

Maine Woodworkers Association
P.O. Box 425
Cumberland, Maine 04021



www.mainewoodworkers.org

March, 2009

Membership form for Maine Woodworkers Association

Name _____

Date _____

Address _____

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Town _____ State _____

Zip _____

Phone _____ E-

Mail _____

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

There are 8 – 9 meetings per year in a wide variety of woodworking shops. Annual dues are \$20.00. Please send payment to Maine Woodworkers Association, P.O. Box 425, Cumberland, Maine 04021.

MAINE WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

March 2009

NEWSLETTER



Eric Ritter, Morphology Series

Programs:

- **March 11th** **Ritter Furniture, Eric Ritter**
- **April 8th** **Sebago Furniture, Rob Brand**
- **May 13th** **Woodward Thomsen Co., Matt Charlebois**

(Almost) all programs begin at 7:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month

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 the great State of Maine. Meetings are times of fun and learning. We encourage all members to share ideas, camaraderie,

MWA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------|----------|
| President | Randy Blake | 799-1473 |
| Vice president | Bill Diffenderfer | 655-8546 |
| Treasurer | Andy Walsh | 829-3386 |
| Editor | Rod Howell | 846-4044 |

Members at Large

| | |
|-------------------|----------|
| Chris Becksvoort | 926-4608 |
| Alan Bradstreet | 688-4728 |
| Bruce Brennan | 837-1926 |
| Richard Schilling | 772-9908 |
| Rod Regier | 865-6687 |

February Meeting

About twenty MWA members met last month in New Gloucester at bowmaker Craig Warren's shop. Craig showed bows that would have been familiar at the Battle of Agincourt when surnames like "Bowman" or "Fletcher" had literal meaning, to bows that looked like they were made by Hubble telescope manufacturers on coffee break. And we saw them used. Expertly. Neighbors Rick Smith and his son Mike demonstrated, respectively, a single piece recurve bow made by Craig and a modern compound bow with its aluminum frame, limbs, cams, pulleys, and counterweights that make a powerful bow easier to draw. Rick announced they would aim for the edge of the bulls eye, walking their arrows around the perimeter of the inner target circle rather than risk breaking them if aimed one over the other at the center of the target. Observers' skepticism turned to amazement watching the arrows land exactly as promised.

Having captured everyone's attention, Craig described his bows, his production methods, and his patented BowBolt. He showed a longbow made from a plank osage orange, sawn to preserve the same unbroken growth ring along the entire length of its face, then "tillered", or carved to maintain symmetry of the limbs during draw. After other "board bows" of different woods, Craig showed the composite bows that are his specialty. Longbow or recurve, right-hand or left-hand, his bows are stunning laminations of bubinga, figured maple, elm, ebony, or walnut, interlaid with fiberglass or carbon fiber. Laminae are carefully tapered to produce the intended draw weight ordered by the customer. For assembly

in his heated forms he uses Smooth-On epoxy (www.smooth-on.com), which is similar to W.E.S.T. system epoxy but more flexible. To give maximum adhesion and prevent contamination of highly stressed glue lines, he keeps his shop clean, "sinfully" clean, more along the lines of a tool dealer's showroom than a shop quickly vacuumed for other woodworkers to visit.

Craig's BowBolt is a quick-release, precision aligning fastener that permits knocking down a bow into two more manageable lengths for travel. He sells it across the U.S. Two thumb-sized pieces of stainless steel are machined with interrupted threads that first slide, then engage rigidly when twisted 1/4 turn, stopped by a locking pin. The joint at the handle where the halves of the bow meet is nearly imperceptible by sight or touch. In the time it takes to read this sentence the bow can be broken into two segments, making it far easier to transport. Craig patented his BowBolt, but having done so is ambivalent about the benefit of the effort. It's far more enjoyable to have, realize, and sell an idea than potentially be forced to defend it.

We thank Craig for an evening of enthusiasm and information. And we hope no pizza or brownie crumbs remained to foul a glue joint.

Rod Regier

February Announcements:

Alan Bradstreet and Joel Eckhaus will lead a workshop on Found Sound at Haystack during the weekend of 14-17 May. Other courses are offered as well. FMI contact the Maine Craft Association at info@mainecrafts.org or call 564-0041.

The annual trip for tool and machinery maintenance at the Haystack Mountain School of Crafts in Deer Isle will be in late May. FMI, contact Alan Bradstreet, 688-4728.

Treasurer Andy Walsh asked for members to catch up with their payment of dues. This is important if we want to preserve the option of inviting a guest to speak at our June meeting.

There is an effort to resurrect MWA membership cards, with benefits that might include discounts at suppliers like Rockler and Western Tool. FMI, contact Andy Walsh at Fat Andy's, 829-3386

March Meeting

Ritter Furniture 882 Intervale Rd.
New Gloucester . ritterfurniture.com
926-4772

From the website:

Since 1995 Eric Ritter has produced original designs, in wood and metal. A furniture department graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design in 2000, Eric is trained in contemporary design, traditional craftsmanship and sustainable practices. Ritter Furniture began as a custom design-build company, producing one of a kind furniture, cabinetry and sculptural pieces.

From this context the Morphology Series has evolved into our first product line. This series has evolved out of a simple desire to combine wood and steel, art and design. In our chairs thin lines of the stainless steel merge with wood slats, these forms and angles engage many body sizes and shapes to provide comfort and awakening posture. The continuous line, or the circle remain powerful symbols in these designs in form and in material use.

From the south: We are three miles north of Pineland Center on Rt 231 #882 on the right hand side. Land marks: just past the intersection of North Pownal Rd. go a little

further and look for a big American flag pole Illuminated. We are across the street.

From the north : 4 miles south on 231 from the intersection of Rt 100. Look for the big flagpole across the street. #882 on the left.

Maine Crafts Association and The Center for Maine Craft Do you know a Maine furniture maker who could use a special display opportunity? The Maine Craft Association office in the Center for Maine Craft can be viewed through a large picture window and an always open office door We would like to offer Maine furniture makers the opportunity to display samples of a desk and/or conference table in the office. Chairs and benches are also welcome. We will be happy to take special orders of the displaying makers furniture for interested customers. It is important to understand that these pieces will be in daily use, and even taking particular care, will wear over time. If more than one maker offers to display their furniture, we will use individual pieces by different makers and will rotate pieces each year. We recognize that in offering furniture makers this opportunity, we are also asking for a big commitment.

If you are interested in displaying your furniture at the Center for Maine Craft office, please contact the Center General Manager, Todd Bernard at 588-0021 or tbernard@mainecrafts.org.



Shaker Pencil Post Beds by Craig Dietrich

