

Dick Trouth, President  
Joe Comeaux, Treasurer

Officers and Directors

Barry Humphus, Editor, George Kuffel  
Gary Rock, Jeff Cormier, Chuck Middleton

**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 Trouth: 583-2683. Each have years of experience and knowledge.

### November Meeting Highlights

Our outgoing President, Dick Trouth was our host at his nice shop in November. It seems to be getting smaller. Is it because there are more members or Dick just has more stuff? In any case, it is always a delight to be there. Thanks Dick for a wonder job as President these past two years.

We have two new members this month -- Ted Garner of Sulphur and Stephen Thomas of Lake Charles. It's great to have such wonderful work shown by new members.

For the Safety Talk, Dick discussed Spontaneous Combustion and the dangers that can sneak up on you in your shop or home. We've included some more information later in the Newsletter.

Our new President (for next year and far beyond) Jeff Cormier began the Show and Tell session with presenting a few serving trays and graciously discussed the rather complex compound cut finger joints used in their construction. He ended up making a small one, a middle size and a larger one based on a plan from Wood Smith. They were in pine and pecan with a walnut stain finished in Minwax's poly. Of course, very fine work and very useful any time of the year. If you want to understand the joints, you'll need to have a talk with Jeff.



New member Steve Thomas brought us two lovely turned vessels that were segmented of bass wood, beautifully stained and finished with dyes and Minwax's PolyCrylic.

J. W. Anderson brought another wonderful cypress bench to us. I am so privileged to own one.

Mr. Eltee Thibodeaux keeps his scroll saw working with some very nice crosses and a great tiger

ger (we trust it was some LSU stuff) and very nicely done as always from Eltee.

Speaking of logos, Pie Sonnier has done a Duese -- actually not a Duesenberg (though he has done one) but an excellent rendition of the original Pontiac logo in purple heart and holly for a friend.

Our long-time LCWW Treasurer, Joe Comeaux is moving on to other things in his life with more traveling duties. I certainly know the feeling having gone from a banker to an entrepreneur to a teacher over several decades. What you don't want to do is to just sit on the couch which is one of the great things about the LCWWs -- we keep you active with something you can do and enjoy.

But back to Joe. He has turned some very nice coasters of maple, walnut, cherry and cypress for his friends and relations as gifts. These are always nice to receive during the holidays. Joe also brought a tung drum he had built for his grand children. This is a Caribbean musical instrument and sounded great.

Our new Treasurer, Sandy Kramer brought us some Christmas ornaments, gingerbread stuff and hand painted.

Mr. Rock brought us such a lovely vessel of mahogany using an aniline dye base with a polished wipe-on poly as the finish. Another item of his included a set of turned flowers and even cat-tails of oak - wow.

Don Elfret apparently likes to do larger things than most of us, particularly in the nautical areas. Don hauled a boat into Dick's small shop and we were most impressed as always with his craftsmanship.



Realizing that this shop is not too large, we did have to move away from time to time. Thanks Don - you can build a boat for me any time. Let's see, 25 feet long, 5 feet wide at the beam, centerboard sloup -- that will do -- I'll send you my specifications - haha! Great job Don.

Last, J.W. Anderson discussed a method of center finding for boards and lumber -- a most useful skill that we all appreciated.

Coming Up .... The shop of Larry and Ledie Cooper will be out final stop this year. It is always a pleasure to go to this large and friendly place. 9:00 A.M. 12/12/2011.

## The President Speaks!

Inadvertently omitted mentioning at last month's meeting that we will have a gift exchange at our December meeting.

Surprisingly, no one else reminded me. The rules are: to bring a wrapped gift related to woodworking (at a cost limit of \$25.00) and we will draw numbers for the order of choosing the gifts -- just like last year. Please understand that this is not required. Don't participate if you do not care to do so.

Larry Cooper is donating some buckets of nuts again for an auction as a fund raiser. Thanks Larry & Leddie.

Those interested in a wooden LCWW name tag should please bring \$12 cash to the next meeting, *Dick Truth*.

### Danger of Spontaneous Combustion

Dick Toth brought up the issue of spontaneous combustion at last month's meeting and this is something that each of us needs to consider both in our shops and our homes.

There are a couple of other issues we need to consider during the holiday season and we will address these as well.

Spontaneous combustion is a type of combustion or fire which occurs without an external ignition source. It is simply a mix of fuel, an ignition source (generally just heat) and oxygen. The fuel source is a surprising mix of simple materials and ones that you may not consider. For example, a substance with a relatively low ignition temperature begins to release heat, which may occur in several ways, such as oxidation or fermentation. Then, the heat is unable to escape, and the temperature of the material rises. Then the temperature of the material rises above its ignition point, then, combustion begins if a sufficiently strong oxidizer, such as oxygen, is present.

