



THE NEWS LETTER OF THE GUILD OF NEW HAMPSHIRE WOOD WORKERS
132 DRINKWATER ROAD KENSINGTON, NH 03833

September 1992

Volume 4, Number 1

The President's Message

John Skewes

To the members,

In the last couple of newsletters, I've tried to stay away from cheer leading and just convey my thoughts. This time, however, I think I'll do both. The Guild has been a terrific window into the way other people work and view their work. I think the camaraderie and social aspects of the Guild are the most important to me.

The most interesting part of any demonstration is the crowd. What a bunch of old hens we are, squawking and kibitzing as our host shows us just how far you can push a bandsaw, or when they use yellow glue and the overwhelming choice of the gallery is epoxy.

Of course I learn a thing or two but, like most people, I have my way of working and most other ways are either, wrong, stupid or take too long. However, this doesn't mean that I'm not enjoying myself or learning anything. The important things are how did they learn and how do they survive? What is important to this shop? Are they looking to make a living? Are they an artist? Is the wood secondary to using and owning tools?

My questions could go on and do. The point is that there are as many approaches to working wood as there are people working it. Working in the tiny bubble of my shop and reading *Fine Woodworking* isn't enough. The Guild brings us together four times a year and through *THE OLD SAW* four more times. That's not too bad. It isn't so often that we get bored and not so much work that we burn out.

As the President, I've enjoyed being able, along with the other officers and founders, to shape the Guild. For me it's meetings, a newsletter and one

show a year. What we need now is our next President. I've been at it two years. It's time to see if we've grown legs. This is the call for nominations. If you think you are the next President or if you would like to nominate someone else, please contact one of the officers.

It's my intention to remain very active in the Guild. As I stated above, there are many things the Guild provides for me, that I don't get elsewhere. I plan to contribute and consult on the newsletter and help with an annual exhibit. What I'm hoping is that someone will come forward who will take us in a new direction and help to broaden our scope.

The Guild truly is different from other wood-working forums. We are not a huge sales vehicle. We are not a technical journal, or a teaching institute. We primarily tie together the many small shops that dot the New Hampshire landscape. The Guild helps us to share common and uncommon experiences, make friends and drink coffee. I hope there is someone who wants this as much as I have. It isn't a tough job. You set your own hours and it looks great on a resume.

Thanks,

John

Guild Fall Show At Sharon Arts Center

Thanks to all who submitted entries for the show at the Killian Gallery at The Sharon Arts Center. Hopefully, this will be a great looking show. If it is, we will be able to pick and choose where we want our next show.

The show dates are Oct. 18 thru Nov. 15, 1992. If you are entering work, please be sure you have it there by the deadline. Any questions concerning the show should be directed to Randy Hoel at the Sharon Art Center, 924-7256.

If your work was rejected without comment, please, don't take it the wrong way. The work of the Jury was to *Choose* the show, not *Critique* the show entries. Because of the number of entries and the size of the gallery, some work had to be turned away. If you are curious as to why your work was not included, please, go see the show.

Guild Fall Meeting

The Fall Meeting of the Guild will be held on Saturday, September 26 at Grant Taylor's shop, Tucker Road in South Acworth, NH. Guild members will be glad to learn that Grant's shop has been completely rebuilt after the fire and he is again in full operation.

Grant will describe his experiences (good and bad) in the operation of his solar kiln. He will cover designs and materials to use in building a solar kiln and tips on proper operation of it. It will be an interesting presentation. Plan to attend.

Annual Election Notice

We need to have the annual election at the meeting this fall at Grant Taylor's. The call is out for anyone who wants to take any active role in promoting the development and the running of the Guild.

The Guild depends upon a relatively small group of people, like John Skewes, who feel strongly enough about the organization to work for it and make it a success. Would you like to join this group? Do you know someone you think should be in more of a leadership position? Should we try and talk John into another term?

Nominations can be discussed with any Guild officer or any other self appointed big-wig.

Submit your nominations for President or any other post to:

Steve Cunliffe, 10 Patch Road, Henniker, NH 03243 or call Steve at 428-7952.

The current officers are:

President	John Skewes	778-7360
Secretary	Steve Cunliffe	428-7952
Treasurer	Teri Browning	764-9395
Editor	Roy Noyes	887-3682

Steering Committee:

All Officers plus:	
John McAlevey	456-2135
Jon Siegel	934-2765
Paul Tuller	563-8884

Dues Are Due

Our treasurer, Teri Browning, wants to remind everyone that the annual dues of \$15 per member are due and payable on September 1, 1992. Our year runs from Sept. 1 to Sept. 1.

The Guild policy on dues is that anyone not paying their dues by January 1, 1993 will be dropped from the mailing list.

