

The Newsletter of the Minnesota Woodworkers Guild

NORTHERN WOODS

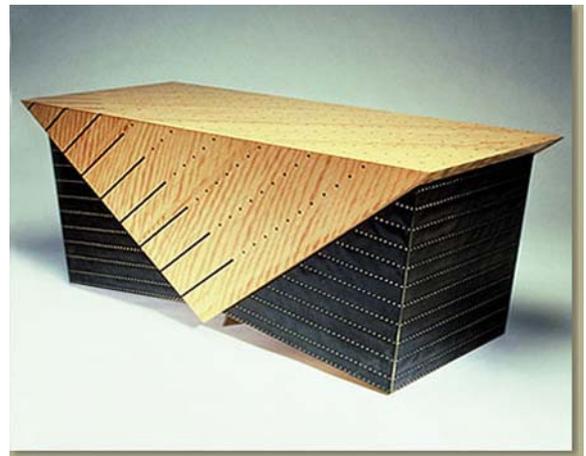
Volume 116

August / September 2008

Fall Seminar October 24, 25, 26 with Michael Fortune



Examples of Michael's work from his website.
See more inside this issue and at:
www.michaelfortune.com



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NORTHERN WOODS

President

Mark Laub
clpiston@aol.com
763-753-1368

Vice President

Dick Schultz
richard_schultz_5@msn.com
952-927-6207

Secretary

Position Open

Membership Director

Carole Magnuson
carolemagnuson@att.net
952-881-2171

Treasurer

Angela Kopacek
angiekopacek@visi.com
612-845-7151

Librarian

John Griffin-Wiesner
johngw@comcast.net
763-543-1153

Newsletter Editor

Bob Bridigum
rlbridigum@aol.com
651-484-4855

Program Director

Kent Huelman
khuelman@visi.com
651-483-1489

Tool Master

Craig Jentz
cj0734@msn.com
612-922-0734

Volunteer Coordinator

Bob Bonde
bob-kay.b@usfamily.net

Members at Large

Charlie Kocourek, Allan Hall,
Barry Whiteaker, David Lane
Richard Tendtck

Membership

To become a member, fill out the coupon below, write check to MN Woodworkers Guild, mail both to:

MN Woodworkers Guild
5700 Vincent Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55410

You will receive your membership card by return mail.

Address Changes

Please forward address and contact change information to Carole Magnuson at the email address shown to your left.

Newsletter

Send articles, "Buy & Sell" submissions and letters to the editor to:

Bob Bridigum
rlbridigum@aol.com
651-484-4855

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President's Notes

by Mark Laub



In a recent editorial in Fine Woodworking Magazine, the editor encouraged woodworkers to periodically step back from their work to see how the piece looks as a whole.

What great advice!

Sometimes we woodworkers can be so oblivious to the obvious. We become so absorbed with the joinery or the fit of the drawers that we often forget to pull back and observe whether or not our new piece is really working. After all, if all the details we toil over don't work together harmoniously, our piece has failed.

Also, as your piece progresses, don't forget to regularly look at the piece as it will be presented once complete. If it is to be a floor piece, get it off the workbench and put it on the floor! Then you can critique your work from the proper direction and perspective.

Another trick is to look at your piece using a mirror. You'll be surprised what you see!

I encourage you to also solicit advice and feedback about your work in progress from experienced fellow MWWG members. That's why we're here. Oftentimes, the feedback we receive from our spouses, significant others, or close friends is.....well....., simply the compliment we hoped to receive.

Finally, while we all get close to the piece we are working on, don't be afraid to get even closer, and then, even closer yet. Every surface, every corner, every edge, inside and out, should be viewed as a canvass. It's your job as the maker to decide whether to leave that canvass blank or to embellish it with your artistry. Make this a conscious decision, and not just an oversight and lost opportunity. Good luck and have fun!

