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June 2002

THE CHARLOTTE SAWDUST

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The Charlotte Woodworkers Association

www.charlottewoodworkers.org

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	cooper@ARconmfg.com
Bill Golden	Shopsmith & similar tools	704-525-9691	popstoysshop@earthlink.net
Dwight Hartsell	Woodturning	704-598-6029	woodwight@aol.com
Jeff Jacobs	Any wood thing	704-309-1263	jacobj@meckco.com
Wayne Manahan	Sharpening	704-786-0768	wmanahan@vnet.net
Gil Millsaps	Windsor chairs	704-875-0758	GAD23ABOUT@aol.com
Alvin Tench	Any Woodworking	704-824-7717	Alvintench@netzero.net

*** 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.

Anyone interested in offering their time and services as a CWA mentor, please send their information to Wayne Manahan at wmanahan@vnet.net

Upcoming Programs for June and July

The demonstrator for June 17th at the Woodworkers Club will be Mr. Tom Taylor, who is an excellent wood carver. He will demonstrate different stages of carving faces.

July 15th - the demonstrator will be Mr. Dick Nielson who will be doing woodturning on a mini-lathe.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Neil Brunck was unable to attend the May meeting. He will provide a complete treasurer's report for May and June in the newsletter that you will receive in July.

E-mail Option for receiving "Sawdust"

E-mail delivery of "Sawdust" is now available. When you receive the newsletter via e-mail you have the benefit of getting color photographs, and you get quicker delivery. To sign up for e-mail delivery, please e-mail a request to wmanahan@vnet.net and your delivery method will be changed.

Several members have agreed to receive e-mail delivery of the newsletter but their e-mail addresses are not on file. If you were expecting e-mail delivery and got a hard copy, please send me a note with your e-mail address and I'll update your record.

\$\$\$ Shop on Meeting Nights for Special Savings \$\$\$

The Woodworking Shop is now extending a 20% discount to members of the Charlotte Woodworkers Association on all items (except for power tools and lumber) purchased on the day of the meeting. So if you shop the day of the meeting, you'll save 20% instead of the usual 10%. We'd like to thank The Woodworking Shop for making these additional savings available to us.

Classified Section

For Sale:

CAMPBELL-HAUSFELD Model TL1012 Air Powered Stapler. Good Shape (very little use) \$15.00. Contact Bill Golden at 704-525-9691 or at popstoysshop@earthlink.net.

CAMPBELL-HAUSFELD Model NB0030 Brad Nailer, 3/8 in. to 1-1/4 in. 18 gauge. Very good shape \$35.00 Contact Bill Golden at 704-525-9691 or at popstoysshop@earthlink.net.

Wanted:

No requests received for May's newsletter.

Need Addresses for Some Members

I don't have addresses, phone numbers, or e-mail addresses for several of our members. Consequently these members are not receiving this newsletter. If you know any of these people, please help me get their contact information so that they can receive the full benefit of their membership. If any of these members are willing to receive the newsletter via e-mail, I'd need to have their e-mail addresses and their approval to get the newsletter in that manner.

William Bradford
James Dotson
Ed Martin
John Peterman
Dick Thomas
Greg Wilson

I only have an e-mail address for **Shannon Duncan** and **Jeff Jacobs**. If Shannon or Jeff would like to have a street address on file, I would need to get that information.

Meeting Time

Please note that our meetings start at 6:00 P.M., after a social and refreshment time that starts at 5:30 P.M. If you get there early, you can get to know your fellow members. Also, please be mindful of the graciousness of our hosts by not placing refreshment, etc. on their worktables and tools. Thanks for being good “guests”.

May Raffle Winners

Donated by CHC 4 x 4 Cherry*	Mike McCabe
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Donated by The Woodworking Store Set of Dovetail Bits	Donald Hovis
Set of Dovetail Bits	Gary Cobb

Donated by Woodcraft \$25 Gift Certificate	Ed Dickerson
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Donated by CWA Gross Stabil Clamps (pair)	Fred Miller
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Consider Contributing an Article to “Sawdust”

Have you considered writing an article for publication in our newsletter? It only takes a few hours (or less), and it provides value to our association by improving the usefulness of our newsletter.

Tips and Techniques are worth sharing. They can be written up in a short format, perhaps no more than a few lines or a couple of paragraphs. If you include a drawing or a digital image we can include that.

If you'd like to write an article or submit a woodworking tip but need some help, talk to me. I'd be happy to help. Another option would be for several members to work together to produce an article. You'd have the enjoyment of sharing some time with another person who enjoys woodworking, you'd both be contributing something valuable to CWA, and if you weren't already friends, chances are you would be before you were ready to publish your work.

Remember that writing an article is an ideal way to be involved because it helps everyone, and doesn't have the pressure of a fixed due date. I encourage you to try it, I believe that you'll find it rewarding.

Tips for Cutting Dovetails by Hand

Wayne L. Manahan

This article comes without pictures, and without an explanation of what a dovetail joint is, or which part is a pin and which is a tail. Perhaps someone else would like to write about that. In the meantime, I'll start with a story...

