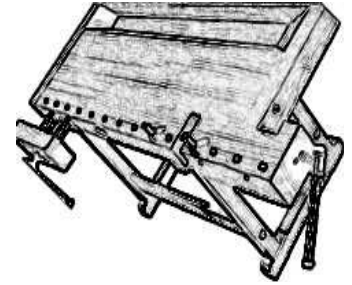


BENCHMARK



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

Issue: NOV-2005

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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October Guild Meeting Highlights: October's meeting was our first meeting in the new Fine Furniture Shop at Camosun College. Cam Russell started off by telling us how the new digs all came about and pointing out the fine layout. The space seemed to accommodate us all very well, and will make for more intimate meetings in the future. This reminds me, the Guild's library will be kept in the upstairs classroom above the shop. This space would also be a good place to socialize away from the meeting (hint, hint!). It can get difficult to keep the meetings running smoothly when there is chatter going on in the back. Thanks for your patience.

We started off with an interesting show and tell session by Gordon Thompson in which he talked about the beautiful oars he has made for a rowing skull. Hollow stave construction tapering at both ends finished with epoxy and Epiphanes varnish. Incredible! Mike Fulop showed us all a lovely backgammon table that he made from scraps and off cuts. This was a really good example of what one can make with small pieces of wood that some might consider to be "throw aways". David Muir showed us a box that he had made, and in keeping with the theme of the meeting, he explained how he finished it with Minwax Antique Oil. Phil Makin brought a box in that he had finished in oil/varnish. Doug Watson made an announcement and call for volunteers for the November 12 Toy Workshop. And finally, Graham Dragushan gave away a small model builder's table saw. Thanks to all who participated. This is what Show and Tell is all about.

In keeping with the main theme of the evening, Phil Makin arranged for three teams of volunteers to try their hand at finishing with the products he had supplied. The final results were telling and a lesson for all. Thanks to Phil and all of you who took part in this session.

Canwest Woodworking Show, October 14-16: I attended this woodworking show at Pearkes arena and was pleased to see Guild members volunteering their time, or just shopping for

that item that they just had to have. Phil Makin bought a very cool 18" V-Drum Sander Kit the night I was there. This product caught my eye and seems like a no-brainer for surface sanding. We will have to ask Phil how he likes it.

Upcoming Events and Reminders

Toy's for Kids Workshop, 12 November: this annual workshop will be held at Camosun College in the Fine Furniture workshop. If you are able to assist, please contact Doug Watson at 477-0701.

Out of Hand Christmas Fair, November 24 – 27: The fair is held annually at the Victoria Conference Centre. Phil Makin has agreed to organize this again. If you are interested in showing your work, or can volunteer to demonstrate on Sunday, November 27, please contact Phil. For more information about the fair, please visit <http://www.outofhand.ca/xmas.htm>

Executive Meetings: Guild Executive meetings are always held at 7:15 p.m. at the Waddling Dog Pub, on the Monday following a guild meeting. If you'd like more information, please contact me at 656-8724.

New Monthly Clinic Coordinators: I am very happy to announce that Karen Trickett and Bryan Kemper have volunteered to be our clinic coordinators. It feels so good to have members step-up this way for the benefit of all. Thank you Karen and Bryan.

Congratulations Ted Rowley: Ted won the scroll saw/intarsia competition put on by the Mid-Island Scrollers Club. Ted, you are truly an expert.

Online Membership Sign-Up and Contest: remember that it is now possible to sign up on-line through our website at www.viwg.com. Sign up is going well with over 70 members having used the website for sign up. *Those who sign up before November 30 have a chance to win an antique hand plane.*

NOVEMBER MEETING

Camosun College - Fine Furniture Program Building
Tuesday, October 8th. 7:15 PM

BYOC: Please, could you Bring Your Own Chair to the next Guild meeting.

Final Thoughts: Through my boat refitting project and my on-going need for supplies, I have come to learn more about one of our very important sponsors, Westwind Hardwoods. You will see in this month's issue of Benchmark, a very interesting article by Lars who will give us the history on how he and his brother ended up in the wood business. Read on to find out more!

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting. Until then, happy woodworking.

Russ Franson,
President



10189 McDonald Park Road, Sidney, B.C.
www.westwindhardwood.com

West Wind Hardwood Inc stays alive for our love of wood and the overwhelming gratification of it being a family run business, which is far and few between these days. Jan runs the day to day operations while the friendly voice on the other end of the phone, being Shelley, Jan's wife, wrestles with the day to day administration and daily office challenges. Lars, Jan's younger brother, keeps himself busy out on the road putting a face to West Winds name and keeping in contact with the day to day customers new and old, from one end of the island to the other end and all over the lower mainland. Our part time and full time employees also make a large contribution to much of the success of West Wind.

