



# The New England

# Woodworker

The Journal of the New England Chapter of the Architectural Woodwork Institute

## NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER *President's Message*

# Forest Resource Fact Book

By Ron Siemienski

As I was attempting to clean out one of my drawers, I came across a small booklet entitled "Forest Resource Fact Book". It is a collection of fact sheets about our North American Forest Resources, prepared by the National Hardwood Lumber Association. This booklet contained some information that seems relevant in today's wood marketplace.

I realize the harvesting of lumber is a global issue and these facts are for North America, but they are still interesting.

### *Running out of timber?*

1. In the U.S. there are 730 million acres of forests, one third of the nation.
2. Canada has over one billion acres of forest.
3. Timberlands of the U.S. now contain 23% more standing than in 1952.
4. Hardwoods have increased in every region of the U.S.
5. Everyday the forest industry, together with federal and state agencies, plants over 6 million more trees.

### *Running out of hardwoods?*

1. "Forest Statistics of United States 1987" shows that the U.S. grows far more hardwoods than are harvested each year.
2. There are 70% more hardwoods now than 35 years ago.
3. In 1986 we used 5 billion cubic feet of hardwood.
4. In 1986 we added 9.5 billion cubic feet of hardwood inventory.
5. Currently the United States is growing almost

twice as much hardwood saw timber volume as is being used.

### *National Park or National Forest?*

The Park Service, an agency of the U.S. Dept. of Interior, administers National Parks, 80 million acres.

1. Parks allow no hunting and no timber harvesting. *The Forest Service, part of the U.S. Dept of Agriculture, administers National Forests, 223 million acres.*

1. National forests were established by law "...to furnish a continuous supply of timber for the use and necessities of the citizens of the United States..." Organic Act of June 4, 1897.

• **PRESIDENT**  
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## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

July 22, 2002

10th Annual NEAWI Golf & Deep Sea Fishing Summer Outing  
Wentworth by the Sea Country Club,  
Rye, NH

Captains Fishing Charters,  
Plum Island, Newburyport, MA

September, 2002

Plant Tours  
Itinerary to be determined

November, 2002

Professional Employer Organizations

January, 2003

Smart Wood - Certified Wood Association

March, 2003

Risk Transfer - Sub-contract Language

# New England Woodworking Teachers' Council

By L. Shea Dimock, C.W. Keller & Associates

The New England Chapter of the AWI is blessed to have access to a true "mover and shaker" in woodworking education in the person of Jack Grube, head of Pinkerton Academy's (Derry, NH) woodworking program. I'm sure everyone remembers a teacher from their childhood who was an inspiration to them and planted the seed of excitement about learning that stayed with them in a way that other teachers never matched. All you have to do is meet Jack once to know that he has been that special teacher for scores of students.

Jack involved himself with the national AWI to try to get the ill-fated Partners-in-Progress program off the ground. When that failed to come to fruition in a timely manner, Jack



started to explore other options for insuring the future of post-grade school woodworking programs. In that vein, Jack and his compatriot, Tom Ciccarello (woodworking teacher/coordinator for Londonderry High School) have taken upon themselves the monumental task of organizing a 'New England Woodworking Teachers' Council.

Jack and Tom organized an initial meeting on November 2, 2001 that started at Pinkerton's shop and traveled on to Tom's shop down the road after lunch. The session was well attended: The approximately 35 attendees included secondary school teachers, college teachers, and program coordinators, as well as some industry representatives (Mike Schleipfer of Work Place Development, myself, and Greg Porfido of Mark Richey

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Spring 2002

Volume 5, Issue 1

*Inside this issue...*

- NE Woodworking Teachers Council
- NEBSRA Competition
- C.O.D.B.
- New Member Profiles
- Board of Directors
- Membership Roster



## Member News

### John Flood joins Dooge Veneers, Inc.

Dooge Veneers, Inc. is pleased to announce John Flood as the East Coast/New England States Sales Representative.

Please feel free to contact John or another member of our sales team for assistance at 616-698-6450. In addition, Dooge Veneers, Inc. was awarded their FSC Certification through Scientific Certification Systems in architectural grades of domestic and imported veneers.

