



COVID-19 and the Shipwrights

COVID-19, more commonly known as the Novel Coronavirus, has certainly created a sense of uneasiness among many of us. Due to its contagious nature, many of you have probably been debating whether to attend the March meeting.

Of course, there are no guarantees, but local health experts say individuals don't have to take drastic measures to try to protect themselves. They are recommending that everyone take the same steps to protect against COVID-19 as are taken to prevent the spread of everyday illnesses like the common cold or flu:

What you can do

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Stay home if you are sick. If you have a fever, please stay home until you are fever-free for 24-hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.
- Cover your mouth and nose with the inside of your elbow when you cough or sneeze, or use a tissue, and then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using disinfectant cleaning spray or disinfectant wipes.

The Midwest Model Shipwrights will have a meeting on March 18th, and we certainly hope you can make it. If, by chance, you aren't feeling well, please stay home. We will miss you, but there will always be other meetings.

• Scuttlebutt •

We welcomed a very special guest to the February meeting, Mr. Douglas Inglis. Mr. Inglis has been working on his PhD at Texas A&M University, but is currently in Chicago at the Oriental Institute. As part of his MA program, he studied a remarkable collection of Chinese watercraft models that are on exhibit at "A&M." As a result of his research, he authored a paper: *The Three-Dimensional Scanning, Evaluation and Reconstruction of 20th-Century Chinese Rivercraft Models*. We are hoping to have Mr. Inglis as our featured speaker at a future meeting.



March Meeting Notice Copper Plating Part 3

The March presentation will feature part 3 of our discussion on copper plating. This phase will deal primarily with coloration. Copper reacts to the environment it is exposed to in many different ways, and offers the model ship builder a number of different options. Part 3 could very well be the most informative, intriguing, and enjoyable, segment of this three-part treatise.



Our next meeting will be at 7:15 p.m.
Wednesday, March 18, 2020
The Dasom Community Church
501 S. Emerson Street
Mount Prospect, IL

• Copper Plating Part 2 •

Part 2 of our three month journey into coppering a model ship began with a brief history of the Gold Rush Ship *Niantic*, and her ultimate fate when abandoned by her crew. This historical discussion also gave the membership a glimpse of what life was like in San Francisco during this tumultuous period in American history.

The second part of the presentation gave attendees a chance to study some real copper plating. A portion of the *Niantic's* stern and rudder were salvaged in 1978, and this unique artifact is now on exhibit at the San Francisco Maritime Museum. Some interesting facts were presented: *Niantic* was coppered from the waterline down. The hull was sheathed with copper, but the rudder featured yellow metal plating. The gudgeons were coppered over, but the pintles were not. Model ship builders do a much neater job coppering than the shipwrights did ... at least on the *Niantic*!



● Ships on Deck ●

Ann Arbor No. 2 & Frankfort Harbor Lighthouse by Tim Foster

Photos and Text by Tim Foster

From 1893 -1912 a lighthouse/bell tower structure like this stood on the south pier entrance to Frankfort, Michigan harbor. The bell was removed in 1906, and replaced with a steam fog signal. In 1912 the structure was replaced with a new steel light on the north pier. The steel light exists today on the north break wall, which was built in the 1930's.

My replica is scratch built 1/87 scale, with the only part not scratch being the light itself, which came from an old plastic lighthouse kit. The elevated door on the bell tower was for a catwalk, which extended along the pier to the shore for safe entrance during heavy weather. The model has a fixed red beacon, and is a scale 37 feet tall.



