The Newsletter of the Minnesota Woodworkers Guild, Est. 1982

Volume: 139 Issue: June - July 2012

Northern Woods Show

Nicholas Nelson won three awards including Best In Show at the 2012 Northern Woods Show. His piece, Cabinet in Chinese Elm, displays very clean lines and subtle details as well as outstanding craftsmanship. See photos of all the award winning pieces as well as other outstanding entries.



Full Story

May Meeting: Mark Laub and the art of inlay

Mark Laub shared insights about the art and the craft of doing inlay work with attendees at the May meeting. Read a summary of his talk as well and about the Instant Gallery and other announcements.



Full Story

President's Notes

Charlie covers a lot of interesting ground as he talks about raisins, beautiful landscapes, orange peels, veneer and a few other things. All of this relates to his musings about creativity.

Full Story

The Old School Arts Center

Richard Tendick's Cryptex on display at the Old School Arts Center which recently opened in Sandstone. Read more about this gallery and what is going on there.



Full Story

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Northern Woods Show

Story by Jerry Beutel Photos by Ramon Moreno & Jerry Beutel

Best In Show, Peer Award, Paul Lee Award



Nicolas Nelson won three awards for his Cabinet in Chinese Elm. The hand plane which he is holding is given to the receipient of the Paul Lee Award.

Besides Chinese Elm, Nelson's cabinet incorporates European cherry, western maple and Japanese maple.



The 2012 Northern Woods show at Southdale continued the well established tradition (29 years now) of displaying amazing pieces of woodworking crafted by members of the Minnesota Woodworkers Guild. At the awards ceremony

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held on the second evening of the four day show, prizes were awarded in 14 categories.

Nicolas Nelson was a big winner, snaring the Best in Show Award, the Peer Award (chosen by a vote of the exhibitors) and the Paul Lee Award. All of the winners had their work professionally photographed by Ramon Moreno.

Before getting to those photos, here are a few from the awards banquet. Charlie Kocourek started things off and then introduced Angie Kopecek who did a great job as emcee for the evening.



Guild president Charlie Kocourek at the awards ceremony



Angie Kopecek, master of ceremonies, presented the awards



A close-up of one of the coveted trophies

Getting the trophies made, and they are really nice trophies, was but one of the duties performed by the NW committee. This year Richard Tendick shared the committee chair duties with Fran Peterson, and together they coordinated a great show. Tony Kubalek (catalog and post-show recognition), Mark Powell (publicity) and Craig Johnson (judges) also played a major role. Those trophies mentioned earlier were made by Rutager West and Joe Santos. Jeff Hand helped out with tabulating ballots, registration, and other activities. The judging was done by Chris Amudsen of the American Craft Council, Glenn Gordon a furniture maker and writer, and George R. Walker who writes the "Design Matters" column for Popular Woodworking and has authored a series of woodworking videos.

Woodworking for Pleasure Award



At 18 feet, Ted Smetak's kayak was a commanding presence at the show. The beautiful combination of light and dark woods certainly caught the judges attention. Ted built it from African mahogany, Peruvian Walnut, figured maple and holly. The Woodworking for Pleasure award is given for the best piece built by a hobbyist woodworker.

Judges Award





Dick Schultz' Iris Box is made from African mahogany and colored veneers. It is obvious Dick learned a lot from the Fall Seminar (topic: packet marquetry) and applied that knowledge as he built this cabinet.



Serenity is the name for Craig Johnson's wall cabinet. The carcase is made from abutus and the square medallions cascading down the front are from brown doussie.

Best Carving

This Mark Laub piece is titled Late For The Sky. Typically



Mark's pieces invite exploration and discovery and this one is no exception. After opening the front doors one sees a theme of swallows inlaid in the drawer fronts and on the rotating center panel. Rotate the panel and two dozen swallows wing their way out of the cabinet.

Materials include waterfall bubinga, big leaf maple, copper, mother of pearl abalone, art glass, ebony and sterling silver.



Best Turning

Best Finish





Linda Ferber, inspired by a walk in the on these two boxes. The basic box willowwack woods, turned this collection of small boxes from oak, walnut cherry, maple and birch.

David Lane used an oil and poly finish design is the same but he imbued one with Asian and one with Craftsman style influences. Even the hardware was home made.