It all began back in 1978 as West Wind Woodwork a partnership between Ove (Father of Jan and Lars) a second generation cabinetmaker from Denmark and Jan who completed his apprenticeship in 1980 under his father, were primarily doing custom woodworking.

In the 1980's, they developed a line of marine products such as paper towel holders, rod holders, plate racks and many other things. They had over 100 items all made out of solid wood, Genuine Mahogany, Red Oak and Teak, which were marketed across Canada. With a large inventory of these types of woods

in stock and as the 80's moved on, the demand for the custom products declined and the appreciation for our solid wood increased. In 1984, we sold the manufacturing part of the business and West Wind Woodwork was renamed to West Wind Hardwood Inc. We could now concentrate on stocking quality lumber and plywood from around the world. In 1985 Lars graduated from high school and joined the family business.

As the company grew in the 90's, Ove and Lars built and ran a second warehouse in Nanaimo (still on Vancouver Island). Unfortunately, due to ill health, Ove retired and closed this location in 1994. Two locations on the island were redundant and we felt strongly that staying on the island allowed us to maintain a desirable lifestyle for our families. Quality of life was more important to us than quantity of lumber, which ultimately resulted in our decision to keep our company in one location. Bigger isn't always better!

In 1994, Lars became the new partner with his brother Jan and Westwind Hardwood Inc moved to larger premises on McDonald Park Road in the industrial section of Sidney.

You, our customer, are what keep us going. In today's highly competitive world markets, we are but a slender shaving on the floor, but we have a personal interest in wood; with a passion for woodworking in all forms, it's proven to be in our genes. Nothing is more pleasing than to see a creation develop, whether it has aesthetic or practical value. By providing you with quality lumber, we hope to share on this sense of accomplishment and satisfaction. Thus, West Wind Hardwood Inc. evolves and continues; there is a sense of history and a desire to influence the future. Our customers have counted on us for custom cut lumber and specialty woods for over 23 years. As our name suggests we stock an incredible variety of fine domestic and exotic hardwoods like teak, Oak, Maple, Ebony (and over 45 more species...), check out our web site at www.westwindhardwood.com) We also have an ample selection of quality plywood (including marine and kitchen cabinet plywood), specialty wood veneers furniture and instrument wood, custom millwork and custom wood flooring (including fir, domestic and exotic hardwood flooring).

We have a passion for boat building ourselves, so specialize in clear, edge-grain lumber, cut to unusual sizes. Our experienced staff has years of accumulated knowledge in the specialty wood field.

From building kitchen cabinets, boats or airplanes to hand carving and whittling, no project is too large or small. We ship throughout North America and beyond.

We are your specialists! Your passion is pursuit!

Lars Nielsen,
Westwind hardwoods.

October Meeting

Our first Finishing Wars meeting was a hit with guild members jumping in as volunteers to help us have a successful evening.

Our first demonstration was on cleaning furniture properly. This is done with a simple three part formula of real turpentine, boiled linseed oil and white vinegar. Len Barnes was assisted by Matt Forbes in demonstrating putting the material on the piece, letting it sit for a few minutes and then working it gently with fine steel wool. Just wipe with a clean cloth and voila, the piece is free of wax, dirt and grease. You can now assess how to begin the finishing or polishing process.

The lesson here is use this method to start and be careful of stripping or sanding an old piece. You just might be better off to clean and wax it! Thanks Len and Matt.

Introducing the Teams:

Team 1 – John Dennison (leader), Terry Toone and Dave Erickson

Team 2 – Wayne Burland (leader), Jeff Will and Dave Barker

Team 3 – John Magwood (leader), Roland Benesocky and Pete Norton

Our three teams did a very fine job of working together using different sanding and finishing materials. They got the best out of the varied materials they were issued. Team leaders gave us a good overview of their methods as we went through the evening and along the way answered member's questions. The brand new shop received a solid first dose of dust and finish!

After our Show and Tell session, we brought the three pieces to the front and had our fine judges Gordon Thompson and Graham Dragushan give us their impressions of each team's work.

What are the conclusions from this effort?

