

The Newsletter of the Minnesota Woodworkers Guild

NORTHERN WOODS

Volume 117

October / November 2008



Truly a One Room School House, see September Meeting

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NORTHERN WOODS

President's Notes

by Mark Laub

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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
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651-484-4855

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Since becoming President of our Woodworking Guild, I have always tried to stress the importance of investing in your own education. There is no better way to elevate your skills and the quality of your work. The best tools really have little value unless the person behind them is competent.

The MWWG Board of Directors works hard to focus our efforts and your money on quality education experiences. To that end, we are very proud to offer a terrific opportunity to spend a weekend with Michael Fortune at our Fall Seminar. Board member **Charlie Kocourek** has put together a great seminar Oct 25/26 at a value price. Do yourself a favor....mark your calendar and come join us!

On another note, for the past 2 years board member **Angie Kopacek** has served as our treasurer. Angie has indicated she wants a break from these responsibilities, so the Board of Directors is looking for someone with some accounting savvy to step in and help. Please, if any member is interested in using their accounting skills to help us out, please call or write to any Board member.

That all for this month...I hope to see a room full of members at the fall seminar!

New Membership Coupon

Name

Business Name (if any)

Address

City

State

Zip Code

August Meeting - Marquetry with Dan Bredemeier

article by Bob Rocknem

Dan, a former employee at the Rockler Store on Lake Street, has started a business making and selling maps using a variety of veneers. Dan's website is woodenmaps.com. He brought with him a four panel display of the 240 different wood species he uses for the maps. The techniques for making these maps are more like inlay work than Marquetry. Some of the many steps required to make a map were discussed at the meeting.

Step 1 is deciding the size of the map. Dan uses a large copier, the type used for architectural drawings, and Mercator and Robinson projections to make the master template of the map. Then he cuts out each state or country from the paper map template. He makes templates so the veneers can be cut to exact size. Dan does not use a scroll saw or fret saw when cutting veneers. He uses an X-Acto knife and goes through more than 700 blades a year even though blades are resharpened many times before discarding. Dan



Dan with map of USA

says the steel used in the blades is just not as good as it used to be. One of our members suggested surgical scalpels and blades.



240 veneer samples, labeled and numbered

These veneers are prepared and flattened with the glycerin technique which involves soaking for something like 10 days. Heavy weights are then applied. Dan has used his car's front wheel in the past as a weight. Veneers may vary in thickness as well as glue absorption. For example, Japan cut veneers are only 1/100 inch thick and require backing with thicker veneer and grain at 90 degrees.

A background veneer is applied over plywood (not MDF) and the plywood is reinforced with a frame and covered with a vapor barrier. MDF doesn't work for the veneers since it will delaminate over time. After tracing the map on the veneer background, the various pieces are carefully fitted and positioned. The background is chiseled out and the states hand fit in the recess. Veneers are then glued to the background plywood. Most of the time, yellow glue works fine but sometimes hide glue is required. On the other hand, "deblume", a hardwood veneer, reacts badly to hide glue. It has taken Dan years of experimenting to determine what wood works best with what glue. Is there a book in here somewhere, Dan?



**Plywood back ready for state inlays
blue tape is for glue control**

Leveling the surface of the finished map requires special care. Dan uses card scrapers, a sander, and hand sanding to 220 to get the surface flat and smooth. Three coats of shellac follow and then a final sanding to a 320 grit. At this point the surface is ready for lettering.

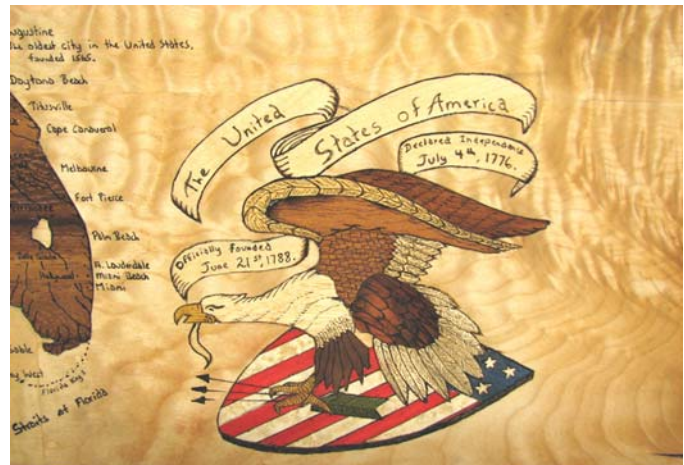
August Meeting, continued

Lettering is done with Rapidograph pen and waterproof India ink. A Rapidograph pen is a type of technical marking pen used in architectural drawings. Dan studied architecture in school which is coming in handy. Shellac cannot be applied over India ink because it causes the lettering to blur, so the final coats over the ink are polyurethane.