Best Handwork



Tony Kubalek reproduced this French open arm chair based on a 1766 design. The primary wood is mahogany and if you look closely you will see the detailed carving on the arms the legs and around the lower seat edge.

Other Guild members also exhibited chairs at the NW show. Though not award winners, they display excellent design and craftsmanship. Peter Pestolozzi built three variations on a theme, left, and Dale Johnson displayed two identical chairs from a set of six that he built.







Best First Time In Show

Jamie Schell used a couple of less common woods in building this bench. The top is mango wood, the legs are monkey pod. He added subtle curves to the handcut dovetails which are the focal point of the bench



Most Technically Accomplished

Tim Gorman's bench has a walnut base and an aluminum and stainless steel seat. He calls it A Tale of Two Bridges because the design was inspired by his frequent biking forays past the old and new I-35 bridges.

Best Design

Jeff Chapman designed this 60" wide bookshelf for a client's antique book and decorative



collectibles. The
African mahogany is
punctuated by ebony
accents. The gentle
curves were designed to
complement the grain
pattern of the
mahogany.

Best Traditional Piece



This walnut and pine clock is a reproduction of a 1740 tall-case clock. The original sold in 2004 for 1.7 million dollars. Joel Ficke used tools and methods appropriate to the period of the original piece in constructing this award winning clock. Flat surfaces are hand planed and the carvings are done with gouges and bench chisels. No laser engravers or CNC routers in Joel's shop! At 111" tall this clock stands head and shoulders above the average human.

Other photos from the 2012 NW Show























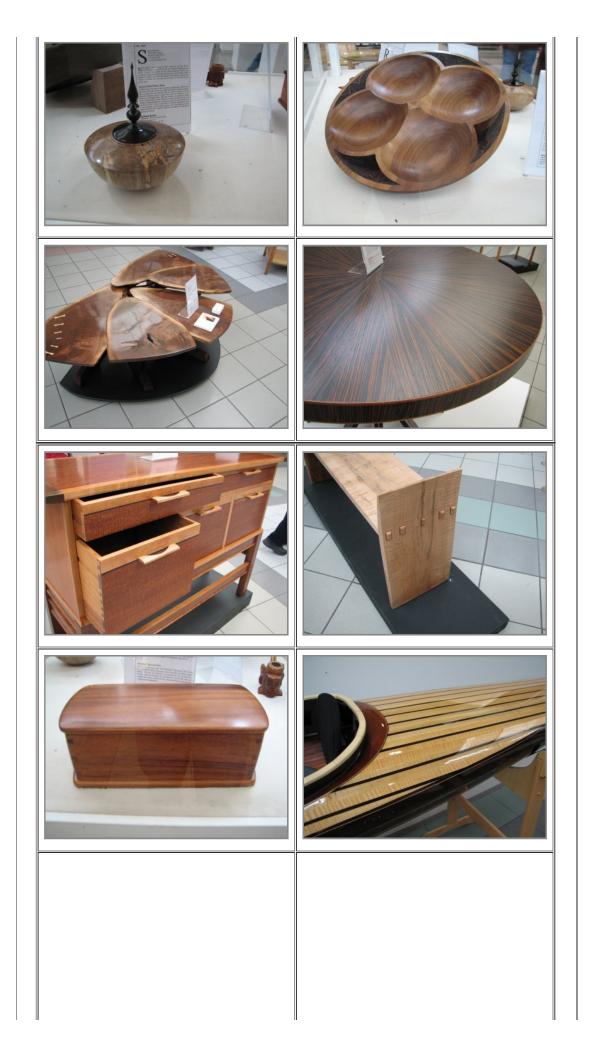


































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May Meeting: Mark Laub and the art of inlay

Story by Ron Corradin Photos by Sam DiPasquale

At the Instant Gallery prior to the May Guild meeting Doug Perlick displayed a

hand plane that he made, with a grenadillo body and a Hock blade. Based on an article on making a wooden body hand plane in the first issue of Fine Woodworking, with a few improvements. His design had a knob ahead of



the blade to adjust the mouth of the plane and set screws on both sides of the blade to fine-tune the blade's lateral position. He had also added a removable persimmon fence.

