Summer Trip / Picnic - June 16th
Sunapee Preparations
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Guild Meeting Reports

Summer Trip / Picnic
Sawmill
I don’t know about you, but my year seems to be flying by. So much has happened already this year and more is right around the corner. A special thanks to Roger Myers for his great work and all the effort he puts into our Old Saw newsletter. Roger also manages our photo gallery on the website. If you have photos of your work you would like added to the Gallery, send Roger a message.

Upcoming Special Events – NH Chronicle Day at Woodcraft in Portsmouth. Although WMUR can’t ink this commitment yet, June 23rd will be a big day at Woodcraft for the Guild, Woodcraft and woodworkers around the region. Five different Guild members will be demonstrating and Woodcraft has asked Guild members to bring pieces of their work to Woodcraft that day for an exhibit of Guild Member work. Contact Dave Michaels if you would like to bring a piece. I would like to challenge everyone to bring at least one friend to a Guild or subgroup meeting this year. Our strength and clout is in our numbers. Dave Michaels is our Membership Chair this year and is committed to helping us get the word out about the Guild and what we offer.

If you’ve never volunteered at the League of NH Craftsman’s Sunapee Craftsman’s Fair, make a point to sign up for a day this year. I promise you won’t regret it. No matter what your interest or skill level, there is something you can help us with. Sunapee is our largest scholarship fund raising event of the year and we need every member’s participation, even if it’s only for a few hours. If you are unable to volunteer or demonstrate at the fair, please consider building something we can use as a raffle item. Call or e-mail Al Hansen and find out what you can do to help.

After 3 years and 15 Beginner Intermediate Group (BIG) sessions, not to mention the countless hours preparing for those sessions, Tom McLaughlin has informed us he will not be able to continue with BIG. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Tom for all he has done for BIG. His skill and teaching methods are exemplary and his humor has given us all a ton of laughs as we learn what he has taught us. So, we are looking for ideas on what’s next with BIG. If you have any ideas, please let me or anyone of the Steering Committee know.

Our annual summer trip is coming right up and as of now, we don’t have that many signed up to go. This should be a very interesting one where we can all learn more about how logs are sawn. If you’ve ever taken a log to a sawyer and been asked, “so what do you want”, you’ll learn how to answer that question. It should be a fun day of learning and fellowship so please sign up and plan to come along.

So that’s all the insight I have for this edition of the President’s Message. To all, go forth and make something of wood!

Happy Woodworking,

Bob
The Guild of New Hampshire Woodworkers

The Guild is making a deliberate effort this year to make ourselves “more visible” in the woodworking world and in our communities in general. Under the leadership of our President Bob Couch, our membership chair Dave Michaels and the entire steering committee, we are seeking additional ways to grow our membership and achieve our mission of promoting education in the craft.

Working together with two of our major supporters, Woodcraft and Rockler, we will be conducting demonstrations in their store on a monthly basis. We started with a demonstration at Woodcraft in Newington by Roger Myers who showed how to create line and berry inlays using hand tools. The following Saturday Tony Holmes demonstrated woodturning at Rockler in Salem. We had Guild representatives on hand to answer questions and to help people become members if they desired. As Bob noted in his President’s message, in June we will have a major event at Woodcraft. These regular monthly demonstrations will go a long way in helping to promote the Guild and to serve as a conduit to new members.

New/Updated Member Galleries
Roger Myers has posted new & updated member photo galleries on the website. Submit your photos to Roger at strathamwood@comcast.net
Click on the name below to go directly to that new or updated gallery

Joyce Hanna
Monica Raymond
Roger Myers

In The News

"Shaping our Heritage Exhibit"
--NH State Council on the Arts. An exhibit Celebrating Traditional Arts Apprenticeships in New Hampshire, 1995 - 2012. At the Map Gallery of the NH State Library, 20 Park St., Concord. When: Exhibit Opening, June 8 to July 20. Please RSVP for the reception June 8 at Info.Arts@dcr.nh.gov

June 23rd - Guild Demo Day at Woodcraft - Newington
Display your work!
Contact Dave Michaels to display your work at this event!
The Guild of New Hampshire Woodworkers

This year the summer trip will take us to Strafford New Hampshire to visit long time member Les Huckins’ vintage sawmill. Les will demonstrate the operation of the sawmill, something he did at a Guild meeting several years ago. I attended that meeting and I assure you that you do not want to miss this opportunity! I also understand that Les will be willing to sell some of the lumber he has on site that he has milled, so be sure to bring your truck or trailer to the meeting as well.

