

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.

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## Networking spurs shop’s growth

Vermont woodworker’s interaction with other shops creates business, increases knowledge and improves skills

By George Lausch

When owner Bill Baynham decided to expand Baynham Wood Products Co. to a full-time business, he realized he couldn’t do it alone. With contacts through Vermont WoodNet and the Cabinet Makers Assn., he’s been able to grow his business and draw upon other woodworkers’ expertise.

For more than 20 years Baynham had split his time between teaching home building to high school students and woodworking in his Shelburne, Vt., shop. When he recently retired from teaching, he became a full-time woodworker.

“I was afraid that when I retired ...I would maintain the same volume I’ve had in the past and would only have a small amount of work, but

fortunately it hasn’t worked out that way,” Baynham says. “I’m just starting out, but I’ve got enough work ahead of me, enough big jobs, where’s it’s been very good.” He attributes the sustained workload to his varied skills, networking and shared use of equipment.

### New work, outsourcing

Baynham specializes in custom built-ins, furniture and fine finish carpentry. He gets most work through

local contractors, referrals and members of Vermont WoodNet, a nonprofit organization promoting networking and cooperation among the state’s woodworkers (seesidebar below). He also handles outsourced jobs. His 3,000-square-foot shop is equipped with a Felder sliding table shaper, Holz-Her 1310-1edgebander, Multi-Cam 5 x 10 flat table CNC

router, Ramco wide-belt sander, SCMI Sintex four-sided moulder, SCMI planer and jointer, Striebig Compact panel saw, Weaver shapers and Williams and Hussey moulder. Most of the other shops in the region don’t have Baynham’s equipment; they seek his expertise for outsourcing. Many are Vermont WoodNet

members or learn about him through [www.vtwoodnet.org](http://www.vtwoodnet.org).

### Outsourcing projects

A half dozen shops hire him or rent time on the Ramco wide-belt sander. Some shops need plywood cut on the Striebig panel saw while others require edgebanding on the Holz-Her edgebander. Contractors doing remodels are also looking for moulding. “If it’s not an off-the-shelf product that they can get at the lumber yard, they’ll come to me for moulding. I’ll run moulding either through the Williams and Hussey or I’ll do S4Sstuff on the SCMI Sintex,” Baynham says. He charges \$70 to \$100 an hour.

Still other shops need what his Multi-Cam CNCrouter can provide. With so many small operations in Vermont, few shops have CNCs of the Multi-Cam’s size and capability. The owners of Beeken Parsons, a furniture manufacturer that uses the CNC, have become fellow students. “Bruce Beeken, Jeff Parsons, Jared Poor and I have learned EnRoute (software) together,” Baynham says. “I gave them one of my training CDs, and it was certainly to their advantage to learn the software as



quickly as possible because I was charging them by the hour. “We actually tutored each other because they are pretty clever fellows, and so they’ve done a lot of furniture parts on the CNC,” Baynham says. “They draw it in their own CAD program, we import it into EnRoute and out to the CNC it goes. Once again that’s a networking thing; they’re another member of Wood Net.”

#### Reciprocal assistance

Baynham also gets help from other Wood Net shops. “I don’t do painted finishes necessarily, but there’s a shop up the road that’s got a spray booth that will do the painted finishes for me,” he says. He’ll also check with other shops to see if he’s in the financial ballpark on a bid proposal.

“That type of thing is really helpful,” he says. When it comes to tips for a specific job, Baynham often turns to the Cabinet Makers Assn. “The CMA Web site is very valuable for picking up information,” he says. For example, he was looking for tips on mortise-and-tenon construction for mahogany-framed exterior screens. So he logged on to [www.cabinetmakers.org](http://www.cabinetmakers.org). “I was picking people’s brains on the proper way to do the engineering on it, what would be the fastest and still be strong enough and meet the contractor’s needs and prices,” Baynham says. “Three people answered my question within the day and all three people I knew personally. All three people had done the same job, the same type of work. “It was really helpful,” he says. “It soothed my mind on how I was going to go about engineering this.” He also benefits from the CMA’s round table meetings. Baynham has been a CMA member since its inception, and he says it does on the national level what Wood Net does on a state level. “Once again, one of the big benefits is you have a group of people that you can bounce things off of” he says.

