

Suncoast Woodturners Newsletter

June 2010 Vol. X, No. 06

Dedicated to Turning

www.suncoastwoodturners.com



Where: Woodcraft Store

188991 U.S. Highway 19 North
Clearwater, FL 33764

When: June 24, 6:30 – 9 PM

Notice: Store opens 30 min prior to the meeting.

Demonstration – DVD Review

Board of Directors

President:	David Eppler	872-4186
Vice President:	Art Worth	781-2847
Secretary:	Bill Howell	391-8894
Treasurer:	Wayne Sincich	446-5520
Membership:	Walter Jones	734-4078
Newsletter:	Bill Howell	391-8894
Librarian:	Mike Webb	536-7444

Wood of the Month – Live Oak

Live oak or **evergreen oak** is a general term for a number of unrelated oaks in several different sections of the genus *Quercus* that happen to share the characteristic of evergreen foliage.

The name live oak comes from the fact that evergreen oaks remain green and "live" throughout winter, when other oaks are dormant, leafless and "dead"-looking. The name is used mainly in North America, where evergreen oaks are widespread in warmer areas, along the Atlantic coast from Maryland to Florida, west along the Gulf Coast to Texas and across the southwest to California and southwest Oregon.

Evergreen oak species are also common in the warmer parts of Europe and Asia, and are included in this list for the sake of completeness. These species, although not having "live" in their common names in their countries of origin, are colloquially called live oaks when cultivated in North America.

When the term live oak is used in a specific rather than general sense, it most commonly refers to the Southern live oak (the first species so named), but can often refer to other species regionally.

The live oak is the official state tree of Georgia.

Wood

Live oak was widely used in early American shipbuilding. Because of the trees' short height and low hanging branches, lumber from live oak was specifically used to make curved structural members of the hull such as knee braces. In such cuts of lumber the line of the grain would fall

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perpendicularly to lines of stress creating structures of exceptional strength. Live oak was not generally used for planking because the curved and often convoluted shape of the tree did not lend itself to be milled to planking of any length. Red oak or white oak was generally used for planking on vessels as those trees tended to grow straight and tall and thus would yield straight trunk sections of length suitable for milling in to plank lengths. Live oak was largely logged out in Europe by the latter half of the 19th Century and was similarly sought after and exported from the United States until iron and steel hulled commercial vessel construction became the standard early in the 20th Century. Live oak lumber is rarely used for furniture due to warping and twisting while drying. It continues to be used occasionally when available in shipbuilding as well as for tool handles for its strength, energy absorption, and density, but modern composites are often substituted with good effect. Dry southern live oak lumber has a specific gravity of 0.88, the highest of any North American hardwood.

The **Angel Oak** is a Southern live oak tree located in **Angel Oak Park**, in Charleston, South Carolina, on Johns Island, one of South Carolina's Sea Islands. It is estimated to be more than 1500 years old, standing 20 m (65 ft) tall, 2.47 m (9 ft) in diameter, and the crown covers an area of 1,580 m² (17,000 square feet). Its longest limb is 27 m (89 ft) in length. The tree and surrounding park have been owned by the city of Charleston since 1991.

The oak derives its name from the Angel estate, although local folklore told of stories of ghosts of former slaves would appear as angels around the tree.

The Angel Oak is thought to be one of the oldest living things east of the Mississippi River. Acorns from the Angel Oak have grown to produce authentic direct-offspring trees. Live oaks generally grow out and not up, but the Angel Oak has had plenty of time to do both, standing 65 ft (20 m) high and with a canopy providing 17,000 square feet (1,600 m²) of shade. Its limbs, the size of tree trunks themselves, are so large and heavy that some of them rest on the ground (some even drop underground for a few feet and then come back up), a feature common to only the very oldest live oaks.

It has survived countless hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, and human interference. Angel Oak was damaged severely during Hurricane Hugo in 1989 but has since recovered.