In addition to seeing Les’s mill in operation, there will also be one of the Woodmizer portable mills in use, showing how these mills operate. These portable mills are a terrific way to mill lumber and often get called into use when you have some trees on your property that you want milled into lumber.

This year, we are also having a summer picnic / social gathering in conjunction with the picnic and you are welcome to and encouraged to bring a guest. This is an excellent way to have your spouse or significant other get to see more of the guild happenings or to bring a potential member to a meeting. Bring your own food items to grill on the grills that will be there and a pot luck dish to share, and the Guild is providing soft drinks, paper plates and utensils. The picnic/social that the Guild held in conjunction with the 20th anniversary in 2010 was a huge hit and many members encouraged us to do this again!

News from The New Hampshire Furniture Masters

August 22nd thru September 19th
The New Hampshire Furniture Masters work will be on display at The New Hampshire Historical Society, 30 Park Street in Concord. Keep an eye in touch-ups for info on a walk through lead by Terry Moore.

September 22nd
The New Hampshire Furniture Masters annual auction at The Currier Museum of Art in Manchester.
Summer Trip / Picnic

by Bob LaCivita

June 16, 2012
Summer Trip & Picnic

Les Huckins sawmill
22 Hillside Road, Strafford, NH

9:30 - 3:30

Saw Mill demonstrations....

Chance to buy locally milled lumber...

Good conversation... Guests welcome

Bring your food to grill, and a pot luck dish to share...

Soft Drinks and plates/utensils provided by the Guild.

Registration requested on the Guild website

There is no charge for this event

Contact Bob LaCivita with any questions

Be Careful if using GPS - Some map software (including google maps) will put in you in the wrong town!

Strafford is located about 10 miles west of Rochester NH on Rte 126.

From the East, take 202W (Strafford Rd.) to 126N (Parker Mtn. Rd.) - Left on Huckins Road and onto Hillside Drive.

Strafford is on 126 between Rte 28 and Barnstead to the NW and Rte 202 and Barrington to the SE.
The 79th League of NH Craftsmen’s Fair

August 4 – 12

The League of NH Craftsmen’s Fair is one of the finest, most prestigious craft events in the country today. This annual nine-day event features both traditional and contemporary fine craftwork by juried members of the League of NH Craftsmen. The Fair is held at the beautiful Mount Sunapee Ski Resort in Newbury, NH. The League provides the GNHW with a large tent at a choice location near the main entrance. The Guild provides woodworking demonstrations for the fairgoers. Furniture making, woodcarving, woodturning, instrument making, finishing, inlay and other skills are on display. Guild volunteers also sell raffle tickets for woodworking items donated by members. The raffle is an important source for Guild grants. Volunteers also promote the Guild, answer questions and sell memberships and clothing. Planning for this year has begun and some of you have already signed up.

Our participation at Sunapee has become increasingly popular. “When I look at your tent I always see lots of smiles,” says Terri Wiltse the League’s fair director. There’s much to smile about. The last two years have seen generous members donate over thirty five high quality items they’ve made in their shops, garages and basements. The result has been record setting raffle sales.

Woodworking demonstrations and wood shavings flying off lathes have also attracted large gatherings in and around the tent. The result; this year our tent will grow an additional twenty feet in length! The extra space will enable us to provide more demonstrators, highlight Sub-Group activity and showcase our involvement and support for woodworking education in schools. An additional bonus will be more separation between our turners and luthiers so that when one or more of our talented instrument makers decide to lapse into song or strum a few chords we will all enjoy their talents.
If you’ve volunteered at Sunapee you know what a wonderful experience it is. There is always time to enjoy the fair; to visit the Living with Craft exhibits where many Guild members work is displayed; to see the work of the fine craftspeople of the League. To enjoy interaction with fairgoers some who give the tent a casual glance, then a second, till they are filling out raffle tickets. Not easy to resist the sales talents of our skilled volunteers.