### New Member Profile:

## Allied Bolt & Screw Company

Allied Bolt & Screw Corporation, after operating in Boston for 40 years, has moved to Canton, Massachusetts. Our new address is 1020 Turnpike Street (Route 138), Canton, MA 02021. Allied's new telephone number is 781-821-8870, and fax number is 781-821-2845.

Allied Bolt & Screw is one of the oldest and most reliable fastener distributors in New England. Customers consider Allied a friendly and

helpful supplier, eager to assist them. From one of the largest fastener inventories, Allied Bolt & Screw Corporation has been supplying the woodworking, cabinet, manufacturing, marine, utility, rail, automotive, electrical, hardware, HVAC, plumbing and contractor trades since 1961.

For assistance, please call the Sales Department at Allied Bolt & Screw or Neil Goldberg, Vice President of Sales.

## Architectural Millwork Installers, Inc.

### A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

When my partner and I started Architectural Millwork Installers, Inc. in October of 2000, we already had between us more than 60 years experience in the finish woodworking industry. In addition to that, we brought with us a well-earned reputation of professionalism. In the past year and half we have steadily built on both our reputation and experience. I have a philosophy I hold true: The key to a successful construction business is client satisfaction. The end product, whether it is a single floor reception area or a multi floor hospital or hotel, the quality of our installation must be maintained at the highest level. To achieve this goal, we work closely with our clients, their representatives and the owners to understand

• **Architectural**  
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## Fairfield County Millwork Celebrates 20 Years!

It's hard to believe that it was 20 years ago when Fairfield County millwork first opened its doors. John Ianiri started the company in March 1982 with a \$500 deposit, a table saw and a 2 bay garage. Today the company employs 20 dedicated professionals, and operates in 12,000 square feet of space. FCM has been affiliated with AWI since 1994.

Fairfield County Millwork specializes in very high-end residential, corporate offices and restaurant interiors. All our projects are contracted through architects and general contractors.

Fairfield County Millwork provides detailed AutoCAD generated shop drawings, full service manufacturing, finishing capabilities and installation for all of our projects. Our quality oriented staff is ready, willing and able to provide our clients with the finest quality architectural woodwork and custom cabinetry. Stop in and see us or visit us on the web@www.fcmillwork.com.

## AWI Leadership Conference

Neal Chamberlain of Chamberlain Co., Inc., First Vice President of the New England chapter, and Dave Kenyon of Kenyon Woodworking, Inc., Second Vice President of the chapter, recently attended the AWI Leadership Conference in Reston, Virginia. We found the two-day meeting to be enlightening and even a little inspiring. Turnout was impressive; the fifty-plus attendees were said to be the largest turnout for this annual meeting. Time was spent meeting and comparing notes with other chapter officers and interested members from around the country. A number of workshops were scheduled throughout the two days, focusing our attention on qualities of leadership both within the chapter and our own companies.

Workshops ranged from the technical - a good presentation by attorney Joel Rubenstein on project delays and payment protection - to the more "touchy-feely" - an enlightening exercise in leadership issues by Steve Swafford of Leadership Outfitters. Kimberly Kennedy outlined the extensive range of AWI resources available for chapter use (a directory is being prepared), and Greg Heuer gave us a compressed presentation of the new Quality Standards interactive CD (worth looking into). The revamped AWI website was previewed, and additional workshops touched on marketing to design professionals and time management. Attendees were kept on their toes by the volume of information presented over the two day session, and kept in order and on schedule by Kimberly's determined efforts.

With so many chapter officers in one place the conference organizers must be tempted to pile on as much information as possible. And, at times, the quantity of information was a little overwhelming. Every topic could have held our attention for more time than was available. One workshop touched on issues of good listening in the context of good communication. I'm sure we all honed our listening skills. The same discussion quantified the limited portion most people retain from their interactions. Certainly our retention was about typical (I believe 16% is the norm). Nevertheless, a small portion of a big pie can be very tasty.

By far the most interesting part of the two days was the opportunity to chat with new faces and compare notes on a wide range of topics. There's no question that the strength of the organization lies in its members and the insights and experiences they have to share.

