

DIMENSIONS

Newsletter of the Pacific Woodworkers Guild

At a Glance:

- Next meeting is Tuesday December 17th.

When Last We Met

by Merv Graham

Meeting was called to order by **Bill Ophoff** at the new time of 7:15. Bill welcomed two visitors, **Hugh MacGillivray** and **Jesse Ross** - welcome! Our feature presenter, **John Paterson** of Lee Valley Tools was promptly introduced and began a talk on tool sharpening.

John pointed to various systems of sharpening and the various types of stones and abrasive paper systems. He discussed the steps in making a tool sharp: shaping or establishing the blade angle; then honing or sharpening. John went on to describe how to achieve a flat surface on a sharpening stone: sprinkle a small amount of lapping carborundum dust (100 grit) onto a piece of plate glass and lubricate with the corresponding liquid. Grind the stone into the lapping compound until the grinding noise becomes quiet and the suction between the stone and glass increases - the stone should be flat at this point. You can use a coarser stone(with lubricant) to dress a finer stone. John demonstrated some of the jigs sold by Lee Valley to establish blade/chisel angle and the micro bevel. John mentioned that for grinding and shaping the wheel should rotate into the tool and for polishing and buffing it should rotate away from the tool. He then went on to demonstrate the many jigs and fixtures available at Lee Valley for use with the grinders (chisels, plane, gouges and turning tools). He then discussed the use of wax born buffing compounds and felt wheels to create the final razor edge. John demonstrated some devices for sharpening scrapers, house hold knives, and scissors. John showed off a high priced platter system and the many gadgets for achieving that perfect edge. At this point he concluded his presentation and fielded questions from the audience. Bill thanked John for his presentation and presented him with the coveted PWG yo-yo and called for intermission.

The meeting continued with the monthly raffle. Bill then pointed out that our 2X4 Challenge was published in Wood magazine - a short arti-

cle with a picture. Also mentioned were the Vancouver Island Woodworkers Guild.

Bill commented on the great turnout of our members to tend the booth, hand out ballots and sell raffle tickets. Bill personally counted the ballots for the Woodworking Competition and found it very tedious as there was over 15,000 ballots. This alone was a great indication of the popularity of the show. Some discussion followed on lack of booth space for the club's display. Bill stated that we have it in writing that we will get a separate booth adjacent to the show for next year. Bill solicited suggestions and requested that they be put in writing and forwarded to him, or phone. He then went on to discuss the toy work shop and that if anyone wanted to run it, they will have the support of Delta for the tools but they must get the materials etc? etc?. etc? and organize. If it is going to happen, then now is the time to get started. A report was given on the work bench raffle and \$1063.00 was realized and this is all clear money as the material came out of the first work bench raffled. Winners Work Bench: **Harry Taylor**; Cradle: **Phil Laliberte**. Bill pointed out that a new project was needed for next year's raffle and the executive is looking for suggestions as to a project and someone to spearhead it.

Visiting **Jesse Ross** gave a description of the new workspace available for artisans and hobbyists alike. It's called "The Joint", a woodworking studio at 445 W 2nd Ave. at Cambie (Vancouver), tel. 604-877-2255. They offer drop-in shop access.

Merv Graham grabbed bragging right for the month with his entry for the presidents choice award and only because his was the only entry. Come on guy lets participate. Next months presidents choice is "WHAT I MADE FOR CHRISTMAS".

Dennis Reid called for help with the Christmas toy workshop sawdust huddle, Saturday the 23rd at 10:00 till 2:00 in **Bill Fox's** shop. **Guy Lau-**

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Upcoming President's Challenges:

- > **December** - "Look what I made for Christmas"
- > **January** - Bookends
- > **February** - Intarsia, inlay or mosaic work.
- > **March** - "Mistake" month - bring out the problems so others may avoid them.



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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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Members-at-Large

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Dan Lemire
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Paul Townsend
Bill Fox
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BC Woodworking Show -

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PWG Booth
Assistant

Christmas Toy Workshop

Fundraising/Raffle Assistant

Library

Bill Ophoff
Bill Fox
Harry Taylor
Denis Reid
Jan Dicks
Klaas Focker
Bob Bedier

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tard gave information on a duplicating wood carver and offer further info is available by emailing him at guylautard@telus.net. He suggested a couple of projects to raise funds: a garden box or toy box in the shape of a diesel locomotive.

