
THE SAWDUST

NEWSLETTER OF THE CHARLOTTE WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

Volume 17, Issue 6

June 2010

Newsletter

If anyone would like to contribute articles, information or provide suggestions for the newsletter, please send them to me. We need to make this a group effort.

Thanks also to Peter Stoffel, who assists with note taking at the meetings, and to Mike Smith for the photos - much appreciated.

Roger Callahan (roger_callahan@bellsouth.net) - Secretary



CWA Receives Certificate of Appreciation at Explorer Scout Luncheon

by John J. Seaman

Bruce Bogust received an invitation to a luncheon on June 9, 2010 hosted by the Mecklenburg County Council of BSA for CWA's participation in their Explorer Program. Unfortunately, Bruce was unable to attend and asked me to attend in his place to represent the club. Since the invitation was for two attendees, I asked Dave Powles to join me. The luncheon was held at Johnson & Wales University and the Keynote speaker was Sheriff Chipp Bailey.

After a pleasant buffet luncheon, Justin Lewter, Explorer Director for Mecklenburg County BSA Council, thanked the attendees for their efforts on behalf of the Explorer program and recognized those efforts by awarding a Certificate of Appreciation to CWA for our Woodworker's program. Other attendees for were likewise honored in the same way. Lakecross Veterinary Hospital, who have had a program for 12 years received a Spurgeon Award in recognition to their ongoing commitment to the Explorer Program.

Sheriff Bailey emphasized the importance of the Explorer programs by noting that his jail currently has approximately 100 youths, aged 15 to 17 in residence. He went on to praise the Explorer Programs as a way to inspire youth and direct their energy toward constructive learning experiences. Sheriff Bailey went on to thank the attendees for volunteering their time and talents to have a positive impact on Mecklenburg's young citizens.



Tuning up a Wide Board

This month Bill Sutton, a member of the Society of American Period Furniture Makers (www.sapfm.org) and a person that has spoken before to CWA, demonstrated how to use a hand plane to true up a wide board before you run it through a planer.



- Bill said, nice wide boards don't fit on an 6 or 8 inch jointer. As I got better at sharpening, I began to see what a hand plane was capable of, I began to enjoy the process of hand planing.
- Bill described the wide variety of planes he has and their applications.
- It is paramount for projects to get wood that is flat, stable, square and true. Otherwise you will have nothing but trouble during your project.
- The precision of work you can do with a hand plane is impressive. Often better and faster than using a power tool.
- For example: Fitting tenons to a mortise. Cut the tenons a touch thick and then trim them down with a hand plane for a perfect fit.
- When you start to flatten a big board you need to first determine where the problem areas are:
 - Use a straight edge to find high spots. The longer the better in general.
 - [Winding sticks](#). Sight down across the top of one to the top of the other to look for twist in the wood.
 - Once you figure that out you know where to attack the wood.

(cont'd on page 3)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 20th - 6:30pm **CHARLOTTE WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION MEETING** - Topic: Workbenches

August 24- 28: **International Woodworking Fair 2010, Atlanta, GA** (see <http://www.iwfatlanta.com/>)

WOODCRAFT STORE IN CHARLOTTE UPCOMING CLASSES:

Jun 26 (Sat.) Finishing Your Hinged Box - 9:30am-12:30pm
Jun 26 (Sat.) Basis Lathe - Full Day - 9:30am - 4:30pm
Jul 3 (Sat.) Beginning Pen Turning - 9:30am - 12:30pm
Jul 8 (Thur.) Bandsaw Basics - 6:00pm - 9:00pm
Jul 11 (Sun.) Basic Lathe - 12:30pm - 4:30pm
Jul 17 (Sat.) Cabinet Case Construction - 9:30pm - 12:30pm
Jul 17 (Sat.) Raised Panel Door Construction - 1:30pm - 4:30pm
Jul 22 (Thur.) Basic Finishing - 6:00pm - 9:00pm
Jul 24 (Sat.) Box Joint Joinery - 9:30am - 12:30pm
Jul 31 (Sat.) Carve a Hound Dog - 9:30am - 12:30pm



Mountain Dulcimer Classes

Mark Willingham will lead a class for those interested in making a mountain dulcimer as a project. (Mark also played one of his projects at the June meeting.)