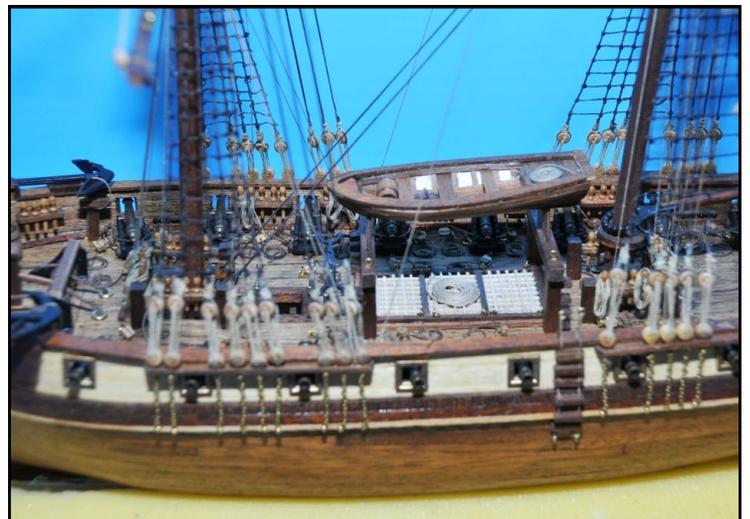
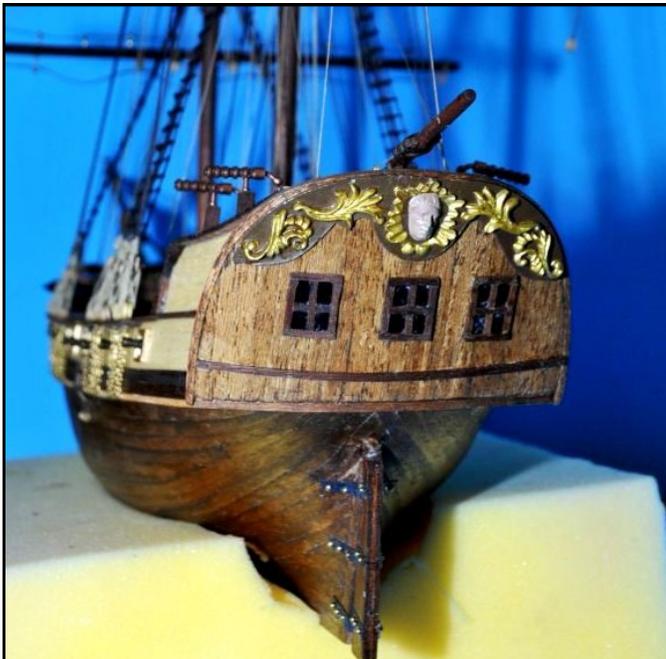
Light house with car ferry *Ann Arbor No. 2*, both in the same scale.



