President’s Message from Jack Grube

I really enjoyed Ernie Grime’s article, Mr. Taylor Wore A Derby-The Rest of Us Wore Caps, in the last Old Saw. Ernie is a terrific individual and one of the first members that I recall meeting in the Guild. Reading his article got me thinking about the number of Guild members that I don’t know. Since I will be running for another term as President, I thought I would take this opportunity to tell you about my background.

I grew up on the south side of Chicago and as a “college-bound” student, I had to beg my high school counselor to take woodworking. I was successful my senior year. It turned out to be a class I really enjoyed and one that changed my life.

During high school, I spent my afternoons working in a drug store for a pharmacist, Fred Yanow. I delivered prescriptions, worked the counter, and at sixteen, I was a one-man remodeling crew for his store.

Fred was a tremendous influence to my life. So much so, that I decided that I wanted to be a pharmacist. After high school, I completed a two-year pre-pharmacy program before realizing that was not what I wanted to be. I wish I would have known then that CVS, Osco, Brooks, and the others were going to get into a building war and that as a country we have 8,000 pharmacy openings in 2002! Oh well.

After leaving pharmacy school, I packed up my bags and transferred to Northern Illinois University. After a semester of drifting through classes, I met a terrific professor, Dr. Duane Johnson, and he convinced me that I should pursue a career in traffic safety. I soon learned I could only minor in traffic safety and I still needed to select a major.

I thought back to my HS woodworking experience and decided to major in comprehensive industrial arts with a specialization in wood. After all, it was the building adjacent to the safety center and very convenient.

I spent a lot of time in the safety program and stopped in the wood shop now and then for a little R&R. I got to know an industrial safety instructor, Roger Cliffe, and roomed with him my senior year.

Since my major was IA, I had to student teach my senior year and was assigned to Batavia HS with Nate Farnsworth. Nate was a terrific guy, but very intense and Roger helped to balance my life.

When I graduated, I was offered a position as a teaching assistant at NIU in safety and began my Masters. That lead to an offer in 1976 to serve as an intern at the newly developed Safety Center at Keene State College. I was young and never had seen the East Coast — so, I took the job.

I loved NH and when I heard about a driver education job at a place called Pinkerton Academy in Derry, NH. I applied, got the job and spent ten years (1976-1986) teaching, coaching and advising. Somewhere in 1986, I got the ten-year itch, left teaching, and worked as a project manager for a high-end residential builder for three years.

In many ways, I have a debt that I owe the Guild. Serving as an officer is my way of paying it off

The residential market crashed in 1989. I needed new job and Pinkerton Academy needed a woodworking teacher. I was offered the job and took it. I really had never done much with my degree in IA, so I knew there was a challenge ahead.

About 1994, Roy Noyes told me about the Guild. I needed a lot of help with my woodworking skills, so I joined the Guild. I also joined GSWT and was at the first meeting of BIG. Over the years I helped with the video library, served on the Steering Committee, served as program coordinator and now as President.

Here’s the irony of it all. Mr. Terlecki, my HS woodworking teacher left teaching a long time ago. However, he is still a woodworker. Mr. Yanow, the pharmacist, is retired and is now a full time woodworker.

Dr. Cliffe, left safety a long time ago, and has written several books and his woodworking advice column appears in Woodshop News and other journals. He is also Professor of Wood Technology at Northern Illinois University.

Mr. Farnsworth left teaching, but is earning a living working with wood. And me, I am a full time teacher and officer of our Guild.

My wife, who I refer to as the First Lady of the Guild, and two children keep me busy when I am not at Pinkerton or working with the Guild.

My passions are my family, my work, fishing and being involved. Not necessarily in that order. Occasionally, I do get a chance to turn on that beautiful Oneway lathe that we now have at Pinkerton.

This summer we will travel to Michigan to visit my family, Wisconsin to fish and enjoy the beach with my wife’s family, and then out west to show the children some National Parks. You see, I work real hard for 10 months and then for two months I work even harder on family vacations.

So, like the people in my story and many of you, I will never be a professional woodworker. For me, my job and my vacations get in the way.

The Guild, however, has been a very important part of my life and my career. In many ways, I have a debt that I owe the Guild. Serving as an officer is my way of paying it off.

See you at the next meeting.

