

# The Guild of New Hampshire Woodworkers

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## THIRD MEETING OF THE GUILD WAS WELL ATTENDED

Nearly forty people were present at the meeting of the Guild which was held at Paul Tuller's shop in Dublin, NH, on Saturday, September 15. The meeting began with discussion of some business items. After John Skews introduced himself, all members in turn briefly gave their names and told what their special interests were.

Treasurer, Paul Tuller reported that the Guild now had nearly 50 paid members.

The Exhibits Committee is working on a possible show at Shaker Village, and another at the Sharon Arts Center. These are in the planning stage only.

Other committees were formed: the Education and Calendar committees are in need of additional members.

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To the Members:

I think it is safe to say that Saturday, September 15, at Paul Tuller's in Dublin was a great day. Not only did I get to see old friends but meet many new ones as well. Each time we meet I'm struck by how fast the time goes by and this reaffirms my feelings of why we need a Guild.

There was a lot of good energy flying around on Saturday and a lot of people talking about wood. As a carpenter I was always on a job with at least two or three other tradespeople and at times many more. Contact with the outside world was not a problem. As a woodworker, I've had to adjust to working alone and eating lunch alone and speaking to my peers over the phone. If one of the purposes of our Guild is to give us a day long coffee break together then I feel like I'm getting all I need from the Guild and the lectures and demonstrations are just the gravy. Paul Tuller's talk on Japanese woodworking goes to show we could use more of that too. Paul did an excellent job at presenting the root of the Japanese woodworking ethic, tools, and sharpening.

One of the risks we took when the Guild was formed was that our direction would not be clear. When Steve Cunliffe read to the members the letter from the Adirondack Wood Guild, I think our direction became more clear. I know that as our Guild president, I'm not qualified or inclined to preside over a professional association of 350 members or the disbursement of a \$12,000 grant. I do on the other hand feel comfortable greeting 40 or so men and women in a personalized shop and listening to and talking about wood.

I want to thank everyone who signed up to work on a committee. You are insuring the long term growth and health of our Guild with new ideas and energy.

John Skewes

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"Our skills have been sharpened, the designs made. The shed has been adequately stocked, the decision of solid wood versus veneers has been settled in favor of solid. The inventory of experience accumulated. The work commences.

"The object is to make as fine a piece of furniture as humanly possible. The purpose is usefulness, but with a lyric quality - this is the basis of all my designs."

George Nakashima from *The Soul of a Tree*

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#### PAUL TULLER DEMONSTRATES JAPANESE METHODS

Paul Tuller gave an excellent lecture and demonstration on the sharpening and use of Japanese tools at the third meeting of the Guild. Paul who uses Japanese hand tools exclusively in his work making shoji screens and Japanese inspired furniture introduced us to his tools and some of the philosophy behind their use. Paul sharpened a plane iron using his collection of Japanese water stones. He took us through all the steps he takes sharpening his tools prior to beginning working wood. He warned us about purchasing water stones and Japanese tools of inferior quality through mail order and stressed that one should buy these tools only through a very reputable dealer and only when the user was philosophically ready to accept the time consuming ritual of sharpening and using the tools on a regular basis. He stressed that the tools he uses are definitely not ready to use off the shelf.

At the end of the demonstration we were all able to try planing a piece of wood with the finely tuned plane. It worked effortlessly and the surface planed was remarkably smooth. So smooth are Paul's surfaces that the grain on the wood frames of the Shoji screens which are left unfinished will not rise or swell up due to the room humidity or water spotting on them.

Submitted by John McAlevey

#### MEMBERS ATTEND EVENT AT SHAKER VILLAGE

On Saturday, October 27, nearly 50 members of the Guild met at the Shaker Village in Canterbury, NH. It was a crisp fall day with deep blue skies.

Scott Swank, the newly appointed museum curator, opened the meeting and spoke about the village forecast for future renovations taking place for restoring and maintaining the community. An open invitation was given to all craftspeople who may be interested in demonstrating at Canterbury to sign up and let their intentions be known. Some craftspeople who were at the meeting demonstrated in 1990 and they look forward to continuing in 1991.

A delicious luncheon menu of tossed garden salad, beef barley soup, cornbread, hot apple crisp and beverages was served at the Creamery, where we ate in Shaker style. The remainder of the meeting was spent touring designated buildings in the village. This was truly a memorable day for all.