Five (5) or Six (6) people max per class and it is expected the project will take 5 to 6 weeks of classes. The Fall timeframe is the likely period in which classes would occur.

There will be a \$25 - \$30 fee to cover the hardware needed for the dulcimer and participants would bring the wood (cherry, walnut, maple, cedar, spruce ...) they want to use for the project.

If interested (and you did not sign up at the meeting) contact Mark (email: mwillingham@bellsouth.net).



Treasurer's Report: as of 5/31/10

Opening balance	2000.69
Deposits	121.00
Checks	41.29
Closing balance	2080.40



Iwasaki Carving Files (Sometimes called Floats)

by Wayne L. Manahan

Last summer, I took a class to learn to build a Maloof-style rocking chair. You may have seen these sculpted rockers, and if you have, you understand that the basic joinery is far less than half the work involved in the chair's completion. After all the joinery is cut and fitted, the sculpting remains to be finished. There a number of power tools that will do the rough shaping, but for finish work you need hand tools; rasps, files and sandpaper.

I spent a fair amount of money on nicer rasps, Auriou hand-cut rasps from France, and they cut more quickly and far more smoothly than the Nicholson cabinetmaker's rasps that I already owned. Then I read about a new rasp in a tool review and thought it would be worth trying. The tool was made in Japan, a new type of rasp said to have razor sharp teeth and to cut smoothly and quickly. To read the review, it sounded like a miracle tool. Woodcraft sold them, and the local dealer had them in stock. I took a piece of cherry to the store along with my file card (brush) to try them out.

The Iwasaki Carving Files, as Woodcraft calls them, were everything the reviewer promised and more!

The medium files in both flat and half-round cut quickly and leave only a slightly roughed surface. The fine and extra fine files are slightly less aggressive, but still cut more quickly than many other files. The price is reasonable, a 200 mm long (about 8 inch usable length) half-round medium cut file was less than \$30.00, about one third of what a similar sized Auriou hand-cut rasp would be.

They cut quicker, smoother, and cost less than any of the files or rasps I've ever used for shaping wood. It is certainly possible that other brands may work as well, but I've never seen any that do. If you do any shaping of wood with a file, you should really try these. They're available locally at Woodcraft and online at a number of retailers.

I bought the "Skroo-Zon" file handles for them from a company called Betty Mills for about one fifth of what they cost locally, but that's another story...



Tuning up a Wide Board

(cont'd from page 1)

- Mark the trouble spots with a pencil.
- Bill has a jack plane set up for rough work, to hog out coarse shavings (blade with 8" radius). You can remove a lot of wood in a hurry.
 - Some people use a scrub plane.
 - Keep in mind that a "thick" cut is the equivalent of four or five sheets of notebook paper. Maybe a three or four in a very hard wood.
- You want to work across the grain. It doesn't tend to tear out as badly.
- The plane tends to hit the high spots anyway, which is a big help.
- Go back the other way, at a 45 degree angle across the board.
- Recheck for high spots and repeat until flattened.
- Use the jointer plane to smooth further.

- Shooting Boards
 - Very useful. Can be a shop made device.
 - When the end of you board is not square by a few thousands, it is awfully hard to dial a table saw in.
 - Put it on a shooting board and use a low angle block plane to trim it down.
 - It is very hard to plane a narrow board on edge. There isn't enough surface to have the plane ride square on the narrow edge of the board.
 - Can put two pieces together to get a wider surface to ride on.
 - By putting the board on the shooting board it also helps, but the board may not be long enough.
- "Plane with the grain" but a sharp blade will let you cheat on very figured wood.



For Those Who Purchased HIDE GLUE

Please see Wayne Mahan at a CWA meeting to pick-up and pay for the Hide Glue you may have ordered. Wayne has separated and weighted the glue into packets for you. Contact Wayne at (WManahan@VNet.Net)

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Other Items from the Woodpile

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Opportunity for some inexpensive wood: There is a pallet of wood at JPM donated to CWA. It has some cherry and pecan boards; most 4/4 of varying widths and lengths. Next Monday, June 28, the wood will be for sale, first come first served, for \$2.00 a board foot.

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David Powles plans a discussion of workbenches, including bench hardware for the July CWA meeting. The CWA library has some new material on this topic.

