

# Knothole News

[www.greencountrywoodworkers.org](http://www.greencountrywoodworkers.org)



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings. So, here we are again, a new month and things are still not normal. I hope all are able to spend time in the shop.

More importantly on my mind these days is your safety while doing so. I personally have had a couple of incidents recently that reminded me how close we are to danger when working in the shop. It only takes an instant of inattention to cause an injury to ourselves or others. Even with those machines that we find to be on the safer end of the scale of the machines we use often, danger is present.

Usually being safe isn't a complicated matter; know the rules (how to use a tool, what are the dangers that the manufacturer warns of, what are standard safety rules that apply to your shop no matter what task you are performing) and take the time to think safety and practice it.

Fortunately, my failure to pay attention did not cause any serious harm. I wanted to quickly cut a round piece on the bandsaw and tried to do so without proper support (a matter of seconds to locate my 2x4 with the V trough) resulting in a broken blade and a good thump on the end of my finger and a messed-up piece of stock. Later, I had been cutting a number of small pieces and had not cleaned up the saw dust and cutoffs. Result of poor footing was a slightly turned ankle and a bruised arm from falling against the bandsaw. Traded a couple of minutes to be neater for a little pain. Not a good bargain, but fortunately I didn't pay a high price.

I recently saw a suggestion for a small box with magnets to attach to the side of the bandsaw table to push small cutoffs into; I might make one or two of those! So, please stay safe.

Bill Nay, President

### Officers

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Bill Nay 918-492-8481

**Vice-President**

Gregg Zumwalt 918-605-2761

**Secretary**

Bill Morgan 918-369-6435

**Treasurer**

Ray Hucek 918-618-2980

### Club Committees

**Continuing Board Member**

Harold Blalock

**Luncheon**

Bill Morgan 918-369-6435

**Membership Management**

Vacant

**Name Tags**

Ray Hucek 918-618-2980

**Newsletter**

Mike Ruttgen 620-717-4520

**Program Coordinator**

Vacant

**Toys / Show & Tell**

Betty Zumwalt 918-249-4663

**Toy Wheels & Axles**

Jim Rouse 918-636-9286

**Webmaster & Photographer**

Arthur Barber 918-671-2437

## Photos Submitted by Members

Pictures of my new wood shop; 24x26 feet. I live out-side of Ponca City and have fun making things for my family. (Ron Smith)



## Photos Submitted by Members (continued)

I have been purchasing reclaimed wood and creating coffee tables and end tables for family members. The wood is from the floorboard of old railroad boxcars. Generally oak and maple laminated side-by-side strips. The boards were usually 11-12" wide, and I would put two together to make 18-24" table tops, and length was to order.

I purchased the wood from "Timber and Beam." I ordered steel hairpin legs and "H" legs from "Etsy."

(Don Nelson)



## Photos Submitted by Member's (continued)

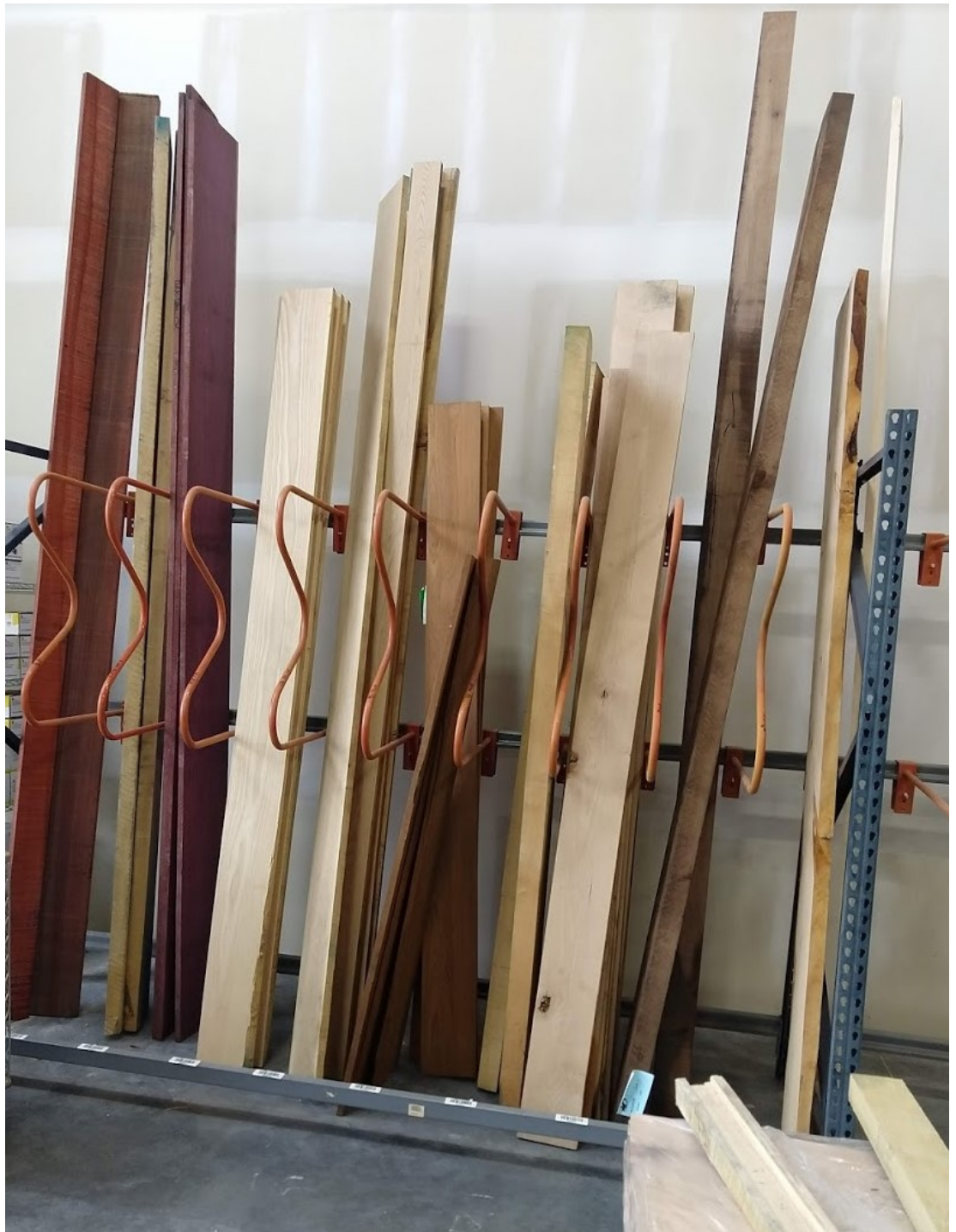
In mid September, I went back over to Dakota Hardwoods to check their inventory. They had more stock than my first trip, particularly sheet goods for their millwork and cabinetry customers. But they also had all of the domestic hardwoods and some of the imported hardwoods.

