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A Special Recognition

Jon Siegel - At Home on the Lathe
It wasn’t so long ago that I knew nothing about the Guild. Somehow I knew of them and thought that you had to be an experienced woodworker to even consider being a member. Where do people get these ideas? Thanks to Bob Couch for inviting me to my first “BIG” meeting which was at Steve Colello’s shop where I found the opposite to be true. I can’t tell you how much I’ve learned since joining the Guild. It has taken my woodworking skills to a much higher level. One that I could not have done on my own. I have met and made new friends through the Guild that I otherwise would not have. I love the open sharing of knowledge, techniques and the many people we meet through our association with the Guild.

I’d like to take this opportunity to thank Bob Couch, not only for getting me involved but for his leadership and guidance in the past several years. His President’s tenor has set the bar high and I can only hope to somehow measure up to his level of successful meetings, outings and symposiums.

As we start this new chapter I look forward to working with the Steering Committee, subgroup leads and the Guild membership to move the Guild forward.

My goals are much like Bob’s and include growing the Guild membership, having successful meetings where we all can pick up what Bob and me call woodworking nuggets. My problem and maybe yours too is remembering them. For this reason we will be working on expanding our DVD video library with an eventual transition to a website based video library.

The Guild sub-groups are what make up the Guild. One of the things that makes the Guild attractive to new comers (and it’s veterans) is its diversity though these specialized groups. If you have a woodworking passion chances are you will find a sub-group that meets those needs. My problem and maybe yours too is that there are so many that I’d love to attend but cannot. There are some groups like the GSWT that have been around for 20 plus years and new ones like “Woodworking as a Pro” and “Windsor Chairmaking”. The sub-group leaders deserve a lot of credit for organizing and keeping these groups active. They don’t do it for themselves but for you, the membership. Seize the opportunity, get involved and like Bob and many others bring a friend along for the ride. There is talk about a new sub-group called “Beginners sub-group” that may be starting up this fall. The Guild is constantly evolving.

Find your passion and pursue it with the help of the Guild. It’s not a designation but a journey.

Sincerely

Claude

This is Claude’s first “President’s Message”, having taken the reins as Guild president following the elections at our annual meeting in September. Claude has served the Guild as vice-president under Bob Couch and has been a very active and engaged member of the Guild leadership. Also elected to office during the meeting was Victor Betts as vice-president, and re-elected to the positions of treasurer and secretary were Dave Frechette and Alan Saffron.
From the editors desk...

The Old Saw has traditionally been published five times per year, in advance of the Guild general meetings. This results in an uneven publication cycle with some gaps during the year and some uncertainty about when the next issue will come out. Beginning with the January 2014 issue, The Old Saw will be published six times each year in January, March, May, July, September, and November. More details about this in the next (January) issue of The Old Saw.

Roger

Orders for discounted books and DVD’s will be accepted at the fall Guild Meetings starting with the annual meeting in September.

Each year we have this opportunity to purchase high quality woodworking books at group discounts. We work with two publishers: Taunton Press, publisher of Fine Woodworking magazine, and Fox Chapel. In addition to books published by Fox Chapel, they also sell books from other publishers such as Sterling, Stackpole, Schiffer and Penguin/Putnam, while Taunton now carries titles from the Guild of Master Craftsmen. Taunton offers discounts of 30% off of list price on books and 20% discount on DVD’s (there is also a small charge for handling and postage of ~$2.50 per item). Fox Chapel discounts are ~40% after factoring in shipping costs.

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] and email your order to me at aaijrg@gmail.com. Please include the following information along 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 #.

The last chance to place an order will be at the November Guild meeting, and books should be available in early December for pick up 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.

Tony Immorlica - Book Coordinator 603-673-9629 or aaijrg@gmail.com
November Guild Meeting, Saturday 11/23

Our featured speaker/demonstrator is Brad Wolcott. Brad will demo and discuss the lamination and joinery he used building his music stand plus demonstrate the making of a sled he used to cut the joinery.

Location: Scott Ruesswick's Shop
180 Intervale Road, Canterbury, NH

• 9:00 - 9:30    Coffee and Social
• 9:30 - 10:00   Subgroup reports
• 10:00 -11:30   Scott Ruesswick demo will address the question “what to tell the sawyer when you bring them a log to be cut”. Scott will demo cutting a log on the Woodmizer sawmill - to be held outside (weather permitting), dress accordingly

Two other presenters TBD

• 11:30 - 12:00  Short Business meeting
• 12:00 -1:00    Bring your lunch
• 1:00 - 3:00    Brad Wolcott - Demo and discuss the lamination and joinery he used building his music stand. Also demonstration making a sled he used to cut the joinery

About Brad Wolcott

Brad Wolcott is a classically trained studio furniture maker who combines contemporary design sensibilities with the finest materials available to create unique pieces of decorative art. His love for woodworking began in high school. While attending Dartmouth College, Brad spent four years working in the Hopkins Center Woodworking Studio on projects ranging from traditional Alaskan snowshoes to a Shaker-style pencil-post bed. For his work there he was awarded the Heiman-Rosenthal Achievement Award in the Creative Arts.

