

Tidewater Woodworkers Guild



Notes from the Wood House

Greetings all! I appreciate all the feedback (all positive!) on the meetings and the newsletter. My apologies for getting the newsletter out so late this month. I am still trying to finish the house.

I hope everyone who attend March's meeting enjoyed the presentation on the router. Because of the turnout and response, we are planning to have a second presentation incorporating advanced router techniques towards the end of the year.

This month's meeting will feature Martin Carter demonstrating the art of cutting dovetails by hand.

We are looking to have a contest this month for people to demonstrate their capabilities. Bret Lancaster and I will promote the details at Monday's meeting. To entice those of you who may be shy, we will

be offering prizes.

In conversation with Robert Waddell the other night, we were discussing a topic for a possible upcoming meeting. Bob suggested a "Widget Night". As Bob mentioned, each of us probably has one tool that we constantly use to assist us in our shop. It can be anything from the \$10 whatever to something you inherited from a grandparent. Please be thinking about tool that you cannot do without when you are working in your shop. Bret and I will be reminding everyone about this meeting.

If you have paid your dues within the past three months and you have not received your membership card, please let Ed Bunker or myself know and we will get your card to you as soon as possible.

Wood Chips

Each month, we get inquiries from various sources for different woodworking projects. If anyone is interested in earning extra money, please feel free to respond to the offer.

An update on the golf shirts with the guild logo. Pat Taylor has ordered some shirts but they will not be available for this month's meeting.

As mentioned in last month's meeting, we still have a workbench top that was won in a raffle but never claimed. We have decided to re-affle the bench top at this month's meeting. Hopefully, the winner will claim his or her prize after this raffle.

In regards to my living arrangements, we are still displaced. Everything that you have heard about non-responsive contractors has been verified. We are hoping for a May 2006 return.

April 2006

Next Meeting

April 24, 2006
7:00PM

Woodcraft of Norfolk
5802 E. Virginia Beach Blvd.
Norfolk, VA 23502
(757) 466-1166

Monthly Meeting

4th Monday of Each
Month

Find Us On the Web

www.twwwg.com

Please note that parts of the site are password protected. The password is provided to those whose dues are current.

Club Dues

Dues are \$15.00 per year and are payable by check or cash.

Upcoming Meetings

Bret Lancaster will be coordinating presenters and demonstrators each month. If you know of someone that would be a good presenter or if you would like to demonstrate your talents, please contact Bret.

April

Guest Presenter

Martin Carter

Hand Cut Dovetails

May

Guest Presenter

Sherwin Williams

Representative

Discussion on Finishes

The Executive Board

| | | |
|----------------|------------------|----------|
| Andy Steinberg | President/Editor | 624-9151 |
| Bret Lancaster | Vice President | 631-0634 |
| Bill Hoffman | Secretary | 420-7087 |
| Gene George | Treasurer | 499-7281 |
| Pat Taylor | Past President | 481-3167 |

Tips and Techniques - Hazards of Sawdust

It is intuitively obvious that if you are going to be working with wood, sawing, and sanding wood you are going to be exposed to wood dust. Possibly for the majority, this article may be "preaching to the choir". Yet safety in woodworking should always be brought to the forefront from time to time. Practically everything we do has an element of risk, however the more knowledgeable we are of the hazards involved, the better we are able to manage the evolutions.

Yet any examination of woodworking safety generally raises more questions than answers. As in any analysis, a few definitions are necessary to understand wood and wood dust toxicity. The potency of hazardous substances inherent in both the handling and the cutting of wood can be divided into 3 categories: irritants, sensitizers, and poisons.

Irritants ... are substances that irritate exposed areas of the body. The effects of irritants are usually proportional to the concentration and the time exposed to the substance.

Sensitizers ... are substances that can cause a potentially serious allergic reaction, usually after repeated exposure to individuals that are susceptible in the first place.