1. When finishing, get a light at a low angle on your work. Using a little wash of mineral spirits to wipe the piece. This removes dust and provides a good look at scratches or areas that need attention. The mineral spirits dry quickly and you can continue with your sanding on those areas. We noticed that our three teams all used lights. Technically they were breaking the rules as none of them were issued with lights, but president Russ decided that they could continue using illegal methods as long as we made note of it in the newsletter. Lights must be important.
2. Be careful about gluing pieces together before final sanding is complete. This is especially true where rails and stiles or panels are concerned as it is difficult to sand into a corner with an adjoining piece's grain at right angles. The question one of the teams asked was "Who was the numbskull/deleted/deleted who glued this panel up before final sanding?". This question remains unanswered for now, however, I could see by

how it was asked that this is a serious issue. Don't glue before sanding is the general rule! If you want to protect a piece of wood next to where you are sanding, place a piece of sandpaper face down on that piece. Each team used this technique although there is still some doubt about which team was first to use it. I would like to ask the team leaders to stop sending me emails about why I should believe their team was first with this technique.

Our judges provided us with their learned comments on each piece and their key messages were:

1. The pieces with the smoothest finish both had been wet and dry sanded. For very fine work, this wet and dry sanding step was noticeable and worthwhile in the final product. One team used 400 wet and dry, the other 320, but the judges could not find any reason to go beyond 320 for most applications.
2. The judges and a number of other guild members seem very pleased with the relatively new Minwax Antique Oil product. The improvement is that it builds more quickly than the old Watco Danish Oil product that Team 2 used.
3. It was pointed out that these products can work together. So for a very durable finish, the oils could be used to get a build and then one or two coats of the Minwax Wipeon Poly could be used for something like a tabletop.
4. Safety is important. Don't handle finishing materials without using throw away gloves. And be careful of rags with oil on them. They are a serious fire hazard and as we saw with the sponge provided by Cam Russell, spontaneous combustion is for real. Again the Minwax oil product has improvements which make it much less likely to combust this way. However, the ultimate answer is to place the oily rags in a glass container filled with water.

Thanks to all of our participants.

Meeting for November

Our November meeting is going to be full with an outside speaker who will be talking to us about recovery of fine woods – that would make great shop made veneers. We won't give away anything here, but I think you will be really surprised about this venture and how closely they relate to our ideas of conservation of the wood stock. Our theme of veneering and marquetry will be brought to life with some demonstrations and we are really happy to have Karen Trickett demonstrating some techniques with bevel and packet cutting of veneers. We also hope to give you the basics of working with veneers and some idea as to the tremendous variety of veneer that is available to you at fairly modest prices. We hope you will come with your questions and some show and tell items.

Phil Makin

CLASSIFIEDS

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Regular \$129, Guild Special Rate \$99+GST

Furniture Restoration & Repair Seminar

Saturday, Nov. 26th. 1pm-5pm with Dan Gentile
How to repair cracks, broken legs, joints & veneer etc...
Regular \$79 Guild Special Rate \$59+GST

EXECUTIVE:

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VP Education	Phil Makin	592-4053	pmakin@shaw.ca
VP Membership.	Lauren V. Dungen	381-2629	lvdungen@shaw.ca
Treasurer.....	Phil Cottell	655-9190	cottells@shaw.ca
Past President.....	Phil Makin	592-4053	pmakin@shaw.ca

COMMITTEE & PROJECT CHAIRPERSONS:

- Monthly Clinics - VOLUNTEER NEEDED
- Toy Workshop Project - Doug Watson 477-0701
- Keynote Speaker Committee - Phil Makin 592-4053.....pmakin@shaw.ca
- Show Committee - Darren Bertuccio 250-213-7795.....darren@woodfly.com
- Library Committee - Ed Krakowski 656-6727.....edshop@shaw.ca
- Show & Tell Com. - David Muir 727-1176.....dalbergia@shaw.ca
- Great Guild Project - Harry Verstraaten 479-7717.....harryv@bullockbaur.ca
- Wood Recovery Committee - Wayne Holmes 479 4694.....wgholmes@shaw.ca
- Membership Database - Larry Grainger 383-1215.....lgrainger@telus.net
- Guild Merchandise Committee - Gordon Thompson 655-1318.....
- Door Prize Coordinator - Daniel Ouimet 652-0506.....chanteclerwoodcraft@telus.net
- Sponsor Liaison - Daniel Ouimet 652-0506.....chanteclerwoodcraft@telus.net
- Webmaster - John Porter 642-4480.....john.k.porter@shaw.ca
- Man on the Street Photos - Peter Robin 475-0486.....elderbird@telus.net

STUDENT LIASON REPS :

- Camosun College - To Be Determined
- Belmont High - Brad Tikk 391-1992
- Other High Schools - To Be Determined

NEWSLETTER EDITOR :

H.C. "Chico" Sakman 721-4522 sakman@shaw.ca
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.

-
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