

Tidewater Woodworkers Guild



Notes from the Wood House

Greetings All! According to the Farmers' Almanac, we are now in the Dog Days of summer. That means that the Dog Star is visible in the night sky. For those of us who woodwork in a shop with no AC, it means that it is hot as Hades!

Wood Chips

This Saturday, July 26th, 2008, Woodcraft will be having their Anniversary sale. Most items in the store will be 10% off.

If you ordered a TWWWG shirt at the April meeting, and have not been able to get your shirt, Pat Taylor will have your shirt at the July meeting. The cost of the shirt is about \$17.00.

For those who are still interested in purchasing a shirt, Pat Taylor will possibly be making one final order for shirts for the year.

Pat also has ordered 4 t-shirts

as samples. Each shirt is an XL, made of cotton and has the Guild logo embroidered on the left side of the shirt. Including shipping charges, the cost per shirt is \$10.50. If you would like one of these shirts, please see Pat at the next meeting. NOTE: Pat would prefer a check.

Capt'n Fred Olds was able to purchase the woodworking magazine he mentioned at the last meeting. A number of members had ordered a copy. Please see Fred for your magazine. I believe the cost was around \$6.00 each and that included a CD.

A few weeks ago, I received a call from an arborist taking down some large white oak trees (Calm down, Ben) in Norfolk near Depaul Hospital. He asked if we wanted the logs to mill.

I replied that our Guild would

be interested, but our sawyer, Andy Westrich, would not be milling until the weather was a bit cooler. I did explain that we now have a place to store the logs until we can mill them

If anyone is interested in assisting in the move of the logs, we are planning to move them Saturday, weather permitting.

Andy Westrich will bring his trailer and winch to hoist the logs and then we will move them. I suspect that we only need few able bodies. The move should not take too long and the storage location is in Norfolk near Home Depot on Military Highway.

If you have paid your dues, but you have not received your membership card, please see me before the July 28th meeting starts if you want to take advantage of the discount at Woodcraft.

**July 2008
Issue**

Next Meeting

**July 28, 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.

July
Guest Presenter
Bill Caillet
Segmented Turning

August
Guest Presenter
Steve Houmis
Using Shellac

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 Safety Tips—Shop Lighting

By Ed Bunker

What woodworker ever thinks about lighting when entering the shop? It's an unusual character who wonders about the role of lighting in shop-related mishaps. Adequate lighting is a must—not only to see cutting lines, but also to see where your hands are so as not to cut them.

It is probably obvious to most woodworkers that if your shop lighting creates shadows when you walk in, your lighting is poor. Poor lighting is a contributing factor in most workshop injuries. Shadows can confuse the eye into not seeing the actual blade position, making a mishap more likely.

There are several considerations in choosing the type of lighting for your workshop. Should the lighting in your finishing room be any different than the lighting where wood is being sawed and sanded? Most would probably say yes, but why? In general, a finishing room's lighting should come as close to natural lighting as possible so your finished project will not look any different when it is ready for its place in the home. However, there are safety considerations for the workshop.

An important consideration when planning or upgrading your shop's lighting is whether to use fluorescent lights. They are low cost, produce less heat than incandescent lamps, and are cheaper to run, which makes them a great choice. But be aware of a significant drawback: fluorescent light oscillates at the frequency of the power supply, causing a strobe effect. This is a significant hazard around machines that rotate because it can make rotating equipment appear to stand still at harmonic frequencies.

To put this in perspective, your home electricity is delivered at 60 cycles per second, or 60Hz. Rotating equipment at any of the harmonic frequencies will appear **not to be rotating** to the human eye! For example, a 4-pole motor runs about 1800 RPM, which is a harmonic frequency of 60 Hz. One can observe the same effect on a 2-pole motor that runs at approximately 3600 RPM, which is also a harmonic frequency of 60Hz. Those of you who have incandescent light fixtures and have replaced your bulbs with the newly designed fluorescent lights that can be screwed into the standard incandescent socket may encounter the strobe effect as well.

Other than being aware of the effect and the associated hazards of rotating equipment appearing still, there are some ways to mitigate the problems posed by fluorescent lighting. Should you have three-phase power to your shop, fluorescent lighting can be wired to alternate phases to cancel the strobe effect. Three-phase fluorescent lighting fixtures are also available. If your shop is like most and only has a single-phase power supply, you are limited in the ability to cancel the strobe effect. However, if you notice the strobe effect on a particular piece of equipment, like the lathe at those harmonic speeds of 60 Hz, you can use natural light from a window and mix incandescent light with the fluorescent lighting over the lathe, thereby allowing the human eye to detect the motion at harmonic speeds.

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.

Many of us hear about tulipwood and tend to think about the poplar tree. In the US, tulipwood is another name for poplar. However, in South America, most notably in Brazil, tulipwood, pinkwood or Brazilian tulipwood refers to a hardwood of incredible pronounced figure.

Tulipwood trees are relatively small; some only reach heights of 30ft with diameters measured in inches, not feet. Although the yield is small, the lumber is well sought after. Logs tend to be no more than 6ft in length when marketed. Because of its rarity, most tulipwood is now sold as veneers.

The heartwood has irregular streaks of shades of yellow rose, pink and violet on a straw-colored background. Over time and exposure, the color will fade. The grain of the tulipwood is fairly straight while the texture has a fine appearance.

A unique factor of tulipwood is its density. This wood is heavy. In most markets, it is sold by the pound, not by the board foot. Because of its density, tulipwood is hard on all edged tools. Before nailing or the use of screws, the wood must be pre-drilled. When planing, a specific angle of 20° on the plane blade should be used; otherwise, you dull your iron with haste. Once planed though, the wood will yield a clean finish. But, due to its density, tulipwood does not stain well or take to certain types of wood treatments.

Tulipwood finishes well to a high luster, hence its desire in fine furniture. In the 19th century, some French furniture designs incorporated tulipwood. Because large pieces of the wood are rare, finding a chair or table of solid tulipwood from that time period was an incredible find.

Today, tulipwood is still utilized in woodworking. Because of its luster, tulipwood is used in marquetry, jewelry boxes and inlay. Due to its size and availability, tulipwood is not common in today's fine furniture as the primary wood. Wood turners like tulipwood for brush and tool handles. However on large pieces, the wood can splinter or shatter when turned.



Program Highlights From Our June 2008 Meeting



At last month's meeting, Jack Spillane gave an informative and entertaining presentation on the utilization of coloring and staining wood. Jack's presentation was able to "tie in" all the information presentation to the Guild over the past few months on finishing. We had a great turnout each month. Many thanks to all the presenters. And kudos to Bret Lancaster for coordinating the training.

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

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.

There is a new addition to the Saturday morning line-up on WHRO (Channel 15) - the Woodsmith Shop. This program now airs at 8AM after the New Yankee Workshop. Sponsored by Woodsmith magazine, these programs appear to offer a variety of techniques on using various woodworking tools. The programs is presented by a group of woodworkers from the Midwest.

If you want more information regarding upcoming episodes, visit their website at www.woodsmith.com.

Show and Tell From Our June 2008 Meeting



Despite what some may think, Fred Olds (top left) is not hawking program guides for last month's meeting. Actually, it is a copy of the magazine that Fred was able to get for members of the Guild at a special price. Don Lancaster (top right) brought in a lap tray that he made using a scrap piece of laminated plywood. Below, Don brought in some puzzles that he created using scrap wood and a bandsaw. The uncut fish is a blank that Don then carefully cuts. These fish are part of Don's collection of toys that he will be donating to the Toys For Tots program in November.

