



Don't Forget!

The April PWG meeting (April 18) features the judging of the Millennium 2x4 Challenge. This special evening is being held at the Elk's Hall, 54 6th Street, New Westminster, B.C., starting at 7:30 PM. Bring a friend.

When Last We Met

By Fred Baldwin

Pre Meeting Demo

How do you sharpen a chisel or a blade from a planer so they cut smoothly? Guy Lautard demonstrated a rather easy technique to accomplish this. He used a Veritas Sharpening system from Lee Valley. This system has an angle jig to determine the angle of the bevel then a honing guide (the chisel is locked in place with a set screw) that rolls back and forth. Guy used a piece of 12" by 12" glass as his base then places on the glass wet/dry sand paper from 320 grit up to 2000 grit. The chisel is then slowly pushed back and forth (with a touch of water) to produce a glass like surface. After sharpening he runs the backside over the sand paper to remove any blurs.

For wet/dry sand paper over 600 grit Guy suggested an Auto Body supplies shop.

The finally trick he used was to put on an additional micro bevel (1/32") at the tip of the bevel. Here instead of say a 25-degree bevel he uses a 40-degree bevel. Why? You remove less steel and arrive at a sharp edge more quickly. Thanks for the tips Guy.

Business Meeting

Bill Ophoff stood in for Bob Bedier and thanked Guy for his demonstration (gift certificate to follow).

New visitor present was Steve MacDonald.

Motion - "That the members list, which includes names, phone numbers, interests and email addresses, can be emailed to members throughout the year" - carried.

Motion - "That anyone who doesn't want to receive an updated members list via email can have their name removed from the email list" - carried.

Keith Nightingale (465-7202) from the Ridge/Meadows Arts Council gave a brief presentation on an Artist show called *Art in Unusual Places*, to be held on June 24 at the Interfor Mill site - Southern end of Harris Road in Pitt Meadows. Woodcarvers, crafters, wood workers etc. will be displaying their wares and demonstrating techniques. Tables are available for \$20.00 if you want to sell crafts and admission is free.

Ted Fromson discussed the Richmond carvers show - May 26 to 28 - and is looking for both volunteers and display items for our booth. Ted also noted that Bonnie Klein - one of the foremost turners in the world - will be giving an evening presentation on April 14th in Port Moody. If you're interested, call Ted for details and directions.

Bill mentioned he had gone to the new gallery at 1723 Grant. There are some really well crafted display pieces - using 'recycling' old wood and suggested we all check it out.

Tony Carter discussed giving Yo Yos as gifts and asked for some volunteers to make some. He also asked for any other suggestions members may have for gifts.

The Pacific Woodworkers Guild is a non-profit association of British Columbia Craftspeople dedicated to excellence in woodworking. Guild members meet on the third Tuesday of each month (except July and August) in Richmond, B.C.

The newsletter is published monthly, ten times per year, and distributed free to members and associate members. Membership is available to anyone interested in any form of fine woodworking. Membership fees are \$25 for twelve months; Associate membership fees (newsletter only) are \$15 for ten issues.

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Newsletter submissions should be directed to the newsletter editor, Steve Hansen, via email: shansen@bc-alter.net or call 585-0638.

Paulin Laberge discussed the 2x4 challenge. Event will be held at the Elks hall - 54 - 6th Street in New Westminster. At this time there are only eight entries. We need more entries to make this event a success so I challenge all members to submit an entry.

Dennis Reid mentioned having a sawdust huddle in September to work on Christmas toys.

Jan Dicks held a raffle and raised \$56.00. Thanks Jan.

Phil Laliberte mentioned that the Langley Fine Arts School is holding a *Celebration of Arts* display on April 15th, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The school is located at 9096 Trattle St., Fort Langley. Artists and craftsman will be demonstrating or exhibiting their work (quilt-making, pottery, stained glass, soapstone, woodturning, woodcarving, etc). Contact Hillary Ruffini (888-8849 - home or 888-3113 - work) if you're interested in demonstrating.

Guild Executive

Elected Officers

<i>President</i>	Bob Bedier
<i>Vice-President</i>	Bill Ophoff
<i>Treasurer</i>	Lou Hafer
<i>Secretary</i>	Phil Laliberte
<i>Members-at-Large</i>	Paul Townsend Bill Fox Art Liestman Dan Lemire

Committees

<i>Newsletter - Publisher</i>	Paul Townsend
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<i>Reporters</i>	Marco Berera Fred Baldwin Murray MacKinnon Bob Vergette Denis Reid
<i>Webmaster</i>	Paul Townsend
<i>Meeting Entertainment and Workshops</i>	Tony Carter
<i>2x4 Challenge</i>	Paulin Laberge
<i>Richmond Carvers' Show</i>	Ted Fromson
<i>BC Woodworking Show - Delta Workshop</i>	Denis Reid Art Eberwein Ron McLeod
<i>PWG Booth</i>	Denis Reid
<i>Christmas Toy Workshop</i>	Jan Dicks
<i>Fundraising/Charity Raffle</i>	Bob Bedier Art Liestman
<i>Library</i>	

Show and Tell

Unfortunately there weren't any items.

Guest Speaker

Tony Carter introduced Robert Lang from Nanaimo, who talked to us about furniture design. Robert has been working with wood for over 40 years and his most recent venture has been to set up the School of Furniture Arts in Nanaimo. Here he teaches a 6-month furniture design and manufacturing course to prepare students for employment in the Furniture and Cabinet Industry.

