



Atlantic Woodworkers'  
Association

## ATLANTIC WOODWORKERS' ASSOCIATION

# AWA Newsletter

Summer/ September 2009 18 Princeton Ave., Halifax, NS B3R 1Z9 Volume 27 No.7

### The September Meeting

Okay, who stole our summer? Somebody must have because it sure did not feel like our usual summer. However, now that September is here we are starting to get some decent summer weather and please, no more hurricanes!

Our September meeting will be at Halifax Specialty Hardwoods at 26A Topsail Court a week later than usual. This meeting will happen on Tuesday, **September 15** mainly because of the late Labour Day this year.

For those not familiar with where Halifax Specialty Hardwoods is located, Topsail Court is off Bluewater Rd. in Atlantic Acres Industrial Park and that is off the Hammonds Plains Rd.

Also on the agenda for this meeting will be a review of our efforts at the Bayside Baptist Bible Camp at Sambro Head. A 'heads up' from the executive meeting this summer and a whole bunch of other good stuff. Graham will also have some goodies to raise some money for the AWA. Your full attendance will be appreciated.



### The June Meeting

Gene Nurse shook us all up a little bit in our June meeting. We all know that some wood species can set up what we thought to be temporary allergic reactions. They can be and probably are. very much permanent. The good doctor (retired) also made us aware that the so called dust masks that most people wear around the shop don't do a very good job. See the allergy chart on pages 4 & 5 .....

A special thanks goes out to Cecil and Jennifer Canam for hosting the summer barbecue, as from all reports it was an excellent time and this is one AWA member that sadly, missed the event.

Although it was almost three months ago, you will recall that we had a draw for a Ridgid Portable Radio and we raised a couple of hundred dollars. The draw was held at our June meeting and the winner was Phil Carter. Congratulations Phil.



Tom Patterson	Chairman	466-7110
Don Shubaly	Vice Chairman	445-4625
Cecil Canam	Past Chairman	462-7137
Mike Chisolm	Secretary	826-7568
Ken Miller	Treasurer	445-3055
Graham McCulloch	Communications	479-0221
Gene Nurse	Events Coordinator	434-7989
Cecil Canam	Events Coordinator	462-7137
Ted Monk	Librarian	435-3686
Dick Jamer	Registrar	576-2421
Doug MacIntosh	Director	429-1623
Phil Carter	Director	477-4467
Dave Smith	Director	462-3863
Lew Hatt	Director	462-0187

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## A WORD FROM OUR CHAIRMAN



The Board met in July. Many thanks to Gene Nurse and his Wife, Joan, for hosting the meeting at their cottage. At the meeting, we considered proposed changes to the Memorandum of Association and By-Laws presented by a Committee established to bring these governing documents up to date and in line with practices that developed over time that proved successful. The proposed changes will be presented to the full membership at a future meeting.

The Board also received a report from Gene on the Bunk Bed Project. The members built an additional five bunk beds over and above the initial sixty-one in order to meet the increased demand at the camp. Many thanks to Gene and Stan for coordinating the project and to all of the members who worked on the project. Everyone agreed that this was a worthwhile project for the Camp and for the AWA. The Camp ended up with the bunk beds for the cost of the materials. The participating members of the AWA had the opportunity to use their skills, learn new skills, and to get to know each other on a different level while fulfilling a valuable need in society.

Once again, I ask that all of you submit you bios through an email to Graham, and make yourself available for a photo at the September meeting. These will be included in the Member's Only section of the web page to enable all members the opportunity to get to know each other better and faster. In addition, I ask that you take photos of your past projects and sent them by email to Graham. These will demonstrate the range of work of our members,

Cheers, Tom

## FROM THE DESK OF OUR LIBRARIAN



Well, it's been one great Summer so far! You see, in the Summer I only spend time in the shop on rainy days. Boy, oh, boy, did I get a lot of shop time this year! LOL! But that's all behind us now as we head into the third straight week of sunshine...

I hope that you are getting some shop time this Summer too, or at least getting the time to sit back and relax. The lounge chair is a great place to read about all the projects you'll do this Winter. :) To help you with this we have added six new books to the library to kickoff the 2009-2010 season.

