

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.

November 2008

Volume 8, Number 4

## Greenbuild 2008 by Judy Balch

Greenbuild 2008 was held in Boston at the new Conference Center down by the Seaport. Set-up began on Monday, November 17th and finished on Tuesday, November 18th. There were 800 booths representing well over 800 companies/organizations. The final count of the attendees at the show was 27,000 people.

Monday evening, Rate-It-Green held a pre-Green Build reception, with over 250 RSVP's for attendance. **John Lomas**, of **Cotswold Furniture**, and **Deborah Bump**, of **Deborah Bump Wood Sculptor**, both came to the reception to represent their individual businesses at the reception. There were architects, designers, and other industry professionals in attendance. **Parker Nichols**, **JP Sinclair**, **William Laberge**, and **Joel Currier** sent brochures for display. Many people were interested in what they saw.

**Vermont WoodNet** and the **WoodNet Market Council** were both part of the FSC Office. The Office was built with all FSC materials by several different companies, including Richlite, Mohawk Paper, Young Furniture, Cotswold Furniture, and many more. There were a total of 17 companies/organizations that helped to build the Office, with a few others being represented, as well.

Tuesday, the show opened at 5pm for exhibitors and members of the US GBC (US Green Building Council). The show closed at 8pm, with another reception beginning. Everyone met, talked, compared thoughts, and generally did a lot of networking. Many businesses, nationwide, are having the same issues with reaching the consumers. Web marketing does seem to be making a difference for many businesses, but building the right website with the right sales approach is imperative.

Wednesday, the show began at 9am with the opening speech by Arch Bishop Desmond Tutu. The public came in waves. There was a lot of interest in the figured hardwoods of **Sinclair Millworks**, as well as the FSC certified cherry chair by **John Lomas**. There was also a lot of interest in **Parker Nichols**'s Butternut Glass. I walked around the floor, seeing the other types of “Green” companies. In my travels, I made connections with the National AIA (architects) as well as the National Interior Designers Ass. After the show closed at 6pm, there was yet another

reception at Nexus, home of the “Green Round Table”. During this reception, the president of FSC-US, Corey Brinkman, gave a speech and gave out a couple of certificates. Mr. Brinkman also talked about the international FSC meeting held in South Africa earlier in November.

On Thursday, there seemed to be even more show goers. There were lots of questions about FSC and FSC products available. There were also many questions concerning LEED projects with both FSC and local wood and wood products. I was also able to speak directly with Mr. Brinkman about FSC questions and concerns. When we have the workshops in the spring, FSC or the Rainforest Alliance will send someone to provide education in both FSC and LEED standards to anyone interested. At the close of the show at 6pm, there was a very loud sigh of relief from most everyone.

The FSC Office is being moved to the Jordan Institute in Concord, NH. There it will be seen by many visitors including architects and designers who go there for workshops.

Also while at Green Build, I had the opportunity to speak with the producer of Bob Vila's new show. She was looking for possible people to talk with that may appear on the show. She was very interested in the FSC companies as she has always been an advocate for “green” and “sustainable” wood and building. I will be speaking with her more, hopefully, in the future.

Another opportunity that came from the show is another show in New York City in March. In fact, they want us to build another display for the show. This will be another chance for members to be a part of a large project that will be seen by thousands, only this time, in NY. Also, it's very possible that it will be of no cost to anyone to be able to be a part of it. As we talk more about what is needed, I will be sure to keep everyone informed.

It is my sincere hope, that as these opportunities arise, more members will step up and take advantage of them. The biggest reason I am doing these shows is to be able to represent members in a forum that can lead to creating work for all. However, if members don't take advantage of these opportunities, then it will be their loss. These opportunities open up a much wider customer base to people who are willing to step up and move forward.

## Woodworking in Vermont by Mark Schofield

Recently I had the honor of helping judge the entries in the **Vermont Fine Furniture and Woodworking Festival**. For the previous two years, the judges had just been sent a CD of images of the pieces. The mixed quality of the photography was almost as frustrating as not being able to get up close and personal with what looked like some fine pieces of furniture and sculpture.

### Four perspectives find worthy winners

So it was with keen anticipation that I drove up to Woodstock on Friday afternoon, despite pelting rain and low cloud. My fellow judges were: Phil Lowe, renowned furniture maker, owner of the Furniture Institute of Massachusetts, and frequent contributor to *Fine Woodworking*; Warren Kimble, the renowned folk artist from Brandon, Vt.; and John Ostrum, an engineer and architect for the State of Vermont.