Mathew Olson had news about woodworking in Alaska. He said the only native hardwoods in Alaska are birch, willow, and cottonwood. As there are no flea markets for tools, he was bringing a number of planes back to Alaska with him.

Bob Bridigum recommended Guild members attend the Woodworking in America show, in Pasadena, CA on October 12-14, 2012 or in Cincinnati, OH on November 2-4, 2012. Cost for all three days is \$375, and the program features many well known woodworkers as instructors, including Roy Underhill and David Marks. Bob also explained how the numbers on the cutters on Stanley molding planes (#45 and #55, for example) are the same numbers used to identify molding at Home Depot.

Guild President Charlie Kocourek asked members to bring their first woodworking project to the June Guild meeting. So bring your first project, even if it is bookends or a cutting board.

The speaker for the meeting was Mark Laub. Mark's beautifully designed and flawlessly built furniture has been a highlight of the last several Northern Woods shows. At the May Guild meeting he explained how he uses marquetry and inlay to accent his furniture designs.

Marquetry paints a picture with wood veneers, which presently can be 1/28 to 1/40 of an inch (0.036 to 0.025 inches) thick. Mark said this is too thin for inlay work, as he crumpled a piece of veneer like paper. He explained that even with a 00 gauge blade a piece cut out of veneer during packet cutting with stacked veneers is too small for the space it is supposed to fill, by two blade thicknesses.

Instead, Mark uses solid wood for his inlays. He resaws it to rough size, then runs it through a wide drum sander to get a final thickness of 5/64 (0.078)

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inches. When he cuts an inlay pattern he uses a oo gauge blade, but tilts the scroll saw table to 7° so the insert can be fitted into the field from the back with no saw kerf gap. The bevels match. His approach to assembling inserts is cut/glue/cut/glue.

Mark listed rules for using inlays.

1. Do not use marquetry, inlay, or texturing on a beautiful wood like quilted mahogany or quilted or blistered big leaf maple. Let wood of that high quality speak for itself.



- 2. Inlay is harder to do with a light field than with a dark field. A light field shows off mistakes more easily.
- 3. Use a dark or a light wood for the field instead of a medium brown wood, as a light or dark wood gives better contrast to the inlay. Use a plain wood for the field, and save the tortured wood for the inlay.
- 4. Beware of exotic woods because they are not color stable. Woods like padouk, bloodwood, purpleheart, and bocote look good when freshly planed, Mark said, but with time they fade to mud.

Inlay can be made not only from wood. Other materials Mark uses include white or black mother of pearl (cut by hand with a oo blade), laminated abalone shell (Ablam), oyster shell, snail shell (snails get that big?), and ivory from salvaged piano keys or Ivorex plastic or tagua nuts. Shell material also comes in dots and 5 1/2 inch radius slivers.

Shell for inlay is surprisingly expensive, so it is handled carefully. Sheets of shell are often backed with ebony, glued on with super glue or epoxy. Sometimes they are backed with acrylic plastic, again using super glue.

Luthiers use shell. For example, the dots on a guitar fretboard are often mother of pearl. They also use inlay around the sound hole in a guitar. It's actually onlay, with the finish on the guitar body brought up to its thickness.

Some of Mark's pieces use inlaid metals. He uses brass and copper, but favors square sterling silver wire from sterlingsupplies com. It makes good flower

stems. The silver wire is 18 gauge (1/32 inch square) and to cut a channel for it Mark uses a 1/32 inch down spiral bit in a Dremel Moto-Tool on a base plate.					
The silver wire is secured with super glue. After assembly the inlay is carefully sanded by hand to level it out.					



Al Frank's dragonfly inlay

During his talk Mark passed around examples of dragonfly inlay work done by Al Frank. Quarter sawn sycamore was the perfect material for the dragonflies' delicate wings. At the end of his talk he had a slide show of some of his inlay work. It included pictures of a jewelry box with a kanji character inlaid into the top; a book in a dovetailed book box with maple leaf inlay in the top; I jewelry presentation box inlaid with silver, and a love letter box with a fountain pen, sealing wax, a wax stamp, paper and envelopes, and a dragonfly inlay on the front.

