

WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern
Woodworkers
Association

October 2015, Vol. 24, Number 8

October Meeting

Thursday, October 8, 2015,
7:00 pm – Shaker Heritage Society
Meeting House

Christmas in October

by Barbara Nottke

As woodworkers we're always thinking of the holidays. Whether we do craft fairs or make gifts for our friends and families, we're always looking for new ideas. I have a solution! Come to our next NWA meeting and see all the wonderful creations your fellow woodworkers are doing.

I have asked all the SIGs to bring in some of their favorite holiday decorations to share. Each SIG has a unique talent and puts a different twist on ornaments. You may want to learn a trick from the scrollers or turners. The same decoration will look different with different woods or painting technique.

If you have an item to display, please bring it along with directions and/or patterns.

Hope to see you there and remember Happy Holidays!



Maine's Woodworkers

By Wally Carpenter

While enjoying a few days on the coast of Maine in August, we had an opportunity to visit the Maine Woodworking Expo on August 29-30, 2015 in Brunswick, Maine. It was hosted by both the Guild of Maine Woodworkers (guildofmainewoodworkers.com) and the Kennebec Valley Woodworkers (Kennebecvalleywoodworkers.com).

There were some 25 professional and part time woodworkers represented and sharing space in the converted Cabot Mill in Brunswick. There was no entrance fee as its focus was to showcase (familiar term) the exceptional woodworking of the Maine woodworking community. The two groups are small by comparison to our NWA organization but are very active in sharing their experiences with each other. They hold monthly meetings typically in one of the member's workshop and discuss topics similar to ours, ranging from challenges with a joinery technique to finishes.

They also make several trips throughout the year to tool makers, exotic wood suppliers, and specialty woodworkers. Both groups have been active for more than 30 years.

Frank Southard serves as President of the Guild and was available to chat between his banjo interludes (that's right Ken, Frank is a banjo picker and a pretty



Frank Southard

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NUMBERS ARE IN AREA CODE 518

Maine's Woodworkers

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good one). He was very pleased to chat with us as we shared what our club has done through the volunteering of members' time and talents. At the end he said he may want to become a member of our group!

We had the pleasure of visiting each booth and learning about these woodworkers and a little of what drew them into woodworking as a profession. Many of their stories are similar to our own. We decided to share with our members a few pictures and insights from some of its members. With only a few exceptions, nearly all the folks we spoke with have been producing wood products for 30 years.

Richard Dunham

Richard produces excellent turned items as well as some amazing lamps. His company is named appropriately, WOOD & LIGHT. He received his early training from professionals like Chris Becksvoort. As you can tell in the picture, his lamps have an Asian flair with the shogi screen paper. His contact email is: wood-n-light@msn.com



Mark Jacobs

Mark began making shaker boxes several years ago after a back injury made producing furniture difficult. His company is JACOBS WOODWORKING. His professional skills are obvious from the picture and once again you see his range of shaker boxes and skill at producing them. Mark can be contacted at jwoodworking.mark@gmail.com or etsy.com/shakerbyjacobs.



Louis Charlett

Louis has a successful line of furniture and accessory items which are shown in the picture. He has a long term program of taking on apprentices which he trains to be independent woodworkers. I was happy to hear he was exercising a long respected program of training. His work is excellent and creative. You can see more of his work at: www.charlettwoodworking.com



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Dog Houses

NWA's Crafters recently completed a project for the Animal Protective Foundation of Schenectady. APF has run an animal shelter since 1931, relying upon donations for much of its funding. Some of their donations are obtained using small dog houses with slotted roofs which are placed in commercial areas in the general Schenectady area. APF asked the Crafters if they would make 50 of these dog houses. Since this seemed like a worthy project the Crafters quickly agreed. Over the past 6 weeks Frank Hogan, Warren Stoker, Darrell Welch and Charlie Goddard made 60 dog houses.



