



# NEWSLETTER

[www.emgw.org](http://www.emgw.org)

September 2005

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## Message from the President

Welcome back to our woodworking community. Summer has been trying for all but the air-conditioned few. Those that built furniture last winter are sure to know if they left enough clearance around those drawers!

Notice the results of the membership questionnaire later in the newsletter. Furniture and cabinet making are the greatest interest in our guild followed by tools and finishing. We will try to further your knowledge in those pursuits with our upcoming meetings.

As we enter the active woodworking season, the guild will start off the year with a visit to a local supporter and purveyor of the Japanese style of woodworking and tools. Harrelson Stanley, a Japanese trained woodworker and owner of Hiraide America, has invited us to their unique environment to listen to an introduction to Japanese tools as he shares with us the logic and usefulness of the Japanese way of woodworking. He even promised to allow us to try out some of the tools and offered a 10% discount to meeting attendees.

This will also be a public meeting. We are submitting press releases announcing our first meeting of the year in local papers so we may have some new faces gathered around us. As usual, our meeting will start at 9 AM with coffee and donuts while the newspaper announcements are declaring a 10 AM start. This will give us time to catch up on old friendships before the official presentations. I encourage all of you to welcome the new faces around you and introduce yourself. First impressions are lasting impressions. We will have guild membership flyers available to anyone interested.

We look forward to your greater involvement as well as attendance.

Steve Olesin

## Minutes from June meeting

Our last meeting of the woodworking year was held at Chris Kovacs' shop in Groton, MA where after the traditional coffee and donuts social hour, Chris led off with a discussion of vacuum clamping.

Chris demonstrated a foot pedal activated clamping system that allowed him to use both hands for positioning and working on clamped piece. A right angle clamping jig made of scrap Corian, gasket material (to seal the vacuum area) and some vacuum hose fittings, was used to demonstrate alignment of cabinet panels for pocket screwing.

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*Furniture building and cabinet making were ranked highest by our members in the recent survey.*

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To demonstrate the amount of pressure bond produced, Chris clamped the jig to his 7-foot workbench and picked the top off of the stands. He suggested uses other than setup clamping like using a jig with fence attached to use as a guide in cutting large stock or template routing.

Frank Woolley followed Chris with a show and tell discussion about hand cutting dovetails. Frank displayed a splayed front drawer prototype for a Bombe chest he is building. He emphasized the simplicity of dovetail cutting – cut one half of the joint first, align that half with the other board and mark the intended cuts. Even at splayed angles, the cuts are straightforward. One word of caution was make sure your 90 degree cuts are indeed square of the joint will fit poorly.

Chris then described the Leigh Dovetail jig's use giving the pros and cons. A big plus is once everything is set up just the way you want it, you can pretty much go into high volume production. The negatives were that setup time can range in the 2 hour per setup time frames – so if making a graduated chest of drawers, the jig will cost an enormous amount of setup time in relation to actual cut time. Besides time, the \$400 price tag and something in the range of another \$100 for bits makes the jig an expensive alternative to learning hand cutting of joinery.

A couple of members attended the plane-making course conducted by Peter Wilcox last weekend and spoke about their marvelous experience. Bob Frawley expressed great admiration for Pete's teaching style and knowledge and showed his beautiful wooden Krenov style plane made of Jatoba. Dave Landers displayed his plane made in the Japanese style as a pull plane.

John Nitzsche next set up his laptop computer to give a visual demonstration of the new web site improvements. He talked about the forum, which can be used as an archive of discussions of interest to the whole membership. He then gave an open offer to the members to submit materials to allow him to create member web pages as a low cost service to especially our professional members.

The web site discussion led to a general conversation about using computers in woodworking. Differing points of view were shared with great enthusiasm. This may be a candidate topic for a special interest group.

The last activity of the meeting was an election of the officers for the coming year. Chris read the slate of Steve Olesin – President, Bill Karp – Vice President, Frank Woolley – Treasurer, and Peter Wilcox – Secretary. As vote was taken on the unopposed nominations and all were in favor of the slate.

The incoming president presented Chris Kovacs with an embroidered EMGW Past-President hat as a small thank you and enduring reminder of the wonderful leadership he has provided. Next, Pat Everett was presented with an EMGW Founder hat with the gratitude of the entire guild for years of effort in getting this group started.

The meeting was adjourned until September 2005.



## Me and My Front Door

By Chris Kovacs

For those who have been following the saga of my front door, I thought it would be a good time for an update. Despite my best efforts there are still two sheets of weathered plywood covering the entrance to my home. Alas, I have made progress. This summer I made the door, sidelights and doorjamb. Despite being made, these components have yet to me married to each other and finish is still in the can.

