



Building Connections

Vermont WoodNet is a coalition of small-scale woodworkers and wood-related businesses with the mission to strengthen business opportunities for Vermont wood product businesses based upon a commitment to the sustainability of the forest resource.

April 2004

Volume 3, Number 3

Mark your calendars

- April 30 VT Wood Products Showcase Reception, 4 - 6 p.m., Open to all WoodNet members
- May 1 VT Wood Products Showcase, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Shelburne Farms Coach Barn (complimentary ticket in this issue)
- June 9 Quarterly Meeting, 7 - 9 p.m., Brian Jones Woodshop in Williston
- Sept 25 Annual Meeting, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Shelburne Farms Coach Barn

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First Annual Vermont Wood Products Showcase

Saturday, May 1

The First Annual Vermont Wood Products Showcase will be held on Saturday, May 1, 2004 at Shelburne Farms Coach Barn, Shelburne, Vermont. A complimentary ticket to the Showcase is included in this newsletter.

More than forty (40) Vermont WoodNet members and twenty (20) other woodworkers will take part in the Vermont Wood Products Showcase. The event will celebrate the rich tradition of innovative design developed and crafted by Vermont woodworkers. Vermont woodworkers have been crafting furniture and other wood products for more than two centuries with a degree of precision and workmanship that has not changed by a shaving since 1791.

Vermont's productive forests cover about three-fourths of the state and support a diverse wood products industry. And, Vermont's healthy natural environment attracts and stimulates the creativity inherent in Vermont wood products' design and workmanship.

Vermont woodworkers are successfully filling a growing market niche with those customers who demand authenticity and individuality in all that they purchase. Handcrafted furniture and wooden accessories appeal to consumers who value art and culture, education, and experiences.

The Showcase will offer attendees the unique opportunity to experience the state's wood products industry from the working forest to the finished piece. Showcase events will include a guided tour of a working forest and displays by foresters and landowners who manage the state's forest resources to maintain their vitality. On-going demonstrations scheduled throughout the day will offer a rare insiders' glimpse at traditional furniture making using hand tools and long-forgotten arts such as wood carving, inlaying, lathe turning, and tool sharpening. Panels of industry experts will educate Showcase participants on a variety of topics including sources of wood and how the wood itself inspires design elements. Model rooms will be furnished exclusively with Vermont wood products for both indoor and outdoor use. This family-oriented event will also offer hands-on woodworking activities for kids.

Some of the exhibitors at the event will include members of the **Vermont WoodNet** and Furniture Guild organizations, as well as woodworking companies such as Copeland Furniture, Pompanoosuc Mills, Maple Landmark Woodcraft, Vermont Furniture Designs, Vermont Outdoor Furniture, and others.

Details about the Showcase are on-line at www.vermontwood.org.

New, Updated Online Store Policies and Procedures

In an ongoing effort to make it easier for our members and our shoppers to take advantage of the Vermont WoodNet Online Store we have broadened the list of acceptable items that can be placed in the store. We have also modified the information that must be supplied by you, the member, when putting items in the store. In addition, we have set a few new rules in order for the store to be maintained in an efficient manner.

First, you can now put any size items in the store. (Previously we only allowed items that could be shipped using UPS/FedEx guidelines for size.) Due to popular demand, we are now accepting items that may have to be shipped via moving company, freight, etc.

Second, we now require that your shipping cost be included in the price of your product. This will make it clearer to our shoppers because they will know right up front what the total cost of the item will be. Some of you may find it difficult to put a shipping price on a product when you don't know to where it will be shipped. It has been suggested that you take an average of cost of shipping to the east coast and west coast and use that for your shipping cost or you

may already have a system of your own. It is up to you to determine what will work best for you. Please keep in mind that Vermont WoodNet's 25% commission is calculated on the total price of the product, including shipping.

Third, we have instituted two new rules concerning the submitting of items for the store and when those items will be added to the store. Beginning immediately, each member may place five (5) items in the store at no cost. Additional items can be placed in the store at a one-time fee of \$10 per item. Items that are already in the store are not subject to this new rule. Items that you submit will be added to the store on a quarterly basis. The next update will be at the end of June. In each quarter you may submit up to five (5) items again at no charge (these would replace your current items) or you can leave the same five in the store. If you would like to add more items before the next quarter there will be small charge for that, as well.

