

WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern
Woodworkers
Association

November 2016, Vol. 25, Number 9

November Meeting

Fiske Award Lecture

*Thursday, November 3, 2016 7:00 PM
Clifton Park Halfmoon Public Library
475 Moe Rd, Clifton Park, NY*

Guest speaker Mike Pekovich, is Executive Art Director of *Fine Woodworking* magazine and has over 30 years' experience as a wood worker. He studied furniture making and graphic design in college. He custom builds furniture, specializing in Arts and Crafts styles.

Mike will teach box making to our enrolled NWA members Friday and Saturday, November 4th and 5th. The class filled in one day with a wait list, so we hope Mike will return to 15 Solar Drive for future classes.



REMINDER

**December Family Night
Thursday December 1st at
7:00 PM at the Clifton Park
Halfmoon Public Library
on Moe Road.**

Message from the NWA President

By Wally Carpenter, President

You're Invited!

Did you know there is a guiding group within NWA known as the NWA Board? The Board consists of your Presidency, Chairs, SIG, and Chapter leaders. These are all people you know or should know as they represent each of those areas they are responsible to.

The meetings are posted on our NWA website under the calendar area: <http://www.woodworker.org/calendar.htm>

The Board meetings are open and welcome all NWA members. When you go the website listed above, you will see it defaults to the current month. By clicking the left/right arrow button in the upper left corner of the calendar, you can move the calendar to November

calendar. You can open the specific information for any event on the calendar by simply clicking on the date you are interested in.

Our next Board meeting is scheduled for 7:00 PM, Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2016 and is located at the Herm Finkbeiner Learning Center, 15 Solar Drive, Clifton Park, NY.

This and all such meetings have always been open to our membership. If you are interested in seeing what happens at these meetings, I invite you to join me. You may find you want to participate more in a leadership role, so please let me know. We ALWAYS have openings for our members to contribute.

Thank you.

NWA Annual Auction 2016

By Dick Flanders

On September 24, 2016 the NWA held its auction at the Shaker Barn in Colonie. The committee that pulls off this huge event every year is made up of Charlie Goddard, Warren Stoker, Pete Howe and Dick Flanders. Below is my description of the considerable labor of the committee to make a successful event with a large turnout of buyers.

It all starts with soliciting log and lumber donations from any sources. Several years ago we built a log trailer with a superstructure and overhead beam, chain fall, and winch on a large landscape trailer. Volunteers with heavy duty trucks haul this trailer to a site for log pickup, and we load the logs onto the trailer for delivery to the Shaker site where we have permission to store the logs for future milling. When we accumulate enough logs at the Shaker site, we organize a Saw Milling activity at which time one of our members, Joe Kiaunis, brings his portable WoodMizer saw mill to the site, and we mill the logs into lumber of various sizes.

Occasionally we will saw lumber on location where it has been cut down. With several member volunteers and pickup trucks or trailers, we move the lumber to the Shaker Barn for storage and air drying for a minimum of two years. This involves a lot of physical labor to stack and sticker the lumber properly, so it will remain flat and have air circulating around the boards for proper drying. The general rule is to dry the lumber for one year for each inch of nominal thickness. Since we mill in various sizes from 4/4 (1" +) up to 8/4 (2" +), we go for the two year timeline before putting the lumber out for sale in the auction.

In addition to the lumber, throughout the year we get calls from retired members who are downsizing or closing up their shops, or families of deceased woodworkers who need to clean out their relative's shop. We accept either straight donations, or 50%/50% donations in these cases, and the equipment gets picked up by our volunteers and stored in the Shaker Barn until the next auction. We wind up getting a significant amount of machines and small power and hand tools each year for the auction through these types of donations. All the proceeds (after any expenses) go to the Fiske Scholarship Fund to aid members with tuition costs for woodworking classes, either with outside professionals around the country, or internal classes with either professional or member instructors.



