President’s Message

Volunteer! It’ll be good for you

The Guild, as I’ll explain further, is always in need of volunteers. But those considering participation don’t often realize what rewards they’ll get in return. I know I didn’t.

When I first joined the Guild of New Hampshire Woodworkers, I sat on the sidelines for a couple of years, not even going to a meeting. By nature I’m not as social as some, and I was slow to get involved. But then I “braved the crowds” and went to a meeting where I immediately found friendly, interesting people. One gentleman came right up to me, introduced himself and shook my hand, as he does every time I see him now.

My contributions grew. One of my favorite activities was to participate in Wood Days at Canterbury Shaker Village. The whole environment around the Village is serene and whenever there I love the notion of all the wonderful craft tradition and history in the air. And I loved the contact with other woodworkers and observers. Sadly, that event is no more, but then I also loved running the Beginners and Intermediate sub Group, better known as “BIG.” The name fits because it’s been a BIG part of my Guild experience. I’ve had many meeting in my shop and have helped BIG evolve into something that’s very good.

Though I ran the group, I found I learned from other members continually. Learning is a lifelong process – and as the saying goes “the older I get the less I know.” I’ve learned to look at woodworking from an understanding that each maker is doing his or her best, whether creating a simple napkin holder or an intricate highboy. Volunteering with BIG has given me a better appreciation of the process of

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Luthiers

Finishing challenges for instruments on September

By John Whiteside

Our Guild Luthier’s (stringed instruments) special interest group had good representation and a great time at the luthier’s table under the Guild tent at the Sunapee Craft Fair at the beginning of August. We are especially grateful to Al Hansen for his excellent work in running the Guild tent and for making us welcome.

Thanks also to Bud Wilkes for organizing our members for the lutherie demonstrations. Our group is gaining acceptance as part of the mainstream of Guild activities and as a legitimate field of woodworking generally. In fact, in terms of number of demonstration slots, we were second only to the woodturners in terms of our presence at Sunapee. So, hopefully we had something to do with the record number of lottery ticket sales this year, in support of the Guild scholarship fund.

Our group kicks off its 2009-2010 season of meetings on Sunday, September 20 from 1-4 p.m.

The topic for this meeting is finishing. Several presentations are planned covering various ways to approach the high-gloss, defect-free finished surfaces sought after by guitar makers. These include using the newer ultra-violet-cured catalytic finishes, water-based lacquer, and good old shellac and French polishing. There will be a demonstration of spraying technique and a chance to hold a practice guitar to a buffing wheel. If time permits, we will also discuss pore filling.

The location is John Whiteside’s shop in Fremont, NH. Please let him know if you are coming at johninfremont@comcast.net or (603) 679-5443. You can also contact John to be placed on the group e-mail list for timely notification of meetings.

The Guild Luthiers group typically meets on the third Sunday of September, November, January, March, and May. We are also associated with a non-Guild group - the New England Luthiers. They have graciously invited any Guild members interested in stringed instruments to their meetings which are generally on the second Sunday of every month. For more details about the NEL meetings, visit newenglandluthiers.com.

Old Saw Mailing Changes

As you may know, The Old Saw has reverted to its original role as a means of communicating the announcements, reports, president’s message and other affairs of the guild.

The dues being spent in the past on a comprehensive Old Saw have been shifted to The Journal (printed quarterly). Beginning with the November issue, The Old Saw will be primarily an Internet publication available for download off the guild web site. When published (currently planned for five times per year), it will be announced and a link provided in the weekly Touch-Ups email.

If you have no email, you will continue to get a mailing of a printed Old Saw. Others may only get the mailed copy if they “opt-in” by either checking off the Old Saw Opt-In box on the member application or by going into their membership profile information at the guild website and checking “Opt-in” it there.

Please help keep Guild mailing costs in check by downloading the Old Saw from the Internet, instead of opting for the mailing. File sizes will be kept reasonable for those using dial-up Internet connection.

Helpful Hint

From C. Peter James:

"A couple of years ago I wrote an article about removing rust from tools using a product called "Evaporust." The local supplier stopped carrying it, but it is now available from Lee Valley and locally from Tractor Supply stores. The gallon price at Tractor Supply is $19.99 and lower than any other place that I have found."
Why Volunteer?

making, rather than just an appreciation of the final product.

I am proud of what we did and will miss running it, though it moves and grows now in the capable hands of Tom McLaughlin.

My years as a volunteer have been for the most part very positive. While volunteering at the Sunapee tent I asked members why they volunteer. Peter James said volunteering gives him, "the satisfaction of doing my part and the opportunity to influence how things are done. If you participate, you have no right to complain."