Maine's Woodworkers

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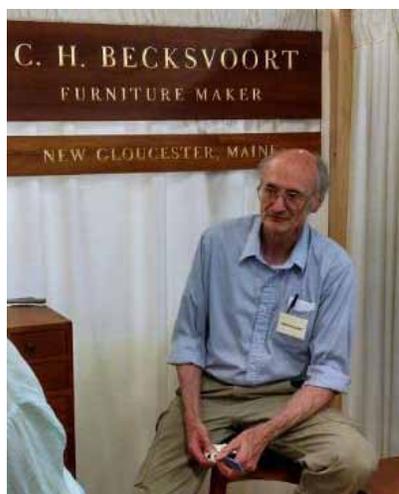
Kevin Rodel

Kevin has a nice flare of Asian influenced styled furniture blended with pewter inlay and stone / granite insert stones. Again, he has an excellent blend of furniture pieces which were well received by those in attendance. Check his website at: www.kevinrodel.com



Chris Becksvoort

Yes, **THE** Chris Becksvoort, of *Fine Woodworking* contributing editor fame, was exhibiting some of his furniture! He is as kind and generous with his woodworking skills and knowledge as you would expect from anyone in our NWA group. He puts incredible details into his Shaker styled furniture even to the point of adjusting hand-made knob sizes by 1/32'nds of an inch in the transitions from top to bottom drawers. It was a real joy to see and touch his furniture. You can see more of his work at: www.chbecksvoort.com



Finally, Celia had a very enjoyable morning visiting with all these woodworkers and seeing the passion they have for their work. It is however, no more, no less than the passion we see in each one of our members of the NWA. It was a lot like being in the gallery of our Showcase area and visiting with each of you. If you find yourselves in Maine in late August, give this event some of your time. It will be well worth the effort.

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



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

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CHAPTER NEWS

Mid Hudson Chapter News

By Wally Cook

Woodworking Tips: Joe Benkert brought interesting jigs to demonstrate with useful tips for better woodworking. To better protect both wood and construction surface, Joe makes use of wax paper during glue-ups. The wax paper aids cleanup. Similarly, many woodworkers use pipe clamps made from black iron pipes. These pipes can mar wood and leave black marks, so Joe showed spacers that he made from plastic pipe which slip over the iron pipe and protect the work piece from marring. Among the jigs Joe demonstrated were a spline box jointer, roundel cutter, and honched (stepped) dovetails. Joe also discussed the mitered half lap joint, which he finds to be a particularly robust application for picture frames.



Joe Benkert shows some of the jigs he brought to the meeting



Example of a box embellished with a roundel cutter

Proper Folding of the American Flag: Bob Boisvert and Jim Lee reported in an earlier meeting about the interment ceremony of the previously unclaimed remains of veterans in Albany. This created some interest in correct procedure for folding the American flag. Dick Metzger researched the proper technique for folding a casket flag, which was demonstrated by Bernie O'Malley and Duane Henry. Dick explained that a casket flag is five feet wide and nine and a half feet long. It takes thirteen folds to produce the triangular finished product. According to Dick's research, as corroborated in

Snopes.com, the thirteen folds have come to be associated with particular meanings for each fold:

American Flag Folds in sequential order:

1. The symbol of life
 2. A symbol of our belief in an eternal life
 3. Remembrance of veterans
 4. Acknowledgment of our weaker nature and our trust in God
 5. Tribute to our country, the United States
 6. Symbol of where our hearts lay and pledging allegiance with our heart
 7. Tribute to our armed forces
 8. Honoring motherhood and paying tribute to those who entered the shadow of the valley of death
 9. Tribute to womanhood
 10. Tribute to fatherhood
 11. Emblem of eternity – to Christians, the holy trinity
 12. Represents the seal of David and Solomon – homage to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob
 13. At the last fold, the stars are prominent, reminding us of the national motto, "In God We Trust"
- When folded, the flag should be in a triangular "pillow" and display a field of blue emblazoned with stars.



Bernie O'Malley and Duane Henry demonstrate the correct method for folding a casket flag

Chapter Show: The Mid-Hudson Chapter Wood Show is Saturday, October 17 at the Hurley Reformed Church. The show hours are 10AM to 5PM and will feature works by NWA members. As always, there will be scrollsaw and woodturning demonstrations, as well as raffle items made by chapter members. Don't miss it! See Duane Henry or Bob Boisvert to enter your work.



Look what John Van Buren brought to Show and Tell

CHAPTER NEWS

Sacandaga Chapter September Meeting

By Peter K. Lofrumento

John Heimke, our NWA President, and I made the trip to Mayfield to attend our Sacandaga Chapter's 1st monthly meeting of the 2015-2016 year which coincidentally, is NWA's 25th Anniversary.

