

Tidewater Woodworkers Guild



Notes from the Wood House

Greetings all! It seems that fall is trying to make an early presence these days. With the cooler temps, I am sure more of us are spending more time in our shops and less time working on the "honey do" list.

We are still looking for volunteers for the November 3rd demonstration at Woodcraft. Please let me know what your interest is for the presentation.

If you have not read the latest e-mail from Ben Weatherford and Ed Bunker, there is a great opportunity for furniture grade wood being offered in auction.

Ben is looking for a group effort to purchase one of the lots of wood. If you did not receive the e-mail

but have an interest participating contact Ben as soon as possible.

Wood Chips

The nominating committee for this year is Ed Bunker, John Moore and Gene George. If you have an interest in serving on the board or there is someone you would like to recommend, please contact any of the gentlemen and let them know.

We are planning to have elections in October with the new board being announced at the November meeting

At our next meeting, we will be approving the latest version of the by laws. This version is the collaboration of many people and

multiple inputs. Thanks to all those involved. And, many thanks goes to Ed Bunker for his persistence and dedication to this project.

At the last meeting, Adrian Marshall presented an overview on tool sharpening using sandpaper on plate glass, an follow-up from last year.

A source for the glass is C & P Glass in Va. Beach. However, a number of members called looking for free glass after that meeting. He was overwhelmed. I have spoken with Pete the owner. He has some glass available but there is a charge for the glass. There is no specific size. Give Pete a call at 499 - 6614 and mention the Guild.

September 2007

Next Meeting

**September 24, 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.

September

Guest Presenter

Russ Brenner

The New Freud

Router Products

October

Guest Presenter

Jerry Crick

The Router

Part II

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

Tips for the Woodworker

Gap Filler

Recently, I built a corner entertainment center for the house. I used birch plywood and poplar for the construction and then painted the piece to match the trim of the house. A few dings were in the plywood. And many of the joints were mitered at a 22½° angle since this cabinet fits into a corner.

Unfortunately, some of the joints were not completely flush—a few gaps here and there. A suggestion to fill these gaps, nail holes and dings was to use Bondo. I gave it a try. For those of you who have not used this before, the product works great. It hardens within 30 minutes; once it hardens, it sands easily. And once painted, all the joints are clean.

I did find out that this product sets up fast. When mixing the Bondo with the hardener, use enough that will allow you to fill a small area. In doing so, you will not waste the product.

I certainly would not recommend it for a piece that will be stained or finished, but to cover up a few minor gaps, try a little Bondo. It can be found at most “big box” hardware and auto parts stores.

Cutting Wood for the Season

Some of you may be contemplating cutting down that certain tree in your yard and having it milled for lumber. According to our resident sawyer, Andy Westrich, the fall is the best time to rough saw a tree for lumber.

As the tree loses its leaves, it requires less moisture for the winter, thus there is less moisture in the log. Cutting the tree over the next few months with less moisture can also prevent most of checking, especially when one air-dries their lumber.

When you stack your lumber, make sure you have sealed the ends. Also, use stickers equally spaced, usually about every 24” to 28” inches to prevent warping. And, try to place a sticker as close to the end as possible to eliminate cupping.

Air Drying Your Wood

There seems to be some discussion about how long it takes to dry a freshly cut tree. Some stand by the adage of “an inch a year”. So a 2” board should take 2 years to dry. This is true if the wood is left covered but outside.

Recently, we milled 2 beech logs. The wood was sealed, stickered and stacked inside my shop. A fan was positioned near the wood and pointed at the stack per the suggestion of Bob Fred. After 3 months, the wood had a moisture content of 9% - a few more percent and its ready to use.

So, if you have the room, store your wood inside. And don't forget that fan.

Quick Tip "The best finish for children's toys and furniture may well be shellac, because it becomes nontoxic once it is dry. Shellac has been approved by the FDA for certain applications, including drug and candy coatings." *Woodworker's Journal, Best 250 Shop Tricks.*

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.

Earlier this summer, our vice president, Bret Lancaster taught a class on building a Adirondack chair. The wood for this chair was cypress.

Cypress trees are found in the wetlands throughout the southeastern coastal plain and north along the Mississippi river flood plain into southern Illinois. There are two varieties of cypress predominate in the United States - the Bald cypress and Pond cypress. The Pond cypress is a more prevalent species in our region. Florida pond cypress is known for its relative lack of knots compared to Pond cypress. Cypress has natural preservative oil known as “cpressene”, which gives second growth cypress a moderate resistance to insects and decay.

Bald cypress trees can reach heights of 150 feet, with diameters of 12 feet and an age of 2000 years. Most commonly, however, it grows to about 100 feet, 5 feet in diameter, and an age of 500 years. When grown in wet conditions, the tree produces "knees"; extensions of the roots which grow above the ground and the surface of the water and allow oxygen to reach the roots.

The wood of the Cypress is moderately strong softwood known for its decay resistance. Its sapwood is nearly white while heartwood varies in color from light yellow to reddish tan or brown. Old growth logs are often salvaged from bayous and bogs.

Although wood of the cypress can be a brittle, but it easy to work. Bald cypress has moderate strength, hardness and pliability. Sharp tools are necessary to prevent raised grain. It nails and glues well and is high in paint holding ability.

Cypress can be used as interior trim, cabinets, counter tops, flooring and paneling. Because of the hardness and durability of cypress it is utilized in multiple applications outside the home, such as exterior siding, shingles, fence posts and landscape design elements.

With a proper surface treatment, which provides UV and moisture protection, today's cypress has excellent durability when compared to other species of wood siding and decking. Other uses are in tanks, vats, ship and boat building, refrigerators, railroad-car construction, greenhouse construction, cooling towers, and stadium seats.



Show and Tell From Our August 2007 Meeting



Adrian Marshall, left, demonstrates his technique for blade sharpening using a glass plate and various grits of sandpaper. John Moore, right, provides an impromptu lesson on the construction of chest leg out of black walnut.



Don Lancaster, on the right, shows his latest version of the toy truck he is building for the holidays. On the left is the hobby horse that Gene George crafted for a family friend.



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

Woodworking Show

There is a woodworking show in Richmond, October 12—14, 2007. A group discount is available. If you are interested in attending, please let me know.

Wooden Toys for the Holidays

At the March meeting, Corey Larson brought in a number of toy plans. I still have copies available to anyone who would like a set. The object, of course, would be to make toys this year for the holidays and donate them to a charitable group for the holidays. It was suggested that people work in teams to assist in the effort. To date, we have 4 teams committed.

We would like to set a goal of 10 teams with each team producing 10 toys. Most toys can be made utilizing scrap wood laying around the shop. And, there are a variety of web sites out there offering free plans to make toys. Please let Andy Steinberg know if you are interested as well as your team member.

Program Highlights From our August 2007 Meeting



Our surprise guest last month (left), Gny Sgt Deena Coleman of the USMC came and talked to the Guild about the Toys for Tots program. The toys being made by guild members will be donated this year to this program. It was impressive to see our members sit up and come to attention for the uniform.



Jerry Crick, right picture, gave an informative overview on the router including sizes and types with a great explanation on each. Most importantly, Jerry did focus a bit on router safety. August's presentation was Part I for Jerry. In October, Jerry will follow up with some router techniques.

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



Above, Gene George discusses the details of creating his hobby horse to the crowd.

Adrian Marshall, right, shows off his sharpening board. This board has hand that hold the glass plates steady as one puts an edge on a blade.

Below, Don Lancaster shows the latest version of his truck carrier puzzle.

