

Mid-Island Woodworkers' Guild
Newsletter
February 28, 2016

Greetings!

We are rapidly moving ahead on several fronts with MIWG!

First of all, Steve Neil (Treasurer) along with Arie de Lange (graphics designer) have put together a very nice-looking website at www.miwg.ca. Please check it out! Unfortunately much of the information behind the pages is only available to our members - of which we now have 27. I would encourage those of you who are thinking of joining officially to pay your initiation fee and first year of membership dues (\$25 + \$50 = \$75) in order to have access to the full information that is available to our members. Rob Oldale (Vice-President - Members) is the contact for registering. You can find his contact information on the membership page of www.miwg.ca.

We have received quite a bit of information about available wood supplies over the past few weeks. The most recent was available holly - *Ilex aquifolium* on Milton Street. A walnut tree is also available for harvest and was offered to one of our members who is willing to share in the "windfall". (That would be a cheap method of getting it down!) And, some weeks ago a good supply of western maple (*Acer macrophyllum*) on a private woodlot was brought forward to our notice. Ken Kaktins has been collecting pallet wood from his work as an electrician. He brought over a large amount of unidentified wood. Since he brought it to me, I have researched its identity, and discovered that quite a bit of it was 2x2 white oak (*Quercus alba*.) More of it turned out to be quite a dense pine species (*Pinus rigidus*, or perhaps a SE Asia pine - *Pinus insularis*.) I hope to soon see available wood listed on our website - both in a MIWG storage area, and also from oversupply held by members. For information on wood recognition and qualities, check out some of the links on our website at www.miwg.ca/links/. Also please contact Ken Kaktins - Wood Recovery Program Chair if you have suggestions, information, or just need further details. (All Executive members contact emails are listed and can be found on our website at www.miwg.ca/contact/.)

As an editorial comment - MIWG needs to formalize the processes of wood collection and storage. We will need cutting expertise (falling and milling) as well as lifting, transportation and storage. A place has been offered on Doumont Road - near the Black Bear Pub for possible storage, but details and terms for this have yet to be negotiated. Once a storage location is secured, then the other processes of cutting and milling, transportation and volunteer labour can be worked out. This should be a priority for MIWG since it is one of our major reasons for existing as an organization. After generating some income for us, like Vancouver Island Woodworkers' Guild, we can use incomes for providing wood to our high schools to supplement their budgets. Please contact Ken with your ideas!

I have been working on getting discounts for our members from several local merchants and suppliers. I have received a very positive response from Felder Machinery for some of its smaller pieces of equipment - such as its "Whiteside" router bits. Slegg, Windsor and Midland Tools have all reacted positively and are open to negotiating discounts. I will try to close some of

these deals in the coming days - in between my runs to Victoria - Camosun College - for my evening and weekend woodworking courses!

If you have equipment for sale, or are interested in purchasing tools, please check out our website at <http://miwg.ca/category/forsale/>. So far, nothing has been listed, but I will soon be adding some items to that listing as I upgrade some of my smaller equipment - with my wife's permissions of course! Let us know what equipment you are willing to sell or trade! I am thinking that perhaps we would all be willing to sell our used equipment to members for less than what we would ask on one of the public websites - at perhaps the same discounts that I am hoping to negotiate from local merchants! Just a thought!

I have a bigger dream! I am really enthusiastic about being inclusive in our membership growth. I would love to see increasing numbers of all folks - male and female - but our future will lie in young people! As I think about issues that might prevent anyone interested in joining our organization, the most obvious constraints are:

1. money necessary for purchasing woodworking tools and supplies, and...
2. available work space;

These two issues would be the most likely drawbacks for young aspiring woodworkers. I envision MIWG raising enough funds and having a high enough profile to acquire a large working space, and cabinet equipment (expensive) for that space. This MIWG Woodworking Site would then be available to all members for a monthly user fee, and would then be a financially friendly way for young people to be involved - perhaps with the personal acquisition of a supply of private hand tools. I am seeing a combined "guild" for the social aspects of expertise and support, and a "co-operative" for access to woodworking equipment beyond the budgets of most beginning woodworkers. As an example of a Co-operative model that I checked out, please check out the "Miller Goodwood Co-operative" link on our website at www.miwg.ca/links/. Members pay a monthly fee of \$75, have 24 hour access to the equipment and a 2'x2'x22' (high) storage locker, and a 2 year wait list to get into the Co-op! Let's have a discussion!

I recently needed to get my jointer blades sharpened. Luckily, Stu's Saw Shop is just around the corner from my house at 216 Villa Road. I think he charged me \$15 for the 3 blades. I have been very happy with his sharpening services, and would recommend him if you are needing your tools honed. And, while you are at it...drop by for a visit to my shop. (Best to text me or call me on my cell phone first to see if I am available.)

Well, I hope to see most of you at our next regular Mid-Island Woodworkers' Meeting on Wednesday March 9, 2016 at 7:00 pm in Meeting Room A at Nanaimo District Secondary School. Directions are on the website at <http://miwg.ca/meetings/>. We are needing to fill 3 Executive positions so please consider nominating someone, or volunteering. If you have any other items that you would like presented or discussed, please let us know. Our Executive meets next on Wednesday, March 2.

Best wishes and smooth shavings!

Tony

Tony Dobson, President - Mid-Island Woodworkers' Guild