All the News that fits

Lake Charles Woodworkers Club, Inc. May 2016

John Griffith, President
Patrick LaPoint Treasurer

Officers and Directors

Barry Humphus, Editor, George Kuffel
Gary Rock, Steve Thomas, Joe Comeaux

Mentoring Program - If you have a project, a problem in any woodworking area, these members have volenteered to help. Give them a call. Jeff Cormier: 582-3278; George Kuffel: 478-2707; John Marcon: 478-0646; Gary Rock: 433-1679; Eltee Thibodeaux: 436-1997; Dick Trouth: 583-2683. Each have years of experience and knowledge.

April Meeting Highlights

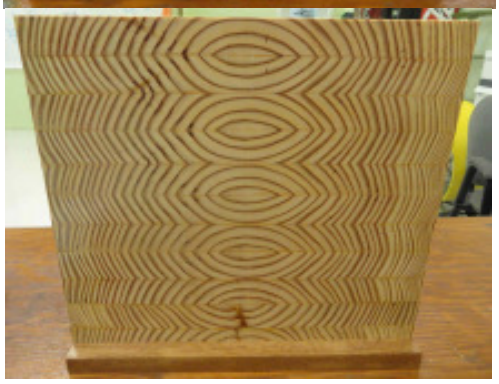
We met again at the wonderful Stine's Store on Nelson road this month and we certainly appreciate their hosting our meeting each month.. Be sure to visit the store after our meetings.

We have a new member returning to the fold from days past: Sonny LeBleu and it's great to have him back.

As we were going to do a special show for the public (and perhaps sell a few items) in front of the Stine's after the meeting, we went right into Show and Tel after business.

J.W. Anderson started up with one of his great benches made of quarter sawn decorative pine and cypress. He got the wood in Cravens, LA and it was finished in poly.

J.W. also had constructed some decorative matched pine panels with a mounting. The figure in the pine figure was dramatic.



Pie Sonnier constructed a neat boys bicylce of maple, cherry and black walnut. He also had a nice stand to hold it upright. Steve McCorquodale had a really nice red oak burl table with white oak legs. Steve used five coats of poly Steve said that this was Rita wood.

Steve Thomas brought us a beautiful black gum 'Butterfly" bowl, first turned then carved with butterflies. He used a range of anadine dye stains under a poly finish and used both a Dremel tool and carving knives to acheive the final look.

Bubba Cheramie brought a very nice hickory bowl he turned, finished in wipe-on poly plus a neat bowl of plumb finished the same as the hickory. Erik Jessen showed off his bird house design cut with a laser engraver/cutter. He said the first one he made was very difficult to assemble and he realized that the tollerences the laser produced were actually too precise. That made assembly more difficult. What he did was to simply slow the cutting speed which widened the cuts just enogh to make putting the parts together easily.

Erick and Barry also showed off a few samples of our new logo engraved and cut from luan. We had done a few samples to see how the wood would perform first as just an engraving. The engraved version looked OK but the contrast between the engraved part and the wood (particularly after a coat of shellack) did not have the constrast we were seeking.

We had the idea of doing the engraving twice which cut through the luan ply and expose the white beech layer of this plywood and that did the trick. After a bit of cleanup by Erik, it was ready.

Don Elfert did a small pine painted bench plus a bird house. Both were finished with epoxy paint. Don also did a small TV stand in oak ply with a walnut stain and luan bottm for electronics. He left off the back panel to be able to handle the cabling. Last month, Don had shown off a set of really nice dominos he built with a couple of jigs and this time had the box in which they go constructed of walnut.

Patrick LaPoint brought a pyrography image of Christ's hand plus a great mounted and partly turned burl platter. This was not really a bowl but a peice of art. See this and more on Page 2. Gary Rock did a hollow form of cherry and elm with a finial top finish in gloss poly and that wonderful Masters paint that looks like iron. Gary also won the Show & Tell drawing. The display in fron t of the Stine's showed lots of folks our work and a few members sold their work as well.

Comming Up . . . Saturday, May 14 at 9:00 A.M. at the Stine's Store on Nelson Road in Lake Charles.

More Images from April's Meeting

LaPoint Burl

Burl Table

Steve Thomas Butterfly Erik Jessen Birdhouse

There are many more photos of the work that members have done and we'll try to fit them in in the June issue.

Some Thoughts on Exterior Finishes

Recentl a sailboating friend came to me with questions about how she should refinish the teak on her sailboat. The old finish was flaking off and after carefully looking (with a magnifying glass) at the wood I began to form a few ideas about researching the problem of long-term finishes for items that will stay out doors for extended periods of time.

The flaking of the finish was likely due to a few issues: Sun, water, heat and cold - all of the things we find outside! Further, the peeling or flaking of exterior finishes is primarily due to the expansion and contraction of both the finish and the material on which the finish is applied.

To counteract these things of nature with a durable finish is a challenge that wood workers and home owners have been battling for hundreds of years. But technology is our friend and especially chemistry -- Better Living Through Chemistry is what Dupont used to say and it's true.

So not only is the challenge one of chemistry, it is one of materials science as well. Heat and cold expand and contract the materials we paint or apply some varnish and thus the coating must move with the material while maintaining adhesion. But there is also the factors of dry and wet conditions that effect finishes and the materials beneath them.

So I went to your friend and mine, the Web to find possible solutions for exterior finsih longevity..

What ever finish you use on a project that will live outdoors, first, apply some finish to every surface. Put your finish product on every surface -- top, bottom, sides and ends -- to have a complete coating. This will serve to seal the item, particularly if it is porus, such as wood.

