

NORTHERN WOODS

The Newsletter of the Minnesota Woodworkers Guild

Volume 90

February/March 2004

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2004 Thrills
and Skills**

**Karen Matchet
on Garrett
Hack's
Rosewood
Studio**



Photo - Karen Matchet

NORTHERN WOODS

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Wilfried Hein

Membership

To become a member, fill out the coupon below and mail it with your \$30.00 check to Peter Ribotto, 5000 Forest Glen Ct Savage MN 55378 952-808-1226. Address changes should be sent to this address as well. Please make checks payable to Minnesota Woodworkers Guild.

Newsletter

Send articles, "Buy & Sell" submissions and letters to the editor to: Bill Kraetz, 3915 Minnesota Lane, Plymouth, MN 55446 E-mail to Bill@Kraetz.Net Phone 763.438.5993

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PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Jeff Zinsli

When I was a kid, too many years ago now to admit, I remember hearing my parent's talk about how fast time seemed to go by the older they got. I used to think that sounded silly, but I have to give them credit; they really seemed to have hit the nail on the head. Now I feel the same way too! It hardly seems like it, but this is the beginning of my third year as President of your Guild, and the next Northern Woods Exhibition is already only a few months away! My, my, where has the time gone?

This year also marks the third time around for the Guild's **Tuition Grant Program**, and I'm thrilled with your interest in this wonderful member benefit. We received 7 applicants for this year's \$250 grant awards, and 8 candidates for the \$1000 grant. An excellent overall turnout I must say!

In fact, the turnout was so good that we voted at our last board meeting to extend a second \$1000 scholarship this year. So, congratulations go to \$1000 grant winners **Rose Romano** and **Jane Hilary**, and to \$250 grant winners **Nick Medwid**, **Bill Standke**, **Laurie McKichan**, **Caroline Hoem**, and **Charlotte Monmont**. I sincerely hope that you all enjoy your experience, and I invite each of you to report back on all your fun, perhaps in a future newsletter.

And if you missed out on this year's program, read up on **2003 award winner Karen Matchett's experience at The Center for Fine Furniture Craftsmanship** elsewhere in this issue of Northern Woods, and then consider applying next year! Many thanks go to **Richard Lagerstrom** and the **Tuition Grant committee** members for another outstanding job. Well done!!

Speaking of **Northern Woods**, this year's exhibition is slated for **April 29 through May 2 at Southdale Center**. In case you missed it, last month's newsletter included a participation form designed to indicate your level of interest in participating in the show. By the time you read this column, applications should have been mailed to prior exhibitors and to those of you who have submitted a participation letter.

But don't lose heart if you didn't send in a participation letter. **You can still apply by going on-line** to the guild's website at www.minnesotawoodworkersguild.com, then click on the Northern Woods link. Look for and familiarize yourself with the rules and application, fill out the application form (requires Microsoft Word), then forward (preferably by email) to **Bill Kraetz** at the email address provided on the show application. Bill will use your digital file and any photos you supply to help in assembling this year's show brochure. By completing and submitting your application on-line, you will help to reduce the amount of time required to complete this task.

New Membership Coupon

Name _____

Business Name (if any) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail Address _____

I hope that Santa was kind to you this year, and that he delivered all the cool woodworking toys on your list, and I also hope that your list of New Year resolutions includes spending more time in the shop. So here's to another great year !!

Many thanks to all who submitted applications for the grants and scholarships offered by the Minnesota Woodworkers Guild. As always, selecting those lucky few to win is a tough job. After reviewing the applications, the judging and award panel has named the following individuals as the winners of the 2004 scholarship grants.

\$1000 grant:

Minnesota Community and Technical College - Cabinet making program to Rose Romano of Brooklyn Center.

