



NEWSLETTER

www.emgw.org
December 2005

Message from the President

By Steve Olesin

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Happy Holidays -

We are quickly approaching that frantic time of year when our workshops are never busier as we elves crank out those creative and thoughtful gifts for the people that enliven and enrich our lives. Just save some time for the guild on the second Saturday morning of December.

Be sure to join us on December 10 for a presentation by Dick Condon of a different kind of woodworking. Dick will show us how he built a classic lap stroke 10-foot "Lawton tender" (that's a curvaceous row boat) by using the more contemporary strip-plank and epoxy method. He'll have the boat, frames, drawings, and material samples at his shop in Fitchburg so we should all go away with a good understanding of the process and maybe even an appreciation for the joy of "messing around with boats." Dick will also have a 12-foot strip-plank canoe on hand that was built by a friend. So if you're interested in building a boat or maybe just in expanding your woodworking knowledge, stop over for a lively discussion.

Last meeting, we entered a new domain where we saw what can be accomplished when a dedicated woodworker has a vision of building an artistic community around his passion for wood. Matt Dworman showed us around his industrial size facility newly appointed with some very impressive machinery and lots of space. After that Clive Hamilton, Artist-in-residence at Worcester Crafts Center, helped us enter the artistic world of the wood carver by demonstrating carving a cabriole leg with ball and claw foot starting from a 3" x 3" x 24" cherry board.

I must apologize for any difficulty you may have had finding the last meeting location. The instructions left a lot to be desired. My faux pas.

The calendar year is coming to an end but our woodworking year is just beginning. Take some time - learn some new tricks - share some knowledge - become an active part of a great group of friends. One immediate volunteer opportunity is organizing a group purchase of tools or books.

If you're interested in building a boat or maybe just expanding your woodworking knowledge, stop over for a lively discussion around the construction of a Lawton tender.

Adirondack Furniture

By Dave LeBleu



*Chair by Dave LeBleu.
Made with red cedar and
an exterior grade finish.*

This past May I decided I was finally going to make some Adirondack chairs. After searching the Internet and downloading many photos I had a decent idea of what I wanted. I purchased plans from a website that featured the two guys who used to have a show entitled *The Furniture Guys*. Next I spent time researching the best wood to use and decided on Cypress. Cypress is light, easy to work, decay and insect resistant, and is fairly knot free. I've since built chairs out of Red Cedar, which is very light, and White Oak, which is very heavy. I would compare working with Cypress to working with Eastern White Pine without the knots. I bought the wood in NH at Northland Forest Products.

Once the plans arrived I made plywood patterns. The plans came with full scale drawings of each part, including measurements and screw and bolt placement were noted, and a large ink carbon tracing paper. The carbon paper made it very easy to transfer the drawings onto the plywood. I cut each piece using a band saw for curved cuts and a table saw for straight cuts. There are 26 pieces required to build each chair. It's time consuming work.

Since the Cypress is fairly soft I originally did not pre-drill holes for the screws. This turned out to be a big mistake. I had some pieces crack and even the ones that didn't crack just didn't look as good as the pre-drilled ones. While making the parts I sanded each on my stationary belt sander-flat surfaces and edges. I've since omitted this step. Since these chairs are destined for the outdoors the sanding really didn't add anything to the final appearance. The only parts I still sand are the edges of various pieces. I rough cut rounded parts, pair them up, and sand them smooth.

Once the parts are cut to final shape and the edges are curved properly I use a small round-over bit on most edges. I utilize my router table for this step. It's quick and really improves the look and feel of the chair.

Assembly can be a little daunting at first. The plans came with very basic instructions that were somewhat helpful. I expected to make mistakes and did, with hope learning something in the process. A couple things I do differently now include pre-drilling all screw holes and gluing every piece.

I've added a simple piece I think strengthens the chair ten fold. If you've ever sat in an Adirondack chair you'll notice you can wiggle side to side fairly easily. I added a piece under the seat which is 3 1/2" wide that spans the width of the chair from left to right. I placed this piece directly under one of the seat's slats and screwed it in from each leg. The result is no more wiggle. The chair looks great and feels solid and stable. Just as important is the fact that it's comfortable.

In a future newsletter I'll discuss what I learned about finishes for outdoor projects. Whew!

Dave LeBleu



*White oak Adirondack
chair with finish
applied.*

Holiday Wish List

By Chris Kovacs



Adirondack chairs by Dave LeBleu. More information about how Dave finishes his chairs will be included in a future newsletter.

As the holiday season approaches, it is time to start thinking about what tools put on your wish list. My list is quite short, all I want is more shop space, but that may not make it down the chimney this year. If shop space is not at the top of your list, perhaps some of these other ideas will make it onto your list. I have compiled a little list of those relatively inexpensive do-dads and gizmos that I find very useful in the shop.

