

# Tidewater Woodworkers Guild



## Notes from the Wood House

Greetings all! It looks as though we missed a hard winter in Tidewater this year.

The time has come to start cleaning up or out your shop. I am sure many of us have all sorts of projects to tackle for the year. I do hope some of these projects will be seen at the next meeting for show and tell.

The new program with Woodcraft with a 10% discount on certain purchases (see pg. 3 for more details) has been met with much enthusiasm. To take advantage of this discount, you must be a member in good standing. Your 2006 membership is no longer valid for this discount

Although not confirmed

just yet, we may have a volunteer for someone to assume the responsibility of training coordinator. Bret Lancaster, our Vice President, hopes to provide the details and introduce this person at the next meeting.

Last week, a board meeting was held to discuss some new ideas and opportunities for the guild. One change will be the introduction of new members and guests. We will be introducing people at the beginning of the meeting.

### Wood Chips

Earlier this month, we had a wonderful response for a group to visit the Eastern Shore Artist Guild. Our numbers (10 people) were so great that we were

asked if we can postpone until April or May so that the guild on the shore can locate a larger room to host our contingent.

My compliments to all those who expressed an interest in going. We still plan on making an appearance and I hope all those who said they were going still plan to make the venture when we reschedule.

If you have not paid your dues or wondering where you can obtain an application, you can print out your membership application from the web-site and bring it into the next meeting.

We are looking for volunteers to assist in editing our guild's by laws. If interested, please contact me.

**March 2007**

### Next Meeting

March 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](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.

### March

Guest Presenter  
John Moore

Making a Cabriole Leg

### April

Guest Presenter  
Various Members

Shop Gadgets

## 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>

## Tool Tips: Tuning Your Band Saw, Part II

Part II deals with the logical progression of the process in tuning up the band saw. I'll assume that the tires, bearings, and guide blocks are in good condition. The individual actions depend on the make and model band saw you are dealing with.

First back off the thrust bearings and blade guides. There are usually two sets; one set is above the table and the other is below the table. Look at the blade teeth once the band saw blade is mounted on the wheels. It is possible to put the blade on wrong especially new blades. If the teeth are facing upward at the throat plate, you will need to remove the blade completely from the saw, turn it inside out and remount it before going any farther. Use your leather gloves and face shield for this step.

With the blade in place and thrust bearings and blade guides backed out of the way, follow your manual's guidance in tensioning the blade. Then, by hand, slowly turn the upper wheel in the "normal" direction a few turns and watch the tracking of the blade on the upper wheel and tire. Double-check the tension indicator to be sure it stayed where you initially set it. If the blade is not nearly centered on the tire you will need to adjust the tracking assembly. This procedure varies per manufacturer.

Usually, it consists of loosening a jam nut on the tracking assembly adjustment knob or screw to permit the required adjustment to get the center of the blade to travel at the top of the tire's crown. This adjustment is important for both blade life and blade cutting performance.

If the blade rides in front of the tire's crown you will not be able to feed your work straight into the blade, but have to feed it at an angle to be able to follow a straight line. Note that on wider blades there is a possibility that the tooth set will hit the hard metal edge of the cast iron wheel damaging the blade's tooth set on one side of the blade. Once damaged, it will perform poorly until replaced.

Once you are satisfied that the blade tracks on the center of the tire's crown by turning over by hand, you are ready to plug in the band saw and observe the tracking under power. OK, not so fast. Know the dangers! To see the blade and tires you have some normal safety feature not in place. Therefore, it is not inherently safe. If you are not comfortable starting the band saw with the doors open or covers off, then you are thinking correctly. It is dangerous in there with a sharp blade moving at high speeds. You may want to locate that face shield and leather gloves again before starting the machine.

After final tracking adjustments shut off the saw and tighten the jam nut and recheck the tracking under power. That done, shut off the saw and unplug it for the remaining adjustments. That is ... unless you choose to adjust the blade minimum tension settings like the "flutter test" described by Timber Wolf Blades. If so, you should do that now while the blade guides and thrust bearings are back out of the way.

You are now ready to bring in the thrust bearings behind the blade. The clearance should be set in accordance with the saw's manufacturer's guidance.

On some band saws, the thrust-bearing mount is integral with the blade guide assembly. In this case, the blade guides must be set first, to just behind the gullet of the teeth. Then bring the thrust bearing to within about 0.004 of an inch to the back of the blade. This setting can be approximated by using a dollar bill to achieve the 0.004 of an inch clearance. Brown paper bag measures about 0.006 of an inch. Repeat this process for the lower blade guides and thrust bearing assembly.

Make sure that you have replaced the "table pin" you removed to install the new blade as well as the table insert or throat plate. You are now ready to verify that the table is perpendicular to the blade. It has to be perpendicular front to back as well as left to right. For those of you that use your band saw for making puzzles and band-sawn boxes, these table adjustments become critical. If the blade does not run true to the table, your puzzle or drawer may not work and have different radii from one end to the other. Bottom line, you will not like the results.

