



Volume 14, No. 9

March 2004

## President's Message by Peter Breu

### Guild Town Meeting

Just as you go to your town meeting to voice your opinion, you need to come to the Guild's town meeting to speak up. Luckily, it doesn't require leaving the comfort of your own home! Hop on your computer, or pick up the phone or even write a letter - but do it today!! Now, what are the burning issues you might ask?

First, what discount order do you want for the fall? Email Gene Kopf ([kopfeh@earthlink.net](mailto:kopfeh@earthlink.net)) and let him know what you want.

Next, what small meeting programs would interest you? What shops do you want to visit? Email Dave Anderson ([dsachester@gsinet.net](mailto:dsachester@gsinet.net)) our

program coordinator with your suggestions.

Check out our website and contact DJ Delorie ([dj@delorie.com](mailto:dj@delorie.com)) our webmaster with suggestions. What else should be there?

Check out our private forum at [www.sawmillcreek.org](http://www.sawmillcreek.org), register and communicate with other guild members.

I wonder how many of you have seen Taunton's new book "The Workshop" by Scott Gibson. Five of the chapters are about guild members (and you can even spot a guild tee shirt in one photo!) If that isn't a tribute to our great organization I don't know what is! It is inspirational reading (and you can even get the book at a dis-

count through Tony Immorlica ([immorlic@bit-net.com](mailto:immorlic@bit-net.com))!

Did you know that you can advertise in the Old Saw for free? Sell your extra tools (or keep them to donate for the annual auction in September!)

So, be a good citizen of the guild (and thereby make it even stronger!) and cast your votes today!

See you at a small meeting or in April at UNH!

Peter Breu  
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301 Whitford St.  
Manchester, NH 03014

**Calendar Dates have been identified through 2005.**

**See Page 8 for details.**

**Save Directions for April 17th Meeting at UNH! Next Old Saw in June.**

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## March Small Meetings by Brian Sargent

### SMALL GUILD MEETINGS - March 20, 2004

Hopefully you have put the March Small Meetings on your calendar. There are three small meetings lined up for March. These meetings will follow the same format of last year's October meetings, where instead of one large meeting, there will be three small meetings at different locations on the same day. If you want to attend one of

these small meetings register early as they have been well attended in the past and they fill up quickly. The registration procedures are easy just contact the person giving the workshop and tell them you will be attending.

The following is a description of each venue and presentations with the time, date, and contact person.

**Meeting Title:** How to Photograph Your Furniture

**Presenter:** Charlie Freiberg

**Capacity:** Twenty

**Description:** This meeting will take place at the photographer's own studio. Charlie will present how to photograph your own handcrafted

*Continued on Page 2*

## Small Meetings—Continued

furniture using your own household lighting. He will describe how to shoot a piece of furniture or craft professionally and then describe how you can get the similar effects using your own house as a studio. Charlie's clients include the League of New Hampshire Craftsman and the New Hampshire Furniture Masters.

**Location:** Wilmot, NH

**Time:** 9:30 - 11:30

**Contact:** Brian Sargent at [BLSDesigns126@earthlink.net](mailto:BLSDesigns126@earthlink.net) or phone 603-483-0622

**Meeting Title:** Making Shaker Boxes with Jack Grube

**Description:** Participants will make an Oval Shaker Box. There will be a charge for materials from \$6.00 to \$12.00 depending on the size of the box that you would like to make. This is a great opportunity to learn the art of Shaker Oval Box making.

**Presenter:** Jack Grube

**Capacity:** Twelve

**Location:** Pinkerton Academy, Derry, NH

**Time:** 8:30 to 3:30

**Contact:** Jack Grube by e-mail (preferred) [Jackgrube@aol.com](mailto:Jackgrube@aol.com) or by phone before 8:00 pm 603-432-4060

**Meeting Title:** Windsor Chairs

**Description:** Omar will demonstrate the assembly of a Windsor Chair. Omar is a New Hampshire Furniture Master. He is a juried member of the League of New Hampshire craftsman and participated in the 1999 Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington, DC. Omar has a passion for Windsor Chairs, which has earned him the title, Windsor Chairmaker.