Examples of fuel will include haystacks, compost piles and cotton or linen. Linseed oil in a partially confined space (such as a pile of oil-soaked rags left out in an uncovered container) can oxidize leading to a buildup of heat and thus ignition. Even Pistachio nuts are highly flammable when stored in a quantity, and are prone to self-heating and spontaneous combustion.

Cotton or linen in particular when these materials come into contact with polyunsaturated vegetable oils (linseed, massage oils, polyurethane, Danish oil, etc.) bacteria slowly decompose the materials and produce large amounts of heat. If these materials are stored in a way so the heat cannot escape, the heat build up increases the rate of decomposition and thus the rate of heat build up increases. Once ignition temperature is reached, combustion occurs with

oxidizers present (oxygen). So you have a fire and it could be a big one as well.

The chemistry of all of this is rather simple. As we said up front, all a fire takes is a mix of fuel, an ignition source (heat) and oxygen. For most of us, the danger lies in finishes as nearly all of them contain some sort of oil (linseed, polyurethane, Danish oil -- basically linseed and poly) -- and all of these are combustible and when combined with cotton or linen in a limited container and produce vast amounts of heat. Other materials are even more susceptible to spontaneous combustion and you can see many of these on Youtube.com should you wish to see the fireworks.

But there is another holiday treat for which you should be aware and that is your standard Christmas tree. As you likely know, as you are a woodworker, these are made of pine or fir. All of these trees contain that wonderful product we all know and love - pine oil. It is a polyunsaturated chemical, wonderful for many applications and very combustible.

A Christmas tree that has dried out can be a firestorm in your home. If you want a traditional tree for Christmas, please keep it as wet as possible after your purchase. Make certain that the bottom of the tree gets a clean cut off before you mount it in your home and water this tree -- or at least check it daily. It wants to suck up water and you must provide this to make it safe for your home. Please have a very safe Christmas season. Barry Humphus.

### Annual LCWW Club Dues

There is no better place each month than the Lake Charles Woodworkers Club meetings. You get great refreshments (I know, your spouse likely does not want you to eat those wonderful donuts because of the fat and the delicious cholesterol -- but hey, it is just once a month). And of course there is the coffee -- I certainly need more.

So here is the deal -- get some fresh donuts and some fresh coffee and enjoy your experience each month at the Lake Charles Woodworkers Club meetings. You will be enlightened, entertained, learn a thing or two about woodworking and may be inspired to do some woodworking yourself.

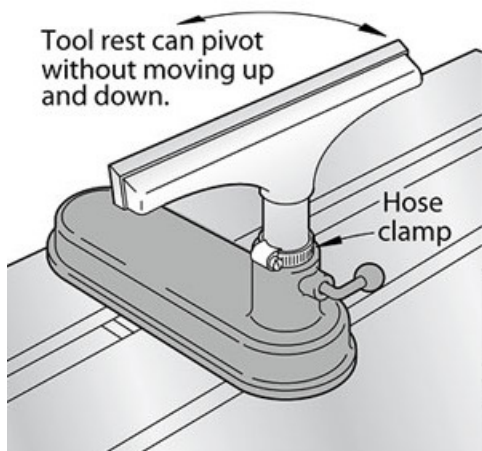
All you need to do is send or give a check for just \$20 to our wonderful and lovely new Treasurer, Ms. Sandy Kramer. This membership covers your entire family, so anyone can enjoy each month what we each enjoy at our meetings.

Send your \$20 check to LCWW Treasurer, 6821 Bumbury Road, Lake Charles, LA 70605 payable to LCWW and you will be delighted.



### Hose Clamp Marks lathe Tool-rest Position

When you rotate your lathe's tool rest to cut angles and tapers,

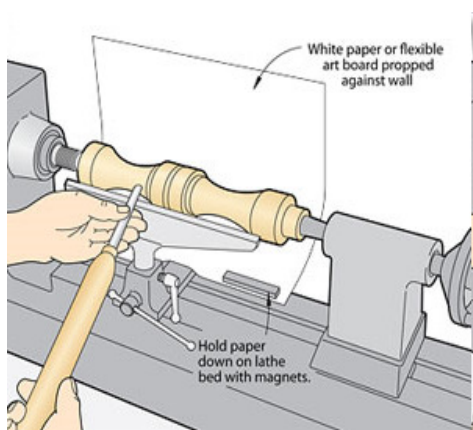


it's easy to lose track of the original elevation. Finding that exact spot again can try your patience. Slip a hose clamp from the hardware store onto the shaft of the tool rest in the position you want to return to and tighten it down as show.

Then, go ahead and move the tool rest to cut your tapers and angles. When you're ready to return to the original spot, the hose clamp will keep the tool rest at the proper level. *From William D. Phillips, Punxsutawney, Pa. via Wood Magazine.*

### White backdrop helps turnings stand out

Some home shops are not the clean, well-lit places they could be. And on projects with intricate shapes, like the profile of a turning,



a clear view of the workpiece may ultimately make the difference between success or failure.

