Saving the Marks:
Preserving the Early Evidence of Tools

Donald Williams
Senior Furniture Conservator
Museum Conservation Institute

The process of producing lumber from a tree always leaves its mark. This presentation is a brief review of the process of getting a tree from a log; then to a cabinetmaker or joiner; what they do after they get it; and the physical evidence you can "read" from these transformations. As observers and caretakers of artifacts fashioned from these materials, it is vital for us to understand those marks so that we can consciously preserve them.