

Tidewater Woodworkers Guild



Notes from the Wood House

Greetings all! If you had any wood drying in your shop, after this summer's heat, you should have some nice, dry lumber.

Last month, I mentioned the November 3rd demonstration at Woodcraft. The Guild has been given 2 hours for 4 demonstrations. Each demonstration will be 30 minutes with 20 minutes for the presentation and 10 minutes for questions and answers.

So far we have the following 3 volunteers:

John Moore will do presentation on biscuit joinery;

Bob Fred will demonstrate his custom block planes;

Ed Bunker will show off his skills on the band saw.

We need one more pre-

senter. If you are interested, please let me know. Also, Freud will be in for the weekend. We are trying to arrange a special presentation for the guild in the Freud Touring Truck. If you missed the truck at the September meeting, it is impressive because it is a fully functional mobile shop.

Wood Chips

Elections for the 2008 TWWWG Board will be held in November. We had originally specified that the elections would be held in October. Within the next few weeks, we will publish bio's on all the nominees.

If there is enough interest, we would like to have the holiday gathering in December.

Over the past few weeks, we have sent out a few e-mails regarding lumber being offered in auction.

A few of us pooled our resources and won a bid for some cherry lumber at a great price. It was mostly 4/4 with 80% being #1 common and 20% being #2 common with a 6—8% moisture content. The lumber milled nicely and I look forward to building a few projects. If anyone is interested in future auctions, please let Ben Weatherford or myself know.

For those of you that get the DIY channel, on Saturday mornings and evenings, there showings of the New Yankee Workshop and Woodworks.

October 2007

Next Meeting

**October 22, 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

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.

October

Guest Presenter

Jerry Crick

The Router

Part II

November

Guest Presenter

Steve Houmis

Inlay

The Executive Board

Andy Steinberg	President/Editor	624-9151
Bret Lancaster	Vice President	631-0634
Bill Hoffman	Secretary	420-7087
Gene George	Treasurer	499-7281
Pat Taylor	Past President	481-3167

The History of the Circular Saw

We owe much of our early saw technology to women!

The saw in general is a tool with a thin metal strip with teeth on one edge or a thin metal disk with teeth on the periphery.

In 1777, Samuel Miller invented the circular saw in England, the round metal disk type of saw that cuts by spinning and is used hand-held or table-mounted. Large circular saws are found in sawmills and are used to produce lumber.

In 1813, Tabitha Babbitt (1784-1854) invented the first circular saw used in a sawmill. Babbitt was working in the spinning house at the Harvard Shaker community in Massachusetts, when she decided to invent an improvement to the two-man pit saws that were being used for lumber production. Tabitha Babbitt is also credited with inventing an improved version of cut nails, a new method of making false teeth, and an improved spinning wheel head.

Around 1810, a Shaker woman, Tabitha Babbitt, watched her brothers laboriously sawing wood. She realized that a wheel could accomplish that task, so she attached a notched metal disc to her spinning wheel to demonstrate her idea. But her idea took hold in our heavily wooded continent. Several isolated circular saws had already been made in England and Holland. But here, the circular saw flourished. The radius of the disc limited circular saws when they had to make a continuous cut, the length of a log. The band saw would have to be the answer to that problem.

In 1808, even before Sister Tabitha, William Newberry patented a band saw in England in 1807. But there was a catch. A continuous metal band had to be held together at some point. It had to withstand high tensile stresses. Newberry's idea was not yet workable.

Not until 1846 did another woman, a Mademoiselle Crepin in France, patent means for brazing the ends together. By the late 19th century, band saws were in common use, and their inherently thin kerf began greatly reducing waste in sawmills.

Like the band saw, the chainsaw was invented early and developed late. A German orthopedist built a small one in 1830 to cut bone. But here again, we need to consider the concept: A chainsaw offers little advantage over a band saw unless we want our saw to be portable. And then, it must be powered. Chainsaws couldn't come into their own until we had small gasoline engines.

Swiss developer Andreas Stihl perfected the idea in the late 1920s. Even then, the chainsaw wasn't miniaturized into a hand tool until 1950. Now a chain rides the rim of a rigid plate. Each link carries a tooth, with the teeth alternating left-right. Its kerf is large -- that is, it cuts a very wide slit.

Chain saws can be used to take down trees, but they're too wasteful to cut lumber.

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.

Black Cherry or Cherry as most of us know it is a North American tree. It is primarily found in the eastern and central regions of the United States. Estimates indicate that 70% of all cherry lumber in the US come from Pennsylvania.

The tree can reach heights up to 80 feet inland. On the Eastern Shore of Virginia in the maritime forest on Assateague, it rarely grows above 40 or 50 feet due to the winds and the salt spray they carry.

When cut, the lumber has an appearance of a pale pinkish color, sometimes with greenish highlights when freshly cut, turns reddish brown with age and exposure to light. The sapwood is pale in color in comparison to the heartwood.

The grain pattern accepts a full range of medium to dark finishes and bleaching treatments. For the best results, let time do its work. Cherry will darken with age to achieve its notable uniform deep reddish color. In most furniture of today, the red color that you see is done by dyeing the wood.