We met at the new Forest Center in the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park. Built entirely from local wood, its roof shining with solar panels, and the furniture inside finished with environmentally friendly water-based finish; the building provided a pleasant place to display some of the entries.

The judges quickly decided to work as a team rather than look at the entries individually and then discuss their findings later. It proved a fortuitous decision as their different backgrounds meant that while Lowe and Schofield could critique the workmanship, Ostrum provided input on the design while Kimble gave an artist's perspective—in particular the use of, or lack of, color.

After a couple of hours, we were taken to the main part of the woodworking event, held in the local ice rink. Luckily, hockey season hadn't yet started so we didn't have to get our skates on to look over the remainder of the 60 or so pieces. Among the pieces we admired was an incredibly delicate bureau mirror in curly maple by Josh Metcalf. A worthy winner in the custom woodenware category, the closer you looked the more detail you discovered.



The four judges (from left): Phil Lowe, Mark Schofield, Warren Kimble, John Ostrum. Their variety of backgrounds meant that the entries to the competition were viewed from different perspectives.



Clipboards at the ready. The judges examine a curly maple and marble coffee table made by cabinetmaker Steve Marshall.



Delicate details. The judges admired the tiny dovetails, refined pulls, and surface treatment of this bureau mirror by Josh Metcalf.

### The star of the show

In my eight years as a Fine Woodworking editor I've visited a lot of woodworkers, amateur and professional, the majority of whom do very nice work. But it is still rare to find someone with as much natural talent as Will Barstow. A senior at U-32 high school in Montpelier, Vermont, Barstow spent two years making a copy of the Federal card table by Steve Latta that graced the cover of FWW #180.

Nor did he rely heavily on his shop teacher, David Bazis. Bazis commented that while some students require constant hand-holding, Barstow just had to be shown once and off he went and completed the task.

Barstow is undecided on his plans after high school. An apprenticeship would seem ideal (don't expect him to be just sweeping the floors), but perhaps out there is a patron of the arts and a lover of fine furniture who would be interested in sponsoring the builder of tomorrow's antiques. It's a sad commentary on our society's values that if Barstow's enormous talent lay on the football field or basketball court he would already be head-hunted by talent scouts and probably financially set for life.

Mark Schofield is FWW managing editor.

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### More on Greenbuild

Vermont WoodNet and the WoodNet Market Council were not the only Vermont businesses represented at the Greenbuild International Conference and Expo in November. Alpine SnowGuards of Morrisville, WinterPanel of Brattleboro, VWMA, EatheShift of Huntington, William Maclay Architects & Planners of Waitsfield, and Vermont Green Building Network were there.

Two Vermont organizations were recognized at the show. Vermont Natural Coatings of Hardwick that manufacture whey-based wood finishes was recognized as one of Building Green's 2008 Top 10 Green Building Products. Alex Wilson, executive editor of Environmental Building News of Brattleboro received the USGBC's 2008 leadership Award in the education category.



Young man with a future. Will Barstow with the Federal card table he built in high school.



All his own work. Making all the inlay himself, including the paterae at the top of each leg, Barstow's inlay was as crisp and flawless as Latta's.

**Monthly Feature Members**

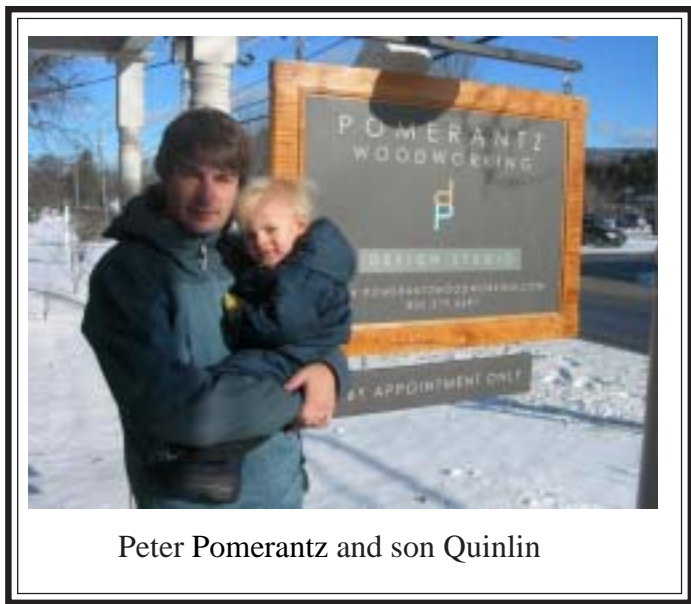
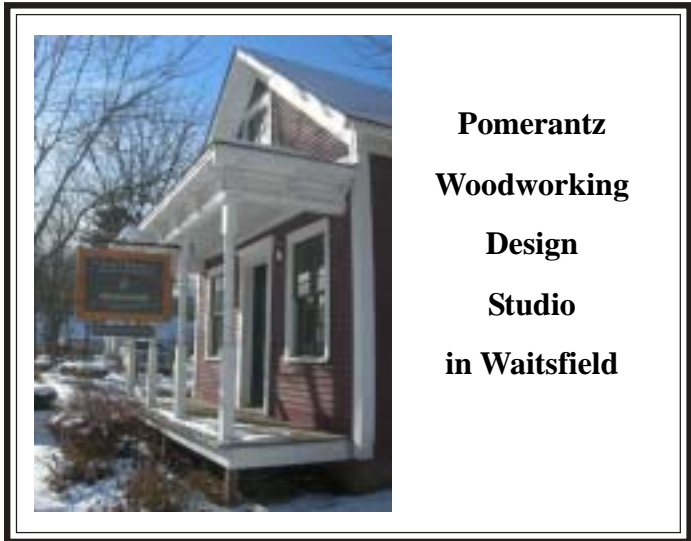
In each issue of our newsletter we would like to feature several members. In this issue you will find articles about some of our board members. They each wrote their own articles and sent their own pictures. Any WoodNet member can send an article and pictures that tell the story of who they are and what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

