

Northern Woods

The Newsletter of the Minnesota Woodworkers Guild, Est. 1982

Volume: 134

Issue: August - September 2011

June Meeting: Woodturners Guild National Meeting

In spite of tight security at the annual American Woodturners meeting, Steve McLoon snuck about 30 MWWG members into the River Center to let us see how "those other people who work wood" live. We learned they sure make some beautiful pieces. But who knew you could do all of that without even owning a table saw?



[Full Story](#)

July Meeting: Wood from the Hood

Remember that July day when the heat index was 115? Well the monthly meeting attendees certainly do. They visited Wood From The Hood and some claim that the exhaust air from the kiln helped cool them down. Well not exactly, but the hosts' hospitality certainly did.



[Full Story](#)

What's On Your Bench?

Forever young. Once a year Guild member Greg Flanagan relives his youth by getting a bunch of friends together to build and race pinewood derby cars. Even better, the group builds and races the cars while having brats and beer - something the cub scouts don't get to do.



[Full Story](#)

President's Notes

The dog days of summer will soon give way to a host of educational opportunities from the Guild.



[Full Story](#)

Enhancements to the Guild Web Site, Part 3

The enhancements to the email communication system are complete!

[Full Story](#)

[Newsletter Home](#)

Articles:

[June Meeting](#)

[Wood from the Hood](#)

[What's On Your Bench?](#)

[President's Notes](#)

[Web Site Enhancements](#)

Other Info:

[Upcoming Meetings](#)

[New Members](#)

[Classified Ads](#)

On Our Website:

[Member's Gallery](#)

[Member's Web Sites](#)



Northern Woods

The Newsletter of the Minnesota Woodworkers Guild, Est. 1982

Volume: 134

Issue: August - September 2011

July Meeting: Wood from the Hood

Story by Ron Corradin

The evening of the July, 2011 meeting of the Guild was hot. New Orleans hot, Saigon hot, and all that saved the Guild members was the hospitality of our host, Wood From The Hood. They had air conditioned offices and two big coolers full of ice cold beer. And it was good beer, too, from Summit Brewing Company.

Rick and Cindy Siewert started Wood From The Hood four years ago. Their simple idea was to “reclaim discarded trees from urban neighborhoods to create beautiful, high quality wood products.” About 5,000 trees a year are taken down in Minneapolis and the Siewerts’ goal is to turn them into something better than landfill or boiler fuel. Most of their wood (75%) comes from Minneapolis, 90% from within five miles of the shop.



The Siewerts have connections with local tree services that drop off logs at their shop in the Seward neighborhood in south Minneapolis. They also work with homeowners who want to take a favorite tree that has to be removed and turn it into useful wood.

The logs are stacked in (mostly) neat piles “out back” behind the shop until they are needed. Many are color coded or even marked with their original zip code or address. Ash logs that have passed USDA inspection and are free of emerald ash borer bugs are given a green dot on the end. Logs are cut to six foot, eight foot, or ten foot lengths (plus 6 inches in all cases) for ease of handling. The minimum log size is sixteen inches in diameter by six feet long. The maximum log size on hand that evening was a silver maple that was at least three feet across at the base and ten or more feet long.

Wood From the Hood does their initial log sawing through a subcontractor with a Wood-Mizer portable bandsaw mill that comes to them when they need him. The sawn boards are then put in a kiln (they have one and are building

[Newsletter Home](#)

Articles:

[June Meeting](#)

[Wood from the Hood](#)

[What's On Your Bench?](#)

[President's Notes](#)

[Web Site Enhancements](#)

Other Info:

[Upcoming Meetings](#)

[New Members](#)

[Classified Ads](#)

On Our Website:

[Member's Gallery](#)

[Member's Web Sites](#)



another) and dried to a 6-8% moisture content. After that the wood is run through the planer and stacked (often in the order it was cut) on heavy industrial shelving. The company produces mostly 4/4, 6/4 and 8/4 stock. They also slab cut some of the wider trees. Their prices are competitive with Youngblood Lumber in Minneapolis.

The woods they handle include ash, birch, black walnut, black locust, box elder, butternut, red cedar, white cedar, cherry, American elm, red elm, ginkgo, hackberry, honey locust, silver maple, spalted maple, sugar maple, red oak, white (bur) oak, pussy willow, Russian olive, and white pine.

Right now the most popular use for their wood, especially elm, is flooring. Other wood products, shaped by their big NC router, include walnut framed chalkboards for Summit Brewing Company, and picture frames and cutting boards sold locally at the Seward Co-op and Bibelot stores.



