



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.

October 2008

Volume 8, Number 3

Vermont WoodNet Quarterly Meeting

November 18, 2008 at 7:00 PM

Location: Shelburne Fine Woodworking (Neal Albert's shop)

Topic: Share your favorite and least favorite tool or thing in your shop.

Directions

From the North, near Rte 7

1. Take Rte 7 South to North Ferrisburg
2. At the Red Brick Mobile station take a left onto Hollow Rd.
3. Follow about 5 miles to your first stop sign.
4. Look Diagonally across to your right and find the Big Red Barn

From the South, near Rte 7

Take Rte 7 North to the main intersection in Vergennes
Turn Right onto Monkton Road go across the railroad tracks
and go about 7 miles.
Look for sign on the right and the big red barn
If you get to the stop sign, you just missed the driveway.

From the North near Rte 116

1. Take 116 South to Hinesburg
2. After Lantman's IGA bear right at the sharp left turn in 116, onto Silver Street. I'm not sure there is a sign for Silver street but if you pass a grade school on your right, you missed the turn.
3. Follow Silver Street into Monkton, you will see the Monkton General store on the left.
4. At the stop sign turn right towards Vergennes.
5. Go 1.5 miles to the next stop sign
6. The drive way is the first one on the left.
7. Look for the Big Red Barn and sign.

Vermont WoodNet Board of Directors for 2008/2009

Congratulations to the returning board members, and welcome aboard to our new board members!

Bob Bouvier, Chair, 863-5644, wdubelieve@aol.com
Neal Albert, 985-8208, ShelburneFine@comcast.net
Bill Baynham, 985-9311, Baynhb@aol.com
Dale Bergdahl, 656-2517, dale.bergdahl@uvm.edu
Gerald Bouchard, 425-3445, gamjb@gmavt.net

Russ Fellows, 899-3059, skunkmen@together.net
Barry Genzlinger, co-chair, 951-2501, batcabins@aol.com
Joe Laferriere, Secretary, 879-4348, joekate@sover.net
Paul Lascelles, 863-5644, paulswoodworking@aol.com
David Spooner, 229-4800, dspooner@pshift.com

Congratulations to Vermont WoodNet Winners

We would like to say “Congratulations” to the following Vermont WoodNet members for placing at the Fine Furniture & Woodworking Festival in Woodstock in September:

Ted Fink — 1st & 3rd place in Carving & Sculpture
Nick Rosato — 2nd place in Production Woodenware
Steve Marshall — 2nd place in Custom/Studio Furniture
Terre Morrison — Students Category

Great Job and Congratulations to all of you!!

Vermont Woods Studios Awarded Best Furniture Website of the Year

VERNON, VT — October 17, 2008 – Vermont Woods Studios' new website VermontWoodsStudios.com, was singled out by leading furniture opinion makers at FurnitureQuest.com as the furniture website of the year. "OK, we don't actually have a Furniture Website of the Year Award. However if we did, the folks at VermontWoodsStudios.com would unquestionably be the winners!" says author, Joe McKean, General Manager of well-known furniture blog, FurnitureQuest.com. "This has to be the most impressive website we have seen in years and they specialize in Fine Furniture Made of Sustainable Resources that is Made in America. How can we not be enthusiastic about that?"



Started in response to a business plan competition sponsored by the Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation BDCC, Vermont Woods Studios is a cooperative, community-oriented online marketing and sales venue that promotes collaboration and efficiency amongst Vermont's many small custom furniture makers. The company strives to be a more affordable means of promoting the groups natural, eco friendly, artisan furniture to buyers outside of Vermont. Today, the website offers a tremendous variety of furniture, crafted by artisans from all over Vermont, with price ranges from affordable to ultra-luxury.

"It's the only furniture site on the web that allows buyers to customize their furniture to their exact specifications, often at little or no additional cost," says Customer Service Specialist, Jan Bennett. "Can you imagine going into Neiman Marcus or Restoration Hardware and asking them to make your dining room table an inch taller or 3.5 inches wider? Or telling them you'd like to have it in solid, natural cherry instead of the oak veneer model they have on the floor?"

At VermontWoodsStudios.com, we make each piece of furniture to order and can easily make modifications to suit our customers' needs. Custom furniture is now a luxury available to families who might never have considered it previously."

The company's dedication to environmentally friendly sourcing and processing is discussed in their furniture blog, <http://vermontwoodsstudios.typepad.com>. "Did you know that 20% of global warming is caused by the destruction of the rainforest?" says owner/operator, Peggy Farabaugh. "You could be contributing to global warming by unknowingly purchasing imported furniture or flooring made from illegally harvested mahogany or teak that's been clear cut from the fragile tropical rainforest ecosystem. In our blog, we provide news, tips and advice to help eco conscious consumers purchase beautiful, affordable, heirloom-quality furniture that is certified as sustainable by independent, non-profit agencies like the Forest Stewardship Council FSC."



