Special Offers through the Guild

The Guild has made arrangements for a special buy on clamps from the Bessey Clamp Co. These are among the best and most popular clamps available and the price is excellent. Those of us that took advantage of the opportunity to purchase wooden hand clamps during the last special group purchase, can testify as to just how good these group purchases can be. See the enclosed flyer/order blank for details. Questions - call Allan Furber @ 830-1504.

The Oneida Air Systems Co. is offering a 10% discount to Guild members on their new self contained, two stage, cyclonic dust collection system if ten Guild members buy. These units are a real breakthrough for the small shop as they are ceiling or wall hung and take less than 2 ft. x 2 ft. of space. They are easy to empty, very efficient at collecting small dust particles as well as chips, exceeding OSHA standards, and are built like tanks. Anyone who is interested, can see one in action at my house in Bloomington. Call me to arrange a time. Allan Furber @ 830-1504.

Proud of Your Workshop?

The Minnesota Woodworkers Guild is planning a workshop tour this summer. We hope to have at least a dozen members open their shops for other members to tour. It will be held on a Saturday and the shops will be open from 9:00am to 4:30pm.

At this time we are looking for members who are willing to open their shops. You will be asked to fill out a short questionnaire, (5 minutes max) about your shop and the equipment you have. The details of each shop, along with a map, will be published in the next newsletter.

If you would to have your shop included on the tour or if you have any questions please call Allan Furber @ 830-1504.
**The Guild**

- **President**
  Pat Juettner  
  (612) 884-3634
- **Vice President**
  Willis Bowman
- **Treasurer**
  Douglas Perlick

**Members at Large**

- Rick Berland, David Boulay, R. W. Kurtenbach, Allan Furber, Richard Lagerstrom, Richard Gotz
- Newsletter Editor
  Dennis West (612-377-5985)

*Next issue deadline is May 20*

---

**Saw Tuning Tip**

Thanks to the guild meeting given by George Vondriska last March, I had the courage to true my table saw blade to the miter slot. I used a cross piece which runs in the miter slot with a screw in the end which I used to reference the same tooth at the front and back of the cut. I noticed immediate improvement.

Recently I acquired a nice used Starret dial indicator, thanks to my friend Doug Perlick. I made a cross piece which runs in the miter slot and mounts the dial indicator in an appropriate position. I was surprised at how much more sensitive then the screw the dial indicator was. The fence was also off by .02". After adjusting both the fence and the blade, the improvement in my saw's performance was even more dramatic. I made a test rip of a piece of scrap maple with now saw marks whatsoever.

A used dial indicator is reasonably priced and can really help you tune your power tools. Perhaps you might consider one.

*Rick Berland*

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**GUILD ARCHIVES**

The Guild is looking for a copy of the 1985 and 1987 Northern Woods brochures. If you have a copy we can borrow, please call Craig at 922-0734.

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**NORTHERN WOODS NEWS**

- The Northern Woods Committee will begin monthly meetings again in March. We need members to come and get involved. The meetings are casual and fun. Call Craig Jentz if interested.
- Now is the time to start working on your entry in the October Northern Woods Show. Don't wait until the summer when the beautiful weather provides too many distractions.
- The Minnesota Woodworkers Guild and the Northern Woods Show will be featured in a 7 page article in an upcoming Woodwork magazine. Watch for it.

---

**For Sale**

- Dust Collector, ShopSmith, $275. This unit is a two stage portable that works great. It has a high quality oversized filter bag and 2 intake heads, one with three 2 1/2" intakes and one with a single 4" intake. It is quiet, easy to empty and does an excellent job on fine dust particles. Allan Furber, 830-1504
- Marples carving tools, 21 piece set hand picked by Chris Effrem from The Wood Carvers Store. These tools have been honed and are ready for use (okay, a few need a little touchup). All are in excellent condition. $250. Allan Furber, 830-1504
- Mortising Table. WoodSmith Project Supplies. This table was featured in issue 67 of Woodsmith Magazine. It is designed to make mortise and spline joints. Cost new was $74.95 plus tax and shipping (yes, it was overpriced). I will sell for $30. Allan Furber, 830-1504
- Porter-Cable 362 Belt Sander (4"x24") with dust bag, manual. Barely used. I just don't need it. $175.00 Mel Turcanik (507) 634-7570 days or leave message.
WOODSHOP INCIDENT CASE HISTORY

Description of Incident (In detail, please. Use a rough sketch if necessary)

What damage or injury resulted?

What safety procedures can you suggest that could reduce or eliminate this kind of accident in the future?

Name and address

Phone

Your name will not be used in any publication or report resulting from this survey.

Please use plain paper to describe as many additional "case histories" as you feel may be instructive, using the same format as shown above.

Please return form to:
Erling Hallanger
1875 Tatum St.
WOODSHOP SAFETY PROJECT

Anyone who works with wood a lot knows that woodworking is inherently dangerous. Using hand or power tools improperly or neglecting standard safety practices can result in permanent injury or even death. Yet many shop situations come up where a "shortcut" or a new, untried operation is called for - sometimes with dire results! In this project, we hope to identify as many shop hazards as we can for the mutual benefit of all our members.

PURPOSE Purpose of this project is to prevent shop accidents by identifying- in detail- various hazards when working with wood and, by using a pro-active approach, to show how anyone working in the shop can seek to avoid accidents in the future.

APPROACH The first phase of this project will be to collect case histories of woodshop mishaps from the members of the Minnesota Woodworkers Guild. An Incident Case History Form is included in this issue of the newsletter (PLEASE SEE THE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS INSERT!!!!). The first part of this form will contain a description of what happened, with sketches if necessary, what tool or tools were involved, and what damage and/or injuries were sustained. The next part of the form would contain safety measures or changes in hardware the member would suggest to prevent this type of mishap.

The next phase of the project would be the publication of results of the study.

BENEFITS

1. Guild members can learn from the mistakes of others and thus avoid personal injury or damage to equipment or to their project.

2. If we get good data from this project, a WOODSHOP SAFETY book will be a possibility.
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Special Group Buy

The Minnesota Woodworkers Guild has arranged a special buy on Bessey Clamps from American Clamping Corporation. This is a "one time show special" and the prices are exceptional.

We are offering parts of the Tradesmen line in regular and heavy duty, most of the K Body line and several specialty clamps. If you are looking for something not on the list and you want at least a case, (case quantities vary), call to see if we can get them.

All orders must be received by March 31, 1996 and be paid in full. You will be notified when your order is available for pickup. We hope this will be before the end of April.

The Tradesmen line is the middle level of clamps from Bessey. The bars are a modified I-beam.

The K Body line is considered the cadillac of clamps. It is designed so that the jaws stay parallel over their full length.

The KP Blocks come in a set of 4 and are designed to work with 4 or more K Body clamps to create a framing system. These are a must have if you use K Body clamps.

Edge Clamps are used in conjunction with Tradesmen clamps to provide a perpendicular pressure point for edge clamping.

The Angle Clamps are for clamping corners. The WS3 will handle stock up to 2" wide. The WS6 will handle stock up 4" on each side or 1" on one side and 6" on the other. The TK6 table clamps hold the angle clamps to a flat surface.

Order Summary

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Your Name

Address

City, St, Zip

Phone No

Make checks payable to Minnesota Woodworkers Guild
Sent order with check to Allan Furber
10440 Brunswick Circle
Bloomington, MN 55438

Orders must be received by March 31, 1996

Questions? Call Allan Furber, 830-1504

The Guild wishes to thank American Clamping Corp. for their support
Professional Turning Demonstration sponsored by the Minnesota Woodturners Association

April 20th, Saturday, 9:00AM to 5:00PM - Professional Demonstration by Christian Burchard - Turning Spheres PLUS

This meeting will be held at the Woodcraft store, 9741 Lyndale Ave S. Bloomington, MN (884-3634). This is one of the few meetings the we will have a charge for and registration will be limited to approximately 30 people so it will be advantageous to get your payment in as early as possible.

The cost is:
- $15.00 for members received prior to April 8, 1996
- $20.00 for non-members received prior to April 8, 1996
- $20.00 for members at the door
- $25.00 for non-members at the door

Send your check to: (make check payable to "Minnesota Woodturners")

Ron Meilahn
Treasurer, Minnesota Woodturners
1638 23rd Ave NW
New Brighton, MN 55112

Christian Burchard tries to create images which stimulate and surprise. Rarely is a piece totally conceived before he starts work on it. He gets a glimpse of something and flows - or battles - with it along the way.

It's a process which he says pushes at his boundaries, overcomes his timidity and expands his vision.

Born in Hamburg, Germany, Christian moved to the United States in 1979 after extended travels through Europe and a two-year apprenticeship with a furniture maker. He now lives in the mountains of southern Oregon, where he turns vessels and sculptural forms along with designing and making furniture.

