



2018 TTRAG
Conference

Peter Follansbee Kingston, MA

17th-century oak furniture from England and New England

Peter Follansbee's presentation will focus on his work studying and reproducing 17th-century oak furniture from England and New England. This work, featuring frame-and-panel construction and mortise-and-tenon joinery has many parallels in timber framing.

Since the late 1980s, Follansbee has been immersed in this subject, studying period furniture in public and private collections both here and in England. Tool history as well as documentary history of the period rounds out the unravelling of this trade.

With a slide presentation, Follansbee will show construction details, tool marks, decorative details and the tools used to create oak furniture. He will have a chance to a carving demonstration showing the basic tools involved and how these tools help design the patterns in oak.

About the Speaker

Peter Follansbee started green woodworking in 1978-80 primarily making ladderback chairs. Learned from John (now Jennie) Alexander, author of "Make a Chair from a Tree". By taking frequent workshops at Drew Langsner's Country Workshops, PF learned about timber framing, basket-making, coopering, chairmaking (ladderbacks and Windsors) and learned spoon and bowl carving, from Jögge Sundqvist, Wille Sundqvist and Drew Langsner. Starting in 1989, PF focused on learning to reproduce oak furniture of 17th-century New England and between 1994-2014 he worked in a living history museum in Plymouth Massachusetts making carved oak furniture. PF is one of the organizers of Greenwood Fest, put on by Plymouth CRAFT in Plymouth, Massachusetts each June. He has written extensively, both furniture history and how-to woodworking. Numerous DVDs with Lie-Nielsen Toolworks, appearances on Roy Underhill's The Woodwright's Shop. Peter has taught various woodworking classes in the US, UK and Sweden. Co-authored Make a Joint Stool from a Tree with Jennie Alexander, published by Lost Art Press in 2012. His follow-up book on joinery and carving is forthcoming from Lost Art Press.

