

John Griffith, President
Patrick LaPoint Treasurer

Officers and Directors

Barry Humphus, Editor, Eltee Thibodeaux
Daren Hood, John Marcon, Rob Richard

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; John Marcon: 478-0646; Eltee Thibodeaux: 436-1997; Dick Trough: 583-2683. Each have years of experience and knowledge.

August Meeting Highlights

The August meeting was held at the wonderful Stines Store in Lake Charles and we always appreciate their providing the space.

John Griffith is back and well and that is great. John started us off by presenting some ideas about patents. John worked for the US Patent Office as a reviewer of proposed patents. John said that there were lots of legal issue to consider and many applications are so-called *pro se* (Latin for "on one's own behalf"). John said that rejection for these is always almost always automatic. However, you can always go to the www.uspto.gov web site to learn about your patent and find out what they find wrong. (if anything).

Once you have a patent, your patent is good for 20 years. It may be extended but in only specific circumstances. John mentioned that it could cost about \$1K for your fees



but this may be must less should you you file for yourself as it costs only about \$80 to file your own.

Patents cannot be renewed but can be extended for short periods based on the issue date. The issue date is always on a Tuesday. Shoud you need further information, John suggests that you may contact him for advise.

Show and Tell started with Mr. Thibodeaux bringing a Kennedy Dollar image he did with his wonderful scollwork. He also did a great religious plack as well. Pie Sonnier continues to produce such

wonderful vehicles and this time did a great 1932 Cadallac V16 as well one of his business card holders. He gave me one of these some time ago and it is on my desk at my office and is much admired by my students.

J.W Anderson did a lovely new bench and George Carr did a carved clock face out that high density material he showed last month. It is high density urathane and easy to carve or turn. Our Joe Dees brought a lovely knife with a handle of cocobolo. The balde is of Nitro stainless steel with a 2,000 grit polish. The leather he did as well.



Steve McCorquodale brought one of the great tables he has constructed. This one was a pedestal type made from a single tree.

It is inlaid with turquoise that fill it the natural cavities found in the cedar. Steve finished the piece with poly. He mentioned that cedar, like many woods, will turn dark when exposed to sunlight and the poly will moderate this chemical change.

Ray Kibodeaux did a really neat walnut bowl that he had turned. He added a decorative ring on the top of willow wood. Ray also talked about some of the gouges he used including one for deep bowl turning, from Catain Eddie Castelin. Castelin only produces cutters and these can be found at www.eddiecastelin.com. Ray highly recommended these cutters. Castelin also does an interesting newsletter each month that you should take an opportunity to view. Note that each is very large in terms of the download so be patient.

Comming Up: Saturday, September 8, 2018 beginning at 9:00 A.M. in the meeting room at the Stines Store on Nelson Road in lake Charles. Hope you had a great Labor Day -- BBQ and more BBQ!

Bugs in Your Wood

Reclaimed wood comes in all shapes and sizes and from a variety of places. One thing's for sure, you can't beat authentic aging and abuse when it comes to giving wood a good vibe. Regardless of the source here are a few tips for making the most of your experience.

Barn wood especially has been out in the elements for maybe 100 years or more. It's covered in dirt, dead bugs and, well, may have come in contact with less desirable substances as well. There's nothing like a bunch of dirt to dull a good sharp tool.

As part of a barn, boards would have been nailed to the structure and some nails may be left behind. Pallet wood as well. Give each board a good visual inspection and you'll catch 99% of it before it dulls your saw blade. The nail holes, as the steel and the wood react nicely over the years, creating some wonderful black stains - especially in oak. Urban lumber is particularly notorious for having nails and such in it. Remember that clothesline grandma had in her yard? That bolt is still there.

Commercially purchased lumber, such as the those found in at Stines and in the big-box stores, is almost always guaranteed to be kiln dried. This means that the lumber was heated in a kiln in order to reduce its moisture content, or in other words, was forced to vapor out unwanted water, both from inside the cells and in between them. Transforming green wood boards from moist to dry has another important reason — the eradication of wood eating bugs. The combination of heat and a reduction of moisture inhibits the presence of Powderpost beetles, termites and other wood borrower insects. Research and experience has shown that those tiny wood eaters cannot survive in timber who's moisture content is below 8-12%.

In his book, "Working Reclaimed Wood", Yoav Liberman, looks at wood pests and ways in which wood is reduced in moisture content in reclaimed wood in order to reduce insects. One of these techniques, is to place small reclaimed workpieces in the microwave for a few minutes, three or four times a day and until the wood is dry enough.