● **Ships on Deck** ●

Photos by Bob Fryszak

Corsair by Keith Zeilenga

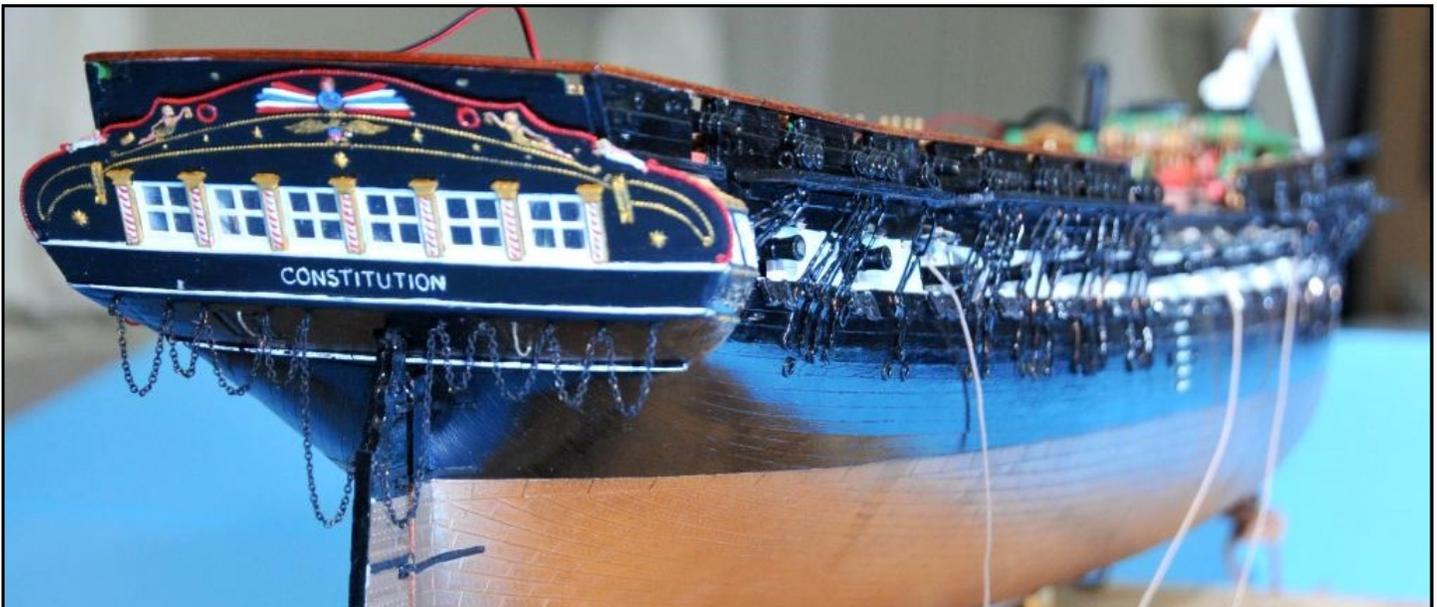
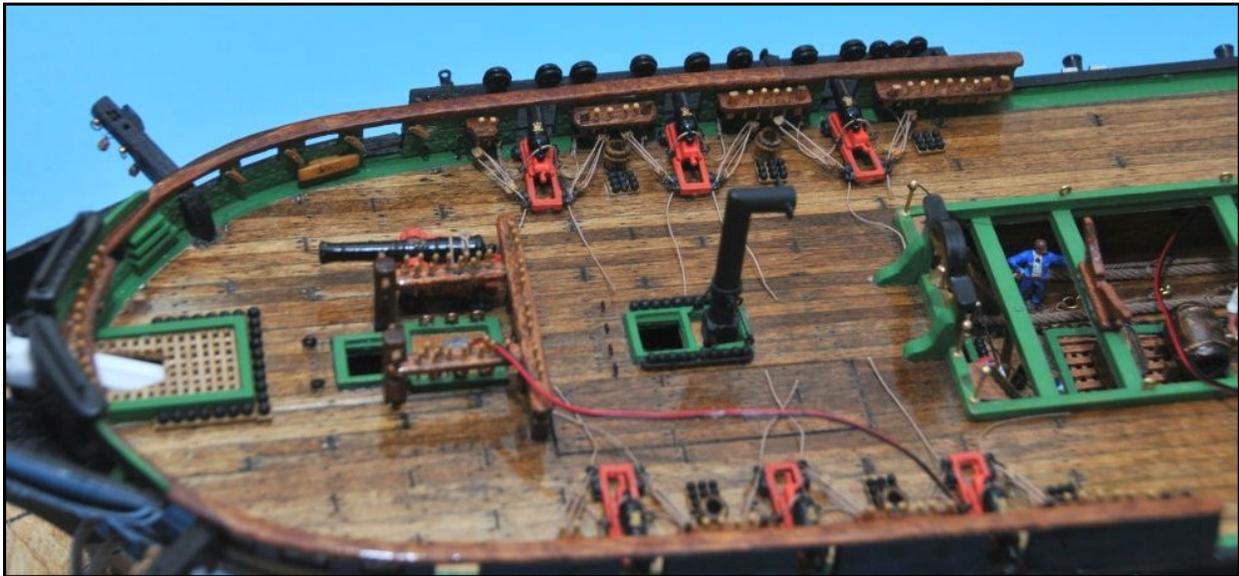


