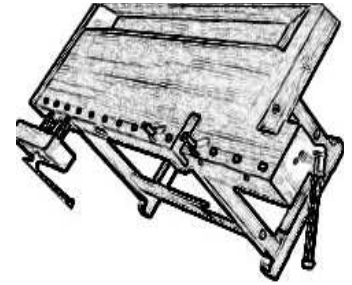


BENCHMARK



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

Issue: NOV 2004

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The October meeting was one of the best attended in memory – approximately 130 members turned out!

I think the woodworking show the weekend before had everyone wired for more. Our keynote speaker, Gregory Brown, left us all in awe of his work. The exquisite execution of his instrument restorations right through to the Georgian and Federal furniture pieces showed a complete command and understanding of his craft. I found his stories of how he came to be a woodworker, and his journey along the way, very interesting. He and I have very similar paths. It never ceases to amaze me the expertise that our community harbours. Thank you Gregory.

Announcements and Reminders

Successes: I am very happy to announce that three of our members were successfully juried into the British Columbia Woodworkers Co-op. They are Megan Schafer, Paul Gort and Darren Bertuccio. All three are graduates of Camosun's Fine Furniture program. Cam and Ken should be very proud that their program is producing such talented woodworkers. For that matter, we should all be proud – they are our Guild members! Congratulations to Megan, Paul and Darren. NB: the next jury will be March 15, 2005.

Membership Fees: just a reminder that we are now on a calendar year for dues. Next year's dues will be due on January 1, 2005. Anyone wanting to get ahead of the game can give their post-dated cheque to Jim Barker.

Door Prize Coordinator: our new door prize coordinator is Daniel Ouimet. He takes over from Colin Knecht. Thank you Colin for your past assistance and thank you Daniel for stepping up the plate!

Library Books: a reminder to those who have library books out. Could you please return them if you are finished with them. We have some 35 books missing in action.

Finally, I would like to encourage new members to get involved in any way. If you have any interest in getting involved, please contact myself or any of the executives. We have many opportunities for both short and longer term involvement. Again, thank you to everyone for all the support I have received so far. It is very encouraging.

Russ Franson

Show and Tell

Rob Cosman demonstrated some basic principles of fine craftsmanship for us. He showed us how to sharpen a plane iron quickly with perfect results using David Charlesworth's ruler technique and how to prepare a bench chisel. Rob also gave a very impressive demo on cutting through dovetails. He's a very slick showman in addition to being a fine craftsman and teacher.

Thanks to Paul Starita for arranging for Rob to come.

Novembers workshop will be held over from October and will be about the C.N.C. router, by Jim barker. Jim has put together a fine program, unfortunately it Was not announced in the October benchmark and consequently had very poor enrolment. The course is designed to show you how to incorporate C.N.C. machining into your work and give a basic knowledge of the process. Jim would like to be able to create something useful for one or more of the participants. If you have an idea or are interested in attending, contact Jim or see him or me at the next meeting. barkers@telus.net 652-2195

There is no fixed date for this course, a time can be worked out between attendees and the instructor.

Jesse Williams

OCTOBER MEETING

November 9th.. 7:15 pm

Camosun College Carpentry Building

Don't forget to bring your own chair

Thanks to the Guild

Meagan Schafer was the winner of this year's graduating class show at the Gallery on Herald. She kindly send us a thank you note with pictures of her winning piece and wrote:

To all Members of the Guild:

Just wanted to let you know how much last year's Fine Furniture Class appreciated your donation of Western Maple. I was also thrilled to receive your donation of \$500. for Best in Show. I've enclosed photos of the chair I made with the donated Maple.

Sincerely,

Meagan.

By the way, Meagan is also a guild member although living in Vancouver.



Wood Recovery

Just to bring you up to date, we have just milled about 1200 bf of ash and elm, mostly elm. Most of this is going to be dried in the kiln at Camosun. We will conduct moisture checks on this to see how fast each part in the kiln will dry. When it is finished, the wood will be offered to the volunteers first and then to others in the guild. It is also planned that a summary of the drying process will be documented and included in a future "Benchmark". Thanks to all the volunteers and Cam Russell for helping mill the logs, stacking them in the kiln and the use of the kiln.

We have some red cedar to mill and expect some maple soon. If anyone is interested in the cedar would you please email Wayne Holmes at wgholmes@shaw.ca and advise him.

A special thank you needs to go to Tim Soutar as he is always willing to assist with all aspects of the wood recovery program. He is a very integral part of this operation.

Stream of Dreams Project is Complete

You might recall this year's Stream of Dreams Project headed by Darren Bertuccio and assisted by a number of guild members. This project involved raising awareness of environmental issues within the public schools of Greater Victoria. Nearly 250 "fish" were made by guild members with the decoration and painting done by the students. The guild fish are now on proudly on display at a number of schools. Thanks go to all those participating and to Darren for captaining our efforts.



