



# November, 2010

## NEWSLETTER

The goal of the Maine Woodworkers Association is to bring all aspects of woodworking closer to its members and to educate everyone seeking knowledge from woodworkers in Maine. Meetings are times of friendship and learning, where everyone is welcome to share ideas, camaraderie, and of course, coffee.



*Greg Lipton Furniture*

*(Almost) all programs begin at 7:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month  
(Note general time change to 7:00)*

### **Fall Program Schedule**

**Wednesday, Nov 10 7:00 PM**  
**Greg Lipton Furniture, Cumberland, ME 04021**

**Wednesday, Dec 8      Holiday Social Event**

## **Workshop Schedule Last Call – Still Time to Sign UP**

Saturday, Nov 13, 9:00 – 4:30 Veneering workshop with Daryl Keil, maker of vacuum veneering presses and accomplished woodworker.

Location: Dave Sprague's Workshop, No. Yarmouth, ME

Fee: \$50, Payable to Maine Woodworkers Association, or MWA

Contact: Bill Diffenderfer, 655-8546 [william@williamdiffenderfer.com](mailto:william@williamdiffenderfer.com)

Mail course fee to Bill at: 341 Raymond Rd., Raymond, ME 04071

*(Participation in any workshops requires that your dues are fully paid.)*

**Note START TIME CHANGE from 8:00 to 9:00**

**Note: We encourage the membership to bring snacks to share at the monthly meeting!**

### **November Meeting**

**Greg Lipton Furniture** [www.liptonfurniture.com](http://www.liptonfurniture.com)

**Wednesday, November 10, 7:00 PM**

From a small studio in Cumberland, Maine, Gregg Lipton Furniture creates custom contemporary furnishings in exotic hardwood, leather, and steel. Gregg's original design work is sought by interior design professionals, as well as by architects and individuals who appreciate elegant design, fine craftsmanship, high quality materials, and personalized service.

Gregg Lipton Furniture designs and handcrafts a full product line, including dining and occasional tables; casework such as dressers, cabinets, and desks; seating, including chairs, stools, and benches; beds and headboards, and frames.

Since 1987 Gregg Lipton Furniture has received national recognition for design excellence and unparalleled craftsmanship in numerous venues including the Smithsonian Craft Show and in publications such as American Craft, Architectural Record, Elle Décor, Hospitality Design, House Beautiful, New York Magazine, and Town&Country.

### **Directions to Greg Lipton's Shop:**

From Freeport and the North:

I-95 south take exit 15 (Cumberland) , turn left or South on Rt. 1, go ~2 miles & turn left on ramp and then a quick right onto Tuttle Rd. (follow signs to Cumberland Center). Go 2.5 miles to traffic light (Rt.9), stay straight through light (name changes to Blanchard Rd.) Go another 2.5 miles on Blanchard, then turn left on Mill Rd. 1/2 mile on right before crossing small bridge is the driveway to the Mill on Mill Road. Park efficiently in the driveway and beware of Cumberland speed traps.

From Portland and the South:

I-295 north take exit 10 (Falmouth) at Bucknam Rd. At end of ramp turn right on Bucknam and then another right on Rt. 9 at the 2nd light. Take Rt. 9 to Cumberland

Center ~5 miles, at light turn left on Blanchard and go 2.5 miles, then turn left on Mill Rd (first road on left after the Cumberland fairgrounds. 1/2 mile on right before crossing small bridge is the driveway to the Mill on Mill Road. Gray cedar shingles, brown trim, sign on the door. Park efficiently in the driveway and beware of Cumberland speed traps

### **October MWA Meeting: Andy Abello & Amanda Russell**

October 16<sup>th</sup> was one of those well-worn autumn days: chilly, grey, with an occasional drop of rain upon your cheek. Turning onto a forest trail from the main road, you knew immediately that you were about to experience something very special.



As you break through the woods, you are transported back in time with an impressive view of an eighteenth century homestead, several acres of rolling farmland, and a number of outbuildings one would expect in this quintessential New England setting. Opening the door to my truck, I was greeted simultaneously by the warm scent of wood smoke and the rugged yet friendly face of a man clearly at peace with his life. I had arrived at the October meeting of the Maine Woodworkers Association and the home of Andy Abello and Amanda Russell in Wiscasset Maine.

Entering their home, fittingly through the wood shop door, you are met by Howard, the twelve year old, tail wagging director of security. Howard is one of those dogs who if left in charge of the gates of heaven, everyone would get in. The welcome is completed by Andy's wife and partner, Amanda, a beautiful woman clearly capable and at home with the life that she and Andy have fashioned for themselves.

The home was built in the 1790's though some features and artifacts hint at an earlier construction in the 1760's. Lovingly restored with tooling that would have been



consistent with the homes origins, Andy and Amanda have preserved the original moulding and woodwork. The floors are hand planned and polished with life. The centerpiece of this home is a completely reconstructed Count Rumford style chimney that services several hearths. Brick by brick, eight thousand in all, Andy rebuilt the hearths and chimney, which serve this family each day.

Andy's artisanship is evident not only in the impressive restoration, but in the furniture pieces that populate the rooms. A craftsman of extraordinary talent, Andy frequently credits his mentor, Huston Dodge, for his skill.

Huston, now 94, continues his craft and leads “the good life” while lending his skills and friendship to our host.