#### Avoiding mistakes

“I don’t have to fall on my face making a mistake if somebody else who has already made it can help me out,” The adds. “It’s invaluable. I can’t imagine what it was like before the Internet and having this information right there.”

For more pictures and other stories go to [www.cabinetmakeronline.com](http://www.cabinetmakeronline.com).

## WoodNet fosters networking, cooperation

By George Lausch

Bob Bouvier, owner of Wood U Believe, founded the nonprofit Vermont WoodNet in 2000. “I started it, with some grants from the State of Vermont, purely to help the business economy of the small-scale woodworking business in Vermont,” he says.

First, WoodNet set out to identify and network the state’s thousands of woodworking shops.

Replacing competition with cooperation and tapping into each shop’s strengths were intended to serve the greater good. “We aren’t all good at everything, and by making the best use of each piece of us, we’re all better off,” he says.

A key part of this unifying effort was the publication of the Vermont WoodNet Resource Directory, which lists organizations, businesses and agencies that provide materials or services for the state’s small-scale woodworkers.

Second, Wood Net stressed the benefits of marketing Vermont’s wood products outside the state. “We’re looking at it very parochially. Instead of a big effort to keep (woodworking) in the United States, we want to keep it in Vermont,” Bouvier says.

Three years ago WoodNet opened the Vermont MapleWood Gallery, a retail space featuring products from the state’s woodworkers. Its promotional material stated, “If it’s made from wood, we can make it.” Unfortunately, the association had to close the gallery this summer. “We just couldn’t make it go,” Bouvier says.

Third, Wood Net promotes education as a way to sustain the industry. “Education is the key to not only existing shops, but the future of this woodworking business,” Bouvier says. “There are virtually no opportunities for younger people to learn how to do this skill, which is why we sponsor and support the cabinet building piece of SkilisUSA - to get kids to understand you can build a cabinet and fine furniture. Consider that as part of your future.”

Vermont Wood Net currently has 150 members. Membership is open to the entire supply chain, from land owners with forests and sawyers to secondary wood products manufacturers and marketers.

For more information, visit [www.vtwoodnet.org](http://www.vtwoodnet.org).

## Near Miss – Fire Dept. called to shop

By Bob Rueter, Rueter Woodworking

Every year or so you hear about a fire in a woodworking shop. Last winter down here a fellow lost his shop to a fire. I believe most of his hand tools were in it, and he lost all of the jigs he had used for years for a production run that he was to start soon. I was much luckier.

Last Wednesday about 4:50pm I receive a call from my landlord. He had received word that the Fire Dept. was at my shop. I ran down – it's only a block away. There were trucks outside & a big fan hanging in the doorway, pulling smoke out. A lot of very fortunate things happened that day.

I rent the shop from a guy who has a sheet metal business out back. At one time the building was their offices, but has not been for several years. I have been renting for 2.5 years, and put in a used wood stove the first fall. My work varies a lot – often I am out at job sites doing carpentry & handyman work. The last 6 weeks I have been in the shop mostly, and use the woodstove when I am there to reduce the use of oil. When I leave, I top off the stove & have a fan that pushes air out toward the front part of the shop where the thermostat is. I have been doing this off & on since October, and used the stove without incident the prior two winters on an occasional basis.

On this particular day I had left at 2:30 for some errands, and got home about 4pm. Then the call came in at 4:50. Fortunately, they did not need to break down the door, and no water was required. There was no fire – only smoke. My landlord's brother had been near by & received a call, and was able to open up the front door before they decided to bash it down. The woodstove is at the back of the shop and the firemen could not see any fire or smoke from the front when they arrived. When they entered, they found the back and middle areas thick with smoke. By the time I got there 15 minutes later it was all blown out, and no smoke was escaping into the shop from the stove.

