



Tidewater Woodworkers Guild

October, 2024

Woodworking: Respite from the "Honey Do/Due/Overdue" list

President's Notes – Terry Nienaber

Hello Guild Members and Friends, as the holiday season is approaching quickly, we're all thinking about those special handmade gifts that we need to work on. I recently attended a demonstration for making bandsaw boxes by Alex

Snodgrass at Woodcraft. Despite attending two other "bandsaw tune-up" demonstrations this year, I was surprised by the boost in enthusiasm I received. It was all information familiar to me, though experiencing it with friends is still more powerful. As a result, both of my bandsaws got tune-ups when I got home, and I made a few parts to practice.

That is the power of our club. Benchtop discussions, programs, and community service projects bring comradery that keeps things familiar and interesting. With the prolific availability of articles and online presentations we have access to ideas and information like never before, but it's a one-way flow of information. I appreciate the culture we've developed where people come together informally and just share thoughts and experiences in respectful ways (mostly ;-)) with humor and creativity.

As I mentioned at the September meeting, I'll be stepping down from being an officer next year. I'm looking forward to seeing where things go and intend to continue to support the guild behind the scenes. While our numbers are modest, our members are engaged and active. Please continue to volunteer to lead or support our activities to improve the experience for everyone. Whether that is an activity that multiple members could work together on, a presentation on something you've tackled, or an officer position that you'd like to try, we need members to stay engaged.

Terry Nienaber, TWWWG President

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TWWWG Programs - Chris Zuchristian

28 October	25 November	9 December
6:30-8:30	6:30-8:30	6:00-9:00
Jim Francis	Ray Journigan	Holiday Gathering
Tall case clock construction	Chippendale pie plate tray design/build	Little Italy Restaurant 1464 Mt. Pleasant Rd. Chesapeake

Since our last newsletter in May 2024, our program committee has provided first class instructions and demonstrations from our very own expert woodworkers Scott Paris, Dennis Nahorney and Aron Zielinski. We thank all of you for sharing your passion for woodworking with us. Your presentations were informative and inspiring.

Scott Paris was our guest speaker in June. He introduced us, flat boarders, to the world of turning. He walked us through the basics step for setting up and using a lathe; talked about the tools needed to create different shapes; and finished up with a demonstration of techniques used by turners to generate a variety forms and shapes. It was an exciting presentation.

In July, Dennis Nahorney provided a presentation on exotic woods; what they are, the precautions needed to be taken before milling, and the amazing creations that can be made with them. He also introduced us to the exotic wood Janka hardness scale. The Janka scale is used to determine the relative hardness of domestic or exotic wood species. His presentation was very educational.

In August, Aron Zielinski introduced us to power sculpting. He presented many methods and techniques used in power wood carving, discussed wood selection, and demonstrated the tools he uses when carving projects. We saw firsthand the benefits of choosing power tool carving over hand carving. It's quick: You can do it by hand, but it takes a long time to complete. Power tools help you create something in a fraction of the time.

Your program committee has lined up a couple outstanding events to close out the year. First, Jim Francis will discuss construction of a tall clock case and the joinery involved in making such a piece. Closing out the year, Ray Journigan, "The Colonial Craftsman," will show us how he designs and builds a Chippendale Pie Platter Tray. He will also discuss his offer to teach classes exclusively for TWWWG members, for a fee.

We plan to continue to include door prize(s), raffles, and “Show & Tell” for every meeting, so bring in your projects to show off and gently used tools/woodworking items to donate to our raffles. Doors open at 6:00 PM. Upon arrival, drop off your show & tell and raffle donation items on the tables near the entrance. Cheryl Davis and Dennis Nahorney will be available to register new members and collect dues if you have not paid yet. Note: 2024 annual dues are now \$10 (since the year is now halfway over). Ensure to pick up your member nametag and your door prize ticket before catching up with friends until the start of the program at 6:30 PM sharp.

Before intermission, members participating in the “Show and Tell” will present their projects to the members attending the meeting at Woodcraft and via ZOOM. Each participant will provide a brief description of their project (e.g. wood type, other material, joinery, finish, challenges, etc.). Descriptions should be no longer than 2- 3 minutes.

After intermission, our featured program will begin. Feel free to kick back and enjoy the show. Once the demonstration and discussions are finished, we will announce the winners of the door prize(s)/raffles, provide concluding remarks and end the meeting.

Challenges - Chris Zuchristian

Function Beyond Decoration (Due at the October 28th meeting)

We're looking forward to some fun and interesting entries in our current Member Challenge. We're also always interested in seeing in-process photos. If you send them to this email address ahead of the meeting, Terry will try to put them in the slide packages for that part of the meeting.