# 2002 Active Manufacturing Members

- American Milling**  
Westwood, MA, 617-364-4477
- Amherst Woodworking & Supply Co.**  
Northampton, MA, 413-582-1852
- Anthony Galluzzo Corp.**  
Londonderry, NH, 603-434-6140
- Architectural Interior Products / MCS**  
Nashua, NH, 800-317-0069
- Bergan Architectural Woodworking**  
Middletown, CT, 860-346-0869
- Boston Woodworks**  
Boston, MA, 617-364-4066
- Breakfast Woodworks Inc.**  
Guilford, CT, 203-458-8888
- C.W. Keller & Assoc., Inc.**  
Plaistow, NH, 603-382-2028
- Chamberlain Co. Inc.**  
Salem, NH, 603-893-2606
- Cliftondale Woodworking Co., Inc.**  
Saugus, MA, 781-289-2013
- Closettec**  
Shrewsbury, MA, 508-842-1999
- Commercial Casework Corp.**  
Salisbury, MA, 978-463-3331
- Dave Dawson, Inc.**  
W. Warwick, RI, 401-826-3666
- East Coast Woodworking**  
Bath, ME, 207-729-1697
- Emidio Woodworking & Sons Inc.**  
Newington, CT, 860-953-1099
- Eurotech Millwork Inc.**  
Waterbury, CT, 203-597-9018
- Fairfield County Millwork**  
Bridgeport, CT, 203-367-9755
- Frank Shatz & Co., Inc.**  
Warwick, RI, 401-739-1822
- Harris Enterprise Corp.**  
Manchester, CT, 860-649-4663
- Herrick & White Ltd., Inc.**  
Cumberland, RI, 401-658-0440
- HTM Woodworking LLC**  
Milford, CT, 203-878-8111
- Iaccarino & Son Inc.**  
Boylston, MA, 508-869-2136
- J. H. Klein Wassink Co. Inc.**  
Concord, MA, 978-369-3471
- John Carlo Woodworking, Inc.**  
Westfield, MA, 413-562-4002
- Joinery Shop, Inc.**  
Charlestown, MA, 617-242-4718
- Kenyon Woodworking**  
Jamaica Plain, MA, 617-524-6883
- KSD Custom Wood Products**  
Boscawen, NH, 603-796-2951
- Legere Woodworking Co. Inc.**  
Avon, CT, 860-674-0392
- Manning Design Co.**  
Fall River, MA, 508-673-8783
- Mark Richey Woodworking Inc.**  
Essex, MA, 978-768-3356
- Mass. Cabinets Inc.**  
Woburn, MA, 781-937-3011
- Modern Woodcrafts Inc.**  
Farmington, CT, 860-677-7371
- Monarch Industries, Inc.**  
East Providence, RI, 401-247-5206
- Nationwide Millwork Corporation**  
Norwood, MA, 781-255-2080
- New England Woodworking Co.**  
Middletown, RI, 401-841-5544
- Nutmeg Stairs & Cabinets**  
Ellington, CT, 860-872-7922
- Pelletier Builders Inc.**  
Coventry, CT, 860-742-5317
- Petra Construction Corp.**  
North Haven, CT, 203-865-6043
- Pond Cove Millwork Inc.**  
South Portland, ME, 800-373-5515
- Ram Woodworks, Inc.**  
Stratford, CT, 203-375-5253
- Signature Architectural Woodworking**  
South Windsor, CT, 860-610-0292
- South Shore Millwork, Inc.**  
Norton, MA, 508-226-5500
- Valiant Industries Inc.**  
Amesbury, MA, 978-388-3792
- Watson Brothers Inc.**  
Middletown, MA, 978-774-7677
- Windham Millwork Inc.**  
Windham, ME, 207-892-3238
- Windsor Architectural Woodworking**  
Malden, MA, 781-324-9600
- Woodworks Architectural Millwork, Inc.**  
Londonderry, NH, 603-432-4050
- Woodwrights**  
Bridgeport, CT, 203-368-4500
- Wright Architectural Millwork Corp.**  
Northampton, MA, 413-586-3528
- YFI Millwork**  
Cape Neddick, ME, 207-363-8053
- Young's Woodworking, Inc.**  
Amesbury, MA, 978-834-9028