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A quick survey of those present at the June meeting thought the CWA sponsorship of the Lie-Nielsen tool sale was worthwhile. We received four DVD's for the CWA's library from them. If asked to do a sponsorship again in the future, there was a consensus we should do it again.

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Tony Profera (tprofera@hotmail.com) is willing to do a class on Bandsaw boxes If you are interested contact Tony.

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Boy Scouts of America

Woodworking Merit Badge:

We anticipate another session for 20 scouts sometime in the Spring. Please be prepared to assist.

Explorers Post:

We have had keen interest from area Scouts. An Explorer Post (A co-ed teenage division of Boy Scouts for 14 - 21 year olds) has been exploring a variety of areas of wood working in the broadest sense including framing, cabinet making, furniture making, wood turning, etc. They' meet at JPM generally meet once a month on the 3rd Saturday of the month.

Post members that want to also join CWA get a student membership rate of \$15/ year.

Bruce Bogust mentioned the Post is finishing up portable tool boxes. Next the Explorers will be working on a 'three legged stool' project, which will give them simple turning, wood planning, and jointing experience.



JPM Shop Use

Any current CWA member who would like to use the shop is welcome to do so! All that is needed is to schedule the time! If you have something specific you need to do and you need our tools or a bigger shop to work in, please do so!

JPM has plans to expand again by adding 3-phase power. Additionally a large classroom will be added. It is planned to accommodate groups of up to 25 people!

CWA will be looking into the acquisition of assorted "Big Iron" (3 phase) shop equipment such as Jointers, Planers, and Table saws. A wide belt thickness sander was noted as good piece of equipment for CWA to have.

To use the shop contact Jim Emory at:
JimE@JacksonPark.Org.



The CWA meeting raffle could benefit from your donation. If you have any tools (old or new) or shop supplies you would like to donate to be raffled, please bring them to the meeting and let Mike Smith know.



SHOP TOURS

Mike Smith organizes club membership shop tours. The goal is to have shop tours scheduled that are in the same general geographic area to reduce the distances traveled between shops and permit time to adequately tour several shops in a day.

Please sign up even if you don't have a fancy shop

If you would like to put your shop on the shop tour list, please contact Mike at:
mikececilsmith@carolina.rr.com

Note: all shop tours are for active CWA members only. Please refrain from bringing guests, family members, friends, dogs etc...

Once enough shops are committed a date will be set.



CWA MEETING PRESENTERS

All members are asked to keep an eye out for anyone that might make be a suitable program presenter for our CWA club meetings. Who knows, it might even be you!

Recent presentations have included:

- Carving
- Woodworking Project Photography
- Bandsaw Setup and Bandsaw Blades
- Turning an Offset Padfoot Table Leg
- Marquetry
- Sharpening
- Dulcimer making
- Shaker Table Build Workshop
- Wheel making
- Windsor chair making
- Spoon Carving
- Fitting a Drawer
- Power Carving
- Bandsaw Boxes
- Hide Glue
- Tuning up a Wide Board

If you know of someone with a woodworking skill that could be of interest please contact Dave Powles at: (704) 506-0403.



Boy Scout Woodworking Merit Badge (Spring Session)

JPM has been holding shop sessions for 20 Boy Scouts to work towards receiving a woodworking merit badge. (see info on page 3)

Jim Emery is seeking volunteers from CWA membership to assist with Saturday workshops, as another session will be offered this Spring. Workshop sessions are anticipated to be held as morning and afternoon sessions.

This is an outstanding way to introduce young people to woodworking. With many school shop programs being phased out this may be the only contact our youth have to a woodshop and the craft of woodworking.

If you would like to put your name on that list to help or would like to find out more please contact Fred Miller at: fredmiller2@gmail.com.

Watch for additional information to be published to the CWA Google group.



2010 Membership.

Have you renewed your membership? If not, please see Fred Miller during the monthly meeting or mail your dues to Fred at 1208 Salem Drive Charlotte NC 28209.

Dues are \$30.00 for new members and \$25.00 for renewals. Make checks payable to "Charlotte Woodworkers Assoc." or "CWA".

We welcome our returning and new members and encourage you to bring your woodworking friends to our meetings, so they can also join CWA.



