

THE Woodrack

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HOTOGRAPHI

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LONG ISLAND WOODWORKERS

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let everyone know via email and the website.

Our guest speaker for the evening was Jim Maloney. Jim has been our club photographer at the annual show and meetings for the past few years.

Jim described setting up the equipment needed for proper photographing of workpieces. He set up a backdrop, draped and curved forward at the bottom. The item to be photographed was positioned so it was not too close to the backdrop. The camera must be positioned at an angle to the work to present depth.

Lighting is equally important. Lights should be setup in two locations. There are many different types of light bulbs which could affect or enhance the photo. It is important to know what adjustments can be made with the camera you are using.

Once the picture has been taken, various software applications are available to edit the pictures. The photographs can be cropped, brightened, darkened etc.

Jim mentioned a free editing app called Gimp. Website is www.gimp.org

Thank you, Jim for an excellent presentation.









Announcements:

Mike opened the meeting talking about upcoming events:

- The AAW Symposium will be held June 14-17 in Portland, OR.
- The Mid-Atlantic Symposium will be held September 28-30 in Lancaster, PA with an impressive lineup of demonstrators.
- There will be a symposium on segmented turning October 11-14 in St. Louis, MO.

There was one new member: Abdon Bolivar from West Babylon. Welcome, Abdon.

Marty Platt announced that he has an Homelite electric chain saw that he got from Barry that needs repair. If anyone wants to try to fix it, it is theirs. He also had a piece of "Brady wood" and asked if anyone could identify it.

Show & Tell:

- Matt Reardon showed a pen. Brother Tim made a letter opener.
- Bob Urso had two pieces turned from cherry burl that appeared to be a weed pot and a candle stand (Bob wasn't sure).
- Barry S. made a ladle for the chapter challenge and a jewelry tree after one made by Dennis Fuge in a demo at the "other club."
- Hank Z. made 2 spoons for the chapter challenge.
- Mike M. had a coffee scoop for the chapter challenge.
- Gary M. showed a sapele bowl on legs with a curly maple cover and a sapele knob.

Raffles:

The raffles were won by new guy Abdon B. and Joe P. There were also 4 additional raffles of wood provided by Mike J., won by Hank, Barry, Mike M. and Tim.

Program:

The program for the evening was provided by Hal Usher on chain saw maintenance. Hal started by advising that the air filter must be kept clean. It should soak it in soapy water, then blown out from the outside. Hal said he cleans the filter with gas if he is in the field. After cleaning, start the saw with the choke closed; otherwise, dirt could be blown into the filter instead of out of it.

If the chain needs cleaning, it can be done with non-toxic oven cleaner.

There are 2 holes in the bar which should be kept clean so oil can get to the chain. The bar should be periodically turned for even wear.

Hal uses 50:1 fuel pre-mixed by VP that he gets from his supplier. Hank noted that you can get a similar fuel at

Lowes. He advised against using gas from the service station and adding oil. The ethanol in the service station gas can gum up the carburetor and cause it to need replacement. The pre-mixed gas is also more stable.

Hal said he doesn't use bar oil, but instead uses waste oil or whatever is handy.

Chains are designated by length, gage and pitch.

- Length is measured as the distance from the front of the housing to the end of the bar.
- Gage is the width of the groove in the bar. If the width is the thickness of a dime, the gage
- is 0.5. (Sorry I didn't catch the other coin widths, but you can look it up.)
- Pitch is the distance between 3 rivets divided by 2.

Sharpening can be done by hand with a file or with a chain grinder. In either case, follow the angle of the tooth. Hal showed a jig that ensures the correct angle and pressure and ensures the correct depth.

The protrusion between the teeth is called a raker; it controls the depth of cut. The raker must be slightly lower than the teeth. If it is too low, the cut will be rough and aggressive. If it is higher than the teeth, the chain won't cut. File it down 3 strokes every other sharpening.

Finally, Hal advised that when ripping down a log, don't stand it up like a drum, but rip it lengthwise. It is much faster and easier.

If you turn anything other than pens, you will need a chain saw, and it is important to know how to maintain it.