I think in the end people volunteer from the goodness of their heart. I think it gets carried out in many ways, maybe in as many ways as there are volunteers. The Guild has a number of volunteers that give large amounts of time. These people are involved in publishing, the website, membership, and programs. We also have members that volunteer for one small task a year and that is important as well, be it a delivery of a lathe to Sunapee or selling raffle tickets at an event. Through this large network of volunteers all the jobs, great and small get accomplished. Without the volunteers the programs and the Guild would not exist.

So, how can you help? In lots of ways as the Guild has more than 40 activities a year. These include regular guild meetings, small meetings, sub-group meetings, the summer trip, Sunapee and Symposia. These events require many behind-the-scene people to organize, register, deliver, pick up, email, etc.

There are several jobs available and if you contact me I’d be happy to find a fit. Currently, we are specifically looking for a videographer coordinator. The volunteer will manage the videographers, equipment and coordinate some video education for the videographers. Next year we are planning a Design Symposium, coordinated by John Keeling. This will not only need volunteer speakers, it will need a number of people for assorted jobs.

And let’s not forget Sunapee, a yearly Herculean task this year with more than 40 volunteers.

Why not see where volunteering can take you? Contact me at rlacivita@metrocast.net

SMALL MEETINGS WILL BE HOSTED BY THE FOLLOWING GUILD MEMBERS ON SATURDAY OCT. 17, 2009.

Steve Colello, Wakefield, NH - Joinery for beginners and intermediates. Steve will give an overview of simple joinery techniques. 12 people max.

DJ Delorie, Deerfield, NH - Google Sketch Up. DJ will go through the steps required to draw a table using Sketch Up software. 12 people max.

John Keeling, Eastman, NH - Dovetails. John will demonstrate the layout and execution of dovetail joints. 10 people max.

Sue Cox, Wilton, NH - Double Filled Tapered Lamination. Sue will cover the design layout and steps required to form a filled tapered lamination. 10 people max.

Scott Ruesswick, Canterbury, NH - Turning wood bowls. Russ will discuss wood selection, mounting and the techniques to create a wood bowl. 30 people max.

All meetings will be held from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 and some may run a little longer. To sign up, please contact Bob LaCivita via email rlacivita@metrocast.net or by phone 603-303-5940. He will forward directions and post them on the website.

All meetings have a strict attendance limit so sign up early.
Build a Chest of Drawers

By Bob Couch

NH Furniture Master Tom McLaughlin has agreed to host our Beginner and Intermediate Group (BIG) for the 2009-2010 year.

Tom has the ideal shop to host BIG since it also doubles as a school during part of the year. The 30’ X 60’ shop boasts large windows that flood the space with great light and plenty of room for the group to see Tom’s masterful skills.

Tom, who grew up in Massachusetts, earned a degree in Mathematics from the University of Massachusetts at Lowell, then a master’s of divinity from Gordon-Cornwell Theological Seminary in South Hamilton, MA.

But the longing to work with wood drew Tom to North Carolina to become a cabinetmaker. Once there, he was introduced to P.A. “Pug” Moore, a 73-year-old master craftsman, who liked Tom’s work and in 1990 they struck up a deal for a three-year apprenticeship. Together, they built a friendship and beautiful furniture on commission.

In 1993, Tom went on his own building furniture in a building on his property in Wilson, NC. Times were tough but Tom and his wife Kris stuck it out and in 1997, they had done well enough to move back to New England to be close to family. Once here, he rented space on the property of a local stone worker in Canterbury. Early in 1998 Tom was accepted as a member of the New Hampshire Furniture Masters Association which furthered his career and his customer base up and down the eastern seaboard.

In 2001, Tom and Kris broke ground on his workshop on their property, large enough to provide ample space for all of the facets and steps of the furniture building process, but also large enough to provide space for Tom to teach the craft he loves so much to others.

This year’s project will be a traditional chest of drawers. This is a perfect project for the BIG subgroup and will cover many of the basic skills necessary on just about any project.

The meetings will run from 9:00 a.m. until Noon and are scheduled the first Saturday of even numbered months, with the exception of August. See the schedule below for full details.

Beginner and Intermediate Subgroup (BIG) 2009-2010
Shop location: 336 Baptist Road, Canterbury, NH

SOLID CASE CONSTRUCTION: MAKING A TRADITIONAL CHEST OF DRAWERS

Oct. 3, 2009 — Building the case part 1
• Planning and drawing the chest
• Selecting/preparing the panels
• Dovetailing the case

Dec. 5, 2009 — Building the case part 2
• Fitting out the case interior
• Drawer dividers and runners
• Dust petitions
• Gluing up the case

Feb. 6, 2010 — Making the Drawers
• Selecting/preparing the materials
• Dovetail layout
• Hand-cutting the dovetails
• Drawer glue-up
• Fitting the drawers
• Drawer bottoms and stops
• Hardware selection and tips

April 3, 2010 — Moldings, feet, top, and back

June 5, 2010 — Finishing, and leftovers

Please RSVP Bob Couch at arcouch@comcast.net if you plan to attend.
The September meeting of the Guild of New Hampshire Woodworkers is always a special meeting. It is the Guild’s Annual Meeting, this year held at The Breed School in Rollinsford, NH. At the annual meeting, new officers are confirmed, and the Guild’s accounts are reviewed for the members.

