

1. New members

We added 3 new members to our Guild at the last meeting. As of today, we have 31 members.

2. Brant Festival

Bill Beese spoke to our General Meeting in March and told us about the wood carving and wood turning competitions. Information about this event - to be held this coming weekend in Parksville, are on the website at <http://www.thebrant.ca/>, or contact Bill Beese at bill.beese@gmail.com.

3. Presentations

If any of you have suggestions for presenters at any of our upcoming General Meetings, please communicate that information to our Vice-President - Programs - Harlan Richards. He can be reached at contact.harlan@gmail.com.

4. Steve Neil presentation

Since Joe Egan, of Egan Custom Guitars was unable to do his presentation at our last meeting, Steve Neil stepped in and did a masterful job of showing how he had designed, engineered and built all the jigs and structures to create his beautiful glass-topped coffee table. Here is his final product and a look at one of the complex joinery issues that he designed:



5. New interest - The Bulletin article

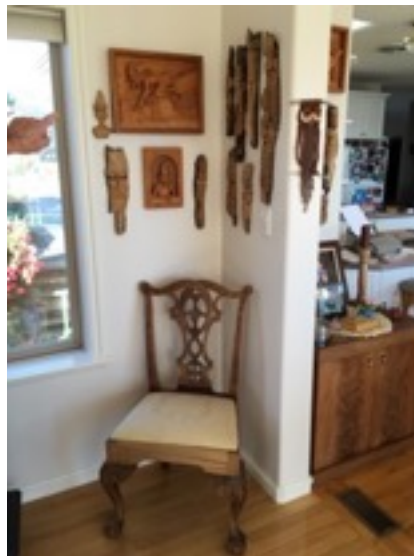
After contacting Rachel Stern at The Bulletin, she visited me at my home one day to interview me about the Guild and to see my shop. Her subsequent article in The Bulletin was fairly representative of our conversation, however, I had hoped to focus in more on the concepts that we are trying to achieve with Mid-Island Woodworkers' Guild. I guess, in retrospect, that I may have chatted too much about myself. To be fair, however, her questions did lead the discussion to a large extent. And, if you saw it, you may have noticed the caption error on the picture. I did not make that error. I really DO know the differences between a lathe and a hand-plane! The

good news is that the article received a pretty good response, and I am expecting to see quite a few new members at our next General Meeting next Wednesday, April 13 at 7:00. (See the website www.miwg.ca for full details about location and times.)

6. Willi Wandl

Also as a result of The Bulletin article, I received a number of emails and phone calls. (The first phone call was to let me know that I wasn't holding a "lathe"; I was holding a "hand plane"...I know, I know!) One of the emails was from a lady who wanted me to meet her father - a long time woodworker from Austria, and she felt that I should visit to see some of his work. So...I did!

Willi and his wife warmly and graciously showed me through their house which is filled with the products of years of his woodworking. I was flabbergasted at the extent of his productivity and artistry! I am grateful to the Wandl family for making me acquainted with him and his work! Here are some photos of his work:





7. VIWG Wood sale

Steve Neil and I, both as members of the Vancouver Island Woodworkers' Guild, attended the wood sale on Wallace Road in Saanich this past Sunday. The site is the location for the wood recovery storage facility. The wood is actually milled on another site not far from this location. The VIWG members are currently in the process of building a 20' x 20' sheltering roof structure for the stored wood. As time moves on, MIWG will lean on the VIWG members and the Wood Recovery Program for valuable insights about their programs. Details will be provided at the General Meeting.

And while I am on the subject of wood recovery, Ken Kaktins has been working hard to locate a site for storage and milling of our wood recovery program. He has visited a site in Parksville, and Al Boudreau's farm in Saltair. Also...Steve Neil and I have visited Al and chatted with him about the potential use of his property. Both sites look very promising, and Ken will be able to provide further details and clarification at our General Meeting on Wednesday April 13.

8. Shop Tours

Dave Workman is currently working on a list of shop tours to be held soon. Please watch our website for updated information on this, or attend our General Meeting on April 13.

9. Show and Tell - turnings, jigs, etc.

We would like any and all of our members to be willing to show us their productions, or pictures of their productions at our General Meetings. If you are a bit nervous about presenting, don't worry...we have plenty of folks who would be willing to carry the onus of acting as your presenter - with you available to answer questions or provide clarity.

7. Rosewood Sale

Brian McLaurin, Steve Neil and I all visited Troy Grant at his home in Ladysmith where he is selling Rosewood boards. There is a large inventory of Rosewood, and if you are interested, please see his information at our website at www.miwg.ca.

8. The Website - www.miwg.ca

...And speaking of website, I hope that you are all checking it on a regular basis. The basic information is available to everyone, however some items are available to "members only", and you will need to login to see the balance of the information. For example, I decided to sell a utility trailer that I have, but wanted to ensure (at least at this time) that it is available to members only. I followed the instructions that Steve provided for entering a Blog note - including the information on how to "hide" some info and make it only available to members.

Steve, Rob Oldale and I are working on revisions to the website on a regular basis. Rob will be adding a PayPal option to our membership fees. Steve is going to add a "Follow-Me" option to the blog so that you are notified by email of all new blog entries, and I am going to add a "Forum" to open a place for discussions.

10. Next meeting

Did I mention our next meeting?? (Only 2 or 3 times!) IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

Our next meeting is:

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, AT MEETING ROOM A, 355 WAKESIAH AVENUE, NANAIMO

SEE YOU THERE!!!

AND GET YOUR NEW MEMBERSHIP CARDS from ROB OLDALE