

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.



**WoodNet Quarterly Meeting  
Dec 8, 2009  
Vermont Natural Coatings  
Hardwick, VT at 7:00 PM**



Please join us for the Vermont WoodNet Quarterly Meeting at **Vermont Natural Coatings** in Hardwick at 7:00 PM on December 8, 2009. Don't miss this chance to tour their facility and get a demonstration of the application of their products. **Driving directions are on page 4.** Car pooling is available. Call one of the board members to make arrangements. Board member phone numbers are on the last page of this newsletter. Light refreshments!

**From Our Side of the Sheet  
North Pacific, Inc.  
South Royalton, VT**

North Pacific is located in Royalton, Vermont about an hour and fifteen minutes southeast of Burlington, Vermont. We are 1 mile from exit #3 off of Route 89. We operate out of a 25,000 square foot warehouse. We have a rail siding that comes directly into our building. We use this primarily for commodity plywood from the west coast (fir) and the southern states for southern yellow pine plywood. We run three trucks a day for our deliveries, two tractor trailers and a straight truck

(for the dirt roads and tricky driveways). Our delivery area includes all of Vermont, a sliver of New Hampshire from Alstead to the Canadian border, and upstate New York from Glens Falls to Malone. Our total staff is nine people. We have three inside sales people. Jim Mandeville handles most of the commodity inquiries while Shelly Sylvia and Glen Seifert handle the calls from the woodworking businesses. Gary Curley is our on the road salesman. Randy, Warren and Brett are our three drivers, and Tom and Mark manage our warehouse.

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Shelly, Jim (in back), Chester and Glen

The two areas of business we concentrate on are the commodity business, which consists of sales of construction grade plywood to the retail lumber yards, and sales of industrial products to the cabinet and furniture industry. These products include hardwood plywood, hardwood lumber, Baltic Birch, veneer, melamine; medium density overlay (MDO) and medium density fiberboard (MDF). Our industrial products come from a variety of sources in Canada and the northeast US. We also purchase a number of product that are imported from Russia (Baltic Birch), South America, China, and Indonesia.

Our goal as a distributor is to forge relationships with our customers that will be a long term mutually beneficial partnership. A large portion of our inventory is stocked for specific customers. As Allied Plywood, Saxonville, and now North Pacific we have more than a 20 year relationship with a large number of customers.

Over the years we have seen a lot of changes in our industry. The most significant would be the “green movement”. We are constantly being asked for products that are CARB (California Air Resource Board) compliant for formaldehyde emissions or for NAF products (no added formaldehyde) sheet goods. Slowly but surely all our inventory will be “green”. We are also FSC, Forest Stewardship Council, certified and can provide the “chain of custody” documentation required for FSC projects. Many of our products will also qualify for LEED, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, and we can provide documentation for these jobs.

Another change we have seen is the degradation in the grading on all plywood and thin veneers. Most mills are members of the Hardwood Plywood and Veneer Association. The HPVA has a voluntary grading standard that most mills adhere to. For additional information visit [WWW.HPVA.ORG](http://WWW.HPVA.ORG). There are a number of publications you can buy. Most of the complaints we receive are related to grading. Since we do not manufacture anything, we buy from the mills that give us the most consistent quality every time. We always tell people the grading is much like a report card. The face grades are designated by a letter, AA, A, B, C, and D, with AA being the best and D the worst. The back grades are designated by a number, 1-4 with 1 being the best and 3 and 4 being the worst.

Being a distributor can be very challenging. Credit issues are always an issue. We do not want to be your bank just like you do not want to finance your customer’s project. When it comes to credit problems communication is the most important tool to use. We will work through most credit problems as long as there is communication. We also prefer not holding while you flip through 25 pages of blue prints trying to figure out what you need. Giving us enough lead time to pull your order is also appreciated (we get the EVIL EYE) when we take an order into the warehouse after 2:00PM.

The past year has been very challenging and it looks like the slow down will continue for several more months. We are one small part of a much larger company based out of Portland, Oregon. We learned a few months ago that the company was for sale. A week ago we found out that there is an agreement with Atlas Holdings in Greenwich, Connecticut to acquire our company. They are expecting the sale to close by year end. Hopefully for Royalton this will be a seamless transaction and we will continue to operate as usual.

Please call us if you have any additional questions .We appreciate all our customers and the business you give us. Thanks.

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### **VWMA Membership Discount continues for Vermont WoodNet members**

The Vermont Wood Manufacturers Association has announced that it will continue to offer discounted membership rates to Vermont WoodNet members. The discount is 50% off of the regular VWMA membership fee, and there also will be a small discount for early payment. The renewal forms should be coming around soon because VWMA membership runs January to December. This is another advantage to being a member of Vermont WoodNet. Vermont WoodNet and VWMA continue to work towards increasing opportunities for woodworkers in the state of Vermont.

## Yestermorrow Design/Build School

Yestermorrow Design/Build School, located in Warren, Vermont, was founded in 1980 on the belief that the best built environment depends on the joint cooperation of designers, builders and homeowners. The school's goal is to empower people to express their values and lifestyle through an integrated design/build process, and to foster a self-awareness that reconnects people to their communities, their natural environment and to each other.

Yestermorrow's 1-day to 3-week hands-on courses are taught by top architects, builders, and craftspeople from across the country. Classes are for people of all ages and experience levels, from novice to professional.



Yestermorrow also offers three certificate programs: the Certificate in Sustainable Building and Design and the Natural Building Intensive and Woodworking Intensive.