For a full description of the online store policies and procedures, go to http://www.vtwoodnet.org/store/policies_and_procedures.htm or contact Judy Balch at 802-892-7786 or balch@kingcon.com.

Storage Space Urgently Needed

The booth WoodNet is using at the Shelburne Farms Wood Products Showcase was generously donated to us by Marshall Webb of Shelburne Farms. At the conclusion of the Showcase on May 1 we will need space to store it until the next opportunity to use it to showcase Vermont WoodNet membership goods and services.

The space it takes up is about the size of a cord of wood (8' x 4' x 4'). It needs only to be in dry space. A barn/shed would be ideal. If you are able and willing to help all of Vermont WoodNet with this booth storage please call Bob Bouvier (863-5644) or email him at wdubelieve@aol.com.

WoodNet Annual Meeting Note

Our by laws call for holding the Annual Meeting each year in July and electing new steering committee members and officers at that meeting for the coming year.

Because of space availability at the Shelburne Farms Coach Barn, this years annual meeting will be held on September 25, 2004 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. New steering committee members and officers will be elected at that time.

Save the date and join us for fun, games, food, demonstrations and networking.

Bring a friend! The event is open to the general public.

Here is a complimentary ticket to the Vermont Wood Products Showcase on May 1st. Make as many copies of the ticket as you need.

Vermont Wood Products Marketing Council presents

Vermont Wood Products Showcase

Saturday, May 1, 2004
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Coach Barn, Shelburne Farms, Shelburne, VT

COMPLIMENTARY VERMONT QUALITY WOOD PRODUCTS

Exhibits, demonstrations, door prizes, and more

Family—\$10 Adults—\$5 Kids and Seniors—\$2
Includes hands-on activities for kids

SINCE 1791

Register for Door Prize Drawing

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

Welcome Center Display Cases Update

The two sugar-house style display cases have been installed at the Welcome Centers in Williston. The feedback from the public so far has been overwhelmingly positive. In order to display your product and business cards at the Welcome Centers, call Mr. Sandy Preston, the Welcome Center manager, at 802-363-4684 (cell) or 802-863-3489 (office).



Above: South Bound Welcome Center display case, completed and installed.

Below: Bill Baynham and the Building Trade Students from the Center for Technology Essex, who assisted with assembly and installation.



Vermont WoodNet Steering Committee

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National Wildlife Federation Recognizes WoodNet Group Certificate

The Vermont office of the National Wildlife Federation congratulates fifteen Vermont WoodNet members on obtaining group certification to make Forest Stewardship Council-certified wood products. Color advertisements announcing the newly formed WoodNet group will appear in the summer editions of both Vermont Life and Northern Woodlands magazines. Their FSC chain-of-custody certificate, # SW-COC-1120, is only the second group certificate issued in North America and third in the world. FSC certification rigorously ensures that wood products originate in forests that are well-managed for wildlife, water quality, and productivity.

With the support of the Ford Foundation, NWF has worked with Vermont WoodNet to make FSC certification more accessible for community-based wood workers and mills. The certified members of Vermont WoodNet saw cost reductions of approximately 75%, as compared to being individually certified. Now a main challenge for members is to find success for their certified wood products in the marketplace. NWF project manager Mark Lorenzo suggests that, "NWF members and others concerned about forests and wildlife should consider beautiful hand-crafted wood products from certified producers like these who truly care about where their wood comes from."

FSC-certified products now available from Vermont WoodNet members include beams, blanks, furniture, cabinets, case goods, decking (exterior), flitches, flooring, instrument cases, Northern hardwoods and softwoods, millwork, mouldings, hardwood pens, saunas, siding and construction timbers.

NWF anticipates a continued partnering with Vermont WoodNet to enroll more certified members and to help sell their certified wood products. Learn more about FSC certification at www.fscus.org and NWF at www.nwf.org/northernforest.

It's Springtime, A Time of Renewal

Happy Spring everyone!! Just like the renewal of everything else in spring, it's time again to renew your membership in Vermont WoodNet!! Enclosed you will find a membership form. Please take a few minutes to fill it out and send it in, along with your membership fee. If you know of anyone else who would like to become a member, have him or her contact Judy Balch at balch@kingcon.com or by phone at 802-892-7786. She will gladly send them a form so that they can become a member too. Anyone who wishes to join now can get a bonus of April, May and June in their new membership at no extra charge.