



Cedar Valley Woodworkers

Cedar Valley Woodworkers Association

Volume 11, Issue 3

Woodcraft

Woodcraft By Craft

March 2010



Reed Craft
President

Black Walnut

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American Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra* L.) is probably the most famous and unique species of all our hardwoods. Large trees, defect free and exceptionally well-formed, were once common. Because of its rich, brown, lustrous heartwood with a grain pattern and intermediate pore size falling somewhere between the grainy hardwoods, such as oak and the uniform textured woods such as maple and yellow-poplar, the wood became prized for furniture, paneling, military and sporting gun stocks, novelties, and many other items. The wood was abundant and had a natural resistance to decay and insects. Therefore, it was also commonly used for construction purposes, such as barn timbers. Even as late as the 1960s the author witnessed the sale and use of walnut 1 x 12s for hayrack boards because it would not rot.

By the 1970s, the wood became relatively expensive, forcing the furniture and cabinet industry to promote other species. By the mid-1990s, the trend toward light colored hardwoods also lessened walnut's popularity. Today, it is preferred in office furniture, architectural millwork, flooring, high-end gun stocks, specialty, and custom items. Some suppliers feel that it is becoming somewhat more popular again. However, walnut lumber constitutes less than two percent of all hardwood lumber produced.

Black walnut ranges from the east coast to the great plains and from Texas and

Georgia north to central Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, and southern Ontario. Most of the best quality trees are found in the central states region from Ohio to Iowa. The largest tree reported is about 7.4 feet in diameter at 4½ feet above the ground.

This species prefers deep, rich, moist soils of alluvial origin. The best trees are frequently found on flood free ledges just above stream banks. The species will live on poorer soils, but growth is slow and the wood quality is generally poor. Many walnut plantations have failed to perform well due to the trees being planted on the wrong sites. The tree has also been widely planted in the northwest.

Chip Morrison
Walnut trees

Walnut is seldom found in pure stands. The best trees usually occur sporadically and in association with yellow-poplar, white ash, cherry, basswood, beech, and hickory.

Wood Color and Texture

Walnut is one of the few species classified as a semi-ring porous wood. The early wood pores are relatively large and gradually change to smaller pores. Thus, it shows some grain characteristics. It falls between the coarse grain and ring porous woods like oak and the diffuse porous woods like maple. The slower growth wood seems to be softer than wood from fast growth, open-grown trees.

The heartwood is typically a beautiful chocolate brown color, which is not duplicated by any other species. The color can vary from more of a red color to a very dark chocolate brown. The color can also vary in uniformity throughout the board.

(cont'd on page 2)

Inside This Issue

Presidents Article	1
The Oak Bulletin Board	2
Minutes Treasurers report	4
Mentors and Services	5
Sponsors	6
Officers and Committee Members	6

For Sale

None this Month The for sale column does work

The Oak Bulletin Board

The regular CVWA Meeting Will be held at the Waterloo Center for the Arts 225 Commercial at 6:30 March 9, 2010

The next Executive Board meeting will be Wednesday March 17, 2010, 7:00 PM at Hy-Vee Crossroads meeting room.

Scroll saw club meeting , March 25 , 6:00 PM at Art Mehman 's shop in Plainfield.

Corridor Wood turners meeting March 11, 2010 at John Shwartzkopf's Shop in the Cherry Building 329 10th Ave SE in Cedar Rapids.

Remember March's demonstration will be presented by Fishsticks.

The Amana Colonies furniture factory is having a Wood Fest in October 2010 more details will be provided when they become available. Even if you don't buy any thing it should be an interesting experience.

Club Library: Gene Knief has graciously donated space to start a library for woodworking books and DVDs

When first cut from the log, walnut lumber will have a mint green color which changes to a chocolate color as the surface of the board dries.

The amount of white sapwood in younger, fast-growth trees and open-grown trees such as yard trees can be substantial. The commercial industry steams walnut lumber while it is still green. This process darkens the sapwood to appear more like the heartwood, and at this point the sapwood is not considered a defect. The process also tends to make the heartwood more uniform in color and eliminates any purplish cast that can occur.

Some walnut has "flash" or "flare" in the grain pattern. Small quantities of this material generally are not preferred by stock furniture manufacturers or veneer producers as it does not mix well with the straight grained wood. However, highly figured lumber and veneer can be prized for custom type jobs. Large figured logs capable of paneling large rooms can be very valuable as veneer. Walnut also tends to produce a very beautiful pattern of irregular grain in crotches and around large limbs.

Workability

Walnut is rated as intermediate in planing, but it is a good wood for shaping and the best of any commercial hardwood species for turning and boring.

Strength

At 12 percent moisture content, walnut weighs about 38 pounds per cubic foot, making it an intermediate weight species. For its weight, it is a relatively strong wood.

Steam Bending

Walnut is rated as one of the better woods to bend.

Drying

Walnut dries relatively easily with a moderate kiln schedule.

Shrinkage

As an intermediate weight wood, the shrinkage of walnut is also intermediate.

Decay Resistance

The heartwood of walnut is rated as resistant to very resistant to decay. As a result, this beautiful wood has been used for more practical industrial applications, especially in the past.