New Membership Coupon

Name

Business Name (if any)

Address

City

State

Zip Code

June Meeting - Tool Testing with TTI
by Bob Rockhnem

The 2nd annual tool test sponsored by TTI got underway at Forest Products on June 17. Last year and this year TTI brought a selection of their new tool designs for the Guild to test and provide marketing feedback. This year's focus was testing the latest in nail gun technology. The technology was so new, we had to sign non-disclosure agreements before getting our hands on the goodies they brought. Unfortunately photos were discouraged and no product descriptions were permitted. The nail gun designs were just too new and not available at this time.

The evenings meeting involved testing and using a group of new nail gun designs by Ryobi and Rigid tool companies. The companies were interested in finding out the features we liked, disliked and thought needed improvement so they could manufacture better tools in the future.

The members conscientiously used the tools, tested the features, made comments, and answered the survey questions, even suggesting where they would be willing to pay more for the tool.

At the end of the evening, as an added bonus, TTI raffled off five nail guns that are commercially available at this time. The winners were:

Eric Hopp	angled pin nailer
Bob Bridigum	brad nailer
Tim Anderson	23 gauge nailer
Jerry Dornquist	18 gauge nailer
Larry Wilson	18 gauge stapler



Our host, Joe Schultz
from TTI, Inc.



Testing one of many
nailers we can't show you

Editor's Choice

Every year the Minnesota Woodworker's Guild puts on the Northern Woods Show. Prizes are awarded for various "Best in" categories, including "Peoples Choice". This past year there were two pieces that I really liked. Every once in a while it is a good thing to be the newsletter editor. This is one of those times, for we have a little more space than usual and I'm going to tell you about one of my two favorites this year.

For the past several years Gerri Summerville has entered a piece in Northern Woods. They are most always to sit on and this year was no exception. The Flamenco Bench shown in the pictures on this page was Gerri's first attempt at carving a piece. She worked under the instruction of Mark Laub. (see the classified ads for Mark's next class offering). The rosette was



carved from a glue-up of several layers and the seams are invisible. Gerri worked on the piece off and on for 18 months. The upholstery is a Joe Hoffman pattern from 1913 that has been reprinted. I thought that was only done with books. The fabric was almost not available for in time for the show and this delayed finishing the piece until the last minute. So Gerri submitted a sketch of the bench which appeared in the catalog.



Gerri demos ergonomics of bench

Gerri and David Clemens own and operate "Left of Center Furniture". Earlier this year, Gerri opened a retail shop for handmade furniture, art, and gifts in Northeast Minneapolis. She describes this solo foray into retail as "old-European meets modern clean lines". The store is at 509 1st First Av. NE.

About Michael Fortune this years presenter for the Fall Seminar

Designer/maker, teacher and mentor Michael C. Fortune is one of Canada's most respected and creative contemporary furniture masters.

Since his career began 33 years ago, Fortune has become acclaimed for his innovative, but resolved, designs for one-of-a-kind objects in wood, commissioned residential furnishings and items in limited editions. His work has brought him an international clientele and reputation. He is acknowledged for both his technical and design expertise, giving lectures and workshops across Canada and the United States. His work has appeared in numerous exhibitions worldwide. In 1993 Fortune received the prestigious Prix Saidye Bronfman, Canada's highest award in the crafts. Juried by his peers, He was the first woodworker to receive this award. He has taught at many schools and craft centers including; Sheridan College School of Crafts and Design, Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, the Rochester Institute of Technology NY, Worcester Center for Crafts in Massachusetts, Anderson Arts Center, Colorado, Savannah College of Art and Design and the Marc Adams School in Indiana where the fellowship program for advanced students has been named in his honor. In 1996 he accepted an invitation to become the first Chair of the new Wood Products Design program in Nelson, British Columbia. This two year contract saw the installation of all the facilities and the development of the core curriculum.



Fortune's career has taken on other dimensions. He consulted to the government in Trinidad and Tobago when the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Assistance contacted him to assess their manufacturing potential and ultimately to design a range of outdoor furniture to be produced by five manufacturers.