To watch the gatherings around members who display their extraordinary woodworking skills. Introducing a new world to some, or inspiring others with a little experience to go for it! Take a course, pick up a tool, and learn to sharpen it, come to a Guild meeting. Some of the demonstrators were in those gatherings a few years ago.

So, August will soon be here. Sign up. Please donate your wonderful work again. Please demonstrate your skills again. And for some of you, do it for the first time. Donate your time. Help us sell raffle tickets so we can donate to schools, to get students interested in woodworking or to provide resources for those who have displayed talent in this wonderful craft we all love so much.

Thanks,

Al Hansen

a_hansen@mcttelecom.com

H. 603 927 4417
Turning Symposium a Huge Success

The Saturday May 5th Manchester Union Leader had an article spanning 4 columns with photographs reporting on the Youth Turning Day held in conjunction with the Turning Symposium. This is excellent publicity for the Guild as it speaks to one of our primary objectives, that is focusing on education. It was an excellent article that will help to bring greater public awareness of the Guild’s activities and support of education, in particular education of youth.

Of course what the article couldn’t speak to was the amount of time and effort it took to organize the Turning Symposium! A major undertaking every three years, the symposium draws demonstrators and attendees from all over the United States and is a major showpiece for the Guild, and an event that woodturners look forward to. It is also one of the only events that the Guild charges admission to and as such it is a major source of revenue for the Guild and the Scholarship fund. We owe all of the people who volunteered in the planning and execution of the event our thanks for their hard work and commitment. In the months ahead, you can look forward to seeing new videos from the symposium in the Guild video library.
GNHW Coming Events:

Keep these dates open:

June 16th Summer Trip / Picnic

June 17th Right Brain - Cancelled!!

June 23rd Guild Demo Day at Woodcraft

June 27th Steering Committee

July 28th PFG Subgroup Meeting

August 4th thru August 12th Craftsmen’s Fair

September 15th - Annual Meeting

September 22nd - PFG Subgroup Meeting

What is it?

In the last issue of The Old Saw I published a detail from a picture in our member gallery pages. I challenged you to see if you could find the picture just from the detail. I hope that some of you took me up on that challenge because if you did you would have discovered some pretty amazing work by one of our members. Last month’s detail came from the top of a beautiful veneered table by member Myrl Phelps.

This month you are once again challenged to explore the member galleries to see where this detail picture came from. (hint - start with some of the newer galleries)

On The Web

Guild member and new Hampshire Furniture Master Brian Sargent has a new website - Check it out at http://blsargentinadesigns.com/
The Hand Tool sub-group held its meeting on April 14th at The Homestead Woodworking School in Newmarket, NH. The topic for this meeting was sharpening and the school was packed with interested attendees. Sharpening is one of those topics that often generates a significant amount of debate as their are many ways to approach the topic. The sub-group leader, Dave Anderson, utilized that very issue to advantage by having three different presenters demonstrate their approach to the topic and address questions from the participants.

Roger Myers demonstrated a “hybrid” approach that involves hollow grinding the bevel using a powered grinder (Roger uses and demonstrated a Tormek) followed by honing and polishing on waterstones and a strop. Using this method, Roger showed how he takes flea market finds to razor sharp in short order.

Steve Branam demonstrated his approach utilizing oil stones and bevel edges that ranged from flat ground to convex! A convex bevel may seem unorthodox but Steve demonstrated the process and discussed the advantages, especially for beginning woodworkers.

Dave Anderson followed and demonstrated his utilization of a plate type sharpener, in this case the Work Sharp, and the use of honing paste. Dave finds this approach ideally suited to his production sharpening of the tools he makes and sells.

