



Encouraging all woodworkers in self-expression, craftsmanship and knowledge

Colorado Woodworkers Guild

March 2022 Newsletter

President's Corner



Dennis Edmonds, President

Historically, woodworkers have always embraced new technologies to make their work more accurate and to improve efficiency. We continue to evolve our materials, tools and methods. Here are some examples:

Cutting – Sharp stones, a wooden handle for leverage, an iron axe head for efficiency. Moving on to a bow saw, a hand saw blade, circular saw blades, bandsaws and now laser cutters.

Drilling – Sharp stones, iron awl, auger bit, a brace with interchangeable bits, geared breast drill, electric drills with a wide array of specialized bits.

Shaping – Sharp stones, iron knives, chisels, planes, router planes, electric routers and shapers, lasers, and CNC machines.

Materials – Roughhewn wood, planks, sawn boards, plywood, particleboard, and a wide variety of engineered materials.

Fasteners - Wooden pegs, cut nails, rolled nails, and screws with slot heads, Phillips, and square drive. Brass, steel, stainless and coated fasteners. Hyde glue, wood glue, epoxy.

Methods – Pegs, mortice & tenon joints, frame and panel construction, Kreg jigs

Power – Human, animal, water, steam, electrical cords, batteries, compressed air.

Finishes – Tung and linseed oil, milk paint, oil and water-based paints, epoxy coatings.

We are so fortunate to stand on the shoulders of our predecessors. When I go to a museum and look at furniture that was built centuries ago, I am awed and humbled by the magnificent work that has lasted so long. When I imagine trying to make those pieces without my power tools, I appreciate the craftsmanship.

The best woodworkers of today use a wide combination of materials, tools, and methods. Even with our power tools, we must also be able to use hand tools effectively to produce excellent work. We try to expand our repertoire of knowledge and skills by taking classes, watching demonstrations.

We try new things, learn from our mistakes, grow our skills, and evolve our methods. We come from a long line of craftsmen who tried different approaches, failed, learned, kept trying and succeeded.

So next time you are in the shop, try something new. Experiment. Mistakes are only “design opportunities”.

Dennis Edmonds, President

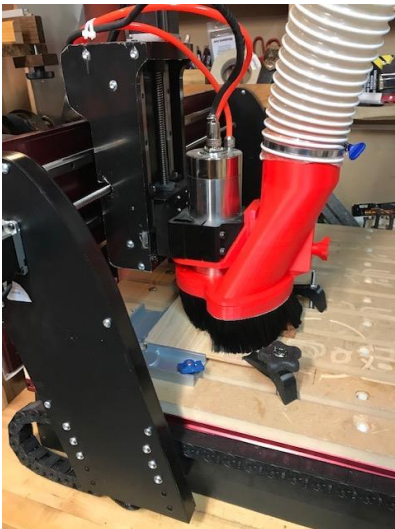
Show and Tell

The show and tell items at the February meeting included entries from five members.

First up was Devon Lindsley's "Mr. Gnome". A gnome turned from spalted maple sporting a "Fur Beard" with a friction finish. Devon turned this while attending a "Ladies Of the Lathe" class sponsored by the Front Range Woodturners.



Next Dale Bowlin gave a S&T on a Dust Boot he has for his CNC Router. Dale showed this off via a video of it in action. It appears to get all the dust from his CNC router while cutting. This is important as a CNC possibly generates more dust than any other shop tool. Here's pics of the dust collector and Dale talking about it. This is available from "OneGuyInAShop" on Etsy



The next S&T entry was a complex bandsaw box from Bill Bixby which he called "LOG" in the entry form. This box has multiple drawers (one is even hidden). The first pic shows the box completely apart. Note the tiny drawer, this is hidden in the back of the drawer to its left. The second pic is Bill explaining the box.



Next up is a “Mushroom Farm” made from scraps by our illustrious president Dennis Edmonds. The “Farm” is made from scraps of Maple, Walnut and other species found in his shop. It’s finished in wipe on Tung oil and varnish. Talented work.



The final (and winning for the evening) entry was from member Greg Livingston. It is one of five chairs he made for his father. The chair is made of Cherry, Maple, Walnut and Paduk. The curve in the back legs is accomplished by laminating strips cut on a bandsaw. One has to look close to see this.



Above are front and side views of the chair. Below Greg is shown discussing his work.



Thanks to all who participate! Please consider sending me some pictures prior to the next meeting. Include a brief description of the project and a couple of pictures. If possible, get them to me a week before the meeting so I can prepare for the meeting itself. I can be reached at showandtell@coloradowoodworkersguild.org

Cary Goltermann, Show and Tell Administrator

Meeting Presentations

February 2022 Meeting

On February 15, 2022, we were honored to have an online guild presentation by Mr. Nate Matlack, a commission furniture maker and carver of wildlife sculptures. He has worked with a former presenter, Mr. Ethan Hutchinson and he studied at the Center for Furniture Craftsmanship in Rockport, Maine, where he learned to incorporate woodworking techniques into his sculptural work.

