

# The Scrap Pile

*Monthly Newsletter for Woodworkers*

*from Charles Neil Woodworking*

**Issue #1**

**March 2016**

Hey Everyone! It's great to be back in action with our new and improved newsletter, *The Scrap Pile!*

You will find a lot of different information in our newsletter each month. Articles pertaining to woodworking, furniture making, finishing, tools and a little bit about what's happening at our workshop in the Shenandoah Valley. We will also share things that we think might be interesting to our readers whether directly related to woodworking or not. We hope you enjoy our new format which you are now able to download, save and print. We look forward to bringing you a great newsletter the first week of each month.

## *A Word from Charles*

The past year hasn't been the best for my health, getting older ain't fun at all. About the time I got my shoulders working again, I was diagnosed with AFIB and have been dealing with that since last year. I have had some treatment (including being shocked) and on medication that seems to improve that condition, I finally feel like I have enough energy to get busy again! But, ya'll know that things seem to come in threes. When I was travelling in January, I developed plantar fasciitis, now working on that issue but continuing to work through that too! Business continues to thrive so I have to get back to 100% soon.

We have a group coming in the end of the month for a class where we will be making a Bombe Short Chest. Looking forward to meeting some woodworkers for the first time and welcoming others back to my shop. Catcha Later!



## Making a Lumber Purchase

At the end of the month, I have some woodworkers arriving and we are going to build a Bombe Short Chest. Had to get the wood in house but the wood required for a piece like this isn't usually found at most mills, you have to go to a specialty mill. For this piece, I went with [Irion Lumber](#) located in Wellsboro, PA, about a 6-hour drive from here. Well, not up to making that trip pulling a trailer behind my Explorer so I relied on Myron at Irion to do me right, and as always, he did.

Let's talk a minute about making a lumber purchase by phone, here are some things to keep in mind.

- Find a reputable Mill, with the internet in our life, you can usually find a review about any company, even lumber mills.
- Give them a call and talk to them, make sure you feel comfortable that they are willing to get you what you need and not what they want to sell to the guy that's not on sight. There is certainly a trust factor here.
- Make a list of the pieces you need, my rule is to always buy more, never know what you may have come up while you are working.
- Don't forget to ask the price! You can figure on another .75 to 1.00 per board foot of lumber for shipping.
- Make sure that you know what their policy is if you receive the wood and are not satisfied.

In this case, I emailed Myron photos of the chest we are going to make and then talking with him

on the phone, I detailed the thickness and dimensions of the rough stock I required.

Now you have to have patience. I gave him a few days to check his inventory and we finally arrived with a list of stock he would be sending me to fulfill my needs.

The lumber was shipped via freight, all 1700 pounds of it and it arrived a few days after the order was confirmed.



I am very pleased with the purchase, all of my needs have been met. One of the requirements I had (we're making 4 of these chests) is that the sides be one board. They were able to fulfill this need. This board is 12/4 and 26" wide. I don't think you can see it in the photo but there is a check in the board for which they drew a line across and marked no charge.●



**26" wide 12/4 Mahogany board.**

## NEW 'APPRECIATION' DRAWING

Each month we will randomly draw three names from our newsletter subscribers and send them a great woodworking item, compliments of [Woodcraft](#) and Charles Neil Woodworking.

This month's winners are:

**Jim K of Goleta, CA**

**John M of Coralville, IA**

**Pascal C of Cataula, GA**

Each winner will receive the following gifts:

Jim, you will receive a [WoodRiver 100-Piece Combo Brad Point and Twist Drill Bit Box!](#)



John, for you, we have a [Bostik Woodworking Shop Kit!](#)



Our third winner, Pascal, we will be sending you a [Set of 3 Plug Cutters.](#)

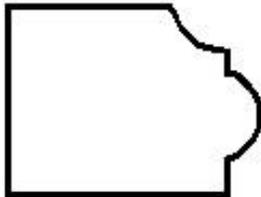


# WOODCRAFT®

## Charles Neil Custom Profile Bit

In February of 2010, we introduced the [Charles Neil Signature Custom Molding Bit](#). These bits are manufactured by Whiteside Machine Co. exclusively for us and therefore require a major initial purchase to keep the cost reasonable. We plan to make a purchase on March 10th. These purchases are few and far between due to the minimum quantity required to have them made. As we did with the initial purchase, to offset the investment we make, we pre-sell them to our woodworkers at a discounted price.

These router bits are high quality and are shipped with a DVD that shows you how to set up and use in various ways. It is a multi-use bit and we use it in our shop all of the time.



The profile is on the left, The bit is  $\frac{1}{2}$  Shank with a 1-3/4 cut diameter and has a 5/8" bearing guide.