\$200

grants

Beginning and Intermediate Acanthus Carving at



FROM THE EDITOR

Bill Kraetz

Calling all Writers! Once again I'd like to extend an invitation to the members of the guild to submit articles for publication. This is a newsletter for the membership and by the membership, and about the membership. We'd like to hear from you. Many thanks to Karen Matchet for her submission in this issue. If you recall, Karen was a winner of the tuition grant for 2003. And if Jeff didn't tell the winners of *this* year's grants - well let's just say we'd all like to hear about your experiences too.

Now was it coincidence or what? When our last issue hit my mailbox, **Fine Woodworking** showed up too. But that's not it. We had an article on Graham Blackburn - THEY had an article on Blackburn. We had "women in woodworking" - THEY had "women in woodworking". My last issue shows up and guess who's in it? **Rich Gotz!** One of our own! Congratulations to Rich on a fine article and sharing your craftsmanship with a national audience.

WOMEN'S SKILLBUILDERS GROUP

Laura James

Do you learn best in a small group setting? Any individual who learns best 'hands on' is invited to attend the first Tuesday of the month SKILLBUILDERS meeting. In December, Lili Jackson took us through a close-up lesson on what marquetry is and how to create your own designs in beautiful wood. In January, Laura James introduced us to traditional European woodcarving using Nora Hall's basics video and then letting everyone take a turn at using a mallet and making v-cuts. February held a field trip to Hastings, MN and a lively tour of the Quality One cabinet shop. We learned how to take our shop owner ideas from daydream to reality step-by-step. (Watch the next issue for the article and photos.) Keep in touch with our ever-evolving group, formerly the Women's Guild, now SKILLBUILDERS, and receive the most current event schedule and location by subscribing to mnmwomenwoodworkers@yahoo.com or by contacting Laura James at NumerColour@msn.com or by phone at 952-898-3333 and requesting e-mail notices on last-minute meeting updates. See you soon!

NWE

PHOTO SHOOT

Bill Kraetz - Richard Tendick

In preparation for the upcoming show and brochure preparation, Richard has arranged for a photo session at American Woodworker in Eagan on March 13th (Saturday). We'll be taking photos of the work to be included in the show brochures. Please contact either Richard or Bill for details and to reserve a spot in the shoot schedule.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Please join the guild in welcoming new members who joined over the last several months.

Ron Antos,
Michael Behrendt,
Larry Biederman,
Stephen Blom,
Eric Boler,
Eric Boler,
Eric Boyles,
Jeff Christian,
James C Dittel, Sr,
Karen Dziuk,
Peter Haakonson,
Thomas Hanlin,
Brian Hanson,
Jerry M Hofler,
Lili Jackson,
John Larson,
Mike Lucido,
Dick Mabbs,
Ed Maierhofer,
Larry Mattson,
Don Metzger,
Jon Moller,
Charlotte Monmont,
Wyatt Neubauer,
Daniel E Schwandt,
Dale Sorenson,
Sheldon Strom,
Daniel Swanson,
Benjamin Swenka,
Tim Temple,
Jim Thomson,
Loren Wiebe,
Paul Ziegler

WOODWORKING

RETREAT

Karin Matchett



Imagine engaging with wood and tools for twelve endless days, having the company of nine curious students and two exceptional instructors, and where the only thing demanding your attention at the end of the day is a campsite along a river in Ontario farm country and a couple of captivating novels. Last July, I rolled into the mill town of Almonte, Ontario, my Honda Civic filled with camping gear, tools, and wood. I came for a two-week course on “Design and Technique” at Rosewood Studio, taught by furniture-maker and writer Garrett Hack. Rosewood Studio is a young school, just beginning its third year. The school’s two full-time instructors, Ted Brown and Robert Van Norman, studied with James Krenov at the College of the Redwoods in Fort Bragg, California. Rosewood’s emphasis on hand tools and the students’ classic workbenches are constant reminders of the careful workmanship Rosewood values and teaches.