**Presenter:** Omar Clairmont

**Capacity:** 6

**Location:** Gilmanton, NH

**Time:** 1:00 to 3:00

**Contact:** Omar Clairmont  
603-267-6685

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## February Guild Meeting *by Roger Myers*

Despite the fact it was Valentine's Day, attendance was very large for the Guild's February meeting held at The Homestead Woodworking School.

The subject of the presentations was on jointer and planer set-up and operations and Homestead owner Alan Mitchell did an outstanding job going through the finer points of set-up on these two basic machines used in preparing 4-square stock.

Due to the large attendance the shop was packed wall to wall and Al had to adjust his presentations to be less hands-on and more discussion, but with plenty of questions answers, and opinions, everyone in attendance could walk away with at least one tip or method that will improve their work.

A short presentation was also given by Roger Myers on accessing the Guild's on line forum at Sawmill Creek, and a number of members commented on the effectiveness of this additional communications tool.

Several new members also joined the Guild during the meeting and were warmly welcomed. If you know someone who might be interested in the Guild, do as other members have and invite them to a meeting!

During the business meeting, reports were given on the scholarship activities, upcoming programs, and group book orders. Peter Bloch is also looking for

someone to train to assist with videotaping at guild meetings...if you are interested, contact Peter or any steering committee member.

## Guild Scholarship *by Bob Jarratt*

A reminder that our next deadline for GNHW Scholarship applications is May 1, 2004. Scholarship applications may be submitted anytime before this date for review by the scholarship committee in May. In addition to the regular Guild scholarships there are two large scholarships for individuals, the Peter Bloch and Roy Noyes scholarships, which may be offered annually to our Guild members with special and significant projects. These two scholarships

may have a total value up to \$2500. Application for these scholarships is accepted at any time. Also, the GNHW grant program is available for groups and not for profit organizations. Applications for these grants may be submitted at any time using the standard scholarship program application form. We particularly urge some of you woodworkers out there with a common goal to get together and take advantage of this unique Guild benefit.

Scholarship applications may be obtained from Bob Jarratt at [bjarratt@charter.net](mailto:bjarratt@charter.net).

Be sure to see Guild member Vasanthi Nelliah's report in this "Old Saw" on the 10-week course she took and how it influenced her furniture making skills and also see the pictures of the projects she designed and constructed.

## Infill Plane Building with Shepherd Tool *by Roger Myers*

On Saturday April 10<sup>th</sup>, at the Homestead Woodworking School in Newmarket, the Guild will be hosting Shepherd Tool Company of Cambridge, Ontario. Doug Evans and Ben Knebel are the proprietors of Shepherd Tool and designers and manufacturers of British style infill planes, including finished planes and kits that you can build. We had a lot of interest at the period Furniture makers meeting and the general Guild meeting on the subject so we have made arrangements to have Doug and Ben spend a day with Guild members.

The day will consist of a presentation by Doug and Ben on infill planes as well as an opportunity to build an infill plane from a kit. Due to space, equipment, and teaching limitations, there will be a limited number of openings for people to participate in building a plane, and the choices for first time plane builders will be limited to some of the less complex planes. Depending on the kit that you choose, you can expect to complete the majority of the plane during the workshop with only some fine tweaking to do after...the workshop is being geared to first time plane builders, but all

are welcome. If you aren't interested in building a plane, you will still enjoy the presentation and observing others.



Doug and Ben are both extremely knowledgeable on the subject of British woodworking tools, and infill planes in particular, having traveled and researched the subject extensively. They are also very entertaining to listen to and all present are guaranteed to have a good time and leave with a smile and an enhanced knowledge about infill planes.

