

# Tidewater Woodworkers Guild



## Notes from the Wood House

Happy Holidays to all members!

I would like to take this opportunity to offer a belated thank you to all of our Guild members who are Veterans as well as those who are serving our country at the present time. Thank you for your unselfish commitment and sacrifice.

It is hard to believe that this year is over. I hope that everyone has had as much fun as I have. We have had some great presentations this past year and we hope to do just as well or better in the up and coming year.

### Wood Chips

Due to popular demand, we will be having our holiday gathering again this year. It will be held at the Grate Steak here in Norfolk, VA. The date will be December 10th at 6:30PM. And, like last year,

there will be a scaled down menu that will include the salad bar and a soft drink. The anticipated cost per person will be \$12.00. I hope to have this price verified by the November meeting.

This dinner, like last year's, will be an opportunity for each member to take out their significant other for dinner on a Monday night instead of leaving them at home.

As of our last meeting, we have a new Board of Directors. The board is as follows:

#### President

Andy Steinberg

#### Vice President

Bret Lancaster

#### Secretary

Ken Craig

#### Treasurer

Fred Olds

#### President Emeritus

Pat Taylor

At the November meeting, the new board will sworn in for the 2008 year.

Many thanks to everyone for the nominations for the different members. And, thanks again the Ed Bunker, Gene George and John Moore for all their work in sorting out the nominations.

There will be some great specials this year I am told at Woodcraft for the holidays. One in particular that might be interesting to anyone who is thinking about a new router.

The Freud FT2200E 3¼HP router is on sale for \$129.99. This router is a plunge based router or it can be mounted to a router table. I have been told that the supply is limited so drop your hints soon.

## November 2007

### Next Meeting

**November 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.

### November

Guest Presenter

Steve Houmis

Inlay

### December

Holiday Gathering

At the

Grate Steak

Norfolk

## 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 Review—Leigh Dovetail Jig

After many missed delivery dates by a competitor regarding their “new and improved” dovetail jig, I decided to invest in the Leigh Dovetail Jig.

The new Leigh jig comes in 3 sizes, 12”, 18” and 24”, but I opted for the 12” for my requirements in my shop. According to the press releases, this jig is supposed be easy to use.

My first task after reading the instructions was to assemble the jig and build a stand for piece. Although the jig can easily be mounted to your bench, I decided to mount it to stand that can be secured to my workbench or assembly table.

To my surprise, I was able to assemble the jig, build the stand and secure the device to my bench in about 90 minutes. Following the instructions, I then “trued up” the jig. Using the supplied router bits, (2 bits for tails, 1 bit for pins), I was cutting through dovetails 30 minutes later.

The jig has clamps the are easy to release your stock. As well, the fingers are easy to adjust for an infinite amount of configurations for through dovetails. The finger assembly is simple to flip to cut either the pins or the tails.

Included in the kit is a special E-bushing that helps adjust the router bit to cut your dovetails flush. It is a simple device but it does help create a cleaner dovetail.

Besides the ability to cut through dovetails, the Leigh jig is also designed to cut half blind dovetails. As of this writing I have not tried to cut half blind dovetails.

Overall the kit includes the following:

- ½”-8° dovetail bit ,½”-14° dovetail bit,
- 5/16” straight bit,
- ½” to 8mm collet reducer,
- sliding dovetail fence,
- Half-blind bridge piece material,
- E-Bushing,
- fully illustrated User Guide
- Instructional DVD.

The DVD was left out due unavailability at manufacturing, but you have opportunity to order the DVD if you require it. If you can follow the instructions and have a little patience, I do not think that you need the DVD.

Overall, for \$179.00, I feel that the Leigh Jig is a great asset to my shop. It allowed me to cut dovetails in my drawers side much quicker than I thought it would. If you are looking for another toy for the shop, I would recommend the Leigh Jig.