**Pomerantz Woodworking Design Studio**

**Now Open**

Pomerantz Woodworking, offering hand crafted custom kitchens and fine furniture, is now accepting appointments at the Pomerantz Woodworking Design Studio, located at 5130 Main Street, Waitsfield. The Design Studio offers a comfortable setting to meet with clients and contractors to view and discuss cabinetry designs, wood countertops, and various finish options. To set up a complementary consultation, or for more information, call 802-279-6597, or visit [www.pomerantzwoodworking.com](http://www.pomerantzwoodworking.com).



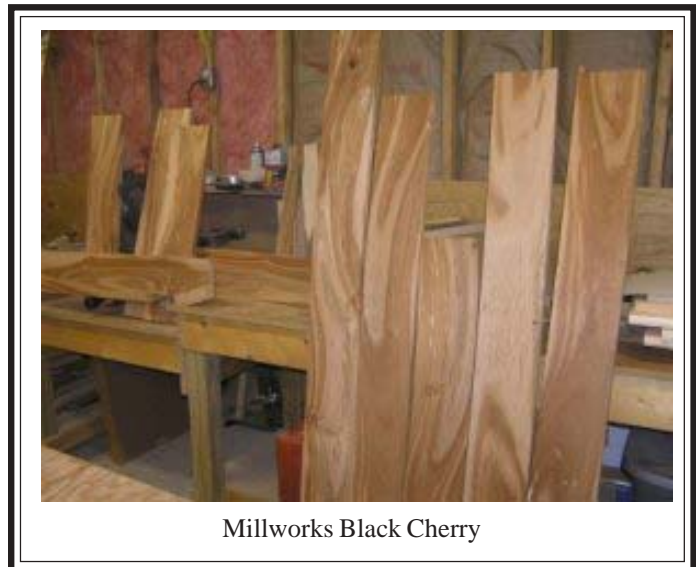
**Sinclair Millworks****J.P. Sinclair****3020 Stanton Road****Danville, VT 05828****802-748-0948****SinclairMillworks@gmail.com**

Nestled deep in the heart of the Northeast Kingdom is the home of Sinclair Millworks. For 10 years, we were in the Timber Harvesting business as Japes Logging. In 2002, we bought a small sawmill to cut framing timber during the spring mud season to keep busy. Before we knew it, people were dropping logs off for custom cutting. The time in the woods progressively got replaced by time in the sawmill.

A buddy brought an old cherry log in because he was curious what it looked like inside. That was the first time I had cut any hardwoods. We popped the first slab off the top and it was stunning inside. A picture of that first board is on the website (Sinclairmillworks.com). I was hooked on figured wood at that moment. Pretty soon, I discovered the beauty of Mother Nature in spalted maple and birch, burls, curly cherry, birdseye maple, butternut, chestnut and on and on.

I realized that the figured hardwoods that I was making were unlike anything I had seen in any lumber suppliers, especially big box stores. Some local woodworkers discovered my stash of funky wood and I realized I was in a specialty market. I experimented with making some flooring and pretty soon we had done a few installs with happy customers.

I'm completely addicted to unique looking wood. It really adds a lot to any project to have rare looking wood in the construction. Our stock varies by what is coming out of my log suppliers. I have some fantastic timberjacks in my area that are great about putting aside interesting finds while they are harvesting. We have our own kiln and take the log from the woods, to the mill, to the kiln, surface planed and into our inventory ready to go for projects.