Fortune has undertaken a similar venture using sustainable source timber in Mexico, aimed at the expanding hotel industry within the country. In addition Fortune has volunteered his time and expertise to Woodlinks, a joint Canadian/U.S. not-for-profit organization

dedicated to revitalizing vocational training in secondary schools throughout North America. He was an active trustee of the Furniture Society based in North Carolina, an organization that encourages innovative studio furniture making across North America. With this organization, Fortune spearheaded a contemporary internship program that gives emerging craftspeople opportunities to work along side established makers throughout North America.

Michael Fortune received the 2007 Award of Distinction from the Furniture Society. There have been fourteen recipients and Michael is the first Canadian to receive this prestigious award.

Michael Fortune has a clear vision of how fine craft can positively effect the culture and economy of Canada and the world beyond.

by Judith John



About Michael Fortune, continued

Artist's Statement

I primarily design and make furniture by commission for private residences across Canada and the United States. I use traditional woodworking and metal working techniques in combination with innovative forming processes that have been adapted from the aerospace and boat-building industries.

Although I describe my studio-based work as contemporary, I enjoy playing with a wide range of natural and historical influences, whether it is a beautiful vase from Mesopotamia circa 2800 BC, a piece of discarded furniture or the texture found on a split piece of firewood. Sketching, making scale models and building full-size prototypes are a very important part of my design process. My goal is to create objects that are resolved on every level and satisfy my personal aesthetic.

I also design wood products for manufacture in developing economies such as Trinidad, Belize, Mexico and Guyana. These projects are either sponsored by international aid agencies or are private ventures. This can involve on-site training and requires that I commute between my studio in Canada and the community that I am working with abroad. Participating in these development projects allows my small studio to contribute, in a balanced way, to both our culture and the economy.

Michael C. Fortune, RCA



A few more examples of Michael's work

**Minnesota Woodworker's Guild
Fall Seminar October 24th, 25th, and 26th 2008
with Michael Fortune**



Michael Fortune

Designer/maker, teacher and mentor Michael C. Fortune is one of the most respected and creative contemporary furniture masters.

He has won numerous awards and is known for his technical expertise, innovation, and creativity.

Seminar Agenda:

Friday October 24th 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM
Slideshow and discussion

Saturday October 25th 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Wood forming techniques such as bent laminations and steam bending
Band saw tuning and tricks

Sunday October 26th 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Chair Design and Construction

New Location

This year's Fall Seminar will be held at Hennepin Technical College in Brooklyn Park.

The school is located just off Hwy. 169 in Brooklyn Park.

Directions will be in the October newsletter and on the Guild website.

Cost for this year's seminar is \$80 for Guild members and \$100 for non-members
Lunch is included, unlike previous years, and will be provided on both Saturday and Sunday

Please Send this form by October 17th with remittance to:

Minnesota Woodworkers's Guild
5700 Vincent Ave. South
Minneapolis, MN 55410

Number of attendees: _____ Phone number _____

Names: _____

Address: _____

July Meeting - Wood Finishing Simplified - by Kevin Southwick

article by David Mitchel

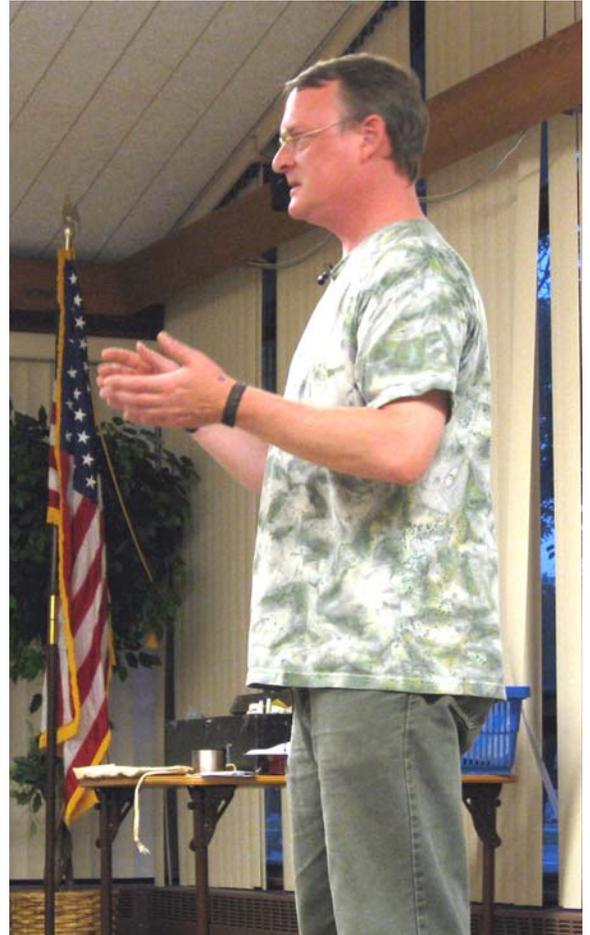
The July 15th meeting of the Woodworkers Guild met in the Richfield Community Center. Kevin Southwick presented an informative session on wood finishing technology and technique.