Details are still be worked out regarding the logistics of purchasing a kit to build during the workshop but it is expected that styles offered will include the shoulder plane, the chariot plane, the bull nose plane, and a smoother. Participants will contact Doug or Ben directly to select their plane kit and arrange payment by credit card, and

the planes will be shipped to one central location (probably to me) in advance of the workshop. This is to simplify the logistics of international shipping and to help contain shipping costs. There is some preparation work (preliminary filing of the dovetails) that can be done to the kits in advance of the workshop to save time. Kits will need to be ordered by around March 20<sup>th</sup> in order to assure that they arrive on time.

Doug and Ben are offering Guild members 10% of the published price of the kits to Guild members. I've built a 1 1/2" shoulder plane during a meeting we had at their shop in Ontario and it was a very satisfying experience and a wonderful tool.

Space will be limited, both for plane builders and in general, and you are encouraged to sign up early by contacting me by phone (603-773-9634) or by e-mail ([strathamwood@comcast.net](mailto:strathamwood@comcast.net)). I will be posting regular updates on the Guild website ([www.gnhw.org](http://www.gnhw.org)) and on our Guild forum at Sawmill Creek ([www.sawmillcreek.org](http://www.sawmillcreek.org)).

To learn more about Shepherd Tool Company, and see their selection of infill planes, visit their website ([www.shepherdtool.com](http://www.shepherdtool.com)).

## GNHW Scholarship Report *by Vasanthi Nelliah*

*“The course at Homestead was a great learning opportunity that provided me with sound woodworking skills.”*

I consider good design to be the essence of the furniture making process. I also believe that excellent craftsmanship and attention paid to details are integral parts of fine furniture making. However, before taking part in a 10-week comprehensive woodworking course at Homestead School of Woodworking this January, my knowledge of furniture was based on design skills and not on construction skills.

The scholarship I received from the Guild served to pay for part of this course's tuition.

The course at Homestead was a great learning opportunity that provided me with sound woodworking skills. From Allan Mitchell, the school's founder and director, I learned a lot about wood and its properties, the use and maintenance of hand tools and of power tools. As well, I gained a lot from other instructors who are professional woodworkers with different areas of expertise such as joinery, woodturning, veneering, wood bending and wood finishing.

The technical side of the program was balanced by lectures and portfolio presentations by furniture masters. These were very inspiring to me because they related to the level and quality of work I aspire to make. Group visits to a sawmill and commercial furniture shop also contributed to giving me a well rounded view of the furniture industry.

A significant strength of the course rested in the fact that it was custom fitted to each student's needs. First, we were seven students and all received a lot of personal attention. Second, much of what we learned was through practical experience gained by completing two individual pieces.

The two projects I completed during this course were a triangle shaped corner bench with carved seat and a front drawer and a cabinet table with bent laminated sides. ( See photographs in “Old Saw” insert)

The two pieces I decided to produce were very challenging for a novice woodworker. I wanted to push myself and I learned tremendously by making these pieces. With Alan's help, I succeeded in overcoming significant technical hurdles. The skills learned during this course were essential to developing better construction solutions for my designs, which tended to be experimental in nature.

### **1st—Corner Bench**

The guidelines given to us for this project were that our piece needed to have at least 3 legs and one drawer.

For this project I came up with a site-specific design for

my apartment's entrance hall. The triangle shape of the bench complements our open entry and gently directs the eye and foot traffic toward the open space of the living room.

The bench is made of soft maple. Mortise and tenon joints were used for the legs and aprons. The drawer is assembled with dovetail joints. The gentle curve of the seat was carved by hand. This piece was built using almost exclusively hand tools.

### **2nd— Corner table**

For this project, we had no specific guidelines. I designed something with pronounced curves in order to learn the different techniques used to bend wood.

The sides of the cabinet table were built using several layers of plywood bent using a Vacu-Press and a jig built to fit the curve of my design. Other materials used for this project were ebonized maple and sapele pomele veneer.

