

Tidewater Woodworkers Guild



Notes from the Wood House

Greetings all! Now that heat is starting to subside, I am sure many of you are venturing back into your shops to craft your latest project.

I would like to invite anyone has been working on project or has finished a new creation to please bring it into the meetings for Show and Tell.

Ed Bunker and John Moore headed up the nominations committee for the elections last year. Both have agreed to accept the same responsibility this year.

At last month's meeting, I proposed that the Guild look into purchasing a specific tool to utilized by the Guild members just as the Tidewater Turners have done with a lathe. I am still waiting for suggestions on a possible purchase.

One tool that I have heard a number of people saying they would love to access to is a wide belt sander.

The concept would be to purchase the tool from the folks at Woodcraft and store the tool at Woodcraft. Members who are in good standing can reserve the tool when required or work with the folks at Woodcraft to use the tool.

This idea is still open for discussion. Currently, we (the Guild) get a 2% rebate back for all purchases made by Guild members each quarter with a maximum of \$250 per quarter.

Wood Chips

For those of you who ordered shirts, if you have not picked up your shirt please make every effort to get with Pat Taylor at our next meeting. At the present time, I believe that there 9 shirts that need to

be picked up and paid for at this writing.

Last month, we had a **puzzle contest** in our newsletter. Due to confusion regarding the contest deadline, we have extended the deadline date to the start of the meeting for September 25, 2006. All entries must be turned in by that time. Please make sure your name is on the entry. The five entries with the most manufacturers found will received prizes. If you have any questions please feel free to contact by the start of the meeting. The solution will be posted on the website.

Due to circumstances beyond our control, we are not back in our house. We were forced out by fire in early December of 2005. Friends and family are now betting if we will be back by Christmas of 2006.

September 2006

Next Meeting

October 23, 2006
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
Douglas Gordon
Furniture Maker

October

Guest Presenter
Sherwin Williams
Representative

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 and Techniques

This month's article is provided by Pat Taylor.

The 10 cent cure for Planer Snipe

As a follow-on to the discussion offered by the DeWalt/Porter Cable reps at their tent demo this past summer—here's a little more insight to solving planer snipe on the outfeed end of your stock.

The manual cutter-head lock found on many of today's bench-top planers is somewhat effective, but sometimes falls short in preventing end of board snipe on very long boards and thin (less than 1/4-inch) stock. The real solution lies in the stock support, especially on the outfeed end of the planer. The DeWalt 13-inch planer is known to be troublesome in this regard since it doesn't come with any extension tables. (They are available— as an accessory set of extension winds, for about \$42— and they do solve the problem, if adjusted properly.)

The "Dime Solution" is an adjustment that can and often does solve the end of board snipe, performed as follows:

Place the dime on the planer bed (with the height adjustment raised at least 2 to 2-1/2 inches and the power cord pulled) - and set a bubble level on the dime, extending out over the end of the outfeed extension table.

Then, adjust the leveling screw(s) for the extension table to bring the level up to center. Thus, the outfeed table is tipped up slightly - the thickness of a dime— to support the stock as it approaches and exits the planer blades.

I have eliminated any visible snipe on all stock (less than 5 feet in length and down to 1/8 inch thickness - here's hoping it works for you!)

PS. In all fairness, the new DeWalt 13 inch bench planer (Model DW735) has been frequently touted as a "top-rated" planer (with the addition of the extension table wings) because of its superior dust collection, thickness, dual speeds, 3-cutter blades and easy blade changes.

Long before this model was introduced, I purchased the then "top value" Ridgid (Home Depot) 13-inch bench planer (which comes with its own steel support stand), and have been very-very satisfied with its performance, including its built in dust collection chute— a very important factor in producing a finished product.

Tool Review - Dewalt 735 Planer

By Andy Steinberg

To coincide with Pat's Tip on the 10 cent cure, I would like to add my 2 cents on the Dewalt 13" 735 Planer. I purchased the planer last December from Home Depot. At the time, it was priced for \$499 at Home Depot and \$479 at Lowe's. Thanks to a price match at Home Depot less 10%, I was able to purchase the planer for \$431.10 from Home Depot. And, with a \$50 rebate, my final purchase for the planer was \$381.10 plus tax— a great buy.

