

Shuswap School of Carving and Arts, September 18-24, 2011

Sorrento Retreat And Conference Centre, PO Box 99, 1159 Passchendaele Road, Sorrento, BC V0E 2W0
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STEAM BEND, PAINT, CARVE A NW COAST-STYLE BENTWOOD BOX: \$393 - 5 days

About the Instructor – JOHN VANSPRONSEN: John, a retired carpenter/project manager, has spent his entire working life in the construction industry. He attended trade school and completed his 5-year cabinet maker apprenticeship in Holland. At 21 he married his 3-year girl friend and immigrated to Canada. He celebrated his 52nd wedding anniversary with her this year and has 6 grandchildren. To stay sane during his years as a construction manager building 3-story wood frame high-rises, he picked up his carving hobby again. He is one of the founding members of the Richmond Carving Society. He has competed in many shows in Canada and the USA. He will carve anything, but his first love is carving birds and Native art. Most of his woodcarving knowledge comes from books, but he also took wood carving seminars at Kestrel Tools where he was fascinated by the tools Greg Blomberg produced and started reading books and doing his own. Sharpening was no problem as he learned in trade school how to sharpen all kinds of tools by hand. Winning many blue ribbons he climbed from novice to expert carver very quickly. He is a qualified NPC judge and has judged many shows in Canada and the USA. For the past 10 years he has been doing seminars at Lee Valley in Bentwood boxes, miniature totem poles, west coast-style paddles and Christmas ornaments. He is teaching at two senior centers and a private group of 6 carvers. He has done seminars at the Shuswap School of Wood Carving since its inception and has given many seminars at the Richmond Carvers' Society and other senior centers. John can be contacted at 604-531-2056 or JohnandMaria@vanspronsen.com.



About the Course: John will be teaching you how to steam bend and carve a Bentwood Box, which is an excellent example of the Northwest Coast Aboriginal woodworking skills. A single plank was kerfed at 3 corners and steam bent to form the 4th side. To hold the 4th corner in place it was dowelled or sewn with a cedar bough. The bottom was then fitted and pegged or sewn on. Some of the boxes had a top fitted to it, others did not. They were used for storage or heating water with hot stones from the fire. They used red or yellow cedar which were both readily available. They painted and/or carved native designs on the boxes for decoration. If they were both painted and carved, they first painted the designs and carved after.

You will learn how to make the correct kerfs, steam and bend a Bentwood Box. John will then give you a box that has already been bent and has had time to dry. Yours will be too wet and will need to dry a couple of days before it can be decorated. You will have the choice of doing your own design, or selecting a design to transfer onto your box from those John will bring with him. For those who want to pre-design a decoration, the box face, minus the bottom and minus the top is 4 5/8" high. The box is square with a face of 5 1/8" wide from corner to corner. If you create your own design, John asks that you please stay with the Northwest Coast design elements and form line design. Also, when you create your design and you plan to carve and paint it, think of how you are going to carve it and maintain the form line.



Skill Level: All skill levels welcome.

Tools & Supplies: John will provide you with one assembled Bentwood Box and material only for a second box (\$50 fee). The tools needed to make a Bentwood Box are listed below. John will bring some of the items that have an asterisk (*) beside them for your use. If you don't have some of the tools listed, don't worry about it - John will bring some for your use - just bring what you think you'll need.

Carving Tools and Supplies

- Pencil and square Tape measure Hammer
- Straight chisels 1/8" and 1" wide
- * Small bend knife no wider than 3/16"
- Medium and small straight knives
- * Transfer paper
- Straight and crooked knives to do detail carving
- Assortment of sandpaper and sanding block
- * Shoulder plane if you have one
- * Clamp that opens a minimum of 8"
- * Electric drill with a long 1/8" drill bit

Painting Tools and Supplies

- #2 #4 and #6 round brushes
- Paint tray
- Water container
- Paper towel
- * Liquitex acrylic paint - Red Oxide and Mars Black
- Task lighting and extension cord