My wife bought me a beautiful Lie-Neilsen dovetail saw for Christmas two years ago. It's the one with the traditional curly maple handle. When I got it (and it was on my list) it was the last present I opened and who's kidding whom, it was my favorite.

They didn't really want to sell the saw to my wife. I think they thought she was just out buying a tool, anything that she thought her husband might like. The way she tells the story the salesman told her that her husband probably didn't really want “that” saw, that he would probably be happier with “this one”. My impression is that she had to reject every other dovetail saw in the store before they let her walk out with the Lie-Neilsen. Finally she was asked, “does your husband cut a lot of dovetails?” “Yes” she answered firmly, “he cuts them all the

time". That statement, coupled with the rejection of all other alternatives, is how she got a wonderful saw under the tree that Christmas morning.

We still laugh about it. I'd probably cut six dovetails by hand in my life before that saw came to me. And they weren't pleasing to look at. No one sighed with envy at the sight of them, wishing they had my hand tool prowess.

All that aside, that's my first tip: Get a fine saw. You can buy one, like my wife did for me, or you can buy a clunker and work on it until it works smoothly and cuts like a dream. The important thing is that you end up with a saw that works to perfection. Without such a saw, you'll be fighting the saw as well as trying to learn to cut dovetails, and that's a recipe for a miserable time in the shop.

Some folks have done well with the Japanese style pull saws. I've never used one. They are probably wonderful. I think having a "back" to stiffen the blade should help. Remember that when you're cutting dovetails you're ripping the wood, and be sure to get a rip saw for best results.

This summer I'm on "sabbatical" and it's become my opportunity to finish all the work around the house that I could never get to while working full time. One project is making drawers for some workbenches that I built a few years ago. I have the saw, and I have sharp chisels, so I thought, "what better time to learn to cut dovetails?" I'm not the world's expert yet, but after joining just two drawers I've learned a lot and I can see a tremendous improvement.

You know one of the tricks, use a sharp saw. Here are a few more:

Sharpen your marking gauge so that it cuts a fine deep line. Make sure that the edge is such that any damaged wood will be to the waste side of the line.

Lay out your dovetails with a marking gauge and a knife, a pencil is far too crude for good results.

When using the knife, ensure that you cut in a direction that tends to force the blade against the layout instrument, rather than having the blade follow the grain of the wood (which it would happily do).

Keep the angle of the dovetails relatively small, say 7° to 11° . If the angle gets too large, the pieces of short grain at the tips of the tails will break off, and that will cause your finished work to look sloppy.

When you cut tails, angle the stock in the vise so that you're cutting a vertical cut, rather than trying to hold the saw at an angle. It makes things simpler (and gives you more practice cutting perfect verticals, which will improve your ability to cut pins correctly).

When cutting, cut to the waste side of the line that you knifed into the wood and split the knifed line with the side of the kerf that's away from the waste material. Remember that even a thin kerf blade takes up more space than you'd like to have showing in a perfect dovetail joint.

Aim for perfection, since a joint that goes together perfectly the first try is more efficient than one that must be tested and pared, and tested, and...

Be careful when chopping out waste so that you don't damage the surface destined to be the inside corner. A slip with a chisel will change a straight line into a gap in a heartbeat.

If you're making boxes or something similar remember that you can measure the diagonals to determine if the object is "square". Naturally I mean square in the 90° sense. A drawer that's much out of square will give you problems, so take your time and get things right. There is an underlying assumption. It is expected that you have cut the sides to identical lengths, and that the length of the front and back are also the same.

I'd like to draw some pictures of all of this to make it easy to see what I'm talking about, but I'm looking for some encouragement from the rest of the team. If I get a few more contributions to publish, I'll go into the CAD program and update this article. I might even add a few photos of my own work.

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Elizabeth Atherton demonstrates her “Smiley Face Bowl”

Elizabeth Atherton attended the May meeting of the Charlotte Woodworker’s Association and demonstrated how she makes her “Smiley Face Bowl”. The photos that follow are from that demonstration.



Elizabeth shows the pattern she uses for the “smile”.



CHARLOTTE HARDWOOD CENTER

Mr. Ron Davis
4250 Golf Acres Drive
Charlotte, NC 28208
704-394-9479 (contributing/sponsor)

H & S LUMBER

Mr. Robert Boland, Manager
4115 Monroe Road
Charlotte, NC 28205
704-333-3130 (sponsor)

THE WOODWORKING SHOP of Charlotte

Mr. Tony Collums, Manager
116M Freeland Lane
Charlotte, NC 28217
704-521-8886
(contributing/sponsor – except power tools & lumber)

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 to receive benefits (except for WOODCRAFT, which is unable to provide sponsorship in the form of discounts).

2002 CWA Officers

President	Mike Rosenberg	704-643-7612
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Vice President	Mike McCabe	704-676-4869
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Secretary	Wayne Manahan	704-786-0768
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Treasurer	Neil Brunck	704-521-8480
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The Charlotte Woodworkers Association

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Next Meeting:
June 16, 2002
At The Woodworking Shop
