



Cedar Valley Woodworkers

Cedar Valley Woodworkers Association

Volume 10, Issue 1

January 2009

Dovetail Express

Dovetail Express By Pat Vollbrecht



Jeanine Begalske

In addition to a new President We also have a guest columnist Eugene Wengert President, The Wood Doctor's RX, LLC

Professor Emeritus Univ. of Wisconsin

BIG TREES FROM LITTLE ACORNS GROW AND PRODUCE GREAT LUMBER

Of all the species in the Eastern hardwood forest, the oaks (*Quercus* species) are the most plentiful. In North America there are over 50 species of oak, with 20 of them being commercially important to the sawmilling and wood products industries. The high strength and beautiful grain have made oak one of the important species in the development of the U.S. during the past three centuries. Today, pallets are the largest use category for oak lumber; furniture is second; flooring and decking follow. Oak's distinct (heavy) grain, high strength, and ease of finishing are certainly several of the most important properties making it desirable and popular for furniture and cabinet use today.

(See Table One Page 4 for a list of Species)

IS ALL OAK THE SAME?

Although the botanist or tree identification specialist will easily separate the oaks into many different species based on leaf patterns, acorn characteristics, and bark appearance, when it comes to identifying and using the wood, we can make only four or five divisions. Oak logs and lumber are first divided into either red oak or white oak. (Special third case: Some oaks are called live oaks (*Quercus virginiana*) and are a separate group. Live oak grows on the east coast and is an "evergreen" keeping its leaves in the winter. Live oak is valued for its high strength wood which was widely used in ship building, especially by the early Spanish

settlers in the Southern U.S.)

White oak leaves lack the bristles or spines at the ends of the leaves, and the acorns are sweet (Try white oak acorn flour for making bread!), mature in one season, and germinate in the fall when they drop. The red oak leaves are pointed at the ends of the lobes, and have bitter acorns that mature in two years and germinate in the spring after dropping the previous fall. Once the oak log is sawn into lumber, it is impossible to identify the species of the tree from which the lumber is sawn—we just can determine red or white oak.

Then, with in these two groups, we separate the wood into upland or lowland. As a rule of thumb, lowland oaks have annual growth rings spaced over 1/4 inch apart; upland oaks have closer rings (slower growth). These four groupings, red upland, red lowland, white upland, and white lowland, will process differently; hence the usefulness of such separations. For example, lowland dries more slowly; in twenty days of air drying, upland oak lost 28% MC, while lowland oak lost only 15% MC.

WILL THERE BE OAK TOMORROW?

In recent years, over 5.6 billion board feet of oak sawtimber has been harvested annually and much of this has been converted to lumber. Yet we still have more oak timber, nearly 4 billion more board feet every year) every year in spite of this high harvest. The USDA Forest Service survey of the timber resource in the United States shows that when including only those trees on productive, forested land that has not been legally withdrawn from production, there is

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No For Sale items this month

The Oak Bulletin Board

The regular CVWA Meeting at the Waterloo Center for the Arts. 225 Commercial Street, Waterloo, IA. Tuesday January 13, 2009 @ 6:30.

The next Executive Board meeting will be Wednesday January 21, 2009 @ 7:00 the place yet to be determined

Scroll saw club meeting WILL BE JANUARY 22, 2009 in

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over 140 billion board feet of red oak sawtimber and almost 100 billion board feet of white oak sawtimber. (Sawtimber trees are those with one 16-foot log and a diameter at breast height of 11 inches or greater.) The oaks comprise 42 percent of our U. S. standing hardwood timber.

The states with the most oak sawtimber (both red and white) are Virginia, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia (listed in descending order).

Further, today's oak, which often comes from trees grown in wetter sites and from trees of the lesser desirable oak species. As a result, the oak is harder to dry and saw: the color is poorer, grain is more swirly and warp is more prevalent and checking more likely. (When a retired sawyer or kiln operator stops by a mill and shakes his head and says "We never had that much degrade when I was running things!", he is probably correct; but he didn't have today's wood quality either.) With this loss of quality, new modern techniques and better procedures are essential for efficient and economical drying of oak today.

TODAY'S OAK

The oaks, however, when compared to the other species

Art Mehman's shop @6:00

News Flash

Corridor Wood turners Meeting New Time and Place January 24, 2009 a Saturday @10 AM in the Acme Tools Building. Related story bottom of page 6

available in the United States, have to be one of the most difficult species to saw and dry without damage. The wood is dense and full of water. This tends to make the saw follow the grain rather than go the direction we want. The high density means that logs and lumber are extremely heavy, possibly tearing lightweight equipment apart. When in contact with iron, oak tends to develop a dark blue-black stain at the contact spot almost immediately. In drying, oaks are very prone to checking, cracking, and splitting unless drying is done carefully.