Keynote Review – Gregory Brown

Gregory Brown presented us with a wealth of information that was interesting and humbling also. It is interesting to note that when you can restore antiques and musical instruments – then you can also build them. When you see a maker with all the skills to build musical instruments, boats and beautiful classical furniture, it makes for an interesting evening. We saw someone with a very good work ethic and some luck in meeting the right people at the beginning of his career, then, he just made it happen by looking after his clientele. Most pieces that he builds take between 200 and 600 hours and the big secretary piece was viewed with some great photos. Gregory's presentation was put together just for our meeting and I want to thank Ken Guenter who assisted greatly in getting the rather large files onto CDROM, thanks Ken.

One thing that we can now put to rest is the lack of correlation between the quality of work and the size of one's workshop. Gregory welcomed Matt Ashton and I for a shop visit prior to the meeting and we both found him to be a very warm and entertaining person who does it all in a very modest space. His experience and communications skills also came through in our meeting. If you weren't enjoying the boat, then the hand-made tools probably caught your eye. It was a lot of work for Gregory to bring his works and get ready for his presentation, so we are fortunate. Gregory does a lot of things well, but my favorite was the little veneered drop leaf table. I have some work to do.

If you can provide an idea for a keynote speaker, please let me know.

Out of Hand Update

We have most of the artists that we need for the show, (still some space left, but not much) but we need someone to come forward as project manager while the show is taking place. The main task will be acting as the point of contact for the owner's of the show and coordinating the move in and show setup. Please let me know if you can help.

Rob Cosman's Visit

Rob Cosman's visit was quick and productive. Elsewhere in the Benchmark the details of his presentation are covered, but you may be interested in his web site at www.robcosman.ca. There are some interesting products including tools (such as a winding stick – I didn't know what they were until I visited his site), videos and other information. We also can say that the guild was a supporter for Rob as he stayed for three days with Paul Starita and Wayne Holmes signed up as Rob's right hand man at the woodworking show.

We will be adding Rob's web site as a link from the guild site so we can more easily stay in touch. I know many of you are enjoying your new Lie-Neilson tool.

Calendar of Events

We present the Guild's educational, and meeting plans. We attempt to provide dates on future events of interest to Guild members. If you have event information, please contact Chico Sakman to arrange for publication.

Toys for Kids Workshop

Saturday November 13 in the Camosun Shop

Contact Doug Watson 477-0701

Out of Hand Christmas Fair

November 24 to 28, Victoria Convention Centre

See Article in this Benchmark for details.

Contact Phil Makin 592-4053

Novice Show

April/May 2005, Victoria Arts Council, Sussex Place

Contact to be determined

Continuing Meetings (Held Monthly)

Open to any interested guild member. Call to confirm or to have an item added to the agenda.

Executive/Committee Chairs

Monday week following Guild Meeting, contact Russ Franson 656-8724

Location is Waddling Dog Pub

Show Committee

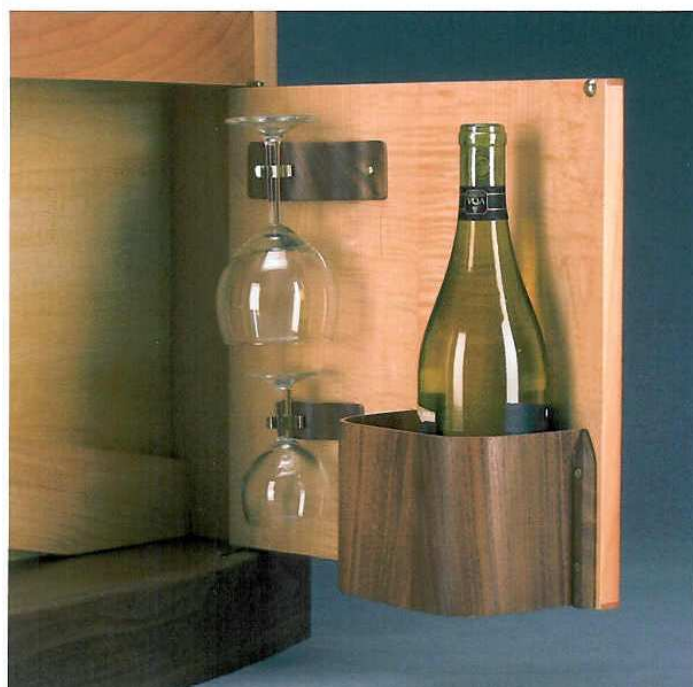
First Tuesday of the Month, contact Mike Kattler 592-4938

Education Clinics for Members

Times, locations and requirements vary, normally held the Saturday after Guild meeting

Cost \$10. per member or higher depending on requirements, payable to the instructor

Below, side detail from Meagan Schafer's chair.



