

SPLINTERS

Tennessee Valley Woodworkers

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Editor: Tom Gillard

Meeting Notice:

The next meeting of the TN Valley Woodworkers
Will be held June 15, 1999 at 7:00 p.m. in the
Duck River Electric Building, Dechard, TN
All interested woodworkers are invited!

May Minutes, (5/18/99)

Old Business:

Maurice Ryan is the Chairman for the Year 2000 show. Tom Church talked about the plans for the demonstration/tractor pull/picnic that will be held on June 5.

Bob Reese's sharpening class will be on May 19th.

New Business: NONE

Show & Tell

Phil Bishop: Had some information on club members helping at and entering items in a high-end arts and craft shop in Lynchburg.

Jim Van Cleave: Jim has been carving and brought some examples of his work.

Billy May: A couple of rams caught just before they butt heads. Made out of buckeye.

Tim Halbeck: He has taken lessons from VanCleave and brought in some pieces of a cherry pencil post bed that is in progress. He also brought in the beginnings of a carving that is going on a cherry box. And a butternut block that has a bass in it, he just needs to let it out. Will it be a large or small mouth?

Walter Clement: Parts and pictures of a fireplace mantel he built for a friend.

Ross Roepke: 4 small boxes of varying degrees of difficulty. These are some examples of the types of boxes that he will demonstrate at his workshop.

Henry Davis: 3 apple bowls that were turned at Tom Church's demonstration. Also a poplar saucer.

Tom Gillard: Mold for making a fiberglass part. Put together like making a canoe, using strips and gluing them to a frame to make the shape.

The Tote-Box group: What a good looking group, of boxes. Everyone had a good time and ended up with a useful project.

Ben Whiteaker: Large and small clock.

We took a short break and ate cookies and cake, furnished by the Clarks. Don Helton presented a program on how simple it is to do scroll and fret work. "Just like driving a car", he says.

Thanks Don.

Meeting adjourned after 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted by Tom Gillard.

- ?? If you really believe in something, don't be afraid to go out on a limb.
- ?? Be flexible so you don't break when a harsh wind blows.
- ?? Sometimes you have to shed your old bark in order to grow.
- ?? If you want to maintain accurate records, keep a log.

PALDAO A trunkful of HORRORS

Prospectors seeking their fortunes in New Guinea during the gold rush of the late 1800s came across huge trees whose wood reminded them of walnut. They called this newfound stock "Guinea wood" and used it for mining construction.

In favored habitat along streams and in marshy soil in Indonesia and the Philippines, the tree we now call paldao will grow to 120' high and 4' in diameter. The remarkable feature of paldao trees, however, is their immense buttresses. These outgrowths that help the tree support itself encircle the tree like a snake to a height of 30'. At the base of the tree, the thick buttresses spread out like giant roots so that a paldao may measure 40' in diameter at ground level! To the hill tribes in remote parts of the Philippines, the buttressed paldao trees once represented a trunkful of horrors. They viewed the trees in fear and awe because they imagined that frightful things, such as armies of evil spirits, hid in the nooks and crannies. In truth, boa constrictors lived there. And in the recesses, head hunters hid.

With such barriers to harvest, it's little wonder it took decades for paldao to break into the world market. Finding fearless native workers willing to log the dreaded paldao was no small problem.

And where, eventually, did paldao find favor? From the often finely figured wood of paldao's trunk and even its buttresses-the same that had concealed spirits, snakes, and head hunters-came exquisite veneers to line high-fashion elevators of the late 1940s. Passengers remarked at the paneling's great beauty, but knew nothing of its tale.

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THE RIGHT WAY

The late Eric Sloane, in his book *A Reverence for Wood*, notes that the Shakers religious sect, which specialized in woodworking, believed anything going to the left ungodly. The lap ends of their round boxes always turned right, and their furniture, he says, was a masterpiece of "right angles."

DESIGNER TREES

Only Mother Nature makes trees. Robert Falls, though, customizes them. Robert, who recently completed his doctorate study at the University of British Columbia, holds a Canadian patent on a method of "culturing cambium in a non-cylinder." In other words, he thinks he can produce flat trees. The

38-year-old native of Vancouver, British Columbia has also applied for a patent for his technique of growing square trees. Flat boards sawed from a cylindrical trunk result in lots of waste, so Falls researched ways to change the trunk's shape. "You accelerate wood formation where you want the corners to be," he says matter- of -factly.

FIRST SAW WAS A SERPENT

Greek legend has it that Talus invented the first saw in 1200 B.C., according to author Ronald S. Barlow. In his book, *The Antique Tool Collector's Guide to Value*, Barlow says the ancient Greek discovered the principle of set saw teeth while severing a tree limb with the jawbone of a large serpent. He later reproduced the snake's teeth on a sheet of hammered iron. And the rest, as they say, is history.

- ?? Get all spruced up when you have a hot date.
- ?? If the party gets boring, just leaf.
- ?? You can't hide your true colors as you approach the autumn of your life.
- ?? It's more important to be honest than poplar.