Mr. Matlack reports that he likes to work with different exotic woods, like Cocobolo, bloodwood, manzanilla, and also domestic walnut. He showed off his carvings of fish, a bear, and cattle skull. And explained that an understanding of anatomy is essential to make the carvings look correct.

He has also created bowls, tables, and a non-functioning pipe wrench, a stylized rabbit and a rhino that was finished with a water-soluble graphite coating. He showed off a sapele coffee table that incorporated brass bowties.

He recommended Karate rasps and riffler rasps for the intricate carving he does, as well as the Sabretooth Power carving and Dremel tools., as well as the Milwaukee die grinder.

He concluded the presentation with a discussion of his fees he gets for his work and answering questions about possibly teaching a class in carving.

March 2022 Meeting

Our **March 15th** meeting will be a presentation by **Mr. Brian Benham**. Mr. Benham is a Colorado artist and furniture designer living in the Denver metro area. He will show off his work and discuss how he satisfies his customers for his custom furniture designs. To quote his website, *"I work towards finding a balance between beauty, functionality and originality."* Check out his website at mdesignconcepts.com. If you have a special piece of lumber that screams out for a unique use, this presentation will be for you.

Mike Zelman, Programs Chair

About Wood

For March our subject is **Red Alder** (*Alnus rubra*). Alder (*Alnus* spp.) consists of several species growing in Asia, North America and Europe. **Red Alder**, a member of the Betulaceae or Birch family, is an important hardwood for woodworkers is harvested from the Pacific Northwest, where it is the most abundant commercial hardwood.

As we have done in previous columns, before getting to the details about Alder, we will spend a few words defining another technical term used in the lumber business, in this case the Modulus of Rupture or MOR.

MOR, "also referred to as bending strength, is a measure of a specimen's strength before rupture. It can be used to determine a wood species' overall strength; unlike the modulus of elasticity, which measures the wood's deflection, but not its ultimate strength. (That is to say, some species of wood will bow under stress, but not easily break.) MOR is expressed in pounds-force per square inch (lbf/in²) or megapascals (MPa). This number is given for wood that has been dried to a 12% moisture content, unless otherwise noted.

In practical terms, the number itself isn't all that meaningful, but it becomes useful to use in comparison with other woods. For instance, Hickory is known to have excellent strength properties among domestic species in the US, and has a MOR of 20,200 lbf/in² (139.3 MPa). In comparison Red Oak is another well known wood used in cabinetry and furniture, and has a MOR of 14,300 lbf/in² (98.6 MPa)." (from Eric Meier's The Wood Database)

Red Alder

Red Alder is the principal species available in North America and is harvested mostly from the Northwest. It survives best in areas where there is plenty of moisture. Like Aspen, it does well in burned-over lands and in areas that have been ravaged by earthquakes or logging.



Alder Tree with Leaves



Leaf w/Female Strobiles (Cones)



**Male Catkins (Drooping Flower Clusters
w/Female Catkins (Above))**



Red Alder Wood Cross-Cut

Here is a summary of the characteristics of **Red Alder**:

Distribution: Coastal western North America

Tree Size: Height of 90-130 ft (25-40 m) tall, 2-3 ft (.6-1.0 m) trunk diameter

Average Dried Weight: 28 lbs/ft³ (450 kg/m³)

Specific Gravity: (Basic, 12% MC); .37, .45

Modulus of Rupture (MOR): 9,800 lbf/in² (67.6 MPa)

Modulus of Elasticity (MOE): 1,380,000 lbf/in² (9.52 GPa)

Crush Strength: 5,820 lbf/in² (40.1 MPa)

Janka Hardness: 590 lbf (2,620 N)

Shrinkage: Radial, 4.4%; Tangential, 7.3%; Volumetric, 12.6%; T/R Ratio, 1.7

Heartwood Appearance: No visible distinction between heartwood and sapwood; tends to be light tan to reddish-brown with color darkening and reddens with age

Sapwood Appearance: Little distinction between heartwood and sapwood

Grain/Texture: Similar to Birch; generally straight with moderately fine, uniform texture

Stability: High after drying

Relative Strength: Very Low, <14

Decay Resistance: Low

Workability: Works, bends, glues and finishes very well; turns well

Odor: No characteristic odor

Toxicity: Irritant

Potency: Mild to moderate

Toxicity Source: Dust

Reaction: Eye, skin and respiratory irritation-mild

Sustainability: Not listed as threatened

Uses: Furniture, cabinets, doors, shutters, moldings, panel stock, turnings, carvings

Typical Cost: \$3-6 / bd ft for knotty stock; \$6-10/bd ft for clear

Comments: Most abundant hardwood in the Pacific Northwest

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

Lindy Baer, Newsletter Woods Contributor

Toolbox Alerts

Rockler

- Rockler has a new March 2022 catalog out with a Festool Sliding Compound Miter Saw Giveaway. Entry needs to be by 31 March at Rockler.com/march-festool-giveaway.
- The March catalog contains a number of specials described on six pages and five pages of new items to consider for your shop.