Kevin Southwick is a wood finishing specialist and instructor at the Minneapolis Rockler store. Kevin works out of his shop where he offers furniture conservation, restoration, custom wood finishing and consultation services. Kevin has studied with Don Williams, Senior Furniture Conservator at the Smithsonian Institute, and currently volunteers at the Minnesota Historical Society in the Objects Conservation Lab.

Kevin has an article in the January 2008 issue of America Woodworker magazine. In it he shows the variety of techniques that can be necessary to restore and refinish an old table. The table pedestal was still in fair condition—it only required minor touching up around the feet. The table's top finish had taken considerable abuse and required significant rework. The table was missing the leaf extensions, which required recreating leaf extensions from new wood and finishing them to match the existing restored finish.

Kevin covered a number of points about the finishing process. Most cabinet shops estimate approximately 20 percent of the project cost is in the finishing. Due diligence to the details involved in finishing is therefore well worth the effort.

- **Patience.** Every woodworker has learned humility from his/her mistakes and the virtue of being patient with his/her projects. Finishing requires forethought and the patience needed to test your finish on scrap before committing to your project. Make a sample finish, using all of the steps and all of the coats. Then make another sample to make sure your process is repeatable.
- **Diligence.** The planing and sanding preparation of the wood's surface is a critical step before you even start to apply finish.
- **Generosity.** Don't be stingy when it comes to testing your finishing method. Use the same wood your project is made from for testing. You want similar grain patterns, planed and sanded in exactly the same steps applied to your project. If you are trying to match an existing color/finish, you will want a considerable amount of material for trials. If your project contains end-grain or routed inset panels across end-grain, you'll want identically milled material for testing.
- **Keep it Simple.** If you have significant experience with a finishing method, continue to use it. You don't need to re-invent a finishing methodology for every project.
- **Keep it Simple.** The modern wipe on/off finishes are remarkably user friendly. By wiping off, you are manipulating the amount of material left, reducing any chance of brush marks, brush hair, drips, runs, bubbles, or unevenness in thickness, and also wiping away any settled dust in the finish.
- **Mix your own.** A common recipe for wiping varnish is: 1/3 Linseed (boiled) oil, 1/3 tung oil, 1/3 polyurethane varnish, plus any thinner (mineral spirits) needed for consistency.