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SEPARATING RED AND WHITE OAK

The separation between red and white oak can be made

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by examining the length of the rays; rays are cells that appear as short darker lines running lengthwise on a flatsawn (that is, tangential to the rings) surface. The rays of red oak are seldom over one-half inch long, while the rays of white oak are usually one and one-half inch long or longer. Microscopically, when viewed on a cross-section, the cells (called vessels) in red oak are open; in white oak, the vessels are usually (except chestnut white oak) plugged. That is why we use white oak, but not red oak, for whiskey barrels!

When separation of red and white oak must be made without error, sodium nitrite (5% solution in tap water) can be used. The solution when put on oak lumber, wet or dry, cold or warm, will develop a very dark color in a short time with white oak, but will be light and will not darken with red oak.

BACTERIAL INFECTIONS IN OAK

One of the more recent discoveries about oak is the presence of bacteria in the living tree that can affect subsequent processing. These bacteria are anaerobic bacteria--that is, they grow in the absence of air (anaerobic = "no air"), so they will be more commonly found in wet sites rather than dry sites. Once in the tree, probably through a break in the roots caused by previous logging or grazing of cattle, the bacteria move slowly upward (perhaps only a couple of inches per year). It would be rare to find the bacteria more than 8-feet above the ground in the tree--in other words, the bacteria will be confined to the lower section of the butt log. Even then, the entire cross section will typically not be infected.

As the bacteria live and grow in the tree, they secrete enzymes that slowly destroy part of the wood, making the wood weaker. Weaker wood means that when the wind blows, these infected trees will be apt to develop wind shake (also called shake). This is how most sawmillers will identify this infection! Further, this weakened wood will be quite likely to develop checks, splits, and honeycomb during drying. When processing the wood after drying, machining and finishing problems are likely to occur, as well.

In addition, the bacteria create chemicals that have a characteristic unpleasant, rancid odor. This odor is most noticeable when the wood is green. Such an odor when sawing is a key to identification. However, if dry wood is subjected to humid conditions, then the odor can return.

Accompanying this odor is often a strong vinegary smell and vapors that sting one's eyes. It also seems apparent that these chemicals produced by the bacteria may interfere with finishing the wood product, especially when lacquer is used. In short, this wood is not good!

When bacterial infected logs are encountered, the best advice is sell the logs to someone else. If the logs are sawn, then avoid sawing 6/4 and thicker lumber drying the lumber. Also, avoid drying it due to the high degrade expected; rather, sell it green. If it must be dried, use the 8/4 schedule for 4/4 and 5/4 lumber; dry the wood as slowly as possible. However, when the infection is advanced, successful drying of the infected area in a piece of lumber is probably impossible in commercial drying equipment even under careful drying equipment operation.

PROCESSING SUGGESTIONS

Logs. Eliminate any logs that have obvious bacterial infections, as the lumber will not be very good. End coat the logs to prevent checking. Valuable, high grade logs should be sawn ASAP to avoid any losses during storage.

Sawing. There are very good markets for flatsawn, random width, middle and upper grade, red oak lumber throughout the U.S. On the other hand, quartersawn markets are limited. There are a few quartersawn white oak markets in some areas, however. But cutting quartersawn lumber drops yields 30% or more, and requires more time. Therefore, my suggestion is to flatsawn as much as possible. This means turning the log from face to face frequently and using 180 degree rotation from the first to second face, as discussed before in this magazine.

Don't overlook the fact that short red oak--4 to 8 feet long is commonly sold. In fact, 8- and 12-foot lengths are the most common in my experience.

Consider stainless steel for metal that will contact the log to keep the wood looking as bright as possible. Oxalic acid (quite safe; see a pharmacist for a supply) can be used to immediately remove iron stains if the wood contacts unprotected steel and stains.

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If lumber produced will be sold on the open market, consider the premium paid for upper grades of thicker red oak (plus higher yields). With butt logs that are over 16 inches in diameter, thicker lumber potential is good. Otherwise, plan to saw 4/4 and 5/4 thicknesses.

