The Newsletter of the Guild of New Hampshire Woodworkers

The Old Saw

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Calendar

Feb 7    BIG
Feb 14   Hand Tools
Feb 21   BIG/Guild Meeting
Mar 14   Period Furniture
Mar 15   Luthiers
Mar 18   Steering Committee
Mar 21   Guild Small Meetings
Mar 28   GSWT
Apr 4    BIG
Apr 11   Hand Tools
Apr 18   Guild Meeting
May 6    Steering Committee
May 9    Period Furniture
May 17   Luthiers
May 23   Turning Symposium
May 30   GSWT
Jun 6    BIG
Jun 13   Hand Tools
Jun 24   Steering Committee
Jun 20   Summer Trip
Jul 25   GSWT
Aug 1-9  Sunapee
Aug 19   Steering Committee
Sometimes we do not see the forest for the trees. As president, I often think about what the Guild does and what it should be doing. I find it helpful to review the bylaws and thought it might be helpful to the membership to pull a few sections out for you to look at. The bylaws are available to you in pdf format on the web site and I would be glad to provide a copy to anyone without internet access.

The first section deals with what we are and what we do.

Section 1: The Guild of New Hampshire Woodworkers is an association of professionals and amateurs bound by a common interest in woodworking. Through regular meetings, lectures, demonstrations, a video library of those demonstrations, a newsletter and other activities, the Guild strives to bring together the diverse interests of the New Hampshire woodworking community.

Section 2: The Guild is dedicated to furthering woodworking through the sharing of knowledge, skills and experience.

I think we do fairly well at meeting these standards. Section 1 says we are bound together by woodworking and this is certainly true. The section also gives a goal of bringing the woodworking community together. It is a little more difficult to determine how we do with this. Those who join the Guild are brought together, at least to some degree, by being members. For some who attend meetings and volunteer at our activities, there is a lot of coming together. For those whose only activity is reading the Old Saw, there is less togetherness but a lot more than for those who do not know we exist.

The second section deals with sharing, something that Guild members are good at. We do not restrict the sharing to our own membership but to anyone who is interested as our meetings are open and our scholarships available to the general public.

I would be interested in your thoughts on how we strive to meet our goals. We might discuss this at a business meeting if there is interest. Please feel free to contact me with your comments at dfrech@together.net.
Matt Wadja makes custom furniture in Rollinsford, NH

February Meeting
Matt Wadja hosts February Guild meeting in Rollinsford, NH

The next general Guild meeting will be on February 21 at the shop of Matt Wadja in Rollinsford, NH. The coffee and donuts should be there at about 9:00. Shirts & caps, and the Guild's DVD library will follow shortly. There may be some bargain tools to trade, and friends to chat with. Before the morning session begins at 10:00, members showing their work will tell you about it and entertain questions and comments.

Bob LaCivita will lead the next installment of the Beginner & Intermediate Group (BIG) for the morning session. The group is building a drafting caddy featuring four drawers, each of a different construction. Bob promised to keep the morning session as authentic to a regular BIG meeting as possible so Guild members can get the true experience.

At 11:00, Dave Frechette will call the Guild to order to start the business meeting. Lunch is noon until 1:00 when the afternoon presentation will begin.

For this meeting we have Matt Wadja, a New Hampshire woodworker doing custom furnituremaking, to present *A Practical Approach to Chair Making.*

Matt is a 2000 graduate of the North Bennet Street School, Cabinet and Furnituremaking two year program. He has made custom furniture since 2000. Matt and his sister Kristine are co-owners of River City Furnituremaking, a custom and fine furniture business located in the Rollinsford Mills.

He continues his connection with the North Bennet Street School as an instructor. Matt's work can be seen in galleries in Portsmouth and Boston.

His instructing skills will surely be put to the test. In two hours, Matt plans to touch on design and drawings, pattern making, wood choice and utilization, milling, joinery, assembly, and possibly finishing, all as they pertain to chairs.

Please note — The only chairs in Matt's shop are the ones he is making. Bring Chairs. There is a lunch counter nearby, but bringing your lunch is recommended. — Alan Saffron

New Membership Benefit: Guild Touch-Ups

In planning your activities, please be aware that meeting times sometimes change. In an effort to make sure you have the very latest information, all members with e-mail now receive a weekly message with the most up-to-date information available. This weekly e-mail is called Guild Touch-Ups and is sent out most every Wednesday. In addition to an updated calendar of the next month or so of events, Guild Touch-Ups also contains timely information and developments, the occasional pleasantry, and items of general interest to the membership. Except for emergencies and other unusual circumstances, it is the only Guild-wide e-mail you will receive.