After graduation, Brad served for four years as a cavalry officer in the United States Army. Upon completion of his service, he enrolled at the North Bennett Street School in Boston, Massachusetts to pursue a career in furniture making. At NBSS, Brad learned the traditional hand tool skills and construction techniques that are the hallmarks of fine American furniture. This foundation of fine craftsmanship is reflected in Brad’s contemporary work where traditional techniques are combined with more organic, curvilinear forms to create furniture that is intended to last for generations.
November Period Furniture Group Meeting

The PFG sub-group met in Al Breeds shop, once again filling every available corner of the shop, as Al Breed hosted the second meeting on building a Newport Pembroke table. Al had measured drawings available for participants to purchase at a bargain price and these were quickly consumed.

Steve Branam had two video cameras going with the video projected on a screen so that all the participants could better see Al’s methods. During this meeting he covered the method he employs for cutting the drawer front out of the apron, and then making and installing the cock bead into the apron, and sizing the drawer to fit the opening.

He also demonstrated the construction of the side rails with the doubler and the swing out rail that supports the table leaf. This requires a precisely made knuckle joint of wood hinged joint and Al made it look simple as he demonstrated it during the meeting. It requires a great deal of precision to effectively make this joint and his explanation of his technique will go a long way in helping others succeed in making this table.

The Granite State Woodturners are no longer planning to meet Nov 30 in New London.

Members are instead encouraged to join the fun at Donna Banfield’s barn in Derry, beginning at 10 AM:
http://www.gnhw.org/blog/open-turning-my-barn-donna-banfield

Donna is hosting an open turning event with multiple lathes, multiple AAW chapters, multiple demonstrators.... Schedule is flexible; if you can’t make 10 AM, come for the afternoon. This promises to be a great event.

Directions: From the South: Take 93 north into NH. Get off at exit 4 (Derry/Londonderry), bearing right, or east. This is Rt. 102. Stay on 102 to first traffic light, where you will turn right. This is Fordway; you’ll come to a 4-way stop intersection (Fordway/Kendall Pond Rd). Stay straight at this intersection, and the road now becomes Fordway Extension. Stay on Fordway Extension approx. 1.5 miles. You will pass underneath highway, and I am the 7th house on your left.

From NH West: Take 111 from Nashua to 102 east towards Londonderry/Derry. Cross over 93, for less than 1 mile to first traffic light, and turn right. This is Fordway; you’ll come to a 4-way stop intersection (Fordway/Kendall Pond Rd). Stay straight at this intersection, and the road now becomes Fordway Extension. Stay on Fordway Extension approx. 1.5 miles. You will pass underneath highway (93), and I am the 7th house on your left.

From the North: Take 93 south to exit 4 (Derry/Londonderry), bearing left, or east. This is Rt. 102. Stay on 102 to first traffic light, where you will turn right. This is Fordway; you’ll come to a 4-way stop intersection (Fordway/Kendall Pond Rd). Stay straight at this intersection, and the road now becomes Fordway Extension. Stay on Fordway Extension approx. 1.5 miles. You will pass underneath highway (93), and I am the 7th house on your left.

From NH East: Take Route 102 west into Derry, where you will pass through the town. At the intersection of Route 102/ Broadway and Fordway, take a left at the traffic light. If you come upon Rt. 93, you missed the intersection, so go back. Travel on Fordway for approx. 1 mile; you’ll come to a 4-way stop intersection (Fordway/Kendall Pond Rd). Stay straight at this intersection, and the road now becomes Fordway Extension. Stay on Fordway Extension approx. 1.5 miles. You will pass underneath highway (93), and I am the 7th house on your left.

130 Fordway Extension Dark Cedar contemporary with cream trim.
Small Group Meetings....Another Round of Successful Meetings

The October Small Group Meetings were held on October 19 at six different locations. They well attended and all those attending appreciated the time and effort the presenter put into hosting and conducting the demonstrations and discussions. A total of over 50 members attended the six sessions. Topics covered were:

- Spindle Turning Basics
- Beginners Day at the Lumberyard
- Toy Making for Needy Children
- Fine Box Making
- Sharpening for Beginners
- Resawing

The next Small Group Meeting sessions are scheduled for March 15, 2014. If any member would like to suggest a topic or would like to host and present a topic, please let the Small Group Meeting coordinator, Steve Colello, know by email (colellos@earthlink.net).