Much of who Andy is may be evident in the Windsor style chairs he creates. Strong, comfortable, Andy does not sand out the chisel marks created in shaping the seat. Andy feels that evidence of human touch is an important feature that draws clients like Andrew and Jamie Wyeth to his work.



After a time, Andy takes us on safari through the forest that is the lifeblood of Andy and Amanda’s work. Their tree farm won recognition when they were awarded the highest and most prestigious honor of owning and stewarding the state’s 2010 Outstanding Tree Farm. Andy led us to a place where he could show us their forest at various stages of management. He described how the forest, with the tender guidance of those who work it, provides life and bounty through judicious harvesting. Andy believes that “there is a future in locally grown, locally built solid wood products. People are drawn to quality and craftsmanship and will support those who can produce it.”

Arriving back at the homestead, we are welcomed by Amanda and the aroma of freshly baked molasses cookies and hot coffee. Amanda is an equal partner in this “experiment”. A teacher and athlete (marathoner, thank you very much!) Amanda works the land and collaborates with Andy to maintain this wonderful life style. A talented painter, her work and influence fills this beautiful home.

It was difficult to say good-bye that brisk October day. The forest and sky whispered of the harsh season ahead, yet this home, this family who live so close to their land, are at home with whatever Maine Winter brings to their land.

Respectfully submitted,

William Diffenderfer  
October 30, 2010

### **Membership Notes**

The Executive Committee has decided to change to a calendar year membership starting in January, 2011. If you have paid your dues on or after July 1, 2010, then you are good for 2011. Otherwise, dues will be due by January 2011, you will be good for 2011, and everyone will renew on the next January. This will significantly reduce membership administration.

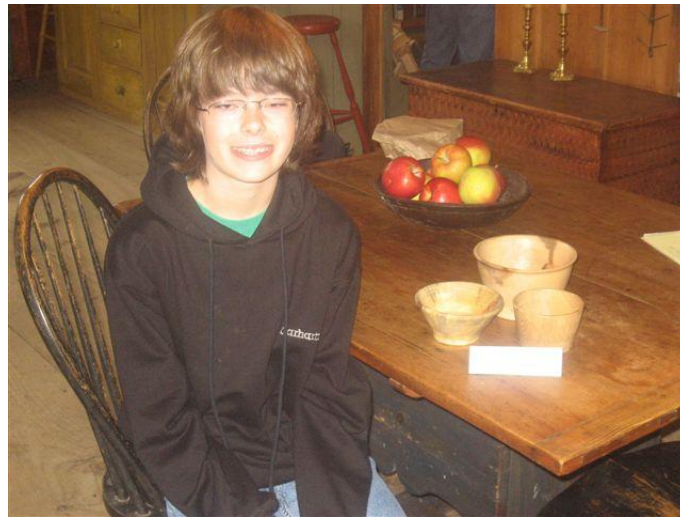
All members whose membership has expired will be notified shortly in a separate e-mail/ mailing with payment instructions. We are also raising dues from \$20 to \$25 in

order to allow us to provide more club events, speakers, and content. We will continue to send out newsletters to expired memberships until January 2011.

We also want to publish, in January, the membership directory to the MWA website to allow for better networking, communication, and membership interests (i.e. period furniture, Windsor chairs, etc. If you DO NOT want your personal info listed on the web site, please send an e-mail or note to [carol@fatandys.com](mailto:carol@fatandys.com)

### **Classified Ads, Pictures of Recent Work, News Events, Etc.**

Please send any and all to Rich Schilling, [rschill@maine.rr.com](mailto:rschill@maine.rr.com).



Caelin Pike  
Youngest MWA Member with impressive turned bowls

#### **MWA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

President	Randy Blake	799-1473	<a href="mailto:rblake3@maine.rr.com">rblake3@maine.rr.com</a>
Vice President	Bill Diffenderfer	655-8546	<a href="mailto:william@williamdiffenderfer.com">william@williamdiffenderfer.com</a>
Treasurer	Andy Walsh	829-3386	<a href="mailto:awalsh@zwi.net">awalsh@zwi.net</a>
Editor	Rich Schilling	772-9908	<a href="mailto:rschill@maine.rr.com">rschill@maine.rr.com</a>
Membership	Dave Sprague	829-6268	

#### **Members at Large**

Chris Becksvort	926-4608	<a href="mailto:chbecks@maine.rr.com">chbecks@maine.rr.com</a>
Alan Bradstreet	688-4728	<a href="mailto:alanbrad@maine.rr.com">alanbrad@maine.rr.com</a>
Rod Howell	846-4044	<a href="mailto:hollandhowell@gmail.com">hollandhowell@gmail.com</a>
Rod Regier	865-6687	<a href="mailto:samrodfp@aol.com">samrodfp@aol.com</a>
Ned Merrick	233-2128	<a href="mailto:ned_Merrick@yahoo.com">ned_Merrick@yahoo.com</a>

Membership form for Maine Woodworkers Association

Name\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

Town\_\_\_\_\_ State\_\_\_\_\_ Zip\_\_\_\_\_

Phone\_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail\_\_\_\_\_

Member information (woodworking specialty, interests, web site, etc. Up to 125 characters, for inclusion in member roster:

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There are 8 – 9 meetings per year in a wide variety of woodworking shops. Annual dues are \$25.00. Please send payment to Maine Woodworkers Association, P.O. Box 425, Cumberland, Maine 04021.