One thing all three presenters agreed on was that people should find a method they are comfortable with; stay with it until they become proficient at it; and perhaps most important, sharpen their tools frequently. It is much much easier to maintain a sharp edge than it is to recreate one because you have waited too long.

For a detailed write-up of the meeting with many pictures, you can visit Steve Branam’s website at www.closegrain.com or Roger’s blog at www.strathamwood.com/wordpress.
Old Town Canoe Raffle Tickets

Raffle tickets are now on sale for the 1946 Old Town canoe that has been restored by the Boat Building Group. Tickets are $5.00 each or 5 for $20.00; add $1.00 for postage and Nate Carey will mail you the number of tickets you want along with a self-addressed stamped envelope for ticket stub return. More info & photo here.

Make checks payable to
GNHW
PO Box 27
Grantham, NH 03753

During the April meeting we had the opportunity to hear about the Boat Building sub-groups restoration of a classic Old Town canoe, under the guidance of Tom Seavey. Not only did we have an opportunity to follow along the restoration process by viewing a series of photographs documenting the journey, we were fortunate to be able to view the nearly completed canoe. It was awaiting its final paint job, but the beauty of the canoe and the quality of the restoration was readily apparent. Take a look at a couple of pictures from the Boat Building sub-groups blog to see the remarkable work that went into saving this classic boat!

Simply Outstanding Work!
Metric Measurements
Most of the world uses metric measurements rather than the English system of feet and inches. This is a decimal fraction system that avoids the need to deal with inch-style fractions. For woodworkers, the smallest metric unit is the millimeter, which is a bit larger than 1/32 inch. As a decimal system, the larger metric units are all related by multiplication by powers of 10.

1 centimeter (cm) = 10 millimeters (mm)
1 meter (m) = 100 cm = 1000 mm

Converting from one unit to another only requires moving the decimal point the appropriate amount.

Inch to Millimeter Conversion
Conversions between inch and metric measurements normally employ conversion factors. One measurement is multiplied or divided by its conversion factor to obtain the other. Inches are multiplied by 25.4 to obtain millimeters, and centimeters are divided by 2.54 to obtain inches. This usually requires a calculator and leads to excess significant digits. But woodworkers can mentally make quick conversions between the two systems with an error of less than two percent by using two approximate conversion factors.

An example of a ruler with inch and millimeter (mm) scales is shown below.

The right-hand vertical dashed line in the ruler illustration shows that one inch is approximately 25 mm or 2.5 cm. So to convert inches to millimeters, simply multiply by 25, an easy calculation for the whole number part of a measurement.

The left-hand dashed line in the rule illustration shows that 1/8 inch is about 3 mm. So if we have a measurement whose fractional part is given in eighths of an inch, multiply the fraction’s numerator by 3 to convert the fractional part to millimeters. Finally add the two numbers for the final result.

Here’s an example to illustrate how this works. Assume we have a measurement of 8-1/2 inches that we wish to convert to millimeters. Let’s do the calculations in several steps.

1. Multiply whole number part, 8 inches, by 25. This equals 200 mm.
2. The fractional part is 1/2 inch which we convert to 4/8 inches. Now multiply the numerator of this eighths fraction, 4, by 3 to obtain 12 mm.
3. Finally add the two parts together to obtain the converted length: 200 + 12 = 212 mm.

Note that the multiplication by 25 is easily done by counting 25, 50, 75, 100, 125, etc. until you reach the required whole number of inches. Also 4 inches equals 100 mm, so every four inches adds 100 mm, giving the 200 mm for the above example.

Millimeter to Inch Conversion
To convert from millimeters to inches, millimeters are multiplied by 0.03937, a messy calculation. But we can use our approximate conversion factors to go from millimeters to inches as well by dividing. First, divide the millimeter dimension by 25 to obtain the whole number of inches. The above counting method is an easy way to perform this division until the remainder becomes than 25. This remainder is then divided by 3 to obtain the numerator of the fractional part in eighths.

For example, suppose we wish to convert 362 mm to inches. Here are the steps.
1. Dividing 362 by 25 yields 14 with a remainder of 12 mm. So the whole number of inches is 14.
2. Dividing the 12 mm remainder by 3 gives 4 as the numerator of the eighths fraction. Reduce this improper fraction, 4/8, to 1/2 inch.