Wall to wall hardwoods



A buyer packed auction



Auctioneer Bob Williams



One of two vacuum systems



Many Japanese hand saws



Rough slabs for future projects



Shaker barn turkey



Lathe and clamps



Excalibur

CHAPTER NEWS

Mid Hudson Chapter News

By Wally Cook

Chapter Show: The 10th annual chapter woodworking show was held Saturday, October 15th at the Hurley Reformed Church. Approximately 150 items were displayed, as well as demonstrations for small projects with kids, scrollsaw, woodturning, and guitar making. In addition, the wood species display was very popular, thanks to a new feature on florescent wood.

The popular choice for Best in Show was awarded as follows:

1. First Place - Al Shinker's Sculptured Rocking Chair
2. Second place - Jim Lee's Chipmunk Scene
3. Third Place - Ann Miller's Marble Pin Ball Machine

A number of door prizes and raffle items were offered. Winners included:

1. Door Prize Winners:

- Trivet - Ann Gannon
- Napkin Holder - Paul Juzapavicu
- Cedar Bowl - Bill Westfield
- Bowl - Cathy Kilmer
- Bowl - Jessica Kohler
- Bowl - Jamie Dreyer
- Bowl - Celia Carpenter
- Bowl - Charles Gundersen

2. Raffle Winners:

- Round Table - Joe Benkert
- Wine & Cheese Set - Tom Russo
- Ribbon Box - Ron Roberts
- Keepsake Box - Nancy Chando
- Intarsia Flower - April Miller
- Log Home Kit - Heather Hirsch
- Scrolled Baseball Clock - Letty Hornsbeck
- Plant Stand - Ann Miller

A hearty thanks to all those who donated their time and work to make the show a successful event! Special thanks to Membership committee members Pete Lofrumento and Tom Moran for making the trip to display NWA accessories and sign up new members.



Bill Sterling demonstrated guitar making



Al Shinker won the popular vote for his sculptured rocking chair at the Mid-Hudson Woodworkers' show



Debbie Lee worked with kids to build small projects



Ron Roberts and John VanBuren assisted the 'logs to lumber' exhibit

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NWA October Monthly Meeting Summary

By Wally Carpenter

How lucky we were to have Star D'Anglo speak with us on our Shaker Meeting House where we meet throughout the year. My only wish is that more of us had attended the October meeting. I sincerely appreciate those who did attend and believe they were rewarded with an excellent review of the Shaker history and the connection of our meeting building to other Shaker buildings throughout the US.

Did you know that the benches we sit on are the same benches where the "worldly" people sat so many years before as the Shakers danced and prayed on the floor we walk on today? Also, the doors between those same benches are the entrance for those worldly people, and there was once a gate which prevented the worldly people from joining in the dancing.

Star told us the building had gone through a nearly \$800,000 restoration to bring the building back to life only a few years ago. Did you know the floor we walk on is not the original flooring? Sometime over the building's history, the original floor was covered, and it resulted in significant rotting, and this meant it had to be replaced with the fir flooring you see today.

Finally, Star asked if we could individually reach out to our local county leaders requesting Shaker Heritage Society be granted a 50 year lease to continue managing the Shaker area.

There are so many other things we learned, and I'm certain others are willing to share those with you at our next meeting.

We hope to see you there!

Tree of the Month: American Elm (*Ulmus Americana*)

Reprint of NWA member, Ron DeWitt c. March 1996

The elms number about 45 species in the world, all in Europe, North and Central America, ranging as far south as Panama. There are six species native to the eastern United States (none grow west of the Rockies), grouped in two general classes: hard elms-Rock Winged, Cedar, and September, and soft elms-American and Slippery.

