

# WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern  
Woodworkers  
Association

January 2003, Vol. 12, Number 1

## January Meeting

*“Marquetry, the Thin Veneer of Creativity”*

- Chuck Walker

7:00 p.m., Thursday, January 9, 2003  
Shaker Heritage Society Meeting House  
Albany-Shaker Road (near Albany Airport)

Although marquetry - the creation of pictures and decoration from thin layers - has been known and practiced for ages, it was raised to a high level beginning in the Renaissance and culminating in France under the kings Louis XIV and XVI. Artisans of this period developed particular techniques and tools for executing the ornately decorated furniture of the late 17th century to the early 19th century. There have been revivals of this technique since as well as the development of the skilled practitioners of today who are creating exceptional works with new freedom of form.

Chuck, who is a member of the NWA Mid-Hudson Chapter, will help us take a look at this ancient art and decoration form with slides and video. He will define a few terms like “What’s the difference between inlay and marquetry anyway?” Chuck, a recipient of a Fiske Fund Award, studied the art with Patrick Edwards in the American School of French Marquetry in San Diego late last spring. He came to his interest in marquetry through his repair of music boxes where marquetry has some of its finest examples and his membership in the Musical Box Society.

The business meeting will begin at 7 p.m., followed by socializing and refreshments and time to use the library and the Tool Crib. Don’t forget to bring something for Show and Tell.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Due to changes in the roads leading south to Schenectady Airport from Route 7, the map shown in this newsletter is a bit inaccurate. Travel from Rte.155 and the Northway to the Shaker Heritage Meeting House remains the same. From Route 7, proceed toward the airport, and be prepared to turn right on Albany Shaker Road at the west edge of the airport. We will re-draw the map for following issues. 🗺

## SHOWCASE 2003

- Charlie Goddard, Chair

SHOWCASE is only about two and a half months away! Famous woodworkers are being asked to contribute pieces for a Gallery of Distinguished Woodworkers. Items are being gathered for the special exhibit of antique saws. The floor plan is being drawn up. Toy cars and tops are being made to give to kids. Volunteers are adding their names to the various job lists. Work has begun on the website for SHOWCASE ([www.nwawoodworkingshow.org](http://www.nwawoodworkingshow.org)). The commercial space is filled and there is a waiting list.

This is only a sampling of the work that goes into organizing SHOWCASE. Each of the Committee chairs is fast at work.

SHOWCASE cannot happen without the cooperation and help of NWA members. As a totally volunteer effort we need to have hundreds of volunteers to complete the many jobs that must be performed. If you haven’t signed up already please tell Wayne Distin (674-4171, [wpswan@capital.net](mailto:wpswan@capital.net))

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# From the President

- Jay Van Vranken

I know that by the time you receive this newsletter, the Holidays will be over and most everyone will have had their fill of turkey and dressing. Some may even still be trying to recuperate from New Year's Eve. Whatever may have happened over the Holidays, I want to wish everyone belated BEST WISHES FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON.

I was just wondering - do your spouse or your friends have difficulty trying to think of a gift to give you? Do they go through the same old routine of trying to purchase a tie or a shirt that you wouldn't dare to wear even to a masquerade party? We woodworkers have one item that no matter how many tools we own, we can still use more. What? You guessed it - clamps. As you know, there are long ones, short ones, spring-loaded ones, square ones, round ones; you name the project and there is a clamp for it. Be honest with me now. How many woodworkers out there can truthfully say that they have enough of those gems? You know, even those turner-types have a use for them. I have my fair share of them, but if someone asks me that ultimate question, I always reply - clamps!

One thing I want to emphasize here is to get to know our members. It's possible that your neighbor down the street is a member of NWA and you may not even know it.

This happened to me recently and it could happen to you, too. I belong to the Racing City Barbershop chorus and have been a member for 28 years. The gentleman that stands next to me on the risers when we are singing moved into the area about five years ago. Recently, he said to me, "I didn't know that you were president of the NWA." I asked him how he knew! He said he had seen it in the newsletter, and when I asked him if he was a member he said that he was! I questioned him about his woodworking and he said that he had been doing woodworking since he was a kid. He doesn't go to any of our meetings but he stated that he wouldn't miss SHOWCASE. Now - I'll predict that a certain person is going to become more involved in NWA!

At our next meeting, if you see someone you don't know, introduce yourself. Who knows?...he may be your neighbor! 🐾

## Bus Trip: Philadelphia Furniture & Furnishings Show

- Herm Finkbeiner

NWA is sponsoring a bus trip to the Philadelphia Furniture Show on May 2-3, 2003.