But the real business that we all look forward to is the auction. We raise funds and have fun doing it. Members donate tools, supplies, finishes, hardware, WOOD and more to be auctioned. To donate, just bring your items that morning. The proceeds go to the Guild’s general fund. All are advised to stop at their favorite ATM for cash because you never know what you’ll see up for bids.

September’s subgroup presentation will be by the Period Furniture Group (PFG). This group is for serious woodworkers; their idea of utilizing a couple of hours at a Guild meeting is to have one of their own meetings, just a little condensed, guest demonstration and all. Be prepared to be impressed by their organization, and what they do.

This meeting is also special because the guest speaker is Allan Breed. The special part is that Allan will be doing a presentation on serious period furniture reproductions, PLUS a skills demonstration on veneering and beading drawer fronts as part of the PFG group presentation. To get all this in one meeting, we will start a little earlier and end a little later.

The agenda:
8:30 Coffee & chat, readying auction items
9:00 Auction begins
11:00 Break
11:15 PFG, Mike Cyros
12:00 Lunch, business session
12:30 PFG, Allan Breed’s skills demo
1:15 Break
1:30 Allan Breed’s reproductions presentation
3:45 Clean up

Allan Breed’s shop is in the same Salmon Falls Mill building as last February’s meeting at Matt Wadja’s shop; Salmon Falls Mill, 1 Front Street, Rollinsford, NH.

The auction will take place in the Salmon Falls loading dock area, with the rest of the meeting at the Breed School, which is on the third floor and to the left.

For Directions
The address is above for those who wish to get their own map. Use the Breed School’s link for a map and directions.
http://www.allanbreed.com/directions.cfm

You can follow these directions. From Rt. 9 in Dover center follow Rt. 4 Portland Ave for approximately 2 miles. Turn left onto Roberts Road and continue for approximately one mile. Roberts Road then merges into Main Street. Follow Main St. to the stop sign. The mill building directly in front of you.
2009 Craftsmen’s Fair

By Al Hansen

The night before the big fair was ominous: an inch of rain had drenched the ground and it was muddy. The dour circumstances came out of a spring and early summer of rain, rain, and more rain. Miraculously, the sun smiled on us as we opened Saturday morning and, with few exceptions, held out for the nine days of the 76th League of NH Craftsman’s Fair.

The League provides us with a large tent near the main entrance in which we set up tables to display items made and donated by our members. These are raffled and all proceeds go for woodworking scholarships and grants. Guild members demonstrating their skills would fill the rest of the tent. There were luthiers, woodcarvers, woodturners, hand tool experts and a Nantucket basket maker. Twenty-six items were on display, workbenches set up, lathes spinning, chisels sharpened, guitars tuned, sun shining, but would the poor economy keep the people away?

Nope. For all nine days we had enthusiastic crowds visit our tent. We set a record for raffle sales, signed up six new members and sold $275 worth of Guild clothing! Here are the Guild members who spent many hours creating a variety of very attractive items and the lucky winners.

- John Whiteside, Mountain Dulcimer, won by Ray Lavallee, Goffstown, NH
- Peter Breu, Child’s Footstool, won by Mary Ann Morey, Derry, NH
- Claude DuPuis, Turned Pen Set, won by Karl Duchek, Westfield, NJ
- Bob St.Laurent, Windsor Chair, won by Ted Blachy, Warner, NH
- Bob DeAngelis, Red Maple Bowl, won by Merlene Dunlap New London, NH
- Bill Frost, Curly Maple Salad Servers, won by Jen Sula, Salisbury, NH
- Dave Emerson, Cherry Shaker Pegboards, won by Ed Burt, Derry, NH
- Dave Emerson, Bent Oak Plant Holders, won by Cheryl Brewster Trussville, AL
- Syd Lorandeau, Cutting Board, won by Mackellow, Bradford, NH
- Dave Freschette, Spalted Maple Bowl, won by David Mareouillier, Dover, NH
- Stuart Blanchard, Cherry and Walnut Oval Table, won by Jean Dullea, Glastonbury, CT
- Jerry Burt, Turned Bowl, won by E. Kruger, Derry, NH

