

## COMMUNITY

### WOODWORKING

# Guild up and running

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STAFF WRITER

Whether you're an expert woodworker or an interested novice, the Suncoast Woodcrafters Guild invites you to join their group to learn, share and enjoy working with wood.

The group was started in September last year when new woodworker Brian Lucas noticed there was no group available for people who "want an outlet to learn and admire all things wood."

Lucas came to the Coast from Florida, where a similar woodworkers group existed. In May, 2004 Lucas started looking for a woodworkers' group to join on the Coast.

He was steered toward the Sunshine Coast woodworkers' co-op, but found the group didn't suit his needs.

"They are a group of fine woodworkers on the Coast, and I am relatively new at it," said Lucas. "The focus of that organization seemed to

be more entrepreneurial and they met periodically mainly to discuss advantages of joint sales initiatives."

He talked to other woodworkers in the community and saw a need for a guild that was inclusive to all levels of woodworkers, provided learning opportunities for all levels and provided a place for peers to meet and support each other.

By September, 2004 the Suncoast Woodcrafters Guild was holding its first meeting under the direction of Lucas and fellow woodworker Tom Hourigan.

More than 25 members have now joined the club. It meets every second Tuesday of the month at Sechelt Elementary School at 7 p.m. And the group is still growing.

"It's fun to get together and learn from other artists and make friends," said Steve Willgoose, a member of the club. He and his wife Doreen joined the club early on, Steve with 25 years of

woodworking experience and Doreen as a beginner in the craft.

"It's great for new and seasoned woodworkers," said Steve. "For me it's nice to see beginners all wide-eyed and ready to learn. It's an excellent way to see what woodworking is all about."

The club is accepting new members regularly and Lucas notes there is no age restriction.

The cost to join is \$35 a year for a single or \$45 a year for a couple. The fees go to pay for guest speakers and special events. The group also has a lending library of books and videos dealing with woodworking.

The guild is planning a showing of members' work sometime in June at the Seaside Centre in Sechelt.

For more information, contact Lucas at 604-885-7051.

The guild is working on a website that should be up and running by next week. The address is [www.suncoastwoodcrafters.com](http://www.suncoastwoodcrafters.com).