Please send your dues to Teri Browning at:
Wentworth Collection
Box 131, Rt. 25 at 25A
Wentworth, NH 03282

Or pay them at the September meeting.



Living With Crafts

Best In Wood Award

Bill Thomas was awarded The League of New Hampshire Craftsmen's 1992 Living With Crafts Designer Series Award for Best In Wood sponsored by the Guild. Bill's entry was a pair of early Queen Anne style curly maple chairs with rush seats and Spanish feet. Congratulations Bill from all of us.

Bill is a graduate of the North Bennett Street School and specializes in making reproduction furniture at his shop in Hillsborough Lower Village.

Computer Users Meet

Twenty-seven of our members returned the computer questionnaire. Most expressed interest in meetings to exchange ideas on the use of computers in the woodworking business.

Tally of the returns show:

1	Apple IIe	3	286/clone
2	Mac Plus	5	386/clone
1	Mac LC	2	486/clone
3	Mac SE		
5	No computer but interested		
5	Not interested in computers		

Many users were too busy getting ready for the Sunapee Fair and the Guild show but 7 brave souls met at Don Reese's New Hampshire Wooden Clothes Dryer shop in Hampstead on July 16 from 5 to 9 pm. The evening was a formative meeting for the Computer Users Group.

Pete Borum, the sole Mac devotee in attendance, demonstrated ClarisCAD on his Mac.

IBM demos included QuickBooks by John Skewes on his 386 and GenericCAD by Roy Noyes on his 486. Roy also demonstrated the Woodfind index of magazine articles and Sequoia Software's Listmaker and POP panel layout programs for cabinet shops. A Listmaker and POP demo disk is available from Roy, if you are interested.

The demos generated much heated debate about the merits of the various computers and software, but all agreed that the meeting was well worth while.

The group decided to split into two sub-groups, one for Apple products and one for IBM clones, and to have another joint meeting in the fall. The sub-groups will provide a focus for each type of equipment, and the joint meeting will provide exposure for anyone wanting to see specific hardware and software in action.

Anyone interested in heading up either of the two sub-groups or if you are interested in attending the Computer Users Group meeting and haven't returned your questionnaire, please contact Roy Noyes.



The Shaker Chair: Weaving Patterns and Techniques

Review by Roy Noyes

The Shaker Chair: Weaving Patterns and Techniques is a new "how-to-do-it" video written and presented by Guild member Lenore Howe and produced by Impact Productions.

This hour long video describes in detail how to expertly tape a Shaker chair or stool in various patterns and colors. Every detail in the process is carefully presented in logical order that comes from long experience at the craft.

Anyone who may have occasion to tape a chair seat will want a copy of this video which explains the techniques that Lenore and other Shaker chair makers have developed over the years. This production compares very favorably in content and film quality with the best woodworking videos that I have seen. It should be a hit.

The video is available for \$24.95 plus \$2.50 shipping from:

North Woods Chair Shop
237 Old Tilton Road
Canterbury, NH 03224

Portsmouth Furniture Exhibit At Currier Gallery of Art

MASTERWORKS FROM THE SEACOAST
Lou Yelgin

When I visited the Moffat-Ladd house in Portsmouth last year, I was delighted to hear that SPNEA (Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities) planned a Fall 1992 furniture exhibition at Manchester's Currier Gallery of Art. Well, the September 15 show opening is almost upon us and I can hardly wait.

Portsmouth Furniture will examine the history of Portsmouth by analyzing the city's most plentiful surviving product: its furniture.

Focusing on the golden age of Portsmouth (1725-1825), more than 100 examples of furniture either made or used in the area will tell the story of the city's cultural legacy. The furniture will be divided into three stylistic groups, Baroque, Rococo and Neoclassical. The emphasis will be on the different designs and decorative techniques favored by each period.

The exhibition will also feature case studies of three local furniture makers that will provide insight into the working patterns and construction methods of local workshops.

A room vignette, based on the 1730 parlor of merchant George Jaffery, will interpret the domestic setting for the furnishings and the room use. This meticulously recreated space is the product of the preservation carpentry students from the North Bennett Street school.

Tickets for the exhibition (\$5.00) and for the associated educational programs (additional cost) can be purchased in person or by telephone from the Currier Box Office 626-4158.

An Old Saw

I see, said the blind man as he picked up his hammer and saw.

Notes From The Dovetail Corner

Roy Noyes

Fit and Finish -- How Do We Stack Up?

The Guild continues to fascinate me. The **President's Message** makes the point that the Guild is a window into the way other people work and view their work.

