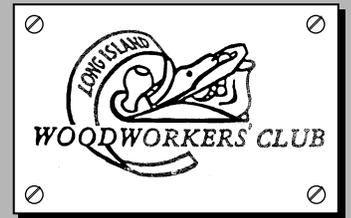


THE Woodrack



In This Issue:

An interview with
Strother Purdy

Bernie Hunt visits Grizzly

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|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
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President's Message



By now about 33 of the club members have had the pleasure of visiting with Frank Klausz at his shop in Pluckemin, N.J. Right now I can't tell you what I saw or learned (the trip is in a few days from now), but I can tell you this, I came back a lot smarter about woodworking than I am now. You can read about woodworking all day long and maybe even try some of the things you read about, but you can't beat first hand experience. Seeing something being done by an accomplished master like Frank Klausz has to leave a lasting impression. We work with some tools that can be dangerous. Watching someone like Frank go about his work and seeing how he goes about setting up and cutting a piece of wood on a table saw or router reveals a degree of respect for the tools one is dealing with. You can get a feel for the flow of things in his shop as you survey his shop layout. How he stores his wood, how he stores his tools, all of these things are all part of the learning experience of the trip. It should be a real fun trip with lasting memories as we discuss what we saw and learned that day.

On another note, I'm very pleased to see the turnout for the monthly meeting. It says a lot to those members who work hard to make sure each meeting is meaningful and informative. What I'd like to see happen is more show and tells with a good explanation of how you went about making your project. Also, comments about what you would like in the way of seminars or speakers during the monthly meeting. There was a request for a speaker on marquetry. Help us make it a better club by your active participation. 

In this issue...

Features:

Bernie Hunt visits Grizzly
Strother Purdy

Columns:

- President's Message*
- Secretary's Report*
- Notes From the Editor*
- Steve Delaney's Tips*
- Crosswood Puzzle*

Next Month



Frank Klausz

The Woodrack
Volume 14 Number 10

Next meeting:
Wednesday, October 2nd 7PM
at Brush Barn
Smithtown, NY



Secretary's Report

Owen Brady & Steve Costello

tals, pediatric wards, Ronald McDonald House, etc. Steve has the plans and the forms to build the boats in his palatial workshop. Steve suggested that if any members have similar ideas that they should get together and pursue them.

Coincidentally, two new members were introduced who have experience in boat building. They are **Artie Bauman** and **Jay Rothbaum**. Welcome aboard.

Jim Clancy and **Frank Allaire** will be in charge of the toys-for-tots this year. Jim reminded everyone that this is a traditional event of the club with toys being presented to the Marine corps at our December meeting. He will have plans for toys available at the October meeting. Last year nearly 300 toys were made and given by club members and it would be great if we could top this number

Show and tell included **Bill Byrne**, who has just completed a course in framing. He showed the frame that he made for his diploma. He also showed a joint for a raised panel door using special hardware he made which allowed the door to be taken apart and re-assembled easily.



Bill Byrne

Flo Leitgeb was featured in a scroll saw magazine for her screen that was featured in show 2001 and won first prize. Congratulations Flo.

Our guest speaker was Strother Purdy who gave a masterly presentation on sharpening and technique for planes, spokeshaves and scrapers.

Gabe opened the meeting promptly at 7:30 pm with approximately 110 members in attendance. He noted that this was the 12th anniversary of the founding of the club and mention was made that one of our original members, **Jim Clancy**, was present and the other founding member, **Brian Hayward**, was away on vacation. Thanks and congratulations to you both for your many contributions over the years. **Joe Bottigliere** announced that membership was now at 207.

We were all sorry to learn that **Ed Schnepf** had suffered a heart attack but happy he was on the mend. We all wish him a speedy and full recovery.

The trip to visit Frank Klausz's workshop is on schedule for the 14th. The plan is for everyone to meet at the Carnarsie pier and then go on to Frank's shop.

Gabe asked for volunteers to form a nominating committee for next year's officers and **Steve Delaney** and **Paul Gerner** kindly stepped forward to fill the position.

Bob Urso reminded everyone that show 2003 was scheduled for April 5th and 6th of next year and that plans were well underway. Several well-known guest speakers have already been contacted. He also reminded us that the Smithtown Heritage Association was having their annual show on September 20th & 21st and members were encouraged to attend. It will be held at the barn.