The door construction was a fun task that I would like to share. I made the door from quarter-sawn white oak with amazingly tight grain, very even color and beautiful ray fleck patterns. The wood was delivered from Hearne Hardwoods in Pennsylvania. The poor UPS driver made a special stop just to get that pile of 8/4 and 4/4 oak off his truck. The door design is somewhat craftsman style with three vertical flat panels on the bottom section and a 27" by 36" leaded glass panel in the upper section. I made the door using floating tenons that I have found to be a great alternative to a traditional mortise and tenon. In all, there were 24 floating tenons in the door. Each joint had a pair of tenons and the bottom rail had four tenons on each end. Each piece of tenon stock was 3.5" wide and 4" long. Because of the large number of tenons and being an exterior door, I used epoxy for the glue-up. The epoxy gave me plenty of working time and acted as a lubricant making assembly smooth and easy and there was no rushing.

Prior to assembly, all parts were sanded and stopped chamfers were applied to all edges. I like the look of a chamfer stopping about 1.5" from the end of each stile and rail. The rounded part of the chamfer created by the router bit was chiseled flat providing a nice detail and another reflective surface.

The sidelight frames were made in a similar fashion from mahogany since they will be painted and will be installed in the frame soon. The leaded glass is being made by Pompei & Co. of Medford and will be installed in a few weeks. I am also waiting on hardware and hinges which seem to be taking a very long time to arrive.

Besides the door, the sill was the most complicated part of this project. The sill is actually made from two pieces, slopes nicely and will hopefully provide me with a weather tight entrance. It is made of white oak. The sill design was by Deb Butler of Enduring Wood Products.

With luck and constant pressure from my wife, the door jamb and sidelights should be installed very soon and the door will swing freely from its hinges as soon as the UPS guy is willing to come back to my house.

## Membership

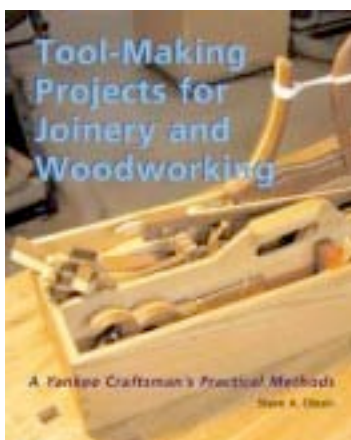
Well, it is that time of year again. As we start our 2005-2006 season, I am reminding all of you to please pay your yearly dues in a timely fashion. The dues are \$40 per year and that money helps the guild provide the refreshments at meetings and honorariums for guest speakers. We will be having a BBQ 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](mailto:steve@creatiere.com) or call (978) 635-9570.

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*Remember to renew your Guild membership to continue receiving the newsletter.*

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*The cover of Steve Olesin's new book due out soon.*

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## The Next Meeting

Sophisticated Japanese tools are becoming popular with American woodworkers due to their excellent handling and cutting characteristics. Attend an open guild meeting where we will hear from Harrelson Stanley, a Japanese trained woodworker, who will introduce us to a variety of tools and even allow us to try a couple out. They are also offering attendees a 10% discount on tools during the meeting.

The meeting will be from 9:00 AM to around noon, Saturday September 10 at Hiraide America's Shizutani School [www.japanesetools.com](http://www.japanesetools.com) at 51 Shattuck Street, Pepperell, MA. Shattuck Street is just off of Rt. 113 within a few board lengths of Rt. 119.

Directions From Route 495 just North of Rt. 2:

Take EXIT 31 toward GROTON / TOWNSEND on RT. 119 WEST

Groton Center will be approximately 7 miles

Pass through Groton Center and go approximately another 4 miles (past Rt. 111) until you come to Rt. 113

Turn Right onto Rt. 113 then the next left onto SHATTUCK ST.

Once on Shattuck Street proceed about .5 miles - on your right will be a dirt driveway with a boulder marked Shizutani Farm. That is 51 Shattuck Street.



## Officers and Board Members

<b>President:</b>	Steve Olesin	<a href="mailto:steve@creatiere.com">steve@creatiere.com</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	Bill Karp	<a href="mailto:karpwoodworks@verizon.net">karpwoodworks@verizon.net</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	Peter Wilcox	<a href="mailto:snowmole@yahoo.com">snowmole@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Frank Woolley	<a href="mailto:frankwoolley@hotmail.com">frankwoolley@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Board</b>	Chris Kovacs	<a href="mailto:cdkovacs@charter.net">cdkovacs@charter.net</a>
	Phyllis Jaffee	<a href="mailto:pjajfee@29designs.com">pjajfee@29designs.com</a>
	Pat Everett	
<b>Membership</b>	Phyllis Jaffee	<a href="mailto:pjajfee@29designs.com">pjajfee@29designs.com</a>
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## 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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### OCTOBER 2005

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### NOVEMBER 2005

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27	28	29	30			

### 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