3. Adding, we get the final result 14-1/2 inches.

Should the Step 2 division by 3 have a remainder of one or two, just ignore it. The resulting error will be less than 1/32 inch in most cases.

**Easing Calculations**

These approximate equivalents make rapid comparisons between the English and metric systems less confusing than trying to calculate their exact equivalents. They work directly between the fractional inch measurement and the metric measurement. No need to convert inch measurements to the decimal equivalent as is required when using the exact equivalents.

There are a couple of additional approximate equivalents one should remember. A millimeter is about 40 mils. One inch is about 2.5 centimeters, and one foot is about 30 cm. The meter is about 10% longer than a yard. Keeping these in mind, the equivalent dimensions of metric plans are quickly obtained.

A scan of woodworking magazines shows that overall project dimensions are usually in whole inches, with occasionally a half inch here and there. The resulting error from our approximate equivalents is less than 2%, small enough to be ignored in conversion of woodworking plans. Only if you are building a precise reproduction from an antique piece’s measured drawings would the exact equivalents be required. And for all projects, measurements like a drawer front’s size are taken to fit the companion opening, not a specific measurement number from a plan.

Metric measurements can often make work simpler. For example, I needed to drill an exact depth hole in a block. Using a metric rule and the full-scale drawing, I measured a depth of 31 mm. Since my drill press also has a millimeter scale on the depth adjustment, I could set the depth directly to 31 mm without having to approximate it with inches and fractions. And metric drills provide useful intermediate sizes for greater than a half inch. A 13 mm drill is the perfect size for a toy’s 1/2” dowel axle.

**Combination Blades**

*Blades* graduated in fractional inches and millimeters for your combination square are readily available from L.S. Starrett. The No. CB300-36 blade is graduated in 32nd and half millimeters. Go to [www.starrett.com](http://www.starrett.com) to find a distributor near you.

**Glossary**

**Blade** A precision ruler used in a combination square.

**Decimal Equivalent** The decimal number resulting from the division of a fraction.

**Decimal Fraction** The part of a decimal number to the right of the decimal point.

**Centimeter** Ten millimeters, 2.5 cm is about one inch. 30 cm is about one foot.

**Denominator** The number below the line in a fraction.

**Digit** A single number. 7, 9 and 3 are digits.

**Fraction** A portion smaller than a whole unit of measurement; a fraction of an inch or a fraction of a cup.

**Mil** One thousandth of an inch.

**Millimeter** One thousandth of a meter; 0.03934 inches or about 40 mils. Three millimeters is about 1/8 inch.

**Numerator** The number above the line in a fraction.

**Significant Digits** The number of digits in a decimal measurement that provide sufficient accuracy.

**Whole Number** A number which contains no fractional or decimal part.

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The Calculating woodworker is a regular feature of The Old Saw and is written by member Bruce Wedlock.

Bruce’s scientific background and his love for woodworking work together well to help take the complexity out of math and show us where it’s application can save us time and improve our work.
The Period Furniture Sub-Group continued its progress on the Townsend Document Chest project under the guidance of Al Breed with another meeting at Al’s Rollinsford NH shop held on June 2nd. Graduations reduced the size of the crowd just a bit, however there was still very strong attendance. This month Alan focused on creating the hollow in the door of the cabinet and the associated carving of the concave shell.

As the original chest recently was sold at auction (for over 3 million dollars) Alan had the chance to view and measure the original. As a result of this rare “hands-on” opportunity, he observed and recorded some differences between the plans he had drawn up and the actual dimensions and construction of the original. Al provided a sheet detailing these differences so that participants could adjust their build if they chose to, depending on how far along in construction they were. The notes on these changes will be posted to the PFG forum on the Guild website.

As members are building this chest on their own, and at their own pace, we have a fairly wide variation in progress, from people just getting started, to projects ready for the hardware. And, speaking of hardware, one of the participants, Dilek Barlas, has offered to coordinate a group buy of the necessary hardware and an e-mail will be sent to all participants with the details. As this hardware is cast and not a stock item, we will have several advantages in the group buy, and there will also be a group discount. Thanks Dilek for coordinating this.

