The President's Message

They were the best of times ... They were the worst of times. Well, here it is folks. My last hurrah. My swan song. My last President's Message!

Our September meeting marks the end of my two year term as President. I can honestly say that I have proven my own theory. The Guild has it's own momentum, and will survive, yes, even grow, no matter who happens to be President.

During my two year term, the Guild has grown from about 100 to over 150 active members and twenty supporting members, and is still growing. I wish that I could claim responsibility for this growth, but I can not.

The Guild has it's own unique energy field that seems to draw people in, and keeps their interest high.

Our quarterly meetings have been excellent times of fellowship, and wonderful opportunities to learn new techniques through the open sharing by some of our master craftsmen. I have really enjoyed being a part of the Guild, and particularly my term as President. I look forward to continuing my service as a member of the Steering Committee. Whoever the next President may be, he or she can count on my full support, dedication, and help, as the Guild forges ahead.

These last few months have been busy. Ted Blachly and I have been putting together the Guild's Third Annual Juried Exhibit. This year, the exhibit will include the work of 20 of our members, and will be held during the peak, fall tourist season, in the Upstairs Gallery at the League of NH Craftsmen's shop, in Hanover, NH. During the show, the Dartmouth football team will play four, big games at home. It is our hope, that the football fans, and alumni will also be buying fine furniture and other woodworking items from our show. We'll see!

Some of you, who submitted entries for the show, were not selected by the jurors. I encourage you not to look to negatively on the jurying process, but to view it objectively, for what it was.

Timothy Philbrick, John McAlevey, and Ruth Burt were the jurors. They were charged with the responsibility of putting together a pleasing exhibit, that would showcase the best work of the Guild members. They picked twenty entries out of thirty-four. They picked work that spoke to them... all pieces that were well designed and well made. I must admit that I would have picked some pieces that were excluded and rejected some that were accepted, but I did not jury the show.

Last year we had one juror. Next year, the show committee will probably do things differently, again. It may be that there will be no jurors whatever! The point is that, next year is a new opportunity, and some of those in this year's show may not be in it. So keep your chin up, and go for it again next year.

The overall quality of our entry documents was embarrassingly poor. Some submitted blurred and shadowy photos. In the future, we need to submit quality photos and slides, with as much close-up detail as possible.

A large percentage of entries looked as if someone who knew your work intimately, were judging. This was not the case! Two of the three jurors were not familiar with the work of most of the Guild members.

Each of us will benefit by submitting entries, to any show, that will enlighten any viewer about the individual quality and unique character of our work.

Let's aim higher and do better next year. Maybe, a good subject for a future meeting would be photography and promotion of our own work. What do you think?

Once again, I thank you for the opportunity to serve the Guild as President for the past two years, and I look forward to us growing together in the years ahead.

Terry Moore

Editor's Note: Terry is a Master Craftsman and one of the founders of the Guild. We all owe him a lot for his efforts in making the Guild what it is today. He may be reached at 603/863-4795.
Wood Wins At 1994 Mt. Sunapee Living With Crafts Exhibit

by Roy Noyes

Woodworkers were in evidence in force at the 1994 League of NH Craftsmen's Annual Fair, and especially the Living With Crafts Exhibit in the upstairs exhibition hall.

43 out of 193 items (22%) exhibited at the 1994 Living With Crafts Exhibit, sponsored by the League of NH Craftsmen were wood and 28 out of 43 were from Guild craftsmen. Total value of the woodworking pieces displayed was $62,260, of which $46,290 was Guild work.

This year, Best in Show went to Jon Brooks for his controversial Styx High Ladder Back Chairs of oiled walnut, lacquered maple, acrylic, & colored pencil, which were similar to those that won Best In Wood last year.

Guild Award Winners were:
Best in Wood - Terry Moore for his Brazilian rosewood and ebonized ash Desk.

Up to the last day, four Guild members had sold work totaling $5,295 and one non-Guild member had sold one piece for $900.

Sales by Guild members were:
Steve Cunliffe Seven Cheshire Cats, polychromed flight of Shelves.
Dave Emerson Bird’s-eye maple Jewelry Tote.
Terry Moore Curly maple and rosewood, Music Stand.
Roger Scheffer Black painted, long Windsor Settee.

Other Guild exhibitors were:
Steve & Jacquie Allman Stack of nine, graduated, cherry Shaker Boxes and cherry, Shaker Sconce.
Peter Bloch Black cherry burl Outreach Vessel.
Lenore Howe & Brian Braskie Cherry and bird’s-eye maple Shaker Sewing Desk.
Brett Cherrington Carved mahogany, Mantel.
Jonathon Clowes Fire of Life, ash & stainless steel mobile.
David Emerson Cherry, Lap Desk.
William P. Frost Bird’s-eye maple, Bowl.
David Lamb Cherry, Shaker Bedside Table & cherry, Tall Post Bed.

