



## When Last We Met

By Steve Hansen

February's meet had everything (except Marco)! To begin, Bill Ophoff did an enlightening talk and demonstration about hand-planes. Personally, I was awed by how effective Bill used these tools to quickly remove wood and leave a fine surface of various profiles, depending on the tool at hand.

What's more, none of the tools he used had been tuned or sharpened since he acquired them through various garage sales/flea markets. Imagine what could be done with them if they were really sharp! Bill explained that many planes were originally intended to make moldings and were normally used "with the grain". These were called plough planes. To accommodate cross-grain cuts, a nicker is used to score the wood just ahead of the plain blade thereby preventing tear-out. These tools, I believe, are called dado planes. Both molding planes and bench planes can be found in both plough and dado versions. Originally all plane bodies were made out of wood - Bill had several of these. He also had some cast metal planes. One of these he was quite fond of because of the feel and weight of it. It seemed to perform better because of those qualities. It felt right.

Molding planes are found in a gazillion different profiles and widths and sometimes will combine two blades in one plane. Bill showed a couple of the simple molders and then pulled out, among others, a Stanley-55. This tool combines all of the features of various planes by: incorporating mechanical adjustment for depth of cut and two fences so that you can follow the cut along the perimeter and also maintain axial stability; a nicker - you know what that is now!; multi-blade selection - I think Bill had 40-50 cutters for this particular specimen - so that a myriad of profiles can be made using different

combinations and depth selections. Our gratitude to Bill for sharing his knowledge of these very useful tools.

We had one visitor in February: Joan Maki. Hope to see her back!

### Election Night:

Bob Vergette headed the nomination committee and presided over the election. After heated debate and campaigning (not!), the following changes were made to the executive: Art Liestman stepped down as Meeting Entertainment Guy and remained a Member at Large. Stepping up to the plate as the new Meeting Entertainment Guy is: Tony Carter. After many years as our treasurer, Dan Lemire is taking a deserved break. A sometimes thankless and onerous task of chasing after membership and rental fees. Dan deserves a hearty: Job well done for keeping the club solvent for all these years! Thank you Dan! Lou Hafer has assumed this role and thank you for stepping up to the plate. Bill Ophoff has transferred from Secretary to the role of Vice-President. I know from experience that this is THE job to have (having served in that capacity at the Fraser Valley Woodturners). Bill, all you gotta do is nod approvingly to everything the president says! All kidding aside, thanks Bill for your time as Secretary and remember to smile when Bob speaks. Speaking of Secretary, Phil Laliberte is the guy now. Phil's been a Member at Large for a while and now he gets to take notes. Thanks again go to these people and all of the others that are remaining as Executive and/or Committee members.

### Anecdotes from the meeting:

- Paul "respected elder" Townsend is our most senior member.
- President Bob mentioned the value of the suggestion box, for those folks that were shy

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](mailto:shansen@bc-alter.net) or call 585-0638.**

#### **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<br>Bill Fox<br>Art Liestman<br>Dan Lemire |

#### **Committees**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <i>Newsletter - Publisher</i>               | Paul Townsend  |
| <i>Editor</i>                               | Steve Hansen   |
| <i>Labels</i>                               | Murray Mackinnon   |
| <i>Mailout</i>                              | Fred Otte  |
| <i>Reporters</i>                            | Marco Berera<br>Fred Baldwin<br>Murray MacKinnon<br>Bob Vergette<br>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<br>Art Eberwein<br>Ron McLeod                                       |
| <i>PWG Booth</i>                            | Denis Reid   |
| <i>Christmas Toy Workshop</i>               | Jan Dicks  |
| <i>Fundraising/Charity Raffle</i>           | Bob Bedier<br>Art Liestman   |
| <i>Library</i>                              |  |

to approach an executive member. To date, only one suggestion has ever been filed and that is: To **label** the suggestion box! It's still not done!

- Murray MacKinnon to distribute the membership list electronically - thanks Murray.
- Oh, another thing for you computer nerds, check out: <http://www.Artshoppes.com>

#### **2x4 Challenge:**

Don't forget that April, just a month away, is the annual 2x4 Challenge. If you are like me, you are still planning your project and will start actual construction, oh... say, about 2 days before the big day. I started months ago by sifting through 200 2x4s at Sunbury - do think I could find one straight and unblemished timber? I eventually came to my senses knowing that it's okay for wood to have faults and I chose the first one I looked at. Now if I can only figure out how to glue the damn thing together. Also, we need a venue to host the presentation of the Challenge. If you have any revelations, please contact Paulin Laberge at: 929-5296. Thank you.

#### **Kanshindo - Wooden Weapons and Accessories:**

I am certain that Bruce Campbell and Amie Hillaby had everyone's attention when they began their presentation on making Martial Arts weapons. Bruce and Amie began their presentation with a martial arts demonstration. Bruce and Amie began a business partnership and started manufacturing these wooden weapons after finding that the ones available commercially were not satisfactory. Today they have built a business that distributes these finely made and well-balanced martial arts weapons all over the world - well done. Bruce explained the important factors in choosing wood species for weapons. They are similar to those qualities sought for wooden tools, including handles and mallets. Qualities such as: side-wall strength; bendability; density; impact strength; grain; warpage; "life"; sustainability and cost are considered. Bruce made available some freeware

software that inventories and documents hundreds of wood species in terms of these and other qualities. This software is available at:

<http://sharewarejunkies.com/8w3/woodpro.htm>

Amie and Bruce typically use the following species in their venture: purpleheart, verawood, lignum vitae, hickory, Japanese white oak and kashi (Japan). Maple, American oaks and most beautiful exotics are avoided. Design incorporates balance (first and foremost), size, curve, handle shape and hilt (the grip). Manufacturing incorporates working from templates and rough saw and jointer/planer work.