Outside the windows behind the benches runs Ontario’s Mississippi River and above it the train tracks. Inside the shop, we listened, we planed, and we debated. Many of you have read Garrett Hack’s books, *Classic Hand Tools* and *The Handplane Book*. He is also a relaxed and gifted teacher. His approach to design is a combination of eye and mind, aesthetics and structure. If he were a bridge-builder, like my grandfather was, his bridges would not buckle under a heavy load. But, unlike my grandfather’s furniture, Garrett’s pieces don’t need to look like they’re built to withstand a marching army. Over the two weeks we began to see how to build furniture strong enough to last for generations of families and weather, but gracefully strong.

Every morning after we’d worked on our own for an hour or so “to get the jitters out” and clear our minds, Garrett spent a couple of hours demonstrating a technique or two.

We discussed the fine points of cutting haunched mortises and tenons, tuning planes, making inlays, cutting dovetails, steam bending wood for chair backs, and building drawers and drawer casings. For most of the afternoon we puzzled over and labored away at our projects. They shooed us out of the workshop at 6:00 or 7:00 p.m., only to have us reappear on the steps at 7:00 the next morning, coffee mugs and experimental sketches of dovetails in hand.

Many students came with specific ideas or even full-blown plans for the piece of furniture they hoped to build. A few were undecided but were soon inundated with ideas. I was committed to building a writing table. Tables attract my attention like no other object, in part because I love and respect what we use them for—eating and writing. This table I knew needed a drawer. I didn't know how to make drawers and knew Rosewood was the ideal place to learn. Instead of dimensioning the lumber first, we began by bandsawing the project pieces out of rough lumber. We ran the pieces over the jointer and planer, and from there it was the job of planes and chisels to cut the joinery, shape the curves, and finish the surfaces.

I chose Rosewood in general, and this course in particular, largely because of the emphasis on hand tools and the accompanying attention given to furniture design (and also because I got to Canada every chance I get). When I began woodworking, the instruction that I valued most of never departed from powered tools and very little attention was given to furniture design. At the time, it was all I had time for and I gladly took it in. But I knew I needed a different sort of teacher and school, and when I suddenly had time this past year, almost without thinking I began searching for new teachers. I had also left my house in south Minneapolis and its potential huge workshop space and am living temporarily in a one-bedroom apartment in Connecticut with no space for table saw, jointer, etc.—hand tools just made sense. Then when I made my first plane shaving and saw what sharp tools do, I knew what direction I needed to take. At Rosewood the instructors emphasize both hand and power tools—loved in that order, used in the reverse. Amazingly, I think, at Rosewood they so far seem to have avoided dichotomies and the ego issues that sometimes infuse

attitudes toward one or the other type of tool. We each had our beautiful bench (built on site), had the run of two well-equipped machine rooms, and used hand and powered tools as we wished. It tended toward the philosophies of Garrett and, perhaps more so, of Rosewood instructor Robert Van Norman who constructs many of his own tools.

CONTINUED Page 8 - MATCHET



THRILLS AND SKILLS

THE MWG WINTER FUN EVENT

Bill Kraetz



LEFT: An enthusiastic Willis Bowman lays out the evening's festivities. Many thanks to Willis for planning the activity. As always it was tons of fun. This year's sander races were a bit different - with a jump mid track.

RIGHT: The winners of the evening's competition. Dick Schultz, Mike Siemsen and Trish Schaack (first place).

MORE RIGHT: The sander races. It's always a bit difficult getting a good picture of the action. It's a balance between waiting long enough for a good shot and not waiting too long and getting run over.

WAY RIGHT: Trish demonstrate her skills and creativity at the sculpture contest



RIGHT: Don and Lee discuss the scoring of the contest

MORE RIGHT: Concentration is evident in this photo of Dick with the hand-cut dovetail.

WAY RIGHT: The shavings curl up as Mike moves the plane down the board.