With white oak, often 4/4 is hard to sell. Thick white oak is nearly impossible to move at a profit. Also, consider that the core of oak logs often produces very low grade lumber; therefore, produce landscape timbers or other large sizes instead of sawing lumber. White oak is naturally decay resistant, so that is an added marketing feature.

Pallet manufacturers use a large amount of green oak. Often they prefer 4 and 6 inch widths. Although such lumber has very little profit potential for the sawmill, these markets do provide a rapid outlet for the low grade material. Drying or storing lower grades is not profitable

Drying. Often, the lumber is sorted into various thicknesses, grades, and lengths before drying. Oak should be stacked for drying promptly after sawing, especially in warm weather. Most people use 3/4 inch thick stickers and piles 5 to 6 feet wide. Drying must be carefully controlled, as if the wood is dried too fast, it will crack and check. Certainly, end coating the lumber is critical. Drying in an open shed is probably the best drying method. If air-dried, piles should be roofed to prevent wetting of the top layers. Plastic burlap mesh fabric can be used to slow drying when needed in the warmer months. Air drying much over 60 to 75 days increases the risk of drying damage due to rewetting; move lumber into the kiln promptly. One useful book is DRYING OAK LUMBER, available from the Forestry Department, University of Wisconsin, 1630 Linden Drive, Madison, WI 53706 for \$30. (WI residents add tax.)

Final moisture contents for oak are the same as for all hardwoods. In most cases, lumber must be 7.0% MC or drier.

Table 1. Lumber names, tree species, and botanical name for some common species of oak.

Lumber Name	Tree Name	Botanical Species
RED OAK		
Black oak		<i>Quercus velutina</i>
Blackjack oak		<i>Q. marilandica</i>
Cherrybark oak		<i>Q. falcata</i>
Laurel oak		<i>Q. laurifolia</i>
Northern pin oak		<i>Q. ellipsoidalis</i>
Northern red oak		<i>Q. rubra</i>
Nutgall oak		<i>Q. nuttallii</i>
Pin oak		<i>Q. palustris</i>
Scarlet oak		<i>Q. coccinea</i>
Shumard oak		<i>Q. shumardii</i>
Southern red oak		<i>Q. falcata</i>
Water oak		<i>Q. nigra</i>
Willow oak		<i>Q. phellos</i>
WHITE OAK		
Bur oak		<i>Q. macrocarpa</i>
Chestnut oak		<i>Q. prinus</i>
Chinkapin oak		<i>Q. muehlenbergii</i>
Overcup oak		<i>Q. lyrata</i>
Post oak		<i>Q. stellata</i>
Swamp chestnut oak		<i>Q. michauxii</i>
Swamp white oak		<i>Q. bicolor</i>
White oak		<i>Q. alba</i>

Cedar Valley Treasures Report

January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008

Beginning Balance	2227.66
Income-Dues	2518.00
Raffle	789.00
Dividend	4.80
Other	<u>186.00</u>
	3497.80
Expenses-Tools	1648.98
Office Supplies	188.67
Christmas 08	173.46
Postage	267.00
Ink	152.15
501.3C Application	300.00
Free Dues	25.00
Misc	179.22
Projector	500.00
Printing	96.80
Software to do newsletter	329.32
Web Site	120.00
Rent for Center for the Arts	308.00
Picnic	92.95
Liability Insurance	201.00
Plaque	<u>117.69</u>
	4700.24
Ending Balance	1025.22

CVWA Club Meeting Minutes

December 10, 2008

The Christmas Party was held at the Waterloo Art Center on December 10, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. Everyone came in a festive mood to enjoy great food, prizes and great woodworker friends. Tables were decorated with nativity scenes that the Scrollsaw Club had made. Many projects were brought in for the Show and Tell. Each person voted for the best in each of seven categories besides the Best of Show for 2008. The results of the voting were as follows: Turning- Kevin Bierman, Toys- Ozzie Osland, Scrollsaw & Fret work- Gordon Pint, Intarsia- Art Mehman, Furniture- John Mohlis, Miscellaneous- Bob Hewlitt. **Best Show of 2008** went to John Mohlis. Congrats to each of you. Your projects were fantastic!!!