The microwaves penetrate deep into the wood, agitates the water molecules and consequently heats them up, which induce evaporation and migration of water out of the wood. Since insects cells and bodies contain water, the microwave practically cooks them up.

Some insects, such as ants, actually do not contain enough water for this technique to kill the insect. But for most boring insects, this works.

There are options are at our disposal when you need to treat substantial reclaimed timber, such as posts and beams

from a derelict barn for instance. What can you do if you don't have access to a kiln (commercial or makeshift) or a behemoth microwave? One option, which Liberman found when conducting the research for the book — the "Star War option" — is the brainchild of a Ukrainian inventor who claims to solve all the bug problems. Boris Eresko has come up with an ingenious technique to generate strong microwave radiation that can penetrate massive beams and logs up to 15 inches thick.

This allows you to use the device on post and beam timber, green wood logs or any wood that spent some time outside and/or is suspected of being infested with insects. The device is made of two aluminum boxes: one emits the microwave radiation while the other provides the power source. To begin the eradication the emitter box is placed in front of the infested wood. Then the operator steps back and turns on the device. The amount of time that the timber needs to be "zapped" depends on the thickness of the timber, but if your log or beam is thicker than 15 inches you can aim another microwave emitter from the other side and let both work together. This contraption allows carpenters, sculptors and anyone who uses massive reclaimed timber to get to work on their projects shortly after frying the bugs, and allow any project that relies on green wood, reclaimed wood or air dried wood to be thoroughly treated before entering your home.

After discovering Mr. Eresko's microwave, Liberman learned about yet another device, this time a British product called Gibbs Sandtech Wood Welder.

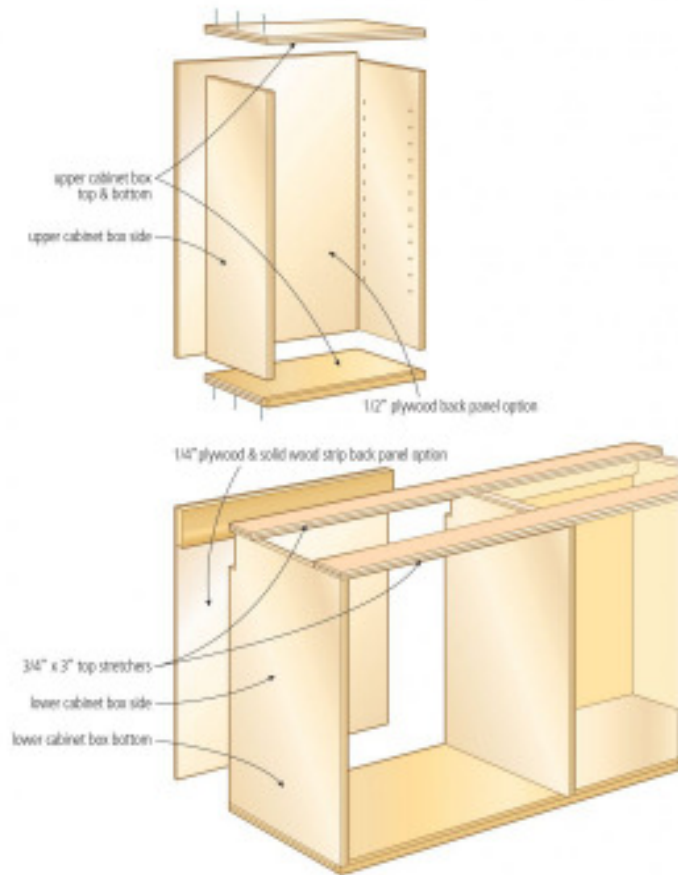
This handheld gizmo is intended to expedite the subterranean drying of water-based wood glues in joints via radio waves which penetrate the surface in order to heat and dry the glue. When Liberman contacted the company director, Warren Gibbs, he said that he had heard about people who used the device to kill insects in wood. Mr. Gibbs revealed that the Wood Welder can penetrate up to 1-1/4" deep into the board, and that the company recommend that the lumber moisture content should not exceed 12-14%. If the moisture content is higher than this, the device will have to be deployed for much longer periods of time, toiling on vaporizing the excessive moisture and only then affecting the bugs.

Although Liberman was initially thrilled about the idea of including the information on these fantastic microwave and radio wave innovations in the book, Liberman ended up leaving it out. So for the sake of prudence, he decided to keep it out and wait until he can gather some more information, anecdotes, and maybe even some personal experience, which will allow him to safely reinstall these machines inside the pages of the future second edition of his book.