Christian is self-taught on the lathe. Using the lathe as a rotating carving machine he explores the properties of different timbers, retaining some of their characteristics in the finished pieces, leaning on nature a little, but not too much - finding the balance, like a conversation.

Where appropriate, he leaves the marks of his tools - the lines from the chainsaw, grooves from the turning tools, patterns from the sandblaster.

Although Christian has created both furniture and vessels, his current work harks back to his training as a sculptor. He spent two years studying sculpture at the prestigious Boston School of the Museum of Fine Art and at the Emily Carr College of Art and Design.

This background, combined with his innovative use of natural wood characteristics and exaggerated machine-tooling, has created a strong sculptural statement in Christian's work.

For more information on Christian's work, read the article in the American Woodturner, pg #26, June 1995
April 16, 1996 Tuesday 7:30 P M

Location: The Woodworkers Store, 3025 Lyndale Ave. So.7 Minneapolis 822-3338. The store is on Lyndale Ave. just south of Lake St.

FURNITURE JUDGING: The judges from the last Northern Woods Exhibition will lead a discussion regarding the quality of woodworking projects. This will be a good meeting for those members considering entering this years exhibit.

May 21, 1996 Tuesday 7:30 P M

Location: This will be a joint meeting with the MMM Woodworkers Guild. The meeting will be at Building 275 in the MMM complex. MMM is just north of 1 94 east of downtown St. Paul. Go north on Mc Knight Road to Conway Ave., then right to 5th St., and left for a half block. The parking lot and building are on the right.

FINISHES: Chris Minick is a chemist for MMM and an avid woodworker. He will discuss the characteristics of various finishes.

June 18, 1996 Tuesday 7:30 P M

Location: Minneapolis College of Arts and Design, Room 129, 2501 Stevens Ave. So., Minneapolis, MN. MCAD is just west of 1 35W between Franklin Ave. and Lake St.

FURNITURE DESIGN: Greg Juettner will lead a panel discussion regarding furniture designing. Panelists will include Jon Early, Heartwood Architectural; Dean Wilson, MCAD; John Nesset and Thomas Caspar, professional woodworkers.

PICNIC: You and your guests are invited to come early for a pot-luck picnic beginning at 6:30 P. M. in the park across the street (3rd and Stevens Ave. So.). Please bring the following food for six people based upon the first letter of your last name:A-H salad IL dessert M-Z hotdish

The Guild will provide soft drinks, paper plates, and napkins. Please bring your own silverware.
Welcome to all the new members who joined the guild over the past few months. Guild membership is just over 300 members. People join the guild for many reasons. Some people enjoy the monthly meetings, others, the experience of the Northern Woods Show. Others even join the guild just to get the wholesale pricing at Youngblood Lumber. For whatever reason you joined the guild, I wish to extend a warm welcome. Welcome.

Last year the guild had a laudable exhibition at the Northern Woods Show. The show was great!!! One of the reasons the show does so well is because of all the planning that goes into the show. The Northern Woods Committee did a great job organizing the show. The Northern Woods Committee has been meeting at St. Anthony Main once a month. Southdale is under new management, and this is the year to really impress Southdale if we are going to stay there. If you would like to help out on the committee and make this years show a bigger success, call me at 884-3634.

Special recognition goes to Richard Helgeson for his appearance in the latest issue of Home Furniture. Richard had his box in the magazine and also a special article on how he laid out the veneer. Congratulations.

Special kudos go to everyone who was featured in the June Woodwork magazine. Glen Gordon wrote an article on last year's Northern Woods show. The article described the show and featured many pictures from the last few years.

We did not get an overwhelming response to the Woodshop Incident Case History Questionnaire. This is a good way to prevent accidents. If you have an interesting story, fill out the questionnaire and return it to Erling Hallanger (644-4667)

The guild had a group purchase of wooden hand clamps and Bessey clamps. If you participated in this purchase, any feedback you could give Allen Furber or myself would be appreciated.

Free! Free! Free! Larry Pererson (920-2265) has several walnut saplings that has been cut and dried. The wood is mostly white. Give Larry a call if interested.

Lastly, we have contacted the manufacture of the magnetic feather boards. These will be featured in the future. Also, we will have another wood purchase in early fall. We are going to try a new vendor who will allow us to pick it up at their yard.

Pat Juettner
President Minnesota Woodworkers Guild
Northern Woods is set for October 17-20 at Southdale. Southdale had a change of management as of the first of the year. Unfortunately, the new management team has never seen the show, and they have no knowledge of how our show has flourished at Southdale over the last three years. Still, they are interested in partnering with us to produce a great show this year. We urge every Guild member to enter a piece this year. If you built something in the past year that you are proud of, enter it. A successful show this year will put us in a good position with Southdale for years to come.

Another way for you to get involved is to volunteer for a few hours as a host at the guild booth. Feel brave? We’re looking for people to volunteer their expertise as demonstrators for an hour or so during the show. Don’t be shy. Being involved is a lot of fun. Just ask anyone who has done it.

**DISCOUNT SUPPLIERS**

- **American Tool Supply**, (612) 227-3500, Discounts varying with items. No sale discounts.
- **Art Betterly Co.**, (612) 755-3425, Bob, “Special consideration to Guild members”. Call for information.
- **Derickson Co., Inc.**, (612) 332-6791, Dwight, Wholesale prices to Guild members.
- **Gardner Hardware**, (612) 333-3393, Mike, 20% discount on supplies, some hand tools. No discount on power tools. Call for information.
- **Hirshfield Decorating Centers** (10 metro locations and Rochester) Wholesale prices to guild members. Discounts apply to stains, varnishes, application tools, and sundries. No discounts to window treatments, wall coverings, or fabrics.
- **Lake Elmo Hardwood Lumber**, (612) 777-8118, Joe Rogers, Discount depends on wood type and quantity, hardwood only. Call Joe for details before placing your order.
- **Savitt Bros.**, (612) 871-1155, Burt Savitt, Discount to net price. Guild members receive contractor discount.
- **Swanson Hardware**, (612) 925-4083, all sales staff, Wholesale prices to Guild members.
- **Tool Crib of Minnesota**, (612) 521-7657, Terry, Various discounts on cutters and tools, depending on item and quantity.
- **Valspar Paint**, (612) 827-1787, Kevin, 20% discount to Guild members at all three locations.
- **Warner Industrial Supply**, (612) 378-7300, Dan Shea, 10% discount to Guild members.
- **Woodcarvers Store and School**, (612) 927-7491, George, 10% on all items. Additional discount on router bits.
- **Youngblood Lumber Co.**, (612) 789-3521, Randy, Wholesale prices to Guild members.
Minnesota Woodworkers’ Guild
Annual Group Lumber Buy

Each year the Minnesota Woodworkers’ Guild sponsors a group lumber buy. These buys are among the most popular activity sponsored by the Guild. This year we are buying from Metro Hardwoods, in Maple Grove. All lumber will be FAS/IF which is one grade above FAS/SEL. The boards will be run through the planer once so you will be better able to see what you are getting.

You can order all species on the order form below. Minimum order per species is 25 BF on 4/4 and 50 BF on 8/4. You must submit your order and check by July 10, 1996. Pick up will be at Metro Hardwoods on Saturday September 21, 1996 between 8:30 and 11:00am. We will mail you a confirming copy of your order and a map.

If you need a quote on a species not listed, or any if you have any other questions, please call Dave Boulay (612) 866-8834.

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Sub total: __________________
Sales tax @ 6.5%: __________________
Total: __________________

This order form must be received by July 15, 1996.

Name ____________________________
Address __________________________
City __________________ State _____ Zip ________ Phone ____________

This is a firm order, please make your check to Minnesota Woodworkers’ Guild.
Signature _______________________

Mail to:
Dave Boulay
6316 Grand Av S
Richfield, MN 55423
Special Group Buy

The Minnesota Woodworkers Guild has arranged a group buy on Polo/Golf Shirts.

These shirts are top quality, heavy weight, 100% cotton.

They are flat or Jersey knit and resist snagging.

They have a pocket on the left breast which has the Guild's logo embroidered on it.

They are available in Forest Green or White.

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Total Due $_____

Your Name
Address
City, St, Zip
Phone No

Make checks payable to Minnesota Woodworkers Guild

Sent order with check to Allan Furber
10440 Brunswick Circle
Bloomington, MN 55438

Orders must be received by July 15, 1996

Questions? Call Allan Furber, 830-1504

PS This the same shirt I wear on a regular basis. They are great. AAF
Minnesota Woodworkers Guild
Fourteenth Annual Northern Woods
Show Rules & Entry Form

Show Dates: October 17th - 20th, 1996
Location: Southdale Mall, Edina, Minnesota

Read, complete, enclose your check, and return by September 16th, 1996.

