

WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern
Woodworkers
Association

August 2006, Vol. 15, Number 8

Lumber and Tool Auction

*Saturday, September 16 -
Shaker Barn*

- Charlie Goddard

This year's auction will have quite a few more tools than in previous years. Included will be: JDS Air-Tech 2000 air filter; Shopsmith and Delta dust collectors; Shopsmith power station with scroll saw attachment; older Shopsmith with table saw, lathe and drill press; Shopmaster bandsaw; Craftsman floor model drill press; Delta bench top table saw; Delta router-shaper with stand; Ryobi 6" jointer; Leigh dovetail jig; clamps; various powered hand tools; hardware; machinist tools; two-man cut off saw; routers; router table and a drill press with an arm that extends, swivels and rotates.

For lumber, there will be approximately 3,000 BF of very nice cherry, walnut, oak, maple and pine. Some of the cherry is sliced 1/10" thick, for gluing up bent shapes. In addition, we will be picking up a selection of lumber from Joshua's Trees which will include a number of foreign exotics.

Last month I promised I would be asking for help. Well, here it comes. We need help setting up starting on the Wednesday prior to the auction. Lumber and tools need to be moved from storage into the main part of the barn, sorted and labeled for sale. Help will also be needed on auction day. If you can help out please give me a call or send an email (370-0388, cgodd@aol.com).

The auction is the main source of funding for Fiske Fund grants to attend woodworking courses. Last year we made a profit of over \$9,000.

The auction will be held Saturday, September 16, in the large Shaker barn located on Albany Shaker Road next to the driveway to the Meetinghouse where we hold most of our regular meetings. The doors will open at noon for inspection of the sale items and the auction will begin at 1 pm. Bob Williams, a professional auctioneer, will be with us again this year to keep things moving smoothly and swiftly.

Plan to attend! Even if you don't buy anything it will be an entertaining afternoon. 🐾

Hand Cut Dovetails

- Chuck Hill

Before the advent of modern adhesives, the interlocking pins and tails of dovetail joints provided one of the best ways of keeping a carcass or drawer joint from failing.

Today, dovetail joints may be structurally unnecessary, but they are still revered for their aesthetics and for the sense of high quality construction they impart. While commercial jigs easily produce dovetail joints with a router, hand cut dovetail joints are a rite of passage for new woodworkers. With that in mind, seven NWA members

(Wallace Carpenter, George Covell, Mervyn Prichard, Austin Spang, Mike Trinkala, John Zukowski, and I) went to the Stillwater shop on Saturday, June 17 to learn how to hand cut dovetail joints. John Grossbohl and Joe Kennedy were essentially repeating a somewhat longer class they taught recently for the Mid-Hudson Chapter (see report in the June issue of this newsletter). Also in attendance was Herm Finkbeiner, who was charged with such duties as chasing down a key to let us into the building, securing pizza for lunch, and photographing the goings-on.

The class project was a Shaker-style pencil box measuring 3" square on end and 9" long, with a beveled-edge top that slides in dados in the sides and one end and a beveled-edge bottom set in dados in the sides and ends. Recognizing the time constraints, John had cut and milled the materials (one-quarter-inch pine for the top, bottom, and sides and a choice of pine or walnut for the ends) in advance and had cut the dados. The class was focused entirely on making the dovetail joints. The subsequent steps were left to the student for post-class completion: beveling the edges of the top and bottom, chiseling or carving a fingernail pull in the top to help in sliding the top open, and assembling, sanding, and finishing the box.

To minimize the effects of wood movement, John recommended using quarter-sawn or rift-sawn material for a project like this. If flat-sawn material is used, John recommended orienting the boards so that the sides that had faced the outside of the tree (discernable



Pencil box by Chuck Hill

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Straight Shooter

- Wally Cook

Airbrushing has been around a while. The first airbrush... the 'Paint Distributor'... was invented by an Iowa jeweler in 1879. Abner Peeler constructed the tool for use with watercolor paints; his components were tubes from a soldering torch, a spoon, a bent screwdriver, sewing machine needle and a fabricated 'wind wheel'. Abner's hand-pumped compressor completed the configuration.