Rules:

- Build a project that is visually appealing but fulfills a clear purpose.
- Any type of wood may be used. Preferred that wood is bought locally.
- The entry may also include other wood or non-wood materials for decorative purposes or for functional purposes. The additional material shall be less than 25% of total materials used.
- Any type of fasteners, glue, and finishing method may be used.
- Any finish is okay including paint
- No kit-based projects may be used. You can build from someone else's plans.

Contest timeline

- The Contest begins at 12:00 a.m. DST on July 28, 2024. Entries for the contest must be brought to the TWWWG meeting at Woodcraft (NLT 6:30 pm) on Oct 28, 2024.

Submission Guidelines

- You must be a paid member of the Tidewater Woodworkers Guild (In good standing) to participate.

Shop News

Bret Lancaster – Here are pictures of the chest I finished in August. I used maple from a couple trees that came down in past storms, and milled by Paul Garrity. Purple Heart was used for the accents and drawer handles. Overall dimensions are 55 inches tall X 37 3/4 inches wide X 18 inches deep. Finished with two coats of shellac seal coat and 3 coats of Watco wipe-on polyurethane.



Tim Roach -

Restoring a Stanley 51 Spokeshave



Several years back, I picked up a Stanley 51 Spokeshave as part of a vintage tool bundle. It was nice to have, but not why I bought the bundle in the first place. A couple years later, I signed up for a Boggs ladderback chair class with Jeff Lefkowitz. I knew this Spokeshave was not ready for use and Jeff had suggested a round-bottom Spokeshave for the class. Once I got use to using it, I could use the round-bottom for both flat and slightly concave surfaces. So, the 51 stayed in the back of drawer for a few more years.



I always had it in the back of my mind to “rejuvenate” it some day. So recently I got the Spokeshave out and started to get it to a useable state. The first thing I did was to take it apart, clean it up and make sure there were no structural defects or cracks in the casting/body.



I had remembered looking the original blade and seeing some minor pitting. Since a new Spokeshave blade from Veritas was only \$27 at the time, I figured it made more sense to get a new one than to spend a couple hours trying to get the original one in working order. Turns out the new blade I got was not flat. It was within tolerance, but just barely. So, it still took me longer to get the blade honed, but hopefully the PM-V11 will hold an edge longer. Replacement blades are also available from Hock (through Lee Valley now) and Lie-Nielsen.



The next thing I did was flatten the sole on a medium grit diamond plate. I made sure the old blade was installed and tensioned. I then marked the sole with a Sharpie and worked it back and forth until all the Sharpie lines were gone. I then worked the sole on a finer diamond plate and called it good.



After that I ran the Lever cap over the fine diamond plate until the surface cleaned up some and it didn't rock on a flat surface. I used a small mill bastard file and a diamond paddle to remove the rough surface that the blade rests on (the bed or the Frog). I ensured that the new blade sat flat and did not rock on this surface. This will help eliminate "most" chatter when using the tool.



Since I was using a slightly thicker blade now, I need to open the throat a little bit. The original opening was not consistent across its width. Again, a small mill bastard file made short work of getting the opening even and removing any small imperfections. I also took the file to the front of the sole to lightly break its edge.



One of the last things I did was to take some 220 grit sandpaper wrapped around a dowel and “soften” the sharp parting lines in the casting close to the blade. This is where I normally place my thumbs and forefingers. This just makes the tool more pleasant to use.



Here is the restored Stanley 51 next to my Lie-Nielsen round bottom Spokeshave, with a few recent shavings. Since mine was part of a bundle, I can not tell you the final cost. You can find an old Stanley 51 or 52 for between \$10 and \$30. Even if you replace the blade as I did, you are only in for \$40 - \$60. With a little bit of a tune up, and some practice, you'll have a very nimble plane that's fun to use.

Ed Bunker – Pressure Treated Lumber and Fastener Use

I'm about out of "new things" to write about so I thought I'd consider passing on an experience I've had with pressure treated wood. Built my workshop back in the early 1990's and decided to use pressure treated lumber for the sills. This in itself is not uncommon, however the fasteners I used were common nails and "roofing nails" to hold paper and vinyl siding to the walls. I never gave the pressure treated wood a second thought after construction was underway. I finished the workshop in about three months working only evenings after working my regular job all day. All was fine until hurricane Isabel (Sep 2003) started blowing our way and I noticed that the vinyl siding was pulling away at the bottom including the "starter strip". Trying to get all the back yard furniture secure before the brunt of the storm I just drove a couple of washer head screws through the siding and starter strip into the sill. The screws secured the siding and all was good. It didn't look to bad, after all it is a workshop.

