



The DoveTale

April 2005

Woodworkers of SouthEast Texas

Officers:

President Richard Osborn, 860-4817
President elect Dean Partridge, 722-7647
Secretary Richard Hicks, 982-5226
Treasurer Howard Hartman, 835-0564

Committees:

Newsletter Richard Hicks, 982-5226
Shows Dean Partridge, 722-7647
Librarian Kenneth Bodden, 962-4997
Purchases Jerry Shivers, 794-2274
Membership Richard Hicks, 982-5226
Programs Lyman Frugia, 769-3604
Web Master Rob Emanuel, 729-9315
Projects Dean Partridge, 722-7647

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| Members: | 73 | Present: | 22 | Visitors: | 1 |
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Our Next Meeting will be May 23rd

April 25th Meeting

We held our March meeting at Acadian Hardwoods. Business items included:

- Howard Hartman - \$2,632.50
- Richard Hicks - Membership at 73
- Rob Emanuel - Library items should be returned or re-checked monthly
- Rob Emanuel says to be sure to check out our website: www.wwset.org
- Toy Project: Dean Partridge brought 5 boxes of toy blanks to the meeting and distributed them to various members
- Shows: We had a excellent booth at the woodworking show this year
- Programs: Lyman will schedule our programs this year. He still needs some help with presentations and locations

Raffles

Steve sold some more tickets for \$100 gift certificate to Acadian Hardwoods or Woodworker's Paradise. We'll have the drawing at the May meeting. Steve will start selling tickets for the next raffle item - the router bit set donated by Woodline USA. He also discussed the possibility of having a

special raffle of items made by our members. If we can get 3 or 4 donated items, we'll have the raffle with the first winner getting the first choice of the items and so forth. I've committed to provide an item - we need at least 2 more. Please provide feedback to Steve

Toy Project

Our toy drive is off to a quick start this year. Dean Partridge brought 5 more boxes of toy blanks to the meeting and our eager club members snapped them up. Dean promised to bring some more to the next meeting. If you need toy-making supplies such as wood, wheels or axles, let Dean know so he can order them.

Woodworking Show

We had another excellent booth at the Houston Woodworking Show. We had the best booth location we've ever had because we swapped with the Gulf Coast Woodturners Club. We had a variety of items - turned vases and bowls, boxes, intarsia and furniture items. We met a lot of nice folks and answered a lot of questions. And, as always, our members bought a lot of new woodworking items. Thanks to everyone that helped with our show effort and a special thanks to Waid Gauthier for the use of his trailer.

Show & Tells



Lyman Frugia turned four oak legs for one of Jerry Shiver's projects, but this one was backwards and had to be re-turned.



Howard Hartman designed this lollipop tree as a craft show item. He offered to share the pattern with the club.



Earl Rutherford turned this oak goblet and had a lot of trouble with the stem. It needed four repairs to complete.



Richard Hicks made a long handle for his roughing gouge out of hard maple with walnut inlays.



Cliff McLean brought this antique child's chair. The legs had been cutoff or worn really short.



Steve Brady brought pictures of his Wood Mizer bandsaw mill. Now he can mill his own wood to his own specifications.



Carl Gage brought pictures of two bedroom benches he made from pine and cypress.

Jerry Shivers brought pictures of a recently completed toy box and he also won the door prize - \$35 since he had a show & tell.

Next Meetings

Our next regular meeting will be at Acadian Hardwoods in Rose City and will start at 7PM. I'll be there early to take pictures of your show & tell items. Be sure to bring a chair. Jerry Shivers will present the program on making and using router templates.

Jerry will also host our next Saturday Program meeting on June 11th at his shop in Fannett. It will be the 'hands-on' continuation of his regular meeting subject - making and using router templates.

Directions to Jerry's shop:

From Beaumont, take I-10 west towards Houston. Take the HWY 365 exit and turn left on HWY 365. Turn right on Mahon Rd, Jerry's house is the 2nd brick house on the right (his shop is in the back). If you get to railroad tracks, you missed Mahon Rd.

From South County, go west on HWY 365 towards Fannett. Turn left on HWY 124 and immediately back right on Mahon Rd. Jerry's house will be on the left just before the curve on Mahon RD.

Program

John Phelps presented a program about using a Leigh Dovetail Jig to make through and half-blind dovetails. He also explained the

many uses for dovetail joints along with their strengths and weaknesses.



John has his Leigh Jig mounted on an elevated stand he calls his 'geriatric equalizer' so that he can use his router at

eye level. This gives him better control of his router as well as being 'back friendly'. The



book that Leigh supplies with their jig defines the bits you use for each size and type of dovetails.

John suggests using a dedicated router so you won't have to adjust the bit depth every time you cut a dovetail. One of the most important settings on your router is to make sure that the guide bushing and bit are absolutely concentric. Otherwise, the pins and tails will never match.

The fingers on the Leigh jig are completely adjustable which allows you to make variably spaced dovetails for your projects. Once you set the fingers they are locked in place and used to cut the pins and tails. This makes the alignment of both cuts very accurate.

John also shared a lot of tips to help make better dovetails with the jig such as:

- Using backing pieces where the bit exits the cut
- Depth stops
- Finger spacers
- Lightly scoring the wood with the router before making the full cut

John continued his dovetail presentation with a 'hands-on demonstration' the following Saturday at Richard Hicks' shop in Port Arthur. John spent several hours showing exactly how to setup the jig and router and made several dovetail joints. Bottom line, the

Leigh jig is fairly expensive and somewhat complex to set up, but it makes some very nice dovetails and allows flexible spacing.

Safety Item

We've always heard about preventing shop fires by following the proper disposal methods for oily rags. The June 2005 issue of Fine Woodworking had the best explanation of spontaneous combustion of oily rags I've ever read.

Basically, the oily rag contains the three items required for a spontaneous combustion: an ignition source, fuel and oxygen. The same process that causes the oil to make a good finish can also cause the oily rag to ignite. As the oil starts to dry, it absorbs oxygen from the air. When enough oxygen is absorbed, a chemical reaction starts and the reaction generates heat. When the reaction is trapped in a wadded up rag, it feeds on itself. As it gets hotter, the chemical reaction speeds up and generates more heat until finally, after about 15 minutes, it's hot enough to ignite the rag.

In their test, a wadded up rag soaked in linseed oil went from 100 to 350 degrees/f in about 7 minutes and started smoking. Five minutes later the rag reached 500 degrees and ignited. The proper disposal method they suggest is hanging the rags flat, on a drying rack, until they are completely dry before you discard them.

Check out the complete article on page 24 of the June 2005 issue of Fine Woodworking.