

# Tidewater Woodworkers Guild



## Notes from the Wood House

Greetings all! Happy Thanksgiving. I hope everyone has had a safe and gastronomic delight of a feast with family and friends.

My apologies for not getting the newsletter out sooner. Between coordinating menus for Turkey Day, the weather and the distractions of the house, I have been spread a bit thin these past couple of weeks.

This past year has been a whirlwind. The board and myself have had some fun at the meetings and other gatherings for the club. As of this writing, we have 83 active (paid) members in our guild, up from 61 at the end of last year. Our goal for next year is 125 active members.

Last week, the program committee met to discuss the activities for 2007. I know that Bret Lancaster, Chairman of

the Program Committee, and his crew have tentatively coordinated our programs for the next 6 months. And yes, one goal at each meeting will be to make sawdust. Bob Fred has been recruited to clean up the mess.

With this plan of action, we hope to attract more new members as well as entice dormant members to rejoin..

With the gift giving and gathering season fast approaching, I know that many of us will be on the lookout for great tool bargains. If you do run across a great buy on a saw, chisel or any other must have for the shop, send an e-mail to me. I will forward the info to the membership and share the opportunity with the guild.

### Wood Chips

Breaking tradition, we hope to have a festive gathering in December. No sawdust at

this gathering, just an opportunity for us all to have a good meal together before the New Year. Details will be presented at our next meeting.

A number of people have inquired about trainings sessions in 2007. The answer is yes. For example, we are hoping to coordinate a class to teach the basics of hand cut dovetails. This class will be more in depth than the demonstration we had earlier this year with some hands on technique. The details have not been finalized. A nominal fee will be charged to cover costs.

Unfortunately, we are not home yet. Due to ineptness of contractors, we are still hindered.

I would like to thank everyone for their support and assistance this past year—not only for support in the guild but to those who have assisted us at our home.

## November 2006

### Next Meeting

December 11, 2006  
6:30PM

Grate Steak of Norfolk  
235 N. Military Hwy.  
Norfolk, VA 23502  
757 461-5501

### 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

Bob Waddell

Myron Curtis

### December

Holiday Gathering

At

The Grate Steak of Norfolk

Woodturning for woodworkers

### 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

By Cliff Atkinson

### Shopsmith EZ Smart Guide

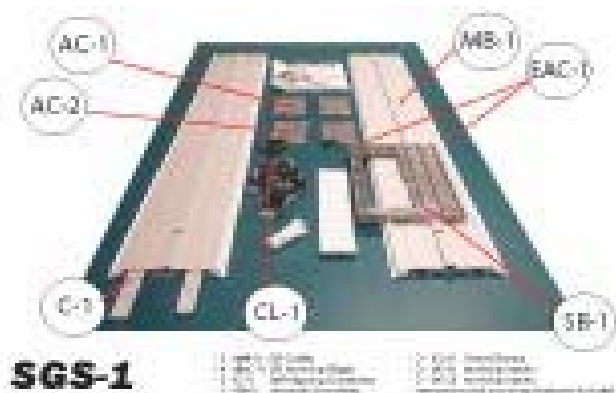
In "Woodsmith", Vol. 28, No. 167, pages 14 and 15 is a review of the "EZ Smart Guide." Since I have a Shopsmith and a radial arm saw, for cutting sheet goods I use a circular saw. Trying to cut accurately with a circular saw is difficult at best, so this article intrigued me. I've used several of the different kinds of saw guides with varying degrees of success, generally not very accurate. It cost approximately \$200 to purchase the EZ Smart online with the extra guide to give a total length of 100 inches. (www.eurekazone.com)

The hardest part of setting up the EZ Guide was getting the saw aligned properly on the base. I found my saw blade to be off about 1/16th of an inch from it's base. (No wonder I couldn't cut straight with this one!) You have to make sure that the holes to attach the base are drilled in adequate locations for both the EZ Guide base and the saw's base. Once the Guide base is attached you use the saw to trim the "anti-chip edge strip." This strip is made of hard plastic so make sure you have good eye protection.

Once setup, the Guide is easy to use. Make you measurements, mark the location for your cut (I add about a 2" line with a square for my poor eyes.), clamp the guide in place and your ready to cut. The cuts are smooth with minimal chipping. I have clamped the guide in place with both the clamps provided with the guide and with spring clamps. Both appear to work OK.

When you put both guide sections together for long cuts (96"), be careful to ensure the ends mate squarely for a straight cut. Once the connecting rails a set and the guide rail is placed for it's cut, I have not noticed any flexing that throws the cut off. This was a major problem with other guides I have used when trying to cut the length of a sheet of plywood.

