

THE CHARLOTTE SAWDUST

The Official Journal of
The Charlotte Woodworker's Association

www.charlottewoodworkers.org

Small Talk

For the most part, I am not reluctant to throw away useless stuff that accumulates in my house. Why just two days ago I through away a perfectly good (well I think it worked) toaster oven, but not before removing all the useful screws and washers. My wife considers me a pack rat when it comes to my work shop.

I don't know, maybe I am. Ten years ago, I found an old oak type setter's cabinet in a warehouse of the now out of business "Pound & Moore" office supplies company for \$15.00. In it I keep one whole drawer of screws, one whole drawer of bolts and one whole drawer of nuts and washers. Now I know I am not insane for doing that because whenever I need a certain screw or bolt, I always seem to have the right one.

What she seems to object to is my same type of collection of wood. I keep the large lumber on a rack high up in my garage, longer scraps in and old trash can, I now have two carts for smaller pieces (1 to 2 feet long) and a few boxes of pieces too short to use (never).

You fellow woodworkers know what I mean. You can never tell when you are going to need a piece of maple that is 1" x 1/2" x 3" long. I even have a box of teak splinters on my boat to fill worn screw holes when needed. Now doesn't that make since.

Fellow woodworkers stick together. Keep those useful wood scraps and tell your spouses to stay out of your workshop. (I do have one drawer, however, of miscellaneous "unknown things" that I can never tell when I will need)

See you at next month's meeting.

Sincerely,

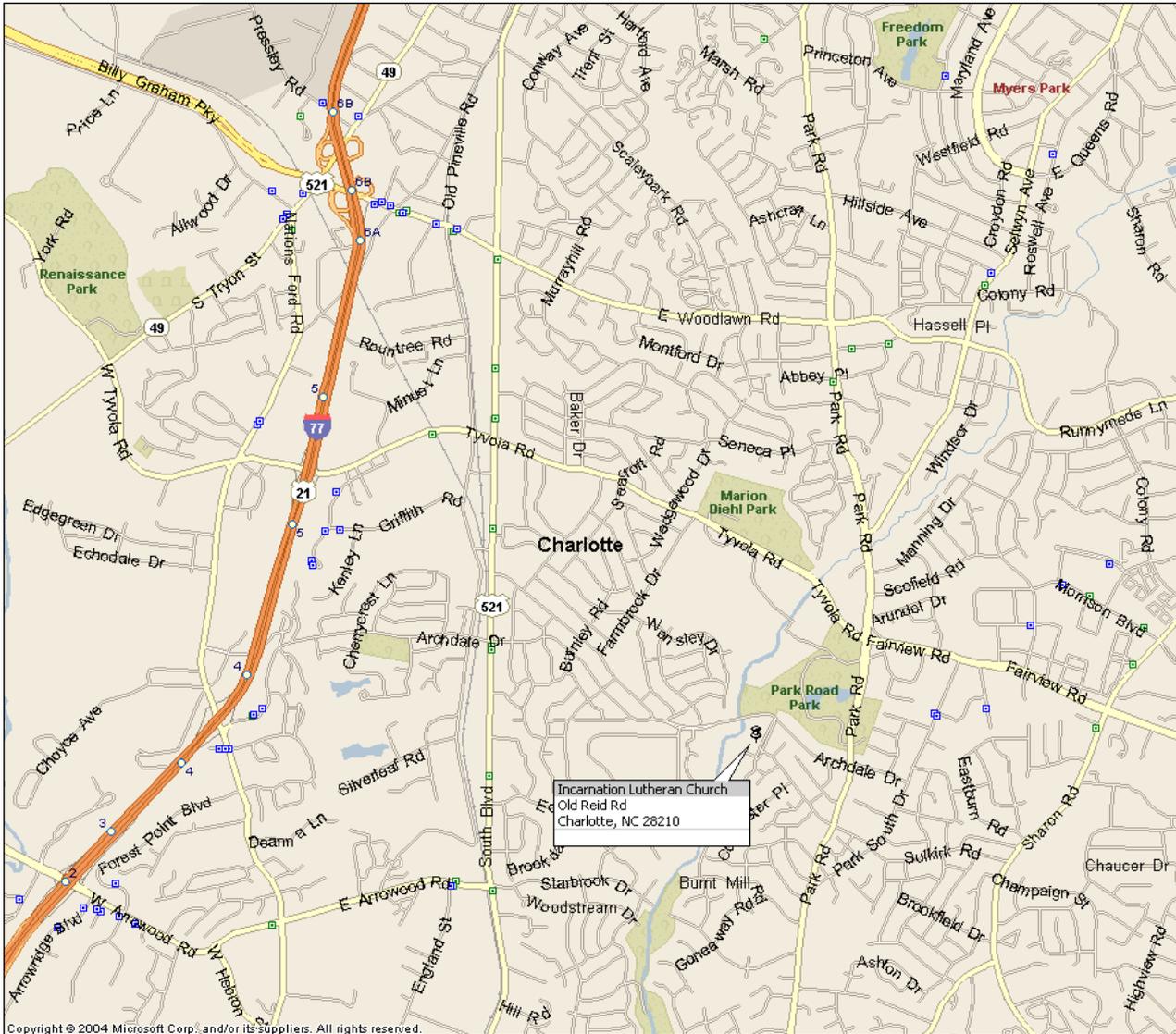
Mike Dyer
mdyer@adwarchitects.com
(704) 379-1919 days
(704) 814-9580 evenings

