



Atlantic Woodworkers'
Association

ATLANTIC WOODWORKERS' ASSOCIATION

AWA Newsletter

October 2009 18 Princeton Ave., Halifax, NS B3R 1Z9

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The September Meeting

The following notes are extracted from Ted Monk's observations of our September meeting. As many may know, I was recovering from retinal surgery and unable to attend.

Ted covered the events at the meeting in great depth on his web pages so the best way of reading the complete story is through his web site here

<http://www.woodworkersguide.com/2009/09/17/awa-first-meeting-of-2009-2010-season>,

thanks Ted.

Thanks also go out to Darryl and Cheryl Vallis of Halifax Specialty Hardwood for hosting what seems to be a great tradition for opening our new season.

The meeting was well attended and it was apparent that all our members were greatly impressed with the new six-head molder/shaper which takes all the "fun" out of changing cutters a half dozen times to achieve a particular shape.

Darryl introduced us to two of their latest imports, Indian Rosewood and Shedua, a gold to reddish brown softwood. Darryl also auctioned off two large pieces of Curly Maple and he kindly turned the proceeds over to the AWA. An extended discount was offered the attendees and a flurry of purchases ensued.



Our October Meeting

We are back at our home base The Home Depot, for our fourth quarter meeting and Jay Perry from Lee Valley will be our guest presenter. Jay is going to bring us up to speed on the best tool sharpening techniques and that is something that should not be missed.

The meeting will be on Tuesday, October 13 promptly at 7:00 PM.

Jay will cover the first half of our meeting and you may be the stars of the second half. Bring us your latest projects to brag about and/or your mistakes that we can all learn from. Most importantly though is your attendance.

For those of you that participated in the design and construction of over 60 bunk beds at the Bayside Camp you will be happy to note that the Baptist Church is going to thank us for our work in a tangible way. Bayside is hosting a Lunch for **ALL** AWA members on Thursday, October 15th at 11:30 AM. Please contact Gene Nurse at 434-7989 to confirm your attendance. See you there!



2009/10 AWA Board of Directors

Tom Patterson	Chairman	466-7110	thepattersons@ns.sympatico.ca
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Cecil Canam	Past Chairman	462-7137	bugle@hfx.eastlink.ca
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A WORD FROM OUR CHAIRMAN



The September meeting at Halifax Specialty Hardwoods was a very interesting and rewarding one for the members. We had a chance to view their complete facility and, in particular, their new shaper that seems to come at the raw stock in all directions. The (one time) 15% discount offer gave members an opportunity to stock up on hardwood at substantial savings. The gift of wood donated by Halifax Speciality Hardwoods that was auctioned off as well as the sand paper and finishes donated by Graham McCulloch enriched the coffers of the AWA. Many thanks to our friends at Halifax Speciality Hardwoods for hosting the meeting, providing snacks and refreshments, and for providing the special meeting discount. Many thanks also to Graham for his donation of products.

Now that the distractions of summer are over, it is a good time for all of us to get back into our workshops and get the sawdust flying (in to our dust collectors). We have two months left to create toys to donate to needy children at our Christmas meeting.

In addition to a demo on sharpening by Jay Perry at our October meeting, we will have a "show and tell" and an "ask the members" time set aside on the agenda.

Cheers, Tom



FROM THE DESK OF OUR LIBRARIAN



Well, it's October already and the leaves are beginning to turn. Of course, what I'm referring to is not only the leaves on the trees but the leafing through of books and magazines that seems to increase this time of year, with us preparing for that perfect project that will offer some solace during the coming winter solstice. Pretty poetic, huh?

Once again, we have several new books that may help you. We have:

Carving On Turning by Chris Pye
Carving the Human Face by Jeff Phares
Making Furniture & Dollhouses by Dennis Simmons
Turning Vintage Toys by Chris Reid
Wooden Clocks by ScrollSaw Magazine
Wooden Puzzles by ScrollSaw Magazine.

These were all supplied, as so many are, by our benevolent book benefactor, Graham McCulloch. Thanks, Graham!

And speaking of new library additions, do you have a book or video that you would like to see added? Please let me know. If we get enough interest in a particular item I'm sure that we can 'squeeze the pig' a little bit.

