



WOODWORDS ON THE BRANDYWINE

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WOODWORKERS GUILD OFFICERS FOR 2012

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Wood Selection Used in the Kalmar Nyckel

The present *Kalmar Nyckel* is a reproduction tall ship of the vessel that first brought European settlers to the Delaware valley. Starting in 1638 it made 4 trans-Atlantic voyages under the Swedish flag. The first voyage found its way up the Delaware river and left 24 people who establish a community in the area now known as Wilmington. Trans-ocean voyages were very difficult. Most ships were in such disrepair they didn't always attempt the return trip. The fact that the *Kalmar Nyckel* made 4 trips speaks highly of how well built the ship was.

The original *Kalmar Nyckel* (KN) was not preserved. The present day ship is an interpretation of the original as determined through archival records. It was built by a group of concerned citizens who wanted to preserve the legacy and in 1998 it was made an official seagoing goodwill ambassador for the State of Delaware.

Our guest speaker in November was Bob Bradish, Ships Carpenter for the *Kalmar Nyckel*. His topic of discussion featured the woods used in construction of the ship and why they were selected. He emphasized that "ships" carpentry is different than other carpentry. He related it to a style similar to what Roy Underhill does. Every project needs to be well planned out. The magnitude of each job is many times larger than house carpentry. The tools are similar, just many times larger. It's not uncommon to drill holes using a 7' long auger bit.

All early ships/boats were made using materials locally grown. However, particular care was made in selecting the proper woods for each function. Woods were chosen for strength, resistance to rot, ability to swell and seal gaps, flexibility, etc. For example, the keel required wood that was hard with limited flexibility. The KN uses Green Heart for this. The ribs require a hardwood with some flexibility. Purple Heart is used here. Both species have a natural biocide that prevents decay while exposed to the water. Exterior planking, i.e. the hull, is made using 2 3/4" thick Brazilian



Cherry. This wood can be steam bent and swells when in the water creating a water tight seal. The hull planks are attached with wooden pins called tree nails. Softer and lighter woods are reserved for decking and masts. Straight grain Douglas Fir works well for the mast. South American Locust is used for the decking. Brazilian Cherry is also used to make the 10" thick block & tackle.

Maintenance is continuous for the KN. Currently it is docked in Wilmington undergoing its extensive yearly overhaul. Rigging is replaced yearly and the block & tackle ~ 4 to 5 years. It uses polymer ropes instead of hemp for endurance. There are 7600 square feet of sail, and miles of rope. Two Caterpillar engines are at the ready to power the craft when navigating up the river and pulling into dock. It'll turn them off when the breeze allows and they're in open waters. There's a huge lead billet at the bottom of the hull for ballast. Overall, the ship weighs ~ 398 tons.

It was a very interesting presentation. Thank you Bob for sharing.

2012 Meeting Schedule

Guild meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month. All interested persons are invited. Our upcoming meeting is:

December 19th
Annual Seasonal Festivities and Celebration
7:00 PM
Woodcraft
166 South DuPont Highway
New Castle, DE 19720

Upcoming contest

The topic for this contest will be “Toys”. This will include whirligigs through checker boards. Entries will be due in December. Multiple entries are acceptable, however, one prize per individual. Contest is open to all current members. Rules on how the judging will take place will be distributed at a future meeting. The judges will be selected by the program committee and will include only non-participants. If you don't plan on having an entry and would like to be a judge, please see any member of the program committee.

Seasonal festivities and celebration

In keeping with our yearly tradition a small party is planned during the December meeting. There will be food, drink and gifts for all. If you would like to bring a dessert or small food tray to share that would be greatly appreciated. The more, the merrier!

Remember to bring your toy entry for the contest.

Christmas tree adorned with guild ornaments at the festival of trees



Raffle Winner



Jeremy Noblitt won the raffle prize
(Wood River Side Rabbet Plane)

Treasurer's Report

11/01/2012

Raffle Income	\$	21.00
50/50 Income	\$	0.00
Current balance	\$	1020.94

2012 Dues are now being collected —
see Jeremy for payment
Yearly dues are \$ 35.00

Classifieds

The classified section is open to any paid member. Have your classified information into Tim Sabo by the first of the month to be included in that month's newsletter. Email your information to: TSabo@Dow.com

Jim Stevens has the following for sale: call (302) 545-6937

Rockler Clamp Storage Rack

Asking \$75.00

Woodcarvers of Delaware club

The "Woodcarvers of Delaware" club meets every Monday night (6:30-8:30), while school is in session. We meet at McKean High School in the old woodworking room. The meetings are informal. People bring and work on their projects at the meetings. Experienced woodcarvers are available to help you master the art of woodcarving. If you would like to add a new dimension to your wood working skills, come and check this club out. For additional information contact Roger Earley (president) at 302-998-4855.

What is it?



What do you think?

This tool was found in an antique store in Nottingham, PA. It was bought and has found everyday use in the shop. But..... Is it being using correctly?

Please bring your thoughts to the meeting.

From the shop of Tim Sabo



“Floating Top Table” featured in Fine Woodworking, November/December 2012

Made of Walnut
Currently has single coat of oil
Will complete with additional coats of low gloss Tung Oil

Woodworkers Guild of Delaware
38 Jay Drive
New Castle, DE. 19720



WE'RE ON THE WEB
www.delawarewoodworkers.org

Open to all woodworkers novice to experts Woodworkers Guild of Delaware

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