The Newsletter of the Guild of New Hampshire Woodworkers

President's Message

by Bob LaCivita

The Annual Meeting

September 11, 2010

Location—Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH. The Woodworking Workshop is located on the lower floor of the Hopkins Center which is adjacent to the Hanover Inn and across Main Street from the common green.

Our featured speaker is Mr. Dave Meyers of Guilford, NH. He will be sharing his woodworking experience and expertise. Dave is a master woodworker, doing architectural woodwork at the same level as period furniture. His work is on commissions and contracts, and includes a wide variety of styles and designs.

Dave will bring finished pieces, mockups, samples, his tools and some of his veneers and veneer inlays. He will share his insights such as why Shaker furniture is appropriate for more experienced woodworkers, what things will "make all the difference in the world," and some others that will put your work over the top.

Details can be found on the Announcements Blog.

A Retrospective & Many Thanks

In the September, 2009 issue of the Old Saw, I wrote on volunteerism and the benefits for the Guild and the volunteer. A few people stepped up to the plate and I am grateful for their service. The contribution our volunteers make to our programs is significant and the Guild would not be the Guild without them. Sunapee is a great example. In the 10 days of the fair, 47 members volunteered to work in the tent and there were a handful who worked behind the scene doing the mundane tasks nobody sees. Let's not forget all the wooden items donated by members creating a Guild record breaking fair total.

In our 20th year, the Guild is doing well, as Jon Siegel wrote.

Continued on Page 2

One hundred people attended the 20th Anniversary Guild picnic
New Membership Type Proposed

Due to our recent new international memberships, the Steering Committee proposes that we should create a new membership type called “International.” This is primarily due to the added cost of mailing three issues of the Journal at international rates.

Therefore, the Steering Committee is recommending the membership approve a new membership type called “International” and the dues for this membership type would be $55 instead of the normal $40 for US memberships.

A vote on this matter will be taken during the business meeting at the annual meeting on September 11, 2010—Bob Couch.

Small Meetings

October 23, 2010

As the Guild has grown and attendance at Guild meetings has increased, we have found it more and more difficult to meet in member shops. Many missed the opportunity of visiting other shops and the more intimate setting. To fill this void, we organize a day of multiple small meetings twice per year each with a different topic.

The first set of meetings will be held concurrently across the Guild’s region on Saturday, October 23. Al Hansen is coordinating.

Final details will be posted on the web site, in the Calendar and in the weekly TouchUps email sent to all members. Registration will be requested as space is normally limited—Al Hansen.

NH Technical Institute to Host Juried Guild Show

The Guild will be having a show of member work at the New Hampshire Technical Institute Library in Concord, NH. The show will open on January 3, 2011 and run through January 31, 2011.

We are asking our members to submit their work to be juried. All submittals will be considered. We are looking for work from all skill levels and styles. The selection will take place in November. Work should be submitted no later than November 27 and the announcement of accepted pieces will take place December 17. Information on the submittal process will be available on the website by late September.

The space is limited and depending on the amount and type of work submitted, a rotating display schedule will be used. Further information will be made available on the website—Robert LaCivita.

Presidents Message continued

in his Guild history, “a success story.” Over the course of the last year and a half, the Guild has gone through some noteworthy changes. The most obvious is the website. With a few keystrokes you can find out what is going on in the Guild, read a blog, find a new acquaintance in the directory, or carpool to a meeting. Another big change is that the Old Saw has gone completely electronic. Much of this is due to the cost of printing. Like most printed media in the U.S., the Old Saw had to go electronic for obvious reasons—money and time. The decision to change to 100% electronic was difficult and has been discussed for a long time in Steering Committee meetings. The difficulty was that 25 members do not use the Internet. What do we do with them? Over and over we came up with ways to provide 25 printed copies. Once the decision was made to go all electronic, an effort was made to direct the non-Internet users to where and how to access the Internet. I am sad that we have lost some long-term members due to this decision. On the other hand, we have signed up a member all the way from Australia. This is due to our web access. Even though I am troubled by the loss of members, it is for the greater good of the Guild.