On that hot evening Guild members learned that Wood from the Hood is a well stocked local supply source for wood.. If you've finally worked up the nerve to build that huge slab topped dining table in the George Nakashima style, then this is the place to go.

For more information go to www.woodfromthehood.com.

Visit the MNWG Web Site:

| [Home](#) | [Meetings](#) | [Newsletters](#) | [Northern Woods](#) | [Membership](#) | [Gallery](#) | [Links](#) | [Contact](#) |
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Northern Woods

The Newsletter of the Minnesota Woodworkers Guild, Est. 1982

Volume: 134

Issue: August - September 2011

President's Notes

Story by Charlie Kocourek



Summertime, Summertime, Sum, Sum Summertime...

Here we are in the dog days of summer, and I love it! I try never to complain about summers in Minnesota. Many woodworkers spend less time in their shops in the summer. As much as I love woodworking and being in the shop; I do understand wanting to be outside this time of year.

But, as great as summer is, we all know that fall is just around the corner. And, for Guild members that's a good thing because we have some great and fun educational opportunities planned for this fall.

Of course we have the Fall Seminar coming up on November 4, 5, and 6. This year's featured speaker is Paul Schurch. Paul is a world renowned veneer and marquetry artist. The fall seminar is a remarkable bargain, and a fantastic opportunity to learn from a nationally recognized instructor without having to travel. Find more information on this year's fall seminar at the Guild's website: <http://www.mnwwg.org/>

But wait, there's more! In addition to the fall seminar we are planning three mini-seminars. These seminars will be conducted by a few of the Minnesota Woodworkers' Guild's finest craftsmen. Watch your email for more information as exact dates for the mini-seminars have not been finalized.

Briefly, the three seminars are:

Simplified Three-Way Miter Joint by Richard J. Gotz

There are more than a dozen ways to create a three-way miter joint, most of which are very complex with multiple saw setups. With multiple saw setups, errors creep in and compound themselves. However, Rich has developed a simplified method for this seemingly daunting joint which requires just one setup on your table saw. Rich will demonstrate the procedure which he wrote

[Newsletter Home](#)

Articles:

[June Meeting](#)

[Wood from the Hood](#)

[What's On Your Bench?](#)

[President's Notes](#)

[Web Site Enhancements](#)

Other Info:

[Upcoming Meetings](#)

[New Members](#)

[Classified Ads](#)

On Our Website:

[Member's Gallery](#)

[Member's Web Sites](#)



about in Fine Woodworking April 2004 (Issue 169). After observing this demonstration, all your two-way and three-way miter joints will be perfect hence forth!!

Hand Cut Dovetails – One Furniture Maker’s Philosophy and Technique by Craig Johnson

In this workshop, Craig will demonstrate tools and techniques he has embraced in making the hand cut dovetail joints found in his furniture. Although he constantly strives for fine, timely results, for him it’s really more about finding enjoyment in the work, rather than simply getting the job done. So... don’t be surprised if he talks as much about his philosophy of woodworking as he does about the techniques he employs. For at least one woodworker, this traditional form of joinery seems to be food for the soul.

Embellishments and Sculpted Joinery by Mark Laub

Learn a few of the techniques that make Mark Laub's furniture pieces unique.

How to use wood and a whole host of other materials to add interest and visual highlights to a piece of furniture.

Visit the MNWG Web Site:

| [Home](#) | [Meetings](#) | [Newsletters](#) | [Northern Woods](#) | [Membership](#) | [Gallery](#) | [Links](#) | [Contact](#) |
Copyright 1982-2022

Northern Woods

The Newsletter of the Minnesota Woodworkers Guild, Est. 1982

Volume: 134

Issue: August - September 2011

What's On Your Bench?

Story by Greg "gerg" Flanagan

Photos by Greg Flanagan

It's Derby Day!

Among my fondest childhood memories are the hours I spent hanging out with my dad (a high-school shop teacher at the time) in his basement workshop. I had my own bench in the corner. I had a hammer, keyhole saw, a bench vise, a bucket of nails, and all the wood scraps I could ever want. I built pay phones with operational coin slots (a discarded plywood box with a hunk of tongue-and-groove to guide the coin into a tin can), wooden guitars for my air band, and countless other contraptions.

Three years ago, my wife asked what I wanted for my birthday. "Can I be 12 again?", I asked as a joke. That's where it started.

