

# Cedar Valley Woodworkers

Cedar Valley Woodworkers Association

Volume XXI Issue VI

## Sawdust Sentinel Sawdust Sentinel

June 2020

Milo Mead



### Presidents Corner

It's got a wooden frame, wooden engine, wooden wheels, and a wooden gas tank. Did he ride it? No, wooden start...



and bought some. I drilled a hole in the ball and used a Dremel drum sander attachment to make the hole bigger and get the hole just the right size. The six watt bulb does not over heat the ping pong ball. The photo shows the old white painted globe style I used on my last clock and the prototype of the bigger lighted version for the dome clock. The wiring goes down the inside of post and will run under the floor of the clock.



I got my brother in law and member, Eddie Kugel interested in doing some woodworking. He bought a scroll saw and the following are pictures of some of his first projects.



Anyone who doesn't think money grows  
(Continued on page 3)

Presidents Article	1,,3
Oak Bulletin Board	2
For Sale	2
French Polish	3,&4
Show and Tell Pictures	5&6
Brain Teaser	6
Mentors	7
Services	7
Sponsors	8
Officers and Committee Members	8

I am missing the fellowship of our monthly meeting. I hope the Waterloo Arts Center opens soon so we can all meet again. Still no idea when that will be. Fortunately I am able to spend time with other members from time to time.

I damaged my left wrist and hand lifting a lawn mower into the back of my truck just over four weeks ago. I won't be doing that anymore. Didn't go to doctor, probably should have. I've been wearing a wrist brace ever since. I haven't been able to do much including woodworking. Slowing getting better and I try to be careful so as not to reinjure it. The only thing I've gotten done on my dome clock is to figure out how to put a electric light in the four lamp posts that go on the clock. I didn't like a plain light bulb on the lamp post and couldn't find a globe that I could use. Then one night in my sleep it came to me, what about a ping pong ball? I rushed out the next day

## New Club Meeting Feature

SALES TABLE - There will be a sales table at each meeting. Sales will be done before each meeting and at the coffee break. We have been donated two tools by Tom Romaine. They are like new.



### For Sale

Refinished Hutch Table and Chairs by Dave Dryer: Contact Dave directly @ 319-240-6984 or e-mail [davedreyer@outlook.com](mailto:davedreyer@outlook.com)

## The Oak Bulletin Board

CVWA's next meeting None until current health crisis is over and large gatherings are permitted again

The next Executive Board meeting None at this time if need be Board members will be notified by e-mail

Corridor Wood turners meeting has been canceled due to the current health crisis

Members,

*Those of you who have brad point bits that need sharpening two vendors have been developed*

**Aksarban Saw and Tool, 125 Poplar Suite 5  
Springfield NE 68059, (402) 253-3021**

**Sharpening Shop Shupert & Son  
99 Avondale DR, Dayton OH 45404  
(937) 233-5144**

**The Editor**



on trees hasn't bought any lumber lately.

Hope to see you all soon, Milo.

Milo Mead

## French Polishing A Technique, not a Finish

According to Bob Flexner's "Understanding Wood Finishing", French polishing refers to a technique for applying shellac, not a finish in and of itself. Essentially you apply a very large number of thin coats of shellac using a pad, a wee bit of oil, and a lot of elbow grease. There's no need to get too caught up in the 'right' way of doing it. Like anything in life, with ample practice your French polished pieces will look better and better, and you'll work out a sequence of steps that suit you best.

Do keep in mind that while a French polished surface has a high water vapor resistance; it has relatively low abrasion resistance. So it's best used for pieces that won't get a lot of heavy use, or be subject to water or alcohol spills

### What You Need



French polishing doesn't require much in the way of materials. You'll need some freshly made shellac (begin with a 1-pound cut which is thinner and easier to apply; later you can use a 2-pound cut if you want to speed up your finishing); a rubbing pad, and some mineral oil (which keeps the rubbing pad from sticking to the freshly applied shellac). If you're using pre-mixed shellac remember that it's likely a 3-pound cut, so you'll want to thin it by adding some alcohol (methyl hydrate or mineral spirits will do). Because you only need to apply a bit of shellac at a time, things go easier if you pour some shellac into a squeeze bottle (old mustard bottles work great; it's also a convenient way to dispense the alcohol). To make a rubbing pad you'll need some lint-free cotton, or linen, for the 'cover' (about 8" by 8") and some cotton, wool, or cheesecloth for the 'core'. Make a wad about the size of a tennis ball with the core material, and then wrap the cover over it, ensuring that the bottom of your pad is smooth. Before using a new pad you can 'condition' it by delivering a couple of good squirts of shellac onto the core of the pad. Store the pad in a jar or zip lock bag when not in use, as you don't want to let it completely dry out. When the cover material gets dirty or torn just replace it; the core will last for ages. You'll be exerting a lot of pressure when applying the shellac, so it's a good idea to secure your work piece to your work surface (I used padded battens).