The next day the Fire Inspector came by & we looked at the space with Ken, my landlord. The biggest problem was wood close to the stove. I had scrap wood bins too close, and my wood rack for fire wood had some beginnings of heat marks on them from the stove. The stove sits on 4 pieces of 2'x2' slates, and they told

me to add another foot of slate to the front. The floor around the stove is wood and needed more protection. The stove and pipe had been professionally installed – I did not do it myself – but it was not completely properly done. The floor was one issue. Additionally, there was not enough clearance going past lath and joists in the ceiling. I cut back the lath, and cut an end off of one of the joists. Fortunately this did not compromise the joist. Replacing the fitting around the stove pipe that goes up against the hung ceiling was the biggest challenge. Another item was the heat shield on the wall behind the stove. There is supposed to be an inch of gap at the bottom so air can circulate & cool vertically. The installer had put this sheet directly against the slate at the bottom so no circulation could take place. Moving this up was pretty easy. I moved my wood pile & my scrap bins away, and cleaned up around the stove.

The item that generated the most discussion is the ash bin. It is a metal can sitting next to the stove, on the wood floor. Apparently charcoal can stay hot for 3 or more weeks. I typically clean out the stove every day, and this ash bin has 2 years of ash in it, so the bottom is cooled off. I also filter out the bigger chunks of charcoal & put them back in the stove. But many fires are started in these ash bins. They hold heat, and then something close to them catches on fire. The Fire Inspector recommended putting it outside, away from the building. Ken asked if it could sit where it was, but on slate (with fire-rated ½" Durock underneath). The inspector said that would be fine. Initially I got an 18x24" piece of slate, but this did not put it far enough away from the stove, so I went back & got a 24x30" piece. This piece abuts the slate that is under the stove, but the can is now more than 18" away, and any scrap wood is more than 18" away from the can. The area around the stove is much clearer and cleaner now, and my wood pile is closer to the door where I bring it in.

There were a few other pluses to this event. We now know that the smoke detector works just fine, as does the fire panel & the connection to the fire department. This is one of the advantages of being in town, and a block away from the fire department. A set of keys to the shop has now been placed in the fire department lock box on the side of the building. I got an adrenaline rush running down to the shop from my home!

(continued)

We never did find the cause. The chimney is clear, and I burn in the proper range. There may have been some big blow-back, but the damper was down in the position I had left it when the fire department came. I consider myself quite fortunate to get such a mild lesson in proper set-up of a wood stove, and to have such a supportive landlord & fire inspector. The modifications were relatively easy to make, compared to fixing the potential damage possible from fire and water.

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### You can find this beautiful wood at Sinclair Millworks

This is spalted sugar maple with tiger curl. Each piece is 5 quarter thick, around 10 inches wide, 5 feet long. This was from a log off a logging job in Danville. It was actually a down tree that most commercial loggers would ignore but it happened to be a crew that pulls out down trees for me to look over. I just got in 3 monsters that were on a old log landing near my house. Log yards will not buy anything but live standing timber but sometimes dead, fallen trees in the woods have some beautiful touches from mother nature if you are willing to roll the dice.

Sequential cut pieces like these are called bookmatches. I keep some of the unique looking stuff like this as bookmatches in case someone wants tabletop stock. Just a little trimming, edging and glue and it will be a beautiful 20 inch wide slab.

### *beCAUSE Craft Show*

#### like NO other craft show

The *beCAUSE Craft Show* is not like any other craft show for 2 reasons. First, it is FREE for vendors. Yes, FREE. There are no vendor fees. Second, each vendor donates at least 50% of their profits to a charity or charities of their own choice. It could be a local or a national non-profit.

This year the 4th annual *beCAUSE Craft Show* will be held on March 21st in the St. Michaels College Gym. St. Mikes has donated the use of gym for the event.

The show is looking for vendors.

If you are interested in being a vendor and have a non-profit that you want to donate to please contact PJ Neverett at neveretts3@yahoo.com.

