

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.

May Meeting Highlights

This month was special because it was a joint meeting between the Lake Charles Woodworkers Club and the South East Texas Woodworkers Club. We were hosted by Mark Underwood at his home in Orange. Mark is also a member of the SETWC. Thanks to Mark and Linda for hosting as well as serving a nice Summer lunch afterward.

Steve Thomas led the meeting off my mentioning lawn equipment safety. We are having to mow and trim more now so wearing heavy shoes, long pants and especially safety glasses is increasingly important.

Steve also talked about a problem now only found in the northern mid-west and especially in Michigan where Steve recently visited. The problem is an insect called the Emerald Ash Bore (*Agrilus planipennis*). The beetle was first discovered in America in June 2002 in Michigan and is believed to have been brought to the US and Canada unintentionally in ash wood which was used to stabilize crates during shipping. The green beetle lays eggs under the bark on the cambium layer and when they hatch, they cut through the layer and circle the tree. This cuts off the tree nutrient supply and the tree dies.

Steve mentioned that the ash is not harmed and can be harvested for lumber. He also mentioned the Thousand Cankers disease that affects black walnut. It's a fungus vectored by another insect, the walnut twig beetle and like the Emerald beetle, difficult to control.

Mr. Eltee Thibodeaux started off the Show and Tell with his "magic box" created with of laminated flooring. Steve Thomas showed a large M&M candie hollow form segmented of walnut, maple, mahogany, coffee nut and a mystery wood. He used an Elsworth chuck to hold everything together during assembly. He added that turning large segmented work pieces can be scary.

Ray Kebodeaux had a Bradford pear and poplar

bowl and a large white oak bowl. Joe Comeaux brought his finished Texas Star - a magnificent piece that he started at a Woodcraft woodworking school in Austin. It is made of walnut, pecan, misquite (all Texas woods) and finished with Danish oil and wax. Gary Rock did a very elaborate lotus flower bowl using catalpa and sweet gum. It was finished with alaline dyes and laytex paint.



Dean Partridge brought a wonderful bread box with a tambor door made of oak with Richard Hicks having a Jerusalem Thorn tree vase. He said it turns like maple. He also had a series of nice boxes as well as examples of simple wooden toys that the SETWC gives away to charitable organizations for children.



Steve Thomas reminded folks of the Works of Men exhibition at the Sulphur museum complex through July 7th. Joe Comeaux brought many folders of ShopNotes and donated these to the SETWC for their woodworking library.

The SETWC meets on the 4th Monday of each month at 7:00 P.M. and often has a hands-on sessions on the following Saturday. Contact Mark Underwood for location information. Dean Partridge mentioned that Hartville Tool gives a discount to WW club members and Craft Supply also gives a competitive discount.

It was great fun having a joint meeting and we hope that this will continue from time to time.

Coming Up . . . Saturday, June 14, 9:00 A.M. at the shop of Jeff & Mary Cormier in Iowa. **Note that this is a change. See 2014 revised schedule on Page 3.**

Using "Deep Base" as a Clear Wood Finish

One of the members of the South East Texas Woodworkers Club (I believe it was Dean Partridge but I may be incorrect), brought up an interesting idea for those who want a finish for outdoor projects.

Deep Base is today typically listed as Base-4 on cans that you can purchase at almost any paint supplier. Base-4 does not contain any initial tint. Typically, it is sold in one-gallon cans and a pigment is added to your specification. In other words, this is outdoor house paint when tinted. To get a 1 quart can, you'll likely have to visit an actual paint store such as South City, Sherman-Williams, Garrett, Diamond, etc. It may be available in quarts at our local box stores as well.

The SETWC member said it works well as an outdoor clear wood finish. After some investigation though, it is not quite that simple as you really need to add at least something to improve its UV resistance. Like any exterior paint, it needs to be renewed from time to time though likely not as frequently as most clear coats including spar varnish.

Base-4, chemically, is a clear acrylic one-part polyurethane that is non-yellowing. Acrylic varnish is a transparent, hard, protective finish or film primarily used in wood finishing but also for other materials. Varnish is traditionally a combination of a drying oil, a resin, and a thinner or solvent. Varnish finishes are usually glossy but may be designed to produce satin or semi-gloss sheens by the addition of "flattening" agents. Varnish has little or no color, is transparent, and has no added pigment, as opposed to paints or wood stains, which contain pigment and generally range from opaque to translucent. Varnishes are also applied over wood stains as a final step to achieve a film for gloss and protection. Some products are marketed as a combined stain and varnish.