At any of the meetings there is a ton of information coming at you and it often takes a while to digest it all, and to review your notes and photos that you have taken. In a project of the complexity of the Townsend Document Chest, this is especially true, and Al is great about going over details and answering questions.

I also find at almost any meeting I attend, there are small nuggets of wisdom you find that have such utility that they alone are worth the price of guild membership. There were several such nuggets at this meeting and the photo below captures one. Simple in concept, it shows how Al clamps the return molding in place at the base of the cabinet. Most times I have seen it suggested to use the molding profile upside down held against the molding. Al’s approach is simple, and effective....
Featured Sponsors

This issue we draw your attention to several new sponsors and supporters of The Guild of New Hampshire Woodworkers. These sponsors support our activities in a number of ways but as a direct benefit to our members they offer discounts to you on the products and services they supply. In return for this discount to our members (at least 10%) we provide them publicity on our website and in our print and on-line publications. We do not give them our membership list or mailing list.

We encourage you to support those businesses that help support the Guild and our membership and as always, be sure to show your membership card when requesting a discount and be discrete in asking for the discount as this is a benefit provided to Guild members and not available to the general public. The discounts that you receive can be one of your most valuable benefits of membership and will often return the cost of Guild membership in short order.

New London Wood Products is our newest sponsor and is providing a 10% discount on all lumber. Located at 1554 King Hill Road in New London, NH their phone number is 603-763-5040 and you can find them on the web at www.newlondonwood.com

Another new sponsor comes to us from France, where Liogier has been making hand-stitched rasps and rifflers in the traditional method since 1920. You can find them on the web at www.hand-stitched-rasp-riffler.com/ Use the code GNHW at checkout to receive a 10% discount. Hand stitched rasps are not inexpensive but if you have ever used one you will understand that they are worth every penny.

FBN Millwork in Durham, NH is also a newer sponsor, offering a 10% discount to all Guild members. They advertise “out of the ordinary lumber” including crooks, knees and sweeps, and straight lumber too. Call Doug Andersen at 207-323-3134.
April Meeting Report

The April Meeting was hosted by Guild founding member and New Hampshire Furniture Master Bill Thomas. As seems to be the case with all of the meetings that have been hosted by Bill, his shop was packed tight with attendees and this is not because Bill has a small shop. Any meeting at his beautiful shop in Rindge New Hampshire draws a large crowd because the topics are always interesting and you will always walk away with tips and techniques you can apply to your own work.

The Boat Building sub-group began the meeting with a slideshow and talk about the restoration of an Old Town canoe. Stepping in for Dave Frechette who was originally scheduled to present but was sidelined with an injury was Tom Seavey, a professional canoe builder and owner of Azland Traditions in Henniker, NH. Tom has been the person leading the subgroup in the restoration of this classic canoe. More about this project and how you can buy a raffle ticket for a chance to win the canoe can be found elsewhere in this issue of The Old Saw.

Bob Couch took us through the business activities of the Guild, and following lunch the meeting was turned over to Bill Thomas who demonstrated the method that he has developed for veneering moldings. It was fascinating to watch as Bill veneered some pretty complex moldings with a beautiful walnut burl veneer. The group was also able to view the casework under construction in his shop where these moldings would be utilized. It is a beautiful custom designed tall chest completely covered in walnut burl... When this piece is finished it will be stunning!

As always there were many questions for Bill and he took the time to answer each in detail, generously sharing his wealth of woodworking knowledge.

Special thanks go to Bill Thomas and his wife for being such gracious hosts.
New “Pro” Sub-Group Forming

Do you make some or all of your living as a woodworker?
Do you have questions about marketing your products?
Do you wonder what shows you should exhibit in?
Are there other aspects of the “business of woodworking” that you struggle with?

If any of the above apply to you, or if you would just like to meet and strategize with other woodworkers who are in the business, then the formation of a new Guild Sub-Group should be of interest to you!

