



From The Shop



The newsletter of the Lehigh Valley Woodworker's Guild

Issue 03.2008

Next Meeting: March 18th, 2008 (3rd Tuesday!)

Location: Lehigh Co. Senior Center
1633 Elm Street
Allentown, PA

Speakers and topics:

- Dovetails with the PORTER CABLE OMNI JIG
- by Rob Taylor the Delta / Porter Cable Rep
- He will also be prepared for Delta, Porter Cable or DeWalt Q&A

Thanks to Ray Winkler for setting this up

February meeting Highlights

Report by Timothy Dugan, Forester for PA Dept of Conservation and Natural Resources and

Wood Processing / guess the species / Etc
Mike and Louise Peters



Tim Dugan addresses our guild at the February meeting.

OK – The newsletter said the topic was “wood processing”. So I look at that and say “wood processing”. “Deer Processing”. This is going to be a really great evening. Well it was. Mike and Louise made their portion interesting and, unbeknownst to me (maybe cause I was not at the steering committee meeting, which are getting difficult to make..), I did not know that they were good enough to invite Tim Dugan of the for PA Dept of Conservation and Natural Resources. He thought his presentation was going to be boring. The only thing boring was the damned

Emerald Ash Borer. More about this ugly critter. Looks like something from a horror flick. Tim also had his own laptop computer and projector – I was so happy about this I could hardly contain myself.



Louise Peters shows how Cherry and poplar can look pretty similar if you know the techniques.



Mike Peters in the ever popular game show “Guess the Species”! of PA hardwoods.

The DCNR is very active and Tim does a lot for both public and private land, with emphasis on teaching private forest owners how to preserve what they have and what nature has left us. Tim does a lot of work with

kids and, especially on Arbor Day, the state provides seedlings to schools and institutions and also sells them to groups who sponsors tree planting activities. Very nice. He also works a lot with organizations such as the Eagle Scouts.

Here is the mission statement:

"Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people."

The mission of the Bureau of Forestry is to ensure the long-term health, viability and productivity of the Commonwealth's forests and to conserve native wild plants.

The Bureau of Forestry will accomplish this mission by: Managing State Forests under sound ecosystem management, to retain their wild character and maintain biological diversity while providing pure water, opportunities for low density recreation, habitats for forest plants and animals, sustained yields of quality timber, and environmentally sound utilization of mineral resources.

Protecting forestlands, public and private, from damage and/or destruction by fires, insects, diseases and other agents.

Promoting forestry and the knowledge of forestry by advising and assisting other government agencies, communities, landowners, forest industry, and the general public in the wise stewardship and utilization of forest resources.

Protecting and managing native wild flora resources by determining status, classifying, and conserving native wild plants.

I must say as a personal observation that Tim's manner of presenting his subject shows that, at least in our area, we have a very knowledgeable and caring person who loves his job and feels his mission is important. He spoke with a depth of knowledge that we found impressive. He fielded questions and provided answers without needing to reference materials. It is heartwarming to see a young person in a field such as this. There may be hope for us yet,,,

The big topic is timber harvesting and management of the "stand". No, this is not where people sell lemonade –the stand of trees. Tim works with landowners to ensure that the trees are managed in a degree of separation that maximizes the growth and survival potential and also allow plant and animal elements to peacefully co exist. As example, some animals eat tree bark to the point where there is not enough outer layer

of the tree to support movement of nutrients and they die. So we find the critters, kill them, cook them and eat them. (kidding – we put them in cages and send them to Ohio.) Trees may need protection from some animals in this respect and also from well known and not so well known bugs and diseases.



If you look closely at this piece of wood, you will see a black streak on the bottom. Probably oak, and probably a nail in it, famous for staining many species, oak being one.

In addition, wild lands owned by private people are being used in some very inventive ways. There is a fellow who is growing ginseng, and Tim is assisting him with managing this effort in a responsible and profitable manner. Shitake mushrooms are another lucrative crop grown in wild lands that is typically not associated with Pennsylvania (although we do have the best conventional mushrooms here).

Forest Inventory and analysis figures advise that private forests account for greater than 50% of all PA forest land. Most of these parcels are less than 50 acres in size.