The elm of most interest to us in this area is the American Elm, or sometimes called White, Soft, or Water Elm. Like many



Surviving American Elm

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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other species, but for different reasons, most of the old growth trees are gone, but a few of the grand old monarchs do survive. Big elms were 100-120 feet tall, five to eight feet in diameter with crowns almost 100 feet across. They lived hundreds of years. *The largest living as of 2016 American elm is in Louisville, Kansas. It is 310 inches in circumference, 95 feet tall and has a branch spread of 116 feet (www3.northern.edu).*

The American Elm is probably more notable for its shape than for the quality of its wood. It develops several forms, most memorable is the “vase” or “fountain”. The trunk rises 30 to 50 feet before the nearly vertical branches begin to bend outward forming a lacy dome of hanging branchlets well clear of roof and vehicles. This was the shape that earned the American Elm the distinction of lining almost every eastern American town and city. The shape also gives its historical importance as it was easy to describe as a reference point, boundary marker, or location of meetings, important signings, and the other stuff of legends.



Elm leaf

The bark of the American Elm is gray brown with deep furrows, joined by many short diagonal ridges. The leaves are ovate, abruptly pointed, sharply double toothed, two to six inches long. Distinctly one sided at the tapering base, the leaves arrange themselves in a flat spray so as to present an almost continuous leaf area to the sun.

The wood of the American Elm is moderately hard, medium weight, strong, very tough, and highly wear resistant. It has medium bending and crushing strengths, very high tensile strength, high resistance to shock, and is excellent for steam bending. It has a coarse, wooly, usually interwoven grain which makes it difficult to split. The heartwood is light brown to reddish brown; sapwood is thick and buff to tan in color.

The American Elm is a ring porous wood with an abrupt transition from the continuous row of earlywood pores which are visible without a lens. Latewood pores are wavy continuous concentric bands, a distinctive feature of the elms. Tyloses (*balloon-like outgrowths of secondary heartwood*) are sparse in the earlywood pores; rays are not visible to the eye. Growth rings are very prominent. This elm weighs about 38 pounds per cubic foot.

The wood of the American Elm has a strong sour smell when first cut. It air dries easily with little checking but requires care in stacking to minimize its tendency to warp. Once dry, it is quite stable. It works well with sharp cutting tools, but has a tendency to dull edges. The wooly grain does not leave good planed surfaces. Shaped and routed surfaces tend to be fuzzy; drilling is clean and sharp. Elm holds fasteners better than most hardwoods. It glues and takes all finishes except paint. It is subject to insect attack, and it is not durable if alternately wet and dried, but if used under water or underground,

it is remarkably long lived. (Elm water pipes buried in 1613 were found to be sound when taken up in 1930.)

The American Elm has been used more as a “work” wood than as an appearance wood. It was used as staves and hoops in dry cooperage, boat keels, harbor timber, boxes, crates, pallets, chair seats, and rockers, flooring, wagon and early automobile wheel hubs and parts, gymnasium equipment, coffins, and church pews. Much is used for veneer plywood, fruit, vegetable, and berry baskets.

The downfall of the American Elm has not been the axe or the saw, but rather by an insect carried disease. The Dutch Elm disease, a fungus, was first noted in France in 1917. US quarantine efforts failed, and the disease was discovered in Ohio in 1930 and in New Jersey and Connecticut by 1933. It was not until later that the carrier was found to be in the emerald bark beetle. By the 1950’s, most of the American Elms were dying.

The elm bark beetle bores into the area between the bark and the sapwood, laying eggs which hatch as larvae. The larvae tunnel from the egg chamber in a unique boring pattern which wins the insect’s name, “engraver beetle”. The tree could survive the beetle attack, but

the fungus carried by the beetle thrives in the tree and is carried throughout the sap stream. The tree responds by closing off the infected vessels in a natural self- defense move. Because the insect infestation is so general, the tree eventually shuts down so much of its own food supply that it starves itself.

Editor’s update: In 2007, the [Elm Recovery Project](#) from the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada reported that cuttings from healthy surviving old elms surveyed across Ontario had been grown to produce a bank of resistant trees, isolated for selective breeding of highly resistant cultivars. The University of Minnesota USA is testing various elms, including a huge now-patented century-old survivor known as “[The St. Croix Elm](#)”, which is located in a Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN suburb (Afton) in the St. Croix River valley — a designated National Scenic Riverway. The slippery or red elm is marginally less susceptible to Dutch elm disease than the other American species, but this quality seems to have been largely ignored in American research. No cultivars were ever selected, although the tree was used in hybridization experiments (Wikipedia).

