

BENCHMARK

Newsletter of the Vancouver Island Woodworkers' Guild
VISIT US AT - WWW.VIWG.COM

Issue: FEB-2006



President's Report

January Guild Meeting Highlights: The January meeting was a continuation of the earlier veneering meeting held in the fall of 2005. All who attended heard me give a short lesson on basic veneering that I hope was clear and self-explanatory. Phil Makin then gave a demonstration using a vacuum bag as caul and press to veneer a curved apron. Well-done Phil! Ken Guenter then spoke to us about more complicated curved layouts that involve considerations such as inside and outside radii. Thank you Ken. This gave all who attended an idea of what is possible, from the basic to the complicated including the basic skills and knowledge for both. Graham Dragushan filled out the night with a demonstration on how to cut your own veneers on the bandsaw (Bravo Graham). This well-rounded presentation ends our two part series on veneering. I hope that if you hadn't considered veneering in the past, that now you will. The sky is the limit once you include veneering in your repertoire.

Turners Shop Tour: I was unable to attend this event but heard that the tour on Saturday, January 14 was well attended and very successful for all involved. It sounds like a lot of turning and shop tips were shared by all.

Spotlight on the VIWG Wood Recovery Program and High School Woodworking Show: On Friday the 3rd of February, I came home from the boat yard to find a message on my voice-mail from Howard Markston of the A-Channel who was looking for input on a story regarding all the trees being knocked down by all the recent wind and rain. He tracked down Phil Makin, Wayne Holmes and Lauren V. Dungen who all provided input on different aspects of our wood recovery program. Well done to all who represented the Guild and informed the community about the great work our Wood Recovery team does. On the early broadcast (5:00 p.m. news), Howard also mentioned the connection between the wood recovered and our support of high school woodworking programs. This year the Guild will host a high school woodworking show to be held at the Community Arts Council Gallery the first week of June. Stay tuned for more information from Darren Bertuccio, our show coordinator.

Furniture Society Conference 2007: I would like to keep the membership abreast on the exciting planning that is going on with regard to this once in a lifetime opportunity for Victoria woodworkers. The conference will be held at the University of Victoria from June 21 to 23, 2007 with 400 to 500 delegates attending from all over the world. Delegates will include furniture artists, museum curators, educators, writers, publishers, architects and collectors. Associated with the conference will be five to six woodworking shows that will run simultaneously at various venues across the city. In addition, there will be many opportunities to get involved and help out with different aspects of the conference. As we get closer to the event, there will be more information on this coming from the local planning committee. To learn more, you can go to the Guild website at www.viwg.com and click on resources...external links...other guilds or clubs...and then www.furnituresociety.org Watch the Benchmark for more information over the coming months.

New Position – Communicating Secretary: The guild executive is putting a call-out for a new position that has been created in response to the popularity of electronic messaging via email. The Communicating Secretary will be responsible for monitoring email's coming into the Guild's email address and forwarding them to the appropriate person. I hope some of you who use your computers on a daily basis will consider this relatively easy position!

Great Guild Project – Privacy Screens for Victoria General Hospital Special Care Nursery: Phyllis Hollinger, an occupational therapist who works in the Special Care Nursery, contacted me to ask if the Guild would be interested in building privacy screens for new mums to breast feed behind. They have received funding for the materials but do not have a budget for building or finishing them. With this in mind, the executive thinks this would be a great way to support a community need while promoting the guild and the capability of its members. We need a project coordinator to step forward and organize five or six members to build these screens sometime in March or April. The plans are already drawn and look quite simple to construct. What we need right away is for

FEBRUARY MEETING

This month is the SWAP meeting! Bring your tools and other items for swapping!

**Camosun College - Fine Furniture Program Building
Tuesday, February 14th. 7:15 PM**

someone to look at the plans and provide Phyllis with a materials list (ie. board feet). I will explain more about this project at next weeks guild meeting.

