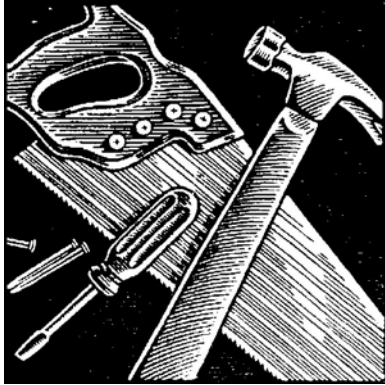


Maine Woodworkers Association  
P.O. Box 425  
Cumberland, Maine 04021



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

**May, 2010**

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 \$20.00. Please send payment to Maine Woodworkers Association, P.O. Box 425, Cumberland, Maine 04021.

## MAINE WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

### May 2010

# NEWSLETTER



*Gary Kokx*

### **Programs:**

**May 12**      **Gary Kokx**

**June 9**      **Woodworking Vendor Fair & Pot Luck @ Fat Andy's 6:00 p.m.**

*(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 Maine. Meetings are times of friendship and learning, where everyone is welcome to share ideas, camaraderie, and of course, coffee.

#### **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

## **April Meeting**

On April 14 about a dozen MWA members visited MR Brewer Fine Woodworking in Portland, joining Rusty Brewer, his sons Jeffrey and Matthew, and several shop associates for a discussion and tour of their 12,000 foot production shop. Pat, Rusty's wife, also works in the office (but must have had the night off!). Started in 1987, they have been in their current space for almost 20 years (the old NT Fox building) where they operate their cabinet shop and construction business.

With 19 employees, 4 work in the office, and the rest are about equally split between the remodeling/building business (outside) and the shop (inside). Office work includes estimating, bookkeeping, and drafting/design work. From their website:

“M.R. Brewer has invested in the best equipment, technology and people to produce a product that we can all be proud of whether it is building a new home, renovating or making custom cabinetry and millwork.”

Gradually they improved the site they are in by moving and enlarging the spray room and adding a grinding area for knives for their molding machine. They have recently installed a CNC machine which they use for their cabinet production as well as accepting outside work for other cabinet/woodworking shops. Other shop equipment includes a vertical panel saw, edgebander, jointer/planers/bandsaws, and specialty equipment for making dovetail boxes, cabinet doors, and beaded face frames. Their spray room is fully equipped with proper ventilation and their spray operator is trained annually in new techniques including oil, latex, and laquers. They have an “arcmaster”

clamping unit for making radius jambs, and a vacuum bag system for curved panels.

Having the in-house capacity to mill almost everything for their remodels allows M.R. Brewer to build, finish, and install without using outside resources. Rusty indicated that this current economy has been hard in that customers are shopping carefully and the business must adapt to meet the needs of the customer. He also noted that personalized service and careful work have allowed them to be successful even in these difficult times. As Rusty said “you are only as good as your last job” – as part of a small community quality work is paramount to success.

Many thanks to Rusty and the M.R. Brewer crew for showing us around and demonstrating the various equipment in the shop.

*Richard Schilling*

## **May Meeting**

The May meeting will be held at the home/shop of Gary Kokx, 48 Drew Rd, South Portland. Gary is a retired dentist, and has been an active woodworker for over 35 years, with primary interest in 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century furniture. Recent work includes two Pembroke tables for his daughters, and his current project for them is a pair of 18<sup>th</sup> century English knife boxes.

Gary is a talented woodworker, with a number of his pieces in his home, and photos of other work. Hope to see you there, should be a great meeting.

*Randy Blake*

### **Directions:**

From Portland, cross the Casco Bay bridge, continuing through the red light in S. Portland onto Broadway. After the next set of lights move into the right lane. Look for signs for Cottage Road and Cape Elizabeth and Fort

Williams and bear right onto Cottage Rd by the S.Portland **Library**. Continue on Cottage past the First Congregational Church, DiPietro's Market, Portland Players Cape Theatre, and Drillen's Hardware Store. Just before crossing into Cape Elizabeth take a left onto Woodbury Street. At the T junction of Woodbury St and Preble turn right onto Preble, then take the second left onto Drew Road. #48 is about a third of the way down on the right. 799-0723.

If you miss the left turn onto Woodbury St continue past the Irving station on your left and take a sharp left onto Preble St and then a right onto Drew.

