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# Tidewater Woodworkers Guild



**Meeting Host**  
**Virginia Beach**  
**Tech/Career Center**  
**2925 North Landing Rd**  
**Virginia Beach VA**  
**7PM - 4th Monday**

We will step backward this month- having experienced some very nice advanced woodworking skills that John Moore shared with us in January as he made the case for biscuit joints and the new pocket hole joinery techniques he uses in constructing Early American Period furniture. That's beautiful work, John- an inspiration to any that would follow that path in woodworking. By "stepping back" - I mean to possibly pick up some of the fundamentals of basic woodworking for those of our members who may have joined us to learn from the beginning. Tommy Whitaker put the bug in my ear a month or so back- mentioning that some of our membership would like to see some techniques (fundamentals) of just preparing a piece of stock for a project- or how to start on something they have seen in a WW magazine project plan- but feel intimidated on just where to start. For those of you way beyond this level of the learning curve- I hope you will chime in with your own experience and advise, as we take on a teaching role. Lord knows...there's not just one way to accomplish a woodworking task! Anyway - with this in mind- for February anyway- let me invite those of you who may have a board...maybe cut from a neighbor's tree- possibly warped, cupped or twisted...that you would

bring in on Monday eve (we're talking next week- 24 February-) for us to guide you thru the steps of preparing that piece as stock for a woodworking task. Maybe we should limit that to say- no more than a 4 foot long board - just so we can possibly work on several pieces from different members over the course of the evening. If the piece is cupped, or warped in some fashion- all the better...let's see if it can be salvaged into useful lumber. There's that chance that a 13/16 inch thick slab of mahogany could only produce a one-half inch thick board if the piece is really out of shape ...but that's part of the learning curve. We'll walk you thru the process of jointing an edge, ripping to a rough dimension/width, cutting to a rough length (if doing so will reduce the warp or twist \_ flattening the cup side down, dimensioning it to thickness on a planer, and then jointing again the edges to the final width dimension. We point out that taking no more than a 1/8 inch cut is ever necessary in a single pass...and the final cuts on a jointer and planer should be on the order of 1/16 or even 1/32 of an inch to provide smooth surfaces. Depending on the project - the end use of the stock being worked on- we may well cut the stock to lengths with even inches to spare on individual pieces. If we have the time to proceed beyond this "prep"

phase- we will take a 30 inch piece of 13/16" warped mahogany I intend to bring in...it's an air-dried piece from one of the old -now defunct- veneer plants...and we'll prep it and dimension the board to 1/2 inch stock, 4 inches wide and into the 5 pieces necessary to make a simple box with four mitered sides, a raised panel lid, and a 3/16" bottom fitted into 1/4 inch grooves. While this simple project is not up to the advanced level of many...maybe most- of our membership- I'd like to try it on for size, because I sense there are some among us who joined to learn from the beginning. It may be that even our seasoned vets can add their techniques to these fundamentals- I hope so...for instance- in the event of preparing the surface of a wild change in grain where a jointer or planer won't do...it may be the place for one of you to speak to the use of a hand plane and then a scraper to create the surface necessary to make an interesting piece of wood into a project. How many of you old timers ever stop to think (remember)- that the heart side of the stock should normally be the outside (presented to view) in a project...for two reasons. One, because the grain is normally more pleasing/interesting, and two- if creating a box, for instance, any future

cupping of the stock will tighten the joints, rather than open them. Most of us take a lot for granted in knowing which way to feed a board into a planer or jointer...others may be encouraged to go out and buy a small shop planer once they have the chance to operate one and learn that they can create lumber from what may have been scrap wood.

Okay- enough...but I encourage some of you to bring in a board that we may be able to turn into useful stock. Mind you- if you have a 22 inch wide piece of African Mahogany with a bodacious twist or cup...the answer may well be that it has to be ripped into possibly 3 or even 4 pieces and then- after jointing, glued back into that coffee table top! So I encourage you - especially the guys who have been there and back...please join us in the spirit of teaching.

Along that same line- I would like to ask for you who have experience in woodworking areas...whether it be scroll sawing in intarsia or Berry Basket making, turning small lidded cups or candlesticks, Shaker pieces with tapered legs...whatever...please volunteer to give

Tidewater Woodworkers  
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~ ***Shop at our Friends*** ~

Plywood and Plastics-Norfolk  
Sure Set Saw -Chesapeake  
Blue Ridge Hardwoods-Va Beach

us an evening of your time. For the first time- we have a great shop to work in- lots of tools to demonstrate on...I think the club could really offer a lot to the membership. I recall some 10 years or more back- one of our members, Carl Mullen, introduced us to dying wood; using aniline dyes and even home-brews. I went home and soaked some 16-penny nails in a vinegar and water mix until they rusted enough to give me a black ebony stain that worked great! Please consider sharing - with us.