- **Rags.** Kevin uses several types of rags. Micro fiber (www.nortonconsumer.com, or Sam's Club) cleaning cloths serve as tack cloths. If you're using a wipe on/off method, you won't need to sand between most coats, and you won't need tack cloths. Scott towels (either blue or white) are available from most home centers (Menards, Home Depot, etc.). These are lint free disposable paper towels. Knit cotton (old tee-shirts) are handy for wipe on applications. Terry cloth (toweling) is an absorbent cleaning material. Cheese cloth (hardware, paint, or supermarkets) is used for straining or filtering materials.
- **Brushes.** Invest in a quality brush (Gramercy brushes are available at www.toolsforworkingwood.com). You want a natural bristle brush for your varnish brush. A better brush is made of densely packed bristles of a finer thickness. The natural bristles are formed or split at the tips to reflect the natural absorbency of the bristle. The brush will have bristles of varying length trained to a consistent tip. A good brush will distribute its bristles when you drag it across an edge. If the bristles separate, the brush is not covering evenly. A good brush will be able to penetrate all the nooks and voids in your project. Try dragging the dry brush across your finger tips and see if it fully engages your fingernails.
- **Brush Cleaning.** Quality brushes are more expensive, but with proper cleaning they will last you a lifetime. First, mechanically wipe as much finish from the brush as possible. Then clean in the recommended solvent. The first few cleanings, you can utilize the dirty solvent from your last brush cleaning exercise. Cleaning a brush with solvent is an exercise in diluting the varnish. The final cleaning with solvent you'll want fresh solvent. Afterwards, some prefer to clean the brush with soap and water. If the soap doesn't suds, you're not done yet, and you'll need to return to cleaning with solvent. Kevin prefers to make the final cleaning pass in lacquer thinner instead of soap and water.



Kevin discussed the meaning and semantics of the terms utilized by the finishing trade. He recommended that you look up 'varnish' in your dictionary. You'll find the definition to be a transparent paint. Therefore almost any of the oils, polyurethanes, shellac, or lacquers match the description for varnish. Remember this the next time you are in the store trying to select one of them—read the list of ingredients on the can carefully.

DISCOUNT SUPPLIERS

The following suppliers offer special discounts to Guild members. To receive a discount you must be a member in good standing and show the merchant your current membership card.

Abrasive Resources

900 Lund Blvd #400, Anoka, MN (763) 586-9595 or (800) 814-7358
Sandpaper, coated abrasives, rolls, clearance items - 20% discount.

Art Betterley Co.

11160 Central Ave NE (Hwy. 65) Blaine (763) 755-3425
Various discounts depending on product.

Eide Saw Service

Dave Heidtke
<daveh@eidesaw.com>
1329 Tyler St. NE (Behind Youngblood Lbr.) Minneapolis 612-789-3288
Saw blades, router bits, planer knives, and band saw blades welded to length. 10% discount on all items, sharpening included.

Forest Products Supply

2650 Hwy 61, Maplewood, MN 55109 (651) 770-2834. 10% discount on all lumber purchases.
www.forestproductssupply.com

Gardner Hardware

515 Washington Ave N, Minneapolis (612) 333-3393.
Contractors standard discount with MWG card.

Hirshfield/Lathrop Decorating Centers

20+ metro locations, Rochester, St. Cloud. Discounts on all items including stains, varnishes, application tools, etc. Must show membership card. Ask for MN Woodworkers Guild account.
www.hirshfields.com

Holdahl Company

1925 Annapolis Lane, Plymouth (612) 333-7111 or (800) 777-8992.
Commercial cabinetmaker's

supplier but will sell at wholesale to Guild members - router bits, saw blades, abrasives, tools for laminating, laminate, decorative and functional hardware.

Nob Hill Decorative Hardware

3027 Holmes Avenue South, Minneapolis (612) 824-7424.
Decorative hardware for doors, cabinets and bathrooms. 10% discount, 15% on orders over \$1000.
www.nobhillhardware.com

Rockler Woodworking

Minneapolis, 3025 Lyndale Ave S (612) 822-3338; Burnsville, 2020 W Cty Rd 42 (952) 892-7999; Maplewood, 1935 Beam Ave (651) 773-5285; Minnetonka, 12995 Ridgedale Drive (952) 542-0111
10% discount on all regularly priced items except power tools.
www.rockler.com

Savitt Brothers

1515 Nicollet Ave., Minneapolis (612) 871-1155. Everything in paints & stains, accessory items. Contractor discount to net price.