Jack
Thanks From The President
Jack Grube President Tel 603-432-4060 E-mail jackgrube@aol.com

First and foremost, a gargantuan thank you to Lou Barchey for stepping forward and spending countless hours developing our new web site. Look for it at http://www.seresc.net/~gnhw/

Hats off to Marty Milkovits for his work in organizing this years Juried Show, “Imagination and Inspiration”, at the League Shop in Hanover. I had the opportunity to attend the opening reception on May 5th and was truly impressed with the beautiful items on display. The show is there until May 31st.

All our thanks go to the presenters from this past year’s meetings – Lou Barchey, David Lamb, Terry Moore, Brian Sargent, and Brooks Tanner.

I would also like to say thank you to the individuals who serve on the Steering Committee and various committees. These individuals have been very supportive and are instrumental in the growth of the Guild this past year.

Congratulations to everyone that helped on the Shaker Table Project for the raffle at Sunapee. They look great.

I am still looking for names to add to the Supplier list that is now available at the new web site.

Don’t forget that at our November, 2001 meeting we will have table space for members (and their families) who have items which they have made for sale. It should be an interesting addition to our morning program and hopefully a chance to get some early Christmas gifts purchased.

A special note of appreciation to the Leach Public Library in Londonderry and the Chester Public Library so that our books and videotapes are available to woodworkers throughout NH.

I recently learned of a new woodworking club in New Hampshire. The Bear Camp WW Club meets monthly at the Woodworkers Warehouse store in North Conway. Call the store for details. NH can boast of the Furniture Masters, the Guild, the Seacoast Woodworking group, the Bear Camp WW Club, the Granite State Woodcarvers and the Granite State Woodturners. Wow!

Through a Yahoo group for Guild Presidents I have met Larry Dent, Executive Director of the WV Wood Industry Consortium. Larry is helping to start a Guild in West Virginia. He has offered to forward potential grant opportunities to me.

If any of you are into grant writing and would like to filter these recommendations for the SC, please contact me.

Wanted: Guild Members and Others Interested In Scroll Sawing

John Nelson, a nationally recognized scroll saw expert, has rejoined our Guild. Welcome back, John! John is a prolific author, a teacher and a resident of Dublin, NH.

This is an exciting opportunity as John is usually paid by groups across America to speak, demonstrate and teach. John has offered his expertise in helping to form a group of Guild members interested in scroll sawing.

If you, or anyone you know, are interested in scroll sawing, please email me or call me. If there is an interest, I will help to get this new group started.

11th Annual Wood Days at Canterbury

June 23-24, 2001

Dave Emerson Program Coordinator Tel 603-783-4403 E-mail efurnitr@tiac.net

Dave Anderson Publicity Coordinator Tel 603-887-6267 E-mail dsachester@aol.com

The 11th Annual Wood Days at Canterbury Shaker Village is back and larger than ever. Dave Emerson has organized a program which includes horse logging, bandsaw mill demos, wood sculpture, wood and canvas canoe restoration, and of course the live music which continues all of both days.

Additionally, this year will include a coopering demo, displays from Goosebay and Tuckaway Lumber, and Jasmine Smedberg, a Swedish woodworker making Shaker reproductions using old techniques. With a little bit of luck, the Shaker Dry House cabinet shop will be up and running on steam for the first time since 1926.

Guild participation will be heavy this year with carving, inlay, turning, guitar making, tool making, scroll saw, and furniture demos.

Geoff Ames will have his Chippendale chair display on site for viewing. Ernie Grimes will be working with kids on his treadle lathe, David Lamb will be displaying a piece and his portfolio, and Tom McLaughlin will be working on furniture.

We are still looking for more Guild members to take part at all levels including talking with visitors, doing demos, manning the Guild table, and showing off their portfolios.

To volunteer, contact Dave Emerson or Dave Anderson whose phone numbers are listed above.

Participants can begin setting up Saturday as early as 8:30 and the village is open to the public from 10 to 4 both days.

As always, Dave Emerson will be hosting a cookout at his house for participants, directly after the day is over. Take part this year, you’ll have a great time.

Guild Directory Of Woodworkers

Dave Anderson Publicity Coordinator Tel 603-887-6267 E-mail dsachester@aol.com

For those who have worked the Guild tent at the Sunapee Craft Fair, one of the common situations is being asked by visitors for the names of someone who can make them a particular piece of furniture or do a woodworking job for them. In years past we have been unprepared and we fumble for a name or names to give and then scramble for something to write it on. Rather than continue with this scenario, we have decided to make available a listing of contacts to be available as a handout. This is entirely voluntary and listing will be open to any Guild member who does full or part time woodworking of any type.