Show and Tell projects:

John Mohlis- Ash display stand, Reed Craft- Pine clock

Duane Huisman- Oak table, Dick Buchanan- Camping storage box, Bob Hewlitt- Post Office Box banks, Tom James- 2 cabinets, Robert Gruver- Rocking Horse, Mel Jensen- Jewelry Case, Ossie Osland- Rocking Horse, Bob Andersen- Toy Crane, Gordon Pint- Fret work/ Lord's Prayer, Jeanine Begalske- Rocking Horse, Garylee Thurm- Checker Board/ Sleigh and Reindeer, Art Mehman- Intarsia plaque, Don Anderson- Turned segmented Vase/ Bowls, Kevin Bierman- Turned Bird Houses / Bowls, Chest

President Pat Vollbrecht shared that one of our own members, Russ Wolf, passed away in November. Russ was a member for several years.

A special welcome was to Mel Jensen and Mrs. Don Anderson. They became new members. The Salvation Army will be giving out toys December 15th-17th. Please consider volunteering to help give out the toys. We will be drawing for the free membership at our January 2009 meeting. If your dues for 2009 are paid by December 31, 2008, you are eligible for this drawing. Our January meeting will feature Dick Buchanan and Rex Pershing where they will demonstrate Router Turning. We were also reminded of the **Empty Bowl Fundraiser** coming up soon. The CVWA executive meeting will be December 17th at Pat Vollbrecht's home. The two volunteers for the executive meeting are Dave Turner and Bill Neal. Thanks for volunteering, guys..

There was recognition of all board members. President Pat Vollbrecht was presented with a plaque from Jeanine Begalske for serving as 2008 President.

Many prizes were given- approximately 45 tools, 5 poinsettias, 9 nativity scenes, and (3) \$25.00 cash prizes. Robert Jefferson won the grand prize of \$100.00 gift certificate to Hartville Tools.

Respectfully Submitted - Wanda Bailey, Secretary

CVWA Executive Meeting

December 17, 2008

The meeting was called to order by President Pat Vollbrecht at 7:00 p.m. December 17, 2008 with (12) twelve members present. Pat Vollbrecht, Gene Knief, Bob Andersen, Bob Glawe, Dennis Gilroy, Bob Hewlitt, Wanda Bailey, Paul Bailey, Bill Neal,

Reed Craft, Jeanine Begalske and Dave Turner.

Paul Bailey gave the treasurer's report. It was accepted and filed. Review of the Christmas Party was talked about. One suggestion was for the ladies to take covers off their food right after prayer. This way each person would know where their items are. Also, spoons need to be brought for each food dish. Bob Andersen and Bob Glawe agreed to change the ballot sheets for the voting of each category for next year.

Discussion on the monthly demonstrations for the year was discussed in length. **January 2009**- Router Turning w/ Dick Buchanan and Rex Pershing. **February 2009**- Turning Pepper Mills w/ Joe Lucinda (Wanda Bailey will bring her mini lathe). **March 2009**- Stain Glass w/ wood w/ Pat Vollbrecht. **April 2009**- Cabinetry (?) **May 2009**- Woodhaven (?)

Jeanine Begalske reminded us that the IRS 900 needs to be filed in January. Paul Bailey will send Jeanine Begalske a complete treasurer's report for 2008 for the yearly audit.

Gene Knief will take Martin Chin's place in calling members when adverse weather forces the wood meeting to be cancelled. Bill Neal shared ideas about the Swap Meet held earlier this fall. Some ideas were possibly having it the first weekend of October- have a card table set up with copies of the club's newsletters encouraging people to join that day, dues paid that day for new members would be good thru the next fiscal year---do a feature article for the newspaper.

Rex Pershing had been asked at a previous board meeting to research cameras for use during demonstrations. It was also suggested to try clip on lights put on tripods for better lighting for the person doing the demo. Pat Vollbrecht and Jeanine Begalske have tripods that can be used. Dennis Gilroy agreed to operate the camera. Bob Glawe will check on spotlights in the meeting room to see if they can be of use in better lighting. Jeanine will check with Dick Buchanan about purchasing his camera. Bill Neal will write the article for the newsletter for January 2009. Discussion of meeting places for the executive monthly meeting was talked about. Dave Turner will check at Hy-Vee stores, Gene Knief at Lowes. Bob Hewlitt, Dennis Gilroy, Bailey's and Pat Vollbrecht have also offered their homes. Newsletter deadline will be December 31, 2008.

Respectfully Submitted- Wanda Bailey, Secretary

Corridor Wood turners are reorganizing due to move to Acme Tools. Starting in February the meetings will be held the second Saturday each month.