The kid in me, my Dad's love of woodworking, and the enthusiasm of my wife led to our first annual pinewood derby party. It was so much fun that my friends have demanded the annual event each year since. We are gearing up for the fourth annual race this year.

My wife, Marie (her Dad is also a woodworker), describes the event...

We invite friends and family to come on over. We purchase car making kits, decals, paint, and give them access to gerg's workshop. They have 2-3 hours to design and build their cars. As they build their cars, gerg assists in the shop, I prepare nosh, and food is consumed during and after the races. The double-elimination style race is fun for everyone.

That first year, I found some classic (antique?) plans for a simple 2 lane track and headed to the shop. The track was nothing fancy. I added a spring loaded start gate at the last minute to make the race starts fair. The lanes are as evenly matched as possible but starting lanes are chosen at random during our races to quiet the skeptics. I laminated 1/2" plywood with 1/8" MDF hardboard for a smooth running surface. The lane guides are raised at the end of the track to save (most of) the cars from devastating crashes.

I love everything about race day. It's kind of like Christmas for me. I wake up early to assemble the track. Each year I have a few problems caused by a year of storage that need to be ironed (or sanded) out. Then I get to be a shop teacher for a day helping my friends and their children carve their designs out of a hunk of pine.

[Newsletter Home](#)

Articles:

[June Meeting](#)

[Wood from the Hood](#)

[What's On Your Bench?](#)

[President's Notes](#)

[Web Site](#)

[Enhancements](#)

Other Info:

[Upcoming Meetings](#)

[New Members](#)

[Classified Ads](#)

On Our Website:

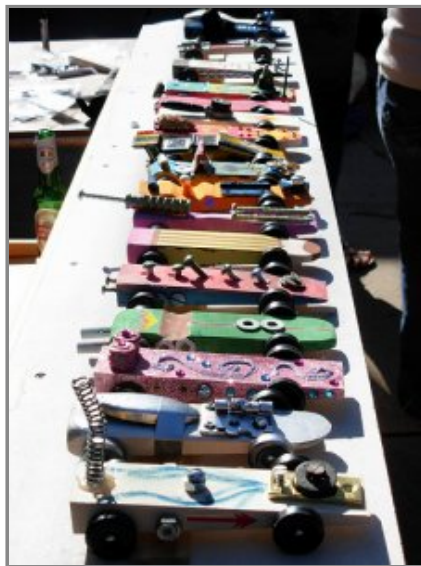
[Member's Gallery](#)

[Member's Web Sites](#)





The past three years have produced some colorful and creative entries.





The most popular tools are belt sanders (clamped upside down to a bench).

This year I am adding a table mounted spindle sander, disk/belt combo sander, and a bandsaw to the list. Some folks bring over tools and decorations of their own.

I get such a kick out of sharing my shop with my friends. The real fun for me is wandering around and offering assistance and advice. I



generally end up building my car in the last 5 minutes before race time since I stay so busy supervising. That didn't stop me from building the winning car last year. Maybe I'll let someone else win this year...maybe.

Here are some links to a little bit of press we got from Wired magazine and Make magazine.

<http://blog.makezine.com/archive/2009/08/pinewood-derby-for-adults.html>

<http://www.wired.com/geekdad/2009/04/pinewood-derby-2/>

<http://blog.makezine.com/archive/2010/08/3rd-annual-flanagan-double-dash.html>

<http://www.reetsyburger.com/2009/08/2nd-annual-flanagan-double-dash.html>

Pictures from all 3 years are at this link.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/gergistheword/collections/72157627249227444/>

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| [Home](#) | [Meetings](#) | [Newsletters](#) | [Northern Woods](#) | [Membership](#) | [Gallery](#) | [Links](#) | [Contact](#) |
Copyright 1982-2022

Northern Woods

The Newsletter of the Minnesota Woodworkers Guild, Est. 1982

Volume: 134

Issue: August - September 2011

June Meeting: Woodturners Guild National Meeting

Story by David Mitchell

Photos by Jerry Beutel

For the June meeting of the Woodworking Guild we changed our usual format a bit. We paid a visit to the American Association of Woodturners (AAW) annual meeting held at the St. Paul River Center, and learned a few things about woodturning. Steven McLoon, a member of both organizations, gave us a short tutorial (Woodturning 101) and then showed us around the many exhibit areas.

Steve's short presentation covered the basic concepts and basic elements of wood turning. The three elements of turning:

1. A lathe. The turning mechanism to create round works.
2. Attachments. The method of attaching your work to the lathe.
3. Tools. Cutting or scraping instruments.