The **Seven Sisters Oak** is the largest certified southern live oak tree. Located in Mandeville, Louisiana, it is estimated to be up to 1,500 years old with a trunk that measures 38 feet (11.6 meters). This oak is also the National Champion on the National Register of Big Trees and the Champion Oak of Louisiana according to the Louisiana Forestry Association.

The owner who first named the tree was Carole Hendry Doby, who was one of seven sisters. There are seven sets of branches leading away from the center trunk.[1] The Seven Sisters survived a near direct hit from Hurricane Katrina in August 2005.

The **Treaty Oak**, a once-majestic Southern live oak in Austin, Texas, is the last surviving member of the Council Oaks, a grove of 14 trees that served as a sacred meeting place for Comanche and Tonkawa Tribes. Forestry experts estimate the Treaty Oak to be about 500 years old and, before its vandalism in 1989, the tree's branches

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had a spread of 127 feet. The tree is located in Treaty Oak Park, on Baylor Street between 5th and 6th Streets.

Legends

A Native American legend holds that the Council Oaks were a location for the launching of war and peace parties. Legends also hold that women of the Tejas Tribe would drink a tea made from honey and the acorns of the oaks to ensure the safety of warriors in battle.

History

The Council Oaks fell victim to neglect and Austin's development. By 1927, only one of the original 14 trees remained. The American Forestry Association proclaimed the tree as the most perfect specimen of a North American tree, and inducted the Treaty Oak into its Hall of Fame in Washington, D.C.

Since the 1880s, the tree had been privately owned by the Caldwell family in Austin. Because she could no longer afford to pay property taxes on the land, in 1926 the widow of W. H. Caldwell offered the land for sale for \$7,000. While local historical groups urged the Texas Legislature to buy the land, no funds were appropriated. In 1937, the City of Austin purchased the land for \$1,000 and installed a plaque honoring the tree's role in Texas history.

Poisoning and recovery

In 1989, in an act of deliberate vandalism, the tree was poisoned with the powerful hardwood-herbicide, Velpar. Lab tests showed the quantity of herbicide used would have been sufficient to kill 100 trees. The incident sparked community outrage, national news reports, and a torrent of home-made "Get Well" cards from children that were displayed on the fence around the park. Texas industrialist and former Reform Party candidate for U.S. President, Ross Perot wrote a 'blank check' to fund efforts to save the tree. DuPont, the herbicide manufacturer, established a \$10,000 reward to capture the poisoner. The vandal, Paul Cullen, was apprehended after reportedly bragging about poisoning the tree as a means of casting a spell. Cullen was convicted of felony criminal mischief and sentenced to serve nine years in prison. The intensive efforts to save the Treaty Oak included the replacement of soil around its roots and the installation of a system to mist the tree with spring water. Although arborists expected the tree to die, the Treaty Oak survived. However, almost two-thirds of the tree died and more than half of its crown had to be pruned.

Today

In 1997, the Treaty Oak produced its first crop of acorns since the vandalism. City workers gathered and germinated the acorns, distributing the seedlings throughout Texas and other states. Today the tree is a thriving, but lopsided reminder of its once-grand form. Many Texans see the Treaty Oak today as a symbol of strength and endurance.

The **Holm Oak** (*Quercus illex*), also called Holly Oak or Evergreen Oak, is a large evergreen oak native to the Mediterranean region. It takes its name from holm, an obsolete name for holly. It is a member of the white oak section of the genus, with acorns that mature in a single summer. It is a medium-size tree 20–27 m tall with finely

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square fissured blackish bark and leathery evergreen leaves. The old leaves fall 1–2 years after new leaves emerge. The leaves are dark green above and pale whitish-grey with dense short hairs below. The leaf shape is variable, the adult leaves are entire, 4–8 cm long and 1–3 cm broad, while those on the lower branches of young trees are often larger (to 10 cm long), and are toothed or somewhat spiny. This is presumed to be for protection from grazing animals. In this, the foliage resembles that of the common European Holly *Ilex aquifolium*, and this resemblance has led to its common and botanic names. The name *ilex* is originally the classical Latin name for the Holm Oak, but was later also used as a botanical genus name for the hollies. The flowers are catkins, produced in the spring; the fruit is an acorn, which matures in about 6 months.