If you wish to be listed, contact Dave Anderson by phone or email with the following information:

Company or business name
Your name, Address, Phone No., Email address, Types of work
Examples- Styles of furniture (modern, period, Shaker, etc.), woodturning, boxes, carving, restoration work, etc

Please be specific, but listings will be limited in space.

In order to be printed in time for Sunapee, submissions must be in to Dave by July 1st.

This listing will be revised each year and will hopefully generate new business for our members.


Cameras without flash are permitted if you obtain a Photo Pass. Along with all of the exhibition catalogues, The Museum Shop carries many popular art books and hard-to-find art publications. You'll also find exquisite handcrafted jewelry, a wide assortment of art-inspired paper products, children's items, and unique household accessories. Open during all public museum hours.

The Museum opens at 11 AM and there is a good cafeteria that opens at 11:30. If you plan to eat there, you should make reservations at: 860-278-2670 ext. 3039. We will meet at the Atheneum at 1:00.

Car Pools
The trip will be more enjoyable as well as less expensive if we car-pool. Check with other members in your area and form your own. There is at least one group already forming that will meet in Keene.

Directions
The Wadsworth Atheneum is located at 600 Main Street in downtown Hartford, approximately 100 miles from Boston, and minutes from I-91 and I-84.

From Springfield and points north:
- Take I-91 to the Capitol Area Exit, 29A.
- Take the second exit from the ramp, marked Prospect Street.
- Turn right onto Prospect. The rear of the museum is on the left, one block up.

From Boston and points east:
- Take I-84 westbound to the Downtown Hartford exit, 54 (this is a left exit).
- Immediately after crossing the Founders Bridge, turn left onto Columbus Boulevard.
- Turn right onto Arch Street. Turn right onto Prospect Street. The rear of the museum is on the left, one block up.

Parking
Parking is available on Prospect St. across from the Museum. Metered street parking and commercial garages and lots are located within walking distance. On Saturdays and Sundays, visitors may park for free in Travelers lot #7 on Prospect Street behind the museum.

After the tour of the Atheneum, directions to the nearby Twain house will be distributed. There is an admission charge of $7.00 for the Twain House, but the Guild is covering the Atheneum cost, so the trip is a bargain as well.

The trip on June 16 will visit two extraordinary places. It would be worth your time even if it were 100 miles further away. The furniture collection at the Hartford Atheneum is one of the most important in this country, and the woodwork and collections at the Mark Twain house are magnificent. Your spouse or significant other and family members should join us.

Wadsworth Atheneum
The Wadsworth Atheneum, founded in 1842 by Daniel Wadsworth, is one of America’s oldest and most respected public art museums. The original building (the first of five), which was designed in Gothic Revival style, opened to the public in 1844.

Benefiting from generous donations by such luminaries as J.P. Morgan and Elizabeth Colt, widow of famous firearms manufacturer Samuel Colt, as well as from established funds for the purchase of art, the Atheneum has blossomed over the past century and a half to house nearly 50,000 works of art from the United States and other nations, the Wadsworth Atheneum continues to play a vital role in the art world. The sheer quality and range of fine and decorative arts at the Wadsworth Atheneum place it among the dozen greatest art museums in the United States.

The Atheneum’s collections span more than 5,000 years and include: ancient Egyptian, Greek, and Roman bronzes; Renaissance and baroque paintings; European decorative arts; seventeenth- and eighteenth-century American furniture and decorative arts; costumes and textiles; French and American impressionist paintings; and twentieth-century masterpieces.

The Atheneum is a major art museum with substantial collections of early furniture. Best known is the Wallace Nutting collection. This is the largest and most important collection of 17th century American furniture in existence. In addition, there is a substantial collection of 17th and 18th century Connecticut furniture.

We have arranged for knowledgeable guides to show us these collections. Guided tours of the rest of the museum are also available after our tour.

The masterpieces of rural joinery from inland New England are among America’s most original contributions to the arts of the 18th-century. Nowhere are the advanced skills in this idiom more clearly apparent than on the pieces associated with Connecticut’s New London “school,” and Samuel Loomis of Colchester is perhaps the most renowned of the many documented furniture makers at work there.