Flags and shields require dyed sycamore and outlining. States with river borders are often difficult to fit and need filler (saw dust and glue), then ink to get the seam perfect.

Know the history and politics of the region, says Dan as he told the story about an historical map of the region around Greece that he did. Dan had a problem with the map of Greece he did for a restaurant because he did not know all about the hostile relations between Greece and Turkey in the past. He offered to take the map back, they were so unhappy. They wouldn't do it saying "the map is worth a lot more than we paid". That is good marketing feed back, even from a complaining customer.



Shield is pear wood dyed red and blue

Dan's maps usually cost around \$2000. For example, the one displayed at the MN Fair Fine Arts Building was a map of the United States that took a week of long days to finish and was priced in the mid \$2000 range. It used to take a month for Dan to complete one map.

Recently, Dan made a very large map of the world for a building being built in the Middle East (Saudi Arabia?). It took 29 days at 15 hours a day. The map was done in parts, shipped to Dallas, then on to the destination. Dan got a five figure fee for that map.

Susan Jorgenson came with Dan to demonstrate Marquetry but we ran out of time. Sorry Susan. You can meet Dan and Susan at the Marquetry Club seminars that meet the 3rd Saturday of each month. The meetings are in the building at 34th Street and Brian. They hope to see us there.



Compass dyed yellow, green, blue, orange

Minnesota Woodworker's Guild

Fall Seminar October 24th, 25th, and 26th 2008

with 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: _____

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 in the show that I really liked and this is the second one. (see last months newsletter for the first one).

Charlie's Variable Height Workbench

Have you ever noticed that your workbench never seems to be the right height? It is too low for inlay work or hand cut dovetails and it is too high for the hand plane or even the belt sander. Then woodworkers seem to come in various heights so no bench height fits all. This is the problem that Charlie Kocourek set out to solve by designing a variable height workbench, built like a tank, that anyone can build. This bench was on display at this year's Northern Woods Show.

Charlie worked on the design over the period of a year, including the six months to build the bench. As with most things like this the design evolved through a series of experiments, starting



Loosen pipe clamps and turn eyelet with jack handle

with a mechanism to raise and lower the bench. Hydraulics were ruled out early on due to cost and the potential for leaks. A double scissor transmission jack was tried next but it proved to be so poorly made that it wouldn't raise and lower consistently enough for a bench. Charlie found his solution at the junk yard for \$15. It is a scissor jack from a Chevy truck. The crank for the jack comes through the end of the bench making it easy to raise and lower. Just loosen the pipe clamps, raise or lower the bench, and tighten the pipe clamps. The pipe clamps run through the stretchers from one end to the other and when tight, provide the bench with excellent rigidity.

The bench weighs 500 pounds so it is a good thing that it comes apart into five major pieces. This made it possible for Charlie to get it to the show from his basement without a forklift or hernia. The bench top is a generous 34" X 64" and the height is variable from 29" to 43". The top of the bench is made of 1 ½" thick particle board with a mahogany veneer overlay. This construction provides a stable working surface that is dead flat. The bench top is edged with ample banding made of Makor hardwood. The vise faces are also Makor. The edging has been designed with clamping in mind and it includes the dog holes that are part of a traditional bench design.



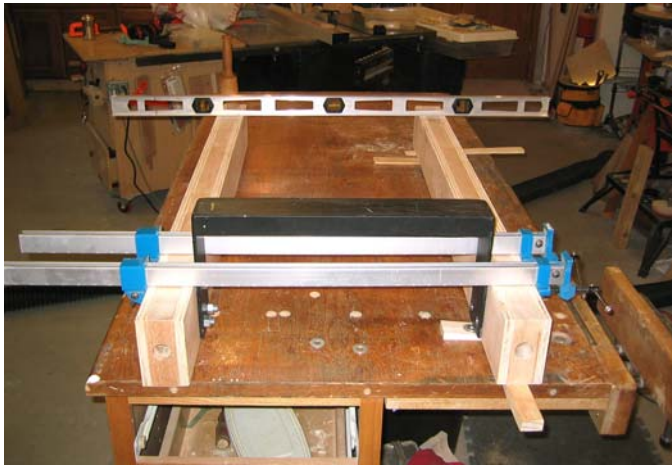
With top removed, jack mechanism is visible. Notice the book matched tiger maple of the frame.