### 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.

## Valuable information from CraigList for avoiding SCAMs

You can sidestep would-be scammers by following these common-sense rules:

- DEAL LACALLY WITH FOLKS YOU CAN MEET IN PERSON - **follow this one simple rule and you will avoid 99% of the scam attempts on craigslist.**
- NEVER WIRE FUNDS VIA WESTERN UNION, MONEYGRAM or any other wire service - anyone who asks you to do so is a scammer.
- FAKE CASHIER CHECKS & MONEY ORDERS ARE COMMON, and BANKS WILL CASH THEM AND THEN HOLD YOU RESPONSIBLE when the fake is discovered weeks later.
- CRAIGSLIST IS NOT INVOLVED IN ANY TRANSACTION, and does not handle payments, guarantee transactions, provide escrow services, or offer “buyer protection” or “seller certification”
- NEVER GIVE OUT FINANCIAL INFORMATION (bank account number, social security number, eBay/PayPal info, etc.)
- AVOID DEALS INVOLVING SHIPPING OR ESCROW SERVICES and know that ONLY A SCAMMER WILL “GUARANTEE” YOUR TRANSACTION.

Who should I notify about fraud or scam attempts?

- FTC toll free hotline: 877-FTC-HELP (877-382-4357)
- FTC online complaint form (<http://www.ftc.gov>)
- Canadian PhoneBusters hotline: 888-495-8501
- Internet Fraud Complaint Center (<http://www.ic3.gov>)
- Non-emergency number for your local police department.

If you suspect that an item posted for sale on craigslist may be part of a scam, please email the details to “[abuse@craigslist.org](mailto:abuse@craigslist.org)”. Be sure to include the URL (or eight-digit post ID number) in your message.

Recognizing scams

Most scams involve one or more of the following:

- inquiry from someone far away, often in another country
- Western Union, Money Gram, cashier’s check, money order, shipping, escrow service, or a “guarantee”
- inability or refusal to meet face-to-face before consummating transaction

Examples of Scams

1. Someone *claims that craigslist will guarantee* a transaction, certify a buyer/seller, OR *claims that craigslist will handle or provide protection* for a payment.
  - These claims are fraudulent, as craigslist does not have any role in any transaction.
  - Scammer will often send an official looking email that appears to come from craigslist, offering a guarantee, certifying a seller, providing payment services — all such emails are fakes!
2. *distant person offers a genuine-looking (but fake) cashier’s check*
  - you receive an email (examples below) offering to buy your item, or rent your apartment, sight unseen.
  - cashier’s check is offered for your sale item, as a deposit for an apartment, or for just about anything else of value.
  - value of cashier’s check often far exceeds your item - scammer offers to “trust” you, and asks you to wire the balance via money transfer service
  - banks will often cash these fake checks AND THEN HOLD YOU RESPONSIBLE WHEN THE CHECK FAILS TO CLEAR, including criminal prosecution in some cases!
  - scam often involves a 3rd party (shipping agent, business associate owing buyer money, etc)
3. Someone requests *wire service* payment via *Western Union or MoneyGram*:
  - Scam “bait” items include apartments, laptops, plasma TVs, cell phones, tickets - but could be almost anything
  - Often claim that an MTCN or confirmation code is needed before he can withdraw your money - this is FALSE, once you’ve wired money, it is GONE.
  - Common countries currently include: Nigeria, Romania, United Kingdom, Ukraine, Spain, Italy, Netherlands - but could be anywhere
  - Apartment listing may be local, but landlord/owner is “travelling” or “relocating” and needs you to wire money to them abroad
  - Deal often seems too good to be true, price is too low, rent is below market, etc
4. *distant person offers to send you a money order and then have you wire money*:
  - this is ALWAYS a scam, in our experience - the cashier’s check is FAKE
  - sometimes accompanies an offer of merchandise, sometimes not
  - scammer often asks for your name, address, etc for printing on the fake check
  - deal often seems too good to be true

5. *distant seller* suggests use of an *online escrow service*.

- most online escrow sites are FRAUDULENT, operated by scammers
- for more info, do a google search on “**fake escrow**” or “**escrow fraud**”

6. *distant seller* asks for a partial payment upfront, after which he will *ship* goods

- he says he trusts you with the partial payment
- he may say he has already shipped the goods
- deal often *sounds too good to be true*

7. *foreign company* offers you a job receiving payments from customers, then *wiring funds*

- foreign company may claim it is unable to receive payments from its customers directly
- you are typically offered a percentage of payments received
- this kind of “position” may be posted as a job, or offered to you via email

actual scam emails sent to craigslist sellers

Hello ,

Thanks for your mail back concerning the inquiry mail i sent to you.