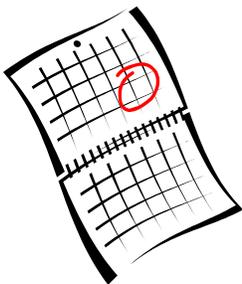
No further business—meeting was adjourned at 9:45

Wood Show Competition Winners

	<u>Novice</u>	<u>Open</u>
1st	Gordon Stewart	Ed Bonderud Sr.
2nd	Ray Baumbach	Debbie Boersma & Cliff Liscombe
3rd	John Brugger	Cheryl Anson
4th	Michael Taylor	Jeff Trigg
5th	Barry Frizzell	Marco Berera

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Pacific Woodworkers Guild will be held on Tuesday December 17th, starting at 7:15 pm. Pre-meeting demo at 6:30 pm. The meeting will feature a speaker on the subject of the history of furniture design



James Krenov—Selected Articles (Part Five of Five)

James Krenov, doyen of the American school of woodworking, officially retired from teaching this year. He leaves an incredible legacy and to honour him we reproduce selected items from his book "A Cabinetmaker's Notebook".

Our machines are treacherous. And I don't just mean they bite; they do. But the real treachery is more elusive. On the one hand they help the cabinetmaker greatly; on the other, they corrupt him. Somewhere between these two ways there is a sensible and sensitive balance which our craftsman must try to find before it is too late.

My machines are not many and not large, but they are adequate in relation to the work we do together. I rely on them and pamper them: they in turn cut clean arid straight. By now we know exactly where we stand, they and I.

A visitor the other day expressed surprise over these machines—they collided with his impression of the romantic craftsman. He was from England, and I think he brought a bit of a William Morris attitude with him. Here now was this man about whom he had heard, and no doubt the fellow did everything by hand and had a very picturesque and primitive workshop. As he came in and saw my modest but fine equipment he exclaimed, "Oh, so you do have machines!" And I said "Why, of course. How else?" And indeed, what would be the purpose of ripping up the rough stock by hand, doing a vast amount of preparatory work with much effort and little accuracy, and then charging someone for a day or two or three of extra labor. That would be ridiculous, not only from the point of view of cost, but also because of the nature of the work involved. The task of getting the wood to the stage where you can begin to foresee a result and the so-called creative work with fine hand tools is exhausting. If you use up all your energy needlessly doing the hard labor by hand, then usually you won't have the strength and the clarity of purpose to do that fine part later on—when it really counts.

This was not evident to me when I started. Or maybe, simply not having the means to buy them, I minimized the importance of certain machines. Anyway, I did buy a good little bandsaw. For a while I was alone with this saw, a few odd planes, and the first pieces of wood I had gathered. I had to hand-plane everything right from each rough plank. I'd take a running start and then throw myself along that plank on the work

bench, trying to get one side and one edge squared up so I could start bandsawing the rest. Oh yes, I did learn something doing it. But I almost killed myself in the bargain. With a jointer I would have been spared half the torture.

On the other hand, in schools where you begin learning at a time when most of us are very vulnerable, there is an over abundance of

woodworking machinery. All these temptations! You watch your friends using them. You have an idea about the shape and nature of a certain detail, maybe you even sense that there should be a way for your hands to interpret it. A sound instinct makes you doubt any other way. But there is no clear sight of the tool you need, only the vague notion that it should be there. While here are all these machines which everyone is using, even for such small details. So you leave your impulse and go along with reason, And that shape, those curves, edges—what might have been your expression becomes the product not so much of enthusiasm and adventure as of efficiency. Somewhere at the outset we need to have our unreasonable dream warmly justified, our enthusiasm kept alive by strong fingers guiding a sharp tool. Yet if you reject the machine, still another danger arises. Working by hand only will not necessarily express what you want to say and it can knock you out by the sheer weight of the work. What good is the sensitivity of your fingertips if you have started wrong? If the joints you intended to be clean and crisp are a disappointment?

