

# Tidewater Woodworkers Guild



## Notes from the Wood House

Greetings all! I hope everyone has been keeping cool in their shop these past few days.

I would like to make a suggestion about this time of year and shop safety.

Yesterday afternoon, I was ripping boards in my shop as the storms started rolling through the area. As I finish cutting a board, lightning flashed, thunder clapped and power was lost for a second and then came back on at the shop. My saw cut off due to the power loss and did not come back on when power was restored.

I started wondering about the possible consequences had I been using a power tool that did not have a breaker built into it.

This may be a bit corny, but I would suggest to all to take a break when the storms start coming into the area.

Use the time as an opportunity to sweep up, straighten up or put your feet up. There is no reason to take the chance of injury due to an intermittent power fluctuation in your shop.

### Wood Chips

This past week, I received a telephone call from Robert Wagenseller. If you recall, Rob did a great presentation for us last year on utilizing the router and the router table.

Rob moved to St. Louis last November for new employment. He has not been able yet to find a wood-

working guild to join but he keeps searching. Anyway, he sends his regards to all.

Last week I sent an e-mail out to the guild for all those who are making toys to get back to me to coordinate an article for the Guild in the paper. I am sorry to say that the response was poor. According to the responses I received, not including my team, we have 2 other teams making toys for the holidays

The reporter for the paper is still interested in writing the article, but she would like a few more folks to speak to regarding the toy-making. So, let's lose the shyness and make some sawdust and toys for the kids.

**July 2007**

### Next Meeting

**July 23, 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](http://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.

### July

Guest Presenter

Tom Smith

&

Bob Fred

Steam Bending Wood

### August

Guest Presenter

To be determined

Presentation by Freud

Or

Table Saw Safety and Tricks

## The Executive Board

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

## Product Review: Blade Cleaner

*Submitted by Andy Steinberg*

A few weeks ago, I had the pleasure of Bob Fred visiting my shop. Bob offered to come assist me in “truing up” my old Rockwell Unisaw.

After Bob’s magic, we were able to get the saw to cut to within .002” accuracy. However, I was still getting burn marks on one side of the wood. We checked the blade and determined that it was still quite sharp but it needed a good cleaning.

A trip to Woodcraft later, I returned with a bottle of CMT 2050 Blade and Bit Cleaner. Over the past few years, I have heard a number of folks suggest oven-cleaner. I have been a bit hesitant to use oven cleaner because of the fumes.

I removed my saw blade and placed the blade flat on a wide piece of scrap plywood and sprayed the cleaner on the blade. After waiting about, 10 minutes, I came back to the blade and wipe most of resin and gum buildup off the blade. Some build-up still remained, so, another spritz and using an old toothbrush, I was able to clean the remaining gunk from the blade.

The blade looked brand new.

I wiped the blade off with a damp rag and re-installed into the saw. Most of the burn marks that I was getting was when I was cutting poplar. After the cleaning, no burn marks.

I also tried this product on my router bits. I am making some raised panel doors and burn marks were appearing when utilizing the raised-panel bit. Implementing the same cleaning process as above, the bit was cleaned in about 15minutes.

Put the bit into my router and again, a clean cut for a raised panel.

If you have not cleaned your saw blades or router bits before, I suggest that you take an afternoon to do so. And, if you do not mind spending a few extra bucks over oven cleaner, I would recommend the CMT Formula 2050 cleaner. It retails for \$11.90 at Woodcraft. With your club discount on Monday night, it is not a bad bargain.



One key factor that I like about this product is that it is non-toxic and biodegradable.

Lastly, I know that many of us try to be frugal. If you do decide to clean your router bit or blade with this cleaner using a toothbrush, use an old toothbrush. Don’t try to sneak your better half’s brush, use it on the blade, rinse it in the sink and then put it back in the medicine cabinet. The funky colored bristles might be a clue.

## 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.

Last month, I mentioned that a few of us helped Andy Westrich mill a few beech logs into lumber and I thought this would a good wood to feature for this month. Currently, the lumber is drying nicely in my shop.

American Beech is a dense, hard lumber that is strong and stiff. It is found throughout the Eastern United States and westward to areas that span between Texas and Wisconsin. The American beech is a tall and wide tree. Mature trees can grow from 90 to 100 feet tall, and spread 50 to 70 feet. The bark that grows on the tree is smooth, pale and gray. Its cousin, the European beech is commonly used as an ornamental tree in landscaping.

The heartwood is usually a light reddish brown with fine ray flecking throughout the grain. It can light in color, almost as light as maple.

The American Beech tree is not found to often in the city due to high concentrations of the carbon monoxide. Also, because the tree has shallow root system, beech trees prefer bottom land with fertile, upland soil. With the expanse of its root system, not many plants grow under the beech tree. Besides the dense shade that the leaves produce, the root structure absorbs as much moisture as possible.

Due to the high moisture content, milled beech will experience considerable movement in use due to high shrinkage. Checking is quite common even with multiple applications of a sealing end coat.

There are many different uses for the American Beech tree. Because of its density, it is used for cutting boards, shop table and tool handles. Beech is also used in some furniture manufacturing because of its wear properties. In the paper industry, beech is a good source for pulp.

And, for those of you who prefer a carbonated adult beverage, you may recall a certain slogan. Chips of beech wood are used in the brewing of Budweiser beer to impart a taste similar to that of wood-barrel aging.



## Program Highlights from the June 2007 Meeting

In our June program, Jack Spillane (left) talks about the size of a fish he recently caught. Kidding! Actually, Jack gave a great presentation on the construction of acoustic and electric guitars.



Above, Jack discusses the details involved on building an electric guitar. For those of you interested in building your own guitar, Jack does teach class in this art. It was a great evening for all. And, it seems a few were hoping for a demonstration on the playing capabilities of Jack's creation.



### Tree Identification Link

*Submitted by Ed Bunker*

Some of you were asking about the identification of trees from their leaves. Way back when my kids were in the scouts (both boy and girl scouts) and computers were just coming into the home, I found this site to aid in the identification of Virginia trees by their leaves. It is simple and accurate. I still use the site on occasion now with the grandkids or to answer the neighbor's question about some strange tree growing in their back yard.

For those of you into the harvesting of trees for lumber this site may be useful.

<http://www.fw.vt.edu/dendro/forsite/key/intro.htm>

### Woodworking Show

There is a woodworking show in Richmond, October 12—14, 2007. A group discount is available. If you are interested in attending, please let me know.

### Wooden Toys for the Holidays

At the March meeting, Corey Larson brought in a number of toy plans. I still have copies available to anyone who would like a set. The object, of course, would be to make toys this year for the holidays and donate them to a charitable group for the holidays. It was suggested that people work in teams to assist in the effort. To date, we have 3 teams committed.

We would like to set a goal of 10 teams with each team producing 10 toys. Most toys can be made utilizing scrap wood laying around the shop. And, there are a variety of web sites out there offering free plans to make toys. Please let Andy Steinberg know if you are interested as well as your team member.

### 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

## Show and Tell From Our June 2007 Meeting



Pat Taylor, above, displays a jewelry stand for earrings and necklaces that he created in his shop. The plans for the display came from a magazine and he used scrap wood from his shop for materials. Now, his wife would like more jewelry to fill the display.

Below, Andy Steinberg, brought in a piece of maple that came from a tree cut down and milled in March. The piece came from a slab that is about 5 feet long, 28" wide and almost 2" thick.



Geof Adams, above, displays one of his recent carvings, the Boy Scouts of America symbol. The eagle is carved and then covered in gold leaf. Below is a more detailed view of his work.