Then a lot of hand tool work to carefully shape and balance the weapon. Block plane, spoke shave, scraper and rasp and occasionally belt/disk sanders. Finally, hand sanding to finish. A good weapon "gives something back (to the user)". Indeed, there was one weapon, a bokto, I think, which had a marvelous feel to it, partly because of its grip and partly it's weight and balance - I found it hard to let go of it. Most weapons do not receive a finish. If they do, they will receive dry finishes: sanding sealer and cyanoacrylate. Oily or slippery finishes (shellac & verathane) are not used. A fascinating demonstration and excellent talk - thank you Amie and Bruce.

### **Show and Tell:**

Art Eberwein brought in some note caddies he'd made. I'm sorry, but I did not get a close look at these so I can't speak about them - my apologies to Art. Bob Vergette showed off an excellent bowl made from honey locust and finished with tung oil. Bob Bedier's fish, carved out of cedar, utilized some deep relief carving and blended westcoast Indian and a modern motif to render a unique style. A grandiose piece of art. Guy Lautard showed off some dovetail work which he'd done.

## **Upcoming Events Info**

by Tony Carter.

Our feature speaker for March is Robert Lang. Robert has touched every aspect of woodworking, including: making, designing, educating, restoring, finishing as well as operating a number of businesses and trade schools.

Self employed for 50 years, he has been involved in custom work as well as production and commercial enterprises. Robert will talk about furniture design. He feels that B.C. has a lot to offer and should be doing a lot more in this field. He also thinks that we amateurs are one of B.C.'s important assets and innovation starts with us and we should find a way to share our ideas to advance our skills. Sounds as though it will be an interesting and thought-provoking session.

The Pre-meeting demo is by Guy Lautard on sharpening chisels.

## **January Meeting Summary**

by Denis Reid.

*[This article contains a summary of the January meeting that was not available in time for the publication in the February newsletter.]*

The January 17th meeting of the Pacific Woodworkers Guild started with a woodturning demonstration by Marco Berera. Marco seems to specialize in miniature turnings of which his Christmas decorations and turned pens were fine examples. These demonstrations and discussions kept us entertained until the business meeting started.

Our growing library of video tapes were on display. These cover a wide range of topics of interest to our members and are being well used.

Our President, Bob Bedier, welcomed four guests: Orson, Nick (from England), Shaw and Laurie. An updated membership list is planned

to be completed for the February meeting which is also the Annual Elections Meeting. Bob Vergette was 'appointed' as Chairman of the Nominating Committee.

A warm welcome was extended to Tony Carter who has returned home after a year's sojourn in England and other countries. The usual welcoming comments were accompanied by: "Are you going to continue in your position on the Executive?" or "Have you paid your dues yet?".

Paulin Laberge reminded us that the '2x4' Challenge is rapidly approaching. He explained the categories in further detail and outlined the new category for this year: "No Glue!" which leaves a '2x4' and finishing materials. This should challenge our 'joinery' experts! The proposed contest presentation date is our April 17th meeting. Due to an anticipated increased number of people wishing to attend this event, a change in venue is being considered.

Doug Morrison is offering two carving classes which will extend over a 6 week period. One class is planned for Maple Ridge and the other for Steveson. Registration is open to all ages. As Doug will be supplying the necessary tools, this would be a good way to experience the art of carving before you purchase your own tools. For more details, contact Doug at 224-4957.

Art Liestman distributed some samples of a wax finishing product for turners. He updated his report on the SFU Library show. He received a request to have the Show extended for a further two weeks. Art also made another plea for the members to make and bring gifts for our guest speakers.

Don Fralic supplied some Home Show tickets and rolls of sandpaper belting for a Guild raffle. This brought in \$70.00 for our Guild projects! Thanks, Don.

Bob Bedier continued his slide show program. This session focussed on the use of wood grain to visually enhance a piece of furniture.

After coffee break, Murray Mackinnon introduced us to the many aspects of working with stained glass. He showed how glass and wood can work together and the similarity of skills that are needed in both mediums. The long history of the use of glass, the different qualities of glass and the kinds of glass are a fascinating topic. Murray presented slides showing the use of stained glass over the centuries plus some slides of his own work. The display piece that he brought with him is a beautiful example of his art!

## Items for Sale

The following items are available from the estate of a friend of Guy Lautard. They are located in West Vancouver. Contact Guy at 922-4909.

- Large INCA tablesaw (takes 12" blades) with some accessories
- 2-HP Dust Collector
- floor mounted dust collector pickup snout
- 1/3HP Sears Craftsman drill press
- 6" bench grinder/belt sander, with buffing attachment
- Sherline 4000 lathe
- Cabinetmakers' workbench 20.5 x 5' long
- Bosch Circular Saw
- Sears Craftsman electric drill, with oddball chuck on it.
- Hitachi TR-12 Plunge Router
- 6 Shopsmith panel clamps, 2 each at 24, 36, and 48"
- 8 Large forged steel C-clamps
- 2 "Pony" spring clamps
- 3 Heavy duty outfeed rollers
- 1 pair of worklights on hollow pipe stand
- 2 jointed arm worklights
- Sears Deep Freeze - near new, good sized one