

Guild of Maine Woodworkers Inc.
Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, January 21, 2020

ATTENDANCE: Members included Wes Sunderland, Pat Sunderland, Jim Hanscom, David Redden, Gordon Swenson, Bob Kearney, Barbara White, Susan Chandler, Steve Libby, Stig Ammentorp.

Also in attendance were two potential new members, Ken King and Paul Thomas.

Opening: The January monthly meeting was held at Wes Sunderland's shop in West Baldwin. We enjoyed sandwiches, chips and cookies and good conversation prior to the meeting.

Wes called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

Old Business: As a follow-up to December's business meeting, Wes had talked to Jim Hanscom about continuing as Vice President. Jim agreed to continue as VP. All members approved.

New Business: Wes introduced Steve Libby, who recently joined our guild, and Paul Thomas and Ken King who are considering membership. Steve has a background in building houses. Paul makes furniture and does historical home rehabs. Ken lives in Bridgton and is a woodworker as well.

Show and Tell:

Susan:

- **Spline Box:** Susan presented a spline box she made and explained the challenges she encountered in making the splines. She made a saddle jig on the band saw to cut the cantered lid.

Wes:

- **Mallet:** This was made like the one Gordon shared with the guild at December's meeting.
- **Awl handle:** Wes wanted a flat side on his awl so tried cutting on the table saw. It didn't work and damaged the handle so he's repairing it by turning a new handle.
- **Flattening Rough Wood:** Wes demonstrated how to flatten rough cut wood using hand planes. After first determining the side of the board to be flattened, mark the areas where the wood needs to be removed. Wes recommends using a #6 or #7 Scrub Plane which allows a large amount of wood to be removed at once. Cut at a slight diagonal to

the grain. Switch to a Smoothing Plane for final planing. Wes uses Winding Sticks to measure flatness. Once the board has a flat face, run it through a planer to establish thickness.

- **Sharpening Demo**: Wes showed three methods for sharpening plane blades and chisels: grinder, sandpaper and stones.
 - **Grinder**: If you need a grinder, he suggested purchasing one with a light. Dip blades/chisels in cool water periodically while grinding to prevent them from overheating. Wes purchased an aftermarket tool rest for his grinder as the ones that came with it were not very good.
 - **Stoning**: Various types of stones can be used to sharpen. Wes prefers polycrystalline diamond stones at least 10 inches long. He does not like the diamond stones with a grid on the surface as they seem to wear down quicker. Oil stones can be used. These should be stored in kerosene when not in use. Water stones are another option. Wes uses ceramic stones on final sharpening of his carving chisels.
 - **Sandpaper**: This is a decent method of sharpening. Plate glass makes a solid, flat surface for the sandpaper. Sticky backed sandpaper can be used or spray adhesive. Wes buys rolls of sticky backed sandpaper from Lie Nielson.

The four factors to good planning include: Flat surface; sharp cutting edge; good chip breaker; and a close opening between the blade and chip breaker, which should be approximately 1/16 inch.

The process requires first sanding the back face flat. Wes starts with 220 sandpaper. Flatten the back just where cutting action is. To sharpen the front bevel, Wes uses a honing jig to determine the right angle of bevel. The chip breaker should be stoned until shiny.

Gordon:

- **Cooper Birdhouse**: Gordon presented two cooper birdhouses he built from plans in Woodsmith Magazine No. 130, August 2000. One he left with a rough surface to provide a rustic look. The other one he took up a notch and made the roof out of a block of poplar and walnut which he glued up and then turned on his lathe. He added a finial to the top. It's so beautiful he keeps it indoors, hanging near his mantle.
- **Sharpening**: Gordon uses water stones for sharpening plane blades and chisels. The system he uses is outlined in Fine Woodworking Magazine July/August 2010. It's titled "The Perfect Edge" and written by Ron Hock.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Barbara White, Recording Secretary