For more information call (612) 378-2605

Show Overview

Dear Fellow Woodworker:

The Minnesota Woodworker's Guild, Davlins, and Southdale Mall will be sponsoring the Fourteenth Annual Northern Woods Exhibition October 17th through the 20th. The show will be held in the center atrium at Southdale.

The deadline for submissions is September 16th. Late entries will be accepted, although they will not be published in the show catalog nor be eligible for judging. The entry fee for Guild members remains $25. Members in good standing of other area woodworking associations (e.g. 3M Woodworking Club, Minnesota Woodturners Association, Minnesota Woodcarvers Association) are eligible to participate in this year's show. The entry fee for fiscally participating associations is $25 (the fee for non-fiscally participating associations is $35 - check with your association to determine its participation level). The entry fee entitles the entrant to submit one or two pieces. Additional pieces can be entered at a charge of $10 per piece. Regardless of the number of pieces entered, only two pieces per entrant are eligible for judging.

We will be sending out press release packets to area newspapers, magazines, and journals as well as national arts and crafts publications (e.g. American Craft, Fine Woodworking).

The show catalog will be printed using off-set lithography and high quality paper. Only professional quality photos will be considered for publication. Although photos are not required, received photos may be published. Photos should be color prints, black and white prints, or slides. While we reserve the right to edit, we encourage entrants to lengthen and increase the "human interest factor" in their descriptions and biographies.

Exhibitors will be required to volunteer time at the Guild booth.
Judging Overview

All entries will be judged in a pool rather than in separate categories for each form of furniture. The judging categories are designed to reward woodworkers who are good at creating new ideas or interpreting older ones as well as those woodworkers who are skilled with machines and hand tools. The judges will score how well they like each piece and how well it is made. Additionally judges will offer constructive written comments.

The judging categories have been designed to encourage you to enter a piece regardless of your status as a woodworker. It's more than a competition for prizes. The show is meant to be a display of the state of the art of woodworking in Minnesota and a chance for guild members to see what their peers have been up to in the last year. You may decide to enter a piece but not have it judged.

Each piece is eligible to receive only one award from the judges. All pieces are still eligible for the Peer Award and the People's Choice Award.

Award Categories

Note that all categories are awarded at the judges' discretion. If they do not feel any one piece meets the winning criteria of a category, that category's award will not be given.

Best in Show
The winning piece should exhibit the best qualities of most of the categories above.

Peer Award
This is decided by balloting among all exhibitors. You will be given a chance to vote for your favorite piece (other than your own) and runners up.

Best Design
A well-designed piece of furniture must be both useful and pleasing to the eye. Will it perform its intended job? Good design is in large part a subjective opinion. It's difficult to define what good design should look like, but we can agree on how it should affect a thoughtful critic. It invites a second, more intimate look, and asks to be touched by the hand and spirit.

Most Technically Accomplished
This is an objective assessment. The best work will exhibit a mastery of many woodworking techniques. It will respect the limitations of working in wood. Qualities to look for include flawless treatment of surfaces, precise joinery, and carefully controlled detail. The award will take into account the difficulty of the undertaking.
Most Daring
This is an award for imagination. The winner should offer bold and innovative ideas. The design of a daring piece may not be totally satisfying, and the technical ability of its builder be not be of the highest order. Daring work pushes the limits of material, design, and joinery. The judges will decide which entries to consider for this award. These selected pieces will receive a ranking as either interesting or daring.

Best Handwork
The use of hand tools is a long and rich tradition in woodworking. Successful handwork should not be judged by machine standards. It produces surfaces and shapes that are more varied and personal, free from the limitations machines impose.

Best Finish
The finish may enhance the natural beauty of wood or alter its texture and color. A good finish elevates one's perception of the piece to which it is applied. Depth, luster, and clarity are characteristics of a good finish.

Judges' Award
Sometimes a piece worthy of recognition doesn't fall into any of the award categories. It may have something special about it that is hard to define. The judges may choose, at their own discretion, to name their own category. They may also use this award for recognizing a piece that ran a very close second to one of the other winners.

Woodworking for Pleasure
This prize is awarded to the best piece exhibited by a person for whom woodworking is an avocation.

Best Turning
This award honors the tradition of turning. This winning piece will exhibit quality of form as well as execution. This award will only be given if there are at least five turning entrants.

Best Carving
This prize is awarded to the piece with the best use and execution of carving. It is differentiated from the Best Handwork award in that the carving is the essence of the piece, not just an element. This award will only be given if there are at least five carving entrants.

The People's Choice
Determined by balloting by the general public, this award recognizes the crowd's favorite piece in the show.
Northern Woods Exhibition Rules for Entry

1. Entries are limited to objects made primarily of wood.
2. Each entrant may submit any number of pieces, but only two pieces are eligible for judging.
3. Previously judged pieces are not eligible for entry. Previously shown but not judged pieces can be entered and may be judged.
4. The show committee reserves the right to reject a piece they deem unacceptable for any reason.
5. All pieces must remain on the floor for the duration of the show.
6. All pieces must be displayed on attractive white or black pedestals. Pedestals must have leg levelers. Small items may be displayed in entrant or Guild provided display cases. Please contact the show committee if you would like space in a Guild display case.
7. Advertising is limited to portfolios, business cards, and Guild sponsored publications. All advertising must remain next to the entrant's piece(s).
8. Although the Guild and Southdale will have people monitoring the show at all times, neither is responsible for damage to, or loss of, pieces on display.
9. Pieces submitted after September 16th are not eligible for judging nor inclusion in the show brochure.
10. Entrants are required to volunteer time staffing the Guild booth.
11. Items required at time of entry:
   a. Piece Description - A description of the piece which will be published in the show brochure. Description should include dimensions, materials, and selling price if applicable.
   b. Biographical Data - Biography of entrant. Biographies will be published in the brochure.
   c. Color Prints, Black and White Prints or Slides (optional) - If received by September 23rd, may be printed in brochure. If received early, may be included in press releases.
   d. Entry Fee - Fee is totally refundable if piece is deemed unacceptable for any reason.
   e. Hand Tool Usage (optional) - If piece is to be judged for hand tool use, a paragraph explaining the hand tool use is required.
   f. Piece Contributors - Entrant must state if any other individuals contributed directly to the piece (e.g. designers, finishers, etc.). Pieces constructed with second party contributors are welcomed, however, they will not be judged on the corresponding characteristics. (e.g. If piece was finished by a second party it is not eligible for the Best Finish Award, unless of course the piece is co-entered by both parties.)
   g. Pieces to be Judged (optional) - Indicate if you want the piece to be judged.
Northern Woods Exhibition 1996
Entry Form

Entrant's Name

Business Address

Address

Phone Number (H) ___________ (W) ___________

You must be a Guild member in good standing or a member in good standing of another recognized area woodworking association to enter the exhibition. Include $25 annual membership dues if you are a new Guild member, and any past dues if a current Guild member. The entry fee for Guild and fiscally participating association members is $25. The fee for non-fiscally participating association members is $35. There is also a $10 surcharge for additional piece if you enter more than two.

Please provide the following information for each piece:

1. Piece description (state dimensions as depth X length X height), materials, price (optional). Include "human interest" description (e.g. piece history, why did you build it, what does it symbolize, etc.).

2. Biographical information.

3. Hand tool usage (optional) - see rule 11e.

4. Piece contributors - see rule 11f.

5. Is piece to be judged:  □ Yes  □ No

If you compose your piece description and bio on a computer, to aid in the keylining of the show brochure please send an electronic version. Microsoft Word (Windows or Mac) on 3.5" diskette is preferred.

I have read the rules of entry and agree to the terms and conditions as stated:

Signed ___________________________ Date ___________

Return this form with your entry fee, and any dues you owe to:
Northern Woods Exhibition
c/o 4th Street Guild
2625 S.E. 4th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55414

For more information call (612) 378-2605

please make checks payable to Minnesota Woodworkers Guild
Simple Contractor Saw Improvements

I have recently made two easy improvements to my Delta contractor’s saw which have really added to its functionality for me. Neither took long although one is an idea I’ve contemplated for some time.

While I’ve often coveted a top of the line cabinet saw, the truth is my contractor’s saw serves me just fine and can do anything I need to do accurately. However, I suspect it doesn’t collect dust as well due to its open back. I simply cut a piece of cardboard to close up the back as well as I could. The cardboard will need to be removed to tilt the blade, but most of my cuts are made with the blade at 90 degrees. The cardboard is fastened to the saw with duct tape. I also taped over some of the other holes in the cabinet body. The first time I need to remove the cardboard, I may use it as a template to make a piece of hardboard which I can screw on. Meanwhile, however, dust collection is much improved.