Guild Touch-Ups is still evolving, but is proving to be a fast, popular, and interactive way to bring the membership together and up-to-date. We very much want your ideas and feedback. Indeed sometimes we even ask your opinion of various issues. The main limitation is that it must be kept brief.

If you are a paid-up member with e-mail, you will receive Guild Touch-Ups automatically. If you don't want to receive it, contact dj@delorie.com to have yourself removed from the Guild-wide e-mail list. Or simply set your mail filter The subject line always contains “Guild Touch-Ups”.

For any feedback, ideas, questions, concerns, or items you wish rapidly but briefly to communicate with the membership at large, contact John Whiteside at johninfremont@comcast.net or 603-679-5443. — John Whiteside

Directions to Rollinsford

- From Rt 9 in Dover center follow Rt 4 Portland Ave for approximately 2 miles.
- Turn left onto Roberts Rd and continue for approximately one mile.
- Roberts Road then merges into Main St. Follow Main St. to the stop sign.
- The mill building directly in front of you is your destination. Enter the front door, take the stairs for three steps to the first floor. River City Furniture is to the right.
Change has come to the Guild of New Hampshire Woodworkers’ publication, The Old Saw. It has been split in two parts. Feature articles dealing with major woodworking projects and concepts will now appear in a glossy, high-quality printed magazine three times a year and called The Journal of the Guild of New Hampshire Woodworkers. The time-sensitive features of the old Old Saw, such as the meeting reports, announcements, classified ads, and so forth will now appear in a new on-line format, still called The Old Saw, which you are currently reading. A printed version will also be made available to members without computer access.

To help editor Jim Seroskie over the transition, I agreed to help him with editing this first edition of the on-line Old Saw. In doing this modest task of pulling together a few meeting reports and announcements, it became very clear to me what an enormous debt we owe to Jim for the magnificent job he has done with The Old Saw these past years. Indeed, the newsletter as we knew it has become recognized at the finest volunteer-produced Guild publication in the country. And with the new Journal plans, it will improve even more, if such a thing can be imagined.

At the same time, we are all facing uncertainty due to the economic downturn and malaise that has beset the wider world. However, I am noticing (perhaps you are as well) that this is starting to turn us away from mindless spending and towards community, fellowship, and shared interests as a source of meaning in our lives. Check out, for example, the subgroup meeting reports and plans in this issue. You will see a burst of enthusiasm, participation, and new ideas.

Then I started thinking about the dollar value of what we are involved with in our Guild. To hire someone to do the job Jim has been doing on The Old Saw — to say nothing of the new website, www.gnhw.org — would cost well into six figures. Multiply that many times to pay all the authors for the time they put into the projects they share with us. Then estimate the dollar value of all the time the various Guild volunteers put in to conceive of, bring to life, and run the subgroups, the small meetings, Sunapee, the major symposiums, the discounts and so forth. Conservatively, I estimate the dollar value of all this at well into seven figures. That means, for $30 of dues (soon to be $40), each of our 500 members has available, on average and assuming they take advantage of the offerings, at least $2000 of tangible benefits, which is a return on investment of 5000%. And of course the friendships and camaraderie are beyond price.

There are better things to do in life than worrying about your stock portfolio. One is to go to a Guild meeting. Share yourself with the rest of us. We will all become richer.

A new Guild subgroup is being organized – the Right Brain Woodworking group. Its organizational meeting will be in early Spring, 2009.

The mission and charter of the group has yet to be finalized by the members. However, the (premier) February issue of the new Guild Journal (upscale sister publication to this Old Saw) contains an article, Right Brain Woodworking, by me, that spells out at least my vision of what the focus of such a group might be. Check it out to see if you are interested. Essentially, our focus will be on the mental state that accompanies process of woodworking. Is it possible to cultivate a state of mind that makes the doing of woodworking more deeply satisfying? What happens to the quality of pieces produced as a result?

The first meeting will be a tour of the furniture collection of the Currier Art Museum in Manchester, NH. The tour will be led by an experienced docent who will try to help us understand the experience of the woodworkers who created the masterpieces we will see. Following the tour we will meet in one of the museum’s conference rooms to organize our group.

The steering committee has generously agreed to fund our museum tour. Museum admission will be paid for all those who attend. However, the tour is limited to 15 people. Anyone who has already contacted me expressing interest in the group is on the list. Invitations will be extended to others on a first-come-first-served basis. But please, don’t just apply to get a free museum ticket! Check out the article mentioned above to see if you might have a genuine interest.

