



# EMGW Monthly Newsletter

October 2009

## Membership Notice

- \* Dues are payable in full at the September Meeting.
- \* This year dues are increasing to \$45
- \* All members will receive a \$5 early registration discount if dues are paid in full on or before the October, 2009 meeting.

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## From the Editor's Desk

I find myself sitting here trying to write a few words to recap last month's meeting and non-guild events and realize that I'm at least 2 weeks behind schedule in getting this newsletter completed.

Now that the kids are all back in school, I find my evenings booked with homework. No not for me but rather my seventh grader, who like I did as a child growing up struggles with math. The hardest part of helping her is that the teaching methods have all changed so of course the way that I learned  $2 + 2 = 4$  is no

longer taught that way today.

What does my daughter's math homework have to do with the Guild and woodworking you ask? Well with the guild—other than cutting into newsletter time nothing! As for woodworking, let me count thy ways..... If you can't perform basic math then you'll have trouble in every woodworking project that you undertake. That is unless of course you learn how to use a story stick. In which case you pretty much eliminate most if not all math functions and now only need to count. Do I need

By Gary Iadarola

1 of them there thingamajigs or 2?

The point is that we cannot go through life without basic math skills and some would attest that advanced math skills are a necessity too. However you can build fine furniture and case work without ever needing to know how to add fractions.

Now that the math homework is done - I hope all who attended the September meeting enjoyed it. Check out the write up from Charlie D. on the presentation by Ken Lindgren.

## Why I wear eye protection

It was late fall 1994. I was thrilled to be almost finished building eight dining chairs commissioned for a friend. The work had gone well. I had carved the cherry seats using a two handled inshave that I bent into a U shape, similar to a scorp. It's a special tool that once belonged to my grandfather. I had cut and laminated all the shoulder rests, glued and pegged the legs and stretchers and was getting close to the end of construction. Each chair had 10 ash spindles that had to be inserted into 1/2" holes drilled into the seats. I progressed smoothly throughout the proc-

ess of spreading glue in each hole, then tapping the spindles gently home.

Sometime during the process I removed my safety glasses and placed them on my workbench. *What could go wrong tapping spindles into seats that would require eye protection?*

I wasn't in a hurry or being careless. I was in my basement workshop working at a steady but not rushed pace. My parents, who live next door, were in Florida for the winter. My wife was at work and our kids had not yet ar-

By Dave LeBleu

rived into our lives. There were eighty spindles to set. I straddled the chair seat and followed the same process for each chair. I was about to set the very last spindle. No problem on seventy nine spindles; apply glue, tap spindle into seat. I applied glue to hole number eighty and drove the last spindle home. Oh no! The edge of the seat cracked. I was using Titebond II glue so I knew it would expand the spindle quickly and make removing it impossible if I didn't act swiftly. I hurriedly pulled the spindle out of the seat....and into my eye.

Or so I thought. I stood, my heart racing, expecting blood to be gushing everywhere. I felt no pain, but I've had accidents before where the pain didn't come immediately. To my surprise there was no blood. I could still see, albeit my vision was a little blurry. I tried to be calm; knowing if my eye had been punctured there was nobody around to help me. I went upstairs to a mirror where it became evident how lucky I was. I had pulled the spindle out and

grazed my eyelid and the white of my eye. Initially my eye was tearing, which I assumed was an attempt to deal with the intrusion. Later I saw that my eyelid had a small notch missing and there was a red mark marring the normal white of my eye. My doctor wanted to see me immediately. I was prescribed an ointment to help the healing. My doctor made it clear how fortunate I had been avoiding a serious eye injury. Aside from dealing with my mother-

in-law wanting to take pictures of the gory wound and a case of injured pride, I was totally healed. Luckily, I am clearly able to see the importance of wearing safety glasses at all times while woodworking.

Hearing protection is also a must, but let's save that story for another day.

## September Meeting Recap

By Charlie DiAntonio

On Saturday, September 12, 2009 we attended our first fall meeting held at the Elliot School in Jamaica Plain. Ken Lindgren, a professional turner, demonstrated turning techniques and skills.

The following are the key points he made during the demonstration:

When learning to turn you should limit yourself to range of 200 – 800 RPM, and once experienced you can proceed to a range of 1000-3000. In setting up your tool rest for rough cuts, your tool cutting edge should be below the center line of the lathe spindles and when you want a cleaner finishing cut you should be slightly above the center line.

In both positions the bevel of the cutting tool should rest against the work piece.

Ken prefers to have a few key wood turning chisels. He demonstrated a roughing gouge and a parting tool for initial roughing out of a part. He then used a finishing gouge ground with a finger nail profile. He

recommends that you purchase good tools costing a min. of \$50.00 or higher made from high speed steel. He felt that using a skew chisel, used for final finishing, requires too much control and that you can get the same results using sand paper. In his opinion a good gouge with a finger nail profile does most of the cuts that you will need for very good results.

He highly recommends a grinding fixture like the Wolverine system that will handle all types of gouge grinding including the fingernail profile.

He also showed some specialty tools he made. One was a 5/8" wrench he sharpened to make consistent diameters on a spindle and a gouge ground to make consistent beads on a spindle.

He also demonstrated how to make four consistent spindle sections by gluing four blocks together using brown craft paper; then turning to one diameter and separating them. He also recommends a

steady rest when doing long spindles.