In closing, Mark said it takes 10,000 hours to get really good at something. Do the math. That's five years of full-time work. Mark Laub passed that point years ago, and the results can be seen at marklaub.com.

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Classifieds

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 <u>Jerry Beutel</u>

Tools

Drum sander looking for a new home. Homemade 220V, ~20" head drum sander needs a new home for \$50. This works well, I just don't need it anymore. Please contact Mark Fritsche at markfritsche@skyline.com with inquiries. Photos available on request.

Wood

at: info@sheralynbarnes.com

Red Oak Timbers. I am a Sawyer, I have recently started to cut up some Red Oak Timbers that have been down for approximately four years. I'm interested in selling the slabs, they are 1" X 16" X 10'. If you are interested, you can contact me at: kattermaggie@comcast.net 763-443-2628

Veneers and marquetry tools. Variety of marquetry tools(including a press) and veneers for sale. A list of veneers follows: Rosewood burl ,African Mahogany, East African rosewood ,Rosewood ,Premium Walnut ,Olive ash,White Oak, Red Oak,Poplar Birch,Sycamore,Dyed Black, Hare-wood Maple,Walnut,African cherry,Aqua Birdseye,and Dyed green. Any halfway reasonable offer will be accepted. Private party. Contact surselyd@msn.com

Unfinished hardwood picture frame molding, in lengths. Liquidating my inventory. Beautiful, various woods: cherry, maple, walnut, ash, poplar, birch. Several profiles including floater moulding. Moulding is unfinished and sold by the stick, average length 8 - 10 feet. See profile examples at: https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.1455897894148.42875.1734387448&l=4c7d9cbea4&type=1 Prices vary depending on wood and profile, start at \$1.30/foot. Contact me for more info

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Shop Space

Shop space at 11490 Hudson blvd Lake Elmo. Three 2400sq.ft wood working bays available in Lake Elmo off of Manning ave and Interstate 94. Piping for pressurized air, heavy power, ventilation and an interior drive in so you product will never get wet. Great access to Interstate 94. The whole complex is either wood working shops or a pallet comany so you never have to worry about running your equipment. \$850. Contact Chad at chad@javaprop.com

The Mill is a new educational industrial arts/maker space in Minneapolis, Minnesota that celebrates the do-it-yourself culture and creative communities by providing members with access to tools, equipment and instruction. From woodworking to metalworking and electronics, members of the Mill will work on individual or collaborative projects in a well-stocked, industrial grade fabrication workshop. The Mill offers a unique solution to address the knowledge, space, storage and social constraints of building projects at home.

The Mill is community resource. Beyond its identity as workshop, the specific purpose of the Mill is to encourage technical, scientific and artistic skills through individual projects, social collaboration and education. The Mill is conceived as an infrastructure provider for technical-creative projects. We will also fulfill our role as a community resource by hosting classes in a number of areas including electronics, woodworking, digital fabrication, metal fabrication, artistic use of industrial equipment and any other skills that our members or guests are willing to share.

The mission of the Mill is to serve as an incubator of ideas; to foster a collaborative community where members utilize industrial arts concepts, cutting edge technology and time tested fabrication equipment to create innovative solutions to technical issues in fabrication and making. Through classes, group interaction, and an inclusive environment, the Mill is a space where innovation and creativity can be fostered for novice and expert alike.

www.mnmill.org

The Mill 2300 Kennedy St NE Suite #130 Minneapolis, MN 55413

Dream Workshop Space for rent /to share (several areas to pick from): 2303 Kennedy Street NE. 4500 s.f. total shop space. Industrial building with mushroom pillars. 12' high ceilings and concrete floors. 10 hp Quincy air compressor. Heavy power - 3 phase and single phase. Private build/work space. Heat/electricity included. Loading dock. Easy parking. Spray booth available on second floor. Room for your own tools/machines. Internet available. Southern exposure/natural light. Many possibilities for the serious hobbyist or professional. Affordable. No curfew.

