

## When Last We Met

By Gord Bednard

### Next Meeting:

- Tuesday Nov. 15th.



Katie Degraff

The pre-meeting demonstration was handled by one of our newer and most enthusiastic members – **Katie Degraff**. She led the members thence assembled through a demonstration of scroll sawing. She had also brought some examples of some work she had previously finished (obviously too complex for a demo) – more on this later. Not being the owner of a scroll saw (to the amazement of my wife, one of the few tools I don't have) I appreciated the information and techniques shown, even though it may be a while before I get a chance to practice.

After the demo and introduction of a new visitor, **Nino Catania**, a turner and box maker, (which brought many a smile to the turners and box makers in the crowd), the meeting moved onto the main event – the guest speaker! I guess technically he would also be considered a new visitor, but as he likely had to be bribed, cajoled or otherwise enticed to be at the meeting and provide the education/entertainment portion of the

night, and most other visitors are simply imbued (there's another good one for you) with either a sense of curiosity or a compulsive need to sit on hard chairs and drink Bill's coffee, I place the speakers in a different category. If he comes back of his own free will, then we can re-introduce him as a bona fide guest.

**Larry Stevenson** (the aforementioned speaker) then took the floor and warmed up the crowd to his topic for the evening – spray finishing your woodworking projects. In somewhat the order he used. I will try and cover the main points (and I apologize for not being able to quite keep up with the information exchange – I simply must go high speed instead of this dial up mode next meeting):

*Finishes* – Larry covered the gamut from water based urethane to lacquer and back again. Basically, any type of finish can be put through a gun and sprayed on with the

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Please direct newsletter submissions to the newsletter editor, Steve Hansen, via email: [urquell@shaw.ca](mailto: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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## Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Pacific Woodworkers Guild will be held on Tuesday, October 20th starting at 7:00pm. Pre-meeting demo at 6:30.

## Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for submissions for the October newsletter is November 4th. Please send your submission to the editor: Steve Hansen at [urquell@shaw.ca](mailto:urquell@shaw.ca) or contact by phone for snail mail address.

## When Last We Met (con't)

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right applicator and some proper preparation work. Some of the better (harder and longer lasting) finishes come from the luthier supply companies. I guess anything that can last hundreds of years on a violin, can handle any situation.

**Guns** – there are three (OK-four) main types of spray guns, and likely many variations of each, the differences based on the way they pickup, distribute and mix the finish. These include siphon feed, gravity feed, pressure feed and HVLP (high volume, low pressure). Siphon feed use the suction power of the finish blasting over a small feed tube to suck

the finish from a cup hanging under the gun. Gravity feed has the cup on top of the gun, and the finish is fed into the gun by the force of gravity (OK – you must have seen that one coming!). Pressure feed uses a large tank, external to the gun and the finish is pressurized before it reaches the gun (these are mainly used for large, bulk feed applications such as house painting and have little appli-

cation to woodworking unless you have a very large project). Finally HVLP –the newest entry in to the field- uses large air volumes at low pressure to gently push the finish onto the surface. Overall, HVLP is the preferred technology because while the cost of the unit is higher than the other systems, more of the finish stays on the surface (rather than bouncing off as in the high pressure systems) which both conserves the finish and is easier on the environment and your lungs.

**Safety** – And speaking of health and safety (wow, smooth writing transition, eh?) spray finishing always requires the use of a good



Larry Stevenson

quality respirator with organic compound filters. (and no, you can't get organic filters at Capers). The respirator must be fitted well – which can be done at the point of purchase if you are buying from a competent retailer. For those of us with beards, a full face unit, with external filters should be considered as the half face units will not seal as

the finish from a cup hanging under the gun. Gravity feed has the cup on top of the gun, and the finish is fed into the gun by the force of gravity (OK – you must have seen that one coming!). Pressure feed uses a large tank, external to the gun and the finish is pressurized before it reaches the gun (these are mainly used for large, bulk feed applications such as house painting and have little appli-

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well over a beard. Note- your bearded scribe has used a half face unit but only when the beard is well trimmed and the job is of short duration –not recommended though. You will know when to change the filters when you can smell the finish with the respirator on. Wear eye protection as well – can't be too careful. By the way, just because the finish is water based doesn't mean that you don't need a respirator. The chemicals are the same, just dissolved in a different fluid.

*Air* – all these units require an air supply. You can get away with small units for touch-up guns, but large volumes are required if you go HVLP. Buy a compressor by the wattage rating as the advertised horsepower ratings are crap (Larry's words, not mine although I quite agree). A twenty gallon tank would be the best compromise between high expense and needed air volume. The air must be clean and dry – use oil/particle filters and a water trap, and use a clean hose to the gun – don't use the same hose for your tire inflator as it may become oil contaminated which will really drive you nuts as you try to lay down a nice even water based finish. Remember your high school chemistry – oil and water don't mix!! However, a nice gin and tonic goes down good after an evening of spray finishing.

*Finally* – Larry recommended a couple good books for reading before you start using different finishes, whether you are spraying or brushing. Bob Flexner and Michael Dresdner (I hope I spelled that right) both have excellent reference books out.

A rousing round of applause and many thanks for Larry followed his presentation. As did a break for coffee and nibbly bits.

Show and Tell featured:

- **Marco** – a turned “face” in the style of the rings of animal turnings from Europe, the face being that of Abe Lincoln. He also had a wedding goblet with captured turned rings.
- **Katie** – the pre meeting demo concluded in a post meeting showing of cat and eagle scroll sawn works. Lots of fine detail and patience went into these items.
- **Klaus** – working on a Harry Potter theme had crafted a wand with a mounted stone. He did not, however, turn anyone into a newt, to the disappointment of all. He also had effectively used stone inlays, set in bar top finish in a ring around the top of a turned vase.
- **Ted** – had turned a green apple wood bowl (the wood was green, not the apples) and it had warped during drying to a pleasing, interesting shape.

The business meeting concluded with a last signing – up on the Woodworking show volunteer sheet (seemed like lots of names – well done!) and an invitation by **Ivan**, (He Who Leads) to join him on Bowen Island on the weekend of November 18-20 for a wood slicing party – call him for details.

The meeting ended with high expectations for the tools which would be lusted after, and perhaps purchased, at the impending wood show. See you there.

## Unclassifieds

**Wanted:** Wood lathe - must be at least 12X36 and reasonable in price - reply to Gordon Bednard either at meeting or 604-980-9862

## Calendar Of Events

- \* **November 15, 2005**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild Meeting
- \* **December 20, 2005**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild Meeting
- \* **January 17, 2006**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild Meeting
- \* **February 21, 2006**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild Meeting
- \* **March 21, 2006**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild Meeting
- \* **April 18, 2006**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild Meeting
- \* **May 16, 2006**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild Meeting