

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.

Vermont Natural Coatings Makes “Green” finish

Vermonters are known for their creativity, hardiness, and ingenuity. Following that model, Vermont Natural Coatings’ PolyWhey™ created a waterbased wood finish made with whey. While whey is widely known for its food based uses, Vermont Natural Coatings, partnering with the University of Vermont, developed a wood finish formulation that utilizes the binding power of protein. In VNC’s formulation, the whey takes the place of toxic binders typically found in mainstream products and creating a finish safer and stronger.

While the quality and durability have built confidence in VNC, PolyWhey also boasts a low VOC of 180g/L and virtually no odor. Woodworkers and contractors can find these qualities financially beneficial in the Northeast’s cold winters. It can be safely applied indoors all year round.

The concept for the finish started with the collaboration of University of Vermont food science researcher Minguro Guo and Senator Jim Jeffords. At the time, Andrew Meyer, a UVM graduate with a degree in environmental studies, was working for Senator Jeffords as an agricultural advisor in Washington, D.C. Following the directive from Senator Jeffords, Meyer helped support the research funds needed to develop the product. Anxious to find a way to return to his native Hardwick and raise a family near the organic dairy farm operated by his younger brothers and his parents, Meyer founded Vermont Natural Coatings.

In this issue

Vermont Natural Coatings	1
WoodNet Grant	2
Vermont Wood Products Markey Council	3
Need a web store	3
Vermont Crafts Council gets ARRA Grant	4
Vermont Adult Technical Education Association ..	4
Rate It Green	5
FSC News for September	5
For Sale and Services	6
Annual meeting review	7
Save the dates	7
WoodNet Board	7



The success of the research gave great promise for the start of the Vermont based business and gave Meyer a “whey” to come home. The whey protein contributes to the durability of VNC finishes. Lab testing shows that VNC whey-based finishes have superior durability compared to some of the other waterbased finishes in the field. For the user, PolyWhey dries within about two hours and has a neutral odor that most users find essentially nonexistent. PolyWhey is available in both floor and furniture finishes and like most waterbased coatings, dries crystal clear and will not yellow over time. You can put it over either oil-based or waterbased stains, and over other finishes, including older, existing finishes.” Plans for the near future include a line of color finishes and an exterior coating.

In 2008, the VNC attended BuildingGreen in Boston and came home with a top 10 Green Building Product award by the editors of Environmental Building News. Along with this distinguished award, PolyWhey has also been heralded by Michael Dresdner in *Woodworker’s Journal*. Articles have also been published in *Paint and Decorating Retailer*, *Traditional Home* and *Family Handyman*. WCAX has featured Vermont Natural Coatings in its “Made in Vermont” series and in regular news broadcasts.

Meyer feels very strongly that producing a green building product in Hardwick is his opportunity to bring jobs to his hometown and help build the local economy. He is also co-owner of Vermont Soy and the founder of the Center for an Agricultural Economy, both based in Hardwick. The three organizations combined already contribute over 20 jobs for the Hardwick area. The development of these businesses, along with a community culture interested in a food-based agricultural economy, has attracted others to the area with two new buildings about to begin construction in the industrial park. Meyer doesn’t contain his excitement about the strides the community has taken. His plan is to add more jobs as the business grows and be a solid contributor to the long-term stability of the region.

Vermont Natural Coatings is located in Hardwick and can be found at many Vermont retailers. A list of retailers can be found at <http://www.vermontnaturalcoatings.com> or by calling 802-472-8700.



Vermont WoodNet receives a grant

On June 25, 2009, VT Woodnet received a grant from the USDA, Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program to do some extensive interview, survey and education in the North East Kingdom of VT. Over the next year we will interview as many woodworking and woodworking support businesses that we can find. We will solicit their education, business and technical needs. We will conduct at least two area meetings in the kingdom and set up at least four education opportunities as well. With the difficult and uncertain business climate, it will be good to have the opportunity for this concentrated effort in a very rural part of Vermont where the unemployment has been the highest in the state for quite some time.

