

Tidewater Woodworkers Guild



Notes from the Wood House

Greetings All! I hope everyone has a safe holiday and has the opportunity to spend some quality time with family and friends.

Last month, I mentioned the Capital Woodworking Expo in Fredericksburg. Although I heard from no one interested in heading north, I went to the show.

There were plenty of vendors and my wish list has gotten longer. I was able to develop some contacts with companies that will hopefully visit the Guild in the future. One vendor, Gemini Finishes, intends to visit during our finishing seminars.

By the way, if anyone is interested in obtaining and using a nitro-cellulose lacquer, Gemini makes a great product. If you are interested in using, please let me know.

And since we seem to be on

the subject of finishing, John Blakeney has discovered a good outdoor finish. It is the Olympic #5 base and it can be found at Lowe's. According to John it goes on milky white but dries clear. Per the can label, the product is guaranteed for 25 years.

Some of the feedback that John has found in the web forums state that the product is durable.

Wood Chips

The past 3 weekends, a gathering of lumberjacks have met in the Huntersville section of Suffolk to mill some lumber. We have had a great turnout. The lumber milled included a white oak log that was 27ft long and 47 inches wide at the base. With help of Ron "Chainsaw" Stiffler and Duke "seriously, my truck can hold it" Shingler, the logs were cut into manageable lengths.

Our resident sawyer, Andy Westrich did an incredible job at producing some nice planks. Quite a bit of the lumber was 12+" wide.

And many thanks to all those who braved some interesting weather to venture out and obtain some nice wood.

Bea Norris has done some homework to determine what some of the discounts are from Sherwin-Williams. On a recent trip to purchase some paint, Bea was able to buy a \$43 gallon of paint for about \$25 with the TWWWG discount.

The discount varies per item and we are still attempting to obtain a more defined discount list. In the interim, if you are contemplating painting a closet, room or your whole house, you may want to venture into the local Sherwin Williams store to do some price comparison.

March 2008

Next Meeting

**March 24, 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.

March

Guest Presenters

Bob Fred & Bob Waddell

Choosing a Finish

April

Guest Presenter

Steve Houmis

Surface Preparation

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
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Shop Tips—Fire Safety

By Ed Bunker

How old are your Smoke Detectors? Yes, it is great that you change the battery out each year on your birthday, and push the test button weekly ... maybe? And that is a good practice because it will alert you to a bad battery or a bad horn. But do you know how old your detectors are? Were they already installed when you moved in? Consider the following bit of fire safety and smoke alarm awareness.

Did you know all smoke alarms should be replaced 10 years after it was manufactured? Ten years is a smoke alarm's useful lifetime and for continued reliable safety and protection, smoke alarms need to be **replaced**. If you know your smoke alarms are 10 years old, just replace them. If you are just not sure how old they are, replace them. However if you are the curious type and just want to know, try opening the battery compartment, like when changing the battery, and see if there is a label in there under the battery with the replacement date of the unit. The newer alarms have the date of manufacturer on the back of the unit so the alarm unit will need to be removed from the mount, usually by turning CCW about 30°. A new smoke alarm cost only 20 bucks, less if you buy the package of two! How much is that early warning worth to you? It could save your life!

Most people are aware of the danger of fire but are unaware of the fatality of smoke. More people die from breathing smoke than by burns. In fact, deaths from smoke inhalation outnumber deaths by burning by 2:1. In a hostile fire, smoke and deadly gases tend to spread farther and faster than heat from flames. Moreover, when people are asleep, deadly fumes can send them deeper into unconsciousness.

Smoke detectors and smoke alarms are a powerful and effective fire safety technology. They are the first lines of defense against smoke and fire. They may awaken those who would otherwise have been overcome by smoke and toxic gases in their sleep. And most importantly, they provide an early warning alerting individuals of a fire, allowing them precious time to escape. Smoke alarms with ionization technology are the most popular types sold in the United States. Ionization alarms sound more quickly when a flaming, fast moving fire occurs. Photoelectric alarms are quicker at sensing smoldering, smoky fires. There are also **combination smoke alarms** that combine ionization and photoelectric technology into one unit, called **dual sensor smoke alarms**.

The National Fire Protection Association recommends smoke alarms be installed in EVERY area of your home or building for complete protection.