If you are interested in the new RBWG, e-mail John Whiteside at johninfremont@comcast.net or call 603-679-5443.
**October 18th, 2008**

**Introduction to Carving**

by Dave Frechette

Six rookie carvers made the trek to South Ackworth to attend Grant Taylor’s Introduction to Carving Small Meeting. After a brief introduction to carving and safety techniques (two hands on the chisel make it hard to cut oneself), we were each assigned a pine board and began carving the letter I — sans serif. We learned to make stop cuts and then pare to them. After accomplishing the straight forward I, we added serifs to complicate things and then advanced to more complex letters such as K and then to the ultimate — curved letters such as D. Periodically, Grant would show us some of his work and explain how he accomplished it.

After about two and a half hours, we were getting a little tired so we broke for lunch. Following this, Grant instructed us in sharpening techniques from the straight to curved to the V shaped carving chisels. This consisted of grinding on the power wheel, followed by honing with diamond stones and then oil stones ending with a fine Arkansas followed by stropping with emery and then jeweler’s rouge, both on leather. We all learned a lot.

Grant heads the Ackworth Carving Group which the Guild has assisted in the past with money for basic carving sets and books. The group meets every Monday from 7:00 to 8:30 in Grant’s shop and all are welcome.

**October 18th, 2008**

**Sharpening Techniques**

by Syd Lorandeau

We had a great day for the October Small Meeting at the business of Steve Forcier owner of Tru-Cut Sharpening Company in Charlestown, NH.

We started right on time with Steve giving us a brief history of his long background in learning the skills of sharpening. At this point, we were presented with an eight page handout detailing the many topics he was going to cover, such as saw nomenclature, crosscut and rip, plus definitions for the terms, triple chip, rake and bevel. Wow, the handout was a definite note saver!

The first demo was sharpening a handsaw, cut off old teeth, make new teeth, and then go to the file for sharpening. Steve quickly pointed out that what he charges is more than you would pay for a new one but it depends on what you want. The new saw will not be filed (sharpened) and you would live with the set that the stamping put in it. If you have a nice handsaw and you use it for specific tasks, it is worth getting what you really want and a handsaw that is really sharp.

After this quick demo, Steve moved on to the CNC carbide saw sharpening machine. As no one brought a difficult saw to sharpen, Steve took one out of his inventory (triple tooth) to show how many movements a CNC machine can make with extreme accuracy. Next we moved to the face sharpening machine which Steve has designed to make sure all faces are the same size and angle.

Man we were moving, so next we went to the table where we re-toothed a carbide saw. This was interesting to me as Steve explained that when he gets a saw with a missing tooth how closely he then examines this saw. Normally if he finds other chips and cracks, he will not replace the missing tooth without a complete safe repair of the saw. He then showed us how to bring the new oversized tooth to size, so that when presented to the CNC machine it does not mess up the very expensive diamond wheel.

On to next demo, faster than lightening, we were sharpening drills, forstner bits, etc. Steve showed that you need to find a position (height of bench and chair, etc) that fits you when you are sharpening. Why! You need to control your body movements, only move your hands.

We then went to planer blades. Steve uses a ruby vitrified 46 grit but ends up with a mirror finish on the blade. Steve asked for questions which was followed with a great discussion on many subjects.

One o’clock came too early but the comments I received were “Just what I wanted” and “I thought I had a decent knowledge of sharpening but it was really limited.” A great Small Meeting!
March 21th, 2009

March Small Meetings Announcement

We have three small meetings lined up for March 21, 2009. Two are back by demand from the October session. They are diverse and quite exciting.

Alan Mitchell will conduct a hands-on router meeting for up to 12 people. If you have a router, bring it or Alan will provide you with one. The emphasis will be on hand held routers but there will be some introduction to router tables if time allows. The meeting will run from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm with a 30 minute break for lunch.

DJ Delorie is going to dazzle us with some computer wizardry. He will unravel Google Sketchup — a Free downloadable program for the construction of woodworking and architectural projects. This download is available with an internet connection. And remember, the download really is Free. This workshop will go over how to navigate this program and produce your favorite project in three dimensions.

Please note you will not need a computer the day of this workshop, nor will you need to have downloaded the program prior to the workshop in order to take part.

DJ lives in Deerfield, NH and can accommodate twelve people for this workshop. Hours will be from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm.

Steve Fourcier, the owner of Tru-Cut Sharpening Company, located in Charlestown, NH, will demonstrate a variety of Sharpening Techniques. He will cover carbide saw sharpening and retoothing, handsaw sharpening, setting & retoothing, planer & chisel sharpening, saw geometry, tensioning and straightening, grinder wheel applications & maintenance, and hand sharpening tricks and tips.