Vermont Wood Products Marketing Council

Connecting members of the Vermont wood products industry and promoting the Vermont quality wood products brand

The Vermont Quality Wood Products logo and brand position statements are available to participating companies for use on their products, in their print materials, websites, and other applications. During 2004, the Council developed several new logos that include Vermont Made, Vermont Crafted, and Vermont Milled brand logos in addition to the original Vermont Quality Wood Products logo. These are available in two sizes, and color or black and white.

The Council received grant funding through EDA to promote the Vermont Quality Wood Products brand and as such, has waived user fees for 2008. Therefore, if you are currently a brand user, you may continue to use this brand for the next twelve months, at no charge. Note: Brand agreements must be renewed on an annual basis in order to continue use of logo.

If you are not currently a brand user and would like to be, we need an application form filled out and submitted via fax (802-747-7989) or mail to the attention of Kathleen Wanner. Do not submit payment with your form but indicate "Fee Waived for 2009." You will be sent access information when the application is received.

Access to the brand logos is available only to registered brand users who will receive permission from the Council administrator after the application is received.

1. Download usage application form or, call the VWPMC office.
2. Download brand usage guidelines (362kb PDF file).
3. Download the VQWP Branded Items Form to request logos and other branding material, such as window decals, Brand shirts, hangtags, stickers, stamps or branding irons. Please send via fax (802-747-7989),

mail to PO Box 6004, Rutland, VT 05702 or e-mail to erin@gwriters.com.

If you have any questions about brand usage, please call 802-747-7900 or email Kathleen Wanner.

Market Vermont

In a previous WoodNet newsletter we listed information about web sites that will help you sell your products online: www.etst.com and www.traloola.com. Here is another that focuses on Vermont producers.

Market Vermont is an ecommerce engine for Vermont artisans and producers of Vermont made products. For the purpose of this document, we will refer to these people as vendor(s).

Market Vermont is a great way for vendors without e-commerce ability or even a website, to sell their products online. Vendors that already have e-commerce ability can still participate in Market Vermont.

Here are the basics of how it works. Products must be produced in the state of Vermont. Selected vendors and products will be listed on the Market Vermont website (www.marketvermont.com). Market Vermont will promote vendors' products via on line and traditional marketing methods. Market Vermont sends orders to individual vendors for fulfillment within an agreed upon time frame. Vendors are paid on a monthly basis less Market Vermont's fee and shipping fees.

You can get all the details at the Market Vermont web site: www.marketvermont.com.

Vermont Crafts Council gets ARRA Grant

I'm writing to let you know that the Vermont Crafts Council has recently been awarded an ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) grant. These grants were specifically intended to preserve jobs in Vermont's nonprofit arts sector that have been threatened by declines in philanthropic and other support during the current economic downturn. The grant is a federal grant that came through the Vermont Arts Council (thanks VAC!).

We will be using our grant to continue the work of organizing and coordinating events that will begin to happen during our 20th anniversary year of 2010 under the heading of State of Craft. State of Craft is a research, exhibit and publication project organized by the Vermont Crafts Council in partnership with the Vermont Folklife Center and the Bennington Museum that will celebrate 50 years of the Vermont Studio Craft Movement. We've been working on the research part of State of Craft since 2006 with a small team of planners, and the economic downturn so devastated the resources of our granting organizations and funders that the project was facing a fairly bleak future as it depended on our continuing to employ a consultant to handle some of the work. Now we can continue for another year and hope that the economy improves and the funding climate with it.

To date we have been supported with grant funds from the Vermont Arts Council, The National Endowment for the Arts, Windham Foundation, the Center for Craft Creativity and Design, and the Peter Backman and Annie Christopher Fund. We will be working closely with the Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing to promote our community over the next three years of the celebration which will extend through 2012, the 20th anniversary of the Open Studio Weekend.

We will be sending information in September about how studios, galleries, events and organizations can participate. Stay tuned.

This is your government money at work to benefit the arts community so if you feel thankful, let your elected representatives know!

Senator Leahy senator_leahy@leahy.senate.gov
Senator Sanders senator_sanders@sanders.senate.gov

Representative Peter Welch http://www.house.gov/formwelch/issue_subscribe.htm (this leads to an e-mail form.)