I think the common thought among us is quality of workmanship. As working craftsmen, we take great pride in creating a thing of beauty. We enjoy the look and feel of fine woods used in a clean design with tight fitting, precision joinery and a smooth, flawless finish. We savor the appearance with our eyes and can't help running our fingers across the surfaces to insure that they are flawless. We know that long after we are gone our creation will continue to serve its purpose well, given proper care. We are proud to sign our name so that generations of owners to come will remember the care we put into making it. This satisfaction with our work is as important to us as the money we receive for our work.

Despite the disparity in education and work experience, the members of the Guild are far more alike than different. The question here is how do we and our work compare with our counterparts of 200 years ago?

The makers of the expensive antiques that are so sought after today, the Dunlaps of New Hampshire, the Dominys of Long Island, the Goddards of Rhode Island, the Shakers and many, many more famous and not so famous craftsmen were real people just like us. Others made baskets and boxes, cabinets and clothes dryers and everyday things for their own use or to sell, just like us.

They had families to feed and bills to pay, just like us. They were under pressure to produce at the lowest cost and as fast as possible in order to make a living for themselves and their families, just like us.

Were they better designers and craftsmen? Is their work better than ours? My conclusion, after studying both our current work and that found in numerous antiques, is a resounding NO.

I would like to briefly describe to you how I reached the conclusion that we don't have to take our hats off to anyone.

Study the pictures of antiques in the books. Look closely at real antiques anytime you can. Many of

their designs were good and some were outstanding, just like ours. Most were based upon designs that had come before them; from the Greeks, the Romans, the Italians, the French, even the Chinese and the Egyptians. To these established designs, they added their own flair, their own interpretation of the theme -- just as we do.

Yes, they were good but so are we. I firmly believe that the Guild has members whose designs are on a par with the best of any age! To select just one, I call your attention to Jere Osgood's desks.

OK, how about quality of workmanship? Here, I believe we have the edge in "Fit and Finish". We are as good workmen (and women) as they were and we have the advantage of modern tools and materials. We also have the advantage of more technical knowledge of our materials thanks to people like Bruce Hoadley.

Looking at the work of Guild members, from clothes dryers to furniture, shows more attention to detail than in most antique counterparts, particularly on the inside where it doesn't show much. We use the best materials for the job and have the best "Fit and Finish", inside and out.

How much did they charge for their work? Let us see how we compare on pricing. Major John Dunlap's account book records the following items:

Mar 23, 1774	To one Case of Drawers	£66 0 0
	To one Desk	£48 0 0
Dec 6, 1774	To William Dunlap for one Days	
	Making chairs	£ 2 0 0
	To 147 feet of boards	£ 3 0 0

The Case of Drawers was probably a highboy and as you can see, it was priced at 33 times the wages paid to a skilled cabinet maker for one day of work (William was John's brother and a skilled cabinet maker in his own right.)

For today's prices, assume a current wage of \$15 per hour paid to a skilled cabinet maker working 10 hours per day for 33 days. Thus, we can see that the Case of Drawers was priced at \$4950 and the desk was \$3712.50 in today's dollars. The boards were priced at \$180 for 147 board feet or about \$1.22 per board foot.

An exact comparison of prices is impossible because they were more self-sufficient and didn't need as much money to live as we do. However,

prices are not too much different from today's prices.

I think these comparisons prove that we are far more like our ancestor counterparts than different despite the disparity in education and work experience! Keep up the good work. You are making the antiques of the 21st Century!

North Country Studio Conference March 1993

The North Country Studio Conference is planned for March 18-22, 1993 at the Shaker Inn and Conference Center in Enfield, NH. It features ten craft workshops. Other presentations will include Craft Aesthetics & History, the Business of Crafts, Computers, and Marketing Strategies.

The workshop on Steam bending Wood Furniture by Bruce Beeken and Jeff Parsons, Shelburne Farms, VT and the workshop on Basket making by Bryant Holsenbeck, Durham, NC may be of special interest to Guild Members.

For complete information and registration contact Conference Coordinator Ellwyn Hayslip 603-224-3375 (League) or 224-8558 (Home).



Boat Building: A Whole New Experience

by Lou Yelgin

My father was a cabinetmaker from Grodno, Russia -- a historical town on the banks of the Nemen River. I grew up hearing stories from him about how he had built and raced boats on the river during his youth before the Nazi army destroyed Grodno's Jewish community forever.

Because of these stories, I have always had a secret desire to keep the tradition alive and build my own wooden boat. This summer my dream came true, as I am about to launch an ultra light, 14 foot, mahogany plywood canoe.