Michael Moore resigned as Old Saw Editor. I would like to thank Michael for all his good work. We should all welcome Michael Brown as the new Old Saw Editor. I look
at publishing as the most time consuming job in the Guild. I am sure over time Michael Brown will add his own personal touch to the Old Saw. I would like to ask our members to submit their work by deadline. It is hard enough putting out the Old Saw and the added pressure waiting for articles takes away the creative spark.

I cannot thank everybody by name that has offered something to the Guild. A few key people stand out.

Al Hansen, who runs the Sunapee event, is a one man organizing machine. Al Mitchell over the years has donated everything imaginable to the Guild—meeting space, tools, machines and time. Jim Seroskie publishes the Journal and was the editor of the Old Saw for many years. Al Saffron coordinates all the Guild meetings from demonstrator to electrical cords. Bob Couch often works behind the scenes and has things done without even asking. Bob has made a DVD of the founding members of the Guild. The DVD was done in an interview style and gave me much insight into the dream and vision these people had for the Guild 20 years ago. Two thumbs up. Peter Breu is the Scholarship Coordinator giving out a record amount of funds this year.

Thanks to all the members who run the subgroups, volunteer for Sunapee, donate raffle items, pull me aside to mention small or large problems that need attention, make deliveries, host meetings or demonstrate at a meeting. The list goes on and on. You know who you are and I thank you.

The Furniture Design Symposium that John Keeling coordinated was the highlight of the year for me. The presentations from Dale Broholm and Charles Shackleton were outstanding. The excitement and praise from Guild members for the remainder of the presenters—D.J. Delorie, Terry Moore, Howard Hatch, Jon Siegel, Leah Woods and Robert LaCivita—was outstanding.

One hundred people attended the 20th Anniversary picnic. We had good food, music and company. This is the first purely social event the Guild has had and I think we should do it again.

Meetings and more meetings, the 2010/2011 year is filled with many events. The annual meeting is right around the corner and I hope to see you all there. Between regular Guild meetings and subgroup meetings, I’m sure you will find many topics to peak your interest.

Let’s have a great year.
This has been a good year financially for the Guild. The raw financial numbers are a little misleading as we do show a loss in the General Fund over this time a year ago, but there have been several one-time purchases that will continue to bear fruit in the years to come. We have purchased a complete new digital video camera system that will allow us to record the presentations in High Definition. Another large expense was in the area of internet software and services. We have gone to a service called Wild Apricot for many of our internet functions. One of the major benefits of this has been the ability to sign up or renew your membership online using either PayPal or a credit card. At this time with about 60% of the members having renewed, the vast majority are using this service. In the near future, look for some very exciting developments in our website.

This year the Steering Committee appointed Bob DeAngelis as deputy treasurer. He is well qualified and it is with some feeling of relief that I know that there is someone who can assist and cover for me should the need arise.

The Scholarship Committee has done an outstanding job this year promoting scholarships to individuals. This year fourteen scholarships were awarded—an all time high.

We all must thank Al Hansen and all the people who worked at the Sunapee Craft Fair and all those who donated the outstanding raffle items. We exceeded last year’s record ticket sales by 38% for a total of $9,580. This puts the Scholarship fund at $18,331.11.

We have depleted the Equipment Fund with the video equipment purchase and it is the intention of the Steering Committee to begin to replenish it to provide funding for more upgrades in the future.

I would like to thank you for allowing me to serve the Guild as it’s treasurer and hope you will permit me to continue.

### GNHW 2009-2010 Financial Statement (dollars)

#### General Fund

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Discounted Woodworking Books—Annual Sale

Each year in the fall we have an opportunity to purchase high quality woodworking books at group discounts averaging 40% off the list price. We work with two publishers: Taunton Press, publisher of Fine Woodworking magazine, and Fox Chapel. In addition to the books published by Fox Chapel, they also sell books from other publishers such as Sterling, Stackpole, Schiffer and Penguin/Putnam.

