



The DoveTale

September 2003

Woodworkers of SouthEast Texas

Officers:

President Waid Gauthier, 735-8392
President elect Ray Ward, 898-4542
Secretary Richard Hicks, 982-5226
Treasurer Howard Hartman, 835-0564

Committees:

Newsletter Richard Hicks, 982-5226
Shows Rod Ruppel, 898-7041
Librarian Kenneth Bodden, 962-4997
Purchases Jerry Shivers, 794-2274
Membership Richard Hicks, 982-5226
Programs Rod Ruppel, 898-7041
Web Master Rob Emanuel, 729-9315
Projects Bill Chanley, 866-5967

Members:	90	Present:	35	Visitors:	2
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[Our Next Meeting will be Oct 27th](#)

[September 22nd Meeting](#)

Our September meeting was held at Acadian Hardwoods. Business items included:

- Howard Hartman - treasury at \$1,782.43
- Richard Hicks - Membership at 90
- Ken Bodden - Reminded everyone that items are checked out for 30 days and should be renewed if needed longer.
- Rod Ruppel - Has the meetings planned for the rest of the year (see meeting section)
- Rob Emanuel - Still looking for additional gallery items for our website.
- Bill Chanley - We have 800 - 1,000 toys ready or being made. Looking for new items - especially some for little girls.

[Shop Safety](#)

Our shop safety discussion focused on eye protection in the shop. Howard Hartman showed us his glasses with bifocals on the top and bottom. Bill Smith reminded everyone to make sure their glasses are made with SAFETY lenses. Plain glass lenses will shatter if a flying object hits them. Lyman Frugia addressed the special needs of turners and stressed wearing a full-face shield when turning, gluing cracks and finishing. A face

shield is a lot cheaper to replace than glasses if you get glue or finish on it. Richard Hicks also stressed wearing ear protection and a respirator when using noisy, dust generating power tools.

[Shop Tips](#)

There's a lot of woodworking information available on the web. The publisher of WoodSmith, ShopNotes and Workbench magazines sponsors a website, www.woodworkingtips.com, that e-mails a 'tip of the week' to anyone that registers. A recent tip that I found useful involved replacing the 'T' bar handle on a 'C' clamp with a wooden handle. This upgrade really makes the 'C' clamp faster and easier to use.

[2003 Program Schedule](#)

- Saturday Program meeting on Oct 11th at 1PM in Richard Hicks' shop - using a lathe to make tops for the toy drive
- Regular meeting, October 27th - Introduction to woodcarving by Richard Spinney
- Saturday Program meeting Nov 8th at 1PM in Lyman Frugia's shop - turning platters
- Regular meeting, November 24th - finish the toy drive for 2003

Show & Tells



Howard Hartman - Made this bi-plane out of shop scraps. The original was a custom order, now it's a regular item in his children's toy product line.



Larry Neff - with his walnut mantle clock (he had to sneak it out of the house).



Lyman Frugia - two platters; one mesquite and the other one was walnut with a quilted grain pattern



lacquer finish.

Pete Nealley - three bowls; cherry, box elder and persimmon. The bowls had a very high gloss and smooth



Willard Morgan - a stool made from 9 ply Baltic birch plywood. The stool also came in handy at the meeting.



Steve Brady - has been really busy turning pens. He had a lot of exotic woods as well as Dymondwood.



Richard Osborn - brought plans for a communion table he's building and explained how he made the molding that goes around the panels.

Door Prize

Steve Brady won the door prize. Since he also brought a show & tell, his prize was \$35.

Program

John Phelps presented a program about making mortise and tenon joints with different type of tools.

To start his presentation, John explained the strengths and weaknesses of mortise and tenon joints. If properly cut, they make a



very strong joint that's normally used to join two pieces of wood at right angles. A typical use would be the apron that

connects to legs on a table. A properly fitting joint will go together by simply pushing the pieces together with your hands. If you have to use a hammer - it's too tight! The final test is to hold the piece with mortise horizontal and the tenon piece vertical. If the tenon fits correctly, the tenon piece will not fall out.

Several methods can be used to cut the tenon part of the joint.



To eliminate splinters, John likes to use his table saw, with a sled, to score the wood on all four surfaces – even if

he plans to finish the cuts with his router. He likes to use a rip blade because it cuts



faster and leaves flat-bottomed kerfs. If you intend to finish the joint on a table saw, be sure to use a 'zero clearance'

insert. John made his own tenoning jig



instead of paying around \$100 for a commercial one. One advantage with John's jig; since it rides along his fence, he can get

very small adjustments just by moving his fence. Other ways to complete the tenon include:

- Using a dado blade on a table saw, however, it leaves a rough surface on the tenon
- A bandsaw, but it is hard to get a precise fitting joint and it also leaves the tenon surface rough
- A router leaves the surface smooth and can be set to cut a precisely fitting joint. It's a must for exposed, through tenons

John built a special, horizontal mounted,



router table that works really well for cutting tenons. It has a wedge adjustment for the bit height that

makes it easy to make very small adjustments. Of course, it also has the critical safety guards and you always want to feed your stock so that the cutting action of the bit is pushing the stock back towards you. This keeps your fingers and hands from being pulled into the spinning bit.

For the mortise part of the joint, John uses a



plunge router and a homemade jig. The jig centers and holds the piece that receives the mortise John

has his plunge router mounted on a sled that



helps stabilize the router and automatically centers it on the jig. Make the mortise 1/16" to 1/8" deeper than

the length of the tenon. To cut the mortise, you should plunge the router to the full depth of the mortise, using 2-3 plunges, on each end of the joint and then clean out the waste between the plunges. This yields the cleanest mortise.

Using these techniques, you end up with mortises with round ends and squared edge tenons. This can be resolved by:

- Making the mortise longer
- Squaring the mortise with a corner or regular chisel
- Round over the edges of the tenons

The easiest fix is to round over the edges. It's really easy to do with a chisel and some sandpaper. Remember, it doesn't have to be perfectly smooth and round unless the tenon shows.

Thanks John for a very informative program.

Acadian Hardwoods

Wes Vice just brought in a load of German Beech. This is a beautiful, light colored wood with a subtle grain pattern. The color is uniform, with white to light cream-colored sapwood and light cream or brown heartwood. It's often used to mimic other woods like maple, cherry, walnut, and mahogany. It was tested in thirteen categories including hardness, machining, joint strength, stability, and bending capability by the US Forestry Laboratory and scored 9's and 10's out of a possible score of 10 on all the tests.

The good news! It's priced less than maple and about the same as poplar. Call Wes or Norma and check this wood out, it's really nice!

Our Next Meetings

Our next Saturday Program Meeting will be October 11th at 1PM in Richard Hicks' shop. We'll use lathes to turn spinning tops for the toy drive. Richard will provide the materials and finishes for the tops. If you have a lathe that's small enough to bring, bring it and/or your tools to the meeting.

Our next regular meeting will be Monday, October 27th at 7PM at Acadian Hardwoods in Rose City. Richard Spinney will present a program on woodcarving. He intends to actually help us learn to carve an egg. If you have a carving knife, bring it with you - Richard will provide the wood.