



# Building Connections

Vermont WoodNet is a coalition of woodworkers and wood product businesses whose primary mission is to strengthen business opportunities for small-scale Vermont wood product businesses that produce “Vermont Made” products and to foster a commitment to the sustainability of the forest resources.

April 2005

Volume 4, Number 3

### Mark your calendars

April 15 Vermont MapleWood Gallery opens in Stowe

April 28 WoodNet quarterly meeting at 6:30 PM. Featuring Dave Spooner on Tool Maintenance and Repair at the Essex Technical Center Building Trades House

May 28 Vermont MapleWood Gallery Grand Opening Celebration

June 30 WoodNet membership renewal due

Sept 17 Shelburne Farms Harvest Festival Showcase

Sept 24 & 25 Wood Products Marketing Council Showcase, Woodstock

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### Vermont WoodNet to Open Gallery in Stowe

After many months of tireless effort by WoodNet Chairman Bob Bouvier, Coordinator, Judy Balch, and board members Don Mason, Sue McLam, and Mark Lorenzo the Vermont MapleWood Gallery is finally a reality! The location is great, the facility is beautiful, and the opportunity for members to sell their products are boundless.

On April 15, 2005 Vermont MapleWood Gallery will open as a retail wood products showroom in downtown Stowe at 32 Park Street. The Gallery will have over 2400 square feet of

display space on two floors devoted exclusively to the work of WoodNet members. The juried product will include hand-crafted, custom and small-batch production furniture, cabinetry, wood art, toys, specialty items and accessories, including many using Forest Stewardship Council-certified wood. The Gallery will also feature educational exhibits and events relating the tradition of value-added wood products and principles of sustainable forestry, advancing WoodNet’s non-profit mission.



Vermont MapleWood Gallery at 32 Park Street in Stowe, Vermont. (photo by Jay Ericson)

According to WoodNet Chair Bob Bouvier, “the Vermont MapleWood Gallery is a great opportunity for us to showcase the creativity and craftsmanship of our members in a year-round resort setting with strong tourism and home-building trends.” The Gallery will be operated in partnership with Businesses for the Northern Forest. Start-up grant funding has been provided by the Vermont Family Forestry Partnership of the National Wildlife Federation, Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund and Vermont Family Forests Foundation, and from the Sustainable Future Fund with The Vermont Community Foundation.

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Products will be exhibited on a consignment basis after approval by a Vermont WoodNet jury. Referrals for custom work of WoodNet members can also be arranged by the Gallery.

Members should contact Judy Balch for details about exhibiting your products and for jury application forms: 892-7786 or balch@kingcon.com. For other information contact Gallery Director Richarda Ericson: 223-5256x14 or rericson@nfainfo.org

Please join us to celebrate our new store and educational center! The Grand Opening Celebration will be May 28, 2005!

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### Meet the new MapleWood Gallery Director Richarda Ericson

Richarda Ericson, Program Coordinator for Businesses for the Northern Forest (BNF), will serve as the MapleWood Gallery Director for WoodNet. Richarda comes to WoodNet from BNF and the Northern Forest Alliance, where she has been working since the fall of 2003. In her capacity with these organizations she has coordinated events such as meetings and a photography exhibit, helped draw attention to local forest-resource related businesses through the HandMade in the Northern Forest guidebook, provided outreach for member organizations, and created publications. Richarda has a BA from Colgate University and an MS degree from the University of Montana, and she has worked with non-profits across the country in outreach, administrative and strategic planning capacities.

In her role as Gallery Director, Richarda is excited to help get the MapleWood Gallery up and running. She has been applying her writing skills to work up a business plan for the gallery and has been assisting with start-up logistics including researching funding opportunities. She will be creating marketing materials, developing educational displays and events, assisting customers in the gallery, and most importantly, selling WoodNet members' work! Richarda will be interacting with customers and relating customer interests to the membership. She will be continuing her role as BNF coordinator part time and will be part-time Gallery Director, thereby maintaining the close connections WoodNet has with its founding organization, BNF. Richarda has been keeping a close eye on the market base in Stowe and is gearing up to make the MapleWood Gallery a success!



Interior of the Vermont MapleWood Gallery  
(photo by Jay Ericson)

### WoodNet Quarterly Meeting

The Vermont WoodNet Quarterly Meeting will be held at 6:30 PM on Thursday, April 28, 2005 at the Essex Technical Center Building Trades House on Drury drive in Essex Junction. The topic of the meeting will be **Tool Maintenance & Repair** presented by member **David Spooner** of Spooner Specialties. Our host, board member Bill Baynham, will also give us a tour of the building. The meeting of the certification group will be at 6:30 PM and the regular meeting will start at 7:00 PM.

