



Atlantic Woodworkers'
Association

ATLANTIC WOODWORKERS' ASSOCIATION

AWA Newsletter

June 2010 18 Princeton Ave., Halifax, NS B3R 1Z9 Volume 28 No.5

THE JUNE MEETING

We go back to our usual meeting place this month and for those that may have forgotten just where that is (we've been away for a while) it is in the training room at The Halifax Home Depot. The entrance is behind the garden center and the meeting starts promptly at 7:00 PM. Oh, the date! We will see you all on Tuesday June 8th. Our own Ted Monk will be featured and as well, it will be a Show & Tell so bring your recent work or works.

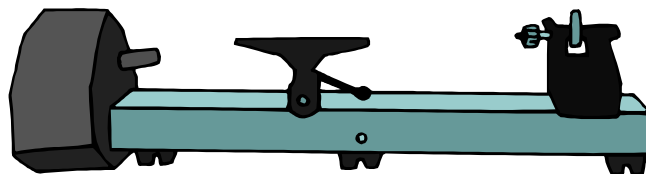
This will be our last meeting until September but I understand that there may be a road trip in the works. We will certainly keep you posted as things develop. This will also be the last Newsletter until the September issue.

THE MAY MEETING

What a meeting that was! John MacNab is an amazing talent. His spirals were mesmerizing and his ingenuity is beyond belief. A vertical lathe! And elevator chair to use it and on top of that, the elevator rises and /or climbs in synchronization with the lathe turning.

We had a great turnout at John's Studio 25 on Marginal Road. And I guess it's fair to say we were mostly awestruck. We also had a 'guest' dropping in and out of the site that became a royal pain in the a.. .Too bad that John had to put up with that sort of neighbor!

Thanks John for a really interesting and educational meeting.



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A WORD FROM OUR CHAIRMAN



From The Chair

This article is my first attempt ever to write a book review. At the May AWA meeting, I purchased a signed copy of "601 Woodshop Tips & Tricks" by Graham McCulloch.

From having read AWA Newsletter articles, "Shortcuts" columns, and previous books written by Graham, I knew that I was in for an interesting and enjoyable read. I expected a collection of useful jigs and a few interesting tips and tricks, but my expectations were far exceeded. This book will be a reference manual in my workshop.

I already knew some of the tricks demonstrated in this book. However, one trick on how to deal with nicks in my jointer and planner blades without having to replace them will save me at least triple the cost of the book. This, in my opinion, makes this book a very good investment. There are many other tips and tricks that will also save me time and money.

The section on tool use and maintenance was akin to taking a refresher course on how to use, maintain and adjust tools. Creating a safe work environment and safe working practices are also highlighted.

The book is well laid out with very clear illustrations. It is written in such a way as to keep the reader focused on the topic at hand. The combination of the written words and the illustrations leaves the reader fully informed on the topic at hand. The injection of wit and humour adds to the enjoyment of the book without distracting from the seriousness of the information conveyed.

Where this is the first book review, I do not have a formal rating system. If I did have a rating system, this book would certainly be given top marks. I highly recommend it for all woodworkers.

Cheers, Tom

FROM THE DESK OF OUR LIBRARIAN



By the time that you read this I'll probably be home but right now as I write it I'm sitting on the deck of a log cabin just outside of Revelstoke, situated between the Monashee and Selkirk Mountain ranges. The view from here can only be described as awesome.

My wife and I, along with our son whom we are visiting, just got back from a short hike through giant Western Cedar trees in one of the few only inland rainforests in the world. We figure that each tree could easily yield enough wood for 16 houses and a half dozen hope chests!

So what does all this talk of mountains and big trees have to do with our library? Well nothing really other than an attempt to sidetrack you from realizing that, although there are a few new additions this month I don't have the list with me so I'm unable to tell you what they are. :)

What I can tell you is that I'll have them for the upcoming meeting along with what I hope will be a great video trip down memory lane.

See you then... that is if I can pull myself away from this view... big mountains and big trees, life is bliss. :)

Please don't forget to bring back any borrowed items so that other members can share.

Ted



Gene's BURLS



Sin Flowers

I title this episode “sin flowers” because it is known by many names to you all. It’s the flowers you buy your spouse or significant other when you have erred. Since in my home this is frequent there is a constant supply of flowers at hand. One of our neighbors came to call and spied the aforementioned flowers where my wife usually prominently displays them for just such an opportunity. He immediately said, “Hey—sin flowers—what did you do this time?” Amazing, isn’t it that even the neighbors know when I have transgressed—bad enough that my son was ready to slug me without benefit of evidence but the neighbor knows when I’m in trouble. Before I can respond my otherwise dainty wife said, “Because he’s an A-Hole.” No more need be said. How did I get here you may ask.??? Actually I’m not sure. I simply suggested in the meekest possible way that the AWA meeting was more important than the Quilt Guild. Suddenly I was in the middle of a maelstrom of lightning bolts, complete with fire and brimstone. That night I made supper, washed the dishes and vacuumed the living room but nothing would get rid of the coolness that had settled like a mantle over our home. The next morning I went to the florist and asked, “How many roses will it take to get me back in the missus’ good graces?” She said “depends on how big an A-Hole you were”. After I had explained she thought a dozen would do it. So here I am chastened and forgiven looking at my sin flowers sitting proudly in my living room waiting for all the neighbors to get the message.

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)	

THE *AWA* PHOTO GALLERY

The following are photos from our May meeting and were photographed by Graham McCulloch at John MacNab's Studio 25.



THE FINAL CUT

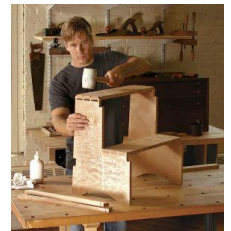
The photos on page four were taken by yours truly but there are more that have been shot by Ted Monk. Ted has a great web site called the Woodworkers Guide and may be seen at <http://www.woodworkersguide.com/2010/05/15/the-awa-visits-john-macnabs-studio/#more-2785> . But, that's not all. You should read Ted's story on our visit the Studio 25. Great reading!



My face is as red as a beet! I am almost embarrassed by the great review of my latest book '601 Woodshop Tips & Tricks. Tom, I think your first try at reviewing books is superb but you no doubt know this is a very prejudicial opinion. Many thanks for that.

Nahm Is Replaced

The mis-spelling is my attempt at a Boston accent! Norm Abrams and the New Yankee Workshop on PBS is being replaced by a new show as yet un-titled. The new host is Tommy McDonald and Woodcraft has agreed to sponsor at least the first year of the show. I would like to know who gets to keep all the tools and that beautiful Workshop.



Duck Boxes



Woody Woods tells me that most of the Wood Duck Nesting Boxes have been placed or are called for. The nest boxes have been located in most counties throughout the province. I have the remaining 400+ feet of lumber stacked in my back yard and will be working to get the wood cut into kits. Anyone wanting to help me with this would of course be welcome. Call me at 479-0221 and we can make a day of it (or an afternoon). The photo is Nest Box No. 1, placed close to the brook behind our house.

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