I also attached a rail to the left side of the saw which has added to both safety and function. The rail is flush with the table and mounted through the three holes in the side of the extension. It extends 27” beyond the back of the table. I attached a leg near the back and placed a single screw on top of the rail. The rail supports my cross-cut box and the screw stops it after the work is clear of the blade but before my safety guard exposes the blade. The screw is easy to remove when in the way and just as easy to replace.

Rick Berland

Simple Workbench Improvements

Like many of us, I’m sure, I harbor some dreams of building a new workbench. I have some new ideas both from working on my current bench and from seeing other possibilities. Also, hopefully, my skills have increased since making this one. I read The Workbench Book in order to find more possibilities and perhaps design the bench of my dreams. The book is full of good ideas which seem to have led me in a different direction than I intended.

I made simple variations of some of the new ideas for my present bench. After doing this, I’m less inclined to build a new bench, at least for now. Best of all, none of the following small projects took much time to make but each added substantially to the utility of the bench. They can be made with substantially scrap material.

First, after intending to do it for some time, I re-flattened the top. Like many things, it’s easier than you might think and helped immeasurably.

I added a bench stop. I sometimes plane boards which are longer than my dogs can contain. If I build the new bench, I’ll build in a nice stop like Bruce Keifer has done. However, fastening a slotted board to an end cap with lag screws is a simple retrofit. The screws are just tight enough to hold the stop at any point without tightening/loosening. The stop simply slides up when needed and rests below the plane of the top when not in use.

I also made a simple bench slave which I use when working on long boards or wide panels in the shoulder vise. The bench slave rides on the front stretcher (It’s boxed in front and behind and has braces which hold it upright.) and behind the dog block. The front edge is flush with the front edge of the bench and is t-slotted. A simple support adjusts easily up and down to the correct height while the entire slave slides easily to the appropriate location.

The simplest idea of all has been most useful. I built my shoulder vise jaw quite long and it can rack easily when holding work on one end. Since I almost always have a piece of scrap which is the same thickness as the workpiece, I simply put a spring clamp on one end. The scrap stays well positioned whether the vise is open or closed and makes inserting and removing the workpiece much easier.

Rick Berland
July 16, 1996 Tuesday 7:30 P M

Location: Woodcraft Supply Store, 9741 Lyndale Ave. So., Minneapolis. The store is south of I 494 on Lyndale Ave.

STARTING YOUR OWN BUSINESS: John Scott will discuss some of areas that need to be considered to convert woodworking hobbies into full or part-time businesses.

Woodcraft Supply Store will offer some discounts on merchandise to the members in attendance, so come early.

August 20, 1996 Tuesday 7:30 P M

Location: L Studio, 1101 Stinson Boulevard, Minneapolis, MN. The location is north of downtown Minneapolis on I 35W. Take the Stinson/New Brighton Boulevard exit, go east to Stinson Boulevard, and south 1 block to Broadway Avenue.

PHOTOGRAPHING WOODWORKING PROJECTS: Burt Levy will demonstrate professional photography methods.

September 17, 1996 Tuesday 7:30 P M

Location: Kieffer Custom Furniture, Inc., 2242 University Avenue West, St. Paul, MN. Take I 94 to the Cretin/Vandalia Ave. exit, go north to University Ave., then left to the next stoplight (Hampden Ave.). Park in the lot behind the building and enter the rear door and go to the basement.

WHEELWRIGHT: Michael Botts will demonstrate making wooden wheels.
Northern Woods

President's Notes

The winds of change have rolled in to my life. I have found a new job and will no longer be the president. I will miss seeing you at Woodcraft and our educational meetings. Thank you for the wonderful times I have had in the Minnesota Woodworkers Guild. I will still see you at the educational meetings and will always enter something in to Northern Woods.

Congratulations to everybody at the 4th St. Guild for the article in the October Woodwork Magazine. Those of you new to the guild might not know of the 4th St. Guild. They are several of our members who have a professional shop and make a living doing woodwork. We have had several meetings at their shop (Paul Lee's Using a mortising attachment video), and will hopefully have more in the future.

I have been happy with how this has developed. If you have any ideas for a group purchase, let the next president know or go directly to Allen Furber.

Elections for the board of directors will be held in November. The board of directors is looking for new blood. If you would like to join a team of woodworkers who get together once a month, volunteer at the November meeting.

A tremendous amount of work and money has gone into the Northern woods show. There will be free demos going on at the show to educate the public. I am proud that our guild has the talent to pull together a show of this size and also the diversity of skills to have free demos. Please stop in at the show for the awards banquet on Friday night. This is open to everybody in the guild not just the people who entered the show.

Thank you for all the friendships I have made over the last few years. I have received more from the Woodworkers Guild then I ever bargained for.

Patrick Juettner
President
Patrick Juettner
(612) 452-8674
Vice President
Willis Bowman
Treasurer
Douglas Perlick

Members at Large
Rick Berland, David Boulay,
Richard Lagerstrom, R. W.
Kurtenbach,
Allan Furber
Newsletter Editor
Den West 377-5984

Next issue deadline is November 20th.

**Special Member's Discount**

All four twin cities Woodworkers Stores now offer a 10% discount to guild members on any regular priced item. The discount does not apply to power tools, sale items, and other promotional priced items.

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**1996 Group Lumber Buy a Success**

The group buy this year was a little less than 1995, but it was still a great success.

- Total board feet: 3,150
- Total dollars: $7,200
- Number of orders: 25

Everyone who placed an order will be mailed a map and other necessary information.

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**SAFETY TIP**

[Editor's note: Thanks to Erling Hallanger for submitting this safety tip. If you have a safety tip or a serious incident you would like to share, please send to the editor or to Erling C. Hallanger, 1875 Tatum, St. Paul, MN 55113.]

I needed a piece of wood with this cross section:

```
\[ \text{I set the blade at 45 degrees thus:} \]
```

When the board had almost cleared the blade, the blade caught in the work, projecting the board into the wall where it made a hole through the sheetrock.

This cut can be made more safely by using the fence on the "safe" side of the blade:

```
\[ \text{I set the blade at 45 degrees thus:} \]
```

**TIPS NEEDED**

You don't have to be a good writer; we have good editors. Just send your tips to me with a rough sketch, if needed, for our newsletter. I even have a "staff artist" who can render your drawings. Send in any format. If you have a PC and can do it on either Word for MAC or PC, that would be great. But I'll accept anything readable, even scribbling on a napkin. The themes for the next newsletter are Safety and Wood Finishing. I know everyone has their favorite safety tip or close call and every woodworker has a favorite way of finishing. Write them down and send them in to Dennis West, 1925 2nd Ave. No. MPLS, MN 55405.
The fourteenth annual Northern Woods Exhibition will be held Thursday October 17th through Sunday the 20th at Southdale. Setup for the exhibition is Wednesday night. The awards ceremony and reception will be held Friday starting at 8:30 PM. All Guild members and guests are encouraged to attend the reception. As in past years, refreshments and treats will be served at the reception.

There will be a Minnesota’s Woodworkers Guild booth at the show. We need members to staff the booth and help answer audience questions about the Guild and the show. If you would like to volunteer, please call Richard Gotz at 544-7278. If you have questions regarding entering a piece in the show, call Tim Johnson 378-2605 or Craig Jentz 922-0734.

Patternmaking/Modelmaking Classes Offered

The patternmaking/Modelmaking program at Minneapolis Technical College is offering night classes and now is the time to register. The class is called PATN 3120 “Option Lab 1.” You can take either or both classes and each class is two credits.

Register in person at the registrar’s office, Bldg “C”, room 102, or call 341-7006. For more information call Bob Lund at 370-9432, ext 204.

American Tool Supply, (612) 227-3500, Discounts varying with items. No sale discounts.
Derickson Co., Inc., (612) 332-6791, Dwight, Wholesale prices to Guild members.
Gardner Hardware, (612) 333-3393, Mike, 20% discount on supplies, some hand tools. No discount on power tools. Call for information.
Hirshfield Decorating Centers (10 metro locations and Rochester) Wholesale prices to guild members. Discounts apply to stains, varnishes, application tools, and sundries. No discounts to window treatments, wall coverings, or fabrics.
Lake Elmo Hardwood Lumber, (612) 777-8118, Joe Rogers, Discount depends on wood type and quantity, hardwood only. Call Joe for details before placing your order.
Savitt Bros., (612) 871-1155, Burt Savit, Discount to net price. Guild members receive contractor discount.
Swanson Hardware, (612) 925-4083, all sales staff, Wholesale prices to Guild members.
Tool Crib of Minnesota, (612) 521-7657, Terry, Various discounts on cutters and tools, depending on item and quantity.
Valspar Paint, (612) 827-1787, Kevin, 20% discount to Guild members at all three locations.
Warner Industrial Supply, (612) 378-7300, Dan Shea, 10% discount to Guild members.
Woodcarvers Store and School, (612) 927-7491, George, 10% on all items. Additional discount on router bits.
Youngblood Lumber Co., (612) 789-3521, Randy, Wholesale prices to Guild members.
Guild Meetings

October 17th thru 20th
Northern Woods Exhibit @ Southdale Mall

November 19, Tuesday, 7:30 PM
Location: The Woodworkers Store, 3025 Lyndale Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN. Located On Lyndale Avenue just south of Lake Street.

