

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.

January Meeting Highlights

We were back in our regular meeting place this month at the Stine's store on Nelson Road and of course we sincerely appreciate the generosity of the Stine folks' for hosting our monthly meetings.

We went to Stines recently to acquire a new flashlight. The nice one I purchased turned out to be defective. I brought it back and after the person in the Electrical area tested it, I got an immediate replacement. It was very careful and through treatment of a customer with a smile. It is that kind of personal service that makes Stine the premier place to shop for your woodworking and household needs.

We had a guest this month: Carolyn Conroy and it was great to have her at the meeting. As mentioned in the December issue, we had the annual board meeting and several ideas were discussed including more promotion for the LCWW. This included a planned event at the front of Stines after the April meeting. The idea is to set up some tables and

show off some of our work, including sales. Other ideas suggested were to participate in one of the events held at Burton or perhaps a visit to either the KPLC morning show or the one at the CBS station.

John Griffith is expanding his building musical instruments and is considering a drum. He wants to use a traditional leather skin for the top and it was suggested that he use a chamois which is widely

available in large sizes at auto supply stores.

For Show and Tell, we had a nice little box of lacewood (sometimes called leopardwood) with a MinWax finish.

Ray Kebodeaux brought in a segmented bowl made



entirely of scraps from his shop. It included featherwood, water maple, beech and mahogany with a glued on top ring of maple and mahogany. He finished it with the water-based Hellman spar varnish.

J.W. Anderson continues with his wooden knife series and this time it was a Japanese shoshin made of sassafras and walnut. George Carr carved a clock body in basswood with a dark maghogany gel stain. George also did some neat cedar closet hangers that keep the moths away.



Patrick LaPoint showed an example of a tiny five drawer cabinet designed for children. He has built lots of small item of late for the children's program for which he participates. The build was from very thin five-ply Russian plywood. Patrick mentioned that you can get this (and many other types) at Louisiana Molding and Door at 6288 Highway 90 E.. This business was called Cabinets and Doors and located in Iowa. Their number is 433-1881 and are open from 6:30 A.M. until 3:30 P.M. on weekdays.

Dues reminder: Your annual dues support the activities of the Lake Charles Woodworkers Club including the coffee and donuts each meeting, the newsletter and our web site. Please give your check or cash of \$20 to Patrick LaPoint. Coming Up . . . Saturday, Feb. 9, 2019 at 9:00 A.M. at the Stines on Nelson Road in Lake Charles.

## Tape Up Your Shop

While “carpet tape” has long been a mainstay in many wood-working shops, I have recently become a fan of the double-sided woodworking tape made by Avery Dennison. This tape has several advantages over standard carpet tapes. Because the two sides of the Avery Dennison tape each use a different adhesive, it excels at attaching a template to a workpiece.

One side has a “permanent” adhesive that is fixed to the template first. Then the other less tacky side can be attached to the workpiece. Once in position, the tape allows no lateral movement, but can be repositioned on the workpiece easily. Another advantage of this tape is that it tears conveniently by hand, eliminating the need to track down scissors or a utility knife. Also, it leaves no residue when removed, something that can’t be said for regular carpet tape. This tape can be found at Amazon.com.

Masking tape has all but been replaced by the newer painter’s tapes available today. Because masking tape is notorious for being difficult to remove and for leaving gummy residue on worksurfaces, painter’s tapes are hands down the perfect alternative. Besides being useful for masking off areas when finishing parts, painter’s tape also helps to keep glue squeeze-out off of finished areas when doing assembly work. It can even double as a “clamp” when joining small parts. To prevent tearing out fibers when cutting cabinet-grade plywood, I prefer to use a low-tack painter’s tape like the FrogTape. This particular tape is labeled as “delicate surface.” It provides a low adhesion to your workpiece and removes cleanly. Simply place the tape, mark your cut line, and make the cut. I use painter’s tape in my computer lab at work to temporarily label equipment going from one area or building to another. It can be found at paint suppliers and of course at Stine’s.

When I don’t want to deal with the hassle of contact cement or a messy spray adhesive, you grab my roll of SpeedTape by FastCap. This double-sided acrylic tape is incredibly sticky stuff that provides instant adhesion. It sets up to maximum strength within 24 hours. Designed to adhere laminates, veneers, or edge banding to a worksurface, this tape is also strong enough to be used for cabinet refacing. To use, simply apply the tape to one surface, peel off the paper liner and press the material to the tape. A J-roller should be used to apply even pressure over the entire surface.

Ultra-high-molecular-weight (UHMW) polyethylene tape is another great product to keep in the shop. This “slick tape” is perfect for making parts slide more easily. UHMW tape is perfect for use with jigs, fixtures, or on the face of a table saw rip fence. It also works wonders on wood drawer

runners. It not only makes the drawers function effortlessly, it also helps prevent wear on the runners. As you see here, I like to use UHMW tape on my pipe clamps. It allows me to easily position heavy workpieces for glueup. It also makes glue cleanup a snap. Any glue that squeezes out onto the clamp can simply be “chipped” off with the light touch of a scraper. In addition, the tape keeps unsightly black stains off my workpieces.

This final tape is not really a “tape” in the true sense of the word. There is no obvious adhesive, and it will only stick to itself, not other things. Comprised of a cotton gauze coated with a latex compound, high-friction guard tape is perfect for protecting your fingers when doing carving work. Plus, it holds its shape well, allowing it to slip on and off your fingers easily. Guard tape is also useful for improving the grip on hand tools. Simply wrap a piece around almost any tool to get a better grip on your tool. Wrap it around your fingers. The high-friction nature of this tape makes it an ideal wrap. Lee Valley carries this. (LeeValley.com).

