

Next Meeting:

- **2x4 Challenge** —
Tuesday April 15th at
7:30pm. This meet-
ing will be held at the
Sapperton Pen-
sioner's Hall, 318
Keary St., New West-
minster.

When Last We Met

By Steve Hansen

Our new President, **Phil Laliberte**, opened the meeting and greeted four visitors. **Steve Fairbairn** introduced our guest speaker, **Doug Collins**. Doug is an avid fly fisherman and enjoys making split bamboo fly-fishing rods. There has been a resurgence in the making of these classic fishing rods, according to Doug. I think Doug alluded to one of the main reasons for the growing interest in bamboo rods – the ability for a craftsman to use hand tools to finely tune these instruments to the exacting response of an angler. There are many styles to these rods and many have been carefully documented so that hobbyists can copy them. The rods that Doug builds are made from Tonkin cane, a variety of bamboo grown exclusively along the Sui River, near Hong Kong. Doug's rods are of six-sided stave construction. He makes the staves from relatively short sections of bamboo, cut from between the cane's nodes, and splices these together using a scarf joint to make longer pieces. He demonstrated his custom router jig which shapes the staves to 60 degrees. Doug carefully shaves the staves to an exact taper, measured in thousandths of an inch, at set points along its length. To do this he employs a special jig that accommodates the entire length of the stave and allows depth adjustment every couple of inches. The jig is essentially two parallel and precision steel bars that are connected with dozens of adjustment screws that open or close the two bars. A 60-degree chamfer on the inside of each bar allows the stave to seat, slightly recessed. Using the screws to open and close the bars, and therefore determine the depth, the stave can be positioned exactly. Then a block plane is used to shave away all the exposed material. Voila! One **very** thin and fragile piece of bamboo remains. I still go cross-eyed thinking about how thin and precisely Doug worked. After shaping, the 6 staves are fastened together using polyure-

thane glue. A special clamping mechanism is used to wrap the assembly with thread. In order to prevent twisting of the stave during clamping, the clamp wraps two threads clockwise and two threads counter-clockwise. Most rods are "broken" into 2, sometimes 3, sections, although some are made into a single length. Spar varnish is used to finish. A most amazing demonstra-

Onto business items, We talked about producing tickets for the WoodShow raffle. **Bill Fox** called for donations for this raffle. In the past we have had all sorts of things donated. Anything is welcome – thank you! **Bill Ophoff** made a special thanks to **Jan Dicks** and **Lor Pellet** for their great work on the meeting raffle – hats off Lor and Jan. **Kelly McClay** solicited ongoing input into how we can make the display for the WoodShow better. A reminder from **Bill Ophoff** for people that happily grazed on his free wood last month to please make at least one toy for the Christmas Toy Workshop.

2x4 Challenge – Paulin asked that people bringing entries(or past entries) to be at the Sapperton Pensioners Hall at 6PM for setup. Phil asked that people please bring their past entries.

For **Show And Tell** we had **Leagh Farrell's** 1929 delivery truck, a.k.a. a bank. Exquisitely made.

As a reminder, Phil's **Presidents Challenge** for the May meeting is "something for the garden".



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Please direct newsletter submissions to the newsletter editor, Steve Hansen, via email: urquell@shaw.ca or call 604-986-5471.

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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Guild Directory

Elected Officers

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<i>Treasurer</i>	Lou Hafer
<i>Secretary</i>	Paulin Laberge
<i>Members-at-Large</i>	Paul Townsend Bill Fox Art Liestman Bob Bedier

Committees

<i>Newsletter -</i>	
<i>Publisher</i>	Steve Fairbairn
<i>Editor</i>	Steve Hansen
<i>Labels</i>	Lou Hafer
<i>Mailout</i>	Fred Otte
<i>Reporters</i>	Denis Reid Gordon Bednard Merv Graham Steve Hansen Derek Yee
<i>Webmaster</i>	Steve Fairbairn
<i>Entertainment/Workshops</i>	Bill Ophoff Derek Yee
<i>2x4 Challenge Assistants</i>	Paulin Laberge Phil Laliberte Mike Leahy John Weir
<i>Woodworking Shows</i>	Kelly McClay Tony Carter Ed Brennen Bill Fox Matt Buss
<i>Christmas Toy Workshop Assistant</i>	Denis Reid
<i>Fundraising/Raffle Assistant</i>	Dave Adshead Steve Wegwitz Bill Fox
<i>Library</i>	Bob Bedier

Bulletin Board

A few manufacturer recalls:

- **Skil Warrior Chargers** – Tool models include: 2375, 2380, 2475, 2480, 2482, 2580, 2582, 2882; Charger models include: 92950, 92970, 92980, 92990. Call 1 800 661 5398.
- **Makita Circular Saw**; Model 5740NB – Dangerous. Contact retailer/supplier.
- **Makita B05000/1 Discs** – breaking apart!

Richmond Wood Carvers Show — May 24-25

The Richmond Wood Carvers Show is asking for volunteers to perform woodworking demonstrations. There is no charge(that equals free admission!). Please contact Sherri Maggs by April 15 at 531-8856.