Deck finishes are examples of the combination of stains, UV protection (usually a colorant), resin and a drying oil such as Japan dryer. A variation are coatings for fine artwork but have the additional property of being reversible or removable.

After being applied, the film-forming substances in varnishes either harden directly, as soon as the solvent has fully evaporated, or harden after evaporation of the solvent through certain curing processes, primarily chemical reaction between oils and oxygen from the air (autoxidation) and chemical reactions between components of the varnish. Resin varnishes "dry" by evaporation of the solvent and harden almost immediately upon drying. Acrylic and waterborne varnishes "dry" upon evaporation of the water but experience an extended curing period. Oil, polyurethane, and epoxy var-

nishes remain liquid even after evaporation of the solvent but quickly begin to cure, undergoing successive stages from liquid or syrupy, to tacky or sticky, to dry gummy, to "dry to the touch", to hard.

Recently a friend asked me to fit a bracket to and finish a sailboat tiler. The original was past use except for the stainless bracket and bolts. She had to order the tiler from the boat manufacturer in England. So after a bit of router work and hand planing, it was ready to finish.

Since this device is made of laminated oak, goes outside and she wanted a natural wood finish, I considered standard "spar" varnish which is a long oil acrylic polyurethane. It is long oil because it contains more oil than standard polyurethane finishes. You can purchase this or you can make your own if you want to save considerable money. Two quarts of Gleam brand spar varnish will set you back about \$60.

Depending on the size of your project, e.g. an outdoor bench (or in my case a tiler), you may not need this much. The formula is simple: 1 each 1/2 pint of commercial brand name spar varnish, 1/2 pint of boiled linseed oil, 1/2 pint of paint thinner (or turpentine) and 1 ounce of Japan dryer. Using these small quantities means that there will be a relatively small amount of left over finish.

The main consideration of using this finish is the relatively long curing time. You need to wait a minimum of 24 hours and 48 hours is much better between coats. What you are trying to achieve is a "dry to the touch" feel of the piece. Like all poly finishes, you need to do a light sanding between the coats.

Remember that this is designed for outdoor finishes on bare wood and not designed for finished items that will live inside your home.

Speaking of bare wood, you may also want to do a pre-finish of reduced shellack before the primary coats. This will seal the wood well and improve the ultimate drying time. For this project, I did three coats of what I estimated was about a 2.5 pound cut of shellack. This is pretty thin but dries very fast.

Factors such as heat and humidity play a very large role in the drying and curing times of varnishes. Drying and curing time of all varnishes may be sped up by exposure to sunlight, ultraviolet light, or heat. In addition, all drying oils, certain alkyds, and many single-component polyurethanes produce heat during the curing process. Therefore, oil-soaked rags and paper can smolder and ignite hours after use if they are bunched or piled together, or, for example, placed in a container where the heat cannot dissipate. Be safe. *Barry Humphus.*

Hair dryer helps remove stickers

Adhesive-backed bar-coded stickers on lumber may speed up the checkout process, but it's tough to remove them later. I've tried scraping, sanding, and using solvent, but nothing worked very well until I tried a hair dryer. The hot air softens the adhesive, and the sticker usually peels off in one piece.

Make caulk beads as smooth as silk

When smoothing a bead of latex caulk at my house, I was looking for a place to wipe the inevitable glob of goo that collected on my fingertip. My spouse handed me a box of pre-moistened towelettes called baby wipes. While we don't have a baby, she said they come in handy for many small cleaning tasks. Besides cleaning my hands, I discovered that a towelette wrapped around my finger left an exceptionally smooth bead of caulk. Now, I always keep a box of baby wipes handy in my shop for waterless cleanup of hands and tools.

Pinhole view puts flatness in focus

To check the surface of a panel for twists or warps, many woodworkers use winding sticks. You lay two straight-edged sticks on the panel and sight across the top edges of the sticks. If the panel isn't flat, the edges of the sticks won't appear to be parallel. I've used this method in the past, but as I've gotten older, my eyesight doesn't allow me to focus on both sticks at once.

To overcome this problem, punch a small hole (less than 1/32") in a note card. Sighting through this "pinhole aperture," as shown, increases the depth of field and brings everything into clear focus. You can use the same technique to sight along the edge of boards to check them for straightness.

