

April 1991



THE OLD SAW

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

SAW noun [from Old English SAGU = discourse, talk; akin to Old Norse SAGA = tale, account; Old English SECGAN = to say : a traditional saying : a maxim or proverb]

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On April 28th, 1990 The Guild of New Hampshire Woodworkers had its first meeting. That was less than a year ago.

So far I think it has been an impressive year to date. We have held three demonstrations, we've published three newsletters, and we are mounting a juried show in cooperation with Canterbury Shaker Village. We are trying to fix a date with author and professor of Wood Technology at UMass Amherst, Bruce Hoadley to attend as a guest lecturer. We have Jon Siegel's woodturning demonstration on videotape which is the start of a library. We have sited our next three meetings. And not the least of our accomplishments, we are still together as a group and our numbers are growing.

Now, we may not yet provide low interest business loans, or offer health insurance, but the fact that we still meet and still enjoy ourselves pleases me greatly. When I think back, I can't believe we've only met three times. Each time we get together I learn things, have a great time and at the end of the day reluctantly get into my truck having not yet satisfied my appetite for talk.

At our future meetings we will be making a change. It is fairly evident that not too many people are interested in the business portion of the meeting. So from now on the business will be listed separately i.e. business 10:00 - 11:00, lunch and talk 11:00 - 12:30, demonstration 12:30 - 3:00. No one should feel obligated to attend the business meeting. If all you want is talk and information that's fine. You will be missed at the morning meeting, but you will not be scorned. On the other hand the Guild is what you make of it. If the Guild is providing all you want then your thanks is enough. But if there is something more you feel we could be doing or that you could be doing, then please jump right in. We are not yet a top heavy organization with complicated processes and a board of investors to please. We just want a Wood Guild and to have fun.

Thanks go out to Jon Siegel for hosting our last meeting and for his woodturning demonstration. Jon had two fears before the meeting. First was that no one would come. And second that very many would. Well his second fear was realized and even in his large shop, it seemed like he was playing to a packed house. Jon did a good job with the difficult task of communicating his years of experience to fifty people in two hours. I'll express my bias by thanking Jon for not turning any bowls. At the risk of

offending a large portion of the woodturning world, I think bowl turning is highly overrated while spindle turning seems to be the poor cousin, even though it does much of the work in the world of furniture and architecture. And if my comments aren't enough, all of Jon's proclamations on sharpening, steady rests, tool selection, getting started, stupid moves and do's and don'ts are recorded on a two hour video tape by Peter Bloch. I've watched it and even though I was at the meeting, I got a lot out of the tape. For the cost of shipping and backshipping, I recommend it.

As we start our second year I'm hoping we can sustain the same level of interest and energy. NH is the home of some of the finest woodworkers in the nation. I think we have much to gain by getting together and sharing ideas and experiences. I look forward to seeing everyone who can make it to Terry Moore's on April 27th and at the Canterbury Shaker Village.

John

A PLATE FULL OF BISCUITS - Commentary by Woody Gluejoint

I knew I was going to finally be able to make a few bucks in woodworking after reading an article in one of the finer woodworking journals on something called plate joinery. Here at last was the tool I was sure the masters of the craft had kept hidden from me in the secret compartment every master craftsman has hidden beneath the top of his workbench.

I immediately recognized the superiority of biscuits over the often maligned dowel. Scratching my head I wondered how I had missed the James Krenov treatise on plate Joinery. The Shakers must have done more with biscuits than just eat them, and I was absolutely sure that the fellow in Maine with the funny first name Thos was a plate joiner.

I knew I was on to one of the secret techniques I had long been searching for. I saved my earnings from my part time job at the laundry and eventually ordered my plate joiner. I biscuited everything. My wife Honey nicknamed me Uneeda. Quickly I forgot about the strength of mortise and tenon joints. I biscuited reproduction Queen Anne chairs together. I biscuited plywood and solid wood cabinets together and finally through plate joinery I expanded my palate to include something called post modernism. I was able to make drawers quickly. Down with the overrated dovetailed joints. Plate join your drawers together.

Not being a secretive type I shared my knowledge of plate joinery with everyone. I networked plate joinery. I felt like Johnny Appleseed. I knew my mission was taking hold when a downeast boat builder called asking whether I thought he might calk a sloop he was abuilding with biscuits. "Why not?" I answered, "they expand, don't they?" Jewelers began making biscuit jewelry. And was I proud when a #20 ebonized biscuit came in second in the competition for the annual League of N.H. Craftsmen Christmas tree ornament.

