



NEWSLETTER

www.emgw.org
November 2005

Message from the President

Woodworking Equipment and the Change of Seasons
By Steve Olesin

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Look over all the hand tools to detect emerging rust. Give them all a wax buff for protection.

The leaves are falling and so is the temperature. If you have a shop that is in an unheated or marginally heated area like an unfinished basement, garage or outbuilding, it is time to do a little preventative maintenance.

The shiny iron and steel surfaces of your tablesaw, jointer, planer and bandsaw are susceptible to rust as the temperature and relative humidity changes in spring and fall. A cold casting in a basement that varies in temperature with your arrival may feel the ill effects of your presence. Being a body made up of a large percentage water, you add humidity to the room. When the air is warm, this humidity is carried suspended in air but when that air comes in contact with your cold equipment, dew may form on the rust-able surface.

There are plenty of products to protect your machinery, like T-9 or light machine oil, but I prefer paste wax. A can of Butcher's Wax is always around in my shop for doing final buffing of my hand-rubbed finishes and it works extremely well to reduce friction on all sorts of machinery and handtool surfaces. But come the change of season, it is employed to coat and protect my investments.

The tablesaw top is the first to be treated by applying the paste wax with an abrasive pad like ScotchBright or 240 sandpaper. The abrasive removes any surface rust that may be present and the wax creates an adequate barrier to air-born moisture. Rub it on thoroughly trying to coat every visible surface then rub it off again with a clean dry rag or paper towel.

Doing the same to the interior of the machinery would be great, however there a limit to my ambition. Nonetheless, I do clear out all traces of sawdust I can get at inside the tablesaw and check that the gears are clear of caked grease and sawdust. That sawdust is still wood – it inhales moisture which could be the catalyst to a rust spot. Removing the blade and lowering the arbor gives pretty good access to most of the interior. Reapply lubricant to the gears that raise and tilt the blade and the pinion track the arbor rides on.

This bit of maintenance can consume an hour or two of your shop time if you have several stationary tools but you will find that they all seem to work more smoothly and cut more cleanly once this attention is given.

Don't stop at the big stuff. Look over all the handtools to detect emerging rust. Give them all a wax buff for protection. Giving your chisels and planes a shiny smooth near mirror finish while sharpening will also reduce the risk of rust. Moisture can penetrate into scratches and rough spots on the tool surface. The smoother the surface, the fewer places for this to occur and then occasional use is all that is needed to keep rust from forming.

EMGW News and Minutes

Announcing a new EMGW Director

John Nitzsche has accepted an appointment to the Board of Directors of the EMGW. The board is made up of the four elected officers, the past president and two members-at-large appointed by the current President. Besides serving the guild on the board, John also attends to our web site as the web master and has become a member of the Furniture Sub-group. Thanks to John for being an active member keeping our guild interesting by sharing his skills and time.



Close up of door hardware on Chris Kovacs' door. Yes, the door is finally hung.

Meeting Minutes September 10, 2005

Hirada America (JapaneseTools.com)
Harrelson Stanely Host
51 Shattuck St
Pepperell, MA

Social Hour 9-10am

Open meeting 10-12pm (Public invited)

Opening comments by Steve Oleson - President

Introduction of Officers

Encouraged member participation in the guild

Treasurers report - ~ 1/3 of members have paid dues to date

Meetings will be every 2nd Saturday of the month

Gave overview of upcoming schedule

Announcements

Several upcoming shows

Jim Cripasuk will be demonstrating his Woodmiser bandsaw mill at Rockler on 9/17

Steve Olesin is teaching at Assbet Valley Vocational school's evening classes in Marlboro

Dave Landers introduced us to Harrelson Stanely.

Harrelson gave an overview of his training, business and school. That was followed by a tour of his site and ongoing projects including a traditional Japanese bath house. He then talked about Japanese hand tools and gave a sharpening demo using Shapton stones.

The meeting concluded at about 12:30pm

EMGW Meeting Minutes October 8, 2005

Steve Olesin's Shop
Acton, MA

Social Hour 9-9:40am

meeting 9:40-12pm

Opening comments by Steve Oleson - President

Meeting overview

A Visit to Sam Maloof's shop by Jim Rennig

Making a marking knife by Steve Olesin



New front door at Chris Kovacs' house.finally!



Adirondak chairs by Dave LeBlue. In the next newsletter, Dave will tell us more about his chairs.

Minutes continued....

Basic Metallurgy by Frank Woolley

Treasures Report(s)

End of Last year by Chris Kovacs

Dues collected 1160.00

Workshop 450.00

Bank fees 123.00

Office supplies 67.11

Coffee/Donuts 389.93

Website 274.95

Workshop 369.00

ending balance \$2536.96

Summer onward by Frank Woolley (see Frank of details)

Announcements

Web page service for members - see John Nitzsche

Furniture subgroup interest/setup meeting following today's regular meeting.

Steve Olesin has been randomly polling a few members after each meeting to get feedback. Steve asked if the meeting start time and structure works for everyone.

John Nitzsche gave a pitch for OpenOffice.org office productivity software as an alternative to MS Office.

Various show and exhibits announced

New Business

We have excess cash. Possible uses for it.

