

**Meeting Notice:**

- **May meeting: Tuesday the 15th at 5:00.**
- **Main Plant Cafeteria**
- **May Project: Router Jigs.**
- **Door Prizes!!**



Failing joint

# Knot News

COLLINS WOODWORKERS GUILD NEWSLETTER

## Outdoor woods and finishes

It's time again to work on those projects that spend their time outside. Last weekend my son and a friend tried to move the picnic table and the top came off. It's not all that surprising because the table is about 25 years old and hasn't been all that well cared for.

The top came loose because the nails holding it to the lower frame pulled out. As I looked it over the joints in the lower frame have started to decay but haven't failed yet.

The only reason it's still together at all is because I made it from Redwood. Most woods decay in this part of the country. In a very dry or very cold environment most woods will last a long time without much protection. Here in Iowa that's not the case.

Eventually bacteria, insects and vermin will destroy most woods.

We all know that some wood species survive much better than others. Eventually all of them will decay but redwood, cedar, white oak, and several locust species will last a very long time.

Several mechanisms are responsible for decay and they act in concert. If you leave an ash ax outside it won't be useful a year later. Powder Post beetles



Honey Locust

will eat it full of little holes and bacteria will turn it punky. Moisture will fill the tissues and freeze breaking it apart. White oak has tyloses

that keep moisture out of the tissues and the high tannin content and low starch discourage insects and bacteria.

Wood that will normally decay quickly can be treated with chemicals to slow the process. This process has several problems: the chemicals are generally not good for people either and the wood that gets treated is generally very poor quality wood. You frequently end up with unstable wood that splits and twists but lasts for decades.

A lot of us have a favorite wood to use outside. When I rebuild the picnic table I'm probably going to look for honey locust. It's stable, light, cheap and lasts for decades. Redwood would work just as well but it's much more expensive.

## May Project:

Almost all of us use routers. If you use it for more than edge treatment you need a jig of some kind. That's what we want to see this month.

If you use a router for cutting joints you generally need a jig. When we need a bunch of parts that match we make a pattern and use a piloted bit. We want to know what



you like to use.

Of course you can buy some jigs. Hinges can be set in with a router and it's easier if you use

## Router Jigs

the jig that the hinge company sells.

Anybody have a dovetail jig that works with a router? It ahs to be the easiest way to cut them in any large number.

Whatever you us bring it in and let us see it...



## April meeting



In April we toured A1 Precision Sharpening. They have an assortment of numerically controlled machinery including one that normally does a lot of their work and isn't working. With all of the technology they also sharpen lawnmower blades using a grinder like any of us use at home.

We asked if there was anything that they just wouldn't sharpen. Apparently they have turned down sharpening swords a few times just because they couldn't think of a legitimate reason to need a sharp sword. At least not in this century.

There is at least one person that ships

## Outdoor finishes

Take a look at your deck, porch, window frames, or almost anything you have outside that is wooden. Does it have a finish? Most outdoor woodwork is painted or stained. Almost all manufacturers of finishes have versions that are intended to use outdoors.

Have you ever seen (maybe at a neighbors house) a deck that has been finished with conventional urethane? It looks great for a couple of weeks then it turns milky and peels off in little curls. In general transparent finishes don't survive all that well. There are Spar Varnishes that are intended to be used on boats but even those have to be stripped and replaced frequently.

If you really want the natural wood feel you may want to think of a water repellent pre-



## Upcoming projects:

June: Hardboard

July: Crosscut Sled

kitchen knives from New York. They must have some extra knives because it has to take a couple of weeks round trip even if they get to them as soon as they arrive in the shop.

Most of us have some ability to sharpen some of our own tools. We almost have to use a service to cover carbide saw blades and router bits. There are diamond



## A1 Precision Sharpening Tour



hones out there that can be used but the results are almost never acceptable.

A1 Can sharpen things besides woodworking tools too. Ever try to sharpen scissors? They will do it for \$5. Pinking shears too for the same price.

While it's not practical to sharpen bandsaw blades (most of the time) they will weld up a new one or repair one if it breaks.

servative. It contains a wood preservative, a small amount of wax as a water repellent, a dryer, and a solvent. Water-repellent preservatives don't contain coloring pigments. The resulting finish will vary in color depending upon the kind of wood. The preservative prevents wood from graying by stopping mildew.

Semitransparent stains are moderately pigmented and don't completely hide the wood grain. They penetrate the wood surface and don't form a solid film like paints. As a result they won't peel if moisture gets into the wood. Penetrating stains are alkyd or oil-based, and some include a fungicide or water repellent. Latex-based stains are available, but they don't penetrate the wood surface as do the oil-based stains.

Paints and solid color stains are probably the most common coatings we use on

wood and provide the most protection. Latex-based paints and stains are water borne, and oil or alkyd paints are solvent borne. Paints are used for aesthetic purposes, to protect the wood surface from weathering and to hide defects.

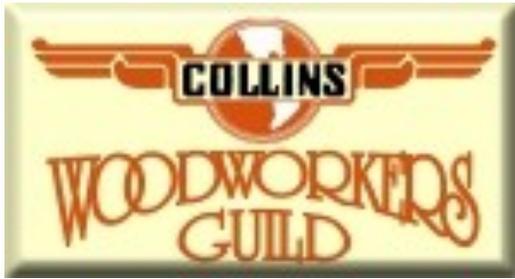
Paints are applied to the wood surface and do not penetrate. The wood grain is obscured and a surface film is formed. This surface film can blister or peel if the wood is wetted.

Latex paints are generally easier to use since water is used in clean-up. They are also porous and will allow some moisture movement. Oil based paints require organic solvents for clean-up and some are resistant to moisture movement.

Follow the manufacturers directions to apply these finishes. There are differences and what works with one will cause problems with another.

you have made. Suggest it as a project of the month.

We need ideas for new projects. Here is an opportunity to show off something that



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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