

The Newsletter of the Minnesota Woodworkers Guild

NORTHERN WOODS

Volume 123

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Charlie Kocourek's Jack Bench was the featured topic at September's Minnesota Woodworkers Guild meeting.

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NORTHERN WOODS

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Membership

To become a member, fill out the coupon below, write check to MN Woodworkers Guild, mail both to:

MN Woodworkers Guild
1950 Park Rd. Ct.
Chaska, Mn 55318

You will receive your membership card by return mail.

Address Changes

Please forward address and contact change information to Carole Magnuson at the email address shown to your left.

Newsletter

Send articles, "Buy & Sell" submissions and letters to the editor to:

Jerry Beutel
jebeutel@gmail.com
651 436-5897

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New Membership Coupon

Name _____

Business Name (if any) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip Code _____

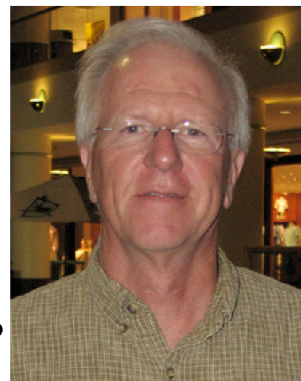
Phone _____

E-mail Address _____

President's Notes

by Dick Schultz

On September 10, the legendary furniture builder James Krenov passed away at the age of 89. He was preceded in death by another legend, Sam Maloof on May 21. Sam was 93. Both had long careers and were two of the most influential woodworkers since World War II. Many of us have admired their work and been influenced by their designs and craftsmanship. Some of you have had the good fortune to take classes or workshops from these two icons. I regret getting such a late start in furniture building and missing an opportunity to learn from the best. I would encourage you to honor and recognize these giants in our field in whatever way is meaningful to you. Passing on their passion for woodworking to future generations is a legacy we can all be proud of.



On another note, the MNWWG board of directors is attempting to improve communication and record keeping by expanding our online services. Recently we have started sending email blasts with meeting information to all 900 of 1100 guild members who have provided us with their email addresses. If we don't have your email address, send it to carolemagnuson@att.net. We have contracted with an online service that in the near future will allow you to update your information and pay dues online. We also will be delivering the newsletter online. This will provide many opportunities to upgrade the newsletter and provide you with related links and search capabilities. The online registration for Northern Woods was a great success this year and we intend to expand it to future seminar registrations. The size of our club necessitates that we make these changes to keep our organization functioning in an efficient and effective manner. Have a good time with your woodworking and be safe.

Dick Schultz

Youngblood Lumber Company Tour

Story by David Mitchell

Photos by Paul Schalenkamp

The August meeting of the Minnesota Woodworkers Guild convened at the Youngblood Lumber yard. This tour attracted more than 155 Guild members and guests, making it the most well attended Guild meeting to date. The Guild last toured Youngblood approximately 5 years ago - until now that meeting held the Guild attendance record. Youngblood employees were very gracious hosts, providing grilled hot dogs and side dishes, they also handed out Youngblood catalogs, pencils, and the Hardwood Council fast-facts summary. The Guild wants to extend a very warm thank-you to Youngblood Lumber (www.youngbloodlumber.com).



On another beautiful summer evening guild members lined up for a picnic style meal provided courtesy of Youngblood Lumber



It was standing-room-only during the meeting portion of the evening. Along the side wall are some of the surface laminates available from Youngblood

Youngblood is a wholesale and retail supplier of fine hardwood and softwood lumber, plywood and decorative surface products intended for use in furniture, cabinets, store fixtures, and counter tops. Originally established as Bennet Lumber in 1876, Youngblood is the 5th oldest continually operating business in Minneapolis. The company is employee owned and operated.

Since 1984 Youngblood has supported the Minnesota Woodworkers Guild by offering a wholesale (contractor) discount to members. This discount varies by product, but usually ranges between 25 to 30 percent. At that rate, one can quickly recoup the Guild membership dues with the savings on lumber. Youngblood Lumber has a catalog available to contractors and to Guild members. We were reminded that wood prices are always in flux, still the catalog is a useful reference to what Youngblood keeps in stock. Don't forget to bring your Guild membership card. For the tour we divided into three groups and each group visited the sheet goods and solid surface materials buildings, the machine shop, and the hardwood stacks.