There are two basic methods of turning:

1. Spindle Turning. Cutting across the long grain as the wood turns about grain running from the head to tail stocks. Usually used for basic table legs or pen turning. In spindle turning you may also hollow out your piece, such as a vase.
2. Face Turning. This orients the long grain perpendicular to the head to tail stock line. In face turning, each revolution presents alternating long and end-grain cutting to the tool you use. Face turning is often used for bowls. Hollow form cross grain pieces will exhibit distortion as the piece dries. It is common to do most of the work with green wood, leaving it oversized. Then the final shaping occurs after the piece dries.

Next, [Nick Cook](#) did a short demo of turning a bowl. The bowl was already externally shaped, and he had it chucked up by the base of the bowl. This left

[Newsletter Home](#)

Articles:

[June Meeting](#)

[Wood from the Hood](#)

[What's On Your Bench?](#)

[President's Notes](#)

[Web Site Enhancements](#)

Other Info:

[Upcoming Meetings](#)

[New Members](#)

[Classified Ads](#)

On Our Website:

[Member's Gallery](#)

[Member's Web Sites](#)





the top of the bowl to be hollowed out. Which he did with aplomb. Literally in manner of minutes he had the bowl hollowed to a uniform thickness. The comments from the "peanut gallery" implied that he has done this before.

After Nick's demo Steve McLoon gave us a walking tour of the AAW floors and galleries. We started upstairs in a professional gallery

with exquisite pieces. It had one section devoted to pieces by David Ellsworth, winner of the Woodturners Guild biennial merit award, a second section of invited artists pieces, and a third section featuring the best turnings of regional and local guilds from across North America.



The huge downstairs gallery contained thousands of turned items and was split into several sections:

- Approximately 12 tables full of turnings put up for auction. Most items were sold by a silent auction process while the most highly valued pieces were auctioned live at the dinner banquet.

- A section of donated items all selling for approximately \$20. The pieces were donated by AAW members and the proceeds went to charity (food-shelves).

- Virgil Leigh had a private corner where he displayed his human-sized turnings. Virgil did our Guild presentation this past March. ([YouTube](#), [MNoriginal story on Virgil Leih](#))

- The largest section contained pieces produced by AAW members. There were many, many hundreds of items on display.

I'm forgetting the AAWs vendor displays as well. This is the commercial end where you can spend any amount of money your heart may desire. Everything from lathe manufactures to gouge and tooling manufactures to the environmental groups talking about conservation and tree disease prevention.

The AAW Symposium also included an entire schedule of presentation and educational programs and demos. These were available only to the paying members.







Lots to see! Everyone who attended definitely enjoyed the afternoon.

Northern Woods

The Newsletter of the Minnesota Woodworkers Guild, Est. 1982

Volume: 134

Issue: August - September 2011

Upcoming Meetings

Please visit the [Meetings page](#) at MNWWG.org for more information on upcoming meetings. Updates occur more frequently as details are solidified so check the site, often, closer to the standard 3rd-Tuesday meeting date.

August

Time: Prolific artisan and long-time Guild member, Tom Schrunk, Tuesday, will be discussing the advantages of veneering as a August woodworking technique, methods of production, sources, the 16th, 7:00 pm range of uses, and practical guidelines.

Instant Tom encourages a two-way dialog, so bring your questions.
Gallery at
6:30

Location: <http://www.dunwoody.edu/visit.html>
Dunwoody
College (in
the Gym)

[Newsletter Home](#)

Articles:

[June Meeting](#)
[Wood from the Hood](#)
[What's On Your Bench?](#)
[President's Notes](#)
[Web Site Enhancements](#)

Other Info:

[Upcoming Meetings](#)
[New Members](#)
[Classified Ads](#)

On Our Website:

[Member's Gallery](#)
[Member's Web Sites](#)



Visit the MNWG Web Site:

| [Home](#) | [Meetings](#) | [Newsletters](#) | [Northern Woods](#) | [Membership](#) | [Gallery](#) | [Links](#) | [Contact](#) |
Copyright 1982-2022

Northern Woods

The Newsletter of the Minnesota Woodworkers Guild, Est. 1982

Volume: 134

Issue: August - September 2011

New Members

Stuart Beattie
Chris Bellamy
Jim Berg
Pete Bernier
Burt Buchen
Stuart Campbell
Kurt Carlson
Ian Farnham
Bob Flynn
Richard Fuerstneau
Mark Gilberstadt
Nathan Lief
Cory Mahlke
David Majeski
Gregg Sarkinen
Joseph Schuster
Russell Smidt
Brian J Valento
Samuel Vargo
Mark Walker
Bill Wegwerth
Michael Yates

