

# Southwest Louisiana Woodworkers Club April 2020

Bill Fey, President  
Patrick LaPoint Treasurer

Officers and Directors

Barry Humphus, Editor, Eltee Thibodeaux  
Daren Hood, John Marcon, Robin Richard

**Mentoring Program** - If you have a project, a problem in any woodworking area, these members have volunteered to help. Give them a call. Frank Tartarmella 802-8989; John Marcon: 478-0646; Eltee Thibodeaux: 436-1997; Ray Kebodeaux: 583-2378. Each have years of experience and knowledge.

### March meeting highlights

We had our first meeting at the shop of Kyle Andrepont after a FUBAR about location. The newsletter showed the meeting was at Aaron Andrepont's fine shop. What happened is that we grabbed the first Andrepont address from the database. Oh well, trying times.

While Kyle's shop is basically his garage, it is still pretty well equipped with some home built equipment as well.

Bill Fey discussed some of the reasons that medical experts are recommending that we keep social distance and in small groups during the COVID-19 virus issue. Of course, officials are now recommending even smaller groups or isolation at this point. He also established the location of our next few meetings though they will shift forward month to month as we get through this. He mentioned that long time member and certified chip carver George Carr is scheduled for surgery in late April and so keep him in your thoughts and prayers for a speedy recovery. The same goes for Sandy Kramer who is scheduled shortly for back surgery. We wish her well.

Mr. Eltee Thibodeaux was our first presenter for Show and Tell and brought us a sweet wooden truck that he said gets great milage along with one of his rabbets that issues candy.



Clearly J.W. Anderson has inspired others to start making beautiful cutting boards and J.W. brought some. He reported that they were a combination of mystery wood, mahogany and black walnut. He also showed off a duck call including one that was his grandfather's plus a couple of neat basswood puzzles.

Bill Fey also had a great cutting board as well made of cherry and hickory. He got the wood from Williams Wood in Carlyss. Both J.W. and Bill finish with bee's wax and mineral oil.

Steve McCorquodale showed photos of his latest slab natural edge table made of pecan that he had dried for a year finished with water-based poly. The table is 36 inches wide and 32 inches tall on a pecan base.



Our engineer/luthier, John Griffith, brought the body of his latest guitar -- this one is a solid body in a Les Paul style with one pickup being made for his daughter-in-law. John described the difficulty in designing the fit between the neck and the body as this involves carefully designed angles. It will have inlaid fret markers of mother-of-pearl into ebony. We look forward to seeing the final instrument.

Ronnie Kramer brought us a neat little box with lid of lyptus wood that is of a salmon color. It is an interesting wood species as Lyptus is the trade name of a wood made from a hybrid of two species of Eucalyptus tree. Developed for quick harvesting, and grown on plantations in Brazil, Lyptus is marketed as an environmentally friendly alternative to oak, cherry, mahogany, and other wood products that may be harvested from old growth forests.



Travis McManemum did a delightful pizza board made of purple heart, oak, maple, walnut and cherry so that his spouse can deal with his need for pizza. It was finished with mineral oil and bee's wax. By the way, both Home De-

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pot and Lowes carry a wipe-on butcher block product that is safe for food.

Joseph Carrasco brought a great plack that he made for a colleague at Fort Polk. The tradition is to give a soldier who is moving to a different venue during their service is given some memento for their service. Normally, this costs many dollars to have done. Joseph produced this with a router (image of Louisiana) with a laser engraved message he had done for about \$20. What a great idea and perhaps Joseph will do many more for his colleagues. By the way, thanks for your service and to everyone else who has served



the armed forces.

Kyle Andrepont has become an amazing woodworker and building a Meridian workbench (in progress). He used laminated pine 2x6" with through mortise construction. It will also use a special clamping system standard to this type of workbench. Kyle also built a great table saw extension system that he finds very useful. Kyle plans other projects in his compact work shop as well.

#### **The April meeting of the SWLAWW is cancelled.**

Due to the COVID-19 virus (and our collective ages), President Bill Fey has recommended that we delay this meeting. As this is a fluid situation, we will let you know the future schedules. Wash your hands and stay home as you can.

#### Exterior Coatings

The need to protect wood outdoors is much greater than the need to protect it indoors because of exposure to sunlight and rain. These cause wood to gray, split, warp and rot; and moist conditions make the growth of mildew possible.

Sunlight contains strong ultraviolet light, which is very destructive to wood over time. UV light destroys the lignin that glues the cellulose wood cells together, and rain then washes the lignin away. Because the lignin contains the extractives that give wood its distinctive coloring, the wood turns silvery gray on the surface when the lignin is gone.

Sunlight also heats the surface of the wood and draws out moisture, causing shrinkage. This leads to splitting and warping, and these are made worse by rain when it comes in contact with only one side of the wood – as on decks, tabletops and exterior doors. The water makes the surface cells

swell, but the thickness of the wood prevents the surface from expanding. The cells are then forced to compress to oval shapes, and they hold these shapes even when dry.

This phenomenon is called “compression shrinkage” or “compression set.” Compression shrinkage causes wood to warp and split as the exposed side continues to shrink a little more each time it goes through the wetting and drying cycle.

Rain is partially responsible for rotting and the growth of mildew, because both require moisture to occur. Rain is also indirectly responsible for a visually similar damage – insect infestation – because insects require moisture to thrive.

The heartwood of redwood, cedar and some hardwoods is naturally resistant to rotting. Some softwoods are pressure treated with chemicals to make them resistant to rotting. These woods have the familiar dull green or dull brown coloring. Sapwood and non-pressure-treated pine and fir are not resistant to rotting.