Submitted by Roberta Beaupre

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"But why not modern styles? Because there are none. Nobody can describe a modern style. The next time you hear the phrase ask what the speaker means. He probably thinks he means something, but he does not. There is no modern style carrying the name of a period or designer. There is no modern style to which one can refer and be understood. Nobody will know what he is talking about, the speaker least of all." - Wallace Nutting

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### STEERING COMMITTEE MEETS

Present at the meeting were Steve Cunliffe, John McAlevey, John Skewes, Roy Noyes, Paul Tuller, Ted Blachly, and Jon Siegel. The topic of salesmen or solicitors speaking at the business meetings was discussed. There was much discussion of regulating this, and whether this was strictly commercial or had educational value. Finally it was agreed that three salesmen be allowed to speak at the beginning of a meeting and that they be allowed five minutes each. They could make themselves available after that at the lunch break.

There was discussion about whether or not to make the mailing list available, and if so to whom, and should we charge for commercial uses. Should all members get a copy of the list yearly? What about advertisers in the Newsletter who help pay the expenses? There needs to be more discussion about dissemination of the mailing list.

### UPCOMING MEETING AT TURNING SHOP

The next general meeting of the Guild will be held on January 19, 1991, at Jon Siegel and Bob Gagne's Shop in West Franklin, NH. This is about 30 minutes north of Concord. The shop is easy to find on route 3a, and there is plenty of parking. As usual there will be a business meeting first, followed by lunch (bring your own), and then Jon will demonstrate some tricks of his trade: wood turning. All members will be mailed a card announcing the meeting with complete directions. Hope to see you there!

### TERRY'S TERRIFIC POLISH RECIPE

The need to re-polish work that has sat around in a gallery or my shop is an extra "chore" that I have come to accept as necessary evil. By this time, I have already invested much time putting a nice finish on the piece originally. In order to give the "store-worn" furniture a quick once over, I have developed an oil-wax mixture.

This "polish" is truly a wipe on, wipe off, no nonsense approach to restore the original sheen of the previous finish. While on the one hand, it really restores the lustre and clarity of the original finish (whether you use an oil finish or lacquer etc), It should not be considered a finish in and of itself. To mix a batch of this miraculous stuff, I simply combine: 3 parts Formby's Lemon Oil (available from your local hardware store); 1 part Claphams Beeswax (available from Woodfinishing Supply, tel. # 315-597-3743); 1/2 part Watco Oil. Shake well before use, wipe it on, buff it out, and Bingo, you have a sparkling, shiny sheen that looks like new! P.S. It smells good too!

Submitted by Terry Moore, Newport NH

### THE MASSACHUSETTS CHERRY LOG

[Editor's note: This story by Kenneth Rower, is copyright Mar/Apr 1980, Fine Woodworking Magazine, The Taunton Press, Box 5506, Newtown, CT 06470. Subscriptions \$25/yr. Reprinted with permission. All rights reserved.]

One day I saw a log at Denison's Sawmill in Colrain, Massachusetts. It was cherry, eight feet long, three feet broad. Mr. Denison said he would not saw it, it had hardware in it. As it was in the way, he would sell it to me for twenty dollars. I said all right.

In a week I came back with Red Franklin. Red is a strong fellow, an iron-worker. At the time he owned a Jeep pickup. Since Red had lost his driving license in a dispute with the State of Maine, I drove the ninety miles out to the mill. When Mr. Denison loaded the log the pickup sank, but not so much that we couldn't drive away. After a few miles there was a sharp report from the rear, then a lot of bumping. We stopped and found we needed to change the left rear wheel. Our jack was not strong enough to lift both truck and log. I went across the road to a house to ask for help. A woman came to the door. Quite a stump you've got there, she said.

After some time we resumed our journey. At lunch Red decided he would drive. He took the wheel and headed for Greenfield. At a junction near the edge of town we rolled slowly uphill, past a stop sign posted away off to the right, and into the side of an empty pickup traveling across our path. There was considerable noise. Red gripped the wheel tightly and shouted, They'll put me in jail for this!

They did. The truck and log were impounded in the back lot of the police station, and Red in its jail. Bail was set at ninety dollars. We didn't have it. I called my old friend George Rockwell Putnam Barber, in Amherst. It took a while for Put to get to Greenfield. When at last we sprang Red, the cell block stank wonderfully from the hundreds of push-ups he had done to pass the time.

