

Tidewater Woodworkers Guild



Notes from the Wood House

Greetings all! To answer that magic question that many of you have been posing to me for the past year....Yes, we have finally moved back home. Judy and I moved back in our home a week after the last meeting.

Although we still have more work that needs to be done, it is wonderful to be home.

We want to thank everyone for their words of encouragement and for those who volunteered their talents, trucks and general labor.

I would like to personally thank Ed Bunker for all his support. He has assisted me more times than I can recall on Guild issues.

Last month, we started a

new program with Woodcraft with a 10% discount on certain purchases (see pg. 3 for more details). After Monday's meeting, only those members with a 2007 membership card can take advantage of the discount.

So, crack open the piggy bank or dig up that Mason Jar you have buried and meet with Gene George to get your dues current. Gene will be at Woodcraft early to "take your money". Remember that you can print out your membership application from the web-site.

Bret Lancaster, our Vice President, is still searching for someone to assume the responsibilities as the training coordinator. If you are

interested, please contact Bret for further details.

Wood Chips

We, the TWWWG, have been invited to attend the Eastern Shore woodworkers meeting on March 6th. A number of articles have appeared in the paper regarding some of the woodworkers in the Eastern Shore.

The meeting begins at 7PM at Stella's in Onancock. From the beach side bridge tunnel, the drive would about 90 minutes. Stella's is a restaurant in Onancock and the meeting will be held upstairs.

I plan to attend. If anyone is interested, please let me know. We can certainly carpool.

February 2007

Next Meeting

February 26, 2007
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.

February

Guest Presenter

Bob Waddell

&

Myron Curtis

3-legged Stool Turning

March

Guest Presenter

John Moore

Making a Cabriole Leg

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

Tool Tips: Tuning Your Band Saw, Part I

Springtime is just around the corner ... March 21st to be exact ... and that is only a month away! So it is about that time to check out the ole band saw and possibly give it at least a “minor” tune-up. Of course after you read this article, you may want to do a major tune-up and get that band saw performing like it was new again. Actually, it is not that hard to tune up a band saw and it can really save on frustration when that special project calls for the accuracy of a “fine tuned” machine.

It doesn't make much difference what brand of band saw you are tuning up ... it is the logical progression of the process. First you have to do an inspection of a few of the significant components. Belts, Bearings, Tires, Tensioning Spring(s) and the blade itself all must be in good condition before making any adjustments.

Not all band saws have drive belts between the motor and the driving wheel. However for those that do, worn out belts that are hard, dry-rotted, missing sections of rubber, or showing the inner cords dangling and racing around when in operation do not characterize the “fine tuned” machine the manufacturer intended. If I have just described your drive belt, invest in a new replacement belt while it is still in one piece. It is much easier to estimate the replacement belt size if the old belt still resembles some of its original characteristics.

Bearings ... there are several of these in every band saw. Today's bearings are sealed and permanently lubricated and usually maintenance free. But this doesn't mean that they will not fail. Bad bearings are characterized by excessive noise and a sloppy movement when rotated, especially at normal operation speeds. If the band saw blade is expected to track correctly the bearings supporting the wheels around which the blade is mounted must be in good condition. So if your band saw is literally screaming or making unusual grinding or clunking sounds and it is not your hand or some varmint in the spokes of the wheels, it is most likely time for a set of new bearings!

Yes, that reminds me, a lot of the inspection process is conducted with the doors open or covers removed exposing the rotating parts and the blade. This requires some common sense and if you intend to put your fingers, hands, and or face into the inner workings of your band saw, there are several safety considerations that should be considered. The least of which is to remove the energy source from the prime mover. Unplug the band saw! This way it cannot start up even if you fall against the start'm up switch. Unplugging the saw will not protect you from injury. I've been around long enough now to know that if humans really try, they can always find a way to sustain an injury. However, by unplugging the band saw, you should be able to control the bleeding until you can seek professional help ... for both the injury as well as the band saw tune up if necessary.

OK, back to bearings! There are a couple of thrust bearings that are positioned behind the saw blade. One is located above the table and the other below. You inspect these bearings first by sight. You look for the results of an over heated condition.

A bluish color on the outer race of the bearing is usually complimented by physical damage to the bearing's edge nearest the back of the blade. Be careful if you intend to put your fingers on this bearing. If the saw was just in use, the bearing's outer race could be very hot. Additionally, there could be friction cut lines that have caused a sharp burr to protrude from the edge. Bearings in this condition will require replacement. The over-heated condition has, at a minimum, destroyed the lubrication qualities in the bearing. You may also find the bearing seized in position. The bearing replacement process is not that difficult however there are some considerations and precautions that must be followed to ensure reliable results.