Wood... The Marvelous Magical Product From The Forest

By Phil Laliberte

*"You cannot live
a single day
without benefiting
from wood."*

Woodworkers everywhere no doubt have one thing in common...their love of wood. Whether it is the beautiful grain of your favourite species or the smell of that other favourite species or the beautiful sound that a plane makes as it effortlessly shaves a paper-thin slice from a board as you prepare the edge for a glue-up. We all have different reasons to justify why we love wood and woodworking.

I don't mean to belittle the "tree-huggers" but I would like to bring forth some astounding facts about wood. I will also go as far as to say "You cannot live a single day without benefiting from wood." A tall claim, you say? Well, maybe so, but consider the following.

You wake up each morning and brush your teeth. Well toothpaste contains **terpenes**, which are derived from wood to make a licorice flavor as well as a sweetener for spearmint/peppermint toothpastes and mouthwashes. It is also the agent that makes the toothpaste effervesce. As you jump in the shower and start to wash your hair, remember that most shampoos contain the **crude fatty acids** that are derived from wood. Let's add here that the same fatty acids are also used in dishwashing liquids, the lemon scent is derived as a by-product of the turpentine process. As you comb your hair and reach for the can of hair spray, you should keep in mind that a derivative of **tree resins** is used in hair spray and other adhesives. It is the **sticky liquid substance** that hardens when exposed to air. Okay, let's leave the washroom (did I mention **toilet paper**)? Oops, let's put some hand lotion on our hands before we leave the washroom...chances are that the lotion contains **vitamin A and E**, which come from wood extracts. On to breakfast and you reach into the cupboard for the instant hot chocolate, well the thickening and preserving agent **cellulose or methylcellulose**, the main building block of wood, is in that can. How's my claim so far? After breakfast you make lunch for yourself or for your school children. Being health conscious you pack a citrus drink. By now you know that I will say that the drink contains **esters** a derivative of trees that is used to ensure a uniform distribution of the citrus flavor throughout the drink. You pack the drink and sandwiches into a sandwich

bag and again the cellophane bag contains a **sugar component** of wood collected during the pulping process. The same sugars are used to make cling wrap and sticky tape of all types. I didn't mention the napkins or paper towels that you include in the bag. OK, so you don't use cellophane sandwich bags, well there's always the brown paper bag.

The score is: My claim 9, other guys zero! Ok, we just have time to read the front page of the newspaper before we rush to work. (10 for me). I didn't mention the obvious uses of wood such as flooring, chairs, tables, cupboards and other furniture. What's the score now?

I think by now you will agree that wood is much more than a beautiful grain or that sweet sound of a sharp blade slicing a uniform strip from a board. In case there is any doubt, I present in no particular order the following:

Shipping crates and pallets that are used by farmers and manufacturers to ship their product to market are made from Tupelo, yellow poplar, maple and pine.

Papers of all kinds from facial tissues to newspaper to writing papers are made from wood pulp. Let's also include coffee filters, disposable diapers, postage stamps, milk cartons, paper plates, movie tickets, grocery bags, building insulation, playing cards, greeting cards and on and on.

Glues and adhesives can be made from the hard resins that originate in trees.

Chewing gum is made by using the **rosin** or **storax** of trees such as spruce. The artificial flavoring of peppermint comes from a Pine derivative.

Medicine (who doesn't need this in their lives?) Aspirin tablets and other medicines are held together by **lignin** which is a natural part of wood. I will also mention that the essential elements of aspirin come from the bark of willow trees. High blood pressure medicines are also derived from trees. Let's not forget that some cancer treating elements are derived from the yew tree.

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Wood... The Marvelous Magical Product From The Forest

(Continued from page 3)

Many **spices** used in cooking such as nutmeg, bay leaves and cinnamon come from trees. (Cinnamon is the bark of laurel trees).

Carnauba wax with a multitude of uses is one of the resins of the carnauba tree and is the main waxy substance of **crayons**. Carnauba is used for car wax, furniture polish and many other waxes (ever wax your skis before a downhill run?) The pharmaceutical industry uses it to coat pills. Carnauba is also a major ingredient of lipstick and other cosmetics.

Wood is truly a magical material and I am confident that my claim is correct. From the list of uses that I mentioned above you would have to be from some other planet not to have benefited from wood. I could list many more items that start their life from trees: toothpicks, baseball bats, canoe paddles, guitars, backyard play sets, ax handles, charcoal, rulers, play blocks, birdhouses, crutches, fences, corks, shoe polish, oil spill control agents, garden mulch, baby foods, imitation bacon, cereals, vegetarian foods, baked goods, beverages, paint, paint thinners, rayon clothing, sanding sealers, floor tiles, carpeting, handles for tools, football helmets and hardhats. (The wood flour and melamine resins us-

ing cellulose filler are used in many plastics and are also used to make sausage casings!) Still not convinced? How about the **lignosulfates** that are used in cleaning compounds, ceramics, pharmaceuticals, insecticides, deodorants, fungicides, grouting, stain removers, artificial vanilla flavoring. Have I made enough points for my claim **"You cannot live a single day without benefiting from wood."**

Now the story doesn't end when a product is made. Many of the products are routinely recovered and **RECYCLED**. Recycled paper is used in everything from newsprint to corrugated boxes. Egg cartons, cereal boxes and some tissues are made entirely of recycled fiber. Paper is the most recycled material of the recycling cycle, pun intended.

