

The *DOVE-TAIL*

Volume 15, 4th Quarter

Guild of Maine Newsletter

December 2023



New England Furniture Competition : Produced by N.H. Guild of Woodworkers

Card Table: Made by Gary Kokx, So. Portland. SAPFM: New England Chapter member



Gary Kokx of So. Portland, Maine, entered the 1st N.H. Woodwork Competition Show held in October 2023 and he placed 2nd in his category. This represents the skill of veneer overlay along with banding and string inlay. The form of furniture artwork was developed in the Americas during the Federal Period immediately after the revolutionary war. The furniture form was an attempt to separate the earlier colonial furniture of Queen Anne & Chippendale from the new emerging colonial United States furniture.



Gary Kokx is a member of SAPFM, the Society of American Period Furniture Makers and is active in the New England Chapter.

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**STATEMENT:** All woodworkers, from beginners & hobbyists to professionals, are invited to join the Guild of Maine Woodworkers where individuals can meet and share their knowledge and skills. Monthly meetings include demonstrations, tool discussions and guest speakers as well as the popular “show & tell” where members show off their woodworking products, tools or gadgets. Meetings rotate around members shops. Maybe you will gain an idea for your shop. If you need help on a project the Guild is the place to be.

**GUILD Monthly Meetings held on third Tuesday evening beginning at 6:30 pm.**

**Quarterly Meetings held on second Saturday beginning at 10 am.**

January	Monthly Meeting	Allen Armstrong	Portland
February	Monthly Meeting	Randy Mayse	Buxton
March	Quarterly Meeting	TBD	
April	Monthly Meeting	Deb Silverman	Brunswick
May	Monthly Meeting	Susan Chandler	Freeport
June	Quarterly Meeting	TBD	
July-Aug.	Summer Schedule	TBD	
Sept.	Quarterly Picnic	Barbara White	Yarmouth
October	Monthly Meeting	Deb Silverman	Brunswick
November	Monthly Meeting	OPEN	
December	Quarterly Meeting	Wes Sunderland	W. Baldwin

**E-mail meeting reminder sent one week prior to meeting date with directions.**

#### **GUILD OFFICERS**

<b>President</b>	<b>Wes Sunderland</b>	<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Randy Mayse</b>
<b>Vice Pres.</b>	<b>Jim Hanscom</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Jim Hanscom</b>

#### **BOARD of DIRECTORS      Rotational - 3 year terms**

<b>Date Term Ends:</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>
	Frank Southard	OPEN (Ron Boes)*	Rob Cort
	Barbara White	Rolf Dries	Susan Chandler
	OPEN (Bill Lewis)*	Randy Mayse	Wes Sunderland

- **Two openings remain as Ron Boes & Bill Lewis resigned these positions.**  
**Volunteers are requested to fulfill Board of Director full 9 member quota.**

December's quarterly business meeting produced several new topics to face a growth situations.

Subjects such as meeting schedules and locations or change of menu for locations was discussed. No change occurred. The hot topic was formation of "sub-groups" as an auxiliary to regular Guild monthly meetings. The question of "what sub-groups might be formed" is a process of evolution, along with individual's interests not to mention content of a sub-group's activity. Leadership has not become an issue but was left to be a sub-group's selection. The real purpose of a lead individual is to be an organizer of meeting time and location along with communication to membership. Also, an avenue of communication in the form of "reports" to the Guild Organizational meeting group should be established but how and when these reports arrive has not yet been hammered out. The suggestion is to have a quarterly account of sub-group's running activity. Keep it short, keep it simple. Most of these issues are to evolve during the 2024 year and board of director evaluations to be recognized at 2024 business meeting. Proceeding slowly with caution will result in a stable activity.

Another change in course for the Guild's skill program is to make a change in the summer activity of the non-meeting July & August dates. The skills of dovetail cutting, panel & frame making, plus sharpening has been well attended but after 3 summers time has arrived to shift the emphasis.