And say thanks to the Vermont Arts Council srae@vermontartscouncil.org

Martha Fitch, Executive Director
Vermont Crafts Council - *Celebrating 20 years in 2010*
PO Box 938

Montpelier, VT 05601 Ph: (802) 223-3380 Fx: (802) 223-7974

Website: <http://www.vermontcrafts.com>

Vermont Adult Technical Education Association New Web Site

Vermont Adult Technical Education Association is an excellent resource for businesses, students and individuals seeking high quality, affordable education. These programs are taught in our 16 regional centers across the state of Vermont. Programs offered include everything from health care, such as a Licensed Nurse Assistant (LNA) certification to Machining and Information Technology. For complete course listings in your area, please refer to the Technical Centers link, which will display all of the centers and their class schedules. For online courses, refer to the Online Classes link.

MISSION

VATEA's mission is twofold:

To provide high quality, affordable, and locally planned training, skills, and knowledge to adults as they strive to compete in the workforce of today and tomorrow.

To maximize the significant investment by the State of VT in its regional technical centers by utilizing these centers for career and technical education programs aimed at the lifelong learning goals of residents of the region.

VISION

Through innovation, research, and partnerships, the VATEA brings our workforce to the highest skill level and keeps VT a leader in career and technical education.

Check out the new web site at www.vtate.org.

From the desk of Allison Friedman

Rate It Green is an online community for people interested in finding and sharing the best in green building and design products and services. The site features a directory and integrated, user-driven Green Ratings system where members can share their experiences about a variety of green products, services, and related topics. The Rate It Green members “review” and “rate” products and services for each other as well as the larger community, so that we can all continue to build this industry together. Our hope is that Rate It Green will help newcomers and experts alike discover new products and learn the pros and cons about existing materials and services from those who have actually worked with and used them. Our team also recently completed version 1.1 of Green Building 101, a directory of over 900 green building information resources. A top goal is to help people avoid wasting time looking for resources when they could be spending that same time already learning and building green.

Joining Rate It Green as a community member is free of charge. Our basic product and service listings are also free of charge so that we may provide the most accurate and comprehensive information for our visitors and members. Just go to www.rateitgreen.com to view our site and join.

As many of you know, I made a decision this past fall to completely revise the code that comprises the infrastructure of the Rate It Green online community. Though it was hard to choose to “slow down” in a way for a period of months, this was a necessary step to ensure that the site can now grow rapidly and meet your information needs as members of the green building community.

I am thrilled to announce to you today that we have officially launched our new programming. You may notice a sharper look, but the real changes are underneath the hood. Registration is easier and smoother, data is managed better and is better protected, and I have expanded abilities to provide technical assistance and site edits more immediately. We also have new categories and expanded classification options for products and services! This new code is a first phase, and I expect to follow up as planned this summer with our enhanced/upgraded listings and then our new Communications Center next after that.

I want to thank you for your enthusiasm – this has been an amazing experience with many ups and downs as we strived to create the right platform for helping people share their green building product and services experiences with others (We’ve changed our code, not our mission!). We are also excited to help many wonderful green building companies and organizations showcase their products and services through our directory.

I hope you are as excited as I am about our new Company, Product and Service Listings! Please take this opportunity to browse the site, edit or create your records, complete ratings/reviews, and let me know what you think (especially if you find a bug – this is still quite new, and you are among the first to know)! Your feedback is always welcome and is often very helpful.

Thank **you** again, and I look forward to catching up with all of you soon. Enjoy the site!

FSC News for September 2009

This has been an amazing year for the group FSC certificate and our members. After WoodNet Market Council gained ownership of the group certificate we took it national. As of the end of September the group certificate has grown to approximately 100 member companies from Maine to Minnesota to Texas (where we signed on a paper company) to Georgia. We even have a member in Toronto!

We have a working relationship with WPMA (Wood Products Mfg. Ass.) and their members across the nation. We have also been instrumental in bringing changes to group certification criteria. This will open up group certification to more companies, helping them to begin at a much more reasonable rate until they are doing enough business to be able to afford the stand alone rate.

Stay tuned for more updates and news.

Classified Section

For Sale and Services

Baynham Wood Products
P.O. Box 761
8 McDonalds Farm Road
Shelburne, VT 05482
802-985-9311

For Sale

12 inch Dewalt Radial arm saw: \$350.00.
Hoffman Butterfly Dovetailer: \$1,200.00.
Double head line borer: \$4,500.00.

