

# WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern  
Woodworkers  
Association

July 2006, Vol. 15, Number 7

## NWA PICNIC

Sunday, July 30, 2006

12:00 Noon to 5:00PM, Jonesville Firehouse

- Ken Evans

*It's picnic time again. Let's really make it a BIG ONE this year. Look at all the things going on at the picnic, and check out the new stuff \*\*\*:*

- \*\*\*Music by wandering minstrels (no, I am not one of the wandering banjo minstrels)
- Good weather (even if not, there is lots of cover in the pavilion)
- Good food (another Southern style barbecue)
- \*\*\*Bandsaw milling of wood demonstration
- Fly fishing demo and practice sessions
- \*\*\*A TAG sale of woodworking related items sold out of your trunk/truck
- Good weather
- Woodturning demonstrations (of course)
- Woodcarving demonstrations
- \*\*\*Tape Measure Races (everybody bring your fastest tape measure) This year a new category... tape measures with wheels (make a chariot powered by your tape measure). Whose idea was this?????
- \*\*\*Door Prizes (for men, women, and children)
- Desert (bring a desert to be shared with friends)
- Conversation (bring a lawn chair and sit under the trees in the shade with other NWA members)
- A possible Elvis sighting
- Good weather
- \*\*\*A 2x6 Challenge (make anything from one 2x6x8 and compete for a nice prize)
- Good weather
- BOCCE and horse shoes (The Turners are the Champs in BOCCE)
- A general all-around good old relaxing time.

This is a time to meet the families of all your woodworking friends.

It's just \$5.00 per person. We need a count for lunch, so please call Ken (518) 753-7759, Herm (518) 371-9145 or Charlie (518) 370-0388 with your reservations.

## The Fiske Fund

- Joe Kennedy

You can now access Fiske Fund information and obtain a copy of an application on our web site. Click on the appropriate "Updates" section.

We now have two applications in process. Tom Osborne plans to take a two week chair design class with Bruce Beekan and James Schriber at the Center for Furniture Craftsmanship in Rockport, Maine. Pat Paraggio will take a one week Turned and Carved Vessels class with John Jordan at the same school. We expect additional applications in the coming months. 🐾



*This year's NWA picnic entertainment is not finalized, but negotiations are underway for at least one 'headliner'.*

## The 2 x 6 Challenge

- Ken Evans

What can you make from a 2 x 6??

I don't know much about 2 x 6's except they cost more today than they used to. I have no idea what wood is actually used to make them and I surely know they are not 2 x 6 inches.

However, the other unknown is what can YOU make from one of these critters. Go to it cuz you only have a few weeks before the picnic and the challenge is on! Make something from an 8'- 2 x 6 and nothing else and our distinguished judges at showcase will pick the best use of the wood so to speak. The winner will get a very nice prize. By the way, you get to keep your project also.

Hummmmm! Maybe a banjo! Or a violin! Maybe a chest of drawers or a Windsor chair. It's all up to you.

The picnic is Sunday, July 30 at the Jonesville Fire station. Please call Ken, Charlie or Herm with your reservation so we have a count for lunch. Cost is only \$5.00.

Remember the TAG sale of anything related to woodworking. See you there. 🐾

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# From the President

## - Ken Evens

It used to be BLAH, BLAH, BLAH.

Today it is BLOG, BLOG, BLOG.

What is a BLOG?? Well, a blog is a place on the internet where a person or an organization gets to sound off about anything said person or organization feels is important.

In keeping with these modern internet features, NWA has a BLOG of its own. The blog is accessible from the website and on the blog you can find out what NWA is doing. By the way, NWA is doing lots of stuff and if you want to know the 'what and where' of the action by NWA, check out the NWA BLOG.

Now I just know some NWA smart guy or gal is going to ask me what "BLOG" stands for. I do not have a clue.

Gerry O'Brien is the NWA BLOGGER. If you want something on the NWA BLOG, just send it to Gerry at go12211@yahoo.com.

Check it out, it is really cool! 🐾

# Shaker Work Party

## - Charlie Goddard

Recently 18 members and spouses formed a work party to do various jobs at the Shaker Heritage Society (SHS). This is the way that we pay for use of storage areas in the Shaker buildings.

Part of the crew finished the fence we started last fall, by putting in braces for the corner posts and putting up the wire. The completed enclosure will be used for a pair of oxen.