The show, the premier show of one-of-a-kind furniture and furnishings here in the East, features the work of more than 250 craftsman. The show includes both original designs of tables, chests, desks, chairs, bookcases, etc. AND accessories such as hand-made paper lighting, modernist patterned rugs, sleek silverware, glass and ceramic vases and intricately inlaid boxes.

The trip will leave Schenectady at 7:00am Friday morning May 2, 2003. We will check in to the Hampton Inn and then spend the afternoon (2:00pm to 9:00pm) at the show.

On Saturday morning we will go to the Wharton Esherick Museum and be back in Schenectady by early evening.

Wharton Esherick is considered by many to be the father of American craftsmanship. The museum consists of the home and studio that he built and which now contain many of his pieces.

The cost of the trip, which includes bus transportation, hotel room, admission to the furniture show and admission to the Esherick museum, is \$115/person double occupancy (\$169 for single occupancy).

To sign up call 371-9145 or send an e-mail to [hfinkbei@nycap.rr.com](mailto:hfinkbei@nycap.rr.com)

For more information about the show or the museum the web sites are: [www.pffshow.com](http://www.pffshow.com) and [www.levins.com/esh3.html](http://www.levins.com/esh3.html). 🐾

# SHOWCASE: Volunteers Needed

- Wayne Distin, Volunteer Chair

It's time to recruit volunteers for Showcase. Wayne Distin **needs additional help for the February telephone effort**; calls must be made to 400-500 members. The more help we have, the fewer calls each committee member has to make. If you can help out, call Wayne Distin **NOW** at (518) 674-4171 or e-mail [wpswan@capital.net](mailto:wpswan@capital.net).

**Wayne's committee will be phoning members in February.** We ask that volunteers spend at least one 2 1/2 hour shift working at SHOWCASE on Friday, March 21, and/or Saturday, March 22, and/or Sunday March 23. If you want to save us a phone call, please call and volunteer so we won't risk playing telephone tag with you. Areas that need to be staffed include - but are not limited to - the following:

**Setup** - Friday from noon to 9 p.m.

**Takedown** - Sunday afternoon; two shifts, starts at 5 p.m.

**Door Hosts** - Ticket-taking and handing out programs

**Floor Hosts** - Walking the showroom floor and answering general questions

**Ticket sales** - Selling tickets at the show

**Lecturers' assistants** - Assist lecturers' setup/takedown

**Sawmill assistants** - Work a short shift outdoors

**Jigs & fixtures** - Answer questions and demonstrate display pieces

**Raffle** - sell tickets during the show

**"Anywhere You Say"** - If you can't make up your mind, or if you have a flexible schedule, give us a time and we'll place you where you are the most needed when you arrive.

Volunteer shifts are about 2 1/2 hours each, but you can sign up for more than one shift if you would like.

Remember, only those who work on SHOWCASE, either beforehand or on show weekend, may get in free. (And you **MUST** wear your nametag. We will put a marker on the tag to say that you have worked and get in free. You don't really want to be subjected to Fran's lecture, do you?!) Lost your nametag??? See or phone Austin Spang, Membership Chair.

**(We will be recruiting at the January meeting too; sign up there and save phone calls.)**

Remember - SHOWCASE is run completely by NWA members who unselfishly devote time to make it a success. Be part of this unique event - you'll be glad you did. 🐾

## SHOWCASE 2003

*Continued from page 1*

where you would like to donate your time and talents. Every volunteer who signs up early saves a telephone call later. Volunteers will be eligible for a special drawing of wood-working tools. You may recall that one of last year's volunteers won a radial arm saw.

Also needed are woodworking items for display in the exhibit hall. There is still plenty of time to make something. This year we will have a separate area for novice woodworkers to show their work. I recognize that the quality of many of the items on display can be intimidating to those who are new at woodworking. But you should look at SHOWCASE as a learning experience. By showing your work you will learn what was done correctly and what could be improved. In turn, this will help you make a better item for the next show. I have exhibited items in the Show for many years and each year I learn something that will help me become a better woodworker. Education in wood-working is NWA's reason for existing!

