



## NEWSLETTER

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

May 2006

### Message from the President\*

By Steve Olesin

**\*This was Steve's final message to the Guild received three days before his death.**

What a great meeting at Downes and Reader Lumberyard in Stoughton, MA organized by our VP Bill Karp. We started off the meeting with coffee and donuts in the main retail lumber bay on a day that promised to only get warmer and never did. After Bill called the meeting to order the nominating committee announced that we were still in need of a Secretary candidate for 2006-07 and to everyone's great appreciation (with applause!!) Jack Murphy declared his candidacy. We are now able to officially declare our full slate of officer candidates for the 2006-07 year.

Frank Woolley – Treasurer  
Bill Karp - Vice President

Jack Murphy - Secretary  
Steve Olesin – President



*One of two Mahogany and lacewood boxes designed and built by Guild members to hold the remains of Steve and Jane Olesin.*

Please join in our guild's thanks to our nominating committee, John Nitzsche and Phyllis Jaffe. Our election will be held at the June annual meeting and BBQ.

We also announced two candidates for our community service project proposal. One was a Westford church parish house needing a kitchen update and the other was furnishings for a new childcare/education center on the Mount Watchusett Community College campus. We agreed to learn more about both and got a good number of members to raise their hands indicating interest in helping. More on that next month.

After the business meeting, we were given the executive tour of the surprisingly large Downes and Reader complex hosted by Ed Reader and his lumber foreman, Paul. Their retail lumber area is loaded with a large variety of domestic and exotic species plus they have a policy of allowing boards to be cut off as long as 8 linear feet of board is still left. Great for when you only need a small quantity.

Our May meeting will be in Boxford at the shop of Paul Ruggerio where we will discuss photographing your woodworking projects. For those interested in publicizing work or wishing to enter competitions, this is almost as critical a skill as building things in wood. Come and learn how to put your best foot forward while showing off those woody legs.

Make sawdust - Steve

## Steve Olesin

By Chris Kovacs

It was three and a half years ago that Steve Olesin first showed up to a Guild meeting. This was the meeting where Pat Everett finally said either someone step up and be President or this is the final meeting. That was when I raised my hand and began my three years as President of the Guild. Within a couple of weeks of that first meeting, I got a call from Steve wanting to meet with me and talk about being a professional woodworker and how the guild could benefit the professionals. Steve was recently retired and he was going to be a professional woodworker. He saw the guild as a great venue for an up and coming professional woodworker and spent the next couple of years improving his craft and plotting his course in the world of woodworking. Steve was very meticulous, likely stemming from his engineering background, and he planned things to the minutest detail and wrote everything down. He was constantly bringing me his ideas for how he was going to succeed as a woodworker and he slowly ticked the items off his list.

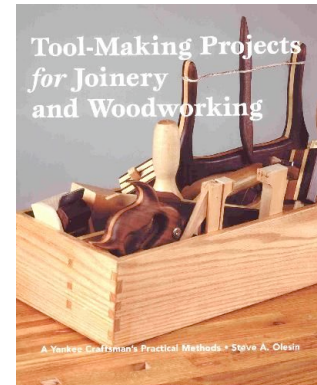
Steve immersed himself in his newly adopted career. Unlike most of us, Steve saw being a woodworker as more than just a person who makes saw dust. For Steve, being a woodworker meant more than just building objects. He wanted to write, teach and bring the craft to the masses. He made numerous pieces that covered a broad range of woodworking: guitars and other stringed instruments, carved chairs, modern style tables,



woodworking tools and the most interesting piece has to be this female-legged table to the left. Steve even wrote a book on making woodworking tools and was in the process of writing a second book. This past year he took over as the President of our Guild and still made time to be an active member and leader in the Lexington Arts and Crafts Woodworking Guild. He was also quite busy with the Guild of New Hampshire Woodworkers. Just this past month Steve had an article in the GNHW publication. I also recently learned that Fine Woodworking had approached Steve about answering some questions for the Q & A section of the magazine. He was teaching at the Worcester Center for Crafts, Canterbury Wood Days and Assebet After Dark. Steve was definitely immersed in the world wood. He may not have been selling many of his pieces but was certainly making a strong contribution to woodworking and his presence will be missed.

When Steve took over the Eastern Massachusetts Guild of Woodworkers, he had the goal of improving the guild by increasing its membership and moving to guild to a more participatory format. Steve wanted the members to be as excited and into woodworking as he was. He saw the future of the guild being led by individuals working together to make woodworking exciting for everyone and the guild beneficial to all. He wanted a mixture of professional and amateurs involved in the guild as each brings a unique perspective to the craft.

It was a pleasure knowing Steve and I have been very thankful for his guild leadership and was excited by many of his ideas for the guild. I was also quite honored to be able to participate in the first ever group project the guild has undertaken. In making the boxes to hold the remains of Steve and his wife Jane, Phyllis Jaffee, Frank Woolley, Peter Wilcox and myself worked together, got to know each other better and learned from each other in exactly the way Steve had envisioned.



## Membership

If you would like further information about the Eastern Massachusetts Guild of Woodworkers, please email Phyllis Jaffee at [pgjaffee@29designs.com](mailto:pgjaffee@29designs.com).



## The Next Meeting

May 13, 2006; Topic: Photographing Woodworking Projects;

Presenter: Paul Ruggiero; Location: Paul's Shop - Boxford;  
Members are encouraged to bring their own pictures/portfolio and camera. Paul also says that parking is suggested in his driveway or along the road only on the side that has mailboxes. Please do not block other driveways or mailboxes.

**Phone:** 978-887-0432

### Directions from Route 95

From the **North or South take exit 52** and head West toward Boxford on Topsfield Road. Topsfield road will end at the little triangle common in Boxford center (Approximately 1.25 miles). Main Street goes off to the left at the beginning of the common. Follow Main Street until you come to a four way stop sign at Middleton road. Continue straight after stopping for 0.7 to 0.8 miles where Lawrence road goes off to your left. In 0.2 to 0.3 miles Brookview Road is on your left. This is just after the Thistle Architectural house on the right side of the road. It is difficult to see the Brookview sign among the trees and it is easier to see the Windrush Farm sign on the left at Brookview Road. Turn left on Brookview and go 0.4 miles to house number 46. Proceed up the long drive way. House numbers are the approximate distance from the last intersection.

Note: If you miss Brookview Road you will cross the town line into North Andover and you will see a Brookview Lane on the right. Turn around and go back on Lawrence to Brookview Road which is easier to see from that direction.

## 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:pgjaffee@29designs.com">pgjaffee@29designs.com</a>
	John Nitzsche	<a href="mailto:jknitz@comcast.net">jknitz@comcast.net</a>
<b>Membership</b>	Phyllis Jaffee	<a href="mailto:pgjaffee@29designs.com">pgjaffee@29designs.com</a>
<b>Webmaster:</b>	John Nitzsche	<a href="mailto:jknitz@comcast.net">jknitz@comcast.net</a>
<b>Newsletter editor</b>	Chris Kovacs	<a href="mailto:cdkovacs@charter.net">cdkovacs@charter.net</a>



## 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  
 Powderhouse Shop visit hosted by Herb Ziegler and Craig Edwards  
 Sprayed and Polished Piano Finish with Pat Everett  
 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

APRIL 2006						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

MAY 2006						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6						
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

JUNE 2006						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

JULY 2006						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	