



Atlantic Woodworkers'  
Association

## ATLANTIC WOODWORKERS' ASSOCIATION

# AWA Newsletter

March/April 2010 18 Princeton Ave., Halifax, NS B3R 1Z9 Volume 28 No.4

### THE FEBRUARY/MARCH MEETING

First and foremost I must apologize for the absence of a newsletter in March. As most of you know I had some visibility problems that prevented me from performing my duties as Communications Director. I am happy to report that most of my vision has returned.

The February meeting saw David Wilkins doing some fancy woodturning and providing us with some great turning tips. Thanks David.

Vice President Don Shubaly arranged a great trip for members to see a master craftsman at work making custom doors and windows (see photos on pages 4 & 5)

March brought us the AWA Annual General Meeting and there was lots of action. Financial statements were approved as were changes to our by-laws that brought the wording into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The new wording eliminated a bunch of redundant terminology and thanks for these changes go to our resident expert, Mike Chisolm.

All members of your Board of Directors were acclaimed for another year of service with the AWA. We welcome the return to the board of long-time member Stan Salsman.

### THE APRIL MEETING

We are thrilled to report that well over 150 Wood Duck Nesting Boxes have been built either in full or as kits by our members and that most of these kits have been built by Scout groups and others. Most of the completed boxes have been distributed throughout the province from Yarmouth to Cape Breton. The Adopt-a-Nest Box plan has taken off with great participation by the conservation-minded members of the Nova Scotia Federation of Hunters and Anglers and youth groups alike. Take a look at the NSFAH web site at [www.nsfah.ca](http://www.nsfah.ca).

The NSFAH Vice President Woody Woods will be a guest again and will outline the latest news about this excellent project.

**Our April Meeting will take place at Busy Bee Tools and Machinery at 86 Troop Ave. in Burnside promptly at 7:00 PM.** Our host is Bill Luther and Bill will demonstrate the latest in Craftex (the Busy Bee product brand name) dust collection systems and equipment. Special prices will be afforded to AWA members at this meeting. Also, as this is not our usual meeting location you are asked to bring your own seating for your comfort.

As Gene Nurse reminded us several meetings ago, almost all airborne sawdust in your shop can be carcinogenic. Certainly not something to take lightly!

## 2009/10 AWA Board of Directors

Tom Patterson	Chairman	466-7110	<a href="mailto:thepatternsons@ns.sympatico.ca">thepatternsons@ns.sympatico.ca</a>
Don Shubaly	Vice Chairman	445-4625	<a href="mailto:shubes@ns.sympatico.ca">shubes@ns.sympatico.ca</a>
Cecil Canam	Past Chairman	462-7137	<a href="mailto:bugle@hfx.eastlink.ca">bugle@hfx.eastlink.ca</a>
Mike Chisholm	Secretary	826-7568	<a href="mailto:CHISHOMG@gov.ns.ca">CHISHOMG@gov.ns.ca</a>
Ken Miller	Treasurer	445-3055	<a href="mailto:kenmiller@ns.sympatico.ca">kenmiller@ns.sympatico.ca</a>
Graham McCulloch	Communications	479-0221	<a href="mailto:graham@atlanticwoodworkers.ca">graham@atlanticwoodworkers.ca</a>
Gene Nurse	Events Coordinator	434-7989	<a href="mailto:enurse@ns.sympatico.ca">enurse@ns.sympatico.ca</a>
Cecil Canam	Events Coordinator	462-7137	<a href="mailto:bugle@hfx.eastlink.ca">bugle@hfx.eastlink.ca</a>
Ted Monk	Librarian	435-3686	<a href="mailto:tedmonk@gmail.com">tedmonk@gmail.com</a>
Dick Jamer	Registrar	576-2421	<a href="mailto:rjamer@eastlink.ca">rjamer@eastlink.ca</a>
Doug MacIntosh	Director	429-1623	<a href="mailto:macintosh.doug@ns.sympatico.ca">macintosh.doug@ns.sympatico.ca</a>
Phil Carter	Director	477-4467	<a href="mailto:plcarter@eastlink.ca">plcarter@eastlink.ca</a>
Dave Smith	Director	462-3863	<a href="mailto:dcsmith@ns.sympatico.ca">dcsmith@ns.sympatico.ca</a>
Lew Hatt	Director	462-0187	<a href="mailto:lew@ns.sympatico.ca">lew@ns.sympatico.ca</a>
Stan Salsman	Director		<a href="mailto:stan.salsman@ns.sympatico.ca">stan.salsman@ns.sympatico.ca</a>