1994 Living With Crafts Exhibit
Seven Cheshire Cats Shelves - Steve Cunliffe
Wayne Marcoux Enameled poplar, Lutyens Garden Bench & End Tables.
John McAlevey Bird’s-eye maple & glass, Very Manchester Table.
Thom McGlone African bubinga & walnut, Chest on a Stand.
Terry Moore Bubinga, spruce & ebony Guitar.
Conrad Szymkowicz & Thomas Meyers Maple, Mahogany, walnut, & elm, The Second Illuminated Wall Cabinet.
Robert Pearson, Jr. Maple burl Versicolor.

Three Guild members setup shop with booths in the tent area. These were Steve and Jacque Allman in Tent 4, Peter Block in Tent 2, and Richard Gagne in Tent 7. Business was brisk as this reporter browsed around and reportedly sales were good.

Finally, Dave Emerson was busy the first six days demonstrating dovetailing, and mortise and tenon making. There was, reportedly, some concern among Guild members that Dave was making it seem so easy that everyone would make their own furniture and the Guild would be out of customers, out of work and on relief.

If you didn’t exhibit or visit the Fair this year, be sure to do so next year!
Paul Tuller To Host Meeting On Japanese Joinery, September 24, 1994

The first meeting of the 1994/95 Guild year will be held on Saturday, September 24, 1994 at Paul Tuller’s Ishiyama Company shop next to his home in Dublin, NH.

Paul invites everyone to come anytime after 10 am, and visit his gardens and nursery which contain many exotic oriental as well as native species of perennials and trees. This is a rare chance to see growing examples of imported cabinet woods. Don’t miss it.

As usual, the first meeting of the season will include a Steering Committee meeting at 10 am, a full membership business meeting and election of officers at 11 am, and a “Bring Your Own” lunch from 12 to 1 pm, before the demonstration.

Paul Tuller is one of the founders of the Guild, and served as its first Treasurer for two years.

After graduating from Cornell University in 1976, he learned ornamental iron working at the Brotman Forge in Lyme, NH. Then, he went on to extensively study the art and practice of Japanese woodworking under the direction of Robert Meadows, and the Japanese temple builder, Makato Imai at The Luthierie workshop in Saugerties, NY.

In 1992, he took a “Bamboosmithing” workshop at Hakone Garden, in Saratoga, CA.

Today, Paul is a well known designer and builder of Japanese style furniture and architectural woodwork. He has commissions installed in 10 states, including states as far away as California and Florida.

His work has been displayed in many exhibitions and he has demonstrated his work at a number of Arts and Crafts Fairs including the Eastern States Exposition in Springfield, MA.

Examples of his work have been published in:


Japanese woodwork is noted for it’s precision joinery, including many types not common to Western work. For example, Paul’s traditional Shoji screen lattices are assembled using only tight fitting mortise and tenon joints without glue or pegs, so that the lattice may be easily taken apart and the rice paper replaced when needed.

Pictured above is an example of a typical sliding, Shoji screen wall which Paul executed on an architectural woodwork commission.

During the afternoon demonstration, Paul will demonstrate how a master Japanese craftsman cuts mortise and tenon, and other traditional, tight fitting, Japanese joints.

Paul’s shop in Dublin is easy to find just off Route 101 as shown in the map below.

For further information contact:
Paul Tuller, Ishiyama Co., Pierce Road, Box 64, Dublin, NH. 03444 or call him at (603) 563-8884.
Power Tool Injuries - The Aftermath

by Roy Noyes

Unfortunately, several Guild members have had serious, shop-related hand injuries in the last year. Fortunately for the rest of us, two members have taken the time and effort to write about their experience with this dread happening, so that we may profit by their mistakes.

The following two stories are probably the most important stories that will ever be printed in the Old Saw. I urge every member to read them, and to take appropriate action to insure that he or she is not confronted by serious injury and its disastrous aftermath.

On comparing notes, Gary Batryn and Brian Groves realized that there are many similarities, but some very important differences. Their stories complement one another, and explore both the similarities and the differences.

Gary was injured while employed with a small, custom woodworking shop, and Brian was injured while self employed. Their articles tell about the very similar physical and emotional problems that they faced and their very dis-similar financial problems.

The Aftermath, Part I

By Gary Batryn

Playing catch-up for two years in a small, custom production shop had left me harried and pulled in many directions all at once. Unfortunately, it was routine by now, and I started not following the safety rules that we all know. I didn't turn the saw off while I measured.

