

BENCHMARK



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

Issue: MARCH-2007

President's Report

Perhaps the recent mild turn in the weather means we'll be able to do more work outside in the not too distant future. The Saturday workshops seem to have been taking up the slack during the rainy season, judging from the favorable comments and the attendance.

You will have received notice of the guild's plan to assist up to 27 members to attend the Furniture Society conference in Victoria this June, by providing a stipend to offset the cost of registration. This plan is our response to a request for support from the organizing committee, and reflects the guild's goal to further woodworking regionally and improve the skill level of its members through education and experience. Russ Franson has agreed to collect the requests once they are complete and you should send Russ an email with the relevant information once you have completed your registration for the conference, if you decide to apply for a stipend. Russ can be reached at- rffd@telus.net

The guild executive has begun planning a new series of Saturday workshops which will be called "Methods of Work". The concept at least in its early stages is to provide hands on instruction on various construction techniques at one workshop on a specific day. For example we might run one on Mortise & Tenon joints and bring together a several members who do this differently and have them set up and run demo for 4-5 hours. Attendance could be open, or by a short list, but having it open ended might be more attractive because people could drop by and stay for whatever time they needed. We are discussing a complete series of topics to cover most of the common construction methods of work.

Those of you who attended the Victoria shop tour set up by Len Barnes will know how well organized this was. The range of shops was very informative. Well don Len!

We are still finding a few bugs in our mail distribution system, but Colin and Rob seem to have achieved good progress in this area. If you are still not consistently receiving email, please post a note to Rob.

Bryan Kemper, President.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting will focus on carving. Bill Morley who is a member of our guild, will show us photo's of his work and explain the creative process of carving. Bill's specialty is canes and he has carved some beautiful ones. Also joining us will be Dave Western who carves Welsh Love spoons. He will be bringing along some samples of his work and some in progress and show us how it's done.

We also have 2 upcoming events:

1. Peninsula tour on Saturday Mar 31st (tentative date), come on out and view a few shops on the peninsula and get some idea's on equipment and shop set ups. Contact Bryan Kemper for more info at 656-7046.
2. We have a Router work shop with Rob Blondeau organized for Saturday March 17th at his shop. A sign-up sheet will be at the meeting and if you have questions, call Rob at 881-8132. This workshop has had such a good response that we are going to have to split it into two separate dates. Rob will be contacting the first group of people who have signed up to let them know that they made the first workshop. No date has been scheduled for the second one yet.

A few people have asked how to apply to the guild for the Stipend Offer for the Furniture Society Conference. I have been told that you should contact Russ Franson at 656-8724.

If you have not received any e-mails from the Guild in quite a few months, then please go log into our website and check that your membership has not expired. If it has, then you must renew it before you will begin getting the e-mails again.

To get the latest Benchmark go to www.viwg.com and click on the "Resources" menu on the left side of the page. There you will find a link called "Benchmark Issues" which will take you to all the Benchmarks for the past couple of years. Please Note: The current Benchmark will only be posted sometime during the week prior to the monthly meeting. >>>>
Membership Renewals:

MARCH MEETING

Camosun College - Fine Furniture Program Building
Tuesday, March 13th. 7:15 PM

When you renew your membership, you have three payment options:

1. Manual payment by cash or cheque, via the mail or in person at the monthly meetings.
2. By using your Credit Card at the PayPal site without creating or signing in to a PayPal account.
3. By Signing in to, and paying with your PayPal account

Note: If you have a PayPal account and have forgotten your Login and/or password, then at the PayPal main page, simply click on the "Forgot your Password?" link and follow the instructions on the next page. Your Login will be your e-mail address. Once you have typed in your Login and the security password, click "Submit". Pay Pal will then e-mail you your password within a few minutes.

Rob Blondeau, Membership

Conference Impressions from Two Newbies

Last year, Darren Bertuccio and I were able to attend the Furniture Society conference in Indianapolis entitled Collision at the Crossroads and Other Happy Accidents. We were there along with experienced conference goers like John Dennison, Cam Russell and Ken Guenter. These conferences offer a chance to dust off, shut off the machines and get inspired over an action packed three days of gallery shows, artist presentations, and hands on technique workshops from the greatest makers in the world.

This article is intended to give guild members a brief impression of the experience. Talking to so many attendees also gave us a good understanding of why people attend and what benefits they gain from their investment of time.

This year you don't have to travel or leave home to attend the conference – that is cool. Our university will prove itself not just in beauty, but in first class facilities for all the conference events. Living nearby, I have a real appreciation for the calmness and good vibes that the university setting provides – I know you will also.

A Furniture Society conference opens with tours – this year it is Wednesday June 20, 2007. These tours are optional events and we have both an in town and Saltspring Island Tour available. While we expect to see mainly out

of towners on these tours, absolutely anyone would see something new. Russ Franson and Darren Bertuccio have been working on this aspect of the conference.

