



COLORADO WOODWORKERS GUILD

*ENCOURAGING ALL WOODWORKERS IN SELF-EXPRESSION,
CRAFTSMANSHIP AND KNOWLEDGE*

NOVEMBER 2017

THE END?

Election of new Board members is scheduled to take place at the Guild's January 2018 meeting. Unfortunately, life circumstances prevent our current Board members from continuing to serve. Board positions of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary must be filled at this election.

For more than three decades, the Colorado Woodworkers Guild has served your interests and those of hundreds of fellow woodworking enthusiasts. In recent years, a dozen or so members have generously given of their time and energy to lead Guild activities. We thank them for their sustained efforts and dedicated commitment to the Guild.

In an all-volunteer organization like the Guild, simply paying yearly dues and showing up at monthly meetings is not enough. A new crop of members must step up to fill the roles of members who are stepping down. Without a continued flux of volunteers, the Guild can't survive.

It is time for the next round of volunteers to come forward and give of themselves. As of this moment, no one has offered to run for open Board positions. Unless these leadership positions are filled, the Board will be compelled to consider dissolving the organization.

So, is this the end? It would be a shame for the Guild to disappear. The future of the Colorado Woodworkers Guild rests with you.

By Jim McNamee

HOLIDAY PARTY

You have marked your calendars for the December 9th holiday party, right? As last year, it will begin at 6PM at the Cloverdale Church of God, 5705 Louisiana Ave., Lakewood and run until between 8 and 8:30PM. The Guild will provide roast turkey, ham, brisket, a variety of sides, punch, and water. You need only bring yourselves, unless there's something you just have to share with the other attendees, but you're not obliged to bring anything. Please visit the sign-up sheet on the Guild's website so we'll know in advance how many to provide for. And don't forget to bring something if you wish to participate in the always popular and enjoyable White Elephant gift exchange. See you there!

SHOW & TELL

The October meeting was well attended thanks to the internet celebrity presenter we enjoyed. We also saw one of the largest groups of submissions into the Show & Tell in a very long time, with 11 people bring in items.

First off was Horace Brown with his "River Table" made from wormy maple. Turning the natural edges inward helps to provide conventional edges for the table while preserving the beauty of the natural edges. Covering it with a custom cut piece of glass recessed into the top gives a very nice overall effect. Horace noted that he watched nearly 100 hours of related how-to youtube videos.



Next was Bill Knoll with a tool shelf created from an aspen log. We've all experienced the frustration of trying to find the correct Allen wrench that came with the tool at hand, but they have a knack for finding hiding places when we need them. Bill's creativity solved that problem, reduced his scrap pile, and looks good on the wall.



Sam Thomas brought in a collection of snowmen he made for the grandkids. Sam wanted to start using his new wood lathe that had collected five years of dust waiting to be used. Now that he is successfully turning, he knocked out these little guys from aspen to give to his grandkids for Christmas.



Dale Bowlin brought in his new vacuum press as a cool tool showing. Handy little gadgets that they are, Dale is learning what works best or doesn't (unfinished oak).



Linden Snyder brought in a stool that he made at his wife's request. He chose knotty alder for its character and then added curves to the seat and legs to give it a bit more interest and reduce the boxiness.



Michael Roper brought in a variety of pieces to show, including a spalted birch vase, a pair of vases in orange box elder burl, and what looks like a piece from a universal joint made of madrone burl. He noted that he negotiated and exchanged a figure maple board for a spalted birch blank at the Front Range Woodturning Symposium. Since spalted birch comes from far off lands, it is a rare commodity in these parts and the vase shows well why it is so highly prized.



Doug Pinney brought in another of his handy dandy carvings. His guiding criterion was that he wanted to do a ship and I dare say he succeeded. Maybe next time he wants to do a ship, he could include Captain Kidd's ship in a gun battle with a Spanish galleon. Just a suggestion.



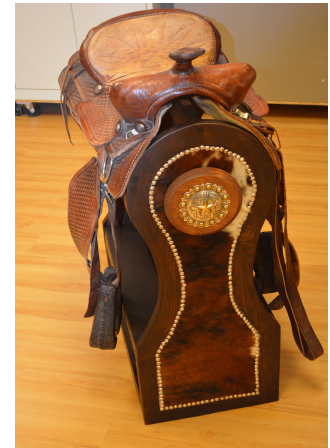
Fred Schmidt is a marquetry buff. He brought his first Charlie Chaplin piece from sometime back and his new Charlie II piece. The difference was Charlie II used multiple colors of veneer and grain orientation. He finds the work fun and engaging as he likes the subject material, so he's also working on two others: Jerry Garcia and John Lennon.



