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February 2025
Volume 43, Issue 2

TWA Newsletter

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 18, 7:00 pm

Location options:

(1) Klingspor's

(2) Zoom videoconference; use the information below to join.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85996893889?pwd=TZwMG1v5spx8cMRohkuPZfUtf3aoRg.1

Meeting ID: 859 9689 3889

Passcode: 040169

Topic: Beads of Courage

The February meeting will spotlight the Beads of Courage program. The boxes that have been built for this program will be donated to Duke Children's Hospital for kids to store the beads they accumulate as they go through medical treatments. We are honored to have a representative from Duke Children's Hospital present to discuss this impactful initiative. Additionally, we will be judging entries for our first annual box challenge, where TWA members have crafted boxes for the children at the hospital to store their cherished beads. Cash prizes will be awarded to the box challenge winners in the following categories:

- Best Design and Quality: Best use of Innovation in design and function and exemplary quality.
- Most Kid Friendly: Box is beautifully made and most likely to be adored by a child because of a unique design quality.

Join us to support your fellow club members who are participating in this meaningful challenge.

Host: Kerry Schoolfield

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TWA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING—JANUARY 21, 2025

(meeting minutes: James Sapp)

The January meeting was held at Klingspor's in Cary. Seventeen people attended at Klingspor's and fourteen on Zoom. Mike Shenhouse attended as a guest.

Roy Brookhart opened the meeting and there were a couple of brief announcements.

Kerry Schoolfield summarized the next two meetings, which will be held at Klingspor's. The February 18th meeting will feature the Beads of Courage box building challenge. A Duke Hospital representative will attend and share insights about the program. Kerry is looking for a member or two to do a "show and tell" presentation at the February meeting. Contact Kerry if you would like to do a presentation in February. The March meeting will feature Michelle Parsons, who will discuss Pyrography art (woodburning). Michelle is widely recognized in this field. In addition, she will be holding a pyrography class at Klingspor's on March 19th with TWA members getting first opportunity attend. The cost of the class is $105 for members. There are five seats remaining, so if you're interested, please contact Kerry.

The monthly raffle was won by Chris Gebhardt.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

North Carolina weather tried, but it failed, to disrupt our January meeting. We had a good turnout at Klingspor's store and we had one of our largest Zoom audiences. Jim Heavey did a great job at keeping information on finishes and finishing at an understandable, and useful, level. If you missed the program, the video recording is available in the members only section of our website.

I hope to see you all at the February meeting. This will be the first Beads of Courage program where we will see, and judge, the boxes many of you have made. Some of you will walk away with a bit of discretionary spending money! And, all the boxes will be on the way to Duke to brighten the days for a child battling cancer or some other serious illness.

Thanks for being a part of The Triangle Woodworkers Association.

Roy Brookhart

BIRDHOUSE COMPETITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Join the JC Raulston Arboretum's annual spring festival, Raulston Blooms!, featuring the 23rd Annual Birdhouse Competition.

- Open to all ages, with four categories: Functional, Flight of Fancy, Creativity for All, and Children (by age group).
- Drop off all entries on Friday, April 25th.
- Entries will be showcased Saturday, April 26th at Raulston Blooms!
- All participants will receive a Raulston Blooms! family ticket.

More details about the individual categories as well as the overall competition can be found here: *https://jcra.ncsu.edu/events/details.php?ID=3765*

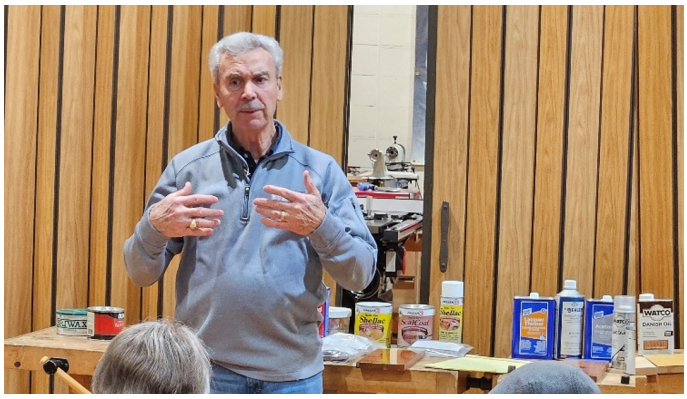
All TWA members and friends are encouraged to participate. Should you enter, your birdhouse would also be a great thing to show at one of our meeting show-and-tells.