I would say their specialty is sheet goods; I've never seen a place with so much variety. They have high quality plywoods laminated with hardwoods (even 4' x 10' pieces for taller ceilings) and numerous thicknesses of Russian Baltic birch. (Read about why Baltic birch is a preferable plywood at the end of the newsletter.)

Mike Ruttgen

They are beginning to build-out their racks of hardwoods along their exterior walls.

Shown here are some thicker and longer pieces of purple heart, oak, padauk, walnut, maple, etc.



## Photos Submitted by Member's (continued)

A picture of the Dakota Hardwoods warehouse.



Roles of veneer. I believe these are oak, maple and walnut.



## Photos Submitted by Members (continued)

Sometimes I need to countersink just 2 or 3 screws. In lieu of going to the drill press, presetting the depth of cut, etc., I turn to my trusty hand chuck. Years ago I took a keyless chuck, mounted it to a piece of wood and wrapped the handle with multiple layers of black electrical tape. A few turns by hand and I have the perfect depth for my screws.

(Mike Ruttgen)



Did you know that you can wipe pencil lead off of wood with a spritz of isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol and a rag?

(Mike Ruttgen)



"Only those who have the patience to do simple things perfectly ever acquire the skill to do difficult things easily."

Friedrich von Schiller (1759-1805), dramatist, essayist and poet

## 7 Reasons Why Baltic Birch is a Preferable Plywood

<https://www.woodworkerssource.com/blog/woodworking-101/tips-tricks/your-ultimate-guide-to-baltic-birch-plywood-why-its-better-when-to-use-it/>

### 1. Superior Screw Holding

Because the core layers of Baltic birch are actually veneers of birch (rather than a softer, secondary wood) and form a void-free core, screws bite and hold with 100% of their threads. Conversely, traditional veneer core plywood has voids and is also made up of softer materials so screws don't get a chance to clench the best they can. You also might find sheet goods made with MDF (medium-density fiberboard) core, and though it's 100% solid, MDF is soft and just doesn't have the screw-holding power of Baltic birch.

### 2. Cleaner Joinery

Tipping the hat once again to the uniform birch veneer layers of the core, you'll get clean dadoes, rabbets, dovetails, miters, and fingers for strong and, when appropriate, great looking joints. Because the core is free of voids, your joinery also won't suffer from glue starvation—they'll get 100% glue coverage. Anything you build out of Baltic birch should last a good, long time.

### 3. Improved Strength and Stability

All plywood runs the risk of warping, and the most common type of warp in plywood is bowing. Baltic birch is not immune, it's still a wood product. However, Baltic birch has the odds stacked in its favor much better than other plywood, chiefly in 1/2" and 3/4" thickness. The cross-banded layers of 1.5 mm thick birch veneer makes the sheets balanced, which promises a flatter product. However the thinner sheets, like 1/8" and 1/4", simply will not remain flat in large pieces—and this is no surprise. That's usually not a problem though because these are usually used in applications like drawer bottoms and cabinet backs where they're cut down to smaller sizes or captured in dadoes and rabbets. It should be obvious that the thicker sheets are more stable because they have more plies. 3/4" Baltic birch in particular won't change much in width or length, that's why it's great for jigs and fixtures that need to maintain accuracy over the years.

