Sweep your own house before you sweep your neighbors!

Dear Fellow Broom Makers,

We hope this edition finds you healthy and happy, and we wish you all the very best year. This past year our country has undergone many changes. Some changes are for the better others are not. With our economy the way it is many people have gone back to a simpler lifestyle. This has renewed people’s interest in broom making.

We enjoy reading the many notes and letters you send us throughout the year. In this issue you will find. A Sweep-In has been arrange by Shawn Hoefer (pg. 5). The BMN is now officially a non-profit (pg. 3). Many people have asked us to move the subscription coupon to the last page. That was a good idea, I don’t know why we didn’t think of that. We have also set up a PayPal account details on page 10. Jay found a really good website to visit (pg. 18). If you have ever had trouble mailing a broom try the hints on page 11.

If you have any questions you would like to ask feel free to contact us at the above address for snail mail, or you can email us at broommakersnews@hotmail.com

The Editors: Joan Fedor & Cheryl Riccardi

VOL. X III 2010

2306 Route 207
Campbell Hall, NY 10916
broommakersnews@hotmail.com
Selected Price List for Craft Broom Artisans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Craft quality raw broom corn:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-lb. Introductory package</td>
<td>$35.00, plus UPS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-lb. boxes</td>
<td>$95.00 ($1.90 per lb.) plus UPS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full bale</td>
<td>$1.80 per lb. (about 225lb./bale)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Processed broom corn:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12” - 14” - 16” - 18” - 20” - 22” Hurl in bales….</td>
<td>$2.44 per lb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Average bale weights from 80–145 lbs., increasing with length of the hurl)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16” - 18” - 20” Insides in bales….</td>
<td>$2.15 per lb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Average bale weights 100-135 lbs., increasing with length of the insides)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broom corn stalks in bales…</td>
<td>$0.85 per lb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NOTE:</strong> Prices are for bales shipped by truck. Add $0.10 per lb. for bales which have to be broken down for UPS box shipments.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broad Broom Knives $10.00 ea.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>String Knives $8.50 ea. *</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuffs $15.00 ea. *</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double point Needles $16.00 ea *</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single Point Needles $10.00 ea</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wire $2.50 per lb. (coils average 15 lbs.) *</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nails $2.50 per lb. *</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotton twine $5.00 ea. *</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dyed hemp twine (various colors) $4.00 ea. and $5.00 * 100 lb. test hemp twine $5.00 ea.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waxed Linen Cord $30.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood handles, all clear lacquered (sold in bundles of 50):</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15/16 x 42 hardwood $.92 ea. *</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/8 x 30 pine $.63 ea. *</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 x 42 hardwood $1.14 ea. *</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4 x 24 pine $.50 ea. *</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15/16 x 42 hardwood sanded only - no lacquer $8.55 ea.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: All prices on above merchandise are “FOB Greensboro, NC.” Check web site for on-line purchasing and other items for sale.

We accept VISA and Master Card.

“Prices are subject to change without notice.”

Attention All Subscribers

We wish to thank you for your continued support throughout the year for the BMN and the broom making trade. When the BMN was first published in 1995, it was unknown. Because of your support we are again able to publish the Broom Makers News at $5.00 an issue. Thank you for your prompt response of the subscription cost. This helps our bookkeeping a lot and our upfront costs. All broom makers on our mailing list will be sent a reminder card in the fall. Please remember to send it back with your five dollar check (made payable to Broom Makers News), so that we can continue to send you your BMN. We now accept PayPal.

We thank you for the understanding in this matter. The BMN is the only printed forum for broom makers of the cottage industry. It is important for broom makers both new and experienced to have this newsletter available to keep abreast of the happenings in the industry.