Steve can accommodate up to twelve people for his workshop. The hours will be from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm.

So that I may sign you up for the workshop of your choice and give you specific driving directions, please contact me at one of the following:

Ed Orecchio: ejorecchio@verizon.net
or at my home phone of 603-542-0322

November 22th, 2008

Granite State Woodturners

by Ed Orecchio & Jon Siegel

at the The Franklin High School, Franklin, NH

SWT is the largest subgroup of the Guild. Their November meeting was held at Franklin High School, and the purpose of the meeting was to set up teaching groups for hands-on sessions covering basic topics. The meeting started with an auction, which brought $232 for the Guild. A special thanks goes to Hugh Williams for donating eight boxes of wood for the auction.

Sixty members were in attendance for the meeting, and we divided into five groups. We had a volunteer to lead each group, and after some discussion we decided the topics would be — end grain turning with Peter James, miniature turning with DJ Delorie, sharpening with Michael Fonner, bowl design with Scott Ruesswick, and spindle turning with Jon Siegel.

It was an innovative way to provide a much more personal experience for the members. Half way through the meeting members switched groups, so each person could attend sessions on two different topics.

Response to this meeting was very positive, because it gave beginners and intermediate turners a chance to make great improvement in a short time. This may be a harbinger of change to further the Guild mission of bringing educational experiences to its expanding membership.

The next meeting (after press time) will be on March 28. Contact Jon Siegel (big@proctor.net) to receive meeting notifications.
Luthier is the art of making stringed instruments and it has its own Guild subgroup which is open to all, regardless of level of experience. Many of our members make, or would like to make, guitars but we also discuss violins, cellos, dulcimers, and other stringed instruments.

There is a sister group, the New England Luthiers (www.newenglandluthiers.com) that we often conduct joint meetings with. The two groups have very different cultures, which adds to the fun. Our meetings tend to feature a speaker and donuts. The New England Luthiers meetings have less structure (sometimes there is no topic at all) but better food, such as meatballs, roasts, salads, and pies. The New England Luthiers meet every month, generally on the second Sunday. We (the Guild group) offer a meeting every other month (starting with January) on the third Sunday, except in the summer.

Whether a meeting is joint or not depends on geography. The geographical center of NEL is Massachusetts, whereas our’s is New Hampshire. If NEL meets, for example, in Rhode Island, we try to offer a separate meeting opportunity somewhere in New Hampshire.

The Guild Luthiers also organize a stringed instrument making and playing booth as part of the Guild’s Sunapee exhibit each August.

One incredibly nice thing NEL has done is to build and host web pages for any interested member, free of charge. Check out mine at www.northroadguitars.com.

In any event, we had a really good meeting Sunday, January 11 in Fremont, NH. Twenty-five people came to hear master guitar repairer Pat DiBurro (www.diburro.com) present on fretting. Not only did Pat present, he replaced five frets on a high-end Martin guitar before our very eyes. His presentation was filled with important and hard-to-find information. And not just on fretting. People asked about all sorts of things and Pat was generous with his answers. One gem — You may start out as a builder, but sooner or later you will become a repairer.

And, if you were listening carefully, you heard invaluable insights on how to make a successful living and career from lutherie.

Here is one of dozens of tips we learned. As you heat the frets with a soldering iron, melt solder on them. It speeds the heat transfer making the fret pulling faster and less likely to tear out the fingerboard.

Mike McCarten showed us his incredibly beautiful lute rose (www.mccartenltd.com). The shell designs are carved from ivory, reclaimed from an old piano keyboard. Mike also let us play his newly completed 10-string Baroque guitar.

A number of others also brought finished and in-progress instruments. There wasn’t time to look at all of them but I did get to play Steve Marcq’s new jumbo which has a big, rich sound.

To get on the Guild lutherie’s e-mail list for meeting notifications, e-mail John Whiteside, johninfremont@comcast.net or phone 603-679-5443.

Luthiers Hold Fretful January Meeting
We started off our fall PFG meeting with another great one. This meeting was held in the Connecticut River valley town of Cornish, NH at George Edson’s farm. George and his wife were so kind to invite all of us up to their home and provide refreshments for the group and a wonderful tour of their farm. George also arranged to have windsor chairmaker and league member Peter Scheffer of Straw Hill Chairs, from West Unity, NH to do a presentation for the group on the construction of his windsor chairs.