This chest is one of Loomis’s most ambitious pieces. The incised vine tracery of its upper drawers and the enormous scale of its base and scroll pediment are hallmark features of Loomis’ best work and the chest is the keystone of the museum’s collection of rural masterpieces.

Mark Twain House
We will also visit the nearby Mark Twain house. Designed by Edward T. Potter, the 1874 building features decorative work by the Associated Artists and has the only remaining interiors by Louis Comfort Tiffany. It is noted for its magnificent woodwork. The furnishings are also interesting. Twain’s description of his bed for example describes, “carved angels enough to bring peace to the sleeper.”

Trip Details
There will be docents available for the regular exhibits as well as the furniture collection. In addition a special Picasso exhibit is available with a small surcharge.

The trip will be more enjoyable as well as less expensive if we car-pool. Check with other members in your area and form your own. There is at least one group already forming that will meet in Keene.

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The Wadsworth Atheneum is located at 600 Main Street in downtown Hartford, approximately 100 miles from Boston, and minutes from I-91 and I-84.

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Wood Days at Sunapee - The Craftsmen’s Fair at Mount Sunapee August 4 to 12, 2001
Paul Miller – Program Coordinator
Tel 603-887-3403 Email pnmill@ma.ultranet.com

The League of NH Craftsmen’s Fair at Mount Sunapee State Park will be held from August 4-12 and we are putting in extra effort to make the Guild’s booth the best ever. I have established a Sunapee Fair Planning Committee to help me with planning the fair. The members are: Dave Anderson, Dick Batchelder, Jack Grube, and Jon Siegel. We are planning for a very active and interesting booth that will display the variety and diversity of our talents to over 35,000 fair goers.

There will be demonstrations of wood-turning, woodcarving, furniture making and other woodcrafts each day of the fair and a “Woodworking with Kids” theme day on Wednesday.

The Granite State Woodturners and The Granite State Woodcarvers will have an especially strong involvement with several members demonstrating. Many other members, including some Furniture Masters, will demonstrate as well.

The raffle this year will be extensive and we expect a great response from the public. We will raffle off several of the Shaker Candle Stands that The Granite State Woodturners and the BIG Group started making in March.

GNHW Shaker Candle Stand

In addition we will have a daily raffle of items that the members have donated.

The Granite State Woodturners will donate several woodturnings and we are asking Guild members to donate other items that they make from wood.

As you know, the proceeds of the raffle are allocated to the Guild’s Scholarship program so you are helping yourself, as well as the other Guild members, by participating in this cause. We will place a sign acknowledging you as the creator of your donation.

Please let me know what you are able to contribute.

We are planning to display and offer the Guild clothing for sale to the public and we will have a TV/VCR running some of our videos. The Guild brochure and membership form will be available, also.

On Wednesday during the fair, the League is having a Children’s theme day and we will have a Woodworking with Kids theme that day. We are developing the program now but could also use your ideas. Please let us know what you think would be appropriate activities to entertain and promote woodworking for our future members.

We will also continue to sponsor the Best in Wood award in the Living With Crafts exhibit with a $250 prize.

We have met with the League and are coordinating our activities with them. The League has agreed to provide a larger tent (20 x 30 feet) than the 20 x 20 foot tent we had in previous years and in addition, a second 20 x 20 foot tent. That is 2 ½ times the area we have ever had in the past, which should allow us to really display the diversity of our talents. We will have two lathes staffed full time and two woodcarvers demonstrating each day, in addition to all our other activities.

The Sunapee Fair Planning Committee is working on the other tasks that are important including: tent layout and resources needed e.g. lathes, benches, tables, chairs, etc., signs (what do we need and who makes them), write a “Demonstrator’s Guide” that will talk about badges, name signs, handing money & selling tickets, rules for bringing material on site, etc.

I am trying to get demonstrators listed in the League’s program, which will show who is demonstrating on each day of the show. The League will also make signs for each of the demonstrators, if we provide them with the list. Each demonstrator is encouraged to display examples of the work they are demonstrating. They may also display literature of business cards during the demo if they wish.

We are looking for people to help out in many ways.

We have started to poll all the volunteers to schedule participation in the fair activities. We need to know how many and what days people can work, what they will demo and what other work they are willing to do (selling raffle tickets, talking about the guild, setup/takedown, handling money, etc.).

Woodworking skill is not important.