Again, all smoke alarms should be **replaced after 10 years** of operation. Ten years is a smoke alarm's useful life. For continued reliability and protection, smoke alarms need to be replaced.

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.

During our woodcutting adventure, we milled a magnolia log. There were inquiries as to whether magnolia can be utilized in woodworking. This month's wood topic is magnolia.

The magnolia tree is native to the US and be found as far north as New York. Many regard this decorative tree as staple for landscaping throughout the Southern US. It is native to the US but, nowadays, it is rarely found in the wild. Although it is known for its leaves and fragrant and decorative flowers, to some, magnolia has a history in woodworking. However, Don Hubbard would love for someone to come take his magnolia so he does not have to rake the leaves anymore.

When milled, the lumber is usually yellow-white with an appearance similar to yellow poplar but it can vary with a tinge of green. The heartwood is a light to dark brown. Normal trunk diameters are 18-24" with heights of 60-70'. It is not uncommon to locate a tree with a 36" base and reaching heights of 100' with massive canopies.

The log we cut was about 20" across and yielded some nice planks about 12+" wide.

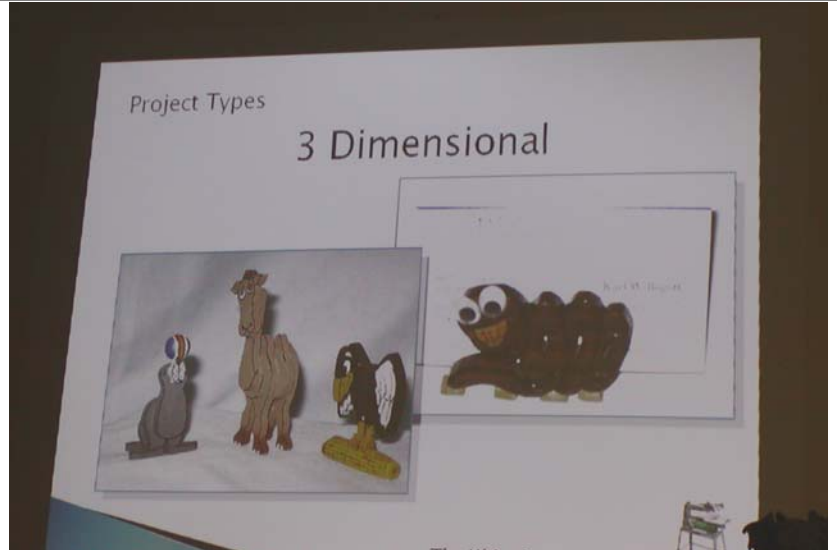
As we milled this log, it was definitely the easiest log to cut. Because of its tight grain, the sawdust was fine. Magnolia is easy to work with using power tools and it planes well. However, due to its grain pattern, it does not sand well as it tends to have a fuzzy texture if it not dried properly. So, sharp blades are a must for surface preparation. Also, when drying, it is advised to dry this wood slow for the first month to avoid checking and warping.

Magnolia was used like poplar primarily as a secondary wood for boxes, pallet wood, sashes and doors. Wood turners enjoy using magnolia because it is a stable wood and easy to turn due to its tight, straight grain.

Surprisingly, magnolia is considered a hardwood and it can be found in millwork and some fine furniture. Utilized as an inlay, the light color offers a great contrast to stained mahogany and cherry. By itself, magnolia can be polished to a nice luster and finished with your favorite varnish or stain.



Program Highlights From our February 2008 Meeting



Karl Bogott (above) provide a great overview on the ubiquitous scroll saw last month. On the right are just a small sampling of Karl's talents with the scroll saw. By the end of the presentation, many of us had a new found respect for the saw's capabilities. I would imagine that many of those who raised their hand when Karl asked who owned a scroll saw have been out in their shop since the presentation honing their scroll saw skills.

Pictures From a Woodcutting Exhibition



Show and Tell From Our February 2008 Meeting



Bob Malloy (left) demonstrated how create wooden spatulas from wood scraps. Pat Taylor (top left) shows off his version of a personal book display that he created form plans out of one of the woodworking magazines. Don Hubbard (above) brought in an amulet that he created using ebony and abalone. Martin Carter (bottom left) displayed a bread knife that he made using cherry as the handle. (pictures by Adrian Marshall)

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.

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|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 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 |

