

Tidewater Woodworkers Guild



Notes from the Wood House

Greetings All! I am sure all of us are trying to determine what the in dickens is going on with winter; or the lack there of.

We had a great meeting and an incredible turnout last month. Bret, Ken, Fred, Pat and myself as well as all the other folks on the different guild committees are looking forward to the same representation at each meeting for the remainder of the year.

Starting in March, the next 4 meetings will be addressing the overall concept of wood finishing. We have had many requests over the past 2 years and we hope this forum will answer some of your questions as well as teach you the basics on finishing your latest creation.

Bret Lancaster, our Program Director has put together some talented woodworkers

who have agreed to share what they know about the different aspects of finishing.

Wood Chips

Karl Bogott, our presenter this month is looking for volunteers in June. Karl is one of the project coordinators for the Habitat for Humanity. Their next project will be to build 16 houses in 5 days out in Suffolk.

They will be looking for people to do the following:

Teaching basic carpentry

Coordinating other aspects of the project

Volunteers assist in warehouse coordination.

Please let Karl know if you can assist. He will have more details at Monday's meeting.

To segue from the Habitat for Humanity, the area in Suffolk that is being cleared now has

some usable trees. We have reserved a few trees to be milled into lumber. If you are interested in assisting in milling the lumber, please contact me.

Last month, we were hoping to discuss spontaneous combustion. Unfortunately, we ran out time. I have tabled the topic for this month's meeting. For those of you that have had first hand experience with this occurrence, please come Monday to share with the guild your incident and guidance. The goal is to prevent any future mishaps.

On March 1, Woodcraft will be having its March Madness Sale. If you are not signed up for the mailing, please go by to Woodcraft and register. This sale is a great opportunity to get that tool you were looking for at Christmas but received those fuzzy reindeer slippers instead.

February 2008

Next Meeting

**February 25, 2008
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 Lancaster.

February

Guest Presenter

Karl Bogott

The Ubiquitous Scroll Saw

March

Guest Presenter

Bob Fred & Bob Waddell

Choosing a Finish

The Executive Board

Andy Steinberg	President/Editor	624-9151
Bret Lancaster	Vice President	631-0634
Ken Craig	Secretary	498-7309
Fred Olds	Treasurer	486-3862
Pat Taylor	Past President	481-3167

Shop Tools—Low Angle Block Plane

Last year, I took the Portsmouth Chest class taught by Steve Houmis. When I inquired about what tools I would need for the class, naturally Steve pointed to the Woodcraft catalogue and said, “One of everything should suffice.”

Since I had not won the lottery, I was able to obtain a more abridged list from Steve. One of the items necessary was a low angle block plane. The recommendation was the Groz Low Angle Block Plane. Having never owned a plane like this before, I had questions; and Steve had answers and advice. His first piece of advice was to lose the plane blade that came with the block plane and invest in a Hock Blade. I did.



Steve’s next bit of advice was to flatten the plane itself and then sharpen the blade. Having paid close attention to Mickey Spillane’s long lost cousin Jack when Jack did his scary sharpening technique last year, I invested in the different grades of sand paper, got a large piece of glass and began the sharpening. I was amazed at how much work was required to flatten the plane.

As Jack said in the class and Steve reiterated, the initial sharpening does take some work; I was quite pleased with my effort. The test came when I had to plane the surfaces of my Portsmouth Chest drawer fronts—solid mahogany. The Groz Plane met my expectations. As I have seen many woodworkers do when they plane wood, the wood curls came off almost effortlessly.

For curiosity, I also sharpened the stock blade just to see the difference in the steel. Yes, there is a difference. The Hock blade held its edge much longer and seemed to just cut the wood cleaner.

Adjusting the depth of cut can be done on the fly but I have yet to master that technique. But, micro-adjusting the depth of cut is simple. The opening adjustment has had some minor difficulties in maintaining the gap.

Removing the blade for sharpening is simple and quick. A slight turn of the screw and blade easily releases from the frog.

Overall, my investment for this plane and blade was about \$60 after my Guild discount. If you do not have a low angle block plane or , you are looking to replace an existing hand plane, I would recommend you invest in the Groz plane and replace the stock blade with the Hock Blade. It is worth the investment.

Wood’n You Like To Know

Each month we feature some 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.

A few weeks ago, I was at Erik Jorgenson’s shop. He had just finished some impressive heart-shaped, curio boxes out of a beautiful wood. The wood Erik has used for these boxes was canarywood.

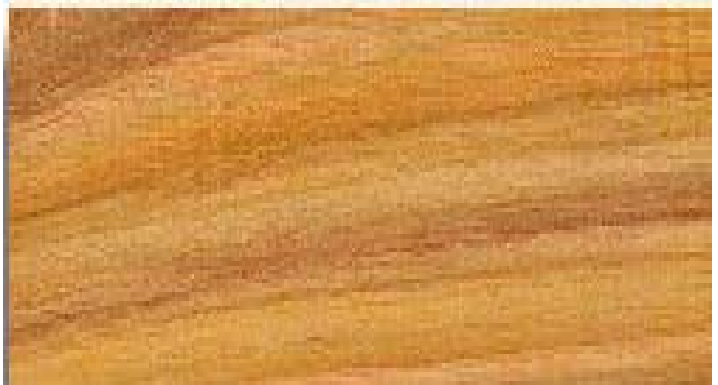
Canarywood is a South American hardwood that is primarily found in Brazil, Panama and Bolivia. The tree grows to a medium size with the average height being around 100ft. Diameters are normally in the 30 – 50” range. Like many tropical hardwoods, canarywood is a dense wood that weighs about 6 lbs per board foot.