About the time that I saw my good buddy Norm on TV with a biscuit joiner, my customers started returning some of the stuff I had made using my plate joiner. Seemed the pieces had started breaking apart. It's been about six months now since I've used my plate joiner; in fact it's hidden behind the belt sander in the tool cabinet and I have repaired almost all of that stuff I plate joined together. It hasn't really been that difficult you know because I saw Norm on TV again and he's got this tool

called a pneumatic nailer. Of course I have to put everything together down at the garage nowadays. Besides I really like the sound it makes. Kind of like a snake hissing, don't you know.

[Woody Gluejoint has attended some meetings of the Guild of N.H. Woodworkers. You can usually find Woody making stuff in his cellar shop on Mole Hill in Darby, NH.]

MINUTES OF WINTER MEETING OF THE GUILD

The winter meeting of the Guild took place at Jon Siegel's shop in West Franklin, NH, on January 19, 1991.

First, John Skewes introduced himself, welcomed everyone to the meeting, and asked everyone to introduce themselves. There were about 45 present.

The business of the Guild began with Paul Tuller giving a Treasurer's report. As of Jan 18th, there are 58 paid members and \$752.82 in the treasury.

Also discussed was the possibility of Bruce Hoadley giving a lecture sometime this summer, which would be sponsored by the Guild and free to members. Bruce Hoadley is an expert on wood technology and has recently published a book on the subject of wood indentification. [The lecture has been rescheduled for fall or winter due to his busy calendar. ed.]

The next meeting was scheduled at Terry Moore's shop in Newport, NH, on April 27th.

A juried exhibit at Shaker Village was also discussed. Announcements have since been sent out and the show will start May 11th and run through the summer at Shaker Village in Canterbury NH.

Other topics of brief discussion were: 1. Safety course at Dartmouth. 2. Business memberships and use of the Guild mailing list. 3. Nominations of new officers will be at next meeting. 4. Need people interested in helping with the newsletter.

Steve Cunliffe

WOOD DAY at Canterbury Shaker Village

Skilled craftsmen from the NH area, including many members of the Guild will gather at Canterbury Shaker Village in Canterbury, NH on May 11, 1991 from 10 AM to 4 PM to demonstrate and share a wide variety of woodworking skills.

Furniture makers, timber framers, restoration carpenters, woodturners, ash basket makers and many others will demonstrate and show their work.

Featured demonstrations will include door making, using molding planes and hand cut joints, timber framing from hewing through joining to raising a frame, wood turning, dovetailing, oval box making and chair construction.

Also featured will be tours of the recently restored Shaker Horse Barn and the opportunity to purchase high quality antique tools offered by twenty dealers.

The opening of a juried show of Shaker inspired furniture and wood craft by members of the Guild will take place on Wood Day.

State architectural historian James Garvin will lecture on changes in style and technology in wood use in New England.

Tours of the Village by well-informed guides and food from The Creamery Restaurant by Chef Jeffrey Paige will be available as usual.

A partial list of demonstrators follows: David Lamb, Bill Summers, Steve Marcq, Steve Allman, David Behm, Ted Blachly, Conrad Szymkowicz, Dave Richard, Garrett Hack, Fred Harrigan, Steve Fifield, Dan Holmes, Lenore Howe, Martha Wetherbee, Norma George, John Davis, Dan Dustin, Roberta Beaupre, and John Skewes.

For more information, please call Dave Emerson at 783-4403 or Canterbury Shaker Village at 783-9511.

INTERVIEW WITH TERRY MOORE, HOST OF NEXT MEETING

OLD SAW: Did you always want to be a woodworker?

TERRY: No, initially my main interest was music. I played bass guitar in a rock band in Wales and gave serious consideration to making this my career. However, after having the opportunity to tour Europe and the Midwestern United States in a professional rock musical production (playing acoustic guitar - lead and bass guitar, singing and acting in a small part), I grew sick of the transient lifestyle. I found myself daydreaming about having a "regular job" with "regular hours" working with my hands creating things. So I left the stage, forsaking fame and fortune for the joy of working with wood.

O.S.: What advantages do you see to working alone? And what disadvantages?

TERRY: I'm basically the hermit type. I like solitude - so most of the time working alone is not a problem for me. The advantage for me is the intimate interaction of my person with every aspect of the work; from design to dealing with customers to the crafting of the object. When I complete a new piece, it's me, for better or worse, - the piece has my fingerprints all over it. The disadvantage of working alone is ironically, the same answer I've listed as an advantage: solitude. Sometimes even I get fed up with Terry Moore and wish I had an apprentice or assistant for company and creative interaction and help with larger jobs etc. But as I contemplate workmen's compensation, FICA, withholding tax, and all that goes along with payroll etc., I conclude that solitude is more cost effective.

O.S.: How do you view yourself? A designer, a craftsman, an artist?