And finally, please bring back any borrowed items to share with the other members.

That's all for now, looking forward to seeing you all at the next meeting!

Back to the books...

Ted



Gene's BURLS

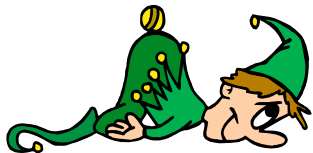


I believe one of the problems with advancing years is that we forget our age and think we're still 30 or so. This error in judgment can lead to unwelcome consequences.

Let me give you an example. For the uninitiated my workshop is a two story barn with the tools on the upper floor and assembly table and wood storage on the bottom floor. On the day in question, I was approaching my workshop when I heard the phone on the upper floor ring. Now, here's where the memory lapse begins:

I know that my phone has an answering system and there is no cause for hurry but in a moment of sheer stupidity I run to get it. I trip on the way and fall upstairs followed immediately by a fall downstairs. Gravity always wins (Isaac Newton was right). I lay on the floor while my head, shoulder and hip send signals to my foggy brain that they are not happy. It always happens that accidents will happen with no witness or assistance close by—my wife is away quilting and my neighbour has gone for his morning walk. After what seemed like an eternity but was really only minutes I decide I'd better see if I can move. The hip is the most troublesome and I am in great panic that it is fractured. (*Editor's note: sounds like a doctor's paranoia*) However to my relief I find everything moves and I can stand. I stagger back to the cottage and lie on the floor as I feel like fainting until wife returns. Once she has ascertained that I have broken no bones I get yelled at for running. I would like a little compassion; even a modicum of sympathy but none was forthcoming.

A week later I survey my bruises—I have offered to drop my pants and show all the ladies on the lake my hip but no takers. My son said thank God you hit your head and not something vital. (He's just like his mother). I tell him that at my age there is isn't anything "Vital" left. Nevertheless through all this I have received nothing but scorn and ridicule from my family. I remind them I still control my will and they will not be included.





Notes From Our Registrar

I am suffering from a woodworker's dilemma. The weather has been so good that I have spent most of the time bicycling or working around our home and property. That is great unless you are supposed to be updating the AWA website or getting those Christmas presents made in the workshop. I'm convinced that the fall will be wet enough and long enough to get those things done, so I will continue to enjoy the outdoors as long as I can

I have only a couple of quick points for this month's newsletter. Firstly, I am still looking for a short narrative from everyone to include on the members' area of the AWA website. You can tell us about anything you like from your special interests in woodworking to the equipment in your shop to how you got started in woodworking or anything else for that matter. Please only include information that you are willing to have on the website. The members' area is password protected, but it wouldn't take a really skilled hacker to access the information. Normally, we put your photo, the name of your community, but not your street address, and your email address on the web site. Let me know if you object to any of this information being on the site. Similarly, if you want your phone number or any other information to be included on the web site, put it in your narrative.

Please send your article to me at rjamer@eastlink.ca

The second issue is one of continuing concern to me. A significant number of the 2008 members have not paid their 2009 dues. Some may have left the club, but some are still coming to meetings. At \$20.00/year, the AWA is the best deal in town. We have a great newsletter, fun and informative meetings, discounts at a number of stores and, frequently, the opportunity to get goodies free or at a fraction of their normal cost. Please see Ken Miller or me at the next meeting. We are normally there about 15 minutes before each meeting and we are willing to stay afterwards. If you cannot make it to the meeting, please send your cheque made out to the Atlantic Woodworkers' Association to Ken Miller at 200 Melrose Ave, Halifax, NS, B3N 2E7.

See you at the meeting!

Editor's Note: The AWA has the most complete woodworking book library in all of Atlantic Canada. This in itself should be enough of an impetus to join the association and to pay your membership dues on time.

The AWA Photo Gallery

The following are photos of our September meeting and were photographed by Ted Monk.





THE AWA SUPPORTS THE FOLLOWING MERCHANTS:

AWA Merchant List

The following woodworking tool and materials merchants offer a discount to **paid up** members of the Atlantic Woodworker's Association. AWA members must show their current membership card at the time of purchase. We encourage you to visit their websites before shopping. Discounts vary from merchant to merchant.