Optional use of Altendorf sliding table saw, 10" Unisaw, Holzher edgebander, edge sander, pocket drill, system drills, pallet rack, drill presses, lathe, panel carts, 36" wide steel storage lockers, etc. Private office/drafting table available. Contact: **Dale 612.812.5331 for viewing.**

North Country Woodshop — Woodshop Open to the Public. The easiest way to describe North Country Woodshop would be this: It's a health club for woodworkers. But, instead of treadmills, we have table saws...instead of dumbbells, we have drill presses, lathes, joiners, sanders, and so on. If it belongs in a woodworking shop, North Country Woodshop has it. And the best part, all the tools are available to use with a simple membership to North Country Woodshop.

Have your own hand tools? Bring'em! Don't have your own hand tools? Rent ours. Our staff of veteran woodworkers will show you how to swing that hammer without hurting yourself...or others. If you need lumber for your project, but don't have time to pick it up yourself, give us a call and we will have it waiting for you when you get there. And when your project is done, we can deliver it for you as well.

North Country Woodshop offers a wide variety of classes for all levels of woodworking ability. We offer classes from beginner to advanced with a large variety of projects and techniques. Our classes are taught by our team of expert woodworkers as well as local and world renowned guest instructors. Contact info at North Country Woodshop.

Space available to rent in Bespoke Minneapolis'/St. Paul workshop.

Rental costs include: full use of shop facilities, finishing room, and all utilities and trash. Shop equipment includes Altendorf sliding table saw, Format cnc shaper, Format digital 20" planer, SCM 16" jointer, Laguna cnc lathe, as well as 16" disc sander, belt sander, moulder, router tables, hydraulic veneer 4' x 8' cold press; 5' x 14' veneer bag press, Laguna 16" capacity re-saw bandsaw, Powermatic 14" bandsaw, drill press, dovetail jigs and etc. Please view our website www.bespokeminneapolis.com to see the type of work which is produced in our shop. Total rent is \$925.00 per month.

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

<u>www.schoolofwood.com</u>, e-mail <u>mike@schoolofwood.com</u> or call <u>651-257-9166</u> for more information.

Woodcraft Education Program. Located in Bloomington, we offer the Twin Cities most complete selection ofwoodworking 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.

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

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

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President's Notes

Story by Charlie Kocourek



The recent Northern Woods show was filled with amazingly creative works. Where do our Guild members get these great ideas? I must admit I often wondered about creativity. I wonder things like, "am I creative?" or "how can I be more creative?"

I recently attended a Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction class. One of the exercises was "Mindful Eating". What that means is to think about, and really pay attention to what you are eating.

The first exercise was to eat a raisin with mindfulness. We each had two raisins. We thought about what a raisin is; where they came from, how they might have been processed and packaged. We thought about how they were transported from the processing plant to the store; from one person to another, and finally to us. We held them in our hand; we noticed what it felt like for those raisins to rest in our palms. We felt the texture of them. We smelled them. Each of us placed one in our mouth and noticed what that felt like. We focused on the taste. Next we bit into it and thought about what that was like, even what it sounded like. It was amazing how much I could hear when I really focused on the sound produced by chewing on a raisin!

This was an interesting exercise and it was actually kind of fun. A few days later I practiced this while eating an orange. Following the same process I peeled the orange slowly and tried to get the peeling off in one piece. I looked at the large orange peeling, I felt it, I stretched it out, and I laid it flat on the table.

Once I got it all flattened out it occurred to me that this odd shaped piece of orange peel was kind of similar to a piece of veneer. Then I tried to think of possible uses for this unusual veneer. Could I somehow dry it out and piece it together with other flattened out orange peels? Could I incorporate orange peel into an inlay or a piece of marquetry?

I didn't come up with any great ideas on how to use orange peel, and I won't incorporate it into my next woodworking project, but I was amused by the idea. Then it occurred to me that it was a new and somewhat out of the box

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idea. That got me thinking about creativity. Where do new ideas come from? How can I cultivate new ideas for myself?

I'm no expert, but I think it's related to "focus" and "awareness". I could walk a mile through the most beautiful landscape, but I won't actually see anything if I am focused on my destination. On the other hand, if I am engaged and present then I will probably notice all kinds of things.

Of course creativity involves more than just being present and noticing things, but I do think awareness somehow helps to feed the creative process. I am not suggesting that you take a stress reduction class to enhance your creativity, but I am saying that sometimes it is more productive to just relax and enjoy the journey.