# 2002 Associate Manufacturing Members

- Accuride International**  
Nyack, NY, 845-358-4182
- Alan McIlvain Co.**  
Marcus Hook, PA, 800-523-4231
- Alliance Machinery, Inc.**  
Marlborough, MA, 508-303-0600
- Allied Bolt & Screw Corp.**  
Canton, MA, 781-821-8870
- Allied Hardware**  
Far Rockaway, NY, 718-337-3000
- Ameri-Door Inc**  
Hudson, MA, 978-568-0258
- Anderson & McQuaid Co. Inc.**  
Cambridge, MA, 617-876-3250
- Archer Corp.**  
Malden, MA, 781-324-6262
- Architectural Millwork Installers Inc.**  
Holland, MA, 413-245-6138
- Architectural Woodwork Installers Inc.**  
Ludlow, MA, 413-583-8900
- Atlantic Plywood Corp.**  
Woburn, MA, 800-937-6700
- BayState Spray Equipment & Finishing Supplies**  
Springfield, MA, 800-537-8976
- Berkshire Veneer Co. Inc.**  
Great Barrington, MA, 413-644-9696
- Boshco Inc.**  
Billerica, MA, 978-667-1911
- Boyce Highlands, Inc.**  
Concord, NH, 603-753-1042
- Brookside Veneers, Ltd.**  
Cranbury, NJ, 914-592-7636
- CabinetWare**  
Woodland, CA, 888-587-3461
- Camger Chemical**  
Norfolk, MA, 508-528-5787
- Centre Wood Corp.**  
Ridgewood, NY, 800-221-0114
- Creative Woodworking Corp.**  
Wilbraham, MA, 413-596-8033
- Dooge Veneers**  
Grand Rapids, MI, 616-698-6540
- Downes & Reader Hardwood Co., Inc.**  
Stoughton, MA, 800-788-5568
- Eagle Plywood & Door Mfg., Inc.**  
South Plainfield, NJ, 908-668-1460
- Empire Building Inc.**  
Madison, NH, 603-367-9514
- F. W. Honerkamp Co., Inc.**  
Bronx, NY, 800-999-8115
- Finish Unlimited**  
Everett, MA, 617-389-5466
- Galway Development Corp.**  
Gloucester, MA, 978-282-3100
- Garnet Construction**  
Hyde Park, MA, 617-364-9067
- Grass America**  
Glastonbury, CT, 860-657-3065
- Griffin Interiors, Inc.**  
Wilmington, MA, 978-658-4562
- Holt & Bugbee Co.**  
Tewksbury, MA, 800-325-6010
- J. Gibson McIlvain Lumber Co.**  
Danielson, CT, 800-231-7061
- Jacks Custom Woodworking**  
Woburn, MA, 781-935-1907
- Julius Blum Inc.**  
Swampscott, MA, 781-599-3994
- Keiver - Willard Lumber Corp.**  
Newburyport, MA, 800-733-1999
- Kilstrom Distribution, Inc.**  
Orange, CT, 203-799-3331
- Leonard Lumber Co.**  
Durham, CT, 860-349-1781
- M. L. Campbell**  
Scarborough, ME, 207-883-6909
- Maine Coast Lumber Co.**  
York, ME, 207-363-7426
- Mepla-Alfit, Inc.**  
Danville, NH, 603-770-0892
- Meyer Laminate Inc.**  
North Reading, MA, 800-822-7971
- New England Surfaces**  
Warwick, RI, 401-467-2770
- Newtech Installations USA Inc.**  
South Windsor, CT, 860-291-9041
- North East Wood Sales**  
Marion, CT, 860-621-9613
- O. F. S. Corp.**  
South Windsor, CT, 860-282-0700
- Peter Kaufman Studio**  
Port Chester, NY, 914-934-0964
- Rex Lumber Co.**  
Acton, MA, 800-343-0567
- Rugby IPD Corp.**  
Avon, MA, 508-427-4430
- Russell Architectural Finishing**  
Gloucester, MA, 978-281-1141
- Rutland Plywood Corporation**  
Rutland, VT, 800-457-0023
- S. G. Milazzo & Co.**  
Rocky Hill, CT, 860-257-7073
- Sieling & Jones Inc.**  
New Freedom, PA, 717-235-7931
- Stiles Machinery - Altendorf America**  
Saugus, MA, 781-231-9822
- TBM Hardwoods / T. Baird McIlvain Co.**  
Hanover, PA, 800-233-5137
- Thibco, Inc.**  
Manchester, NH, 603-623-3011
- Uniboard Canada Inc.**  
Westboro, MA, 508-366-9741
- Vaughn Woodwork Consultants**  
N. Attleboro, MA, 508-695-8193
- Wakefield Associates Inc.**  
Wakefield, MA, 781-246-2265
- Whittelsey Architectural Wood Sales, Inc.**  
Cincinnati, OH, 513-271-9600
- Wilsonart International Inc.**  
North Reading, MA, 800-822-7971
- Woodshop Machines, Inc.**  
Bow, NH, 603-228-2066
- Woodwork Drafting**  
New Haven, CT, 203-773-9992