Now in the final planning stages, the new Sub-Group has the following goal: “To provide a forum where woodworkers seeking to sell their work can share ideas for things such as marketing, web presence, craftsman shows, etc.”

We anticipate that the group would meet on a quarterly basis at locations still to be determined.

The new sub-group will be co-lead by Fred Chellis and Roger Myers. Fred is the assistant manager at Woodcraft in Newington, NH and owns Little River Windsors. Roger recently retired from an executive career in manufacturing and now operates StrathamWood Studios.

If you are interested in participating in the new sub-group and want to make sure you are on the mailing list, drop Roger an e-mail at roger@strathamwood.com
**Mini Carving Bench**

The working height of the typical workbench is too low for comfortable carving of applied items like Newport shells. The rule of thumb is the carving surface should be about the height of the elbow with the forearm parallel to the floor. For me, this is about 44 inches. But my workbench height is only 36 inches, and it doesn’t take long for my back to complain when I mount the carving base at that height.

To solve this problem, I built a mini-bench to raise the carving base to which the piece to be carved is temporarily glued. It is just a simple 8" x 12" x 5" rabbeted, open-front box made from 3/4" Baltic birch plywood that clamps to the bench top with F-clamps. The overall height of the mini-bench is adjusted by the height of the two feet of 8/4 poplar screwed to the box’s base. The screw holes are counter bored to accommodate 1-1/2" #10 sheet metal screws. The height of the feet is chosen to make the overall height of the box 3/4" less than the difference between your elbow and bench heights, allowing for the thickness of the carving base. This foot arrangement makes it simple to change to the height of the mini-bench should the need require.

An alternative mounting method is a 2" x 3/4" cleat fastened sideways to the box’s bottom to permit clamping it in the face vise. Use screws to fasten this cleat so it can be removed and the box fastened to the bench with F-clamps. If a vise is the preferred mounting method, then the overall box height should be chosen as described above.

One very useful feature of this mini-bench is that the carving base is attached with a single 5/16"-18 central screw whose knob is accessible through the open front of the box. This knob can be quickly loosened to rotate the carving base to the most convenient angle for the carving cut to be made. The top surface of the box has a piece of P120 sandpaper glued to it to resist rotation of the carving base when the knob is tightened.
The mounting base for the carving stock is made from Baltic birch plywood or MDF, which provide a flat, smooth surface. A 5/16"-18 threaded insert (Woodcraft #12K60) is mounted in the center of this base. First drill a hole to accommodate the threads on your insert. In the case of MDF you might want to add a 3/16" deep countersink to reduce the bulging of the surface when the insert is screwed in. Be sure to apply some lube to the insert’s threads, and it’s also helpful to use an insertion T-wrench to insure the insert goes in straight. With the insert screwed below the surface, level any bulge with a few strokes of a block plane.

The stock to be carved is glued to the base with thin coats of diluted hide or yellow glue with a flat piece of heavy brown paper (shopping bag will do) sandwiched between. Only a little glue is needed; you don’t want glue to soak through the bag making subsequent separation of the final carving from the base difficult. If the carving stock has already been mounted to the base, you can still drill and mount the threaded insert.

The carving base is attached to the mini-bench with a length of 5/16" carriage bolt fastened to a knob. A fender washer and nut adjust the penetration depth of the screw into the carving base insert. When the proper length is found, lock the knob and penetration nut’s positions with a second lock nut or with red Loctite 271. The carving base can now be rotated quickly by simply loosening the knob.

With the mini-bench clamped to the bench you’re ready to start carving. There are no additional clamps to get in the way of the carving, and rapidly rotating the carving for maximum comfort is far better than trying to walk around the bench.

Bruce D. Wedlock
April 2012
Guild Member in Furniture Society Show

Guild member Owain Harris has a piece in the Furniture Society show “Where are you going, where have you been?” that is part of this years conference. The show runs through the month of June at the Lewis Gallery in Portland ME. There will be an opening reception on June 15th to coincide with the conference. The piece is titled “Heirloom Shinto Desk” and is an exploration of the term heirloom inspired by the Shinto temple at Ise.