May Program

Collecting Antique Tools

Meeting Time

Meetings of the Charlotte Woodworker's Association are held the third **Tuesday** of each month, except for December. Meeting is to be held at the Incarnation Lutheran Church, 6400 Old Reid Road, Charlotte, NC (just off Archdale Drive).



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. This will be our first time at our new meeting place but we hope that it will become a great home for us.

Write an article for Sawdust (thanks for all the help from those that have)

Please consider writing an article for The Sawdust, this is your newsletter what do you want from it? What do you want to share with your fellow woodworkers? Everyone likes to share, share your successes, failures, and

mistakes, have fun with it and share with others at the same time. Contact Mike Dyer @ secretary@charlottewoodworkers.org or call (704) 379-1919 days or (704) 814-9580 evenings.

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 |
|-----------------|-------------------------|--------------|--|
| Bill Golden | Shopsmith & Accessories | 704.525.9691 | popstoyshop@earthlink.net |
| Dwight Hartsell | Woodturning | 704.598.6029 | woodwight@aol.com |
| Wayne Manahan | Sharpening | 704.786.0768 | wmanahan@vnet.net |

Classified Section

\$\$ For Sale \$\$

Contact me if you have any tools, wood or services for sale. This section is offered for free.

For Sale:

8/4 walnut 6' select + 100 BF 4.50/bf
5/4 ash 6' select + 400 BF 2.25/bf
4/4 Lyptus #1 common and better 200 bf 2.50/bf
4/4 Cherry select + 200bf 4-8" widths 3.50/bf
4/4 Cherry FAS 100 bf 8"+ 70-80% red 4.50/bf
4/4 walnut select + 100 4-8" very little sap 3.50/bf

LARGE Silver Maple slabs 30" wide, 2" thick 7-8 feet long 275.00/slab

LARGE CLARO walnut slabs 30"-48" wide 2+ inches thick \$10/bf
great color, excellent figure. Most are crotch.

Lots of other slabs including Big Leaf Maple, Black Walnut and Cherry.

CLARO Lumber taking preorders for 6"+ FAS 6-8/BF will be sawing and drying in the next few months taking pre-orders for up to 3000 bf.

1000's of bf of 8/4 walnut and cherry material air drying.

Quartersawn red oak and CURLY red oak now drying approximately 400/bf
Qsawn red is FAS and sells for 4.00/bf the Curly Rd Oak is 5.00/bf and some is q-sawn as well.

BOWL BLANKS- Many sizes will cut to custom sizes. Claro walnut, Big Leaf Maple, Black Walnut, Cherry. Will be harvesting some boxelder and other special woods in the coming months.

CUSTOM SAWING also available.

Kyle Edwards, Proprietor
Edwards Custom Sawmilling & Lumber
<http://www.sawmillnc.com>
kedwards@sawmillnc.com
704-258-8985

How to Use a Cabinet Scraper

For hundreds of years master woodworkers and cabinetmakers have used cabinet scrapers to bring wood to a glassy smooth finish. A skilled woodworker can often achieve a surface so smooth it needs no further sanding. A scraper can also be used to remove paint and other finishes without damaging the wood below.



A scraper is basically a flat rectangular piece of high carbon steel roughly the size of a 3x5 index card. The edge of the scraper is burnished, or rounded over to form a hook. This hook is then pushed or pulled across the surface of the wood to remove fine shavings.