# Company News

## To Our Valued Customers And Associates

Modern Woodcrafts takes great pleasure in announcing an important corporate restructuring which will allow Modern Woodcrafts to continue its position as one of the leading and most respected manufacturers of retail, commercial and hotel interiors. Effective immediately, Modern Woodcrafts, Inc. has become Modern Woodcrafts, LLC. This new specifically designed entity was formed by our Founder and Chairman Emeritus, Gerald L. Pelletier, to enable Modern Woodcrafts to continue its 43rd year of providing the finest in store fixtures and architectural woodwork to our customers well into this new millennium.

I am proud to announce that I have rewarded my executive officers with a majority ownership of the new company. I will retain a minority interest and will become Chairman Emeritus/Founder. Modern Woodcrafts has operated for the past ten years under the direction of this executive management team, and this restructuring is a formalization of my desire for them to sustain the company's enduring goals. This change will not effect or delay any of our current production or installation projects. Unlike many corporate restructuring events, the Modern Woodcrafts, LLC establishment will be a seamless transition; there will be no change in personnel or physical plant locations, and no consolidation of our business practices.

Modern Woodcrafts, LLC looks forward to continuing our tradition of providing the highest quality and yet competitively priced store fixturing and architectural woodwork to our customers, while adhering to our philosophy of honesty and integrity in the pursuit of perfection. We appreciate the trust you have shown in our company and anticipate a long and mutually rewarding relationship.

On a personal level, our executive staff will be contacting you to personally discuss this exciting event in the continuation of Modern Woodcrafts' tradition.

Very truly yours,

**Gerald L. Pelletier**

Chairman Emeritus/Founder

### **Modern Woodcrafts, LLC**

**Donald C. Ramsay**

President/Chief Executive Officer

**Jean L. Bouchard**

Executive Vice President/  
Chief Operating Officer

**William M. Kallenbach**

Vice President Sales/Project Administration

**Peter G. Spring**

Vice President Sales/Project Administration

**Philip W. Shuman**

Chairman and Chief Financial Officer

## Cost of Doing Business Survey THANKS, NEW ENGLAND!

I just got the following from Pat Quirk:

The committee will have final results in the next two weeks and members should receive their books and CDs by the end of May.

Here are some of the participation details:

- 1) 178 valid surveys were returned this year (20% of AWI population)
- 2) Increased participation by 10% over last year's levels (162 responses last year)
- 3) Regional and state participation rates (see attached spreadsheet for more details)

#	Region	% of all AWI
34	WN Central	35% BEST
7	Canada	30%
18	New England	24%
9	Pacific NW	23%
36	EN Central	22%
29	S Atlantic	17%
8	ES Central	17%
13	Pacific SW	15%
11	WS Central	15%
13	M Atlantic	11% WORST
178	TOTALS	20%

4) NC, NY, and PA continue to be a challenge — increasing participation here would make a major impact.

5) Participation rates vs. last year:

Biggest improvements:

Pacific Northwest	7 to 16 firms
East North Central	21 to 36 firms

Biggest declines:

South Atlantic	37 to 29 firms
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Thanks to all New Englanders who participated in the survey. Next year we go for first place. Thanks, David Short.

## Architectural Millwork Installers, Inc.

*Continued from Page 2*

their needs and to ensure that throughout our installation process, any problems that may arise are quickly resolved. Our success is evident with our number of repeat clients.

We are proud that we have been selected as members of both the Architectural Woodwork Institute and the Associated Architectural Millwork Installers Institute. This in itself is testimony to our reputation for fine quality, integrity and professionalism. Membership in these organizations is an honor we hold dear to our hearts. It also enables us to attend seminars and learn of new products, techniques and raised standards. Membership is not guaranteed. A company must maintain its high levels of standards to ensure continued membership. To be accepted into their ranks during our first year of operation is indeed a feather in our cap, a feather we have no intention of dropping.