Most items are entered for display only, but you may elect to have your work judged. The judging rules and entry forms are found elsewhere in this newsletter. This year's judges will be woodworkers from the New Hampshire Woodworkers Guild and the Long Island Woodworkers Association, two organizations similar to NWA. Please submit your entry forms as early as possible. This helps us lay out the exhibit hall and also reduces the last minute push to get the exhibit labels prepared. 🐾

**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 nine times annually, six regular editions and three special editions (SHOWCASE, Shop Tour, and Family Night). The publication is assembled in QuarkXPress 4.0 on a Macintosh G4, duplicated by Shipmates, and mailed to more than 600 addresses.



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

Copy deadline: February 15  
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NWA maintains two websites, the first noted here operates continuously. We also offer selected links to other sites of interest to our membership.  
[www.woodworker.org](http://www.woodworker.org)  
Webmaster - Justin Roher  
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The second site operates from January 1 to May 30 and carries specific information about SHOWCASE.  
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# SHOWCASE's Saw Exhibit

## *A Special Scene to Show Saws*

*-Ken Miller*

Don't say that you *think* you saw it, because you *are* seeing it now.

The Special Exhibit at SHOWCASE 2003 will be entitled "Saw Blades Through the Years". This title will enable flexibility in preparation.

Please bring any unusual saws - in your opinion - to the next meeting, or plan to bring them to the March meeting for exhibit. Write your name on the blade. Having the stuff ahead of time will enable me to lay out a coherent and attractive exhibit. Remember when we set up SHOWCASE we have to unpack quickly and get it up in only two hours.

So far the categories are:

1. Principle saws: rip, crosscut, combination, demonstration and any educational material you suggest.
2. Speciality saws: flooring, dovetail, veneering, keyhole, hack, coping.
3. Tree felling saws: (about five different types that we'd like to display in a log).
4. Japanese etc. styles, with demonstrations.
5. Catalogs, books, projects with saws, etc. presented on the exhibit's rear panels.
6. Old pit, crosscut, and other logging and board-making saws.
7. Saw sets.
8. Circular saws with swages and tensioning pictures.
9. Saw sharpening demonstration with principles for cutting.
10. Various carpenter saws.
11. Anything else the members suggest.

We'll plan for white Homesote boards again on the rear curtain for books, booklets, and pictures and saws. The exhibit will combine history, education, instruction, etc. As was done last year, all contributions will be incorporated into the exhibits, and any duplication will stimulate artistic developments. For security, the exhibit will be set back from a three-foot high curtain, and Wayne Distin's crew will provide constant surveillance. No one will be allowed to touch the exhibit without supervision. 🐶

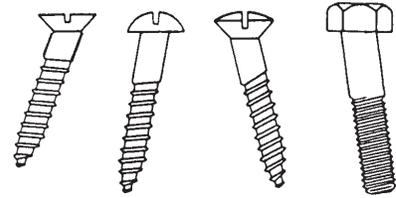
## World's Thickest Woodturning Books

*- Ken Evans*

1. Why turners like woodturning.
2. Why I don't like green-wood turning.
3. Finishes I don't like on turnings.
4. How to turn a lidded box.
5. Chucking methods.
6. Things turners do that cause a catch.
7. Why I need more wood.
8. Why I need more tools.
9. How many lathes are practical?
10. Why I could really use another lathe!
11. All the reasons to buy a bigger lathe.
12. Why turners should brush the chips off themselves before dinner!
13. All the reasons I like dry wood.
14. Sharpening jigs I have tried.
15. How to use the skew.

## Something New...in Jigs, Fixtures and Hardware

Hardware for the Wayward Craftsman



Screws and bolts for out-of-square holes.

Angles available  $\pm 5^\circ - 30^\circ$  (variable angle available at extra cost)

For catalog - [www.noscrewup2lg.com](http://www.noscrewup2lg.com)

## Publications Committee News

*- Ron DeWitt, Chair*

NWA President Jay Van Vranken has appointed Bill Fahy to serve as Website Editor, a new position in the Association. Bill will interface with the respective webmasters and his responsibilities will include editing, scheduling and coordinating all material for inclusion in NWA websites.

Bill is retired from the insurance business and has extensive experience with computers. He is a woodworker and longtime member of NWA. He works seasonally for H&R Block where he is responsible for computer hardware and software.

Bill will be a member of the Publications Committee. Anyone with suggestions or material for either the primary or SHOWCASE website should contact him at 869-0954 or [BBFahy1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:BBFahy1@nycap.rr.com).