Thursday is opening day of our conference. Our keynote addresses include the wonderful Haida carver Robert Davidson (Order of Canada) and BC's one and only Judson Beaumont of Straight Line Designs – who a few years ago was a guild keynote speaker. The keynote speakers set the tone and get us going on our little journey of conference discovery.

After that, each hour is filled with many choices of panel discussions, demonstrations, lectures and hands on opportunities. You will have to make your choices from an amazing conference program created by John Dennison. If you go to the furniture society web site, www.furnituresociety.org and click on Conference, the full program is available. Take a look for yourself – John has put together presentations by some leading wood heroes like Jere Osgood and some of our local heroes as well.

It was tough to pick out the one session that I wanted to be at each hour of the day – there were many great choices. But after a while, that seemed to be part of the energy of the conference. Reviewing the excellent conference briefing package resulted in the feeling of wow, I gotta go to this, yes, but I have to go to this, oh, no I have to choose.

Our Victoria conference's theme is Cultural Mosaic: Reflections from the Coastal Rain Forest. I believe you will find this theme expressed in helping us all understand our local cultural diversity and how this reflects on furniture design and aesthetics.

The theme was carefully crafted by Ken Guenter and he leads our organizing group.

In Indianapolis, there were so many highlights. For example, Jim Rose presented his steel Shaker inspired furniture. With Shaker influences being popular and historic, his work generated lots of discussion – it was beautifully designed and executed – a surprise for many. Darren and I saw a surface carving demonstration by Michael Cullen (www.michaelcullendesign.com). His work was recently on a back cover of Fine Woodworking magazine. His surface texturing is used to beautify his already impressive furniture creations. We were just a few feet from him as he drew and then created a carved fern design all the while outlining his thought process. Inspiration was flowing right in front of us.

Cam Russell and I attended a session by Mark Adams (yes, from the Mark Adams School of Woodworking fame). The

ANNOUNCEMENT

Stipend Offer for Furniture Society Conference

session was a full fledged demonstration on creating high intensity color dying in veneers and the “secret” was found in stainless cookers and a concoction of dye and salts to fix the colors. Cam thought this could be a good demonstration for a guild meeting – I agree, now where are my notes on it!

This year, we have several furniture exhibits and shows for you. Cam Russell has led the work in this area and they are going to be a big part of the conference. One unique show will be the Camosun College Fine Furniture Retrospective and with so many guild members being graduates, this will be most interesting. Thanks to Wayne Holmes and others, we will be sponsoring a 2007 High School Woodworking Show located right on campus! The conference attendees really like the idea of seeing the learning process unfold and this show was such a good community project last year, that we will benefit again. I found the shows in Indianapolis were highly entertaining. There were great discussions mostly about how did they dream that up or how did they do that? In the end, we felt somewhat in awe of the work and yet maybe on a good day, you felt that you could aspire to something that creative and well executed.

Every year an Award of Distinction is given to a member that has exhibited a lifetime achievement of excellence in the field of contemporary studio furniture. Tommy Simpson was last year’s winner, and gracefully accepted his award while pinning us to our seats with his slide show of his body of work. Needless to say, we were speechless – if you Google Tommy, you will see 203,000 articles. Yup, he is the real thing! This years coveted award will be given to a Canadian maker, any guesses?

The program is ably filled out with breaks, lunches and perhaps a pint nearby in the evening, not to mention the Saturday night dinner and entertainment. The high points were numerous for us and Victoria’s conference will no doubt produce highlights just for you!

As we just about three months away from this year’s conference. We are both nervous and excited about this once in a lifetime opportunity for the VIWG and Victoria. We urge you to register for the Furniture Society Conference Victoria 2007 Cultural Mosaic: Reflections from the Rain Forest at www.furnituresociety.org. Do it now!

Darren Bertuccio and Phil Makin

The Vancouver Island Woodworkers Guild has developed a plan to assist guild members wishing to attend the Furniture Society Conference which will be held in Victoria this June. The details are outlined below. The goal of the plan is to support the conference and at the same time provide opportunities for guild members to experience and learn from the sessions at this three day conference.

You will note that the plan encourages early registration (which has built in savings) and rewards prior membership and commitments to the guild’s activities. If you plan on attending the conference and wish to apply for one of the stipends, you must register first and then submit your application to the guild. Note the cut off date for registrations to be applicable is April 25/07. The criteria upon which application will be evaluated are listed below:

1. We propose to support 26 stipends for guild members in good standing, to an amount of \$75 Cdn. each.
2. Anticipating that application will out strip our available funding, stipends will be granted based on the following criteria:
 - a. Length of time the applicant has been a guild member,
 - b. Contribution(s) to the guild activities,
 - c. Preference will be given to full three day registrations,
 - d. Date of registration for the conference, with a cut off date of April 25th (you must apply by this date and qualify for the early registration rate which the conference offers).
3. Guild members must apply for a stipend with proof of their prior registration for the conference.
4. Note that the guild will reimburse members for \$75 Cdn. of their registration cost. Do not apply to the guild until you have registered and paid your fees to the Furniture Society.