I will have catalogs and take orders at Guild meetings, or you can view titles on the publishers’ web sites (www.taunton.com and www.foxchapelpublishing.com). Email your order to me at aaijrg@gmail.com. Please note my new email address.

If you email your order, I need the following in addition to your name and telephone number:

- For Taunton: The exact title, author, type of item (hard or soft cover book, video or DVD), the list price and the Taunton Product Code (NOT the ISBN #).

- For Fox Chapel: The exact title, author, type of item (hard or soft cover book, video or DVD), list price and the ISBN #.

Orders will be accepted at the fall Guild meetings starting with the Annual meeting in September. The last chance to place an order will be at the November Guild meeting, and books should be available in early December for pickup at my home in Mont Vernon, NH, or at a future Guild meeting. Note that we do not mail books to a member’s home.

All email orders will be acknowledged within one week. So if you do not get a response, please call me. I have vigorous anti-spam software. I’ll email you with the net cost when the books arrive. Payment is due immediately and the books are not returnable. This gives us a premium discount. Happy hunting for some really good woodworking books.

Contact Tony Immorlica—Book Coordinator—603-673-9629 or aaijrg@gmail.com. Please note my new email address.

Discount magazine subscriptions, also an annual event, takes place in the February timeframe. Watch the February Old Saw for details—Tony Immorlica.

Scholarship Committee Report

This has been a very busy year for scholarships with 13 awarded to date as well as 5 grants. The committee is currently considering several other major scholarships making this the busiest year ever with the most money disbursed. The Sunapee raffle netted the largest sum ever which bodes well for next year’s program. It is exciting that members are taking advantage of the scholarship program and at the annual meeting I will outline the scholarships given for the year to date. The scholarship application can be found on line at the Guild’s website and is very easy to complete. Scholarships have been given for a wide variety of courses and opportunities, and I encourage you to consider applying—Peter Breu!
This past membership year has proven to be an eventful and productive year for the Luthiers Group. We have seen quite a few changes to our merry little band, as well as some first times that we hope will not be our last.

Mr. John Whiteside, who has served your membership faithfully for a number of years now, stepped down this past spring as the group’s president. John’s dedication and enthusiasm set the bar at an almost unattainable level for the incoming president. His selfless devotion to creating an open, approachable and welcoming forum placed the Guild on the New Hampshire luthiers map. Through John’s efforts we have seen our membership increase, our exposure broaden and our sphere of influence root.

This year, the Luthiers Group held bi-monthly meetings in cooperation with the New England Luthiers organization in an effort to better serve the membership, many of whom hold dual memberships. We also found that this kind of cooperation with outside agencies holding similar goals gave us the ability to increase the quality and depth of our meetings both socially and educationally. Indeed, some of our meetings attracted attendance from interested parties who were non-members and first-time attendees from outside New Hampshire. We look forward to sharing and building on these relationships in the new year.

The meetings are most often held throughout New Hampshire and are hosted by our members in their shops or homes. Some meetings provide tips and overviews about how the host approaches subjects such as design, layout, fabrication, assembly, and finishing or about new tools and tricks they have evaluated and implemented to address specific curiosities in a particular build.

We have also been fortunate to attract speakers who present at the national level, giving selflessly of their valuable time and insight providing the group with presentations on techniques and subject matter not...
frequently addressed through our regular meetings. To them we are indebted.

We are also proud to have been able to participate in the Guild picnic this year, providing a little entertainment and the opportunity to give back to the organization. We hope you all enjoyed it and look forward to being invited back next year. Thank you to our President, Bob Lacivita, for that opportunity.

As the new president of the Luthiers Group, I am tasked with looking forward over the next year and establishing a plan that builds on an already strong foundation. There is still a lot of work to do. I would like to see our group move forward in areas of community, building membership, reaching out through education and activities, and focusing more keenly on individual member development.