In other Publications Committee activity, Fran Finkbeiner, in an effort to reduce the publications' editor's workload, has contacted a contract service to do the newsletter layout work, beginning with this issue. Don't be surprised by changes in the appearance of *Woodworker's News*. Fran will continue to edit the newsletter, however. 🐶

## Wood Definition

**Wane** - Bark, natural edge or lack of wood from any cause on any edge or corner of a piece of wood, except for eased edges.

# In-Shop Tutor Program Returns

- Ken Evans

Some time ago we experimented with a program designed by past NWA President Chuck Newland that we called "In-Shop Tutors, Up Close and Personal." The idea was to identify NWA members who would be willing to host three to five other NWA members in their shop for an evening demonstrating some topic of common interest. It is the intention to reestablish and possibly expand the program; it's education, and this is what NWA is about.

We have identified 12 such demonstrators who have expressed a willingness to act as hosts in the program. The names of the volunteer hosts, their phone numbers, and the topic they are willing to demonstrate are listed below. If you are interested in attending one of these demonstrations, call the volunteer host to find out the date and time as well as directions to the host's shop.

Thanks to all those listed below who volunteered to be host-demonstrators.

Chuck Jones, Canajoharie	673 2827	Dovetails
Ron DeWitt, Salem	854 3757	Finger joint boxes
Jack Ericson, Rexford	399 0988	Precision circle cutting on a bandsaw
Charlie Goddard, Niskayuna	370 0388	Making small jewelry boxes
Herm Finkbeiner, Rexford	371 9145	Making the classic workbench
Chuck Newland, Slingerlands	439 3462	Varnishing and marine brightwork
Ken Evans, Valley Falls	753 7759	Sharpening turning tools
Art Coleman, Ballston Lake	399 5550	Chainsaw lumber making
Bob Updahl, Hurley	845 338 0551	Turning miniatures
George Norton, Kingston	845 331 1705	Inlay with a router
Earl Liberty, Cohoes	235 6543	Making raised panel doors
Bill Reynolds, Hurley	845 331 0394	Turning small items

(All area codes are 518 unless stated otherwise.)

Please, if you are interested in being a host- demonstrator, call Ken Evans at 518 753 7759 or email at [kevans1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:kevans1@nycap.rr.com). We will list your name, phone number, and topic in the next newsletter. Let's expand this program to include host demonstrators from all Chapters, and SIGs.

Thank you all!

## Wood Questions

Q. What is the make-up of the tree species of the Adirondacks?

A. The population of trees in the Adirondacks is composed of about 3.7% oak, 5.0% cherry, 30.5% maple, 28.7% mixed hardwoods (ash, hickory, aspen, beech, birch, basswood, etc.) and 9.2% white pine, 9.2% spruce and fir, and 4.7% mixed softwoods (tamarack, red pine, pitch pine, white cedar, red cedar, Scots pine, etc.).

## Annual Taunton Press Book Sale

- Jim Hartlage

Taunton Press is holding its annual 50% off sale. If you have been waiting for a special moment to add to your own library, now is the time.

- Orders will be taken at the January meeting.
- Be thorough when writing your list - EXACT title and author, please.
- Orders will be accepted in cash or check, rounded upward to the nearest half dollar.
- Checks should be made out to NWA.
- If you cannot attend the meeting, please send your order and check to: Jim Hartlage, 19 Cheshire Place, Niskayuna, NY 12309.

For further information, contact Jim at 370-4127 or [JMHartlage@aol.com](mailto:JMHartlage@aol.com)

## C L A S S E S F E E D S

**FOR SALE:** Logs and limbs from BARK EATER TREE SERVICE, Schenectady. If you're interested in what is available, call Peter Frisoni at 518-381-4325.



**FOR SALE:** The Adirondack Woodturners have about a dozen gallon cans of Minwax Antique Oil finish for sale. Each gallon has been tinted walnut. Each gallon is priced at \$10. If you are interested in a gallon of this popular finish, please contact Ken Evans 518-753-7759 - and we can make it happen.

# Wood of the Month

- Ron DeWitt

## Pacific Yew (*Taxus brevifolia*).

### A (very hard) Softwood

### Taxaceae. Yew Family

There are ten yews, all native to the Northern Temperate Zone and all quite similar in appearance. Two trees and one shrub are native to the U.S. One ranges from Mexico into Honduras and six are distributed over Eurasia. None are very large trees and only the European or English yew and the Japanese yew regularly reach 60 feet in their natural ranges.

The Pacific yew (*Taxus brevifolia*) is also called western yew, mountain mahogany or simply yew. It occurs in nature as both a tree and a shrub and is a most interesting coniferous tree for its wood and chemical/medicinal properties.

