

BENCHMARK

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

Issue: DECEMBER-2006



President's Report

I hope the snow has not put too much of a dint in your shop activities and mobility. It unfortunately caused the postponement of the Wood Recovery program sale of wood scheduled for Dec. 2nd. Turning to business discussed with the members at the last meeting, we are in the final stages of securing insurance for the guilds activities through the general insurance program used by several of the lower mainland wood related clubs. This insurance will provide for our guild meetings and related functions at Camosun, workshops and demonstration and the wood recovery program,

At the Executive meeting this last week we addressed the problem of the failed meeting notification and Benchmark distribution in November. The problem is more extensive than revealed at the meeting with more and more members reporting the failure. We apologize to those who were left out. We still do not have a grasp of what happened but we are modifying the meeting notification procedures immediately to prevent a reoccurrence. Effective in December you will receive an email message providing the meeting information details and a link to the website to view the Benchmark. We suspect that the problem may have been the attachment size and number of addresses we are now sending to. It is possible that spam software may have intercepted many of the messages.

Judging from the turnout and level of enthusiasm the Duncan area shop tour of the professional shops of Phil Smith, Michael Moore and Joe Galinas & San-

dra Carr was an outstanding success. We will obviously be doing a few more of these! By my count some 27 members showed up for the day long event which included a nice lunch in Duncan and extensive tour of shops with a wide range of specialties. There was certainly something for everyone regardless of what they make or the size of their shop. Thanks to Phil Smith and Karen for organizing a great event. We have put some effort into ironing out the bugs in the membership renewal system which we hope is now working more effectively. If you have problems email Rob Blondeau or see him at the meeting.

We are still looking for a sound man to replace the irreplaceable Scotty, so if you think you'd like to help out in this capacity, please mention your interest to an executive member.

Have a safe holiday season.

Bryan Kemper
President, VIWG.

Shop Tour of the Duncan Area

On November 18th the Vancouver Island Woodworkers Guild held a tour of three professional woodworking shops in the Duncan area with some 26 members attending. Judging by the turnout and the intensity of the conversations during the three shop visits it is apparent that a lot was gained from the experience.

DECEMBER MEETING

Camosun College - Fine Furniture Program Building
Tuesday, December 12th. 7:15 PM

Members met and the Helmiken Park & Ride to arrange car pools and then set off north up the Malahat to stop first at the garage shop of Phil Smith. Phil is an almost retired woodworker who continues at a more relaxed pace to turn out select pieces often featuring his excellent veneer work. Many members can relate to Phil's double car garage shop with much of the equipment on wheels so it can be rearranged for the task at hand. Most of Phil's equipment would be the better grade of hobby gear with the tried and tested makes and models predominating. Several members were carefully examining his horizontal belt sander. A set of pocket jigs for the parts of coffee tables were on hand to show the attention to detail and production methods which he uses for this duplicate pieces.

The second stop was at the newly constructed and carefully planned shop of Michael Moore on Glenora Rd. west of Duncan. Michael had been a resident of the Esquimalt CPR station yards where he had rented space for many years. Deciding to strike out on his own, he and Pam bought 10 acres of land in June of 2005, on which they are building a shop and house which will satisfy their needs for many years to come. Michael's shop space alone would be the envy of many, at 37 X 51 feet with a 10 foot vaulted ceiling above and a 13 foot ceiling in the storage space below; with a basement and drive-in access to both levels, there should be space aplenty, but alas Michael has pretty much filled it up with treasures collected over the last 15 years. One of the owner's traits is continually trading up for better and bigger equipment, so there is no shortage of good professional grade shop gear at this location. One of the newest additions was the 14 inch Altenduft sliding table saw, not to mention SCM thickness planer of about 20 inches.

As if building the outfitting a new shop is not enough, Michael and Pam have designed and are building a lovely ranch style home on the same site. Both the shop and the house are heated by a wood burning boiler with auto controls for BTU delivery based on demand. There was considerable interest in the stand alone boiler unit from several of the attendees. All the heat is delivered to in floor heating circuits providing gentle warm radiate heat.

Wood from the property was used extensively in the construction of the shop with additional flooring and some beams coming from salvaged sources on the island. All the roofs are metal clad to provide long and low maintenance under the over story of coniferous trees.

Michael took about a year off to get the shop up; re-starting business in January 2006, with the house to the almost lockup stage he has now returned to custom furniture and cabinet work. Pam continues her designing work – and is waiting to move into her new house!

Lunch was enjoyed at the new Craig Street Pub in Duncan where we were fortunate to have excellent service and the third floor to ourselves so we could actually hear ourselves talk – a novelty for a pub these days!

The after lunch stop was at the shop of Gelinas Carr Furniture Makers where Sandra Carr and Joe Gelinas are fast making a name for themselves turning out high quality custom furniture with basis in solid design. This team met at the Camosun Fine Furniture course not that long ago and as such would represent the youngest of the three facilities we toured. Their shop would be midway in size between that of Phil Smith and Michael Moore's, well lit and workable with an attached building for wood storage and dust collection. Equipment here was heavily built industrial grade for the most part which they are continually improving as the need and resources arise. Two large tables were under construction during our visit, laid out with details and decorative elements penciled in to reveal where the next work would be done. One was on a very large scale for a Gulf Islands client with ambiguous entertaining plans.

One feature of this shop which caught my attention and that of several others was a nicely made wall unit for the storage of screws and fastening. Made of bamboo the large unit was wall mounted.

Thank you all for participating.

B. Kemper

Darren Bertuccio will be showing a short slide show of the Furniture Society Conference Indianapolis 2006 at the next (December) meeting.

