

Raw Hide Gazette

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"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

October 2019

Hide Highlights

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(Always room for more articles, tips, ideas or whatever. Just send to stelmack@nwlink.com)

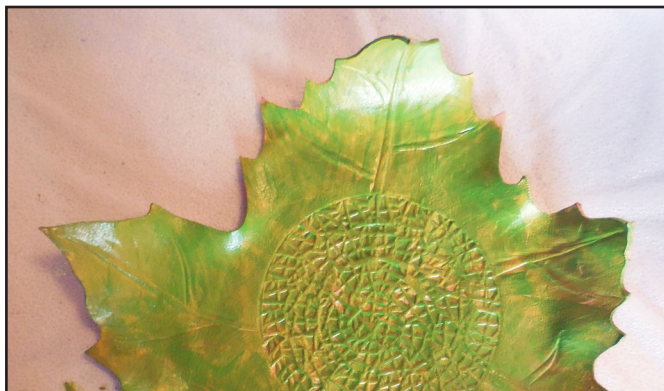
Our PSLAC MISSION is...

To further the enjoyment of leather and to help others learn more about the real joy of leather - working as a group and sharing ideas and knowledge of leather, its uses and how to use it. To pass on this knowledge to others and then have them pass it on to the new members who come later. A fellowship with peers, young and old, expert and non-expert, anyone who has the love of leather.

To show and demonstrate to people outside the Co-Op leather in all forms and try to help them to become interested in leather.

...to share...

time talent, with all others in the Co-Op, especially the young.



Sycamore Leaf Candle Holder Meeting Project

The project for the July meeting was a sycamore leaf candle holder. The patterns were furnished by **Roger**. These were taped to strengthen them and cut out, and traced onto the leather. The veins and outline of the candle were laid out and the piece was cut out. The candle placement and veins were cut with a swivel knife and the candle placement was backgrounded. This was about the limit of work done at the meeting, the project was to be completed at home, and the finishing and coloring to be done at the August meeting

So, here we are after the August meeting and the sycamore leaf candle holder continues.

The July and August project was a sycamore leaf candle holder. **Roger** and **Debby** had attended a class at Sheridan. They furnished the patterns and the leaf was traced onto the thin leather and cut out. The outline of the candle to be held was traced in the middle of the leaf and the veins lightly laid out. To keep wax from melting onto the leather, 3 inch diameter battery candles were recommended. I found mine at the local drug store. The candle location was tooled with your choice of backgrounding tool. This about

ended the session, and the rest of the tooling was to be done at home.

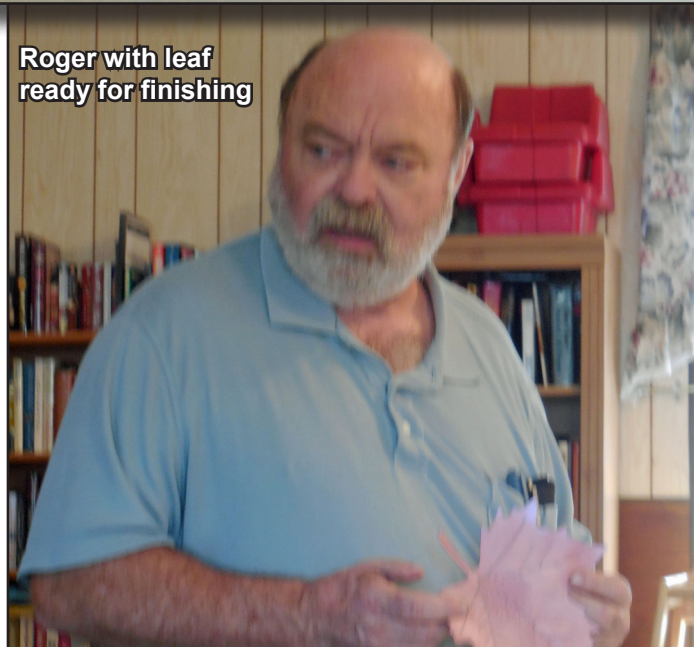
The finishing was done at the August meeting. Acrylic paints were used. Metallic finish adds sheen to its colors. A base coat was put on. Mod Podge matte acrylic sealer was sprayed onto the leaf and hair dryers used to dry it out. A sealing coat must be used between coats of finish to keep each coat from mixing with the previous one. If the paints are dry, Tandy's Satin Sheen may also be used for the sealing coats.