This tree is native to an area from the Sierra Nevada Mountains of central California, northward along the Pacific Coast Region of Oregon and Washington through British Columbia and Vancouver into the southern tip of Alaska. A second north-south range extends from the western Rockies in Montana and Idaho into British Columbia.

Pacific yew is very shade tolerant and most often grows as an understory tree in the poorest of soil conditions as long as it has a good moisture supply. It does best in deep, rich, moist gravel or rocky soils. It may be mixed in a variety of forest covers, most often with dense conifer stands, but seldom occurs in pure stands of any size. In its native areas it may be found from sea level to 8000 feet.

The tree is very long-lived - to 300 years - and usually slow-growing, especially when heavily shaded. Typically it reaches 24 inches in diameter and 50 feet in height. The largest recorded, in Lewis County, Washington is 56 inches in diameter by 60 feet.

Pacific yew is an evergreen tree with a stem usually unsymmetrical, often angled and twisted or irregular. The tree has long slender horizontal branches forming a broad open conical crown. Leaves are needle-like, alternate in two spiraling, opposite flat rows. Leaves are 1/2-inch to 3/4-inch long, 1/16-inch wide with short points at each end. The leaves are keeled and yellow-green above, light green with two white longitudinal bands below. These leaves may live from five to 12 years. Slender and slightly drooping twigs are pale green, maturing to light brown. The purple-brown bark is very thin and smooth with red-brown to red-purple scales.

The Pacific yew, like most of the yews, is dioecious - having male cones and female seed bearing components on

separate trees. The unique bright red fruit, with a single seed nearly enclosed in a 3/8-inch diameter cup, forms in August through October on the female tree.

The leaves, bark and seeds are quite poisonous although the sweet ripe flesh of the fruit is considered safe as long as the seed is not crushed.

The Pacific yew most often reproduces from seeds that have passed through birds, a process which dissolves the seed's outer membrane. Yew also reproduces naturally from root or stump sprouts or from layering. It is also easily rooted from cuttings.

Wood of this tree is heavy with a specific gravity of 0.67 oven-dry; weight is about 47 pounds per cubic foot at 12% moisture content. It's the densest of our softwoods at approximately the same weight as white ash. Narrow sapwood is light yellow; heartwood is light orange to rose-red. The wood is lacking resin canals so is non-resinous and without characteristic taste or odor when dry.

Growth rings are distinct. Earlywood extends across about half the width of the ring before a gradual transition to the very dense and darker latewood. Uniseriate rays are very fine and indistinct to the naked eye in cross sections. Although easily identified and separated from other woods, the woods of the various species of yew cannot be separated from each other either chemically or microscopically.

Pacific yew is difficult to dry and must be dried slowly to minimize a tendency to check along ring boundaries. Once dry, it is stable. Shrinkage is quite small at only 9.7 percent of volume, from green to oven-dry conditions.

The wood works well with hand or power tools that produce smooth surfaces and crisp edges. Pre-drilling is necessary for fasteners that hold well. It is a good wood for turning, excellent for bending and carves well - with sharp knives. It glues well with most adhesives and takes finishes nicely although oils are best avoided as they darken heartwood. This is a very durable wood when exposed to insects, weather or soil conditions. This wood is highly toxic. It is known to cause eye, skin and breathing problems as well as severe allergic reactions. Precautions are always necessary when working with or around this material.

The toxicity of Pacific yew comes from a high content of poisonous alkaloids, "positively harmful to people, cattle and horses." The most severely toxic of the yews is the European yew (*T. baccata*); as little as seven ounces of foliage is enough to kill a horse.

Another constituent of Pacific yew is *taxol*, a compound extracted from yew bark and found to be promising as an anticancer agent. Almost 3500 Pacific yews were cut to provide 60,000 pounds of dried bark which, in turn, yielded nine pounds of dry, crystalline *taxol* for the first medical trials. Attempts to synthesize *taxol* have been unsuccessful and the likelihood of future success is considered to be poor. Although most yew species produce *taxol*, only the Pacific yew is considered to be a practical source for quantities adequate for clinical trials.

Yews are popular as ornamentals. They transplant easily, are hearty in polluted urban settings and tolerate heavy shaping. The many available cultivars provide a great variety in size and shape.



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# The Corner Computer Cabinet:

## Part Two – Starting to Put It All Together

- Dale Brown

(This is continued from the December issue of Woodworkers News and will be concluded in the March issue).

