by saying that our strategies of increasing membership are working as we have eight new members since July. This month we also had a guest, George Bennett and Garrett Lawrence is our newest member. Bill announced that member Kyle Andreonte has volunteered to create and manage a Facebook page for the club. Someone also mentioned that there is a Facebook page titled Sulphur Carlyss Information Station where individuals and organizations can post information. It was suggested that the club post some information about itself on this existing blog page. Kyle will be able to get information and images from the club's web site

Mr. Eltee Thibodeaux started off the Show and Tell with a return item, his great Ferris Wheel. The unit was shown on KPLC TV a couple of years ago and was battery powered at the time. Eltee has modified the unit to use mains to electrify the Ferris Wheel. Eltee also showed us a neat battery driven air blower he uses in scrollwork.

Aaron Andrepont brought very nice business card holders with a bass fish and deer motifs, respectively. J.W. Anderson showed us a great hiking stick and when asked about the wood, J.W. declared that it was a large weed. J.W. also had some of his many wooden cutting devices. This time he showed a pick axe, large serving fork, sand serving spoon all of mahogany.

Bob Pertuit discussed how to make the billet for turned wooden balls as well as discussing how he does this. Bob also showed off a simple design idea for screw driver holder for use on a peg board wall. He uses a small metal can to hold the working while it is being turned. Bob also showed us a screw driver holder designed to be mounted on peg board

As our new president, Bill Fey felt the need to make himself a meeting mallet. He discussed how it was turned (and the mistakes made). Bill said that there was a couple degrees different from perpendicular for the handle and the mallet head. Someone mentioned that this was actually a fea-

ture, not a mistake. Bill also turned a striker for the mallet as well. The wood was finished with an English chestnut stain and a couple of coats of wipe-on poly with lots of features.

Travis McManemin announced that he has a large number of industrial fittings should anyone have a need. Travis also showed a repaired push stick and what was interesting was the repair. Travis was once a gun smith and used a steel rod within the body of the push stick to repair it it broke. The technique is the same as used by gun smiths to repair gun stocks.

Steve McCorquodale builds large wood slab tables and he showed another lovely one this month. It featured imbedded $\text{CuAl}_6(\text{PO}_4)_4(\text{OH})$ stones-- haha -- better known as turquoise or hydrated phosphate of copper and aluminum plus other stones he had picked during his travels. A harder and heavier variation of turquoise stone is called malacite. Steve used epoxy and the stones to fill the natural divots in the surface of the slab. Steve also discussed various techniques he uses to flatten the surface of a large and wide slab.

Once Show and Tell was completed, we went to J.W.'s shop. J.W. demonstrated a power tool made in the 1940s and sold by the Stanley Tool Works, that turns sticks into dowels. As the machine was designed and built way before the existence of OSHA, J.W. suggested that we stand back a bit as he started it up. The unit does a pretty good job turning a stick into a dowel though the result was a bit rough. Should you need dowels of hard wood or some exotic, this machine would do the trick.

Besides the old dowel maker, J.W. has a large collection of old and antique tools. For example, on one wall, there was a wagon jack (for horse drawn wagons). Against another wall was a home built chop saw. The unit was built by long time member Bob Theau in 1947.

Someone mentioned that Sean Oliver, who is in Moss Bluff, has access to a large amount of pecan logs. Should you be interested, call him at 337-304-3025 and you likely want to bring a trailer.

Coming Up . . . Saturday, October 12 at 9:00 A.M. at the shop of Darren Hood. See the last page for directions.

Purchasing Used WW Tools

Buying used woodworking tools is a great way to stretch your wood shop setup budget. Used woodworking equipment can still have many years of useful life, and can be found at auctions, garage sales, in newspaper classified ads or even online. Here are a few tips for choosing power tools that are gently used, not past their prime.

Always look over the tools before buying them, unless the price is so small that you can afford to be on the losing end of the bargain. Used tools can sometimes fetch high prices that don't really match the useful life left in the equipment, and sometimes the owner is more focused on recouping the cost than selling the tool for what it's currently worth. Looking at the used tools in person will help you evaluate whether the price matches the condition of the equipment.

