

BENCHMARK



Newsletter of the Vancouver Island Woodworkers' Guild

Issue: APRIL 2003

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Here for the Long Term

ShowTime

The Maltwood Gallery show wrapped up in mid March. I would like to congratulate all of the exhibitors on a very impressive and inspirational show. I can't think of a better experience for our members than to see the incredible results on the floor. Equally important to me is the behind the scenes work put in by Cam Russell and his team (I know this includes Ken Guenter, and very likely others). The results were outstanding.

Our March meeting was a delight with at least 95 mostly drooling members attending. The following exhibitors providing their input on how their pieces came about. I could have chosen any of the artists exhibiting and we will hear from a few more during the next few months. One thing we did learn is that nobody seems to draw anything – (maybe I don't need to learn how to do this after all!)

Cam Russell – On the history and background to the show – we could have easily picked Cam as one of our exhibitor presentations, as his work was noteworthy

Dana Hemsworth – A recent graduate of Camosun Program and now a full apprentice on her arts and crafts chair (Gustav Stickley would have approved)

Sasha Gault – On her way to the interior of BC to work near a renewable forest reserve – her carved chest was so amazing.

John Dennison – Also a Camosun graduate with a beautiful interpretation of a dining buffet – quarter sawn white oak, wenge top and handsome tile backdrop were all in harmony
Chris Meade- Something new was his calling and he created a beautiful rocking chair – with a woven back and seat – again something he had to learn.

We thank them for making our meeting special. Congratulations to all of them on their stellar work. By the way, several of the exhibitors obtained commissions and several commissions are nearly signed – good news.

One of our visitors to the show was Linda Hutchinson of the interior design company Design One Stevens. Linda also had several other staff designers with her. Linda took the microphone to tell us what her firm was focusing on and what type of work they needed. We have set them up as Complimentary Members of the Guild. Why not, we have the system. They will receive the Benchmark by email and after following up with her, I can see additional benefits in staying in touch. My thanks to Len Barnes for facilitating their visit!

Show Time – Out of Hand Fair

We received an invitation this month that was a real tribute to the Guild. Ramona Froehle-Schacht asked to have the guild produce juried pieces for this show coming in November 2003. There is nothing new in this as guild members have been involved in this show over the past ten years. What is new is that Ramona thinks we deserve a separate room! She is right of course.

Here is your opportunity as a guild member to create something special and put it out there! The Guild room is located at the Victoria Convention Centre and is 1039 square foot in size. We can fill it with pieces for sale or display, we can build membership. Imagine nice seating areas, tables with boxes and turned pieces, picture frames and more. You decide what goes there.

Pieces will be juried by Ramona and this show will have about 150 artists and nearly 15000 visitors over four days in November. Pieces can be sold with a 20% commission! If we are clicking on all cylinders, our members will have can tell he enjoys the path he has chosen.

I am really looking forward to hearing from Rob in April.

NameTags are Beauties – On Sale in April

Ted's terrific name tags will be for sale in April at a cost of \$4.00 each. We will be selling before the meeting and at the break. their portfolios and their pieces there. There is lots of work to do in having our area staffed and having our membership take full advantage of this opportunity – if you can lend a hand please let me know.

MARCH MEETING @ NEW TIME!

April 8th, Tuesday **7:15 pm**

Camosun College-Interurban Campus
Carpentry Building

The current executive believes that our guild should provide value to all members – whether hobbyists, amateurs or professionals. This show is one more little piece of the guild value proposition.

Business Management – Continuing

As mentioned in last month's Benchmark, the executive continued our project to establish better and clearer relationships with our sponsors and our goals for next year. We have made contact with many sponsors and will provide updates in the coming month. We have some nice surprises in terms of support from our sponsors for you.

Elections – Don't Worry

It is a pleasure to report that our key people will be in their posts working for the guild next year. This is great news for all of us. With an experienced executive, we can move forward with our plans and hope to bring you an even more interesting year beginning in September 2003.

We do need some additional assistance and you will hear more about this in the coming weeks.

Where Does Your Money Go – Part One

Our guild is run pretty much on a shoe string. And we are proud of it. With the lowest membership fees of any guild in Western Canada (membership fees range from \$45 to \$65), we are the low cost provider by far.