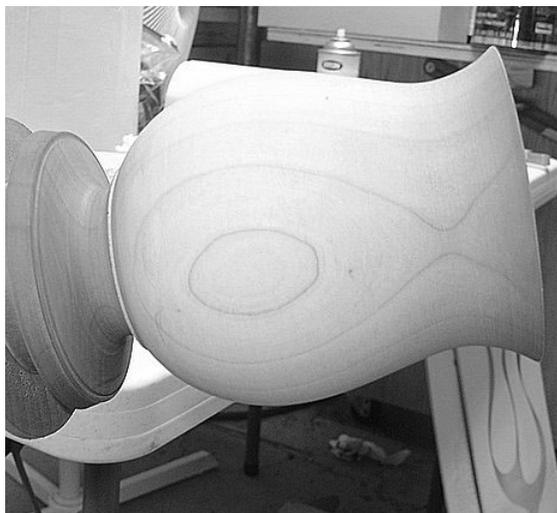


Steve with his Iwata dual action - it's a beautiful thing!
He also uses a Thayer and Chandler side feed

Technology has moved along since the original airbrush, but **Steve Sherman's** objective in the July meeting of the KWA was to de-mystify the tools and techniques of airbrushing.

The airbrush still depends upon a needle and a venturi to mix air and the medium for the desired distribution area and volume. Airbrushes tend to be distinguished by nozzle or tip size, feed mechanism, propellant source and trigger action.

1. **Nozzle/tip size:** larger jets allow a broader spray pattern; smaller jets provide thin line control. The tip can range from .05" to 1.5". Some shooters direct streams of air from either side of the main jet. This configuration alters the spray distribution, creating an oval rather than a circular pattern.
2. **Feed:** the feed is either siphon or gravity. Siphon arrangements are typically fed from a paint jar attached to the bottom of the airbrush. Gravity feeds feature a bowl or cup



Liberon warm brown is used to enhance the base of the
cherry vase

Continued on page 4

CLASSIFIEDS

For Sale

Craftsman 16" Direct Drive Scroll Saw ---- \$50

Delta 16 1/2" Floor Drill Press ---- \$200

Delta Belt and Disc Sander ---- \$100

Paslode Impulse frame and trim nailers (brand new)

Tools are in excellent shape, well maintained. Call 279-1357 and ask for Bill.

The Microshift Fence of Milan Fiske

- Herm Finkbeiner

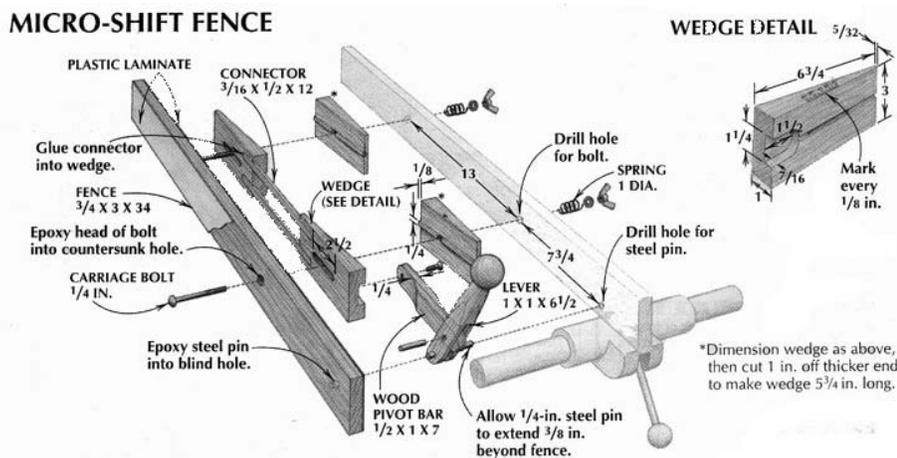
(Many of Milan's turnings have recently been donated to NWA. The donation prompted me to look at material Milan had given me. Included was a description of the microshift fence that Milan invented and built in order to produce the precise pieces he needed for his turnings. What follows is, at best, a brief description of the microshift fence. Members who want details in order to build a fence should contact me at hfinkbeiner@nycap.rr.com or (518) 371-9145. Herm Finkbeiner)