The heartwood of this tree is usually yellow to an orange-yellow hue in color. Normally, the lumber is variegated with a rainbow of color streaks varying from yellow, red and purple to brown and black with highlights of rose colored spots and swirls. The grain of canarywood is straight with a fine texture and open pores.

Canarywood is an easy to work with hand or power tools. Because of its straight grain, the wood finishes smooth, turns easily and can be polished to a high luster. Unlike some tropical woods, canarywood is stable so it is not prone to warping or cracking. And, the wood tends to maintain its color after exposure and finishing.

When gluing up the lumber, you will want to clean the surfaces that are to be glued with acetone – especially mortise and tenon joints. Like teak, canarywood is oily. But, unlike teak, it will not dull your sharp blades like teak, because it does not have the high silica content.

With all its attributes, canarywood is one of those woods that “makes the piece”. From an industrial perspective, canarywood is utilized as railroad ties and heavy construction. In the woodworking realm, canarywood is incorporated as a decorative veneer, trim and millwork, fine furniture, boat building, musical instruments and cabinet making. Because of its weight, there are not too many pieces of solid canarywood crafted, but it would be hard to find a piece of furniture that does not stand out due to its canarywood accent.



News From the Membership Chair -And the Survey Says?

At the start of each woodworking year, I have used the Membership Application to find out what you the membership are interested in learning more about at the guild. Before I crunch the numbers, allow me to qualify the survey data. As of the Feb 9th, 2008, we have 67 members in good standing. Of those 67 members 37 responded to the survey on the membership application ... that's about 55% of the membership ... thus far. Now, the following "number crunching" is based on those 37 member responses.

*The top five woodworking **Power Tools** these members wanted to learn more about are:*

1. The Router at 49 %
2. The Band Saw at 41% tied with the Table Saw at 41%
3. The Lathe at 35%
4. The Thickness Planer at 27% and,
5. The Scroll Saw at 24%

The top five **Processes** the 37 responders requested more information and training are:

1. Mortise & Tenon Joinery at 49%
2. Dovetail Joinery at 46%
3. Dust Control at 38%
4. Finger Joint at 35 % and,
5. Biscuit Joinery at 32%, tied with Inlay at 32%

There has been a strong response again this year on **Finishing Techniques** however, the priorities remain as in the past few years.

1. Stain at 51%
2. Varnish at 49%
3. Oil and Lacquer tied at 43% with,
4. Repair and refinish techniques at 38%

There are a few areas of interest that do not fit neatly into the above categories that should be considered. For instance, chisels and planes including their sharpening had 19 of 37 responders (51%)! Woodcarving was broken down into their respective areas this year with the following results:

1. Relief Carving at 41%
2. Chip Carving at 32% and
3. Fowl Carving at 19%

The Training Committee Chairman is Jerry Crick and can be reached at Pecjlc1@aol.com or 757-479-2859. Jerry can coordinate and facilitate desired training. WoodCraft Store has been most cooperative with the use of their facility to conduct training, and in providing power tools and equipment for training. So, if you are new to woodworking or would like to know more about a specific woodworking power tool or a woodworking process, make your desires known to Jerry.

In conclusion, these numbers indicate the desires of the 37 members that took the time and effort to let us know. It is difficult to steer the guild in the direction you want it to go if you do not make your interests known. So, if you have expertise in power tools, hand tools, and willing to make some saw dust at the guild meetings, contact the Programs Chairman Bret Lancaster at brlancaster@cox.net or 757-631-0634. Bret maintains the schedule and will let you know which months are still available. If you are looking for training in the safe operation and use of woodworking tools and power tools, or additional info or hands on practice on any of the woodworking processes contact Jerry Crick at Pecjlc1@aol.com or 757-479-2859.

I want to thank each of you that filled out the Membership Application from which the above data were derived. If there are any recommendations for improvement of the process, please forward your comments and remarks to Ed Bunker at EBunker369@aol.com or 757-567-1421. Wishing you all the best in your woodworking projects this year.

Program Highlights From our January 2008 Meeting



Last month, Bret Lancaster gave a great presentation on table saw safety. The presentation was so well received that there will be a Part II later in the year. For those present, we were also treated to live demonstration of the Saw Stop Table Saw—thanks Bill Calliet of Woodcraft!

Show and Tell From Our January 2008 Meeting



Raymond Kurtz (above) shows off a tackle box that he created some time ago when he did fish. The bird on the front was carved by Raymond. According to Raymond, to ensure the authenticity, he even added that fishy smell that tackle boxes have.

Bob Malloy (below) shows off a rocker that he crafted. He got the idea from a woodworkers catalogue and proved that he could make a chair just as well without the catalogue investment.

Editor's Note: Last month, Pat Taylor created a cutting board and brought it in for Show and Tell. Due to battery failure, our photographer was not able to get a picture of Pat's creation. Our apologies Pat!

Woodworking on Television

There are a number of woodworking shows on cable and satellite these days for those of you who subscribe to these services. On PBS, Saturday at 7:30AM on WHRO, we can always find Norm and the New Yankee Workshop. At 3:30PM on Saturday, the New Yankee Workshop is broadcast on the North Carolina PBS. This is followed by the Woodwright Shop at 4:00PM.

On the DIY channel, the New Yankee Workshop is on Friday night, Saturday morning, Saturday night and Sunday morning. Either before or after, Wood Works hosted by David Marks is broadcast. Check your cable or satellite listing for the exact time and program details. There has been some great presentations of late.

If anyone knows of any other shows, please let us know.

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.

Woodcraft	10% off on meeting night
	Norfolk (757) 466-1166
Sure Set Saw	13% Discount
	Chesapeake (757) 420-7991
Cabinet Makers Hardware	Contractor's Price
	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