Help by setting up the booth, making signs, talking with our visitors, helping with the raffle, demonstrating or some other activity.

As of our last Guild meeting, over 50 of our members have already volunteered to assist at the fair. It looks like we should have a great turnout and I really appreciate the response from our members. However, there are still plenty of opportunities for you to participate.

I want the fair to be well organized so that everything goes smoothly and no one has to deal with any last minute “panic”. If the booth is well staffed at all times, no one individual should be overburdened and everyone should enjoy themselves and even have a little time to see the rest of the Fair. Join us for fun at the Fair. Please phone or email me and let me know what you will do.

Scenes from Last Year’s League of NH Craftsmen Fair

Dustin Coates discusses turning gouges with Jeffery Keeler

Bill Hart, Ed Bartlett and Geoff Ames working on Chippendale Chair Parts

Cherry Tall Chest - Diane Friets

Living With Crafts

Please phone or email me and let me know what you will do
Shop Safety - Proven tips from an old time woodworker
Ernie Grimes

We have all met someone who has been hurt while working in their shop. In most cases it happened because they did something foolish. Think before you act!

How can we prevent getting hurt?
The first thing is to look around your shop as though you were a visitor seeing it for the first time. Is the shop clean and tidy, well lit with enough room around each piece of machinery for you to move safely from one place to another? One way to provide enough room is to have the tools that you use only occasionally on casters so that they can be stored out of the way and brought out when needed. Most of us have a table saw. One needs support for the stock before and after it is cut. It is a simple matter to add to the table in back of the blade. Having a roller arrangement is even better.

Using push sticks, feather boards and even looking your little finger over the fence while ripping reduces injury. Also, wearing an apron with a pocket is a good idea so that you will always have a push stick handy. Cutting plywood panels into smaller pieces with a hand-held saw will make them less dangerous to trim to finish size.

Although handling pieces too large to work safely causes many accidents, holding pieces too small causes many more. Almost every woodworking book has loads of jigs that help you to keep your fingers away from the blade.

On my saw and jointer, I have put a piece of masking tape on the top of the fence to remind me that 12 inches is probably the shortest length I should push past the blades. It is better to work longer pieces and throw some of it away than risk getting hurt.

Make sure you change the blades or knives when they need resharpening. A dull tool needs more effort to do its work which in many cases can result in kick-back and injury.

Disconnect the power when working on a machine. All of us, at one time or another, have changed the blade on our saw or changed the drill in our drill press without unplugging the cord. Maybe nothing will happen, but why take a chance? I have a disconnect switch next to the wall plug on my drill press, so that is easy to shut off the power. And be very careful to always check that you have removed the chuck key before starting the drill press.

Having a good way to quickly and easily shut off the power is a good idea, especially when you get in trouble. You can buy or make something you can push with your knee when needed. If you use it to shut off the saw each time you finish using it, you'll do it automatically in an emergency.

Norm Abrams starts every program with a reminder to always wear safety glasses. A better idea when ripping, or turning wood is to wear a face shield.

It is unusual for a carbide tooth to separate from the saw blade, but knots may come flying toward you when you cut through them and chunks may fly off of the lathe.

We all know the danger breathing dust. Buy a cover for a trash can and make a single stage collector into a two-stage to separate the bulk of waste from the finer dust. If you have changed the trash can with a plastic bag and put a piece of Sonotube inside to prevent the bag from being sucked into the hose, you can easily remove the waste without inhaling the dust.

Dressing comfortably is also important to your safety.

Take time to work safe

All of stickers applied to the machinery remind us not to operate any machinery when over tired, ill, taking medication, under the influence of alcohol or in a hurry.

All these things add up to what you probably already know — Use Good Common Sense.

Auxiliary Fence
Use an auxiliary fence, as shown on the left, for ripping rough stock. The auxiliary fence prevents the stock from binding between the blade and the fence. The end of the auxiliary fence should lineup with the front of the blade.

If the kerf closes shut after the saw, use a splitter. If no splitter is available, insert a small wedge or the end of a stubby screw-driver in the kerf to keep it open and proceed to finish the cut.

Push Sticks

A. The handiest push stick to have. Will fit in the pocket so that it is always ready to be used.

B. Made to push narrow stock between the blade and the fence. Make one from 1/4 inch plywood and one from 3/4 inch plywood. If a small button magnet is inserted at X it will always be near when stuck on the back of the rip fence.