Finishing with 3 part finish – tung oil, turpentine and Varathane

Surface preparation is the most important part of this type of finish. The wood must have no imperfections in order for a great looking piece.

Start by using a belt sander with as coarse a belt as is necessary to level the surface, first moving the sander from side to side across the grain but keeping belt rotation parallel to the grain. Pressure can be applied to remove wood faster. Finish this operation by sanding in line with the grain with 180gr gradually moving across the surface. Rotate the piece 180° regularly to maintain an even surface.

Next step is to use a random orbit sander with 220 paper. Removing any marks left by the belt sander. Start the process by going slowly back and forth across the grain. Finish by moving the sander in full-length strokes with the grain. Use the weight of the sander putting minimal pressure on the sander. Finish this step by hand sanding the edges and edge profile if there is one.

Repeat this same process using 320 sandpaper. A palm sander can be used to polish the edges and fair round-overs, the idea is to eliminate any hard lines.

Wipe the surface with a cloth containing alcohol or Varsol. This should show any marks or scratches that still need to be removed.

Next using 600gr sandpaper sand the edges by hand or with a palm sander then use the random orbit on the main surfaces. Move the sander slowly with the grain gradually moving across the board with each pass.

Application of the finish.

First coat

To support the wood it is recommended that you use triangular shaped stickers so that the wood can sit on the apex, these should be made of a wood softer than your project wood. Two of these should be sufficient to support most projects. A clean towel can be used for small objects and very soft woods.

Use a small paper or plastic cup with measurements on the side- available from Industrial Plastics. Mix equal parts of turpentine, clear Varathane (black can) and polymerized tung oil (Behr brand is cheapest and best). A mixture of this should keep for several months if kept in a container sealed from the air. In hot weather, use slightly more turpentine. Thinner coats are easier to apply and reduce the incidence of runs or drips, while thicker coats build the layers faster.

Apply the mixture to the wood using a rag and let stand for 5 to 10 minutes. Wipe off any excess with a clean rag. Come back after 15 minutes and then again an hour or so later to wipe off any bleed out from porous wood, be especially careful of this on the last coat. The longer you can leave this to dry the better the finish. It is recommended that you leave it for at least 24 hours before applying the next coat.

Second coat

Apply the finish sparingly starting from the center of the wood, ensuring not to go over the edges (to avoid drips). Work the solution out to the sides and, lastly, onto the edges. We just want a thin coat on all the surfaces.

Follow the same procedure as in the first coat. A good wiping towel is an old terry towel – these have good absorbency. Then do a second wipe with a blue shop paper towel. Continue to use the blue paper towel and do several wipes, using a clean surface of the towel each time. Rub in circles with the cloth and look for oil pockets.

Now use some steel wool, 0000 rating, with a white scrub pad on top. With not too much pressure go over the whole surface thoroughly.

Third coat

Follow the same procedure as in the second step. Ensure you use a clean cloth and rub hard. There is no need to use the steel wool in this step. If the finish is too glossy, then you want to use some steel wool to reduce the gloss.

Allow to dry, then enjoy your newly finished piece.

The fellow attendees and I would like to thank Jesse Williams for giving up an afternoon and enlightening his fellow woodworkers.

Editor's Note: Turpentine evaporates slowly, therefore it is preferred if finishing is done in warm environment and/or the piece is large. If it's cooler and/or you want the finish to dry faster, use camping fuel (a.k.a. naphtha, available in Canadian Tire), if the piece to be finished is small and you're really in a hurry, add some Japan (available in artist's supply stores) or Cobalt driers (available in General Paint).

Extra protection can be obtained by using Floor Varathane (oil base) which contains higher percentage of solids, yet it still has the same "hand-rubbed" (I guess because it's hand-rubbed indeed!) look when it's used in a mixture and applied as described above. This product stands exceptionally well on heavily used tables. It resists hot mugs, water, alcohol, bleach and ammonia.

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Back issues of **Fine Woodworking** magazine. 36 issues from 1978 to mid 1980's. In good (not pristine) condition. \$4 each or \$100 for the lot. Back issues of **Wooden Boat** magazine. 62 issues from #2 to # 146. Some quite rare and sell for up to \$20 each but I would be happy with \$200 for the lot.
CALL **Marty @ 480 1899 or 888 4889**

Beaver Table Saw that is mounted on a metal stand about 18 x 18 and 21 high, boxed for dust collection & It is on casters. Call **Wayne @ 479 4694**

Clifton concave, Marples curved and Stanley flat spokeshaves. Stanley #80 Scraper & some other tools. Call **Chico @ 721 4522 or 661 7535**

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

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