



Atlantic Woodworkers'  
Association

## ATLANTIC WOODWORKERS' ASSOCIATION

# AWA Newsletter

April 2009 18 Princeton Ave., Halifax, NS B3R 1Z9 Volume 27 No.4

### GREAT PUBLIC RELATIONS

We have a star among us and I'm sure that all of you would want me to express our sincere congratulations to her.

AWA member Roslyn Duffus was the featured subject of a recent article appearing in the Halifax Chronicle Herald newspaper. It was a great story and we hope that it generates a whole bunch of business for Roslyn.

### THE AWA APRIL MEETING

How time flies, it seems like it was just yesterday that we had our 2008 Annual General Meeting and now, it's come around again. The 2009 AGM will be held in our home meeting place at the Home Depot on **April 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.**

We will be saying adieu to Cecil Canam as our Chairman and welcoming in Tom Patterson as our new one.

Cecil has done a great job for the AWA, serving as Chairman for two years and Vice Chairman for two years before that. And, except for a short respite in Mexico with Jennifer later this month, he will be back as a very active member of our group. Also at our April meeting, Cecil will be bringing his lathe to show us how he turns those great pens that we have seen.



### THE MARCH MEETING

The road trip to Second Source Power was quite an experience for us all. We had an excellent turnout and it was quite an education. Those wind turbines aren't cheap and surprisingly, Metro still has some antiquated restrictions on them. The solar collectors seemed to be a little more economical and of course the beer can heat really perked our interest (more on that later in this newsletter).

Some of the heat recovery ideas certainly have merit and there was a real interest in the grey water system as well.

Our thanks go out to David Smith for making the arrangements to see these people and their excellent products. No, it was not woodworking related but certainly a topic that we all share.



**ATLANTIC WOODWORKERS' ASSOCIATION**  
Board of Directors

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**A WORD FROM  
THE CHAIRMAN**

As I write this someone told me that spring was finally here but Mother Nature is not finished with us yet. This is why we do most of our wood working inside where we can stay warm and dry.

The meeting last month was a very interesting one, as we all try to come up with cost effective ways to heat and power our shops. The start-up costs for most of the solutions are very high, but I think as time goes on this will look cheap as we all know we will not have cheap and abundant power. We could go back to hand tools but we still need heat and lights and as the snow falls, heat is a good thing.

Well it is hard to believe that two years have gone by since I started my term as Chairman. We have had our highs and lows but I have enjoyed my term. I have met some very interesting people and developed very good friends. I have learned a wealth of knowledge from the group and enjoyed our discussions. We have seen and heard from a wide variety of speakers and presenters. I want to thank the board of directors and the membership for all of your support. Tom Patterson will be your next Chairman and I hope he enjoys his two years as much as I have.

The April meeting will be at Home Depot where we will have our Annual meeting and election of officers. The presentation will be pen turning. I hope to see you all there.

**Cecil**

**FROM THE DESK OF  
THE LIBRARIAN**



Well, just as I thought it was here, there it was - gone! As I'm writing this I'm looking out my office window to a world of white. Spring has sprung back into winter. Hopefully, by the time you are reading this the warmer temps have arrived. And why? Because Spring gives rise to a whole new set of projects for the woodworker - outside projects! Yes, it's the time of year where one can drop their fine furniture attitude and embrace their strong desire just to pound some large nails. A time where a garden bench made of 2x4's or a birdhouse made from scrap is a balmy afternoon well spent. A picnic table, a plant box, or a new shed, there is no job too big, or too small. Even home repairs are met with renewed vigor in Spring!

We have several books in the AWA library that are related to outdoor projects including:

- Beautiful Wooden Projects for Outdoor Living
- Build Your Own Shed Manual
- Deck Plans
- Patios and Decks
- Playhouses You Can Build
- Workshops You Can Build
- Rustic Garden Furniture

There are several project plan books available as well as quite a few on boat construction.

I'm sure that any one of these books will help you with your spring projects or at least get you thinking about them.

As I made up my Spring projects todo list the other night I realized that to get them all done Spring should have been here on January 20th and not March 20th! Now with this recent snow delay there'll be a few more things that I won't be able to get to. Mmmmm. I wonder if there's snow forecast until June. :)

Happy reading! (See Ted, all on one page)



(Editor's Note: Gene and his family are back here in the cold white north and we expect to see his tanned hide at our April meeting. Welcome back Gene.)

## GENE'S BURLS

My granddaughter looks at me with eyes that have mastered the trick of manipulating a grandfather. She says, "poppy you will have to make some furniture for my *American Girl*". This is not a question but a simple statement of fact by a child who has learned that poppy will pretty well do anything he is commanded to do by a 9 year old. I first try to establish what an "American Girl" is. Those of you with daughters will already know this is a doll and not a real person. My task immediately looks easier. I had envisioned a room full of adult sized furniture. Now to establish the size of the doll I must examine the candidate. It turns out to be a fairly large doll about 18 inches long. Not as easy as I had hoped but nevertheless not overwhelming. Now we move to define what is meant by "furniture". The list begins simply enough with a bed. I do not use the term "list" casually as the items start to grow exponentially. We expand to include a dresser, an armoire and a bedside table. Why, I ask, does a doll with no apparent clothes require a dresser and an armoire to say nothing of a bedside table? I then get "the look" which she has surely learned from her grandmother. Clearly there is no need in her mind for an answer. The facts speak for themselves—she has a doll and a doll requires all the accoutrements that a real person has, enough said. I know better than to argue or there will be more "looks" or if that fails there will be tears for which I have no defense. Best to produce the items and thank Heaven the list has only four items. If I may misquote Samuel Pepys---"*and so to the workshop----*"



## MORE ON SOLAR POWER

Two hundred and forty beer cans! That's only 10 – 24's. We neglected to ask the people at Second Source Power if the Solar Max includes the beer or is it an optional extra.

I figure that with a few of us hard AWA members we could warm up most of Halifax/Dartmouth in no time at all. And, to back this up, I have been practicing and I know that I can be a major heating factor in this.

If only they started selling Captain Morgan in cans I am certain that Gene could add several thousand BTU's to the Dartmouth side of the harbor.

You know, I got to thinkin' you are not going to use those panels in the summertime so what if Cansolair in Newfoundland & Labrador was able to reverse the process and turn them into beer coolers. Now, that would really sell..... Just dreaming out loud!



## THE *AWA* PHOTO GALLERY

