

JULY 2007



NEWSLETTER

MEETING DATE: JULY 26, 2007

**PLACE: Agricultural & Industrial Museum
217 W Princess St., York PA 17404**

TIME: 7:00 PM

PROGRAM: Proportions in Woodworking

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

July, how time flies! I hope that everyone has noticed that our newsletter is evolving. Mike, now freed from the total task of writing our newsletter, has produced an excellent article, "Wood Whisperer". I hope that it encourages the rest of you to come forward with articles or suggestions, tips, or other general comments on woodworking. There will be an officers meeting after this months meeting. We need to sit down and review the present membership list to. Allen will provide a list showing those who have attended within the last six months and who have paid their dues. Time to cull the herd!!!

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

This month's meeting will be held at our regular meeting location, the Agricultural and Industrial Museum. You may recall that during Tom Stauffer's recent talk, he referred to Guild member **Ralph Dermato** several times. Ralph will provide an explanation of "Proportions". This is an extremely important subject. Have you ever looked at a piece of furniture noting the excellence of craftsmanship but something seemed wrong about the item? It may be the lack of proper proportion. At the next meeting you will have the opportunity to understand some of the rules on this subject from an expert. It will be a good meeting. See you there!

LAST MONTH'S MEETING

The meeting last month was held at **SJD Inc.** This is the shop owned and operated by Sam Delp and his wife Jai Delp. They produce custom woodworking. The large case piece they are working on will be well received by their client. Jai gave me a tour that was interesting and quite informative. Check out the photographs I took during this visit to their shop. They create some beautiful pieces and they do it all with standard equipment.

Julie Kemper-Kunkle



FreeState Timbers will provide our members a 5-10% discount. Timonium Commerce Park, 9572 Deerco Rd, Timonium, MD 21093. Phone: 410-561-9444, Fax 410-560-0760.

WOODWORKER HELP STILL NEEDED

Don't forget the Guild is still making toys to donate to York Hospital. The photo below shows a sample of one of the toys from Show and Tell at the meeting in March. Do your part and help bring a smile to the face of a child facing an illness by making a toy or toys for this project.



Officers Contact Information

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Understanding Reaction Wood

Source: WoodZone.com

Have you ever ripped a thin strip off a board only to have it immediately warp or twist? You might have also had the board pinch the blade and cause friction burns or blade stalling. We often receive e-mails from frustrated woodworkers wondering why their "perfect board" is acting like a sleepy two-year-old. These problems are often caused by a difficult to detect condition in the wood called **Reaction Wood**.

In short, Reaction Wood is abnormal wood formed in a leaning tree. In softwood trees, the reaction wood forms on the lower side of the lean and is called **Compression Wood**. Compression wood is often very dense, hard, and brittle. In hardwood trees, reaction wood forms on the upper side of the lean and is called **Tension Wood**. Woolly surfaces and excessive longitudinal shrinkage are often symptoms of tension wood.

Reaction woods should be avoided for a number of reasons. The dense hardwood is less likely to accept an even stain when compared to other parts of your project. The reaction wood is also more prone to failure under load and will crack and split more easily when nailed or screwed. Carving and shaping can also be difficult and dimensional changes with changing moisture levels are likely.

The primary problem comes in trying to identify reaction wood. Even an experienced woodworker can have trouble picking out reaction wood. There are some hints that a board may contain reaction wood. Crookedness or a sweep in the log is a sign of reaction wood. Wood fibers that are unusually dense and hard for the species are another sign. Very small fuzzy fibers on surfaced hardwood can be a sign of reaction wood as well as crack and splits that pull wildly away from the board. If you accidentally find a piece of reaction wood be sure to save it for future reference. Fortunately reaction wood is more of an exception than a rule. And now, if you happen to run across an uncooperative board, you'll have an answer for why your cuts are twisting and curling.

