

Splinters

Tennessee Valley Woodworkers

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Editor: Tom Gillard

Meeting Notice:

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

TVWW minutes 3/16/99

The meeting was called to order by Vice-president Tom Cowan. Welcome guests were Gary Runyon and Vic Vigdorth.

Announcements - Henry Davis will have a workshop on joinery at a later date. A sign-up sheet is available. Bob Reese will have a session on sharpening in June. The exact date will be announced later. The 2000 exhibit is less than one year away.

Old business - The Belvidere Volunteer Fire Department annual Tractor Pull and Antique Power Show will be held June 5, 1999. The club is going to participate and we may either display or sell at no cost to the club. After some discussion it was decided that we would rent the community room at a cost of \$30.00. The club picnic will be held the same afternoon. Details will be worked out and printed later.

New business - None.

Show and Tell:

Gary Runyon - Tool steel face plates at a cost of \$35.00. Penetrating lubricant at \$3.00 per container. Samples of forge welding of steel cables and samples of a Japanese method of forge welded metal. The Rutherford County Blacksmith Assn. meets at Cannonsburg every Monday at

7:00 PM and they have a business meeting on the 2nd Monday.

Tom Gillard - a sample of magnolia that had been milled and finished.

Doyle McConnell - a turned bowl, bottle stoppers and a lighthouse that started out much larger than the finished product. Louise Green - turned tool kits and a painted box. Winfield Bennett - a carved basswood dolphin.

Jim Van Cleave - a bluebird house with the reminder that the bluebirds choose location not style.

Harvey Carter - a stool made at Tom Cowan's workshop and a finished bowl that was started last year at the turning bee. Alice Berry - a stool made at the workshop.

Maurice Ryan - a stool made at the workshop.

Doug Thomas - a stool made at the workshop. Each of the four thanked Tom Cowan, Doyle McConnell and Henry Davis for their instructions and help in making the stools.

Manuel Brown - a segmented covered bowl.

Jimmy Burr - a carved walking stick.

Richard Gulley - an oak wall mirror.

Ken Burgess - some samples of carvings from polyurethane.

Billy May - a carved walking stick, an Indian head in progress and two carved rams.

Ross Roepke - a cherry boot stool made for the hands on science centers benefit auction.

Steve Graham - Two relief carvings.

James Cook - a carving from an unidentified wood and a walnut totem.

Jim Roy - one of three walnut lecterns that he made for his church.

John Lovett - a cherry mold made for duplicating a glass vase.

After a short break Jim Van Cleave demonstrated making mortise and tenons. Jim was aided by Bob Eubanks who gave a short demonstration on a dedicated mortise machine and Henry Davis who showed a Craftsman jig that can make angled as well as 90 degree mortise and tenons.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted John Green, Secretary.

G.K. Chesterton:

The Bible tells us to love our neighbors, and also to love our enemies; probably because generally they are the same people.

Dear Members,

Every once in a while a *good idea* clicks. When it does, it's a good thing to look back to find its origin.

The hope is that, in finding the origin, we can find more ideas like the good one. Of course, the *good idea* in this case is calling on mentors in the club to sponsor workshops for other members in hopes that in doing so we fulfill our mission of propagating woodworking knowledge and skill to the other members.

The mentoring *good idea* developed in the December general meeting. That means it's your idea. The EC followed up to coordinate, but the real progress came from the mentors who, in coming forward with their projects, have really defined the program. With Jim VanCleave's dovetail workshop and Tom Cowan's stool program under our belts, we look forward in coming months to Henry Davis' toolbox workshop, Ross Roepke's workshop on small boxes, and Bob Reese's sharpening tutoring sessions. Each of these sessions promise to be as entertaining and informative as have those past. And there are other workshops being kicked around. Stay tuned!

But the point is that this *good idea* originated with you. That leads me to the point that I started with. When you get a *good idea* you go back to the source to find another. If you have an idea for a workshop, or for a special program, or some ideas

on how to improve the club in general, please share them with us. Either in a meeting or privately. No idea will be ignored nor will it be subject to ridicule.

We're looking for the next good one, and I suspect it'll come from you.

Loyd Ackerman

Ps: Thanks!

WOOD ANECDOTE

Quaking Aspen

The talking tree that reforests the land
All birches, cottonwoods, and poplars tend to rustle in the wind more than other trees, but it's the quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) that truly "talks." Because of the shape of its leaves and their recurved stalks, even the slightest breeze sets the tree whispering. And the sound-not unlike a soft, musical tinkle-stands out from the coarser voices of its forest neighbors. Even its cousin, the bigtooth aspen, can't approach the lilt of the quaking aspen.

However talkative, the quaking aspen has always been looked on as a weed tree by lumbermen, who call it popple. Compared to the red oak, white pine, and yellow birch by which it frequently grows, the quaking aspen has weak, nondescript wood. It also never attains the size of its companions. Yet quaking aspen-and bigtooth aspen as well-provide the woody pulp favored to manufacture quality magazine paper.

The beaver also holds the quaking aspen in great favor. Wherever the tree grows, nature's engineer seeks it out for building its dams and dens. No one knows exactly why, but a beaver will travel a mile or more upstream from its building site to harvest its material of choice. Then slowly, foot by foot, it dregs its find to the nearby water and floats it downstream to the construction area.

And although the beaver and the pulp logger constantly fell it, the quaking aspen continues to proliferate. In fact the tree thrives in cutover areas of forest and barren places where fires once raged.

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Wernher Von Braun:

"We can lick gravity, but sometimes the paperwork is overwhelming."