Obviously, I had to sway from my hand tools only policy for this project. Power tools as well hand tools were necessary to complete this cabinet.

## The Guild On-Line *by Roger Myers*

Be sure to check out the Guild's website at [www.gnhw.org](http://www.gnhw.org). We have been making some improvements to the website and updating it more frequently.

If you have a personal or business website and want the link to appear in our "members web-site" section, e-mail our webmaster with the info.

Also, be sure to visit the Guild's on-line forum at Sawmill Creek [www.sawmillcreek.org](http://www.sawmillcreek.org) for the most up to the minute information, or simply to communicate with other members.

## April 3rd Period Furniture Making Meeting *by Dave Anderson*

The next meeting of the Guild's Period Furniture Group will be 9AM until Noon on Saturday April 3rd at the shop/school of Alan Breed in Rollinsford NH.

Al is an accomplished maker and restorer of period furniture who began his professional career at 19 working in the restoration department of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston while he attended college. He acts as a consultant to both Sotheby's and Christie's in New York in addition to having written articles for *The Journal of Antiques and Fine Arts*, *Art and Antiques*, *Early American Life*, and *Fine Woodworking* magazine.

His work has been exhibited at the Currier Gallery of Art, The Wadsworth Atheneum, The Portland Museum of Art, The DeCordova Museum, and he has pieces in the permanent collections of The Peabody-Essex Museum, Strawberry Banke Museum, The Nightingale Brown Museum in Providence, and the Old South Meeting House in Boston. Al now runs a school specializing in teaching carving and period furniture making using hand tool techniques. Al is also a guild member and offers us a 15% discount on any courses taken at his school.

After a tour of the shop/school, Al will

show a series of slides on his work. We will also be treated to a discussion on furniture carving and a demo of carving a claw and ball foot.

Because of the size of his shop, the meeting will be limited to 30 attendees. Preference will go to Period Furniture Group members and other guild members can attend as space allows.

Please contact Dave Anderson, the program coordinator to register and to get directions. A waiting list will also be set up in case spaces open up at the last minute.

## April 17th Guild Meeting *by Dave Anderson*

The April Guild meeting will be on making your own tools for woodworking and will be held at the Service Building at UNH in Durham. This will be a dual program meeting with presenters Dave Anderson and Lou Yelgin showing different styles, techniques, and covering different types of tool making.

Lou Yelgin will show how to machine a bronze casting for a Norris style infill smoothing plane on a milling machine. He will also cover the steps of making and assembling a plane from purchased and home made components. Lou will also cover the various options available to someone interested in acquiring British style infills be they from kits, purchased parts, or made from scratch. He will have on display

some of the planes he has made including the ones featured in the December 2002 Tools and Shops issue of *Fine Woodworking* magazine. Lou's previous guild presentations have included programs on home boat building.

Dave Anderson will be presenting on making marking tools such as cutting gages, marking knives, and awls. He will also cover making your own bowsaws in both fret saw and turning saw sizes. His final topic will be a demonstration on how to heat treat small blades and other parts with simple tools found in the home shop. Dave has demonstrated making hand tools at Wood Days in Canterbury for the last 5 years and recently displayed at the Society of American Period Furniture Makers annual meeting in Williamsburg VA. He has also offered to

teach a guild class on making spokeshaves should there be enough interest.

Directions: From US Route 4 take the Main Street (Rte 155A) exit and follow the signs for the UNH main campus and downtown Durham (East). About 3/4 of a mile down Main Street you will turn right at a traffic light onto College Road. The Service Building in about 500 yards down on the right hand side. It is a red brick low slung building with several loading dock type doors and is attached to the Fire Station. A large parking lot is on the far side of the fire station. The entrance will be marked with a sign for the guild meeting.

## Wood Days at Canterbury and Wood Week at Sunapee *by Dave Emerson*

### What'll you be doing June 26 and 27 and August 7-15?

Enjoying Wood Days and Wood Week, respectively, of course!