Remove finish nails cleanly with a roll pin

Recently, when repairing wobbly tenons in a chair, I found that the previous owner had tried to strengthen the loose joints by driving finish nails through the tenons. I needed a way to remove just enough wood from around the nails to be able to pull them out with needle-nose pliers.

Digging through a drawer in my shop, I found a roll pin (a.k.a. spring pin or tension pin), which is a cylindrical piece of spring steel. Spring pins have a body diameter which is larger than the hole diameter, and a chamfer on either one or both ends to facilitate starting the pin into the hole. The spring action of the pin allows it to compress as it assumes the diameter of the hole. The radial force exerted by the pin against the hole wall retains it in the hole.

After making several "teeth" in one end of the pin with a flat file, I chucked the roll pin into my portable drill, positioned it over the nail, and slowly pulled the trigger. My

new "plug cutter" cleanly removed the wood around the nail, allowing me to pull it out and I filled the hole with a tapered wooden plug.

Plotting your course

Before you cut the first board for a project, review the plans, line up all the materials and supplies, and determine what tools and equipment you'll need. Think about the steps involved and how you'll accomplish them. Then jot down a brief list outlining the order for accomplishing the steps, which you can then use as a checklist. You may alter your work plan as the project progresses, but working from a list of everything you need to accomplish ensures that you don't miss something crucial.

Make notes, not memories

When a project spreads across several shop sessions, break the work at a logical point whenever you stop. Complete the step you're working on, for instance, instead of stopping in the middle of an operation. Then, write notes on the plans and mark parts so you can easily determine where you left off. You may think you'll remember where you stopped and what you need to do next when you return to the project, but human nature says you won't, especially if the break lasts longer than you plan.

Banish distractions

Most psychological researchers maintain that the human brain can concentrate on only one task at a time. This means that when we think we're multitasking, we're really forcing the brain to jump back and forth between competing thought processes, giving each only brief snips of attention. The brain's ability to hop from one thought to another, most researchers say, declines with age.

This suggests that you can't focus fully on your wood-working project while debating with talk radio or watching the game on TV. Background music may not be dangerously distracting, but beware if you find yourself singing along.

Revised 2014 LCWW Schedule

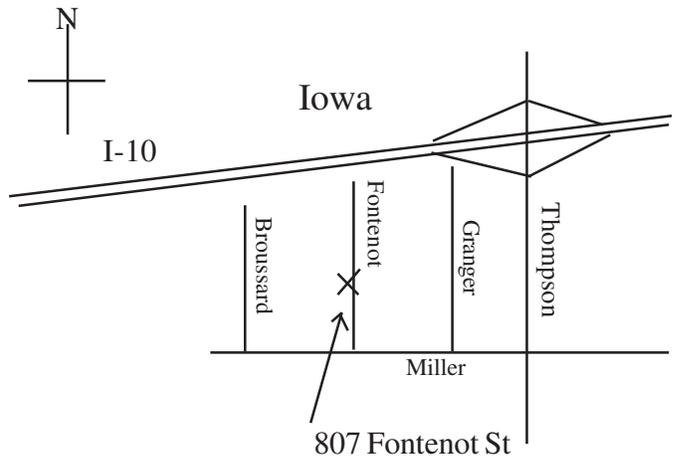
January -	Jeff Cormier
February -	Steve Thomas
March -	Ron & Sandy Kramer
April -	Jack Stegall
May -	Mark Underwood
June -	Jeff Cormier
July -	Steve Thomas
August -	John Marcon
September -	Joe Comeaux
October -	Ron & Sandy Kramer
November -	John Marcon
December -	Larry & Leddie Cooper

The June Meeting Location

Our next meeting will be at the great shop of Jeff and Mary Cormier. All you need to do is to show up and have a cup of fine coffee and a donut or two. Mary almost always does something special as well.

The shop is air conditioned, offers all sorts of great power tools to admire and as always, Jeff is a great host particularly when he goes to the local donut shop.

To get there, go East on I-10 to the Iowa exit and turn Right at the first traffic light. Follow Miller Road and turn Right at Fontenot. Jeff's place is on your left just past the duplexes. If you need further directions, call Jeff or Mary at 337-582-3278.



June 2014

Lake Charles Woodworkers Club, Inc.
www.lcwoodworkers.com
1039 Timberlawn Dr.
Lake Charles, LA 70605