Thank you and enjoy the conference.

2007 VIWG Executive.

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE

Shopsmith DC 3300 Dust collector - 330 CFM - \$200
 Shopsmith 12" Pro Planer on stand with casters - \$300
 Inkra Miter3000SE miter gauge - new in box - \$200
Call Harvey Brooks 920-0636 or 857-1252

FOR SALE

Fine dust particules filter. Dual filter, Sears model, works well. Ceiling mount. \$125 obo.

 Bosch 3" x 20" Belt sander. Come with special adapter sanding frame for more precision and dust bag and more! \$160 obo.

 "Little wizard" metal detector works great. \$35

Call **Daniel Ouimet 652-0506**

SAWMILLING

Plum - Dogwood - Cambodian Rosewood - Yew - Arbutus - Cherry - Garry Oak - Leland Cypress ("white coloured yellow cedar") - Holly - Black Locust. Priced by the board foot, see web site.
 VIWG Feburary Member Discount 20%. Will cut to suit. 'Exotic' logs always welcome! Web Site: <http://www.saers.com/~craig> I don't have a store or keep hours, so please call first:
Craig Carmichael, 384 2626

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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STUDENT LIASON REPS :

Belmont High - Brad Tikk 391-1992

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 **FIRST MONDAY of EACH MONTH.**

TOOL REVIEW

By: Rob Blondeau

Whenever I walk into a woodworking store, I immediately go straight for the router bits section. I'm always on the lookout for interesting new bits which accomplish tasks that cannot be done by any other means. My latest finds comes from Lee Valley Tools (www.leevalleytools.com)



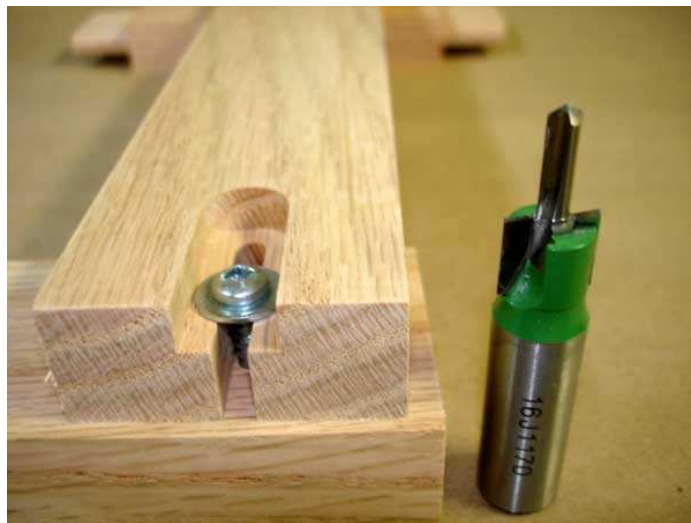
Counterbore (Item 16J1170)

This bit provides you with a means to create slotted holes for table aprons, or anything else that needs a hole for a recessed pan head screw. If you need to provide a slotted hole allow for wood movement, then there's no longer any need to drill multiple holes with a forstner bit, and then use a file in the smaller screw hole to elongate it. For safety reasons, when creating a slot, you should only use this bit in your router table. Once you've adjusted the fence to center the bit on your lumber, you simply have press the bit against your fence and

lower the piece onto the bit. You can make the slot a long or as short as you like. In fact, if you wish, you can make a single counter bore hole (no slot) simply by plunging into and then retracting the bit from your work piece. This bit has a 1/2" shank and sized for # 8 screws

Countersink (Item 16J1160) 1/2" shank and sized for # 8 screws.

A brother to the Counterbore bit, this bit is similar in its use and function except that it is designed for a standard flathead woodscrew. When I first saw these two bits, I immediately thought that I would use the Counterbore bit more often, but I've since found out that this is not the case. I've been hard at work redesigning a number of my shop made jigs to take advantage of the my new found ability to fine tune the alignment of movable components. The image above shows the underside of my box joint jig. These screws attach the fence to



the base. Using my old method of attaching the fence, I would have aligned the fence, glued it, and then hoped that it was still aligned once the glue dried and I removed the clamps. This bit allows me to attach the fence without any glue, and then fine tune the fence so that it is perfectly parallel to the direction of travel of the base of the jig. One last advantage of this bit is that it allows me to use a thinner material for the base (1/4" phenolic in this case). Prior to this, I was using 3/4" MDF which made the jig very bulky. This bit has a 1/2" shank and sized for # 8 screws.