

WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern
Woodworkers
Association

December 2015, Vol. 24, Number 10

December Meeting

NWA Family Night

Thursday, December 10, 2015 7:00 p.m.

Shenendehowa Adult Community Center
(aka Clifton Park Senior Center)

6 Clifton Commons Court, Clifton Park, NY

By Wally Carpenter

We hope to see you at Family Night again this year as it brings together our NWA families for an evening of friendship and socializing.

As in previous years, we ask you to bring a desert or an appetizer to share. It's such a great opportunity to try out that new cookie or pasty recipe as well as hone that classic holiday treat prior to your gathering with family! We will have tables for the Instant Gallery. I challenge you to outdo Ken as he likely displays yet another new and beautiful banjo.

We would certainly love to have a few more items you are willing to donate for the auction that supports the Fiske Fund. Word on the street is that Bart Chabot might be willing to perform as auctioneer and comedian, so let's make sure he has plenty to auction. Please remember that **we cannot accept credit cards** for auctioned items.

This is a fun filled evening of meeting new NWA members and enjoying getting reacquainted with our friends. We are looking forward to seeing you all there for Family Night.



2015 Fiske Lecture Series

By Wally Carpenter

I can only begin with a huge Thank You to all of our members who attended the 2015 lecture series. We had more than 100 members and friends in attendance who received Thomas Lie-Nielsen and his wife Karen with the smiles and kindness that made them feel they were among friends.

Tom and Karen were so very much impressed with our strength of numbers and our desire to learn and teach one another the skills that make his efforts in creating quality tools worth his life's work.

While there are so many of us who respect and admire Tom's tools, he was able to share more of the evolution of his company over the past 35 years

that have led him to being part of our woodworking lives through his heirloom tools. He articulated

the importance of relationships in the development and production of his tools, and how those relationships lead to the next steps of what is possible and affordable for Tom and ultimately ourselves.

I asked Tom the following morning as he was preparing for the sharpening demonstrations to



Continued on Page 2

2015 Fiske Lecture Series

Continued from cover

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UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, PHONE
NUMBERS ARE IN AREA CODE 518



explain what was happening in the years of development prior to introducing a new tool to the market. He shared that numerous prototypes would be made and tested in the field by professional woodworkers he had long term relationships with, and he would get feedback which



Wally awarding Tom with a handmade box.

helped him ensure the product would be the best design to meet that need. This process takes time, and, of course, we the customers reap the benefits of that effort (my words, not Tom's).

I was very pleased to see the outstanding attendance at the Friday Demonstrations. Tom covered various aspects of sharpening ranging from chisels, to hand planes, to saws. It appeared everyone had a positive experience in spite of the early class's background noise which was corrected by moving into the front classroom. My sincerest thanks to the attendees' patience during this correction.

In short, I feel we had a very successful lecture and demonstrations for the 2015 Fiske Memorial Lecture due fully to you, the members. Our thanks to Thomas Lie-Nielsen for his insight and dedication to making our woodworking efforts such that the tools are not our limiting factor of our skills.

Toy Modification Project

Joint Venture with GE Volunteers

As everyone knows by now, NWA works with the GE volunteers to create electronic mouse button switches that attach to computers and toys for the disabled children in the Capital District Area. It is an ongoing project where both NWA and the Mohawk Valley Turners annually produce approximately 150 wooden bases for these switches. The switches use the 16 oz. & 28 oz. lids from peanut butter jars and the large lids (8" dia.) from restaurant size mayonnaise jars.



The Toy Modification Project welcomes and thanks the **Woman's Club of Albany** as a regular contributor to the project. The Women's Club of Albany (WCA) is one of the oldest not-for-profit community organizations in the Capital District who

donates their efforts to local organizations that serve the needs of women and children. The Toy Modification Project is an ideal project that agrees with their mission objectives. Some of their member families, who have disabled children, are beneficiaries of the Toy Mod Project and can see the rewards of their efforts.

By-the-way, we are always looking for plastic peanut butter and mayonnaise caps, the larger, the better. If you have saved some caps to donate, you can drop them off on the Membership Desk in the Learning Center's office or contact nwamembers1@gmail.com to arrange pick up.



