

Raw Hide Gazette

"Without question, the Raw Hide Gazette is by far the best and most informative and comprehensive Guild publications of all of them! You are to be commended for your very fine and professional efforts. Keep up the good work. With admiration"
/signed/
Al & Ann Stohlman, December 1997

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Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op

December 2014

Tree Bark Carving

Hide Highlights

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**Next Meeting on
Sunday November
9th at 1:00 PM**

*Meet at The Cedar Grange Hall
No. 534 at Maple Valley
(See last page for map
& directions)*

The November demonstration, by Paula, was on tree bark.

Bark is the outer, protective layers (skin) of trees, woody plants, and shrubs. It is composed of two layers, the inner, which is alive, and the outer, composed of dead material. Beneath the bark is the cambium layer, which is the trees circulatory system which circulates all the nutrients and other materials that are necessary for the plant's survival. As the tree grows it expands in diameter. The inner bark grows with it, constantly growing new cells at its inner surface, as the outer surface dies. As the tree expands, the bark splits or peels off. Its



An example of tree bark carving by Paula.

function is to protect and insulate the plant from ravages of time, heat, sun, cold, wind, rain, ice, snow, fire, insect or animal damage, diseases or other pests.



Another piece by Paula.

While it protects the plant, it also can be the home of many other plants, such as moss, lichens, and any other plant which can find root in the accumulation of dirt and other plant material, as well as many insects and animals.

Trees grow in different climatic zones which are determined by weather conditions and altitude. Local examples of this are the fir and hemlock which are on the west side (wet) of the Cascade mountains the pines which are on the east side (dry). Bark has been used by people for many centuries for many reasons. Just a few of these are shelter, clothing, masks, medicine, spices, canoe making, rope, resin, surfaces for painting and map making, and decorations. Especially interesting for us as leather workers, is that an extract, tannin, is used in the tanning of leather. Some trees, because of their colorful, peeling, or textured bark are used as focal interest points in gardens and parks. Another special use tree bark is cork, which is used in many applications. While it is not very

Hand Sewing Leather

nutritious, the inner layers of bark have sustained many people in



Bristlecone pine.

times of famine or survival conditions.

If the bark is stripped from the woody surface, that portion of the tree may die. Bristlecone pine is a very good example of this. They may be several thousand years old, and part of them dead, and other parts alive. Juniper is another example.

Information and photos of bark can be looked up on the internet. Al Stohlman's book *Pictorial Carving Finesse* also has basic instructions.



Douglas fir

For the carving, make sure that the tree/tree bark that is going to be carved is appropriate for the setting. Assemble the necessary tools, which may include maul, bevel punches, backgrounders, swivel knife with straight, beveled, and



Juniper bark

filigree blades, scalpel, dividers, various modelers, embossers, stylus, tweezers, under cutters, lifters, bone folder, hair blades, and an awl.

After the pattern is transferred onto the cased leather, begin by cutting the exterior lines of the bark/tree with the swivel



Elm after woodpeckers

knife. Bevel these lines to give separation from the rest of the scene. Using varying depths of cuts, use the swivel knife to cut the larger knot holes, gouges, limb stubs, splits and other details. Other lines can be drawn in with a stylus or punched in with bevellers or punches.

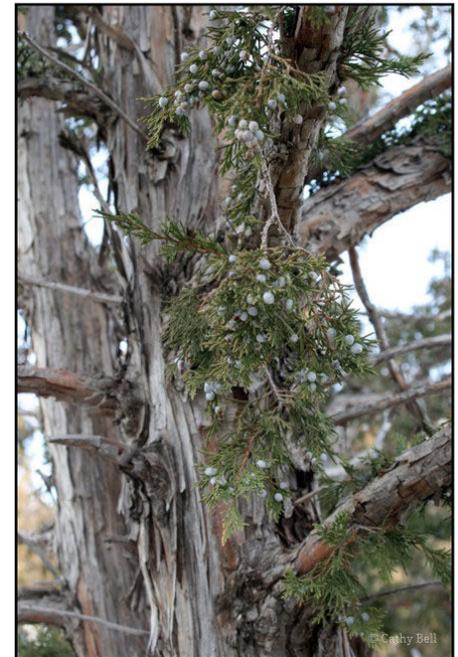


Peeling bark



Lifting edge of bark after undercutting

Shaping is then done with modelers, scalpels, bevellers, and whatever else you find useful. Annual growth rings can be put in with a hair blade. Textures can be added using the tips of filigree blades in the swivel knife, scalpel blades, scratch awl, sewing needles stuck in a handle, or