● Ships on Deck ●

Continued

USS *Constitution* by Bob Fryszak

Hybrid wood and plastic kit



● Ships on Deck ●

Continued

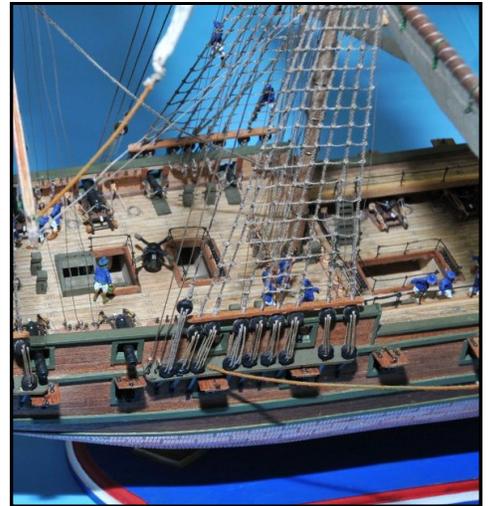
HMS *Hunter* by Dan Pacholski



● Ships on Deck ●

Continued

USS Constellation by Bob Sykes



● Ships on Deck ●

Continued

Sanson by Ken Goetz

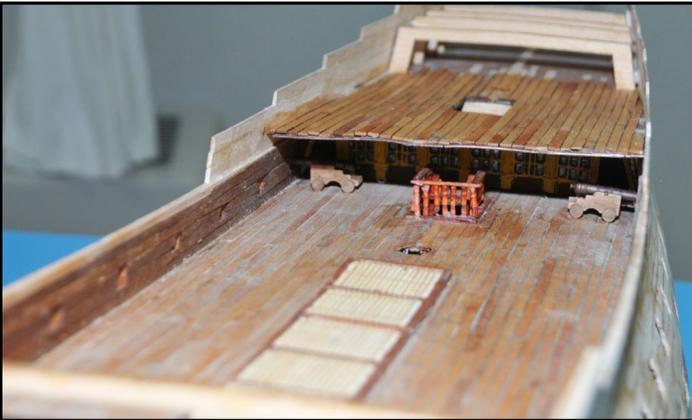
It's almost finished!



● **Ships on Deck** ●

Continued

Royal William by Doc Williams



1777 Cutter Alert by Allen Siegel



● Ships on Deck ●

Continued

HMS *Blandford* by Gus Agustin

Scale: 1:384





•WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT TOXIC WOOD•



By Peter J. Stephano with Robert W. Woodcock, Wood Magazine December, 1989

During the Middle Ages, English archers frequently developed a rash from their yew longbows. Some musicians in the 1930s broke out after playing woodwind instruments - called recorders - crafted of cocobolo. But, don't panic. According to WOOD magazine reader and poison expert, Robert W. Woodcock, your chance of a toxic reaction to one or more domestic wood species is as infrequent as 1 in 100. And to reduce those odds even more, he points to guilty woods, tells you what to expect, and advises you how to avoid problems.

TOXIC WOOD THROUGH THE AGES

For centuries, it's been fairly common knowledge that some woods, and things made from them, could hinder your health. As far back as 60 A.D., for instance, the Roman historian and naturalist, Pliny the Elder, described a case where soldiers actually died after drinking wine from hip flasks made of yew.

Of lesser gravity was the experience of German sawyers in the early 1700s developing chronic irritation of the nose and eyes, as well as headaches, from sawing bald cypress. Historic reports such as these, combined with current medical knowledge concerning allergies and irritants, add up to incriminating evidence for several species.

WHAT ARE YOUR CHANCES OF A REACTION TO WOOD?

Statistics say that only two to five percent of all people develop an allergic sensitivity to one or more compounds found in wood. But, if you handle a lot of potentially toxic species, and work with them long enough, you increase your chances of an allergic reaction. And, with sufficient exposure (that varies individually), some woods bother everyone.

What kind of a reaction can you expect? Your body will respond to toxic wood in one or more of the following ways:

Skin and eye irritations;

Respiratory problems;

Nausea, headache, general ill-feeling, liver or kidney malfunction;

Cancer of the nose and sinuses (nasopharyngeal carcinoma).

SOMETIMES, WOOD JUST STUFFS YOU UP

Any dust, including wood dust, mildly irritates the sensitive mucous membranes of your nose and eyes, making you sneeze and tear. The dust of some woods, such as western red cedar and rosewood, can be especially bothersome. Jim Boelling, WOOD magazine's project builder, recalls an uncomfortable instance of working rosewood: "The shop was hot, and the rosewood immediately made my nose stuffy and my eyes water—like being exposed to tear gas in Navy boot camp."

However, other woods can make you even more uncomfortable, with a rash that doctors classify as either *irritant dermatitis* or *allergic dermatitis*. Woods called *primary irritants* cause the first type. And, primary irritants can provoke reactions in anyone, if you handle them long enough. The rash usually has a uniformly red, swollen area that may erupt in blisters. Typically, it first shows up on the webs of skin between your fingers, where perspiration deposited the toxin from the wood dust and it contacts the skin. Satinwood and snakewood are two woods proven to be primary irritants (for others, see chart).

