

Coronavirus Newsletter #6



Here we are in our fifth month of isolation, social distancing, and no damned Guild meetings.

I am reviving some of the columns we were used to seeing in regular monthly newsletters. Will this provide something of a sense of normalcy? Naaaahhhhhh!

However, we need to provide our members with *some* value added.

Lindy Baer, one of the Guild's most reliable contributors, is back in the saddle with his "About Wood" column. Thanks, Lindy!

I have so far been unable to convince members to showing some of their favorite methods of work, or tours of their shops. Bob Beason has done the next best thing, and submitted a Powerpoint slide show covering some truly valuable suggestions for setting up your shop.

About Wood - Lindy Baer:

The "About Wood" column returns after a six month break. When this column began, the focus was on common North American hardwood species. Gradually the focus enlarged to include the conifers and less common hardwood species. After two to three years, more exotic species were added. References for the column have included *The Wood Database*, *Woodworkers Source*, and *A Guide to Useful Woods of the World*. Occasionally, *The Forest Products Laboratory* (a United States Department of Agriculture function associated with the University of Wisconsin) and other miscellaneous sources have also been used as resources.

This month, July 2020, we consider **Leopardwood** (*Roupala brasiliense*; also *montana*). The genus name (**Roupala**) comes from *roupale*, a name used locally in French Guiana. The specific epithet is after this species found especially in Brazil. Leopardwood is in the **Proteaceae** family, a family of flowering plants. The **Proteaceae** family consists of 83 genera and about 1,660 known species. This **Proteaceae** family includes species that are grown for cut flowers and the nuts from the Macadamia Nut tree.

The *Roupala montana* or *brasiliense* species is morphologically variable with four recognized varieties. There is some confusion between the **Roupala** genera and the **Brosimum** genera (from the **Moraceae**, the mulberry family) in that lumber from both are sometimes known as **Leopardwood**.

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This article focuses on *Roupala brasiliense*. Take note that the August/September, 2020 issue of *Woodcraft Magazine* features this **Leopardwood**. This **Leopardwood** is also sometimes referred to as Leopard, Lacewood, or Brazilian Lacewood.

In previous columns, we have defined the Modulus of Rupture (MOR), the Modulus of Elasticity (MOE), Crush Strength, and Janka Hardness. We will continue to use those terms. Most of the other terms are generally well understood and will not be defined further. If you have questions about other terms or questions about a specific wood, contact wood@coloradowoodworkersguild.org.

Here is a summary of the characteristics of *Roupala brasiliense* (also syn. *R. montana*) known as **Leopardwood**:

Distribution: especially Central and South America (Brazil to Argentina); also some Caribbean areas

Tree size: 100-130 ft (30-40 m) tall; 2-3 ft (0.6-1.0 m) trunk diameter

Average Dried Weight: 55 lbs/ft³ (885 kg/m³)

Specific Gravity: (Basic, 12% MC): .73, .89

Modulus of Rupture (MOR): no data available

Modulus of Elasticity (MOE): 2,887,000 lb_f/in² (19.91 GPa)

Crush Strength: 7,280 lb_f/in² (50.2 MPa)

Janka Hardness: 2,150 lb_f (9,560 N)

Shrinkage: Radial, 3.5%; Tangential 8.8%; Volumetric, 11.5%; T/R Ratio, 2.5

Appearance: heartwood has conspicuous flecking; medium to dark reddish brown with grey or light brown rays (figure stronger when quartersawn).

Note that the sapwood is generally discarded

Grain/Texture: coarse texture and straight grain

Stability: shrinkage fairly high (see figures above); once dried moderately stable; dry carefully

Relative strength: hard and heavy; excellent strength-to-weight ratio

Decay Resistance: resistant to decay

Workability: difficult to work because of high density and tendency to tearout when planing; glue ability is fair; finishes well

Odor: no characteristic odor when dry

Toxicity: no reports for *Roupala* genus, but others in the family have been reported to cause eye and skin irritation

Flynn, James H. and Charles D. Holder, Editors. *A Guide to Useful Woods of the World, Second Edition*.

Forest Products Society, Madison, Wisconsin, 2001.

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Bob Beason - Virtual Shop tour

Bob has been a frequent contributor of beautiful project pics.

This time he provided a PowerPoint slide show which gives valuable ideas behind the design of his basement shop, as well as a virtual tour of that *enviable* shop.

Bob's shop is more than most of us can even dream of, his presentation contains ideas which apply to virtually any shop regardless of how large or small, whether in a basement or a garage, or even in an outbuilding.

I have been unable to format this presentation to fit into this newsletter so, I have converted it to a video on The Guild website, where it can be viewed when you [CLICK HERE](#) (you must be a logged-in member to view the video)

Cal Noguchi - A few projects: I have been hesitant to submit because recent projects have not been happy projects. I have been building urns. Our dog of five years old died in April due to cancer. My wife's mother died in May and a week later her uncle. Her uncle was known to many as "Charlie Brown" and was a big collector of toy tractors, thus the picture of Charlie Brown on a tractor.

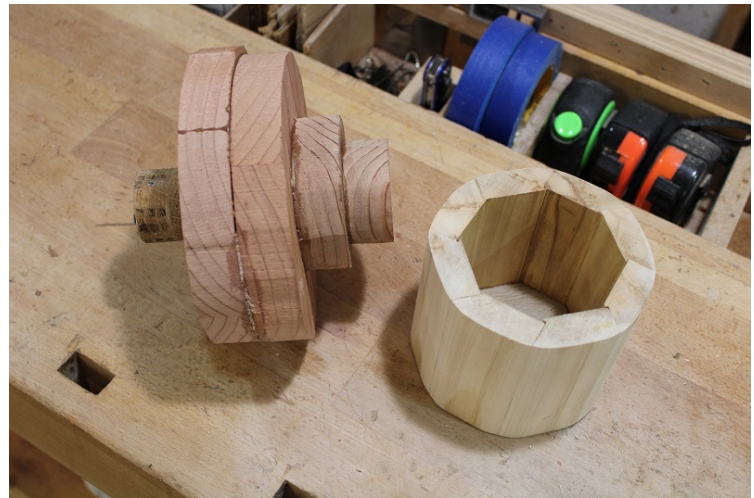
On the brighter side, I have been working on kitchen cabinets for our house and some awards for graduates. I have also started a fence for my father-in-law although I don't know if I'd consider it "on the brighter side".



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Bob Beason - Eight-sided Birdhouse



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Rex Splitt - I just finished this project. Brookwood Grandfather clock in cherry with an oil and urethane gloss finish.



Bill Knoll - I haven't been in the shop a great deal, but I did make several small flower vases with glass tube inserts. These were cut out of rescued Olive tree stumps finished with the 1-2-3 mix.