Kaatskill Wood Turners

By Wally Cook

The KWA October meeting focused on two applications in spindle work: fluting and spiral cutting.

Grooving the Flute: A flute is a groove or set of grooves that run in parallel for a decorative effect. Ralph Zimmerman showed how to build and use a fluting jig for turned objects. Ralph’s version is composed of a fixed platform and a sliding router.

The fixed platform can be made from any material which resists warping and can be affixed to a single pole. Ralph used plywood and pipe fixtures. The platform or table is inserted into the tool rest/banjo and adjusted for height.

The cutting sled is simply a holder for a trim router. Ralph used an MLCS router mounted on a hard maple bed. A bullnose is attached to sled and acts as the contact surface which rides along the cylinder being fluted. The router bit is fed through a hole in the bullnose. The depth of the cut is controlled by the exposure of the bit past the bullnose. The distance of the cut is controlled by stop blocks.

To set up the sled, the height of the platform is adjusted until the cutting point of the router matches the drive point of the tailstock (headstock drive point can also be used). Ralph puts a thin pencil in the router and marks a horizontal line at the center of the blank. An index must be used



Fluting jig components: platform, sled, and stop blocks

to mark out all the flutes around the object to ensure equidistance cuts.

Ralph used a 'vee' bit to make the cut and fed the router from right to left – toward the headstock – in order to avoid the bit climbing out of the groove. Although the general rule of thumb is to feed the router in a counter-clockwise direction when routing the outside of your stock, Ralph demonstrated the tendency of the bit to “climb” when the cut direction is left-to-right. Far less pressure on the sled is needed

when cutting right-to-left.

Bines and Pitch:

Wally Cook reprised the set up and cutting technique

for spiral work on spindles. The beads formed by spiraling are called 'bines' after the horticultural term (Plants whose shoots form a helix around a central pole are called bines; those that use tendrils to anchor themselves around a pole are called vines).

Typical spiral work is defined by a) the number of 'starts' or bines and b) the pitch, or length of a bine circuit.

For instance, a barley twist is normally a two-start (two bines) spiral with a pitch that is twice the diameter of the spindle.

Traditional spiral work uses the diameter of the spindle as a measure for determining both the pitch as well as the depth of the valleys between bines. Three excellent references for spindle work are:



Ralph sets up the jig to rout grooves on a furniture component



Wally shows examples of twist work

- Stuart Mortimer's book on spiral work or his YouTube video series on the subject
- Dennis Liggett's handout at s3.amazonaws.com/cmwt.production/paperclipfiles/333/cmwt300303.pdf
- Ernie Conover's YouTube on spiral candlesticks, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nBGaFR5ZxuE>

Wally has summarized a one page cheat sheet on spiral work – if interested, contact Wally at wally.cook@gmail.com.

Bag Shaming: Bill Thiry came up with an idea for encouraging timely submission of display forms for the chapter show: late submitters must wear “Wally's Bag of Shame”. Unfortunately, Bill was the first example. Good fashion statement, Bill!



Upcoming: The November 12 meeting will feature Karen Amodeo sharing pyrography techniques. The meeting will start at 9AM at the Opdahl Building.

NWA SIG EVENTS

Kaatskills Woodturners

Saturday, November 12, 9:00 AM

Opdahl's Alternative
Segmentation Techniques
John Franklin

Saturday, December 10, 9:00 AM

Opdahl's Expressions in Pyrography
Karen Amodeo
(also open house and elections)

Questions? Contact Wally Cook 845-338-2193

Kaatskill Woodturners update our calendar on Carl Ford's website as follows: <http://www.carlford.us/kwa/> (there are pictures and descriptions of the events and we try to keep it current at least a quarter in advance).

