

# THE CHARLOTTE SAWDUST

The Official Journal of  
The Charlotte Woodworker's Association

[www.charlottewoodworkers.org](http://www.charlottewoodworkers.org)

## Meeting Time

Meetings of the Charlotte Woodworker's Association are held the third Monday of each month, except for December. Meetings are typically held at THE WOODWORKING SHOP of Charlotte, 116M Freeland Lane, Charlotte, NC. Exceptions will be announced well in advance. If you need directions to the shop, visit their web site at <http://www.woodworkingshop.com> and click on the link to "Store Locations".

Following a social and refreshment time that starts at 5:30pm, our meetings start at 6:00pm. Get to the meeting early and get to know your fellow woodworking enthusiasts. Please refrain from placing food, drinks and trash on worktables and shelves around The Woodworking Shop, they have allowed us to use their facilities and being a good guest is, well just the right thing to do.

**At the June meeting our speaker will be John McAlister; he will talk about 18<sup>th</sup> century furniture, afterwards a demonstration will be given on carving a ball and claw foot.**

## CWA Mentor Program

The following members have offered their help to anyone interested in learning skills or new techniques in their area of interest. Contact each person to arrange times to get together if interested.

Name	Area of Interest	Phone	Email
Wayne Cooper	***	704.409.1417	<a href="mailto:cooper@arconmfg.com">cooper@arconmfg.com</a>
Bill Golden	Shopsmith & Totalshop	704.525.9691	<a href="mailto:poptoyshop@earthlink.net">poptoyshop@earthlink.net</a>
Dwight Hartsell	Woodturning	704.598.6029	<a href="mailto:woodwight@aol.com">woodwight@aol.com</a>
Jeff Jacobs	any woodworking	704.309.1263	<a href="mailto:jacobj@meckco.com">jacobj@meckco.com</a>
Wayne Manahan	Sharpening	704.768.0768	<a href="mailto:wmanahan@vnet.net">wmanahan@vnet.net</a>
Gil Milsaps	Windsor chairs	704.875.0758	<a href="mailto:gad32about@aol.com">gad32about@aol.com</a>
Alvin Tench	any woodworking	704.824.7717	<a href="mailto:alvintench@netzero.com">alvintench@netzero.com</a>

\*\*\* Wayne Cooper has a fairly complete shop and would actually like an experienced woodworker to use it and teach him how to use it properly in exchange for use of the shop. If you are interested in helping Mr. Cooper please contact him directly to make appropriate arrangements.

## Email Option for SAWDUST

If you don't already receive THE SAWDUST by email, please consider this option. By receiving the newsletter by email you 1) save the organization money, 2) receive color pictures, and finally 3) quicker delivery. Sign up today for the email option by sending an email to [secretary@charlottewoodworkers.org](mailto:secretary@charlottewoodworkers.org) and your delivery method will be changed immediately.

## **\$\$\$ Save Money Everyday \$\$\$**

As a member of the Charlotte Woodworkers Association you can save 10% off all your purchases from The Woodworking Shop, excluding wood and power tools. Thanks to our hosts at the Woodworking Shop for allowing us to have our monthly meetings and extending 10% off to CWA members.

## **Write an article for Sawdust**

This month's article comes from our President, Wayne Manahan.

### **Flattening Waterstones for Optimum Sharpening Performance**

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Sharpening edge tools such chisels, plane irons, and scrapers for optimum performance depends upon a number of factors. One of the most important, if the woodworker is looking for a straight edge that cuts cleanly and can be relied upon to produce flat surfaces, is the flatness of the sharpening surface. In the case of waterstones, this is the surface of the stone. This article will cover one possible process for flattening waterstones. While there are a number of possible ways to flatten these stones, most will be fundamentally similar to the method described here.

What seems like too many years ago, Norton began making a line of waterstones for sharpening. They were reviewed in one of the standard woodworking magazines, and the reviewer liked them so much that I decided to get a set. That's when I should have first flattened my waterstones. When they were new.

Well I did start thinking about flattening them then, but other things just seemed to come first. It's a shame, because you can flatten these stones with a piece of sandpaper taped to the top of a flat surface: your tablesaw, your jointer, your... well you get the idea. Instead my eye was on a ceramic flattening stone available from The Japan Woodworker (among many other places, I'm sure). The net of it is that today, when I did flatten the stones for the first time, I found that they were indeed not flat, and had never been flat. I guess they're just like any new tool, you need to tune them up to get the best they have to offer.