C. Safest of all when ripping narrow stock. Rides on top of the fence with the fingers away from the blade. If a knob is added to the top it will be even safer.

D. Best for planning flat stock on the jointer. I use two sizes, 12 inches long for the shortest stock, and one about 20 inches long for long stock. Sponge rubber from Dave Anderson added to the bottom makes it non slip and a very safe way to surface wood on a very dangerous tool.

Volume 12, No. 5
The Guild Book Library

An exciting new facet of our Guild is that we now have a library of wonderful books! The steering committee granted $500. to get the library going and there are now 27 great books in the Leach Public Library in Londonderry, NH, ready to borrow. Thanks to Roy Noyes our books have a great book plate which explains that these were donated by the Guild.

Anyone holding a library card from any public library in New Hampshire can borrow these books through the interlibrary loan system. It is simple and free and quick! These titles (listed below) are mostly from the Taunton Press and were selected based on the popularity of books ordered by you in years past. I am also taking suggestions for new titles to purchase next year.

We hope that we can continue to build this library with yearly grants as well as private donations. If you have any woodworking books in good condition that have been gathering dust contact me, or bring them to the next meeting so that we can get them into the collection.

The titles are listed below. We also have a list of titles on our web site, or just go to your library and check the Leach Library card catalog for titles.

Go read a good book!

The Best of Woodworking Series

This book was donated by The Guild of NH Woodworkers

The Guild of NH Woodworkers is dedicated to the sharing of woodworking knowledge with all those who care to learn

Future Meetings

George Anderson Program Coordinator

Here is a look at what is coming up! As you can see there is a great deal in the works, and many exciting meetings coming up. If you have ideas for these meetings, please contact the program chairman!

Guild Meeting Sept 15, 2001

Making Boxes

Frye’s Measure Mill - Wilton, NH

The day’s schedule needs to be a little different to squeeze in a tour of the Mill.

• 9:30 - 10:15 Tools and Jigs session
• 10:30 - 11:30 Tour of Frye’s Mill

Frye’s is a water powered mill that still produces Shaker boxes, piggins, firkins and other useful items of early American times. The mill itself is fascinating and its beautiful setting in the woods includes the mill pond, falls, picturesque bridges and a collection of early fire-engines.

There will be a presentation on the historic tools, fixture, machines and processes used at the mill. Tour of the Mill and description of the history of production tools and techniques there.

- 11:30 - 1:00 Business meeting and lunch
  - Guild Annual Meeting and election
  - Show and tell – bring a box

1:00 - 3:30 Multiple presenter session on Box Making featuring:

Pierre Blanchette Traditional boxes
Peter Bloch Band Saw boxes
Wayne Marcoux Box-joint boxes
George Saradakis Turned Boxes

Guild Meeting Nov. 10, 2001

Band Saw Use and Maintenance

The Dana Robes shop in Enfield

It is easy to find, just off Route 89, and is a well lighted spacious shop that will be excellent for this session.

Our presenters will be Jere Osgood and Jon Siegel. Jere will demonstrate some of his many uses of this most flexible machine. Jon will discuss the proper tuning and maintenance required for the best performance.

Local meetings February 16, 2002

This is a new format for the Guild and will consist of a simultaneous series of small meetings focusing on very specific topics. This will give us a chance to see some topics in smaller shops that do not lend themselves to the full Guild meeting. Topics and sites are still being discussed. We hope this will become a regular event which will allow for smaller groups to meet regularly.

Joint meeting with the Maine Guild and the Seacoast Woodworkers April 20, 2002

Here is a chance to meet some other woodworkers. The topic of the meeting is yet to be determined.

Jointery Symposium September 21, 2002

We are working on a full day symposium along the lines of our carving symposium which will focus on joinery.
A set of the Guild video tapes listed below are now available through your local Library. They are marked with a distinctive Guild label and are housed at the Chester, NH Public Library but may be borrowed at your local library through regular interlibrary loan.

Also, these tapes will continue to be available for loan at most of the Guild and other woodworking meetings.

