

SPLINTERS

Tennessee Valley Woodworkers

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Editor: Tom Gillard

Meeting Notice:

The next meeting of the TN Valley Woodworkers
Will be held, December 21, 1999 at 7:00 p.m. in the
Duck River Electric Building, Dechard, TN
All interested woodworkers are invited!



TENNESSEE VALLEY WOODWORKERS MINUTES

November 16, 1999

The meeting was called to order by President Loyd Ackerman at 7:00 PM.

Welcome guests were - BILL and GEORGINE ROTHE, RON BLANK, CLAIR WEAVER, CLINTON CRABTREE, DR. GEORGE ORTHEY, PATSY STONEMAN MURPHY, JACK MURPHY and PETE GOAD.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - Benny's Woodworks will have Scott Phillips in Shelbyville this month (10-11 Dec). The fall seminar turned a profit of \$137.91. JIM ROY reported that "CREATIONS IN WOOD" is on schedule. JACK BAGGENSTROSS will have the grand opening of his store in Tracy City on November 20. Members are invited to provide him with products to sell. Loyd and Doyle will be demonstrating turning at FOOTHILLS on November 19th, 20th and 21st. The Christmas potluck will be held at the Dechard Nazarene Church on December 4th. Meet at 5:30 PM and eat at 6:00.

ELECTIONS - The slate of officers was announced for the year 2000.

TOM COWAN - president,
BOB REESE - vice-president,
HENRY DAVIS - treasurer,

JOHN MAYBERRY - secretary,
DOYLE McCONNELL - publicity and
TOM GILLARD - editor of SPLINTERS.
Motion by John Green to accept this slate of officers.
Second by Sue Church. Motion carried unanimously.

SHOW AND TELL -

RUTH PROTSMAN - a bas-relief clock and a scroll sawn table screen.

LOYD ACKERMAN - a mini flocker, a maple burl bowl and a variety of letter openers.

TIM HALBECK - a raised panel cabinet door with carving, turned posts and half posts, a solid log chest with mirror and no mechanical fasteners and four basswood blocks.

STEVE GRAHAM - a relief carving of angels slaying a dragon.

BOB REESE - a goblet with rings on the stem.

ROSS ROEPKE - a cherry chest with a shelf that he made for his granddaughter.

MURRELL CHATTIN - a cribbage board.

CROCIA ROBERSON - she will have a basswood tree available in the near future if any carvers are interested.

TOM McGILL introduced Dr. GEORGE ORTHEY who has constructed over 1600 mountain dulcimers and 680 autoharps. George discussed his methods of construction and his means of producing high quality instruments and quality sound. He introduced PATSY STONEMAN, a member of THE STONEMANS, who played and sang THE WHIPPOORWILL SONG.

After a short break Patsy, BILL ROTHE and our own CARL SMITH entertained us. The meeting adjourned at 8:52 PM.

There were a total of 60 members and guests in attendance.

Respectfully submitted, John Green, secretary.

Yearly Dues

Annual dues are \$10 for individuals and \$15 for families. This pays for Splinters, the monthly newsletter, and other incidental club expenses.

FOR SALE

- ?? Grizzly 24" Sander \$750.00 (new condition)
- ?? HTC mobile base for UNISAW will fit other brands. \$60.00
- ?? HTC 48" x 37" collapsible out-feed roller, fits Powermatic 66 and Delta Unisaws, most others \$150.00

Contact Tim or Larry @ Dixie Woodworks
931-389-6896

FOR SALE

- ?? Penn State Super 125 Portable 12" planer (used)
- ?? Dust Hood
- ?? Stand
- ?? Extra Blades all for \$125.00

- ?? Super 125 planer, needs motor \$25.00

Contact Tom @ Branching Out
931-393-0525

SYCAMORE

The hardwood giant of the virgin forest

Although few woodworkers become acquainted with the wood of the American sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), that wasn't always so. Back when the United States was still a new nation and its western frontier was just beyond the Allegheny Mountains, sycamore was the giant of the forest. It wasn't uncommon for pioneers in the Ohio River Valley to

come upon huge sycamores. In 1802, one growing on an island in the Ohio River measured 13' in diameter 4' above the ground. Such old., large trees were usually hollow, and thriving despite the malady.

For some purposes, the hollowness made the tree all the more desirable. A frontier farmer would fell the hollow sycamore, then crosscut it to appropriate lengths. By nailing on bottoms of tightly joined boards, the industrious plowman had grain-storage containers. Left standing, hollow sycamores also were handy for stabling goats, pigs, and other livestock until a shelter could be built for them. And how many wandering woodsmen might have found refuge in a hollow sycamore.

Although hard, tough, and resistant to splitting, sycamore posed some difficulty in drying. That's why it was used only on a limited basis for shipping trunks, piano and organ cases, washing machine bodies, and pails. It also was the choice for countertops and chopping blocks in butcher shops because it withstands the relentless punishment of cutting edges.

While still the largest hardwood tree of American forests, yesteryear's giants have long fallen. If you do spy an elderly sycamore, bang on it. The trunk may resonate with historic hollowness.

The record holder, in Ohio, today has a diameter of more than 15 feet and a circumference of 48.5 feet. It probably would require at least 8 grown persons, holding each other's hands, to reach around this massive tree. This giant is 129 feet tall and grows in Ashland County. In keeping with its size, Sycamores have the largest leaves of any native tree in North America.



Sycamore Fruit



Sycamore Leaf

I hope everyone and their families have a wonderful Christmas Season and an uneventful New Year.