Whether demonstrating, volunteering, providing raffle items, or attending, lock it into your schedule. And tell me!

**Thanks to all who have submitted information to me already. Your response has been most gratifying and helpful. I still need to receive word from many of you. Please respond at once!**

Reservations accepted by phone, snail mail and e-mail. I hope you can participate both days at Wood Days and several days at Wood Week.

At Wood Days this year there will be space for those with their own e-z ups or tents between the main tent and the barn foundation (also there's a 20 x 30 art tent in this area).

Since I no longer have a booth at Sunapee I'll be able to set up our tents there on Thursday and Friday August 5 & 6 and would love help then. Also I'll be there most days - look forward to seeing you all. Sunapee exhibition hours run from 10am to 5pm.

So plan your projects so they'll be ready to demo. See you then.

Dave

### Here's what I need for registration:

#### Wood Days at Canterbury Shaker Village— June 26 & 27 2004

\_\_\_ Both Days    \_\_\_ Sat.    \_\_\_ Sun.

Demo: (describe)    OR    Volunteer



#### Wood Week at Sunapee Fair - Setup on August 5 and 6, Exhibition from August 7th to 15th

Set up \_\_\_\_\_ days

Cover raffle and Guild info \_\_\_\_\_ days

Provide Raffle item(s)

Demo (describe)    on    \_\_\_\_\_ days

Thanks,

Dave Emerson

[efurnitr@tiac.net](mailto:efurnitr@tiac.net)

603 783-4403

418 Shaker Road. Canterbury, NH 03224

Call or e-mail if you have any questions. Evenings are best - 6:30 - 8:30



## Woodworking Books and Magazine Subscriptions by Tony Immorlica

A number of members took advantage of the 20% group discount on Tauton Press magazines. Our total subscriptions amounted to about \$1200.00 net, for a savings of ~\$300 off the regular subscription price. If you didn't get in on this opportunity by the March 1 deadline we'll place another group subscription in the Fall. Remember, any Taunton magazine qualifies.

Books continue to be another popular benefit of being a Guild member, with discounts of up to 46%, depending on the publisher. By far, our December order is the largest of the year [we place orders twice a year if there is enough interest] and although we skipped a June 2003 order it appears that there will be

sufficient interest for a June 1, 2004 placement. We have ordered from the following in the past, so check their web sites for titles you may like:

Taunton: [www.taunton.com](http://www.taunton.com)  
 Astragal: [www.astragalpress.com/](http://www.astragalpress.com/)  
 Sterling: [www.sterlingpub.com](http://www.sterlingpub.com)  
 Tiller: [www.tillerbooks.com/](http://www.tillerbooks.com/)  
 Putnam: [www.penguinputnam.com/](http://www.penguinputnam.com/)

I usually bring catalogs to the Guild meetings, but if you can't make the meeting you can send the following information to me via email:

Your name and phone number  
 Exact title of book  
 Author  
 Publisher  
 Product Code [if Taunton] or ISBN #  
 [all other publishers]

Soft Cover or Hard Cover [if a choice exists]

As usual, I'll email you with the cost after I receive the books and you can pick them up at my home in Mont Vernon, NH, or at a Guild event.

Although June is not a big month for reading - there must be more time to read books in the winter - we will place orders with any publisher for which we get a minimum number of books [generally 10 or more].

I'll be looking at additional publishers to add in the Fall.

Tony Immorlica  
[immorlic@bit-net.com](mailto:immorlic@bit-net.com)

## 2004 Juried Show by Marty Milkovitz

This years Guild show will be held at the League of NH craftsman shop in N. Hampton NH. The shop has just moved to a new and larger location and is now located at 122 Lafayette Rd. (Rt. 1) The show will run from May 14 thru June 27 with the opening reception on May 15 from 4 – 7 PM.

