

# LAKE CHARLES WOODWORKERS CLUB

**John Marcon, President**

**Bob Ferguson, Treas. & Newsletter Editor**

**MAY 1997**

## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The April meeting was held in **Bob Schmitt's** shop with 35 persons attending. Our thanks go to Bob for his hospitality.

Prior to the meeting at 8:00 a.m. **Aaron Andrepont**, **Whitney Derise** and **David Dronette** held a special workshop to demonstrate the proper setup and use of scroll saws. The session was well attended and the participants received valuable instruction.

## MAIN PRESENTATION

**Steve LeGrue** from **The Cutting Edge** in Houston, assisted by his lovely wife, **Terry**, gave us an outstanding introduction to Japanese woodworking tools.

Steve told us about the Japanese chisels, saws, planes, water sharpening stones and a variety of special items.

In principle many of the tools work in a direction opposite to our normal use. For example, both the saws and the planes are pulled into the work, instead of being pushed. For the saws, this avoids the blade stiffness requirement and makes possible a thinner blade and a narrower cut.

Steve showed four types of saw: The Ryoba which is a two-sided saw with both rip and crosscut tooth sets, a Kataha crosscut saw with a very small back, a fully-backed Dozuki mortise saw and a keyhole saw. He also demonstrated the ease and quality of cut in using these saws for dovetailing and mortising.

An interesting feature of the saws is the unique hardened teeth for razor sharp cutting. They are very difficult to resharpen, therefore, the saw blades are intended to be replaced when dull.

Also displayed were a variety of planes and chisels. The planes included a standard, a smoothing plane, a spoon bottom (for making chair seats) and a chamfer unit. Both the planes and chisels are generally hand made by craftsmen. The blades of both chisels and planes are made using the Damascus steel technique: the cutting edges are very hard white or blue steels and are backed with wrought iron. Chisels are hollow ground and are sharpened on water stones.

We understand that **Steve LeGrue** regularly holds special workshops in a wide range of woodworking skills. We will obtain this information and make it available to club members later.

## Show & Tell

**Aaron Andrepont** showed a small shelf and a wheel barrow which were elaborately decorated with scrollwork designs. **David Dronette** showed a scroll sawn chess set. **Jim Couvillion** brought a small fish which he had carved from a branch of a tree damaged in the recent ice storm.

The president, **John Marcon**, reported that plans for the Christmas toy program are well underway. **Whitney Derise** still needs more wood scraps, particularly 1 x 4's and 2 x 4's. Much of the planned activity will involve scrollwork or bandsawing of small items. Typical examples of the toys will be on hand at the next few meetings so that you will be able to determine how you can help. **Whitney** has agreed to prepare special packages of wood and plans for those who need an early start or who may be limited by the type of equipment available in their shop. We will shortly be assigning tasks to various club members.

This is a club project deserving of total club participation. Won't you make **Whitney's** task easier by volunteering your help. He's waiting at 477-0659.

## NEXT MEETING

**May 10 at 9:00 a.m. at the Calcasieu  
Parish Library  
301 W. Claude St.  
Lake Charles, LA**

**SUBJECT: Metallurgy and Woodworking  
Tools by Rick Clark**

## THE NEXT MEETING

**June 30. It's party time.  
See special note inside.**



**Bob Ferguson** noted that he was able to obtain plywood wider than the standard 48" which permitted him to build a larger poker table. He advised that a 1/2" Baltic birch plywood, 58 1/2" x 58 1/2", is available locally from the Pelican Lumber Co. on Ihles Road. Bob also pointed out that he recently purchased from Tibson's Saw shop a 1/2' band saw blade which performs very well in resawing work on a Craftsman band (80") saw.

**Lynn Boddie** advised that the Artisan's Gallery at the Imperial Calcasieu Museum is doing well. They have recently hired a person as a receptionist to maintain the open showroom each weekday afternoon between 1:00 and 5:00 p.m. Melinda McFillen expressed appreciation for the support shown by the Woodworkers Club and would welcome volunteer help at the gallery. If you're interested in assisting, please contact the person on duty at the gallery or by calling Melinda at 439-4168.

## A PARTY

Our June meeting will be on **Monday evening June 30**, not the second Saturday. We are going to have a picnic party for members and spouses at the PPG picnic facility. Our two master chef/woodworkers, John Perry and Richard Couvillion, will cook the steaks. We will have a great time socializing and then learn something of leather working from Randy Stewart. You will hear more about this later. Please put **June 30** on your calendar.

## NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome into membership

Donald Elder  
725 Kingswood Drive  
Sulphur. LA 70663

## A Dado is a Dado is a Dado is a .....

"The word "dado" describes a moulding running horizontally along a wall somewhere between the floor and ceiling, and in Britain became specifically associated with the moulding running along the top of a wainscote. (See Fig. 1, below.) Again, these are the old British terms, derived I believe from German or maybe Saxon. ... I grew up using a plough plane to cut grooves with the grain and a saw and router plane to cut housing grooves across the grain — all by hand of course. My parents' house in Scotland, built before WW2, had a picture rail around the living room wall, about 20 inches below the ceiling, and the tradesmen then called it a picture dado. (See above, right.)

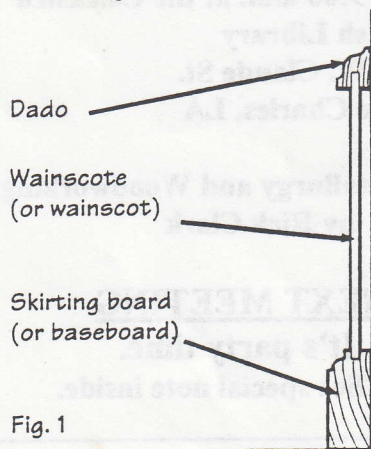
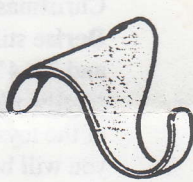


Fig. 1



Picture Hook



Picture Dado

"It made picture hanging on plaster-faced brick walls a lot easier, and was a marvellous repository for dust, fluff and dead flies! If they were ever installed in the USA, I dare say even used chewing gum might have found a final resting place there!"

Dave Picken  
Calgary, Alberta

R.S. (Bob) Lee, who has edited many Lee Valley publications, offers the following conjecture on the use of the word "dado".

"A dado is defined in the Oxford English Dictionary pretty much as Mr. Picken says. Then in Salaman's Dictionary of Tools we find the "dado grooving

plane", used to cut the groove in the floor (cross grain for at least half of the way round the room) to take the tongue at the bottom edge of the skirting of the dado or half panelling round the lower wall.

"As I see it, the dado grooving plane (to cut grooves for the dado) became the dado plane, from people's love of abbreviation of long names of familiar things.

"From calling it a dado plane, it's a short step to transfer the name of the tool to its product, i.e., a dado plane must make dados, just as a sash plane makes sashes, a spelk plane makes spelks and a spill plane makes spills. Since what the plane made was obviously not panelling, the dados it made must be grooves, in the minds of those who hadn't used the plane for making dado grooves, and therefore did not have a firm grasp of the meaning of dado. Thus "dado" came to take on its current popular meaning of cross-grain groove."



Excerpts from the Lee Valley newsletter.



## **A PICKLED FINISH**

Edited by Barry Humphus

### **What Is A Pickling Finish?**

Although certain stains are sold under the name pickling stain, technically, pickling is a method not a finish. Originally, pickling was performed on new wood to make it look old. Sometimes even strong chemicals were used to kill the natural color of the wood to turn it a gray or give it a weathered look.

Today when most people refer to a pickled finish, they automatically think of a white or off-white pastel semitransparent finish applied to an open pored wood such as ash or oak. This finish is quite fashionable today. The stains that are now labeled and sold as pickling stains are usually heavily pigmented white or Off-white stains. They can be purchased in oil or water-based formulations.

### **The Material.**

You can use either a specially formulated stain labeled and sold as pickling stain or you can make your own by taking either oil based paint or latex (water based) paint and reducing it about 25 percent. If you use an oil based paint, reduce it with either a paint thinner or gum turpentine. If you use a latex, use water. Oil base does not raise grain and dries slower so you have more time to apply it and remove as much as you want. If you are sensitive to chemicals or fumes, use latex paint. The disadvantage to using latex paint is that it raises the grain of the wood and it dries much quicker, therefore you do not have much control over how much you can wipe off after it sets up.

Use a white or off-white paint depending on what color you prefer. You can also tint the paint or stain to make various shades of pastels. sometimes reds are used, sometimes blues or greens. If you are working with a water based stain or latex paint, you can add universal tinting colors. Universal tinting colors are commonly sold in paint stores (such as Harrison & PPG). If you are working with an oil based stain or paint, you can add Japan colors. Japan colors can be purchased from woodworking mail order catalogs or art supply stores and paint stores.

### **Applying The Stain**

Applying the stain is easy. Simply wipe it over the wood and then wipe off as much of the excess as necessary until you achieve the look you want. Today, pickling is usually done on open pored woods like ash and oak. The result is very effective because most of the pigment (color) remains in the large pores and accents the overall appearance of the grain. However, such woods as pine are also pickled and can produce a beautiful look.

Once you are satisfied with the color, apply at least two coats of finish to seal in the color and protect it. Water based topcoat finishes are best to use because they have no amber tint to them like oil based finishes, therefore the finish will not yellow or change the color of the stain. Make sure the finish is either satin or flat. Don't use a gloss finish because it will reflect too much light and you will not be able to see the accents in the grain very well.