

SOUTH BAY WOODWORKERS' NEWS

Volume 31, Issue 4

Apr 27, 2021

President's Column

By Jay Perrine



Virtual for how much longer?

As I write this monthly note, California is opening up vaccinations for Covid-19 to everyone over age 16, potentially including Mateo, our youngest member. Governor Newsom has indicated, with some IF's, that about June 15th most restrictions could be lifted statewide.

My best reading is that everything involving indoor gatherings will not be totally and fully open on June 15th. Schools and churches for sure are not reopening like in the past - schools for example might limit classroom size to 15 students. There are issues about our club gathering again in person.

First issue is what are our host church's rules for gathering in person. The Saratoga Federated Church is our hosting facility and we do not want to in any way violate their internal rules. I have no idea if there was any seating capacity set up for that former post office that we use for our in person

meetings. My suspicion would be more like the school classroom where a rule-like a maximum of 15 students with a teacher or 16 people total as a rough starting point - if so, we often had greater than 16 present so a hybrid would be needed.

Second, and the important issue to be discussed by the club, is what are the members of SBWW comfortable with once things start to open up? I ask because the facts are messy for us. Gathering inside with a conventional hot air system that just moves air around us - essentially we are trapped with each others' breath for like two hours - is nearly the worse setting for spreading the virus. Of course, we can wear masks. Next the age profile for our group is such that anyone not vaccinated has a pretty high death rate if they get a severe case - again a reason for caution. On the good side we are doing great with Zoom and meeting virtually and Show-N-Tell in particular goes very nicely online - especially if there are some good photos of the woodworking project and process.

So, what is the group consensus? I would suggest that even if there is a slight chance we could meet in June that we think in terms of July or later as the soonest reasonable date to shoot for. Do we want to decide on no in person meetings for the duration of 2021? And, possibly the consensus might be to limit

the in person count of members present and 'broadcast' the meeting on Zoom for the older, unvaccinated, and those just not trusting an indoor gathering with antiquated ventilation. We can discuss how to implement churches requirements.

I will try to bring this up at our April meeting and perhaps ask for at least a straw vote by May and see where this goes. Meanwhile perhaps Chuck will have a discussion with the church to see what they are planning - guessing they are still in a wait and see mode. Okay give it some thought - this is a very serious topic...and we have two medical professionals in our group that might weigh in. What are you comfortable with?

Jay

2021 Dues

2021 dues are due. Send your checks payable to "Southbay Woodworkers" to Syd Dunton, our treasurer. His address is on the roster, available on the web site, member's section.

Show & Tell Note:

If you have a Show & Tell for zoom meetings, please forwarded the photos to me, takenyon1@gmail.com prior to the meeting. I will prepare a slide show. Thank You – Tom Kenyon

Newsletter Attachment

An informative article on Powder Post Beetle is included at the end of the newsletter.

2021 Program Responsibilities

The Program Responsibility table was being updated at the time this newsletter was being distributed.

April's Zoom Program

Bill Henzel will present "The importance and fun using hand tools in the shop."

March's Program



Chuck Aring Described his making of an "attractive Cutting Board" as he calls it for friends of his. It measures 16 by 26 inches and is made from walnut, holly, cocobolo, maple, elm, and Brazilian cherry. He found an article on cutting boards on the internet presented by Drew Fisher and he also found a Fine Woodworking magazine article by Scott Lewis. Chuck doesn't like geometric designs and therefore settled on the design shown.

To assure that adjoining pieces match, they are stacked one on top of the other and run through the band saw. He tried using a 3/8 inch blade on his bandsaw, but found that it tended to bend in the cut and used a 3/4 inch bandsaw blade instead. It's common to use double-faced

tape to secure pieces temporally for cutting, but Chuck has found that at times the two pieces slip. So he has devised an alternative method. He places tape on one of the pieces and drops three small spots of super glue on the tape, presses the two members together, then allows the glue to dry. After the cut is made, it's easy to separate the pieces by peeling the tape off of the one piece allowing the separation.

Chuck uses a jig on the table saw to cut his narrow strips. It's a board that fits between the fence and the saw blade with an adjustable stop at the back end. The wood being cut is placed against the stop and multiple pieces can be cut to the same thickness.

A small router was used with a modified base to clean up most of the dried glue then a belt sander was used for cleaning up the remainder of the glue. He used chalk to mark the spots where more attention was needed to clean up small rough spots identified by him running his fingers over the whole surface. A round nosed router bit is used to create the channel that runs around the outside edge of the board. Before applying the finish, he repairs any defects with a slurry consisting of epoxy and sawdust that matches the wood being repaired and is applied with a toothpick.