The Long Island Maritime Museum is undertaking the restoration of the ship "The Priscilla." They were looking for volunteers who were experienced in the area of boat restoration. Phone 1-800-history for more information. The museum is off West Street in West Sayville.

Steve Costello is putting together a team to build a number of toy boats large enough for a child to sit in and rock. The plan would be to build six boats and donate them to hospi-

The Clan of the Grizzly Bear

Bernie Hunt

A couple of weeks ago, SWMBO (She Who Must Be Obeyed), announced that she needed to attend a seminar in Pennsylvania for her job. Now I had a couple of choices; 1. Pretend I didn't hear, 2. Tell her to have a nice trip, or 3. Accept the inevitable and sound excited about driving her to Wilkes-Barre PA and spend a weekend there. Being of somewhat reasonably sound mind, I accepted the inevitable and started planning for the trip.

After getting out the map and finding out where Wilkes-Barre is located, I realized that I was going to be within artillery range of Grizzly Industrial in Muncy, PA. I had all day to myself, so why not drive over and check it out.

For those of you who may not know, Grizzly is a maker of wood and metalworking machines. They have a rather thick catalog with a couple of hundred pages of their wares. Check them out at www.grizzly.com and request a catalog. Now on with our story.

Other than the light rain, it was a nice drive through the Pennsylvania countryside. I arrived in the Muncy area and called Grizzly for information. Unfortunately, the directions were in small-townese. You know, drive down here a bit, turn right over there, not real precise



Milling Machines Galore



or easy to follow for us city folk. Fortunately I had stored it's location in my GPS before leaving home, so I struck out across hill and dale on my own directions. (For those interested, it's located at N41°14.354' by W76°49.785').

I finally found their store and "Wow"! What a store it is! According to Rick Romberg, the General Manager, it's a 230,000 sq ft facility with over 11,000 tools on display. We are talking "Normite" heaven here!



Multiple models of jointers

I took a couple of pictures to make sure everyone would believe me. Where else have you seen multiple models of jointers on display, all over 12" wide? A couple of aisles away, I found many different models and sizes of vertical mills. These guys have something for everyone. I must have wandered the aisles for an hour, just looking at all they had on display. After a while, I became dazed and overcome by the whole experience. Fortunately, they have a snack bar for nourishment during your shopping experience. In case you brought along SWMBO, or HWMBO for the female members of our club, there is a separate lounge area with couches and a large screen television to ease their pain during your shopping experience.

After a snack and soda, I was back at the adventure to explore the other side of the store. The first thing I ran



into was a nice assortment of 8/4 wood in their discount section. I found all of the usual suspects; poplar, maple, cherry, walnut. But I also found some other niceties; lacewood, purpleheart, zebra, and cocobolo. Unfortunately, I had neither the budget, permission, or means for transportation or I would have scooped up some of the good deals.

Grizzly imports their own brand of power tools. This covers everything from hand tools to big machines. They also carry the full lines of Dewalt, Porter Cable, Shop Fox, and other brands of tools. Many of their Grizzly brand of machine tools are available for trial in the demo shop at their store.



My purchases for the day were rather small in price, but large in weight. I picked up one of those cool granite surface plates like Daryl was showing off at the round robin a few months ago. Mine is 18"x24", weighing in at about 130lbs! Now that's a solid base for Scary Sharpening™! At under \$50, the price was right but I just couldn't bear to ship it, so I pre-planned to pick

one up on my visit. I also picked up a nice machinist's square and a low priced dial indicator and base. Both are made in China, but checked out to be dead-on accurate when I got them home and compared them to my Starret.

Before I left, I introduced myself to Rick the GM. I told him about the club and gave him our website. He later checked it out and dropped me an email thanking me for stopping by and saying that he was impressed with



our club's website. If any of you plan to visit, please make sure you ask for him and let him know that you came all this way to see his store. Maybe we can get him interested in our show one of these days. Hmmm.

After I checked out and got the surface plate loaded in the car, I headed to the last feature of the store I had not yet seen. I skipped past it out of disbelief. I have just never seen a Koi pond in a woodworking store before. All said and done, it was a wonderful afternoon. If you are ever in northeastern PA with some free time, you owe it to yourself to check out the Grizzly store. It's truly a wonder to behold.