Last month, we indicated that before June, we will deliver to our members our budget for next year. As a starting point for this, I wanted to outline some of the ways we spend your money:

Library – We spend an average of about \$350. per year on library books and materials. Most of these items are purchased from our sponsors. Our guild library is a true gem with many thousands of dollars worth of materials available for our members. With more members, we anticipate being able to spend more in this area in the future.

Camosun College Award – We provide a \$500 cash prize for promising Fine Woodworking student based on criteria established by the college.

Wood for Fine Woodworking Program – We provide approximately 20 board feet of a suitable wood (such as maple) for each student in the program. This work is used to produce the final project which you will see in the next few months. We do our best to make use of recovered wood where we can, but this year, we will be purchasing approximately 360 board feet of wood. As a guild member, you can feel proud that we are able to provide this much needed support.

There are other areas of expenditure and we will inform you of these in the coming months. One thing is clear – every expense is examined closely. Our shoestrings are a good thing.

Great Guild Project – Postponed

The Great Guild project has real merit, however, we will be postponing it until next year due to other priorities. Keep imagining small groups of guild members working together to produce something for a worthwhile community organization. That is the concept of the Great Guild Project. The idea is that pieces will remain with the organization at their facility

Do you have any ideas for a community organization that might benefit from this project? Please let Harry know.

Public Address System – Unveiling

Scott Reid has been beavering on this project and we will see the results-now hear this, Scott, we thank you! If you have something to say at an upcoming meeting and you follow our instructions, you will be heard, end of story.

Keynote Sneak Preview – Rob Martin

Our keynote speaker is a very talented artist. In fact, he is an instructor in last years and this years Camosun Summer Woodworking School. This year he is teaching Carving beginning July 28.

Rob's work has evolved over the years and today he is working with large (very large) eclectic pieces that bring together sculpture, joinery and art. My conversations with him have made my imagination come alive as my mind's eye interprets descriptions of what he is doing. You can tell he enjoys the path he has chosen.

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P.M.

EDUCATION

Last month's clinic on veneering was a resounding success and you can read Jesse's article for further details. After hearing so much positive feedback, we will definitely cover this topic again in the near future. Unlike our usual Saturday clinic, the next clinic will be held on **Sunday 20 April 2003** at Chico Sakman's place. Contact him for time & address info. (Contact info is on page 4.) Chico will give hands on demonstration on how to use a table saw to make "hand cut" dovetails. As many of you will remember John Dennison wrote an article, in the April 2002 Benchmark on using a custom ground table saw blade to make narrow pintail dovetails. John referred to an article in Fine Woodworking #152 that covers the topic in greater detail. Those of you that sign up for the course may pick up a photocopy of the FW article at the next guild meeting. Cost for the clinic is \$10 per member.

We would like to have a two-day work party for guild members to work together to make projects such as hand planes, table saw fences, dust collection systems or workbenches. If you are interested please submit your name to theguild@shaw.ca before 15 April 2003.

TOOL REVIEW

I would like to explore the possibility of having either a monthly benchmark submission or an occasional block of time at the meeting for the purpose of tool reviews. I believe with 100 members, who are continuously buying tools; we have the ability to help each other make well informed buying decisions. An example of a tool review can be seen in this edition of Benchmark. We hope that this information will be valuable and are looking forward to your opinions and contributions.

How to best tackle the challenge of effectively moving a Porter Cable 3 ¼ HP router up and down in a router table? After much research, I found that there are limited options for such a large router. I chose the Router Raizer, which is available at House of Tools. It was immediately clear that someone designed this product with an engineering background and who is detail oriented.

Upon opening the box and finding a myriad of strange looking metal and colour coded plastic parts, we were afraid that all these parts would surely lead to headaches and wasted time. The directions were quite clear and explicit. The drilling templates that were provided were accurate and easy to use. Colour coding of parts assisted in assembly. Total assembly time was about 3 ½ hrs. The resulting mechanism allows the router to be used effectively as a plunge router in handheld mode. When the router is located in a router table, height adjustment is done with an Allen key through a hole in the base plate. The manufacturer even supplies an Allen key that has been bent into a comfortably shaped crank handle. Although we have not had the chance to put this new tool through rigorous use we are very happy with the initial results.

I have included the link to someone else's review that I think you will find comprehensive as well as the link to the Router Raizer website.

http://benchmark.20m.com/reviews/RaizerReview/router_raizer_review.html
www.routertechnologies.com

Stay tuned for reviews on Woodhaven's new angle ease as seen in your goodie bag.