### 4. Attractive Appearance

One of the fortunate benefits to Baltic birch, too, is that you can leave the edges exposed if you like the look. Because the core is free of voids and all birch, the exposed edges sometimes have an appearance that works for the project, and this saves you time and material—no need to spend time and effort on applying edge tape or solid edge banding unless you want to. Simply sand and finish the edges as they are. The face and back can be stained when you need a different color. Like solid birch lumber, for it to stain evenly with an oil based pigment stain you'll need to apply a stain controller or a wash coat of de-waxed shellac. Otherwise use dye for even color. To keep the uniform, light color instead, simply finish Baltic birch with a basic clear top coat of lacquer or polyurethane.

### 5. Thicker Face Veneer with Reasonable Quality

With close inspection of Baltic birch, you should notice that the face and back veneers are remarkably thicker than the veneers you'll see on traditional cabinet-grade plywood. Sadly, it's well-known that cabinet grade plywood veneer faces are dismally thin, which makes them easy to damage and easy to sand through. But not so with Baltic birch. Outer veneers are nice and thick. As for the appearance, there are several grades of Baltic birch available, but we most often carry the second highest grade which is BB/BB. BB/BB means both the face and the back veneers are single piece veneers with no

## 7 Reasons Why Baltic Birch is a Preferable Plywood (continued)

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splices. Both face and back veneers can have up to 6 small color-matched patches (egg sized footballs or another shape), some light mineral streaks or tight pin knots.

### 6. Accepts Paper Back Veneer for More Decorative Projects

If you like everything about Baltic birch except its outer birch appearance (or occasional “football” patches), no problem. You can face this plywood with any kind of beautiful wood veneer. Be sure to veneer both sides to maintain its stability.

### 7. It's Just the Thing for Laser Cutting and Engraving

It's one of the few types of wood that can come in large enough sheets and yet be consistently dense through its thickness to be cut with a laser. Anything from parts for architectural models to artwork to schmaltzy engraved knick-knacks.

The downside is that 1/8" and 1/4" thick Baltic birch can't stay perfectly flat. It does cup or warp. It's not because it's bad plywood but just an effect of the size. It's thin and wide. Not a good combo for getting wood to lay flat.

So what do you do? Make a frame or jig that presses it flat and fits your laser cutter. Sometimes all you need is to tape it down to a piece of MDF.

## ABOUT BALTIC BIRCH SIZES

Sheets are most often manufactured in 5'x5' sheets for the European cabinetry market—so the actual size is metric, 1525 mm x 1525 mm. In fine woodworking, it rarely matters because you're going to cut pieces to the sizes you need for much smaller items like jigs and furniture parts, custom sized cabinets, etc. The thickness is also in millimeters, but the U.S. market translates the thickness to the *nearest* Imperial value for simplicity. That means, for example, 3/4" Baltic birch is not precisely 3/4" thick, but slightly thinner at actually 18 mm thick. Be aware of this when planning and cutting your joinery—like in other aspects of woodworking, never assume a precise dimension without checking it first, and cut your joints for fit rather than size.

- 3 mm ≈ 1/8" (3 plies)
- 6 mm ≈ 1/4" (5 plies)
- 9 mm ≈ 3/8" (7 plies)
- 12 mm ≈ 1/2" (9 plies)
- 18 mm ≈ 3/4" (13 plies)



## GREEN COUNTRY WOOD- WORKERS

The Green Country Woodworkers are made up of men and women who are interested in woodworking as a hobby.

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The monthly meetings are conducted as educational forums for the benefit of our members and guests. We have idea exchanges, problem solving sessions, safety tips and tool tips plus a main speaker on topics related to woodworking in all its phases.

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The club sponsors community service projects such as making Toys for Tots at Christmas and supporting Beads of Courage by turning bowls and making boxes for children undergoing cancer treatment at Children Hospital at Saint Francis. The containers hold the children's beads. The beads represent their treatment progress.

## KNOTHOLE NEWS

c/o Mike Ruttgen  
rruttgen@att.net  
620.717.4520, no texts

## OBJECTIVES

- To provide the Knothole News, a monthly newsletter
- To promote woodworking and participate in woodworking and craft shows to inform the public of club activities
- To make wooden toys which are donated to selected organizations throughout the year
- Monthly Show & Tell; all items entered in the show and tell will be presented to the membership by the builder

Membership applications are available at each meeting from the club secretary or treasurer. At this time, no membership fee is charged.

## MEETINGS

The club meets on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30PM, typically at a designated member's shop. The upcoming location and topic are published in advance in the Knothole News.

We also have a monthly dinner/social on the 4th Thursday of the month at 6:00PM; the location is determined during the regular monthly meeting.

## WWW.GREENCOUNTRYWOODWORKERS.ORG

Please be sure to check out our new web site for more information about the organization, past Knothole News publications, pictures, resources, etc.