After the first or base coat is applied and sealed, other coats may be applied to make the leaf look how you want it. It can be a fresh green color, or any color from the reds of initial disintegration on to grey, brown, etc.

During the times when the leather is wet, the leaf can be shaped to any degree that you want with the petals of the leaf being twisted, bent, or lifted, however you want. Also, during this time shape the stem rounding it over.

At the end of the meeting the leaves were passed around and photos taken.

Norm Lynds





Capture the Leaf

Fall has arrived with a vengeance here in the Pacific Northwest! Many of you have noticed the beautiful displays of color during the Fall and thought of how to utilize these shapes and colors in your craft.

For the past several years I have been interested in the Fall season leaf patterns and colors. As I researched and experimented with various ways (photography, sketches, copiers, pressing) to retain this beauty and to transfer to leatherwork I found several things that work for me.

First, leaves (and many flowers) have a very short time period to capture the colors. Although the leaf can retain its shape for quite a while the color will generally change to shades of yellow and brown. Pictures can certainly help in this case and close up photos can be taken of one or more leaves to provide a pattern but I use my color copier (in scanner mode) for the following reasons:

A scanner or copier will accurately save the flattened shape and in color

mode will retain the beauty of the original leaf. My copier will provide a JPEG or TIFF image which can be resized and printed to any size I wish. The obvious advantage to this is to make the leaf fit the pattern such as Oak leaves on one side of a wallet and ornamental Maple on the other.

A copier will also allow you to get the back side of the leaf which will often give you a better pattern to trace from since the veins are more pronounced on the back of the leaf. If you copy one side of the leaf, dependent on size, you can turn the leaf over and by placing the print you just made over the leaf can then copy both sides of the leaf on one image.

Another advantage is the ability to easily flip or otherwise manipulate the image by cropping, stretching or squeezing. Many software programs have multiple effects that can elicit very interesting final results for use on leather.

After I've printed the image to use as a pattern, I will often laminate the paper to provide a more durable

pattern to trace from. I've also used food plastic wrap to cover the cased leather, while tracing, to keep my paper pattern from getting soggy.

I often use the color photos to give me the patterns of the color gradations and using dry brush techniques with thinned acrylics or dyes to achieve the results I am going for. Many times I use metallic acrylics (greens, golds, reds) to emphasize the leaf even though the results are not true to life.

I hope this will give you a few hints to go out and get some patterns to use during those long winter months.

-Roger Kaiser



Robb Gray

We needed a video for an Art show in Ballard, WA this last weekend that we were in at the Columbia Bank location. My friend **Will Kutscher**, an amazingly talented photographer put this video together after about 3 hours of shooting and unknown hours of editing. We had it running in a loop for 3 hours during the Art show so I'm thoroughly tired of it :-).. This production turned out great.

Will is the Media Manager (*or something like that*) at **Glazers Camera** in Seattle and he shoots free lance for Filson and some other notable companies. So if you need some marketing stuff, get a hold of him!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YwkQ6-ZtzOc&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR3uiY7fdrzQbwJr2i5_ObuN5VABoQXSMJL7yHaVHwICfox_iBjJ9yftnHk



Robb Gray: Knife maker, engraver, leather craftsman, and a jeweler.

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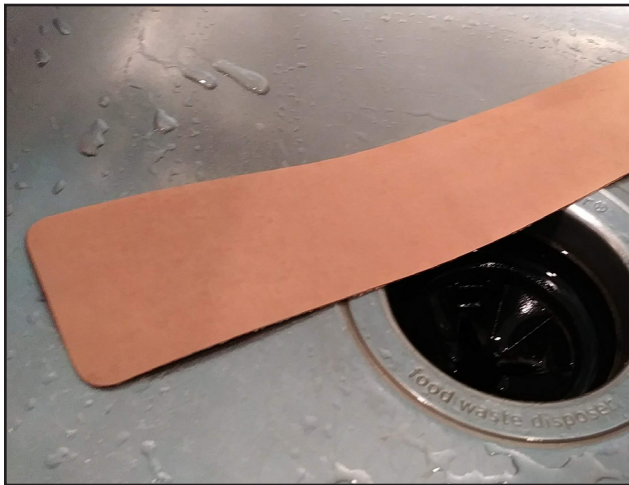
Making Bookmarks by the Dozens

A local Alcoholic Anonymous group is having a weekend study of the basic text of the book “Alcoholics Anonymous” generally known as the “Big

used to call it “quick casing”. I find it works the best for embossing text on leather.