Chuck applied three coats of a three-part finish consisting of 1/3 satin polyurethane, 1/3 paint thinner, and 1/3 boiled linseed oil. He then applied three coats of beeswax and mineral oil. The beeswax mixture was made by placing mineral oil in a clean tin can in a double boiler of hot water then putting small chunks of beeswax in the heated oil. After the mixture cooled, it solidified and became opaque.

Show and Tell



Syd Dunton continues his sculpturing by creating a new one called "cubed". The base is 12 inches square and the piece stands 46 inches tall. It's made of MDF and is finished with acrylic paint.



Bill's stepson constructed a six-foot long computer desk from solid cherry as his first project. He used frame and panel construction and added a shelf under the desk top for added storage. Plastic channel is placed on the back for encasing electronic cables.

Bill Henzel replaced his Fein vacuum with a Festool vacuum coupled to a Oneida Dust Deputy. He then bought a hose reel from Rockler that stores a 40 foot length of 2 1/2 inch hose to complete the assembly. Bill made a portable plywood caddy to hold the assembly with the idea that additional tools could be stored on the back of the tall side.



popsicle sticks. The students were encouraged to check out the you-tube website for ideas for other projects.



Tom Kenyon showed us a segmented bowl that was inspired by Malcolm Douglas. It measures about eight inches in diameter by three and three quarter inches tall. It's made from wenge and maple. He used a water-based lacquer that's called "Series 7000" that he got from the Target Coating Company.

Tracy Johnson showed us a couple of projects that she and her middle school students are working on from home. The projects are made from popsicle sticks. The first one she described is a park bench with the back slightly leaning back and the seat formed in a slight curve. Some of the components needed to be cut accurately to properly assemble the bench. The second project she displayed was a picnic bench again made from



One of the problems for cutting small pieces for segmented bowls is that occasionally the cut-off piece falls into the blade and the piece gets thrown across the shop. Tom showed us a clever device that moves the cut-off piece away from the blade as it is released from the stock. There is a spring-loaded arm that lies along the side of the blade opposite to where the sled is located. Just as the blade finishes the cut, the sled triggers the arm that pushes the segment away from the blade.

2021 Program Responsibilities

All meetings will be conducted on zoom till further notice.
Program responsibilities are being resolved.

2021 Officers	
President	Jay Perrine perrinedazign@gmail.com
Vice-President	Richard Winslow Yukon106@comcast.net
Secretary	Ron Gerard Jst4rig@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Syd Dunton syd@tridentdesigns.com
Newsletter Editor	Tom Kenyon takenyon1@gmail.com
Photographer	Richard Winslow Yukon106@comcast.net
Librarian	Dennis Yamamoto dennismnyamamoto@yahoo.com
Web Master	Tom Kenyon takenyon1@gmail.com

Powderpost beetle problem

Summary of the pest, the problems it causes, and controls.

My incoming email box, this last month, is full of questions about the powderpost beetle and its holes in kiln dried wood, and bamboo, too. So, let's put everything we know about this pest in one place.

Name of insect

There is only one insect, other than the termite, that is able to survive in kiln-dried, low moisture content (7 percent MC) hardwoods: the lyctid powderpost beetle. There are other PPBs, but the lyctid is the only one in dry hardwoods, so always include this "lyctid" name in your discussions.

Identification

This insect, after living on the wood for a year or so, matures into a flying insect at the end of its life cycle. It burrows a hole about 1/32 to 1/16 inch in diameter, moves to the outside and then looks for a mate to breed. The dust (technical name is frass) pushed out of this exit hole is extremely fine. So, if we see these small holes and frass appears that wasn't there yesterday, we can be quite sure that we have living lyctid PPB.

It is rare to find the insect as it does not like light, but if you find one, one characteristic is that it has two "antenna" that look like there are miniature clubs on the end. The insect itself is quite small (1/16 to 3/16 inches long)

and is not a good flier (compared to mosquitos).

Life cycle

Once the male and female mate, outside of the wood, probably in wood dust or other debris on the floor, the female looks for small holes or devices in the wood (this means red oak and ash are ideal with their open pores) to lay her 10 to 50 eggs. She has a special, long tube that extends from the rear of her body into the holes or nooks and crannies that she finds, so the eggs are well protected just under the surface. Really smooth wood with fine pores (e.g., soft maple) or wood with a finish on it does not have the nooks she needs.

