

# Knot Knews

Monthly Newsletter of the Collins Woodworkers

January 1997

Vol. 2, No. 5

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> 5:00 p.m. at Main Plant Cafeteria

## January Program

The January 21 meeting is our giant tool show made possible by **you**. Everyone is encouraged to bring one or more portable "tools" from home to show off to everyone else. As an extra encouragement we are also featuring...

— FREE PIZZA! —

— plus a fabulous Door Prize —

We hope you will join in the spirit of this event and bring something to share. If you'd rather not bring anything, that's okay; come anyway and bring your appetite. You're bound to see something new or unusual.

Tools can be electric, hand-operated, jigs, fixtures, handy shop-made solutions; whatever you would like to share with other members. Portable means you and several friends must be able to carry it into the building without hurting yourselves or others.

## February Meeting

Our February 18 meeting is another field trip. We will meet at Puckett Tools & Fasteners for a professional demonstration of Bessey clamps.

Rumor has it that there may be some "special club prices" available on Bessey clamps at the meeting. If you're tired of wrestling with your glue-ups or need a better way to hold your work on your bench top, the February meeting will be worth your while.

## Future Meetings

Plans for future meetings include: a program on finishing techniques (Mar. 18) and a program on the hazard of dust in your shop and ways to reduce it using dust collection (Apr. 15).

Other tentative meeting topics include picture framing and matting, biscuit joining tools and techniques, and tuning hand planes for precision work. And don't forget, we need your feedback on these ideas to help us plan the kind of meetings you'd like to attend.

## We Have A Library

Don't forget, we now have the nucleus of a first rate woodworker's library. Ask for a list of our library materials at one of our meetings or go to the Employee Services office and see for yourself. Materials are available for checkout to members.

If you know of a book, magazine, or video tape that should be in the library, please let us know. We'd like to make this a resource we can all use.

## New Subscriptions

We have authorized two regular subscriptions on behalf of the library. These are *Shopnotes* and *Woodsmith*. If you aren't familiar with these you'll want to be. They are full of great plans, ideas, and shop tips. The subscriptions will probably begin with the March issue and we can discuss the possibility of purchasing back issues for the library.

## New Videos

New materials being ordered include Taunton's video and book on finishing techniques and Norm Abrams' (New Yankee Workshop) plans and video for building a router table.

## Membership Cards Coming

Your club officers have decided to have membership cards issued to each paid-up member. Not only will they serve as proof of your membership, but may one day become useful identification at local merchants and events.

## Winter Woodworking Show

Roger Thompson notes that winter can bring us more than just cold weather and the flu; it also brings the winter woodworking show at Hawkeye Downs. Roger has learned that the show will be held January 24 through 26 this year.

The show features booths and demonstrations by a diverse group of woodworking suppliers. Last year's show included Forrest Saw Blades, the Zylig vice and clamping system, Puckett Tools & Fasteners, Payless Cashway, two local sawmills, and much more. Special show prices are often available.

The show runs from 4:00 p.m. until 9:00 on Friday, 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, and 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. Be there!

## Craft Club Bus Trip

Dan Pietroske has learned that the Craft Club is planning another of their bus tours. They are traveling to Des Moines to visit/shop at the State Capitol, the Botanical Gardens, The Cracker Barrel, Terrace Hill, and **The Woodsmith Store**. This could be a good opportunity to meet some people in a club with some similar interests. They have been doing this for thirteen years.

The trip is scheduled for April 5 so you have some time to plan. The bus will leave at 7:30 a.m. and return around 6:00 p.m. A \$15 payment reserves your seat and covers admission to the Botanical Gardens and driver gratuity.

If interested, contact Jean Straight, Craft Club president. Jean's telephone number is 363-1688.

## Hardwood Sources

As reported last month, Jim Parent has taken on the task of updating our list of wood mills and sources. If you know of any sawmills or suppliers within a hundred mile or so radius of Cedar Rapids, be sure to let Jim know. We need information on business hours, species availability, prices, phone number and directions. If you only have some of the details, let Jim know anyway. The list will be a great resource for all of us.

## Wreck Dot Woodworking

(Great thoughts from the Net)

### Tree of the Month: "Ash"

Ash (*Fraxinus spp.*) is composed of 40 to 70 species, Latin name for ash. Ashes are trees or shrubs with large, opposite, pinnately compound leaves. The compound leaves have 2 to 11 leaflets. The tree can reach heights of 80 ft (24 m) with straight boles.

**General Wood Characteristics:** The sapwood of ash is light brown, while the heartwood is brown to grayish brown. White ash and Oregon ash have lighter heartwood than do the other commercial species. The width of the sapwood is 3 to 6 inches (8 to 15 cm). It is ring porous, with the late wood being composed of parenchyma which surrounds and unites the latewood pores in tangential bands. The wood has no characteristic odor or taste.

**Working Properties:** Ash is straight grained, heavy, hard, strong, and stiff; it wears smooth, with high shock resistance. It machines well and is better than average in nail- and screw-holding capacity. It glues moderately well. Black, green, pumpkin and blue ashes have lower specific gravity and lower strength properties, but are still moderately strong, hard, and stiff compared to other native hardwoods. Ashes also split easier, shrink more, are average in workability, and perform more poorly in service compared to other native hardwoods.

**Durability:** Rated as slightly or nonresistant to heartwood decay. **Preservation:** No information available at this time.