I followed a book, a set of plans and a video produced by Tom Hill, who is an amazing boatbuilder from Huntington, VT. The process ran the gamut of emotions -- from pure exhilaration to downright frustration. Building a boat is unlike anything most furniture makers have ever done. There are no straight lines in a

boat, nor are any of the angles based on a right triangle. A boat is a curved construct with many compound angles flowing through its lines. It was a challenge, cutting all those joints, but also a real joy that resulted in a mahogany boat that I hope to enjoy for many years.

Now to persuade my wife to let me keep it in the living room.....



The Editors Corner

Roy Noyes
178 Derry Road Chester, NH 03036-4311
Tel. 887-3682

With this issue, *THE OLD SAW* has a new editor as well as a new look. You and I owe a great deal to Jon Siegel who got us off to such a fine start. No editor has an easy job, but mine is a lot easier because of all the effort that Jon put into the previous issues. As most of you know, he took the newsletter from a bare idea to a creditable journal. Jon is going to continue in the role of mentor and also as helper doing important jobs like mailings, etc. Thanks Jon and a tip of our collective hats to you!

We have another important member of our staff. You may not be aware of the work that Lou Yelgin is doing in editing the articles that you submit. He is the first line of defense for content, grammar, spelling and style. Give Lou a call at 424-4888 if you have anything to put in print (or any complaint about the above).

Thanks also to all who have contributed articles. They are what make this all worthwhile. Keep them coming so I won't have to fill up too much space myself. Send in news of your shops, your work and your ideas on building a better Guild.

Don't forget, we offer free classified ads so you can clean out the shop and get some money for that new tool you have always wanted, too.

Report From Canterbury Shaker Village

David Emerson

The Village is experiencing record attendance and sales. The Carpenter Shop Gallery is doing well in its first year. Smalls (\$25-\$95) are selling, especially turnings - one \$150 burl bowl and many

pestle and mortar sets. The Gallery needs bowl turners (we have 4 lathes in that area now) and more publicity. Turners, there's a market here! One furniture piece sold - a \$250 side table.

An interior designer has offered her services. Hopefully, more people can commit early for next season and we can do a brochure. We are considering going from 20% to 25% on consignments to cover the cost of the brochure and some advertising.

I'd like to advertise a furniture sale and a real Gallery Opening on Wood Day as well as the usual fine demonstrations. May I have your inputs on these ideas?

We are excited about the restoration of the 1915 machine woodworking area which is now receiving a new foundation. Old machinery buffs take notice.

Help Wanted Advertising

Volunteer

McKerley Nursing Home, 20 Maitland Street, Concord is looking for a volunteer to spend two hours per week working with a resident whose lifetime hobbies included making doll house furniture.

McKerley Nursing Home is a 201 bed intermediate care facility specializing in the care of persons who, by reason of illness or physical infirmities, are unable to care for them selves. The home makes a special attempt to meet the needs, desires and interests of residents. If you are interested in volunteering some of your time to help this man, please, call Bruce DiBernado at 603-224-6561.

Classified Advertising

The Old Saw
Guild of NH Woodworkers
132 Drinkwater Road
Kensington, NH 03833

Boise Crane Shaper
1 HP, 1/2 and 3/4 inch spindles, 20 x 27 1/2 in. table. 3" lock edge cutter head with assorted cutters. Asking \$500.

Bill Thomas 478-3488

Computer and Printer
Multitech Accel 900 (286 clone) 10 MHz, 512k RAM, 30MB HD, 1.2MB 5.25" floppy, 12" white on black monitor. Alphacom wide carriage Daisy wheel printer and lots of S/W. \$400.

Don Reese 329-7047

Computer Printers
HP Deskjet 500, like new with extra ink cartridge, \$150. IBM Proprinter, 9 pin, text and graphics printer, very good condition, \$50. Will trade for shop equipment or hand tools.

Roy Noyes 887-3682

Colburn 14" Table Saw
Double arbor, tilting table. Babbitted bearings, flat belt drive. Best offer over \$300.

Bill Thomas 478-3488

Shop carts

3 heavy duty shop carts, \$50 ea.

John McAlevey 456-2135 days, 225-9323 eve.

Lumber

2 sets book matched QS sycamore, 4/4 & 10/4 QS sycamore, 5 ea. 8/4x36x48 walnut NE slabs, 8/4x22x84 European chestnut slab, 96 BF SA mahogany 8"/10"x16 ft, misc. 4/4 red oak and walnut, prices depend on quantity purchased.

John McAlevey 456-2135 days, 225-9323 eve.

Real Estate Advertising

Woodworking shop

Commercially zone building. Recently renovated. 1600 SF showroom or living space w/sky lights on 2nd floor. 3 phase electric, town water and waste. Located in Warner, NH.

John McAlevey 456-2135 days, 225-9323 eve.