Information on the show can be found on the web here: “Where are you going, where have you been?”

Owain, speaking about the piece, said “the show is made up of collaborative teams across mediums so I did the design and worked with a friend of mine who is a glass blower. It is not typical of the stuff I usually build, but it has been an interesting process and experience.”

You can see additional pictures of Owain’s work in the Guild’s member galleries on the Guild website.
A Tradition of Craft

Work by three GNHW members is included in an exhibition currently underway at the Connecticut Historical Society in Hartford, CT. “A Tradition of Craft” runs through September 8th and features the work of 34 period furniture makers and members of The Society of American Period Furniture Makers.

The three Guild members whose work was selected for this juried exhibition include Kevin Ainsworth (Langley Boardman Arm Chair); Freddy Roman (Seymour Chest with Mirror) and Bruce Wedlock (Federal work table).

A variety of forms representing 150 years of American furniture styles are on display, including at least six pieces chosen for their Connecticut origins. Also displayed are a selection of tools, and scaled miniatures by SAPFM members. To provide a point of comparative analysis, the CHS staff has pulled over a dozen items from the museum’s collection that will be displayed side by side with SAPFM members work.

For Further information, visit the CHS website at: http://www.chs.org/exhibits

Above - Seymour Table by Freddy Roman

Left - Federal Work Table by Bruce Wedlock

Right Boardman Armchair by Kevin Ainsworth

Article excerpted from SAPFM.org
### Woodworking Schools
- McLaughlin Woods [www.experiencewoodworking.com](http://www.experiencewoodworking.com)
- The Windsor Institute [www.thewindsorinstitute.com](http://www.thewindsorinstitute.com)
- The Breed School [www.allanbreed.com](http://www.allanbreed.com)
- Homestead Woodworking School [www.woodschoolnh.com](http://www.woodschoolnh.com)
- The Wood Finishing School [www.patinarestoration.net](http://www.patinarestoration.net)

### Tools & Supplies
- Woodcraft - Newington, NH [www.woodcraft.com](http://www.woodcraft.com)
- Woodcraft - Woburn, MA [www.woodcraft.com](http://www.woodcraft.com)
- Rockler - Salem, NH [www.rockler.com](http://www.rockler.com)
- Rockler - Cambridge, MA [www.rockler.com](http://www.rockler.com)
- Brentwood Machinery [www.brentwoodmachine.com](http://www.brentwoodmachine.com)
- Chester Tool Works [www.chestertoolworks.com](http://www.chestertoolworks.com)
- Gary R. Wood & Co. [www.garyrwood.com](http://www.garyrwood.com)
- Williams & Hussey Machine [www.williamsnhussey.com](http://www.williamsnhussey.com)

### Lumber & Wood Products
- Highland Hardwoods [www.highlandhardwoods.com](http://www.highlandhardwoods.com)
- Goosebay Sawmill & Lumber [www.goosebaylumber.com](http://www.goosebaylumber.com)
- The Millwork Shop [www.t-n.com](http://www.t-n.com)
- Northland Forest Products [www.northlandforest.com](http://www.northlandforest.com)
- Classic Designs by Matthew Burak [www.tablelegs.com](http://www.tablelegs.com)
- Wolfgang’s Wood - Strafford, NH 603-664-7691
- GH Evarts & Co. [www.ghevarts.com](http://www.ghevarts.com)
- Maine Coast Lumber [www.mainecoastlumber.com](http://www.mainecoastlumber.com)
- FBN Millwork 207-323-3134
- The Millwork Shop at Trumbull-Nelson [www.t-n.com](http://www.t-n.com)

### Services
- John Whiteside’s Hand-Made Guitars & Lessons [www.northroadguitars.com](http://www.northroadguitars.com)
- Manchester Tool Repair [www.tool-repair.com](http://www.tool-repair.com)
- Tru-Cut LLC (Sharpening - Charlestown, NH) 603-826-4131
- Northeast Saw (Sharpening - Manchester, NH) 603-645-1199
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