Steve Colello

Small Group Meeting Report - Fine Box Making - Hosted by Bill Taylor

The day started with a discussion on fine box building with many examples and books to start the creative juices flowing.

In the shop high emphasis was placed on tooling and processes to cut a highly accurate miter and equal length sides without T&S (tearing and splintering) the cuts. We also discussed the “order” of doing things to avoid T&S and simplify the handling of small parts. The “order” is a significant aspect to achieving a satisfactory result. My interior and exterior finishing process was discussed.

Bill Taylor
Small Group Meeting Report - Beginners Day at The Lumberyard

Seven members attended the Beginners Day at the Lumberyard hosted by Highland Hardwoods, Brentwood, NH and presented by Steve Colello. We started with a welcome and short introduction to Highland Hardwoods presented by its owner, Rick Lang. Then a full schedule for the morning was presented with topics such as planning for the lumber yard visit, estimating requirements, what to take the yard, anatomy of a log, grading, and milling. Specialty woods and exotics were also covered. A walk through of the hardwood bins was conducted with a discussion on lumber yard safety and etiquette. Sheet goods were also discussed. Practical furniture topics were intermingled as they related to the lumber yard visit. Finally how to get your lumber home and what to do with your lumber once home was the final topic.

Steve Colello
Small Group Meeting Report - Sharpening for Beginners - Hosted by Bob Couch

Bob Couch hosted and presented a session on Sharpening for Beginners at his shop in Bow, NH. Three members attended and were treated to a presentation and hands on session covering the use of grinders, water stones, jigs and free hand techniques. Chisels, plane blades and scrapers were also addressed. Each participant went home with a jig for sharpening scrapers.

First Bob surveyed the group to find out what their needs and interests were with the session so he could tailor the agenda to better cover their needs. From there, he discussed what to sharpen.

For this session, he limited it to the critical few tools most beginners have trouble with, plane irons, chisels and scrapers. He drew a diagram of what it takes to create a sharp edge. He then covered several methods on how to sharpen and how sharp is sharp enough. He covered grinding stones/jigs, hand held jigs and hand held methods and common mistakes. He also covered the use, cleaning & maintenance of grinding wheel stones, as well as oil stones and water stones.

One of the areas most beginners have trouble is scraper sharpening. After watching many demonstrations on how to sharpen a scraper, it still takes practice and experimentation on what works best for you. He also discussed is a bur really needed? (the answer is no, it will still scrape without a bur as long as you have a perfect 90 degree edge)

After demonstrating his method using a special jig he made, each participant built their own scraper jig. He then purposely left time at the end for the participants to practice what they learned and try all of the jigs and tools presented.

Steve Colello
Small Group Meeting Report - Spindle Turning Basics, Hosted by Jon Siegel

Eleven members gathered at Jon Siegel’s shop in Wilmot for a session on basic spindle turning. The experience level of the attendees ranges from never having turned spindles to some who wanted a refresher. You can watch Jon do a demonstration many times and learn something every time.

Jon started out at the very beginning showing how the way that the chisel meets the wood controls how the chisel cuts. This works not only for wood turning, but for all operations using a chisel including carving and chopping dovetails and mortises. From there he went on to show how to get the drive and tailstock centers, accurately centered on the wood and installed in the lathe in preparation for turning.

Jon uses a practice method that gives move practice with less wood. With this method instead of making a ball or complete cove, you make repeated cuts on one side of the shape and then make repeated cuts on the other side of the shape. The object here is to make wood chips, not finished objects. Only when you have mastered the tool and form should you move onto real turned objects. As an aside, Jon and other woodturners advocated that the best wood for practicing is “free wood” - wood from the stove wood pile. If you are using “free wood” you will feel free to practice more and gain muscle memory and confidence.

Probably the biggest reason that people try and give up on wood turning is the inability to achieve really sharp tools easily and quickly. I remember Jon saying many years ago something to the effect that “the sharpest edge, no matter how painstakingly achieved, is only temporary”. As many of you know, Jon is a big proponent of the" belt and buff method" of sharpening. He showed us his method which only takes 7 seconds to sharpen the tool and get back to turning without breaking your rhythm.

Jon finished up the session with a demonstration of steady rests, something that is often not used, but should be. He showed us how quickly workpiece vibration sets in without the steady rest and how effectively the steady rest controls it.

This was a great session and I would highly recommend that anyone who has the chance to see Jon do one of his demonstrations, be you a beginner or expert, take the time as you are certain to learn something.