I will continue in our business as we started, as also in life with the belief that . . . "times may change, but standards must be maintained" Michael J. Bodley, President, Architectural Millwork Installers, Inc.  
384 Mashapaug Road, Holland MA, 01521.  
Tel/Fax (413) 245-6138 or Tel (413) 519-5491

## Peter Kaufman Studio



Peter Kaufman Studio will be expanding its plant and is eager to establish relationships with fellow members. They are able to work with large and small companies alike, and can help get products out the door on time and keep customers satisfied.

A difficult production problem, any quantity of work (from prototype to production), delicate or fussy machining and clever solutions are Peter Kaufman's strengths and specialties.

They produce such items as architectural millwork, cabinetry (face frame and frameless), cutting to order, doors and other diverse high-end woodworking products. With great attention to detail, they specialize in strong millwork skills, fast turn-around time and realistic pricing, all with a can-do attitude.

They are centrally located at 120 South Main Street, Port Chester, NY, and have over 10 years of experience in doing things that others cannot. They are anxious to quote on your upcoming needs. Call (914) 934-0964, or Fax (914) 934-1054.

## Sieling and Jones, Inc.

Sieling and Jones, Inc. is one of the leading manufacturers of Architectural Hardwood Panels on the East Coast. Sieling and Jones has built a reputation on delivering only the finest veneer products. With one of the largest stock inventories and a network of wood suppliers' world wide, you can have the exact wood type and grain configuration to meet your demanding needs.

Sieling and Jones craftsmen are dedicated and deliver a level of competency that is difficult to duplicate. We support our product by providing the service and satisfaction you desire. All jobs, regardless of size, are treated with equal care. For further information or quote request, contact one of our customer service representatives at 888-765-9663 or sales@sielingandjones.com.

## Petra Construction Corp.

Petra Construction Corp. is a Construction Management General contracting firm that has maintained in-house millwork manufacturing capabilities dating back to 1953. The company continues to perform high-end custom millwork to service its broad construction client base of commercial, institutional, and residential customers.

Our 10,000 sq. ft. custom mill shop continues

## New Member Profiles

### Rutland Plywood Corp.

Rutland Plywood Corporation is a hardwood laminate manufacturer specializing in niche market products. We started in 1957 as an industrial grade, cut-to-size plywood manufacturer and now serve a diverse customer base around the world. We employ over 175 people in 2 separate manufacturing facilities in Rutland, Vermont. Our success is based on our highly skilled and dedicated work force, the high quality of our products and our superior customer service.

We have developed a very special and unique wood product called Dymondwood. It is a phenolic resin based hardwood that is ideal for high-end architectural millwork applications. Its key features are its unique beauty, durability, dimensional stability and high perceived value. We offer it in veneer sheets, squares and dowels in 54 colors in thicknesses ranging from 1/16" to 2".

We have joined the New England Chapter of the AWI to introduce Dymondwood and build a strong business relationship with millwork manufacturers that specialize in high-end applications. Contact Tom Mott at 800-457-0023, for more information.

## South Shore Millwork holds to exacting standards

A full spectrum architectural woodworker specializing in high-end residential and commercial work and historical restorations. South Shore Millwork prides itself on being second to none in quality and craftsmanship. Begun in 1991 in a 1500 square foot space, our facility has grown to 16,000 square feet.

Originally doing 95% of our work as a sub-contractor to other woodworkers, we now do 75% of our work as direct sales to general contractors and owners. We do, however, continue to service other shops for custom stile and rail staved core doors and frames and custom windows.

We also offer re-sawing services on our recently installed frame saw. Thicknesses of 1/10", 1/8", 3/16", and more are available with 1/8" thickness yielding 5 pieces out of 4/4 stock. The accuracy of the machine allows for fabrication of flooring, door parts and radius work right out of the machine with no further sanding or milling.

South Shore Millwork, Inc. can be reached at 7 Maple St., Norton, MA 02766. Tel. 508-226-5500, Fax. 508-226-1161.

to manufacture products for some of the best universities, finest museums and beautiful residences in the country. As a company we have always admired AWI's commitment to industry professionalism, education, quality and cooperation and felt it time to join your well respected organization.

They are located at 98 Rebeschi Drive, North Haven, CT 06473, Ph. (203) 865-6043, Fx. (203) 865-6847.