To illustrate some of his teaching techniques Robert discussed the making of a chair.

He firstly emphasizes that the planning stages are the most important and can easily take up 30 or 40% of the project time.

The first step he teaches is understanding the Ergonomics of a chair (you should be able to sit in it for at least 3 hours). As an example he brought in a plywood chair that adjusts every

which way - and by using this chair the students can determine such things as chair height, angle of the chair back, height of the legs, arm rests, size of the seat, etc.

Now the students move on to the design stage asking such questions as "What function will this chair serve?". They start with a seat plan then work up, down and back - making any patterns or jigs that are required - then build a 'mock up' chair using scrap wood.

Robert had brought in an example of a 'mock up' Grecian style chair done by a student. Clamps and dowels hold the chair together and now the student can take a hard look at his chair and begin fine-tuning all areas of the chair - e.g. Is the back to high in relation to the legs? Etc. He mentioned that 85% of all sold furniture is of a classical design.

From the mock up chair the students now can build the final chair. To illustrate this Robert had brought in a great looking Queen Ann chair, which a student was now in the finishing stages on.

As Robert suggests, a project can become a labor of love. However, the students are been taught a craft. For estimates of costing an item Robert uses a simple rule for estimating time of completion. For every part - process such as drilling a hole or putting a screw - allow 2 minutes of time. Then estimate your materials. Once you have determined a cost - then estimate what can you sell the chair for? The margins have to be there to be successful.

If anyone is interested Robert has a 'Furniture Techniques Handbook' for \$35.00 or if you are interested in attending his school you can call him at 250-756-3591 or langrila@island.net.

Robert also mentioned that he is an avid wood turner and has 2000+ rounds of birds eye burls in various woods and in all sizes that have been drying for eleven years. If you're interested in some, give him a call.

What can you make with a single 2x4? The Elgin Woodworkers find out ...

[Reprinted with permission from Canadian Home Workshop April 2000 issue. Shop Talk Hand and Soul - Limited Resources, Limitless Ideas]

by Paul Jay

The men in the room who gathered in front of their projects drank coffee and joked with each other, but cast sideways glances at one man studying the projects on the tables. Bob Copeland--the judge--was silently eyeing each piece of woodworking, taking notes and recording his findings. The projects themselves seemed to belong to no single category: there was a model windmill, a toy train with passengers whose heads bobbed up and down as the train moved, and some thing which resembled a giant Timbit.

The annual contest of the Elgin Woodworkers Guild in St. Thomas, Ont., is a small but ingenious exercise in creativity and craftsmanship: contestants must construct a project using a single eight-foot 2 x 4 of cedar, glue and some kind of finish. No nails, no screws and no additional material. The judges look for creativity, original design, overall appearance, grain and panache. But limiting materials doesn't limit creativity--it forces the contestants to think through their projects with more preparation and precision.

"You've got your piece of wood and you have to ask yourself: what length should I cut it to?" says John Mannering, a charter member of the club. "Because if you cut too much or make a mistake, you could run out of wood and ruin your whole project. That's the challenge. You have to make-do with what you have." The easy way would be to build small, but it's a strategy few members employ: nearly all of the contestants had little wood to spare.

Despite the challenge, the Elgin woodworkers didn't spend a lot of time on the projects: Mannering began his replica of Noah's Ark--complete with twin sets of carved animals on board--just a few days before the competition. It's not a dog-eat-dog battle, but a shared experience, one where competition leads to a high level of craftsmanship, not animosity.

"That's the idea of the club--it's a social club," says former president Dave Sherret. "If a member needs to use someone else's shop to complete their project, then they can do that." Sherret's strange project (a 2'-diameter Timbit) shows that creativity and a good sense of humour can make up for competitive drive. What did he do with his 2 x 4? He turned everything but the last nub of it into sawdust. Then he inflated a balloon and glued the sawdust to its surface. And when it was mostly covered and dried, he removed the balloon from its shell. He wasn't expecting to win--but score him points for panache.

Wayne Dieleman, a tinsmith apprentice, figured he had a better chance--he had won twice in the three previous years. His miniature dresser was one of several projects commissioned by his wife for her dolls. Last year his winning project was a dollhouse, complete with doors that opened and a removable front wall.

The dresser--intended for tiny doll garments--was equally well crafted. Using his 10" table-saw and 14" bandsaw for most of the cutting, Dieleman crafted his dresser to scale, and added a number of tiny details, including grooves in the dresser drawers where he might have put drawer runners (had he been able to use metal) and a pointed finial atop the dresser fashioned with a drillpress.

Dieleman won the contest, with second and third place going to Mannering's ark and first-year member Max Van Pelt's windmill (Van Pelt also won the Woodworker's Choice Award voted on by the members). All three winners won the approval of Copeland, the shop teacher

brought in to objectively assess the projects. "What you are able to do with so little is impressive. There is a lot of creativity here," he told them. The members will tell you that not every entry in this contest is a work of art. But for sheer simplicity the contest itself is a beautiful idea.

Dear "All Past 2x4 Entrants"

We would appreciate as many previous entries as possible for display at the meeting on April 18th. We are providing display cards to showcase them. If you are planning to display any previous entries (which we hope you do) please supply the following:

- name of entry
- wood type
- finish used
- any special features
- awards won
- year of entry

Don't forget to bring the entry! Thank you.



I know that I've got everyone beat with this Fourth dimension square.