Swanson Hardware

7501 W 27th St, St. Louis Park (952) 925-4083. Cabinet shop supplies, hinges, handles - Wholesale to Guild members.
www.swansonhardwareco.com

Valspar Paint

Plymouth, 2984 Niagara Lane (763) 557-1361; St. Paul, 106 Water St W (651) 222-8435; 20% discount to Guild members.
www.valspar.com

Woodcraft

9125 Lyndale Ave S, Bloomington (952) 884-3634. 10% on all items except power tools.
www.woodcraft.com

Woodcarvers Store & School

3056 Excelsior Blvd, Minneapolis (612) 927-7491. Books, tools, classes, supplies. 10% discount on all items (except electrics 5%).
www.woodcarversstore.com

Youngblood Lumber Co.

1335 Central Ave., Minneapolis (612) 789-3521, or (800) 933-1335.
Wholesale prices to Guild members.
www.youngbloodlumber.com

New Members

John	Frober
Daniel	Noren
Brian	Valento
Nathan	Bruckelmyer
Allen	Gulden
Chris	Rogers
Dennis	Walseth
Craig E.	Nelson
Kelsi	O'Keefe
Jay	Sandgren
Dawn	Seegermark
Shawn	Thompson
Jeff	Williams
James	Cameron
Alexander	Christian-Weir
Bruce	Routh
Victoria	Trast
Alan	Janke
Lonny	Lunn
Jon	Schraut
Jeremy	Rockford
Joe	Zimmerman
Paul	Tolzmann
Stephen	Trapp

THE CLASSIFIEDS

Material

8/4 and 10/4 Hard Maple Slabs. All are 30" wide and 121" long. I rescued this log from being burned! They were sawn on a bandmill, dried in a vacuum kiln to 6%, and are quite flat. There was not a knot in the whole flitch. I've got 10 of these available. I'm asking \$5/bf, discount possible if purchasing more than one. Contact: jason@jholtz.com, 715 557-0328

Nemadji Woods of Sandstone

Minnesota would like to announce that we have a full assortment of hard and softwoods for purchase at very competitive prices (Ash, Maple, Oak, Basswood, Pine, Hickory and Cherry). We have both a Vacuum Kiln and D/H Kiln for drying wood. We also have a full service milling operation for custom requests, which is able to produce and replicate moldings. We are able to accommodate the needs of both the large and small wood worker. For types of wood available, pricing and other information contact Ken, Toll Free at (888) 496-5556 or (320) 245-6909 during regular business hours.

Woodturning – Architectural, Furniture components and Artistic. Diameters up to 18" and lengths up to 8 ½ feet. I can help with design or duplicate an original and supply the turning blank or use yours. Quantities from 1 to 100 or more. Contact Don Wattenhofer at 763 360 8282 or 218 573 2386 drwatt@arvig.net

Tools

Steam bending box, 8' x 12" x 12" with the copper steam manifold inside, opens at both ends, built in the fashion noted in Fine Woodworking some 25 years ago. No longer bend wood, available for free to a good home. Jim Marquardt, "Arkworks"
1500 Duluth St., Saint Paul, MN.
651-774-7993

Having recently overhauled my dust collection system, I have used 4" and 3" PVC pipe, 4" and 3" flexible hose, and fittings; free to anyone who wants to set up a system. All you have to do is call me and pick up the stuff. Mike Hipps 952-949-3589 mandchips@comcast.net

Restored trade and collector tools from early 1800's to 1950's. Large assortment of quality planes, chisels, saws and hand tools. Grey Wolf Antiques will provide current guild members with a 15% discount on all tools. You must present your membership card. Located at Midtown Antique Mall, 301 South Main Street, Stillwater, MN or Email: gwa@lighthousebay.us

Personal & Services

WANTED: Skilled Woodworkers, Cabinet Makers and Craftspeople
St Paul Shipwrights, an award winning shop, is looking for skilled woodworkers/ craftspeople to do restoration and repair on classic wooden yachts.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Advanced post high school training in woodworking
- 2 – 3 years of serious woodworking experience
- Able to understand three-dimensional work, detail work and production
- Motivated, energetic, able to work well in a team

Only applicants meeting the above criteria will be considered.

We offer competitive salary (DOQ), disability & health insurance, 401(k) plan and a great working environment.