This reception will be hosted by the adjacent wine shop and will also be a wine tasting event. During the reception 4 of the 5 awards will be handed out by Jim Ford of Woodcraft Supply in Newington. The awards are:

- Best of Show
- Best Traditional
- Best New Design
- Best in turning carving or sculpture.

Jere Osgood & Jo Stone will be this years jurors.

The recipient of the Peoples choice award is determined by ballot count at the end of the show. The Guild is sponsoring the Peoples choice in the form of \$100 cash award. The other awards are sponsored by area business that caters to our trade. In the past they have been. Highland Hardwoods, Goosebay Lumber, Brentwood Machine and Woodcraft Supply in Newington.

Being the beginning of the summer season on the seacoast in a high traffic area will give us some great exposure, we have not exhibited in the seacoast region since the early 90's.

The theme of this year's exhibition is "**A Celebration of Wood**". If you have not yet entered a piece you may still be able to do so, Entries have been very light for this show and we would like to get several more. You may submit up to 4 pieces with the \$10.00 application fee. We will also need a photo of each piece or a scaled drawing.

We would also like an artist statement or biography and description of the piece explaining woods used, finish and any other information that you feel is pertinent to the piece. In other words anything that you can say that would convince someone to buy it.

## Calendar of Upcoming Activities



**March 20, 2004 Guild Small Meetings**

Contact: Brian Sargent  
Details in this Issue

**April 3, 2004 Period Furniture Meeting**

Location: Al Breed's Shop  
Contact: Dave Andersen  
Details in this Issue

**April 10, 2004 GSWT, Beth Ireland Presents**

Location: Pinkerton Academy,  
Contact: Jack Grube

**April 17, 2004 Guild Meeting, Making Tools**

Location: UNH  
Contact: Dave Andersen  
Details in this issue.

**May 22 GSWT**

Location: Jon Siegel's Shop  
Contact: Jon Siegel

**June 26-27 Wood Days**

Location: Canterbury Shaker Village  
Contact: Dave Emerson

**July 24, 2004 GSWT Annual Critique**

Location: Moose Mtn Lodge

**August 6, 2004 Sunapee Fair Setup**

Location: Sunapee Mountain  
Contact: Dave Emerson

**August 7 through 15, Sunapee Fair**

Location: Sunapee Mountain  
Contact: Dave Emerson

**Sept 11, 2004 Guild Annual Meeting**

Location: Dave Lamb's Shop

**Sept 18, 2004 Period Furniture Meeting**

**Sept 25, 2004 GSWT**

**October 16, 2004 Guild Small Meetings**

**Nov 6, 2004 BIG Meeting**

**Nov 13, 2004 Period Furniture**

**Nov 20, 2004 Guild Meeting**

**Nov 27, 2004 GSWT**

**Jan 8, 2005 BIG Meeting**

**Jan 22, 2005 GSWT**

**Jan 29, 2005 Period Furniture**

**Feb 19, 2005 Guild Meeting**

**Mar 5, 2005 BIG Meeting**

**Mar 12, 2005 Period Furniture**

**Mar 19, 2005 Guild Small Meetings**

**Mar 26, 2005 GSWT**

**Apr 16, 2005 Guild Meeting**

**May 7, 2005 BIG Meeting**

**May 14, 2005 Period Furniture**

**May 28, 2005 GSWT**

**June 25-26, 2005 Wood Days  
Canterbury Shaker Village**

**Jul 23, 2005 GSWT**

**Aug 5, 2005 Setup for Sunapee Fair  
Aug 6 through 14, 2005 Sunapee Fair**

**Sept 17, 2005 Guild Annual Meeting**

## Meeting Details

**Meeting Schedule Notes:**

1. For all regular Guild meetings, -  
Unless otherwise specified, Swap Meet and Jigs and Fixtures discussion is 10 - 11, general business meeting 11- 12, lunch (bring your own) 12 - 1 and presentations 1 - 3.
2. Granite State Woodturners (GSWT) meetings are from 9:00 to 1:00, unless otherwise specified.
3. Granite State Woodcarvers (GSWC) meets every Thursday night, from 6:00 to 9:00 pm, at Rundlett Junior High in Concord.
4. For all meeting information or in case of bad weather or other uncertainty, call the Program Coordinator for details.
5. Everyone is welcome at all of these meetings, call the Program Coordinator for details.
6. See list for names and telephone or E-mail of Program Coordinators.