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. The newsletter is available online at www.woodworker.org



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The World of Music Comes to NWA

By Ken Evans

For a very long time woodworking in NWA meant building fine furniture and doing other traditional forms of woodworking. But slowly over the past few years, NWA has discovered the woodworking involved in musical instrument building and repair and with this discovery, music has come to NWA in many ways.

I guess the flute building classes of Eric Marczak were the first classes related to a musical instrument to be offered by NWA to its members. In this class you can build a beautiful Native American flute. Many of our members have built these instruments in classes taught by Eric.

Then came the banjo building classes. Fifty beautiful banjos have been built by NWA members and NWA is soon to offer the fourth class on building banjos. Ken Evans, John Heimke, and George Jones lead NWA members through a year-long class to produce wonderful sounding and beautiful banjos.

Bill Sterling has taught a guitar building class and has just started a second class. The guitars built by members of Bill's class are simply beautiful and sound awesome.

Marty Macica has taught a violin building class wherein many members have created perfect violins. Marty is now teaching an arch top guitar class. I have seen one of these guitars, and it was hard to believe it was built by a dedicated woodworker with a love for music.

NWA acquired 23 broken down violins from the estate of a violin repair person in Albany, and these violins were given to NWA members who aspired to repair them. Much can be learned by repairing an instrument. Sometimes more is learned than by building one. These violins are still under repair by members.

Those members of the banjo building classes who wished to learn to play the banjo have hired a music teacher who comes to the NWA shop twice per month to give banjo lessons. These lessons are now in their third year, and we have many NWA members who have learned to play the banjo that they built in an NWA class.

About a dozen NWA members who have built instruments in NWA classes, and a few members who have instruments have formed

an NWA band. This group of members meets once per month to practice as a band and intend to play for the first time in public at Showcase 2016. The NWA band has banjo players, a fiddle player, guitar players, a harmonica player, and a cello—yes, you read correctly, a cello!

Maybe we should call it the “NWA Orchestra”. By the way, this band has no name as yet. Maybe you would like to suggest a proper name for the NWA band. Send Suggestions to Ken Evans at kevans1@nycap.rr.com. All suggestions serious or otherwise will be considered.

With all this interest in building musical instruments and in music in general, it was only a matter of time before there was created a Special Interest Group devoted to all things related to musical instruments. And so was created the “NWA Musical instrument SIG”. The NWA MIS meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM in the Learning Center. Meetings are informal and relevant to discussions of anything about musical instruments: building, playing, history, creation of, embellishment of, or anything else related to musical instruments. Meetings have a general program topic and a show-and-tell table and lots of room for asking questions and interaction between members.

Program topics have included selecting tone woods, fretting fingerboards, building a banjo without a lathe, building a banjo with a lathe, and doing fretboard inlay. All topics related to musical instruments are welcome. If you have an interest, come join us. Send me an email and I will place you on the email list to receive our announcements of meetings. kevans1@nycap.rr.com.

It is amazing to me how fast the topic of music has swept through the NWA membership. It surely shows there is a strong link between music and woodworking. This link has made its presence known, and it seems music in many forms is here to stay in the NWA organization.

KWA News

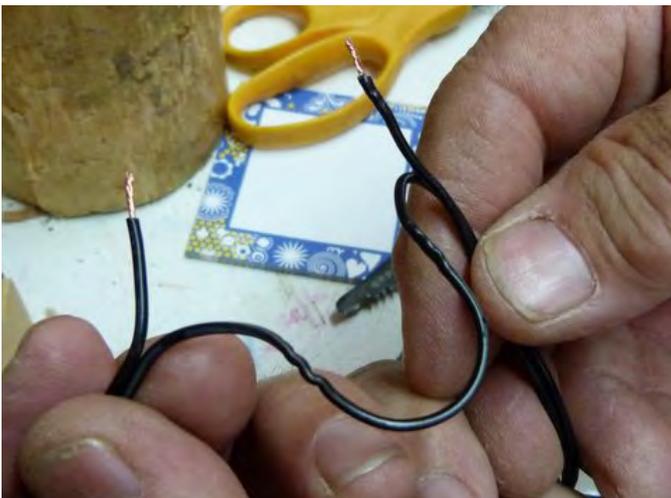
By Wally Cook

Workstation Lighting : A work party added portable lighting to the turning studio at the Opdahl Building. The design is a cost effective and flexible solution for project lighting at the lathes. Components of the lighting units include:

