

Jeff Cormier, President
Sandy Kramer, 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; Chuck Middleton: 625-3134; Gary Rock: 433-1679; Eltee Thibodeaux: 436-1997; Dick Trough: 583-2683. Each have years of experience and knowledge.

November Meeting Highlights

John Marcon was our host this month at his carving studio and we always enjoy seeing his latest work.

Jeff Cormier reminded us that the December meeting will be held at Larry and Lede Cooper’s shop. This is our holiday meeting and the Cooper’s will once again prepare us a fish and shrimp fry. Jeff also said that you should not forget if you have signed up to bring some of the provisions for the get-together. And anyone can also bring sweets and treats. There were a few visitors but Jeff didn’t catch all of their names. Two he did get were David Scritchfield and George Carr who said they’ll be joining.

Don Elfert reported that John Griffith is back to work after having prostate surgery recently.

After two years as President, Jeff will be stepping down. Stepping up will be Steve Thomas who was nominated and voted President by those present. Steve brings a lot of workworking skill and experience and will also bring us some new ideas. Jeff also announced that Sandy Kramer will be stepping down as treasurer and therefore we need someone to do this very needed task. Please volenter a small bit of your time if at all possible. Barry Humphus will do the paperwork of the change in this position with the State and arrange the transfer for the bank account.

Jeff said it is time to reflect on the proper use of hand tools. Although power tools bring much more energy and force into the work we all do, hand tools have their own inherent dangers. Chisels offer dangers from misuse. “I have observed carvers who cut towards their own body, and a discussion with John earlier this week leads me to think it is quite common. I had to have 8 stitches on a finger in my right hand (I am left handed) when I made my own stupid mistake with a very sharp chisel.” And don’t forget the hazards of striking tools as well as pinch points when using wrenches. All of us who work with our hands have all had cuts, scrapes, and contusions from using hand tools. They can get you to an emergency room also.

Before Rob Standing gave his own talk, John Marcon presented a short talk about how european carvers use chisels. They always cut away from their body rather than pulling the chisel towards themselves as most american carvers

do. John also showed the protective glove he wears on his left hand to protect him for his knives and chisels and explain how it would not prevent a stabbing injury, only a slicing cut. John also showed a bench hook that was used by german carvers as a rest for the work at the edge of the workbench.

Rob then took over and talked about his own carving history, and he has only started carving in earnest since 2005. He showed off a display of several indian heads and busts that were carved for the most part with hand tools. he learned largely from books, videos, and classes he took in Branson, Mo and Nebraska. The models for his work are pictures of indians as well as photos he has taken of other people’s works and incorporated their ideas into his own works he does minimal marking on the wood before carving to denote



where features such as noses or chins will go. His works are finished with linseed oil and deft finish. He also showed several power carvers. A couple were reciprocating carvers with a number of profile chisels available. He showed a couple of wheel cutters with chain saw wheels that can be difficult to control. the work should be clamped down and both hands used to control the machine for safety. Next, he showed a micromotor carver that turned at about 50,000 rpm, a type of dental carver for shaping dentures. There was a lot of interest in his presentation.

For Show and Tell, Mr. Thibodeaux brought an indian plaque scrolling of baltic plywood inside a pine frame as well as a picture of a saddle stand he made of liptus wood. Sandy Kramer showed a scrolled perfume tray of spalted oak with a danish oil finish. Continued on the next page.

Coming Up . . . Saturday, December 8 at 9:00 A.M. at the wonderful shop of Larry and Lede Cooper for our holiday meeting.

Continued. Mike Dupuis brought several bowls. The first was a chip and dip bowl inside a bowl of pecan with an epoxy sealer on it. The next was a spalted hackberry bowl with a poly finish. Then a three piece sycamore bowl with an epoxy finish. and lastly a couple of spalted magnolia bowls, one of which was pickled.

Bill Levy showed a scrolled wheel barrel model that was destined to hold dried flowers. Ronnie Kramer showed a liptus cutting board with a food safe finish on it.



Steve Thomas showed a pedulum clock he had built using an old decrepit one for a model, it was walnut with a zebrawood veneer topped off with a spray satin finish. he salvaged glass and other parts from the older one to reuse and was having the mechanism repaired at a shop in lake charles.

Joe Comeaux showed a couple of turned pepper mills of cypress and diamondwood (an engineered wood). George Carr, a visitor and possible new member, showed a carved can of tallow wood. he used chip carving techniques to embellish the cane. Don Elfert brought a pine magazine stand with an early american stain and poly varnish.

Gary Rock showed of an entirely acrylic bottle he turned on his lathe and a garbage disposal crammer with an acrylic guard he also carved. Amazing work.