## 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.

The American holly, (AKA dune holly, white holly or, Christmas holly) has always had an important role in this country's culture. Even before European settlers arrived in North America, Native Americans boiled American holly twigs with pine tops to produce a tea to cure coughs. Today evergreen leaves and red berries are synonymous with Christmas in the United States.

Because American holly is native along the East Coast from Massachusetts to northern Florida, virtually all settlers in those first 100 years were able to continue their Christmas tradition in their new land. Since then American holly- -has been one of the East's more valuable and popular trees.

The growth of the holly is slow compared to other evergreens. Normally it will reach heights of 15 to 30 feet as it matures to its compact pyramidal or columnar form. In the right conditions, trees have been found as tall as 50 feet and living for 100 years or more. The mature American holly can have a trunk 12 to 18 inches in diameter and with pruning, can have a clear trunk with minimal intrusions of 15+ feet.

The heartwood of the holly is a pale to creamy white. If the wood is not cut in the winter, then the wood can develop grey or blue streaks in the grain.. Because of the light color there is little contrast between heartwood and sapwood. Most of the lumber has an irregular grain pattern with a fine texture and smooth, velvety feel. Unlike other evergreens, the holly is difficult to dry. Kiln drying is recommended initially if possible to prevent warping and twisting. Also, to retain the bright white color, removal of the moisture as fast as possible is recommended.

Holly does not machine or saw well due to its irregular grain. It is strongly recommended to utilize sharp blades when working with the lumber.

Although holly is not a major commercial material, it is sometimes used in building fine furniture. When made into a veneer, the wood will take a fine finish. Holly lumber is also used for ship models, inlay work, and wood-turning. In the past it was also valued for use as wood block engraving, umbrella handles, and the backs of brushes. When holly is stained black, it resembles the much-sought-after African ebony and it is often used for the black keys on pianos and organs and for the pegs and fingerboards on violins.



## Show and Tell From Our October 2007 Meeting



Don Hubbard, above left and right, has learned the art of creating frames for various artwork and prints. The picture on the right was created from wood off of an old sailing vessel. The remnants of the vessel are now housed at the Mariner's Museum in Newport News.



A meeting is not complete without a presentation from Frank Pogue. In August's meeting, Pat Taylor built a small boat with running light. Frank, above, show off a small kerosene running light that he picked up. It still works.



Martin Carter, above, shows off one of his latest creations, a Chippendale mirror made out of cherry. The finish of the cherry sparked much interest in the Guild. Martin used solution using Red Devil Lye to age the cherry to give the wood a rich color. If you are interested in the correct mixture and procedure, please contact Martin.

## Show and Tell From Our October 2007 Meeting—cont'd



Above is another creation from Martin Carter. This stool is his version of a sitting stool. The wood is black walnut and the legs were turned by Martin. Even though Martin is a talented craftsman, the upholstered pillow is out of his realm.



## Program Highlights From our November 2007 Meeting



In October, Jerry Crick followed up to his August presentation with a router demonstration. Above, Jerry shows how a router can be utilized as a surface planer with a custom built jig.

## Wooden Toys for the USMC Toys for Tots Program

For all those Guild members who made toys this year, please bring your toys to Monday's meeting on November 26. We will be coordinating with the Marine Corp to make a special presentation on behalf of the Tidewater Woodworking Guild.

If you have not finished making your toys that you wish to donate, please let me know. The Toys-For-Tots program will be accepting toys through Christmas.

It has been suggested that if you need instructions to go with your toys, please print the instructions utilizing a laser printer. The toner from this printer will not fade in light or run when if it gets wet.

Also, if possible, if your toy has many parts, use a large zip bag to keep all the parts together and avoid any incomplete sets.

Lastly, if you wish to make a monetary donation or you wish to contribute a store bought toy, please feel free to bring it to Monday's meeting.

If you have any questions or need to make arrangements for your toys to be delivered, please contact Andy Steinberg.

## 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