

Tooth & Nail



April 2024 Newsletter of the St. Tammany Woodworkers Guild

Next Meeting

Time and Place

- Tuesday, Apr 23, 2024
- 7:00 pm meeting
- 6:00 pm to tour outdoor railroad and fish pond
- Clark Gristina's shop
- 78220 Coyne Rd
- Covington, LA 70435

[Map to Clark Gristina's shop](#)

Agenda

- Show 'n Tell
- Woodworking Questions, Tips, and Safety
- Tool demo and shop tour
- Pay dues \$30 per household
- Arrive as early as 6:00 pm to tour outdoor railroad and fish pond

Bring a folding chair!

Minutes

Tom Gustafson opened the Mar 26, 2024 meeting at the St. Joseph Abbey Woodshop at 7:00 pm.

Wayne Thompson gave the treasurer's report. We have \$2691.72 in the bank.

The barbecue will be held on Saturday, April 13, at 12 noon at Gerald Gibson's camp. The guild will provide chicken, sausage, and ribs, which Gerald cooks. Members are asked to bring a side dish. Look for an online survey in which you can

state how many will attend and what side dish you will bring.

The "from" address for Constant Contact has changed in keeping with new internet protocols. If newsletters are not making it to your inbox, add the new address to your safe sender list. The new address is newsletter@sttammanywoodworkersguild.ccsend.com.

The **Playmaker's Theatre** needs assistance with raising the back two rows of seating. They have lumber donated by Abita Lumber. They are offering two free tickets to any show to anyone who works. If you are interested in working on this project, please contact Rene' Maggio at 504-251-8944. The workday has been set for Saturday, May 4, at 9 am.

Tom asked for any woodworking questions, tips, or safety tips. One question was, "How can I keep CA glue from drying out?" Suggestions were to buy small bottles, put it in the refrigerator or the freezer, if the accelerator causes it to become gummy, the glue is too old. The accelerator can be left to dry for a few minutes and it will still work. Tom said he uses CA glue to clamp wood to blue tape that is attached to a jig. After the procedure is finished, he lifts the tape off the jig and then removes the tape from the wood.

John Fisher reminded everyone that they can bring in a flash drive to show their work, as we always have the projector set up.

Election of Officers and two Board Members for a two-year term was held. There was a motion to keep the current slate, it was seconded, and unanimously approved.

For Show 'n Tell, Wayne Thompson showed how he extends the length of a planer bed using a 4' or 6' length of 15-inch wide Melmac. He attaches a stop under the Melmac to prevent it from sliding through.

Brain Stauss showed a set of toilet steps he built for his grandson. They have a 6-inch step, a 12-inch step, a cut-out for the toilet, and hand holds. He used white mahogany.

Craig Bond showed how he makes picture puzzles. He starts with a photo and mounts it with **Scotch Photo Mount** Spray Adhesive onto 1/4" balticbirch plywood. Then he sandwiches this in between layers of 1/8" thick plywood with painter's tape. He has templates for different sized puzzles. A 5x7 will have 20 pieces, an 8x10 will have 300 pieces; a 16x20 will have 1800 pieces. He uses a 2-0 blade and changes it frequently. When finished, the pieces are sealed with archival sealer and placed in a metal box. An online site with templates is **Steve Good's** site.

Joe Perret presented a demo on "Various techniques to fix cracks, knots, and imperfections in wood." These are some of the useful tips and ideas that we learned about.

1.) An errant hole can become part of the design when filled with plugs.

2.) A crack that develops between joints: a heat gun might soften the glue and allow you to reseal the joint. This is especially true with hide or CA glue. If the joint is made with Dominoes, saw them off and make new holes.