A basic operation using the table saw is setting the fence to define the distance from the fence to the saw blade, thereby setting the width of the saw cut to be made. Fences commonly available today make it relatively easy to set this distance to within 1/32" or so of what is required. Settings to greater accuracy require the use of a test block, for example, and repeated trial and error, especially if the precision required is much less than 1/32".

Incrementing a setting by 1/64" or less can be very aggravating, as when sawing a gap-free insert. Loosing the fence to open or close a gap by 0.010" may not only fail to hit the target on the head, it may push the fence so slightly out of parallelism that only a lengthy cut will reveal that the desired close fit is lost.

The MICROSHIFT FENCE is designed to offset those limitations, so that the fence, after being slid to the approximate dimension desired, can be set quickly to the precise dimension within a few thousandths of an inch. Basically the MICROSHIFT FENCE is comprised of a fence of conventional design onto which is mounted a member which can be readily displaced parallel to itself a small amount with high precision.

The heart of the system is a set of opposing wedges made from a stable wood such as quarter sawn maple. A new fence surface is mounted on the wedges and in use movement of the wedges brings the fence either closer to or farther away from the saw blade while remaining parallel to the saw blade. Figure 1 provides the basic configuration of the system.



Membership Renewal Due Soon

- Pam Cook

During the next few weeks, you will receive your NWA membership dues renewal notice. After much discussion, the NWA Board decided by to increase the individual membership dues to \$25 from \$20 and the family dues to \$30 from \$25 for the 2006-2007 membership year.

Our strength is in our membership. When you receive your renewal notice, please review the information that is included, change anything that needs to be updated, and return it along with your check to NWA. Returning the form with your check ensures that your information is accurate and up to date. 🐿

WOODWORKERS NEWS is published by the Northeastern Woodworkers Association for its members. The Association's aim is to provide a common meeting ground for lovers of woodworking who want to know more about wood and the techniques for forming it. The newsletter is published monthly. It is assembled in QuarkXPress 5.0 on an iMac G5, duplicated by Shipmates, and mailed to more than 1,000 addresses.



Your next issue of **Woodworkers News** will be published in early September.

Copy deadline: August 15
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WEBSITE(S)

www.woodworker.org
www.nwawoodworkingshow.org
Blog Site:
<http://woodworker.org.blogspot.com/>

Website Editor
Position to be Filled

NWA maintains two websites, the first noted here operates continuously. We also offer selected links to other sites of interest to our membership.
Webmaster - Justin Rohrer
rohrej@woodworker.org

The second site operates from January 1 to May 30 and carries specific information about SHOWCASE.



**NORTHEASTERN
WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION**
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Straight Shooter

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placed either on the top or at the side of the airbrush; paint is poured into the feed bowl. Steve prefers the side-feed airbrush, because it does not interfere with his view of the object to be colored. While the siphon configuration does allow more paint to be loaded, it also leaves waste at the bottom of the jar which cannot be easily reused.