The meeting started out with refreshments and an informal shoot the breeze session in George’s new Monitor barn that he just completed. Once we got underway, George gave us a tour of the barn and explained to us how he built it and showed pictures of the various stages of construction. George then did a presentation on one of his new tools, the Festool plunge circular saw with the track rails that it rides on. What a really nice saw for cutting plywood and sheet stock — and accurate also. The track just sits on the stock and is held down by friction from its rubber backing. This would be a nice tool if you did not have room in your shop to cut large pieces on a table saw.

We then took a walk over to another one of George’s projects, a post and beam bunk house and garden shed that is still under construction. What a nice job he is doing, the quality of the craftsmanship and attention to detail is exceptional.

Then we were off to the wood shop were Peter Scheffer started his presentation. He started out showing us how he makes the seat blanks and how he drills out the mortises in the seat for the legs on the drill press. With the drill
press table set to the proper angle for the leg splay, he would drill out the front leg mortises at 73 degrees, and the rear at 67 degrees. Peter made that look easy.

Peter then talked about how he makes the bow for the back of the chairs. He soaks the oak bows for 17 days until saturated, then steams them in his steamer for one half hour, pulls them out then bends them in a mold to hold the shape.

Once dry, he turns down the tenons on the ends of the bows with a drill operated tenon tool, it looks like a large pencil sharpener. He then showed us how the seat holes and holes in the bow are done, these holes are all done by eye and by hand with drill motor and drill bit with a jig that he made to mark the spacing.

Peter then talked about how he turns down the spindles for the back and the legs, and showed us how the assembly process goes along and how he levels the chairs once put together.

Peter then briefly went over how he finishes the chairs.

Peter’s presentation was very informative, he made it look so easy of course. His technique was pretty straightforward and simple and low tech. He showed us that you really don’t need a lot of high tech tools to make beautiful chairs such as he does.

The meeting then came to a close after Peter’s presentation. George gave those of us who stayed a tour of his beautiful home to end the day. We all would like to thank George and his wife for hosting the meeting, and also thank Peter Scheffer for doing his presentation. And thank you to all the members who attended the meeting, it was a great turn out.
As many of you know, I have volunteered to take over the Period Furniture Group, a special interest group of the Guild of New Hampshire Woodworkers. It was immediately evident that the group needed to be re-focused back to its core roots — period furniture. The group had grown to such a size and a broad range of interests that finding meeting space and meeting topics had become difficult.

On January 10, 2009, the “newly refocused” Period Furniture Group (PFG) met at George Lang’s shop in Strafford, NH. The focus of our first meeting was two-fold: Firstly to re-state the mission of the group and discuss future meeting ideas, and secondly to study the classic flame finial which is the very furniture element that adorns our Guild’s logo.

Right from the first topic of discussing our mission, it became evident that there was a strong sense of renewed passion around the focus on period furniture. We quickly came to a common understanding of our group’s mission — the study of history, styles, designs, resources and all related techniques relevant to the building of American period furniture. This mission as stated is not complete without a definition of what we mean by period furniture. Specifically, we are interested in the periods from the early settlement through the 17th century (early colonial, Jacobean), through the important periods of William & Mary (early 18th century), Queen Anne (mid 18th century), Chippendale (later 18th century) and the Federal period up until 1820.

The group is very interested in meeting styles that focus on hands-on demonstrations gathered around the workbench, while also providing an opportunity for showing, telling and asking for advice amongst the group.

Main Topic: Turned & Carved Flame Finial

With the reorganization portion of our first meeting completed, we shifted to the main topic of our meeting — the turned and carved flame finial. George Lang had just finished a commissioned piece of furniture (see photograph) that employed a lot of classical elements of design from the Queen Anne furniture period. He built this case piece from cherry. This design gave him his first opportunity to study the flame finial and to learn how to create it. He made a scaled drawing from a photograph of an antique piece that he was replicating.

Several members of the group brought in their collection of books to show various styles of flame finials and illustrate various techniques. Of all of the books presented, Wallace Nutting’s Furniture Treasury, Volume III provides an entire chapter devoted to furniture finials. In addition to providing many drawings of different styles of flame finials, it also highlighted the fact that the simpler style of cork-screw carved flames were traditional of the Massachusetts area furniture makers while the more elaborately carved realistic flames were typical of Philadelphia area furniture. In the 18th century during the Queen Anne and Chippendale furniture periods, anything from the Greco-Roman era was quite popular. In housing styles, it was known as “Greek revival”, and in furniture, elements of Greco-Roman culture were used in furniture adornments such as fluted columns and finials.