The price,condition also the pics i viewed is okay by me .And my client confirm there is no problem about the price(\$975 ) ,my client do pays with a {USA}cashier check,he has agreed to mail out as bank cashiers check of \$3500. to you on my behalf to cover the shippment fees.About the shippment, that we be taken care by my me & my personal assistant,my personal assistant will be using his shipper to do the quick processing of the shipping of the(1987 Toyota Celica) to my client.

So all you are to do after you will received the check in your mail, Just take out your sale amount and refer the remaining money to my shipper immediately through the westernunion or the money gramm outlet so to get the money fast and start the fast arrangement for the pickup of the (1987 Toyota Celica).Since you are the original owner of this item,and i am buying the item directly from you i will like you to write your full name to be on the check,with the mailing address which my client will be using to issued out the check to you.I do wish to trust you by refering the rest balance back to my shipper and also your fast doing to this transaction. I will like to hear fromyou if this is okay by you and you are ready to process ,if you aready to sale your item and promise refering the rest balance to my shipper immediately you received the check so can start the quick arrangement for the pickup. Any body that want to buy this item this item just tell them that it as been sold. I will like to copmplete this transaction befor the new year. I be at my computer waiting to see your epky to my payment method mailed.

THANKS AND MAIL ME BACK WITH YOUR DETAIL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

> Thanks for getting back to me,i will be  
>purchasing the motorbike Like i said earlier i am based in the  
>netherlands(holland).there won't be any probs about the shipment,after  
>payment ,the pick up will be made at your place. i have made arrangements  
>with the prepaid shipping company. As regards payment,this is what i am  
>going to do;I have a client in ENGLAND who is owing me 5800POUNDS i would  
>instruct him to make out a money order/certifiedcheck to you in that  
>amount and as soon as it clears your bank. you can now deduct your money  
>from it and send me my balance,i will using use part of the money to pay  
>for the shipping and other expenses .you will then send my balance by via  
>western union money transfer.Although the value of the check is more than  
>the asking price but i think i should be able to trust you with my  
>balance. The reason why i am doing this is that it would take a check  
>sent from over here in HOLLAND 21days to clearover there,whereas a check  
>sent from the US would clear tops within 48hrs. So i would like you to  
>deduct the western union charges from my balance.So if my terms are  
>acceptableno to you,i would like you to give me your fullname,address and

>phone number so that i can instruct my client to make out the check to  
>you. Pls get back to me as soon as you get this mail so that we can  
>round things up in a timely fashion..i willbe trusting in this business  
>transaction.

> Good day

> i am an auto dealer based in TAIWAN,i am interested in buying your  
> ( 1989 Jetta GL 4 door )I will like to know if you would accept  
> acertified cashier check for the payment of the,i also need to  
> know the price and your full name and address including your  
> phone is also needed in which payment will be sent to . i have a  
> shipping company who takes cares of my shippment .So don't bother  
> about the shippment.I will also like to know if is still in good  
> condition and  
> shape.urgent response is needed for procedure of payment of the (   
> 1989 Jetta GL 4 door )  
> REGARD

> Thanks for your mail,Since the cost of your bike is \$800 i just contacted  
my client about the cost of your bike and it present condition and he said  
there is no problem about that.So my client said he will be issuing you a  
Certified Check of \$4000 while you wire 3000 to me through Western Union  
Money Trasfer and you deduct the cost of your bike \$800 and keep the  
remaining \$200 which my client said you should take for the terms of  
Transaction and Agreement between you and my client.So i will like you to  
send me your full contact information to where my client will be sending you  
> the Certified Check like this:

> name.....

> full address.....

> city.....

> state.....

> country.....

> zipcode.....

> cell/office/home phone number.....

> I will look forward to the requested information as soon as possible so  
that the check can be sent out to you immediately And do get back to me  
with the Pics of the bike so tha! t my client will be Able to see What he  
is paying off.Get back to me immediately. Looking towards your

> respond,

> Best Regards.

