



The DoveTale

July 2002

Officers of Woodworkers of SE Texas

President	Cliff McLean, 727-6287
President elect	Waid Gauthier, 735-8392
Secretary	Laura Seelen, 962-7224
Treasurer	Howard Hartman, 835-0564
Newsletter	Richard Hicks, 982-5226
Shows	Rod Ruppel, 898-7041
CP Project	Dean Partridge, 722-7647
Toy Project	Bob & Laura Seelen, 962-7224
Programs	to be appointed
Purchases	Jerry Shivers, 794-2274
Membership	Richard Hicks, 982-5226

Members:	69	Present:	32	Visitors:	1
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Our Next Meeting will be Aug 26th

July 22nd Meeting

Woodworker's Paradise hosted our meeting and Lum Hawthorne presented a program on making Windsor chairs.

- Howard Hartman reports we are solvent, but not enough for a South American trip.
- Lew Laurent brought five boxes of toy blanks so we could get an early start with our toy project.
- We are saddened to announce that one of our new members, Thomas Hooks, passed away shortly after joining the club.
- We're happy to report that Bob Seelan is back home and getting better. The doctors in Houston found a blood infection and are treating it with antibiotics.
- Dick Osborne won the \$25 door prize.

Seventeen members attended the Saturday Program meeting on sharpening. John and Rebecca Phelps did an excellent job showing everyone how to sharpen chisels and lathe tools.

Show & Tells



re-claimed dresser.

Rod Ruppel -

Brought a picture of a corner entertainment center and a mahogany framed mirror he made for a



before he found one

Jewel Hymel -

An edge guide he made he made for his circular saw. He used a 'speed square' and had to check 6 that was square.



Howard Hartman -

Several new toys he added to his product line for Christmas.



from a flower shop.

Lyman Frugia -

Two turned vases from some dogwood a friend gave him. He lined one of the vases with a plastic



Rob Emanuel -
A drilling jig he made to precisely drill shelf support pin holes in a bookcase. He also

brought a picture of his new daughter.



Sue Caldwell -
Brought a pen and pencil set she made out of Cocobolo.

We'll be back at our regular meeting location, the Mike Taylor Career Center, on August 26th at 7 pm.

PROGRAM

Lum Hawthorn presented a program about making Windsor chairs. He built a trestle dining table for his 'get away home' and then decided he wanted to make Windsor style chairs for the table.



He found a really good book ([The Chairmakers Woodshop: Handcrafting Windsor and Post](#)

[and Rung Chairs by Drew Langsner](#)), studied the book, visited several chair making shops and then started trying to make a chair.

He quickly found that the hardest part of making a Windsor chair was bending the wood for the back. He also found out that most of the companies that build Windsor chairs buy the bent wood parts

instead of making them. After a lot of experimentation, he developed a jig to make the **bow** (that's what they call the frame for the back part of the chair). Lum believes the secret to bending wood is to compress the fibers 'end to end' before you start bending it.



Lum makes his bows from fresh oak saplings he cuts in the woods by his house. He uses a drawknife and spokeshave to prepare the wood before he steams and bends it. He puts the bow blank in a long wooden box over a large pot (like you would boil crawfish in) of boiling water and steams it for 2-3 hours. When he takes the blank out of the steam box, he has about 15-20 minutes to bend and clamp it. He lets the bent bow dry overnight in his shop and 2-3 weeks in the house before he removes it from the jig. That way, there's usually very little spring-back when he unclamps it.

He makes the seats from glued up pieces of 8/4 poplar. He uses poplar because it is easy to carve, shape and finish. He had the pattern from the book enlarged to full size and transferred to foam board by a blueprint shop. Lum does all of the carving and shaping before he cuts the profile out of the blank. After he transfers the pattern and angle lines to the blank, he drills depth gauge holes, clamps the blank in a vise and does the initial shaping with



an adz. After he gets the rough shape, he does the final shaping with an inshave or travester tool and a disk sander. When the shaping is finished, he cuts the seat profile out and does final shaping of the edges.

The next step is boring the holes for the legs, bow and spindles. Lum uses a large angle finder to get the proper angle for the leg holes. After he drills the holes and dry fits the legs, he drills the holes and mounts the bow. He uses an electric drill with 2 long bit extensions to 'sight' and drill the other holes.



After final shaping and sanding on the individual parts, it's time to assemble the chair. First, the legs and stretchers are dry fitted and adjusted as needed. Then they are reinstalled with glue and the tenons are locked in place with mesquite wedges. Lum showed us an easy way to adjust the length of the legs. Sit the chair on a flat and level surface (like your table saw table) and add shims or wedges under the short legs until it is level. Use a pencil and a block of wood a draw a line around each leg. Since the front of the Windsor chair is 5/8" higher, add a 5/8" spacer to the marking block when you mark the back legs. This technique will work on anything that has legs - even if the legs are angled.



Next he installs the bow and adds the spindles and supports by first dry fitting and adjusting them. Then he assembles with glue and locks the tenons with mesquite wedges. He trims the tenons and wedges, sands them flush and then does the final sanding and touchup. Now, he's ready to apply the finish.



Lum likes to put a natural finish on his chairs. He really likes the contrast of the different woods. However, most of the traditional Windsor chairs are painted so you can't see the different woods that were used.

A big, club **'THANK YOU'** to Lum for a very impressive and informative program. It was obvious to all of us that he put a lot of time, thought and effort into his presentation! He took a lot of the mystery out of the building process and some of us actually thought (at least for a short while) we 'might' be able to build one of these beautiful chairs. Thanks also to Woodworker's Paradise for hosting our meeting.

Woodworker's Paradise

In addition to a good selection of tools and machinery, Woodworker's Paradise



also stocks a nice selection of wood – mostly hardwoods and exotics. Their prices are good and they're open on

Saturdays. It seems like they are always getting in something new so stop by and check them out!

Acadian Hardwoods

Our friends at Acadian Hardwoods had a successful Customer Appreciation party. Lots of folks showed up and enjoyed some great food and fellowship. They also got a chance to check out Acadian's stock of wood. I saw some really nice maple and cherry. Of course, their cypress is really special – they're known for that. They're always willing to help you with your wood needs.

For Sale

Kris Castle has a Foley-Belsaw 12 1/2" Planer/Molder/Sander for sale.

It has a 3 hp, single phase motor and includes a spare set of planer knives, a knife setting jig and an owner's manual. Unit is in good condition.

PRICE: \$575.00

Contact Kris @ 835-0940 or e-mail:
kcastle254@aol.com