In about 10 days (times vary with the temperature mainly; they are active between 60 F to 105 F, with 90 F being best), the eggs hatch and a little 1/4 inch long, cream-colored worm, called a larva, appears. The larva then eats

small tunnels in the wood for food; preferred moisture is 7 to 15 percent MC. After maybe 10 to 36 months (12 months seems common) of making these small tunnels, the larva pupates (turns into a pupa, which looks more like an insect than a worm) and burrows to the surface, probably not eating the wood anymore, where it emerges as a full grown insect. At this point, breeding is the insect's goal, followed by death.

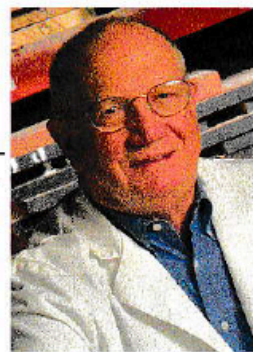
Control

Once you see the exit holes, it is likely too late to control the initial infestation. Further, although the holes indicate the insect has left the wood, there are likely other larva and pupa in the wood that are not yet burrowing to the surface.

Hence, using an insecticide spray or powder will not stop those still deep inside the wood. An insecticide might control future infestations, but then

+ Want more? To search a full list of Wood Doctor's Rx question and answers, go to woodworkingnetwork.com/genewengert

Gene Wengert, "The Wood Doctor," has been training people in efficient use of wood for 35 years. He is extension specialist emeritus at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



only if it gets into the holes where the eggs are laid.

Fumigating the wood with a very powerful gas is possible, but is expensive and cannot be done safely without fancy equipment.

So, the only practical control is to kill the insects, eggs, larvae and pupae with heat. Research from years ago showed that 133 F throughout a piece of wood was adequate. However, it seems that the USDA is now requiring 160 F throughout the wood imported into the U.S.

The air temperature must be 20 F hotter than 130 F or 160 F, whichever standard you are targeting, in order to achieve the target temperature in a reasonable length of time. The time at the required temperature varies, with some rules indicating 10 minutes and some indicating 75 minutes. The National Hardwood Lumber Assn. is a good source for the latest information.

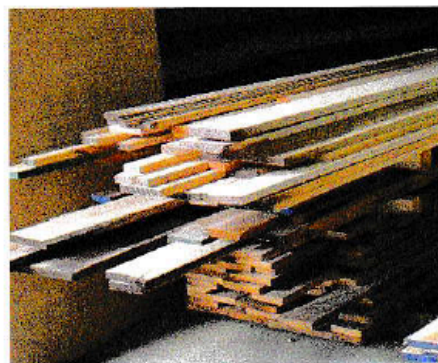
Prevention

It is key to understand that almost every dry kiln will use 160 F as the hottest temperature for several days,

so when the wood leaves the kiln, the wood is "sterilized." However, once the wood is heated to 133 F, or 160 F, it is not protected from future infestations. So, how do we prevent an infection after the lumber leaves the kiln? The key to having zero risk of lyctid PPB is to prevent the insect from getting anywhere close to this sterilized lumber.

Because of the time delay between the eggs being laid and the insect making the exit hole, it is possible that any porous, hardwood lumber adjacent to the infected lumber with exit holes is likely infected: we won't know for a year! So, prevention is the real cure for avoiding lyctid PPB infections.

The main source of the lyctid PPB that will infect freshly dried lumber is other lumber or wood. This includes any hardwood or bamboo dried by someone else, with tropical wood or bamboo being a common, but not the only source. The source also includes dust and debris as well as lumber. I have seen a PPB infection spread from wood stored or left as junk outside a building (closer than 30 to 50 feet perhaps) that has KD lumber inside.



Think clean!

Once the wood is heated to 133 F, or 160 F, it is not protected from future infestations. Therefore, any stickers or bolsters (4x4s, etc.) must also have been in the kiln immediately before every use. Even hardwood dunnage used for shipping needs to be heated just before use. The storage area for lumber leaving the kiln must be free of debris. Use a vacuum.

Summary

Prevention by avoiding contact of "sterilized" KD lumber with infected lumber is the key. When infections do occur, heat is the most practical way to stop additional damage and spread. +

Measure and Monitor Moisture



View our meters and data loggers
www.Lignomat.com

Call for more information
800-227-2105

Lignomat