

WOODWORKERS

CLUB OF HOUSTON

VOL. 3, NO. 10

OCTOBER, 1987

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SEPTEMBER MEETING

Alvin Smith of ALLTEX HARDWOODS was our host for the Sept. Meeting. They were very gracious and accommodating by supplying the members with coffee, sodas and donuts and allowing us to use their airconditioned meeting room.

Alvin Smith started his woodworking career in the Navy, he also taught in industrial arts and was the first to try to sell particle board to cabinet shops (They said particle board would never sell-- Famous Last Words).

Alltex receives all their wood in the rough and random lengths and then they dress the lumber as ordered by the customer.

They have another division Black's Millwork, that does custom millwork for Hotels and Schools. They are supplying the lumber for Walt Disney World for their playground equipment. The wood is IPE, which is very dense, very smooth, does not require a finish, won't splinter, rot and bugs don't care for the taste.

Because of the location of most Exotic woods and the falling value of the U. S. Dollar, hardwoods are getting harder to purchase.

Our own U. S. Hardwoods are being bought up by the Europeans and Japan.

Japan buys our veneers slices them in half adds a Rice Paper Layer and sells them back to us.

Alvin told us of a recent trip to Seattle, he visited a Japanese wood processing ship. They purchase logs from us, as they load them on board they debark the log (which becomes a bark mulch product), on their trip to Japan a processing crew of 400 women and 600 men slice the logs for plywood, when they get to Japan the wood is glued up into plywood, reloaded on the ship, returned to the U. S. for sale at a cheaper price than our domestic plywood.

We all toured their warehouse, surfacing area, where they have very large industrial machinery including a double bladed bandsaw with 6 inch wide blades which can make two

cuts at once (supposedly the only one in Houston), their painting room and their millwork facility.

Again we want to thank Alvin Smith and Alltex for their Hospitality.

Murray Gordon brought up the problems he has been having with his Delta Scroll Saw, he has worked up a complaint form and would like all owners of the Delta Scroll Saw to fill one out and give it back to Murray. He hopes to get some action out of Delta if enough people have the same problems.

Zatis Murphy expanded on his article "BETTER LIVING THROUGH CHEMISTRY" some of the suggestions: Do not breathe or have prolonged exposure to aniline stains, varnishes and most chemicals and also wear gloves as chemicals can be absorbed through the skin.

Beware of an accumulation of vapors where you have water heaters (Gas or Electric) and many power tools spark. When using flammable or combustible materials have plenty of ventilation.

Periodically check power cords for wear or fraying.

Always read labels.

If you are using PVC or Plastic Pipe on your Dust Collection System be sure to ground the system with a copper wire running through the pipes.

Have a fan running before you do any stripping with flammable material as fans can spark.

SHOW AND TELL

Leonard Ekholm showed us wall racks.

Dan Shaklovitz had cradles made of Luann Mahogany.

Zatis Murphy had note holder, towel holder, small table and butcher block chopping board.

Gayle Robinson showed us belt holders, tie racks, towel holders, trivets, salt & pepper holders, key holder and letter opener.

Lawrence Polzer had a bird mobile.

Chuck Maxwell had a photo of 15 signs he made for a subdivision.

Mark Chamberlain had a note pad of adding machine tape for a very long note.

Ed Caesar Demonstrated a clamp he made that will open to 16 inches and scroll saw signs.

Most of the items for show and tell items were donated by the members for sale at the Charity show---keep up the good work.

CLINICS AND WORKSHOPS

Murray Gordon needs everyone to return the video tapes promptly so someone else may use them. If your'e not going to be at the meeting arrange to get the tapes back, with another member , mail them back or just call Murray.

The next router class is scheduled for the 1st Saturday after the Oct. meeting. If there is a change and your name is on the list someone will call you.

The Radial Arm Saw clinic is in limbo and may be cancelled unless someone else can be found to give them any volunteers.