He demonstrated how to drill a hole in the end of a shaft by taking a forstner bit in a drill bit spindle. Then inserting it into the tail stock and pushing it into the work piece captured in the spur center on the other end of the lathe. The piece should be captured before starting the lathe and pushing to make the hole.

He demonstrated turning a bowl using both a face plate and a lathe chuck. He cautioned that the chuck should be continually tightened to make up for the release of moisture in the wood. He prefers using a gouge with a blunt edge keeping the 90 degree bevel on the wood and cutting at the 11:00 o'clock position. He also says that you should move around the lathe for getting the best position to cut the interior of the bowl

Finally, he gives private lessons at home and class lessons at the Eliot school, and he does not recommend self teaching.

## L.S. Starrett - a Guild Field Trip

By Charlie DiAntonio

Our first field trip this year was to the L.S. Starrett Co. in Athol, MA on September 14, 2009.

The company was started in 1880 by Laroy Starrett and is still managed by a member of the family, Douglas A. Starrett.

L.S. Starrett is a worldwide manufacturer of precision instruments with plants in several locations in both the U.S. and foreign countries. Their first product was and still is the venerable combination square. L.S. Starrett produces the industry standard for steel rules, tapes measures, micrometers, calipers, dividers, and granite blocks. Their instruments have guided many good woodworkers and machinist over the years.

Touring the Starrett manufacturing facility is like going back in time 50 years. They have plenty of numerical control equipment, but all instruments are hand assembled and hand inspected.

Our tour guide was Brian, a recent grad of their Tool and Die Apprentice School, which today is almost a lost art.

We saw plenty of equipment that was in use 50 years ago, grinders, lathes, drill presses, cut off machines and the very versatile Bridgeport miller still in use today. The smell of cutting fluids and propane from the fork lift was very nostalgic.

We saw the manufacture of miniature parts with grooves just .007" wide and the laser

manufacture of miniature shafts and gears used in their precision instruments. On the other side of the scale we saw three foot micrometers.

We met a 78 year old supervisor who was in charge of their own in-house tool manufacture. He showed us how they make their own cutters, gears, and in-fact any other tool they might need. Some of his equipment that is still running is 40-60 years old, and they check all of their work on a comparator, another icon of years past.

We ended our tour in the company museum which had some of the original equipment used and precision instruments made in the very early days of the company.

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**“We saw plenty of equipment that was in use 50 years ago”**

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## News and Noteworthy

As many of you are aware, the Guild Board is working on trying to bring to fruition a number of informational sessions for the good of the membership. One such effort as Tom Fama our President had mentioned at the September meeting is that we are trying to organize additional interest groups in the same fashion as the monthly FIG (Furniture

Interest Group) meeting. Many topics have been tossed around but nothing has really solidified as of yet. An offshoot of this effort is to develop classes taught by more experienced Guild members for the benefit of those of us looking to build our skills. Some topics include but are not limited to: (this is by no means a comprehensive list) Carving a

By Gary Iadarola

Cabriole Leg, Hand Cut Dovetails, Sharpening & Honing, Veneering, Fundamentals of Woodworking just to mention a few of the items on the list.

As more information becomes available, and these classes start to solidify, we'll publish addition updates. Keep an eye out and tell us what you would like be interested in learning.

## For Sale and Wanted

I've received some feedback requesting that I add a "For Sale" and "Wanted" section to the Newsletter. Sounds like a pretty good idea to me. So the following is the first pass. Be sure to send me your sale and wanted list.

For Sale:

Porter Cable 7518/7519 Router Base Assembly. New, never used. Base includes Clamping Assembly and Depth Adjusting Ring Assembly. Perfect if you need an extra base for

By Gary Iadarola

a router table application. \$40.00 Contact Tom Fama

Wanted:

Clifton Clarke is looking for a used, 10" enclosed cabinet table saw to help my son get started with setting up his shop.

Visit the guild on the web at: [WWW.EMGW.ORG](http://WWW.EMGW.ORG)

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*Promoting Woodworking  
Excellence Through  
Education and  
Networking*

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## Membership

If you would like further information about the Eastern Massachusetts Guild of Woodworkers, please email Don Stella at [dstellajr@charter.net](mailto:dstellajr@charter.net). Yearly dues are \$45 and payable each September.

## Meeting Schedule for 2009—2010

Monthly meetings are always held on the 2nd Saturday of the month from Sep-

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Manager</b>
9/12/2009	Wood Turning at The Eliot School	Mgr: Tom
10/10/2009	Finishing at Chris Kovacs' shop	Mgr: John
11/14/2009	Design Principles by John Fox at Chris	Mgr: Chris
12/12/2009	Furniture Photography location TBD	Mgr: Gary
1/9/2010	Advanced Tool Setup at Woodcraft in Wo-	Mgr: Brian
2/13/2010	Carving with Phil Lowe (may be at the Pea-	Mgr: Brian
3/13/2010	Luthier at Chris Kovacs's shop	Mgr: Chris
4/10/2010	Veneering with Fritz Smith Location TBD	Mgr: Fritz
5/8/2010	Hand Tools at Peter Wilcox's Shop	Mgr: Peter
6/12/2010	BBQ location TBD	Mgr: Tom