- book library

- video/DVD library

Jim Rennig gave a slide show and talk about his recent visit and tour of Sam Maloof's new shop and home in Alta Loma, CA

Frank Woolley talked about heat-treating steel

Steve Olesin gave two demonstrations. The first was on annealing and tempering an old chisel to repair it. The second on making a marking knife from an old table saw blade and a laminated wood handle.

The meeting concluded at about 12:10pm

A meeting to setup the furniture subgroup was held after the regular meeting.

- meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of each month 7-9pm

- each person will have 5 minutes in which they are expected to talk/ask about anything furniture related.

- meetings will held at subgroup members shops, rotating in alphabetical order

- host will be responsible for the meetings program

- interested parties should contact Frank Woolley for more information

Going Green

By Chris Kovacs

This summer I had a client present me with an interesting challenge. They wanted their new kitchen to be made from as many environmentally responsible materials as possible. This was a family that certainly cared about the environment, recycling and limiting their energy use. The entire remodeling job focused on ways to reduce home fuel consumption and utilize renewable resources. Windows had high efficiency ratings, walls were well insulated and the floors were made from bamboo.

As for the cabinets themselves, I was asked to use a panel product called Woodstalk by Dow Corning. Woodstalk is manufactured from wheat straw and is a by-product of the wheat harvesting industry. The wheat straw is ground up and a formaldehyde-free binder is added and the panels are produced in standard 4' X 8' sheets. These panels are green in several ways; the wheat straw is renewable on an annual basis and the binder emits fewer volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

For this kitchen, the original proposal was to have the Woodstalk panels veneered with cherry that was certified by the Forest Stewardship Council. This ended up driving the price up to nearly \$10 per square foot (yes, that is \$320/sheet). To keep the cost down, non-FSC veneers were used and an entire production run (24 sheets) was ordered. FSC cherry was used for the solid wood in the kitchen.

For those not familiar with the Forest Stewardship Council it is an organization that certifies lumber and logging companies, wood dealers and distributors. The main goal of the Council is to encourage proper forest management and to help ensure that more of the wealth created by the lumber industry stays in the countries the trees came from. Being green in this manner comes at a cost and that cost ultimately trickles down to you and I, the end users of the product. Depending on the species, FSC certification can drive the cost of materials up about 20%. Presently, there is not an overwhelming demand for FSC certified material and it is sometimes hard to come by. Northland Lumber in New Hampshire is one of the only places in the region that carries FSC lumber. Home Depot is the other local dealer that carries FSC certified materials. The next time you are buying a piece of molding from Home Depot, take a close look at the bar code label and you will see the FSC logo.

As for my kitchen project, I am in the midst of building the cabinets right now. The Woodstalk panels are easy to work with, lighter than MDF and particleboard and give my shop that farm fresh wheaty smell. There is no difference between FSC lumber and non-FSC lumber except for cost and availability. An FSC certified cherry tree looks and machines the same as a non-FSC tree. Being green has added about 10-15% to the cost of the kitchen job and is money well spent from my client's point-of-view.

If you want to be green and healthy on your next project you might want to consider using some of these products. I am sure there are others out there and would encourage you to use them in the future. Only when the demand is high enough will these products become more readily available.

For more information on the Forest Stewardship Council or Woodstalk, follow the links below:

www.fsc.org

www.dow.com/bioproduct/press/articles/wsfboard.htm

www.columbiaforestproducts.com



Membership



Japanese bath house

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

Our meeting at the new AstroArts Woodworking Cooperative (100 Tainter Street) in Worcester is on the third floor in the coop shop area.

The directions are as follows:

Take Rt. 290 West to exit 11 (Rt 122/122A). Take the ramp down and under the highway and loop around onto Rt 122 North (Southbridge Street) which again goes under the highway. Go about 1/3 mile under a railroad bridge and at the next light turn left onto Hammond Street and take the second left (which is just past an building overpass). Follow that street into the industrial complex which is 100 Tainter Street. There will be a door on the right side of the street which will take you up the stairs to the shop.



Officers and Board Members

President:	Steve Olesin	steve@creatiere.com
Vice President	Bill Karp	karpwoodworks@verizon.net
Secretary	Peter Wilcox	snowmole@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Frank Woolley	frankwoolley@hotmail.com
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	John Nitzsche	jknitz@comcast.net
Membership	Phyllis Jaffee	pgjaffee@29designs.com
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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

Deep Relief Carving with Matthew Dworman and Clive Hamilton

Wooden boats with Dick Condon

Sharpening clinic: Flat edge tools with Peter Wilcox

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

Sprayed and Polished Piano Finish with Pat Everett

Tentative-Buying hardwood lumber

Photographing Woodworking Projects with Paul Ruggerio and Bill Karp

Annual meeting and BBQ at Phyllis Jaffee's house

Where:

51 Shattuck Street, Pepperell, MA

11 Wingate Lane, Acton, MA

Astro Arts
100 Tainter Street, Worcester, MA

74 Apple Tree, Fitchburg, MA

11 Baypath Drive, Boylston, MA

Powderhouse Shop
574 Boston Ave
Medford, MA

69 Norman St Everett

Downes and Reader, Stoughton, MA

46 Brookview Rd
Boxford, MA

4 Deerslayer Lane
Westborough, MA

When:

Sept. 10

October 8

November 12

December 10

January 14

February 11

March 11

April 8

May 13

June 10

SEPTEMBER 2005

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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