### A WORD FROM OUR CHAIRMAN



From the Chair

The Annual Meeting held last month was power packed with information and decisions to be made. Reports were received and approved by the membership on the activities of the AWA for the previous year. These included a report from the Board on the collective activities of the members of the Board, a report on the bunk bed project, a report on the finances, and a proposal to modify and update the Memorandum of Association and By-Laws. All incumbent Board members were acclaimed in their positions for another year and one additional member, Stan Salsman, was added to the Board as a member-at-large.

Reports were also received on the current projects including the nesting boxes for wood ducks and the potential project with the Habitat for Humanity to create a portable storage system for the tools and materials that could be used at the work site and at their home base.

The most important area identified by the Board to be worked on in the coming year is the web site. It is rapidly becoming out of date and is not living up to its potential. Any member of the Association who is familiar with web site development and maintenance is encouraged to join the committee to help have the site improved.

The April meeting of AWA will be held at Busy Bee in Burnside. Bill Luther will give us a presentation on the latest products in dust collection and air cleaning in the workshop. Members are encouraged to bring their own stools or chairs.

I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting.

### FROM THE DESK OF OUR LIBRARIAN



Wow! What a couple of months for additions to the club library!

One of our newer members, Bill Richardson, has donated an excellent selection of books:

Turning Green Wood - Michael O' Donnell  
Small Woodworking Projects - Fine Woodworking  
Garden Projects - Fine Gardening  
Woodcarving Techniques And Projects - Sunset Books  
Chip Carving Patterns And Designs - Ivan H. Crowell  
Complete Guide To Easy Woodworking Projects - Black & Decker  
The Mini Power Tool Handbook - Zachary Taylor and Colin Bullock

He also gave us about 50 issues of ScrollSaw and Creative Woodworks and Crafts magazines. No doubt that with their included patterns these will be very popular with the scroll sawyers in the club.

Graham also donated a few more books. These included:

Practical Improvements For Older Homeowners by Rick Peters  
Designer Birdhouses by Richard T. Banks  
Building Green by Clarke Snell and Tim Callahan

Along with the set of Sorby woodturning tools that was recently won by Gary Dumas past member Mike Breen donated the following:

The Pine Furniture Of Early New England by Russell Hawes Kettell  
Making Folk Instruments In Wood by Dennis Waring

And finally, a club purchase added Understanding Wood Finishing by Bob Flexner.

Because we'll be 'on the road' for the next couple of meetings I won't have this full selection with me but if there's something in particular that you want please let me know. I will be accepting returns on items that are presently out.

See you at Busy Bee!  
Ted Monk

# Gene's BURLS



## One of Those Days

You know it's going to be "one of those days" when you get up to find small pools of water on the floor that is suspiciously yellow, with an unmistakable odor and furthermore a dog that's hiding somewhere. The toast burns and the coffee drips on the floor—you now have yellow water and brown water mixing on the floor. Finally able to get the dog from under the chesterfield by promising not to punish and offering treats. I put him out on the deck to finish his commune with nature and find I've locked myself out of the house. Now I have to get "she who knows all" out of bed hours before she's ready. This is shaping up to be a banner day. Perhaps at this point I should decide wood work is a bad idea and stay out of the shop but in my now unstable thinking pattern I blindly sally forth into the shop. All seems to go well initially. I am building a sewing table for my daughter in law out of oak. I have finished all except the drawers on each side. Simple job I tell myself—"what could go wrong?" Well actually just about everything. First the wood that I thought was oak was really ash. I reason that she won't know the difference once it's stained. First hurdle passed. Now I cut the pieces being careful to measure six times before putting saw to wood. Then I realize I've drawn the plans incorrectly. I've cut the wood precisely correct to the wrong plan. My precious stack of ash is raided again this time I cut it correctly to the revised plans except for one side where I've used the old incorrect plan. A lopsided drawer just won't look right so back to the ash and yet another cut. Now correct I begin the glue up. Everything fits and I begin to rejoice. Stop for lunch and a nap (don't be critical I'll bet you all stop for naps). Back to the workshop to find the clamps have somehow slipped and I have a perfect parallelogram instead of a rectangle. I look around my workshop because I know there must be demons lurking in the dark corners otherwise there is simply no explanation for this occurrence. Finding no malevolent forces I rebuild the drawer boxes and the four drawers with only moderate expletive deleted utterances. I finish finally because I'm stubborn secure in the knowledge that a lesser mortal would have retreated to Captain Morgan long before I did