TERRY: I must confess that when I am introduced at an exhibition opening or gallery as the "artist" of a particular piece, I get uncomfortable. Maybe I get uncomfortable because I relate "artist" with the Andy Warhol type. I view myself as a "designer/craftsman" with the emphasis on "craftsman".

O.S.: Do you have a personal architectural vision? What are it's roots?

TERRY: I don't have any one source of inspiration or design vision. I don't work in any particular style; e.g. Shaker design, etc. I design by the sponge method. That is, since I have no formal training in design, I tend to assimilate inspiration from numerous sources, soaking in a little of this and a little of that. Eventually, when I get an idea for a piece, different elements get regurgitated unconsciously kinda like a penguin feeding her young.

O.S.: Have you worked with a plan? or do you bushwack your way through the woodworking business?

TERRY: Business is most definitely my weakest area. In this respect, I operate more like an artist than a businessman - i.e. I do the best work I can and seek to show it through regular exhibits around the East. Eventually people respond and commissions ensue or (even more rarely) the exhibition piece sells at that time. Anyway, I would never write a book entitled the "Secret Of My Success", but I am contented by the feeling that I enjoy what I do and am always growing in my work.

O.S.: If you could interrupt your schedule and build a piece of furniture for your home, what would it be?

TERRY: Definitely a dining set. We are currently using a pine trestle table I made about 12 years ago which is dark stained, all screws and plugs (ugh). When I consider all the nice table and chairs that I've made, it's embarrassing that I don't own one of my own sets.

O.S.: If a client gave you a blank check and said, "Surprise me", what would you build?

TERRY: Lately, I'm toying for the first time in my career with filling a room with related and complementary designs. The thought of filling a living room or bedroom seems to be an appealing challenge.

O.S.: What was the best tool purchase you ever made.? My best tool purchase would have to be my 16" joiner. I stumbled on this gem when I was first setting up shop. Initially I was looking for a 6" joiner and was referred to a man who said he had a used 16" joiner for sale. At first, I thought that it would be more than I would need to build kitchen cabinets so I almost passed it up. However, I eventually paid \$100.00 and have been very glad I purchased it. What a bargain.

O.S.: What was the worst?

TERRY: The worst tool purchase was a fixer-upper mortiser that I paid \$100.00 for. By the time I picked it up and had some machine work done on it and it still didn't work, I was very upset. I eventually resold it for parts and recouped some of my money but it was an object lesson in bargain hunting and frustration.

O.S.: Given that so many retirees become woodworkers, what as a woodworker will you do when you retire?

TERRY: Well, when I retire, I will probably still be woodworking. Hopefully by then I will be financially secure enough to build only what I really want to build. Maybe I'll concentrate on what is now my hobby: making acoustic steel string guitars. Anyway, I cannot foresee a time in my future when I will not want to work with wood. I love it!

C L A S S I F I E D

WANTED

I'm doing a research project on an old NH woodworking machinery company called "The John A. White Co." This firm was located in Concord from 1877 - 1892 and in Dover from 1892 - 19??. They produced large, heavy machinery of all types including metal lathes. If anyone has or knows someone who has some machinery of this manufacture or historical information about it, please contact David Lamb at 783-9912 or write to 228 Shaker Rd., Canterbury, NH 03244.

FOR SALE

12" jointer with 2 hp motor. L. Power Co. Also portable power tools (sanders & planer) and many hand tools: German wood planes, chisels, etc. Nick. 735-5481

Millers Falls metal cutting power hacksaw. Heavy cast iron stand. Needs work. New low price: \$20. Jon 934-2765.

1000 BF 4/4 oak, air dried 2 yrs in shed to 13%. Width to 14". Mostly clear, some curly. \$2.00/BF. 225-3487.

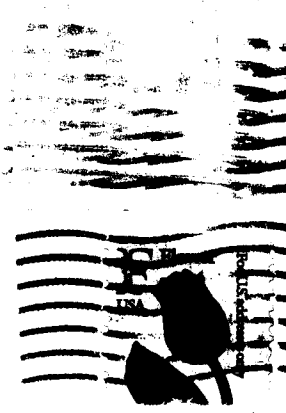
12" Dewalt Radial Arm Saw, 2 HP, 240 V, Single Phase. Heavy duty machine. \$650. Paul. 563-8884.

8" Jointer, Powermatic Model # 60. 1 HP, 1 PH, HTC mobile stand. \$1100. John. 456-2135.

Stroke Sander, Adler, Made in Italy. State of the Art, Goose-Neck Design, 3 motors, 3 Phase. 36 x 96 Table. Assorted Sanding Belts. \$2900. John. 456-2135.



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