# New England Belt Sander Racing Competition

We're proud of the fine work we do at Kenyon Woodworking, but some say that the most important service we provide is our occasional hosting of the New England Belt Sander Racing Association.

February 2 of this year was SuperSaturday for NEBSRA and, for one day, Jamaica Plain was transformed into North America's hub of full-tilt beltsander drag racing. For a time the event even threatened to overshadow other sporting events carelessly scheduled for the same weekend.

Belt sander racing is nothing new at Kenyon Woodworking; now and then the shop's old timers can be coaxed into telling stories from way back in the mid-eighties, now thought of as the golden age of the sport in New England. Young apprentices thrill to endless rehashing of the legends of "Elvis Is King", "Team Yuppie Scum", "The Budmobile", and other giants of this beloved pastime.

This winter's event delighted serious fans, as more than 250 enthusiastic spectators thrilled to one of the best attended races in memory, putting the lie to those who claim

that beltsander racing is too strange to stand the test of time.

Competition was at its peak, with strong representation from the Central Maine Power Tool Racing Association, and appearances by battle-hardened teams like Custom Deluxe, Vision Thang, and YoYoDyne Propulsion Systems. Former champions were well represented. As always, competition was held in both stock and modified classes, with stock sanders racing head-to-head from the fifty foot start line, and modified sanders running the full seventy-five foot length of the X-2000 mobile modular track. This maple and mahogany masterpiece was built in the mid-nineties by dedicated racers, following NEBSRA's eviction from the abandoned warehouse space it had occupied for years. It sets the standard for the sport, boasting two 12" lanes, integrated wiring, and a drag-racing style "Christmas tree". Modular connectors and folding table legs allow for quick set-up wherever it is needed.

As usual, no one remembers who actually won the races except the winners themselves (and they're not particularly

reliable). But as our neighbors, the ever-generous Boston Beer Company, provided free beer, few people seemed concerned with the details. It was enough to witness screaming modified sanders covering seventy-five feet from a standing start in under three seconds; or stand in silent awe as the beautifully crafted trophies, each topped by a tiny aluminum beltsander cast for NEBSRA, were awarded in the traditional categories of Best Dressed, Wasted Engineering, Sorriest Mofo, Rookie of the Year, and Family Values. The last award claimed once again by the "Bitchin' Babes" team, who this time adopted a "Barbies in Burkas" theme for their tastefully decorated entry.

NEAWI executive leadership was well represented, as Shea Dimock and Marshall Mazzarella attended their first race. Both seemed genuinely startled by the experience, and each made inquiries about coming back next time as competitors, Marshall going so far as threatening to "kick some BS ass" by rebuilding the "sander my father left me 25 years ago". Good Luck, Marshall. We look forward to it.





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Dennis Roche  
Northeast Regional Sales Manager

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Brandt Edgebanders • Weeke Machining Centers  
Northwood Routing Systems • Buffering Wide Belt Sanders

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- Field finishing & detailing
- Member AWI

**Serving millwork companies throughout New England**

**800-381-3126**

# President

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2. National forests return 25% of the gross receipts from timber to states, and the rest goes to the Federal Treasury.

I invite other woodworkers to contribute wood facts as they come across them in the belief that we must all educate each other and our clients regarding wood facts so that we may better explain our industry to our clients and associates.

Recently, I had lunch with several associates. When the check arrived, I handed the waitress my credit card. "Sorry Sir, we don't accept this card," she said. Pulling out my wallet I saw I was short of cash, and didn't want to impose on my guests. The waitress leaned over and said, "Why don't you just mail us a check when you get home?" To which I replied, "Aren't you concerned that I wouldn't and you would be stuck with the bill?" "In the last fifteen years, we have only been stiffed once," she stated.

This gave me cause to reflect. Daily the media bombards us with what the worst people do to each other. We seldom hear of the positives, yet they occur every day!

The tragedy of September 11, 2001 will be

remembered forever. However, will we remember the outpouring of love and help offered by people from all over the United States, and indeed the world. The courage of the police, firefighters and ordinary people whose performance was anything but ordinary. Stories of courage, which perished along with the witnesses.

Everyday we are affected by people's kindness. For the most part, they go without a thank you and even unnoticed! It may be a person holding a door for you, someone stopping to assist a stranded motorist or a person who lets you merge onto the highway.