So – we are woodworkers – what kind of wood do we have here? Well, we have lots of red maple, black birch and black cherry. In our area, we have a lot of poplar. Ash and hickory are also making a comeback. OK, lots of folks would have guessed OAK and OAK, and there is plenty of that as well.

The biggest enemy of trees in general is the gypsy moth. Nearby Pike county has been particularly damaged. Someone brought up that you can wrap trees with insulation. That is true according to Tim! It does work. The only way to spray a tree for these is with an airplane, and only about 10% of the trees impacted can be realistically treated. Cool, wet springs are bad for the gypsy moth crop, and stifles their development. Defoliated trees do not generally recover well and the recovery odds decrease with a tree's age. If I can read my writing correctly, tulip poplar keeps gypsy moths away.

We had noted that ash is making a comeback. Well, hold on – the dreaded Emerald Ash Borer goes through ash faster than I can go through a bag of kettle cooked potato chips. Well, almost. These critters are native to Asia, new to the US, and have been spotted in western PA. The DCNR has quarantine programs in place to contain the spread of these things. Man, they are ugly.



Yeah – nice color, but head on lookout out of its D shaped bore hole, it looks like the critter that ate Dana Andrews in one of those 1950's science fiction movies.

The following was lifted from the DCNA web site:

The [emerald ash borer](#) was first identified in North America in southeastern Michigan in 2002. Larvae of the beetle feed in the tissues under the bark of ash trees (*Fraxinus* spp.) causing the girdling and death of branches and entire trees. Adults of the species are active from mid-May until September. Since its discovery in Michigan, the beetle has been detected in Ohio, Maryland, Virginia, Indiana, Illinois and neighboring areas in Canada. Over 20 million ash trees have been lost to this pest, which usually kills ash trees within three years of infestation. Symptoms of ash decline, which may be caused by emerald ash borer or other stressors, include upper crown dieback, yellow foliage or small branches that come directly out of the trunk. Signs of emerald ash borer include adult beetles or larvae, “D” shaped emergence hole, “S” shaped galleries under bark, woodpecker damage, and flat-headed beetle caterpillars or adults.

The DCNR Bureau of Forestry participates in a multi-agency task force assembled to detect and control this invasive threat to Pennsylvania ash trees. Other cooperating members of the task force include USDA/APHIS, USFS, PA Department of Agriculture, and Penn State Cooperative Extension.

Since 2003, the Bureau of Forestry has been surveying for the early detection of emerald ash borer on state-owned forestlands. Visual and Trap Tree Survey results were negative from 2003-2006. Currently, trap trees are the most effective means for detecting this pest. Trap trees are trees that have been intentionally wounded by girdling. Research has shown them to be attractive breeding sites for the emerald ash borer. The trees are taken down in fall, and the bark is removed to inspect for EAB larvae and adult emergence holes.

On June 21, 2007, emerald ash borer was detected for the first time in the state in Cranberry township, Butler County, PA by two USDA APHIS surveyors. They collected two adults using a sweep net while

conducting visual surveys that are part of the joint EAB taskforce detection effort. State and federal officials are currently working to intensify surveys near the detection site in order to determine the extent and severity of the infestation.

PA Department of Agriculture has imposed a quarantine in Butler, Allegheny, Beaver and Lawrence Counties to slow the spread of emerald ash borer. The quarantine is designed to help slow the spread of the beetle. Pennsylvania's quarantine restricts the movement of ash nursery stock, green lumber and any other ash material, including logs, stumps, roots and branches, and all wood chips from the quarantined area. Due to the difficulty in distinguishing between species of hardwood firewood, all hardwood firewood—including ash, oak, maple and hickory—are considered quarantined.

If you want to visit a great web site, here it is, and it is a very good one: <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/>

It takes a little navigation skill, but there is information on EVERYTHING you'd want to know about programs, plants, critters, parks, everything forest. PA did themselves proud on this web site. Thanks to Tim for this reference. He also had a limited supply of booklets and pamphlets on wood, parks, old growth forests – some great stuff.

Tim advised that if someone has questions he can be reached at tidugan@state.pa.us, or if you have a forestry related question, at 610-582-9660.