Large cabinets have been adventures for me because each is unique with its own set of problems.

Insertion of the vertical support pillars at the front corners between the shelves required dowel joints through the shelves and into both ends of the pillars. (See Fig 2, Part I to see two of these pillars.) After “free handing” the hole drilling and failing, I bought 1/4-inch hole drilling bushings from Lee Valley. Quarter-inch dowels forced into 1/4-inch holes seize up and are nearly impossible to extract. Drill chuck the dowel - spin it and use a strip of sandpaper to reduce its diameter to gain a snug fit. Using bushings to accomplish the pillar joints requires three C-clamps: One to hold a front alignment board against the shelf, a second to hold the pillar tight to the alignment board, and a third to hold the board containing the bushings. This setup is needed for both sets of holes through the shelf and into the top and bottom of each pillar.



Figure 1.

After several discussions and looking at veneer samples with my wife Norma, the idea of using bird's eye veneer in the door and side pillar panels has been dropped in favor of *pommele sapele* for the door panels and figured cherry for the panels of the two vertical side pillars. Both types of veneer came from Certainly Wood in East Aurora, NY. *Sapele* is a dark brown and *pommele sapele* has a tight wave pattern similar to quilted mahogany.

The base is essentially finished except for the face framing and doors. The retractable solid cherry keyboard tray is shown in Fig. 1. The sliding “in-and-out” mechanism is mounted on the shelf just below, but the door itself has yet to be made. I've used Butler Tray hinges for this since they lock in both the vertical (up) and horizontal (down) positions. This eliminates the need for stops and latches to maintain both alternatives. These hinges need to be offset from the lower edge of the flip-up door rail because of the need to hide the edge of the in-and-out motion. When “up” (closed) this door, therefore, will hide the entire interior. A wide rabbet is needed in both the bar and the door rail to allow the door to go down because of the hinge offset in the rail. This has been done and the hinges temporarily mounted using duplicate small steel screws instead of the small brass screws supplied with the hinges. This “saves” the brass

screws from being damaged during the trial and error trimming of the rabbets.

Figure 2 shows the top on the bottom minus the face frame, doors and side panels. As described previously, the cabinet needs to be moved and therefore is in three sections, plus the two six-foot high side panels. All vertical edges need to be square with the base and be in alignment with each other: outside edges of the side panels which will abut the house walls, inside edges of the side panels which will be angle-joined against the face frames holding the Soss hinges for the doors and the face frames. There needs to be a joint in the vertical members of the face frame where the base meets the top. Two six-foot boards, one for each side of the doors, are needed here to provide matching grain pattern at each of the joints. These boards will be about two-inches wide and about one-inch thick. This thickness will also be used for all the door frames.

After dry assembling the top on the base and measuring the door opening diagonals with my folding rule with its six-inch brass extension slider, it was found that the top was canted about 1/4-inch off the vertical. The only way to check this is to use either a very long level or a plumb bob. After leveling the base, I hung a plumb bob from the ceiling and proved by Edisonian experiments that a 5/4-inch thick by two-inch thick wide oak board six feet long and attached to



Figure 2.

the outside front edges of the top and bottom sides, solves the problem. The previous extension of the base molding that took into account the molding at the bottom of the house's walls will have to be extended a bit.

Now, getting ready for the face frames, side panels, door construction and veneering. Also considering that the pentagonal box to which the cornice molding will be attached is a bit too high and needs to be altered.

Now you know why a large, one-of-a-kind, portable computer corner cabinet is a woodworking adventure. Can you guess where the “secret” drawer will be? 🐾

# CHAPTER NEWS

## *Sacandaga Chapter*

The chapter had a fine program on November 13. The program featured a presentation/demonstration by Bill McCormick on "Everything You Didn't Know About Woodcarving." The program was aimed at both novices as well as to those with more experience; different types of woodcarving were also addressed. On deck for December 11 was to be a program by Jean Aldous featuring "Scrollsaw Techniques from A-Z," but a severe ice storm prevailed and the meeting was cancelled. We will attempt to reschedule Jean later in the spring.

On January 9, a hands-on session about dovetail jigs and mortise and tenon fixtures will be featured - both dedicated mortise and tenon machines as well as those that attach to a drill press. The same evening members will cut sample dovetails using both dovetail machines and handcut dovetails.

February 12th the chapter will have a short discussion program on wood working projects and then will construct and assemble toy cars to give away to kids at SHOWCASE in March.