I envision this last item taking place through formal workshops and seminars. While ambitious, I believe these goals are achievable for the members of the Luthier’s group.

I would personally like to thank Bob Lacivita, Terry Moore, Bud Wilkes, Steve Spodaryk, and John Whiteside for their encouragement, opportunity, insight, and input in assisting me during the transition to president. Without them, I would have been lost. Thank you to the membership for your acceptance and commitment during this past year and in the future. You have made it so enjoyable.

Gordon Greenway
New President of the Luthiers Subgroup
A Video Project

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When I started thinking about this year’s 20th anniversary, I was amazed at how the Guild has grown so large and diverse in such a short time. I also wondered who were the people who had the vision to start the Guild, where were they now, and what did they think about what they have created and what it has become. For many of us, if you stop for a few minutes and think about your life over the past 20 years, it will probably generate an “it can’t be that long ago” or two.

As a member of the Steering Committee with Jon Siegel, I knew that he had written a great piece on our history for the website. Jon’s piece gave me good insight into who the early players were and how it all came about. Additional resources I took advantage of were all of the early Old Saws saved on the website. Every member should download a few of those early newsletters to learn what was going on back then.

I decided that it would be very interesting to try to meet our founders and learn more about why they decided to start the Guild. At first, I was thinking about doing an audiotape interview, but a new Guild video camera became available so I changed my mind and chose to use video for the project. I had no idea how much work this would entail, how much fun I would have, and what I would learn through the process from the very interesting people I would meet along the way.

The list of people to interview could have been almost endless but I focused on those I could reach who were at what we call the organizational meeting that was held at John McAlevey’s shop in Warner, early officers for the first five years or so and a few people that stood out as having influence over the direction and philosophy of the organization.

The result is two videos. One is a 37 minute shortened version that was shown at our 20th anniversary event and a second video holds all 14 full-length interviews. Both will be available in our video library. It really is a fascinating story of success and sharing and it would be very useful for any new member to see. We also plan to upload several of these to YouTube and link them to our website.

So who was interviewed? John McAlevey, pivotal founder who hosted the organizational meeting; Paul Tuller, first treasurer and the one who called John and said, “let’s do this”; Terry Moore, 2nd president and early organizer of the first meeting; Jon Siegel, 3rd president and the creator and initial author of the Old Saw; Peter Bloch, who was at the first meeting and had the idea and started to video tape every meeting starting with the 3rd; Roy Noyes, influential in steering the founders to add good structure to the Guild and Old Saw editor for 10 years; David Lamb, attended the organizational meeting and has been a long time supporter of the Guild; Dave Emerson, attended the organizational meeting and introduced the Guild to Wood Days at Shaker Village; Wayne Marcoux, 4th president started the raffle at the Sunapee Craftsman’s Fair as a fund raiser for a scholarship program; Ted Blachly, 5th president, expanded the scholarship program. Terri Masaschi, a founding member who now lives in New Mexico; Jere Osgood, an early member and a New Hampshire woodworking legend; Steve Cunliffe, also a founding member; And finally, Jack Grube, our 7th and Millennium President who added even more needed structure.

What wasn’t a surprise to me was that we have a great organization that’s only goal and mission is to make us all better woodworkers, in whatever areas of woodworking we are partial too, just for the love of woodworking. No one has any secrets and will share anything they know.
When Jeff Lind’s Writing Table won the “Best in Wood” award at the annual League of NH Craftsmen Fair at Sunapee this year, no one should be surprised. He has won many awards for his work. This very table won the Public Choice Award as well.

The Guild sponsors the “Best in Wood” award at the annual League of NH Craftsmen Fair. The writing table is solid flame pattern cherry with a skirt of leopard wood and curly maple cock beading. There are no straight lines in the design except the horizontal planes. The chair is Jeff’s Dining Room Chair #1 in cherry with a walnut seat and curly maple back splats. The League performed the independent judging.