Don Prorak brought in a coaster set he claimed had some association with Pier 1 Imports. The difference was that Don made these on the lathe with a bit of planing and cutting and returning to make the overlapping circular patterns.



Bob Humberson brought in his saddle stand stool. Over the years, the Humbersons have switched out their bar stools for old saddles on saddle stools. Some are junior saddles and some are nicer show saddles. The effect is a more comfortable and much more interesting stool.



The winner of the night was Rich Macrate's Federal style table. Rich based the work on various books to help in determining the scale and size of the piece. The top was made from a piece of Cuban mahogany from a deconstructed church in Long Island. Rich noted that the fun part was the research to figure out how to build the piece.



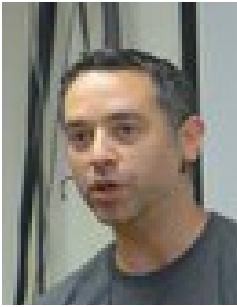
Thanks to everyone who brought in their work to be seen by the rest of the group. Remember that each month the Show & Tell is one of the staples of the meeting, so please continue to bring your pieces and tell the rest of us what you've been doing.

*Kevin Loyd
Shows & Exhibits*

EDITOR'S NOTE

You'll notice that some of the standard material included in previous newsletters is absent from this one. The editor accepts full responsibility for the omissions and is taking steps to ensure that similar shortcuts don't become routine. One of the pitfalls of our use of a new (to this editor) software package is encountering the unexpected. During the several weeks before the next newsletter is published, we will develop work-arounds and a better understanding of the software we're using. We appreciate your patience.

SPECIAL GUEST PRESENTER



October's guest presenter was Marc Spagnuolo, the host of the internet's *Wood Whisperer* site. Marc recently relocated his family and his webcasting operation to the Denver area to take advantage of our state's marvelous recreation opportunities. He has a passion for woodworking and loves to share his knowledge with other woodworkers. Marc spent the evening discussing what he's learned about oil and varnish finishes. He left discussion of water-based finishes for another time.

Perhaps the most eye-opening revelation of the evening was that most commercial wood finishes with the words "Tung Oil" in their name don't actually contain any tung oil. How do you know? Marc's first piece of advice when buying commercial wood finishes is simple: Read the label. If you can't find tung oil in the ingredient list, it doesn't contain tung oil. There's more to learn from the ingredient list. The product's name may not indicate that it's an oil-based finish. Read the label instructions. If it recommends petroleum distillates such as mineral spirits for diluting the product or cleaning up afterward, it's an oil-based finish. To quote the famous philosopher, Yogi Berra, "It's amazing what you can see by just looking!"

Next, Marc pointed out that pure varnish dries relatively quickly. When oil is added to it, the oil-varnish mixture dries more slowly. Oil-based finishes tend to impart a yellow-orange color to wood. Some oil/varnish products are darker in color than others. That color cast may be objectionable for light colored woods like Maple or Ash. Depending on the particular product, oil-based finishes may produce a harder or softer surface. Spar varnish, for example, is preferred for outdoor use because, among other things, it remains flexible even when fully dried. That flexibility allows it to cling tightly to the wood's surface despite seasonal variation in the wood's dimensions.

Marc brought several samples of pieces he finished with oil-based products to let us experience how they differ in look and feel. He used polymerized oil on a pizza peel that sees frequent use in the family kitchen. It's a drying oil. The peel took 10 coats to establish a finish sufficient to protect it. Even though the oil cured, Marc regularly adds more thin coats to maintain that protection.

When an oil-varnish blend dries on a non-porous surface, it wrinkles. A pure or diluted varnish dries hard and smooth. Marc demonstrated these properties by placing a few drops on the can lid and letting it dry.

Just as no two trees are identical, the boards cut from them will also differ somewhat. For that reason it's paramount to test any finish on the boards that make up your project. Testing a finish on a scrap of oak from a previous project may not predict how it will look and feel on the current oak piece.



Marc fielded dozens of questions during and after his presentation. The Colorado Woodworkers Guild is grateful to Marc for sharing his wisdom with us and we plan to invite him back again in the future.

By Jim McNamee

ABOUT WOOD

For November, we consider **Black Willow (*Salix nigra*)**, also known as **Swamp Willow, Gooding Willow, Western Black Willow, and Dudley Willow**, a tree native to Eastern North America that varies in size from the family Salicaceae, the willow family. The willow group consists of two genera and about 400 species. Species are located around the world.