Celebration of Excellence in Crafts Show: On short notice (late January), the organizers of a craft exhibit called "Celebration of Excellence in Crafts" approached our guild with a request for participation in this showcase of local artisans. To ensure that our guild had representation (at last count, 16 guilds are being showcased) despite the very small space allotment and short timelines, I had to make an "executive decision" about finding five to six pieces of woodworking that could represent the skill level within our guild. The show opens Friday, February 10th at the Community Arts Council Gallery in Sussex Square and runs for the month of February. Thank you to Ken Guenter, Karen Trickett, H.C. (Chico) Sakman, Phil Cottell and Jason Good for bringing in pieces on such short notice. It is exciting to know that our guild will be represented in this show that is part of a project being launched by the City of Victoria called "Arts in the City" in recognition of the City of Victoria's designation as a 2005 Cultural Capital of Canada.

As you can see, 2006 is turning out to be another busy and active year for the guild and its members. I look forward to seeing you at next weeks meeting and sharing more on upcoming events we've got planned for the spring.

Russ Franson
President.

Fine Furniture Grad showcases work at North American exhibition

The Fine Furniture department is pleased to announce one of last year's Fine Furniture graduates, Julian Laffin, has had his final class project, a lounge chair, accepted for entry into the "Faculty Selects" exhibition at the 2006 Furniture Society Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana in June.

Julian's project is one of 20 chosen from submissions throughout North America to represent the "state of the art" in furniture training from Colleges and Universities throughout North America. His chaise lounge constructed of western maple donated by the guild's wood recovery program was featured in the Fine Furniture Program's year end show last June at the On Canvas Gallery.

As a result, Julian's piece will also be featured in the Furniture Society's annual publication "Studio Furniture". Following his graduation last June, Julian moved to Vancouver and is currently employed by a company called Straightline designs. www.straightlinedesigns.com

Congratulations Julian!

Ken Guenter

Wood Recovery Program News

Our wood recovery program is proceeding well. We have just sold some dry arbutus and it appears that it will make some great furniture!

At the moment we have more logs than we can handle. We now have to wait for some sun before we can continue to mill. The ground at the mill site is very wet and since we do not want any accidents, we are waiting for dryer conditions.

I have had many calls about trees that are available. Some of the challenges we have when determining what trees we can use is that the tree may be too small. A contributor may feel that their tree is very large, 40 feet high and 16 inches in diameter, and it may be large for their property. For us to make our milling worthwhile we need trees a minimum of 24 inches (60 cm) in diameter and relatively clear of branches (these are knots in the milled lumber). When refusing the offer of a tree we are respectful of the contribution because we don't want to deter any future offers. I also get calls about trees that the owner wants help with the cost of removal or payment for the wood. Our mandate states that we will only take trees that are donated to the guild once they are on the ground. We don't take the responsibility of downing the tree or for the removal of branches and other debris associated with the falling operation.

Another facet of our program is determining what wood our members can really use. As you can imagine the needs vary with the many members we have and so, we try to fill as many of these needs as possible. So far the wood has sold very well. We are, however, constantly trying to improve on the quality of the wood we accept. If you wish to join our group or have questions about how we operate, please contact Derek Wentworth or myself.

Wayne Holmes



Julian's Western maple chaise lounge

January Meeting Review

January's meeting saw a continuation of our veneering methods demonstrations. Veneer was much in presence with some amazing burl veneers brought in by Chico Sakman. Thanks to Russ Franson for his excellent demonstration and presentation on veneering with the iron on method and Weldbond as well as a good overview of hide glue and it's value in today's work. Russ also brought in one of the very first panels that he accomplished with hide glue. Russ is a born teacher and it shows!

As a followup, I demonstrated veneering to a three layer curved layup of wiggleboard (bendboard is the real name). We took it off the curved clamping jig and then cut a veneer piece using nothing more than MDF as a pattern and using only an Olfa knife.