Koi Pond

Sharpening 101



Proper body position for sharpening



Proper hand position over the sharpening stone



Using a paper towel to remove the burr. Please note that in this case, a paper towel is considered an abrasive.

The final test. Sharp enough to shave with.



Strother Purdy

A Few Words with Strother Purdy

Mike Daum

MIKE DAUM: *As a former editor at Fine Woodworking and book editor for Taunton Press, you've surely read a lot of woodworking books. Can you narrow down 10 essential books - not necessarily Taunton published - that should be in the library of every woodworker?*

STROTHER PURDY: This is a tough question, because the 10 best books are really quite different for each woodworker. So here's a list of great books that I've found valuable. There are many other great books, I just haven't used them or read them yet.

Der Möbelbau by Fritz Spannanel. An unfortunately out-of-print German book with literally thousands of beautiful line drawings of joint and carcass construction. The best book I've found for ideas on how to put things together.

Understanding Wood by Bruce Hoadley. A bit like good dental care, pay the price of reading it now and you'll avoid a whole host of wood-related problems later on in your woodworking career.

World Woods in Color by William Lincoln. Want to know if Sassafras is hard or soft and a good wood for building cabinets? I reach for Lincoln. His book isn't as good as I wish it was, but I haven't found a better one yet.

"Fine Woodworking Magazine" A complete set and an index make for a very handy resource in many regards. Never set a half-mortise lock before, but your desk project really needs one? Let Phil Lowe walk you through the process. No book can devote as much photographic detail to such a process as a magazine can.

Nature & Aesthetics of Design and The Nature & Art of Workmanship by David Pye. These are dense but invigorating books on theory—great reads when you're in the "why do I make things in wood" type of mood, but impenetrable when you're not.

A whole host of style-specific coffee-table books, just for the images of furniture.

MD: *For many of us, our introduction to woodworking started in school. As a woodworking instructor, do you feel that the loss of*

woodworking classes in many middle and high schools around the country will result in a lack of interest from future generations? What percentage of your classes are 30 or under? And, if you please, what is your age? (Lots of inquiries on this!)

SP: OK, I'm 35 years old. Really. I have ID to prove it. The profession of woodworking (small and big shops) is filled with people my age. I don't think the profession is aging at all. They're hard to see, so to speak. They don't take courses or join clubs because they get training on the job and generally take up something else as a hobby.

Woodworking as a hobby is a totally different world. To have your own shop at home takes a (sometimes huge) investment of capital. Consequently, hobbyist woodworkers tend to be either relatively well off or retired and have had the time to slowly collect tools over many years. Consider that 75% of Fine Woodworking's readership is hobbyist, average age is late 50's and average income is over \$110,000 a year. These demographics aren't true of all hobbyist woodworkers, but I think it is for the ones aiming to make Krenov cabinets or Stickley chairs. Not surprisingly, I am almost always the youngest person in the classes I teach.

The huge decline of woodworking programs in high schools is a shame. They're disappearing for a range of reasons, from liability to lack of perceived value (give 'em computers, not tablesaws). In years to come, fewer people will have the basic skills to give them confidence enough to buy a tablesaw and strike out on their own as hobbyists. But the lure of making and building beautiful things in wood will always be there. Consequently, I think the demand for more basic courses will go up. Woodworking as a hobby will change its character, perhaps not as widespread, perhaps a bit more intense in its following.

MD: *You taught English in Slovakia in Central Europe. Do you have family ties there? Any woodworkers in the Purdy lineage?*

SP: No woodworkers in my family (that I know of). I went to Slovakia in the Fall of 1990 because I saw an ad asking for high school English teachers. I was unmarried and looking for a bit of adventure and the chance to serve a good cause. The iron curtain had just come down the summer before, so I went and added my hand to the job of bringing the East Bloc a little closer to the West. Slovakia was a very depressing place to live and work, but I came away with quite a bit,

Continued on page 8

A Few Words With Strother Purdy
Continued from page 8

especially a profound appreciation of the United States. A lot of people find it easy to complain about our country, that this is wrong and that's bad. The truth is that life is far worse everywhere else. Except maybe Bali.

MD: *How about influences? As a designer, who (if any) have you admired for their design ideas and/or woodworking techniques?*

SP: My favorite style is Art Nouveau, the turn-of-the-century style that incorporates life forms into arts and architecture. Years ago, I'd have said Greene and Greene were my favorite designers. To name a few names, I've found inspirational pieces by Louis Majorelle, Hector Guimard, Eugene Gaillard, Victor Horta, John Makepeace, Greene and Greene and a bunch of others. For technique, I admire Carl Swensson. He is a master of his craft and as humble as he is great.