The JC Raulston Arboretum Event Team can be contacted at: *jcra-events@ncsu.edu*

TWA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING—JANUARY 21, 2025
CHOOSING AND APPLYING THE RIGHT FINISH—JIM HEAVEY

(meeting minutes: James Sapp)

The featured presentation during January's meeting was given by Jim Heavey. Jim began his presentation with a review of the objectives for finishes on every project. The finish needs to control moisture absorption, to enhance the natural beauty of the wood and to provide needed protection for the project's purpose. With so many finishes to choose from, Jim outlined the options available. He reviewed waxes, oils, Shellac, Lacquer, and Polyurethane. Jim's presentation was video recorded and is available on the TWA website.



Jim Heavey discussed how to choose the right finish (photo: Roy Brookhart)

Waxes are easy to apply and repair but offer minimal moisture protection.

Oils bring out the character and depth of the wood. Danish oil is a mixture of mineral spirits, linseed oil and a resin. Oils offer a little more protection for moisture control than waxes but do not provide a lot of protection compared to other finishes. Oils require 24 hours or more to cure, depending on shop conditions. More protective finishes can be applied on top of the oil finish once the oil has cured. If the oil is the only finish, it's appearance can be enhanced by sanding to 320 grit. Other oil finishes include tung oil and teak oil. Teak oil offers some protection in outside applications.

Shellac finishes have a long history of use. Shellac is derived from deposits left by shellac beetles on tree branches and leaves found in India and surrounding Southeast Asian countries. These deposits are collected and refined to produce a hard material in the form of buttons or flakes. Further refining results in various color options, ranging from very dark to nearly clear blonde versions.

Shellac is dissolved in alcohol and forms a film as the alcohol evaporates. Each subsequent application dissolves into the previous coat, creating an increasingly thicker film. Ready-to-use shellac products, such as those by Zinsser, are available. Once mixed in solution, shellac has a shelf life of approximately three years. Shellac flakes have a much longer shelf life if the bag is sealed well, and storage in a freezer can extend this further.

Shellac is susceptible to damage from alcohol, such as alcoholic drinks spilled onto the shellac surface. However, it is easily repaired by applying additional coats, which dissolve into the existing film. Application methods include brushing, spraying, or rubbing. Brushing can be challenging due to the quick evaporation of alcohol, leaving limited time to even the coat. Shellac film is always glossy, but the gloss can be reduced by finishing with 400 to 600 grit sandpaper or #0000 steel wool.

Lacquer is Jim's go-to finish. Lacquers are an evaporative film finish that provide more protection than shellac and oils. It is susceptible to damage by materials that contain solvents, such as fingernail polish. It is difficult to apply by brush because the solvent evaporates quickly. The best way to apply lacquer is by spraying. Like shellac, subsequent applications of lacquer dissolve into previous coats. It is important to pay attention to humidity, as warm, humid conditions can cause water vapor to get trapped under the lacquer film, resulting in a whitish appearance known as blush. Additives called extenders lower the evaporation rate and allow the water vapor to escape before the finish hardens.

Polyurethane is a highly protective finish. It comes in both oil-based and water-based formulations. Polyurethane finishes are reactive film coatings, forming a new layer with each application rather than dissolving into prior coats. When applying additional coats, the existing layer must be sanded for proper adhesion.

Oil-based polyurethane consists of polyurethane resin in mineral spirits and other additives to enhance its properties. The resulting film is hard, making it suitable for wood flooring. Oil-based polyurethane imparts a yellow tint that is advantageous for darker woods but less so for lighter woods like maple or holly. Brushing is an effective application method, while wipe-on products, which are thinned with mineral spirits, dry faster but require more coats.