Sheet goods and Solid Surface Tour

The plywoods and sheet goods are in two buildings. The oldest building also contains the yard office. It was only five years ago, that the old wooden floor was replaced with concrete. The larger building houses more plywood and MDF products, as well as plastic laminates, veneers, and solid surface counter-top products.

Sheet goods are heavy, large, and awkward to handle; especially from tall racks. Grade, and substrate (core) selections can be confusing. It is wise to ask for help.

Machine Shop

The machine shop houses three machine operations: Diehl 750 straight line rip saw, Newman M-712 Planer which surfaces 4 sides or tongue and groove flooring/paneling, and an Oliver 2071 two-sided planer. The rip saw and two sided planer can handle boards up to 23 inches wide. Milling charges are in the catalog. The machine shop is not open to customers.

Youngblood provides the following value added services for the hardwoods & softwoods they sell:

S2S = Surface two Sides.

S4S = Surface four Sides.

SL1E = Straight line rip one edge.

SL2E = Rip to Width.

T&G = Tongue and Groove

Hardwood Stacks

The hardwood stack buildings pre-date the installation of electricity. The skylights in the roof were the original lighting. Even with today's mercury lamps, these buildings are still poorly lit on cloudy days. You can drive or back your truck into hardwoods stacks to load your own hardwood selections. Be courteous—take your selection from the top of the stacks and leave the stacks as neat as you find them.



One of the three tour groups in the hardwood stacks building.



Gary Leuer discusses surfacing and ripping operations - here he shows boards coming off the planer in the machine shop



Jim Grausam discusses some of the many species and grades of lumber stocked at Youngblood.

Minnesota Woodworkers Guild Fall Seminar

November 6th, 7th, and 8th 2009

with Phillip Lowe



Phillip Lowe

Philip was the 2005 recipient of the Cartouche Award. This honor is bestowed by the Society of American Period Furniture Makers to Master Craftsmen that have illustrated the highest standard of education, resource, and applied venue for historical appreciation.

Phillip Lowe has been involved with woodworking since 1968 and is the author of many articles in *Fine Woodworking Magazine*. He is featured in the Time Life series on woodworking and in multiple videos with The Taunton Press. His teaching experience includes ten years (1975 -1985) as an instructor at Boston's North Bennett Street School, where he was positioned as department head for the latter five.

Since 1985 Phil has operated a furniture making and restoration shop in Beverly, MA, producing work for the private sector and museums throughout North America. In 1997 he started The Furniture Institute of Massachusetts which offers hands-on classes in all facets of traditional furniture making. Phil regularly teaches and demonstrates at various schools and woodworking organizations throughout the United States and Canada.

Seminar Topic: Legs for Furniture

Friday 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 – 4:00

Sunday 9:00 – 4:00

Legs for Furniture explores the construction of four of the most popular legs used in furniture. Through the course of these two days Phil will help you to gain an understanding of furniture design, and the processes of drawing, carving, shaping, turning, and pattern making.

Phil will begin by designing a footstool with a Queen Anne cabriole leg followed by the making of a pattern, the turning of the foot, sawing the shape, layout and the hand shaping of this highly admired form. Next Phil will undertake the making of an ogee bracket foot, often used on chests of drawers, desks and cupboards. Once drawn and a pattern made, Phil will demonstrate how this foot can be simply created with a table saw and a couple of hand tools to cut its complex curve and to miter it together. Next Phil will discuss and demonstrate the “hallmark of the 18th century”, the ball and claw foot. Through this demonstration, you will gain the understanding of designing a footstool as well as the process of drawing the leg and carving the foot. Pattern making, the layout, sawing, carving and shaping will also be shown. You gain an understanding of how this dramatic form evolves and a true knowledge of how the antique ball and claw foot was made. He will then demonstrate the turning of a simple leg for a footstool. The drawn detail of the leg as well as the making of a story stick

to aid in the turning will be shown. While turning Phil will give pointers that will enable you to more easily master the skew and to develop a process ensuring the second turning will look the same as the first. This leg will be finished off with the carving of a patera which adds to its appeal.

LOCATION

This year's Fall Seminar will be held at Minneapolis College of Art & Design
2501 Stevens Ave S, Minneapolis, MN.

Cost for this year's seminar is \$65 for Guild members and \$85 for non-members

Catered Lunches are available for \$9.50 each day.

* Saturday's Lunch is All You Can Eat Booya Stew, Bread, Dessert, and Beverages.

* Sunday's Lunch is Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Coleslaw, Dessert, and Beverages.

Please register by October 31st.