Jeff, a Guild member for 16 years, is a self-taught furnituremaker who was strongly influenced by his grandfathers, both of whom were cabinetmakers. He works alone in his South Berwick, Maine shop.

Both his octagonal log cabin home and shop are off the grid powered by solar PV panels. Jeff has the full complement of woodworking machines and yes, they do work on solar power.

Jeff does mostly one-of-a-kind high end pieces. Interestingly before taking up woodworking, Jeff was a chemist working for the EPA. He is also a musician playing double bass on a bass he made. Congratulations to Jeff.
What happens when the weather is perfect for all nine days of The League of New Hampshire Craftsman’s 77th Fair at beautiful Mount Sunapee Resort and you are in the GNHW tent with woodworkers demonstrating their skills, crafty raffle ticket sellers, and 40 items made and donated by members? A wonderful fun time and record setting raffle sales is what happens!

As in the past, fairgoers gathered in front of woodturners, around luthiers, woodcarvers, and hand tool demonstrators. Questions were asked and enthusiastically answered. How many were seeing these skills for the first time? It was good to see many young people and parents linger for extended periods of time. This year we had new member, Hal Liberty, making toys that go to “Toys for Tots,” the Red Cross, and several other organizations where children are in need. Hal will be hosting a Small Meeting this October 27th. He has an interesting story to tell.

Special this year were articles celebrating the Guild’s 20th year, including the first Old Saw and the present Journal. Several founders paid a visit. We also displayed the award winning “Nested Spheres,” turned by the Granite State Woodturners for this year’s AAW Symposium in Hartford, CT. See the June 2010, issue of The Old Saw for the story of this amazing project. Also, as an example of the Guild’s outreach, two stunning bowls made by Katie Durgin, a senior at Salem High School, won the Guild’s award in the New England High School Woodworking Design Competition. She visited the tent with her mother on Friday and received many compliments and much encouragement by our members.

It was fun to watch as people were approached to buy raffle tickets. Some of course knew about us and immediately started filling out tickets as part of their fair ritual. What was fun were those who gave you the skeptical look, or the friendly dismissive smile, or the “maybe later” answer. Then they see the Windsor chair, the Shaker table, the candle stand, and the two Windsor stools. They approach. They look down to see the many and varied shaped bowls, Shaker pegs and oval boxes, cutting boards, Christmas ornaments, pen set, bottle stopper, child’s music box, doll cradle, child’s foot stool. It is further pointed out that the articles go from the music stand at one end to the cherry mirror next to the Shaker wall clock on the other! They were overwhelmed! Pocket books and purses open, hands reach for wallets. They didn’t stand a chance. Every item donated was first rate! Over 1900 people bought tickets!

Thank you Guild members. You responded to work in the tent and your selling skills are obvious. You brought your tools and skills and shared your love of woodworking with the fairgoers. You labored and created work to keep the vital mission of the Guild ongoing. I too am overwhelmed, by your generosity, your kindness and your good humor. I am so fortunate to be part of this fine organization.
Sunapee 2010