For your reading, and working, pleasure we got "Storage And Shelving The Shaker Way" by Kerry Pierce, a project book with 13 excellent projects in the Shaker tradition. We also added Ernie Conover's "Woodworker's Guide To Dovetails", a pictorial reference for making dovetails by hand or machine. To inspire you there is "500 Chairs", "500 Tables" and "Woodturning Masters", all picture books and from Lark Books. And finally, we have "Mancrafts" a delightful little book from Popular Mechanics on fly tying, ax whittling and other cool things to do.

By the way, we added 31 new books and 2 DVDs to the library in 2008-2009!

I'll have these and a few others at our meeting in September and I'll also be accepting returns. Please bring back any borrowed items to share with the other members.

See you all soon!  
Ted Monk



## Gene's BURLS



### Gene's Burls

An email from Graham reminding me to get my burls in brought home the fact that summer was over. Now where did it go so fast?? I know that as I get older time seems to compress and there are episodes that seem to hurl past me at a great rate. This summer seems to be an exception to even that. It must be relativity or something, perhaps Einstein had a name for the contracting of time as we advance in years. Nevertheless here we are at summer's almost end and ready to start a new year of AWA activities. Cecil and I met to put together a program for this year and we plan on a startup with **Halifax Specialty Hardwood in September**, which seems to be our annual way to edge into the new woodworking year. This is always a "don't miss" occasion so try to make yourselves available.

The summer was one of constant bunk building. We put together 65 with 5 more to go in September. Lew tells me that by the end it was taking four members less than 15 minutes to assemble a bunk bed. Now that's an accomplishment!!! We had the usual foul-ups, including no wood, wrong wood, no glue, no screws, rain and more rain, no volunteers, an impossible schedule, fighting with the trades for space to work and one "Johnny-on-the-spot". Through it all we had a great time with much camaraderie. Lots of interaction with each other and the staff at the Bible camp even though they don't know the meaning of the word "coffee".

This is the single biggest project that we have ever undertaken and would we do it again? Yes, in a heartbeat. My wife is proofreading this so I would have to promise not to take an "entire" summer ever again. The project took longer than expected through no fault of the AWA. The next project would require better organization and coordination—we have all learned from this experience.

Let me close by thanking you all sincerely for your assistance—the turnout has been fantastic. A special word for my two amigos Stan and Lew—could not have done it without their constant input and unselfish donation of time.

Thank you all—now let the fall fun begin.



### What are the toxic effects of wood?

In bulk, wood is unlikely to give rise to toxic effects. The hazardous forms that may give rise to health risks are:

- DUST
- SAP, latex or lichens associated with a wood.

### Ill health effects associated with wood:

**Skin:** The main effect is *irritation*. This can be caused by skin contact with the wood, its dust, its bark, its sap, or even lichens growing on the bark. Irritation can, in some species of wood, lead to nettle rashes or irritant dermatitis. These effects tend to appear on the forearm, back of the hands, the face (particularly eyelids) neck, scalp and the genitals. On average, they take 15 days to develop. Symptoms usually only persist as long as the affected skin site remains in contact with the source of irritation, e.g. wood dust. Symptoms subside when contact with the irritant is removed.

*Sensitisation dermatitis* is more problematic and is usually caused by skin exposure to fine wood dust of certain species. This is also referred to as allergic contact dermatitis and results in similar skin effects to those produced by skin irritants. Once sensitised, the body sets up an allergic reaction, and the skin may react severely if subsequently exposed to very small amounts of the wood dust. Cross-sensitisation may develop where other woods or even non wood materials produce a similar response.

**Respiratory and allied effects:** Wood, especially inhalation of fine dust, can have many effects on the respiratory tract, including :

#### Nose

- Rhinitis (Runny nose)
- Violent sneezing
- Blocked nose
- Nose bleeds
- Very rarely - nasal cancer (a recognized industrial disease associated with the inhalation of hardwood dusts.)

The most common effects arise from irritation, where symptoms usually only persist as long as the sufferer remains in contact with the irritant. Allergic effects, as a consequence of sensitization to wood dust can also occur, e.g. rhinitis.

#### Lung

- Asthma
- Impairment of lung function
- Rarely - extrinsic allergic alveolitis (a disease with 'flu-like' symptoms which can cause progressive lung damage), eg when using western red cedar, iroko.

*Asthma* is of particular concern. Most wood dusts can irritate the respiratory tract provoking asthma attacks in sufferers; although effective control of dust levels normally improves the problem.