Good day

i am an auto dealer based in TAIWAN,i am interested in buying your  
( Comic book collection - 500 comics )I will like to know if you  
would accept acertified cashier check for the payment of the,i also  
need to knowthe price and your full name and address including your phone  
is alsoneeded in which payment will be sent to . i have a shipping  
company who takes cares of my shippment .So don't bother about the  
shippment.I will also like to know if is still in good condition  
and shape.urgent response is needed for procedure of payment of the (   
Comic book collection - 500 comics )

REGARD

**The following email was sent to all Vermont Hand Crafters by Mags Bonham, Administrator of VHC. It is important enough that we all need to hear it and let our legislators know what we think.**

To all VHC Members,

Many of you have written me in concern regarding the news that is going around about the recent legislation regulating children's products, and toys in particular. I think we all realize that this legislation is a result of the horrible recalls of the past two years on children's toys and other products that were made in China. The intention of the regulations are to make the American companies that import these products more responsible for what is made under their corporate name – no matter where they are made. And while the intention was honorable - in the rush to legislate - some very important issues were not considered. The one that affects us so much is the cost of having our products tested and certified when we produce small batches and one of a kind items.

Last week I sent emails to Welch, Leahy, and Sanders regarding the concerns that we all have about the effect these new regulations may have on Vermont craftspeople and small businesses. (I am attaching a copy of that email here.) Today I spoke with the staff member in Congressman Welsh's office who is doing the work on this issue. She and the Congressman are very aware of the issue and how it may affect American made products and Vermonters in particular. They tried to get language in the legislation to exempt certain types of businesses but were not successful. At this point in time the matter is really in the hands of the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to decide on the implementation of the requirements, the exemptions to the requirements, and the enforcement of such. The CPSC is very understaffed (in fact the legislation had to earmark significant budget increases to hire the necessary employees) and so no one needs to worry that come February 12th their products will be banned from sale and removed from the shelves.

Her suggestion is that we write, not only the Congressman and Senators, but to write directly to the CPSC to voice our concerns. That is where our voices can do the most good for the time being. I have asked

her to arrange a meeting with some of our members who are directly affected by this legislation. She will try and get some of the CPSC team to attend the meeting as well. If you would like to be a part of that group, please respond to this email so that I can start making a list. If some of you would like to make comments or suggestions on the attached email, I will write up a formal letter to mail to the CPSC from VHC.

Please visit the CPSC website using this address: <http://www.cpsc.gov/about/cpsia/cpsia.html>. There is updated status of the regulations and an opportunity to voice your concerns to the panel reviewing the implementation. There are also some examples of other letters that have been written to the CPSC that have impacted who will be exempt.

This issue should be a concern to all of us, regardless if we make children's products or not. I truly believe that it was not intended to put craftspeople out of business. Unfortunately, if we don't speak up, that's just what it may do. Let your government know that you want American made products to be made by Americans and not out-sourced to the lowest bidder. The big guys hire lobbyists to get their voices heard. We have to scream louder to be heard. Start screaming!!!

Here are the links to our Representatives. You can submit letters online:

<http://www.welch.house.gov/>

<http://leahy.senate.gov/>

<http://sanders.senate.gov/>

The Congressman who sponsored the original bill: <http://www.house.gov/rush/>

More information about the bill HR 4040: <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h110-4040>

Thank you,

Mags Bonham - Administrator  
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**Congratulation to Mike Rainville  
and Maple Landmark**

From the Burlington Free Press  
January 12, 2009

Middlebury — Maple Landmark was selected to create a wooden toy train engine to celebrate the inauguration of President Barack Obama. A train engine was chosen because President-elect Obama will be traveling to Washington, D.C., by train replicating the last leg of President Abraham Lincoln's journey to Washington.

Each engine is crafted from native Vermont hardwood and printed with the inaugural seal on one side and "Obama Biden Renewing America's Promise" on the other. The engine measures about 3 inches tall and 5 inches long.

"We are excited to be working on this project," said Mike Rainville, owner of Maple Landmark. "We were approached because we make products right here in the USA. And even more cool is that we received a call from the committee and they want us to customize the trains for the Obama children. Apparently Obama really liked them!"

Rainville founded Maple Landmark in 1979 in Lincoln. Rainville's commitments to sustainable lumber harvesting, green business concepts, and environmentally sound manufacturing practices remains the same.

