

The Tidewater Wood Workers Guild
27 February 2006
Minutes

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Tidewater Wood Workers Guild was held on Monday 27 February 2006 in their usual location, the Classroom of the Woodcraft Shop in the JANAF Shopping Center in Norfolk, VA. The Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM, EST, by President Andy Steinberg.

Andy commented on revisions to the Newsletter format and asked for comments. Pat Taylor suggested that all classes being offered by the Woodcraft Store management be posted in the Newsletter and (subject to management approval) posting them on the Store Bulletin Board. Andy also invited members having articles and/or suggestions to submit them to Guild Officers for consideration and possible publication or action.

Bill Caillet, owner of our host WoodCraft store offered a free presentation at WoodCraft by Myron W. Curtis on Saturday, March 11th at 9:00 AM on "How to Present Demonstrations." Although free, Bill asked for members to call the store < 466-1166 > with their intentions to attend in order to have adequate accommodations for this presentation.

Andy then introduced Guild member John Moore whose subject was Biscuit Joinery.

John stated that his use of biscuits in joinery grew from a combination of the simplicity of the process, his own skill limitations and the improved quality of the product. Using a triangular-topped gate-leg Queen Anne table that he had designed and constructed for his example, John explained how the joinery was performed, how perfectly the members fit together, how improved strength was achieved and the durability of the piece itself.

Beginning with a full-size detailed drawing of entire piece, and detailing the size, location and placement of each biscuit/slot (thereby avoiding revelation of biscuits resulting from conjunction of biscuit and finished surface) he demonstrated the avoidance of conflict, the strengthening of joints by using "sister members" glued to concealed surfaces, and the use of pocket screws with plugged holes in concealed locations; thus enabling virtually perfect joints having greater strength than traditional mortise and tenon methods and demanding less skill.

Important facts in this type of joinery include:

Spacing biscuits approximately 6 inches apart;

Using paired biscuits where practical;

Allow ¼ in. between surface of member and edge of slot nearest surface (although some tool manufactures suggest 3/16in.);

Use glue on entire mating surface, in slots and covering biscuits;

Apply glue using standard brush;

Excess glue can be removed from finish surface using damp rag; if residual glue affects finish surface, a scraper will remove it;

Because standard commercially available biscuits are subject to moisture absorption, care must be taken to prevent this by heating (*e.g.*, in a microwave oven, closed box heated by a 100 watt light bulb, or similar device) and sealing in airtight container until used.

To aid members' understanding of methods, facts and comparisons, John made available several copies of a page from the March-April 1995 issue of *Fine Wood Working Magazine*.

Following the presentation by John Moore, Guild Member Adrian Marshall offered a presentation of joinery similar to biscuits but differing in that instead of using the *beadblock* system, featuring blocks that can be shop-made, and entailing matched drilling (akin to biscuit-grooving) and gluing small blocks (*e.g.*, 1" X 1" by 1/4") similar to gluing biscuits or dowels in place. His demonstration piece was a walnut table with an oak top and being of such a size that it would be quite usable for an end or bedside table.

Adrian also showed a shop-made jig that he uses for cutting the holes in wood to receive the tenons.

Ed Bunker introduced the newly formed TWWWG Photography Team: Adrian Marshall, Joe Jacobs, Cory Larson, and Bee Norris. The Photography Team will be taking pictures of both our Presenters/Demonstrators as well as those bringing "Show & Tell" items to the meeting. The plan is to create a picture page for the following month's Newsletter. Many thanks to these volunteers!

Ed also stated (as Membership Chair) that the Guild has 56 dues-paid members as of tonight as opposed to 61 in 2005.

Several new members were introduced and each was given opportunity to share some expectations from their membership.

President Andy stated that because there has been consideration in the past of the Guild having nametags made which could be stored between meetings. However, others using such a method have found that the tags went home at the conclusion of the meeting and were forgotten. He suggested that this might be overcome by printing names in an appropriate size on the reverse side of the membership card making it possible for them to be inserted in a wearable carrier during meetings and otherwise returned to wallets. No conclusive action was taken.

Andy also stated that under consideration is the purchase of equipment for enabling the audio-visual recording of our programs and the transfer of our existing VHS recordings to the more modern DVD medium. Storage of the equipment would be the purview of the Guild's Vice President. Purchase of such equipment was moved and seconded.

Several items were presented at Show-and-Tell. Pat Taylor modeled a jewelry box; and a jig for cutting wood to uniform lengths was shown.

There was general discussion of heating methods for woodshops and building codes; classes for members conducted by and restricted to members on days when classes are not otherwise scheduled, and when allowed by our host; consideration of having Aprons or T-shirts made with Guild Logo on them,

The Meeting was adjourned 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Hoffman, Secretary