If you would like to receive the next edition of the Broom Makers News please fill out the form below and send it along with $5.00 (to incur the cost of publishing) to Broom Makers News, 2306 Route 207, Campbell Hall, NY 10916. Thank you for your support. Some broom makers have requested a copy of our mailing list. PLEASE let us know if you would NOT like your address shared with other broom makers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name ____________________</th>
<th>Email ______________________</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address  _________________________________________________________</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can we share your address with others?       _____ Yes        _______ No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(If no box is checked we will assume you want your name shared) (The mailing list will only be shared with other broom makers not outside companies)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Would you like to place an ad with the Broom Makers News?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full page ad is $50.00</td>
<td>Quarter page ad is $15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half page ad is $25.00</td>
<td>Small three line ad is $5.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please make checks payable to Broom Makers News or you may pay through PayPal.
CLASSIFIED

Looking for a broom trimmer. Reasonably priced. Please contact the Editors at broommakersnews@hotmail.com or snail mail at BMN, 2306 Route 207, Campbell Hall, NY 10916

YouTube Videos

Check out these broom makers on YouTube;

The creation of corn brooms in St. Jacobs, Ontario. Hamel Brooms is one of the last corn-broom makers in the country; est. 1908. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BOlnCGTRSb8

This is a demonstration on how to make brooms with Bob Haffly. I found him at the 2008 Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival. IN... http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BwVKrRHDFmg

Making corn brooms on 1880s equipment by Kevin Labude. Kevin makes brooms on his great grandfathers broom machine. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oegaZKqdZsQ


And for those curling enthusiasts:

Old school corn brooms used at College Curling Nationals 2007 by the Marquette University Blue Team (Div. 1). http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DoFI-ITBEBw

To view more clips go to www.youtube.com. Put broom making or broom makers in the search box.

BMN is Now a Not-for-Profit

Since its first edition in 1996, the BMN has continued to be published in a similar manner with only a few minor changes. This year we have taken a large step to insure that it continues as a form of communication amongst broom makers for years to come. After a yearlong process, the BMN is now a 402c not-for-profit corporation in the state of New York. In February 2009 we began, with our lawyers, the process of incorporation. Working in conjunction with the Fordham Law School, Melissa Lardo and Scott Wagner worked tirelessly to help us through this process. We would like to thank them and also Gowri Krishna for all their hard work and patience with our many questions. The Broom Makers News is now a non-profit organization “formed for the purpose of collecting, preserving and sharing the history of broom making for posterity; and educating, connecting and aiding people interested or engaged in practicing or learning the art of broom making.” Starting this year donations to the BMN will be tax deductible under the 503c tax code.

We are also working in collaboration with Sam Moyer to make the “How-To” instructions available to all at one central location. In the future our goal is to create a website dedicated to broom making and for us to have a message board. This is not for at least two years down the road.

The Broom Makers News began because some broom makers had an idea. We welcome any suggestions you may have. ‘Please don’t be shy, we welcome every idea. With these changes we hope to preserve the art of broom making for generations to come."
The Winter Olympics, in Vancouver this year, features Curling as a gold medal event. Curling is a game that has 2 teams or four players each. The teams slide granite stones down an “alley” of ice to a specific target. Brooms are used to sweep the ice in front of the stones to make them slide further. As they sweep they are cutting down on the friction. The less friction there is the further and straighter the stone goes. Brooms were also used to balance the curler as they push the stone at the beginning of each turn.

Curling has its origins in medieval Scotland. Stones have been found with dates dating back to the early 16th century. It is said that weavers used the stone weights from the warp beams on their looms as curling stones. By the 1830’s, Curling was brought to the United States by immigrants. It was mainly played in states near the Canadian border: Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota and New York.

The early brooms used in curling were made of corn or grasses. The handles were made of wood. Over the years the materials may have changed, but its use has not. Now the handles are made of fiberglass, they are lighter and make it easier to use the downward force (sweeping). The brush part is now made from either fabric, hog hair, or horsehair.

Sources used for this article:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Curling
http://www.curlingrocks.net/about-usa-curling.php
http://www.curlingbasics.com/ (they have animations that are great to watch)
Word Play

Many words have more than one meaning. Use these alternate meanings to find the words used in broommaking. (1-14 one point each, 15 & 16 3 points each, Total = 20 points)

1. __________ broom A yellow or white vegetable found on a cob.
2. broom __________ A shield bearer of a knight.
3. broom __________ The moving part of a butter churn.
4. broom __________ To attach firmly; glue.
5. ___________ broom An object which is moved up and down quickly to make noise.
6. broom __________ A woody perennial plant with a main stem.
7. broom __________ A school laboratory equipped for instruction in manual arts.
8. ____________ broom Removed hair from skin with a razor.
9. broom __________ To deal with something.
10. broom __________ To prod, goad or incite to action by repeated gibes.
11. ___________ broom A small wire kitchen tool used for stirring.
12. broom __________ To salt beef lightly in brine containing preservatives.
13. broom __________ To send word by telegraph.
14. broom __________ The turned back hem of a trouser leg.