If "Made by hand" doesn't quite say what you wanted to say? What compensation is a carved shape or a neat detail for an earlier failure? Each of us alone must determine the balance. Say to the machine, "You and I have come this far together, . . . Thank you, machine—and goodbye. I am going to do the rest without you. Because I have those beautiful tools. Because with them in my hands I know better what I want to say, and how to say it my way—not yours,"

At some fateful point it all hangs by a thread. Or perhaps on the way a shaving comes off a fine tool.



"... I was aware that my dust extractor doesn't catch all the dust, but I was satisfied with my initial project. Eventually, I got to thinking about the airborne stuff but didn't feel I could justify the commercial extractors."

Dust Extractors

[re-printed from the Greater Vancouver Woodturners newsletter]

By Dave Broomhead

Before talking about my latest venture into this area, I want to pass on a small experience with my original dust extractor. I tried to economise on the filters - they were 2 years old! How cheap can you get! I shook them out regularly, but eventually they lost their airflow capacity and also the finest filter (The unit had three filters, coarse, medium and fine) developed pin-holes through fatigue. I wondered why my shop seemed to get very dusty all of a sudden. Lessons are to put a tell-tale in the inflow orifice to signal a reduced airflow and not to cheap out on the filters. Also, change them once or twice a year depending on your use. I am a light turner.

On to the next phase extractor, I was aware that my dust extractor doesn't catch all the dust, but I was satisfied with my initial project. Eventually, I got to thinking about the airborne stuff but didn't feel I could justify the commercial extractors. In addition, I wasn't too impressed with some of the filter specifications. After some time and several improvements to my floor system I happened to read in Woodturning magazine this summer about a guy who got very sick from airborne dust, although he wore a mask while actually turning, but not afterwards. Mind you he turned some pretty aggressive materials (spalted woods, cedar and MDF). And also in the magazine about a homemade extractor using a car radiator fan. You have probably read them too. So this prompted me to have a go with my own design, although I always wear my mask even

when not actually turning.

The 12v. radiator fan didn't seem to have much guts, although apparently it worked, and a furnace system seemed overkill (but I know **Bob Gonzales** has one like that), so I decided that a good old-fashioned box fan would do the trick (\$40 from Home hardware, but next to impossible to buy at this time of year (I got the last one!). I took off one grill and replaced it with a Filtrete 1000 filter and hung it in my shop, taking care to make the airflow direction compatible with my other extractor. I debated about putting a finer filter in but thought air flow may be too restrictive. I figured if this didn't pick up dust I would go to the finer one. Well, I was amazed! Since October 1 it has gone brown with only something like 4 hours a week of turning on average. I let it run on a timer for a couple of hours after I finish. The photographs are self explanatory. Clearly, one conclusion is that my floor extractor is NFG, except that I know it picks up a large amount of dust. Even if it was, say, 95% efficient that would still leave a significant volume of superfine dust. I may try putting a 1250 grade filter on the other side of the fan, but I'm not sure it is worth it as don't spend any other time in my shop other than when turning.

This brings to mind a problem I see with the "big bag" extractors that are available. Namely, they are not that fine and discharge the worst dust back into the shop, although they of course do remove large quantities. It is quite scary what is in the air that you can't see and, as has been noted in previous articles, this is what the lungs can't remove! I presumptuously recommend you read the AAW article on these and how to get around the problem. I can't find the reference in time, but will do so for the next newsletter.

Unclassifieds

- > Fore Sale: Set of 6 oak chairs. These (antique) chairs are not much good as chairs themselves but the backs (i/c the back legs) are nicely carved and are in good shape: the rest of the chair was poorly designed. They would be a good start for anyone planning on building a set of chairs. \$100 obo.
Ed Pretty: (604) 888-5981
- > Wanted — Holly (clear) - slab or round (1.5" diameter or more) - dry preferred. Even small quantities welcome. Murray MacKinnon (604) 986-5746.
- > Free to good home: Assorted Lee Valley catalogues. Includes almost all main catalogues and flyers from early eighties. Also includes most issues of "Woodcuts" magazine. Get 'em before I toss 'em.
Ed Pretty: (604) 888-5981.
- > Craftsman 12", 2-wheel Bandsaw with stand \$250; Dewalt 700 series 8" bench-top Radial Arm saw \$250; view in Bill Fox's shop at the next meeting..
Tony Carter (604) 983-9542.

