

Tennessee Valley Woodworkers

Vol. 13/ Issue 1

January 1999

Editor: Tom Gillard

Meeting Notice:

The next meeting of the TN Valley Woodworkers
Will be held, January 19, 1999 at 7:00 p.m. in the
Duck River Electric Building, Dechard, TN
All interested woodworkers are invited!

I hope everyone had a very memorable and Merry Christmas. What I'm really hoping is that all the wood turners didn't wish for lots of turning stock. If they did, their wish sure came true.

Note from the president:

Dear Members,

In December we had an excellent general meeting. The Executive Committee was able to hear first hand what *club members* wanted to do with the club in 1999. The EC met on January 7th to set an agenda for the year. In this issue of Splinters you'll find a summary of that meeting and the decisions made.

The challenge to the EC was to factor the club member's wishes into a logical, achievable agenda for the year. To that end, the first hour of the EC meeting was spent reviewing our notes from the December roundtable. When we felt we understood this well enough, we embarked on discussions that resulted in what we believe to be an agenda that is both exciting and achievable.

This agenda is the result of your participation. I hope it meets with your approval.

Loyd Ackerman

Executive Meeting 1/7/99 -- Summary

1. 1999 Calendar:

Picnic -- June 5

TVWW Coffee County Fair show-- September 24 & 25

Fall Seminar -- October 16, 23, or 30 target dates

Christmas Pot luck -- December 4

2000 Exhibit -- First Quarter 2000

2. General Meeting Format:

- ? Length of meeting – keep it 2 hours.
- ? Format of meeting – keep it the same.
- ? Location of the meeting – stay at Duck River.
- ? Content – keep it the same, but make business meetings as concise (short) as possible consistent with getting the business done. This is intended to give members more time to socialize during the break.
- ? Problem resolution – members are encouraged to bring problems to the club and use the show and tell sessions to try to get help. Everyone learns from these problems and everyone has them. We'll remind you to discuss them.
- ? Notify presenters of the time their program will begin. Usually at 8 PM. This is intended to avoid the speaker's having to attend the first half of the meeting should he/she prefer not to do so. As program chairman this year, Tom Cowan will handle this.
- ? Seating and chairs – we have enough room and chairs

to seat 55 people at Duck River. Normal meetings are usually well under that number.

3. **Monthly Programs:** The membership expressed a preference for more demonstration type programs in 1999. Tom Cowan is factoring that into his program development plans for this year. He will attempt to get demonstrators from within and outside of the club for the monthly programs. Tom plans to hit the ground running on January 19th with a program on making legs and rosettes for furniture.
4. **Welcoming committee:** There has been an informal greeting committee in the club all along, and we have no intention to change that. What is felt to be needed is a committee to ensure that this happens. Houston and Lilie Clark and John and Irma Troxler have agreed to be the committee. This committee will be responsible to:
 - ? Meet and greet people at the door.
 - ? Get them to sign the guest book. The committee will own the guest book.
 - ? Get them badged.
 - ? Introduce them to other members.
 - ? Make sure their questions are answered.
 - ? Help them to get connected with other club members.
5. **Mentoring:** In the December meeting there was a suggestion and strong support for a mentoring program within the club. The feeling was that there were people that could take others under their guidance and help them develop as woodworkers. The EC discussed this at length and concluded that we should adopt this as a club philosophy. As a beginning, we are asking members to sign up in certain skill categories as contacts for less skilled members to call on for advice, consultation, or help in that category. We have attempted to list some categories in Splinters this month, but feel free to add to these by talking to any member of the EC. Our intention is to update this list in Splinters on an ongoing basis.
6. **Hands on Workshops:** A strong interest was shown in 'hands on' workshops versus seminars. Several members have expressed interest in providing these workshops as an extension of the mentoring notion. The EC will take an active part in promoting these events but looks to the members with experience in each skill category to provide the leadership. Jim VanCleave has already volunteered to start with a mini-

workshop in machine made dovetails. Tom Cowan has volunteered to provide one centered around stools.

Several projects that have been discussed are: Jewelry boxes, small item turning, large item turning, tool boxes, chip carving, relief carving, turning for furniture, basic joinery, wood movement, visits and trips, sharpening, use of the Internet and there are others listed in each member's mind. Remember, one of the best way to learn something is to show others how to do it.