Thank you, Hal, for a very informative presentation.















LISA PHOTOS

Page 4A ~ The Smithtown News ~ April 26, 2018 **Dimensions of living Friendship blossoms** Woodworkers enlist help of scouts for annual Mother's Day project

For the past five years, the Long they then wrapped in cellophane Island Scroll Saw Association, a and ribbon. Troop leaders Jennie special interest group of the Long Piotrowski and Katie Healy assisted Island Woodworkers, has been making wood flowers, which members have painted and donated to area nursing homes for Mother's Day.

What started out as a small project has since blossomed and each year the group donates to multiple area nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Last year, over 50 flowers were delivered St. Catherine of Siena Nursing Facility and St. Johnland Nursing Home.

This year, the project has expanded even more with the help of the Junior Girl Scout Troop 747 and Cadet Troop 2589, from Suffolk County Service Unit 29. Twelve young scouts pitched in to help paint and creativity completed over 50 flowers, which

with the project.

Members of the Sroll Association stepped up to make sure the girl scouts had enough flowers to paint. In all, the 153 wooden flowers were created this year, which will be delivered in time for Mother's Day, including Nesconset Plaza and St. Johnland Nursing Home.

The Long Island Woodworkers' primary focus is on cabinetry and all aspects of fine woodworking, membership is open to persons of all skill levels, from beginners to professional. Meetings are held at the Brush Barn in Smithtown. The club hosts special programs, workshops, and events throughout the year. additional information, For visit liwoodworkers.org.



















the meeting started with the introduction of a new member, Bob Burke from Fort Salonga. His E-Mail address is <u>rburke@partkell.com</u>.

A reminder for club shirt orders was also mentioned. The annual BBQ picnic is next month which will include a tool sale and swap.

Mike Mittleman's survey for the club continues to establish a topic and interest list.

Charlie Morehouse displayed a small table with two drawers constructed mostly of pine with hammered zebrawood veneer. The legs were also veneered but with oak. Charlie's main points were the application of the veneer and the finish. Charlie used hide glue, a mixture of pearls or pellets with water in a glass container which is then placed in a crock and boiled to heat the mixture. The glue is applied to both the veneer and the substrate and then a veneer hammer is used to press the material onto the substrate. Charlie finished the piece with a light coat of shellac, a seal coat, and then used a couple of layers of water-based Enduro brand polyurethane. Yes, you read correctly – a water-based finish. The item was truly a period piece complete with hand-cut dovetail drawers.

Jim Clancy had some unusual clamps that had a cam, like a U bolt, on one end to lock in the wood and a screw clamp on the other end. These are from a Brooklyn vendor, Tools for Working Wood (Here is the link): https://www.toolsforworkingwood.com/store/dept/TL/item/MS-FFC.XX?searchterm=clamps

Joe Bottigliere made a table saw blade holder, made of wood, in which the blades are held in the holder with a tee nut and the bolt positioned through the center hole. The blades are stored in a cabinet with cleats. Joe also showed an Iwasaki tenon rasp used for cleaning tenons and mortises. The tool is available from Highland Woodworkers.

Scottie McCoy mentioned and showed Beads of Courage boxes that were made by Urban Woods; it was a collaborative effort on the part of Urban and a troop of Girl Scouts who helped with assembly and decorative detail.

Frank Pace is an archer; he made an arrow holder by cutting two identical pieces shaped like a clover on the top and bottom. The two pieces were connected by PVC piping. Frank also showed a tapering jig with one side flush to the blade. Frank made a display to illustrate his method of attaching table tops to the bases with wooden clips.

Don Daily's tip of the month was a measurement aid. When adding fractional parts of an inch, use two rulers. For example, take the first measurement at $1 \ 3/8$ " and then add $1 \ 5/16$ ". Put the second ruler edge at the $1 \ 3/8$ " mark then go over $1 \ 5/16$ ". Go up from the $1 \ 5/16$ " mark to first ruler and it should be $2 \ 11/16$ ".

The main topic of the meeting was used hand planes presented by Joe Bottigliere. Joe's presentation included what to look for in a used plane and how to restore it to working condition.