When I first flattened my waterstones, it was easy to see that some of the surface irregularity was due to the manufacturing process and not due to use. The fact that one side of one stone had a hump that covered the entire center area of the stone proves this. I sharpen mostly in the middle area of the stone, and that would tend to create a valley there, not a mountain. So the lesson here is simple, flatten your waterstones as soon you buy them, or as soon as you can if you already own them.

Flattening is easy in principle, and although it can be time-consuming, is easy in practice. You rub the stone on a flat, abrasive surface that will cut it away until it is as flat as the surface you rub it against.

I used a DuoSharp diamond sharpening "stone" from DMT as the abrasive reference surface. This wasn't an original idea, I saw a demonstrator who was sharpening blades at the Woodworking Show in Charlotte using one to keep his waterstones flat. He'd been using the fine (600 mesh) diamond surface on his to ensure that his stones were flat prior to each use. His advice was that you should keep your stones flat at all times, and in so doing, always be assured that your sharpening job was the best it could be, at least with regard to this variable.

I knew my stones were out of flat, so I knew I wanted a coarse surface for the initial flattening. The gentleman who'd demonstrated the process had recommended a fine diamond stone for day-to-day use. DuoSharp stones have a different size diamond coating on each side of the stone, so I chose a Fine/Coarse stone, DMT part

number W250FCNB. If I could have gotten a Fine/Extra Coarse stone, I'd have gotten that, but it isn't listed as being available.

DuoSharp Stones have the diamond surface electro-plated to a steel base that is injection-molded onto a glass reinforced polycarbonate resin base, and they're flat. DMT says that they are "precision flat", but I couldn't determine the actual tolerances after searching the web for about 10 minutes. They are much flatter than my waterstones were, without a doubt.

The DMT stones are to be used with water as a lubricant, never petroleum products, and they will abrade ceramics, carbide, glass, and stone, so they're ideal for cutting a new surface on waterstones.

I flattened all of my stones outside, near an outside faucet, so that I'd have water for lubrication, for rinsing both diamond stone and waterstones, but mostly just to get the mess out of the house.

As I said, it's a simple process:

Find a stable place for the DuoSharp stone that's comfortable for you. If this is the initial grinding, or if you've neglected this job for a while, start with the course side up.

Soak the waterstone and wet the diamond stone.

Place the waterstone on the diamond stone and without much, if any, extra downward pressure rub the waterstone back and forth, side to side, any pattern that allows all portions of the waterstone's surface to be cut evenly (spinning the waterstone wouldn't work, as some parts of the waterstone would move much farther than others, resulting in an unevenly cut surface).

After a few moments of this, remove the waterstone and rinse it off. You'll see the pattern of high spots that are being removed.

Continue rubbing, occasionally stopping to check your progress and rinsing both waterstone and diamond stone. When you achieve a flat surface, you're done.

**Note:**

*You don't need a diamond stone to flatten your waterstones. You can do it with sandpaper on glass, sandpaper on an old newspaper on you kitchen counter (if you live alone) or the side of a cement block. You could probably cut a piece of MDF and use it for a base for your abrasive paper, just be sure not to get it wet.*

*The quality and flatness of the surface you produce will be directly related to the abrasive reference surface, and how well you keep it clean of the material that you grind away.*

*The advantages of the diamond stone are that it cuts more quickly than most abrasives, it's essentially dead flat, and it comes in a handy size that can also be used for other sharpening tasks. It will definitely replace my 220 grit waterstone for coarse sharpening work.*

The following photographs show some details of flattening waterstones.



Figure 1 - Showing hollow in stone being flattened, other features.

The area circled on the middle stone in Figure 1 is the hollow that is being ground away. Typically, hollowing on a stone is due to uneven sharpening. I believe that this hollow is "as received" from Norton, since I only rarely have used this 4000 grit stone. In any case, the stone must be ground until the hollow completely disappears as in Figure 2 below.