Face Frame Cabinets

Building your own cabinets, such as in a kitchen or other place, is one of the most enjoyable and profitable things you can do in your workshop, but there's much more to it than just saving money and having fun. While it may be a kitchen, your cabinets could also be a large book case, media or entertainment case or something else entirely.

Before you make sawdust in your shop, you need to understand how the various parts of a face frame is built. Get to know the design approach first and success will come



more easily.

The inner part of most cabinets are the foundation boxes, and they're generally made of 3/4"-thick Baltic Birch ply or cabinet-grade veneered plywood, butt-joined at corners with ordinary wood glue and 2" finishing nails or even biscuit joints (which I prefer). Solid wood elements surround these boxes. Simple as it is, these butt-joined boxes are more than strong enough to do the job. The joints don't look fancy, but they are completely hidden in the finished cabinets by solid wood face frames, end panels, crown molding and light valances. You could use 1/4" plywood and solid wood anchor strips for the backs of these foundation boxes, but 1/2"-thick plywood offers an advantage you need to know

about. When it comes time to mount your cabinets on a wall, you can drive screws anywhere you like through the thick back and into underlying walls studs.

If you opt for 1/4"-thick ply, install horizontal anchor strips of solid wood into the top and bottom of the foundation boxes, as shown in your plans. Strips like these are the traditional anchoring surfaces for fastening cabinets to walls during installation.

Either way – thick back panel or thin – there is no need to set the back panels into grooves in the sides. Simply fasten the back panels to the back edge of the cabinet with edges exposed. Everything gets covered with solid wood anyway, so plywood edges get hidden. Both upper and lower cabinets are made full length in one piece, 8 to 10 feet long. Longer runs of cabinets can be made by installing more cabinet modules side by side. Mounting these may require some help from a friend or neighbor.

Most plans show how typical measurements for upper cabinets are 13" deep x 36" tall. Lower cabinets typically measure 23" deep x 36-1/2" tall including the kick base and countertop. as said, these numbers are just starting points, so go ahead and adjust sizes to match your kitchen or cabinet space. Taller, shorter, narrower, deeper – it's all up to you. Member Mitchell Morgan has demonstrated this in his shop during a meeting. Should you want to understand what he does, give him a call as he has done such great work at his home and his wonderful shop.

Most plans show how 3/4"-thick solid wood, 2-1/4" to 2-1/2" wide, is used for most face frame members. Individual face frame members fasten to the foundation boxes one piece at a time, held in place with glue and clamps or glue and metal pins or brads. joints between stiles and rails get reinforced with #20 biscuits or dowels plunged into the assembled joints from the top, before sawing off the excess biscuits or dowels and sanding the joints flush.

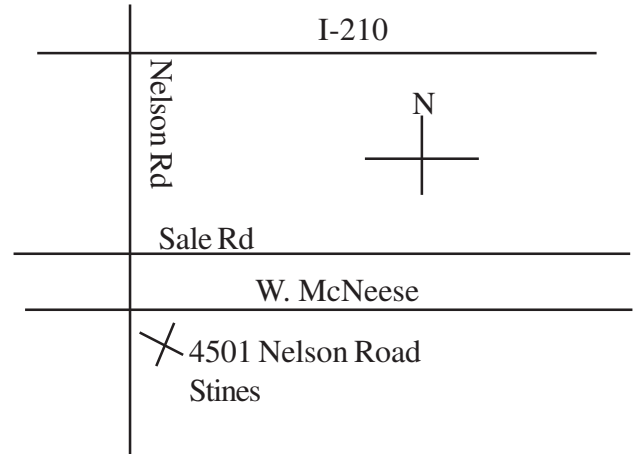
Solid wood stiles and rails surround shop-cut solid wood panels housed in 5/16"-wide x 1/2"- deep grooves. Joints between stiles and rails are held together with floating hardwood tenons that fit into the same grooves the panels do. This is a technique you may have never seen before (except for what Mitcell Morgan showed us), but it's simple and makes sense. Note that the back edges of the back stiles need to extend 1/4" to 1/2" beyond the back panel to allow for scribing to fit any wall irregularities. Barry Humphus

September Meeting Location

We have the wonderful opportunity to meet at the Stines Lake Charles location at 4501 Nelson Road. Please enter the store and go to the back left in the store to the meeting room.

To get there go South on Nelson Road in Lake Charles going from I-10 or I-210 and turn into the parking lot. Go to the back of the main entrance to the very back to the meeting room to find us.

Please take an opportunity to explore Stines before you leave to find the items for your shop or home that you may need. As always, thank the folks at Stines as you check out.



September 2018

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