



# CAPITAL AREA WOODWORKERS

## WOODSHOP ADVISOR



on the web at <http://www.cawspi.org>

Volume 22, Issue 5

May, 2009

### The April Meeting

by Chuck Frank

The April general membership meeting was called to order by President Paul Goff on Saturday, April 4th at 1pm. The meeting was held in Bob Fox's shop in order to accommodate our speaker. The program was presented by Brian Knoles, Project Engineer for Robert Bosch Tool Corporation.

Brian started by introducing himself. He works for Dremel, which is part of the Robert Bosch Tool Corporation. He was born and raised in Springfield and graduated from Springfield High School in 2002. He attended the University of Illinois and graduated in 2007 with a mechanical engineer degree. He has worked for Dremel since graduation and lives in Chicago. Dremel has been around since 1932 and was bought by the Robert Bosch Tool Corp. in 1993. The design work is done in Mt. Prospect, IL. They have a service center in Racine, WI and their tools are built worldwide. Dremel is probably best known for their rotary tool.

The multimax tool is an oscillating tool which is very popular in Europe. Probably the best known oscillating tool is built by Fein. The tool works on a cam action which causes the tool which is attached to oscillate 3 degrees. There are a variety of tools which can be attached to the head. The current offering is primarily the Fein tool, which can be hard to find in this country, is large and is rather pricey. It is intended for contractor use. The Multimax is designed to be more compact, offer a lower price point, and retain high function and quality. The design work was started in 2006 and launched in September 2008. It has five major uses: cutting, sanding, scraping,

grout removal and grinding. The initial working prototype was a large cylinder with wires and things hanging off of it. Once the design is finalized the parts are manufactured around the world and the product is assembled and put to market. Parts are made in China, Mexico and the U.S. Brian travelled to Hong Kong to meet with the Chinese manufacturer of some of the plastic parts to see if they meet the required specs. He also travelled to Tecate, Mexico which supplies some of the parts. The assembly plant is in Mexicali, Mexico. Once all the parts have been approved and assembly starts, more testing is done to ensure quality. They did a final stage issue with some grease that was being used. It was changed to ensure higher quality.

The tool is probably best known for cutting. It can flush cut a door jam when you are laying flooring. It can also make small precise cuts like placing an outlet box. It caused much less dust than a rotary tool. It can also be used to cut pipes.

Another use is for detail sanding. The triangular shape reaches into tight spaces such as corners. They also have sandpaper that works quite well for removing paint from small areas.

Another application is scraping. There are two types of scraper blades available--a flexible one for removing caulk and other softer materials and a rigid scraper blade which could be used for removing materials such as vinyl flooring and carpet. It is used for adhesives and harder materials.

There are two grout removal tools available--1/8 inch and 1/16 inch. They do a good job of removing

grout and won't damage the tiles.

The other application is grinding. The diamond paper for the sanding pad will allow you to remove such things as a thin set and plaster.

The tool with a couple of cutting accessories sells for \$99 at Lowe's and Home Depot.

We then had the opportunity to try out some of the tools on various materials. Brian then gave away the three tools that were used in the demos.

The Club was to furnish lunch at this meeting and a big thanks to Elsie Fox for arranging this. Also, to Bob Fox for allowing the use of his shop for the meeting which was not held on a regular night.

(Bob also mentioned that he had a Delta Heavy Duty Planer with extra knives that he wanted to sell in the \$700-\$800 range. He also was looking for someone he could pay to help him with Elsie's kitchen cabinets. Did you get any takers, Bob? I imagine Elsie hopes so!)

## **Have You Paid Your Club Dues???**

Are there members out there who have forgotten to pay their annual dues? Dues are \$12 per year for those who get their newsletter via e-mail and \$20 for those who wish a hard copy mailed to them. Chuck mentioned that it might be good to update your information by filling out the application. It can be found at [www.cawspi.org](http://www.cawspi.org), click on the membership application down toward the bottom on the left. It can be filled out online and then printed out. It cannot be saved to the website. Please send your dues to the new treasurer at:

Capital Area Woodworkers  
c/o Gary Smith  
710 Goldenrod  
Chatham, IL 62629

## **Sycamore???**

I think everyone probably received an e-mail about some wood from a sycamore tree that was available. Deyrl Watson recently cut down a sycamore tree in his backyard and wanted to know if anyone in the Club was interested in some of the wood. I don't know if this is still available or not. His e-mail address is: [deyrl@mac.com](mailto:deyrl@mac.com).

## **Birdhouse Building Contest**

Don't forget the contest CAW is sponsoring!!

Do you have what it takes to design and build the winning birdhouse? This is the information that was sent out via e-mail.