**Uses:** Handle stock, baseball bats, upholstered furniture, flooring, millwork, hand tools, sporting goods, boxes and crates.

### Origins of the Shopsmith Mark V

*If you happened to catch this year's Shopsmith demonstration at Lindale Mall January 3-5, you might also be interested in some history on this venerable old machine. This posting was found in the woodworking section of the handcraft forum on Compu-Serve.*

#: 64824 S2/Woodworking  
14-Jun-95 23:47:40  
Sb: Old Shopsmith Help

Fm: Nick Engler 72500,1777  
To: Lincoln Baxter 70116,1510 (X)

Lincoln—You've provided some extremely valuable info for 10ER owners, but your Shopsmith history is full of holes. Just in case you're interested:

The 10ER is the original Shopsmith. It was invented by Hans Goldschmidt in 1946. Dr. Goldschmidt was a graduate of the engineering college of the University of Berlin who fled Nazi Germany in the late 1930s. (He was Jewish.) He supported himself doing crafts until WWII, when he finally got an engineering job in the Navy shipyards in San Diego. After the war, he and a few friends from the shipyards started "Magna Engineering" in San Diego, and began to produce the 10ER.

During the 1950s, Goldschmidt added several new Shopsmiths to the line—a Mark II (an inexpensive 10ER), the Mark V (which quickly became the most popular model), and the Mark VII (which had a built in vacuum, tilted in both directions, and many more whistles and bells).

In the early 60s, Goldschmidt sold Magna to Yuba Manufacturing of Cleveland, Ohio and Yuba made Mark Vs for a few years. But they really never made a go of it. So they sold the line to several Yuba employees who reorganized under the old Magna banner and moved to Cincinnati, Ohio. They, too, had troubles, and moved to Mississippi in hopes of finding cheaper labor. There the Shopsmith died and was not produced for about a decade.

In the 1970s, John Folkerth (the present head of Shopsmith) went to Mississippi looking for spare parts for his old Magna Sawsmith (a multi-purpose radial arm saw). What he found was a warehouse full of dies and machinery. He raised \$100,000 and bought it all, took it back to Troy, Ohio, and organized Shopsmith, Inc. Shopsmith moved a few miles down the road to Dayton, Ohio in the late 1970s.

Shopsmith manufactured just the Mark V and four single-purpose tools until the 1980s, when they added the planer, scroll saw, Mark 510, SawSmith 2000 (now defunct) and some other stuff. They went public in the early 1980s with the stock selling at \$11/share. The stock climbed to \$18, they ran into trouble, and the stock plummeted. It now less than \$1/share. So far, Folkerth has managed to elude bankruptcy and the

second death of the Shopsmith, but the company is pretty shaky.

Dr. Hans Goldschmidt, by the way, died a while back. He spent the last years of his life designing children's toys and games.

With all good wishes,  
Nick Engler (founder and former editor of Shopsmith's "Hands On!" magazine)

### **Web Sites of Interest**

If your home computer can access the Internet's World Wide Web you may find these sites worth visiting.

<http://www.utdallas.edu/~rick>

This is the homepage by Richard M Manderscheid is billed as *The Workbench Page*. We haven't seen it yet but it gets nice comments from those who have.

<http://www.voicenet.com/~rburton/horse.gif>  
and

<http://www.voicenet.com/~rburton/shaving.txt>  
are said to contain plans for a shaving horse. If you've been wanting to put your old spokeshave to work, this could be just the ticket.

If you happen to run across an interesting Web site, discussion list, or news group while "surfing" the net, pass it along and we'll publish it here so others can check it out.

### Board Foot Calculator

Wayne Hanson contributed this handy table to help calculate the number of board feet in a given piece of stock.

LENGTH (ft.)	WIDTH (in.)											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	0.08	0.17	0.25	0.33	0.42	0.50	0.58	0.67	0.75	0.83	0.92	1.00
2	0.17	0.33	0.50	0.67	0.83	1.00	1.17	1.33	1.50	1.67	1.83	2.00
3	0.25	0.50	0.75	1.00	1.25	1.50	1.75	2.00	2.25	2.50	2.75	3.00
4	0.33	0.67	1.00	1.33	1.67	2.00	2.33	2.67	3.00	3.33	3.67	4.00
5	0.42	0.83	1.25	1.67	2.08	2.50	2.92	3.33	3.75	4.17	4.58	5.00
6	0.50	1.00	1.50	2.00	2.50	3.00	3.50	4.00	4.50	5.00	5.50	6.00
7	0.58	1.17	1.75	2.33	2.92	3.50	4.08	4.67	5.25	5.83	6.42	7.00
8	0.67	1.33	2.00	2.67	3.33	4.00	4.67	5.33	6.00	6.67	7.33	8.00
9	0.75	1.50	2.25	3.00	3.75	4.50	5.25	6.00	6.75	7.50	8.25	9.00
10	0.83	1.67	2.50	3.33	4.17	5.00	5.83	6.67	7.50	8.33	9.17	10.00
11	0.92	1.83	2.75	3.67	4.58	5.50	6.42	7.33	8.25	9.17	10.08	11.00
12	1.00	2.00	3.00	4.00	5.00	6.00	7.00	8.00	9.00	10.00	11.00	12.00

-Table is for 1 inch thick material (4/4)

-For 2 inch material (8/4), double table number