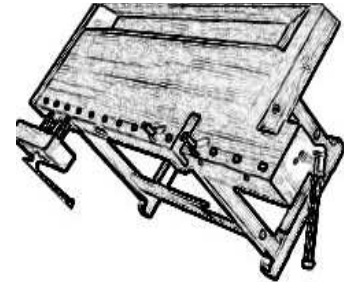


BENCHMARK



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

Issue: MAY-2005

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

April Meeting at Camosun College: It must be spring because all of a sudden, members started showing back up at meetings – 120 at the last one – wow! Where do some of you go? Hibernation? Palm Springs? Well, it was nice to have such a great turn out.

- **Call for Volunteers – Visions in Wood Show, May 6-18:** the meeting started off with a call from Len Barnes for volunteers to man our Visions In Wood Show at the Victoria Arts Council, Sussex Building at 1001 Douglas Street. Volunteers are still needed for May 11, 12, 16 and 17. These are short half day shifts and a great chance to represent the Guild, and educate the public about our members work, the Guild and our Guilds role. Please contact Len Barnes at 380-5025 if you can help out.
- **Burnside Gorge Community Centre:** we then heard from Dean Fortin, the executive director for the Burnside Gorge Community Centre. Dean described the new centre that will be built and approached the membership about building the reception desk. I felt honoured that we were asked to participate in such a big way. In further discussion with the executive and Dean, the Guild has declined this offer but will volunteer for a smaller project once the building is complete (ie. a bench,

etc). The scale of the reception desk would conservatively have involved 150-200 hours of construction and installation. We definitely have the skills within our guild but we felt that finding the volunteers would be difficult given all our other obligations as a guild. Thanks again Dean.

- **James Esworthy – Keynote Speaker:** once all our business was taken care of, James Esworthy took over with a power point presentation of his work to date. Every piece was a tour de force, and just as involved as the piece he put in our last Maltwood show. He has definitely mastered veneering with all its inherent difficulties. One of the key comments James made was about trial and error. He explained that he will try a new idea in his off time, and then put it away in the corner. Sometimes weeks later, a light bulb will go on, and the idea and technique to make it better will come to him. Craftspeople at this level are often free of the anxiety that comes with being a beginner immersed in learning the tools and techniques of a craft. James reminded us that at all levels we can read an article, get an idea, and just try it. If it fails, just put it in the corner and think about it another time. Something good will always come of it. Thank you James.
- **Show and Tell:** I would also like to thank Murray and Pat Tomkins for bringing in the incredible bench they made. It was so

MAY MEETING

**Camosun College
Carpentry Building
7:15 PM**

interesting to hear about all the problems they were able to overcome in making it. That reminds me. Could any of you that have a piece for show and tell, please bring it to the next meeting? Don't be afraid, we'd all appreciate it!

- Door Prizes: The evening ended with the door prize draws that Daniel had assembled. I think half the people in the room won something. Thanks Daniel for the great prizes.

Last Executive Meeting: At the last executive meeting, Colin Knecht talked briefly about the changes his company, E-State Media Group, will be making to our website. In brief, it will be more attractive, easier to use, and more helpful to the membership for activities such as signing up on line. We will keep you posted on this exciting project. Thank you Colin.

June Annual General Meeting – New Executive: June is our annual A.G.M. and sponsors night which means there will be a vote! In addition to the vote, we will serve dessert and coffee since most members have already eaten dinner prior to the meeting. The by-laws state that all executive positions must be voted on each year by the membership. This means that even those who wish to stay on in their position must be voted in. *We are looking for people to step forward and fill some of these positions.* For a relatively small time commitment each month, being an executive member is a great way to meet people and become more familiar with all the great work of our guild. I will be stepping down from the presidency and over to the position of past-president. Hopefully some of you will consider running for president. I was pleasantly surprised to find that it is really a position where you are heavily supported by a lot of capable people – the past-president (which will be me), your executive and the various other committee chairs and members. The president's position is really one of knowing the overall workings of the guild and making sure the right hand knows what the left hand is doing! Okay, perhaps a bit simplified but the point is, it's been a fun year getting to know and learn from a lot of people without a huge time commitment.

Boulevard Magazine and Shaw Cable: I was pleasantly surprised while thumbing through this month's Boulevard Magazine to find an article on two of our members. *Donald Porter and Ray Franklin* are both featured in an article on turning. The accompanying pictures are beautiful and the text well written. Kudos to both of you, and thank you for mentioning the Guild and our upcoming show. I missed it but my wife also saw Donald featured this week on Shaw Cable (Channel 11). When I was looking for Donald, I came across the clip featuring *Michael Moore* and his work. Great work guys. A good week for the Guild I'd say. Good on you three!

Unsung Heroes: in closing, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge members that work tirelessly behind the scenes. *HC "Chico" Sakman* for all his work on our newsletter. *Larry Grainger* for keeping our membership list straight with all its inherent problems. *Ted Rowley* for the incredible Visions in Wood signs that he made on his own impetuous. *Gordon Thompson* for all the years he managed T-shirts and name tags, etc., and last but not least, *Len Barnes and Mike Kattler* for their work on the show committee. All of these gentlemen have gone way and above the call of duty for our Guild. Thanks are not enough.

Russ Franson
President

Keynote Review – James Esworthy Red Star Furniture

Some of you will remember James's work from Explorations in Wood 2004 at the Maltwood and his capabilities came to life with his presentation at April's meeting. James was impressed with the size of our guild and said that we must be doing something right.

He is working hard on a variety of projects and has an interest in the Furniture Society Convention in 2007. We are hoping to have his involvement in assisting us and our key Vancouver person Peter Pierobon with the wide variety of organizational needs.

I asked James for a recommendation of a good woodworking book. He said he was very impressed with The Encyclopedia of Woodworking by Joyce and indicates that it is great for the serious but also novice. James rates it a good handbook of how to do things. Wonder if we have it in our library.

As you heard, James Since graduate from Sheridan College in 1995, and there was discussion of how you receive, interpret and understand design curriculum. A very good topic. I feel James has demonstrated very versatile design capabilities with his work. I noticed that when people looked at his veneered cabinet at Maltwood in 2004, almost everyone had a little different take on it – some said it was French, some arts and crafts, to others it spoke of art nouveau. These reactions show complexity within the overall approach. This is something that we can all strive for in our work.

He enjoyed himself at our meeting and thought the show and tell piece by Murray Tomkins was very nicely designed and executed (which it was!).

My thanks to Ken Guenter for again running the technology part of the presentation – we couldn't do it without you. James stayed with me overnight and then we went on a good shop tour at Chico Sakman's. Thanks Chico for opening your doors. I know he really enjoyed the shop visit and his time with us. He has asked to stay in touch and now as a complimentary member (for a year) he will be receiving Benchmarks and will be able to keep up on the news of the guild.

May Meeting

Our May meeting theme is Show and Tell. We have been away from our home location for two of the last three meetings and want to give our members time to tell us what they are doing in their shops. So bring it in please. By the way, Show and Tell can be questions, so if you have a question, you can email it to me at pmakin@shaw.ca before the meeting. I will try to line up one or more people who can provide the answer for you. Every question is a great question – that is how we learn and that is what a guild is all about. We also will have a surprise or two in store at the May meeting so it should be fun if enough of us participate.

Phil Makin

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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. Cut-off time is exactly
 one week prior to the guild meeting.