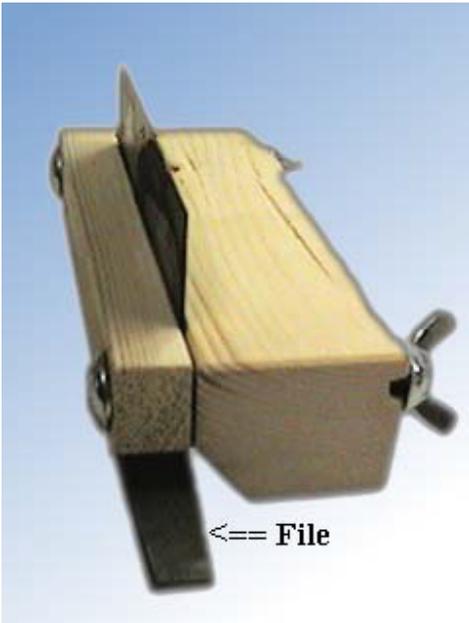
Scrapers are made from hard saw or spring steel and come in a number of sizes and shapes. The most common shape is a rectangle. French Curves and other odd shapes are available for scraping bowls and other irregular projects.

Before a scraper can be used it must be prepared. The steps for preparing a scraper are as follows:

1) **File The Edges**

Most scrapers are stamped from sheets of steel. This process leaves the edges ragged and requiring attention. Before the edges can be used for the first time they must be jointed with a metal file. As seen in the picture to the right, the file must be kept at a 90-degree angle to the body of the scraper. The best way to make sure the file is perpendicular is to clamp a small scrap of wood to the edge of the scraper.

Note: If you plan to use the scraper to remove paint, globs of dried glue, or similar applications then you can stop with this step.



A jig for jointing a scraper with a file.

2) Stoning the Scraper

For more demanding scraping applications, such as finished work, you will need to smooth out the edges you just filed. The edge is smoothed on a bench sharpening stone. It is best to use the edge of the stone so you don't wear a groove in the top. The easiest way to smooth the edge of the scraper is to lay the stone flat on the benchtop and rub the scraper against the side of the stone. Use a piece of smooth scrapwood under the scraper (see picture to the right).



Stoning the Scraper

3) Drawing A Burr

The edge of the scraper should now be 90 degrees to the body and can be used for light scraping work. To remove more material you will need to draw a burr on the edge of the scraper. This is done using a burnisher. A burnisher is simply a hard steel rod that is run down the edge of the scraper to draw the edge over into a wave-like hook. A screwdriver can be used as a burnishing rod but a commercial burnisher will work better since its made from harder metal. It is this hook, or burr, that catches the wood and scrapes it from the surface. The angle of the burr effects the amount of material it will remove. The greater the angle the more material it will remove. Angles of 5 degrees are used for fine finishing while angles of 10 degrees are used more for removal of paint and lacquers.

To burnish the edge of the scraper, hold it firmly in a padded bench vice. Before burnishing you will need to apply a very small amount of lubricant across the edge of the scraper. Then take a burnisher (or screwdriver) and while holding it at an angle run it along the edge of the scraper. Use minimal pressure and make a number of passes. (See picture to right)



Drawing a Burr

Using the Scraper

Using the scraper is for the most part self explanatory. However, there are a few tricks that will help you produce a perfect finish.

The first trick is to work with the grain to help prevent the scraper from grabbing and gouging the wood.

The second trick is to bend the scraper slightly in the middle. (See picture to the right.) The easiest way to bend the scraper is to hold the edges and apply pressure to the middle. There are a number of commercial jigs that hold and bend scrapers for easier use.

The final trick is to make sure your scraper is well tuned and kept in a good condition. If you notice that your scraper begins to produce dust instead of shaving it is time to sharpen it. Since the scraper has already been jointed with the file, you may skip this step and start with the bench stone.



Using the Scraper

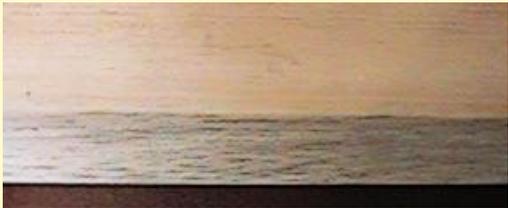
Hold the cabinet scraper with both hands.
Bend slightly in the center.