Guild's Fourth TOOL AUCTION

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Sponsored by The Howard County Woodworkers Guild

For Info. Call Larry Barrett 301 253-1884 or Bud Nuessle 410 465-6210



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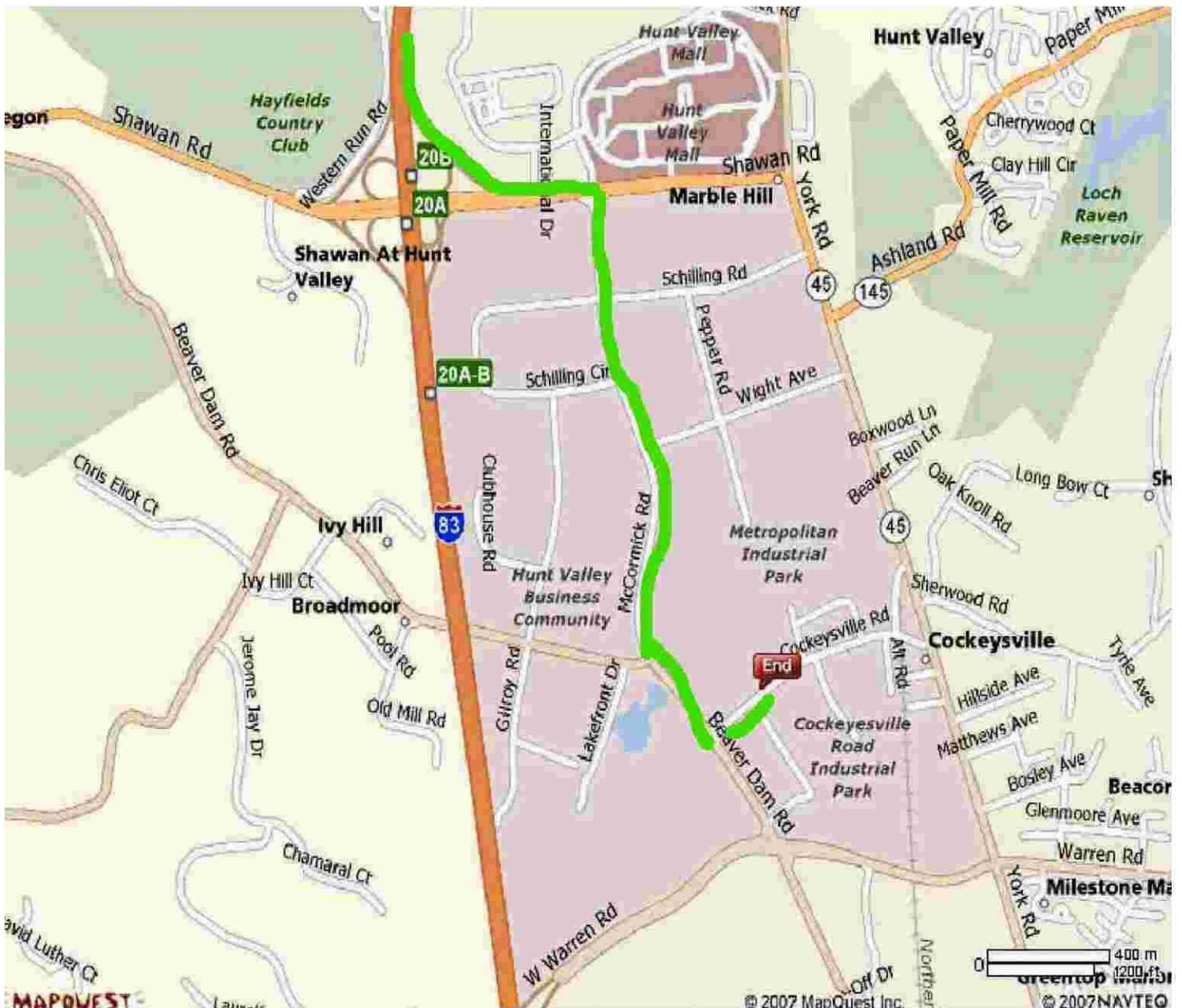


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