### Fill the Pores

For wood with small pores, such as maple or cherry, you go straight to work with the shellac. For large pored woods, such as oak or walnut, the finish will look smoother and glossier if you fill the pores. The

*(Continued on page 4)*



*(Continued from page 3)*

easiest and quickest way to fill the pores is to brush on consecutive coats of shellac, sanding between coats, until the pores are filled. If you're a purist and want to fill the pores the old fashioned way, you can read about it in Flexner's book. On darker woods, like cherry, I lay a thin coat of boiled linseed oil on the surface before filling the pores, to increase the depth of the finish.

### **Rub On**

When you are ready to apply the shellac, squirt enough shellac onto the pad to dampen it (damp, but not 'sodden'). This process is called 'charging your pad'. Then give it the traditional 'French kiss' (smack the pad against the palm of your hand) and you're ready to go.

The first step is called 'bodying'. Three things to keep in mind at this stage: 1) keep the pad moving. If you let it sit on the surface it will stick; 2) once you've padded over an area wait until it's dry before going back over. If you don't do this, your pad will stick; and 3) begin with light pressure then increase pressure as you polish. Good lighting is important so that you can see whether you're applying the shellac consistently across the whole work surface.

Begin your bodying by pressing the pad on the work surface and simultaneously begin moving in circles or figure '8s'. No need to go too fast; just keep your pad moving. As you start to feel some resistance when moving the pad, apply more downward pressure. When you start to feel a lot of resistance, it's time to lift the pad off the surface. Add another squirt of shellac, plus a drop of mineral oil, which you'll add, each time you recharge your pad with shellac from now on. Give it the French kiss, and then rub on. Once you begin adding the mineral oil, you will begin to notice streaks (called 'clouds') of oil on the surface. You will remove those clouds later.

Remember that shellac dries pretty quickly, so by the time you've applied one coat it's dry enough for the second coat. The idea is to lay down as many coats as it takes to make the surface look smooth and level. And don't forget those edges. You don't have to complete the polishing all at one go. Try applying six or seven coats then let it dry overnight. That will give the shellac time to cure. Lay on another six or seven coats the next day, and so on. You've completed this stage when you've built up a mirror like finish on the

surface.

The next step is called 'spiriting' or 'clearing'. It consists of removing the oil that's still left on the surface. It's a good idea to let the shellac cure for a few days before you clear off the oil. The traditional way is to use alcohol. Make a new polishing pad and charge it with a few drops of alcohol. Use the pad in a sweeping motion across the wood surface: begin on one side of the surface like an airplane coming in for a landing, sweep across the surface, then lift it off at the other edge, like a plane taking off. Continue until you have a glossy sheen. Be careful not to damage the shellac by rubbing too hard. A quicker and easier way to remove the oil is simply to wipe the surface with naphtha (camp stove fuel).

The final step is to apply a wax and buff it out.

French polishing isn't for everyone. But, like Alexander Keith's Pale Ale: people who like it like it a lot! the final step is to apply a wax and buff it out.

French polishing isn't for everyone. But, like Alexander Keith's Pale Ale: people who like it like it a lot!

The process of French polishing is like any recipe: it has as many variations as the people who use it. For another variation of French polishing, see Canadian Woodworking Magazine: August 1999 and October 1999.

You can get shellac flakes or pre-mixed shellac from Wood Essence, [www.woodessence.com](http://www.woodessence.com) or 306-955-8775