Poisons ... are dangerous substances that have the capacity to kill. Poisons can be subdivided into ...

- Natural compounds that are produced by the tree itself
- Introduced substances like fungal spores, bacteria, as well as substances added by humans like arsenic in pressure treated wood of years past and ACQ, Alkaline Copper Quaternary compounds, a present day wood preservative.

Irritants. All species of wood dust are an irritant to the human tissue especially to the mucous membranes of our respiratory tract. This is because **all** wood dust has the tendency to desiccate or dehydrate the tissue of moisture and oils. Add to this, the dust of certain woods that contain chemicals can further amplify the reaction of physical irritation to a caustic one. Many woodworkers find working with oak especially irritating due to the high levels of tannic acid. Acids have an affinity for moisture. When cutting conifers, the volatile terpene dust can also be an irritant to some woodworkers. The intensity of the irritation to wood cutting operations is usually a function of concentration and time. Irritant woods include black locust, cocobolo, ebony, oleander, satinwood, sequoia, and yew.

Sensitizers. Wood toxicity presents a myriad of challenges for both the woodworker and the doctor. Wood chemistry and its impact on the human body are at minimum, complex. To complicate the situation, certain sensitizers do not affect every woodworker in the same way or intensity. Additionally, repeat exposures usually have an increased immune system response ... so your second and third exposures are not like the first, and usually worse.

Approximately 1 in 25 woodworkers have allergic reactions to the compounds in wood. There are numerous physical variables; wet or dry, with or without bark, fine or course particles, size of contact area, vapor, dust, dust extraction, air movement, temperature, humidity, contact frequency, sensitivity, and immunity to mention a few. Allergic reactions take time. The immune system uses the first exposure to "gear-up" for fighting the allergen. Some allergic reactions do not present itself immediately. Symptoms can take months When working with a new wood, be cautious and limit your exposure. Sensitizer woods include cypress, balsam fir, beech, birch, elm, greenheart, mahogany, maple, myrtle, redwood, sassafras, spruce, walnut, willow, western red cedar, and teak.

Poisonous substances. There are only a few naturally occurring poisons in dosages that the average woodworker might ingest while working with them. Compounds of the lethal variety are usually alkaloids, a bitter chemical found in plants, have high concentrations in the bark, in the sap, in the fruit, and sometimes only in the leaves, thereby primarily affecting those that harvest the tree.

Toxic levels not considered a problem to the woodworker may present dangerous and even lethal levels of toxins when exposed to heat and/or moisture, over a period of time. When considering a wood for use in kitchen utensils or tools such as a spoon or skewers, heat or moisture can accelerate the release of toxins. To be safe, research your wood species in advance and choose an inert species when making toys for infants ... especially rattles and other wood items that infants tend to put in their mouth. Remember that the cutting process of wood, including a lathe, can create heat to expose the toxins.

Woodworkers never say "no" to a dust mask. Among woodworkers, the chances of developing nasal and sinus cancer run about 5-40 times greater than non-woodworkers. Although researchers haven't identified the exact cancer-causing compound (primarily due to the disease latency period of 30 to 50 years), some evidence points to dust from wood with high tannin content, such as chestnut, oak, redwood, western red cedar, and hemlock.

There are intentionally introduced chemicals for specific purposes such as improving insect and rot resistance. Other manufactured wood products like plywood and fiberboards may contain formaldehyde in their adhesives. Formaldehyde can be slowly released over time, but exposure can be accelerated by the heat created in sawing and sanding operations.

