

BENCHMARK



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

Issue: MAY-2007

The Furniture Society Auction

Part of the Victoria Furniture Society conference is the auction event. The goal of the action is raising monies to provide ongoing bursaries for students who are persuing their education in the art of furniture making. This is one of the major programs of the Furniture Society (itself a not for profit organization).

The committee is currently soliciting auction items from the local business community.

We want guild members to know that the auction could benefit from a good quality wood item made by you! Ideally the item should be made of local woods as this is one of the themes of the conference. The item should be relatively small (well at least smaller than a trestle table) so it can be transported conveniently. Items which are turned or "flat" made by local artisans are most appreciated – if you would like to donate it, we would love to have it. Best of all, your donation will help support a furniture making focussed student working to enhance their skills.

For example, I am donating a split cedar and Pacific Yew box – many of you know that I am a woodworker of modest skills, hey if I can do it, you can too! If you would like to make a donation of an item to auction, please contact Russ Franson at 656.8724 so arrangements can be made.

The guild and its' members are already a big part of the conference and this request is a little like the icing on the cake. On behalf of the committee, thank you for your exceptional support. If you have any questions or suggestions for auction solicitation from a local business, please contact me at 592.4053.

Furniture Society Conference Committee
Phil Makin

Notes on FSC Events

Each month we have been giving you a sampling of some of the events that will be taking place during the Furniture Society Conference to be held in Victoria on June 20-23. The conference will include panel discussions, artist presentations and demonstrations. Below are some of the panels that will be included in Furniture 2007.

Critical Discourse Session One: The Collective Spirit. How the things that are made reflect a collective spirit or set of cultural values. Moderator Miguel Gomez-Ibanez, with Robert Davidson, Ned Cooke, and Thomas Huang. John Dunnigan, Peter Pierobon, Gabriel Romeau, Jon Brooks, Kim Kelzer, Thomas Hucker.

Education Panel: Are We Leading Students Down the Garden Path? Are students under false impressions about what future lies beyond the certificates, diplomas, or post-graduate degrees obtained from woodworking schools? Is an imagined career as a famous studio furniture maker a realistic expectation after graduation? This panel, moderated by Scott Braun, with Ted Brown, Cam Russell, Peter Korn, and John Dunnigan, will explore these and other questions.

Professional Panel: Getting Your Work in Print. Getting pictures of your furniture and information about you into books and magazines can be an important marketing initiative. Moderator Michael Podmaniczky, with John Kelsey, John Lavine, Jon Binzen, and Michael Fortune.

Professional Panel: Running a Successful Small Shop Business. This panel provides working furniture makers and aspiring furniture makers with a real-

MAY MEETING

Camosun College - Fine Furniture Program Building

Tuesday, May 8th. 7:15 PM

world discussion of what it takes to be successful in a small shop. The panel consists of four successful makers whose businesses range from one-person to four-person shops, whose marketing runs the gamut from local to national, and whose product lines vary from strictly studio furniture to a combination of furniture and casework. This will not be a theoretical discussion; each panelist is prepared to share real numbers from their most recent profit and loss statements. Moderator Peter Korn, with Michael Moore, Hank Gilpin, David Gray, and Dean Pulver.

Educational Panel: So You Want to Get an MFA?

Over the past 50 years, education in furniture design and making has shifted from traditional apprenticeship programs to larger institutions, often being incorporated into art departments. This panel will examine several MFA programs at different schools, through first hand experience of the students themselves. Moderator Ken Guenter, with Forest Dickey, Heath Matysek-Snyder, Soledad Reeve.

Wood Recovery Action

Well I hope you are interested in buying some wood soon. I have arranged with Cam to have a sale on May 12, 2007 at Camosun College at 10 am. We have cedar 4 x 4's, garry oak 2 x 8's, poplar 2 x 8's, elm 2 x 8's and London plane 2 x 8's. The elm and London plane has been in the kiln for 2 months and is around 20% moisture content, so it will need more drying.

We have logs coming this week and next that include cedar, arbutus, red oak and London plane. We will be arranging a milling party in the near future.

Hope you can make the sale and bring lots of money. Prices will be \$1.75 for all but the poplar and cedar which are \$1.25 per board foot.

Wayne Holmes

This Month's Events @VIWG

The next meeting is Tuesday May 8th at 7:15pm in the Fine Furniture classroom of Camosun College's Interurban campus.

This month we have an out of town guest speaker. John Van Spronsen from Vancouver will be joining us for a discussion on making west coast style bent wood boxes. West coast bentwood boxes are an excellent example of aboriginal woodworking techniques, the boxes are made from a single plank of western red cedar that is carved and steam bent on three corners and pinned on the fourth. John teaches seminars on this technique and also does a lot of carving. He is a member of the Fraser Valley Guild. He will be giving us a presentation of how this technique is done via samples and photo images. If there is enough interest, we will have him back in the fall for a 2 Saturdays in a row workshop.

We also have 1 upcoming event:

1. We are planning a Saturday tour out to the timber frame building which Keith Battersby has been working on. Hopefully a date will be announced at the meeting. See you then!

If you wish to apply to the guild for the Stipend Offer for the Furniture Society Conference. Please 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:

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.