## Officers

**President/SC**— Peter Breu 647-2327  
peterbreu@comcast.net

**Vice President/SC**— Roger Myers 773-9634  
rkkmyers@comcast.net

**Secretary/SC** —Ed Jones 746-5792  
yesjones@aol.com

**Treasurer/SC** - Steve Belair 587-0045  
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**Video Librarian**— Bob Trahan 444-5284  
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**Web Master**—DJ Delorie  
dj@delorie.com

**Wood Days** - Dave Emerson 783-4403  
efurnitr@tiac.net

**Sunapee Fair**— Dave Emerson 783-4403  
efurnitr@tiac.net

SC denotes Steering Committee Member.  
All area codes are 603 unless noted.

## Membership Has It's Benefits!

- 10% discount at Woodcraft Supply
- 10% discount at Highland Hardwoods
- 10% discount at Northland Lumber
- 10% discount at Goosebay Lumber
- 10% discount at Wolfgang's Woods
- 15% discount on courses at the Breed School
- 10% discount at The Wood Finishing School
- 10% discount on Shepherd plane kits and free workshop (discount only in conjunction with the 4/10/2004 workshop)
- Discounts of approximately 50% on the most popular woodworking books with our 2X year book orders...
- Free loan of Guild video tapes
- Group purchase discounts on items every woodworker needs like Wetzler clamps...
- Free workshops with the some of the country's best woodworkers
- Free classifieds in the Old Saw newsletter
- Guild website and on-line Guild forum
- The Old Saw newsletter
- Guild scholarships

## *Membership has its benefits!*

***Encourage a friend to join the Guild  
and share in the benefits!***

## Sliding Dovetails Presentation at Bill Thomas Shop *by Ken Kuster*

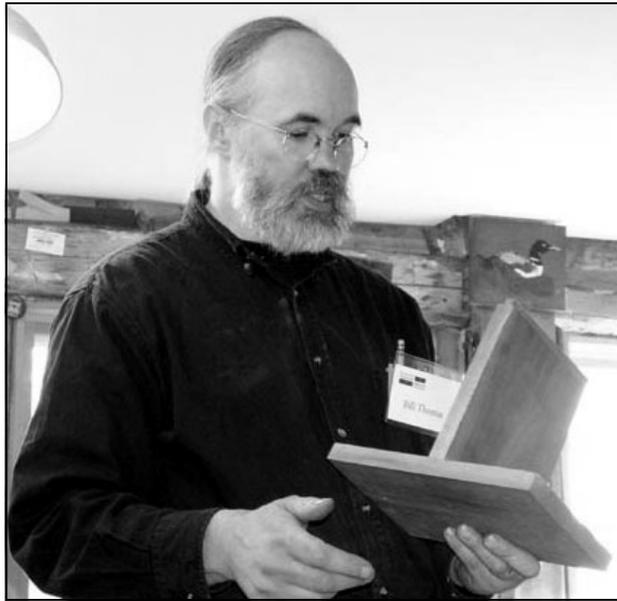
Bill Thomas, host for the November meeting, was also the after lunch presenter on the topic of tapered sliding dovetails. Bill originally authored a December 1989 Fine Woodworking article in on this topic after designing and building a hanging shelf. Since gluing is not suitable for an end grain to side grain joint, other alternatives such as screws, nails, slats, or rabbeted joints could be considered, but each joint must be considered against issues of appearance, strength and construction time. Bill “set out to re-discover” an alternative joint. Initially, a shoulder dovetail joint was considered, but this joint is prone to gluing problems since a smooth prefit of the pieces may result in a partially closed joint if the wood expands after the glue is applied. The sliding dovetail joint was selected because it is an interlocking mechanical connection.