Guild members who donated their work—and the lucky winners

- Michael Moore, Music Stand
- Donnie Chesser, Ornaments
- Claude Dupois, Pen Set
- Tony Holmes, Maple Bowl
- Brendan Cahoon, Oval Shaker Box
- Donnie Chesser, Ornaments
- Lindsay Freese, Maple Bowl
- Hal Liberty, Doll Cradle
- Peter Breu, Childs Stool
- Bob StLaurent, Windsor Chair
- Donnie Chesser, Ornaments
- Jerry Burt, Spalted Maple Bowl
- Lennie Chaisson, Bark Carving
- David Harris, Maple Bowl
- Bruce Wedlock, Oval Shaker Box
- Dave Emerson, Cherry Tote
- Bob LaCivita, Cutting Board
- Dave Emerson, Shaker Pegs
- Bob Katz, Music Box
- Gary Canning, Shaker Side Table
- Dave Emerson, Plant Hangers
- Les Huckins, Spruce Bowl
- Ken Zahn, Walnut Candle Stand
- Donna Banford, Elm Bowl
- Myrl Phelps, Cutting Board
- Peter Scheffer, Windsor Saddle Stool
- Donnie Chesser, Ornament
- Ron Pouliot, Turned Bottle Stopper
- Dick Weiss, Myrtle Bowl
- Bob DeAngelis, Lidded Maple Bowl
- Bill Newbold, Natural Edge Apple Bowl
- Tony Holmes, Walnut Bowl
- George Saridakis, Decorative Lidded Bowl
- Tony Holmes, Turned Eccentric Cups
- Bill Frost, Salad Servers
- Donnie Chesser, Ornaments
- Ned Gelinas, Windsor Shop Stool
- Stuart Blanchard, Shaker Wall Clock
- Bob Couch, Cherry Mirror
- Jim Cossine, Mahogany Adirondack Chair
- Shirley Glibes, Moultonboro, NH
- Karta Owens, Dover, NH
- Debra Gray, Charleston, NH
- Jim Forbes, Kittery, ME
- M. Marecki, Rochester, NH
- Julie Bourque, Manchester, NH
- Joan Carruth, Newport, NH
- Mike Howe, Sunapee, NH
- C. May, Sanford, ME
- David Bean, Fitchburg, MA
- Susan Palmeter, Kingston, NH
- Norm Gavin, Sunapee, NH
- Justin Sultzboch, Peabody, MA
- D. DeAppoloin, Newbury, NH
- Karen Lindig, West Lebanon, NH
- Tamars Richardson, N. Springfield, VT
- Kate Skouteris, Merrimack, NH
- Denise Andrews, New London, NH
- T. Murray, Salem, NH
- M. A. Conaway, Amherst, NH
- Bob Guaraldi, Derry, NH
- Merlene Dunlap, New London, NH
- Sue Stoessel, Marlborough, MA
- Caty Tillman, Silver Spring, MD
- Sue Adams, N. Chelmsford, MA
- Betsy Lane, Pepperell, MA
- Susan Palmeter, Kingston, NH
- Diana Connelly, Newport, NH
- Barbara Foley, Raymond, NH
- Cynthia Samson, Hatfield, MA
- Al Floyd, Littleton, MA
- Terry Decherrin, Manchester, NH
- Winner at drawing.
- T. Miller, Alstead, NH
- Robin McClain, Portsmouth, NH
- B. Totherow, Barrington, NH
- R. Carter, Claremont, NH
- Alice Bonatt, Harwich, MA
- Brad Warson, Nashua, NH
- Michael Avant, Exeter, NH
The Granite State Woodturners Annual Critique

July 31, 2010

The Granite State Woodturners (both a subgroup of the GNHW and a chapter of the AAW) held its Annual Critique meeting on July 31, 2010, at the Homestead Woodworking School, Newmarket, NH. This is the eighteenth year that GSWT has dedicated one of their six meetings each year to help develop the artistic marketability of their turnings rather than concentrating on technical issues. Approximately twenty-five members took advantage of this opportunity and, as always, we are very grateful to be able to use the facilities of the Homestead Woodworking School (Picture 1).

President Dave Belser opened the meeting and asked Jon Siegel to introduce Leah Woods to critique our work. Leah received an MFA in Woodworking and Furniture Design from the Rochester Institute of Technology, served an eight week residency at the International Turning Exchange, taught for three years at Illinois State University, and is currently teaching woodworking at UNH. Her passion for the design process was evident in her approach to each piece presented.

In Picture 2, Leah discusses the appearance of a maple bowl presented by Tony Immorlica and particularly notes the relationship of the inside spherical shape to the exterior line. In Picture 3 Leah stimulates discussion regarding both the diameter and height of the base of the same bowl. Those who have been to previous critique meetings know how often base size has come up and how important it is to get it right and how the slightest of chamfer can add shadow to a bowl to give it lift.