Charlie Kocourek

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New Members

Welcome to these new members:

Jeff Wohlfeil	Robert Acfeldt	Daniel Churchill	
Steven Ulrich	Chris Karakostas	Carlos Espinosa	
Steve Schwartz	Loren Zachary	Dale Lund	
Bob Stoessel	Dave Gannon	Aaron Smith	
Robert Elde	Steve Hoffman	Louis Mattsfield	
Daryl Carlson	Jim Thomson	Craig Rosfjord	
Lloyd Schroeder	Eric Weatherman	Dennis Gable	
Ralph Walker	Stuart Fox	Joel Nichols	

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Upcoming Meetings

June 19th (Tuesday), 2012: Mortise and Tenon Joinery Made Easy.

Hosted by Steve McLoon, this demonstration will resemble a four-ring circus! The ringmasters for each ring will include a number of our highly accomplished members. Each will demonstrate a different method to a make mortise and tenon joint to construct the base for a small table. Attendees can move freely from station to station so that they can see each of the methods over the course of the evening. The smaller groupings at each station will facilitate discussion.

Location: The Mill, 2300 Kennedy St NE, Minneapolis.

Time: Instant Gallery (Bring a project to share) at 6:30, followed by the demonstrations at 7 pm.

July 24th (Tuesday), 2012: Trends in Small Shop CNC Machines and Techniques.

Randy Johnson, Editor-in-Chief of American Woodworker and Woodwork magazines will host the meeting. Randy has spent the past 6 years exploring how CNC's are being used in small production and home woodworking shops. He is familiar with operation of several types of machines and currently writes a regular article for American Woodworker called CNC Workshop. Randy will share his observations and also demonstrate the basic process of designing and machining a project part from design to CNC routing. He currently has three small shop CNC machines in the American Woodworker shop ranging in size from 18x24 to 24x36 to 49x97 inch and will demonstrate the operation of each tool and discuss their differences.

Location: American Woodworker, <u>1285 Corporate Center Drive</u>, <u>#180, Eagan</u>, <u>MN 55121</u>.

Time: 7 pm. Due to space limitations, there will be no Instant Gallery this month.

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The Old School Arts Center

Story by Roger Knudson Photos by Roger Knudson

The Old School Arts Center (OSAC) in Sandstone held its second art show opening on May 11. Two Minnesota Woodworkers Guild members, Richard Tendick with his Cryptex and Mark Laub with four major case pieces, were the hit of the opening. Mark is the Featured Artist for this three-months show and was gracious enough to give a "gallery talk" on Friday afternoon to visiting high school students and on Saturday morning to the general public. Both Mark and Rich were present for the opening activities on Friday evening and were, of course, sought out to talk about their pieces.



In addition to Mark and Rich's pieces, MWG member Roger Knudson, who is on the OSAC board, has several pieces in the show. Artists from east central Minnesota have paintings, sculpture, wood carvings and pottery which completed this show's complement of art.

Mark has commented, "Of all the galleries I have shown my stuff in, OSAC rates among the best. The space is large enough to display art piece tastefully and with respect. It nicely accommodates both two and three dimensional pieces.....the lighting is good and visitors are able to circulate freely, socialize or linger by a piece to examine more closely....all without having to worry about congestion. That's a big deal!"

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In addition, Mark said, "The location is a real sleeper.
Sandstone is a very nice community and midway located between two major markets. The gallery also has a very strong community backing and leadership that includes Roger Knudson and former senator Becky Lourey. Add to all of this the nearby Kettle River park and Roger Knudson's coffee, it

makes for a wonderful weekend getaway and a perfect new gallery! "

Rich also was impressed with the setting, saying, "I wish we had this space for our Northern Woods show!"

OSAC wants MWG members to know that we would love to have other woodworkers pieces in future shows. Items may be for sale, or not as you see fit. OSAC takes a 20% commission on all sales. Our next show will be set up in the first week of August, and stay in place for three months.

Contact Roger Knudson if you wish to show your work. You are encouraged and welcome.

Roger Knudson rwknudson@frontiernet.net 320-233-6543

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What's On Your Bench?

This column depends on your input, and this issue we have no story to share. Please send <u>the editor</u> your work-in-progress story so it can be shared with others. Guild members love to read about and see pictures of what others are working on!

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