1. IKEA Jansjo flexible work lights @ three per station (\$9.99/light)
2. Rare earth mounting magnets @ two per station (K&J Magnetics -- \$2.27/magnet)
3. Plastic, wood, or Corian base @ one per station
4. Power strip with three or more outlets @ one per station



Our crew assembled four workstation lights in two hours



The switches on the IKEA lights are bypassed and connected directly to the plug

Three of the flexible project lights are mounted on the plastic base. The Jansjo lights have a long flexible neck which can be bent to adjust the focal area; the small LED head can be positioned close to the work without obstructing access. Addition of the rare earth magnets on the base allow the lighting unit to be placed in various positions on the lathe.



Plastic base is drilled out to accept three Jansjo lights and two magnets. Notice the notch in the magnet cup to allow removal of the magnet if necessary

Our work party took two hours to assemble four workstation lighting units combining twelve lamps. The process involved removing the individual switches for each lamp and hardwiring the lamps to their plugs. This is done because the switches become unreliable over time. The procedure is simple; it requires bypassing the switch and connecting the wires leading to the plug. The lamp ends have connectors which are screwed into the base. Drilling a shallow 1" diameter hole in the top of the base allows the lamp to seat in the base; two ¼" holes drilled into each 1" depression is perfect for inserting the lamp end into the base so that the lamp can be secured with the screws that are included. The rare earth magnets are sized to fit the screw-in receptacles which are fastened to the base's bottom. When these elements are assembled, the three plugs from the individual lights are plugged into the power strip, which serves as the collective on/off switch.



Finished workstation light can be moved anywhere on the lathe -- stays secure with the magnet mounts

CHAPTER NEWS

Mid Hudson Chapter News

By Wally Cook

Hive Boxes: Jarik Phillips of Hudson Valley Bee Supply showed the construction of a bee hive box, and how the design reflects the culture of these social insects. Northern white pine is a preferred material for bee hives, which are fitted with box or finger joints (commercially done with a 'hauncher' – see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gwjsxnJfiiIo>).

Where glues are used, Titebond III is optimal –

other urethane based glues out-gas too long and affect the bees. Hive boxes feature slots for multiple trays which are added as the hive grows. Bees make more honey than they need for survival; it is this excess that the beekeeper harvests by the tray. A fully loaded hive can weigh 90 pounds. Trays can be made from plastic, but wood is actually more durable for this purpose. Each tray is a framed screen upon which the bees secrete honey. Bees glue the trays together with a resin-like substance called propolis. Among other uses, propolis was an ingredient in historic violin wax finishes.

An important element of the hive is the 'floor' panel. The floor signals to the bees that they must build 'up' when adding to the hive, so the new trays are stacked higher in the hive box. Without the floor, bees would build in multiple directions. The floor also protects against moisture (and may be made from cypress if it contacts the ground). An opening for ingress/egress must be planned at both top



Jarik discussed the design consideration for a beehive box

and bottom of the hive. Jarik has noticed that the bees tend to use the bottom opening for ingress and egress through January, but shift to the top entrance in February.

Rigid insulation is installed only at the top of the hive. Since the sides are colder than the top, moisture condenses on the sides. Bees do not hibernate. Rather, they will lock together and vibrate to keep warm, keeping the temperature on the outside of the hive at approximately 45 degrees.

Temperature and moisture are the two critical criteria for a healthy hive. Queen bees have a lifespan of 4-5 years and must be maintained in a constant temperature of 90 degrees. Bees are fastidious; they tend to wall off any imperfection to keep the hive sanitary. They will not defecate in their hives, exhibiting 'cleansing flights' to excrete their waste.