All members of NWA are invited to attend; light refreshments are served. For information or directions call Tom Rullifson 661-5587 or Gary Spencer- 863-6433.

## *Mid-Hudson Chapter News*

*- Chuck Walker*

### **Hazards in the Holidays?**

Joe Benkert told our chapter about his experience while making Christmas presents this year. The project was a bunch of wooden slat baskets which Joe and his wife would

pack with jams, jellies, candy and other goodies to give to their friends. This fall Joe noticed that whenever he left the shop after working on the baskets, he would feel poorly. It was some time before it occurred to him that maybe something in his shop was responsible. It turned out that the culprit was the material he was using for the baskets - western red cedar! The dust from many woods can be dangerous but western red cedar can be especially bad. Joe finally became ill enough and so short of breath that he headed for the emergency room and was hospitalized while his lungs and system recovered. He admitted later it was a very frightening experience.

The holidays are a time when many of us are busy in the shop and tend to forget some of the normal hazards of woodworking. Dust can be one of the worst and many of the woods we use can evoke a serious reaction. Even if you have never had a problem before, allergic reactions can suddenly appear with potentially deadly results. You cannot predict just when you will suddenly become sensitive to a particular wood. Joe and the Mid-Hudson Chapter folks want to remind you to take some time to check on the woods you are about to use. Even for the less serious wood types, it is always good to wear dust masks and eye protection. We know it's a nuisance - but then so is time out waiting for your breathing to return to normal!

A list of hazardous woods can be found in Scroll Saw Workshop, Issue No. 8, Fall 2002. The Internet can also be a good source for determining the possible hazards of any given wood.

*(EDITOR'S NOTE: The Pacific yew, the **Wood of the Month** in this newsletter, is another of those hazardous woods. Each of Ron's articles notes the possible hazards of working with the wood featured.)*

## **Wood of the Month**

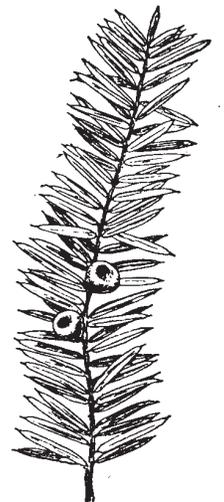
*Continued from page 6*

Pacific yew is a wood of many uses. West Coast Native Americans used yew for mauls and splitting wedges, spear handles and longbows, cut so that the bow contained sapwood for resilience and heartwood for strength. (During the Middle Ages, the basic weapon of the English army was the longbow, made of European yew.) Women used yew to remove underarm hair. Red paint was produced from ground heartwood mixed with fish oil. It was believed that eating yew berries would prevent conception, induce an abortion or initiate menstruation.

Dried yew leaves were sometimes smoked ceremonially to create hallucinations and dizziness. Bark was used for many medications (at the cost of how many lives?) and wood was used as an item of trade.

Today the wood is used for canoe paddles, tool handles, gunstocks, boat decking, stringed musical instruments and carved figurings. It is also used for small cabinetwork and novelties. Much yew is used for long lasting fence posts.

Logging has traditionally destroyed much Pacific yew as an incidental and nuisance tree. More recently, medical uses have put great pressure on the reserves of yew. Because of its slow growth, small size and sparsity, Pacific yew is now considered rare and when available in any form, it's very expensive. 🌲



# ENTRY FORM - Woodworkers Showcase 2003, March 22 & 23

Your name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ Member \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Street \_\_\_\_\_ Town \_\_\_\_\_ State, zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Entry fee - \$10 **per entrant**  
 (No charge for members)

**ENTRY DEADLINE: March 14, 2003**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Office use only)

**Please fill in the following form completely. Entry rules follow. Display labels are made in advance using the information you furnish here; those labels will be waiting for you when you bring your entries to Showcase 2003.**

ENTRY CATEGORY (State category, identify your piece, list woods used, identify finish used)	For competition (One per category only)	For display only (Unlimited)*	Preferred display location		Space needed (Sq. ft.)
			Floor	Table	
EXAMPLE: Cases & cabinets. Desk. Cherry. Varnish	x		x		20
EXAMPLE: Toys/Min. Truck. Oak, cherry. Tung oil		x	x		6
EXAMPLE: Novice. Book shelf. Walnut. Poly.	x			x	

(For additional entries use the back of this page.)