A suggestion for a summer program to make a furniture item was put forth and a lot of questions arrived. What furniture item was an immediate response and it was left to the near future meeting to attempt to arrive at a choice or selection. Of course making a furniture item may employ many of the hand skills previously tackled during previous summers. It's a wait and see situation.

I had the opportunity and pleasure to participate at the N.H. First Annual Woodworking Competition Show held in Concord at the end of October 2023. Because it was a "first" show, the organizers had no gage to determine how well the show would succeed and how much public attention would respond to advertisements for the show. Well, it was a success beyond belief. The show displayed 136 entries of a wide scope of furniture, some bowl turnings and miscellaneous wood items. There were over 300 visitors attending the show that ran for only one evening. The show will go on. At this time, no schedule has been established but it can be assumed it is a fall season show. Announcements will most likely be posted during February or March. I will pass information to the Guild as I receive documentation. It's a worthwhile event to consider entering. Pages #1 & #12 & #13 reflect a few items of period furniture typical of the N.H. Show.

As I write, many ideas run thru my head and I continue to believe the sub-group formation has real positive outcomes. I want others to offer ideas and offer time to form a sub-group. I do not intend to dictate anything into a sub-group. This needs to be a meeting of the minds of those who participate in forming a group. Weather it is 3 or 5+ individuals, you can plot your course of activity. You need to satisfy yourself in the direction and achievements within that goal set for the sub-group.





### Show & Tell

Allen Armstrong showing a nicely crafted cabinet box with a curved door fit to the radius base.



### Show & Tell

Deb Silverman displaying some innovated cutting boards. A few joints are fitted exactly with the use of a CNC machine.

Deb (with others) have formed a new “sub-group” that members specialize in the use of a CNC machine to execute necessary precision fits of the woodwork parts.







Left: Steve Smith with Ebonizing wood samples showing the various results on different woods.

Right: Art Fahie with a miniature clock and the use of various inlays of wood species.



Nathan Gardner with figurines of Santa and elves that he beautifully carved and painted.



Mark Tschiegg crafted a small tool box he made while attending a class at Connecticut Valley School of Woodworking. Not shown are the numerous detailed joinery and mortised & pegged fastenings.

Rolf Dries demonstrated hidden wall fasteners to hang a shelf and conceal the hanging method.







Ron's shop.

The start of the meeting involved some business discussions.



Then there was food and socializing before the famous show & tell.





Susan Chandler

SHOW & TELL

Franklin Switch w/wooden gears cut on scroll saw



Deb Silverman

Turtle inlay on maple She explained the CNC process to cut & fit parts.



Ron's wood demo.

This is a "Ron's design" as has been several other chairs and furniture projects for the household.

Shown:

A bench generated from a large tree trunk wood slab.



Wes Sunderland's shop



The Dec. quarterly business meeting was held during the morning hours in the BBQ room of Wes' home. Lunch was served prior to the afternoon woodwork meeting.

Top: Randy Mayse (secretary)  
Mid: Allen Armstrong  
Bottom: Gene Kirkpatrick with Allen Armstrong.





Left: John Vogt is showing his workbench construction on a monitor.

Above: Left shows the bench under construction and right the completed Roubo bench. This design is unique in construction and service to the user. It is an old design from about the 16th century.



Steve Smith is displaying a wood crafted clock works "in the raw" .

It works.  
A wonderful and fascinating achievement in woodwork.







We gathered up parts of two chairs that were begun several years ago (as usual) and explained the work needed to complete these two projects.