The second thing the consider is the flexibility of the coating you choose. The more flexible the coating may be, the more resistant it will be with changes in heat, cold and moisture.

For my friend's project I suggested the following course of action. First, remove the old finish and if possible, remove the item from the boat. That is, detach the rails, handholds, tiller -- everything that would come off -- sand it down to bare wood and put two coats of reduced shellack on the wood. The advantage of shellack is that it is naturally flexable, easy to apply, dry and you can put any other finish on top of shellack without problems.

Paint suppliers often suggest so-called spar varnish for boats but there is a better product you can mix up yourself. Start with a long-oil poly (aka spar varnish) and add boiled linseed oil and Japan dryer. The mix is 1/3 poly, 1/3 boiled linseed oil, 1/3 thinner and a small amount of dryer. Poly and the oil 'dry' chemically but the Japan dryer accel

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Some Thoughts on Exterior Finishes continues

erates the process. The 'dry' time is longer that plain poly but the finish will last years longer particularly if you do several thin coats. Six years ago, I built and finished a sailboat tiller with this mix and today (two weeks ago) it still looks as new.

So for outdoor furniture, particularly if the item is exposed to heat, cold sun and possibly water, this mix works. But what about paint?

The paint we use today comes in various forms and qualities. It is a fact that the more you may pay for paint, in general, the better the quality and longevity. Exterior paint also comes in a couple of forms and often is rated in terms of the years it will last.

There are two types of exterior paint: oil based and latex based. Each has it's advantages so we will discuss each.

Like oil-based poly and the mix I suggested above, oil-based paint expands and contracts depending on weather conditions. In general, oil-based exterior paint will last longer than latex exterior paints. The oil is mostly boiled linseed (due to it's ability to 'dry') as it cures and permits the movement of the paint and the material under it moves. The oil is most frequently made with either an alkyd (synthetic) or linseed (natural) oils. The alkcyd-based paints are less expensive.

Paint fails because the materioal under it moves more than the paint. This first causes fine cracks in the surface that eventually expand and begin to peal. Once that happens, the old paint should be removed as much as possible to bear wood.

Like the process we did for the boat, the first step is to coat the surface with a special paint that actually contains shellack. But it may contain additional materials such as wax and preservatives plus you want one that suggests that it is paintable. In fact, look for all three qualities in a primer paint. Paint primer is just such a coating and why you should always use a primer on bare wood or wood that has had the old paint removed.

OK, you've got either bare new wood or wood where most of the old finish is removed and you have put on a good quality primer. What's next? The next is a good quality paint and as suggested above,

The other major category for exterior paint is based on water and a polymer we call latex. Latex paint is a misnomer because there is actually no latex in latex paint. Latex is a natural product that originally came from the Brazilian rubber tree and is now mostly produced in Southeast Asia. The sap of the Hevea tree is the natural product from which real rubber is made and this is what is used to make latex gloves.

This natural latex product is not the same ingredient that goes into paint. What goes into paint are synthetic polymers that looks like natural latex but have a completely different chemical makeup and different properties than latex rubber. Latex paint is a general term which covers all paints that use synthetic polymers such as acrylic, vinyl acrylic (PVA), styrene acrylic, etc. as binders.

Paint comes in a number of different finishes, from flat to high gloss. Some paints also contain enamel, an additive that makes the dried surface harder and less porous.

The main advantage with so-called latex paint is the relative short curing time. Here, I'm not talking about how fast it drys but how fast it cures. Oil-based paints generally take many days to cure all the way to the underlying material. Latex paints cure in a few days.

So with latex paint, the acrylic, vinyl acrylic, styrene acrylic it's made of allows the same sort of flexibity that the oil paints do when a faster curing time but are not as durable.

Most paints actually have three main components called the pigment, the binder, and the solvent. (The binder and solvent are sometimes collectively called the vehicle.) There are also typically a number of additives to improve the paint's properties in various ways, depending on where and how it's going to be used.

The pigment is the color chemical in a paint. It looks a certain color because it reflects some wavelengths of light and absorbs others. Traditionally, metal compounds (salts) are used to create different colors so, for example, titanium dioxide is used to make white paint, iron oxide makes yellow, red, brown, or orange paint (think of how iron turns rusty red), and chromium oxide makes paint that's green. Black comes from particles of carbon. Different pigments are mixed together to make paint of any color you can imagine. The binder's job is to glue the pigment particles to one another, but also to make them stick to the surface you're painting (the oils or water).

The solvent's job is to make the pigment and binder into a thinner and less viscous (more easily flowing) liquid that will spread evenly (that's why paint solvents are sometimes called thinners). Once the paint has spread out, the solvent evaporates into the air, leaving the paint evenly applied and dry beneath it.

Ceramic substances can be added to paints to improve their strength and durability. And additives in paint designed for outdoor use can help to make things waterproof and rustproof, protect against frost or sunlight, and keep them free of mold and mildew.

Always purchase the most expensive paint you can afford. You won't go wrong. *Barry Humphus*

May Meeting Location

We have the wonderful opportunity to meet at the Stines Lake Charles kocation at 4501 Nelson Road Please enter the store and go to the very back left in the store to the meeting room.

To get there go East on Nelson Road in Lake Charles going East from I-10 or I-210 and tuen into the parking lot. Go to the back of the main entrance to the very back to the meeting room to find us.

Please take an opportunity to explore Stines before you leave to find the items for your shop or home that you may need. As always, thank the folks at Stines as you check out.

Home Building Materials
Sulphur, La.

Stine

May 2016

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