A little prior research goes a long way when buying used woodworking tools. If you're looking for a used table saw, find out what new table saws cost. Check online to see if the tools you want tend to depreciate quickly or hold their value. Sometimes you'll find that it's a better deal to just buy a new tool. Also learn about the common sizes available, particularly on saws. Finding a great deal on an 8-inch miter saw won't help if you really need a 10-inch miter saw.

At first glance, you should be able to tell whether a used woodworking tool has been taken care of properly. Is the machine rusted or overly grimy? A little bit of wear from years of use is normal, but if the body or moving parts are very rusty, that can be a signal of an improperly maintained machine.

Turn any moving parts to see what happens. Do they move freely as they are supposed to? Overly tight moving parts may mean that you'll have to replace bearings or other parts, which increases the total cost of the equipment. Check to see that adjustable parts move easily but lock tight. A table saw with a loose fence won't give you accurate cuts. Make note of any broken parts and adjust your price accordingly.

Open up the housing of power tools if possible and check for buildup of grit, grime or old lubricants. Be sure the machine's interior has been well-maintained, too. Buildup makes the motor work harder and increases wear, which decreases the life of the equipment.

If you're looking at used saws or other cutting tools, check the blades for cracking, warping, nicking or other signs of overly heavy use. A worn blade is to be expected on older saws, but you will want to replace saw blades if they are damaged, to protect yourself and the saw.

Give any used power tools a trial run if possible. Listen to the sound of the motor. Does it turn over smoothly? Does it make grinding or grinding noises? Motor replacements can be costly and aren't often worthwhile if you're looking for a bargain. Make sure the motor sounds good if you want a used tool that's still full of life.

Be sure that all of the safety guards are still on the used tools and that the safety devices work. Don't buy used woodworking equipment if the safety guards have been removed or are inoperable. Some older used tools may not have belt guards or safety devices at all. In that case, you'll want to figure the cost of building or buying belt guards or other safety parts.

Selecting a Finish

When selecting a wood finish it's easy to become overwhelmed with all of the slick labels and marketing hype. A trip to the local home project center will reveal hundreds of choices. The term finish is often used loosely to refer to any chemical that is applied to wood. The term actually refers to a (mostly) clear protective coating that sits on or in the surface of the wood.

Stain, Paint, and Finish are the three primary classifications for common wood treatments. Stains contain pigments and are used to tint the wood. Paints contain colored pigments and sit on the wood to form a protective coating. Some finishes are simply paint without the pigment that lay down a clear protective coating. There are five common types of finishes on the market. They are: Oil, Varnish and Polyurethane, Shellac, Lacquer and Water-based Finishes

Applying finishes is one part of woodworking that doesn't require many tools. In fact there are only three main tools used to apply all finishes: rags, brushes, and a spray gun..

When you are selecting a clear finish it is important to remember the qualities you require from the finish: a) It must protect the wood; b) It must be durable enough for the intended application; and c) It should be as easy to apply as possible. Continues on Page 3.

Selecting Finish continues

To protect your project for the long term you need a finish that has a maximum resistance to moisture vapor exchange. Thicker finishes tend to slow down this exchange more. Keep in mind though that thicker might not always be better. Polyurethane is more prone to cracking after 4 or 5 coats.

The durability of finish is an important part of protecting the wood beneath. A durable finish is more important for a tabletop than a mantle or picture frame. Durability has more to do with the chemistry of the finish than the number of coats. For example a single coat of polyurethane is more durable than multiple coats of a water-based finish. So consider water-based under oil-based poly for maximum durability.

Ease of applications is one of the key factors to achieving a professional finish. Slow drying finishes like polyurethane and varnish are relatively easy to apply with a brush. However, their slow dry time leaves them vulnerable to dust landing on the surface and leaving spots. Faster drying finishes can be difficult or impossible to apply without a spray gun. Oil finishes aren't affected by dust since they soak into the wood.

There are five primary types of finishes, a bunch of sub-categories, and a limitless number of brand names for these finishes.