Note the rust stain on this middle stone. The stone is already flat in the area of the rust stain, so why do we see it? I don't know for sure, but I'd guess that since these stones are porous (remember how much water they seem to absorb) that some of the water laden with steel dust has penetrated the surface of the stone, the steel has oxidized, and left this rust stain. Could you grind past it? Who knows? It's a waste of both your energy and your waterstone to try though, so once the stone is flat, stop grinding it away!!!

The stone on the right in Figure 1 is the one that I'm sure was not flat from the manufacturer. This is the stone that had such a pronounced hump that I chose not to remove it completely at this first flattening. Instead, I'll use the stone, flatten it, and so on, and one day this hump will be ground away. Before it's flat from corner to corner, it can sharpen a lot of blades.



Figure 2 - 4000 Grit Waterstone is Flat

Figure 2 shows the waterstone in the center after it's flat. Note that it is still stained, but that the central area that had to be ground away is now gone.

On the diamond stone to the left in Figure 2 you can see the slurry left from flattening the 4000 grit stone. Normally this and the stone being flattened will have to be rinsed several times during the flattening process to keep the diamond stone cutting as quickly as possible. When this material builds up, it has the effect of lifting the waterstone up away from the diamond surface.

*DuoSharp monocrystalline diamond stones are available from the Woodworking Shop as well as other vendors.*

Why not share some of your knowledge with your fellow CWA woodworkers. Share safety stories, project stories, tool experiences, perhaps even talk about the different tools that you use more often and why. It's your newsletter, why not make it better.

### **Share your lumber sources**

No takers on the lumber sources yet. I'll list a few I know of and have used:

- HH & NK in Kings Mountain, NC
- Charlotte Hardwood Center in Charlotte, NC
- Woodcraft in Charlotte, NC
- Klingspore's The Woodworking Shop in Charlotte, NC

## May's Demonstration

At the May monthly meeting we had a professional photographer, he talked about how to take impressionable pictures of your pieces. The basics went something like this:

- Select backgrounds that do not detract from the subject being photographed. Professional backdrops can be found at photo supply stores, other choices would be old curtains or sheets, neutral colors are a good place to start
- Diffuse lighting to avoid harsh shadow lines. This can be accomplished several ways, bounce flashes, multiple lights and flashes, photograph the subject outside on a cloudy day (we've had a lot of those lately) or use B&W film
- Use the slowest ASA film to get the exposure you want to achieve
- Using a lot of light will help to draw out the characteristics and textures of the subject
- Bracket the exposure to ensure a good picture. Bracketing is a technique where you take three (or more) pictures of varying exposure levels. Some cameras have this option automatically, the first photo is under exposed, the next is 'perfect' and the third is over exposed, my Canon EOS does this. Some digital cameras may do this as well.
- Take a lot of pictures at various angles to the subject, this will allow you to pick the best exposure and angle that 'sets the piece off'
- Use a tripod and remote release, if possible. This will allow for stability and jitter free pictures
- Last, but not certainly no least, get down and level to the subject, this will help with perspective and aspect



## Classified Section

\$\$ For Sale \$\$



Vertical/Horizontal metal cutting bandsaw with 80" cutting depth by Carolina of Traveler's Rest, SC. Saw has a new motor with less than 10 hours of use. Blade is 115 1/2" x 3/4". The unit is 41" tall and 51" wide. Will sell for \$500.00.

Contact Rick Hartsell @ 704.238.0682



Craftsman 10" radial arm saw with 1 month old motor, with 1 year warranty. Can be wired for 110 or 220 volt. New this would cost \$800.00, will sell for \$375.00.

Contact Dwight Hartsell @ 704.617.0188



Multico Mortising Press, Model # PM12. Purchased from Garrett Wade and has never been used. New this would cost \$375.00, will sell for \$225.00.

Contact Dwight Hartsell @ 704.617.0188

**Approximately 150 board feet of 1 inch thick Heart Pine** – various widths from 3 to 8 inches. This wood is approximately 100 years old. Asking \$100.00 for all. Contact Mike Patterson @ 704.435.5179.

**Approximately 1000 board feet of 1 inch thick Oak** – various widths from 6" to 10", the boards are about 12 feet long. Asking \$1/bf with a 100 bf minimum, would like to see all 1000 bf for \$900. Contact Mike Patterson @ 704.435.5179.