A few years later, Bill was restoring a candlestick table with a similar sliding dovetail joint that attached the three legs to the bottom of the pedestal. In this joint, the pedestal long grain is attached to the leg’s end grain, resulting in a poor glue joint. This joint also has a potential gluing assembly problem that can result in a leg that is not fully seated into the pedestal.

The alternative to a single shoulder dovetailed joint or a double shoulder dovetailed joint is a tapered joint on one side that provides a strong mechanical joint as well as good glue bond.

Tapers are made using a 1 to 6 proportion, approximately 80 degrees. Two special tools are needed – a simple chisel guide block and a special plane. Bill modified a wooden rabbet plan by making a 1 to 6 angle on the plane bottom followed by grinding the plane iron to fit this new bottom angle.

Bill demonstrated the use of a tapered dovetail joint on pedestal leg. The pedestal joint is cut using a box



### Bill Thomas Explaining the Use of Tapered Dovetails for Shelves

that is bolted to the lathe similar to many reeding jigs that are used on turned table legs. The lathe indexing tools holds the pedestal securely while the slot is routed out. The first pedestal cut is made using a straight router bit with a width just slightly less than the final slot.

After the straight slots are routed, the pedestal to leg mating surface is formed to a flat pedestal to flat leg mounting surface so that the leg mating surface does not have to fit the curved pedestal. The last pedestal machining step uses a 1 to 6 router bit to form the dovetail on the straight side of the 3 pedestal slots.

After completing the pedestal, Bill moves to the legs and touches up the ends using a shooting plane and shooting board followed by a one side pass on the shaper or router table using the same dovetail bit that was used on the pedestal.

The pedestal is inserted into a

holder and then an approximately 1.5 by 3 by 15 inch guide block is used to chisel the taper. The taper starts 3/16 inch in from the bottom of the pedestal and follows a “eyeballed” taper to the top of the routed slot.

The prefit process is an iterative test and plane process using the modified rabbet plane. Each leg is trimmed, tested in the pedestal slot and then re-trimmed until a working fit is achieved.

After the legs have been fitted to the pedestal, Bill makes a brass metal spider that is recessed into both the pedestal bottom and legs with a small screw into each leg. Since candlestick tables have small tops, the metal reinforcement may not be needed, but reinforcement is recommended for large pieces.



## Seven Steps to Square a Board



This procedure is posted at Al Mitchell's Homestead Woodworking School and ties to the February "Jointers and Planers" Meeting.

1. Rough cut to length plus one inch.
2. Joint one face flat and square.
3. Plane to exact thickness.
4. Joint the best edge (Straight and square to the face)
5. Rip to exact width (leave 1/32 inch extra for jointing if needed)
6. Cut the best end square.
7. Cut the other end to exact length

### Links to Other Woodworking Clubs Web Sites *by Ken Kuster*

Similar to GNHW, other woodworking clubs also post their newsletters. Here are some of the web sites that I find are interesting educational, inspiring.

- <http://www.revolutionary-turners.com/> - Association of Revolutionary Turners
- <http://www.cnew.org> - Central New England Woodturners
- <http://members.tripod.com/~DiabloWoodworkers/index.html>—Club based in San Francisco area
- <http://www.sapfm.org/sapfmmay2003/Start/default.asp>—Society of American Period Furniture Makers
- <http://www.rochesterwoodworkers.org/index.html>—Rochester NY Club
- <http://www.sdfwa.org/> - San Diego Fine Woodworkers Association—large 1500 member club
- <http://www.liwoodworkers.org/> - Long Island Club—providing on-line videos



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