MD: *Do you have a favorite wood to work with? Type of finish most often used?*

SP: Swiss Pear is my favorite wood at the moment. It works easily (about as hard as tulip poplar) with no tendency to hair up. It is prone to brash failure and blotches when finished the way cherry does. The pear I've seen at Condon's is junk by and large, with lots of heart degrade and unexciting color and figure (heavy on the browns). I get boards from A&M Wood Specialty in Canada that are much better. They're often 2 in. thick by 30 in. wide by 8 ft. long with few blemishes. High quality Swiss pear is custard or skin colored, a sort of mild color that looks orange or pink or tan depending on the light. When oiled it gets a deep rich luster, not as red as cherry. On occasion I get a board with a curl in the figure. I currently have a pear log with blister figure that will shortly become two tables. Curly quartersawn white oak is also a favorite, though I'm not sure why. Great for fancy drawers.

For a finish, my favorite one is any finish done by Custom Refinishers in Danbury. Why? Because they do outstanding work and its finishing work that I don't have to do. Half the time I do an oil and wax finish. Half the time I spray a waterbased lacquer.

MD: *Any area of woodworking that you particularly enjoy? (Cabinetry, turning, chairmaking, etc..)*

SP: I don't really have a subcategory that I enjoy more than another. I do more cabinetry than anything else, but enjoy turning, carving, green woodworking and all the rest of it just as much. Designing—the castles-in-the-sky with paper and pencil or with models is just great fun. I also get a lot of enjoyment out of coming to an impasse in a project, then finding an elegant solution around it. The triumph-after-despair moment is particularly satisfying. Don't ask how often it's despair-after-despair. Those moments only make the other solutions that much sweeter.

MD: *Besides the construction of your new shop, what project(s) are you currently working on?*

SP: I just completed a buffet in the vein of Charles Rennie Mackintosh's work. It's in curly cherry. Next are two tables in blister figure Swiss pear that are my own design. After that comes some clean-line modern cabinetry. (Note: See page 11 for a photo of this).

MD: *It is obvious that you are passionate about the craft and generous with your knowledge. Our membership consists of hobbyists and professionals at all levels of woodworking. Do you have a preference in level of instruction?*

SP: There is no thrill greater than working with enthusiastic students, regardless of ability level. I figure that the preference thing is mostly from the students' point of view. It's my job to teach well enough that the student can be engaged rather than annoyed. How to do this consists mainly of figuring out what a student needs or wants, and trying give them one or the other depending on their receptiveness.

MD: *Where do you generally source your board stock? Do you hand select your boards or work with what the yard hands may choose?*

SP: I get a lot from A&M Wood Specialty in Ontario, Canada. They've got eyes that are as good as mine, and never mislead me on the quality of lumber they send. Can't recommend them enough. When I need small quantities, I use Conway's in Gaylordsville, CT or Condon's in Stormville, and for impossible-to-otherwise find material, Hearne Hardwoods in PA has some great stuff, but they are not cheap.

MD: *What has been the most personally rewarding project you have made to date?*

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A Few Words With Strother Purdy
Continued from page 9

SP: An Art Nouveau bookcase in Swiss Pear. The rewarding aspect of the job came through the design process. My original design looked good on paper but during construction I discovered it would look better another way. The clients weren't the type to go back over the design, so I just did it. There's always the risk that a client could hold me to the contract and refuse the piece, but no such thing happened. The husband was so thrilled with the piece he threw his hands up into the air and exclaimed, "It soars." Those moments are few and far between in a career and most rewarding when they come along. Thank you for not asking about the most difficult or devastating project to date.

