

Meeting Notice:

June meeting: Tuesday the 16th at 5:00

Location: Main Plant Cafeteria

Subject: Log Furniture

Project: Outdoor projects

Door Prizes!!



Outdoor projects require maintenance



Knot News

COLLINS WOODWORKERS GUILD NEWSLETTER

Rustic Log Furniture

Ray Collins

This month we decided to go with an outdoor woodworking theme. We didn't get to the project last month and Ray has been looking at making outdoor furniture using small whole logs. He will discuss basic debarking of logs, log tenon joints for furniture, or perhaps just making an interesting stick for walking or hunting mushrooms.

His approach to debarking some smaller logs uses a draw knife. He also ordered a 1" log tenon cutter to demonstrate how to use one. He can show us how it works.

If you have ever built anything using small logs bring it. Any log projects, debarking tools, methods, etc. would be welcome.

Ray hasn't done much of this kind of wood-

working but is trying to learn more as he has a lot of basic material to work with in the wooded areas around his house.

This furniture style presents some interesting challenges. For one thing nothing is straight, flat or square. You are using wood straight from the tree so it has to be a cut to fit proposition.

You can use any joinery method you like from dovetails to pocket holes but the traditional joint uses a round tenon. It's

(Continued on page 2)



June Project

Well with the road trip last month we didn't get to the project. This one lends itself to the subject this time so we are going to give it another shot. Bring in whatever you didn't show in May.

We all occasionally make something that we use outdoors. It's generally not our finest work because it get's beaten badly and won't likely last for decades. It does have to look good and survive in a challenging environment. Choosing wood, joinery and finishes

Outdoor projects

need to consider the temperature extremes, moisture and sunlight.

No matter how carefully chosen, these things require maintenance. Even the best finishes need refreshed, decayed pieces remade and insect damage repaired.

We want to see what you have made. This may require pictures; porch swings and picnic tables are too big to bring in.

May Meeting: Green Wood Sawmill Road Trip

Last month we met at Green Wood Sawmill. Mel Green showed us his sawmill and fed us his chili. Mel's chili is very good. Much of his lumber is interesting but you need to use it in the right project.

Mel has a small band mill and is focused on producing lumber from trees that a lot of mills won't touch. Many of his logs are small-

er trees that branched close to the ground. Some times they contain metal. This gives us lumber that includes things that professional graders count as defects.



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Green Wood Sawmill Trip

Most of us understand that these defects can also provide character that we look for. A commercial shop won't



have time to take advantage of these things but as hobbyists we just might.

The real question becomes what constitutes character and what sends a an

Rustic Log Furniture

generally cut using a tool that works like a big pencil sharpener. You can make the same joint with a lathe but you have to go slowly because the wood isn't necessarily straight. There is another method using a table saw by hand but that sounds like a good way to get hurt.

The corresponding hole is cut using a spade bit got the smaller sizes or a



Upcoming projects:

July: A "New Yankee Workshop" project.

August: Something that you look at.

September: A project from a picture.

October: A copy of something you have.

November: A repair.

otherwise attractive board to the firewood pile? There are a couple of things the think about. Does the board include the heartwood. If so it will almost certainly crack and will never stay flat. You can cut out the heartwood but what is left when you do? Second is whether you have reaction



wood. Look at whether the growth rings are closer together on one side of the



board than the other. If so the tree grew under stress and will never stay flat or take a finish that looks right. Best to make that board into firewood.

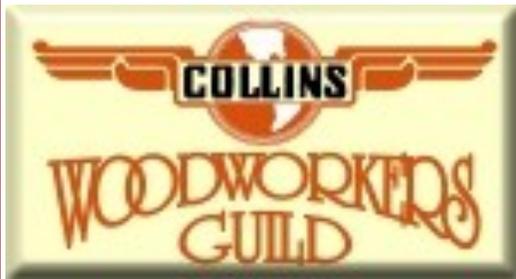
The other considerations are aesthetic. Do you want the natural edges and cracks, can you stabilize the crotch pieces? If the piece fits your design buy it otherwise keep looking.

Forstner bit. The open end of the hole generally includes a taper that matches the tenon. That is cut with a countersink that has the same taper as the tenon cutter.

Traditionally these projects have no bark. That's because the bark tends to separate from the log when the cambium layer dries out. Almost all species do that so the first step is to debark the log. Like any other process there is more than one way to do it and everybody has a favorite. Ray is going to use a drawknife. Other options include chainsaw attachments and discs that mount on angle grinders. Some of these sound like ways to get hurt too.



You will have the challenge of holding round material that isn't necessarily straight too. Fortunately that problem has an easy solution. Every hardware store has a pipe vise.



KNOT KNEWS
Is published monthly by the Collins
Woodworkers Guild

The Collins Woodworkers Guild is a club dedicated to preserving the age old practice of creation using the medium of wood. CWG members gather monthly to share tips, ideas and experience to further the knowledge of all members. From creating heirlooms for their families to Toys-For-Tots, members help each other get the most out of their woodworking experience.

Membership in the Collins Woodworkers Guild is open to ALL Rockwell Collins, Inc. Employees, Spouses, Retirees, and Contract Employees, AT ALL ROCKWELL COLLINS LOCATIONS!! Everyone is welcome at our meetings and yearly dues, renewed each September, are \$15.00

GUILD BENEFITS

- Access to our EXTENSIVE library of books, magazines and Tool Collection
- Open exchange of ideas, from project help to house building; and a hand when needed
- Social Activities
- Workshops
- Toys-For-Tots and other Programs to help our Community
- Educational and Informative Presentations
- Open Houses
- Tours

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