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- Donna Banfield, 14” Beech Bowl won by Fran Grigsby, Concord, MA
- Ned Gelinus, Curly Maple Bowl, won by Donna Turncotte, Henniker, NH

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GUILD OF NEW HAMPSHIRE WOODWORKERS
Michael O. Moore, Tiger Maple Music Stand, won by Gary (a musician), Brockton, MA

John Ryan, Birdseye Maple and Cherry Tray, won by Shirley Hart, Plaistow, NH

Myrl Phelps, End Grain Cutting Board, won by Ben Heller, Sutton, NH

Ron Pouliot, Turned Peppermill, won by Linda Kaufeld, Easton, PA

John Willse, Memo Box, won by Stefanie Kocera, Manchester, NH

John Willse, Bank, won by Ned, Manchester, NH

Marcelle Durette, Turned Lidded Cherry Bowl, won by Larry Colby, Keene, NH

George Saridkis, Lidded Turned Jewelry Box, won by Nancy Belsky, Surry, NH

Bob LaCivita, Cutting Board, won by Aimee Hunteman, Derry, NH

Stuart Blanchard, Oak Pear Lites, won by Dylan Carson, Sharon, VT

Fred Chellis, Windsor Candle Stand, won by Scott Merrill, Attleboro, MA

Monica Raymond, White Oak Side Table, won by Martha Bristol, Wilton, NH

Stuart Blanchard and Monica Raymond’s tables, John Whiteside’s Mountain Dulcimer, Bob St. Laurent’s Windsor Chair, Fred Chellis’s Windsor Candle Stand, and Michael O. Moore’s Music Stand, led the sales in raffle tickets. Much thanks to all for setting the record, $6,940!

Twenty-two members demonstrated their skills. The competence of their work and welcoming attitude attracted many to ask questions. Or to just stare in awe as wood shavings flew off the lathes, exact dovetails were cut, owl heads were carved in under two minutes, tiny amounts of removed wood changed the sound of a mandolin under construction and at the precision demanded of inlay work. I expect many were exposed to a new world.

More than thirty volunteers helped with set up, raffle sales and take down. Their selling skills evident by the new sales record. But you know it’s pretty easy. We are at the oldest Craft Fair in the country run by the wonderful League of NH Craftsmen. We are in a magnificent location, Mt. Sunapee Resort. There are tents filled with the most beautiful creations of juried members of the League, the variety of which is staggering. Craft demonstrations and lectures are ongoing. There is a children’s tent, living with Craft display, music and a sculpture garden.

And amidst all this, a tent run entirely by volunteers brought together by the love of woodworking. With articles made and donated by volunteers, to be raffled by volunteers, with the goal of giving the money away to people who want to learn or improve woodworking skills or to institutions that want to provide woodworking instruction for young people. I am proud to be a member.
Suppliers Offering Discounts to Guild Members

**Tools & Supplies**
- Brentwood Machinery  www.brentwoodmachine.com  800-582-7229
- Chester Tool Works  www.chestertoolworks.com  603-887-6267
- Lie-Nielsen Toolworks  www.lie-nielsen.com  800-327-2520
- Rockler – Cambridge, MA  www.rockler.com  617-497-1136
- Rockler – Salem, NH  www.rockler.com  603-898-5941
- Williams & Hussey  www.williamsnhussey.com  800-258-1380
- Woodcraft – Newington, NH  www.woodcraft.com  603-433-6116

**Wood Products**
- Classic Designs  www.tablelegs.com  800-843-7405
- GH Evarts  www.ghevarts.com  603-763-4525
- Goosebay  www.goosebaylumber.com  603-798-5135
- Highland Hardwoods  www.highlandhardwoods.com  800-442-1812
- Maine Coast Lumber  www.mainecoastlumber.com  800-899-1664
- Northland Forest Prods.  www.northlandforest.com  603-642-8275
- The Millwork Shop  www.t-n.com  603-643-3658
- Wolfgang’s Wood  Strafford, NH  603-664-7691

**Services**
- Manchester Tool Repair  www.too-repair.com  603-622-0207
- North Road Guitars  www.northroadguitars.com  603-679-5443
- Tru-Cut LLC  Charlestown, NH  603-826-4131

**Schools**
- Homestead Woodworking  www.woodschoolnh.com  888-659-2345
- Woodturning School  www.woodturningschool.org  207-563-2345
- McLaughlin Woods  www.experiencewoodworking.com  603-783-9700
- The Breed School  www.allanbreed.com  603-749-6231
- The Windsor Institute  www.thewindsorinstitute.com  603-929-9801
- The Wood Finishing School  www.patinarestoration.net  978-363-2638

Each supplier offers a minimum 10% discount to current GNHW members — some restrictions may apply.