The first step in creating the flame finial is to make a template that establishes layout measurements that can be transferred to your turning stock and to insure that you can produce multiple copies of the same dimension. George demonstrated his layout techniques on sample stock that he had prepared in advance of the meeting. As George didn’t have any large cherry stock left, he
grabbed a piece of spalted birch from his firewood pile, and I must say, it made the most elaborately figured flame finial than any of us had have ever seen!

George then demonstrated his various turning tools and the methods he used to turn the various stages of creating the urn including setting in his dimension lines and turning the coves and beads. George also pointed out that it is important to be sure to drill a centered hole in the turning blank before completing the turning to be sure that the finished finial can be easily mounted perfectly centered and straight.

Once off the lathe, the next step is to layout the spiral lines around the flame portion of the finial. Most commonly there are four twist elements. To achieve this layout, a line is circumscribed at the center of the flame, and divided into four equal segments, each 90 degrees from the next. Picture these as the indications of latitude every 90 degrees around the equator. These same latitude positions are projected up to the top of the flame as well as down to the base of the flame. Next, the step is to use a flexible ruler or masking tape to flex a line in spiral form from a latitude position on the base up to the latitude position 180° opposite the base at the equator, and then wrapped back around to the same starting latitude position as on the base, accomplishing one full rotation. This is then repeated for each of the four latitude base positions to establish the complete layout. These layout lines represent the peaks of the flame, and now the work progresses finally to the carving stage where wood is excavated between these “peaks” (layout lines). It is important not to disturb the layout lines, only carving up to them to preserve the overall symmetry and size of the flame. George preferred the use of a palm carving gouge with a #8 sweep to perform the carving. But, before starting the carving, he used a sharp knife to make a score \( \frac{3}{16} \) to either side of the layout lines. These are the marks that delineate where to stop the carving on the edges to avoid damaging the outer peaks of the flame.

Once carving was completed, he used a series of rat tail files followed by finer riffle files to refine the carving, yet was careful to keep the well preserved crisp edges. This was all done while we hovered around George's workbench in his shop. Thanks again to George for his preparation, hands-on demos and his hospitality!

**Future Meetings of the PFG**

The final portion of our meeting was devoted to the discussion future plans for the “new” PFG. We took inspiration from Tom MacDonald, a graduate furnituremaker from the North Bennet Street School (see his website at www.thomasjmacdonald.com). Tom’s no-nonsense and no-intimidation style fits our group very well.

The group has decided that we will structure our upcoming series of meetings around a particular period furniture project. Each meeting will be devoted to a particular subject in the design, planning and building of a piece of furniture. As members, we will each individually build a project focused on learning period techniques and styles. Each member will build the project on their own, and we will use our meetings as milestones to review group progress, seek critique, and then to focus on an instructional topic for the next stage of building.

Again, following on with Tom MacDonald's idea, we will all design and build a one drawer stand in the Federal period style. Each individual has the freedom of their own design, wood choices and adornments. Upcoming meetings envisioned include history, research and design of a one drawer stand in the Federal period, full size drawings, drawer construction (dovetails, cock beading, etc.), veneering, Federal furniture adornments such as stringing and bellflower leg decorations, banding, and oval inlays such as the sand-shaded fan.

If you have a passion for period furniture history, study, design and furniture making techniques, get ready for a hands-on experience.

To receive notification of future meetings, contact Mike Cyros at mikeyros@comcast.net.

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**Build a Demilune Table with Garrett Hack**

Garrett Hack is a New Hampshire Furniture Master and long-time member of and contributor to our Guild. He is also a masterful teacher.

Of all of the tables Garrett has built over the years, this petite demilune or half elliptical design is one he returns to again and again. It’s an elegant and very classsy style rich with decorative possibilities and well suited to many uses. It’s also an excellent project to explore design, laminating to create curved parts, cutting angled joints, and using a variety of hand tools to size, smooth, and fit parts. The class will start by designing the curve of the apron, the taper and size of the legs, the joinery, the top overhang, and some details.

Construction from there involves some machine setups, from cutting a set of legs to a pattern off the bandsaw to resawing laminations and cutting mortises. Then it will be careful work with planes and chisels refining parts, fitting joinery, smoothing surfaces to a polish, and trying your hand at some string inlay or other decorative details.