On the Level: Ron More displayed a dozen different types of level measuring tools and described how to check if they are accurate. Ron's experience is that the accuracy of levels can be variable – and price does not necessarily ensure accuracy. (Ron recommends vintage stainless steel Stanley levels.) A quick check of accuracy can be had by simply obtaining a level reading, then flipping the instrument to see if the bubble registers in the same mark.

Ron demonstrated levels made for different occupations: string levels, prism and plumb bob levels, plumbers' levels with separate marks to gauge grade for waste pipe, masons' levels, and machinists' levels. The most accurate level he



Ron did the tool topic for the chapter meeting, focusing on levels

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demonstrated was a digital instrument which is so sensitive that it must acclimatize in the space for eight hours before taking a reading.

Ron also showed how a framing square can be tested for right angle and adjusted. In this instance, the square is used to strike a 90 degree line. The square is flipped to draw the same line. If there is an offset, a center punch can be used to adjust the angle of the square: punch the surface of inside corner of the square to move the arm to a wider angle; punch the outside corner to close the angle. A detailed treatise can be found at <https://www.fix.com/blog/hip-to-be-square/>.

Mid-Hudson Show: The chapter show, held in October, drew a number of visitors who viewed several hundred display items at the Hurley Reformed Church. Other exhibits included a sawmill



Fred Saar, Joe Kelly, and Skip Hull assemble birdhouses to give to show attendees

demonstration, wood identification booth, scrollsaw and woodturning activities. Visitors went away happy. Each visitor was given a birdhouse; children had their choice of wooden toys. If desired, the folks were guided through the process of making their own pens. Door prize and raffle items were drawn during the show, and the sale table had lots of activity – something for everyone!

Thanks to Pete Lofrumento and Pat McCord for manning the membership booth. They allowed members to renew and added four new members at the show.

The People's Choice Award went to Ann Miller for her Barbie-scale doll house. Ann made all the components, including the shingles for the roof.



Ann Miller won the People's Choice award for her Barbie scale doll house



A diverse set of display items were on hand at the Mid-Hudson Show

CHAPTER NEWS

Sacandaga Chapter November Meeting

By Gary Ratajczak – Chapter President

Confirmation that we are off to a great year. Our November meeting was again very well attended. We began with some show and tell from chapter members. Kirk Hardenburg finished his rocking chair that was built on a Fiske Fund grant. He attended class earlier this year at the Chidwick School. Pictures are posted on the Sacandaga Chapter website under the November meeting review. We also got to see examples of some small resin filled bowls, beginnings of an apple crusher, and a tabletop moxon style vise.

Our main demo featured “Carving 101” by George Rutledge, head of the NWA Carvers Special Interest Group. Without a doubt, George is a wealth of information. He began his lecture by showing the most important, and first, item that all new carvers should purchase- bandages! He showed examples of leather thumb guards as well as Kevlar gloves, but was quick to point out that these items are no replacement for good solid technique. George has many years under his carving belt, and it shows. He provided the group with a terrific overview of various types of tool steel typically found in carving tools, and made recommendations on first tool purchases. Having taught many carvers from the beginning, he explained that only a few simple tools would be needed to start. As your skills develop, and you take on more challenging projects, you can then look at adding to your tool roll. We then learned about the numbering methods for gouges and looked over many examples. A number of hand-made carving knives were reviewed. George pointed out their construction and stated that he can tell which tool he has when picked up just by the feel of the handle.

Examples of relief carving, letter carving, spoon carving and small character carving were brought for show and tell. One point that stuck with me was the numerous times George pointed out the relaxing qualities of carving. I personally have a fish carving book, as well



George with his relief carving



Hand lettering

as a never used carving knife purchased many years ago that will quickly be coming out of the drawer.

The basics of power carving as well as sharpening were also introduced. George pointed out that he seldom does actual “sharpening” of his carving tools. Stropping is performed often, however. Proper technique there will keep your tools razor sharp, and ready for use.

Thanks again George for providing some great information for the members. I’m pretty sure there will be some new carvers emerging from our chapter, myself included.