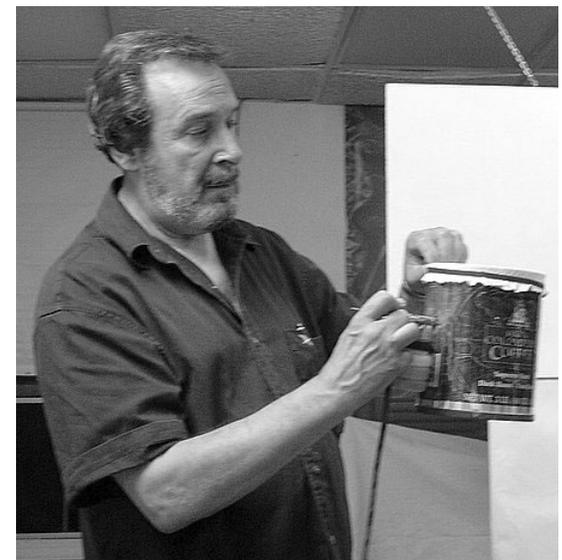
3. **Propellant:** airbrushes may be powered by manual pumps, air compressors, or canisters of pre-charged air or propellant. An air compressor has an advantage of not running out of propellant in the middle of a spray pattern. Check the interoperability of the brush with various sources.
4. **Trigger Action:** airbrushes are either single or double action. Single action triggers mix the paint and air in one action. Dual action triggers introduce air pressure on the initial stroke and paint volume on the secondary stroke (e.g., press trigger down to release air; pull back to release paint). Serious artists prefer the control made possible by the dual action trigger.

Steve demonstrated airbrushing with opaque and transparent colorants, as well as using masking agents and frisket to create patterns. His objective is to enhance the surface and grain of wood, not necessarily to mask it. However, the introduction of interference colors and special paints allow a wide range of experimentation with both wood and other media. In the inset picture Steve showed an airbrush application for painting eggs (the egg was held in place by a dowel planted in a cap of Playdough. An eraser was glued on the end of the dowel).

A gallery of Steve's demonstration can be seen at <http://www.midhudsonwoodworkers.org/>. Further information on airbrush equipment and technique can be obtained from the following sites:
<http://www.andypenaluna.com/history/hisintro.html>
<http://www.anestiwata.com/>
<http://www.coastairbrush.com/>
http://www.airheadairbrush.com/Airbrush_Equipment_Information.htm



A turntable with a slow motor can be used for airbrushing -- here an egg is masked and colored



A coffee can makes an excellent receptacle for excess paint spray. A tee shirt scrap provides a filter.

Steve's Tips:

- An airbrush is still a brush – it requires practice to develop the proper stroke.
- If spraying a broad pattern, continue the stroke past the target area.
- Use masking frisket if needed to protect areas of the piece where colorant is unwanted.
- Build up the colors slowly – layer by layer.
- The compressor can introduce unwanted water and oil to the airbrush. Install filters.
- The qualities of the coloring agent are important: dyes and watercolors are fugitive (color will fade), while acrylics can plasticize in the airbrush if not kept thinned.
- If acrylics are used, buy premixed for airbrush. Golden is a preferred brand.
- Do not use a 'hard' topcoat over a 'soft' medium. Lacquer used over acrylic will crack... use an acrylic topcoat.
- Cleaning is critical. Use a mixture of 1/3 Simple Green, 1/3 Windex and 1/3 water for cleaning acrylics. Finish with a wash of straight water.
- Shoot excess spray into a hole in the side of a coffee can – a rubber band holds the filter covering its top – see picture.

Do you have an email address?

Have you changed your email address? LET NWA KNOW.

You can help NWA stay in touch with you by making sure that we have your correct email address. If you didn't receive any of the recent emails regarding the NWA picnic, please notify us of your new email address by sending a message to NWA@taconic.net. 📧

Hand Cut Dovetails

Continued from cover



John Zukowski and Joe Kennedy concentrating

Wally Carpenter determined to get that last bit cut.



from the curve of the grain lines) will be on the inside of the drawer or box. John's acronym to remember this is IDIOT – Inside of Drawer Is Outside of Tree.