Others cleaned out part of the Meetinghouse, straightened up the porch area of one of the buildings, moved and cleaned many chairs and cleaned out the loft area of the barn. That last project filled a very large roll-off container.

The weather was threatening but the rain held off. A nice lunch was provided by SHS. The crew worked hard but had a good time. It was really nice to see some new faces in the work party. Thanks to all who took part. 🐾

# Lumber and Tool Auction

## - Charlie Goddard

The annual lumber and tool auction will be Saturday, September 16, at the Shaker barn. The doors will open at noon and the auction will begin at 1 PM.

So far we have collected an interesting assortment of tools and more are on the way. There will be a listing in the next newsletter. For lumber, we will have some very nice oak, cherry and walnut, along with various other species.

The auction is the primary source of money for grants awarded from the Fiske Fund. Many of the items are donated, others are sold and the proceeds split with the donor. All donations, including the split which goes to NWA, are fully tax deductible. If you have some useable tools cluttering up your shop this is your chance to gain some extra shop space.

In the next newsletter I will be asking for volunteers to help set up the auction, starting the Wednesday prior to the auction, and to help out on auction day. If you will be able to help, mark your calendar. 🐾

# C A S S E T T E S

**For Sale: Performax 22-44ST drum sander**, does 22" in one pass and 44" in two. Only used a dozen times. Asking \$800. Michael Puryear, (845)-943-5975 or mpuryear@pipeline.com

# CHAPTER NEWS

## *A Chair for All Seasons*

- *Wally Cook*

Duane Henry, a Fiske Award recipient, related his experience at the Windsor Institute. The class was held in Hampton, NH from March 6-10. Duane was one of twenty students from who hailed from locations all over the country, including California, Louisiana, Utah and Arizona.

Mike Dunbar is the owner and principal instructor. He has been teaching chair making for 25 years and counts over 6,500 students, including many from foreign countries. Mike has been featured on the The New Yankee Workshop with Norm Abram. Last year the Wall Street Journal did a front page story about him. The Windsor Institute offers classes on building a dozen varieties of Windsor chairs.

The Windsor chair project depends primarily on hand work, using a draw knife and a spoke shave. Other special tools such as a gutter adz, scorp, compass plane and travister were used along with steam bending for the arm and bow back of the chair. Special patterns and measurement tools were also required.

The class was intensive...a solid eight hour effort each day for five days was necessary to complete the forming of spindles, shaping the seat and assembling the chair. Each chair required 45 holes drilled at compound angles.

Mike has three very excellent assistants that were always there to answer questions and offer hands-on assistance if required. Mike guarantees you will have an assembled chair by the last day of class.

From the results, it was clear that it was a worthwhile experience!



*Mike Dunbar checks a Windsor chair seat*



*Using an adz to hollow the seat*



*Duane Henry with finished Windsor chair*



*Phil Whittington and John Franklin work with KHS students to build birdhouses*

## ***Birdhouse Redux:***

Mid-Hudson Members once again showed up in force to assist Jane Franklin's Kingston High School class in building birdhouses. This has evolved into an annual event, where the students construct the birdhouses and later write field reports about the nesting activity. Thirteen NWA members participated in the construction of the houses on May 23, as well as preparation work at the Wednesday group to produce the birdhouse kits. Lumber for this project was donated by Williams Lumber and Home Centers.

**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 August. Copy deadline: July 15  
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**Blog Site:**  
<http://woodworkerorg.blogspot.com/>

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



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WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION**  
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# Tom Seagrove Shares Wit and Blade Wisdom with Scrollers

- Donna Phillips

Tom Seagrove, retired machinist and 10-year veteran of the scroll saw, provided the program for May's meeting of the NWA Scrollers Guild, educating (or re-educating) members about blades and entertaining them with stories. Tom's scrolling career began Christmas of 1996 when his wife fulfilled his wish for a scroll saw. He thought it was a sign of true love until his wife warned, "Learn to use it. There are some things I want you to make." Having caught up with his wife's wish list, Tom began to attend craft shows, finding his niche when he began taking Carmen (that's his Hawk saw's name, not his wife's) to the shows and cutting out custom-made name key chains on the spot.

