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Next Meeting: Tues, March 10 @7:00 p.m.

The March meeting will be held at Tri States Automotive, 745 W. Gaines Street in Tallahassee. (see map on next page)

The program for March will feature one of our own instrument makers, John McDevitt. John will demonstrate the construction of a Dulcimer, a traditional Appalachian stringed instrument. John plans to build a dulcimer at the class and says “we will actually get to hear it played.” You won’t want to miss this one.

Highlights From the February Meeting

For “show and tell”, Bob Whitworth brought in a unique wooden drum



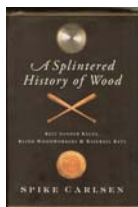
that he and his grandson made. It was constructed of 1/4” hardwood plywood, nicely finished, with fine jointery along the edges. One side had a sound hole cut out. It was amazing the various sounds that could be produced beating on the top or the sides. “The thrill of this project was not actually producing a drum,” Bob told us, “it was getting to work on a woodworking project with my grandson.”

The presentation at the February meeting was on the “French Polish” finishing technique and was presented by our president, Spencer Cullen. Spencer recently attended a class on this time-honored method of finishing at Highland Woodworking in Atlanta. The process involves numerous coats of a one-pound cut of shellac applied with a cotton filled applicator which Spencer showed us how to make.



John McDevitt advises that one source of difficulty in using shellac is getting the flakes to dissolve. He notes that two items will help: First, make sure the flakes are from a reputable source; Second, get a used coffee grinder at a garage sale. Clean it out WELL, then put the flakes you want to use in and turn it on, reducing the flakes to a fine powder. It will dissolve almost immediately.

SPLINTERS: excerpts from Spike Carlson’s book “A Splintered History of Wood”



In Quest of the World’s Most Expensive Board Foot

Mitch Talcove, owner of Tropical Exotic Hardwoods was asked what is his most expensive piece of wood. At that time it was a slab of true Cuban mahogany that’s

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Spencer Cullen, President, addressing club members at the February meeting.

Buy Sell Or Trade

Got an item you would like to sell, or trade, or something you need? Let us know and we will place it here in the TWS Newsletter.



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2 inches thick, 5 feet wide, and 12 feet long, endowed with a mesmerizing ribbon grain. The tree was uprooted by Hurricane Hugo. He turned down a price of \$10,000—slightly over \$200 per board foot.

Sam Talarico of Talarico Hardwoods in Pennsylvania is known as the Lumberman to the Stars, having supplied lumber for furniture built for Tom Hanks, Rene Russo, Charles Schwab and others whose names he is not permitted to reveal. He specializes in woods from England, Scotland, France, Germany, Russia, and other parts of Western Europe. And what's the rarest, most expensive board foot of wood in Sam's vault? It's the highly figured wood from a curly English walnut log he purchased from a farmer several years ago. The price tag: \$250 per board foot.

Rick Hearne of Hearne Hardwoods, when asked if he's a woodworker himself, explains that he's an okay woodworker. But with customers like Sam Krenov, Sam Maloof, and Wendell Castle—superstars of the woodworking world—he's sure hesitant to call himself a great one.

So what's the most expensive board foot of wood this "okay woodworker" carries? Rosewood burl: \$350 a board foot. At that price, wood to make a 1-inch-thick top for a standard 3-foot by 3-foot card table would sit at \$3,150.