LIBRARY

Please return all Woodsmith issues to the Library.

NEW BUSINESS

Chuck Maxwell is Advertising Chairman for our Newsletter, if anyone knows someone who would like to advertise let chuck know about them. The cost for 12 months is \$100.00 (what a deal) with their camera ready art, they receive 12 issues with their ad and our membership roster. This helps defray some of the cost of the newsletter, helping to keep our dues as low as possible.

At the time of our Sept. meeting Henry Reed was in the Hospital, as of Monday Sept. 14th. He was home, bored and doing fine.

Hebert Wilbourn's wife was in a auto accident and is in the Hospital and doing better.

We wish you both a speedy recovery.

Bob Soderblom read a letter from the Habitat, Inc. They need volunteers to help build homes to be sold to needy people. They have the supplies, they just need the workers, not only will you be helping your community, you can also learn valuable house building skills. The address is Houston Habitat for Humanity, Inc., P.O. Box 27041 Houston, 77277-0411 or call Carl W. Umbard, Pres. 521-2816.

Hebert Wilbourn has information on the 1st State Wide Toy Fair 1987, November 28 & 29 in Borne, Tex. 25 miles West of San Antonio via IH 10. There is selling space available for information contact: Scott Billingsley, Sec. P.O. Box 492, Borne, Tex. 78006 (512) 249-3535. The cost of exhibition space is \$150.00 total fee, space is approx. 100 sq. feet.

FUTURE EVENTS

Bob Soderblom and Hebert Wilbourn visited the Big Thicket Chair Co. in Harding, Tex. and are planning another field trip for the club in the future.

PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

How can you fix a Belt Sander with a tracking problem?

Ed Caesar suggested new bearings as he did with his, he also installed 2 bearings on the left and 3 bearings on the right side.

Sometimes just changing the Belt with a new one will help because a belt as it wears can stretch or crown, also moisture(Humidity) can affect the performance of the belt.

When Sand Blasting signs what do you use to protect the area you don't want removed?

You can use rubber mat or rubber gasket with rubber cement. There is also a material made just for this purpose--Check with art stores and the people that sell the blasting material.

When using a Taper Jig which end goes first narrow or wide?

Put the Narrow end towards you.

If you have a problem with Bimetal Blades breaking you might try what Chuck Maxwell did. He switched suppliers of Band Saw Blades and found that they don't break as easily and are less expensive. The source is Plowden Supply at 6300 Navigation. The blades they carry are Lenox as Recommended in Woodsmith.

SAFETY

By Zatis Murphy

Two months ago I addressed some special safety precautions for table and radial-arm saws. This article will cover some safety aspects of other power saws.

Bandsaws usually require frequent adjustments. Make sure the blade is sharp and set at the proper tension with the teeth pointing down. Check to see that the upper and lower blade guides and back bearings are adjusted properly. Use the blade guard at all times. If your machine is belt driven, ensure that the belt and pulley covers are in place. When installing a blade, rotate the drive wheels by hand to check for proper tracking before turning on the power. Set the upper blade guide about 1/4 inch above the stock to be cut. Hold the stock firmly on the table to do your cutting. Use holding jigs for cutting small or round stock.

Avoid backing out of a cut as this pulls the blade off the drive wheels. Never cut small radius curves with wide blades unless relief cuts are made first. Check the blade frequently for flaws or cracks. Don't stand to the side of the cutting table while the saw is running. If the blade breaks, shut off the power and stay away until the machine stops. Keep your fingers and arms away from the blade cut lines.

Jig or scroll saws should be mounted firmly to a bench or stand to reduce vibration. Blades must be sharp and set at the proper tension with the teeth pointing down. Always use the blade guides and guards. Use the appropriate feed rate for the size of the blade and the thickness of the stock. Don't force the cut too fast, as this can cause the blade to break.