The instant clouded my vision of the saw. I didn't feel dizzy or faint. It just didn't feel real. A gold metal shape caught my attention; was it a screw, a piece of the blade, part of the guard fence? My head was caught up in this internal dialogue, trying to make sense of my world as it came apart.

The blood started to pool in my right hand which cradled the injured one. Somehow, my focus shifted, and I could see what I had just done to my left hand with the table saw. Most of my thumb was gone and my other four fingers were all hyper-extended back, because the tendons had been cut.

I yelled across the shop. I must have been heard for blocks! Someone grabbed a packing blanket (so much for shop medical procedures) and wrapped my hands together. We both ran to the truck and drove to the hospital, which was about 4 miles away.

Once at the hospital, pain filled my body. I had been there for what seemed hours. The nurses and EMT's in the room tried to calm me down. What were they waiting for? I started yelling at everyone. "Get me out of here!" "Get me down to Boston!"

They decided to try and stop my blood loss first. I can still feel the doctor putting in stitches without any anesthesia, and the tugging and pulling to remove my gold wedding band. It was the gold colored object that had fascinated me so, only a short while before.

I remember waking up in the recovery room. The awareness of my pain became very real. I did not get any sleep that night. The IV's, the smells of the hospital, the red light of the morphine dispenser, the groans and yells for help from down the hall made it all seem like a bad dream.

The nurse turned on the lights, and returned me to reality. She took my pulse and my temperature, and checked my dressing. She told me that the doctors were coming in soon. She was in control, and there was something wonderfully calming about her. I did not know her personally, but she personified how important nurses were to me in those first ten days.

Two, big men walked in wearing bright colored, Mickey Mouse ties! My hand started to throb and ache. My wife wasn't here yet. I was not really ready for this.

One doctor, speaking with an Australian accent, said, "Gary, we have stabilized your hand. However, we are going to have to go back into surgery tomorrow. Your index finger is going to be used to reconstruct your thumb."

A sickening feeling came over me. What I had done to my hand shot through my mind with great clarity. What am I going to do? How will I make a living? It seemed so hopeless.

My hands, and what I create with them, are a big part of how I define myself as a person.

For months afterward, there were long sleepless nights, and waking up soaking wet from chills, pain that never seemed to go away. I was tired and withdrawn. Nothing interested me. Videos, TV and doctor visits filled my days.

Was this ever going to end? Was my hand ever going to be my friend again? I was told that I would need at least three more surgeries to obtain a functional hand, or there would be more until they exhausted all their techniques.

I hit a brick wall mentally. All I did was focus on what I could not do. Everything seemed so frustrating. Getting dressed, opening a can of soup seemed foreign and strange.

I had forgotten how far I had come in my recovery. Fortunately my family, my friends, and especially my therapist, helped me change my focus to the small daily gains.
This allowed me to see beyond my immediate circumstances, to the world of possibilities that lay before me. I shall always be deeply indebted to them.

This is only a small fragment of the ordeal that I have been through. My intent in writing this article is not describe the ordeal in detail, or to layout any of the safety procedures of a woodworking shop. (There are many good publications that cover that topic.)

But rather, my intent is, for this article to be a reminder, to all of us, of the implications, and the aftermath of making quick decisions that could have been avoided.

Anyone who has been in this trade for some time knows someone that has been hurt. However, even after my injury, I am still convinced that there is absolutely no good reason to get hurt in a woodshop. While operating machinery, you have to have the same calm, deliberate presence of mind that allows you to cut a dovetail joint, layout case dimensions, or to complete a complicated glueup.

Unfortunately, the lack of awareness of our true emotional and physical states can cause trouble. I understand that we all feel different throughout a typical day. Some of us are more effective in the morning; others do not really dial in until late in the afternoon. But,

When the demands of a small shop make you feel like you are being pulled in four directions, all at once ... STOP WHAT YOU ARE DOING!

That is when accidents occur.

Since I have been going to hand therapy (about 10 months so far), I have met seven people who have had serious accidents from some type of woodworking equipment. This is just at one local rehabilitation department in Manchester, NH. Every one was a professional woodworker and each one had years of experience. I'm not sure how to explain this, but let me share another experience with you.

About a year after I graduated from school, I met a friend, at a woodworking show, who had gone through the furniture design program with me. We talked about what we were doing currently, how our lives had changed, and what work was like.

Then he showed me his hand. His fingers were bent and crooked; he had run his hand through a table saw. He was lucky, he still had relatively good movement in his hand. He said he had injured his hand because he was rushed for time. The long hours of piece work had caught up to him.