Services

Baynham Wood Products - Shop Services
Wide Belt Sanding - panels, frames and tops
Automatic Edge Banding panel parts
Sheet Goods Processing
CNC Parts Cutting
CNC Cabinet Cutting

For Sale

Air dried maple and native white cedar.

Also have Ash, Bitternut Hickory, yellow birch, and native white cedar logs that can be sawed to your specifications.

Services

Sawmilling of logs; resawing, limited to 36" diameter and 26'-6" in length; lumber planing - limited to 18" wide.

G. A. Bouchard
4285 Ethan Allen Hwy (aka RT 7)
Charlotte, VT 05445
802-425-6291

For Sale

Panel Saw
Built from WOODSMITH plans/kit. Used less than 20 hours. Has Porter Cable circular saw.

Price \$450

Contact Bob Bouvier

802-863-5644

wdubelieve@aol.com



For Sale

Native hardwoods:

Walnut: large sections — 24 x 20 x 24

Rock maple: large sections - 24 x 18 x 24

Cherry - already cut circular for turning - 12 - 20 inches

Yellow Birch — 36 boards 5/4 x 8 ft

Joe Laferriere

Wood, Form & Design

467 Galvin Hill

Colchester, VT 05446

802-879-4348

Save the dates

26th Annual New England Products Trade Show

March 13, 14, 15, 2010

Portland, Maine

www.nepts.com for more info.

This business-to-business wholesale trade show is an annual event featuring a juried selection of giftware, home furnishings and specialty food from Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut.

GREENING UP YOUR BOTTOM LINE

A Conference FOR and BY Vermont Businesses

October 21, 2009

Stowe Mountain Lodge

<http://www.vtsbdc.org/green.cfm> for more info.

FSC certification

FSC certification and a Vermont affordable group certificate is still alive and well. Vermont WoodNet has transferred it's certificate to the WoodNet Market Council. This is a New England based, non profit, that has expanded the base for those seeking the FSC chain of custody. This is all in an attempt to keep the cost as low as possible and over time to hopefully even decrease the cost. The certificate manager is still Judy Balch, so nothing has changed. The only requirement for joining the group is that a Vermont business must also be a full business member of Vermont WoodNet. Any questions can be directed to Judy at jbalch@yahoo.com.

Vermont WoodNet Board Members

Bob Bouvier, Chair, 863-5644, wdubelieve@aol.com

Pat Babcock, Treasurer, 879-3778, pbabcock@kingcon.com

Bill Baynham, 985-9311, Baynhb@aol.com

Dale Bergdahl, 656-2517, dale.bergdahl@uvm.edu

Gerald Bouchard, 425-6291, 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

NEK Possibilities and More

As most of you know, we received a REAP Zone grant for work in the NEK (Northeast Kingdom). For any of you in the NEK, this means that I will be talking with you, if I haven't already about your company needs, possible workshops, setting up meetings here in the NEK and more.

I am also working with NVDA (Northeastern Vermont Development Ass.) to work with our REAP grant and some money that they have to offer possible Technical Assistance mini-grants to woodworkers, primarily in the NEK. These grants could be for a maximum of \$1000 each with a match (yet to be determined) from businesses qualifying for a grant. Since it is REAP Zone money, we are required to spend the majority of the money for NEK businesses, however, we will be allowed to offer a few grants to other businesses within the state. All of the details still need to be finalized, but please look for updates as we get closer to finalizing the details.

Vermont WoodNet Annual Meeting Held September 18, 2009

Bob Murphy from Efficiency Vermont gave an excellent presentation on saving energy and lowering costs in your business. He provided an excellent overview of the cost vs efficiency of different linear florescent lights, from T12, T8, high performance T8, T5 and LED lights. Replacements kits are available to change T8 lights to HPT8 and conversion kits from T12 to T8. He pointed out that lots of information is available on these web sites: www.encyvermont.com, www.energystar.gov, www.recovery.vermont.gov, and www.rerc.org.

WANTED

Stories and pictures about YOU for the next issue.

Classified Section

Have you got items to sell or services others might not know about? Send them to Barry at batcabins@aol.com and he will get them into the newsletter.