For you to get an allergic type rash, you first must be allergy prone to one or more of the chemicals called *sensitizers* found in certain woods. It may take repeated contact for your body to develop a great enough allergy for it to react. This is called the "latency period", and can be as little as five days and up to 6 - 8 months. Because individuals have different immune systems and the content of the sensitizing compound varies in each piece of wood, it's hard to say how much contact will spur a reaction. But, if you eventually do react, the rash will look like poison ivy—red with small, individual, itchy bumps. Rosewoods, in particular, can produce allergic reactions.

STOCK THAT TAKES YOUR BREATH AWAY

Following an earthquake in 1923, the Japanese rebuilt the small village of Beisugi with western red cedar. Not long after, nearly 40 percent of the villagers developed severe respiratory symptoms while in their homes. These symptoms would clear up when villagers went outdoors. Allergists now call the affliction "Beisugi asthma."

As with species that irritate the skin, wood that can cause respiratory problems falls into the two categories of primary irritants and sensitizers. With respiratory problems though, primary irritants pose less of a threat. That's mainly due to your body's efficiency in preventing wood from entering the lungs in significant quantities.

● Toxic Wood ●

Continued

It is also eliminated by coughing once it does enter the lungs. In fact, medical research has yet to pinpoint any species as a primary irritant causing respiratory reactions.

Although you may escape primary irritants, you have a far better chance of developing an allergic reaction to one or more of the many woods that act as respiratory sensitizers. These include western red cedar of Beisugi fame, redwood, rosewood, mahogany, ebony, myrtle, birch, and others.

If even a small amount of dust from one of these sensitizers enters the lungs of an allergic individual, the air passage becomes irritated and swells, a condition frequently indistinguishable from asthma. The symptoms also can include anything from a mild cough and heaviness in the chest that resembles a minor cold, to severe wheezing and the inability to breathe. Symptoms of this condition go away when you're not exposed to the wood, but return when you come back to the shop to work.

Molds frequently trigger reactions, too. One that actually grows in wood happens to be extremely potent: *cryptostroma corticale*. This mold lives happily between the bark and sapwood of many hard-wood trees, especially favoring maple and birch. It's responsible for the marbled spalting that wood-turners prize. It also causes "maple bark stripper's disease," a condition with all the symptoms of severe respiratory allergy. Among hobby woodworkers, at least one death was reported due to this condition, that of a New Orleans man in 1987. (Being that this article is over 30 years old, the number could most certainly be greater.)

There are two more molds that sometimes cause serious allergic reactions. *Aspergillus nigriscant* and *alternaria*, prefer moist, dark places, such as a sawdust pile in a basement corner.

PASS THE PEPTO, PLEASE, THE SPECIES DIDN'T AGREE

Many woods, among them birch, black locust, and padouk, contain compounds that, when ingested in sufficient quantities (including inhalation), prove capable of producing any one of several *systemic* reactions: nausea, vomiting, headache, kidney failure, hallucinations, or cardiac problems. As a matter of fact, native Americans brewed the bark and sapwood of mimosa, a small tree in the black locust family, for a tea that induced relaxation and sleep.

Do you have an aspirin allergy? Then, be wary of willow and birch. Very sensitive individuals might only need casual exposure, such as a whiff of sawdust, to react, since both species possess significant concentrations of *salicylic acid*, the predecessor of aspirin. And from history, we know that two species, yew and oleander, contain enough of the toxins called *cardiac glycosides*, similar to the heart drug digitalis, to be extremely dangerous even in tiny amounts. Luckily for woodworkers, the greatest concentration of the toxins is in the leaves, berries, and bark. That leads us to wood dust, and cancer. Among woodworkers, the chances of developing nasal and sinus cancer run about 40 times greater than non-woodworkers.

NEVER SAY NO TO A DUST MASK

As of the writing of this article in 1989, researchers hadn't identified the cancer-causing compound—primarily because the disease has a latency period of from 30—50 years. However, some evidence points to dust from wood with a high tannin content. Such species include chestnut, oak, redwood, western red cedar, and hemlock. If you have worked wood for more than 25 years, *any* recurrent nasal discharge, bleeding, or sinus infection could signal this condition. Report it to a physician.