Regular CWA Meeting Time and Place

Meetings of the Charlotte Woodworker's Association are held the third Tuesday of each month, except for December. Meetings are held at Jackson Park Ministries Woodshop at Sentry Post Drive, Charlotte, NC.

Please check the web site

(www.charlottewoodworkers.org) for directions.

Note: you may see construction on Sentry Post Drive as they have been working the area of late.

A social and refreshment time starts at 5:30pm; our meeting starts at 6:30pm. Come to the meeting early and get to know your fellow woodworking enthusiasts!



CWA Google Groups

There is a new method for CWA membership to communicate!

With a single email we can let you know what's happening. You can also view all the 2009 published club newsletters.

Note: You Can Join This Group on Your Own!

To join:

Paste the entire line below in your web browser's address bar:

<http://groups.google.com/group/charlotte-woodworkers?hl=en>

- Hit "enter", Click the link "Join this Group" (on the right).
- Create a Google account if necessary (all they want is an email address and password). Please save your password in a secure place for future use.
- Once "signed in" select the radio button "Email" at the bottom and enter a nickname.
- Send an email out to the group to introduce yourself!
- Use "charlotte-woodworkers@googlegroups.com" as the "send to" in any email communication to all members of the group.

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Best Quote of Last Few Months

"You can buy a \$300 plane but if you don't sharpen it right it will not do you one bit of good."

Bill Sutton

The CWA Library

Books and DVDs are available from the CWA library for a buck a month. Contact Maurice Blackburn at MBlackburn1@Carolina.RR.Com

Also, please help your fellow woodworker and make your club newsletter even better by contributing a short book review.

Remember, your review is redeemable for a free DVD rental from the CWA library!

Send your book review to Roger Callahan (roger_callahan@bellsouth.net)



The Classified Section

Other tools may be posted on the JPM shop bulletin board, so check the board at meetings.

This space is reserved for classified ads! If you have any woodworking items for sale that you think would be of interest to the membership please contact: Roger Callahan (roger_callahan@bellsouth.net)

Include a complete description of the items(s) and a picture or 2 (if possible).



2010 CWA Officers



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David Powles
Vice President, in-charge of programming
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Wayne Manahan
Web Site
(704) 786-0768
WManahan@VNet.Net

Directions to Jackson Park Ministries



From the intersection of I-85 and Billy Graham Parkway:

- 1.) Take Billy Graham Parkway South.
- 2.) Turn Right on Paul Brown Blvd / West Blvd. (this will be after the main entrance to the airport)
- 3.) Turn Right on Airport Drive.
- 4.) First left on Sentry Post Drive.
- 5.) At the end of Sentry Post Drive there is driveway on the left. Enter here. Using the photo above, drive down the driveway and around to the warehouse with the "x" on the top.

From the intersection of South Tryon Street and Billy Graham Parkway (where Woodlawn turns in to Billy Graham). Also exit 6 from I-77.):

- 1.) Take Billy Graham Parkway North.
- 2.) Turn Left on Paul Brown Blvd / West Blvd. (this will be at the light after the Tyvola Road exit)
- 3.) Follow from Step 3 above...

CWA SPONSORS

Please thank them every time you use their services.

Woodcraft

1725 Windsor Square Drive
Matthews, NC 28105
(704) 847-8300

[Charlotte Store](#)

WHOLESALE TOOLS

4200 Barringer Drive
Charlotte NC 28217
1-800-438-3580 (Service)

www.wttool.com

5% - 20% discount with current membership card.

Klingspor's Woodworking Shop

www.woodworkingshop.com

800-288-0000

FARRIS BELT & SAW

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Charlotte, NC 28203

www.farrisbelt.com

704-527-6166

complete sharpening services and abrasives

Horizon Forest Products

Greenville, S.C.

<http://www.horizonforest.com/>

Local Charlotte Salesman Chad Mitchell, 704-401-6426

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.

Wayne Manahan

Sharpening

704.786.0768

wmanahan@vnet.net

If you are willing to mentor new woodworkers please let us know. Thank you!



"I have a lightning hammer –never strikes the same place twice.

-John Leake

Roger Callahan
3334 Whistley Green Dr..
Charlotte, NC 28269

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
