

BENCHMARK



Newsletter of the Vancouver Island Woodworkers' Guild
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Issue: *SEPTEMBER-2006*

President's Report

We are only a few days away from the start of another season and the September meeting; where has the summer gone? 2006-7 promises to be an exceptional year for the guild with the improvements in meeting content and membership, not to mention the Furniture Society conference to be held here in June of 2007.

In mid August we held a joint meeting of the old and new executive to facilitate a smooth transition of responsibilities. There are few new faces and many familiar ones which should make for a seamless transfer. Russ Franson was a capable and effective president and we will make full use of his knowledge as the Past President on this year's executive.

From the feedback received by the executive it is clear that members expect the executive to run the affairs of the club leaving the meetings open to instruction and informational sessions with opportunities for member to meet and socialize. Accordingly we have begun to plan for the strengthening of some aspects of the format established in recent years.

Expect to see new faces providing the program, more Saturday workshops, some shop tours focusing on equipment and shop design/layout covering the range of members facilities from hobbyist to professionals.

In September, Karen and Keith as stewards of the program for meetings will be doing a short questionnaire to guide the search for future speakers.

The executive has received several suggestions dealing with the web site; many of these suggest updating the information on meetings and members activities and capabilities. In other words making the website an up to date informational resource. This would likely require that we retain a webmaster. We are also evaluating using the web site as a referral mechanism for commissions and custom work for our professional woodworkers.

You can expect to hear more about this and other topics in future meetings.

Bryan Kemper, President

SEPTEMBER MEETING

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

Thank You to Charlie Middleton and Tools' n Space

Although I thought my article writing days might be over now that I'm past president, on behalf of the Vancouver Island Woodworkers Guild, I'm pleased to have been charged with the task of **thanking Charlie Middleton for all his years of supporting woodworkers in the Victoria area through his well known business, Tools' n Space.** For those of you who might not know, Charlie closed his doors on 30 June 2006 to enter into the next phase of his life – well deserved retirement! I caught up with Charlie this week to get a little bit more history on how Tools' n Space became such an institution on the Victoria woodworking scene. I found it fascinating to hear how Charlie evolved the business and constantly rose to the challenge of meeting the greater needs of our woodworking community. Here are some of the highlights that I thought you might find interesting.

It all started back in 1976 when Charlie's interest in woodworking was peaked by George English, a then woodworking instructor at Camosun College. Inspired by what George taught him, and seeing a need for a space where he and other hobbyist woodworkers could continue to grow their skills, Charlie opened Tools n Space in 1977. When I look back at the story of Tools' n Space, its clear that Charlie always put the needs of local woodworkers, both hobbyist and professional, first. As economic and social factors changed the needs and wants of Victoria woodworkers, Tools' n Space always seemed to rise to the challenge of helping all walks of woodworking life obtain whatever was necessary - access to tools, space, knowledge and skills required to pursue their craft. Here are some of the little known facts about this evolution. Over the years, many woodworkers of both local and international acclaim, played a part in the success of Tools' n Space.

As news traveled about Charlie's rental space, learn to woodwork courses and general availability of anything to support woodworkers (ie. wood and tools), so too did requests for custom furniture and cabinetry orders.

If I understand it correctly, John Davison was Charlie's first instructor, and Cam Russell, Maurice Fournier and Glenn Gerein headed up a building division that focused on custom cabinet and furniture orders. When the economic recession of the early 1980s hit Victoria, custom orders started to drop off but the demand for power tools went up when a local power tool supplier went out of business. Charlie stepped in where Northcraft left off, again filling a gap for local woodworkers.

Charlie noted two other interesting phenomenon that paralleled the changing face of Tools n Space. Publication of Fine Woodworking and Lee Valley Tools also started in 1977. It seems that as the public became more aware of the craft of woodworking, the demand for resources for both hobbyists and professionals increased. By the mid to late 1980s, the demand for specialized wood and tools increased – enter specialty wood supply stores such as Westwind Hardwoods and the Finishing Touch. Although these stores cut into Charlie's business, they also were supporting a burgeoning interest in woodworking. Tools' n Space stepped in again with a change in focus to what no one else was offering – a broader offering of education for beginner through to the interests of the professional woodworker.

During this phase of Tools' n Space, Charlie was very successful in bringing in the best that fine woodworking has to offer with the likes of Bob Rosenthal, Dale Nish, Pat Godfrey, Tage Frid and Sam Maloof. With a destination like Victoria, he says it wasn't a very hard sell to get these guys to come and share a day of their wisdom!