So far I'm well satisfied with the EZ Smart Guide. The only drawback is the hard plastic used for the "anti-chip edge strip." It did not cut as smooth as I would have liked on the initial setup. For those of us who have to us a circular saw to cut plywood, it's worth the cost.



Apologies for the graininess in the picture.

## The TWWWG Web Site

By Ed Bunker

Do you really know what is on the TWWWG web page? Like... did you know that there is an online Membership Application available at the Home Page? We are working on some minor revisions for the 2007 Application. In January 2007, those wishing to apply for membership should fill out the 2007 Membership Application on-line and then print it. This will make recording the addresses and E-mail addresses more accurate - one omission and/or error and no e-mail!

Additionally, did you know that there is a listing of the Prints and Plans available on our web page? Just click on the PRINTS & PLANS button and see what the guild has available. You can check out the plans one month and return them the following month. All that is required is to fill out the "check out" sheet so the Librarian knows who has the plans. The Librarian is a member of the Training Committee headed by John Moore.

We also have an ITEMS for SALE page where you can post your 4-sale items for free. The ad stays up for 30 days and is then automatically removed. If you want the item up longer, just post it again and it will be up for 30 more days.

Then there is the PROJECTS page. Here, one can post pictures of your woodworking projects. This is not an automatic post. Send your project pictures with a "caption" to Ed Bunker and he'll get them posted on the PROJECTS Page.

I'm sure most of you know that we own over 130 wood working videos. These have been inventoried and the listing is posted on our web page under the VIDEO LIBRARY button. This listing can be searched for key words to help you find what you are looking for. Like the Prints and Plans, the videos can be checked out from the guild librarian.

## 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

## Show and Tell from our October Meeting



October's meeting had a number of objects for Show and Tell. Frank Pogue (above left) brought a 3D wood picture that resembles the cover of a Saturday Evening post. Bob Malloy displays an old rocking chair that he had discovered years ago. Although he has made some repairs, Bob still has yet to determine how he will replace the seat on this chair.

Thanks to our contributing photographers, Adrian Marshall and Bea Norris for their efforts.



Robert Wagenseller (left) shows off a cutting board he created for friend. The alternating woods are maple, cherry and black walnut. We hope this will not be the last time we see Robert, for he has taken a job and moved to St. Louis. Good Luck Robert and many thanks for your contributions!

Martin Carter (right) brought in the one leg of a canopy bed he is crafting. The leg is comprised of three smaller pieces turned or cut out of mahogany. Once he has created the legs, the legs will be sent to a wood carver for some detailed leaf carvings.



## 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.

I had a conversation with Scott Peterson, a local arborist, a few weeks ago. He ask if there was any use for red gum lumber. I was not sure but after doing a little research it seems that there is a regional demand for red gum lumber.

Red Gum, which is also know as American Red Gum, sweet gum or the proverbial gum ball tree, is native predominantly to the Southeastern United States but it can be found in some parts of the Midwest and back across to New York state.

In today's world, it is hard to find a tree with a diameter greater that 30", but years ago in the 1800's, with the onset of industrial revolution, some trees yielded planks of 28" across and lengths of 14'.

The wood is considered moderately hard and strong with a density and appearance similar to cherry. Although the sapwood is white with little use, the heartwood has a reddish-brown appearance that is streaked with blackish belts.

Once milled, the lumber is prone to surface checks and warping. To prevent these events from occurring, weighting the stacks and air drying the wood instead of kiln drying works well.

Primary uses for red gum are for pulpwood, veneers, railroad ties and plywood. For use as a lumber in woodworking, red gum is used for jewelry boxes, furniture, interior trim and millwork. As the electric and audio ages progressed, red gum was a favorite wood as a veneer for radio, television and phonograph boxes because of the wood's similarity to cherry in appearance. Some manufactures dyed the wood black and utilized in picture frames for an ebony substitute.

The timber of the red gum is considered to be difficult to work due to its hardness and interlocking grain. However, the timber polishes well and can exhibit an attractive, decorative grain.

## Program Highlights from the October Meeting



Our October meeting featured a representative from Sherwin Williams, Dick Murray. Above, Dick demonstrated the penetration of a Sherwin-Williams stain on two woods, one that has been sanded with 80 grit paper; the second wood has been sanded with through different grits up to 180 grit.

Below, Dick shows a variety of stains and their color variations on different species of woods.

