



VERMONT WOOD MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

PO Box 6004, Rutland, Vermont 05702 [www.vermontwood.com](http://www.vermontwood.com)

802-747-7900 Fax 802-747-7989

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CONTACT: Kathleen Wanner

September 3, 2011

802-747-7900

### **Designer, Author, Native Son Is Coming Home Again.**

Woodstock-With a national reputation as a family-friendly designer and author of *No Place Like Home*, Stephen Saint-Onge will return to his roots to attend the Vermont Fine Furniture and Woodworking Festival. The event, now in its 8<sup>th</sup> year, will be held at the Union Arena in Woodstock on September 24-25, 2011.

Woodworking is a legacy industry for Vermont and the state's wood artisans make their livings using the abundant natural resources, their hands, and their creative genius. According to Saint-Onge, "In the aftermath of Tropical Storm Irene, it is more important than ever to visit Vermont and support the businesses that are integral to the working landscape."

Saint-Onge was born and raised in the Burlington area and relishes opportunities to return to Vermont with his wife and two children who have come to love the landscape and the people as much as he does. As a husband and father, his design sensibilities are driven by the desire to create spaces that families can live in everyday, spaces that are accessible and affordable for all budgets.

The millions who read *Better Homes and Gardens* magazine will recognize Saint-Onge from his column, *House Calls*, that he has written for the last two years. His celebrity status also extends to many TV appearances on shows such as Oprah, The Today Show, The View, CNN, TLC, and others. *House Beautiful* magazine names him as one of the top fifteen designers in America today. Just recently Saint-Onge has added *Family Circle* Magazine contributing home editor to his resume.

During his visit to the Woodworking Festival, Saint-Onge will be as accessible as his designs. Exhibitors and visitors alike will have an opportunity to meet and chat with him informally throughout Saturday, September 24. He will also be the guest speaker at the Design Awards presentation to begin at 5PM.

The awards will be presented as part of the annual Vermont Wood Design Competition for work by Vermont wood artisans in categories of furniture, woodenware, and artistic carving. The public is invited to attend the awards ceremony and listen to Saint-Onge share his views on Vermont and design. No registration is required.

Saint-Onge has been using his blog, Designer Dad, to inform his readers about the upcoming Festival and he extends his personal invitation to you. “Come join me at the Eighth Annual Vermont Fine Furniture and Woodworking Festival on Saturday and Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Add life to your home or office with the warmth & beauty of wood.”

This Vermont Top 10 Fall Event will be held at the Union Arena at 496 Woodstock Road (Route 4), Woodstock, VT 05091. Show hours are Saturday from 9-6pm and Sunday from 10-4pm. Admission is \$10 for ages 18 and over. Visit [www.vermontwoodfestival.org](http://www.vermontwoodfestival.org) for a list of exhibitors, directions, and activities. You can also contact the VWMA office at 802-747-7900 or [info@vermontwoodfestival.org](mailto:info@vermontwoodfestival.org) for more information.

--- END ---

**Note to editors:** Stephen Saint-Onge is available for phone interviews on Thursday and Friday, September 22-23 and in person on Saturday, September 24.