**BENTWOOD BOXES:** Otto Leonardson will demonstrate the technique of making bentwood boxes.

December 10, Tuesday, 7:30 PM
Location: Performax Products, Inc., 12257 Nicollet Avenue South, Burnsville, MN. Take I 35W to the Highway 13 north exit (which goes east): turn left at Nicollet Avenue and go two blocks.

**SANDING:** Wayne Wenzlaff and Warren Weber will demonstrate sanding techniques and equipment.
As hoped, the quality and breadth of this year’s Northern Woods Exhibition was excellent. Overall, with the exception of big problems with publicity and some minor day-to-day coordination issues, the show was very successful. A recap of the awards:

Best in Show & Peer Award: Elizabeth Barnard, Dining Table with Built-in Trivet
The People’s Choice & Best Finish: Richard Gotz, Spalted Birdseye Maple Hallway Table
Best Design: Richard Helgeson, End Tables
Most Technically Accomplished: Paul Lee, Two Chairs from a Set of Six
Most Daring: Noel Swanson, Caduceus - Clothspress
Best Handwork: John Nesset, Jewelry Case
Woodworking for Pleasure: Don Wattenhoffer, Blanket Chest
Best Turning: Joel Nopola, Turned Bowl
Judges Award: Ross Peterson, Cabinets

In addition to the entrants and the show committee as a whole, special thanks to the following people: Tim Johnson for his unrelenting energy in coordinating everything. Dave Looney for securing the Southdale venue. Master ad and booth salesperson Dave Boulay. Jerry Lilja and John Nesset for joining the show committee this year. Marquetry Club, Tom Dengler, Joel Simon, Joel Nopola, Doug Perlick, Pat Juettner, and Don Wattenhoffer for their demonstrations. Quiz show masters Tom Caspar and Tim Johnson. Quiz show gizmos alla Willis Bowman. Awards ceremony host Joe Gosnell. Awards reception coordinators Paul and Carol Lee and Dave Looney (more than enough food for all, that’s a first). Sunday photos by Mike Keefe, coordinated by Tim Johnson. Various Guild members for making ballot boxes and ballot box stands. Daily coordinators Tim Johnson, Dave Boulay, Willis Bowman, Jerry Lilja, and Pat Juettner.

Our next steps will be working to get the show published in national woodworking magazines. One of this year’s judges, Glenn Gordon, will be writing an article for Woodwork magazine on Northern Woods and the Guild itself. Look for it in an upcoming issue. We will also be submitting photos and press releases to all the other national publications. On a related front, Timothy Schreiner, editor of Home Furniture has agreed to be a judge for next year’s show.

Northern Woods continues to grow in quality and breadth. With its increased size comes the need for more volunteers. Please contact Craig Jentz at 922-0734 if you would like to volunteer, or have suggestions for improving the Exhibition.

See you and your pieces next October.

Northern Woods Committee
Meeting Notes

Fourth Street Guild
August 15, 1995

This outstanding meeting had three parts. It started with the Show & Tell, Buy & Sell section which we've been trying at the last several meetings. This new pre-meeting is getting increasingly successful as more members are willing to share ideas. Please consider bringing something to show, ask about, or sell. Make this part of the meetings a success!

Tom Caspar and John Hoppe gave some valuable tips they have developed over the years. This was quite interesting and I'm sure each of us got many valuable ideas.

The last section permitted members to "Stump the Experts", Tom, John, Joel Simon, and Tim Johnson. Several members asked questions and received different opinions from these gracious panelists. The Guild thanks Tom, John, Joel, and Tim for their effort!

Tom mentioned that he has printed a book for his Working at the Bench classes. Contact Tom to purchase this excellent text.

Rick Berland
Wet Grinder

Thanks to my good friend, Doug Perlick, I have had a wet grinder for the last several weeks. It’s an old, used, no-name grinder that he found for me at a second hand store after having tried a similar model himself and highly recommending it. I’m very grateful to him. I use it with a Veritas tool rest which he also recommended.

Effective sharpening is one of the keys to successful hand tool use. However, in spite of Tom Caspar’s patient teaching, I never got very good with the regular grinding wheel; I seemed prone to bum the tool at least occasionally no matter how careful I tried to be. Needing to be so careful also made each grinding project very slow and unpleasant.

Enter the new wet grinder. I have ground many chisels and irons to full wire edges without the tools ever even warming up. It’s fast and easy; you can keep the tool on the wheel continuously until it reaches the desired point. From my experience, I can highly recommend a wet grinder to anyone who finds the dry grinder difficult.

Rick Berland

Share Your Talents & Have Some Fun

Lots of great activities are sponsored by the Guild without announcement to the general membership. Sometimes there isn’t time and other times only a few people are needed. You may be missing a chance to meet other members, have some fun, learn new skills, and do some woodworking with other members instead of hiding alone in your own shop! Your loss is also the Guild’s loss; your talents and time are needed so the Guild can continue to expand the services it provides to members.

Examples of Guild projects range from the building of the hanging display you’ve seen at Northern Woods, the current building of the first Guild library box, attending booths at various events, building the Northern Woods awards, video-taping meetings, serving on the board or Northern Woods planning committee, and many others. As you can see some are one time, short term projects and others are ongoing.

Please give your name, phone numbers, and interests to a board member if you are willing to be called occasionally to volunteer. Go ahead and try it! You can always say no and/or ask to have your name taken back off the list if it doesn’t work for you.

Rick Berland

Want Ads

Want Ads (40 word maximum) are free to members and $5.00 per ad to non-members. To place a want ad, write or phone; Dennis West, 1925 2nd Ave., MPLS, MN 55405 (612) 377-5985

FOR SALE

Vintage user tools: Stanley/Bailey planes, chisels, etc. John Walkowiak 824-0785.

Arco Rotary 3-Phase Convertor Model A. Convert 220 volt single phase to 220 volt 3-phase power to run any 3-phase motor up to 5 horse power, and a total of various 3-phase motors up to 15 horse power. Includes disconnect switch. $500. Call Bruce Kieffer (612) 642-9615.


Porter Cable biscuit joiner with metal tool box. Excellent condition. $75. Rick Berland. 925-9392.

MEETING CHANGE

There has been some interest expressed recently in devoting a portion of each meeting to discussing member's current projects and brainstorming problems. To accommodate this interest, the following meetings will begin 15 minutes earlier than shown for those members who wish to participate in these discussions. So bring your projects and questions to the next meeting-and come early.

January 16, 1996 Tuesday 7:30 PM
Location: Kieffer Custom Furniture, Inc., 2242 University Ave. W. St. Paul, MN 642-9615. Take I94 to the Cretin/Vandalia Ave exit, go north to University Ave., then left to the next stop light which is Hampden. Park in the lot behind the building and enter the rear door and go to the basement.

ROUTER TECHNIQUES: Bruce Kieffer, a member of the guild and a professional woodworker, will demonstrate router techniques.

February 24, 1996 Saturday 6:30 PM
Location: Jax Cafe, 1928 University Ave., N.E., MPLS, MN.

WINTER PARTY: Members and their guests are invited to a fun and enjoyable social event. Invitations with more information will be mailed to all members.

March 19, 1996 Tuesday 7:30 PM
Location: Minneapolis Technical College, 1415 South Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, MN, 370-9400. The College is located on the south end of downtown MPLS. Park in the ramp on Hennepin Ave. acrosss from the college.

PATTERN AND MODEL MAKING: Robert Lund, instructor of the department, will demonstrate pattern and model making.
Show Observations by
Peter Ribotto

Some thoughts and observations on participating in the 14th Annual Northern Woods Exhibition: This is my second year in the exhibition and my first as a member of the committee responsible for putting it together. Although I was involved in another guild and another show in northern Minnesota about ten years ago, the scale and intensity of this show, and my level of involvement, is much greater. It is really the high point of the year and the Guild's largest undertaking, with planning starting in March for a show that takes place in October.

Obviously, one of the most exciting things about the exhibition is being able to show and discuss your work with a great number of people, both woodworkers and the general public alike. Although we talk about our projects during the year with people in our own circles, this event provides a great opportunity to obtain input, comments, and critiques from a much larger group of professionals and enthusiasts with wide ranges of interest and experience.