## 2010 AWA MEEING SCHEDULE (TENTATIVE)

#	DATE	VENUE	EVENT	HOST
1				
2	February 6	Wooden Windows	Tour	Owner - Troy
3	February 9	Home Depot	Turning Demo	David Wilkins
4	March 9	Home Depot	Annual General Mtg	AWA Chairman
5	April 13	Busy Bee Tools	Dust Collection	Bill Luther
6	May 11	1099 Marginal Rd. Studio 25	John MacNab Dem	John MacNab
7	June 8	Home Depot	DVD-Past Glories	Ted Monk
8	Summer	Field Trip	Blacksmith (TBA)	



## **John MacNab will be hosting our May meeting at Studio 25. The following is his CV.**

John Macnab:

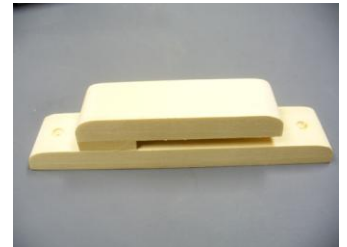
Born in Toronto, Ontario, John MacNab has lived in Halifax, Nova Scotia since 1970. John attended Nova Scotia College of Geographic Sciences in Lawrencetown, Nova Scotia in 1981 to study cartography. Designed and built furniture and did furniture and interior woodwork restoration for several years beginning in 1983. Set up a workshop at Pier 21 on the Halifax waterfront in 1986 and continues to present day to create extraordinary wood sculptures. In December of 2004, featured on the cover of *Woodwork: A Magazine for All Woodworkers*, which is a west coast popular American publication.

John has exhibited his sculpture in numerous exhibitions in Canada and the United States. He has received grants from the Canada Council for the Arts, Nova Scotia Arts Council and is the 2009 recipient of the \$25,000 Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia Masterworks Award. The winning piece, called CSDC 3-8 (Compound Spiral Double Cone No. 3, 8 Sided) is a 25-foot long spiral sculpture turned from red spruce. Suspended horizontally, it presents a floating form of lyrical grace and simplicity that belies the complexity of its production and its remarkable cross-disciplinary origins. John Macnab combined his wood-turning background and engineering skills to invent a 20-foot vertical lathe capable of turning large-scale sculptures to complicated formulae. With this unique tool, Macnab has been able to re-think the craft tradition and, drawing on his fascination with mathematics, science and the spiral growth of natural forms (from seashells to galaxies), to produce a powerful and elegant work that bridges the gap between industrial precision and creative expression.



## THE *AWA* PHOTO GALLERY

The following are photos from our December meeting and were photographed by Ted Monk. These were taken at both the February and March meetings and on the road trip.







## ***THE FINAL CUT***

**By Graham McCulloch**

I was fortunate to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters in Bridgewater at the end of March. I am a member of the Federation and I was delighted to see how quickly the Wood Duck Nest Boxes were gobbled up. The Federation is comprised of 30 or so organizations such as the Bow Hunters, guides, and regional hunting and fishing associations throughout the province. Members of the NSFAH were quick to sign up for the Adopt-a-Nest Box and took kits with them or made arrangements to have them shipped. I believe we now have a majority of the province covered.

The NSFAH took me by surprise by presenting the AWA through me, the Gilbert Knickle Award for "Individuals or groups who are non-members of the Federation who make a significant contribution to the work of the Federation". It was an honour to accept this on behalf of the AWA.

At our April meeting the Vice President, Woody Woods will repeat this presentation to our Chairman and members.

That's it for now, see you at Tuesday's meeting, 7:00 PM sharp!