Power hand saws (circular, sabre and reciprocating saws) are useful both in and out of the woodworking shop. Always use the right blades and keep the blade guards in place. Make sure that switches are in the off position BEFORE connecting the tool to the power supply. If an electrical extension cord is used, be sure it contains the proper size wires; Longer cords require larger wire size to reduce voltage drop. Be sure the saw (or any other power hand tool) is properly grounded. Remember too, that double insulated tools can be dangerous shock hazards if used improperly.....in a wet environment. Make sure your hands and feet are dry, too.

If you're into cutting your own stock from trees, you may use a chain saw occasionally. Chain saws are particularly dangerous saws. Most have exposed chains without guards. Some have anti-kickback safety features. Make sure the cutting chain is adjusted and lubricated properly. Keep both hands on the saw and maintain a comfortable, well-balanced stance while cutting. Protect your eyes and ears!

Once, there was a "first time" you used a power tool. For those first times, read and follow the instructions and safety tips given by the manufacturer. If you have any doubts about the tool, talk with someone who has had experience with that tool. A little extra caution at the beginning could save you a lot of heart-ache in the end. Happy Woodworking!

BUY AND SELL

Andy Blodgett has a Dremel Saw for sale \$50.00 353-9819.

Robert Sandlin has a cordless screwdriver for sale \$15.00 528-5087.

Ron Kuenning has a 4 inch Rockwell Joiner for sale \$200.00 498-6760.

Louis Fernandez has a 2 inch Finishing nailer for sale \$150.00 522-1769

THE VIDEO EDITOR

By Doug Blodgett

This month we are going to review the tape "Bowl Turning with Dell Stubbs". Mr. Stubbs has

been turning bowls for 10 years and has an easy going sense of humor which makes for an enjoyable lesson in bowl turning.

He starts with an explanation of the different types of chisels and how to modify them to suit individual requirements. Mr Stubbs is a self-confessed tinkerer and seems to "modify" almost everything he works with. Anyway, he shows 4 basic types of chisels, deep cut grooves, medium cut gouges, flat scrapers, and spindle gouges. He regards all the chisels as nothing more than "a handle with an edge on it".

What he does with those "handles" is another story. We aren't talking everyday bowls here. This guy seems to delight in making them so thin that they flex and are almost transparent. He does, however, progress from simple to complex during the tape, so there is something here for beginner and advanced turner alike.

Next, he discusses how to use the different chisels and various types of grips. There are some good tips here (eg. let the heel of the gouge rub the wood to prevent grabbing) and the closeups showing how the edge of the tool cuts the wood are excellent. He shows very clearly the difference between deep and shallow gouges and how completely different angles of attack achieve the same cut. He doesn't condemn scrapers either - they have their place and can produce excellent results if used properly.

There is a small discussion of wood and how to select various sections to achieve the desired effect in the final piece. Placing the sapwood in the wrong spot can create a disaster but placing it correctly can create a beautiful turning.

He shows most of the different types of chucks that are available, multiple screw faceplate, precision, collet, expanding 6 in 1, pin chuck, etc. Naturally, he has one of his own design or "modification". His lathe has some interesting modifications too such as a foot operated clutch and 300 pounds of sand to dampen vibrations. The clutch is a safety item, a subject that I was happy to see was stressed throughout the tape. I noticed that he wore a safety mask at all times the lathe was on.

Tip #2 - always work from the largest to smallest diameter when working the inside of a bowl unless it is an end grain piece.

Tip #3 - attend as many seminars and workshops you can in order to pick up more tips.

This review is beginning to get lengthy so let me summarize what else is covered. Sharpening the tools, demo showing how to do one of those thin things from log to finished product, finishing the turning, and some special techniques for advanced turners. Attention to detail seems to be the key to turning out some really good projects.

This is a really good tape if you are interested in bowl turning and I recommend it highly.