Juniper bark and berries

sandpaper. In some areas embossing may be desired. If bark is being peeled back, tweezers are useful in holding the tab back while undercutting. Boles are those areas swelled up around a wound or limb. The bark on those areas is usually much younger than the surrounding bark, and is of a different texture. Knot holes and nesting holes may be punched. A lot of pressure must be used to gain depth in the carving. If hand

pressure doesn't do it, use a mallet and smooth punch or stamp.

There is an enormous amount of information and photographs on line. Build up a file on various trees and their bark. Get out and examine trees in your area and take pictures. Feel its texture. Look for insect and bird damage. Many of the trees sustain various insects which the birds feed on. Others have nutritious nectar flowing in the cambium layer on which the birds feed. Bears and other animals tear at the bark feeding on the insects, inner bark and nectar. A couple of things will become very obvious, they are: There are very few straight lines in nature and nothing is very smooth.

Norm Lynds



Paperbark maple



Ponderosa pine

Workshop Report

WORKSHOP REPORT -
DECEMBER 2014

Workshop Co-Ordinator

For those who are reading this and cannot come to the meeting, the Directors wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2015.

For the December meeting we will be making Christmas Ornaments with Fred Nachbar and he said he would be supplying the cased hex shapes and suggested to bring the following tools:

modeling spoon or
stylist
V407
V412
S742
Ruler

I would also suggest bringing your stone, sponge & water container (in case of drying and needing to re-dampen the leather), 3-D stamps like the cabin, trees, buffalo, etc., also a sky matter and background tool, as well as a swivel knife.

In January we will be making a scalpel holder/sheath with Roger Kaiser. The list of tools and materials needed will be in the next RG.

February's workshop will be on colors, their properties and hues and mixing to obtain custom colors. Paula's friend Karen will lead this workshop. More information on that in January.

Don't forget to bring your wrapped-up gifts for the gift exchange. We will do the workshop first and then enjoy ripping open our surprise gifts.

See you all at the meeting.

Len Madison



Scalpel Sheath/holders

As you might have seen in Len's Workshop Report, Roger Kaiser is conducting the workshop in January on make a scalpel sheath/holder.

Roger came up with this idea a few years ago and make one for the Christmas Gift Exchange and I was lucky enough to get it.

It was a great idea and extremely useful and I consider myself very fortunate to have picked it.



Closed sheaths

Last year I asked Roger if he had any objections if I used his idea a make a couple of the sheaths for the Christmas Gift Exchange. Roger very generously gave his blessing and I made two and they in turn were also well received.

Since then I have had some requestes from members for a workshop on making these. They have two pockets, one for the scalpel handle and one for spare blades.

Since it was Roger's brainchild, I felt Roger would be the best person to do the workshop.



Pockets open, showing storage of blades

I have been to Harbor Freight and found the magnets (3/16ths inch diameter). They come in a tube of 10 at \$2.99 plus tax. I have purchased 10 tubes and will have them at the January meeting for \$3 per tube for anybody that wishes to buy them. If you wish to go to Harbor Freight yourself, that also is good.

The January workshop will be worth attending.

Paula Marquis



Showing scalpel handles and closed pockets

Western Washington (Seattle/Tacoma/Everett)
PSLAC CURRENT SCHEDULE FOR 2014

General Member's meetings are on the 2nd Sunday of each Month unless specified below. 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM approx.