Imagine engaging with wood and tools for twelve endless days, having the company of nine curious students and two exceptional instructors, and where the only thing demanding your attention at the end of the day is a campsite along a river in Ontario farm country and a couple of captivating novels. Last July, I rolled into the mill town of Almonte, Ontario, my Honda Civic filled with camping gear, tools, and wood. I came for a two-week course on "Design and Technique" at Rosewood Studio, taught by furniture-maker and writer Garrett Hack. Rosewood Studio is a young school, just beginning its third year. The school's two full-time instructors, Ted Brown and Robert Van Norman, studied with James Krenov at the College of the Redwoods in Fort Bragg, California. Rosewood's emphasis on hand tools and the students' classic workbenches are constant reminders of the careful workmanship Rosewood values and teaches.

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While Garrett directed the course, many of us soon discovered what Robert also offered, as a perceptive, gifted, and patient

furniture builder and teacher. Robert lent me a handmade compass plane for shaping the curve of my table legs. He made this plane when building a double rocking chair; the curve of the plane's sole exactly matched the curve of the rockers. After spending a day making the plane, he reportedly made two passes with it on each rocker and they were ready to finish. The stability of the handmade wood plane and the thin shaving it cut surprised me, enough to enroll in a week-long class on making spokes, shaves, planes, and chisels. Next summer, I plan to make the second annual trek north to Ontario to join several initial strangers drawn also to the tools and attentive pace of Rosewood. I'll trade months of fitting wood into a hectic schedule for the full days of another woodworking retreat.

NORTHERN WOODS 2004

Just a reminder that entries are being accepted for the 2004 Northern Woods Exhibition. Entry forms can be downloaded from the guild website or requested from Jeff Zinsli (see inside front cover for contact info).

Forest Park Atlanta
Northern

Woods

An Exhibition of Fine Woodworking



Forest Park Atlanta, Georgia, 1994 - April 23 to May 1, 1994
Atlanta Woodworkers Guild

DISCOUNT SUPPLIERS

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

Abrasive Resources

6201 University Ave. NE, Fridley (763) 586-9595 or (800) 814-7358 Sandpaper, coated abrasives, rolls - 25% discount.

Airgas Kendeco/Tool Crib

Catalog order only - St. Cloud, Minneapolis (800) 892-8579 Various discounts on cutters and tools. www.kendeco.com

Art Betterly Co.

11160 Central Ave. NE (Hwy. 65) Blaine (763) 755-3425 Various discounts depending on product.

Elmo Lumber & Plywood

3481 Laverne Ave. N., Lake Elmo (651) 777-1431. 10% discount on all stock items.

Forest Products Supply

2650 Hwy. 61, Maplewood, MN 55109 (651) 770-2834. Supplier of lumber, sheet goods, carving stock, custom paneling, cutting and sanding. 10% discount on all lumber purchases.

Gardner Hardware

515 Washington Ave. N., Minneapolis (612) 333-3393. Contractors standard discount with MWG card.

Hirschfield

20+ metro locations, Rochester, St. Cloud. Discounts on all items including stains, varnishes, application tools, etc. No discount on window treatments, wall coverings or fabrics. Ask for special cash account.

Holdahl Company

1925 Annapolis Lane, Plymouth (612) 333-7111 or (800) 777-8992. Commercial cabinetmaker's supplier but will sell at wholesale to Guild members router bits, saw blades, abrasives, tools for laminating, laminate, decorative hardware.

Nob Hill Decorative Hardware

3027 Holmes Avenue South, Minneapolis (612) 824-7424. Nob Hill has a huge selection of knobs, pulls, cabinet hardware and faucets. 10% discount, 15% on orders over \$1000.

www.nobhillhardware.com

Rockler Woodworking

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 (612) 871-1155. Everything in paints & stains, accessory items. Contractor discount to net price.