John and Joe first demonstrated the steps in cutting a joint, then helped each of us as we attempted to do likewise. They made it clear that any debate about pins-first versus tails-first is wasted energy, because either way works fine. Each woodworker usually forms his own preference, and since John was demonstrating at that point, the class learned the pins-first technique. (Joe is a tails-first guy!) The steps were:

1. Mark the orientation. Mark the box sides (the tail boards in this case) and the box ends (the pin boards) in some way to keep the assembled orientation of the boards clear.
2. Mark the shoulder lines. Set a marking gauge to the thickness of the stock and scribe shoulder lines for the pins and tails along the faces of the pin boards and tail boards and along the edges of the tail boards.
3. Lay out the pins. Use a sliding bevel or a dovetail square to mark the pins on the end of the pin board. The fat side of the pin goes to the inside of the box. It is traditional to put a "half pin" at each edge and any number of full pins (arranged aesthetically) in between. We used two full pins, placed approximately one-third of the width of the pin board in from each edge. Using "X's," for example, mark the pin-board waste sections (where the tails will fit) to keep straight what will be cut out and what will remain. Extend the pin marks down the faces of the pin board to the shoulder lines using a try square or combination square. The angle of the pins and tails can be anything from about 1:5 to 1:8, although 1:6 is traditional for softwood and 1:8 for hardwood. In theory, the fatter end of the full pins should be as wide as the stock is thick, but John personally prefers narrower pins than that. At the extreme, keeping the skinnier end of the pin no wider than the kerf of the saw blade creates what are called "empire-style" dovetails.

(Aside. One student found a simple measuring tip from John to be worth the price of the class by itself! When trying to mark points on a board to divide it into a cer-

tain number of equal-sized parts, place the ruler across the board at an angle (instead of perpendicular to the edges) with the edges of the board falling at points on the ruler whose distance apart is easily divisible by the number of parts desired. Example: Our pin board was 3 1/4" high. To divide that into thirds for placement of the full pins, don't place the ruler perpendicular to the edges and then try to divide 3 1/4 by three (resulting in an awkward-to-find 1 1/12"). Instead, angle the ruler so that the edges of the board are 3 3/4" apart on the ruler. Then it's easy to divide by three and use points on the angled ruler that are 1 1/4" apart).

4. Cut the pins. With the pin board in a vise, hold a dovetail saw perpendicular to the end of the board and cut along the waste sides of the pin marks down to the shoulder line. Use long, smooth strokes of the saw powered from the shoulder, rather than short, jerky strokes powered from the wrist.
 5. Chisel out the pin-board waste. Clamp the pin board flat on the workbench. Deeply score a waste section on the shoulder line with the chisel (bevel side toward the material to be removed) and then chisel down and toward that score line, creating a gouge or trough angled toward the center of the thickness of the stock. Repeat until you've gone about halfway through the board in that waste section, then turn the board over and repeat the process until the waste pops out. Repeat for the other waste sections until all the pins are fully revealed.
 6. Lay out the tails. Place the tail board flat on the bench. Place the end of the pin board on top of the tail board, making sure that the edges of the two boards are flush and that the outside face of the pin board is flush with the end of the tail board. Mark along the inside edges of the pins to delineate the location of the tails. Use a try square or combination square to extend the tail lines across the end of the tail board, and mark the waste sections.
 7. Cut the tails. With the tail board in a vise, use a dovetail saw to cut down to the shoulder line along the waste side of the angled tail marks.
 8. Remove the tail-board waste. Turn the tail board sideways in the vise and use the dovetail saw to remove the waste section where a half pin will fit. Repeat on the other side of the tail board for the other half pin. Remove the tail board from the vise, clamp it flat on the bench, and chisel out the remaining tail-board waste (where the full pins will fit).
 9. Dry fit and adjust. Press the joint together. If the fit is too snug in some places, chisel away a little wood in those places and try again. Aim for a fit that is snug but not overly tight. If the fit is too loose, the joint may or may not be salvageable. (I don't remember any discussion of salvage techniques, but gluing in slivers of wood or using wood filler might work in some cases.) Trim any protruding pins or tails, e.g. with a block plane.
- Although my first-ever attempt to produce dovetails lacked a bit in precision, I am pleased to now own a completed, dovetailed pencil box and have been giving thought to what my next dovetailed project might be. And come on Austin, try pins first!