Vermont WoodNet Annual Meeting 2008

Vermont WoodNet's 2008 Annual Meeting was held at the Farm Barn at Shelburne Farms on Friday, September 19th. There were approximately 25 people in attendance. Below are the minutes of the meeting.

Annual meeting of Vermont Wood Net Farm Barn at Shelburne Farm, 9/19/08

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 P.M by Chairman Bob Bouvier. Each person in attendance introduced themselves. Chairman Bouvier then reviewed the financial status of WoodNet, reviewed the accomplishments for the year and presented the plans for the coming year. The meeting concluded with the election of the new board. Here is a summary of the presentation.

Finances and budget

Cash on hand = \$14, 662.00

Bills about \$1250.00

Income FSC \$ 785.00

Total available = \$12,627.00

Judy's hours slowly being reduced.

Next year, as of June 30, available = ~~\$-1,923.00~~

Discussion of gallery closure, especially the number of hour invested to maintain the Gallery and the fact that rent was free often.

The grants of last year are now wrapped up, however: Skills USA were sponsored.

Several education classes were offered.

New FSC certificates have a few problems with the process and many have dropped it.

We have continued to do the Shelburne Fall festival.

We will not do the Woodstock show this year.

Refocus and WoodNet activities

Roots, discussion.

Networking, discussion.

Education, discussion.

Collaboration, discussion.

Resource guide, discussion.

Monthly newsletter, discussion.

Next year's activities

Maintain refocus, discussion

Pursue 501C3, which would open us to foundation grants.

Continue with Shelburne harvest festival,

Cancel gallery website, discussion,

Pursue more grants, discussion.

Offer web marketing class... 10/24-10/25

Brattleboro.

Continue monthly newsletter.

Do e-mails via list serve???

Maintain an updated member directory.

WERC final reports, discussion.

Expand net working centers to NEK, Rutland, Brattleboro, discussion.

Establish a mentoring program among the members, discussion.

VT WoodNet board election.

A list of nominees was presented and voted on, via Roberts Rules of Order.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 P.M.

Web Marketing Seminar

As you all know from a previous announcement, we have been working on five separate web marketing workshops being offered in a 1 ½ day long seminar. Unfortunately, we are postponing this seminar until a later date. We spoke with several people who were interested in attending these workshops but were already committed to other events. To make it available to all who are interested, and to make sure the workshops are well attended, we will reschedule until Feb/March, 2009. We will keep you informed on when, where, and agenda as soon as we can.

Welcome to the WoodNet Market Council

We are pleased to announce that Vermont WoodNet is partnering with the newly formed WoodNet Market Council. As a partnering organization, all Vermont WoodNet members will receive free membership as founding members. Anyone interested in receiving a copy of the Green Building 101 Resource Guide can purchase one for \$10. Since your membership is free, the \$10 fee is necessary. All you need to do is to contact Judy Balch or Sandi Morgan to let us know that you would like to be listed as a member. Please see the brochure for all the information. You will be getting an email from Judy soon with a WoodNet Market Council brochure and membership form attached.

Monthly Feature Members

In each issue of our newsletter we would like to feature several members. In this issue you will find articles about some of our board members. They each wrote their own articles and sent their own pictures. Any WoodNet member can send an article and pictures that tell the story of who they are and what they do.

We want to feature YOU. Write an article. Send pictures. The pictures can be of your shop, your projects, or anything else you want to send.

Gerald A. Bouchard
P.O. Box 111
Charlotte, VT 05445
802-425-6291
gamjb@gmavt.net
Vermont WoodNet Board Member

I am a Franklin County Vermont native, with an agricultural upbringing, and Mechanical Engineering graduate of both UVM & VTC. My past experience includes employment in the Machine Tool, Automotive, Electrical Power Generation, and Avionics Industries.

I am currently doing custom sawing or milling of logs into lumber using a Wood-Mizer sawmill. To date I have sawed thousands of board feet of cedar, pine, hemlock, black locust, hardhack, oak, maple, beech, ash, black birch, basswood, cherry, elm, and poplar to mention a few.

I will do just one or two logs, however I would expect the owner to bring the logs to me. Therefore the tree(s) that your parents or grand parents planted could be sawed into lumber and worked into wood projects to further honor their memory. The same could be done with trees that mother nature damaged, or that need to be removed.

