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Next Meeting: Tues, March 9th @7:00 p.m.

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

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month.

We have an open program for March so this will be a good opportunity to bring your questions or ideas to run by our cadre of experienced craftsmen and craftswomen. **Don't forget your show and tell items.**

Highlights From the February Meeting

The February meeting was an open forum round table discussion.

Spencer Cullen kicked things off with several interesting comments and questions about cabinetmaking and finishing. One had to do with the set up techniques for running a lock miter on a long edge. Another question had to do with mixing and applying Behlen's Solar-Lux dyes for finishing. Spencer extended his thanks to Val Tuck for recently guiding him through that finishing process. Val noted that the Mohawk brand of dyes and stains is a slightly "enhanced" version of the Solar-Lux products. Solar-Lux is actually made by Mohawk but the Mohawk line is more of a commercial-grade product. Check them out at their web site: <http://www.mohawk-finishing.com/default.asp>. This was a very informative discussion about finishing.

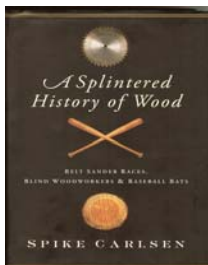
Spencer noted that after a recent order with Woodworkers Supply, he was offered a "professional" account which represents a significant cost savings so take this as a tip to check it out and save some money on supplies.

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Buy Sell Or Trade

If you have items for this column, please contact the newsletter editor.

SPLINTERS: excerpt from Spike Carlson's book "A Splintered History of Wood"



GOLF: PERSIMMON SCORES A HOLE IN ONE

If Iron Byron—the robotic golfer the United States Golf Association uses to test balls and clubs for conformity to standards—could talk, it would tell you this: the Thumper, a driver made of persimmon wood manufactured by Louisville Golf, will consistently hit a golf ball 3 feet farther than the high-tech, super-hyped, titanium Big Bertha driver.

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“Splinters” Continued from page 1

Early golf balls, called “Featheries”, could withstand hits only by wood clubs. Early club heads were most often made of dense wood from fruit trees, particularly apple, pear, cherry, and plum. Dogwood and hornbeam were also popular. Elmer Just, cofounder of Louisville Golf and “high priest of persimmon” says: “Persimmon is nature’s gift to club makers and golfers.” Persimmon—as dense and strong as other members of the ebony family to which it belongs—is the near-perfect club head wood. Just explains, “Persimmon is both a heavy and a porous wood. This complex structure results in a unique material that is not dense and dead like lead, but hard and resilient. It is literally alive.” “There are harder woods, but they’re brittle; there are denser woods, but they’re too heavy; persimmon has a grain structure that makes it perfect.”

And then there are the aesthetics. Persimmon all but glows when polished. According to Just, “Persimmon drivers appeal to the same person who likes leather seats in their car or a desk made of wood.” Crafting a wood driver requires more than a hundred different operations and six weeks: four times as long as it takes to churn out its metallic counterpart. For \$489, their Thumper persimmon driver, oversized and complete with cocobolo accents, can be in your golf bag.

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There was a good discussion about woodworking related TV shows. Another about heating systems for shops. The election of new officers was discussed.

Directions to the regular meeting location.