I feel very fortunate that in the very early days of my fine furniture business, I was able to get in on the Sam Maloof session. Sadly, I wasn't yet up and running for these other "rock stars" of woodworking, but again, Charlie filled my needs by having just about every woodworking book ever written by these guys, and many more! As the years rolled on into the year 2006, Charlie's continued to work hard at ensuring that both enthusiastic beginner woodworkers and professionals had access to the best that he could offer in terms of tools, space, wood, knowledge and skill that couldn't be found elsewhere in Victoria.

Out of Hand Craft Fair 2006 Woodworking Exhibition**CALL for ENTRIES**

The deadline for entries is September 30, 2006.

In past three years, the Vancouver Island Woodworkers Guild has been invited by the organizers of the Out of Hand Craft Fair, held each November at the Victoria Conference Centre, to exhibit the work produced by members of the Guild.

This year, the Salt Spring Woodworks Gallery will be managing and jurying the woodworking exhibition at the Out of Hand Craft Fair. The show will be focused on studio furniture and art. It will not include reproductions, household or craft items.

Work will be displayed from makers primarily from the Vancouver Island and Gulf Islands, but is also expected to include work from makers from throughout B.C. We can expect the works displayed to be of a very high level of quality.

All members of the Vancouver Island Woodworkers Guild are invited to respond to the call for entries.

Show Date: November, 2006 Location: Victoria Conference Centre

Entry: Fill out and return the application form, which will be available on the VIWG website and by email.

Jurying: Initial jurying will be completed through submission of photos and the attached application form. Inspection of the actual work may be requested prior to final acceptance.

Transport: Exhibitors will be responsible for transporting (or having transport arranged) for their work to and from the exhibition. Jurying will occur in October (dates TBD). Jurying will be done by the Salt Spring Woodworks Gallery.

Sales: Items are expected to be offered for sale. The commission amount will be determined by the end of June 2006.

If you have any questions about the Out of Hand Craft Fair 2006 Woodworking Exhibition, please feel free to contact Celia Duthie of Salt Spring Woodworks, or Detlef Grundmann or Phil Makin of the VIWG.

Celia Duthie - Salt Spring Woodworks Ph: 250-537-9606 Email: celia@duthiebookcases.com

Detlef Grundmann - VIWG Ph: 250-474-1957 Email: pebble@shaw.ca

Phil Makin - VIWG Ph: 250-592-4033 Email: pmakin@shaw.ca

Charlie says, that while “the hardest part was having to constantly evolve...the best part was being associated with so many talented people...and watching their skills grow”.

So I think you get the picture. Tools’ n Space has not only been a work in progress for many, many years, I think its fair to say, that its also been a labour of love for Charlie. It is with heartfelt thanks that we salute Charlie and all he has done for Victoria’s woodworking community over the last 30 years. As we likely can all attest, Tools’ n Space has always been there, in one way or the other, for each and everyone of us. I think its also fair to say that its absence will leave a very large hole. Thank you Charlie, and on behalf of the Vancouver Island Woodworkers Guild, we wish you all the best in your much-deserved retirement.

With my best regards,

Russ Franson

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE

General (Canadian made) 8" longbed jointer w/ 2 sets of knives. New last fall, as new condition. \$ 3000.00

Union 14" bandsaw, older but in good working order.
\$ 350.00

Dewalt 13" heavy duty planer, as new condition,
w/ 2 sets of knives. \$500.00

Call

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

FOR SALE

80's model US made Delta 14" Bandsaw
w/ 1-1/2 hp Baldor, ball
bearing guides, new high-tension spring, micro-adjusting
large fence and \$100 worth of blades
\$500

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

Workshop Rental Space Needed

Minimum 12' X 12' space with lots of natural light and high ceiling with fully equipped shop. Spray booth would be a bonus.

Prefer Fairfield/ core Victoria area -- not too far out of town

Call **shiraz @ 882.8064 or design@innoetica.com**

FOR SALE

I recently bumped into some maple that a fellow is willing to sell fairly reasonable. There is approximately 10000 board feet .

It is still in log form and some is still standing. I am getting about 3000 board feet cut into live edge slabs. The price is \$1.50 per bdft .including taxes.

Call Dan @ (250) 245 3956

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.
- Troy Electric Sales & Service
- Victoria Speciality Hardware LTD.
- West Wind Hardwoods Inc.
- Windsor Plywood - Keating X-Road
- Windsor Plywood - LANGFORD

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Past President.....	Russ Franson	656-8724	rffd@telus.net

COMMITTEE & PROJECT CHAIRPERSONS:

- Monthly Clinics – V O L U N T E E R N E E D E D
- 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 Verstraaten 479-7717.....harryv@bullockbaur.ca
- Wood Recovery Committee – Wayne Holmes 479 4694.....wgholmes@shaw.ca
- Membership Database – Larry Grainger 383-1215.....lgrainger@telus.net
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- 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 :

H.C. "Chico" Sakman 858-4588 sakman@shaw.ca or sfww@shaw.ca

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.