If the area behind your lathe is dark and dingy, you can improve the view of your turnings. Place a piece of white paper or flexible art board

behind the workpiece. Hold the bottom of the paper to the lathe with a pair of magnets as shown and prop the top against the wall. The contrast between the white paper and the wood will give you a crisp silhouette for clearly judging the progress of your work. *From Michael Locke, Huntington Beach, Calif. via Wood Magazine.*

### Get a Grip

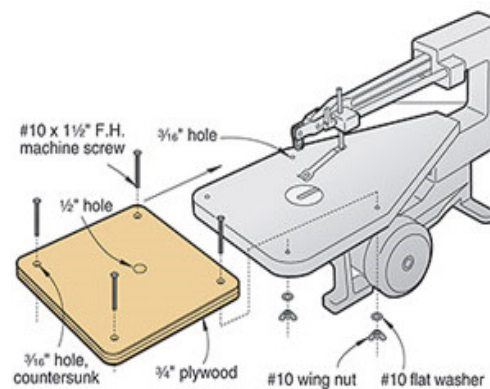
To keep better control of my workpiece when scrollsawing, you can purchase a handful of rubber fingers from an office-supply store and put one on the middle finger of each hand. Because your fingers get better traction, you can really spin the wood on my waxed saw table. *Barry Humphus.*  
Page 3 Lake Charles Woodworkers Club, Inc.

### Rounding your Saw Blade Backs

If rough edges or burn marks mar your scrollsaw or bandsaw work, particularly with thicker stock, here's a possible solution for you. With a blade in place and your scrollsaw or bandsaw running, gently touch a metal file to both back corners of the blade. The rounded back corners enable your blade to cut tighter curves without the corners digging into the wood. I did this with my bandsaw on a 1/4 inch and 1/16 inch blade and got very good results. I'm shure Mr. Tibodeaux knows this trick as well but it only occurred to me recently. *Barry Humphus.*

### Built-up tabletop for Scrollsaw

If you do a lot of scrollsaw work in a year's time and go through lots of blades, here's a trick I read about. Rather than throw away the blades away after they become dull or lost their set, mounted an auxiliary top on your saw table as shown here. The top raises the workpiece up so you are sawing with "new" teeth.



Once again, Eltee has likely got this covered as well. *Barry Humphus, edited from Wood Magazine.*

### End of the Year

As we close 2011 and look forward to 2012 in the Lake Charles Woodworkers Club for more wonderful projects from our members, please let me wish each and every one of you a most wonderful year completed and a next one where you will continue to enjoy the art and science of woodworking.

While Dick Truth, our past President and Joe Comeaux, our hard working Treasurer do other things and enjoy a bit of rest in their endeavors managing our small operations, we want to thank them each for their efforts, their dedication to our organization and wish them well.

I too want to thank each and every member of the LCWW for their continued support, the great ideas that have surfaced and that I've written about and of course those incredible projects that each of you have shown and discussed at our monthly meetings.

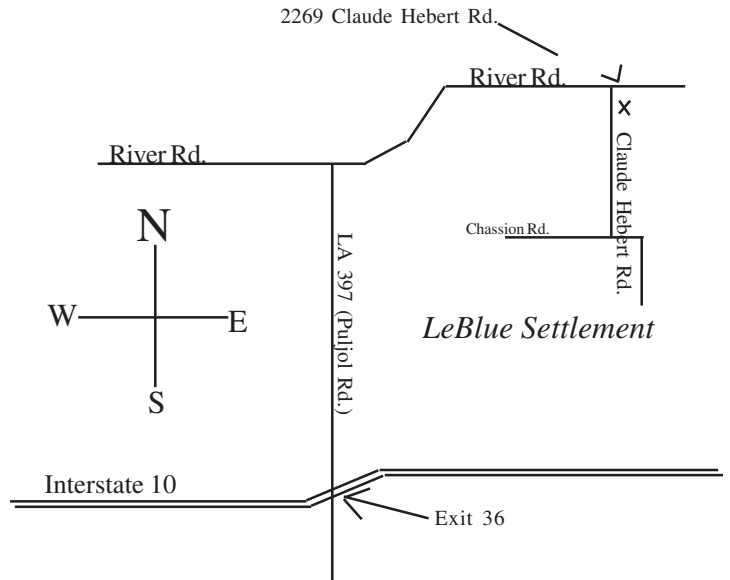
It is a joy to be among such creative and wonderful people. Thank you all. *Barry Humphus.*

### 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 a call at 515-3391 or at home - 582-6516.



### **Trouth Air Conditioning**

1212 Whitaker Street  
Sulhpur, LA 70665  
337 527 8683  
337 527 8687 Fax

**Rusty Trouth**  
Residential Manager



December 2011

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