

TideWater WoodWorkers Guild
26 February 2007 Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Regular February 2007 Meeting of the TideWater WoodWorkers Guild was held on Monday 26 February 2007 in the Classroom Area of the WoodCraft Store located in the JANAF Shopping Center in Norfolk, VA.

The Meeting was called to Order at 7:05 PM EST by President Andy Steinberg who first introduced the members of the Board of Directors, then related his recent experience with fire in an adjacent dwelling in which the life of one person was lost; and then pointed out the very high importance of having operative alarm units in our homes. He emphasized the importance of having batteries with full charges, connected and tested at all times. He then turned the Meeting over to Vice President and Program Chairman Bret Lancaster who introduced Bob Waddell and Myron Curtis who would demonstrate the making of a three-legged stool and a jig for angle-boring holes for the legs.

The two worked together performing the operations and narrating/explaining the procedures involved.

Bob Waddell pointed out the need for leg-holes in the seat, the reason for their being bored at an appropriate angle, all of them being bored at the *same* angle, cut to the same length, and the foot of each leg being cut at an appropriate angle for the seat to be parallel to the surface on which the stool was to rest. He also pointed out that a three-legged stool was desirable since often the resting surface (earth, uneven flooring, etc) would cause a four-legged one to rock during use. He also pointed out the convenience of a carrying handle projecting from the seat. In order to achieve these requirements, there is need for considerable preparation, *i.e.*, precise marking of hole centers, drill angles sawing angles; and the need for effective jigs to accomplish these markings and supports.

First, the seat must be designed and holes drilled *before* turning is begun. This is accomplished by:

1. Preparing the seat blank. The stock for the blank is selected and glued. Then thickness and squaring is performed. Next, using a straightedge the center, which is the point from which all other locations are determined, is established. Using a compass, a circle describing the outside diameter of the seat is drawn; then a circle is drawn whose radius is that of the distance from the center at which the leg-holes will be bored. Next, the compass with the radius held constant, is used to make six (6) arcs on the perimeter of that inner circle; care being taken that alternate arcs will avoid being placed in close proximity to glue lines. These alternate points will be the centers of the holes into which the legs will be placed.

2. Boring the leg holes. After the leg-hole centers are established, the holes are to be bored at angles (10 to 12 degrees is usual) that will allow the legs to flare outward. Boring the holes can be done in several ways: using a shop-made jig; using a store-bought jig to which a hand drill can be attached; a drill press. Lines drawn from the center through the hole-center-points to the edge (and perhaps vertically from that line to the opposing edge of the seat blank) can help in determining the angling of the drill.

3. The handle (optional) can be either mounted in a hole bored into the edge of the seat; or so constructed that it is mounted under the seat with glue, a screw, and a hole through which a leg passes, with the carrying-grip protruding.

The above-mentioned preparations made, the faceplate can then be mounted. This is accomplished by using a plug (shop-made or store-bought) of the diameter of the threaded hole in the faceplate and a centering pin in the center of the plug. The centering pin is placed in the center of the blank and the faceplate appropriately affixed to the blank.

Turning the seat is straightforward. The finished diameter of the seat is 12 inches; the angles where edges meet top and bottom rounded (eased) for comfort and to protect the coccyx of the user; the top surface of the seat is dished to a depth of $\frac{1}{2}$ inch at the center; and decorative beads cut to the maker's pleasure. Sanding is most easily accomplished while the work is on the lathe.

In the process of making the seat, the selection of tools used, the angles at which the tools are held and the tool-rests placed, involve experience and skill that it is not practical to describe in these minutes.

Myron Curtis then demonstrated the making of the legs. Beginning with round blanks cut to the proper length, and using a marking pole, the blanks were mounted in the lathe and marks made at the points for decorative bead (center), dowel for mounting to seat, and cutoff point at the bottom. Using calipers for measuring the tenon and bead diameters the legs were turned with an entasis, a slight convexity especially in the shaft of a column. Sanding was again done while the work was in the lathe.

Myron pointed out that, because the drill bit was a machine product and the holes of uniform size, while the tenon was hand turned and could vary slightly, it was easier and less time consuming to turn and fit the tenon to the hole than to match the hole to the tenon, and this method was demonstrated.

Bob Waddell pointed out that leg-length was important, as was the angle at the bottom of the leg. To achieve this uniform length and angle, a modicum of extra length was left at the cut-off point, a cutting gauge (a small block of wood approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick and $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches x 4 inches) was used in conjunction with a small, flexible handsaw; the finished stool being set on a flat surface (*e.g.*, a table saw) and the seat leveled, one leg being cut at the level of the gauge-top and then placed on top of the gauge; the second leg placed on the flat surface with gauge beside it and cut using the gauge as a guide; then the third leg being cut in the same way.

A round of applause met the conclusion of the program.

Following the program President Steinberg resumed the Chair.

3 New Members were welcomed into the Guild.

The president stated that he would like to see interested members of the Guild volunteer to form into pairs for the production of toys that could be used for Christmas gifts for children; anticipating 6 or 8 toys from each team in time for Christmas. He also stated that on 6 March he would be driving to Onancock to meet with woodworkers on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, and that other interested members would be welcome and car-pooling could be arranged. For those members who have not paid their 2007 dues, encouragement to do so was proffered; under the new discount arrangement with the WoodCraft Management, the deadline for discount is near-at-hand. Andy also wishes to see have some of our members inside the WoodCraft Store from 11 AM to 2 PM on the Saturday before each of our Meetings as resource persons to answer questions for visitors inquiring about the Guild. One of our members has come out of retirement to build houses and would appreciate knowing of any member interested in volunteering for Habitat For Humanity style house building.

Pat Taylor's announcement of wood being available at a location in the Emporia, VA area was mentioned.

Show and Tell included a turned humidor by Bill Caillet; some spade bits modified to bore tapered holes; mention was made of Google's <http://www.sketchup.com/>, an internet connection enabling the producing of 3D plans; Bret and Andy will oversee a program of members teaching skills to other members. Our membership stands at 54 as of this evening and Andy sees our having 100 by the end of this year.

Next months program will be John Moore and the making of Cabriole legs for furniture. Our April meeting will feature Bob Waddell sharing his knowledge of jigs and shop fixtures.

President Steinberg then declared the Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Hoffman, Secretary