MD: *As a fellow family man, you most certainly have a "honey-do" list. Do you take time to make projects for your own home?*

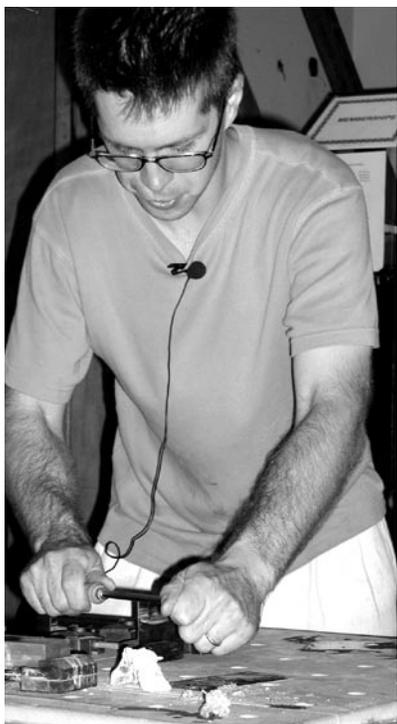
SP: Time? Who has time? I have built 3/4 of a kitchen in cherry, and am waiting for the rest to finish itself. There's a front door under construction, and some bathroom sink cabinets on the back burner. Every woodworker's house is a

collection of partially finished projects, that will, one day, get done, but not before a new group of projects have been started and partially finished.

MD: *Finally, have you repaired the Pearwood box lid handle that was broken during our last woodworking show? We all still feel badly about that. After all, it was featured in FWW!*

SP: I'm still waiting for the \$3000 insurance check Joe promised me. Where is it? Just kidding. The handle is a perfect illustration of the gap between the two aspects of all design: beauty and longevity. The handle might have some claim to the first aspect, but it does not to the second. It's a trick handle that works fine if you have a delicate touch; but in every crowd there's someone who, when he discovers something won't work the way he's trying it, will just try harder until the thing either works or breaks. In fact, I really owe FWW readers an addendum on making a more durable handle. So I should be sweating this one, not you.

(Editor's Note: Just be sure to favorably mention our show in the addendum Strother! We could use the plug!)



Burnish the scraper twice. First without creating a hook angle; then flatten. Then create the hook angle to get results like this: Fine shavings almost as smooth as a smoothing plane.

A shaving straight from the plane. A simple product of a well tuned plane with a razor sharp blade.



A horse such as this is perfect for holding irregularly shaped objects for the spoke-shave. Strother sharpens his blades razor sharp, but does not make new chip breakers (such as those featured in Fine Woodworking)

Wooden You Like To Know

Steve Delaney

It still amazes me how much one can learn just talking to one's peers (read – come a little early to the meetings). For instance, the fellow I use at work to sharpen blades was in just the other day. I mentioned I had several blades of my own that were loaded with pitch and I wanted to know what secret formula the pros used. Well, apparently it's not such a secret – he suggested Easy Off Oven Cleaner. I've tried it and it works really well. I had been using Simple Green which does an OK job (with no fumes). But if you're like me, cleaning and sharpening are not the reasons you got into woodworking. So I'll go for the speed and ease.

Speaking of speed and ease, when was the last time you went to research an article you had read, and found it right away? Organizing what is becoming a rather large collection of reading material seems to be overwhelming. Is it just me? I tend to go off on reading tangents whenever I'm looking for a particular article or project. This process can be very time consuming. Well, thanks to a tip I got from Paul Gerner, this may become a little easier. Paul keeps a pad of mini Post-It notes and attaches them right to the page. Now when he wants to review an article he simply scans through the attached notes thereby avoiding having to read every issue's table of contents (that's what leads to my long tangents). He also maintains a 3 ring binder full of project plans he has downloaded or bought so his next project won't be delayed for weeks while trying to locate them. This has to be more efficient than my method of leaving them in piles throughout my house and shop. Thanks Paul, I'll be stopping at Staples tomorrow.

I also received another version of last months quote – here's the new one: A man who works with his hands is a laborer; a man who works with his head and hands is a craftsman; a man who works with his head, hands and heart is an artisan. Thanks to Martin Rost for the update.

I'll end with two quickies:

1. Email or call the Nominating Committee.
2. Build a toy for the December meeting—you'll feel better.

Send all submissions to Dela328@AOL.com.



Notes From the Editor

Mike Daum



We here at The Woodrack are busy making preparations for the expanded web version of the newsletter. The features will include color photos, mpegs (video clips), and more in-depth articles. Expect this first "e-zine" to coincide with the New Year.