He addressed two questions every novice scroller has asked. Which blade do I buy, and *why do my blades break?* Like several other scrollers in the group, Tom swears by Flying Dutchman blades available online from Mike's Workshop <<http://www.mikesworkshop.com/blades.htm>>. The blades are good quality and Mike's service is outstanding. He wouldn't mention any names for brands he wouldn't buy. Tom gave a brief lesson in blade manufacturing to explain why the burrs in stamped and milled blades can be a problem in achieving clean cuts and decent blade life.

Tom gave us vivid illustrations to show why blades *don't* break, whacking



a blade with a chunk of wood and shoving a piece through it at high speed with nary a snap or twinge. He explained that in many instances it's a problem in the manufacturing process rather than the fault of the end-user. Stamping or milling machinery can get dull, and if not changed out in a timely fashion, a run of dull blades with nasty burrs can be the result. Improper tempering of the blade can also leave the metal brittle.

There are three things the end-user can do to avoid breakage, however.

- Use a slick-surfaced paper used to back adhesive items like Contact paper, or silicone-type packing tape to provide blade lubrication.
- Change blades at the first sign of a problem. If the blade catches and the wood flutters or bounces on the saw, change the blade at once. It's bent. If the wood has become hard to feed, don't fight with the dull blade. It's on its way to breaking, and the user can't be having much fun doing all that pushing.
- Don't over-tighten. If a blade needs repeated tightening, that's a sign of

stretching, especially in finer-sized blades, and they're going to snap sooner rather than later. Blades are inexpensive, and ruined work is costly.

Finally, Tom provided useful tips on dressing a blade as a way to improve its cutting and longevity.

- To clean up the teeth and remove burrs left by milling, lay a blade flat and gently swipe a sharpening stone across the teeth, taking care not to bend the blade ends by swiping too far.
- You can also round off the back of a blade. Choose a stone narrow enough to clear the top arm of the saw while it's in motion. With the blade in the saw and the saw turned on, gently touch the stone to the back edges of the blade, taking care not to get the stone too far to the side to damage the teeth. This trick allows the user to cut with a thicker, more aggressive blade while making tighter turns.
- If you're too pinched for time to change the blade (in the middle of a key chain, say, for *Sheherazade*), it's possible to sharpen the blade right in the saw. Keep a supply of fine files, and a gentle pass across the cutting edge of each tooth can freshen the blade up enough to complete the cut. This does thin out the blade and is only good for one or two sharpenings. 🐾

# The Rounders Again Over Reach

- Herm Finkbeiner

A few years ago a momentous event took place at the NWA picnic... the tape measure races were inaugurated!

Those attending the picnic brought along their most pampered tape measure with the most carefully nurtured rewind spring that money and cultural care could provide. These tapes were raced against each other to determine the winner of the most coveted trophy in the entire world of tape measure competition. The competition has now become so severe that international rules have been devised and a confederation of stewards and judges has been established to ensure a level playing field.

Of the breeds that have been accredited two compete locally, the pure bred basic tape measure and the tape measure powered chariot.

Chariots do, of course, have wheels!

Now the rounders in our midst have the audacity to claim that the very use of wheels is an invasion of the domain of those who afflictions revolve around a lathe. If left unchallenged these same villains will soon claim that all trees are the proper domain of rounders since trees are round.

I therefore call upon all those who recognize that true creativity leads to inventions beyond the ken of rounders. True flat boarders are asked to channel their efforts into devising chariots that will cause rounders to hang their heads in shame. Let us show them that while the steering wheel is round it is the genius behind the wheel that leads to the desired objective, winning on the field of competition!

To build a chariot there are some rules that have been established by the International Governing Council.

The tapes must be a minimum of 8 ft. Longer is not a problem. The chariots with wheels can be a maximum of 7" in length, 2 3/4" wide and 4 3/4" high. Larger will not fit the starting gate! 🐾



# Kaatskill Wood Turners - June Meeting

## *Down in the Hollow*

- *Wally Cook*

John Franklin provided a demonstration of the Jamieson hollowing system at the June KWA meeting. Developed by Lyle Jamieson, the Jamieson Tool System is designed for deep hollowing and features a second outboard tool rest to stabilize the boring bar and reduce tool vibration.

The chief difficulty in deep hollowing is the limitation of depth that most tools can achieve. John has a rule of thumb that the effective depth that can be reached by a tool is fifteen times the diameter of the shank. For instance, a half-inch gouge would have an effective reach of 7.5 inches. Beyond that distance, the overhang off the tool rest places too much torque on the tool introducing chatter and changing the angle of the cutting surface.