**Home Builders & Remodelers Association (HBRA) meeting  
November 12, 2008 at the HBRA office in Williston  
by Bob Bouvier**

The main speaker was Jeff Taggart from the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) Research Center. The session provided an overview of the new NAHB National Green Building Program. The NAHB Green Resources Guide includes a web based green home scoring tool that allows builders to design, build and measure green features. It allows home builders (and built in builders) all over the country to take advantage of this voluntary, market driven and cost effective way to build green.

This new GREEN initiative was started by the home builders to address residential building. It's coming at that market from the users as apposed to the LEEDS system which has been adopted by architects and is basically targeted at the commercial business.

There is a definite potential conflict with the two systems. The LEEDS approach is a third party one similar to FSC wood. The NAHB approach is by users similar to the SFI one for wood. Time will tell if this approach takes hold or not. It is being handled/validated by the American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM). This may make a difference and help to deflect thoughts that it's a standard initiated and controlled by the users.

Two web sites will help folks to get info about this new green standard: [www.nahbgreen.org](http://www.nahbgreen.org) and [www.toolbase.org](http://www.toolbase.org).

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**Interesting Publication**

The **Vermont Forest Exchange & Information** Bulletin is a monthly publication of the Utilization, Marketing and Development Section of the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. It contains lots of good information for those who want to buy or sell any forest products or equipment related to the business of wood harvesting or processing. If you are interested in getting a copy contact Bob DeGeus at [Robert.degeus@state.vt.us](mailto:Robert.degeus@state.vt.us) or 802-241-3678.

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**Interesting Web Site**

If you are interested in the latest information about the Wood Education and Resource Center (WERC) try this web site: <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/werc/wc>.

**Great Quarterly Meeting  
by Barry Genzlinger**

The Vermont WoodNet Quarterly Meeting held November 18 was a big success. Bill Baynham opened his huge shop to host the meeting. Thanks Bill!

The meeting started with more than 20 members and guests introducing themselves, followed by some WoodNet business and discussions of the upcoming Greenbuild Expo and the need for more classes similar to those WoodNet provided over the last year. All members are urged to contact any board member with your ideas for classes that we might provide in the future.

The next topic at the meeting was sharing by the members: their favorite or least favorite tool/jig/thing from their shop. There where some great things shared.

- If you need to cut tin use a skill saw with an 80 tooth blade put in backwards.
- Two great resource books for woodworkers are (contact Fred Colins for the exact titles): US Forest Service Laboratory "Use of Wood", and Ergonomics in Architectural Graphic Standards.
- An excellent countersink is made by Zephyr (actually an aircraft tool) and is available on Ebay for about \$12.
- A Magnetic Base, which is part of a Dial Stand, is a great tool for holding things in place on any metal surface. It is available on Amazon and Ebay from \$12+

The meeting concluded with Bill giving a great demonstration of his CNC router. He cut out parts from a 4x8 sheet of 1/2" plywood and drilled holes in them in about 6 minutes. The same job takes over an hour when done on a table saw, router, and hand drill.



Discussion at the Quarterly Meeting

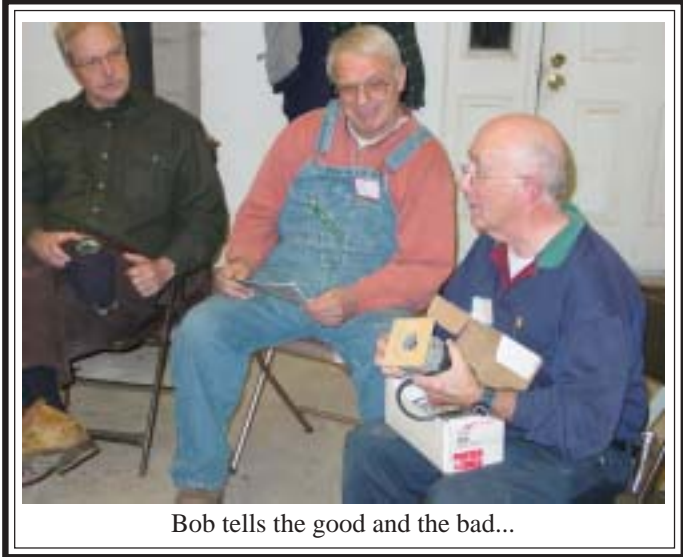
(more pictures on next page)



Fred tries to guess what specie.



The CNC makes sawdust



Bob tells the good and the bad...



The CNC at work

**Vermont WoodNet 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