Recall that in previous columns, we have defined the Modulus of Rupture (MOR), the Modulus of Elasticity (MOE), Crush Strength, and Janka Hardness. We will continue to use those terms. Most of the other terms are generally well understood and will not be defined further. If you have questions about other terms or questions about a specific wood, contact wood@coloradowoodworkersguild.org.



Black Willow

Here is a summary of the characteristics of **Black Willow**:

Distribution: Eastern North America
Tree size: 65-100 ft (20-30 m) tall; 2-3 ft (0.6-1.0 m) trunk diameter; larger trees not unusual
Average Dried Weight: 26 lbs/ft³ (415 kg/m³)
Specific Gravity: (Basic, 12% MC): .36, .42
Modulus of Rupture (MOR): 7,800 lb_f/in² (53.8 MPa)
Modulus of Elasticity (MOE): 1,010,000 lb_f/in² (6.97 GPa)
Crush Strength: 4,100 lb_f/in² (28.3 MPa)
Janka Hardness: 430 lb_f (1,920 N)
Shrinkage: Radial, 3.3%; Tangential, 8.7%; Volumetric, 13.9%; T/R Ratio, 2.6
Heartwood Appearance: reddish or grayish brown, sometimes with darker streaks
Sapwood Appearance: white to tan; not always sharply demarcated
Grain/Texture: interlocked or irregular grain with medium to fine uniform texture
Stability: must be carefully seasoned to prevent warping; good dimensional stability once seasoned
Relative strength: softest and lightest of U.S. domestic hardwoods; poor structural strength
Decay Resistance: non-durable to perishable, and susceptible to insect attack
Workability: difficult to machine; must use sharp tools; glues and finishes well; responds to steam bending
Odor: no characteristic odor
Toxicity: sensitizer
Potency: low
Toxicity Source: wood dust, leaves, and bark
Reaction: skin and respiratory irritation, can cause nausea and nasopharyngeal cancer (rare)
Sustainability: fast growing; short lived; not threatened
Uses: millwork, baskets, furniture, carvings, packing cases, boxes, pulping, picture frames, venetian blinds, veneer, casks, dowels, tannin, caskets, wicker
Typical Cost: available and economical
Comments: largest and most important of New World willows; weak for its weight; native americans learned to use the bark for its compound, salicin, for pain relief.



Salicin is metabolized into salicylic acid, the primary active ingredient in aspirin. Salicylic acid is now commercially synthesized.

If you have questions about a specific wood, don't hesitate to send a note to wood@coloradowoodworkersguild.org.

SPONSORS' CORNER

FRANK PAXTON LUMBER WOOD OF THE MONTH

The featured Wood of the Month for November from Frank Paxton Lumber is four-quarter (4Q), S3S Brown Ash in random widths and lengths. As always, call (303) 399-6047 for pricing.

MILE HIGH TREE CARE, INC.

Mile High Tree Care has some great news for Guild members!

For the past few months, Mile High has been working on a show room to show off some of their amazing slabs in practical settings. It should be completed by the first of the year to serve as a retail area offering clients a place to view a handful of finished pieces.

Mile High have a new inventory of slab material just out of the kiln. This latest load includes some rather beautiful elm, hackberry, maple, and walnut. Each piece is set to be planed and photographed over the next few weeks and will be put on their website for clients to view and purchase. Mile High just completed a mantel and shelf inventory consisting of more than 80 pieces ranging from 6-12 feet long and 2-6 inches thick.

In keeping with their plan to expand their offerings, Mile High just returned from a trip during which they acquired a cherry log measuring 49 inches wide and more than 8 feet long. It's just one of many large logs they will be processing over the winter, along with ash, box elder, juniper, maple and, as always, walnut. The kiln is now loaded and running with elm, locust, pecan, and walnut, all of which should be dried by the first of the year.

As they settle into their new surrounding, Mile High encourages Guild members to stop by to check out some of the amazing slab materials, burls, and boards at terrific prices for members. Seeing is believing; your special project source is right there at Mile High's facility.

Mile High thanks Guild members for their continuing interest and use of their primary services as tree arborists, tree trimmers, and removal services. They always strive toward their mission of being a "zero-waste company."

Mile High website: www.milehightreecare.com

Telephone: (303) 292-9393

Address: 6010 West 56th Ave
Arvada, CO 80002

Guild Liaison for Mile High Tree Care, Inc. is Fred Schmidt

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