To learn more about Maple Landmark, visit the Web site at [www.maplelandmark.com](http://www.maplelandmark.com)

You can see all the inaugural collectibles at: <http://pic2009.inauguralcollectibles.com/index.html> and then Kids category



**Bill Baynham Wood Products  
can provide you with the following services**

S4S milling lumber  
37" wide belt snading  
CnC routing of parts  
Edge banding

Call Bill Baynham: 802-985-9311

**For Sale**

Weaver 3 hp single phase **SHAPER**.  
\$850

Call Bill Baynham: 802-985-9311

**VWMA membership discount  
for WoodNet Members**

Have you renewed your VWMA membership yet? Remember that Vermont WoodNet members get a membership at 1/2 price!

**WoodNet Market Council Membership**

**It's FREE**

Vermont WoodNet is a partner in the newly formed WoodNet Market Council. As a partnering organization, all Vermont WoodNet members will receive free membership. All you need to do is to contact Judy Balch (802-892-7786) or Sandi Morgan (603-369-3093) to let them know that you would like to be listed as a member.

**Why join?**

Resource materials, marketing opportunities, education programs, website resources, sales lead generation services, FSC Certification.

And it's FREE to join.

**Publication Cancelled due to budget cuts**

In the last newsletter we mentioned the **Vermont Forest Exchange & Information Bulletin**, a monthly publication of the Utilization, Marketing and Development Section of the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. Due to budget cuts it is no longer being published. Contact Bob DeGeus at [Robert.degeus@state.vt.us](mailto:Robert.degeus@state.vt.us) or 802-241-3678 for more information.

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**www.BerkshireProducts.com**  
**info@BerkshireProducts.com**

Berkshire Products Inc, located in Sheffield, MA, was started in 1987 by Alan Zablonki, a former woodworking teacher. My love of working with highly figured lumber and unique and large natural edge slabs has resulted in our business having one of the largest selections of unique lumber in the country. Our lumber is displayed in 3 buildings with over 1000 bins and racks for easy customer selection. Most of the natural edge slabs are displayed in vertical racks for easy viewing. We are presently working on a fourth 8300 ft display building.

Our specialty is wide kiln-dried natural edge slabs up to 6' wide for making Nakashima style tables, bar tops and benches. We carry most domestic lumber

including wood from the west coast, such as Claro Walnut, Redwood, Myrtle and Big Leaf Maple. We also import logs and lumber from Africa and South America. We also have a good selection of square edge, natural edge and book matched sets of both figured lumber and unfigured lumber. Tone woods are sold as sanded matched sets and billets. Most of our burls are available as kiln-dried slices ranging from 1"-4" thick and some as turning blocks. Some of the burls that we have cut are huge; weighting up to 15,000 pounds and producing some really nice large table top slabs. Our quartersawn lumber is carried in several species including white oak that is sometimes over 15" wide. Lumber for mantels is stocked in thicknesses up to 5".



Wide African Mahogany and Bubinga.



One of the many Bubinga slabs that we have in stock.

We can presently cut lumber and burls up to 7' wide and are working on a saw to cut even wider. After cutting most of the lumber is air dried in one of our 6 sheds. Air drying under cover helps to prevent degrade from the sun and rain. Depending on thickness and species we air dry for up to 4 years. After air drying some of our lumber is kiln dried in our solar dryer but most get kiln dried in one of our 2 custom designed Vacuum kilns. Our Vacuum kilns are designed to produce high quality kiln dried lumber that has little cup or twist even with wide slabs. We also can do custom planing up to 24" wide and sanding up to 50" wide.

Customers from all over the Northeast tell us it is well worth the drive to personally hand select their own lumber for their projects. If you can't stop by check  
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out our website, [www.BerkshireProducts.com](http://www.BerkshireProducts.com), to see a small sampling of our inventory. We can ship any of our lumber to anywhere in the country. Hours are Monday-Friday; 8:00-4:30 and Saturdays 8:00-Noon or visit our website



All of the lumber in Buildings #2 & #3 are stored vertically to make it easier for our customers to view and select their lumber.