Shady Haven Tree Farms

6535 - 117th Street NW, Ortonville, MN 55960 (507) 367-4402. Kiln dried carving and hardwood lumber. 20% discount on lumber purchases

Swanson Hardware

7501 W. 27th St., St. Louis Park (952) 925-4083. Cabinet shop supplies, hinges, handles - wholesale to Guild members.

Valspar Paint

Plymouth, 2984 Niagara Lane (763) 557-1361; St. Paul, 106 Water St. W. (651) 222-8435; Minneapolis, 777 Harding St. NE, Suite 150 (612) 379-2107. 20% discount to Guild members.

Warner Industrial Supply

3255 Spring St. NE, Minneapolis (612) 378-7300. Cutting tools, abrasives, power tools, maintenance & repair, paint & finishing. Discount variable according to item. www.warnerind.com

Woodcraft

9741 Lyndale Ave. S., Bloomington (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%).

Youngblood Lumber Co.

1335 Central Ave., Minneapolis (612) 789-3521 (800) 933-1335. Wholesale prices to Guild members.

www.youngbloodlumber.com

Do you YAHOO!

The Guild does. As some may be aware, we changed the host for the MWG discussion group. For all the features including calendar management, file repository, discussion board and a venue for sharing photos, we've moved to Yahoo! These capabilities have already proven quite useful in sending out automated reminders of Guild events.

Head to the web and check out <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MN-Woodworkers/>. This is a members-only group. All members of the Guild will be automatically approved for participation in the group. All others wishing to join the MN-Woodworkers group will need to be approved by the moderator: Peter Ribotto. If you have any questions, please drop Peter an email. His contact information is in the masthead inside front cover of this publication.

THE CLASSIFIEDS

Graco Model 600 spray gun with 600 cc (.634 quart) cup. \$25. This is NOT an HVLP gun. It requires 80 PSI plus pressure from an air compressor (not included). Includes 2 spray caps for light and medium viscosity materials. Call Bruce Kieffer, 612-819-9615.

Vega sliding table with 36" fence \$145. Also, Enco 6" X 48" horizontal belt sander \$140. Call Charlie 763-502-9986 or email onekocourek@earthlink.net

Delta-740, 10 inch Radial Arm Saw with stand- \$350.00. Craftsman 1/2 hp Shaper- \$75.00. Call Steve Hall @ (651) 450-7218.

JET JBM-5 Benchtop Mortiser \$120. JET DC-650 Dust Collector \$120. Delta 6" Professional Jointer (Model 37-195) \$330. Craftsman 12" Band Saw w/stand \$210. Craftsman 10" Radial Saw w/guard \$350. Clamps variety sizes. Call John @ 651-730-9943.

Personal & Services

Share the best wood working shop in the Twin Cities. Space is available in the 4th St. Guild. Renting space for your bench also gives you access to 3 table saws, 4 band saws (1 with 5 hp and a carbide blade!) 2 jointers (1 12"!) 2 planers (20") a Timesaver (36" wide belt sander), shaper, drill presses, mortising machines, molding cutter, finishing room, and the camaraderie of working in a cooperative wood working shop. Please call for details and/or appointment: David McNeely at 651 226-1986, or David Olson at 612 382-7358.

Custom Built Furniture & Cabinetry. I would greatly appreciate any custom-built job referrals that you could send my way. Bruce Kieffer, Kieffer Custom Furniture, Inc., www.kcfi.biz, (612) 819-9615.

Custom Milling. Table saw throat plates milled flat. Planes sole & sides milled flat. Fixtures and tools modified to your specifications. I am now offering to machine table saw or shaper table extension to mount your router to. If interested please bring your extension and your router for a custom fit, generally the charge will be \$75, unless there is additional work involved. Call Chuck Pitschka Machinist/Woodworker 952-935-0660 or cpitschka@mn.rr.com

Portable Sawmilling Bring logs to me or I will bring mill to you. Call Ed Kline at 715/247-4466 or visit kline@presenter.com.