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<td>Rain Forest and Other Green Issues</td>
<td>Jack Carr</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>99 WS 2</td>
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<td>Jack Carr</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>99 WS 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>N H Forests: Wood in those Trees</td>
<td>Ethan Howard</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>99 WS 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Results in a Hurry</td>
<td>Sheaf</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>99 WS 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Green Wood to finish Bowl</td>
<td>Earle Riche</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>99 WS 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harvesting, Sawing</td>
<td>Garrett Hack</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>99 WS 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and Drying Native Wood</td>
<td>Jere Osgood</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>99 TD</td>
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<tr>
<td>I Did It My Way</td>
<td>David Lamb</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>98 DL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dust Collection</td>
<td>Multi Presenters</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>98 DC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slide Show of Works</td>
<td>Jon Brooks</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>98 JB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitchen Cabinetry</td>
<td>Moore, Sanborn &amp; Smith</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>98 KC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carving Volutes</td>
<td>Bill Thomas</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>98 Cs 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transitions and Focal Points</td>
<td>David Lamb</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>98 CS 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Celtic Knot Carving</td>
<td>Grant Taylor</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>98 CS 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abstract Carving</td>
<td>Nicola Taylor</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>98 CS 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intro To Carving Tools and Sharpening</td>
<td>Greg Plum</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>98 CS 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Sharpening</td>
<td>Techniques</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>98 CS 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Songbird Carving</td>
<td>John Bryne</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>98 CS 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure Carving</td>
<td>Dave Dupouy</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>98 CS 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decoy Finishing</td>
<td>Bill Lati</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>98 CS 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basics of Wood Carving</td>
<td>Bill Thomas</td>
<td>1997</td>
<td>97 BWC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We Need Your Help!!!!!

Over the past few years the Guild has purchased a number of videos for your education and enjoyment. Most of those purchased videos have not been put back into circulation because they have disappeared. Perhaps you have one that got lost on your shelf. They may have a “not for sale” label. Please go through your video cabinet and check for these missing tapes. The months of May and June have been declared “amnesty months. You can return any video no matter how long you have had it “no questions asked”.

Check It Out In the Guild Chronicles

Dentil moldings, scary sharp, high speed tool steel, oil and varnish finish, spindle turning for furniture. These are just a few articles written by your woodworking colleagues on file in the Guild Chronicles. Take a minute at the next Guild meeting to check out some of these articles.
The theme of this meeting was carving. The Granite State Carvers made the arrangements and contributed in many other ways to this successful day. The session on jigs and fixtures featured many that were developed to facilitate the different aspects of carving. The attendees were especially impressed by the portable carving center that practically wheeled itself in and unfolded in numerous ways to accommodate a number of carving tasks.

The Carvers then presented an informative show and tell with the many pieces that they had brought. The collection ranging from the witty to the elegant was impressive.

The business meeting was conducted reasonably efficiently, considering the audience, by VP Geoff Ames in the absence of Pres. Jack Grube.

After lunch, David Lamb presented a series of slides illustrating the many facets of carving that he uses in his work. He emphasized the need to study other work including museum pieces, illustrations, etc. Particularly useful was his suggestion to “see” properly - starting with the composition and proceeding to the details.

His execution too, follows this process. First make an overall sketch of the major design. Sometimes a pattern is useful for this. Then sketch in detail while constantly reviewing for proportion.

Our second presenter was Lou Barchey. He demonstrated his use of clay modeling as a tool to plan his wood carving. Clay has the hugely useful property of allowing the use of putting-on tools. Mistakes are easily erased. He carries out only enough detail to confirm a final design. Then this prototype can be used to transfer dimensions to the actual work piece.

Both the presenters emphasized the concept that in carving, we are creating an image based on light and shadow. It is possible, for example, to create a visual depth without the counter throughout the show. Votes will be counted at the end of the day or the last day of the show. The $100 gift certificate award will be given out at our next regular meeting.

I am still looking for a gallery to host our next year’s show. I have spoken with 3 galleries that are interested but we are waiting for a conformation from their directors. These are all large galleries so I would like to have 50+ pieces for next year’s show. No excuse will be accepted for not submitting a piece next year. If you have any ideas about next year’s show let me know ASAP so we can possibly work them in.

I want to give my heartfelt thanks to Susanne and Ruth of The League Shop for all their help, especially for opening the shop on their day off so we could drop off our work. These two ladies really put this show together.
Shop Shavings - Some Thoughts from Garrett Hack

About this time of year, when the snow has all melted from around the logs piled on my landing, my old friend Don Lawrence shows up with his Woodmiser handsaw mill. Don has sawn literally millions of board feet of lumber in his seventy years. The maybe four thousand feet we saw together each year has built much of my house, barns, shop, outbuildings, and furniture.