The club also announces a guest demonstrator Lyle Jaminson will give a day long demonstration on turning. The demonstration is open to the first 50 people registering

Contact Kevin Bierman for more details 319-654-0795

Christmas Party Pictures



Best of Show



Additional Christmas party pictures



Salvation Army thank you letter

SHAW CLIFTON
General

MAJOR CHARLES SMITH
Divisional Commander



KENNETH BAILLIE
Territorial Commander

CAPTAIN ROBERT WHITNEY
CAPTAIN TAMMY WHITNEY
Corps Officers

The Salvation Army

89 Franklin • P.O. Box 867 / Waterloo, IA 50704
Telephone: (319) 235-9358 Fax: (319) 235-0310

December 12, 2008

*Cedar Valley Woodworkers Association
% Reed Craft
912 Colby
Waterloo, Iowa 50701*

Dear Members:

The Christmas season arrives each year with a great amount of anticipation. We see the look of hope and expectation in the eyes of every child. As the holiday decorations begin to appear, we see faces of children all around us begin to glow almost as brightly as a string of Christmas lights.

Because of your recent donation of hand crafted goods, we are able to help others during the holiday season, and through the coming year. Your concern will make a difference in the lives of weary, desperate folks...a father who cannot feed and shelter his family....a child who has no warm clothes to wear...a frail, elderly woman who is ill and alone.

On behalf of all those for whom your generosity has made a difference, please accept my sincere thanks. Because of your kindness the Christmas season can become a time of joy and hope to these struggling people.

Best Wishes & God Bless

CAPTAIN ROB WHITNEY
CORPS OFFICER

CAPTAIN TAMMY WHITNEY
CORPS OFFICER

INCOME TAX PURPOSES:

It should be understood by all concerned that nothing of value was received in return for the charitable donation other than our deepest gratitude.

Check# 9763 Amount: \$1,000.00 Date: December 2, 2008



List of Mentors for Club Members. I believe the mentor's time is free, but the person being mentored is expected to cover any material costs.

Canoe/Kayak construction, Chip Schmidt, 277-8504, cschmidt@cfu.net

Detailed Toys, Bob Anderson, 232-9813, wtoys@yahoo.com

Jack of all trades (enjoys a Challenge), Hank Morris, 235-0692, hankannam@aol.com

Has the Ability to figure MOST problems out—Dick Buchanan, 277-2477, rbuchanan@cfu.net

Intarsia, Pat Vollbrecht, 232-1923, patV35@mchsi.com

Fretwork, Garylee Thurm, 279-3219, flytying4u@hotmail.com

Cabinet making, Tom Bussey, 641-435-4354, tebussey@gmail.com

Wood carving, Sid Sidler, 233-1396, sidsstudio@aol.com

Furniture and cabinet building, Jerry Krug, 475-2391, jkrug@netins.net

Classes and Services for Pay by Fellow Club Members

Sharpening services by Glenn Johnson, 641-435-2511

Sharpening Services by Carl Leavell, 319-233-4491

Please remember to patronize our Sponsors!

** Member ID required for discounts



**Woodsmith
Store****

10320 Hickman
Road

Clive, IA 50235

515-254-9494 or

1-800-835-5084

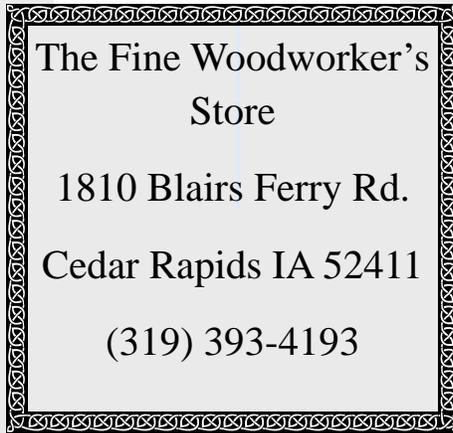


**501 West 1st

Avenue

Durant, Iowa 52747-

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10% Club Discount

www.hartvilletool.com

Contact Rick Ruport for details

Glenn's Sharpening
32446 Floyd Line St, Nashua
641-435-2511

Acme Tools
1943 Blairs Ferry Rd. Cedar Rapids

Sherwin Willams
5212 University Ave, Cedar Falls

Elected Committee Members

Officers and Committee Members

President

Jeanine Begalske

Appointed Committee Members

Committee Member

Robert Hewlitt

Vice President

Reed Craft

Committee Member

Dennis Gilroy

Secretary

Wanda Bailey

Club photographer

John Mason/Bob Glawe

Treasurer

Paul Bailey

Refreshment Chairman

Bob Anderson

Newsletter

Jim Wikle