Three points each for these.

15. ____________broom Notice, observe, understand the meaning of, comprehend.
16. broom __________ The space between the eye and bill of a bird or the corresponding region on a reptile or a fish.

Total = 20 points

Answers on page

Good Old Fashion Sweep In

By Shawn Hoefer

Laffing Horse Crafts
Mountain View, Arkansas

The Ozark Folk Center State Park in Mountain View Arkansas will be the site of a historic gathering of craftspeople honoring the centuries old skill of broom making on Friday, April 23 through Saturday April 25, 2010.

The gathering, a first of it’s kind, has been named the “SweepIn” and will feature some of the most recognized Broom Squires in the United States.

“A lot of well known broom makers have signed up to be a part of this event. They’re bringing broom making styles, stories, and equipment from all over the United States and Canada,” says Shawn Hoefer, artist and broom squire. “Much of the SweepIn will be open to the visitors to the Ozark Folk Center, too. Once people enter the crafts village at the Ozark Folk Center they can view the demonstrations, look at the displays, participate in the talks and even take a class or two. There are some additional fees for some of the classes, though.”

Some of the activities in the works include learning how to make small hand brooms or a traditional round hearth broom, discuss the materials used in broommaking, see demonstrations of the dying of broomcorn, and watch demonstrations of fancy stitching and the creation of one-of-a-kind art brooms.

“Among some of the educational events,” says Hoefer with a smile, “There will be someone there demonstrating the proper use of brooms… which does not involve straddling or flying!”

Information on the historic event or registration procedures can be obtained by emailing Shawn Hoefer at shawnhoefer@gmail.com.
RESEARCH PROGRESS
by Sam Moyer, Ph.D. Geneticist and Broomsquire

This year's crop again confirmed that machine harvestable dwarf varieties have been achieved. There are slight genetic differences in some individual varieties, gene pools and hybrids. All have NO CENTER STEM, "handles" (peduncles) at least 10" long, but might vary how much the top leaf covers the knuckle. The brush is bright/dark green early, then many colors develop when fully mature. I might have established an aqua/blue variety. Dr. Hadley sent seeds of a dark green variety that I will maintain.

Weather is now the main performance factor. Planters in MI, WI, ND, and WY report short brush due to cool weather. Planters in VA and TX had good performance. One in NY tried no herbicide and had a weed problem with too much rain.

Thanks to excessive rain and enough hot days, my acre and half yielded 498 lbs (including 10" peduncles) of which 272 lbs. was 18" or longer. This could have been more if I didn't experiment with some low yielding varieties.

When you request seed, I will send 4 kinds of seeds to learn which performs better in your environment. "Priceless": mailed at no cost, after harvest pay postage + donation if you make more profit by planting these/what it was worth to you.

There was good performance planting "no-till" spraying Round-up and Bicep mix two weeks before planting. In an experiment on a small area, seeds NOT treated with Concep sprouted nearly as good as treated ones. In another experimental area, Bicep was NOT reapplied after 6 weeks and no weed problem. Both experiments might have been OK due to constant excessive rain; needs replicating to be sure that one application of Bicep with seeds not treated with Concep is OK.

I learned the hard way that seeds from some types are too large for the radish plate, okra plate is needed with most holes taped shut. I will check seed size after cleaning ("debearding" and winnowing) and tell when sending seeds.

Broadcasting seeds might not be good due to inadequate spacing control. Rows might be needed for weed control and using a reaper.

The BIG news: A local fabricator completed a reaper attachment to a sickle bar mower, but not in time to harvest. Needed some minor alterations. (We did "Ag engineering research") Details available.

Continued on the next page.

Broom Makers Around The Country

We thought it would be nice to dedicate a section of the Broom Makers News to check out what other broom makers are doing throughout the country. If you would like to be in future columns drop us a line and let us know what's happening with you.