I have used the planer a number of times. The first was to plane out some poplar for the door frame at our house. As mentioned in Pat's article, I was having issues with snipe. I called Dewalt's technical support. They acknowledged the snipe issue and sent me (for free) a set of the table extensions. The addition of the table extensions resolved my snipe issues.

Initially, using the planer, I had a couple issues. One issue was switching the cutting head from a rough cut to a finish cut. The 735 has a switch to go between these two speeds. For some reason, the planer would not engage at all. A phone call to technical support resolved the issue immediately. The planer is shipped in a "neutral" mode. Once the planer is powered on, switch the tool into the mode desired. For future reference, the planer must be powered on to go back and forth between the modes.

A feature that I found useful is the preset thickness gauge. A knob on the side allows the user to preset to the planer to mill your boards to a desired thickness. Thus, if one has a number of boards that need to be the same thickness, the planer can be set to not mill the boards thinner than your desired thickness for your project.

The connection for dust chute has two possibilities. One connection allows for dispelling the debris out into the environment—not the best solution. The other is the dust collection attachment. I have the planer connected directly to a dust collector and it works perfectly.

Overall, I have found this machine to be easy to use and provide a clean, smooth surface. The blades are supposed to be, reversible, disposable and easy to change. I have not had to replace the blades or reverse the blades yet, so I cannot provide information on the difficulty to change the blades.

Program Highlights from our August Meeting



Last month, Gene George (top left) gave us a great presentation on creating finger joints. Gene emphasized that one must create a few jigs to create your desired joint and that the jigs should be adjustable (middle left and top right).

The third jig (middle right) was constructed from plans published in a old copy of *Shop Notes*. We hope to have permission from *Shop Notes* soon to put a copy of these plans on the website for the membership to download if desired.

Bret Lancaster (left) demonstrates cutting finger joints on the newest table saw at the Woodcraft store, the Sure Stop. This new saw claims to stop cutting immediately if it comes into contact with a person.

John Moore (left also) contemplates on how to ask his wife if he can buy one of these saws without getting the proverbial "another tool!"

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.

Alder, also called the "Poor Man's Cherry, grows primarily in the Pacific Northwest states of Oregon and Washington in the United States. Other species of the Alder tree can be found throughout Europe and other coastal, non-tropical environments.

Lightweight for a hardwood, alder has a fine texture with relatively good impact resistance. The heartwood tends to be pale roseate, sapwood lighter, with fine machining, staining and finishing characteristics. Figure is similar to birch and cherry to which it is related.

Alder trees are usually small in stature but can reach heights of 70 ft in perfect conditions. It is the only broadleaved tree to produce cones. To the ancients of old the Alder was particularly revered for it appeared to bleed like humans.

The Alder tree is one of the sacred trees of Wicca/Witchcraft and also a member of the Birch tree family. In folklore the Alder is known as the 'King of the Waters' with the 'Willow' tree as its Queen. This association is due to their natural habitat near lakes, rivers and streams.

In Celtic folklore the Alder is associated with the fairies and it was believed that doorways to the fairy realm were concealed within its trunk. The Alder was sacred to the god 'Bran' who carried a branch of it with him during the 'Battle of the Trees' saga, an old Celtic legend. Bran's totem animal was the Raven which also became associated with the Alder. Ritual pipes and whistles were often made from Alder wood, many in the shape of the Raven.

The wood of the Alder has many uses. Due to the Alders resistance to water, it was used in the construction of bridges, particularly the long heavy piles driven into the ground or sometimes under water to support it. This quality for long endurance under water also made it valuable for pumps and troughs.

The roots and knots of the Alder furnished good material for cabinet-makers. It was also used for making spinning wheels, bowls, spoons, wooden heels and herring-barrel staves etc. Alder has been used for cigar-boxes for which its reddish Cedar-like wood was well suited. After lying in a bog, the wood of the Alder has the color but not the hardness of Ebony.

Alder is a preferred wood for charcoal making, formerly used in the manufacture of gunpowder, or for smelting metal ores, now used primarily for cooking. The wood is also used for smoking fish and meat, though this usage has often been replaced by other woods such as oak and hickory. It is popular as a material for electric guitar bodies.

Show and Tell



Bob Waddell demonstrated the use of this converted miter gauge to useful jig for his table saw.



Club Discounts Available

Over the years, certain businesses have offered a variety of discounts to our membership. Listed 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