### **John's Tips for Deep Hollowing:**

1. Practice making shapes for the vessel. A paper pattern is a useful tool to visualize shape
2. Begin with an end in mind
3. Use a steady rest to avoid flexing of a thin walled piece
4. Use the largest chuck possible to increase holding surface
5. Size the spigot to match the chuck – a go no-go gauge for your optimum spigot diameter is very helpful
6. Reduce tool vibration by reducing tool overhang and increasing shaft diameter
7. Don't cut off spigots too soon – you may need them for remounting.

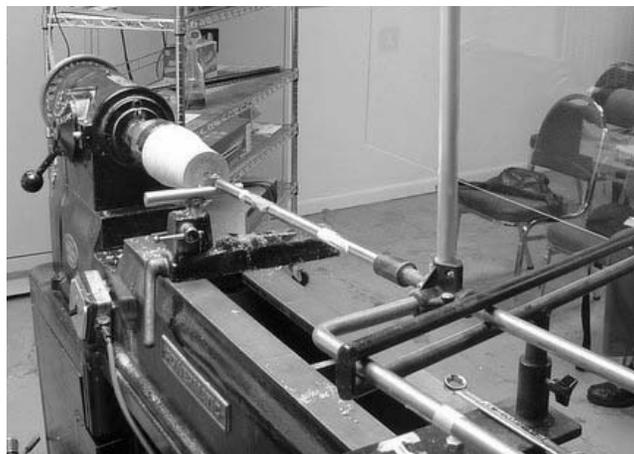
The Jamieson system controls cutting tool vibration by providing supporting arms on the cutting tool as well as the second outboard tool rest. John has used the Jamieson to produce hollow vessel walls of 1/8" thickness. In addition, the Jamieson tool does enable fast, aggressive hollowing.

A capability of the Jamieson system is the laser guide positioned on the upper arm of the tool fixture. The laser guide can be aligned to a fixed distance from the cutting edge, thereby establishing a thickness gauge which the turner can see on the outside of the piece while hollowing inside the piece.

Of course, the Jamieson system of tools and fixtures is somewhat expensive. The tool set can range from \$250 to \$550, depending on the accessories desired.

### ***Does It Get any Better?***

The KWA has been fortunate to have some excellent presentations. However, a special meeting on June 4 featured Stuart Mortimer. Stuart's presentation will be the subject of a future article, but many thanks are due to Myrna Sammath for arranging Stuart's itinerary and picking him up from the airport.



*The Jamieson System features secure tool rests and laser guide*



*Hollowing with the Jamieson is accomplished from the center to the edge*



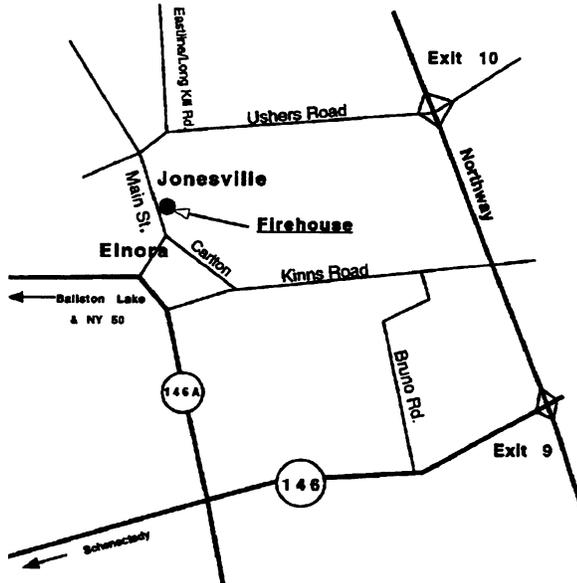
*John's recent hollowed vessels*



*Stuart Mortimer's pieces*



Northeastern Woodworkers Association  
 P.O. Box 246  
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**NWA Picnic, Sunday, July 30**  
 12 P.M. (Noon) to 5 P.M.  
 Jonesville Fire Station No.1

**GENERAL MEETINGS  
 AND SPECIAL EVENTS**

July 30, 2006 - NWA Picnic  
 Jonesville Fire Station

August, 2006 - NO MEETING

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](http://www.adirondackwoodturners.org)  
 Contact Ken Evans, 753-7759 or [Kevans1@nycap.rr.com](mailto: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](mailto: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.