Some wood dusts can cause asthma as a specific *allergic* reaction. Once sensitised, the body will quickly react of subsequently exposed, even to tiny traces of dust. Unlike irritation, where people can continue to work with the dust once it is controlled to below the level at which irritation occurs, people who become sensitized will not normally be able to continue working with the dust, no matter how low the exposed.

#### Nose

- Soreness
- Watering
- Conjunctivitis

**Whole body:** Inhalation of some wood dusts can have general (whole body) effects, eg, South African boxwood, although this is not usual for the common commercial woods. Many effects have been described including headache, thirst, nausea, visual disturbance, drowsiness, anemia and hepatitis.

### Toxic Activity

Toxic activity is specific to a wood species. Knowing the exact species is important in establishing what the potential toxic effects may be. Individual wood species (of which more than 100 are commercially important in the UK) are very easily confused. For example, *rosewood* may be used for up to 30 different species; and an individual species may have up to ten different trade names. An additional difficulty is that trees vary within a species. One specimen may contain low levels of its toxic agent and the next contain much higher levels. So experience may not be a reliable guide.

### Wood Classification

Wood is classified into two broad families: **Hardwood & Softwood**

The classification is botanical and depends on the fine structure of the cells in the wood species. It does not refer to the physical properties of the wood. For example, balsa wood is a hardwood!

Users should remember that veneers are often made of hardwoods; so are composite materials such as plywoods. The type of wood making up particle boards, eg, chipboard, hardboard, MDF is not always known, but is usually a high proportion of softwood. However MDF sourced from areas of the world where hardwood predominates, such as Malaysia & Indonesia, will be more likely to be composed of a high proportion of hardwood.

Wood	Reaction Site	Potency	Source	Incidence		
Bald Cypress	S		R	+	D	R
Balsam Fir	S	E,S	+	LB	C	
Beech	S,C		E,S,R	++	LB,D	C
Birch	S		R	++	W,D	C
Black Locust	I,N	E,S	+++	LB	C	
Blackwood	S	E,S	++	W,D	C	
Boxwood	S		E,S	++	W,D	C
Cashew	S		E,S	+	W,D	R
Cocobolo	I,S	E,S,R	+++	W,D	C	
Dahoma	I		E,S	++	W,D	C
Ebony	I,S		E,S	++	W,D	C
Elm	I		E,S	+	D	R
Goncalo Alves	S		E,S	++	W,D	R
Greenheart	S	E,S	+++	W,D	C	
Hemlock	C		R	?	D	U
Iroko	I,S,P		E,S,R	+++	W,D	C
Mahogany	S,P	S,R	+	D	U	
Mansonia	I,S	E,S	+++	W,D	C	
	N			+	D	
Maple (Spalted)	S,P		R	+++	D	C
Mimosa	N			?	LB	U
Myrtle	S		R	++	LB,D	C
Oak	S		E,S	++	LB,D	R
	C			?	D	U
Obeche	I,S		E,S,R	+++	W,D	C
Oleander	DT	N,C	++++	D,W,LB	C	
Olivewood	I,S	E,S,R	+++	W,D	C	
Opepe	S		R	+	D	R
Padauk	S		E,S,R	+	W,D	R
Pau Ferro	S	E,S	+	W,D	R	
Peroba Rosa	I		R,N	++	W,D	U
Purpleheart		N	++	W,D	C	
Quebracho	I	R,N	++	LB,D	C	
	C			?	D	U
Redwood	S,P		E,S,R	++	D	R
	C			?	D	U
Rosewoods	I,S	E,S,R	++++	W,D	U	
Satinwood	I	E,S,R	+++	W,D	C	
Sassafras	s	R	+	D	C	
	DT		N	+	D,W,LB	R
	C			?	D	U
Sequoia	I		R	+	D	R
Snakewood	I	R	++	W,D	R	
Spruce	S		R	+	W,D	R
Walnut, Black	S		E,S	++	W,D	C
Wenge	S		E,S,R	+	W,D	C
Willow	S		R,N	+	D,W,LB	U
West. Red Cedar	S		R	+++	D,LB	C
Teak	S,P		E,S,R	++	D	C
Yew	I		E,S	++	D	C
	DT		N,C	++++	W,D	C
Zebra-wood		E,S	++	W,D		