Moving on to the tires. The tires are normally located in a recess at the perimeter of the wheels. The condition of the tires is critical in the performance of the band saw as well as the life of the blade. Inspect these tires for cracks, missing pieces, and the presents of a crown in the center of the tire. If your band saw tires are more than a few years old and you are unable or have forgotten to detension your blade when not in use, there is a high probability that you are in need of new tires. Today's band saw tires are designed with a crown that peeks in the center of the tire. This crown is designed so when the blade is properly positioned and tensioned on the tire, the blade is self-tracking. Poor tire condition causes premature blade breakage.

Tensioning Spring(s) and blades are the easy ones. Just make sure they are not broken and not full of wood chips and saw dust that may preclude their operation.

Now if the blade is dull or cracks developing at the gullet, you should consider a replacement. You should also consider long sleeves and leather gloves when opening coiled blades from their packaging. If you have a propensity for objects to strike you in and about the face, then a face shield is also strongly recommended. There is nothing predictable about a three-quarter inch band saw blade coming out of that blister packaging! Yes, it usually hurts and usually leaves marks ... wear the face shield!

OK, that's the inspection part. Stay tuned for the tune up and a few tips that can make you proud of your band saw again.

Submitted by:

Ed Bunker TWWWG Membership Chair & Web Services.

Tool Review—Woodcraft Clamps

Here is Adrian Marshall's overview on the clamps:

In response to the newsletter about new tools we received for Christmas, the best tools I received were the K- body clamps from Woodcraft. I have an assortment of Bessey K bodies but these green generics are made just as good as Bessey because they are made by Bessey. At about 25% less these are a bargain, especially when you get an additional 10% off at Woodcraft. These K body's are about the best when you are joining boards.

Club Discounts Available

Over the years, certain businesses have offered a variety of discounts to our membership. 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

New Club Program

We have new program with the Norfolk Woodcraft store.

Beginning on the January 22nd club meeting date, the following discount program will be offered:

A 10% discount will be given to **all club members in good standing**. This discount does not include power tools, Festool, Leigh Products or special orders. This discount can not be used with any other sale promotion. The discount will be offered from 6:00PM until the registers are closed on the regular monthly meeting. All club members will be asked to show their membership cards to receive this discount. This program will replace the club rebate program that has been offered in the past.

Dues paid in 2006 can utilize the discount through March 1, 2007.

Show and Tell From Our January 2007 Meeting



Corey Larson did his version of "Stump the Band" with this gadget. Many folks offered their guesses. I'm not sure if anyone determined the exact name. However, Corey, with the assistance of the internet determined this device to be a laminate cutter.

Woodworking Web Sites of Interest

Free-Woodworking-Stuff.Com - An awesome collection of free woodworking books, catalogs, charts, plans, software, tool sweepstakes, and other woodworking stuff.

[Free woodworking plans](#) - The Woodworking Plan Finder has tons of free plans arranged by category

The Footulator—Your Basic Board Foot Calculator

www.woodbin.com/calcs/footulator.htm

Here is a bare-bones board foot calculator for tallying up lumber requirements. Just enter your desired thickness, width, length, and quantity and it will compute board feet and total board feet. If you want something a little more elaborate that can also produce a materials list, check out the Tabulator.

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. If there is a wood you wish to see featured, please contact me and let me know.

If you have perused the lumber aisles at Woodcraft lately, you may have noticed an interesting wood call Anigre. It is also known as anegre or aniegre. This species of wood comes primarily from Guinea to Ethiopia, but it is also found in Zambia and Gabon.

Anigre usually is a light tan heartwood with a straight grain with an occasional waviness. Depending on the region this African hardwood is harvested, the heartwood can be a yellow white, pale tan or pink brown and the wood darkens in color after exposure. Some have compared the appearance of anigre to that butternut with a figure like curly maple. When fresh milled, the wood emits a cedar-like odor.

A note regarding the color of the wood is the sometime presence of a bluish-grey stain. The bluish stain may appear during the initial stages of drying. Once properly dried, the wood is extremely stable and retains its form after seasoning.

The texture of anigre is found to be medium to coarse but heavier grades can be found to have a fine texture. Because this wood has a high, silica content, the wood can cause detrimental blunting to most tools.

Anigre is a hard wood that requires support to prevent chipping when creating mortises or boring. Although the wood can be sawn fairly easily, the wood is known to be difficult to plane to a smooth finish. The good news about anigre is that it finishes beautifully and is known for its lustrous finish. As well, it takes most stains with little problem.

Since the wood possesses good steam bending properties, one of its primary uses is guitar bodies. Anigre is referred to as a "great tonewood" and its sound in musical instruments rivals mahogany. Other uses of the wood include light construction and utility plywood. With its naturally lustrous appearance and its ability to be incredible to polish, anigre is also utilized in the furniture making and high-class joinery.



Program Highlights from the January 2007 Meeting



Rick Bush of Festool (above) provided a wonderful overview on the Festool line and history of the company. We were all treated to private showing of the new Festool Domino. This tool is their version of a biscuit joiner with more versatility.