Cultivation and uses

The wood is hard and tough, used since ancient times for general construction purposes as pillars, tools, wagons, vessels, and wine casks. Used as well as firewood, or in charcoal manufacture. The Holm Oak is one of the top three trees used in the establishment of truffle orchards, or truffieres. Truffles grow in an ectomycorrhizal association with the tree's roots. The acorns, like those of the Cork Oak, are edible (toasted or as a flour), and are an important food for free-range pigs reared for serrano ham production. Boiled in water, the acorns can also be used as a medicinal treatment for injury disinfections.

July MEETING: Thursday, July 22, 2010 at 6:30 pm

DVD/Video Tape Library

The Suncoast Woodturners have instructional videos available for rental before each meeting. A full list of the videos is be listed on our website. Only members may rent tapes and DVDs. Rentals are \$2.00 per month. The items must be returned the following month. Late fees of \$2.00 per month will be assessed for each item not returned on time.

May Demo – Natural Edge Bowl by Don Geiger - Gainesville



Importance of using a full face shield



Proper way to center the bowl



Getting the right curvature. Look for gaps by using a ruler or straightedge.



Action shot





Measuring wall thickness using laser light.



Semi Finished Bowl.

June Turning Challenge:

Natural Edge Bowl

FUTURE DEMOS:

Nov - Larry Hasiak - Norfolk Island Pine

TBA - Rudy Lopez

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ending Balance..... \$729.37

Georgia Association of Woodturners

The Georgia Association of Woodturners (GAW), dedicated to providing education, information and organization to those interested in woodturning, will be presenting its annual symposium, "Turning Southern Style XVI". This year's event will again be held at the Unicoi State Park and Lodge near Helen, Georgia on September 17-19, 2010.

GAW sponsors this annual event which features some of the world's leading woodturners and turning artisans.

This year's featured turners include:

J. Paul Fennell, Alan Lacer, and Stephen Hatcher.

Also featured are:

Nick Cook, Johannes Michelsen, Peg Schmid, and Dave Barriger.

Instant Gallery:

The instant gallery will return as a favorite and we invite each participant to display up to four pieces of his/her work for all to enjoy.

Vendor Area:

As always, the vendor area will be well stocked with tools, wood, and all other woodturning related supplies and equipment.

Saturday Night Dinner and Auction:

Prior to our auction, there will be a banquet dinner on Saturday evening. As always, all proceeds from the auction support continuing education in woodturning through our scholarship program. We encourage all who participate in the symposium to donate a piece to our Saturday Night Auction to benefit the scholarship fund.

For Further Information:

For additional information and pricing, please visit www.gawoodturner.org.

You are encouraged to register prior to August 1, 2010. Refunds for cancellations will be given up to September 1, 2010. Registration may be limited, so act quickly.

Show & Tell

May Meeting



David Eppler, Vase, Camphor



Kimberly Glover, Box/Stand, Cherry, Grapefruit, Monkey Pod



Jim Mullins, Fluted Bowl, Maple



Fluted Bowl, Sassafras



Lee Ketchum – Lidded Box (with a twist)



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Phil Wilson – Christmas Ornament, Marblewood - Vase, Banksia Pod - Earring Holder, Bocote – Pens, African Blackwood



Mark Niemstadt, Natural Edge Bowl, Bottle Brush Bill Howell, Lidded Bowl, Zebra Wood, Brazilian Cherry, Juniper



Tom Martin, Lidded Box, Padauk



Art Worth, Fluted Bowl, Ambrosia Maple

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Meeting dates for 2010

Jul 22, Aug 26, Sep 23, Oct 21, Nov 18, Dec 9

Miss Sunshine Please notify Sharon if you know of a member who is ill. . Our club cares for our members and I would love to send you a bit of Sunshine through the mail. Email is wjones101@tampabay.rr.com or 727-734-4078