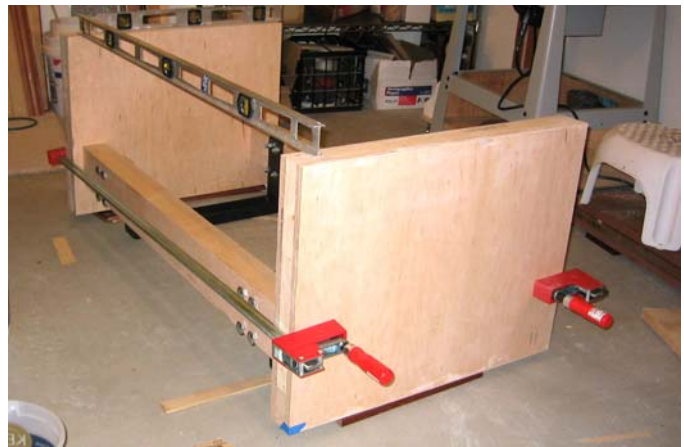
Top edging ready for glue up Festool used to make 18 loose tenons



Charlie built the bench from the bottom up, starting with the ends (legs), then the torsion box, stretchers, and finally the top. The ends of the torsion box are laminated with booked matched tiger maple veneer. The stretchers are covered with curly maple veneer.



Assembly of stretchers with mechanism
Note hole in stretchers for pipe clamps



Building from the bottom up
Aligning stretchers with ends

Many features of this bench were designed with the end user in mind. The end vise screws are mounted off center so they align with the dog holes in the bench top. This also allows the same mechanism to act as a shoulder vise. The bench top is mounted to allow clamps to run all the way through from underneath. There is even enough toe room for people with big feet like the editor's to stand right up to the bench.



End vise detail

So how does one move a 500 pound bench from one place in the shop to another? Charlie solved that problem also by providing a second jack, built into the bench in such a way that it lowers a frame that includes castors on the bottom. It is



Flattening end frame

less than 30 seconds work to raise the bench up and push it to a new location.



Adjusting bench height at show

When it came time to apply a finish to the bench Charlie approached the work like he would a piece of fine furniture. He dyed all the maple to intensify the grain. Grain filler was used on the porous wood and parts were glazed to color match the top and bottom. Then the final finish was applied.

Charlie has put up a website for the bench, www.jack-bench.com. He will sell plans for the bench, as soon as they are done. He is also offering to provide help and guidance to any Guild member that wants to build this bench. Maybe we can get Charlie to do a Tuesday meeting sometime in the future. Oh, one last thing, Charlie says his bench is for sale but he declined to say how much.

September Meeting - Dovetail Jigs with George Vondriska **article by David Mtchell, photos by Paul Schalekamp**

George Vondriska hosted the September Woodworkers Guild meeting. He has been active in teaching and writing about woodworking for a number of years. The September meeting was held at George's Wild Earth School just outside of Hudson, Wisconsin. Despite the distance, the event was well attended.

George is developing a new web site that features woodworking articles with video clips as well as sections such as Forums, Tips and Techniques, and Product Reviews. Visit this site at www.wwgoa.com.

George presented a number of different models of dovetail jigs that he owns. He often uses these when teaching dovetails in his woodworking classes. He started with a demonstration of half-blind dovetails on a fixed jig made by Porter-Cable. He then demonstrated through dovetails on a Leigh jig with an adjustable comb. The Porter-Cable jig was his low-end basic dovetail jig, costing approximately \$150 in today's market. The Leigh jig has a wider capacity (24 inches) and adjustable spacing of the comb fingers. The Leigh jig is approximate \$400 in today's market.

A fixed jig has fixed finger placement, which pre-determine the spacing of the dovetails. Because it is less adjustable, it is easier to use. However, once you understand the utilization of the comb on any dovetail jig, moving to fully adjustable or more complex dovetail jigs is no problem. They all have the same basic theory of operation.

With more expensive jigs you get tighter tolerances, more features, more adjustability, greater capacity ranges, and a larger user's manual. You can basically choose whichever jig matches your tolerance requirements and throughput capacity requirements. The better jigs will have cam-style clamps that will speed your setup and throughput; screw style clamps will try your patience when you're processing many pieces.



Fixed finger jig setup ready to cut
Tails/pins will be cut at same time



George showing adjustable fingers
on Leigh jig

In using any of the jigs, keep these simple rules of operation in mind:

- Start with straight and square stock. Make the length of the tails and pins such that they exceed the final dimension requirements by 1/64th or 1/32nd inch. It is much easier to trim a small extension of the end grain from the tails or pins, than it is to plane the entire width or length of your box or drawer.
- The dovetailed corners go into most jigs inside out. You will want to lay out and orient the desired final arrangement of your pieces. Once you've determined which sides of your stock is the more visually pleasing, and which pieces best match, lay the pieces down such that inside of the box faces up. Adopt a matching numbering system or symbol system to mark these pieces on the inside of each joint. Make a note about which pieces should be tails and which should be pins. Remember that the inside of the joint is the visible side of your pieces in the dovetail jig.