Peter James
Small Group Meeting Report - Resawing, Hosted by Roger Myers

Twenty one members and guests showed up in Rollinsford NH at my shop to talk about different methods and strategies for resawing lumber. We first discussed the various reasons one might choose to resaw lumber as this will have an impact on the methods we might choose to use. We can resaw lumber to maximize our yield from a given timber rather than planing it to thickness and sending the excess material into the dust collector. We might be seeking to get a bookmatched pair of parts to use in a panel. It may be that we have unusual stock that is not normally available in a veneer and we need or choose to have veneer from it (as in the Sheoak material I demonstrated). The firewood pile can yield some pleasant surprises and I resawed a piece of firewood that had some wonderful spalting in the wood. And, it may be the only way to get a particular material, for example, the crotch birch veneer that is so prized on Federal style period pieces.

I then demonstrated resawing on two different bandsaws, a 20" Laguna that I use almost exclusively for resawing, equipped with a 1 1/4" carbide blade and special resawing fence; and a more common Jet 18" bandsaw with a narrower blade, such as many will have in their shop. We also talked about using the table saw and a thin kerf blade to lessen the workload on the bandsaw, particularly if using a smaller bandsaw or working a difficult piece of material. This is also the best way to reduce the load of ripping by hand, if you do not have a bandsaw available.

Finally we discussed how to create a continuous grain wrap around all four corners of a box, by resawing the material in a particular way.

Roger Myers
November BIG Meeting

Mat Wajda’s shop in Rollinsford was the setting for the November BIG meeting and this popular sub-group filled his shop. Talking to one of the participants after the meeting, he described Matt as very knowledgeable, high energy, entertaining and extremely safety conscious. These sound like exactly the right attributes for somebody leading the Beginner Intermediate Group through a design and project build. This is Matt’s second project with this group since taking the reins from Tom McLaughlin and knowing Matt as I do, he is as excited to be leading this activity as the members are in having someone of his caliber mentor them.
Roy Noyes receives special award

During the Guild’s September general meeting, outgoing president Bob Couch took a few minutes to recognize a truly special member of the guild. Roy Noyes served as editor of the Old Saw for many years and did this at a time when the technology was far more challenging than it is today. I first met Roy at his house shortly after I joined the Guild and I was volunteering to help out with The Old Saw. At that time, it was a black and white publication, printed on a finicky printer, collated by hand, stapled, address labels attached, and mailed to our members. To say that this was a huge time consuming task would be a tremendous understatement. Just maintaining the printer seemed like a full time job.

Roy has been a major contributor to the Guild since its inception and is a role model for what leadership and volunteering in an organization like the Guild should be. In recognition of all he has done, Roy was presented with an engraved plaque. Roy in turn, drafted a note to Bob the content of which is shown to the right.

To: Bob Couch (president@gnhw.org)

From: Roy Noyes
Date: October 18, 2013
Subject: Member Appreciation Award.

Dear Bob,

Because I don’t have your addresses I am using this rather formal way to thank you and the other members of the Guild (especially Jack Grube and Jon Siegel) for the 2013 Member Appreciation Award that I received at the annual meeting. The plaque is beautiful and the thoughts behind it are priceless. It is on my desk and reminds me every day of my friends in the Guild and how it started as 10 woodworkers in John McAlevey’s shop in 1990 and has grown to over 500 members today!

I am humble and grateful to have had a part in the Guild. Although at almost 90 I can no longer do woodworking, I have not lost my interest in woodworking, the wonderful creations of Guild members and all the great activities put on by the Guild. Please convey my appreciation to all the other members.

Thank you again.

Roy Noyes

Leroy C. Noyes  Email: leroynoyes@comcast.net
The Guild of New Hampshire Woodworkers receive recognition at The 18th Annual Providence Fine Furnishings Show.

The Fine Furnishings Show in Providence RI is one of three Fine Furnishings Shows organized by Karla Little, with the other venues being Baltimore and Milwaukee. Guild members took home three “Best In Show” awards this year.

Owain Harris of Deerfield received “Best In Show” for Contemporary Piece for his drinks Cabinet.

Jeff Lind of South Berwick Maine received “Best-in-Show” for Furniture – Contemporary, Modern or Mid-Century Inspired – Body of Work”

Roger Myers of Stratham, NH received “Best-In-Show” for Traditional Piece in the Student category for his music stand.
Save the date...

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<td>Open Turning Day - NO GSWT Mtg!!</td>
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<td>December 7th</td>
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This information is accurate at the time of publication however as things can change, please refer to the on-line calendar at the Guild website. Also note that many meetings request you to register on-line so that attendance can be managed. Small Group Meetings have very restricted attendance due to space limitations and registration is required!!
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