There are MSDS's (Material Safety Data Sheet) on wood dust, and they have been around since the early 1990's. All manufacturers and handler of wood products have their own MSDS's. The link below will take you to an MSDS Sheet for CCA-C pressure treated wood manufactured by "Hoover Treated Wood Products, Inc" for an introduction to an MSDS sheet. MSDS sheets list manufacturer's name, address, phone number, and goes on to identify the hazardous ingredient(s). The MSDS usually lists the chemical characteristics, fire and explosion hazard data, chemical reactivity data, health hazards, along with emergency and first aid procedures, and usually ends with recommended control measures and precautions for safe handling and use. http://www.frtw.com/uploads/technotes/CCA/MSDS_CCA.pdf#search='MSDS%20sawdust'

What is the best way to control wood dust? At the source! Capture the dust where it is being generated and control it as in a dust collection system. With dust collection, you dramatically decrease your exposure to the dust. Dust escaping the primary collection system can be controlled with secondary devices like electrostatic precipitators and wood shop air filtration systems. As well, personal respiratory devices can be worn to minimize the woodworker's respiratory exposure. Long sleeves and gloves can be used to reduce skin exposure.

References:

Albert Forest Products, "Toxicity of Wood." www.city-net.com/albertfp/toxic.htm

Jon Arno, Eugene Dimitriadis, Jim Flynn, and Roy Tandy. (2001). Insights on Wood Toxicity. [A Guide to Useful Woods of the World.](#) (pp 571-577). Forest Products Society: Madison, WI

Program Highlights from our March Meeting



In March, Robert Wagensellar presented a great overview of router techniques including the plunge router and the router table. His demonstration included techniques in free-hand engraving and explanations on various router bit types. As well, Rob provided a great tip on setting the plunge depth on the

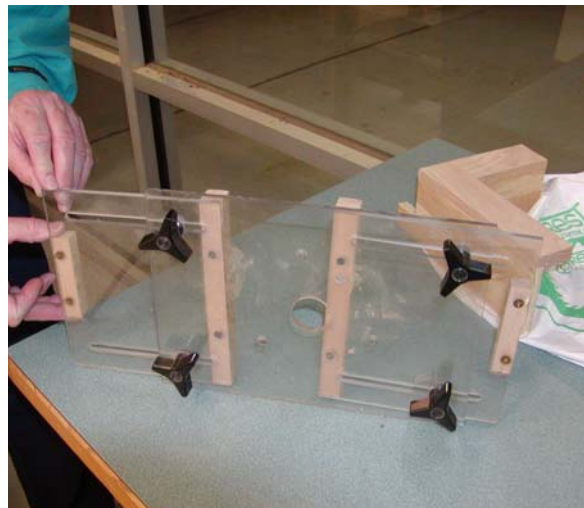


Show and Tell



Below is a custom-made router jig by Robert for creating mortises.

Bob Malloy presented his version of a versatile horizontal router jig. Unfortunately, that guy in the red shirt keeps getting in the pictures.



Wood'n You Like To Know

Each month we will feature some general information about a wood that you saw in the stores or heard about in conversation but maybe you never took the time to inquire about the wood.

This month's wood, Osage-orange, has been requested none other than our webmaster – Ed Bunker.

Osage-orange has been planted in all 48 contiguous states. Initially, the trees were planted as a field hedge, before barbed wire became available. Osage-orange possesses strong form, texture, and character, maturing with a thick, gnarled appearance. The trees are easily recognized by their glossy, lance-shaped leaves and their short, stout thorns.