Complete tool and cut list will be sent to each student. Dates are March 18-22 at Shelburne Arts Center in Shelburne, VT. Questions — contact Garrett at 802-785-4329 or visit the www.shelburneartcenter.org/website.
Beginner & Intermediate Group

meetings held at the Salmon Falls Mill in Rollingsford, NH

The Beginner and Intermediate Group’s purpose is to demonstrate various woodworking and cabinetmaking techniques, to encourage participants to try them on their own, and to enhance their skill level. BIG meetings generally go through the steps required to build a specific cabinet or piece of furniture. Through this process members get to see first hand the methods used to make joinery, use hand and power tools, clamping methods and most important master the process to achieve their goals.

BIG meetings also give members the opportunity to review their plans and ideas with the coordinator.

BIG meets on the first Saturday of the even numbered months except July. The most recent BIG meeting was December 6 at Bob LaCivita’s shop in Rollinsford. The group started a new project to better understand different drawer types and drawer guides. At Bob’s suggestion, some members will be making the project at their shops. Bob can then answer their questions and problems in addition to building the one cabinet at the meetings.

Bob designed a Drafting Caddy for the project. It is a small 16” square cabinet with casters meant to store and organize drafting tools including triangles, compass, rules, dividers, etc. The cabinet will have an open tray on top and four drawers below. It is being constructed of plywood with miter joints and biscuit joinery. The low cost and ease of construction are appropriate for the project.

Bob discussed overlay and inset drawers, then guide types. In choosing a drawer style and guide type, one considers not only the ease of construction, but the expansion and contraction of the wood drawer and the wood cabinet as well.

The cabinet will have a drawer with a runner and kicker mounting, a drawer with a simple wood runner, a wood runner on a half overlay drawer and a drawer using a metal slide. The drawers will be made of poplar, a hardwood that mills well.

Looking ahead, the next regular BIG meeting is February 7 will be at Bob LaCivita’s shop in the Mills at Salmon Falls, 1 Front Street, Studio 215 and 217, Rollingsford, NH. Directions can be found at www.millartists.com. Don’t forget your chairs. At the meeting the group will continue with the drafting caddy. Drawer runners and cabinet assembly will be the topic.

In addition, BIG is presenting at the morning session of the February 21 all-Guild meeting where Bob will continue the project as usual. The members will have an opportunity to see Bob demonstrate his skills and see what BIG is all about.

If all goes according to plan, by the time of the April 4 meeting, the group will start drawer construction.

Old Ways Days

The second annual Old Ways Days, Oct. 18 & 19 at Old Ways Traditions at Dave and Anne Emerson’s, had the usual lively music, good food, antique machinery and live steam plus Tools for Kids aka Sunapee Kids. Guild members helped to make this event big fun for families as kids from three up could drill and plane, with older kids using augers, boring machines and antique molding planes. Five and up could use the shaving horses. Treadle lathes got good use especially Chuck Mower’s spring pole lathe. There was timber framing, crosscut sawing and froe splitting.

All of this will be out again for Wood Days and at Shaker Village in 2009. Hope you can join in so we can be raring to go for the kids at Sunapee. Just ask Marcel Durette how fun this all is.
The November Guild meeting was held on the 15th at the Homestead Woodworking School in Newmarket, NH. About fifty members attended, filling Al Mitchell's classroom space.

After some opening remarks from Dave Frechette, we had some Show & Tell. Three members brought in work to show the group. Each took just a few minutes describing their work and answering the group's questions.

The balance of the morning session was taken by Dave Anderson's hand plane clinic. Looking at members' planes, Dave gave a bit of history about them, described some of the pros and cons of them, and diagnosed potential problems. Understanding the history of a type of plane gave perspective on its uses. Dave talked about removing rust from old tools.

The business meeting followed. Peter James gave his Treasurer's report followed by brief comments from each subgroup. It was noted that the Period Furniture Group (Mike Cyros has since taken this group on) and the BIG will both need leaders. The members were told that the Guild was working on a new website, which was planned to go public in mid December. The weekly email, Guild Touchups and the plans to split The Old Saw were also announced. The last business covered included membership trends, the scholarships granted, and a call for additional videographers to record Guild meeting demonstrations.

After lunch, Dave Anderson gave his talk on hand planes. He explained the intended uses for planes, by size as well as type. Other topics included care and maintenance, planing techniques, and what to look for when buying pre-owned planes. The presentation was recorded on DVD for member use, and is available from the Guild's DVD library.
Granite State Woodturners

at the Homestead Woodworking School, New Market, NH

The GSWT is currently directed by a triumvirate who once again managed to organize a most interesting meeting. As seems more and more the case of late, the agenda was pulled together at the last minute and made for a varied and lively exchange of ideas, experiences and thoughts on how things are made at the lathe. As onlookers, the spontaneity may seem refreshing but we should all realize the anxious energy expended for our bimonthly meetings.