Woodcraft

- For the whole month of xxx Woodcraft has some great 50% off savings including a Gyokucho Razorsaw, a WoodRiver wheel marking gauge, and a Lynx 3-piece straight scraper set.
- In March and April Woodcraft continues offering numerous in-store classes ranging in price from \$75 to \$600 each at its stores in Colorado Springs and in Denver. Go to woodcraft.com/stores select the store of your choice and click on the classes button on that location's page..

[Editor's Note: We are looking for inputs from members each month on great woodworking tool and accessory deals that you are aware of and that are available sometime in the next month or so. The input should include a short description of the item(s), where they can be purchased with web address or location and phone info, price, and any info on your experience with the item(s). Items can include excess tools and items you want to get rid of. Call me at (719) 964-9570 if you know of an item and then I will ask you to submit a descriptive paragraph to me at JoeLenhoff@gmail.com, or to newsletter@colowood.com to add to this column. Toolbox Alert descriptions will have to be to me about 9-10 days before each meeting to get them into the newsletter.]

Sponsor's Corner [A revived column]

[Editor's Note: We are looking for a monthly spotlight on a sponsor. Any members who know one or any of our sponsors fairly well, and would be interested in writing a short piece about them, please contact me at newsletter@colowood.com. Again, Sponsor Corner spotlight articles will have to be to me about 9-10 days before each meeting to get them into the newsletter.]

CWG Sponsors

A Cut Above 16512 16512 Arminta St. Van Nuys, CA 91406 Phone:800-444-2999

Website: www.acutabove.com

Austin Hardwoods of Denver, Inc., 975 W. Mississippi, Denver, CO 80223. Phone: 303-733-1292.

Website: www.austinhardwoods.com

Bear Woods Company. 6099 228 Street, Langley, BC V2Y 2L3 Canada. Phone: 800 565-5066. Fax: 888 599-1118. Website: www.bearwood.com

B & B Rare Woods. 871 Brickyard Circle, Unit C4, Golden, CO 80403. Phone: 303-986-2585.

Website: www.wood-veneers.com

Bridge City Tool Works, Harvey Industries International DBA Harvey Industries, 10830 Ada Ave, Montclair, CA. 91763. Phone: (800) 253-3332. Website: <https://www.bridgecitytools.com/default/> . Questions or comments to sales@bridgecitytools.com. Please allow up to 2-4 business days for email and phone call responses. Two orders per year (to be determined) and must be shipped to one address. 10% discount, when ordered directly from Bridge City Tool Works. Discount does not apply when ordered through dealers

Charlie's 2nd Hand Store, Inc., 2227 Larimer Street Denver, CO 80205. Phone: 303-295-1781.

Website: www.usedtoolsplus.com

Denver Woodworking Company, 2062 S. Bannock Street, Denver, CO 80223. Phone: 303-733-3130.

Website: www.denverwoodworking.com

Mile High Tree Care, Inc., 6010 W. 56th Avenue, Arvada, CO 80002. Phone: 303-292-9393.

Website: www.milehightreecare.com

Frank Paxton Lumber Company, 4837 Jackson Street, Denver, CO 80216. Phone: 303-399-6047.

Website: www.paxtonwood.com/denver.aspx

Rockler Woodworking and Hardware, 2553 S. Colorado Blvd, Denver, CO 80222 Phone: 303-782-0588.

Website: www.rockler.com/retail/denver-colorado-hardware-store.cfm

Sears Trostel, 1500 Riverside Ave, Ft Collins, CO 80527. Phone: 970-482-1928.

Website: www.sears-trostel.com

Signature Medallions, 4218 Ponce De Leon Drive, La Mesa, CA 91941. Phone: 619-303-2876.

Website: www.signaturemedallions.com

TC Woods, 5406 County Road 23 Ft. Lupton, CO 80621. Phone: 303-666-8989.

Website: www.tcwoods.com

Tool Zone, Inc., 8651 Grant Street, Unit 1A Thornton, CO 80229. Phone: 303-252-8500.

Website: www.toolzone.com

Woodcraft of Denver. 6770 S. Peoria Street Centennial, CO 80112. Phone: 303-290-0007.

Website: <http://www.woodcraft.com/stores/store.aspx?id=305>

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Dennis Edmonds - President
President@colowood.com



Bill Bixby – Vice President
vicePresident@colowood.com



Jason Matischek - Secretary
secretary@colowood.com



Larry Abrams – Treasurer
treasurer@colowood.com



Bob Kleinfeldt - Director at Large,
DirectoratLarge@colowood.com



Ed Lawlor – Community Services
community@colowood.com



Lindy Baer - Contributing Editor
wood@colowood.com



Wilbur Goltermann - Webmaster
webmaster@colowood.com



John Hammer - Hospitality &
Refreshments Chair
hospitality@colowood.com



Jim Barry – Librarian
Library@colowood.com



Joe Lenhoff – Newsletter Editor
newsletter@colowood.com



Cary Goltermann – Membership Chair
membership@colowood.com
Show & Tell Administrator
showandtell@coloradowoodworkersguild.org



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shows@colowood.com



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classes@colowood.com



Devon Lindsley – Publicity and PR
publicity@colowood.com



Mike Zelman – Programs
progams@colowood.com