Water-based polyurethane provides a clear coating that cures rapidly. More coats are necessary to achieve the same level of protection as oil-based versions. Water-based polyurethane can be applied by spray or brushing.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date and Time: March 18, 7:00pm (meeting) and March 19, 9:30am—4:30pm (class)

Topic: Intro to Woodburning

Speaker: Michele Parsons

Location: Klingspor's

Meeting—Open for all Members

On March 18, during our regular club meeting, we're thrilled to host Michelle Parsons, who will introduce us to the art of wood burning through an engaging demonstration. Michelle is highly esteemed in this field and will share her expertise with us. Michelle is a professional pyrography artist and author of several books about pyrography.

Class—Pre-registration Required

For those interested in a more in-depth experience, Michelle will conduct an all-day "Intro to Burning" class on March 19. The class fee is $105, and it's designed for students that have never touched a woodburner as well as students that have experience and wish to improve their skills. Basic information about woodburning will be covered. Students will have the opportunity to first practice techniques and then to burn their first pyrography project. If you're interested in signing up, please contact Kerry soon (*KerrySchoolfield@gmail.com*), as space is limited.

Host: Kerry Schoolfield

ASHCROFT SAWS AND TOOLS—CELEBRATION

One of our sponsors, Ashcroft Saws and Tools, is having a grand opening celebration at their new location on 12225 Capital Blvd, Wake Forest on March 21-22, 2025. They offer excellent sharpening services for saws, drill and router bits. The celebration will include daily grilling events and raffles with fabulous prizes, including grills. More details will follow next month but please save the date.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Please send newsletter content for future newsletters to Karin Pihel (karin.pihel@ gmail.com).

Contributions for each newsletter are due by the last day of the previous month.

TREASURER'S REPORT (DECEMBER)

Beginning Balance:	$16,310.52
Income:	$1,568.00
Expense:	$181.31
Ending Balance:	$17,697.21

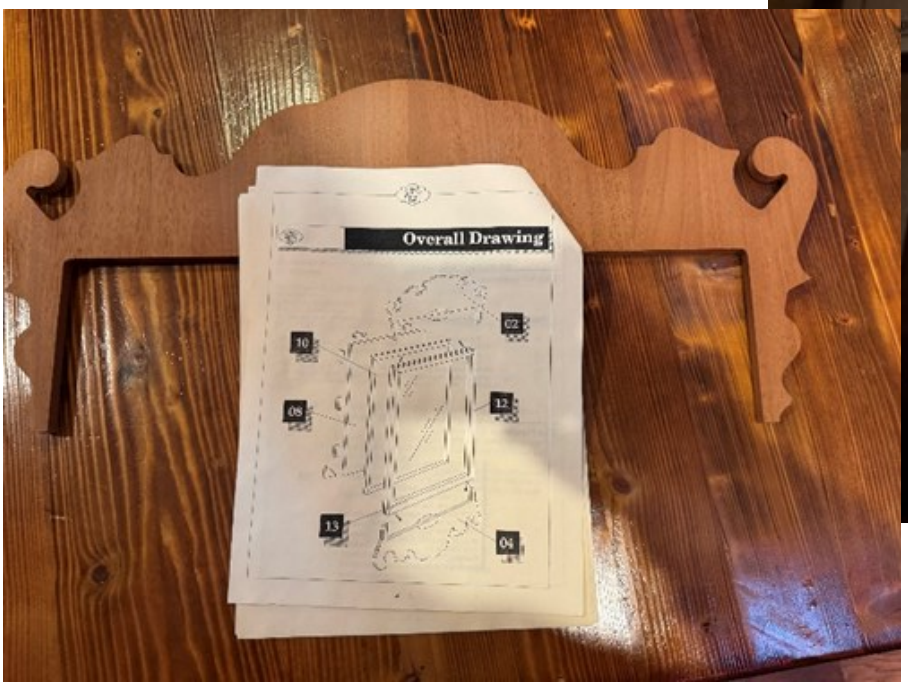
Does not include Petty Cash of $86.00.

Submitted by Jack Kite, Treasurer

UPCOMING AUCTION ITEM

Judy Sanwald has a project kit that she wishes someone to have that would appreciate it. The kit will be auctioned at a future meeting. The proceeds will be placed in the Toys for Tots bucket.

George Mills shared a few pictures of it. The kit creates a mirror frame, mirror included, made of cherry. Judy has had this kit since 1991 and it's still in its original two boxes.



BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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