## June Meeting

Plans for the June 9 Vendor Fair are taking shape

- Fat Andy's 6:00 p.m.
- Vendor Fair: we are inviting a variety of vendors that supply or service woodworkers here in southern Maine; i.e., hardware & finishing suppliers, shop supplies, sharpening vendors, turning vendors, finishing shops, woodworking schools, tool suppliers, etc.
- Area for member tool swap sale
- Display area for members work
- Pot luck dinner
- For questions or suggestions for vendors, please contact Bill Diffenderfer, 632-2482.

**Haystack 2010** A group of woodworking volunteers will be at Haystack on May 17 and 18 to help get the school ready for the summer season, but there is still room for more. To date we include Bill Clifford, Rod Howell, Craig Dietrich, David Boyle, Charlie Schriber, Alan Bradstreet, and tentatively, Chris Becksvoort, Bruce Brennen, Randy Blake, and

Andy Abello. A nice get-away at a great location with like minded friends. And always very gracious and grateful hosts. Call me at 688-4728 or e-mail me at [alanbrad@maine.rr.com](mailto:alanbrad@maine.rr.com) if interested.  
*Alan Bradstreet*

## MWA Survey

The MWA executive committee has prepared the survey below to determine how to enrich the Maine Woodworkers Association by offering new meeting formats, more education, more speakers, attracting more members, etc. Please take a few minutes of your time to click on the link below and take the survey. This will help us get to know the interests of the MWA membership and design opportunities to grow the club.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CDMQDSC>

If clicking on the above link does not work, copy and paste the link into your browser.

## MWA Members Web Opportunities

MWA members now have two FREE options to promote your woodworking, whether hobbyist or pro.

- 1) Via the MWA Website: You can have a listing of several pictures, contact info, and a link to your own personal website if you have one.

How: Contact Bill Diffenderfer ([bill@williamdiffenderfer.com](mailto:bill@williamdiffenderfer.com)) and he will walk you through the process

- 2) Via the mainefurniture.org website – see note below

How: Contact Mark McKelvey at [mark@mainefurniture.org](mailto:mark@mainefurniture.org)

Both of these websites are independent, but are linked to each other. They each serve a distinct

audience which may overlap at times. It is available to each member and are both free.

### **About Maine Furniture.org**

Mark McKelvey presented at February's meeting about his new venture, [Mainefurniture.org](http://Mainefurniture.org). Rather than re-building his shop which unfortunately burned down last year, he has decided to focus his energy on creating a window into the world of Maine-based woodworking organizations, manufacturers, retailers, and custom furniture makers.

Via the [mainefurniture.org](http://mainefurniture.org) website, Mark is offering any woodworker in the state of Maine a free listing which can include a brief bio of you and your work, several pictures, contact info, a link to your website (if you have one – not required), and even videos. Eventually he would like to attract advertising sponsorship to the site to pay for the site expenses.

In addition to the visible front-end of the site, Mark is working with local and state governments to link [mainefurniture.org](http://mainefurniture.org) to their websites to improve site visibility and increase web search engine success for all of those listed on the site.

The MWA has endorsed and supports Mark's efforts with [mainefurniture.org](http://mainefurniture.org). We encourage MWA members to take advantage of the free listing option. Here is a summary of Mark's mission and contact info:

### By Mark McKelvey

[www.MaineFurniture.org](http://www.MaineFurniture.org) is a non-profit corporation created by Mark McKelvey, his brother, Nathan McKelvey, and former Maine State Representative, Stan Moody of Manchester. After a fire in 2009 destroyed Mark's furniture making business in Gardiner, he pledged to commit his energies to promoting quality furniture makers and woodworkers in Maine and to brand "Maine

Furniture" just like "Maine Lobster" and "Maine Blueberries" have been branded over the years.

Maine Furniture's mission is promoting the world-class woodworkers in Maine using the latest internet marketing strategies involving Community Based Marketing (CBM). CBM is a system of building relationships between local and state governments and local businesses using non-profit organizations as the vehicle to drive traffic to their websites.

We encourage municipalities to show their appreciation for the people who chosen to operate a business in their city or town, by listing them on their website. We hope that all municipalities here in Maine will realize the importance that their .GOV website has in affecting their local businesses' rankings in search engines such as Google.

For your free listing on Maine Furniture, please visit [www.MaineFurniture.org](http://www.MaineFurniture.org) and click the "Please Register Here" link. In the Inquiry Box, indicate that you are a woodworker and would like a listing.

Thank you very much,

Mark McKelvey  
[www.MaineFurniture.org](http://www.MaineFurniture.org)  
mark@mainefurniture.org  
283 Water Street. Suite 2a  
Gardiner, ME 04345  
207-841-7361