Warren Olney took up the art of broom making at the suggestion of his father. His mother and father learned broom making at Old Sturbridge Village. Using the equipment his father built, Warren makes brooms at craft fairs, schools and art shows. Check out his website at http://www.broomshop.com.

Edward Tschetter has been making brooms at the Pleasant Valley Hutterite Colony near Flandreau South Dakota for over 50 years. He makes brooms to sell commercially and for use in the turkey and pig barns located at the colony.

Shawn Hoefer of Laffing Horse Crafts is a jack of all trades. Besides broom making Shawn also makes crochet hooks, knitting needles and trilooms. Shawn spends some time at the Ozark Folk Center and teaches broom making woodturning classes.
Brooms from Rajasthan

While searching the internet, Jay found a website dedicated to making brooms out of all different materials in the little village of Rajasthan, India. According to the website, “What seems totally insignificant (the broom) is what holds the world together in its capacity to clean and order space. As we explore the world of the broom, we are duly humbled by the vistas of the human and social knowledge that it is capable of reveling.” These brooms are handmade by two types of people: the women who use them and the professional broom makers. The brooms are all made without the use any machinery. They use every part of their bodies including their teeth and toes to make the brooms.

The indoor brooms are made by the women and use the soft materials which include different types of grass and leaves. Brooms are only made on certain days so as not to bring bad spirits.

The outdoor brooms are made by professional broom makers and are made out of the tougher materials: grasses and shrubs. They bind the brooms with plastic and left over rags.

The material used depends on which tribe is making the broom. For instance, the Bagariya community use date palm where as the Harijin community’s material of choice is bamboo. They also use any discarded material they can find like rubber.

Videos are included on the site, showing how the date palm, bamboo and panni grass brooms are made.

Many websites tell about the process and history of broom making. What makes this special is the focus on the relationship of the brooms with the lives of the people and the environment they live in.

The website is [http://www.arnajharna.org/English/Broom_Types_of_Brooms.aspx](http://www.arnajharna.org/English/Broom_Types_of_Brooms.aspx)
MARKET INFORMATION AND OUTLOOK FOR 2010

Throughout the first half of 2009, our challenge was to keep enough broom corn inventory on hand to meet demand, with relatively little supply from which to choose. There were historic low figures in broom corn imports every month.

Despite our weakened economy, broom corn sales were steady, including craft broom corn. This kept demand and supply very close. We have been able to acquire most of the raw broom corn which was offered for sale, so we have not had a problem meeting your needs for the craft broom corn. The availability of broom corn has improved since July, but for all of 2009, prices are about 8% higher now than they were in January.

We were able to modify USDA's fumigation requirement earlier in 2009, but all broom corn is subject to inspection and in every load we import, some bales are being taken apart at the border in Laredo, Texas.

We expect an adequate supply of broom corn in 2010, and pricing probably will remain steady.

At our web site, you can purchase supplies any time day or night. Please visit us at www.recaddy.com.

We thank all of you for your business, and to the best of our abilities we will have all the supplies you need, when you need them.

Sincerely,
Richard Caddy
R.E. CADDY & COMPANY, INC.
P.O. BOX 14634
GREENSBORO, NC 27415
www.recaddy.com
sales@recaddy.com
From left to right: Joan Fedor and Cheryl Riccardi, BMN editors and Melissa Lardo and Scott Wagner, the lawyers who help incorporate the BMN as a not-for-profit.

This is a treadle broom winder, that you can make yourself. I will sell plans for $20.00 including shipping. This one is made of #2 lumber. I’ve used one of these for the past 6 years and they work very well. I will also fabricate any parts you might need call for more info. If purchasing the winder it would need to be picked up. For more information call: Mike Mardorff at 717-460-2975

Brooms Internet Newsgroup 2010

Founded January 4, 2001, our Brooms newsgroup on Yahoo has been growing steadily. There are now 181 members, mostly in the U.S., but there are international members as well. The group was formed as a forum for broom makers and anyone interested in the craft. Any information on the history, culture and craft of broom making is welcome and encouraged. Individuals seeking or selling tools, materials and equipment can post notices on the newsgroup. Individual emails can be received by every member either at the site or in their own inbox. Photos can be posted in a special archive.

