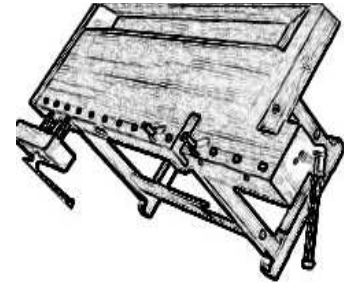


BENCHMARK



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

Issue: APRIL-2005

President's Report

March Meeting at Slegg Lumber: the March meeting hosted by our sponsor Slegg Lumber was a well-attended success – 100+ members turned out! Wayne Ruffle and the employees of Slegg did a great job of inviting and organizing some of their key tool distributors. This gave us all a chance to mingle before the meeting, and to check out all their new wares. Some members took advantage of the incredibly discounted prices and walked out with great new tools. Above all, the staff made us feel welcome. Thank you Slegg Lumber!

March Keynote Speaker: The keynote speaker for the night was the model builder, Serge Roberge. Serge brought with him a collection of models, past and present, complete with drawings to illustrate his process from conception to reality. We were all in awe of his meticulous work and in particular, the scale and functioning parts. Serge explained that he started out quite simply with minimal tools and knowledge and the goal of using his hobby to fill the down times that come with working as a logger.

I find it very interesting that in speaking with other skilled woodworkers, they have often started out with the simplest and often crudest of tools and workshop spaces. Despite this, they have gone on to somehow make these basics work for them. I believe that this initial struggle with our tools and space, and trying to make them work for you, is what cements our dogged determination. This in turn, leads to development of higher skills. Serge's explanation of how he makes the rails in his models through a series of bent laminations, in very small scale, illustrates this. Thank you Serge!

April Meeting – Back at Camosun College...April 12th...7:15 p.m.: Our keynote speaker will be James Esworthy. Those of us

who attended the Maltwood Show last spring are unlikely to have forgotten James' beautifully veneered sideboard. Phil Makin has arranged for James to come over from Vancouver to speak about his veneering techniques, etc. (See Phil Makin's article for more details).

Future Keynote Speakers: on the subject of keynote speakers, the keynote section of our meetings will be changing slightly next year. As I will explain, the Guild executive would like to look at sharing more of our internal expertise – ie. your expertise as members. As you are all aware, we have been keeping track of member's interests and expertise for a few years now and have compiled a roster based on this information. Therefore, next year we would like the keynote section of any given meeting to be handled by an interest group – ie. the turners, carvers, cabinetmakers, chair builders etc). In order to facilitate this change, we will use some time at one of our remaining meetings to break into our respective interest groups ("birds of a feather group") and brainstorm ideas for keynote speakers. I think this is an important step for the Guild because it emphasizes the skill we have amongst us. Rather than looking for expertise externally, we hope to access more of our internal expertise that we know is very wide and very deep!

Reminders:

- ***Library Books:*** just a reminder to all those who have overdue library books. Could you please return them for others to use? Thanks.
- ***Windsor Plywood:*** the other day I drove by the Windsor Plywood store on Jutland only to discover that it was gone! Our Windsor Plywood sponsor is now the Langford store. Thank you Windsor.

I hope this newsletter finds you busy and well. I look forward to seeing you next week at the meeting.

Russ Franson
President

APRIL MEETING

Camosun College Carpentry Building 7:15 pm

Keynote for March **Serge Roberge**

Our keynote for March was as I saw for myself unbelievable. Serge Roberge is a true master of modeling and quite a number of members in attendance used words like amazing and incredible in describing Serge's work. His keynote presentation was very well organized and Serge wins the award for sheer determination and tenacity. His models take from 150 hours at the low end to 300 plus hours to complete. Serge showed us what it takes to do this type of work right from the beginning. He goes to the machine that he will model and begins by taking pictures and dimensions. This then translates into a detailed drawing – one he showed took about 40 hours to do.

His Grade 12 Drafting comes in very handy for this work, but he has moved way beyond those humble beginnings. Twenty years of experience then goes into the crafting of these models. Oh, did I mention that they move and with wooden rams simulating the action of the machine's hydraulics, they pose nicely in any position that you wish to move them to. I wanted to get be small, get into one and go for a spin.

Serge also has a great skill that I have never seen demonstrated. He can talk intelligently and load logs at the same time using one of his grapler models, wow. All the way through the presentation, Serge made what looked like overwhelming problems sound easy and with his friendly speaking style and sprinkled humor, we were all treated to a glimpse of a Master of Models.

Serge is working on building his business as a model maker, so if you have any ideas or leads, I am sure he would appreciate it. If you would like to find out more about Serge and his work, go to www.robergereplicasinwood.ca.

Keynote for April **James Esworthy Red Star Furniture**

Some of you will remember James's work from Explorations in Wood 2004 at the Maltwood. He came with two pieces and they were quite unforgettable. His veneered cabinet won a major prize at the show and was one of the show stoppers. It exhibited perhaps a French style to me with very upbeat character.

Since graduating from Sheridan College in 1995, James has been a full time wood artist involved in designing and building furniture and display items. He is pleased to be coming to our meeting and we hope to hear a little about the program at Sheridan which is renowned for design content, plus what trends he is hearing from interior designers and clients regarding furniture ideas.