Now this past fall I decided to have some landscaping done in the vicinity of the workshop. In the process of scoping out this job I noted the siding was again loose and pulling away from the base of the same wall. Since the screw was driven through the vinyl siding I had access to the head of the screw. There wasn't much of the screw remaining. Here is a picture showing the screw I removed from the siding alongside of one of original length.

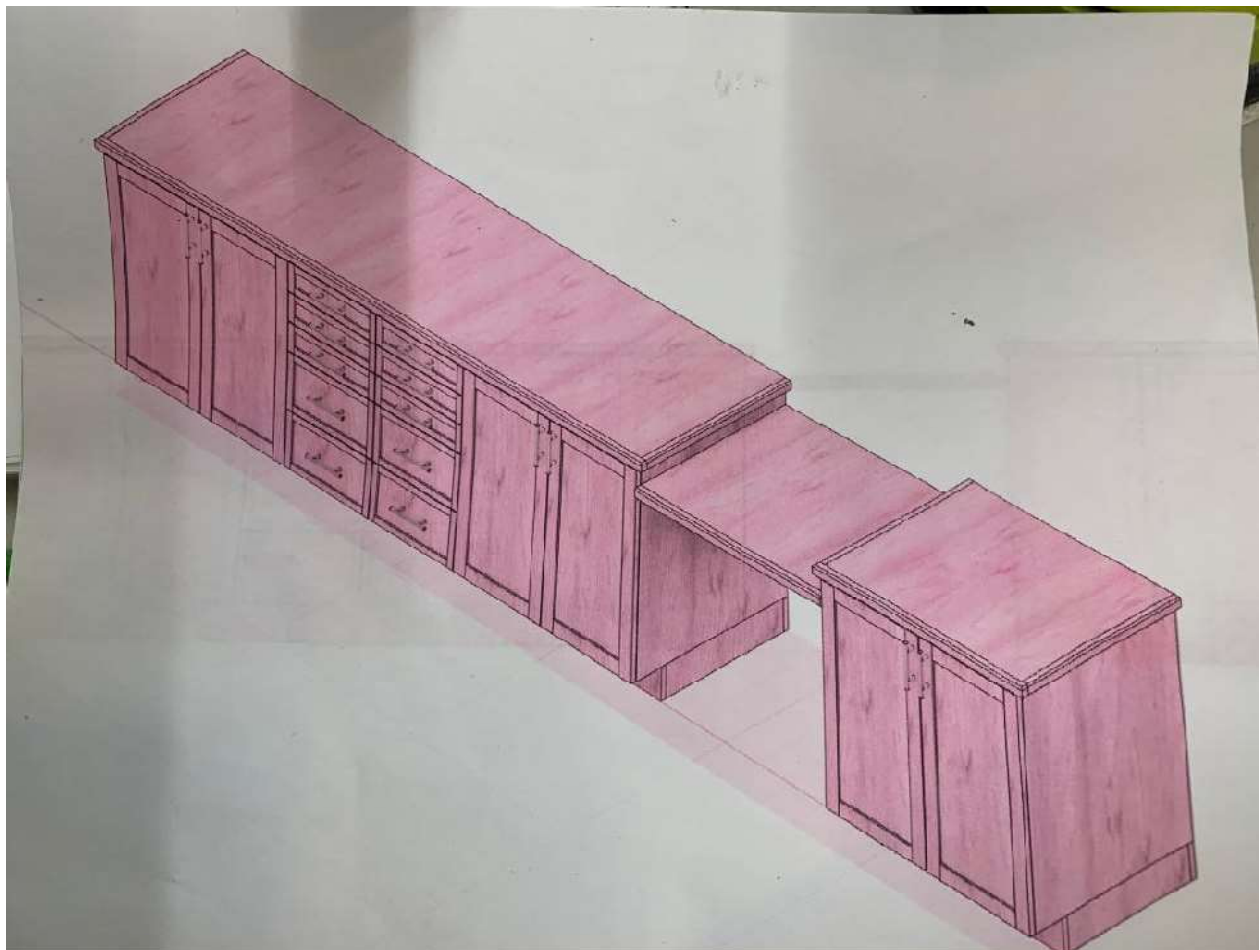


I'm sure a chemist could come up with the chemical reactions that took place when the flooding rains submerged the lower portion of that work shop wall. A little research indicated the pressure treated lumber contains Alkaline Copper Quaternary (ACQ) and with a little moisture, will accelerate the corrosion of common fasteners. There is a better choice of fastener to use with ACQ pressure treated lumber. If you are working with pressure treated lumber, do your homework. I decided a couple of stainless steel screws would solve my problem. However, stainless is expensive.

So, if you plan to make some Adirondack chairs from left over pressure treated lumber, choose your fasteners wisely.