With a used plane rust is expected but avoid planes with craters or cracks in the casting. See if the parts move and check the blade. Is there backlash on the adjustment of the thread - how much play? Look where the blade rests, check the surface and also the two screws for the frog adjustment. Joe mentioned baked on Japanning versus cheap paint. Lee-Nielsen planes have lots of surface for the blade to rest on and two adjustment screws. Plastic handles

stay away. Rosewood handles are an indication of good quality.

The next segment was restoration. First take apart the plane and soak in a solution of white vinegar and salt, the ratio is not important. Second step, flatten with a file wherever there are two contact surfaces. Clear the throat and the angle on the throat. Continue to flatten the frog which can be filed in combination with sandpaper and glass. If the frog adjustment lever is folded over steel; it is a cheap plane. Do not remove such a lever, it is riveted. Regarding the frog, adjusting it back produces a coarse cut and forward a fine cut.

A question about mouth size was responded to with the smaller the better. A wooden plane mouth widens with flattening. Jim Hennefield corrects the widening with a piece of wood or uses the plane as a scrub.

Joe then commented on the sole of the plane. Smoothing planes #3 and #4 have to be flat. The plane must be assembled to establish tension to determine if the sole is flat. To flatten the sole, Joe uses glass and puts water on the back of sandpaper so it sticks to the glass. He uses a straight edge to check the flatness of the sole. The most important sole parts to get flat are the front, the front of the mouth and the rear. Joe suggested putting magic marker on the sole to see high and low spots. If the sole is really bad, start with 80 grit sandpaper and work up to 120 and 220.

The blade was also dressed getting both sides of the blade flat. Flatten the back of the blade and also the chip breaker where it sits on the blade. On a block plane the blade bevel is up and the hold down is also the chip breaker. The breaker must be flattened since there is so little blade contact surface. Clean the mouth gently. Joe recommends the Hock brand blades for replacements.

As usual Joe's presentation was informative, useful and comprehensive.





Constructing Beads of Courage Boxes with Brass Hardware, Butterfly Applique and Felt Lining Details

As Long Island Woodworkers know, the Beads of Courage movement is focused on "... a resilience-based intervention designed to support and strengthen children and families coping with serious illness. Through the program children tell their story using colorful beads as meaningful symbols of courage that commemorate milestones they have achieved along their unique treatment path.¹" Woodworkers have contributed to the initiative by making turned bowls and boxes to hold the beads. Inspired by the Beads of Courage mission, a project was undertaken to make two such boxes.

The skeletal specifications for the containers state "... to hold the beads, rectangular lidded boxes [should be] about 4x6x4 inches.²" The measurements are minimum inside dimensions. As the reader can see, there is much room for creativity.

Around the same time the LIW challenge was presented to members, during our March 2018 general meeting I think, I purchased a copy of *Bax-Making Basics: Design, Technique, Projects* by David M. Freedman. This is an enduring classic which was first published in 1997. It is enduring because of its straight-forward handling of the topic and the clarity of the presentation. As it turned out, the boxes built in this project, though employing differing joineries, were based on ideas presented in Freedman's book.

Box 1 (see next page)

The first box was fabricated from oak and used rabbet joinery throughout. After milling, sanding and dry-fitting the components, the parts were disassembled. Three coats of polyurethane were applied to the interior faces. Next, heavy felt was affixed to all interior faces, i.e., top, bottom and carcass *before* final assembly. Exact dimensions for the fabric were achieved by using a rotary cutter and self-healing cutting board. This inexpensive equipment (rotary cutter and self-healing board) can be obtained at arts and crafts stores or online at several siltes³ for about \$40. Applying felt *after* construction, especially with smaller items, is difficult. The contact cement adhesive does not support trial fitting as attested to by previous experience. However, pre-final assembly installation of the felt demands precise fabric dimensions, hence the rotary cutter equipment.