Register on line through the Guild web site:

www.minnesotawoodworkersguild.com

On line registration is preferred because it is easier for you
and it is much easier for our volunteers!

If registering by mail then please send this form by October 31st with remittance to:
Minnesota Woodworker's Guild

1950 Park Ridge Ct.

Chaska, MN 55318

Number of attendees: _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Check for on Lunch Saturday

Check for on Lunch Sunday

Please include \$65 for each attendee (\$85 for non-members)

Also include \$9.50 for each meal

(Example: One Guild member with lunch both days is only \$84 for the entire seminar)

September Meeting

Jack-Bench Design and Build by Charlie Kocourek

Story and Photos by Jerry Beutel

Before the keynote speaker at the September meeting, attendees were treated to all of this:

- Daryl Coulthart brought in dozens and dozens of issues of various woodworking magazines for free distribution. Attendees eagerly sorted through the treasure trove and grabbed issues of interest. Thanks Daryl, and may others be inspired by this great idea!
- Richard Tendick offered free bottles of Pitch and Resin Remover (provided by Rockler) to anyone who wanted one. The two dozen bottles went quickly.
- The evening raffle included half a dozen or so tools to those whose names were selected in the drawing. Thanks again go to Rockler for the donations.
- Cold drinks were available courtesy of the guild.
- We learned about upcoming events including a presentation by Garrett Hack on October 6th, and heard other announcements of interest from our President, Dick Schultz.
- Our treasurer, Karl Foord, humorously described the pleasures of correcting an error made in our tax status several years ago.

It pays to attend the monthly meetings!



Selecting from magazines contributed by Daryl Coulthart

After these introductory remarks we moved to the main speaker for the evening, Charlie Kocourek. At the 2008 Northern Woods Show Charlie displayed a very beautiful and highly functional workbench of his own design. At this evening's meeting he told us the story behind designing and building of the bench.



Fridley Middle School was a comfortable venue for our September meeting: Here Charlie begins his talk. Because of Jeff Hand's valuable assistance with the AV set-up all attendees had premier seating (and in the spirit of the new Gophers stadium, only non-alcoholic beverages were served!).

It started with Charlie's need for a new workbench to replace the "crummy old table" that he was using. Early in the design process he decided he wanted an adjustable height bench to accommodate: the many different size projects he works on, the different tasks that a woodworker does, and the different size woodworkers who might use the bench. But more than just adjustable, the bench had to be easy to adjust. The speaker revealed that when he is working on a project and "in-the-zone" he doesn't want to stop for some complex set-up.

Charlie researched commercially available adjustable benches and workbench designs in general. He showed

the members three books he referenced, especially recommending Scott Landis' "The Workbench Book" considered by many as the bible for this topic.

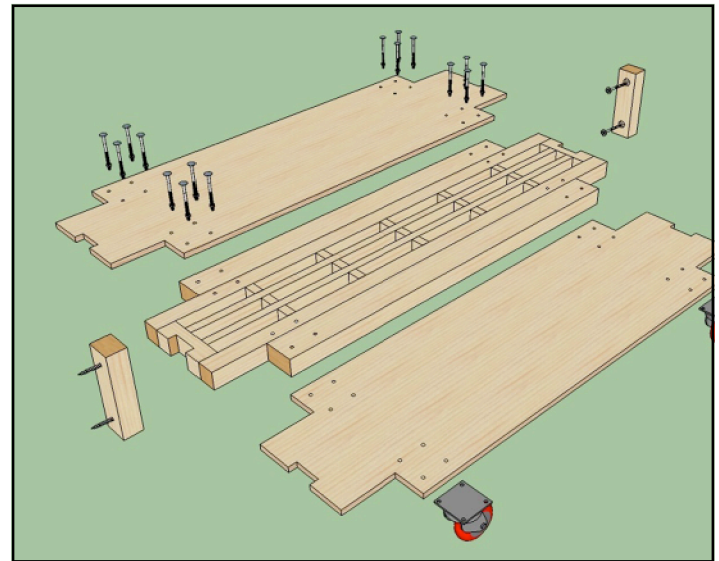
After considering numerous options, Charlie designed a bench utilizing two scissors jacks because they are easy to use, available inexpensively from a junkyard, and quite strong. One jack is used for adjustment of the bench top height. The other is used to raise the bench up on wheels to make it portable. And thus was born the Jack-Bench. During the presentation we learned some of the factors involved in using scissors jacks, including that the mechanical advantage changes as the jack moves from fully extended to fully collapsed. In addition, the position of the screw head that one turns to raise the jack moves as the jack is elevated or lowered, thus creating several design considerations regarding the extension handle.