Also, much thanks to Eltee Thibodeaux for getting Barry some photos of the works by our members and guest. Joe Comeaux won the Show and Tell Prize and Gary Rock won the Bring It Back.

One Second Safety Idea

I often warn my students about having their cell phones on during my classes. This just something that make a class better in terms of ordinary decorim in a class. While I must provide a place where students can learn, you must be aware of what you are doing in terms of safety. But this is very critical in your shop. While you need to be aware of messages from friends and family please do not have this distraction in your shop while working. Turn off your cell phone while doing any woodworking. *Barry Humphus.*

Tuning the Bandsaw

First, let's clean out the built up sawdust. If you don't have dust collection on the saw, it builds up quickly. Saw dust can

really bugger up everything in the saw, as well as act as an insulator holding heat on the motor and the bearing, as well as clogging the pulleys.

The next step is to check to see that the wheels are coplanar (in line with each other). This requires a long straightedge. Open the doors, top and bottom, to the wheels and place the straightedge up to the wheels. This will most likely need to be a little off center. Make sure the wheels are touching the straightedge on all 4 edges of the wheels (top and bottom of each wheel). If it doesn't touch at all points then you will need to refer to your owner's manual on how to make the adjustments.

Next, since the doors are open, you should check the tires on the wheels for wear and sawdust build-up. If they are worn, replace them, if they are dirty, clean them. I use a brass brush, and lightly scrub the wheel.

Since we are in a cleaning mood, lets look at the table and the fence. Check the table for rust, and remove any that you find. Check the fence for nicks and scratches, file them down, and buff them out if you can. The goal is to have a clean, smooth surface for the wood to slide on and against. If a piece of wood gets hung up on a nick in the fence, this will cause an inaccurate cut. Once the table and fence are clean and smooth, protect them. I usually use Boe shield T9, but I ran out and used some car wax, and this alternative solution has worked really well for me. Renaissance wax is also a great choice.

If the blade is new, go ahead and install it. If not look to see if there is any build up, especially on the inside where the blade contacts the tire. I used my wood slicer to resaw pine, and forgot to clean it when I was done. So I put the blade in a bath of mineral spirits to dissolve the resin, and used an old toothbrush to scrub it. A brass brush would be quicker, but it probably wouldn't be very good for the teeth on the blade. This process took me 15 or 20 minutes, probably would have taken 5 minutes if I had cleaned the blade right after I originally used it. This resin is really important to remove, as it will create friction which produces heat that shortens the life of the blade, leading to slower and less accurate cuts.

Next we'll adjust the blade tracking. This is usually done with a knob on the back or inside of the saw.

If you have bearings for the guides make sure they move freely, if not replace them. If you have blocks, make sure they are not worn, and the contact sides are parallel to the blade. I have heard of a lot of different methods involving spacers -- you can use a dollar bill, playing card, etc... but Continued to Page 3

Continue from Page 2.

my preference is a single layer of masking tape. Simply wrap a piece of blue making tape (blue because it won't leave a residue on your clean blade) around the blade with both edges coming to the front. Watch the side guides as you move the tape back and forth through the guides and adjust them until the guides are only touching when the tape passes through them. Now adjust the rear support guide - again it should only make contact with the tape.

The last adjustment will be moving the side guides to the middle of the blade. You want them set so that they are not going to make contact with the gullets of the blade when the blade is pushed back against the rear guide.

On to adjusting the tension. The method I like to use is to tighten the blade to what the tension guide tells me to, then turn on the bandsaw, slowly ease back the tension until the blade begins to flutter, then tighten it until the flutter disappears. This is the perfect tension for a blade.

Alright, we have done a lot of work up to this point and we are almost ready to cut, but we need to check that the table is 90 degrees to the blade. Now before you cut, check the wood and make sure there are no nails. Or more likely sometimes there is a staple that is used to attach a tag, often found in the endgrain. It would be a shame to ruin the blade after all of this work.

I also love turning green wood, however I refuse to use a wood slicer for that. The dirt found in the bark will dull it, and the moisture in the wood will cause the wood to pinch the blade, leading to friction and heat which will ruin the blade. Highland offers a great woodturning-specific blade for this task anyway, and it is almost half the price. Barry Humphus with much info from Wood News.

Tips and Tricks

Using a steel putty knife to scrape off stripper-softened paint or other finishes can scar the furniture you're trying to refinish. Make a scraper from 3/4" pine or some other softwood. Cut the tool to shape with your scrollsaw or bandsaw, then taper it to an edge by sanding. Round over the handle edges for comfort. The wooden scraper won't nick the wood you're stripping, and the corners won't dig in as you lift off the old finish.