All the best Ed Bunker

Bob Horne – This is a project that I've been working on jointly with my son. He designed the cabinets in Fusion 360. He and I have been working to build these in his garage so that he will have dedicated workspace and storage. It is built primarily from $\frac{3}{4}$ inch birch plywood.





John Rawls' shop including custom shop furniture and ShopSmith modifications. Good illustrations of what is possible in a shop. Also, notice how clean and bright his shop is.

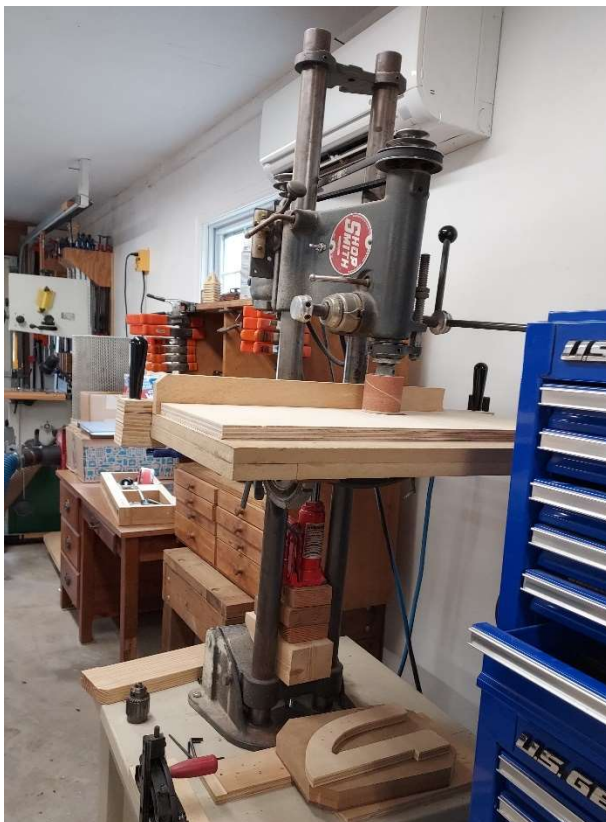
Powermatic style mortiser cabinet. You can tell John's a NASA mathematician.



ShopSmith lathe on dedicated bench



Dedicated spindle sander



Chopsaw cabinet



Links for Your Use

- Tidewater Woodworkers Guild Website (<https://www.twwwg.com/>)
- Tidewater Woodworkers Guild Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/TWWGFB>)
- Purple Heart Project (<https://www.thepurpleheartproject.org/>)
- Woodcraft Virginia Beach Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/woodcraft.beach>)
- Hampton Streetcar 390 Project (<https://www.facebook.com/streetcar390/about>)
- Colonial Williamsburg Furniture Collection (<https://emuseum.history.org/groups>)

Member News

Welcome Peter Hudson – Peter, working as a joiner at Colonial Williamsburg, brings a wealth of knowledge, experience and inquisitiveness of all woodworking. See him live at the Working Wood Conference in January. (*Whether a grizzled veteran or bright-eyed novice, any woodworker will agree that the tools we use for layout are the most essential components of our kit. Come work with journeyman **Peter Hudson** to build his favorite layout tool: the panel gauge. Participants will use hand tools in the Joiner's Shop to chop, plane, and carve a panel gauge from beech and ebony.*)

Upcoming Woodworking Events

- **Midwest Tool Collectors Association Tool Sale/Swap** (<https://mwtca.org/>); November 2, Atlanta Metro Fall Peach Meet, Roswell, GA 9000 Fouts Rd, Roswell, GA, United States
- **Colonial Williamsburg's Working Wood in the 18th Century** – To Furnish a Town: High, Low and In-Between; January 23rd – 26th, 2025. To Learn more and register, see this link; <https://web.cvent.com/event/29c78cab-e67a-4e90-8824-e77e23c3599e/summary?RefId=CWFWebpage>. In essence, **Handmade of solid wood construction!** Words like those sound expensive and exclusive to a modern ear, but they describe every piece of furniture known to Williamsburg's pre-Revolutionary residents from the most fashionable chair in the Governor's Palace to the humblest stool in an enslaved person's quarters. Join us as craftspeople and scholars from throughout Colonial Williamsburg along with special guest presenters take that diversity in matters of taste, status, and budget as an opportunity to celebrate the ingenuity and quality reflected in all levels of work.

Editor's Notes – Jim Francis

- Thank you everyone for supporting the Guild's work (i.e. Streetcar 390, Purple Heart Bench Brigade), and for being enthusiastic supporters of our other Guild activities.
- Feel free to send me (jfrancisjl@aol.com) news items you'd like to share with Guild members; i.e. your projects/pictures, technical articles, designs.
- The next newsletter will be issued sometime in the future.