• Meetings held at Cedar Grange Hall No. 534 at Maple Valley General meetings start at 1:00 PM followed by the mini-demos

Breakfast informal get-together locations:

North Breakfast >>> Last Friday of the month at 10:00 AM. Lake Forest Park Town Centre. 17917 Bothell Everett Hwy, Bothell, WA 98012 Bothell Way N, bordered by 170th N. & Ballinger Way N. Meet in the Third Place Books eating area

South Breakfast >>> 3rd Saturday of the month at 8:30 AM. Homestead. 7837 S Tacoma Way, Tacoma, WA 98409 (253) 476-9000

All Day-Workshop Schedule for 2014:

TBA

Dec 14 1:00—4:00 PM Cedar Grange General meeting - Christmas decorations with Fred Nachbar.

Jan 11 1:00—4:00 PM Cedar Grange General meeting - Making a scalpel handle/blade sheath/protector.

Feb 8 1:00—4:00 PM Cedar Grange General meeting - Colors: properties, hues, mixing

Mar 8 1:00—4:00 PM Cedar Grange General meeting.

Apr 12 1:00—4:00 PM Cedar Grange General meeting.

May 3 1:00—4:00 PM Cedar Grange General meeting.

Jun 14 1:00—4:00 PM Cedar Grange General meeting.

Jul 12 1:00—4:00 PM Cedar Grange General meeting.

Eastern Washington (Tri –Cities) Desert LeatherCraft Group (DLG) PSLAC CURRENT SCHEDULE FOR 2014

Tri-Cities Desert LeatherCraft Group Member's meetings are on the 3rd Saturday of each month unless specified below:

- Informal meetings held at Spokane Tandy Leather Factory Store, 1702 North Monroe Street, Spokane, WA 99205 (Call (509) 328-9939 for directions).

Eastern Washington (Spokane) PSLAC East PSLAC CURRENT SCHEDULE FOR 2014

PSLAC East Member's meetings are on the 1st Saturday of each Month unless specified below: 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM approx.

- Informal meetings held at Spokane Tandy Leather Factory Store, 1702 North Monroe Street, Spokane, WA 99205 Contact Ken Bush for time, date (normally the 1st Saturday) & details.

We are members of PSLAC-East (Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-op). The East is because we are East of the Cascade Mountains. We offer classes in leathercraft at the Spokane Tandy Leather Factory store. These classes are free and open to the public. An informational newsletter is sent out prior to each class with a short description of the class, whom the instructor will be and what tools will be needed. We also schedule ad-hoc classes which are announced in the newsletter. To be on our mailing list for class notifications, please send an email (including your full name) to whiterosex@aol.com requesting to be on the PSLAC-East mailing list.

All Day-Workshop Schedule for 2014:

TBD

Ideas for Future classes: Masks, Sporrans, Holsters – w/clip, Embossing, Celtic knot carving, Picture frames, Horse Tack

Ken Bush

White Rose Leather

11923 E. Fairview Ave.

Spokane Valley, WA 99206, 509.294.1883

Did You Know.....?

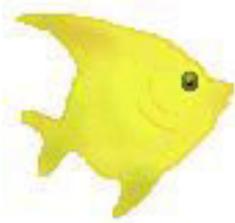
A Word to Our Readers

Please send your tips for "Did You Know ...?". What we'd like are short items on tricks you have discovered while working with leather which might be helpful to your fellow artisans. It could be a type of material or a technique or some other item that you have found useful in your leatherwork and you would be willing to share with others. So if you don't have an article (which we would also gladly accept!) but you may have a tip or trick that you have found works please drop us a line at dblyman@yahoo.com. Please include your name and email address so we can let others know who you are. Thank you. David Lyman, Editor