**CARL DUGUAY is the web editor for Canadian Woodworking**

# Show & Tell Covid 19style

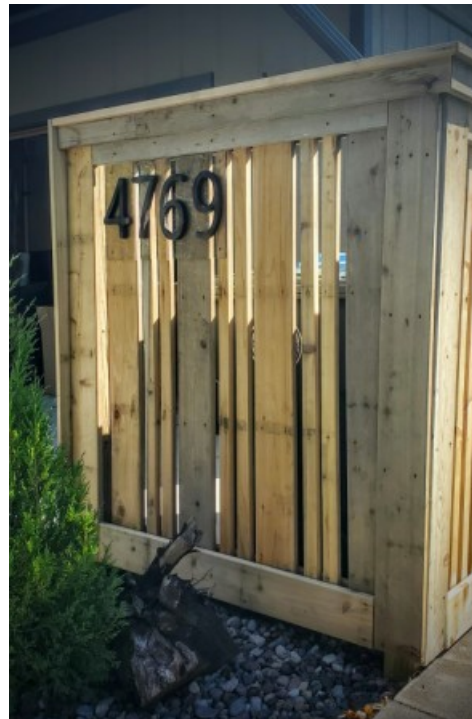


**Top Left:** Angle Cake Pan Stand by Rod Lair

**Center:** Garbage Can Corral with House Number by Jon Hicks

**Bottom Left:** Carving Mallets by Cliff Cyrzan

**Bottom Right:** Bathroom vanity by Dick Buchanan



# Show & Tell Covid 19 Style



**Top :** Doll beds during build by Cliff Cyzan

**Center:** Towel Storage Cabinet by Dick Buchanan

**Bottom Left:** Finished Doll Beds by Cliff Cyzan

**Bottom Right:** This Months Bain Teaser answer page 8



Brain Teaser

How many countries in the world sell Diet Coke

Answer page 8

List of Mentors for Club Members. I believe the mentor's time is free, but the person being mentored is expected to cover any material costs.

Canoe/Kayak construction, Chip Schmidt, 277-8504, cschmidt@cfu.net

Has the Ability to figure MOST problems out—Dick Buchanan, 277-2477, rbuchanan@cfu.net

Fretwork, Garylee Thurm, 279-3219, flytying4u@hotmail.com

Wood Carving, Sid Sidler, 233-1396, sidsstudio@aol.com

Furniture and Cabinet Building, Jerry Krug, 475-2391, jandjkrug@gmail.com

Equipment Maintenance and Repair, Bob Colby, 319-268-0883

### Classes and Services for Pay by Fellow Club Members

***Sharpening Stone Sales Gary Lee Thurm 319-231-4577***

***Larry Miller 319-239-4059 Sharpening Service***

***Carl Leavell 319-233-4491 Sharpening Service***

### NEW PATTERN TEMPLATE LIBRARY

Your executive board has developed a new loaner program that might be of interest to each of you. Though the contribution of several different individuals the following full size templates are available for check-out by club members:

Nativity sets: Rocking horse: Two different doll cradles

Mission Wall Clock #49586. Size-21 1/8" H X 14 1/2" W X 6 1/4" D

Mission Mantel Clock #49584. Size 16 5/8" H X 12 3/4" H X 5 3/4" D

Mirrored Mantel Clock #49606. Size 16" H X 10" W X 7" D

Atkins Mantel Clock #49643. Size 34" H X 12" W X 6 7/8" D

Carrington Mantel Clock # 49673. Size 12 1/4" H X 9 1/2" W X 5" D

Bedford II Mantel Clock #49004. Size 10 1/2" H X 18" W X 7 3/8" D

Key Cabinet Wall Clock # 49028. Size 14 1/2" H X 10" W X 4 1/2" D

Dearborn Regulator Wall Clock #49604. Size 18 1/8" H X 11 3/8" W X 4 1/2" D

Mirror & Coat Rack #49199. Size 48 3/4" H X 26 1/4" W X 8" D

Colonial Desk #435. 48" Wide- 8 drawers

Assorted Bird Houses

Should any of you have a pattern template set that your willing to share, call a board member



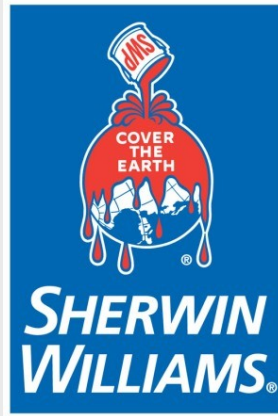
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**Woodsmith Store\*\***

10320 Hickman Road  
Clive, IA 50235  
515-254-9494 or  
1-800-835-5084



Sherwin Willams  
Waterloo Cedar Falls  
And 2  
Nation wide



**\*\*501 West 1st Avenue  
Durant, Iowa 52747-9729  
800-344-6657**

**Acme Tools \*\*  
1943 Blair's Ferry Rd.  
Cedar Rapids, Ia.  
319-363-2211**

**Pittsburgh Paints  
528 West 5th St.  
Waterloo, IA 50701  
319-234-1739**

**Officers and Committee Members**

**Elected Committee Members**

**President**

**Milo Mead**

*Committee Member*

**Bob Hewlett**

**1st Vice President**

**Couch Potato Wedges**

*Committee Member*

**Gene Knief**

**2nd Vice President**

*Membership*

**Dave Turner**

**Secretary**

**Steve Robb**

*Club photographer*

**John Hix**

**Treasurer**

**Reed Craft**

*Refreshment Chairman*

**Barb Gurney**

**Appointed Committee Members**

*Committee Members*

*Newsletter*

**Jim Wikle**

*Committee Member*

**Terry Duckworth**

*Committee Member*

**Dennis Gilroy**