James's work at the Maltwood showed a tremendous display of sure handedness with veneering and we hope to hear a little secret or two in this area.

Because of our furniture focus, our show and tell will also be furniture, so bring in what you have been doing in the past few months.

Phil Makin

- "CHAIR MAKING "BODGING" References: tails of the variety of Windsor and Stick chairs
- A number of useful references are found on the web. Hill Jack "Country Chair Making " 1979 David and Charles
- www.bodgers..org..uk Meader Robert F. W. 1972 "Illustrated Guide to Shaker Furniture" Dover Publications Inc. New York
- This site is of the. "Association. of Polelathes Turners and Green Woodworkers". Submitted by Richard Wroot"
- It provides a number of handy links.
- www.google.com
- Searching Bodging or Chairmanning give good responses
- Abbott. Mike "Living Wood" 2nd Ed. 2004
Living Wood Books Gives details of all aspects of making.
- Abbott Mike "Green Woodwork" 1989 Guild of Master Craftsmen Publications
An older version of the above. Very practical and detailed. Is available in the Victoria Library
- Cotton Bernard D. 1990 "The English Regional Chair" Antique Collectors Club Pictures and de-

WOOD RECOVERY NEWS

Wood Recovery Steering Committee

We have set up a steering committee for improved operation of the wood recovery program. The program is operating very well at the moment, but I would like to keep it that way. I would also like to think that we can improve upon what we already have. I also want to maximize the input and the operation of the program. The committee will be looking at the acquisition of the logs, the transport, the milling, the selling, the return of some of the benefits to the community (such as the schools), the pricing, future needs and equipment for the program, communications, training and our mandate in special cases such as the latest lumber sale we have had. The committee will hold its first meeting in the next month and we will let you know what and how things are going.

PS. We have some extra green garry oak available. Please contact Wayne Holmes if you would like some.

Veneer, Veneer, Veneer we still have **mersawa** veneer available - please contact Wayne Holmes if you would like some.

OUR SPONSORS

CLASSIFIEDS

TOOLS'N SPACE WOODWORKING

New and wider selection of Lie-Nielsen planes, spokeshaves & saws as well as new arrival of Japanese saws, chisels and other specialty hand tools are now in stock.

338 Catherine St. 381-9600

I'm downsizing and clearing out my workshop.

I'm looking for either a single buyer to buy all of my woodworking machines and major tools (at a fair price) or a cooperative arrangement where I can swap workshop space for the use of the tools.

FOR SALE

General contractor 10" table saw (wired 220V); Jet 1200cu ft/min dust collector (wired 220V); Ryobi 13" planer; Delta 6" jointer; Delta 6 belt sander; Jet 14" 3/4 hp bandsaw; Air cleaner - homemade and hand tools such as biscuit joiner, Lie-Nielsen & Veritas handplanes, routers w/table etc. Call **Gerhardt Lepp** @ **953-4195** or **661-3024** GerhardtRaven@shaw.ca

FOR SALE

Rosewood (Dalbergia Bariensis) from Cambodia. Wide boards at \$33 per bd.ft, while widths under 6 inches are at \$25 per bd.ft.. These are in log form, so cutting is included in these prices. Call **Launie Gratto** @ **658-0760** launie@effectivewriter.com

FOR SALE

Porter Cable laminate trimmer.
Used but not abused. \$85 firm.
Call **Chico** @ **721-4522** or **661-7535**

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.
Tools'n Space Woodworking
Troy Electric Sales & Service
Victoria Speciality Hardware LTD.
West Wind Hardwoods Inc.
Windsor Plywood LANGFORD

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Webmaster - John Porter 642-4480 jim@woodandartstudio.com
Man on the Street Photos -

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.

**The FURNITURE SOCIETY**

Advancing the Art of Furniture Making

March 10, 2005,

Ken Guenter
Of The Woods Workshop
2549 Forbes Street
Victoria, BC V8R 4B9
Canada

Dear Ken,

I am very pleased to inform you that your proposal to host the 2007 Furniture Society Conference has been accepted by the Board of Trustees. Approval was unanimous, and we look forward to an exciting event in a unique location.

We realize that putting together a conference of this magnitude is an arduous undertaking. The Furniture Society conference committee, headed by Rachel Fuld, along with our executive director, Andrew Glasgow, will be prepared to assist you wherever possible.

Under separate cover, you will receive the conference manual. It is currently being approved by the Executive Director, and should be in your hands within the next several weeks. A budget format for expense planning and spread sheet programs to keep records of program presenters and costs will be provided to you at the appropriate time

Thank you for putting together an exciting proposal. We look forward to working with you on this endeavor. Do not hesitate to contact me with any questions which may arise.

Cordially,

Paula Cooperrider, Trustee
The Furniture Society
Conference Committee Chair
928-899-5784

Here is the letter of acceptance by The Furniture Society!
Victoria will be a very exciting place for woodworkers in 2007!
Thanks Ken Guenter and whoever else contributed to the preparation of this proposal!



Caterpillar 980B Front-End Loader by Serge Roberge

Prize Winning Cabinet
By James Esworthy
Explorations in Wood 2004

