

Minutes of Regular August 2005 Meeting of the TideWater WoodWorkers Guild Monday 22 August 2005

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the TideWater WoodWorkers Guild was held at 7:00 PM EDT on Monday 22 August 2005 in the classroom of the WOODCRAFT STORE in the Janaf Shopping Center, Norfolk, VA with President Pat Taylor at the Bench.

The list of e-mail addresses was circulated since some names were not on it, and those with addresses needing to be added or corrected were asked to make appropriate marks.

Pat addressed the assembly regarding the current work of the Nominating Committee, looking forward to elections at the Regular November 2005 Meeting, the slate elected at that time to take office at the January 2006 Meeting. He also mentioned four (4) Committees to be formed, explaining the need for them, and a description of the work to be assigned them. Sign-up sheets were available for those interested to sign. These Standing Committees are four (4) in number: Public Relations, Social Relations, Program and Membership.

Pat yielded the floor to a representative of The Artistic American Veterans Association who explained that the Organization is composed of American Veterans engaging in artistic activities who are presently seeking ground on which to build a Gallery in which their work can be exhibited. They also work with hospitalized veterans who do art work as a part of their therapy; and offer opportunity to veterans engaged in work other than artistry as well as in artistic pursuits, the aim being to publicize the reality that Veterans do perform art and are due recognition for this. All Veterans who engage in artwork are encouraged to participate in this organization and its efforts. The Presenter was encouraged to contact and offer this information to other Organizations, e.g., The Tidewater Turners, and organizations of woodcarvers located in Virginia Beach and Portsmouth. It was also suggested that this Organization be posted on the TWWWG Web Page.

One new member of the TWWWG was invited to introduce himself, and provided, in addition to his name, the information that he is a member of the USAF, stationed at Langley AFB, is due for retirement in a few months and is an active woodworker.

Member Andy Steinberg circulated a pair of samples of wood that is costly and is known to have been used by woodcarvers as long ago as 40,000 years ago; the biological name of the wood was not known; finishing normally begins with 100 grit sandpaper and increased in fine-ness to 1200 grit.

The question was asked as to where mahogany could be procured locally; Yukon no longer offering Honduras mahogany, preferring to concentrate on African material. Tidewater Plastics was mentioned as a source as was Portsmouth Lumber Co.

Member Robert Waggenseller inquired into his search for a partner who would be willing to assist him in his shop, and in turn- offered his assistant to that party.

Pat then introduced the Presenter for the evening, Norm, a retired Delta Woodworking Machine Manufacturers Representative, who presented a very interesting and useful program.

Norm began by pointing out that there is a genuine difference in orientation between those who concentrate on machines used in woodwork and those who concentrate on woodwork, using machines to achieve their goals.

Essentially, Norm spoke from many years experience dealing with a progression and assortment of woodworking machines; providing not only the technological progression of design, but the rise and fall of manufacturers and differences in procedure resulting from the cultural sources of manufacturing facilities (e.g., Taiwan, China, Mexico, USA, Europe). The presentation was marked by dialog, as Norm raised questions, entered into discussion with members and answering questions asked by members. Issues of production cost, materials, workmanship and service availability were spoken to in depth; as well as the history of manufacturers as mergers, buyouts and financial cycles affected the industry. Explanation was made regarding replacement parts and the reasons for their sometimes being of questionable fit or availability.

A few points made by Norm were:

- 1 When you buy a machine, buy the very best one you can afford; the idea that one is a beginner and will get a better one later leads to frustration and added expense.
2. In lubrication your machine, use a wire or brass brush to clean parts thoroughly, and then lubricate.
3. While. *Lubriplate* (or white lithium grease) is a very fine lubricant, cleaning and lubrication with *Johnson's Paste Wax* is, for Norm, the very best.
4. When you buy a new machine, wax the working surfaces with *Johnson's Paste Wax* every day for the first week. This will make wood move more easily on the surface, and will prevent cast iron surfaces from absorbing moisture.
5. In buying replacement parts, remember that metal parts are made to tolerances. Therefore, the new part may be a few thousandths of an inch larger or smaller than the original, occasionally preventing an acceptable fit.

The program was of very high quality, provided a wealth of information, answered a multitude of questions and explained many of the challenges met in decision-making and maintenance. It was of inestimable value to any engaged in the process of deciding among the various machines available, the challenges of maintaining those in operation or of matching machine ability with the craftsman's purpose.

The Program having been concluded, the following announcements were made.

1. Sign-up sheets for committee membership interest are available; members are encouraged to volunteer.
2. The new workbench now being finished and in use, the old one is being stored in Woodcraft Store space, and a decision needs to be made as to its final use.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM . Respectfully submitted,
William C. Hoffman, Recording Secretary.