Bend the Scraper

Common Wood Defects

Wood is far from a stable, consistent material. One of the biggest challenges of woodworking is learning to work within the constraints of a wood's properties. But before you can expect to work within these constraints you must understand them. It is for this reason we present you with the following article, Common Wood Defects.

| Wood Defect | Features | Caused By | Effect | Solution |
|--|---|--|---|--|
| <p><u>Blue Stain</u></p>  | <p>A bluish gray discoloration on the woods surface. This feature is most common in woods like Holly, Pine, and Sycamore.</p> | <p>Mold that grows in warm and moist area, usually poorly ventilated.</p> | <p>Discoloration of wood.</p> | <p>Can be cut off, placed out of sight, or concealed with a dark <u>stain</u>.</p> |
| <p><u>Bow</u></p> | <p>A curve along the face of a board that usually runs from end to end.</p> | <p>Improper storage. Usually moisture evaporation from one side and not the other.</p> | <p>Stock is difficult to work with and cut.</p> | <p>Cut in to smaller pieced, even out on a jointer, or nail (screws are better) in place with bow bulging out.</p> |
| <p><u>Checks or Splits</u></p>  | <p>Breaks at the end of a board that run along the grain. Checks and splits are usually restricted to the end of a board.</p> | <p>Rapid Drying.</p> | <p>Can effect the strength and appearance of the board.</p> | <p>Should be cut off or worked around.</p> |

Crook

Warping along the edge from one end to the other. This is most common in wood that was cut from the center of the tree near the pith.

Can be caused by improper drying and storage or the presence of reaction wood.

Can be difficult to work with.

The higher spots can be cut away on a table saw or jointer using a special jig.

Cup



Warping along the face of a board from edge to edge. This defect is most common of plain-sawn lumber.

This defect can be caused when one board face dries at a faster rate than the other.

Stock can be difficult to work with. Trying to "force it flat" can cause cracking along the grain.

You can try allowing the board to dry at the same moisture content under pressure, rip it into smaller pieces on a table saw, or use a jointer to remove the high spots.

Dead or Loose Knot



A dark, usually loose knot.

This is caused by a dead branch that was not fully integrated into the tree before it was cut down.

Can mar the appearance of the wood, fall out, become loose, or weaken stock.

Should be cut out, around, or glued in place and filled with a wood putty.

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| <p>Gum, <u>Sap</u>, or Pitch</p>  | <p>Accumulations of a resinous liquid on the surface or in pockets below the surface of wood.</p> | <p>Injury to the tree.</p> | <p>May cause difficulty when finishing.</p> | <p>Should either be cut off or scraped out and filled.</p> |
| <p>Machine Burn</p> | <p>Dark streaks along the face of a board.</p> | <p>Usually caused by planer blades that are dull or spun on a part of the board for too long.</p> | <p>Discoloration to the surface. Sometimes the burn can penetrate into the board.</p> | <p>Can be sanded off or cut down with a jointer. The depth of the board often determines the amount of work needed.</p> |
| <p>Ring <u>Check</u></p> | <p>Breaks in the wood along the annual growth rings.</p> | <p>Improper drying or damage during transport.</p> | <p>Can effect strength or appearance.</p> | <p>Should be cut around, place out of sight, or glued down.</p> |
| <p>Tight <u>Knot</u></p> | <p>A know which is tightly integrated into the surrounding wood.</p> | <p>This was once a branch that was incorporated into the tree as its <u>girth</u> increased.</p> | <p>Does not effect the lumber's strength.</p> | <p>May be removed for appearance purposes. Some lumber such as Knotty Pine, is highly prized for this feature.</p> |



Twist

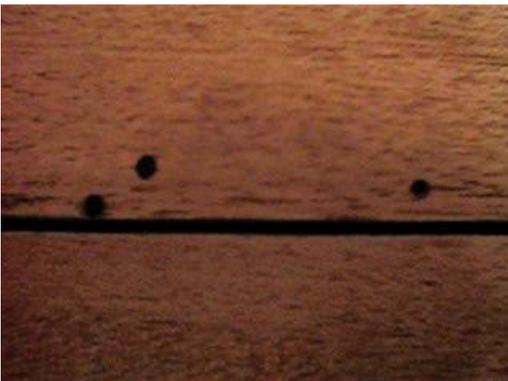
Warping in lumber where the ends twist in opposite directions. (Like twisting a towel)

Growing conditions, uneven drying or the presence of reaction wood.

Can be difficult to work with.

Can be cut into shorter boards or the high spots can be removed on a jointer.

Wormholes



Small holes in the wood.

This is caused by insects boring through the wood.

Can be used to simulate old or wormy wood.

Cut around worm holes or uses as is for decorative purposes. Be sure the insects are dead.

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

4728 South Blvd.
 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).

2006 CWA Officers

| | | |
|----------------|---|----------------|
| President | Wayne L. Manahan pres@charlottewoodworkers.org | (704) 786-0768 |
| Vice President | Bruce Bogust vp@charlottewoodworkers.org | (704) 321-0979 |
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The Charlotte Woodworking Association

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Next Meeting:

May 16, 2006

At the Incarnation Lutheran Church
