

President's Message

By Ivan Antoniw

Next Meeting:

- Tuesday Mar 21st.



This month I'm still going to go on about design, this time however I will be focusing on making due with what you've got, and this does not mean compromising. Limitations serve to focus a design and often provide the underlying theme to a design, on the flip side, MDF is MDF.

As you may know I was out on Bowen the first weekend of March squaring up some branches from a 160 plus year old Douglas Fir, the object being to get the maximum amount of usable material from these branches. I managed to get thirty or so pieces squared up, measuring from about two to four feet long and three to four inches square in cross-section. These branches were harvested three years ago and after cutting off the bark, I was surprised to find

that they still have a moisture content of about 25%.

When the tree was originally taken down, I asked the loggers to leave the branches aside for me to cut up for fire wood. On a whim I took a section home to mill up and after seeing how tight the rings were I decided to store the branches and mill them up after they had dried for a bit. The pieces are perfect for table legs and with a slight taper they'll exhibit wonderful cathedral grain. I'd have to say that in this case the wood itself is inspiring the design. I have no idea what the final tables will look like--all I have are sketches--and if in the process of milling the wood, it itself suggests a shape to me, I will listen to what it has to say, after all, it has

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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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Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Pacific Woodworkers Guild will be held on Tuesday, March 21st starting at 7:00pm. Pre-meeting demo at 6:30.

Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for submissions for the April newsletter is April 6th. Please send your submission to the editor: Steve Hansen at urquell@shaw.ca or contact by phone for snail mail address.

Calendar Of Events

- * **March 21, 2006**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild Meeting
- * **April 18, 2006**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild Meeting
- * **May 16, 2006**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild Meeting
- * **June 20, 2006**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild Meeting
- * **September 19, 2006**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild Meeting
- * **October 17, 2006**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild Meeting
- * **November 21, 2006**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild Meeting

President's Message (con't)

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been around longer than I have and may have some wisdom to impart to me.

This process of design and construction is quite plastic and it may just bug the heck out of some of you however it certainly has the ability to excite my creative tendencies. It really becomes an exercise in making it up as you go along, but then I don't have to meet anyone else's specifications on this but my own. Regardless of what the design turns out to be, precise execution of joinery

and accommodation of wood movement are essential, as they are in any other wood working project.

About the only problem I see with this method is how long it takes. So far the wood has been cut for three years (goes for the spalted maple logs as well) and the moisture content is still too high for me to work it. In many cases it is easier to go to the lumber store and buy what you need, and it may well be cheaper. So far my two milling weekends have cost me in excess of \$1,000, and I've busted two \$35 saw blades. On the other hand I've got six spalted maple logs slabbed and stickered, one twenty foot long fir log milled in a similar fashion and the 30 aforementioned fir branches racked up and drying. I think I can make due with that.



Woodworking On The Net

By Stephen Bailey

This month as always, safety first...

Safety: We use common sense, wear protective equipment, but accidents can happen. A first aid kit is an essential tool in every shop, what's in yours? <http://www.inthewoodshop.org/safety/wwd03.shtml>

Tools: I hope not all these fine tools end up in the hands of collectors...

Karl Holtey is a plane maker extraordinaire. Beautiful to look at and use but you'll need all 6 numbers and the extra to afford one. <http://www.holtey-planes.com/index.htm>

Bridge City Toolworks makes some uniquely

designed tools: http://www.bridgcitytools.com/ok_default.html

Furniture makers: A couple of fine artisans...

All about Sam Maloof: <http://americanart.si.edu/collections/exhibits/maloof/woodworking/woodworking5.html>

The Shaker style of Christian Becksvoort: <http://www.chbecksvoort.com/welcome.html>

The Furniture Society lists hundreds of members websites: A great way to generate some design ideas...

<http://www.furnituresociety.org/frames/fabout/home.shtml>