Annual Recognition Banquet

By Ken Evans

Each year NWA recognizes an NWA member who has served NWA in some role or roles in previous years. The recognition occurs at the annual Recognition Banquet held at the Italian Community Center in Albany.

This year's honoree was AUSTIN SPANG. Austin's well deserved recognition as NWA treasurer among his many other activities was presented by Wayne Distin at the Fifth Annual Recognition Banquet.

Seventy NWA members gathered to honor Austin, to celebrate the company of other NWA members, and to enjoy a wonderful meal of prime rib, seafood, chicken, or vegetable parmigiana. The bar was open, and the dessert was a wonderful chocolate cake.

Following the meal, there was a huge raffle of items purchased or donated by NWA members and donated by showcase vendors for the event.

By 9:00 PM, the food was gone, the speeches delivered, the raffle prizes won, and the evening concluded.

Previous honorees of the event have been Herm Finkbeiner, Charlie Goddard, Ken Evans, and Wayne Distin. There are many members of NWA deserving of recognition at such an event. Hopefully there will be many such events in the future to honor these many members.



Austin just being Austin



Austin addressing the meeting.



Ken Evans as master of ceremonies



Wayne Distin speaking about Austin



A photo of the attendees



Picking winners of the raffle

November Meeting

Fiske Award Lecture



Thursday,
November 3, 2016
7:00 PM
Clifton Park
Halfmoon
Public Library
475 Moe Rd,
Clifton Park, NY

2016 - 2017 MONTHLY MEETINGS

Unless noted otherwise, held at the Shaker Meetinghouse on the Second Thursdays 7:00 PM)

November 3

Fiske Award Lecture - at the Clifton Park Halfmoon Public Library on Moe Rd.

December Family Night

Thursday, December 1 at 7:00 PM

held at Clifton Park Halfmoon Public Library on Moe Rd.

January 12, 2017

Prototypes/Templates/Story Sticks/Planning and Executing/Order of Work - Wally Carpenter

February 9

Tool Sharpening - both power and hand tools - Dave Parkis

March 9

Shop Tips & Techniques, plus Jigs & Fixtures - Pete Howe

April 13

Fundamentals of Bowl Turning - Rick Angus (Dave Mobley)

May 11

World Famous Tool Chest - Mike Mascelli (Wally Carpenter)

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 9:00 PM.

Wednesday "Learn and Turn" sessions occur on all other Wednesdays at the NWA Learning Center. These sessions run 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. www.adirondackwoodturners.com **Contact:** Ken Evans, 518-753-7759 or kevans1@nycap.rr.com

Scroller's Guild - Meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at the NWA Learning Center located at 15 Solar Drive, Clifton Park, NY. A beginner's session starts at 6:30 PM (TBA), 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 - (will now shift to) Saturday mornings at 9:00 AM -- the second Saturday of each month 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 for more information.

NWA Musical Instrument SIG - Meets every first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM 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 - The NWA Wood Carvers SIG - Meet each Thursday at 5:00 PM until 8:30 PM all year at the NWA Learning Center located at 15 Solar Drive, Clifton Park, NY. The goal is to promote the art of Wood Carving and to have a good time doing it. The only prerequisite is a desire to carve while making new friends. Wood, tools, and patterns are available. **Contact:** Diane Balch (518) 338-5637, signs@balchsigns.com

Hand Tool SIG - Meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Herm Finkbeiner Education Center at 15 Solar Dr, Clifton Park, NY. **Contact:** Dave Parkis for further details: dparkis@nycap.rr.com

Segmented Turning - Meets the first, third, and fourth Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM at 15 Solar Drive, Clifton Park, NY. **Contact** Toby Pauly phone 788-7253, e-mail tobypauly@yahoo.com

CHAPTERS

NWA Mid-Hudson - The chapter meets at 7:30 PM 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 7:00 PM. on the Second Wednesday of each month at 55 Second Avenue, Mayfield, NY. **Contact:** Gary Ratajczak, President - (518) 852-1204