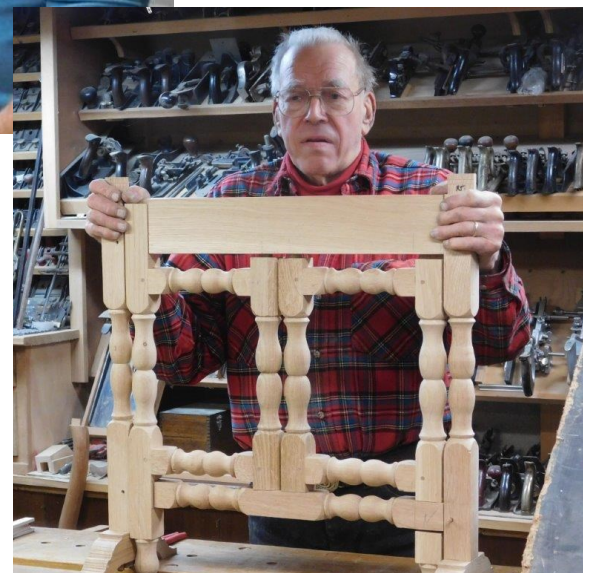
### WOODWORK DEMO - Right & below:

Right: A completed reproduction gate-leg table and the start of another same design Wm. & Mary period dropleaf, gate-leg table



Left: Table parts spread out showing the intricate design of this historic table and its clever proportions

Right: The basic gate-leg frame assembled by mortise & tenon joints using "draw peg" fastening without glue. Note the alignment of all turnings and the close fit of legs having only 1/4 inch space separating. Alignment needs to be perfect or non-square members will be noticed easily







**Displayed at the N.H. Woodwork Competition:**

Two different highboys with bonnet tops and claw & ball feet. These represent the zenith of Queen Anne period highboy furniture. The bonnet top fret cutout and finials are exceptional work. Ball & claw feet are identified with the Chippendale period, therefore being Queen Anne, these items are in a transitional period of furniture design.





The interior of a slant front desk made of tiger maple, an extremely difficult wood to carve.

A reproduction of a "block front desk" known in the Goddard craftsmanship of Rhode Island. Probably the most well known and copied 18th century period furniture of that era.

Below: Close-up of the carved shells both convex and concave. A signature of fine work.



**A brief look at Claw & Ball feet, true artwork.**

A chair leg with both carved knee and ball & claw foot. Chairs are the most diversified furniture reflecting much of the features within particular periods. It is amazing to realize how far chairs have developed in 150 years from the pilgrims landing to the revolutionary war.



If a dozen feet were shown, you'd have 12 different feet. Yet many feet can be identified to certain geographical regions. This is due to the indenture and apprenticeship crafting under a master. The master's form was copied. However moving away from population density, country furniture had their own forms due to an undisciplined attempt to copy a form by memory. Remember, there was no 8-1/2x11 paper or xerox machines !  
Craftsmanship was totally freehand.



This group was formed and met first in October. We have met once per month, with January planned for the 14<sup>th</sup> at Deb's shop in Brunswick.

**MEMBERSHIP****Report by: Steve Smith**

Attendance:

October: 6 people

**Deb Silverman: Gene Kirkpatrick: Jim Hanscom: Joe Elichaa:**

November: 7 people

**Mark Tschiegg: Nathan Gardner: Randy Mayse: Rolf Dries:**

December: 7 people

**Ron Koster: Steve Smith: Art Fahie: Dave Joy:**

There are 12 people on the cnc list. We have also had several group discussions via email, typically someone has a difficulty and we discuss ways to get through it.

Meeting subjects:

**October** at Steve Smith's

Steve showed how to carve on an uneven surface using freely available software. The demo was carving text on the slope of a piece of firewood. Steve also unexpectedly demonstrated the use of the big red STOP button when he set up the job incorrectly.

**November** at Deb Silverman's

Deb v-carved a turtle shape in a piece of stock and the negative, mirrored projection of the same image in a contrasting piece. The two pieces mated; after sawing the waste off, a nice inlay was the result.

**December** at Joe Elichaa's

Joe pulled out all the stops. He showed bowl cutting, tramming the spindle, discussed dust boots and router bit variety, gave a number of tips and suggestions. He also showed his vacuum hold down pods, which are a great way to hold your work.

Gene Kirkpatrick made an online repository for information we create as a group. It has various categories and is accumulating information:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1CJT6ldpzTGDodiln4oDc2REwg3v-blSX>



CNC engraving lesson in how to carve on a sloping surface. this was accomplished during the first October meeting.