Speaking of a new year, as 2002 comes to an end (just two months left!), you may want to consider the project(s) you will exhibit at Show 2003 to be held April 5th and 6th at the Sports Plus Event Center. I will again be acting as co-chair with Bob Urso, and I will also continue as Exhibits Manager. The show this year will be even bigger and better than the last – that is, if each and every one of our members brings in something to exhibit. If you attend our monthly meetings and are active in your shop (or the shop of others), there really is no excuse not to make a project (not unlike Strother's buffet – see photo) in time for the show. Our success last year was largely based on the myriad of projects crowding the exhibit hall. If you exhibited last year, please replace those projects with something new. If you are new to the show or woodworking altogether, contact me or others for advice on project selection, etc...and don't worry, the quality needn't be quite like Strother's buffet!

Coincidentally, the Member Information book has been updated and is always displayed at the meetings. This is an invaluable source of tools and skill levels of members who may be willing to help you decide on what tools to buy, construction and finishing techniques, and projects to build. If you look through it, you may discover a neighbor you didn't know about who is willing to mentor you or share his/her opinions on a tool that you're thinking about purchasing. It's worked for me.

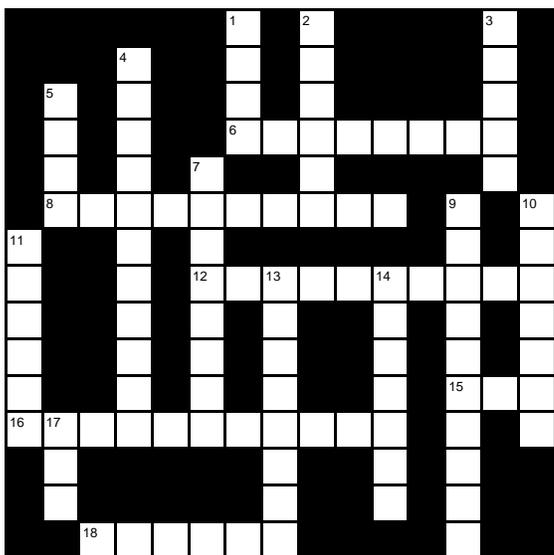


*Do you have an idea for a puzzle?
See Mike or Daryl.
We would love to see what our members
can come up with for our
Crossword Page.*



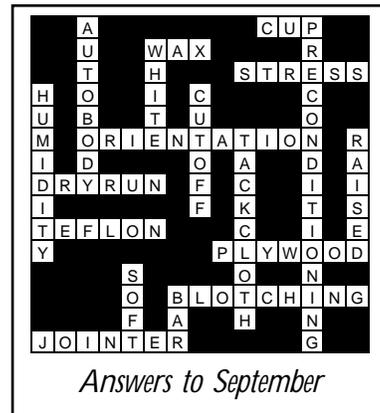
Strother Purdy's Buffet

The wood is curly cherry. Also note how the shadow lines created by the overhang on the countertop complement the curve of the base.



W
L O N G I S L A N D
O

C
C R O S S W O O D
O R K E R S
U
B



Across

- 6. three sides form a _____ (too easy)
- 8. unique feature of a Japanese chisel - allows easy sharpening (2 words)
- 12. preferred handle type for Western saw (think firearm)
- 15. dovetail part
- 16. What tool Strother forgot to bring for his presentation
- 18. dowels usually have them to allow

air and glue escape

Down

- 1. undesirable board characteristic
- 2. reputable power tool brand
- 3. doors can be mounted this way (flush with the frame)
- 4. "primate adhesive" (2 words)
- 5. direction of cut with a Western saw
- 7. _____ miter joint - used for boards whose ends are cut on an angle

9. hand tool that removes a lot of wood quickly (2 words)

- 10. what you're doing to a blade on a sharpening stone
- 11. shellac is often found in this form
- 13. a sharp cabinet scraper will produce these
- 14. Bob Urso distributes this line of finishing products
- 17. treated lumber to be discontinued in 2003 (initials)

The Marketplace

Old Floor Model Craftsman Drill Press
Needs Motor With mortising attachments
\$75.00

Ed Leitgeb (631) 289-1089

Jet 610 CFM Dust Collector
Has finer mesh Reliant filter bags
Steel band clamps
Needs new plug for wires.
\$150 (negotiable)

Daryl Rosenblatt (516)627-0647

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE LIWC

October 2: Finishing
products and techniques
from a Liberon represen-
tative.

November 6: TBA

December 4: Toys
For Tots

LONG ISLAND WOODWORKERS' CLUB



6 Bralo Court
Kings Park, NY 11754