**REACTION:**  
I - irritant  
S - sensitizer  
C - nasopharyngeal cancer  
P - pneumonitis, alveolitis (hypersensitivity pneumonia)  
DT - direct toxin  
N - nausea, malaise

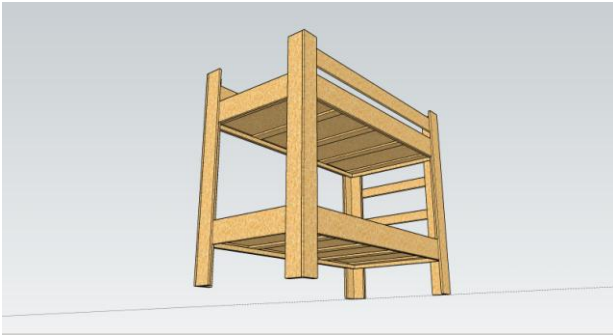
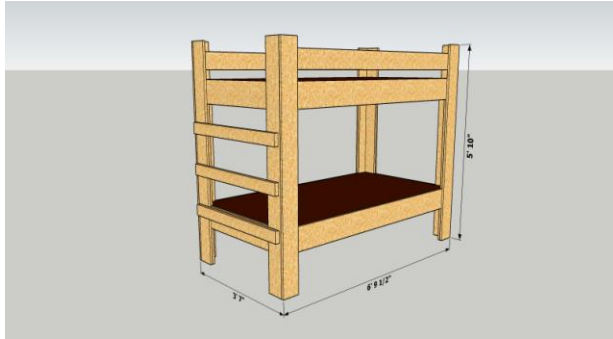
**SITE:**  
S - skin  
D - dust  
E - eyes  
R - respiratory  
C - cardiac

**SOURCE:**  
R - rare  
LB - leaves, bark  
W - wood

**INCIDENCE:**  
C - common  
U - uncommon



What with the AWA main event of this past summer and still ongoing, we thought that an illustration and some details of the bunk beds that we built would be appropriate to show to those members unable to participate in the construction.



Bunk Bed Cut List

Components

Part #	Quantity	Description	Length(X)	Width(Y)	Thickness(Z)	Board Foot	Board Foot	Total Length	Material
C-1	4	Bed Ends	3' 4"	7 1/4"	3/4"	1.51	6.04	13.32	Pine
C-2	4	Bed Sides	6' 8"	7 1/4"	3/4"	3.021	12.084	26.68	Pine
C-3	10	Bed Slat	3' 3 7/8"	3 1/2"	3/4"	0.727	7.27	33.2	Pine
C-4	4	Bed Slat St	6' 1 1/2"	1 1/2"	3/4"	0.613	2.452	26.16	Pine
C-5	4	Inner Leg	5' 10"	5 1/2"	3/4"	2.005	8.02	23.32	Pine
C-6	3	Ladder Rui	3' 4"	3 1/2"	1 1/4"	1.215	3.645	9.99	Pine
C-7	8	Lower Bun	1'	4 3/4"	3/4"	0.297	2.079	7	Pine
C-8	4	Outer Leg	5' 10"	5 1/2"	3/4"	2.005	8.02	23.32	Pine
C-9	2	Plywood A	6' 1 1/4"	3' 3 7/8"	1/2"	10.834	21.668	13.04	CDX Plywood
C-10	2	Safety Rail	6' 8"	5 1/2"	3/4"	2.292	4.584	13.34	Pine
C-11	8	Upper Bun	2' 8"	4 3/4"	3/4"	0.792	6.336	21.36	Pine

Total Component Board Foot  
82.198

Component Materials  
Material Board Foot  
Pine 82.198

The above Sketchup work through the courtesy of Joe Johns.

## THE *AWA* PHOTO GALLERY

The following are from our June Meeting with some from our construction party





## ***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 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.)**

**Busy Bee Tools – 86 Troop Ave., Burnside, 468-8088 Mr. Bill Luther. (10% discount)**

[www.busybeetools.com](http://www.busybeetools.com)

**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](http://www.eastwestplastic.com)

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

[www.fundygrinding.com](http://www.fundygrinding.com)

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

[www.halifaxspecialtyhardwoods.com](http://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](http://www.millsupply.com)

**Nova Specialty Building Materials – 101 Ilsley 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](http://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](http://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).**

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