I had previously prepared the lettering for the 2019 bookmarks, so just a little change for the year and the annual indication was needed. When I made the 2019 bookmarks, I embossed the text separately from the circle/triangle, so this time I wanted to speed up the process and do it all in one step.

I have two hardwood 3/4” thick maple frames



Book”. Hence the title of the weekend study: “Three Rivers BigBook Weekend” (“*BigBook*” is their spelling). I made some bookmarks to give as gifts from the organizers for the speakers of the September 2019 event and they were so well received that they ordered some to retroactively send to the 2018 event speakers.

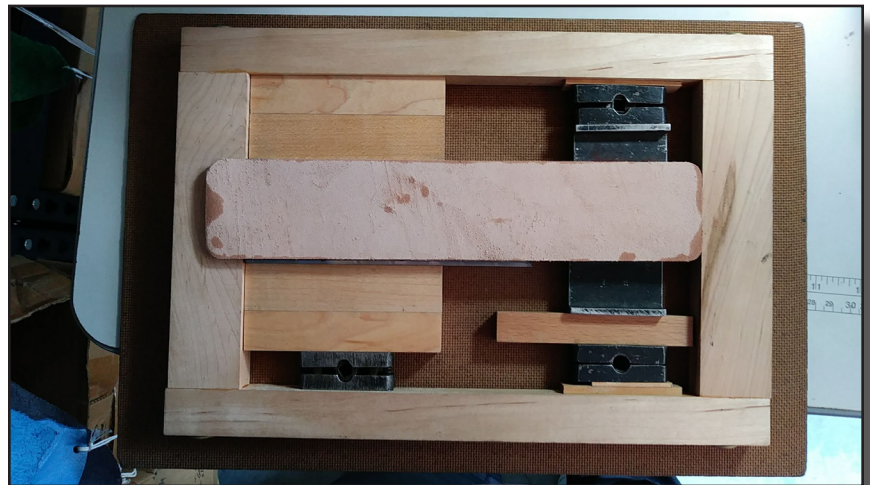
They we cut from some of the 2/3 ounce Tandy vegetable tanned leather sides I picked up at the Pendleton Leather Show last year. They were not pristine sides, but had a little character, much like the members and speakers attending the book study ;-)

Casing the leather was quick and simple, just moved under the running water in the sink briefly and they were ready immediately. **Bill Churchill**





that I constructed by gluing and screwing with construction Torex headed self tapping screws. The initial hole was drilled undersized and the wood glue and screw completed the frame. Since the frame is only 3/4" (0.75") and metal printing type is 0.918" high, only the type gets embossed into the leather. The the construction of the frame is similar to the metal "chase" that printers use using movable type setting, like the old newspapers in the 1800's.



These chases are strong enough to allow expandable "quoins" (*pronounced "coins"*) to exert enough pressure to hold the type in place and with a fiddling, bits and pieces, were used to position and hold the brass circles and the brass underline elements that made up the circle/triangle in place. The brass pieces were also 0.918 inches high.

All that was left was to place the chase in a piece of hardboard, lay the cased leather over the text and circle/triangle, place a piece of matte board over the the leather and put the whole mess under my 4-ton Weaver Mighty Wonder press. The matte board allows for deeper impressions on thinner leather





acrylic matte spray finish to keep from leaving dye marks in the book.

Bob Stelmack
Richland, WA

Since the press area was less than the entire text area, I pressed it twice--once to the right and then the left.

I find that you can "over center" the press which holds the pressure until you release it which makes for even a deeper impression.