A number of common design decision issues that turners face on every turning came up. We were encouraged to experiment by making minor changes to various features and then stepping back to evaluate the result. What would happen to a base if sharp corners were turned into coves, to a rim if it were rounded over, or made thinner, a rim carved...
inward rather than outward? Should sapwood be perfectly centered on either side of a rim or should it be turned away? What minor changes could be made to make the turning more appealing?

Jon Siegel added to the discussion by sketching the impact of minor changes to the exit angle of an ogee curve as it approaches the rim of the bowl. He recommended the last chapter of Richard Raffan’s *Turning Bowls* as good guidance. Leah stressed the importance of sketching out a design before you start your turning and planning your cuts based on that design. She quoted Picasso, “You have to have an idea of what you are going to do, but it should be a vague idea.”

Rich Jones presented a very large ambrosia maple bowl for critique (Picture 4). Leah talked about the importance of making turnings that are comfortable to pick up. Here the rim was nicely rolled over so it fit well in the hand and gave the bowl a feeling of strength. Smooth lines (fair curves) and a comfortable fit when picked up were common themes in Leah’s evaluations. “Simplicity is a difficult dynamic to achieve.” There were a few bowls that Leah thought could be thinner because the shape suggested that they be delicate and light, whereas others needed to be strong to be used comfortably.

There was only one spindle turning in all the presentations. Ned Gelinas made a four-legged stool that Leah used to discuss a number of design issues (Picture 5). The stretchers were very dramatic as compared to the “quieter” legs because of the sharp difference between the maximum and minimum diameters and the short distance over which that difference was expressed. Leah also noted the effect of the glossy seat to draw attention away from the legs.

Les Huckins brought in a bowl that had a top made of Nova Scotia Cat Spruce Burl and a base of maple. Leah thought the finish and shape gave the “appearance of a ceremonial marble fountain”. The simple shape worked very nicely. She suggested that a slight cove at the lip would mirror the base and tie it together even better.

The Guild’s scholarship fund has been used to support a woodworking design competition among New England high schools. Al Hanson brought two segmented bowls to the meeting (Picture 6). Kathleen Durgin of Salem High School, a participant in the 6th Annual New England Student Woodworking Design competition, made these. Leah was highly impressed with the beauty of the simple design and execution and found it amazing for this level of work to come from a high school student.

There were thirteen presenters, eighteen turnings, and a good discussion of each item. I believe everyone got something from this critique to add to their set of tools to make their work more appealing. Dave Belser closed the meeting with a brief discussion of current AAW Board activities and website information for more up to date happenings. ■
I started my trip months before the actual date with a note on the Guild website page “Need a Ride” and for the longest time no one responded and I figured either no one knew about “Need a Ride”, no one was going (not likely), or no one wanted to carpool with me. Well about a week and a half before the symposium I got a call from Ned Gelinas offering to car pool with him and Bob St. Laurent. So on Saturday June 19, 2010, off we went. The moral of the story is that “Need a Ride” does work. Carpooling is not just about saving money but more about meeting new people, learning who they are and what they do. Try it out.

The three of us were there for one day only but many were there for a three day extravaganza. The Marriott is a beautiful hotel with plenty of room. Upon registration we were given our badges and a large 238 page 8½”x11” spring ring binder. WOW! Among many things, there was a weekend schedule of all the presenters, a map of how to find them, and a quick bio of who they were, what they did (with pictures), and where they were from. It was very well done and well organized. The binder is a keeper. It also had some how to’s in it and all kinds of good stuff.

There were sixty world-class, very well known—I’m talking famous—turners there from all over the US and abroad presenting. Among these were our very own local turners Peter Bloch, Jon Siegel, and of course David Belser. David is currently the president of the GSWT. We are very lucky to have these individuals in our back yard who are willing to share their knowledge. When the opportunity presents itself don’t miss out, take advantage of it.