We will be posting chapter news and events on our new website, which can be found at:
www.sacandagawoodworkers.org

Create Future Woodworkers by Inspiring Kids

By Wally Carpenter

NWA members have an opportunity to help a great nearby children's camp called Camp Pattersonville. They have all the usual summer camp activities including crafts. I recently learned that the camp would love to improve the craft activities. They would like to move on from unchallenging crafts to small woodworking projects with "real" tools, so I volunteered to help the camp by gathering tools and plans for simple projects for the summer of 2016. (I'm also seeking suitable scrap lumber.)

Camp safety/insurance provisions prohibit the use of power tools, so I am looking for basic hand tools such as hammers, hand drills (egg beater style), and hand saws. Squares, screwdrivers, punches, and other small tools would also be beneficial. My target is 20 of each.

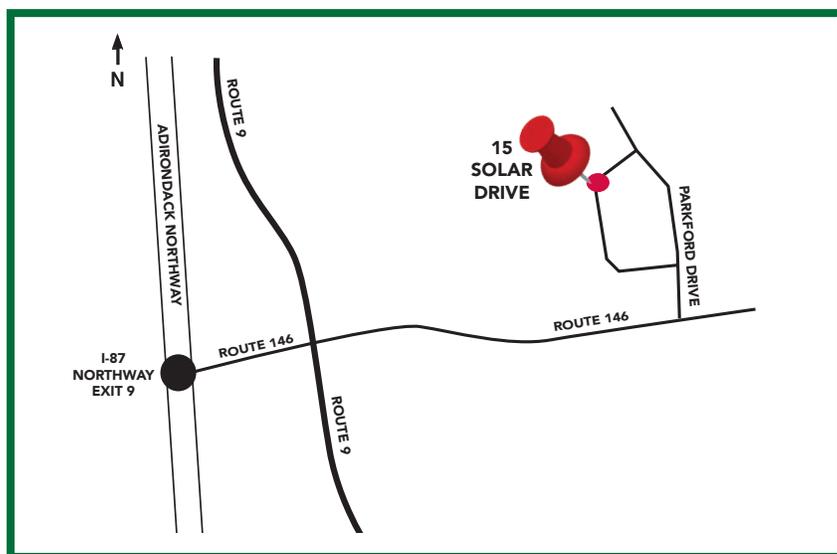
I am asking any NWA member who is able to do so to donate old-but-still-usable tools. Condition does not matter, I am happy to de-rust and tune up any donated tools. A tax receipt can be provided to you for your donation; just leave me a note with your name and address and list of donated tools.

Please also let me know of any suggestions for simple wood projects that could be made by a camper in five one-hour sessions. One challenge that still faces me for which I have no ready answer is the question of bench vices. A simple cross cut of a small board can be impossible without a vice to hold the board. I would be interested in suggestions on this issue. The camp facilities are all used for multiple purposes, so permanent installation of vices is not possible.

The camp hosts about 300 children each summer, and each camper tends to return for several years. This is a great opportunity to introduce woodworking to these children. Each completed wood project gives the camper the opportunity to bring something home from camp that they proudly made. Each completed project should spur a desire for further woodworking.

I will bring a large box to the monthly meetings for tool donations, and also place a box to receive donated tools at the Herm Finkbeiner Center in Clifton Park. If more convenient, send me an e-mail, and I'll arrange to come and pick up donated tools, project plans or wood.

Any suggestions on how to make this camp woodworking program a success would be appreciated. Rob Roy, 14 Laury Lane, Glenville, NY 12302, 518- 393-0836 (home phone) robertroy@nycap.rr.com

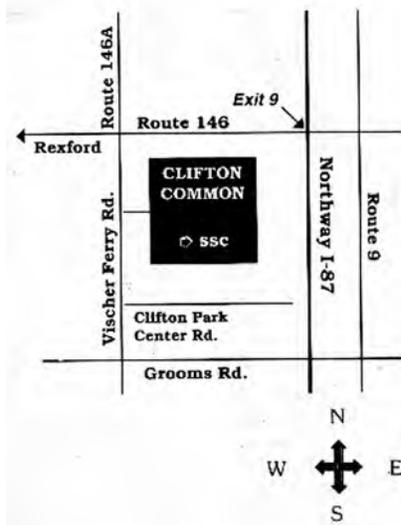


**A map to the
Herm Finkbeiner
Education Center
15 Solar Drive, Clifton Park**

Visit Our Web Site at www.woodworker.org

December Meeting

Thursday, December 10, 2015 7:00 p.m.
Shenendehowa Adult Community Center
(aka Clifton Park Senior Center)