The show also offers a great venue for visiting with Guild members whom you may not see during the year, since not everyone is able to attend the monthly meetings. You also meet a lot of people who are interested in woodworking but who may be unfamiliar with the Guild, so the opportunity exists to enlist new members. And it's always nice speaking with people who may not be woodworkers at all but who have an appreciation for fine furniture and craftsmanship.

An unexpected benefit of the show, however, is that the whole event is very inspiring. Seeing a large number of high quality pieces on display, speaking with woodworkers about their projects and techniques, and discussing the ever-present finishing problems, motivates me to get started on a new project.

Anyone who has been through it will certainly attest to the tremendous amount of work necessary to get a piece of furniture ready for the show, not to mention the effort involved in transporting pieces and setting everything up. However, it's worth every minute when people come up to you and ask you about your work and tell you how much they like the piece you have on display. If you've ever considered entering but have some doubts about whether or not you should, talk with someone who has been a part of it; they will gladly answer any questions you may have. Then get out those sketches you've had in your desk, sharpen up your tools, and make plans to enter the 15th Annual Northern Woods Exhibition.
Late this summer, news about harvesting tens of thousands of old-growth logs from the floor of Lake Superior caught my attention. Scott Mitchen, an underwater explorer and Wisconsin native had discovered the logs almost a decade ago while diving for sunken treasure in Chequamegon Bay. Since then, he and a group of investors have purchased the water rights and worked to pass legislation that allows them to take immediate possession of the abandoned logs in order to begin milling operations at their new lumber mill in Ashland, the Superior Water-Logged Lumber Company.

Intrigued by his story, I contacted Scott about the possibility of a Minnesota Woodworkers Guild group purchase. At his invitation, I decided to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new mill on October 4th, accompanied by Elizabeth Barnard.

We arrived in Ashland around noon, too late to witness a log raising demonstration and too early for the ribbon cutting ceremony and pig roast. Instead, we met with some of the investors and staff of the lumber company, learning about how the logs were retrieved from the bottom of Lake Superior, as well looking at some of the freshly milled lumber.

The logs have been underwater for more than a century. They sank while floating offshore, waiting to be milled at one of the 15 sawmills during the peak of Ashland’s milling industry in 1890. Due to the low oxygen content and frigid temperatures of Lake Superior, the logs have been well preserved. Mitchen and his company have raised approximately 600 logs to date and plan to bring up 30,000 over the next 10-15 years. About 60 percent of the harvested logs are softwoods — primarily hemlock and pine. The remaining logs include richly figured birdseye maple, flame birch, red oak, yellow birch and elm. Many of the logs are “slow growth” lumber, with 30-50 rings per inch. Mitchen describes the wood as “very stable and fine grained.”

Once the logs have been floated up to the surface on large air bags, they will be taken to the renovated Louisiana-Pacific lumber mill to dry in one of several ways, either by air or in the dehumidification kiln, depending upon the needs of the end user. While no price list has been developed as of yet, small sample orders of wood may be ordered from the lumber company. Prices range from $10 board/foot for most of the hardwoods to $50 board/foot for figured and birdseye maple.

Mitchen envisions leasing space to woodworking craftspeople and artisans, as well as developing a retail and restaurant complex, a logging museum and interpretive center. The city of Ashland sold the building to Mitchen for $1 and hopes the lumber company will revive the city’s flagging tourism industry.

More information will be presented at the MWG meeting on April 15 when Rick Sturtz, a woodworker and consultant to Mitchen’s company will be our speaker. In the meantime, if you are interested in visiting the Superior Water-Logged Lumber Company or purchasing lumber directly from them, the number is (715) 685-9663.
**WOOD SUPPLIERS provided by Peter Ribotto**

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<td>Woodworkers Store</td>
<td>Mpls 612-888-3338</td>
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<td>Twin Cities Metro</td>
<td>Burnsville 612-542-0111</td>
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Special Group Buy

The Minnesota Woodworkers Guild has arranged a group buy

Grip-Tite Magnetic Featherboards

These featherboards are the same one that are sold everywhere for $30.00 or more.

They feature a tremendously powerful magnet and lexan plastic springs.

$23.00 Each

These featherboards may be picked up in Bloomington or at any Guild function. If you wish them shipped to you, please add $3.00 for the first featherboard and $1.00 for each additional unit.

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**Total Due** $________

Your Name

Address

City, St, Zip

Phone No

Make checks payable to Minnesota Woodworkers Guild

Sent order with check to Allan Furber

10440 Brunswick Circle

Bloomington, MN 55438

Orders must be received by Dec 31, 1996

Questions? Call Allan Furber, 830-1504
The guild recently elected new officers for 1997, and it is my pleasure to serve the guild as the new president. Being associated with this guild has been a very positive and rewarding experience for me, and I am pleased to serve the guild in this capacity. Fortunately, I have an excellent group of board members to work with, including Willis Bowman and Doug Perlick, who were re-elected to serve as vice-president and secretary/treasurer respectively. Kurt Kurtenbach will continue as our program director. Pat Juettner will remain on the board as past president. And thanks to all the other members-at-large for their contributions. If you have any suggestions to improve any aspect of our program, please don’t hesitate to call me at home or the office.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to Peter Ribotto as he joins us on the board. Peter has been a member of the guild for two years, has entered the Northern Woods show for the past two years, and was on the Northern Woods committee this year. I am looking forward to working with Peter on the board. Look for Peter’s article, “Show Observations”, elsewhere in this newsletter.

One of my priorities will be to expand the quality and quantity of our newsletter starting with this issue. The board recently decided to increase the number of issues from 4 per year to 6 year, and eventually, our goal is to have a monthly newsletter so that dated information can get to our readers more quickly. In addition, we hope to able to include more pictures and drawings. Of course, we always need more people to write articles, so I will be calling on you from time to time, to submit articles. Dennis West will continue as editor of the newsletter up through the June 1997 issue. We need someone to step forward and take over this function. Please call Dennis or myself if you might be interested.

The 1996 Northern Woods Exhibition was held at Southdale Center on October 17-20 and it was another outstanding success. The show committee started meeting in March, and continued to meet each month until October. As you might expect, the months of September and October were frantic with last minute preparation. The show was set up on Wednesday evening and continued into the wee hours of the morning. Thanks to the crew that stayed until the bitter end. Judging was held all day Friday and the ceremony was held in center court after the mall closed. The master of ceremonies, Mr. Tim Johnson, performed a secret superman-type transformation from blue-jeans & T-shirt, to a tuxedo. Tim came extremely well prepared and added “class” to our Oscar, aana "Woodies", presentation. Please see a list of the winners else where in this newsletter.

If you want to comment on the show, drop a note or call any committee member and tell them what you thought. The committee meets on a monthly basis from March until October. This show requires a lot more effort than anyone may think, but it is also very rewarding. If you are interested in being on the committee next year or helping in some way, please contact Craig Jentz.

A new award category, “Top Drawer” was revealed at this year’s Northern Woods show. Thanks to Tim Johnson and Tom Caspar of the 4th Street Guild and Complements store for sponsoring this cash award.

Recently, several Board members have explored the possibility of hiring a portable sawmill, such as a Wood Mizer, and harvesting city trees that might otherwise end up in the fireplace or landfill. Our first opportunity is located in a St. Paul backyard but it may prove to be too difficult to remove except in small pieces. If you are aware of any trees that could be harvested, please call Peter Ribotto. Starting with this newsletter, we will publish a list of wood suppliers. If you are aware of a quality supplier within the six state area, please call Peter and he’ll add them to our list. In subsequent issues we will be publishing a list of sawyers and kilns in the metro area.

The guild board is working on group buys for the magnetic feature boards and Lie-Nielsen planes. Watch for details in the next newsletter.

Thanks to an idea presented to me by Erling Hallanger, we will be starting a new program called “Members Helping Members.” Watch for details in the next issue.

Incidentally, the beautiful goblet above is the creation of Alan Lacer. His “Wilted Goblet” won Best Turning in the Northern Woods Show.

And last but not least, we welcome all those that joined the guild during our Northern Woods show. We look forward to meeting all of you at our various functions.

Richard Gotz
President, Minnesota Woodworkers Guild
A Judge's Thoughts on the Northern Woods Show

The panel of judges for the 14th Annual Northern Woods Exhibition at Southdale included one judge from the previous year’s show and two who were new to the job. The carryover from last year was yours truly, Glenn Gordon, a writer and furnituredesigner. The two new judges were the veteran woodworkers Burt Taylor and Butch Stelmasik, of Waves of Grain, a well-known shop in Minneapolis. Burt and Butch were some of the first people to join the Minnesota Woodworkers Guild in the early ‘eighties. Having exhibited works of their own at Northern Woods shows in years past, neither of them came to the job of judging completely cold.