CHARITY SHOW

FRIDAY OCTOBER 23 & SATURDAY OCTOBER 24

This is the last meeting before the BIG EVENT. We need lots of different items, if your finished bring your projects to the meeting, if you can't be there call Don Sloan at 688-8986 or Jimmie Harp 664-4906 and they will make arrangements to get your items to the sale. If you haven't started there is still time, but you must shake a leg!!! or two legs.

OCTOBER MEETING

WHEN: SATURDAY OCTOBER 10TH 9:00 A.M.

WHERE: UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
INDUSTRIAL ARTS BLDG.

We will meet at the University of Houston Industrial Arts Bldg., (Thank you Doc. Forkner), to gain an insight into cabinetmaking on a higher plane than most of us are familiar with. We are fortunate to have another of our newer members come forward and volunteer to share with us his unique talents of AIRCRAFT CABINET MAKING. Louis Fernandez will explain how to join thin woods and hardware to meet requirements for installation in aircraft.

Directions: From downtown, south on Gulf Freeway (I45) to Cullen/Calhoun exit (Look for sign: U. of H.). South on Calhoun around to Gate 19. After entering, drive between parking lots on both sides to the first street, turn left and follow around between buildings to end of street then look across slightly to your left to see older concrete block bldg. Bring your folding chairs.

SEE YOU THERE.....

DECEMBER MEETING

Will be Thursday December 10th starting at 7:00 P.M. at the Rice University Faculty Club. Now is the time to make your Reservations for a repeat of last December's outstanding Dinner/Fellowship/"Super" show-n-tell meeting. A form is printed herein for your convenience. We need to let the University know how many dinners to plan for so send in (or bring to next meeting) your reservation forms with check as soon as possible. Actual cost per dinner is a little more than \$12.50 per person but your thoughtful and generous club is picking up the tab for the extra amount.

The Super '87 Show-N-Tell portion of the evening is for your "Best of '87 item to be professionally judged for several winners in each of several categories. Last year's items not permitted in this year's contest. If you have not started your best project you still have over 2 months time---But only after completing your items for the Oct. 23rd and 24th charity show.

Again, please use the form to send in you check for reservations ASAP. DEADLINE TO RON KUENNING IS OCT. 31st.

SPEAK OUT

By Sharon Buckley

As one of the original 23 members, with a credit for getting this club ramrodded from its inception was and is Bill Beggs, our founding wood butcher.

The main purpose of this club was to help each other, share ideas, friendship, and have a good time in the process.

The club was only a vehicle to accomplish this, we kept dues to a minimum starting @ \$4.00 which just covered a hand typed & xerox copy loosely constructed newsletter (written by our Founder Bill Beggs till this year when Steve Procter took over).

We wanted a club where everyone knew each other, where the officers were elected yearly.

As we shot up in membership we have had some growing pains, we came up with a loosely drafted Constitution and By-Laws, made up the Board of Directors from the Past Years Officers, so the club would have continuity but not the same officers year after year.

Dues are still low which helps---There's not enough money in the Treasury to fight over.

We started a Charity show to help our community, and we also help our club by introducing ourselves to new members in the community.

The only thing that would improve this club is more participation by its members, everyone has new and fresh ideas---We need and want them.

When we ask for volunteers, Don't be afraid that you have to do it alone or that we won't help.

The Charity show is Fun, Sam will even let you go to Lunch, have a coffee break at least once every 6-8 Hours.

Now to rap up this rambling -- My main Purpose or Pet Peave is NAME TAGS.

They are supplied for a good reason, not just because Kurt Fortenbach does such a good job on them.

The way everyone can know who you are is by that NAME TAG. Every member should have a Permanent Tag, If you've Lost it, Washed it or Whatever let me know and I'll get another one made.

If you took your Name tag home and forgot it, Please return it to the Name Tag Board, or if you left it at home, Please get a Guest Tag Put Your Name On It and Wear It!

I WEAR MINE !!!!!!!!!!!!!

ITS Very Important.

WEAR THAT NAME TAG!!!!!!!!!!!!

DON'T BE A PHANTOM MEMBER!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!