[Newsletter Home](#)

Articles:

[June Meeting](#)
[Wood from the Hood](#)
[What's On Your Bench?](#)
[President's Notes](#)
[Web Site Enhancements](#)

Other Info:

[Upcoming Meetings](#)
[New Members](#)
[Classified Ads](#)

On Our Website:

[Member's Gallery](#)
[Member's Web Sites](#)



Visit the MNWG Web Site:

| [Home](#) | [Meetings](#) | [Newsletters](#) | [Northern Woods](#) | [Membership](#) | [Gallery](#) | [Links](#) | [Contact](#) |
Copyright 1982-2022

Northern Woods

The Newsletter of the Minnesota Woodworkers Guild, Est. 1982

Volume: 134

Issue: August - September 2011

Classified Ads

Advertising in the classifieds is provided to members of the Minnesota Woodworkers Guild free of charge. Ads placed should be for goods or services of general interest to the woodworkers who make up the guild community. Ads for services will run until cancelled. Other ads will run for one issue unless renewed. Submit ads to: jebeutel@gmail.com.

Help Wanted

Mark Laub Studios has a great opportunity for 1 or 2 competent woodworkers. You will be helping build award winning, very high end, complex, original design furniture. Friendly, supportive, learning environment. Flexible hours and pay. Call or email Mark 612.210 7793 marklaubstudios@gmail.com

Woodshop - Instructors and Enthusiasts

We are North Country Woodshop, a soon-to-open 10,000 square foot facility in Burnsville that will house all the wood shop tools a woodworker needs to complete woodworking projects. Our idea is simple - you need a lot of tools to do the hobby you love, and with North Country, our clients have access to the equipment needed to work on projects, classes to expand their skill and a team of experienced woodworkers to help them along the way.

We seek experienced wood workers to staff our center, be the coach, a mentor and a teacher for our members. Our team of employees will have the skills and knowledge to help our members understand the safety and use of woodworking equipment, to help our members set up and troubleshoot their projects and be a resource on the next great project.

North Country Woodshop is currently accepting resumes for Full Time and Part Time staff. Qualified applicants will have 5 - 10+ years woodworking, finish carpentry or related experience. Past experience teaching is highly desirable. We require skills, knowledge and experience working with a wide variety of carpentry hand tools and machinery: lathe, table saws, planer, drill press etc... and a strong desire to help newcomers and experienced hobbyist in understanding operation of equipment, safety and best practices.

North Country Woodshop is offering a competitive hourly wage and growth opportunity as our concept expands. Interested applicants please forward your

[Newsletter Home](#)

Articles:

[June Meeting](#)

[Wood from the Hood](#)

[What's On Your Bench?](#)

[President's Notes](#)

[Web Site Enhancements](#)

Other Info:

[Upcoming Meetings](#)

[New Members](#)

[Classified Ads](#)

On Our Website:

[Member's Gallery](#)

[Member's Web Sites](#)



resume to our hiring resource, Red Seat. Red Seat is not a recruiting company or agency but a contract HR company assisting us in the hiring process. Email: woodshop@redseat.com For more info on this position, call Red Seat direct at (952)-893-0020.

Tools

3 hp, left-tilt JET table saw for sale. Great condition! Need to get \$1,000. Dick Cortright (651) 689-0087

For sale, barely used Shopsmith Mark V, Model 500 - capabilities: table saw, disc sander, drill press, horizontal boring machine, lathe. Asking \$600 or best offer. Contact Ron Gardner at 763-786-7513 or ron84gard@fastermac.net

Services

Mike Siemsen's School of Woodworking. Woodworking with a hand tool focus.

We have a great line up this year including some tool sharpening and tool tuning classes. Our Workbench Class was a huge success and will be offered again in the future. Take a look at my website, improve your sharpening or furniture making skills! Classes are held in my shop on a quiet rural setting 35 miles North of the Twin Cities. The shop is heated and air conditioned for your comfort year around. Reserve your spot now! Visit my website at www.schoolofwood.com, e-mail mike@schoolofwood.com or call 651-257-9166 for more information.

Bamboo Backed Long Bow Building Class

With Master Bowyer Tom Turgeon www.boisebowsandarrows.com August 12-13

Skill level: Beginner to Advanced

Class size: Maximum 8

Tools required:

Nicholson #50 Rasp (Required)

Nicholson 10" Cabinet File (Required)

Class materials: The Bowyer's Kit (bamboo backed stave and string) \$150. (Required)

This class's wood choice: Yellow Heart from South America.