Then using an advanced piece of technology which Professor Chico Sakman says he has been working on for years, but that I recently found ready to go right out of the package, we minirolled on the glue and with Ken Guenter's help, we got it into the Camosun vacuum bag. The TiteBondIII glue up turned out super. You can buy the advanced gluing device for \$2.50 from General Paint, but the vacuum bag and vacuum compressor will cost a little more. Don't forget to put the advanced gluing device in a ziplock baggie – that keeps it ready to go at all times for only pennies more.

Did you know you can get an inexpensive compressor out of an auto parts place. Well it is true. In the near future will be doing a segment on vacuum bagging as a system and will provide do it yourself suggestions such as this.

We also heard from Ken Guenter and saw some very nice bending jigs which were designed as male/female ready to glue veneer without a vacuum bag. Ken also showed us his strategy for the very unusual round cabinets which he recently designed and built. The jigs took some time to develop and it was good to have a quick look at some first class designs. Ken passed along the advice that you can use layers of door skin for creating bent substrates very inexpensively. Thanks, Ken very much.

We had a lot of good questions and input from our members and on behalf of the education committee (Brian Kemper, Karen Trickett and myself, we want to say how much we appreciate your involvement and interest. Keep the questions and input coming please.

February Meeting Preview – Valentine's Day

Attention shop hoarders. The February meeting will be fun. Before coming, though, make sure you pony up for a Valentine's gift for that important person who supports you in life – whoever they are.

Shop Swap and Sale

Bring your outdated hardware, tools, wood, supplies, etc. to the meeting to sell or swap. If you can't bring the item, bring a facsimile/picture/or a sign and get something useful in return (like money or another item you need).

Following the swap and sale, we will have two interesting demonstrations.

1. Three part finishing using French polish technique. Len Barnes will demonstrate a very interesting nuance to applying oil/varnish finishes. We will have a before piece to show you the first application as well as a finished piece that is identical. This finishing method uses very little material, is clean and fast. You will be surprised.
2. We have heard from several members about the problems and misunderstandings with scrapers. To help us with this, one of our very experienced members, Gordon Thompson will provide us with a scraper overview and sharpening demonstration. Gordon understands surface preparation and what tuned scrapers can really do for you. We will have the famous or infamous \$80.00 Veritas tool set for scraper sharpening and Gordon will show us the "real way". We will look at both curved and flat scrapers. In the near future, Gordon has graciously agreed to provide us with a morning clinic on sharpening tool edges of all kinds. You won't want to miss it!

Membership System Update

Lauren Vandendungen our VP Membership has done an excellent job of getting our new membership and accounting system implemented!

The Benchmark you are receiving this month was emailed using only our new system. Larry Grainger our stalward database manager for many years, will provide the mailing labels for postal delivery of Benchmark for the last time. On behalf of the guild, I want to say a big Thank You to Larry for all his assistance over the years. His tremendous work together with Harry Verstraaten, our past VP Membership allowed us to build a membership system which was our learning centre for the online system created by Colin Knecht's company.

In another month, only the online system will be used for delivery of email and postal Benchmark and Larry will be nearly retired! Our membership system is paying dividends now in terms of low time requirements by the executive and auditable information for transactions involving money. As a result, our treasurer, Phil Cottell has given our system the green light in a big way. On behalf of the guild executive, thank you to our members for your invaluable support of the new system.

In the near future, we will be producing a guild membership roster so we will each have access to a full membership listing by interest area, but more about that soon.

Phil Makin

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE

18" Booth Band Saw with 8" resaw capacity. It is one of the kits made by local patternmaker John Booth. It has metal running gear with a wooden table and cabinet. Must see to appreciate. \$400.00 Contact Cam Russell @ 598-1383

WANTED

Good 6" jointer, 14" bandsaw, and 10" tablesaw. Contact Martyn 477-7446.