Peter James led off with a demo on his version of the wooden spatula. Well organized and armed with prepared props and examples, Peter gave an excellent presentation. One of his comments worth quoting, you don’t have to be an expert to demonstrate should be mirrored with but you need to be prepared. Personally, if you show up with pre-sawn blanks taped together to illustrate the cutting sequence for the piece, you have my full and undivided attention — Peter had us all!

Jon Siegel himself followed Peter and in true form, gave the group some notable remarks. To those in attendance, wrong in principle but nonetheless useful in practice should hearken some chuckling or at least a smile. Face it, if you didn’t find the statement amusing you need to see me before the next meeting! Jon turned a potato masher which had a very strong resemblance to a carver’s mallet but with finer lines and more elaborate details. Needless to say, the finish off the tool was superior in quality!

DJ Delorie continued with a demonstration on making another spatula, this time using a chuck to hold the blank. Ghost imaging and the ability to use it to advantage was explored.

Bill Frost showed us some really well conceived salad servers. Not turned on the lathe but rather band sawn and then shaped with abrasives, he passed around sets made from bird’s eye maple, cherry and an exotic whose name I did not get. Once sanded very smooth using gloves, dedicated dust collection and drum sanders, the pieces are soaked in mineral oil for several hours and allowed to drip dry before hand wiping off the excess. The final look of the surface is the classic depth of finish and wood figure only achieved by someone who truly loves the raw material with which he works. By the way, Bill sells these salad servers and expects that we will not copy his style.

Something which we do not do very often followed the demos. Members were asked to bring turned pieces from the kitchen. Plates, bowls, spoons and ladles were passed around. And then it happened. Robin Dustin from Sandwich, NH stood up with two samples of her rolling pins and there was a hush over the group. Off center, multi-axis, really neat rolling pins. I introduced myself after the meeting in order to get her name for this article and admitted to not recognizing her. She told me that this was her first meeting because of the distance involved in getting to some of the other venues. I hope to see more of her work in the future.

In closing, an appeal was made for future demos on varied topics (bowl turning, sanding, finishing, etc.) and I urge everyone to consider the possibility very seriously. Demonstrating, like teaching is the best way to learn the craft. Pick a topic. Focus on what you want to illustrate and practice all of the steps involved. You can have no better sense of accomplishment than the feeling after a well presented demonstration. You know that you will be well received and you can even expect some assistance from the audience if the need is felt.

I will now go way out on the limb with this editorial comment. I know a lot of turners, professionals at that, who can turn their signature piece flawlessly yet they couldn’t make a plate or a wooden top to save their lives! Learn one thing. Learn it well. Teach it to others and you will know it for life. And then move on to the next piece and demonstrate that. The pros need to make for their market. The amateurs make for their own satisfaction. That satisfaction is enhanced tenfold when shared with others. Answer Peter James’ request to demonstrate. I would love to write about the experience.

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603-6763-9629 (evenings) or aaijr@comcast.net

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**The Guild of New Hampshire Woodworkers**

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The December 13 meeting of the Hand Tools Group on scrapers and scraper planes was cancelled because of the ice storm which occurred on the preceding Thursday night. Since most of us were without power for several days, we were unable to send out an email cancellation notice. With the holiday season rapidly approaching, it was not possible to reschedule.

The next meeting of the Hand Tools Group will be on its regularly scheduled date of Saturday February 13 at John Watson’s house and shop on the Hopkinton/Contoocook town line from 9:00 am until noon. The topic will again be scrapers, scraper planes, and related tools. Attendance will be limited to 20 participants and pre-registration is required. Members who register will receive emailed directions about two weeks before the event.

A major portion of the meeting will be devoted to learning how to sharpen and use card scrapers, and discussing and demonstrating the many methods and options available. We will also delve into the various varieties of scraper planes, how to set them up, and how to choose which one is the best for you. Some of the related tools such as gun stock scrapers and spindle scrapers will be covered briefly if time allows. Attendees are asked to bring a scraper, mill file, burnisher and their choice of sharpening/honing gear. This is very much a “hands on” meeting.

The Hand Tools Group mission is to improve the skills and knowledge of the care, choice, and history of hand tools and to help members use them more effectively in the everyday woodworking. To accomplish this goal, folks bring in their problems, unidentified tools they have acquired, and questions about any hand tool related topic.

To register for the meeting or to be put on the Hand Tools Group mailing list, contact: Dave Anderson at dsaicaster@gsinet.net or 603-887-6267.
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