*A view inside the bench - top removed.
Note the scissors jack, center.*

Another significant attribute of this workbench design is that it consists of 10 torsion boxes for strength and stability. The torsion boxes are utilized for the fixed and movable leg sections, the shelves, and the stretchers.

The legs for his bench actually consist of four torsion boxes, two on each side. They slide past each other, providing the height adjustment.



*A Sketch-up illustration of one of the torsion boxes
Charlie built for his workbench*

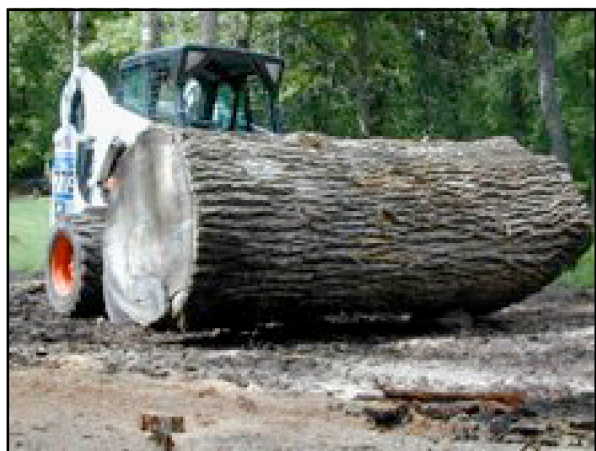
The sturdiness of the bench at any height is attained by the designer's clever use of pipe clamps extending through the workbench (see the photo on page one). The pipes are hidden within the torsion box construction of the stretchers. Loosen the clamps to make the adjustment, then tighten them once it is at the desired height and the bench is very stable.

Other details of the completed bench include:

- A top fashioned from 1 1/2" particle board
- Square dog holes
- Two vises, including the Veritas twin screw end vise
- The use of quarter sawn makore, book matched tiger maple and mahogany

So a funny thing happened to Charlie on the way to designing and building a new workbench for himself....he received so much interest in his design that he decided to create and sell plans, he made a couple of YouTube videos to demonstrate the bench, (he even showed us the bloopers outtake video – very humorous). And because he wants to preserve his shiny workbench for photos and perhaps for sale, he is still doing his woodworking on guess what - his crummy old table!

See www.jack-bench.com/ for more details.



LOGS TO LUMBER

Hardwood Lumber Supplier

Story and Photos by Richard Tendick

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To the list of lumber suppliers we normally think of, we can now add a new source. Logs to Lumber is a one man operation that literally takes logs felled in the metro area and turns them into lumber. Brian Lorentzen, the owner of Logs to Lumber, operates the business from his home in Inver Grove Heights. If you make the trip to his business, you will be fascinated by the passion Brian has for lumber. He has been milling and selling lumber for 11 years and has taken courses from the University of Minnesota for Kiln Drying and from the NHTA for hardwood grading. He has a Wood Miser band saw in his barn which he uses to mill the logs to usable lumber. After cutting up the logs, the wood goes into his kiln for drying. This kiln is larger than most of us have for a shop and will hold almost half of a railroad car load of lumber. After drying comes the most daunting part of his operation, he has to fit all of that lumber into his house for storage. The three car garage is packed to the hilt with lumber of all different kinds. In addition, a tour of his house reveals piles of lumber stored in virtually every room of the house. If you are wondering how this could be, Brian is a bachelor (explains a lot, doesn't it).

Currently, Brian has 50,000 board feet of domestic lumber and 15,000 board feet of exotics stashed away in his house, barn and kiln. His specialty is book matched quarter-sawn oak, but he also has book matched lumber in all different species and in thicknesses up to 8/4 in wide planks.

A visit to Logs to Lumber is a treat for people interested in wood. Looking through the piles of lumber can cause one to start dreaming about being the next Sam Maloof.

Because Logs to Lumber is a one man operation, it is necessary to call Brian at 651-387-5647 to arrange a time to visit. This is because, in addition to his lumber business, Brian also has a water softener business and is a machine designer. His energy level is amazing.

You should also check out Brian's web site: www.logs-to-lumber.com.

Discount Suppliers

The following suppliers offer special discounts to Guild members. To receive a discount you must be a member in good standing and show the merchant your current membership card.