Many people have asked the newsgroup how to get started and have met with generous offers of one on one mentoring help or printed instructions. I’ve seen many alerts about equipment available on eBay as well as equipment offers from individuals. We get an occasional request for marketing help from developing countries.

For those not yet signed up, go to http://www.groups.yahoo.com/, see “Join a group” and type “brooms” in the search block and click search. Fill out the sign in form and submit. You can customize settings to receive an email when anyone posts to the group. You can post messages either from the newsgroup site or simply by posting to the address: Brooms@yahoogroups.com.

A crumb sweeper as shown to us by Paul Russell

Answers to Word Play:

1 corn
2 squire
3 dasher
4 stick
5 shaker
6 tree
7 shop
8 shaved
9 handle
10 needle
11 whisk
12 corn
13 wire
14 cuff
15 twig
16 lore
We Now Accept PayPal

In recent months, many people have asked us if we accept PayPal for subscriptions. You have asked and we have answered. As of today we have set up a PayPal account. If you wish to update your subscription to the Broom Makers News you may do so with PayPal.

Go to www.paypal.com and log in. Our PayPal account is:

broommakersnews@hotmail.com

Please put your name and address in the memo/notes section so we may update your records.

Jokes and Some Information
By: Melinda Napier

Q: What kind of medication does Dr. Broom give to his insomniac patients?
A: Sweeping Meds

Q: What did the mother broom say to her little girl one night?
A: Go to sweep, my little one. Sweep well.

I am pleased to tell you that I will be teaching a broom making class at the Gualala Arts Center, on the Pacific Ocean (3 hrs north of San Francisco). There are precious few broom makers in the west in general, so I hope to sweep together some interest in our craft. It is a beautiful location “behind the redwood curtain” and May is when the rhododendrons are in bloom.

Transition Town Blaine
By: Ron Snyder
The Circle of Trees Studio and Homestead
Blaine, WA

As we move deeper into the 21st century, the specter of peak oil, climate change, natural disasters, war, terrorism, and swine flu hover over all our communities like a dark cloud. Here in Blaine, Washington, our Circle Of Tree Studio and Homestead is casting a bright light to drive away the darkness, through our “Transition Town Blaine” process. We are helping people to become more self-sufficient, to develop a resilient local economy, and to aim for a community lifestyle that is sustainable by “powering down”.

Broom Making, albeit a small piece of the process, demonstrates what is possible. It is an old time skill that requires very little energy and fulfills a need. It is a skill that can be taught to others relatively easily. It is associated with other skills such as knitting, weaving, skep making, chair caning, and basketry. When taking along with the other old time skills that are mostly forgotten in this oil addicted economy, locally hand made brooms become a model of what can be accomplished when we actually put our own hands to work, as opposed to buying imported products. Products that need to be shipped from who knows where and at what cost to our energy resources, not to mention their carbon footprint.

Our motto is simple: Make brooms locally, sell broom locally, and buy brooms that are hand made locally!

For more information on the worldwide Transition Town process, check out:

www.transitionwhatcom.ning.com
**George is looking for a kicker broom machine**

Many types of brooms!

**For Sale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Hand Presses</td>
<td>$300.00 (choice)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Flat Faced Clipper</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Stemmer</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Hacklers</td>
<td>$100.00 (choice)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Pounders</td>
<td>$20.00 ea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600 Handles</td>
<td>$1.00 ea. (various sizes &amp; lengths)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Power Winder</td>
<td>$2000.00 (very good factory condition)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Foot Winder</td>
<td>$400.00 (complete—needs repair)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1000’s of labels</td>
<td>$3.00 (per thousand)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Contact: Jack Payne, PO Box 57, Acadia, KS 66711
Phone: 620-638-4428
E-mail: jmpayne@ckt.net

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**Different Ways to Mail a Broom**

Over the broom group several people have shared how they ship their brooms.

**Bob Aborn:** Hey guys: I have been using cardboard carpet tubing cut to length. For the round brooms leave in the round. For the flat brooms I cut a slit up each side for the broom part and stomp to flatten and tape. It does cause broom to compress a bit but I left one in that position for a month and upon removal it popped right back. I think they are about 11” around and I have been able to stay under that 84” (girth plus length) to avoid extra charge via USPS. All are sent priority mail. I picked some up the other day and 3 were plastic. For the cardboard tubes I cut several slots in both ends; fold and tape. Most large carpet dealers just toss them out.