### **More Educational Classes are in the works!**

Vermont WoodNet is working on setting up more educational classes for our members! Here are topics that we considering. Please let us know if these are still of interest to you. If you have other ideas for classes please let one of the board members know.

Photoshop Elements

SketchUp

Pricing your work

Marketing

Using the WoodNet camera nad printer

Designing a free web site using  
[www.freewebs.com](http://www.freewebs.com)

**The Forest Center**  
**Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical**  
**Park**  
**Woodstock, VT**  
**by Kyle Jones and Ed Sharron**

Since opening to the public in 1998, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park in Woodstock, Vermont, lacked an indoor space for programs that could comfortably seat more than about 20 people. To alleviate this problem and to showcase the latest in ‘green building’ design, the national park partnered with the Woodstock Foundation to construct a new learning center, completed in the summer of 2008. This new building, dubbed the *Forest Center* for its location at the entrance to the oldest continually managed forest in North America, was constructed of Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified wood harvested in the park. The building received a 2008 honorable mention for Commercial/Institutional Buildings in *Designing & Building with FSC*. This FSC award was presented in conjunction with the Greenbuild Expo in November of last year. The building was designed by Steve Smith of Smith, Alvarez, Sienkiewicz Architects in Burlington, and constructed by H.P. Cummings of Woodsville, New Hampshire.

The 1,700 square foot building features white pine, white ash, black cherry, red oak, and other hardwoods from the national park’s ‘Mount Tom’ forest. Lumber was milled on-site and at nearby sawmills, and when necessary was dried at local kilns. Vermont Natural Coatings PolyWhey finish was used on interior woods and on FSC certified maple tables made by Clear Lake Furniture of Ludlow. Consulting forester Ben Machin of Redstart Forestry in Corinth assisted with the harvesting of trees used to build and fuel the building. Heat for the building is provided by a Garn high-efficiency wood-fired boiler. Roof-mounted photovoltaic panels help power the building. The National Park Service is awaiting notification of LEED certification (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) by the Green Buildings Council for the Forest Center.

From the outside, details of design and craftsmanship are apparent beginning with the building’s cupola—designed not just in homage to Vermont’s sugaring legacy—but also to admit light and house a carbon-



The Forest Center. (credit: Sally MaCay)

dioxide triggered air exchanger. A curved entrance wall sports Dan Ober’s hand-carved Forest Center identifier, and on the inside Dan carved the common and scientific name as well as a relief carving of the twigs and leaves of each species used for interior siding. Overhead beams in the main meeting room were sawn on-site from some of the massive white pines planted by Frederick Billings beginning in the 1880s.

We were fortunate to be able to host the Vermont Fine Furniture and Woodworking Festival judging and award presentation in the Forest Center last fall (*see* Mark Schofield’s article in *Building Connections*, Vol. 8, No. 4). The building will be used for National Park Service programs and is available for other conservation and education activities.

The nearby Wood Barn was built by Frederick Billings  
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The interior of the Forest Center is a celebration of wood.  
 (credit: Sally MaCay)

to house wood processing operations for the property. The National Park Service rehabilitated this structure when the Forest Center was built. The Wood Barn now houses an extensive carriage collection, exhibits on the parks carriage roads and forestry programs, and once again is the storage area for fuel wood.

The park continues the stewardship legacy begun with George Perkins Marsh. Marsh grew up on the farm and his monumental book, Man and Nature, inspired Frederick Billings to begin an ambitious program of reforestation and conservation that continued through Mary and Laurance Rockefeller's tenure.

For more information about the Forest Center contact Kyle Jones at (802) 457-3368 x30 or [Kyle\\_Jones@nps.gov](mailto:Kyle_Jones@nps.gov).

For more about Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, visit the website at [www.nps.gov/mabi](http://www.nps.gov/mabi) or better yet, visit the park in Woodstock, Vermont. The visitor centers are open from Memorial Day through October. The park's 20 miles of trails and carriage roads are open year-round. They are available for hiking and equestrian use in the spring, summer, and fall. When winter snows arrive, they are groomed and used for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.



Dan Ober hand carves "Forest Center" into building.  
(credit: Ed Sharron)

### Vermont WoodNet Board Members

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