Woodturning - Architectural and furniture components. Diameters up to 18" and lengths up to 104" (8 1/2 ft.) I can help with design or

Materials

Burls. Every shape, size, and species throughout the upper midwest. Current supply includes 150-200 burls, ranging in size from 10" diameter up to and including 36-48" burls. Most are still "green" but some are older. Will sell in raw form, or dimension them to customer specs. Call Gregg Happe @ 952-938-7495 or email to: LT_SYS_MN@HOTMAIL.COM

Reclaimed Antique Hardwoods 1x and 2x OAK and 1x BLACK WALNUT - some booked. All milled circa 1890's. Beautiful stuff. Call Tom Schoeller at 651/690-3188 or visit www.oldgrowthwoods.com

4/4 FAS/Select rough-sawn, kiln-dried white hard maple and red oak. Widths from 4 to 11 inches and all lengths 10 feet. 175 bf maple and 150 bf red oak. Professionally milled and kiln-dried. 4/4 FAS/Select, air-dried black ash and red oak also available. Price negotiable and delivery available. Email jthorwestra@hotmail.com or call 952-983-7036.

Limited quantity of kiln-dried quartersawn lumber: black walnut, red and white oak. Also have a 4 1/2" x 20" x 8' slab of hard maple for a Roubo workbench. If interested, send e-mail to jojomomo@redwing.net or call Gary Miller at 1-651-388-5632.

Clear walnut cants with curly figure. Largest size is 12 by 8 inches 10 feet long. Will cut to size. Air dried now. Kiln drying available with vacuum kiln. \$7.50 a board ft. Josh Brower 712-533-6171.

Tools

Wagner Fine Coat 2000 HVLP Spray Finishing System. \$125. Sold new for \$350. It has the all metal gun, not the cheap plastic one they sold with the base model. Used, but not much. Does a great job spraying clear finishes. Unit has its own turbine (included) so it's portable and self contained. Call Bruce Kieffer, 612-819-9615.

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 Bill Kraetz: phone 763.229.8021, email bill@kraetz.net or mail to 3915 Minnesota Lane, Plymouth, MN, 55446.

duplicate an original and supply the turning blank or use yours. Quantities from 1 to 100 or more. Call or E-mail Don Wattenhofer 763-275 1363 drwatt@usfamily.net

Custom Upholstery for your custom built furniture. I can provide the professional finishing touch to your handmade pieces, using traditional or modern methods and materials. I can also work in leather, suede, cane, rush and reed. Call for a free quote on your next job. Mary Kohanek Upholstery 612-788-2472.

I have a bandsaw mill and will cut logs to your specifications. I specialize in quartersawn lumber. Custom planing also available. If interested, send e-mail to jojomomo@redwing.net or call Gary Miller at 1-651-388-5632.

Minnesota Woodworkers Guild
5000 Forrest Glen Court
Savage, Minnesota 55378

www.minnesotawoodworkersguild.com

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Guild Meetings

Mark Your Calendars

March 16, 2003

Using Nature's Materials to Make Baskets - Dennis Chilcote
Dennis has had a lifelong interest in nature and working in his shop. He has perfected the art of using natural materials to make beautiful and practical baskets from materials he discovers in the woods and sawmills around Minnesota. He will demonstrate how he designs the baskets, prepares the materials, and blends them together to make a wonderful piece of art. Dennis was given the honor of "Best Handwork" at the last Northern Woods Show.

Location: Rockler Woodworking, 3025 Lyndale Avenue South, one block south of Lake Street. Phone 612-822-3338. Time: 7:15 PM Show and Tell, with the program starting at 7:30. You will not need to bring chairs for good viewing.

April 29 to May 2, 2004 - Northern Woods Exhibition

There will be no regularly scheduled Guild meeting during April, but join us at the 2004 Northern Woods Exhibition.
Location: Southdale Center, Edina Minnesota

Check the guild website www.minnesotawoodworkersguild.com for updates.