We spent the rest of the afternoon visiting a lawyer. His office was full of signs saying, Have you made your will? That night we stayed at Put's house, and Red and Put got along very well. The next day, dressed in one of Put's white shirts, Red went to court and was fined \$100 for his crimes and made to agree to repay the other driver's insurance company. Red, the truck and the log were set free and I drive home to Cambridge. We unloaded the log with the rolling bridge crane at Red's shop, a disused boiler works.

There the log rested for some time. Word came down that the boiler works was shortly to be demolished. In the following days I would cycle over from my shop five blocks away, carrying a two-man crosscut saw. With it we reduced the log to three pieces. The first cut was straight across and made two different cylinders. The second cut was on the diagonal through the larger cylinder. I meant to produce two blocks, each about five feet high, for carving into heavy chairs. This cut took forty hours. Much of the time the man at the other end of the saw was Ed Howland, who was helping me then in my shop. Eddie didn't think much of this particular job.

When it was done we carted the three pieces of cherry to my shop and put them in the back room. I studied them from time to time. Many people wondered at them. Some time later my building was bought by the city for demolition, and I moved to Vermont. The cherry came along.

Six years passed. By now I had a number of other heavy things to move about in my shed. I decided to hold an auction. The cherry log was knocked down in three lots, one at eight dollars, the others at seven dollars each. The first piece, the round one, was taken back to Massachusetts by Joe Wheelwright, who carved it a little and put it under one of his sculptures. The second went to Brad Johnston, a woodworker who lives nearby. He carved a chair out of it. The last piece became the bathroom sink in somebody's house up in the woods.

The last time I saw my friend Red he had eight months' wages in his pocket. He bought the biggest steak and the best bottle of wine at the store and we had a fine dinner.

I can say three things. I made two dollars on that log. All of it got put to use. And no one ever found any hardware in it.

EDITOR'S CORNER

I want to thank two members of the Newsletter Committee, Ted Blachly and Bruce Sanborn, who helped greatly with this edition. There has been great satisfaction in seeing so much interest in the Newsletter. It is always exciting to witness the birth of something like this and to imagine what it might become.

The Newsletter will be whatever you want it to be, dear members. Please send in your contributions: Articles, quotes, classifieds, cartoons, etc., to Jon Siegel, P.O. Box 114, Andover, NH 03216.

Keep in mind that we still need: (1) a NAME for the newsletter, and (2) a logo for the Guild. Thanks to everyone who helped.

Jon Siegel, Newsletter editor.

THE OFFICERS OF THE GUILD OF NH WOODWORKERS

President: John Skewes, 132 Drinkwater Road, Kensington, NH 03833, 778-7360

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Secretary: Steve Cunliffe, 10 Patch Road, Henniker, NH 03242, 428-7952

Newsletter & Mailing List: Jon Siegel, PO Box 114, Andover NH 03216, 735-5882

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C L A S S I F I E D  
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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES  
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Wanted: Small wood working shops interested in a steady flow of orders. We design, manufacture and market a line of 18th Century occasional furniture (tables, accent pieces and small chests) in cherry. We sub-contract the manufacturing of parts, sanding, and assembly to quality small woodworking shops. Size of cutting 25 to 100 of each item. We supply a model of each item to be made. Interested parties call: Benj. F. Kunkleman, President, Maryland Classics, Inc., P.O. Box 2065, Hagerstown, MD 21742. Phone 800-669-0172, FAX 301-791-3732.

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TOOLS FOR SALE  
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Dayton Generator, 4000 watt. \$800. 603-456-2385

Record Dowelling Jig. \$30. Ulmia Joiner Plane \$25. Sand-Rite Balloon Sander, 6 x 7 and 3 x 7 drums, Shop-made Stand and Assorted Sleeves. \$450. 603-456-2135.

100,000 BTU Dayton Space Heater with thermostat, 50 hrs. max. \$225. Leigh 24" Dovetail Jig with Makita Collets, no Bits. \$200. 603-778-7360.

Rockwell 10" Contractor's Table Saw, 1-1/2 HP. \$450 or B.O. Leigh 24" Dovetail Jig with Bits and Instructions. \$240. Freud Router Bit Door Making System #94-100-211. \$125. Japanese Plane Blades for Metal Planes, New. \$20 each. 603-428-7952

Millers Falls Power Hack Saw, (for metal), Heavy Cast Iron Stand, Needs work. \$40. 603-934-2765.

Brand New: 8' Ulmia Workbench, 5" Beech Top, Side & end Vises, Drawer. \$800. 20 x 7 Northwood Thickness Planer, 1 phase, 5 hp. \$2400. 413-259-1325.  
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