It’s no harder to make good lumber than poor — the work is hard and takes a number of steps. During the winter I cut the logs, mostly cull trees to thin better stands. Sometimes I buy logs. My workhorse Rio skids them out to a landing, which is easier going on snow and keeps the logs and thus the lumber cleaner.

The landing is simply two logs gently sloping towards the mill. Sawing involves repeatedly rolling the logs on the mill to saw the best faces, removing and stacking the heavy waste slabs, and pulling off the green lumber. I sort the lumber by thickness and stack it with many small sticks between each layer to keep the pile airy, and old roofing metal on top to keep the rain off.

Drying takes a minimum of a year to the inch of thickness, with then further sorting and stacking. In all, each 1000 feet of lumber involves many hours of work.

Why go through all of this when I can go out and buy any amount of lumber, dry and ready to work? Harvesting my own wood, working in the forest in the quiet of winter, is part of my farming rhythm and something I find deeply satisfying. I like helping my forest do what it does well, grow trees, and day dreaming that someday my children might harvest some magnificent trees I've tended.

On a more practical level I get all of the wood I can possibly use, in custom dimensions, for about twenty- five cents a foot. The waste slabs heat my house and shop; the sawdust, what little there is goes for bedding my animals.

Whether we like it or not, wood has become a commodity, and an expensive one at that. Five dollar a foot cherry is common. And even at that price the boards are likely cut from trees of very modest diameter, adolescents really, before they've had years of mature and even growth. I find it sad when wood becomes so expensive you can't afford to make a mistake with it. I can understand that if you lived in Arizona you'd have to pay the going price from retailers, but not here within our abundant northern forest.

Wood is plentiful, and if you are willing to spend some effort to get it, can be downright affordable.

Small sawmills or individuals with a Woodmiser are great sources of green or sometimes air dried lumber at about half of retail. Some sawyers will let you pick through their piles. You never know what you'll find. A dozen beautiful butternut boards or a whole elm. You might go home with a wood new to you, one that didn't have to be shipped thousands of miles.

But buying lumber like this has other advantages. You are more likely to find boards from the same log, making color and grain matches easier later on. Drying that lumber isn't difficult and it gives you control in that process.

As far as I can see there are very few advantages and lots of disadvantages to kiln dried lumber anyway. It doesn't work as well with hand tools, it doesn't have as much flexibility steam bending or laminating, nor the vibrant colors of air dried wood.

The best bet is still to saw your own. Have Woodmiser — Will Travel, is not uncommon around here. Even including set up charges, sawing a fallen backyard tree or a neighbors can yield some wonderful material for $.50 a foot. Once you start looking, you'll find lots of logs that sawmills won't bother with but that will make incredible lumber.

You can saw short logs, burls or crotches. And you'll learn a lot about the connection between logs and boards, why some lumber is full of tension and some a sublime pleasure to work.

At least 27 different types of trees grow in my woodlot; although not all of them make stable or attractive lumber. Experiment. One of my favorites, popple or quaking aspen never shows up in lumber yards, but in every way it is a joy to work. Try to get away from the trend of late that emphasizes curly this or exotic that to carry a furniture design. Stylish and useful furniture can be made out the quickest of woods — especially ones you produced yourself.

The Guild Goes Hi-tech

Roy Noyes Editor of The Old Saw

Guild members and non-members can now access The Old Saw on the new Guild web site, look for it at http://www.seresc.net/~gnhw/!!

This means that some minor changes appear in this issue. The Guild calendar and list of officers will now appear on page 10 at the back of each issue. This is done to prevent duplicating the last three pages on the Web site.

Please be patient when accessing The Old Saw on the Web site, it is a fairly large file and may take a minute or two to download depending on the speed of your modem and your connection to the Internet.

We are continuing to experiment with what can be done on the Web and hope to make more complete information on the Guild and related woodworking activities available and to have back issues of the Old Saw available there also.

It is exciting to experiment and see what can be done about bringing the Guild members more complete and timely woodworking information via the Web.

Bookmark your browser for www.seresc.net/~gnhw/ and let me know how you think we are doing. Your suggestions will be helpful in making the website meet your needs.

What would you like to see on the web?
Please let Jack Grube or me know.

Garrett Hack and His Work

- The Old Saw On The Web
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