There are five different types of coatings you can use to protect against the problems caused by sunlight and rain: paint, stain, clear finish, water repellent and preservative. You can buy any of the first four types of coatings with a preservative included to retard mildew, or you can sometimes buy a concentrated preservative separately and then add it yourself.

Paint is the most effective coating for protecting wood. The thick film blocks water penetration and the pigment blocks UV light. You can find wood siding that is in perfect shape after 200 years because it has been protected continuously with well-maintained coats of paint.

There are two large categories of paint: oil-based and water-based (latex). Because oil-based paint wears better than latex paint, it is best for objects that see a lot of abuse such as chairs and picnic tables.

Oil-based primers are also best when you are painting wood that has been exposed to the weather for a month or longer, especially if the wood has grayed. Oil-based primers penetrate deeper than latex primers, so they are better able to penetrate the degraded wood caused by the destruction of the surface lignin and bond to good wood underneath.

Latex paint is best for wood siding because it is better than oil paint at allowing moisture vapor created inside a building to pass through. If the moisture vapor can't get through the paint layer, it builds up behind the paint and causes it to peel. (A primer coat of oil-based paint applied under

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latex paint is not thick enough to stop moisture penetration.).

Paint is a poor choice for decks and often for fences because it's rarely possible to seal off all the end grain effectively. The paint peels and requires too much work to effectively keep up.

Pigmented stain is the next most effective coating for exterior wood. Just as with paint, it resists both moisture and UV-light damage because it contains both binder and pigment. But because there is much less of each and little or no film build, pigmented stains are not as resistant as paint.

On the other hand, the lack of film build makes maintenance easier. Usually, all that is required is a fresh application of the stain every year or two, depending on the climate and amount of exposure. There's seldom a reason to scrape, strip or sand. We do this on our beach house deck.

There are three types of binder and two concentrations of pigment to choose from. The binders are oil-based, water-based and alkyd-based. The pigment concentrations are semi-transparent and solid color.

Oil-based stains are the most popular and easiest to use. You can brush, spray or roll on a coat and enough of it will either soak into the wood or evaporate so that you end up with very little or no film build. With no film build, there is nothing to peel, so recoating is easy. Simply clean the wood of dirt and mildew, and apply another coat.

Water-based acrylic stains are popular because of their lack of odor, ability to be cleaned up easily and reduced amount of polluting solvents. But water-based stains leave a build that somewhat obscures the wood and may peel if water gets underneath. Water-based stains also show traffic patterns more easily than oil-based stains because of the thin build wearing through.

Alkyd-based stains make use of a long-oil varnish to attach the pigment to the wood. These stains are meant to build on the wood, but they resist peeling because they attach so well to the wood, and they are so flexible. Often, manufacturers recommend as many as three coats and instruct you to clean the surface and apply an additional coat every year or two.

The disadvantages of these stains are that they will peel anyway if the wood isn't nearly perfectly clean during initial application or recoating, and visible wear is common in high traffic areas. It's very difficult to blend these areas back in. For the beach house deck, we use a pressure washer.

The primary difference between semi-transparent and solid-color stains is the amount of pigment included. Solid-color stains contain more pigment (and also more

binder), so they are better at blocking UV light. But the higher pigment concentration causes greater obscuring of the wood.

Stain is usually the best choice for decks and fences, and a good choice for cedar-shingle siding, and cedar shingles and shakes. Stain can also be used on furniture and doors. Alkyd, solid-color and water-based stains tend to build on the wood, which makes them vulnerable to lap marks and peeling. Semi-transparent stain is less resistant to UV light and water, but there is no peeling so recoating is easier.

Clear film-building finishes, including water base and all types of varnish, resist water penetration well, but not UV light. Destructive UV light penetrates the film and causes the wood to degrade. The lignin that glues the cellulose cells together loses its strength, and the surface fibers separate from the rest of the wood. When this happens, the finish, which is bonded to these surface fibers, peels.

Clear finishes sold for exterior use can be divided into three categories: marine varnish, spar varnish and oil. Water-based exterior finishes are also available, but they have not found much acceptance thus far. Marine varnish is a long-oil, flexible varnish with UV absorbers added. Spar varnish is a long-oil, flexible varnish without UV absorbers added. Oil may or may not have UV absorbers added, but it is too thin on the surface to provide much resistance to sunlight even with them.

Use marine varnish on objects where you want maximum UV resistance with a clear finish and are willing to deal with peeling if water gets underneath the film. Use spar varnish if UV resistance isn't critical. Use oil only if you are willing to reapply it often and don't expect much UV or water resistance. But you need eight to nine coats to make it work.

Water repellents are usually mineral spirits with low-surface-tension wax or silicone added to repel water. Sometimes, they are simply thinned water-based finish.

Water repellents are fairly effective at reducing water penetration for a short time. If UV absorbers are included, water repellents block UV light for a short time. Both types of resistance wear away within months, so unless you are willing to devote a lot of attention to upkeep, the wood will gray and split almost as fast as if no coating were applied.

Water repellents provide the least protection of any exterior wood coating, but they are easy to apply because they don't leave lap marks, and they don't peel.

Use water repellent on decks if you don't mind the wood graying or splitting. Use water repellent with a preservative included to fight mildew if you live in a humid climate. *Barry Humphus with help from Popular Woodworking.*

April Meeting CANCELLED

As we announced in March by email, there will be no meeting in April. The idea is to continue to shift meeting locations forward, month by month, until the COVID-19 virus issue has substantially reduced.

Should you have any question about the location of future meetings, always feel free to contact us at lcwoodworkers@gmail.com.

The next meeting MAY be on May 9, 2020 and MAY be at the Kramer shop; the June meeting may be at David Savoy's shop and the July meeting may be at Aaron Andrepont's shop. But we must be flexible about this.

Stay at home as much as possible.



April 2020