Directions to the Building Trades House: From Essex Five Corners take Rte 15 East for 1/2 mile to the traffic light. The Old Brickyard will be on your right. At this light turn left onto Crestview Drive. Crest view goes about 100 yard and ends at Drury Drive. Turn right onto Drury. The Building Trades House is 100 yards ahead on the right hand side. It is the only house under construction on road.

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### Vermont WoodNet OnLine Store

Our Vermont WoodNet web site OnLine Store needs merchandise. If you are a WoodNet Member and you make a product that you want to sell then it should be listed in the store! Check it out at [www.vtwoodnet.org](http://www.vtwoodnet.org). Call Judy (892-7786) or Sue (439-6156) if you have questions.

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### Discounts Available to Members

If you are a current Vermont WoodNet member you can get a discount (membership card required) from:

**Koenig Cedar** -- 10% member discount

**Northend Hardwoods** -- 15% member discount

**Vermont Butcher Block** -- 10% member discount

**VWMA membership** -- \$27 annually for WoodNet members. (call 802-287-4284 for more information)

## FSC Group Certification News

Well, we've made it through our first SmartWood audit. Now we're in the process of signing up new certified members. Any member who would like to either sign up for certification, or receive more information about what being certified means, please feel free to contact Judy Balch at either 802-892-7786 or [balch@kingcon.com](mailto:balch@kingcon.com). If you have ever considered becoming FSC certified, you should know that by joining our group certificate, it will cost you approximately 1/6<sup>th</sup> the cost of doing it on your own. We started the year with 15 certified members and are now up to 21 with two more members getting ready to become certified.

Our current certified members are:

Bill Baynham—Baynham Wood Products  
 Bob Bouvier—Wood-U-Believe  
 Jim Cunningham—Moose Maple Furniture  
 Joel Currier—Currier Farms  
 Louis Dupont—Stark Mountain Woodworking  
 Dan Davis—Vermont Plywood LLC  
 Island Pond Woodworkers  
 Brian Jones—Brian Jones Woodworking  
 Paul Koenig—Koenig Cedar Co.  
 David King—Bristol Woodworks  
 Ben Lucarelli—Lucarelli Wood Works  
 Susan McLam—Knox Mountain Woodworking  
 Vermont Family Forests  
 Parker Nichols—Green Mountain Wild Woods  
 Randy Ouellette—R & K Woodworking  
 Frank Peterson—Birdseye Building Co.  
 Mike Rainville—Montgomery Schoolhouse  
 Nils Shenholm—Solheim Sauna, LLC  
 Stephen Taylor—Vermont Heritage Wood  
 Marshall Webb—Shelburne Farms  
 Adam & Ruth Wesolow—S.A.W. Mill

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## Funding Source for Small Business

Community Capital of Central Vermont is a non-profit alternative lender offering loans of between \$1,000 and \$50,000, as well as technical assistance grants to qualified small business borrowers in Washington and northern Orange counties. CCCV offers assistance to business owners who have a plan for a start-up business or business expansion. CCCV can provide assistance to local manufacturers, home-based artisans, wood workers, quilters, photographers, home knitters, and others. To learn visit them on the web at [www.cvcapital.org](http://www.cvcapital.org), or call Chris Rottler, loan officer for Community Capital, at 802 479-1053, ext. 254.

## WoodNet Shelburne Farms Showcase

September 17, 2005

After a huge success as part of the Shelburne Farms Harvest Festival last year, Vermont WoodNet members will again be able to have a booth at the WoodNet Shelburne Farms Showcase on September 17, 2005. Watch for the announcement and sign up for your booth. There are a limited number of booths and they fill up fast!

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## Vermont Wood Products Showcase

September 24 and 25, 2005

The Second Annual Vermont Wood Products Showcase will be held on September 24 and 25, 2005 at Union Arena in Woodstock, Vermont. Several booth sizes will be available: 14x20 at \$750, 14x10 at \$425, and 10x7 at \$250. Vermont WoodNet will have a booth. Visit [www.vermontwood.org](http://www.vermontwood.org) for information and watch for details about how to sign up for space in the VT Woodnet booth.

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## Vermont Quality Wood Products Logo

Vermont Quality Wood Products Logo is available to Vermont wood product manufacturers. The fee to use the logo is \$25 per year. You can sign up at [www.vermontwood.org](http://www.vermontwood.org) or by calling 802-287-4284. The 1" gas heated wood branding iron is now available from BRAND NEW, 5511-C Ekwil St, Santa Barbara, CA, 93111 for \$97.67 delivered.

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## WoodNet Board of Directors

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## Membership Hits 100

On Friday, March 25, Wayne Fawbush became the 100th member of Vermont WoodNet! Wayne is the director of the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund (VSJF) and has been an avid supporter of VT WoodNet since our beginning. Almost six years ago, Wayne made the funds available through the VSJF to start VT WoodNet. He now has become our 100th member. In addition to his work at the VSJF, Wayne is a photographer and makes his own wooden frames to display his photos.