When you have a lot of large parts to finish--such as shelves--spreading them out for drying can take up a lot of space. In a small shop, you may not have that space. Chains and ceiling hooks can make drying racks that hold a lot of parts in a small area. Screw the hooks into ceiling joists about 12" from the wall (or other distance, as appropriate). Space the hooks as the parts require and hang a 7-8' length of chain from each. Light-duty chain, such as the twisted-link variety,

will suffice for most projects. On each part to be finished, center a screw or nail at each end. Hang the parts horizontally between the chains, placing the screws or nails into the chain links as shown in the illustration at left.

Using this same idea, you can hang parts vertically, too. Place a screw eye in one end of each part. Then, loop the chain between two ceiling hooks and hang the parts from S-hooks on the chain as shown below right.

Whether you spray or use a brush, finishing the bottom of a bowl, vase, or other small project always proves difficult. By elevating the project on a grid of staples as shown right, you can rotate it easily and apply the finish to the bottom edge without the project sticking to the surface it's resting on.

Start by placing a piece of 1/4"-thick cardboard on top of a piece of foam rubber. Now, take a staple gun and drive several rows of 1/2"-long staples through the cardboard and into the foam. When you turn over the cardboard and peel off the foam rubber, you'll have a convenient, reusable bed of staples on which to place bowls, turned objects, and other small projects for finishing.

To clean paint overspray off of plastic eyeglass lenses, spray them with WD-40, then wet a fingertip with more spray and rub it into the paint spatters. Let the WD-40 soak for a few minutes, then rinse it off with warm, soapy water. This helped me so much as I was painting many new doors in my rental home.

It seems like even the most careful cleaning of a paintbrush in solvent still results in a stiff, hard-to-use brush after it dries. To keep your brushes as soft and springy as they were when new, try the following:

First, clean your brush in mineral spirits or the appropriate solvent. Then, wash the brush thoroughly with warm tap water and dishwashing detergent. The water and detergent remove minute traces of finish and solvent that otherwise will dry on the bristles and cause them to stiffen.

Nothing ruins a can of paint or varnish faster than having the liquid dry up inside the rim. How do you keep this area clean and still have a surface to wipe your brush on? Make yourself a paint-can protector from a piece of scrap 1" material. Start with a jigsaw and cut out a circle an inch smaller than the inside diameter of the can rim. Then, take a router and cut a rabbet around that circle that fits the outside diameter of the can. The depth of the rabbet should equal about half the thickness of the board.

When you open the can, slip the protector over the top. The rabbet should fit snugly over the paint can, and the smaller-diameter circle will cover up the rim and give you an improved surface against which you can wipe the brush.

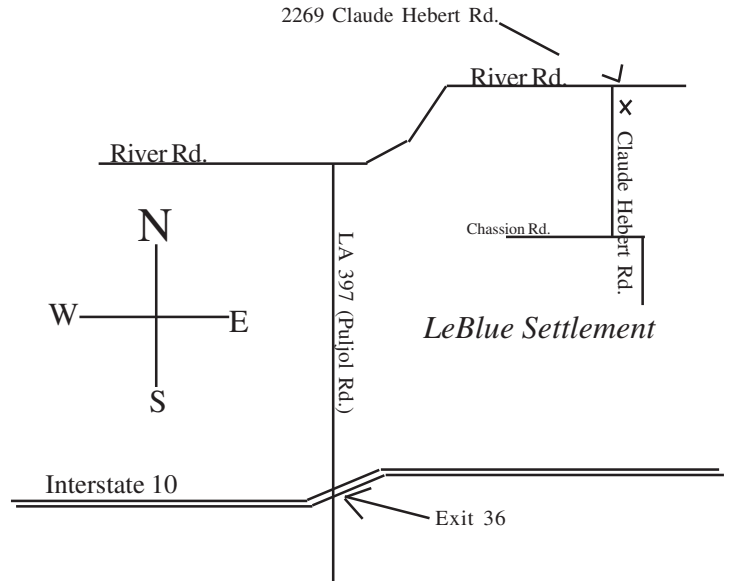
From Wood Magazine edited by Barry Humphus.

December Meeting Location

It is without doubt that the shop of Leddie and Larry Cooper is one of among the best of those that we visit each year. The shop is large, comfortable and everyone has a great time there. Go nuts or get nuts as you wish!

To get to Larry & Leddie's shop, take I-10 East from Lake Charles to the LA 397 exit (Exit 36) and go north to River Road, were it ends. Turn right onto River Rd. Follow River Rd. to Claude Hebert Rd on your right and turn right onto Claude Hebert Rd..

Thier home and shop are at 2269 Claude Hebert Rd. on your left. The shop is the green metal building. If you need further directions, give Larry or Lede a call at 515-3391 or at home - 582-6516.



December 2012

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