Abrasive Resources

2451 15th St. N. W., Suite A, New Brighton, MN 55112
763-586-9595, 800-814-7358
Sandpaper, coated abrasives, rolls, clearance items – 10% discount
www.abrasiveresource.com

Acme Tools

4150 Berkshire Lane N, Plymouth, MN 55446 (Hwy. 494 & Rockford Rd.)
763-559-8665
10% off accessories & hand tools
www.acmetools.com

Betterley Industries Inc.

11161 Ulysses St. N. E., Blaine, MN 55434
763-755-3425
Various discounts depending on product.
www.betterleytools.com

Eide Saw and Tool Service

950 13th Ave NE (Behind Youngblood Lbr.) Minneapolis
612-789-3288 Jane Burmaster
Saw blades, router bits, planer knives, and band saw blades welded to length. 10% discount on all items, sharpening included.
<janeb@eidesaw.com>

Forest Products Supply

2650 Hwy 61, Maplewood, MN 55109 (651) 770-2834.
10% discount on all lumber purchases.
www.forestproductssupply.com

Hirshfield/Lathrop Decorating Centers

20+ metro locations, Rochester, St. Cloud. Discounts on all items including stains, varnishes, application tools, etc. Must show membership card.
Ask for MN Woodworkers Guild account.
www.hirshfields.com

Holdahl Company

1925 Annapolis Lane, Plymouth MN. 763 231-3130 or (800) 777-8992.
Router bits, saw blades, abrasives, tools for laminating, laminate, decorative and functional hardware at wholesale prices.
www.holdahlcompany.com

Logs To Lumber

Inver Grove Heights (651)387-5647
By appointment only.
10% discount to guild members
Domestic and exotic kiln dried rough sawn hardwood lumber.
www.logs-to-lumber.com

Rockler

Minneapolis, 3025 Lyndale Ave S (612) 822-3338;
Burnsville, 2020 W Cty Rd 42 (952) 892-7999;
Maplewood, 1935 Beam Ave (651) 773-5285;
Minnetonka, 12995 Ridgedale Drive (952) 542-0111
10% discount on all regularly priced items except power tools.
www.rockler.com

Savitt Brothers

1515 Nicollet Ave., Minneapolis 55403 (612) 871-1155.
Everything in paints & stains, accessory items.
Contractor discount.
www.savittpaint.com

Swanson Hardware Company

7501 W 27th St, St. Louis Park 55426. 952 925-4083.
Cabinet shop supplies, hinges, handles
Wholesale prices
www.swansonhardwareco.com

Valspar Paint

Plymouth, 2984 Niagara Lane (763) 557-1361; St. Paul, 106 Water St W (651) 222-8435; 20% discount to Guild members.
www.valspar.com

Woodcraft

9125 Lyndale Ave S, Bloomington 55420. 952 884-3634.
10% on all items except power tools.
www.woodcraft.com

Woodcarvers Store & School

3056 Excelsior Blvd, Minneapolis (612) 927-7491. Books, tools, classes, supplies. 10% discount on all items (except electrics 5%).
www.woodcarversstore.com

Youngblood Lumber Co.

1335 Central Ave, Minneapolis 55413. 612 789-3521, or 800 933-1335.
Wholesale prices to Guild members.
www.youngbloodlumber.com

New Minnesota Woodworkers Guild Members:

John DeBauche
Benjamin Welna
George Peterson
Roger Beyer
Sergey Karasev
Charles Schultz
McLoon Steven
Mark Bubula
Steve Dosdall
Randall Dressen
Paul Gibson
Fred Johnson
John Lofstrom
Gary Nelson
Jose Santos
Michael Voelker
Lee Waltman
Dick Zeien
J. Douglas Bennett
James Calseman
Gene Flynn
Greg Halvorson
Jon Hayman
Dave Kiner
Jim Riddell
Dale Stier
Tom Young
Anthony Pfaff
Kevin Brown
Jeff Smith
Eric H. Anderson
Jeff Reinhardt

THE CLASSIFIEDS

Shop Space

Shop space available in a fully-equipped woodworking shop, located at Hwy 94 and Vandalia, in the mid-way area of St. Paul. You'd share this space with 3 other woodworkers. Major equipment:

10" Powermatic table saw with Biesmeyer fence

16"-wide x 84"-long Invicta jointer with 4-blade cutter head

12" Powermatic planer

12" Dewalt miter saw

Bandsaw

Drill Press

Porter Cable Omni Jig for dovetails

Router table

Lots of clamps and storage

The total shop space is about 1,700 square feet. \$230./month (utilities included). Contact Bob 612-298-6986

Lumber

Four sheets of 5/4 Cherry veneer (both sides) plywood on lam cores. Slight water stains on one side. \$60 per sheet or B.O. Contact Mark via e-mail at dovebar68@comcast.net or call 612-414-6386.