Here is the Router-Raizer attached to DeWalt DW-625, Hitachi TR-12 and Porter-Cable 7539.

D.S.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

We present the Guild's educational, and meeting plan into the future and we attempt to provide dates on future events that will be of interest to Guild members. If you have information on any related event, please contact Chico Sakman to arrange for publication.

Great Guild Project Key Dates	Postponed
Visions in Wood Show	June 12 – June 25 2003
Call for Entries	Now!! Contact Mike Kattler
BC Woodworking Show, Victoria	October 2003
Out of Hand Christmas Show	November 2003 (Juried by Out of Hand)
Explorations In Wood Show	October 2004

Continuing Meetings (Held Monthly)

We encourage any interested guild member to call and arrange to attend or have an item added to the agenda.

Executive and Committee Chairs Meet Wednesday week following Guild Meeting / Phil Makin
Show Committee Meets First Tuesday of the Month / Mike Kattler

Keynote Presenters

April- Rob Martin Sculpture, Carving and More
May – Music Makers is Our Theme

Show and Tells

June – Everyone Brings It In – Big Show and Tell Party

Monthly Education Clinics

Normally held the Saturday following Guild meeting
Times, locations and requirements vary, cost is \$10. per member payable to the instructor.
April Table Saw Dovetails with Chico Sakman on Sunday April 20 (Contact info down below.)

OUR SPONSORS

Show your appreciation for the following companies which support the Guild through membership discounts.

Aarrow Safety Inc.
Altech Machining
Cdn. Ind. Maintenance Supply LTD.
Columbia Fire & Safety LTD.
Island Imports
Island Saw & Tool Co.
PJ White Hardwoods LTD.
Reimer Hardwoods LTD.
Richelieu Panel Products
Skookum Tools LTD.
Slegg Lumber LTD.
Tools'n Space Woodworking
Troy Electric Sales & Service
Victoria Specialty Hardware LTD.
West Wind Hardwoods Inc.

Future Possibilities May- Handcut Dovetails with Paul Starita
Other Ideas for Consideration (Let VP Education know of your interest)
Natural Finishes, Intarsia 101, Spray Finishing, Scrollwork 101, Introduction to Carving

CHECK OUT the Camosun College Woodworking classes on basic wood working, Hand Tools & Their Use as well as Arts & Crafts Furniture. Some of the instructors are our very own Dave Skinner & Russ Franson. Contact Camosun College for further details.

FOR SALE

Delta 12 x 36'' variable speed wood lathe \$500 J. Williams 721-5307

Veneering 101

Was a success by Jesse Williams March's clinic, a basic introduction to veneering took place at my shop the Saturday after the last guild meeting.

A range of topics were covered including how to select, match, cut, joint and tape veneer into sheets, stacked cutting using machines to produce intricate parquet patterns, making and using band-sawn veneer, making banding, pressing using cauls and thanks to Phil Makin vacuum pressing was also covered.

Everyone enjoyed themselves, learned some new techniques and hopefully gained the confidence to put what they learned to use in a future project. A second clinic on the same topic could be possible if there is enough interest.
J.W.

EXECUTIVE:

President.....Phil Makin.....592-4053pmakin@shaw.ca
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VP Membership..Harry Verstraaten.....479-7717.....harryv@bullockbaur.ca
Treasurer.....Steve Harvey.....478-2395.....s.harvey@shaw.ca
Past President.....Scott Reid.....478-8178.....scottyreid@shaw.ca

COMMITTEE & PROJECT CHAIRPERSONS:

S&T/ Monthly Clinics – Dave Skinner 391-0006 dave_skinner@shaw.ca

Toy Workshop Project – Howard Rossiter 656-3306

Keynote Speaker Committee— Phil Makin 592-4053 pmakin@shaw.ca

Show Committee – Mike Kattler 592-4938

Library Committee – Ed Krakowski 656-6727 edshop@shaw.ca

Show & Tell Committee—Jesse Williams 721-5307 jovahn77@hotmail.com

Great Guild Project – Harry Verstraaten 479-7717 harryv@bullockbaur.ca

Wood Recovery Committee – Doug Rhodes 385-2086 drhodes@farronhill.com

Membership Database Manager– Larry Grainger 383-1215 lgrainger@telus.net

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