

# Atlantic Woodworker's Association AWA Newsletter

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7129 Morningside Dr., Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3L 2E5

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Our meetings are held at the Salvation Army Church hall, 171 Pleasant St. Dartmouth. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm. Come early to look through the library. Next meeting is 14<sup>th</sup> May.

## ini Challenge for May

To construct a Bird House, Feeder or Bat House, using lumber of your choice, construction can be turned or built. If this is the first time you have constructed a bird house, you may wish to confirm the 'entrance hole' measurements. How are you able to help us out with this information? This may also be a project that you share/mentor the building with a child, grandchild, or neighbourhood newbie to woodworking, young or old.

## Topic and Presenter on May 14th:

- Walking Sticks - Walk Softly by Peter Loucks
- Whistles made from deer antlers
- Walking sticks, canes, sheppard hooks from wood and deer antlers

## Additional Request:

If you have favorite woodworking related web sites that you have come upon in your searches. Please forward the URL - web sites and I will compile a list for all members of these sites and also have Don post on our Web Site. These web sites can be forwarded to [fineshavings.woodworking@gmail.com](mailto:fineshavings.woodworking@gmail.com)

Sheila Eddy

## ARRIVED A bladesmith on the cutting edge *Glenn + Mark Mark 70/13*

ANN HUI

It all started with Arnold Schwarzenegger. For Murray Carter, growing up in the 1970s in Halifax in what he describes as a "troubled childhood," Schwarzenegger's story of personal triumph held appeal. "He was larger than life," Carter said. "Nothing was gonna stop him."

*Conan the Barbarian* is Carter's favourite Schwarzenegger film - especially the opening scene, which showed Conan's father, a bladesmith, forging and chiselling a flaming sword. "The secret of the steel has always carried with it a mystery," the father says to the young Conan. "You must learn its riddle."

The movie was just one of many that Carter, now 43, describes as the "chance encounters" that led to him becoming a master Japanese bladesmith, with his knives selling for up to



Carter has made more than 17,000 knives. Every one is hand-forged, and can take from minutes to weeks to complete. AARON GALLEGOS

\$4,000 a piece and prized by chefs all over the world. In a recent issue of *Lucky Peach* magazine, Matthew Rudofker, chef de cuisine at New York's Momofuku Ssam Bar, included Carter's in his list of the best knives in America. "His knives can just flat-out cut

better than almost anyone else's," Rudofker wrote. The other "chance encounters" Carter lists on his path include his first karate class, which introduced him to Japanese culture and prompted him to save for a trip to Japan after high school.

Then there was the blade shop in Kumamoto he stumbled into, where he introduced himself to the shop's owner in broken Japanese. A year later, he flew back to apprentice with him and spent the next 18 years honing the craft.

Now based in a suburb of Portland, Ore., Carter has made more than 17,000 knives. Typical of Japanese blades, his are thinner and lighter than most European or North American ones, which means they slice through foods with less effort - cutting, rather than tearing ingredients apart.

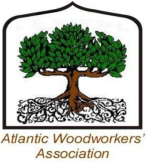
Every one of his knives is hand-forged, which, depending on the type of blade, can take from minutes to weeks to complete. Each knife begins as a steel bar, which he heats in a pine charcoal fire - he knows when it's ready by the colour. Most factory-made knives are drop-forged (flattened by dropping a giant, heavy hammer in one quick motion), but he

uses a small power hammer and a hand-held hammer to slowly flatten the bar into blades.

"I have other Japanese knives, but nine times out of 10 I'm going to reach for his," said Alton Brown, host of *Good Eats* and *Iron Chef America* on the Food Network.

Brown, who calls himself a "steel snob," said the key to Carter's success is in the metallurgy. Carter uses Japanese white and blue steel, and combines different types in each blade - layering, say, a hard steel under a soft one so that one supports the other. "You end up with a blade that's almost alive," Brown said.

This language is familiar territory for Carter, who likes to describe the knife-forging process as a metaphor for life. "People talk about life's experience being the refiner's fire," he said, "and you're taking raw material and refining it and polishing it into something useful."



## Atlantic Woodworker's

### Note from the Chair



Is Spring ever going to come? I'm of two minds as long as the weather remains cold and damp. It's easy to justify staying in the shop and ignoring all those outdoor chores and keep playing in the shop as my wife puts it. I've started work on a rocking horse for my granddaughter and I'll keep you posted as the project takes shape.

What a tremendous presentation we had from Shirley Fader last meeting. ( Thank you Sheila) It is unfortunate that half the members could not hear the presentation due to the poor acoustics in the hall. We are actively pursuing a sound system for the association so that in future we all can hear the presentations and comments from our members. I hope that this will be in place for the start of our new year.

Don't forget the June challenge!!!!

Garyd

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I have a project I'd like to share. My wife and I have been working on a home renovation. For the past nine months we've been trying to add 2 feet to the house. We expect our "new addition" to arrive later this week.

-Brad Holley

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### June 11, 2013:

Wood Challenge due

This will be a Social Evening, you are welcomed to bring a guest. We will enjoy a light lunch and refreshments.

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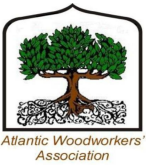
I have been using a company in Guelph ON, called Stockade at [www.stockade.ca](http://www.stockade.ca) and they have many interesting things . They offer a 20% discount on more than one item and sometimes more than three . They also have a discontinued section on web sight , some good deals if looking for anything there , but worth checking .

They will supply a catalogue on request .

Submitted by William C. Richardson

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### APRIL MEETING

At our April meeting our presenter was Shirley Fader. Shirley is a maker of jewelry but had a craving for a doll house to decorate. She displayed to us her doll house, which her husband built for her, it was a fine piece of work in its self. Shirley's work to the inside was enough to take your breath away. Everything was made by Shirley, which was a very intricate bit of work. Hand woven rugs, family picture miniaturized and framed to hang on the walls. The furniture was all made to scale, by putting her jeweler's tools and skills to work. The pictures will show just how detailed her intricate work is. Yes it is and will be an heirloom for sure.



The above pictures are by Stan Salsman



## Atlantic Woodworker's

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