1. A minimum of five members must enter.
2. All birdhouses must be completed and brought to the June membership meeting.
3. The winning entries will be voted by the members present at the meeting.
4. Prizes will be awarded by 1st (\$50) and 2nd (\$25) place.
5. Winning entries become property of the Club and will be auctioned off to the highest bidder.

If you are interested, please contact President Paul Goff at 502-3486 or [handiest11@yahoo.com](mailto:handiest11@yahoo.com).

## **The March Meeting**

I tried and tried to put in on the next page the report and pictures that Dick Metcalf sent me since it didn't get put in a newsletter last time. However, I have been unsuccessful at doing that. He wrote up notes on the veneer presentation by Dave Harris and he had six pictures with it. Thanks so much for that Dick and sorry it didn't work!

Dick did report that Norm Koerner turned at least a dozen large wine stoppers out of a variety of woods and showed them at the March meeting during Show and Tell. And Dick Metcalf presented slides of a frame and panel altar table made out of red oak for the Methodist Church in Rochester. He also showed a Sketchup drawing he made for presentation to the church committee so they could better understand and approve the design

before he proceeded with construction.

I will just put in some of the notes that Dick sent about the program on veneers.

Pres. Paul Goff opened the meeting at 6:30 and discussed a few general issues. The most important one is the need to get volunteers to tape or take notes at the meetings.

### The Program: Veneering

Dan Schmoker introduced Dave Harris representing the G.R. Wood Co. of Indianapolis, IN. Dave worked as a forester in Ohio before taking his present job as a buyer. He gave a detailed talk starting with the selection and removal of trees from their native site to the final product of veneers his company sells for the manufacturing of furniture and other wood products. Dave used a video presentation to show the process of making veneers. Included in the presentation was the loading of trees going to the processing plant. It showed debarked logs cut in half in preparation for slicing.

One part showed sawn logs tied together as they were taken from a vat having water heated to 190 degrees. It's important to keep veneer from the same tree in the order that it is sliced from the log. Water softens the wood in preparation for slicing. The sliced wood (called flitches) is then taken to the slicing machine. The force of air pressure holds the flitches as the machine's knives cut the flitches into veneer strips 1/42". The veneer slices are stacked as they move via the conveyor. They get stacked and moved to the drying process location.

Defective areas are trimmed out. Veneer strips range in length from 6 to 13 feet. A buyer determines the market value of oak trees using criteria as the location of the heart of the tree. A tree having the heart centered is easier cut into the desired flitches and slices. A straight tree has more potential for straight grain cuts, the more desired pattern for high-end furniture. The method to evaluate Walnut trees is much the same. It is more difficult, however, to get long straight grain from walnut even when the bark is straight.

Some of the processes that a buyer uses to determine value market in the field are the type of soil and its effect on grain appearance and color in the area near the site. The visual appearance of the bark: is it healthy judging by its color and bird pecking? Usually light bark yields light grain color which can more readily be stained to the desired color. That characteristic generally has more value in the United States. Prices paid for individual trees range all over the board, say \$25 to \$10,000.

**Roland Folsie made the presentation for thesecond part of the program.** He gave a general overview of the process of placing the veneer on the substrate for the type of work he does.

Use a veneer saw and cut the veneer using a cutting board. Clamp the board down and make sure your saw is sharp.

For book matched veneers, cut both pieces at the same time. Use a mirror to decide where to cut and use a cutting mat when using a knife.

Bring the veneer pieces together and tape the glue side with blue tape. Then tape the other side with veneer tape. Be sure to get the tape very tight and brush it down with a brass brush.

Now remove the blue tape, apply resin glue, and place the veneer on the substrate. Roland commonly uses MDF. Apply plastic tape to secure the edges. Complete the back side using a lesser quality veneer in most cases.

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## Upcoming May Meeting

The next meeting will follow our 5:30 pm dinner at MCL on **Tues. May 5th**. I do not know what the program will be since no one sent me info on that.

## Officer's Meeting

The Officer's meeting will be held at Gene Shutt's house on **Mon., May 11th at 7pm**. (I assume this because it is usually the Monday following the monthly meeting.) Any interested member may join them if they have something to bring up.

## Upcoming Meetings

Unfortunately no one has let me know about the topics of programs that may be planned or in the planning stages for the next few months.

## Open Shops

I do not know if a sign-up sheet was sent around or not and if anyone signed up. If you have an upcoming Open Shop from May on and want details listed in the newsletter, please let me know: who, where, what topic, date and time and anything else you think important.

May--?????

June--?????

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*The WOODSHOP ADVISOR is a monthly publication of the Capital Area Woodworkers Club. Its sole purpose is to keep members of the club aware of the club activities, special events and new developments in the field. The Advisor is the right of paid membership. Dues of the club are \$12/year if you receive the Advisor via e-mail and \$20/year for the Advisor sent by mail to your address. For more information contact one of the officers.*

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