- In setting and adjusting your dovetail jig, do not force any placements or orientations. You want to make sure you fully engage your pieces against the stops, with a “kissing” firmness. If you use undue force, you will get inconsistent settings, because these jigs are light enough, they will distort.
- Getting good joints with a dovetail jig is all about testing your setup. Use extra pieces of the same material you are using for your project. It is critical that you test with pieces the same thickness and width of your project. It is a false economy to use a cheaper wood species for your testing. Softer woods will react differently to the clamping pressures, and especially to the test-fitting, or pounding together pressures that you apply.
- Consider the dynamics of your router bit. It will tend to tear out the wood fibers on any unsupported edge. You can orient a backup scrap to avoid tear out. On half blind dovetails you may be able to carefully climb cut a light pass on the pin board before fully engaging to cut the pins.
- After you think you’re ready to cut with your router, **stop!** Double check your stops, double check your setup, double check your tail and pin orientation, double check the inside and outside of your work pieces, verify that the jig is securely clamped to your workbench.
- After you verified that you’re ready, **stop!** Double check your router, is it the correct router, is it unplugged for all setup and verification steps, does it have the correct dovetail or straight bit installed, is the bit depth adjusted correctly, is the depth locked in place, is the bushing firmly attached to the routers base plate, is the bit firmly locked into the collet.
- Plug in and place your router on the jig. Turn on your router; Wait for it to come up to speed; cut your joint; stop your router; wait for it to come to a rest; only now lift it off of the dovetail jig. Never try manipulating a running router onto or off of the dovetail jig.
- When cutting, keep a constant orientation with your work. It is tempting to stand in a single stance and move the router across a wide dovetail joint. But doing so will rotate the router with respect to the jig. If the guide bushing is not perfectly centered, the small angle changes will introduce errors into your joint.
- Rest the heels of your hands on the jig. Use your fingers to guide the router. By resting your arms on the jig, your stance is more stable. By guiding with your fingers you have more precise control of the router motion.
- After you think you’re done cutting the joint, **stop!** Visually inspect your completed cut; look for any missed pins or tails; check that your edges are perfectly clean; check that all cut edges are tight with respect to the comb pattern. Now is the time to restart your router and repeat any portion of the dovetail jigs pattern. After you have removed your pieces, it is very difficult to exactly reinsert them for a clean up pass.



Showing fit of finished dovetails

Dovetail jigs are complex systems. There are a number of aspects to consider when purchasing or using one. There are a lot of differing models on the market to choose from. All are expensive, in dollars, utilization, and training. Selecting one that fits your needs may seem daunting. But, all of these are capable of cutting basic dovetails joints.



Template for cutting trays

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

Dwight	Johnson
Mike	Klemm
Charles	Mann
Russell	Paul
Ryan	Yager
Jim	Norrix
Kristen	Kvalsten
Ken	Bott
Joseph	Kummer
Brian	Lorentzen
Kim	Spence
Chris	Van Ballegooyen
Dick	Ashland
Larry	Henke
Marc	Paulson
Jon	Cumpton
Steven	Hollmann
Bob	Meyer
Douglas	Cohen

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

Wood For Sale: 175 board feet 4/4 white birch S2S (milled to 13/16") SL1E @ \$3.00 a B/F (mostly 8' lengths) and 225 board feet 4/4 clear alder S2S (milled to 13/16") SL1E @ \$3.25 a B/F (mostly 8' lengths) Contact: Larry Moy, 651-208-7525 or I.A.Moy@att.net

Tools;

Delta Delux Mortiser, Model 14-651, still in original container. \$240 cash. Contact ForSale1958@aol.com

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;

Share a large fully equipped woodworking shop with 2 or 3 other woodworkers. Conveniently located in the former Singer building at the corner of University and Hampden St. Shop has total of 1820 ft.² with 1000 ft in common space and 18' X 20' personal space in separate rooms. Office space with kitchen facilities included.

Stationary tools include:

- 10" Delta Unisaw with 50" Biesemeyer fence
- Rockler router table with JessEm router lift - - your bits
- 12" Band saw
- 10" Delta radial arm saw
- 10" Milwaukee miter box saw with table
- 12.5" Delta surface planer
- 6" jointer with 4' bed
- 12" Delta drill press
- Kreg pocket hole jig setup

Price (utilities included) \$230 month to month rental. Contact Dave Skogstrom at 612-822-1937

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

October 24, 25, 26 2008: Meeting will be the **Fall Seminar** See inside for details of times and subjects. Location this year: Hennepin Technical College, 9000 Brooklyn Blvd., Brooklyn Park, MN.

Directions: Exit 694 on to hwy 169 north. Take Brooklyn Blvd. exit. Go east to Boone Ave., turn right (north) on Boone. Park in lot. Seminar is in the auditorium.

November Meeting: has not been finalized as of this printing. Please check the Guild website in early November for details of the meeting.

Normal Program times

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

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