Last year, someone came up and asked me, “What are the judges looking for?” My answer was, “I don’t know... whatever gets through to me.: It’s a little like the Supreme Court Justice’s famous answer to the question, “What is pornography?” — “I’m not sure, but I know it when I see it.”: The same is true of quality — you know it when you see it: it talks to you, often transcending your pet preconceptions of what’s solid, valid, interesting, or beautiful. In judging, I’m not looking for work that just masses my own design prejudices. I have my own tastes, but I try to keep them off the table... judging is not the same as shopping — you have to try to judge things on their own terms, not on yours.

Speaking for myself (though Burt and Butch pretty much agree with what is being said in this column), I felt that some woodworkers who showed strong pieces last year didn’t quite rise to the occasion this time around. However, I can also think of a few whose works this year were more impressive, showing more thought, more technical maturity, and better design. Three people whose works immediately come to mind are Peter Ribotto (white oak cabinet), Richard Gotz (cabinetmaker’s workbench, though it was more a ritual altar than a workbench) and Ross Peterson, whose fine sideboard establishes a benchmark of excellence I think every entrant should aspire to, no matter what style they happen to work in.

On the whole, the work in this year’s show seemed less adventurous than last year’s — the best works this year were more conservative than bold... there was less of the kind of exhilaration that comes from taking risks and challenging yourself, not only as a technician, but as a designer.

Details: some otherwise good pieces in the show featured badly chosen hardware: either too coarse, too shiny, too conspicuous, out of proportion, or wrong for the historical period or the mood of the piece.

Most of the works in the show were done using the old standbys of walnut, cherry, maple, or mahogany — all fine timbers, but it was good to see a few people exploring the character of other species, a table done in red elm, a bench made of pine, a canoe of aspen. On the down side aesthetically, the use of the high-contrast combination of walnut and maple wears thin after a while. Sometimes the two work together, if one is clearly dominant and the other just used for accents, but too much of the time the combination is clichéd and lacking in subtlety.

There were a couple of pieces in the show that were interesting or promising artistically but not fully thought-out structurally, or else just badly executed. Occupying a nether world somewhere between furniture and sculpture, they didn’t succeed at being either, mostly because the makers didn’t ask enough of themselves technically to counterbalance the flash of inspiration that got them started.

Of the 60-or-so works entered this year for judging, there were four or five that shouldn’t have been accepted in. A few had unbelievably sloppy joints and goopy finishes, and had clearly been built in a big hairy rush. A few others weren’t really done yet, but still works in progress. The chance to show at Southdale only comes once a year, but forcing a piece just to get it in under the wire sabotages the whole idea of craftsmanship. You’re better off showing the piece next year. If it’s good, it’ll keep, and its patina will be that much richer.

Talking it over with the other two judges, the consensus was that the level of work in the show as a whole was much higher than in the Guild’s formative years. Butch Stelmasik said that the expansion of opportunities to learn through books and workshops has had the effect of elevating craftsmen’s expectations of themselves, bother technically and aesthetically, though he wished more people would stretch out and take a few more chances with design. Burt Taylor, who runs a production shop, a business where you always have to worry about time and money and quality control, was impressed by the high caliber of the work in the show done for pleasure.

As far as the judging itself goes, the jury is still out on this one. Some entrants felt the written comments were too offhand and perfunctory. One exhibitor, frustrated at what he felt was a lack of constructive criticism, tore up his critiques and threw them away in the parking lot. People pay a fee to enter the show and want some substantial feedback in return, but in the judges’ defense, the way things are set, these critiques all have to be written in a very short time... the quality of the criticism might improve if there were more time to do it. Also, you can always try to buttonhole a judge afterwards (unless, of course, the judge skips town.)

To sum up for all three of us, the 14th annual show was a good one but too uneven in quality to be a great one. The skill was there, but the fires of creativity burned a little less bright compared to the year before. More exhibitors should be playing for keeps, not just to win a Woody, but so visitors to the show can see what a genuine commitment to excellence in woodworking is all about.

Electronic Mail

Our Guild email address list is slowing growing but i am sure their are more members with an email address at work or at home. It’s a great way to exchange information with other guild members or be informed of activities that didn’t make it into the newsletter. Simply send me an email at rgotz@empros.com and I will get you on the list.
American Tool Supply, (612) 227-3500, Discounts varying with items. No sale discounts.


Derrickson Co., Inc., (612) 332-6791, Dwight, Wholesale prices to Guild members.

Gardner Hardware, (612) 333-3393, Mike, 20% discount on supplies, some hand tools. No discount on power tools. Call for information.

Hirshfield Decorating Centers (10 metro locations and Rochester) Wholesale prices to guild members. Discounts apply to stains, varnishes, application tools, and sundries. No discounts to window treatments, wall coverings, or fabrics.

Lake Elmo Hardwood Lumber, (612) 777-8118, Joe Rogers, Discount depends on wood type and quantity, hardwood only. Call Joe for details before placing your order.

Savitt Bros., (612) 871-1155, Burt Savitt, Discount to net price. Guild members receive contractor discount.

Swanson Hardware, (612) 925-4083, all sales staff, Wholesale prices to Guild members.

Tool Crib of Minnesota, (612) 521-7657, Terry, Various discounts on cutters and tools, depending on item and quantity.

Valspar Paint, (612) 827-1787, Kevin, 20% discount to Guild members at all three locations.

Warner Industrial Supply, (612) 378-7300, Dan Shea, 10% discount to Guild members.

Woodcarvers Store and School, (612) 927-7491, George, 10% on all items. Additional discount on router bits.

Woodworkers Stores, all four twin cities Woodworkers Stores now offer a 10% discount to guild members on any regular price item. The discount does not apply to power tools, sale items, and other promotional priced items.

Youngblood Lumber Co., (612) 789-3521, Randy, Wholesale prices to Guild members.

Northern Woods Vitrines: A Special Thanks

When Willis starting talking about making several vitrines for the October Northern Woods exhibition, I thought he was talking about a portable biffy. Heck, even my spell checker suggested that the word was misspelled and offered latrine as an alternative. At any rate, I now know that a vitrine is a display cabinet. If you attended the Northern Woods show, you probably noticed several white display cases with acrylic domes. Thanks to Willis Bowman, Tim Johnson (and the 4th Street Guild), Peter Ribotto, and Rich Gotz for donating time to build these elegant display cabinets that will be used for years to come.

Mark Your Calendars

February 22, 1997

Fabulous Dinner

Annual Dinner

The Minnesota Woodworkers Guild

Saturday, February 22, 1997

Current plans call for hors d'oeuvres and cocktails followed by a buffet featuring prime rib, salmon, ham, shrimp and much more. All this in a private setting with lots of space, great views, and a very reasonable price.

Want Ads

Want Ads (40 word maximum) are free to members and $5.00 per ad to non-members. To place a want ad, write or phone; Dennis West, 1925 2nd Ave., MPLS, MN 55405 (612) 377-5985

For Sale:

Guild golf shirts with our own logo, green or white, $29. Call Allan Furber 759-7600.

We have a few Bessey clamps left over from our group buy: K3.540($35.50), TG7.040($32.30), TG4.540($24.80), TG7.040($32.30), WS6($50.00). Call Al Furber.

800 bd ft of air dried lumber. 50% poplar, 25% butternut, 25% misc. Call Steve Dewald 681-9665 (Eagan)


Wanted: A 1993 Northern Woods Exhibition poster displaying Tim & Tom’s workbench. Please call Rich Gotz @ 544-7278.

Space for rent: 1870 sq ft, $600 per month. Also 1750 sq ft penthouse, $700 per month. Concrete, sprinkled bldg. at 1621 E. Hennepin. 3 phase power and water available. 332-8405

Space for rent: Looking for artist/woodworker to share fully equipped cooperative woodshop. 1800 sq ft.; good light; 24 hour access; office space available; downtown MPLS warehouse district; freight elevator/loading dock; $195-250/month. Ben 338-4480.
September's Wheelwrighting meeting with Michael K. Botts

The September meeting was held at Kieffer Custom Furniture, Inc., 2242 University Ave W., St. Paul, MN. on 17 September, 1996.

Michael practices the art of the wheelwright at Fort Snelling and elsewhere where both restoration of historical vehicles and the building of reproductions of wagons and carts is needed. He has compiled much information on the terminology and techniques of the wheelwright, which he shared with us at the meeting. We also had the privilege of seeing some of the historical tools of the trade. Some of the more interesting and unusual tools were developed near the end of the 1800s when fairly modern industrial capabilities became common. Some of the tools from that period seem to be designed more to separate the wheelwright from his money than perform a valuable function; a practice which continues today and is familiar to every woodworker.