As the disbelief eased and I walked away,
The Aftermath, Part II
by Brian Groves

Great, I'll just cut this one small piece, glue it up, and I'll be able to finish the assembly tomorrow. I should turn down the table saw blade, but never mind, it's just one cut and I don't have time.

Oh no! The pain! My hand! The blood! Oh, dear God, I'm in trouble. Help Me! Help me! Then, I looked down and my whole hand is hanging by a piece of skin. I quickly fold it into my shirt, but I can't feel it. Blood is dripping everywhere. I can still see the look of horror in my children's eyes as I walked into the kitchen to get help.

At the local hospital, the emergency room doctor tells me that he is going to have to amputate, and if I am really lucky, he may be able to save two fingers. Please, NO! I'm a woodworker, and you can't take my hand.

A hurried conference is called, and a decision is made to send me to a top Boston hospital that specializes in these types of accidents. After eighteen hours of microsurgery, my entire hand is intact.

Days pass as I stare at my hand in the cast with pins sticking out everywhere, and probes connected to a monitor. I can't feel my fingers or move the them. Depression sets in, as I wonder about what I am going to do, and if I will, ever again, be able to support my family.

After my hand stabilizes, I am sent home to start the healing process. Four weeks later, it is back to the hospital to have the cast removed and the stitches taken out.

With the cast off, I couldn't believe that I was looking at my hand, however, the doctor was pleased with the results. Then, he told me, that after full recovery, the hand would be just an assist hand, and that the best I might do was to pick up a piece of paper with it! NO! I will not accept this. I have been hurt before and have always bounced right back.

I love working with wood. It's the only way I know how to make a living. I just can't give it up! But, what am I going to do?

The bills are starting to come in, and I am self-employed, with limited accident insurance and no Workmen's Compensation, and I no longer have an income.

From day one in rehabilitation, I am determined to beat this injury. I can't move my fingers and can barely move my wrist. My therapist told me that I am in for a long haul, and she isn't too optimistic about my recovering, much use of my hand, but she is very encouraging about my returning to work.

After a couple of weeks of therapy, I am able to move my fingers ever so slightly, but I still can't feel a thing. I am extremely discouraged, for I thought I would be much further along by now.

The bills are coming in faster, and our savings account is dwindling rapidly. I am pursuing local, state, and federal assistance without any success. What am I going to do? I've just got to get back to work!

Several more weeks go by, and I am able to move my fingers about 1/2 inch. Although, I am upbeat on the outside, inside my depression is getting deeper and deeper. My requests for assistance have been turned down by every level of government. I guess being a self-employed, middle class citizen over-qualifies me for any financial help, and I'm not eligible for disability insurance due to a pre-existing condition. What am I going to do? I can't work. I can't get my hand to work, no matter how hard I try. The bills keep coming in, and our savings are gone. My rehabilitation insurance is running out, and tension at home is rising. Am I going to lose all that I have ever worked for? I'm never going to use my hand again. Somebody, anybody help me, please.

At this point that my therapist realizes that I have hit rock bottom. Through her encouragement and my persistence, I am able to get a handle on my injury.

The bills don't matter any more. The heck with Uncle Sam. The only way that I can get out of this hole is to get back to work, and the only way to get back to work is to get some use out of my hand.

My therapist is trying every possible technique for improving the use of a hand. I, in turn, use the techniques, push them well above their normal limits, and in some cases, I make up my own adaptations of them.

The results prove to be dramatic. I learn to pick up a chisel, then a four foot level, eventually a forty pound bag of cement.

Finally, after seven, long months of physical and mental agony, severe depression and a host of bills, the wonderful day comes when I am able to go back to work.

I still have no feeling in the hand, limited movement and little strength. I still need more corrective surgery, but it can wait until winter. I have more important things to do now, like getting my family back on track.

I am not going to lecture anyone on power tool safety. You all know the rules. I just want to share what can be lost forever, in a split second, when one of the rules is forgotten.

I want to emphasize the need of self-employed workers to have adequate insurance, not matter what the cost. Perhaps this will change, if we get a universal health insurance plan, but don't count on it now.

Editor's Note: Brian Groves is back at work now as a self-employed finish carpenter. He feels that he has made good recovery and that he can do almost anything that he could do before, even complex stair cases. However, he admits that some things take a little longer. For more information about his experiences and recommendations, contact Brian Groves, evenings at 603/642-8749.
Woodworker’s Calendar

Guild 1994-95 Schedule of Events

Program Chairman Ted Blachly announces the following events of interest to the Guild. Anyone with suggestions or questions on up-coming events may contact Ted at 603/456-2385.