(You might be wondering why there is some very rough sand paper "zip-tied" to the handle. That to remind me to keep my hands away from that area as I move the handle all the way back to remove the case. It only took



one finger crushed between the handle and that silver adjustment disk at the top of the "Might Wonder" to come up with this idea.)

The matte board is removed and the leather turned over. Voilà, an embossed bookmark.

After they dry on the desert sun, then dyed with an antique dye, and finished with an



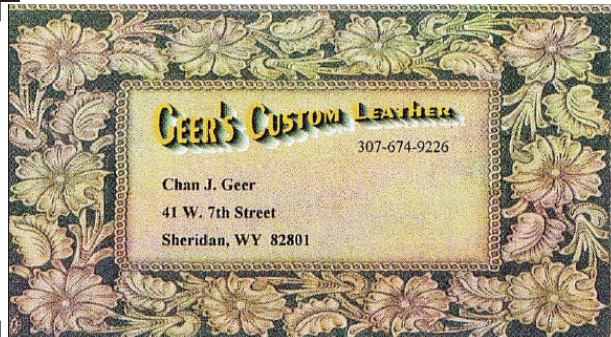


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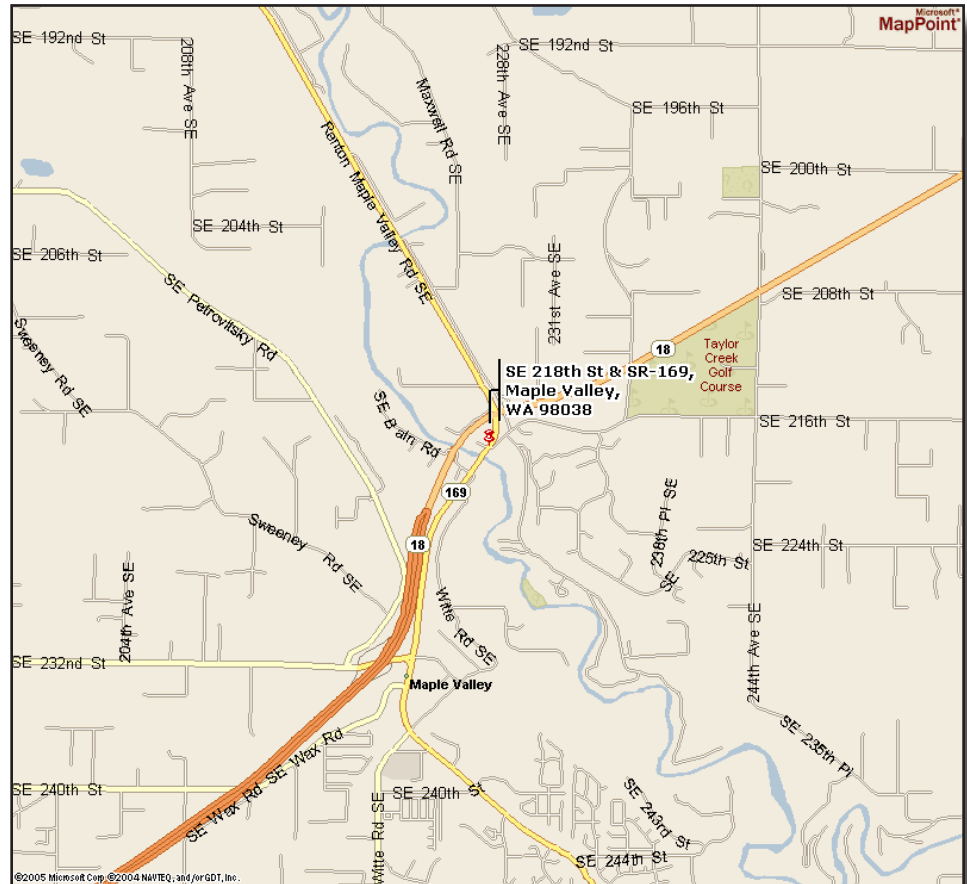
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From I-405 take the SR169 exit and proceed toward Maple Valley on the Maple Valley Highway. In about 10 Miles you will reach the SE 216th/SE 218th Street intersection. Turn Right onto SE 218th (the downsloping hill on the left next to the Maple Valley 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 downsloping 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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