**Dave Applebaum:** I needed to send out 3 brooms last week. Shipping was very expensive due to box length and width. My dimensions were 60x5x5. USPS was more expensive than UPS. What or how were you told to make a box and ship? Very interested. I found my boxes for $3.10 each so that was no big deal but the shipping on each broom was between $20 and $25. Crazy

**Sam Moyer wrote:** Someone at UPS 20+ years ago showed me how to make a package for a broom, then USPS mailed for less: Cover the handle with shrink/cling wrap and put used cardboard around the broom. I happen to have access to used boxes where I cut one panel 18” wide X 29 ” long, including the 9” flap. Cut off a bit of the edges of the flap V-shaped. I fold the flap over the broom tips and fold the 18” around the broom; tape. Although cling/shrink wrap around the handle is adequate, there is enough cardboard cutting scraps to cover the handle. Never had one break during mailing. More than broom can be packaged by using more than 18” around them.

All the clerks at our local PO know my package and know how to deal with it. It needs to go Priority because there is a “non-machinable surcharge” for parcel post. The package is always just under 60” and costs about $10 more or less to mail most places. I ask the customer to add this amount for “shipping”, but don’t charge for “handling”: the 10-15 min for creative packaging and taking to PO. I haven’t checked cost lately for UPS, but PO is closer and customer pays, no problem.

**Shawn Hoefer:** If you choose priority mail from USPS, they will provide the boxes. I use about 5 of the 12x9x5 boxes taped together. Works great. Most of my brooms will ship via priority mail for around $20.

**John Alexander:** I got my boxes from a Goodwill Industry box making factory. Good boxes any size you want and you are supporting a great cause. Also, muffler shops...great boxes and they throw them away so you are helping to recycle and hardware stores...there boxes are great, too.
News From Our Roving Reporter

Every year we try to visit some of our broommakers. This year we added a roving reporter, Jan Vokoun, to help us. Jan visited several craft fairs this year including the People's Choice Arts Festival in Boalsburg, PA and the Pennsylvania State Arts Fair.

Historic Boalsburg is the birthplace of Memorial Day where, in 1864, 3 ladies decorated the graves of Civil War soldiers. It is also the site of the Pennsylvania Military Museum, the 28th Infantry Division Shrine as well as the Columbus Chapel which contains belongings of Christopher Columbus plus religious art and relics dating back to the 15th century. Broomakers at the festival were Debbie Lutz and Barb Barrett from the Pennsylvania Broom Closet www.thepabroomcloset.com, John Kuhnert, and Bob Haffly bobhaffly@pa.net from Lone Oak Brooms, Amberson, Pa.

Marlow Gates was at the Pa Arts Fair. She also saw Moses F Stoltzfus from Kinzers, Pa. Moses also makes woven placemats, table runners and unique woven shag rugs.

Help Save Our History

We Need Your Help so that we can save the history of the North American Broom Industry. We have selected The National Museum of Canada and The Smithsonian Museum as depositories for the safe keeping of our history. The National Agricultural Center and Hall of Fame located in Bonner Springs, Kansas now has copies of our Broomcorn Publications and Broom Supplier Catalogs. A special thanks to Dr. Moyer.

Over the last few years we have compiled a data base from the following categories: Broomcorn publications and Agricultural reports, Articles and books on the Shaker broom making industry, Patents on equipment and brooms, Catalogs from broom factories and equipment suppliers, Industry publications, Books with information on broom making, Articles from Magazines and Periodicals, Broom Lore, Census Data, and A listing of broom factories and industry suppliers. Along with pictures, drawings, advertisements, documents and publications of all kinds.

We need your help to acquire as much documentation as possible before it is lost. Please contact us before sending anything and we ask you not to send originals as we can not guarantee their safe return, good copies are all that we need. We will reimburse postage and copying costs if you contact us prior to shipping. Thank you for your help.

USA please contact: Bill Soetaert, phone # 816-796-6917 after 10am, Email: broomsbesoms@comcast.net

Canada please contact: Vaughn Russell: phone # 416-498-5375 Email: v.russell@rogers.com