We encourage our members to frequent these merchants for all of your woodworking requirements.

Brandnew Industries Inc. 375 Pine Ave., Santa Barbara, CA 93117 – 1-800-964-8251 - Scott Swanson, Sales Manager. Brandnew makes electric branding irons for woodworkers. This is a great way to identify your projects. Members are offered a 10% discount. (note: pay in \$US.)

East West Plastics & Electric Products 55 Akerly Blvd. Burnside, 468-4701 Mr. Kim Dobsdon. (Members may purchase off-cuts at reduced prices)**
(www.eastwestplastic.com)

Fundy Grinding – 9 Farnham Road, Truro, NS, 800-863-0181 – Mr. David Drummond. (Discounts usually 5 – 10%)
(www.fundygrinding.com)

Halifax Specialty Hardwoods – 26A Topsail Court, Atlantic Acres Industrial Park, NS – 835-4700 – Mr. Darryl Vallis. (Discount 10%)
(www.halifaxspecialtyhardwoods.com)

Kent Building Supply* - All locations in Metro Halifax. (Members should go to the Contractor's Desk)

Mill Supply – 32 Troop Ave., Burnside – 468-3236 – Mr. Malcolm Matthews (Preferred Customer Discount)
(www.millsupply.com)

Nova Specialty Building Materials – 101 Ilesley Ave., Burnside – 468-1012 – (Preferred Customer Discount)
(<http://www.atyp.com/novaspecialty/>)

Rideout Tool & Machinery – 170 Akerly Blvd., Burnside – 468-2060 – Mr. Chris Rideout or Mr. Norman Penny. (Preferred Customer Discount)
(www.rideouttool.com)

Robert Bury Canada Ltd. – 30 Williams Ave., Burnside – 468-3555 (This company sells *wholesale only* but will sell to AWA members with a minimum order of \$100.)
(www.robertbury.com)

Workshop Supply Inc. – P.O. Box 160 – 100 Commissioners St. East, Embro, ON N0J 1J0. Mr. Steve Siddal, President. Workshop Supply has a really great selection of products for the woodworker. Ask them for a catalogue and get on their mailing list. (10% discount on products).
(www.workshopsupply.com)



THE FINAL CUT

By Graham McCulloch

This has been a really interesting summer for this woodworker. It started out with a number of trips out to Sambro Head to pitch in with the building of over 60 bunk beds, the largest project ever undertaken by our association. Many of the days were spent by all of us slogging through the mud while hauling the various components up the long hill to the individual cabins. There were frustrations as there were material shortages, conflicts with the various other trades working on this huge worksite.

The bottom line however is that the volunteer members of the *Atlantic Woodworker's Association* got the job done. We deserve a huge group pat on the back for a job well done.

Special recognition certainly goes out to Gene Nurse and Stan Salsman, our job foremen. These two guys had everything under control and running smoothly. Great job guys!

Due to a lot of wet and stormy weather over the past six years, a lot of wash and silt came down our driveway and gathered under our 16' x 12' storage barn. It was beyond time to raise the barn as the oriented strand board was soaking up moisture. The job got done by friends that "volunteered" and we were able to raise it and set it on treated 6 x 6's. this was a major undertaking and it now stands proud, high and dry.

Early September saw me in the emergency ward with a detached retina. I was working in the yard and had noticed one of those annoying 'floaters' in my left eye. Having had these floaters many times, before I knew that it would soon disappear and continued working. I recall stupidly lifting some heavy concrete blocks and then soon noticed that my eyesight in my left eye was deteriorating in the right corner. I thought it too would soon pass.

To cut to the chase, the emergency intern booked me with the eye clinic and then a visit with the surgeon confirming the retina detachment. The next day I was on the table for about two hours.

The eye is healing nicely after three weeks and I expect that I will have full vision in another 10 days or so. My wife will be very happy about that. I owe her a great debt for 'nursing' me through this. It's really amazing just how much you can't do with only one eye to guide you.

As I approach my 75th year I still have not learned that my hindsight is so much better than my foresight. I think that Gene will concur!

See you all on Tuesday Oct. 13th.