7. **Trips and Tours:** There is interest in this area and some will be explored. The thought at this point is to have mini-trips or tours somewhat like the mini-workshops. The EC will look for leadership among the members for this. If you see an opportunity let us know. We'll work with you to help get it arranged.
8. **Group Projects:** There is little interest in club sponsored group projects in which groups of people work on one piece. The interest seems to be in groups making one *type* of item (such as a stool or tool box), so focus in group activities will be in the mini-workshops.
9. **Coffee County Fair:** We have been asked again to participate in the fair. Several members participated in the 1998 fair and had a great time. We had a great place to set up with power, shade, and shelter. The crowds were friendly and inquisitive. We plan a two day event on Friday and Saturday with more planning and promotion. Details to follow.
10. **Falls Mill:** The Lovetts have reluctantly decided to take a hiatus from the Artisan of the Month program for 1999 to concentrate on finishing their ongoing projects. They will consider restarting it in 2000. They will be continuing with some interesting projects as they work on the house and the mill this year and may from time to time invite us to participate. This has been a source of fun in the past and volunteers will be appreciated.
11. **Fall Seminar:** The consensus seems to be to have one very good seminar program a year. The EC decided to plan for one of the last three Saturdays of October. That will give a committee time to get the program together; hire a presenter; and arrange the services, location, and facilities. A committee chairman will be appointed to head that effort up.
12. **Exhibition:** There is strong support in the club for an exhibition similar to the "Magic in Wood" program of 1997. We have set the first quarter of 2000 as a target for the exposition. The EC will meet soon to start the planning. We will keep you posted and bring in the membership as appropriate to help. The membership

has expressed interest in tying some of the other programs together with the exhibit. The things that come to mind are:

- a. Bringing projects in progress to show and tell.
- b. Joining the mini-workshops and making the product your exhibit item. Good idea for folks just starting out.

Thanks to you, this is going to be an exciting year for the Tennessee Valley Woodworkers. Keep the ideas coming.

JANUARY'S Program

Henry D. is going to demonstrate how to turn a pad foot on a furniture leg. Phil B. will be turning rosettes. This should be a very interesting demonstration.

Notes from Jim VanCleave

As part of the club effort to encourage newer members, Jim Van Cleave plans to offer in his shop in February a mini-lesson in constructing a table drawer using router cut dovetails. This will take no more than an hour and a half and will cost nothing. This is for members (and prospects) who think they do not know how. It is not for the hard-ankle members who already know everything. There will be a signup sheet at the January meeting for you to express an interest.

WOOD ANECDOTE

Wood Magazine, # 112

The bayou beauty with a lot of knee.

To woodworkers, a memorable aspect of traveling through the Southeast is seeing the array of curios that can be made from odd-shaped pieces of baldcypress. What major highway intersection, say in rural Florida, doesn't have its entrepreneurial roadside stand displaying clocks, carvings, coffee tables, and other items crafted from the knobby appendages known as "knees"? Baldcypress (*Taxodium distichum*), an ancient conifer species, thrives in bayous and backwaters where other trees would be swamped. But in this fragile growing base, oddly enough, baldcypress seldom yields to even hurricane winds. That's because its shallow root system spreads out snakelike from the trunk, and every so often sends up above water level an

elongated cone. These so-called knees may grow to 6' tall, depending on the high-water mark of the area. They serve as hefty anchors to hold the tree erect. And the size of old-growth trees can be remarkable—heights of 150' with 12' diameters aren't unheard of.

With trees so huge, it's no wonder that stands of baldcypress containing 100,000 board feet per acre have been recorded. Few of those great trees remain today, however. The lumber from them was used long ago for ships, water tanks, flooring, railroad ties, barns, and fences. Yet, their knees linger on: the largest occasionally peeled into the veneer that's called "faux satine."

1999 dues are being accepted.

Single Membership: \$10.00

Family Membership: \$15.00

Try to find another activity or club that can have so much fun for so little money.

We had one guest at the December Meeting:

Collins Roam of Hillsboro, TN

WELCOME!

Death-defying tree:

In Argentina grows a tree that's really not good for anything but shade. Yet, the ombu tree is one of the world's hardiest. It survives with little water, resists insects, heat and raging storms. So moist is the wood that it won't burn. And its spongy texture makes it difficult to cut down with traditional felling tools, such as an ax or chainsaw.

“The reason grandparents and grandchildren get along so

well is that they have a common enemy”

-Sam Levenson