TIPS TO TACKLE TOXICITY

Despite the evidence, most woodworkers have never experienced serious reactions to wood. So, don't let possible toxicity scare you. Instead, know the properties of the woods you want to work. Refer to the following chart to find potential troublemakers.

"If you take to the woods to harvest your stock," says poison expert Robert Woodcock, "keep the following points in mind to avoid or limit your exposure."

Harvest only in fall or winter.

Trees cut when the sap is up have higher toxicity.

Claim the heartwood.

With most toxic species, the leaves and stems contain the most toxin, followed by the bark, the sapwood, then the heartwood.

Season toxic wood.

Wood worked green causes more skin reactions because the sawdust clings.

Woodcock also insists on adequate shop ventilation. "It keeps the workspace cool and your perspiration down, decreasing the dust's contact time with your skin." In addition, a well-ventilated shop discourages the growth of mold spores.

• Toxic Wood •

Continued

Regional Poison Control Centers

New York City PCC
212/340-4494

Delaware Valley Regional PCC
Philadelphia, Pa.
215/386-2100

Georgia PCC
Atlanta, GA
404/589-4400

Regional Poison Control System
Cincinnati, OH
513/558-5111

Mid-Plains Poison Center
Omaha, NE
402/390-5400

Texas State Poison Center
Galveston, TX
409/765-9728

Arizona Poison Control System
Tucson, AZ
602/626-6016

Rocky Mtn. Poison & Drug Center
Denver, CO
303/629-1123

UCDMC Davis Regional PCC
Sacramento, CA
916/453-3692

Oregon Poison Center
Portland, OR
503/279-8968

| WOOD WITH A RECORD | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|--------------|--------------|---------|-------|---------|--------------|------|------|-----------|------|--------|
| Wood Species | TOXIC CLASS | | REACTION | | | | POTENCY | | | SOURCE | | | INCIDENCE | | |
| | Irritant | Sensitizer | Respiratory | Eye & Skin | Nausea, ect. | Nasal Cancer | Little | Great | Extreme | Leaves, Bark | Dust | Wood | Unknown | Rare | Common |
| Bald cypress | | X | X | | | | X | | | | X | | | | X |
| Balsam fir | | X | | X | | | X | | | | X | | | | X |
| Beech | | X | | X | | | | X | | X | | | | | X |
| Birch | | X | X | | X | | | X | | | X | X | | | X |
| Black locust | X | | | | X | | | X | | X | | | | | X |
| Blackwood | | X | | X | | | | X | | | X | X | | | X |
| Boxwood | | X | X | | | | X | | | | X | X | | | X |
| Cashew | | X | | X | | | | X | | | X | X | | | X |
| Cocobolo | X | | X | X | | | | X | | | X | X | | | X |
| Dahoma | | X | X | | | | | X | | | X | | | | X |
| Ebony | X | | X | X | | | | X | | | X | X | | | X |
| Elm | | X | | X | | | X | | | | X | | | | X |
| Goncalo alves | | X | | X | | | X | | | | X | X | | | X |
| Greenheart | | X | X | X | | | | | X | | X | X | | | X |
| Hemlock | | | | | | X | | X | | X | X | | | | X |
| Iroko | X | | X | X | | | | | X | | X | X | | | X |
| Mahogany | | X | X | X | | | X | | | | X | | | | X |
| Mansonia | X | | X | X | | | | | X | | X | X | | | X |
| Maple | | X | X | | | | | X | | | X | X | | | X |
| Mimosa | | | | | X | | | | X | X | X | X | | | X |
| Myrtle | | X | X | | | | | X | | X | X | X | | | X |
| Oak, red | | | | | | X | | X | | | X | | | | X |
| Obeche | | X | X | X | | | | X | | | X | | | | X |
| Oleander | X | | | | X | | | | X | X | X | X | | | X |
| Olivewood | | X | X | | | | | X | | | X | X | | | X |
| Opepe | | X | X | | | | X | | | | X | | | | X |
| Padauk | X | | X | X | X | | | | X | | X | X | | | X |
| Pau ferro | | X | | X | | | X | | | | X | X | | | X |
| Peroba rosa | | X | X | | | | | X | | | X | X | | | X |
| Purpleheart | | X | | X | X | | X | | | | X | X | | | X |
| Quebracho | | | | | | X | | X | | | X | | | | X |
| Redwood | | X | X | | | X | X | | | | X | | | | X |
| Rosewood(s) | | X | X | X | | | | | X | | X | X | | | X |
| Satinwood | X | | X | X | | | | | X | | X | X | | | X |
| Sassafras | | X | X | | X | X | X | | | X | X | X | | | X |
| Sequoia | X | | X | | | | X | | | | X | X | | | X |
| Snakewood | X | | X | | | | | X | | | X | X | | | X |
| Spruce | | X | X | | | | X | | | | X | X | | | X |
| Walnut | | X | | X | | | X | | | | X | | | | X |
| Wenge | | X | X | X | | | | X | | | X | X | | | X |
| Willow | | X | | | X | | | X | | X | X | | | | X |
| W. Red Cedar | | X | X | | | X | | X | | | X | X | X | | X |
| Teak | | X | | X | | | | X | | | X | | | | X |
| Yew, European | X | | | X | | | | X | | | X | X | | | X |
| Zebrawood | | X | | X | | | | X | | | X | X | | | X |