The Long Bow Building Workshop will take you on a one-of-a-kind journey from recognizing and selecting bow woods, through the tillering process of a "stave" to stringing and shooting a highly functional, hand crafted, bamboo backed long bow. In this 10% instructional, 90% hands-on workshop, students learn or hone proper hand tool skills to create their own heirloom quality, functional works of art. Along with their custom long bows students will take home a hand twisted Flemish bowstring and a working knowledge to "teach" wood to bend- without the use of heat or steam. Finishing techniques and many archery related topics will also be covered.

Tuition: \$395.00 Bow Building Kit: \$150.00 Contact George Vondrisk at Wild Earth Woodworking. 715 749 9011

Bamboo Backed Long Bow Finishing Class

With Master Bowyer Tom Turgeon www.boisebowsandarrows.com August 14

Skill level: Beginner to Advanced

Class size: Maximum 8

Tools Required: None. (But bring your imagination!)

This class's finishing choices: Dyes & clear coats.

Class materials: All dyes, clear coats, etc. are included in the tuition.

Master Bowyer Tom Turgeon will be teaching his Long Bow Finishing Class

Consider the high expectations you hold for yourself on that beautiful Bamboo Backed Long Bow you have just built....Here is your opportunity to succeed with a professional caliber finish!

Cost \$135 Contact George Vondrisk at Wild Earth Woodworking. 715 749 9011

Woodcraft Education Program. Located in Bloomington, we offer the Twin Cities most complete selection of woodworking classes. Our classes cover furniture making, carving, turning, hand and power tools, and finishing. We also offer free demonstrations every month. Close by, small class sizes and the best local and national instructors make it a great place to bring your skills to the next level. Website: Woodcraft Bloomington Store Phone: 952-884-3634

Plane soles milled flat, price ranges from \$12 for a block plane to \$40 for a #8. Sides can be milled square to the sole for \$15-\$20. Contact Chuck Pitschka at 952-935-0660, or by e-mail at cepitschka@yahoo.com.

Workbench Plans. Plans now available for Adjustable Height Workbench with a built in Mobile Base. Email Charlie Kocourek at Charlie@Jack-Bench.com or visit my website www.Jack-Bench.com

Visit the MNWG Web Site:

| [Home](#) | [Meetings](#) | [Newsletters](#) | [Northern Woods](#) | [Membership](#) | [Gallery](#) | [Links](#) | [Contact](#) |

Copyright 1982-2022

Northern Woods

The Newsletter of the Minnesota Woodworkers Guild, Est. 1982

Volume: 134

Issue: August - September 2011

Enhancements to the Guild Web Site, Part 3

Story by Jeff Hand

In previous issues of Northern Woods, it was mentioned that the members would be able to specify the types of email communications they received. These upgrades are now completed and, as a matter of fact, the email regarding this issue of the newsletter was delivered via that new system.

In addition to a slightly different look for the email you receive from the Guild, members may choose which communications they receive. The options include:

- No Communications
- All Communications
- Meeting Notifications
- Special Event Notifications
- Tools/Services for Sale/Hire Notifications
- Requests for Assistance/Knowledge Sharing

The exceptions are emails from the Board of Directors as well as notifications that your membership is due for renewal. Members will always receive these emails as they are important information regarding your membership. The expiration notices will begin to go out later in August.

To specify which email types you would like to continue to receive, you may log in to your account on the [Guild web site](#) and access your profile page. Please refer to [Enhancements to the Guild Web Site, Part 2](#) in the last newsletter for more details on accessing your account.

There are check boxes towards the bottom of your member profile page where you may make the previously mentioned selections. (NOTE: The default is such that all communications will be sent to you.)

If you have any questions about these new changes, please [drop Jeff Hand a line](#).

[Newsletter Home](#)

Articles:

[June Meeting](#)

[Wood from the Hood](#)

[What's On Your Bench?](#)

[President's Notes](#)

[Web Site Enhancements](#)

Other Info:

[Upcoming Meetings](#)

[New Members](#)

[Classified Ads](#)

On Our Website:

[Member's Gallery](#)

[Member's Web Sites](#)



Visit the MNWG Web Site:

| [Home](#) | [Meetings](#) | [Newsletters](#) | [Northern Woods](#) | [Membership](#) | [Gallery](#) | [Links](#) | [Contact](#) |
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