Rambled enough...another area that we may well learn from each other and do a good deed at the same time. We'll talk it over with Tony P. the school's shop teacher- to see if he would allow us to do a little in the way of maintenance routines on the shop equipment. Stuff like honing the blades on the jointer, or even changing, or resetting those blades on the jointer or planer. Routinely (monthly) making sure the fence and miter gage on the table saw are true...cleaning the sanding belts, or changing them when required. These are routines that most of us have learned to do on our own equipment...and for those that haven't...it's a great opportunity to learn. So if we are given the clearance to do some of these basis "tune-ups" to the schools shop equipment - I hope we can get some volunteers to help in that area. Speaking of volunteers... let me recognize and thank the "three musketeers", John Moore, Gene George, and Norm Tupper, who lent a hand as proctors and judges in the cabinet making class project at the school. When Tony put out the call...I knew we'd respond, especially when he offered to throw in supper with the deal! Thanks, guys!

Just as a follow up to the test case we did last month -using the new Tite-Bond poly hot glue kit they sent us for eval...if you

recall, we glued a mitered corner using the quick set (30 second) bonding glue, without any clamps. True to their claims- some ten hours later, the next morning, I could not destroy that joint...and they say the 60 second (gap filling) and 75 second bond is even stronger...intended for outdoor building projects to include stone, marble, metal and plastics. As I reported back to the Tite-Bond folks, tho...the \$100 kit is pretty steep for an initial outlay. (Especially for those who already have over a hundred dollars invested in clamps, and can work with 16 ounces of aliphatic resin glues that only run \$5 bucks!). The 50gram cartridges of glue (equating to about 1-3/4 oz) run \$8.00 each; they don't intend to market in Home Depot... but in all the woodworking store outlets that sell thru catalogs/mail order/email. I see a place for the product where clamping joints may be difficult. The shelf life of about 30 days for an opened cartridge may also be a drawback unless this HiPurFORMER kit becomes the prime mover in the shop. It's available for club use...should anyone want to sign it out from our "Lending Library."

SALE DATE ...If you didn't get the postcard this week announcing the 75th Anniversary Sale at *Woodcraft Stores*... it's a One Day Sale only- everything is 10 percent off on Thursday 27 February. You can order thru their catalog- phone 1-800-225-1153, or online: [www.woodcraft.com](http://www.woodcraft.com) (mention coupon 53949).

FOR FREE ...MINWAX has produced a 24 page color booklet, Bruce Johnson's Guide to Wood Finishing...tips on sanding, staining and topcoating - thru three simple steps in preparing, staining, and

protecting wood. You can pick up this free booklet at "participating" Minwax dealers, or request one thru the internet; visit < www.minwax.com >.

We renewed our contract with our Web Server for the next year. We can make that site work for you if you with internet access will participate/visit from time to time. I'll ask Ed Bunker, our webmeister, if he will make at least a weekly check of our page to alert me of any new questions/answers, project photos, For Sale Items, anything of the sort. In turn- I'll broadcast an email to the membership to let you know of any new web page items. To make this worthwhile- you with internet access should pass your query, pics, postings, etc., to Ed at <EBunker369@aol.com >...If you have questions on how to make your contribution or post a message on the site, you can call Ed at 463-9196.

We have 29 dues paid for the new year membership- our club roster lists 130 as past members. While we will no doubt have lost a few previous members due to our move across town for meetings - I'd like to make a case for our great new meeting place - and point out that an extra 15 minutes once a month is not really that significant. That said- we recognize we can't be all that everyone expects of a club- but it's your ideas and participation that will make our get-togethers worth while. In short...we'd like to see you again- bring your dues...and your druthers' as to what you'd like to see and do! Gene George/ treasurer, would appreciate payment by check/\$15 to Tidewater Woodworkers; it makes record keeping a whole lot easier. Give us an email address update if you change your provider- or if you are just getting on line for the first time-

So that's it for now...as a final "oh, by the way"- the invitation to bring in a piece of stock for us to work includes the open invite - as always- to share a completed or work-in-progress piece you have from your shop...We call it *Show and Tell*- and we are never disappointed by any piece brought in.

We'll have new membership cards at the ready at the dues table... and I'll try to get our member roster run off and avail for those in attendance.

If you have questions or comments- "Our Door is Always Open"... my name, phone, address and email are all in the little letterhead column at the start of the newsletter... Until then...  
Keep it With the Grain  
Pat