It is a signature bit and is only available from Charles Neil Woodworking.



So, this weekend, through Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, you can pre-order this bit. The lead time for manufacturing is 12 weeks, so the bits will not be available to ship until the first week of June. If they arrive earlier, we will ship them earlier. We will be placing the order on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

By pre-ordering, not only are you assured you will get the bits that you want now and for future use, but you will save considerably on the price of this router bit. The retail price is \$84.00 but during this pre-sale, you can purchase any quantity at the special price of \$71.40. There is no limit to the number you may purchase at this price so you may want to get an extra. As we said earlier, they are not always available.

Check out the video Charles made about this bit in 2010.



**[Place Your Order Now!](#)**

**\$71.40/each**

# January Travels

Well, we travelled a lot in January and at no time were we all gone at the same time. Crystal (camera girl) and her family spent the week between Christmas and New Years at Walt Disney World in Orlando. It was a great vacation and getaway. She wasn't back but a week or so and she and I took off South. We visited Pittsboro, North Carolina, Myrtle Beach and Charleston, South Carolina. A week later, Sherri had to travel to her hometown, Evansville, Indiana to be with her sister. One of the reasons we were kind of off the radar for a bit but we are getting caught up and back to our usual routines now.



On Wednesday morning, we travelled on to Charleston and met up with Mary May to pick up the Rice Bed she had carved for one of my clients. We'll write more about this next time.

Even though it was a whirlwind trip, we did take time to visit a couple of Southern Plantations. We had a great trip and a great time making memories.

You'll find a couple of videos that we think you might find interesting, just click on the photo to view. Both are webisodes from our Mastering Woodworking weekly show, the first is our visit with Roy Underhill and the second is our visit with Mary.



Crystal and I had a great time on our trip south. We left early on a Tuesday morning heading to Pittsboro where we met up with Roy Underhill and filmed a bit with him. It was the first time I had met Roy in person but we had a great time together.



After lunch we continued our trip to Myrtle Beach where we had dinner with a high school classmate



of mine who I had not seen since then but had recently connected with on facebook.

## Class Schedule for 2016

We have been in much discussion about our class schedule for 2016. Hoped to get it set before our newsletter went out but that didn't happen but we still want to mention it so that you have a heads up. We have not set dates yet for our In-House classes, however, we do have one Remote scheduled:

### Keeping Chest Project – Allentown, PA



We will be conducting a class at the Woodcraft Store in Allentown, PA on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

These dates were just confirmed so we will send out more information as it is available.

### Finishing A to Z

We will be offering a class in the Spring and the Fall, several emails have already been received stating an interest in attending so as always, we do expect these classes to fill quickly.

The emphasis of this class is to have you understand various finishes and application techniques. The dominant focus is water base finishes and learning to spray correctly, how to adjust and set up your spray guns and prep. This class gets you finishing and knowing what you are doing and why. We also introduce coloring, toning and what to do when things go wrong.

## Sand Shading



This is the first time we have offered this class but are excited about it. We will teach you how to do a sand shaded

shell inlay. Our project will be a simple serving tray, but it will be gorgeous and you will have a great time learning this marquetry technique. Lots of hands on in this one!



### Cabriole Tea Table

We're going to make a lovely cabriole tea table; similar to the antique one you see in the photo below. Cabriole legs, nice scroll and applied edge to the table top.



**Stay Tuned for the Schedule Release! Have an idea for a class? We're all ears, email us.**

## Retail Possible for Pre-Color Conditioner?

Seems like a day doesn't go by that we don't get a phone call or email from someone asking if they can purchase our Pre-Color Conditioner at a local store. Well, for the most part, the answer is always no. There are a few Woodcraft stores who currently stock the product as a convenience to their customers.

Up to this point, we have not pursued the retail market for numerous reasons, but we are now going to do so.... but for this endeavor to be successful, we would need your assistance.

### How can you help?

Talk to the manager and employees at your local Woodcraft or other Hardware Store and ask them to carry the product. Many stores do not pursue new products unless they are certain their customers will purchase them. We have just finalized a merchandise information packet that will be mailed to all Woodcraft stores in the coming weeks and will be available to other retailers who are interested upon request.

Here is the information they will need to send an inquiry.

Charles Neil Woodworking

Email: [sherri.cnw@msn.com](mailto:sherri.cnw@msn.com)

Telephone: 540-908-3208

We will get the information to them and will keep you informed as new retail outlets become available. As always, we appreciate your assistance in spreading the word about our products and services. If it wasn't for your support, we couldn't do what we do.

For those of you who may not be familiar with this product, we began producing it in 2010 and have sold over 12,000 quarts to date. Great product! You can [read more at our store](#).

You can also google the product and read some independent reviews!!!!