Please submit your resume on line at www.stpaulshipwrights.com

Go to the "Contact" page for email

Plane soles milled flat, price ranges from \$12 for a block plane to \$40 for a #8. Sides can be milled square to the sole for \$15-\$20. Contact Chuck Pitschka at 952-935-0660, or by e-mail at cpitschka@mn.rr.com.

"MY FAVORITE PARLOR TRICKS" AN INSPIRATIONAL WOODWORKING WEEKEND WITH MARK LAUB

This weekend retreat has been wildly popular, filling almost instantly. So by popular demand, two more dates have been added.

Mark Laub is well known for his distinctive, meticulously detailed furniture, his many awards at Northern Woods and other juried art shows, as well as his love for cheap wine.

This fall, Mark will be hosting a 2 day weekend retreat in his studio and will provide a rare opportunity to learn his approach to creative furniture design and share his secrets to exceptional woodworking embellishment. Topics will include:

- Finding creative design inspiration
- Living without plans and straight lines
- Wood choices
- Marquetry
- Shell inlay
- Decorative joinery
- Texture carving
- Glasswork
- Metal patination

This weekend retreat will be held in Marks beautiful studio in a secluded forest on the banks of the scenic Rum River, one hour north of the Twin Cities.

**YOU HAVE YOUR CHOICE OF DATES :
Oct. 25-26 or Nov. 8-9.**

Gourmet meals, picnics, wine, forest walks, evening fireside chats and a comprehensive class workbook and reference guide are included. **The price is \$175.**

For more information call or email mark laub at 763.753.1368 or 612.210.7793 boardroomstudios@gmail.com

Advertising in The Classifieds is provided to members of the Minnesota Woodworkers Guild free of charge. The ads placed herein should be for goods or services that are of general interest to the crafts people who make up the membership of the guild. Ads for services will run until cancelled. Ads for tools and materials for sale will run for one issue unless renewed. For submissions, renewals and to cancel an ad, please contact Bob Bridigum, e-mail RLBridigum@aol.com or snail mail to 4755 Laura Lane, Shoreview, MN. 5126

Minnesota Woodworkers Guild
10507 Vessey Rd
Bloomington, MN 55437

www.minnesotawoodworkersguild.com

Guild Meetings

Mark Your Calendars

August 19th Dan Bredemeier – Marquetry

Dan makes and sells beautiful and extremely detailed wooden maps from his studio in Minneapolis. He is currently national President of the American Marquetry Society and has been doing marquetry since 1988. He will discuss marquetry materials and techniques including cutting with a knife, geometric patterns, joining the veneer, inlaying lines, writing with ink on wood and some of the less talked about tricks. He will be joined by someone from the American Marquetry Society who will discuss the fret saw method of marquetry. **Location:** Richfield Community Center, 7000 Nicollet Ave. S., Richfield, MN 55423. **Directions:** ½ mile north of I-494 on Nicollet Avenue.

September 16th: Router Jigs with George Vondriska

The Porter Cable 4212 and the Leigh D4 are both popular dovetail jigs. With a nearly \$250 difference in their prices, many woodworkers want to know which jig will make the cut in their shop. George will cut half-blind and through dovetails on both machines, showing step-by-step the set up each jig requires. He'll discuss advantages and disadvantages of each machine, and also have the Akeda Jig and Katy Jig available for you to see and ask questions about. George Vondriska owns and operates The Wild Earth Woodworking School in Hudson, WI. He has been teaching woodworking since 1986, has had numerous articles published in American Woodworker Magazine and The Woodworker's Journal. **Location:** Wild Earth School, Hudson, Wisconsin
Directions: From the west: 94 east into Wisconsin to Exit #4; Highways 12 and "U" right (south); on "U" one block to the stop sign; County Road "N" left (east) for 3.5 miles.

Time: Show & Tell at 7:00 p.m; Program starts at 7:15 p.m.

October 24, 25, 26 2008: Meeting will be the **Fall Seminar** See inside for details.

Check the guild website www.minnesotawoodworkersguild.com for updates.