Oil Finishes have been used for centuries to treat and preserve wood. Oils are different from most other finishes on the market because they seep into the wood and penetrate the wood's fibers. Because of this, oil finishes cannot be built up to a thick coat. They offer less protection but are also easier to apply which is their primary advantage. Another advantage is that simply wiping on more oil can often repair minor scratches.

There are two types of oils, those that cure and those that don't. Oils that don't cure should generally be avoided because that can continue to seep into the wood leaving the surface unprotected. They can also leave a sticky surface on the wood. Linseed oil and Tung Oil are both oils that cure and work well as finishes.

Linseed oil is made from the seeds of the flax plant. Look for "Boiled" linseed oil. This product has an added metallic

drying agent (basically Japan Dryer) that helps the finish dry in a day. Linseed oil without this additive can take over a week to dry.

Pure Tung oil is pressed from the nuts of the Tung tree. Unlike Linseed Oil, this finish does not require drying additives and cures in several days.

The primary advantage of using these finishes is their ease of application. Simply wipe it onto the surface with a clean cotton rag, wait 10 minutes, and applying more oil and allow time to cure. You should always sand lightly between coats. Linseed Oil generally requires three coats to achieve the "hand rubbed" look. Tung Oil may require 5-6 coats to achieve the same results. The first few coats will tend to cure rough but will even out during the last few coats.

Varnishes are one of the most protective finishes available. This level of protection increases with additional layers. The primary down side of varnishes is that they are slow drying which can allow dust and dirt time to settle and damage the finish. Because of this it is best to finish your project in a clean dust-free room if possible.

Varnishes are produced by cooking oil and mixing it with a resin such as synthetic alkyds, phenolics, and polyurethanes. Interestingly, polyurethane finish is actually varnish made with polyurethane resin to make the finish more protective and durable.

When more oil is used than resin the finish becomes more flexible. This type of varnish is called "Spar Varnish" and is ideal for outdoor use because the flexibility makes it more forgiving of seasonal wood movement.

Achieving a perfect varnish finish is a combination of skill and experiences as well as access to the right tools for the job. Work in a clean dust-free environment if at all possible. The room should be prepared by wiping it down surfaces with a damp cloth. Also be aware of dust that can be generated by human skin and clothing. The wood should be wiped with a tack cloth and the finish transferred into a separate working container.

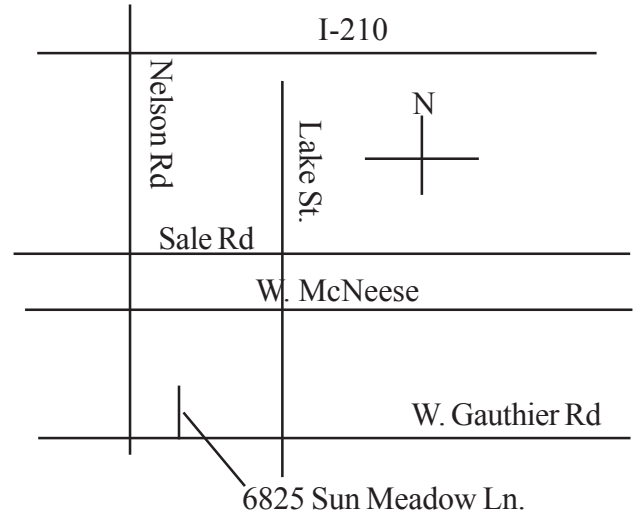
Varnish is usually applied with a brush using long steady brush strokes. In contrast to paint varnish brush strokes are much more apparent. Work in the direction of the grain and "tip-off" your brush strokes with lightly brushed vertical strokes. Varnish should be wet sanded between coats with fine sandpaper.

October Meeting Location

We have the wonderful opportunity to meet at the shop of Darren Hood. Darren has a new and well thought out shop and he is still completing some parts of it.

Please joins us for discussion, friendship plus coffee and donuts. The address is 6825 Sun Meadow Lane, Lake Charles. If you need further directions, please give Darren a call at 337-478-0312.

To get there, go south on Lake St. to Gauthier Rd and turn right (west). The second right is Sun Meadow Lane. Darren's home will be on your right.



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