Mike and Louise Peters had quite a bit of wood, documentation, and also many many species of wood for a “guess the species” contest. During the contest, Mike took the time to speak extemporaneously about each one, characteristics you can use to identify the wood, characteristics on how they work, how they take finishes, how they weather, hardness and weight. Bottom line is that, while I could not possibly take notes on all the data he passed on, he passed on data in such a matter of fact and conversational manner, it

was hard to believe how much he knows about each of the PA species. Amazing. Louise also supported this presentation and seemed equally knowledgeable. Regular members, we are all familiar with their business, and what a great resource.

To summarize, wood is identified by grain, color, hardness, weight, bark, smell, and cell structure (OK, this is hard to see). Grain can look different depending on how a piece of wood is cut. Flat sawn wood, or wood cut parallel to the pith or core of the tree typically gives emphasis to the cathedral types of the wood. Quarter sawn, where the flat of the board is perpendicular to the pith of the tree, cuts across the grain and is a more expensive cut mainly because you get less of it. Quarter sawn lumber seems to be more stable. Flat sawn boards tend to cup to the outside of the tree,

Drying a board takes a great deal of weight and volume from a board. Mike gave some demonstrations on this and different species shrink at differing rates. Pretty impressive volume loss occurs in the drying process, and that trait is why woodworkers need to be careful in construction techniques to avoid disappointment of wood movement. Mike had a lot of great material that I do not have electronic copies of that showed examples of wood movement on things like corner joints. He also had impacts of relative humidity on wood moisture content that were pretty striking. As example, at 90% humidity, the wood equilibrium moisture content would be about 18%. At 50% humidity, it drops to about 10%. At 30% humidity, 5%. This translates to wood movement. Wood is generally dried to 6%, as that is typical of the rate it will be at in homes, but store that wood in your garage for a while and all bets are off.

I really wish I had a tape of the great presentation, because there was a lot of data passed on, far too much for me to write. However, Mike talked a great deal on wood moisture and how to be aware of the impacts and minimize the impact of moisture and moisture change on your work in progress.

Drag and Brag



Bill “wonderfulwood / 5 barns” Grumbine has a silver maple bowl on the left and an English White oak burl on the right. These had to be seen in person and the photo is useless in showing them but here it is anyway.



He’s at it again. Will Schmidt created some – vases! The one on the left was donated by Adolph Schneider. The one in the foreground came from an orchard so it some type of fruitwood. Adolph drilled the vase hole in the top for Will. The piece on the left is black locust root.



Will hold the last piece from above which was to be the read of the picture.



The vase in the foreground Will says is another mobius curve in that you can follow one line all around and never get to a stopping point. That one is thought to be cherry.



“De pens! De Pens!” or was it planes. Yes, Tatto, and these were made by John Uhler and Chris Hittiger. They did not say who made what.



And while you are at it, Russ, can you build me a radiator cover? SURE CAN!

Steering Committee Meeting Notes

I was not there. No notes this issue. I am sure they worked hard and all is well.

And the Woodcraft winner is...



Russ got a commission to build a replica of an 8' high mantle. The pieces go together vertically like the stack he has, and the cross piece he is holding. Close up you can see how much detail is in it.



Jim Patterson!



A closer look..

Wood Specials

SHADY LANE TREE FARM

Louise & Mike Peters
5220 Shimerville Road
Emmaus, PA
610 965-5612 Please call

FLEETWOOD LUMBER & FLOORING

BILL BURKERT
27 Rapp Rd.
Fleetwood, PA
610 944-8364 Please call
Member discount 5%

Bailey Wood Products, Inc.

441 Mountain Rd.
RD#2 Box 38
Kempton, PA
610 756-6827

Woodcraft

Pkwy Shopping Ctr.
1534 Lehigh St.
Allentown, Pa., 18103

Lake Powell
Adam Clayton Powell
Boog Powell
William Powell

Web Site Administrator :

Lou Supina

Lou Ferrigno

Lou Costello

Louie Prima

Treasurer:

Harold Andy Anderson

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2007- 2008 Meeting Calendar:

Month	Topic	Speaker
February 2008	Wood Processing	Mike Peters
March	Tentative – furniture construction	
April		
May	Tentative – Dust collection bags and canisters – Vendor	

NEXT MEETING – Tuesday, March 18th, Starting at 7:30, sharp. Allow time to arrive and be seated before start time.

Location: Lehigh Co. Senior Center

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