



Articles

Old Saw

The Newsletter of the Guild of New Hampshire Woodworkers

by Al Saffron

A New Mission

Did you know the Guild of New Hampshire Woodworkers has approximately 550 paying members? Its no surprise if you didn't. The Guild's Steering Committee (SC) is aware that most people have no idea of the size of our organization. While noteworthy, the size of the organization is not the point; there are many things about the Guild beyond the events and information on the website and in the TouchUps weekly email that many members are not made aware of.

At the monthly steering committee meetings, the third item on the list is generally membership. To help us keep the Guild on track, we like to know if we are gaining and keeping members. While important to us, it isn't something you'll see on the website or in TouchUps. In 2014, the SC dealt with new membership cards, what to do with the DVD library, the status of various subgroups, posting Guild documentation, the grants and scholarship program, special awards and recognitions, a spring symposium and website development, among many others. All are Guild matters deserving a little more explanation and publicity.

A newsletter with each issue of The Journal will give the SC a way of telling members about many such Guild issues. By focusing on the business side of the Guild, we can report on activities, accomplishments, contributions and decisions that are not widely publicized. Articles will explain how we spend our money, policy

rationale, relationships we have with other organizations, how we deal with our education funds raised at Sunapee, and what is happening with the subgroups.



The articles will be on subjects of general interest and some importance, with topics covered in ways not generally covered elsewhere. Don't look for event listings or other timely information; this newsletter will only be published three times each year.

The Path to 2015

The Guild initiated a newsletter with its first meeting; after the fourth it was named 'The Old Saw'. Through the years it served as the Guild's key communication tool, letting members know about Guild activities, events, contacts, meeting locations and other information. It was mailed often and had real deadlines; it was the only source of timely event and meeting information.



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GUILD OF NEW HAMPSHIRE WOODWORKERS
132 Drinkwater Road, Kensington, NH 03833

The first Old Saw masthead—Feb. 1991

The Old Saw grew to include more woodworking and human interest articles. Then in 2009, prompted by printing production and

cost problems, the Guild made some changes. Contributing to the Guild's education mission, The Journal was created to provide the articles on woodworking that had become so popular. The Old Saw was envisioned to continue publishing traditional Guild content as an on-line only publication.

And, taking advantage of technology, we began the weekly TouchUps email. We did not anticipate how the availability of email and broadband internet would diminish the relevance of the on-line Old Saw with its traditional content. Time sensitive information can now be had through the weekly TouchUps email, the website and on-line calendar. We found, over time that as a tool to run the Guild, the need for The Old Saw was eclipsed by our other digital communication vehicles.

The Old Saw—A New Mission

All this time, the Guild had another little noticed communications problem—the Steering

Committee! Yes, the meetings are open to members and the minutes posted on-line, but the SC hadn't reached out to offer explanations or promote activities on the business side of the Guild. Some of the business the SC does is actually interesting! So, with a real need, the SC is re-purposing The Old Saw to let members know about them. *The focus will be on Guild business.*

By returning to a printed newsletter and tying it to The Journal print/mail schedule, we think you will see a newsletter delivered three times each year at predictable intervals—fall, winter and summer. The Journal publication cycle has a schedule—a soft one—but it does have one never-the-less, and therefore so will The Old Saw.

We also believe there is value in printing vs. an online only publication. We will be interested to hear what you think. ●



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