Commercial Use, Grading, and Value

Because of the unique color, grain characteristics, and the ability to show luster when finished, walnut has been a prized wood for furniture, cabinets, millwork, flooring, and other decorative interior applications including novelties. In the past, straight grain material was used for military gun stocks. The wood, particularly if -figured, is still prized for sporting guns.

Mike Keper

. Walnut has a long standing reputation for being a valuable species. Currently, it is not our most valuable species. The very best grade of walnut is priced more than oak and about the same as white maple, but substantially less than cherry. Lower grade walnut is about comparable in price to red oak.

Buyers and sellers should be aware that the National Hardwood Lumber Grades for walnut and butternut are distinctly different than the standard grades that generally apply with slight modification to other species. Short lengths are accepted in the top grades of walnut; some short boards are graded by counting defects (called standard defects), rather than measuring clear cutting areas, minimum board widths for the top grade are narrower and the size of cuttings are smaller. As a result, any one grade in walnut will appear to be of lower quality when compared to lumber graded by the “standard rules”.

Because walnut was such a valuable and in-demand species for so long, it is probably the most studied and researched hardwood species in North America. Scores of articles have been published and genetically superior stock has been offered. Substantial efforts at planting walnut and caring for plantations have also been published. The Walnut Council is a landowner group specifically devoted to education about the species.

Elizabeth Jackson is the Executive Director for the Walnut Council. She can be reached at the Wright Forestry Center, 1011 N 725 W, West Lafayette, IN 47906, Phone (765) 583-3501, Fax (765) 583-3512, jackson@purdue.edu.

Range of the black walnut

Article used by permission

Editors Note:

I thought it appropriate to give other woods equal time as we have had several articles on Oak. Other woods will follow.

A large Burl found in California



CVWA Club Meeting-February 9, 2010
Canceled due to snow storm

CVWA- Executive meeting- February 17, 2010

President Reed Craft called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Crossroads Hy-Vee meeting room. Those in attendance were: Reed Craft, Gene Knief, Bob Anderson, Paul Bailey, Dave Turner, Jim Wikle and Wanda Bailey. The treasurer's report was given by Paul Bailey. It was accepted and filed. Membership dues were brought up. A reminder of dues will be on the agenda for the March business meeting. There was much discussion on the present meeting cancellation policy. After reviewing many possibilities, the board felt that we need to leave it as it stands. Our scheduled monthly demos will be pushed ahead a month. The March demo will be the company called Fishsticks. They will talk to us about the process of cutting down trees, and making logs into lumber. Dave Turner will bring up Shop Tours at the March meeting. If you would like to SHOWCASE YOUR SHOP, give Dave a call! Gene Knief is looking for WOOD RELATED DVD'S for donation to our club library. No magazines please! Dave Turner was approached with the idea for the Wood Club of making a new sitting bench for HyVee Crossroads. This idea will be brought before the club at the next meeting. President Reed Craft asked if the club had a yearly budget. Before the next business meeting, he will design one for the board to look at. Discussion on revising the current brochure was lengthy. Jim Wikle will revise and send each of the board members a copy of the draft before printing. Newsletter deadline is February 26, 2010.

Respectfully Submitted- Wanda Bailey /
secretary

Cedar Valley Woodworkers

Treasurers Report February 12, 2010

Beginning Balance:	1958.18
Income: Div	.15
Subtotal	1958.33
Expenses:	
#2388	
Dennis Gilroy-Christmas Party	77.09
Ending Balance	1881.24
Office Fund	1795.24
Tool Fund	86.00
Total	1881.24

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

Sharpening Stone sales Gary Lee Thurm 319-231-4577

SID Sidler will again be teaching a carving class at the Waterloo Center for the Arts. Classes start February, 23 2010 for six consecutive Tuesdays, cost is \$55.00 if you are an Art Center member or \$65.00 if you are not.

NEW PATTERN TEMPLATE LIBRARY

Your executive board has developed a new loaner program that might be of interest to each of you. Through the contribution of several different individuals the following full size templates are available for check-out by club members:

Nativity set:

Rocking horse:

Two different doll cradles

Should any of you have a pattern template set that your willing to share, call a board member!

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

Iowa Paint Mfg.**

528 West 5th. St.
Waterloo, IA 50701
319-234-1739



**501 West 1st Avenue
Durant, Iowa 52747-9729
800.344.6657

outside the US
563.785.0107

Glenn's Sharpening

32446 Floyd Line St,
Nashua
641-435-2511



10% Club Discount

www.hartvilletool.com

Contact Rick Ruport for
details

Sherwin Willams

5212 University Ave,
Cedar Falls

offers club members a
scheduled discount

Acme Tools

1943 Blairs Ferry Rd.
Cedar Rapids

Officers and Committee Members

Elected Committee Members

President Reed Craft

1st Vice President Gene Knief

2nd Vice President Rick Rupert

Secretary Wanda Bailey

Treasurer Paul Bailey

Appointed Committee Members

Committee Member Jeanine Begalske

Committee Member

Appointed Committee Members

Committee Member Dave Turner

Committee Member Robert Hewlitt

Committee Member Dennis Gilroy

Club photographer John Mason/Bob Glawe

Refreshment Chairman Bob Anderson

Newsletter Jim Wikle