Black walnut tree. The base of the trunk is 7" across and the top is 4 1/2" across, the length is about 17' and it is fairly straight. It is green wood, but I didn't want to chop it up for firewood before asking someone who works with wood if it would be usable for some project. Free, available in Stillwater. You can contact me at: jan.edstrom@state.mn.us.

200 b.f. of Pine Barnwood from a Lake Elmo 1870s barn. Most is 14 - 16 Feet long and already cleaned, planed and de-nailed. 7/8" thick. \$8.00 per b.f. Call Gerri Summerville 612 282 7363

Black Walnut, suitable for small craft projects. Trunk stems resulting from improving growing forest. Blanks up-to 8' in length, 1" - 4" diameters. Wood is highly dense as a result of slow growth. Contact: Brian 218-327-0814 or outpost@2z.net

Black locust lumber. Originally purchased about 4 years ago in Wisconsin green and has been air dried since. Black locust is hard, durable, and is very very rot resistance, hence common in boat construction. Nice grain and coloring. I can email pics of some furniture made from the locust that I've done. The wood is available for pick up at zip code 55407. The size varies: approximately 80 bf S3S 1x6-1x8 - 9' long (S3S was milled to 1" actual), 375 bf rough, 1x4 to 1x8 7-9' long (rough varies from 1-1/8" to 1-1/4" in some boards), 800 bf 1x6 to 2x8 7-9' long (again, nominal sizes). Can be purchased in any quantity.

Prices:

S3S 4/4 \$2.75 per bf

rough 4/4 \$2.50 per bf

rough 6/4 \$3.00 per bf

80+ BF, \$2.00 per bf

All, \$2,300.

email me (tan@nguyenarchitects.com) or call 612.644.4369.

Services

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 cpitschka@mn.rr.com.

Mike Siemsen's School of Woodworking - We have a great line up of classes for 2009! Not only will you get to work with Mike but also some fantastic visiting instructors like Garrett Hack, Adam Cherubini, Mary May, and Tom Schrunk. Classes are held in my shop on a quiet rural setting 35 miles north of the Twin Cities. The shop is air conditioned. Visit my website at www.schoolofwood.com for more information.

Phone: 651-257-9166

e-mail: mike@schoolofwood.com

Tools/Magazines

Workbench Magazine; Issues from 1978-1996. Hope to barter for anything reasonable. Steve 651-484-2211

Advertising in The Classifieds is provided to members of the Minnesota Woodworkers Guild free of charge. The ads placed herein should be for goods or services that are of general interest to the crafts people who make up the membership of the guild. Ads for services will run until cancelled. Ads for tools and materials for sale will run for one issue unless renewed. For submissions, renewals and to cancel an ad, please contact Jerry Beutel e-mail jebeutel@gmail.com or snail mail to 3485 Trading Post Trail, Afton, Mn 55001

Minnesota Woodworkers Guild
1950 Park Rd. Ct.
Chaska, MN 55318
MNWWG.org

www.minnesotawood-
workersguild.com

Guild Meetings

Mark Your Calendars

October 6th: Garrett Hack

Yes, THE Garrett Hack! Please note this meeting will not be held on our “normal” meeting night.

“How to Work Effectively and Efficiently.” Mr. Hack will present ways to improve your work habits to do better work, probably more quickly and enjoyably, and certainly with fewer dumb mistakes. This might be as simple as learning to use a good marking out system, or understanding the advantages of a speedy story stick over a ruler. Through short demos Garrett will illustrate the efficiency and accuracy of hand tools and how they fit into the balance between working by hand and machine.

Location: Chisago Lakes Area Library, Stinson Ave. and Oak St., Chisago City, MN

See: <http://www.minnesotawoodworkersguild.com/meetings.html> for driving directions.

Time: 7:00 pm for Show & Tell. Program starts at 7:15 PM.

A very special thanks to Mike Siemsen's School of Woodworking for sponsoring this special meeting.

November 6, 7, & 8: Fall Seminar with Phillip Lowe

See the full write-up inside for details.