Best Regards,
Your Guild Executive

ANNOUNCEMENT

I wanted to remind everyone that the Members Gallery Show at the upcoming Furniture Society Conference at UVIC **is open to anyone** who is a Furniture Society member and who would like to exhibit a piece in the upcoming event.

All you have to do is to bring your piece with you to the show and check in to the conference registration table.

You will be directed as to which room is allocated for the Members Gallery Exhibit. Please refer to www.furnituresociety.com for conference information.

Darren G. Bertuccio
VIWG Show Committee Chair
Cell Phone: 250-213-7795
darren@woodfly.com

Update about our upcoming exhibition at UVic this June - August.

The clock is certainly now ticking, though, with the conference opening 2 months from today!

So, the latest is that 29 former students of the Fine Furniture Program have committed to putting something in the exhibition which will make for a very full gallery and a great exhibition. My original plan of having everyone submit two pieces; something originally made in the course AND something made more recently have definitely had to change owing to the number of former students and the comparatively small size of the gallery. I realize many of you know this, but for those who don't I'm now asking you to submit a single piece which can be your choice of something you made while you were a student or a single item you've done more recently.

All of the entries have to arrive at The MacPherson Library at Uvic on Monday, June 11 or Tuesday June 12 so the display can be arranged and be ready for the actual opening on Friday June 15. The 'official' opening will be on Thursday, June 21 which coincides with the first evening of the three-day Furniture Society conference. The exhibition then runs through the summer until Monday, August 20, and you can pick up your work on Tuesday, August 21st.

One final aspect to the exhibition is that we have been approached by the Island Illustrators Society. The I. I.S. is a group of visual artists who get involved with different groups each year to provide them with a theme to base an exhibition of paintings. I will be providing the list of your names and contact information to the I.I.S. so you may be contacted by one of these visual artists for a quick interview about your exhibition entry. That artist will then go on to complete a painting along the theme of your project that will be exhibited at the MacPherson Library Gallery.

Please let me know if you have any concerns or questions. Otherwise I am very much looking forward to seeing your work at UVic in June!

Best Regards,
Cam Russell

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE

Shopsmith DC 3300 Dust collector - 330 CFM - \$200
 Shopsmith 12" Pro Planer on stand with casters - \$300
 Incra Miter3000SE miter gauge - new in box - \$200

Call Harvey Brooks 920-0636

FOR SALE

GARRY OAK - 300+ BF - plain 5 \$/BF - with flakes
 6 \$/BF - green or fairly green
 (Dry it yourself and save!)

ARBUTUS - various short pieces - 3.50 \$/BF - dry
 DOGWOOD - various sizes - 17 \$/BF - pretty dry
 CAMBODIAN ROSEWOOD - various - 25 \$/BF -
 some dry, some part dry

WESTERN YEW - 150+ BF - 10 \$/BF - fairly green
 CYPRESS - 100+ BF - 5 \$/BF - fairly green
 PURPLE LEAF PLUM - various small pieces - 15 \$/
 BF - some green, some fairly dry
 EUROPEAN HOLLY - various shorter pieces - 12 \$/
 BF - partly dry, some small pieces dry
 ALDER, CHERRY, HEMLOCK, MAPLE, BLACK
 LOCUST - please enquire

* Faces plain or planed.

* Custom dimension cuts if logs are available.

Call Craig Carmichael 384 2626

OUR SPONSORS

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

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 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.
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 Richelieu Panel Products
 Skookum Tools LTD.
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 West Wind Hardwoods Inc.
 Windsor Plywood - Keating X-Road
 Windsor Plywood - LANGFORD

EXECUTIVE:

President.....Bryan Kemper	656-7046	kemper@islandnet.com
VP EducationKaren Trickett	598 1383	coventryww@pacificcoast.net
VP Education.....Keith Evans	592 3102	kjrevans@shaw.ca
VP Membership. Rob Blondeau	881-8132	rblondeau@shaw.ca
Treasurer.....Phil Cottell	655-9190	cottells@shaw.ca
Past President.....Russ Franson	656-8724	rffd@telus.net
Newsletter Editor....H.C. "Chico" Sakman	858-4588	sffw@shaw.ca

COMMITTEE & PROJECT CHAIRPERSONS:

Monthly Clinics – Keith Evans 592-3102.....kjrevans@shaw.ca
 -Karen Trickett 598-1383..coventryww@pacificcoast.net
Show Committee – Darren Bertuccio 213-7795.....darren@woodfly.com
Library Committee – Ed Krakowski 656-6727.....edshop@shaw.ca
Show & Tell Com. - David Muir 727-1176.....dalbergia@shaw.ca
Toy Workshop Project – Doug Watson 477-0701
Wood Recovery Committee – Wayne Holmes 479-4694.wgholmes@shaw.ca
 - Derek Wentworthdesign.line@shaw.ca
Guild Merchandise Committee – Phil Cottell..... cottells@shaw.ca
Door Prize Coordinator - Daniel Ouimet 652-0506
Sponsor Liaison - Daniel Ouimetchanteclerwoodcraft@shaw.ca
Webmaster – Colin Knecht.....knecht@shaw.ca
Man on the Street Photos - Peter Robin 475-0486.....elderbird@telus.net

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.