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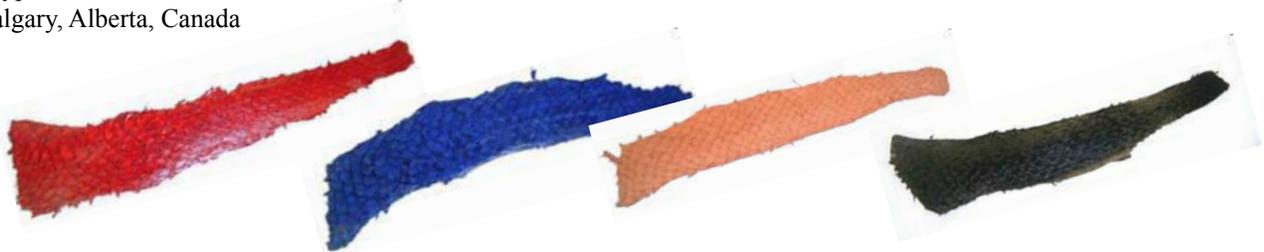
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RawHide Gazette

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Treasurer: George Marquis

Secretary: Paula Marquis

Directors: Ken Erickson, Len Madison, Roger Kaiser, Paula Marquis & Norm Lynds

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PSLAC Membership:

“a” - Internet access to **RawHide Gazette** including Member only area & meeting attendance \$20/year. (1 Person)

“b” - US Postal Mail copy of **RawHide Gazette** including new Member only articles & meeting attendance \$30/year. (1 Person)

“j” — Junior (16 and under) Internet access to **RawHide Gazette** including Member only area and meeting attendance \$10 per year.

All submissions are subject to editing for clarity and length.

All articles submitted must be accompanied by name, address and permission of writer

Advertising Rates

The **RawHide Gazette** offers advertising space to interested parties.

Ad spaces are as follows:

1/4 Page or Business Card.....\$60 USD

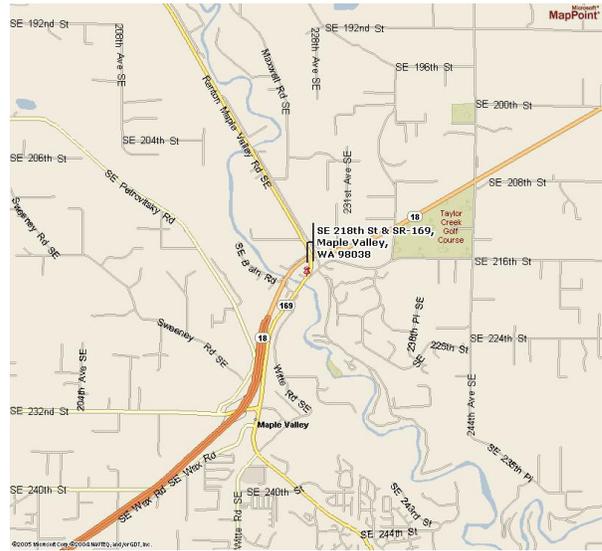
1/2 Page.....\$110 USD

1 Full Page.....\$200 USD

These rates cover a six month time period. PSLAC members are entitled to a 25% discount. Leather companies supporting PSLAC are given free Business Card size advertisement, additional space at regular rates.

The Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op can be found at:

<http://www.pslac.org>



Directions to Cedar Grange #534:

From I-405 take the SR169 exit and proceed toward Maple Valley on the Maple Valley Highway. In about 10 Miles you will reach the SE 216th/SE 218th Street intersection. Turn Right onto SE 218th (the down-sloping hill on the left next to the Maple Valley Market parking lot) towards the big white/gray building next to the bridge (the Cedar Grange). The parking lot is on the first left.

From Highway 18 take the SE 231st, Junction 169, Maple Valley exit. Proceed to the Highway 169 (Maple Valley Highway) junction. Turn North (toward Renton) on Highway 169 and go about ¾ mile until you reach the SE 216th/SE 218th Street intersection. Turn left onto SE 218th (the down-sloping hill on the left next to the Maple Valley Market parking lot) towards the big white/gray building next to the bridge (the Cedar Grange). The parking lot is on the first left.

From Issaquah take Front Street toward Hobart and Highway 18. In about 10 miles get on Highway 18 West heading toward Maple Valley and Auburn. Follow the Highway 18 instructions.

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Seattle, WA 98165
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