**Craftsman 6" jointer with extras** \$250.00 and a Belsaw 12 1/4" 3 hp planer with extras, \$600.00. Contact Bill Skinner at [btskinr@worldnet.att.net](mailto:btskinr@worldnet.att.net) or 704.364.5168 (before 6pm)

**Spray Booth** with 18" explosion-proof fan and lights. The dimensions are 10'x10'x8', \$1000. Contact Jack Coobs at [jack@coobsguitars.com](mailto:jack@coobsguitars.com) or 704.882.3687.

## **Wanted**

### **Help with the JessEm ROUT-R-SLIDE™**

- Patrick Perry needs a tutor who can help him learn to use the JessEm ROUT-R-Slide™ to make dovetails. He is willing to pay for your time, or swap some exotic lumber for your help. If you are able to help you can contact Patrick @ 803.366.6080. You may call collect.
- A UNCC student, Jordan Moore, is looking for a job as an apprentice or whatever would be available to learn some woodworking skills. He is looking for about 20 hours of work a week. You can contact Jordan at [jordanmoorels@yahoo.com](mailto:jordanmoorels@yahoo.com) or 704.907.1877.
- Sandy MacDonald is looking for woodworking course or seminars the week of 14-18 July 2003, anywhere in NC, SC, GA or TN. Sandy's wife is taking a class in Greenville, SC and he would like to take a class during the same week. They are from Canada so a trip together would be ideal. You can contact Sandy at [ajmacd39@hotmail.com](mailto:ajmacd39@hotmail.com).
- The Boy Scouts are looking for a woodworker to assist in setting up a woodworking shop at Camp Grimes (located south of Marion, NC). The shop will be used by Boy Scouts and camp counselors, only hand tools will be allowed, no power tools. Contact Mark R. Thompson @ 704.536.0784 if you are interested in helping.
- Fine Woodworking magazine is offering 10% off if 10 or more people renewing or signing up for a new subscription.



# Raffle Drawing Winners – May 2003

Item	Donated by:	Winner:
\$25 Gift Certificate	Woodcraft	James W. Brown
Book	Woodworking Shop	Monk Bridges
Book	Woodworking Shop	Scott Cobley Jr.
Book	Woodworking Shop	Bob Hawkins
Clamp Saddles	CWA	Randy Nelson
Hold Down Clamp	CWA	Fred Miller
Gorilla Glue	CWA	Scott Rieckmann
Screwdriver	CWA	Jeff Baughman



**H & S Lumber**

Mr. Robert Boland, Manager  
 4115 Monroe Road  
 Charlotte, NC 28205  
 704.333.3130 (sponsor)

**Harbor Freight USA**

Mr. Martin Treadwell, Manager  
 3852 E. Independence Blvd.  
 Charlotte, NC 28205  
 704.569.0182 (contributor)

**The Woodworking Shop of Charlotte**

Mr. Tony Collums, Manager  
 116M Freeland Lane  
 Charlotte, NC 28217  
 704.521.8886 (contributing/sponsor – except power tools  
 and wood)

**Woodcraft**

Mr. David Boyuka  
 1725 Windsor Square Drive  
 Matthews, NC 28105  
 704.847.8300 (contributing)

Show your CWA membership card at any of the listed  
 places and receive benefits (except for Woodcraft and  
 Harbor Freight USA, which are not able to provide  
 sponsorship in the form of discounts).

**2003 CWA Officers**

President	Wayne L. Manahan <a href="mailto:pres@charlottewoodworking.org">pres@charlottewoodworking.org</a>	704.786.0768
Vice President	Bruce P. Bradford <a href="mailto:vp@charlottewoodworkers.org">vp@charlottewoodworkers.org</a>	704.399.7004
Treasurer	Jaye Paterman <a href="mailto:treasurer@charlottewoodworkers.org">treasurer@charlottewoodworkers.org</a>	704.527.8768
Secretary	John W. Cahill Jr. <a href="mailto:secretary@charlottewoodworkers.org">secretary@charlottewoodworkers.org</a>	704.731.4208

**The Charlotte Woodworking Association**

John Cahill, Editor  
 4300 Stonefield Drive  
 Charlotte, NC 28269  
[secretary@charlottewoodworkers.org](mailto:secretary@charlottewoodworkers.org)

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**Upcoming Meetings:**

June 16, 2003

July 21, 2003

August 18, 2003

@ The Woodworking Shop

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