## Sanding: Easier

Sanding woodwork by hand may seem like a chore, but with special tools and high-quality sandpaper, you’ll get excellent results that often outshine a power sander. Besides, it’s quieter, doesn’t produce clouds of dust, and may get into places power sanders cannot.

Use a sanding block for faster, more efficient results. It distributes sanding pressure more evenly and maintains a flatter surface than merely folding a piece of sandpaper. Also, change sandpaper often.

Sand with the grain of the wood, especially for the final grits. To remove deep scratches and stains, angle across the grain up to about 45° for the first sanding. Before moving to the next finer grit, sand with the grain to remove all cross-grain scratches.

For sanding painted surfaces, buy clog-resistant sandpaper. The paint will build up slower than on standard sandpaper. Lots of great quality sandpaper is available at Stines.

## Drywall Screws And Where You Don’t

When screwing two pieces of wood together, use the traditional wood screw over the drywall screw for better results.

A drywall screw is threaded the full length. Since the top threads tend to grip the first board it enters, this can force two pieces of wood apart slightly because you have threads in both boards.

The top part of a wood screw, on the other hand, has a smooth shank that won’t grip the first board. This makes

Continues on page 3

## Draywal Screws Continued

it easier to clamp two pieces of wood together.

There's another reason to avoid drywall screws: The hardened, brittle steel shafts of drywall screws will often break during installation, especially when screwed into hardwoods. Removing them from a finished material is nearly impossible and getting them out damages the surface.

Wood screws are made of thicker, softer metal, so they're break-resistant. Wood screws do, however, require you drill:

A pilot hole for the threads

A wider counterbore hole the length of the non-t

threaded shaft A countersink hole for setting the head

However, you can easily handle all three drilling chores by buying a set of three countersinking bits. They handle most common screw sizes.

## Wood Moisture Content

When building with wood, you must know the correct moisture content of each piece of wood.

Too dry, and the finished product may swell or crack. Too moist, and the end product may shrink or warp. It's no wonder experts say incorrect moisture causes 80% of all woodworking problems.

WoodMoistureAppTherefore, it's critical to know the moisture content of each piece of wood before it is used. For instance, if you're planning an inlay job using two different species of wood, you'll need to know the moisture content of each type so that your inlay glue joints stay intact.

A failsafe way to avoid a ruined project is to use a moisture meter. Wagner Meters is one provider for both professionals and hobbyists a variety of highly accurate, professional-grade moisture meters.

To help solve your moisture problems easily and quickly, Wagner offers you the FREE Wood H2O mobile app. This handy app calculates equilibrium moisture content (EMC), troubleshoots many common wood moisture problems, and accesses helpful resources.

## Glue Stains?

To eliminate stains caused by oozing glue along joints, clamp the pieces together without glue. Apply masking tape over the joint and then cut it with a utility knife.

Next, separate the pieces, apply the glue, and clamp them together again. The glue will ooze onto the tape, not the wood. Remove the tape before the glue dries.

## Drafting Square

Make accurate measuring and marking layouts on boards faster and easier with a drafting square – available at any art

supply store. These are available at Micahels locally but you can also pick one up at Stine.

When you need an accurate square in the 2- to 3-foot range, drafting squares beat the cumbersome drywall squares for accuracy and eliminate the hassle of hooking up a carpenter square.

## Keep Sharp

Dull tools such as chisels, blades, planes, scrapers and gouges don't cut cleanly. They tear at the wood fibers resulting in a fuzzy, uneven, unprofessional look.

Tools that have been chipped or nicked require grinding. A bench grinder, wet grinder, or even a belt sander can be used.

Avoid letting your tool get too hot when using a bench grinder or belt sander to prevent it from losing temper. Dipping it in a pan of cool water every few seconds will help.

After grinding, proceed to honing using either a flat wet stone or oil stone. A wet stone is preferred when doing fine woodworking. You can also use wet-dry sand paper on a very flat surface such as a peice of glass. Use increasing grit for a very polished surface.

The final step is polishing using a very fine wet stone, a stropping wheel or leather. A tormek or Jet grinder is a great option for sharpening as well.

Tools with sharper blades make woodworking easier, more efficient, and safer.

## One More Thing

Achieving efficiency in your shop can sometimes be as simple as clearing clutter from your work area. A disorderly work area can hinder your productivity.

Another tip: Only keep out items that you use daily. Everything else should be put in designated areas so they're quickly retrievable when needed.

Pay special attention to lighting. You should have consistent and ample illumination on all work areas so you can work from any angle without casting shadows. This ensures safety and productivity.

Consider:

Overhead lighting

Focused lighting

On-tool lights

Painting walls and the ceiling white can help diffuse the light.

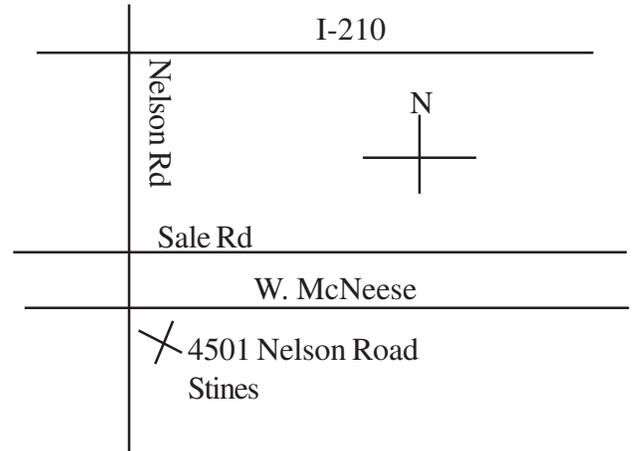
Don't forget your annual dues. Send them to Patrick LaPoint or see him at our next meeting.

### February 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.



February 2019