STOLEN TOOLS

If anyone gets offered a General 160, variable speed lathe—about 15 years old plus an assortment of turning tools, inc. Nova scroll chuck, hollow turners, bowl gouge, parting tools, skew chisels. Please call Sooke RCMP or myself @ kwoods@pacificcoast.net Thank you. Kate Woods

WANTED

If you have any surplus hand tools to donate for house construction in the **highlands of Guatemala**, please bring them on Tuesday and I will be at the door to pick them up. Most useful items would be chisels, hammers, axes, drills etc. If you're not sure what's useful, call me @ 479 - 9127. Thanks, Murrough

WANTED

The "Greater Victoria Police Chorus", is looking for a part time director/chorus member. He should be able to read music, and take command of a bunch of comedians (who actually sound pretty good) when the regular director is on stress leave. There is no payment for this position, and when not directing you would be a regular member of the chorus. This is a four part male voice chorus, made up of a wide range of men from all backgrounds, and policing is the main group. The repertoire is a varied one , but we like to keep it on the upbeat side. There is a lot of camaraderie among the members, and we do get up to some fun times. Our practices are held on Wednesday evenings, and we have some high profile sing outs throughout the year. If you or anybody you know may be interested, please give me a call, Dave 383-7408, or davidbarker@shaw.ca

WANTED

Secure and dry wood storage needed for approx. 400 bd.ft. Opportunists no need to apply! Please contact Chico @ 858 4588 or sakman@shaw.ca

WANTED

Carving tool set for beginning carver. Suitable for relief and in the round carving. Please contact Phil Makin @ 592.4053

OUR SPONSORS

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

- Aarrow Safety Inc.**
- Altech Machining**
- Columbia Fire & Safety LTD.** (10% off Card Required!)
- Island Imports**
- Island Saw & Tool Co.**
- Mother Computers** (See Tony Scott, Card Required!)
- 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 Speciality Hardware LTD.**
- West Wind Hardwoods Inc.**
- Windsor Plywood LANGFORD**

EXECUTIVE:

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VP Membership.	Lauren V. Dungen	386-4544	lvdungen@shaw.ca
Treasurer.....	Phil Cottell	655-9190	cottells@shaw.ca
Past President.....	Phil Makin	592-4053	pmakin@shaw.ca

COMMITTEE & PROJECT CHAIRPERSONS:

- Monthly Clinics – VOLUNTEER NEEDED**
- Toy Workshop Project** – Doug Watson 477-0701
- Keynote Speaker Committee**— Phil Makin 592-4053.....pmakin@shaw.ca
- Show Committee** – Darren Bertuccio 250-213-7795.....darren@woodfly.com
- Library Committee** – Ed Krakowski 656-6727.....edshop@shaw.ca
- Show & Tell Com.-** David Muir 727-1176.....dalbergia@shaw.ca
- Great Guild Project** – Harry Verstraeten 479-7717.....harryv@bullockbaur.ca
- Wood Recovery Committee** – Wayne Holmes 479 4694.....wgholmes@shaw.ca
- Membership Database** – Larry Grainger 383-1215.....lgrainger@telus.net
- Guild Merchandise Committee** - Gordon Thompson 655-1318.....
- Door Prize Coordinator** - Daniel Ouimet 652-0506.....chanteclerwoodcraft@telus.net
- Sponsor Liaison** - Daniel Ouimet 652-0506.....chanteclerwoodcraft@telus.net
- Webmaster** - John Porter 642-4480.....john.k.porter@shaw.ca
- Man on the Street Photos** - Peter Robin 475-0486.....elderbird@telus.net
- Education Committee** - Karen Trickett 598-1383.....coventryww@pacificcoast.net
- Education Committee** - Brian Kemper 656-7046.....kemper@islandnet.com

STUDENT LIASON REPS :

- Camosun College** – To Be Determined
- Belmont High** - Brad Tikk 391-1992
- Other High Schools**—To Be Determined

NEWSLETTER EDITOR :

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Please use e-mail for your classified submissions. If you must phone to submit your ad, please do so after 8:00 pm any day of the week. Cut-off time is exactly one week prior to the guild meeting.