I will accept yard tree logs. However I will not buy them, as invariably these trees have met up with some young lad that thought building a tree house would be nice, or someone advertising a yard sale, etc. (That is, these logs you pay for in blades).

I have an 18" planner and can do custom planning. (Clean wood only. Hauling wood on a surface used to carry sand, gravel, or other gritty material is hellish on blades).

I also have an assortment of air dried maple, shagbark hickory, butternut, and cedar for sale.



Gerald sawed the wood for this 12 ft x 16 ft Cedar screened building from the floor up.



Wood-Mizer making a log into a timber.

Russ Fellows
Skunk Hollow Studios, LLC
26 John Davis Drive
Jericho, VT 05465
802-899-3059
skunkmen@together.net
Vermont WoodNet Board Member

I am a Vermont native, born and grew up in the Southern Vermont town of Springfield.

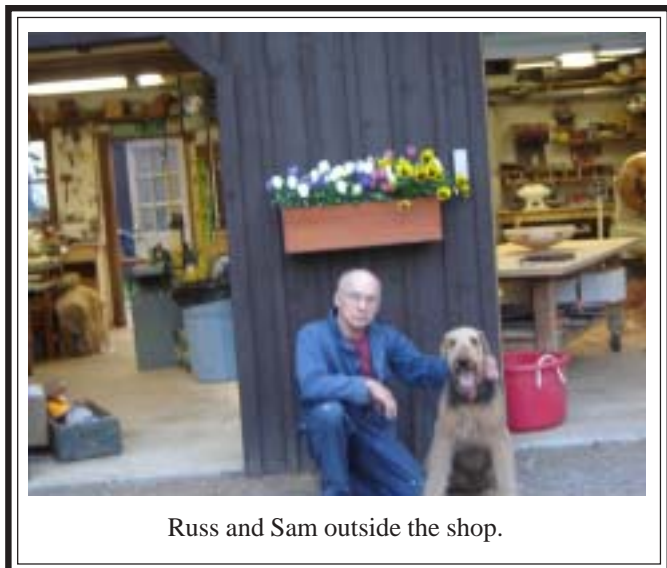
I have lived in Northern Vermont since 1972, and Jericho since 1980.

Nearly everything in my working life has involved wood and wood products, from farming to logging to commercial and residential construction, and always in a “hands-on” capacity as a rough and finish carpenter.

I have always had a woodworking shop, wherever I lived, and built architectural items and furniture, “stuff”.

I own Skunk Hollow Studios, LLC in Jericho where I make a variety of wood products, with a special emphasis on segmented turnings.

I sell my work in The Old Mill Craft Shop in Jericho, The Frog Hollow State Craft Center in Middlebury and Burlington, The Artisan’s Hand in Montpelier, Vermont Artisan Designs in Brattleboro, and The Sharon Art Center in Peterborough, NH.



Russ and Sam outside the shop.

Bob Bouvier
Wood-U-Believe
26 Airport Parkway
South Burlington, VT 05403
802-863-5644
Email: wdubelieve@aol.com
Web site: www.woodubelieve.com
Vermont WoodNet Board Chairman

I have been a woodworker for over 45 years. I began building furniture and other wood items out of necessity. We needed some items and could not afford to buy them, so I made them with simple, mostly hand tools.

The first piece that I built was a cradle for my son. It was built totally by hand from a packing crate that I got from my place of employment. My wife and I still own and cherish this piece. Many babies, children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, have slept in it over the years. I have four children and 10 grandchildren.

During the past 45 years I have had the privilege and opportunity to build many and varied wood items, from toys to furniture, to specialty items and even some architectural work.

By formal education, I am a mechanical engineer. I worked for 30 years in the high tech industry. I have had the opportunity to attend Yestermorrow School of Design and the Shelburne Craft School to help round out my woodworking skills. I am a juried member of Vermont Hand Crafters, member of Vermont Crafts Council, Green Mountain Woodcarvers, Woodchuck Turners of Northern Vermont, American Association of Woodturners, The Furniture Society, The American Craft Council and a board member of Vermont WoodNet.

For the last 15 years, I have worked full time at producing mostly custom, one of a kind, high quality and heirloom pieces for my customers. I work in native Vermont hardwoods. I prefer clean and simple designs with solid joinery. Shaker is my preference, but I have built whatever a customer has a desire and need to have hand crafted.

Over 50% of my work for the last 5 years has been for libraries and churches. Their needs are unique and quite exciting and they are challenging to have as customers.

If it's made of wood, I have probably made something similar to it. If not, and you can describe it, sketch it or show me a picture of it I can build it for you!



Bob makes great sawdust!



Bob's first project