- 3.) A wet cloth and a clothes iron will raise a dent.
- 4.) Knots: a nickel-sized knot hole can be filled with dry wall mud (DAP); a larger hole can be filled with Bondo.
- 5.) Plywood edge: instead of banding, you can fill the exposed edge of plywood with DAP or Bondo, sand, and then paint.
- 6.) Use a shop vac to draw glue into a small crack for a repair.
- 7.) To pull the boards on a large butcher block top together, pocket screw the boards together from the underside, starting in the middle.
- 8.) CA glue is useful to hold boards end-to-end. It cannot, however, resist twisting.
- 9.) From Sonny Gonzales, don't use polyurethane glue.
- 10.) To fill a large crack, make a wedge, glue it in, let it dry, and remove the excess wedge with an oscillating saw.
- 11.) CA glue comes in thin, medium, and thick, and recently, in brown and black.
- 12.) Protect adjacent wood with spray lacquer before applying CA glue, so that the CA glue won't make the surface difficult to finish. Tom Gustafson said that he uses spray shellac for this purpose, and it dries in ten minutes.
- 13.) To stabilize a knot hole, put **Tyvek** tape on the bottom surface to prevent the CA glue from running out. CA glue won't stick to the tape. Fill the knot hole with fine coffee grounds - Joe uses coffee packs from motels. Pat Robbert uses instant espresso crystals. Fill with thin CA glue. When dry, sand.
- 14.) **StarBond** brand CA comes with additional small bottles and thin tips.
- 15.) Fill small cracks with fine wood particles and wood glue. To prepare the fine wood particles, make shavings from the wood, put the shavings into a coffee grinder, and put the resulting dust through a fine strainer. Mix with wood glue and use to fill small cracks. Wood glue works better with the wood particles; CA glue is better with coffee grounds.
- 16.) The Abbey used to use **Timbermate** water-based wood filler. They have switched to **FamoWood** and use it to fill long cracks in joints.
- 17.) To repair a large hole: get a tree branch of the same species. Whittle it down to fit into the hole. Add coffee grounds and CA if needed. Saw off the excess. Essentially, you are making your own knot.
- 18.) Fine brass can also be used instead of coffee grounds. It is available as waste from a key-making shop.
- 19.) Fill a hole with epoxy: stain the epoxy with black charcoal, epoxy resin dye, or India ink, and make the epoxy darker than you think it should be. Brian Stauss added

that a \$20 pack of J-B Weld is a good buy and lasts forever. Jim Suarez said that you can thin epoxy with acetone, but this will weaken it.

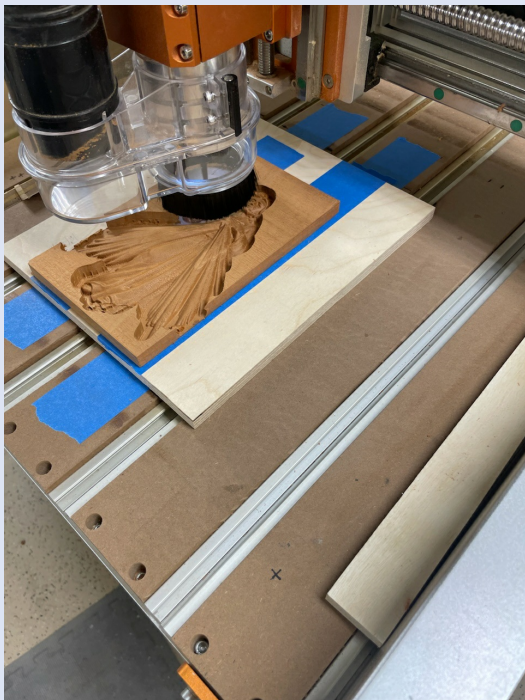
20.) **MinWax** Wood Hardener can be used for punky wood.

21.) Baking soda and CA glue, in layers, will fill a hole.

If you'd like to download a pdf of the newsletter for printing out Joe's tips, go to the website and click on the newsletter.

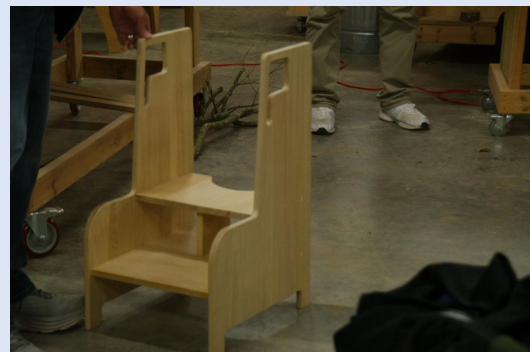
-Pat Robbert
Secretary STWG

Show 'n Tell



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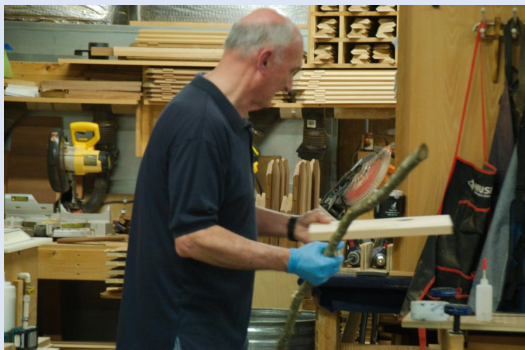
Demonstration



Joe Perret presented a demo on "Various techniques to fix cracks, knots, and imperfections in wood."



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President: Tom Gustafson
Vice-President: John Fisher
Secretary: Patricia Robbert
Treasurer: Wayne Thompson

Board Member At-Large: Brian
Stauss
Board Member At-Large and Web-
master: Rene' Maggio

**Visit our
Website**

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