Yestermorrow Design/Build School will launch its new 10-week Woodworking Intensive program in January 2010. The Intensive is designed to give amateurs and aspiring professionals a solid grounding in woodworking and furniture making techniques. Led by Yestermorrow's talented and nationally recognized faculty, including Peter Buley, Eyrich Stauffer, Skip Dewhirst, Larry Jacquette, John McCown, Mark Krawczyk, and others, the program will offer students exposure to a wide range of woodworking styles and techniques. With two instructors available at all times and a maximum of eight students, each participant will receive individualized instruction and guidance throughout the program.



The 60-day Woodworking Intensive curriculum - running from January 31 through April 9, 2010 - begins with an analysis of trees and the wood they produce, followed by a week of Cabinetry to orient students to the tools of the woodshop and basic principles of joinery, wood movement, and layout. Additional units include Beginning Furnituremaking, Green Ladderback Chairs, Joinery, Small Scale Design/Build, Wood Finishes, among others, and culminates in a three-week studio where each student will design and build a piece of their own choosing.

Skills learned in the program include design and drafting, wood selection and preparation, joinery, traditional hand skills, sharpening, power tool techniques, and finishing. The curriculum has a strong focus on the integration of design in the woodworking process, part of Yestermorrow's core philosophy of design/build.

Yestermorrow has been a national leader in design/build education since 1980, offering more than 170 courses annually and drawing from an international pool of experienced faculty. Yestermorrow School holds a Certificate of Approval from the Vermont State Board of Education in accordance with Title 16 VSA 176 to offer credit-bearing courses in the state of Vermont. Yestermorrow is an affiliate member of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA), a Registered Continuing Education Provider for the American Institute of Architects, and a member of the U.S. Green Building Council.

Students in the Woodworking Intensive are accepted any time on a first-come, first-served basis. All experience levels are welcome. However we



recommend that absolute beginners complete Yestermorrow's Intro to the Woodshop course or equivalent prior to enrolling. Tuition for the 10-week program is \$6200, and a variety of lodging and meal options are available on campus. For more information, a program syllabus, and registration information, please visit [www.yestermorrow.org](http://www.yestermorrow.org).

For more information about Yestermorrow, please visit our website at [www.yestermorrow.org](http://www.yestermorrow.org) or call us at 802.496.5545.

## Directions to Vermont Natural Coatings

180 Junction Road, Hardwick, VT  
802-472-8700 or 888-639-9439

From Burlington:

On I-89 Northbound, take Exit 10, Waterbury/Stowe  
Follow Rte. 100 N to Morrisville  
Rt. 15 East from Morrisville to Hardwick, approx. 13 miles  
Turn right onto Junction Road between Aubuchon Hardware and Union Bank.  
Last building on right.

From Montpelier:

Rt. 2 to Rt 14 N in East Montpelier  
Approx. 20 miles to Hardwick  
Turn left at flashing red light in Hardwick village onto Rt. 15 W  
Turn left onto Junction Rd between Union Bank and Aubuchon.  
Last building on right.

From St. Johnsbury:

Rt 2 to Rte 15 W. in W. Danville.  
Approx 15 miles to Hardwick  
Turn right at flashing red light in Hardwick village.  
Turn left onto Junction Rd between Union Bank and Aubuchon.  
Last building on right.

From Newport

Rt. 14 N to Hardwick  
Turn left at intersections of 14 and 15 by Kwik Stop.  
Turn right onto Junction Road between Aubuchon Hardware and Union Bank.  
Last building on right.  
Or I 91 to Barton, take Hardwick exit. Follow rt. 16 S to 15 W.  
Turn right at flashing red light in Hardwick village.  
Turn left onto Junction Rd between Union Bank and Aubuchon.  
Last building on right.

## Classified Section

### For Sale and Services

#### Safety Speed Cut 36" Wide Belt Sander

- Two years old, very low hours
- 10 HP Single phase motor, 37" x 60" abrasive belt
- Digital thickness readout by Accurate Technologies
- Combination sanding head with 4-1/2"-diameter rubber-covered contact roll and 2-1/2" wide removable polishing platen
- Variable speed conveyor belt drive
- 1-1/2" Dia. infeed & outfeed rubber-covered holddown rolls
- Infeed safety stop bar and emergency stop button
- 6" Dia. dust outlet
- Made in USA
- Complete with operations manual & parts list
- \$7,500 OBO

Contact Steve Holman, Holman Studio

802-867-0131

holmanstudios@myfairpoint.net



#### **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](mailto:wdubelieve@aol.com)



#### Felder FD-250 Slot Mortiser

- 3 HP, single phase
- 0-5/8" chuck
- Seven years old, low hours
- As seen in Fine Woodworking # 206, August 2009
- Comes with doweling templates, operation manual, and parts list
- \$2,000 OBO

Contact Steve Holman, Holman Studio

802-867-0131

holmanstudios@myfairpoint.net



## Save the dates

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### **26th Annual New England Products Trade Show**

March 13, 14, 15, 2010

Portland, Maine

[www.nepts.com](http://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.

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## WANTED

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Stories and pictures about YOU for the next issue.

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### **Classified Section**

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

### **Vermont WoodNet Board Members**

Bob Bouvier, Chair, 863-5644, [wdubelieve@aol.com](mailto:wdubelieve@aol.com)

Pat Babcock, Treasurer, 879-3778, [pbabcock0311@comcast.net](mailto:pbabcock0311@comcast.net)

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Russ Fellows, 899-3059, [skunkmen@together.net](mailto:skunkmen@together.net)

Barry Genzlinger, co-chair, 951-2501, [batcabins@aol.com](mailto:batcabins@aol.com)

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