MONTHLY MEETINGS

January 14, 2016

Finishes

February 11, 2016

Bugs in Lumber

March 10, 2016

Spoon and Ladle Carving

April 14, 2016

Grain vs Design

May 12, 2016

Furniture Restoration

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

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)

Adirondack Woodturners Association (AWA) - The AWA is active throughout the year. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month (except in January and July when it is the second Wednesday), and are held at the NWA Learning Center located at 15 Solar Drive, Clifton Park, NY from 6:30 PM to 9:00PM.

Wednesday "Learn and Turn" sessions occur on all other Wednesdays at the NWA Learning Center. These sessions run 6pm-9pm. www.adirondackwoodturners.com **Contact:** Ken Evans, 518-753-7759 or kevans1@nycap.rr.com

Scroller's Guild - Meets on the first and third Wednesday of the month (Starting Nov. 19) at the NWA Learning Center located at 15 Solar Drive, Clifton Park, NY. A beginner's session starts at 6:30 PM followed by a general meeting at 7:00 PM. **Contact:** Jeanne Aldous at AMJAMtat2@aol.com or Barbara Nottke at scroller87@aol.com or 869-6268.

Kaatskill Woodturners - Meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Opdahl property in Hurley, NY. **Contact:** Wally Cook at wally.cook@gmail.com.

NWA Crafters - Meets every Saturday and Tuesday, from 9:00 am until noon at the NWA Learning Center located at 15 Solar Drive, Clifton Park, NY. The Crafters provide public service woodworking for various charitable organizations, including the Double H Hole in the Woods camp for children and the GE Toy Modifications Group, and the Make A Wish Foundation. Sharing information, fellowship, and relating experiences are a major part of these sessions. **Contact:** Dave Axton (518) 237- 6942, daxton@nycap.rr.com, Wayne Distin (518) 674-4171, wdistin@nycap.rr.com Steve Schoenberg (518-371-1260), sschoen1@nycap.rr.com for more information.

NWA Musical Instrument SIG meets every first Tuesday of the month at 7PM to 9PM at the Learning Center. The purpose of the group is to discuss all aspects of all musical instruments, playing, building, repairing, and history. Meetings involve a show and tell table, a program on an appropriate topic, and lots of member interaction. If you want to be on the email list for notifications, **contact** Ken Evans at kevans1@nycap.rr.com or 518-753-7759 or 518-281-0779.

The NWA Wood Carvers SIG - Meet each Thursday at 5:30 p.m. until 9 p.m all year except the 2nd Thursday of each month at the NWA Learning Center located at 15 Solar Drive, Clifton Park, NY. Programs are determined at the previous weekly sessions. Discussions start at 7PM. The goal is to promote the art of Wood Carving. Individual private sessions are available Wednesday evenings by appointment. Wood, tools, and patterns are available. **Contact:** Ray Gannon. LoRayG@Gmail.com

Hand Tool SIG - Meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 7pm in the Herm Finkbeiner Education Center at 15 Solar Dr, Clifton Park, NY. **Contact:** Dave Parkis for further details: dparkis@nycap.rr.com

CHAPTERS

NWA Mid-Hudson - The chapter meets at 7:30 p.m. on the third Thursday, except July and August, at the Hurley Reformed Church. The Church is just off the the Hurley exit from Rte. 209. Right at the exit, right at the stop sign and left into the Church parking area. John VanBuren, President (845) 444-8281 **Contact:** Pete Chast, pchastnow@gmail.com.

NWA Sacandaga - The chapter meets at 7 p.m. on the Second Wednesday of each month at 55 Second Avenue, Mayfield, NY. **Contact:** Gary Ratajczak, President - (518) 852-1204