We all appreciated John's and Joe's willingness to travel a long distance to teach the class and for the woodworking knowledge they passed along. 🐶



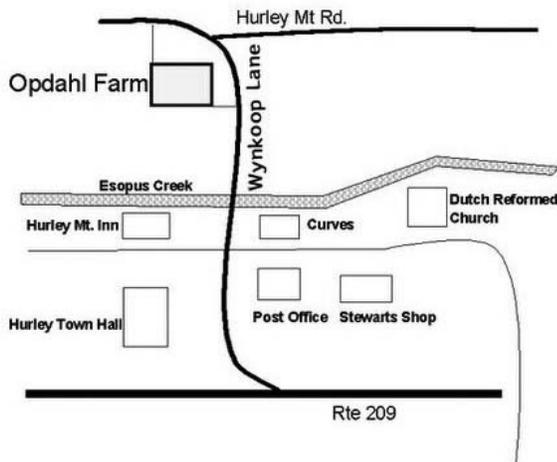
Northeastern Woodworkers Association
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Rexford, New York 12148-0246

NWA Mid-Hudson Chapter Picnic

Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 9 from noon to 4 PM. It's time for the NWA Mid-Hudson Chapter Picnic.

Once again, Chefs Benkert and Reynolds are serving homemade sausage. Bring an item for the raffle and don't forget your lawn chair!

The picnic will be held at the Opdahl Farm in Hurley - directions below:



GENERAL MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

TENTATIVE

NWA PROGRAM SCHEDULE 2006-2007

August, 2006 - NO MEETING

September 14, 2006

Using Planes - Alden Witham

October 12, 2006

Fiske Recipients

November 9, 2006

Fiske Memorial Lecture - Hank Gilpin

December 14, 2006

Family Night

January 11, 2007

Furniture repair - Charlie Goddard

February 8, 2007

Windsor Chairs - Tom Wetzal

March 8, 2007

Youth Gallery

April 12, 2007

Dovetail Box - Tom Osborne

May 10, 2007

Jigs and Fixtures - Pete Howe

For meeting cancellation information, call Ken Evans 753-7759 or Charlie Goddard 370-0388

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)

Adirondack Woodturners Association - The AWA is active throughout the year. Meetings are every first Wednesday of the month (except in January and July when it is the second Wednesday), and are held at the Curtis Lumber conference room on Route 67, Ballston Spa. Beginners' sessions begin at 6 pm; the main program at 6:30 pm. Saturday "Learn and Turn" sessions are also scheduled. www.adirondackwoodturners.org Contact Ken Evans, 753-7759 or Kevans1@nycap.rr.com

Carver's Guild - meets every Friday at the Clifton Park Senior Center from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Sessions are intended for every NWA member who is interested in carving, from beginners to those wanting to learn a new technique. No reservations are necessary, just show up! Contact Bill McCormack, 233-7260.

Scroller's Guild - Meets the third Wednesday of each month at Sears, Colonie Center. Beginners' session starts at 5:30 followed by a general meeting at 6:15. Contact Tom O'Donnell (518) 581-1167 or todonne3@nycap.rr.com.

Kaatskill Woodturners - Meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Opdahl property in Hurley. Contact George Norton, (845) 331-1705.

CHAPTERS

NWA Mid-Hudson -The chapter meets at 7:30 p.m. on the third Thursday, except July and August, at the Central Hudson Electric Company Community Center, Route 28, Kingston. Contact Joe Mikesch, (845) 687-4285

NWA Sacandaga - The chapter meets at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month at Mayfield High School in the woodworking shop. Park by the section of the building that protrudes further into the parking lot and enter the nearest of the (5) doors. Contact Gary Spencer, 863-6433.