• Toxic Wood •

Continued

You might want to consider installing a dust collection system. Even then, you should always wear a tight-fitting, government-approved (NIOSH) dust mask if you plan to raise large amounts of wood dust.

“Don’t neglect cleanliness,” Woodcock continues. “It’s a good idea to frequently wash, or even shower, when working a possibly toxic wood. Creases and skin pores, as well as dirty hair, trap fine dust particles, inviting reaction. For extra protection, apply a barrier cream, such as DuPont’s Protek.”

Finally, he urges, “Whenever you develop a *persistent* set of symptoms, especially when you can connect them with exposure to a wood [remember, symptoms may be delayed 12 hours], contact a physician, allergist, dermatologist, or specialist in industrial medicine. And, be sure to mention that you’re a woodworker.”

“Of course, potentially toxic woods should never be used for functional bowls, goblets, trays or any other objects likely to hold food,” notes the specialist. “Even using the wood for jewelry has caused problems.”

Editor’s note: *Frankly, I was never too concerned regarding toxic wood. Heck, I’ve made it through four decades without even catching poison ivy! But, about two weeks before I sat down to write this footnote, my arms carried an ugly rash. As far as my physician and I could determine, it came from cocobolo. One day I was preparing some cocobolo boards for “Wood Profile” photos. Later, the rash showed up. Nothing else in my routine had been out of the ordinary except for the cocobolo. I guess I’m extremely sensitive. The rash gradually disappeared, along with any longing I might have had to one day work that beautiful wood.*

—Peter J. Stephano, Features Editor

Robert W. Woodcock, a poison information specialist at Philadelphia’s Delaware Valley Regional Poison Control Center handles dozens of emergencies daily. Enough have stemmed from wood that he decided to do some research. Robert, a hobby woodworker who builds musical instruments, then contacted us to share his discoveries. “The average woodworker will never see some of the most toxic species, but, those who work exotic woods, or collect their own, always run the risk.”

For answers to problems regarding toxic wood reactions, call one of the regional poison control centers (PCC). Space prevents a complete national listing.

• ANTI-PIRACY POLICY •

Below, is the list of banned companies. Many of them do not have websites. They market their illegal products via the Internet on sites such as eBay.

If you are contemplating your next project, please check this list. If you are not sure, discuss it with Kurt Van Dahm before you commit to a purchase. For easy reference, this information will appear in all future issues of the *Forecastle Report*. Updates will be made as we become aware of any additional companies.



Banned Companies

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| ZHL | Unicorn Model |
| RealTS | YQ (YaunQing) |
| Snail Model | Master |
| XinFeng | CN |
| JD Model | CF |
| LHQK | Shi hai |
| Shi Cheng | 4H Model |
| Woodenkit (Russian MFG) | CAF Model |
| YengFan | SC |
| Moxing | DU jiao shou |
| WN | |



NO

**Model Kit Piracy
is NOT
a Victimless Crime !**

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- Vice Pres. - Glenn Estrzy(847) 259-1574
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- Bob Fryszak.....(630) 234-5684
- Web Master - John Pocius...(630) 957-7298
- jpdesign@mindspring.com