Since cherry has a uniform texture, the wood machines extremely well and is considered one of the best woods to use in furniture due to its stability. Wear and tear on tools is normal. The only drawback to cherry is that it burns easy so make sure your tools are sharp. When routing cherry, use a carbide bit and maintain a steady speed – do not stop. When jointing, pay attention to the feed direction to enhance the curly grain pattern. And finally, when sanding pay special attention to sand with the grain.

The fruits have found many uses. Wines and jellies are made from the ripe, somewhat bitter, black cherries; a wild cherry cough syrup is made from the bark

Cherry is used in almost every facet of woodworking. From furniture to cabinetry, there is no limit. It is sought after for its figure in wood turning and it creates a wonderful look in hardwood floors.

A warning about this lumber; some cherry is harvested from old orchards. These trees were often sprayed with pesticides which were then absorbed into the tree. Special care should be taken to control sawdust and minimize exposure to dust.



Show and Tell From Our September 2007 Meeting



Bob Fred, left, shows off his creation of an underwater camera. Bob built this camera 40+ years ago. To date, it has never leaked and as far as Bob knows, the case is still waterproof.

The camera case was created out of thick plexiglass and custom made mechanisms to snap the pictures and advance the film.

No, Don Hubbard is not demonstrating his version of the hand jive (right). Don was telling us the steps that he and Mal Powell went through to make their first set of dominoes.

The dominoes are perfect for little hands and come in a custom box.

Lessons are not included.



Above, the talented Frank Pogue shows off his toys that he is creating. It seems that we kept Walter Kappleman of Freud (background) up past his bedtime that night.

Below, Pat Taylor, shows off his latest toy creation, a tug boat that does float. My apologies to all those with USN background when I misnamed a boat for a ship.

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 |



Program Highlights From our September 2007 Meeting



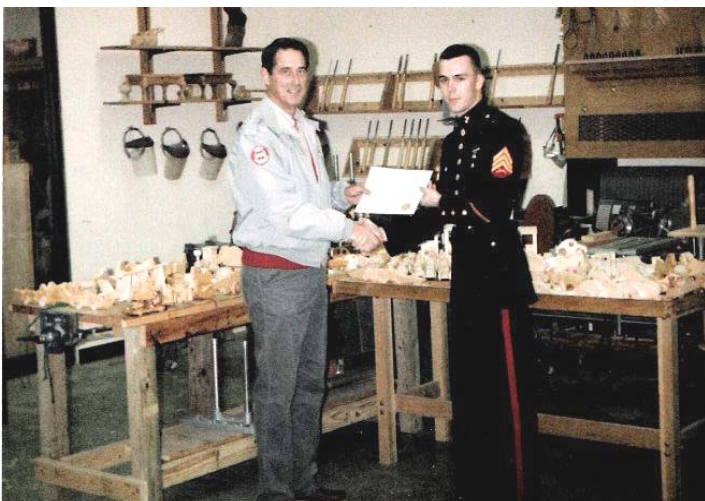
Last month's presentation featured Walter Kappleman (above left) with Freud. Walter provided an in depth presentation on Freud's new routers and router bits. As well, Walter demonstrated Freud's newest router table (above right) and all of its capabilities to the approval of the crowd. John Moore and Ed Bunker (right) contemplate how talk their wives into letting them buy this toy!

Wooden Toys for the Holidays

As everyone knows by now, we are making toys for the holidays to be donated to area children. Our designated recipient will be the Marine Corps and the Toys for Tots program. The response from our guild has been wonderful and we hope to have Santa Claus make a great presentation to the Marine Corp during this holiday season.

It also appears that we are resurrecting a Guild tradition that started many years ago. Yes, that is the infamous Pat Taylor during the holiday season of 1984 presenting toys to the Marine Corp crafted by members of the TWWWG.

If you are still interested in making toys, please contact Andy Steinberg.



News from the Nominating Committee

Yes, it is that time of the year again for us to look at some superb candidates for the officer positions of the guild. I appreciate the numerous nominations forwarded and I think we have contacted each member that was nominated for an office.

To date, we have the following nominees that have accepted the nominations for offices indicated:

For President, Andy Steinberg

For Vice President, Bret Lancaster

For Secretary, Ken Craig

For Treasurer, Cliff Atkinson, and Fred Olds

Nominations are still open and we'll be taking further nominations from the floor at the October 22, 2007 meeting. Upon adjournment of the October meeting, nominations will be closed. Elections are scheduled for the November 26th meeting.

Wishing you all the best, Ed Bunker

WOOD magazine is looking for photogenic shops

Do you have the kind of shop other woodworkers like to visit? Is your shop filled with clever ideas that help you work smarter, faster, or safer? If so, submit your workshop or individual shop projects for publication in America's Best Home Workshops, Volume 2.

In Volume 1, the editors of WOOD showcased 15 shops and dozens of individual projects from shops around the country. Now, they're looking for more great shops to feature. To learn more, visit www.woodmagazine.com/homeshops