Sunday, September 11, 1994 from 1 to 4 pm
Delivery of Guild exhibit items to the Upstairs Gallery of the League of NH Craftsmen Shop in Hanover, NH.
Contact Ted Blachly at 603/456-2385 for more information.

September 17 thru October 29, 1994
Guild Exhibition at the Upstairs Gallery of the League of NH Craftsmen Shop, Hanover, NH. Opening Reception, Saturday, September 17 from 3 to 5 pm. Contact Ted Blachly at 603/456-2385 for more information.

Saturday, September 24, 1994
Paul Tuller’s shop, Dublin, NH. Paul Tuller will be demonstrating Mortise and Tenon and other Japanese Joinery. Contact Paul Tuller at 603/563-8884 for more information.

Saturday, October 15, 1994
Deadline for submitting articles or advertising for the next Old Saw newsletter to Editor Roy Noyes.

Sunday, October 30, 1994, 1 to 4 pm
Pickup of Guild exhibit items from the Upstairs Gallery of the League of NH Craftsmen Shop. Contact Ted Blachly at 603/456-2385 for more information.

Wednesday, November 9, 1994
Mailing date for the next issue of the Old Saw Newsletter.

Saturday, November 19, 1994
The Business of Woodworking Seminar. Location to be announced. Contact John Skewes at 603/778-7360 with suggestions or for more information.

Saturday, January 14, 1995
Pinkerton Academy, Derry, NH. Jack Grube will host a demonstration meeting on the use of all types of scrapers. Contact Jack Grube at 603/437-5211 days to 2:30 pm and at home 603/432-4060 before 8 pm or John Skewes at 603/778-7360 for more information.

February 1 to 5, 1995
Master’s Level Craft Studio Conference, Bennington College, Bennington, VT. Jere Osgood “Lamination Techniques For Furniture Makers. For more information contact NSC 603/224-3375.

The Editors Corner

Roy Noyes
178 Derry Road Chester, NH 03036-4311 Tel. 887-3682

Authors and Reporters Wanted
If you enjoy reading The Old Saw, how about helping me by contributing an article, or a report on some activity you are taking part in? Don’t worry if you think that you can’t write well. Get it to me, any way you can, and I will edit it for publication. Without your help there wouldn’t be any Old Saw.

Copy Deadline For Next Issue
The normal deadline for items for The Old Saw is one month prior to the next meeting. There’s a lot of work in putting the newsletter together and last minute items create a real problem in meeting the mailing deadline of two weeks before the next meeting.

Please submit any items for the next newsletter to me not later than Saturday, October 15, 1994.

The next newsletter will be mailed about November 9, 1994.

Copy Guidelines For Authors
If possible, please submit copy on either 3.5" or 5 1/4", IBM compatible, floppy disk in ASCII format to save retyping. Please, include a paper copy for backup, in case I have trouble reading your disk.

If you don’t understand what this means, just send either typewritten or clear, hand written copy. Thanks!

Classified Advertising

For sale
Boxes, 200 double ply cardboard, 13x19x8H, used, good condition, $0.40 ea or best offer.
Jon Siegel 603/934-2765

Services
Machine shop services, English and metric threaded parts, shaper collars (plain & B.B.), planing (jointer tables, fences, etc.) to 20x48 inches, dovetail slides remachined. Antique machines a specialty.
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Full size scroll saw patterns and projects. More complicated than most available anywhere today. Projects such as wall and corner shelves, mirrors, toys and clocks. Send $1 for brochure.
Nelson Designs P.O. Box 422 Dublin, NH 03444 or call John Nelson 603/563-8306
Notice!

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP
DUES FOR THE 1994 - 1995 GUILD YEAR WERE DUE SEPTEMBER 1, 1994
Anyone can make a mistake. According to our records, you have not renewed your membership. We don't want anyone to miss out on any of the Guild activities and news.
Please send your 1994-1995 dues today,
or
Call Lou Yelgin if our records are incorrect.

The Guild of New Hampshire Woodworkers
c/o Lou Yelgin, Treasurer
10 Woodbine Lane, Merrimack, NH 03054 Tel.603/424-4888

Enclosed are my dues of $15.00 for the the Guild 1994-95 year. I understand that the Guild year runs from September 1, 1994 to September 1, 1995 and that dues are not pro-rated.
I consider myself:  Beginner___Hobbist___Advanced___Semi-professional___Professional___
My interests are:  Boats___Cabinets___Furniture___Turnings___Other (explain)___
The Guild may sell its mailing list to the woodworking community to make money for activities. If you do not want your name given out on these lists, please check here:___
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