Wood is truly a magical material, not only for its many uses that I described above, which by themselves are tremendous, but also for that wonderful feeling that only a wood-worker understands and experiences as he shapes and massages that special piece of treasured wood into a work of art that he or she is truly proud of. Happy woodworking and don't forget to hug the tree-huggers for they know not what they do... Or do they?

Next Meeting: 2003 2x4 Challenge

The next meeting of the Pacific Woodworkers Guild will be held on Tuesday April 15th, starting at 7:30 pm. This meeting features the presentation and judging of the **2003 2x4 Challenge**.

The guild heartily encourages you to bring along your friends, neighbours and family to join in on the fun of this year's 2x4 Challenge. The venue is **Sapperton Pensioners Hall, 318 Keary Street, New Westminster** (see map at right). Keary runs between Royal Columbian Hospital and Labatts Brewery. The Hall is across the street from RCH and the brewery, just a few paces up Keary. Parking is available mostly along Columbia street and some on Keary. Be mindful of the residents only parking restrictions on Keary. Meters stop at 6 p.m. so that's good. Hope to see you all there with a handful of buddies.

Note: If you are bringing a project to display or enter, please be at the hall by 6:00 p.m.



Bamboo Rod Building Information

By Doug Collins

Building Bamboo rods requires a number of specialized tools, jigs and methods. While the tools used by enthusiastic amateurs and professionals can be expensive, there are simpler home build tools and jigs that have been used by many to build quite goods rods. The basic tools to start with are a knife and a 9-½ block plane. The basic jigs are a planning form, a basic binder and, for nodeless rods a scarfing jig. All of these can be made out of wood using a table saw and a drill press.

The main on-line web site is **Rod Makers** <http://www.canerod.com/rodmakers/>

This lists the masters and has many other links. Fabulous web site! One of the key items on this site is the online tool, HEXROD, for selecting and modifying rod tapers. Over a hundred classic rods and their associated tapers are listed on this site. Most any question you may have can be answered by searching the archives on this site.

There is a very well done online E-Zine call **Power Fibers** at <http://www.powerfibers.com> it publishes about every three months.

A really great web site from an enthusiastic German rod builder, **Frank Neuneman**, can be found at <http://www.fneunemann.com/> Indeed, it was Frank's web site out of Germany that lead me to the local rod builders.

A detail site with lots of tips and information can be found at <http://www.bamboorodmaking.com/>

A history of the old masters can be found at <http://www.flyangleronline.com/features/bamboo/archive.html>

Two good companies for buying top quality components are <http://www.reccomponents.com/index.html> and <http://www.goldenwitch.com/>

REC is a larger commercial outfit that specializes in top-notch components for all types of fishing and has very good handles, tubes, etc. **Golden Witch** is a little maw and paw outfit specializing in Bamboo rod building. Both are good and I have ordered online from both on many occasions and have been happy every time.

One of the best ways to get started is to buy and read a book. For the beginner I would suggest any of these three:

- 1) **The Lovely Reed** - An Enthusiasts Guide To Building Bamboo Fly Rods - Howell, Jack
- 2) **Fundamentals of Building a Bamboo Fly Rod** - George Maurer and Bernard Elser
- 3) **Handcrafting Bamboo Fly Rods** - Wayne Cattanach

One caution on the book front is that "the bible", **A Master's Guide to Building A Bamboo Fly Rod** - Everett Garrison with Hoagy B. Carmichael. His methods, while exact will require the lifetime of a wizard to master. Good for reference, but do not start here. I have all these books and recommend the top three.

Unclassifieds



Wood for Sale

Cherry wood, quarter-sawn, kiln dried, 4/4 thick, 12-20 inches wide and 10 to 12 feet long, surfaced one face - \$6.00/board foot. Walnut, kiln dried, 8/4 thick, 6 inch average width, 6-8 feet long. Located in Prince George, but a load could be brought to Lower Mainland for free. Call Shawn at 250-563-9395 or email at: shawnchylinski@shaw.ca

Designer's Corner – Stacking Side Tables

By George Radke

A number of years ago our family exchanged Christmas gifts, handmade by the individual giving the gift. This set of side tables was not only easy to make but also one that is always requested because it is very practical. They are made from $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 2" finished hardwood. The legs are $16\frac{1}{2}$ inches and the sides are $15\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The sides are rebated on the inside of the rail to lend support for the inset top. Once the top and sides are glued to the wedges the legs are glued and screwed in place. The support wedges have two countersunk wood screws and they go from the back into the legs. With Three legs there is no need for leveling. If you are looking for a simple project or a great gift idea, give this one a try. Please review the attached drawing.