1,2 http://www.beadsofcourage.org/pages/beadsofcourage.htm

³ For example, <u>https://www.amazon.com/Fiskars-Piece-Rotary-Cutting-</u> Set/dp/B000B7K9UI/ref=sr_1_10?s=arts-crafts&ie=UTF8&qid=1524842693&sr=1-10&keywords=rotary+cutter

Simple Beads of Courage Box



Once the felt had been installed, typical final assembly was undertaken – gluing, clamping and squaring. After an overnight curing period, all exterior edges of the box were rounded using a table router and ¹/₄"R bit. A table saw was used to separate the lid from the carcass. The blade was set to just less than the thickness of the wood. Final separation of the lid from the carcass was achieved with a utility knife. Carful sanding of the lid and carcass facing edges spared the previously installed felt from cutter damage. 1/8" thick walnut splines were added to the carcass corners for strength and beauty. Finishing the box (stain and polyurethane) ensued. After three coats of the polyurethane had cured, brass butt hinges and a clasp were installed.

While the brass hardware provided handsome accents to the box, it still lacked elan or spirit. This was an important consideration given the box's purpose and destination – a hospital. Something delicate and colorful would do the trick. Flowers were considered and abandoned because they are static. Butterflies came to mind and a quick scan of designs displayed in Google Images⁴ clinched this decision. The colors associated with Monarch Butterflies nicely complemented the brass hardware and dark oak stain. An outline was cut from some scrap ¹/₄" stock using a scroll saw, then colored with acrylic paint and subsequently sealed with more polyurethane. After affixing the applique to the box, phase 1 of the Beads of Courage project was considered complete.

<u>Box 2:</u>

While the outer dimensions of the second box were similar to those of Box 1, the joinery was quite different. The reader may recall that Box 1 used rabbet joints. In contrast, Box 2 used a combination of miters, rabbets and dadoes/grooves. Further, two wood species were central to the construction, walnut and oak.

The four sides of the carcass were milled individually to assure exact width and length dimensions (5" X 7"). The joinery (grooves and chamfers) were then cut. Ends were chamfered to 45° . The dadoes/grooves were all ¹/₄" wide X ¹/₄" deep. The oak top and bottom panels were milled to 4 ¹/₂" X 6 ¹/₂". After verifying the millwork by dry-fitting the pieces, the interior faces of the tops, bottoms and sides were sanded smooth and finished with three coats of polyurethane. As was the case with Box 1, felt was affixed to the top and bottom while everything was disassembled. The rotary cutter and self-healing cutting board allowed the fabric to be precisely dimensioned.

Felt that was purchased with the adhesive pre-applied to the backside of the material failed when tested. The adhesion was only fair; edges tended to lift from the wood surfaces. More problematic was the poor quality of the felt; it was thin and easily stretchable. Experience has shown the better technique is quality felt and spray-on contact cement.

After completing the internal finishing and felt installation, the box was glued and assembled using painter's blue tape to hold the components together. Clamping and final alignment quickly followed.

As with the first box, all exterior edges of the assembled and cured workpiece were rounded using a router and ¼"R bit. A table saw efficiently separated the lid from the carcass. Splines were installed in the carcass corners for added strength and visual appeal. The top and bottom sections were finished with three coats of satin polyurethane. Brass hardware (butt hinges and clasp) were installed. Again, a butterfly applique was affixed to provide a symbol of lightness and freedom.

At the end of the project a couple of simple, small boxes were produced that hopefully will brighten the day for a child. In short, well spent shop time.

⁴ <u>https://images.google.com/</u>

Box 2 Components and Joinery



BEADS OF COURAGE BOXES WITH BRASS HARDWARE, BUTTERFLY APPLIQU & FELT LINING DETAILS



THE NEW WORKBENCH

onstruction of the new LIW workbench started in April, in Corey Tighe's shop. Harry Slutter, owner of Urban Specialty Woods in Huntington Station (and a member) was kind enough to donate the wood (and thank you to Corey for not only donating his shop but his time to spearhead this project.























The Marketplace



FREE WOOD

LIW member John Soltysik has quite a bit of wood he would like to give away. The lumber is cutoffs ranging in length from 1 ft. -5 ft., widths vary between 4" -7" and thicknesses range from 4/4 to 10/4. All lumber is hardwood of various undetermined species.

Interested members can reach John at 631-744-8919.