- 1) Lots of mechanical pencils. I prefer 0.5mm lead.
- 2) Hinge locating center punch. This is made by Starrett tools and is a spring activated center punch. It is great for those times when a simple indent is needed and a drilled pilot hole is not.
- 3) Self-centering drill bits (multiple sizes) for those times when your hinge locating center punch is not enough.
- 4) A good set of machinist square. These are much more accurate than most woodworking squares.
- 5) Starrett sliding square. A big one and a little one can do most any small marking job.
- 6) Marking knives to go with your squares so your layout lines are sharp and precise.
- 7) Vise grip pliers for those times when nails need a little persuasion.
- 8) Laminate trimming router for small work that does not need the heft of a 3hp router.
- 9) Did I mention pencils?
- 10) Subscriptions to Fine Woodworking, Woodwork, and Woodshop News. My other favorite is The Family Handyman.
- 11) A "Getting to Know Them" sample of square drive screws from McFeeley's. Try them and you will never go back to Phillips head screws again.
- 12) A nice 6" ruler.
- 13) Any Lie Nielsen plane. I really like my small number 103 block plane.
- 14) Forrest Woodworker II saw blade
- 15) A dead blow mallet for a little persuasion
- 16) Digital calipers for those times when you just have to know the thickness of something.
- 17) Anti-fatigue mats for your bench and saw areas.
- 18) Peltor ear muffs or go fancy and get the kind with a built-in radio.
- 19) How about more pencils, standard #2 this time.
- 20) Books: Sam Maloof [Woodworker](#), Garret Hack's [The Handplane Book](#), any book by James Krenov.
- 21) Bevel square for the odd angles.

Well, that should give you a few ideas to work with. I hope everyone has had a successful year in their shops making wonderful things. Happy woodworking.

Chris Kovacs



Starrett center punch



Lie-Nielsen block planes

Membership

Well, it is that time of year again. As we start our 2005-2006 season, I am reminding all of you to please pay your yearly dues in a timely fashion. The dues are \$40 per year and that money helps the guild provide the refreshments at meetings and honorariums for guest speakers. We will be having a BBQ at our Annual meeting in June and your dues will make that event possible. Please make your check payable to EMGW and bring it along to the next meeting.

If you would like further information about the Eastern Massachusetts Guild of Woodworkers, please email Steve Olesin at steve@creatiere.com or call (978) 635-9570.

The Next Meeting

Be sure to join us on December 10 for a presentation by Dick Condon of a different kind of woodworking. Dick will show us how he built a classic lap stroke 10-foot "Lawton tender" (that's a curvaceous row boat) by using the more contemporary strip-plank and epoxy method. He'll have the boat, frames, drawings, and material samples at his shop in Fitchburg so we should all go away with a good understanding of the process and maybe even an appreciation for the joy of "messing around with boats."

Directions to Dick's shop:
74 Apple Tree Hill Road
Fitchburg, MA
978-345-1320

For most of us, head west on Route 2 toward central Massachusetts and the Fitchburg area. Take Rt. 12 north exit 31 B. This is N. Main Street. Continue on this road for 3 miles. Bear right at Blossom Street and then quick left on Crescent followed by another quick right onto Mt. Vernon Street. Stay on Mt. Vernon for .7 miles and then take a left on Apple Tree Hill Road. Park in the driveway or on the street and come around to the back of the house to the shop entrance.



Officers and Board Members

President:	Steve Olesin	steve@creatiere.com
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Treasurer	Frank Woolley	frankwoolley@hotmail.com
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Webmaster:	John Nitzsche	jknitz@comcast.net
Newsletter editor	Chris Kovacs	cdkovacs@charter.net

Schedule

What:

Japanese tools with Harrelson Stanley
 Tool Making - Making a marking knife.
 Host-Steve Olesin
 Jim Renning's slide presentation from a visit with Sam Maloof

Where:

51 Shattuck Street, Pepperell, MA
 11 Wingate Lane, Acton, MA

When:

Sept. 10
 October 8

Deep Relief Carving with Matthew Dworman and Clive Hamilton

Astro Arts
 100 Tainter Street, Worcester, MA

November 12

Wooden boats with Dick Condon

74 Apple Tree, Fitchburg, MA

December 10

Sharpening clinic: Flat edge tools with Peter Wilcox

11 Baypath Drive, Boylston, MA

January 14

Tentative- Powderhouse Shop visit hosted by Herb Ziegler and Craig Edwards

Powderhouse Shop
 574 Boston Ave
 Medford, MA

February 11

Sprayed and Polished Piano Finish with Pat Everett

69 Norman St Everett

March 11

Tentative-Buying hardwood lumber

Downes and Reader, Stoughton, MA

April 8

Photographing Woodworking Projects with Paul Ruggerio and Bill Karp

46 Brookview Rd
 Boxford, MA

May 13

Annual meeting and BBQ at Phyllis Jaffee's house

4 Deerslayer Lane
 Westborough, MA

June 10

DECEMBER 2005

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For sale

I would like to use this section for Guild members to advertise woodworking related items they have for sale. Listing will only be posted for one newsletter. With the printing of the next newsletter only new listings will be posted