With the blade properly tensioned, the first check is to verify that the table is perpendicular in the fore/aft direction. Use a reliable square that will fit under the upper blade guide assembly, and place the square on the table surface directly behind the blade. Make sure the table insert or throat plate does not interfere with this check. If there is a gap between the back of the band saw blade and the square, adjust the table accordingly. Some tables have a setscrew in the trunnion table mount and can be adjusted by loosening the bolts and turning the setscrew to adjust the table. On other band saws, the table must be shimmed to make the adjustment.

Next, check that the blade is running perpendicular left to right. Position the longest square that will fit under the blade guide assembly to either side of the blade just behind the teeth. If there is a gap between the blade and the square at the top or bottom of the square, adjust the table to correct. There are multiple methods to this step. Some have a setscrew through the table and others have a bolt and jam nut arrangement. Loosen the table tilt locking knob(s) enough to allow the adjustment to be made and then retighten. Tighten the jam nut to retain this "zero" tilt position and reset the pointer to "0". If your band saw has the setscrew through the tabletop and will not stay in position, add drop of Loctite's "TITE'N for bolts" on the threads of the setscrew to overcome the forces of vibration holding the desired setting for the tilt stop.

Now that all the adjustments have been made you are ready for the spring band saw season to arrive. Go ahead ... break out that old Grandpa Wonder Puzzle or the plans to that band saw box that just didn't seem to match your expectations the last time and see if your saw performs the task better than before. Now is the time to start working on those hand made Christmas gifts or the Toys for Tots projects.

Submitted by:

Ed Bunker TWWWG Membership Chair & Web Services.

## Tool Review —Follow Up on the Dewalt DW735 Planer: Blades

A few months ago, I wrote a review on the Dewalt DW735 planer. I mentioned that I had not changed the blades yet. Well, Murphy's Law assisted me on this venture. While planing an old 2" X 4", I hit a nail. The metal detector and I missed this one.

To change the blades on the planer could not be simpler. The machine comes with all the tools required: a T-wrench to fit the Allen bolts. The top is removed by 4 screws. To access the cutter head, you must remove a cover. Each blade (there are 3) is held in by 6 bolts. The T-wrench has magnet built-in for easy blade removal and installation. Since the blades are preset, a jig to set the blade height is not required. Start to finish for the process took about 20 minutes. And, the blades are normally stocked at Woodcraft.

## 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.

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 February 2007 Meeting



Bill Calliet, the owner of the Norfolk Woodcraft, displays his latest creation: a humidor. The uniqueness about his humidor is that it is turned. Bill incorporated bubinga as the main body of the humidor. The inside has been created using Spanish cedar that was also turned on the lathe.

## Wooden Toys for the Holidays

At last month's meeting, we decided that we would make toys this year for the holidays and donate to charitable group for the holidays. It was suggested that people work in teams to assist in the effort. To date, we have 2 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.

## Woodworking Web Sites of Interest

**Free Woodworking Stuff** ([www.freewoodworking-stuff.com](http://www.freewoodworking-stuff.com))

An awesome collection of free woodworking books, catalogs, charts, plans, software, tool sweepstakes and other woodworking stuff.

**Free Woodworking Plans** ([www.workingplanfinder.com](http://www.workingplanfinder.com))

The woodworking Plan Finder has many free plans arranged by category.

## 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.

This month's featured wood is Sapele. Although it is known as aboudikro, penkwa, muyovu, sapelli, it's most common name here in the United States is African Mahogany. The wood is reminiscent of mahogany, with a distinctive figure, and it is utilized where figure is important.

The heartwood of sapele is a pinkish red color. When the wood is planed, the grain appears moderately interlocked or wavy. Quarter-sawn cut sapele has a ribbon, regular stripe or bee's wing appearance. Other cuts feature various desirable patterns, including fiddlebacks, roe or a mottled design, especially in wood containing wavy grain.

Native to tropical Africa, its primary range extends from the Ivory Coast to Cameroon. Some lumber is harvested in parts of Zaire and Uganda. However, due to political strife, the wood is hard to attain from this part of the world.

Sapele trees grow to 100 feet in height normally. Due to over-harvesting, it had hard to find any trees taller than 120 feet. Mature trees that are harvested can have diameters of up to 6 feet. However, most logs these sizes are cut thinner for shipment.

Once properly dried, the sapele wood has a durable hardness as it seasons rapidly. Some warping may occur. Since the hardness is similar to mahogany, the sapele wood cuts well using the planer or joiner. As well, the wood is easy to work with using your typical hand tools. The wood is excellent for lathe work.

The lumber is primarily utilized for decorative veneers and fine furniture. Some lesser grades of sapele are manufactured into paneling and staircases. An exotic use of the wood is found in musical instruments – primarily in guitars as the back and sides of acoustic guitar bodies as well as the tops of electric guitar bodies.



## Program Highlights from the February 2007 Meeting



Bob Waddell (above) demonstrates his skills in turning the seat for a three-legged milling stool. Myron Curtis (below) shows how the legs are turned for the same stool.