There was plenty to see. Demonstrations, trade show, exhibits galore, an instant gallery (see photos) (small sample), and of course the collaboration exhibit/contest (see photos). For many others and me it was like being a kid in a candy store. I didn't know which way to turn and where to start. The gallery had hundreds of items on display. If you
think your work is pretty good and your ego is growing, a visit to one of these will set it in perspective. It was very humbling but inspiring at the same time. Speaking for myself, I’ve barely scratched the surface.

The demonstrations covered every topic you can imagine and then some. I watched Trent Bouch from Fort Collins, Colorado, turn a vessel within a vessel (Photo 1) and Christian Delhon from France turn a hollow box from a root (Photo 2). I sat in on a history talk on the evolution of segmented turnings by Curt Theobald from Pine Bluffs, Wyoming. I watched Mark St. Leger from Pearisburg, Virginia, turn a small rectangular box with lid. Mark was also at our turning symposium in Londonderry last year. I only wished that I could have seen more.

By the way, the video setups were very well done. If you’re not on the right side of the turner when he is turning either the inside or outside you cannot see what he’s doing and how. The cameras captured both angles with close ups as needed. The main camera had a sort of remote box/camera that could be toggled back and forth by the videographer. Someone should check into that for our next turning symposium.

The GSWT collaboration project was a great idea spearheaded by David. We decided the project would be “Nested Spheres”. You can find an article in the April issue of the Old Saw with pictures, etc. When David proposed the project, many of us, if not most, had never turned a sphere. Many members opted out because they felt that maybe they would not be able to turn one. That’s too bad because everyone that could pitched in and helped. Even our newest member Alec Correa was able to turn one with some guidance.

David provided a chart with the exacting sizes from which participants could choose. Some spheres were turned using inside/outside templates, which is how I turned mine. Others used a homemade jig (great idea) to turn theirs. Dave is pictured with his in the April issue. Woody also made one (Photo 3). In the end we ended up with 17 spheres ranging from 0.65” to 7.85”. And yes they all nested (Photo 4).

The stand was a collaboration of Tony Holmes and myself. I started with the stand column and wire loops. I designed the columns and wire loops without any spheres on hand. Remember, they are being made by members all over NH—and one from
Hartford Symposium continued

Maine. What size wire is required to support the weight of the sphere? What is the right spacing up and down, right to left? What size loop? It took some head scratching and even when it was done I still did not have all the spheres.

I got the last sphere two days prior to them being delivered to Tony. Tony made the base turntable and oak box. He and I had the notion that we could make the whole thing rotate, albeit slowly. With less than two weeks to go, we got started with the turning mechanism. Not knowing what would be available for power at the symposium, we decided it would have to be a DC motor. Tony was able to purchase a low speed, high torque DC motor and with several attempts using different driving methods we actually got it to work three days before the symposium.

The collaboration was a great way to really meet other turners. It was a great experience for me and I hope it was for the others participants as well. This was the club’s first participation in the Collaborative Challenge and we had hoped, if nothing else, to make a respectable showing. It turns out we did a bit better than that with a first place in the artistic category. Not too shabby. Congratulations to all of you collaborators.

I cannot wait for the next one—both the Symposium and Collaborative.

Boat Building Subgroup

I have been fascinated with wooden boats since my grandfather helped me build my first boat back in 1965. Over the years, I have built more than a dozen small wooden boats of various designs.

My interest is currently focused on working with other members of the Boat Building subgroup on our current project—building a “Nutshell Pram.”

Six members of the sub-group have been meeting regularly in Andover, NH to work on this very popular Joel White design.

We encourage any and all who are interested in participating or who just want to see what’s going on to visit. Our weekly work schedule is posted on the GNHW website. Also, my contact information is readily available on the website if you have questions.

The next scheduled meeting of the Boat Building subgroup will be Saturday, November 20th starting at 9:00 am. This meeting will be hosted by the Upper Valley Ship Modelers Guild and will take place in the Fuller Board Room at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, NH.

Space is limited and pre-registration will be required.
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