

# Tidewater Woodworkers Guild



## Notes from the Wood House

Greetings All! With the warm weather finally occurring, we all know that with the heat comes the humidity. This is a reminder to everyone to take a few moments and put a coat of wax on any exposed metal surface.

**Reminder: The May meeting has been moved to May 28th, 2008. We will still be meeting at Woodcraft and the meeting time is still 7PM.**

On May 24th, the folks at Woodcraft will be sponsoring another pen turning project for the troops. Everyone is welcome to help turn regardless of your skill level.

If you have the opportunity, please stop to help and show your support for the troops.

### Wood Chips

For those of you who ordered TWWWG shirts last month, your shirts should be in by the

May 28th meeting. The cost for each shirt is \$16.50. This price includes shipping. Pat accepts checks or cash.

For those of you still interested in purchasing a shirt, Pat Taylor will take requests and place another order after the next meeting. I was able to speak to Bill Huffman last month. His schedule has been busy but he hopes to find some free time and come visit us at the next meeting.

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

If you have not paid your dues but are planning to do so at the next meeting and would like have your card available, please contact Ed Bunker or myself by May

27th. We can have your card pre-printed and will validate it with paid dues.

At the last meeting, Bill Callet updated the Guild on David Marks. For those of you who missed the announcement, David Marks of the show, Woodworks, will be at Woodcraft Oct. 2—4, 2008.

Over the course of the weekend, David will be conducting 4 half day seminars on Friday and Saturday. On Sunday, we will teaching a hands-on class.

If you are interested in participating, contact the folks at Woodcraft for pricing and class availability.

Lastly, the mass build-out for Habitat for Humanity is scheduled for June 2-6, 2008. Please contact Karl Bogott at (757) 640—0590 for more information or to volunteer.

**May 2008  
Issue**

**Next Meeting**

**May 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](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 Lancaster.

**May**  
Guest Presenter  
Steve Houmis  
Finish Application

**June**  
Guest Presenter  
Jack Spillane  
Coloring Wood

## The Executive Board

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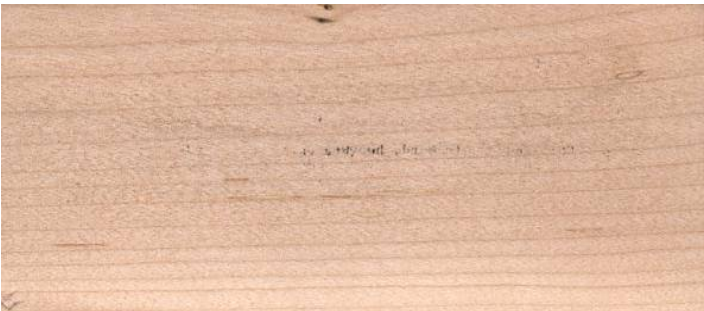
## Shop Tips—Lacquer Thinner

When using lacquer for finishing, do not skimp on the cost of the lacquer thinner. All thinners are not the same. There are economical lacquer thinners (usually found at the hardware stores) that are manufactured from recycled solvents. These thinners have a tendency to raise the wood grain because due to poor evaporation rates. They are great for “clean up” work.

Standard lacquer thinners are manufactured from a special blend solvent specially designed to be a reducer when using nitrocellulose lacquer. It assists the lacquer in “laying flat” as the lacquer dries. As well, it will have minimal affects on the finished surface thus minimizing sanding between coats. These thinners also can be found at the hardware store or building specialty store or your favorite woodworking store.

Regardless of which type of lacquer thinner that you utilize, please use good judgment and store your thinners in a cool, dry area.

### Soft Maple



### Hard or Rock Maple



### Quilted Big Leaf Maple



## 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 wood that we all seem to enjoy crafting in some manner is maple. However, we all seem to ponder the question of what is the difference between hard and soft maple. Hopefully, this article will provide some clarification.

In the US and Canada, there are 3 predominant categories of maple: hard or rock, soft and big leaf. All three have there similarities and differences including various figuring and color.

Soft maple is the most common in the Eastern United States and Southern Canada. There are at least 6 different species that are marketed as “soft maple”. And, depending on the figure, one may find quilted maple, curly maple, tiger maple or fiddle back maple.

All the species classified as soft maple have close grain. The heartwood is normally a pale reddish brown while the sapwood usually has a nearly white appearance.

Hard, rock or sugar maple as it may be known grows primarily in New England and the Great Lakes region of the US as well as Eastern Canada.

Its appearance when milled is almost identical to that of soft maple; the heartwood is a pale reddish brown with the sapwood being virtually white. One key element though with hard maple is its movement when expose to humidity. And like soft maple, it can be milled to expose and curly or birds-eye figure.

Big-leaf maple is not as common on the East Coast; it is primarily found in the Pacific Northwest. It is also the largest maple found in North America. Unlike soft and rock maple, big-leaf maple has the most varied grain pattern. It can have almost no grain pattern to some of the most highly figured grains. Big-leaf maple provides us with the quilted effect that is highly sought by most woodworkers

The coloration of the grain is quite similar to the other species with the reddish brown heartwood and the pale sap wood. However, big leaf maple can have streak and swirls of varying shades of blacks and browns.

All three species work quite well with hand and power tools. But do know that none of the highly figured variations of maple are easily hand-planed. It is suggested that your blade is honed quite well to avoid tear-out. Anyone who has worked with maple knows that it can be polished to a high luster and takes most stains quite well.

A few variations to these species include spalted and ambrosia. Spalted maple refers to maple that have been infected by a fungus that created black striations within the grain. Spalted maple is highly desired by wood turners for the decorative grain pattern. Ambrosia is soft maple that has been invaded by the ambrosia beetle. The beetle causes a streaked and high colored grain pattern.

## Program Highlights From Our April 2008 Meeting



Last month's meeting featured Martin Carter providing a detailed overview on how to prepare your lumber for finishing. Martin discussed various techniques on sanding and the different tools utilized in preparing the surface.

## 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

## Furniture for the Habitat for Humanity

Below is a picture of the furniture we have been asked to build for the Habitat for Humanity. We have been provided the plans.

The Habitat for Humanity will auction this creation at their Tool Box Bash in October. We will not have to paint the project, but I thought it would be a good group effort over a weekend to build the furniture. The furniture will be painted by local artists for the Bash.

I would suggest that the TWWWG pay for the materials, I am offering my shop as the location to build to the project and we are looking for volunteers. To date, Fred Olds and Cliff Atkinson have offered to help build this project. Habitat for Humanity would like to have our portion of the project completed by August.

If anyone else is interested, please let me know via e-mail (patron300@cox.net) or call me at 757-285-3575.



## 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.

## Show and Tell From Our April 2008 Meeting



Corey Larson (above left) presented his creation of a hand carved sign. Bruce Helfrich (above right) brought in the preliminary works for a tall, narrow kitchen cabinet. The cabinet slide being utilized is rated for 200lbs.! (pictures by Adrian Marshall) Although, there is no picture, Adrian Marshall brought in some cherry that he had resawn utilizing his bandsaw.. We all know how easy cherry can burn when being cut. Adrian found that when re-sawing cherry, make sure that you have a sharp blade.

Below is the **beast**. We were hoping to mill this log last weekend, but we ran of time. If all goes well, we will try again this weekend. This log is 14' long and about 44" across at its widest part. We are hoping to cut it into slabs 2—3 " thick. With all the branch intrusions, it may not be good lumber for 5/4 planks. If you are interested, please let us know.