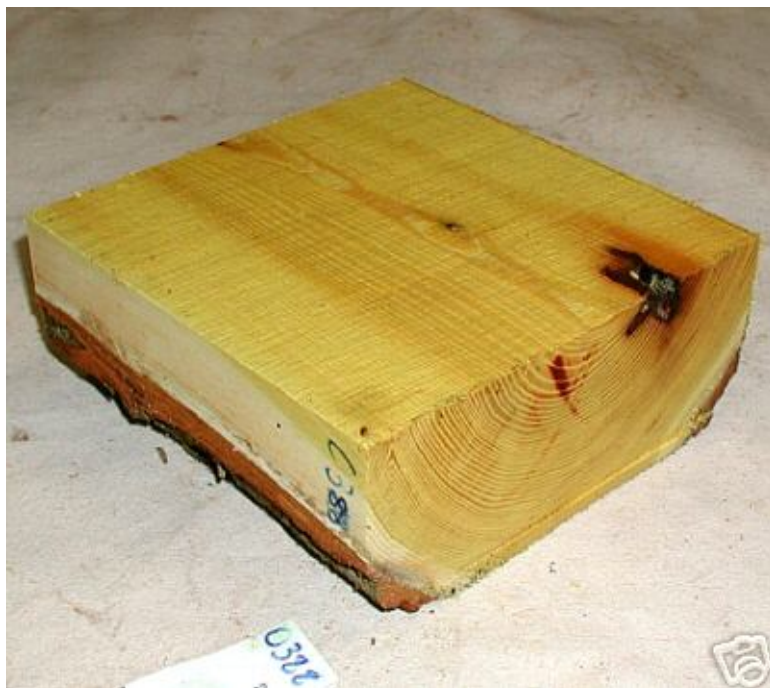
As well they were planted as a windbreak component for shelterbelts. Another use of this tree was to stabilize soils and control erosion. The wood is used for extraction of a yellow dye. The fruit that the tree produces is also called the "hedge-apple".

Many people in the USA believe that the fruit of the Osage Orange, a large green non-edible fruit that resembles the shape and skin texture of an orange, will keep insects out of the house. They will gather and place them around basement windows and other likely locations to discourage entry by crickets and other insects. It is believed that this only works as long as the fruit is green.

Of course, the use we are most interested in is its use in woodworking. The Osage Orange is so called because the bright yellow wood was used by the Osage Indians for bows. The common name "*Bodark*" is an altered version of the French "*Bois du Arc*" or "*wood of the bow*".

The timber is very dense, fine and long grained, with a distinctive bright yellow to orange color and an opalescence that has to be seen to be believed. Some people rank the lumber of the Osage Orange tree as the hardest lumber in North America. The timber of the osage orange is available for purchase, due to the various shapes and sections, is usually sold by weight.

As a woodturning timber it is second to none. It is relatively simple to turn, sands very easily and takes a finish brilliantly especially if finished with Shellawax or Shellawax Cream. The amazing opalescence in the wood shows up especially well on turned work.



Club Discounts Available

Over the years, certain businesses have offered a variety of discounts to our membership. Listed below is a current list of companies that offer some type of discount for products and services.