The history of the wheel began centuries ago with wheels made from pieces of logs or slabs of whatever wood could be found in a suitable size. That primitive wheel worked, but solid construction produced heavy and fragile wheels, despite their robust look. A great leap in wheel technology occurred when spokes replaced the solid wheel disk and a rim made in segments named 'felloes', with an iron band protecting the circumference of the wheel from wear and road damage, came into existence. The traditional wheel design with spokes persisted with slow but continuous refinement of construction and material selection until the development of motorized transport. As power plant development evolved, spokeed wheels made predominantly of wood could no longer be trusted to handle the increased weight and stresses of high speed vehicles. This lead to the steel wheels used on modern vehicles.

Traditional wheels made in the nineteenth century for farm and goods transport wagons generally were made with felloes of ash, spokes of oak and a hub of elm. Usually an iron insert was placed in the hub to make the axle bearing. Of course, wheels were usually produced locally in a wagon shop so the species of wood depended on local availability.

There are subtle details in wheel construction that had been learned over the centuries and were passed on to apprentice wheelwrights. One of these details is dishing the wheel. A traditional wheel, when mounted on the axle, angles outward from bottom to top when viewed from the front or back of the wagon. This angle matches the dish so the spoke supporting the wheel is also perpendicular to the surface of the road. The dish makes the wheel ride inward on the axle cone and keeps the wheel tight on the axle, even without a retaining nut. The axle cone is also positioned at an angle on the end of the axle so its lower surface is parallel with the road surface. This means any horizontal forces are directed mostly to the inner axle flange, which is larger and stronger than the retaining nut. Axles made of wood are not especially strong, so keeping wheel loads away from the more fragile outer tip of the axle cone is vital.

A well-made wood wheel can have a long service life. Moisture is harmful to the wheel since it expands the wood, loosening the many joints when it later dries, and encourages rot. The usual maintenance of wheels involves soaking them in linseed oil periodically. The most severe damage to wheels on farm wagons was caused by exposure to manure. The moisture and acids in manure attack the wood and dramatically shorten the life of the wheel. However, in the traditional setting, a wheelwright could recover the expensive iron components and construct a new wheel from the remains of the old.

Carriages with wooden wheels disappeared quickly once the automobile came into general use, but farm wagons of traditional design persisted until after the second World War. Many of the wagons by that time had been converted from horse- to tractor-drawn but still performed their task. Many retired wooden wheel wagons still remain in barns and back lots throughout this country. Those which have been protected from vandals and weather are good finds for anyone wanting to restore one to its original beauty.

Last summer I took a bicycle trip through the Amish country of Michigan. There are many horse-drawn carriages and wagons still being used and built in that area. On the back roads, one is more likely to encounter a horse and wagon than a car. The first experience of passing a horse on a bicycle is interesting. The horses do not seem to mind, though.

After the formal talk and presentation, Guild members had numerous questions and comments on the subject of wooden wheels and antique wagons. If you are interested in finding an old wagon to restore, persistence and contact with people familiar with rural areas will usually result in finding some suitable vehicle for a reasonable price. Now, what about the horse...

The Guild wishes to thank Michael Botts for both giving us an interesting introduction to a specialized and disappearing art and for giving us some insight into our quite recent past. We also are grateful to Bruce Kieffer for providing the meeting place.

Richard Lagerstrom

Working at the Bench

If you like to would to take that 'next step" in improving your woodworking abilities, then Tom Caspar's The Unplugged Workshop is for you. Tom will be teaching "Traditional Furniture Making with Handtools" starting the first week in January at the Woodcraft store. Many guild's members have already taken both semesters and it is highly recommended.
Workbench Quest

In an open letter to all woodworking guilds, the American Woodworker magazine is requesting entries for their workbench contest. They are searching for a better bench. To be more specific, they are looking for workbenches that offer the features that are important for efficient, precise, enjoyable woodworking, but don’t cost a fortune to build. Designing and building a good basic bench is a challenging problem and that is why they are tapping into the collective expertise that exists in woodworking guilds. American Woodworker will select up to eight winning workbenches and each winning guild will receive a $1000 prize and coverage in their magazine and future shows. Here are the guidelines:

Materials: The bench should be made from commonly available materials — lumber you can buy at a lumber yard or home center, and hardware that’s available at common retail outlets or through the mail.

Cost: The total cost of the bench (wood and hardware) should not exceed $500.

Ingenuity: In picking the winning benches, we’ll be looking for features that make the workbench special in some way. Some possibilities are: vises made from pipe clamp fixtures, shop-made bench dogs, integral storage space, well crafted joinery, non-traditional materials (plywood top, for example).

How to enter:

Guild entries only. A workbench design can be credited to one or more woodworkers, but the entry must be submitted by your woodworking guild. Guilds may submit more than one entry. Photos and drawings: No entry blank is required: just send a cover letter, photos and drawings. Take photos of your completed bench from several different points of view. Include front and side elevation drawings, and label them with key dimensions and design features. Describe the main features of the bench in your cover letter, and give a breakdown of materials costs.

The deadline for this contest is February 28, 1997. If you are interested in submitting an entry for the Minnesota Woodworkers Guild, please contact Rich Gotz for more details.

Who’s been Published?

Congratulations to John Nesset for his recent article published in the January 1997 issue of the Home Furniture magazine. John’s design resulted from the need to have a “serviceable field table” that could be taken apart quickly and easily transported while traveling. The six page article contains several diagrams detailing interlocking glueless joints that resemble a Japanese puzzle. Also look for John’s Jewelry box and Shoji screen in the next issue of WoodWork magazine.

Congratulations John!

Congratulations to all the craftsmen of the 4th Street Guild (Tim Johnson, Dave Olson, Tom Caspar, Paul Lee, Dan Cramer, and Patrick O’Loughlin) for the article written by Glenn Gordon, a contributing editor for the WoodWORK magazine. The nine page article appeared in the October issue.

Congratulations to ‘the Sons of the Sod’!

Notes from Ian Kirby’s Lecture by Rich Gotz

While attending the American Woodworker show in Chicago September 19-21, I attended two seminars presented by Ian Kirby entitled Solid Wood Construction and The Use of Hand Tools. Ian talked about constructing the “perfect” drawer, which is featured in the December issue of the American Woodworker magazine. I had the opportunity to handle the drawer featured in the article and it felt like a piston. Ian’s discussions were spiced with lots of humor, interesting stories and strong opinions. If you ever have a chance to hear him speak, don’t miss it. I took several notes during his lectures and would like to share them with you.

Always use quarter sawn wood for drawers (quarter sawn wood is more stable and therefore the drawer is less likely to bind during humid weather)

Americans tend to use thick wood. Drawer components can and should be much thinner than 3/4”.

Ian prefers dovetails that are 1:5, rather than the 1:6 or 1:8 that is more common

The sides of a drawer should be planed, but not scraped or sanded, and not finished.

The grain of the drawer bottom should run from side to side, not front to back. If the grain runs front to back, the seasonal expansion is side to side and may cause the drawer to bind.

Ian never stains wood. He likes to wipe on a thin coat of shellac and rub in beeswax.

When using a chisel, he uses his legs to push the chisel, not his arms.

To double your accuracy, start using a sliding caliper.

To double your accuracy again, start using a magnifying glass.

He dislikes the common raised panel door because the grain goes berserk at the top and bottom of the panel. He encouraged original thought on panel construction and provided several alternatives.

When cutting dovetails, Ian always cuts the pins first. Frank Klausz also cuts pins first.
January 16, 1997    Thursday 7:00 PM

Special Meeting (Note change of date and time)

Location: Upper Midwest Conservation Association, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, 2400 Third Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN. The Institute is just west of I35W between Franklin Avenue and Lake Street. Enter through the main entrance and meet at the museum entrance across from the gift shop.

FURNITURE CONSERVATION: Conservators for the Minneapolis Institute of Arts will give a tour of their labs and discuss the techniques of antique furniture conservation.

COST: The tour will cost $3.00 per person.

February 22, 1997 Saturday 6:30 PM

WINTER PARTY: Members and their guests are invited to a fun and enjoyable social event. Invitations with more information will be mailed to all members.

Dinner & Toys

The February Guild Dinner is right around the corner and it’s a good way to spend a cold winter night. Again this year, we are encouraging attendees to create a wooden toy that will be donated to a children’s hospital. The toys will be judged by attendees (both members and significant others) and the toy garnishing the most votes will win a Minnesota Woodworker’s Guild shirt. Some of the toys submitted will be on display at next year’s Northern Woods show and subsequently, all toys will be given to a children’s benefit prior to the holiday season. Hopefully, these toys will warm the heart of a young child while he or she faces the biggest challenge of their life. If you can not be at the dinner, but wish to make a toy and enter it into the competition, please call any board member and we will pick it up. Thanks for your support in this very worthwhile project. Please join us at the dinner, it’s a lot of fun. More information will be mailed prior to the event, but don’t wait until then, start your toy now. Also during the February Guild Dinner, we will be announcing the winner of the annual Bruce Kieffer Award. The event is planned for February 22, 1997.