

Steve Thomas, President  
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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.

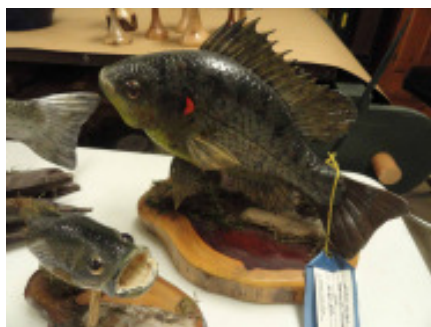
### September Meeting Highlights

This month's meeting was a the great shop of Joe Comeaux and we had many guests plus artist and Louisiana wildfowl woodcarver Bill Phillips.

For safety, Steve Thomas asked if anyone had any incidents and two were reported. Bill Fey said that he experienced a minor table saw kickback but as he pointed out, no kickback is much better and lots less scary. Pie Sonnier reported that he a band saw blade break that gave him a wack. This is pretty unusual as the blades typically stay within the saw body. We suspect that the blade flexed outward when it broke.

Joe Comeaux started things with a discussion on turned pens and pencils. He described the various pen kits you can purchase from a number sources (Pen State, Rockler, etc.) as well as the accessories you will need to turn them. Most kits are designed for either Parker or Cross refills and the pencils come generally in .5 or .7 millimeter lead. Besides the pen or pencil kit and material to be turned (wood, plastics, animal horn, etc), you will need an appropriately size twist drill (to bore the hole down the center of the material) and a mandrel sized for the type or style of pens you are turning for your lathe.

In general, Joe sands the pens to at least 600 grit to 1,500 grit. While he has used many different finishes, his preference these days is super glue along with an accelerant. He mentioned that there are many books available on pen turning as well as a wealth of videos on Youtube. He reminded folks that you can spend quite a bit on accessories but the result is a hand-made and useful object that family and friends will treasure.



Next up we had Alexandria wood carver Bill Phillips (graphics@phillipssigns.com from his card). Bill has been carving for many years and does wonderful work on fish, decoys, signs and walking canes. Bill always

tries to use water tupelo (aka black gum or pepperidge wood) stumps which Bill says are getting hard to find. Tupelo is a great carving wood and an alternative to linden, grey ash, African or Brazilian mahogany, pear or even some pine. Bill said that tupelo is generally clean and relatively easy to carve.

Tupelo grows in the bayous of Louisiana, Florida

and Alabama. Bill suggested that this wood's best feature is that it can be carved in different directions and the grain is almost invisible, thus providing a higher quality finish. For example, decoy carvers (fowl in particular) use this type of wood when very detailed plumage is required. Because tupelo is white and has no visible grain, wax or oil finishing will not enhance it very much. This wood is best used for projects that will require painting.

As this will provide a finished piece with lots of subtle, smooth and colourful details.

Bill often attends competitive shows and one of the items he brought to show us had a nice award ribbon attached.

All of his items are carefully hand painted and mostly using the stiple style using a dry brush along wit some pyrography and blends his paints as needed. He generally does a clear coat to give the wet look of his work, particularly the fish. Bill also does canes and in particular for veterans.

For Show and Tell Pie Sonnier brought us a 1948 Ford Woody from a plan using his typical woods and impeccable workmanship.. Mr. Eltee Thibodeaux showed



his latest project using his new CNC driven router. Eltee is just starting with this device so it starts in a primitive way but we believe will get much better.

Ray Kebodeaux delivered a great small pecan table that was very well made. Bill Fey did some spalted willow  
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bowls. He finished one with Danish oil and one with a varnish. The Danish oil really popped the variations of the wood.

Bill Levy did a minara of walnut with lots of lights while Steve Thomas did a 156 piece segmented bowl finished with anilin dye. Mushrooms were Gary Rock's contribution and each was unique and special. of oak, cherry and ash with wipe-on poly.

Pie Sonnier won the Show and Tell drawing this month and well deserved of course.

Coming up . . . Saturday, October 11, 2014 is our next meeting date at the great shop of Sandy and Ronnie Kramer. Sandy does wonderful scroll work and Ronnie does everything else. Join us at 9:00 A.M.

### Why Do Screws Tighten Clockwise?

One of the simplest machines, a screw is nothing more than an inclined plane wrapped around a center pole. While today screws come in standard sizes, and typically are tightened by turning clockwise (and loosened by turning counterclockwise), this is a recent invention. A great example of how things that seem simple can be really hard to do right, the development of the predicable system we enjoy today took just 2,000 years to invent.

While Archytas of Tarentum and Archimedes produced designs, it was in the mid-16th century, that Jaques Besson of the French court had invented a lathe that would cut a screw, although it took another 100 years for the process to take off. The modern lathe was later created by the Englishman Henry Maudsley in 1797, and with it, screw threads could be cut with great precision. Despite this, there was no uniform system for either screw sizes or threads.

This was remedied by Joseph Whitworth beginning in 1841 when he presented a paper advocating for a uniform system of screw threads to the Institute of Civil Engineers. His two-pronged suggestion was simple: (1) the angle of threads should be standardized at 55 degrees; and (2) the number of threads per inch should be standardized, although they would vary depending on the diameter of the screw.

That the screw would turn to the right when being tightened was likely already a well-established principle and is thought to be because right-handed people are stronger when they screw clockwise (supinate), and the vast majority of people are right-handed (between 70% – 90%).

Whitworth's idea was popular, and soon after he suggested it, the British Standard Whitworth, with its rounded roots and pyramid thread crests, was adopted throughout England, the United States and Canada by the 1860s. Nonetheless, it was not an easy screw to make as it required "three kinds of cutters and two kinds of lathe."

To alleviate some of the problems with manufacturing a British Standard Whitworth, American William Sellers in 1864 invented a thread that had flat roots and crests, a not insignificant modification as this screw could be made with "just one cutter and lathe." Faster, easier and cheaper, the Sellers screw thread became popular in the United States and soon became standard among America's railroads (two of which at this time were working on the transcontinental route).

The British stuck with Whitworth's slightly fussier screw, although the different standards posed few problems until World War II when British, Canadian and American troops co-mingled their equipment and repair parts. After the war, in 1949, Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom agreed to the Unified Thread Standard, based on the inch, with a 60-degree profile.

Shortly after, the UK adopted the metric system and in 1960, its International System of Units (SI), as well as its ISO metric screw thread, also with a 60 degree profile. Globally, a right-turning metric screw is the standard, although in the U.S., about 60% of screw threads still follow the inch-based Unified Screw Thread System. The screws in your binds follow this standard. Barry Humphus (from several sources).

### The Risk of Mixing Some Chemicals

Recently I filed an incident report of a hazardous situation at work. I went to the mens restroom and sat down. Below my feet was a floor drain. I started to find that I could not breath easily, quickly finished and left. I reported this to my administrative assistant and ask that she report this to our maintenance folks. Two days later, a colleague had the same experience but then he had to miss a day of work because of respiratory problems.





**Stine**

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