Sure Set Saw 13% Discount

Chesapeake (757) 420-7991

Cabinet Makers Hardware

Virginia Beach (757) 490-1185

Plywood & Plastics

Norfolk (757) 858-3908

Scroll-it Service

Portsmouth (757) 237-6867

Sherwin Williams Paint 15% Discount

All stores in Hampton Roads

Upcoming Regional Craft Shows

| MAY | Dates | Deadline | Cost | Space Size | Location | Contact # |
|--|--------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Art on the Halfshell Fine Arts & Crafts Festival | 14 | 4-15 | \$100 | 10x10 | Urbanna, VA | 804-758-1605 |
| Chesapeake Jubilee | 20-21 | 4-1 | \$125* | 10x10 | Chesapeake, VA | 757-482-4848 |
| Kellam High School Spring Market Fling | 1 | | \$25 | 10x10 | Va. Beach, VA | 757-563-9467 |
| Matthew Whaley School Spring Craft Show | 1 | | \$25 | 10x10 | Williamsburg, VA | |
| Pungo Strawberry Festival | 27-28 | 3-1 | \$125* | 10x10 | Pungo, VA | 757-721-6001 |
| Stockley Garden Art Show | 20-21 | 2-4 | \$200 | 10x10 | Norfolk, VA | 757-625-6161 |
| Annual Mothers Day Craft Show | 11-13 | | | | Statesville, NC | 828-437-5002 |
| Celtic Fest & Highland Games | 12-13 | | | | Winston-Salem, NC | 336-924-8191 |
| Shenandoah Apple Blossom Fest | 2-7 | | | | Winchester, VA | 540-722-8700 |
| Sugarloaf Craft Festival | 5-7 | | | | Chantilly, VA | 800-210-9900 |
| Annual Virginia Wine & Craft Fest | 20 | | | | Front Royal, VA | 540-635-3185 |
| Annual River Show | 12-28 | | | | Fayetteville, NC | 910-323-4234 |
| All American Week Fort Bragg | 22-26 | | | | Fort Bragg, NC | 910-436-4440 |
| Taste of Durham Festival | 27 | | | | Durham, NC | 910-401-2926 |
| Low Country Shrimp Fest & Blessin | 6 | | | | McClellanville, SC | 843-452-7811 |
| Chestertown Teaparty Festival | 26-28 | | | | Chestertown, MD | 410-778-7237 |
| JUNE | | | | | | |
| Dare Day | 5 | 4-1 | \$50 | 10x10 | Manteo, NC | 252-475-5629 |
| Bayou Boogaloo & Cajun Food Fest | 23-25 | 2-24 | \$100* | 10x10 | Norfolk, VA | 757-441-2345 |
| Church of the Ascension Spring Festival | 5-6 | | \$30 | 8x8 | Virginia Beach, VA | |
| Harborfest (coincides w/ Pts Seawall Fest) | 9-11 | 2-24 | \$100* | 10x10 | Norfolk, VA | 757-441-2345 |
| Juneteenth Celebration | 18 | 1-1 | | | Elizabeth City, NC | 252-331-2925 |
| Portsmouth Seawall Festival | 10-12 | | | | Portsmouth, Va | 757-393-5111 |
| Va Beach Boardwalk Art Show & Festival | 16-19 | | \$365* | 10x10 | Virginia Beach, VA | |
| Croaker Festival | 30-1 | | | | Oriental, NC | 252-675-1411 |
| Hampton Blackbeard Festival | 3-4 | | | | Hampton, VA | 757-288-8632 |
| JULY | | | | | | |
| Virginia Beach Big Flea Market | 1-3 | | \$100 | 9x10 | Virginia Beach, VA | 757-430-4735 |
| Art in the Park (Eastern Shore) | 1 | 4-1 | \$60 | 10x10 | Machipongo, VA | 757-787-2460 |
| Independence Day Fireworks | 4 | 2-25 | \$100* | 10x10 | Norfolk, VA | 757-441-2345 |
| Norfolk Jazz Festival | 15-16 | 2-25 | \$100* | 10x10 | Norfolk, VA | 757-441-2345 |
| Pork Peanut & Pine Fest | 16-17 | | \$85 | 10x10 | Surry, VA | 757-294-3625 |
| DC Big Flea Market | 16-17 | | \$150 | 9x10 | Chantilly, VA | 757-430-4735 |
| Bay Days Annual Juried Art Exhibit | 22-12 | | | | Hampton, VA | 757-727-1490 |
| Knotts Island Peach Festival | 29-31 | | \$75 | 10x20 | Knotts Island, NC | 252-429-3558 |
| Bele Chere Fest | 28-30 | | | | Asheville, NC | 828-259-5800 |
| Annual Christmas in July Craft Show | 28-30 | | | | Statesville, NC | 828-437-5002 |

IWF 2006 Technical Conference Program - Atlanta, GA August 23-26, 2006

IWF (International Woodworking Machinery & Furniture Supply Fair) will host Technical Conference Sessions that will be presented by some of the industry's top experts. Take advantage of these programs to get the training you need to keep or improve your competitive edge in this fast-paced industry. The sessions will provide access to expert tips, tricks and insider knowledge. www.iwf2006.com

For those of you interested in attending a show and require more information, please feel free to call the number listed or contact .

Debbie Glaze (mnshine38@aol.com or 535-0754) for more information.