Members Login on the VIWG website

To log on to the VIWG website, go to www.viwg.com and click on the link called >>HERE<< in the the section called "Members Login". This is located on the bottom left corner of the main web page. When prompted, enter your login and password. You will then be presented with links to the Members Directory, your membership profile, and a section where you can renew your membership. If you have any difficulties accessing you account, then please contact either [Rob Blondeau](#) or [Colin Knecht](#).

Writing E-newsletter Articles for Lee Valley

Customers have been invited to subscribe to Lee Valley's new woodworking and gardening newsletters. Now that the first issues have been e-mailed to subscribers, Lee Valley has issued a call for writers. As SAWS or VIWG have a number of fine writers who may be interested, extracts from the call for articles are reproduced below.

Ideas for articles should be submitted to the newsletter editor (see contact information below) before any significant investment of time or resources occurs. A brief description or outline and an indication of the number of drawings, tables or photographs are required.

Generally, they ARE looking for content that is:

Informative (instruction, overviews, history, scientific and technical studies);

Original;

Entertaining (profiles, stories);

Useful (how-to, project plans).

Keep in mind that articles should supply some *new* information – something that provides a revelation.

They ARE NOT looking for:

Product reviews or articles that directly sell their own tools. The intent is to give added value to the readers, not present them with a "hard sell" of Lee Valley or any other products.

Woodworking or gardening lore and regurgitations of untested techniques found in popular woodworking and gardening books. Generally they require 300 to 900 words. If you have any questions or require more information, **please contact the editor (613) 596-9260 ext. 5323 / klitva@leevalley.com.**



CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE

General (Canadian made) 8" longbed jointer w/ 2 sets of knives. \$ 2500 Union 14" bandsaw, in good working order. \$ 350

Call **Keith Battersby @ 250-655-7029 or keithb@telus.net**

FOR SALE

Excalibur overhead tablesaw blade guard w/ dust collection never installed, **brand new in the box. \$300**

Call **Chico @ 858-4588 or sfww@shaw.ca**

SAWMILLING

Electric blade mill with low waste (.1" kerf). Accurate, smooth cuts.

Great for hard wood. Thickness planer available. Bring log or wood.

(Pick-ups possible.) 55 \$/hr,

No minimum charge.

Contact Craig Carmichael @ 250 384 2626 or craig@saers.com

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STUDENT LIASON REPS :

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

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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.

FURNITURE MATTERS FALL ISSUE PROMO

The 11th Annual Furniture Society Conference in Victoria BC,
June 21-23, 2007 @ the University of Victoria

Victoria British Columbia has historically been home to furniture designers, architects, artists and artisans of many cultures. The social history and mythology carved into the art of the First Nations was first encountered by European and Asian immigrants to Vancouver Island. Europeans fashioned the architectural detailing of Victoria's neighborhoods in Edwardian, Georgian, Victorian, Arts and Crafts, and Modern styles. The influence of Asian design is boldly reflected in Chinatown, and in the subtle elegance of buildings and gardens throughout the city. It is this mosaic of cultures, designs and art forms that we are inviting members of the Furniture Society to experience.

The University of Victoria is an ideal venue to host next year's conference. The registration area, auditoriums, lecture halls, workshop areas and gallery spaces are all located within short walking distance of each other on campus. Also found are a variety of housing options, the dining and banquet hall, fast food outlets, and the obligatory conveniently located pub. Finding a short double fat soy decaf latte on campus may be problematic however. A campus city bus terminus connects to the downtown core with a 20-minute ride, where such beverages can be found.

A curious aspect noticed by visitors to the campus is the alarming number of domesticated bunnies to be found everywhere. These former pets, released by their well meaning owners, have multiplied alarmingly quickly and formed themselves into roaming packs of feral rabbits that can tear through a person's socks in a matter of days. For this reason, a pair of stout hiking boots or a bag of carrots is recommended before venturing out of one's dorm onto the commons.

The program lineup for our conference promises to be an exciting one. Pre-conference tours will feature a visit to Craigdarroch Castle and the Royal Provincial Museum, or a tour of old growth forested Goldstream Park and the Duthie Furniture Gallery on Salt Spring Island. In addition to the annual critical discourse we will feature panels on educational methods, business strategies, as well as on philosophical and cultural issues. Presentations and demonstrations will feature a culturally diverse body artists and makers in a variety of different mediums.

Keynote and featured speakers Robert Davidson and Judd Beaumont promise to deliver inspirational and thought provoking addresses. And the popular surface design and slide wars events will not be forgotten.

As befitting its island location, if you don't fly there, traveling to Victoria will involve a ferry ride. In addition to Washington State ferries departing from Seattle, Anacortes and Port Angeles, one can also embark on BC Ferries vessels from Tsawwassen. What better way to begin acclimatizing for the laid back left coast lifestyle than with a short passage through the Gulf or San Juan Islands amidst pods of Orca whales? For the less seafaring among you, departures from Vancouver and Seattle airports will take you to the Victoria airport, or via floatplane to the scenic inner harbour of downtown Victoria. Rail travel to Vancouver Island is not an option, unlike getting to Savanna. There one has the convenient choice of traveling by rail from Atlanta via nearby Washington DC, changing trains only once in the nine hour trip.

Having outlined the what, where, why and how of next year's conference, the next step is up to you. Get out your atlas; find out where Canada, and Vancouver Island are located, and start making travel plans for next June. Don't forget the stout hiking boots (those feral bunnies) but do leave the skis and winter parkas at home. And prepare to be amazed.