\*As space allows

✂
CUT HERE. KEEP THE MATERIAL BELOW FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

**WHAT:** WOODWORKERS SHOWCASE 2003  
**WHERE:** Saratoga Springs City Center  
 Saratoga Springs, New York  
**WHEN:** 10-5, Saturday and Sunday, March 22 & 23, 2003

**Pieces to be judged MUST be delivered to Showcase no later than 6 pm, Friday, March 21 to be included in the judging** which takes place Saturday morning prior to show opening time. Pieces delivered after 6 pm on Friday will be for display only.

Exhibits MUST be picked up between 5 & 7 pm, Sunday, March 23. **Exhibits may NOT be removed from the floor before 5 pm.**

For additional information: (518) 348-1033 or 370-0388

**ENTRY CATEGORIES:**

- Furniture: tables, beds
- Furniture: cases, cabinets, desks
- Furniture: chairs
- Accessories: clocks, boxes, desk top pieces
- Toys/Miniatures: play things, models
- Turning: faceplate, spindle, segmented
- Carving: representational, conceptual, decorative
- Inlay, Intarsia, Marquetry
- Scroll sawing
- Novice: any piece crafted by a novice.
- Other: fixtures, shop equipment, cooperage, musical instruments, any piece not fitting into the above categories

## ENTRY FORM *(Continued)*

ENTRY CATEGORY (State category, identify your piece, list woods used, identify finish used)	For competition (One per category only)	For display only (Unlimited)*	Preferred display location		Space needed Sq. ft.
			Floor	Table	



CUT HERE. KEEP THE MATERIAL BELOW FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

**ENTRY RULES:**

- Each entry will be judged solely on the merit of the piece as determined by the criteria of craftsmanship established by the judges.
- You may exhibit any number of pieces, but only one piece may be entered for judging per category. (Entrants are encouraged to enter additional pieces for display only.)
- Entrants may enter more than one category.
- Entry forms must include title (if applicable) and description of materials.
- Award winning pieces from previous Showcase (EXPO) events are not eligible for competition, but may be entered for display.
- There must be at least three entrants in a category for an entry to be judged. The judges and the committee reserve the right to re-categorize an entry to ensure that all entries are judged.
- Woodworkers may enter as novices as often as they wish until age 16. At age 16 and older, only beginning woodworkers may enter as a novice, and may enter as a novice only one year.
- Decisions of the judges are final.

**AWARDS:**

- Best of Show - One, any entry.
- Judges Commendation - Three, any entry.
- First Place - Blue, one each category.
- Second Place - Red, one each category.
- Third Place - White, one each category.

(At the discretion of the judges, some awards may not be given.)

**JUDGES:** Pete Breau and Jack Grube, The Guild of New Hampshire Woodworkers; Mike Daum and Bob Urso, Long Island Woodworkers Club

**Send entry form to:**  
**Northeastern Woodworkers Association**  
**Box 246**  
**Rexford, NY 12148**

For additional information: (518) 348-1033 or 370-0388

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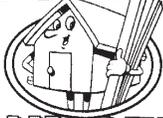
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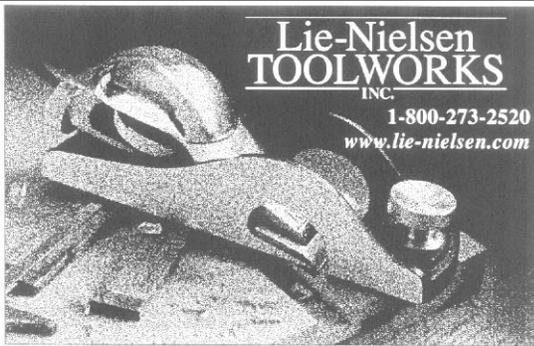


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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**March 13**

“New Woodturning,”  
Ken Miller, member.  
Shaker Meeting House

**March 22 & 23**  
SHOWCASE 2003  
Saratoga Springs

**April**

Home Shop Tour

**May 8**

Sid Fleisher,  
member and instructor  
of woodworking  
in the RPI architecture program,  
will illustrate and discuss present  
and past projects.

**July**

Annual Summer Picnic  
Jonesville Fire House, Clifton Park

## NEXT MEMBER MEETING

7:00 p.m., Thursday, January 9, 2003  
Shaker Heritage Society Meeting House  
Albany-Shaker Road (near Albany Airport)

MEETING CANCELLATION INFORMATION:  
Telephone Jay VanVranken, Wayne Distin  
or Charlie Goddard