Do you take for granted your customers, suppliers or employees? Perhaps not, but if you are like me, you may neglect letting them know just how important they are!

AWI in general, and NEAWI in particular, are full of dedicated, talented and exceptionally nice people who give without expecting anything in return. I am proud to be associated with them and would like to thank them for their efforts, for without them this association would not be the success it is today,

I hope that when things are not going your way, and you feel a little down you can do what I do, think of that little restaurant that in the past fifteen years has only been stiffed twice!

# Teachers' Council

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Woodworking among others). While Greg and I were unable to attend the morning session at Pinkerton, we joined the group for the afternoon at Londonderry HS.

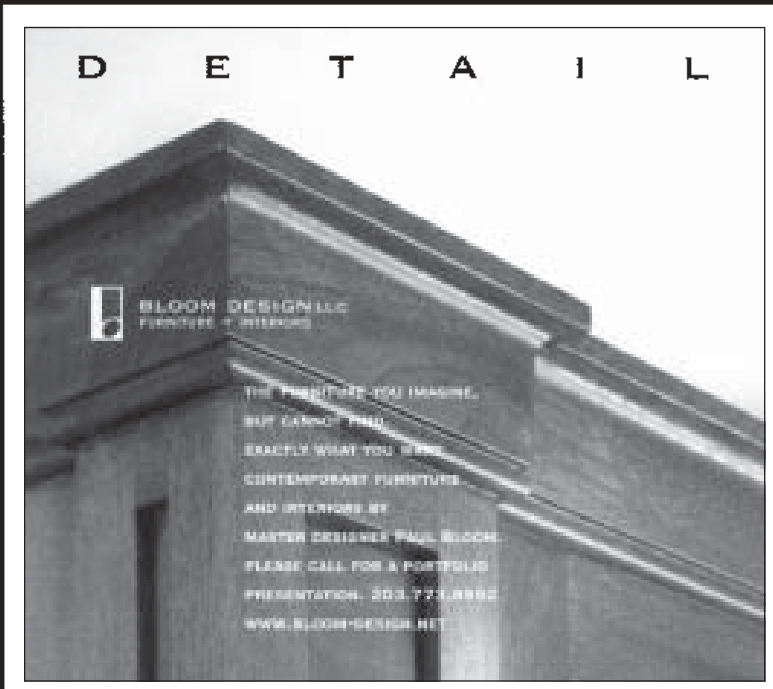
The basic discussion centered on the current state of woodworking education, and the current and future role of the woodworking teacher and the shop experience in secondary school curriculums. Just as our industry is concerned with the continued vocational program cuts so, too, are the vocational teachers involved in these programs. Their future may well be our industry's future as well.

Greg and I both spoke briefly about our own educations in woodwork and tried to impress how concerned our industry is to continue to support and promote vocational training programs for entry-level workers. The last discussion of the afternoon centered on how to create an association to continue this discussion and gather like-minded educators and industry representatives together to deal with on-going issues related to woodworking education. Jack, who is as goal-oriented a manager as I have yet to encounter, proposed that the association work towards "promoting and recognizing excellence in woodworking programs, woodworking teaching, woodworking students and woodworking projects... and having a convention in some great place like Las Vegas" (!)

Speaking for the NEAWI, I offered our association's support for their endeavor in any manner that we can, including submitting publicizing awards and programs created by the incipient NEWT Council in "Design Solutions" and our NEAWI newsletter, "the New England Woodworker". I hope that our individual member firms also see fit to offer their support to this program. It may be this group, with its level of commitment and enthusiasm, that promotes woodworking to our next generation of employees. Let's lend them all the help that we can.

Note: the next meeting of this group will be at the Fenn School in Concord, MA on Saturday, May 4th from 9:00AM to 3:00PM. Our host will be John Fitzsimmons and he can be reached at [thefolktradition@mac.com](mailto:thefolktradition@mac.com). The agenda will include a workshop on rustic furniture construction as well as continuing the education discussions raised at the first meeting.

If you have interest in the ongoing discussion engendered by Jack's and Tom's first meeting, sign up at Yahoo on-line for the woodworking education discussion group: [Woodworking-Education@yahoogroups.com](mailto:Woodworking-Education@yahoogroups.com).



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