The meeting was well attended, and we had a chance to socialize with all the boys about their summer escapades.

We were also treated to a wonderful slide presentation by Kirk Hardenburg about his **Rocking Chair Course** he took at the **Chidwick School of Fine Woodworking** in Montana.

The school is the creation of Andy "Coach" Chidwick and is located in Stevensville, a small town on the far western part of Montana, about 30 miles from the Idaho border.

Kirk also brought in the finished product, his rocking chair, made of Black Tasmanian Acacia for us to inspect, gently sit in, and experience the comfort of its unique design and joinery.

Andy Chidwick sands his pieces up to 6,000 grit and uses "**Tried and True**" oil which is linseed oil and bee's wax. You apply and wipe off multiple layers of this oil without sanding between coats, resulting in a smooth, mellow, natural finish.

Kirk also mentioned that he applied for a Fisk Fund grant and was grateful that his application was accepted. The grant will help to defray the expenses of the class. The Sacandaga Chapter's program year started off with a wonderful presentation! You can contact Kirk Hardenburg khardenburg@nycap.rr.com for additional information about the Chidwick School of Fine Woodworking and its courses.



September's Meeting Review

By Wally Carpenter

"From the Tree" was our topic of discussion for the September NWA Meeting.

Ken Evans provided a wood turning perspective by defining the best part of a tree for the

most stable end product. The audience was entertained with Ken's visual use of crushing water bottles to explain how wood cells collapse when water escapes. This led to an excellent explanation of wood expansion in relationship to wood grain orientation which led to why turners should never include the pith in their turnings.

Charlie Goddard presented a furniture maker's perspective in selecting wood from the tree. His depth of knowledge was evident as he walked everyone through how warpage occurs due to where the board comes from on the tree. We learned that if a board comes from a tree or branch which grows diagonally, it will create internal stresses resulting in unstable boards. As Charlie explained, tension develops as the tree tries to hold itself up. That tension is released as the tree is milled resulting in warpage which will never be corrected. He says such boards should simply become firewood.

Charlie and Ken both helped us better understand how to find more stable boards and even what species of woods work better for specific applications. We all grew in our knowledge from these experienced woodworkers and are lucky to have them as active members of our organization!



Ken lecturing

CLASSIFIEDS

American Black Cherry Lumber Band sawn, solar kiln dried \$2.50 bd/ft (Rough cut) 8' 6" & 10' 6" lengths Most cut 4/4 plus. Slab, 4x4, 6/4 and quarter sawn available and priced accordingly.

Finish planed \$3.50 bd/ft
8" wide plus - .50 bd/ft additional

Min. 50 bd/ft

Greg - 409-7807, grgbrny@hotmail.com.

KWA Chapter News

By Wally Cook

Embellishing small vessels: Steve Sherman explored the use of texture and color using a small ash vessel as an example. We compared a variety of techniques. Steve's main teaching points were:

1. Think of your wood as a blank canvas: Don't limit yourself, but consider how the natural material may be enhanced. Airbrushing, floating dyes, interference colors, surface contrast (either smooth or rough) may be employed to highlight aspects of the wood.
2. Make a variety of maquettes: Make small preliminary models of your work. In this manner visual comparisons of different approaches can be evaluated, as well as the practice in execution of the approach.
3. Experiment with texture: Consider the effect that is desired, such as: bark-like, hammered, relief carving, spiraled, chattered, burned, pierced, or sandblasted. Steve demonstrated end grain chatter with various tools, as well as side grain texture using powered and centrifugal tools. There are a variety of commercial tools that are marketed (Steve showed pieces textured with the Sorby spiral tool, Proxxon grinder



Various texturing treatments used on a small vessel

with Lancelot-type cutters, and Typhoon burs). In addition, texturing tools can be handmade from wire brushes, nails, and spring steel.

4. Prepare your surface: The surface of the vessel is a substrate for any material applied to it. If a smooth surface is desired, then Steve discussed the use of epoxy or CA to seal the vessel and provide the basis for a smooth optical surface. A great tip is the use of a fiberfill dauber to apply CA as it does not fuzz off on the piece. A disposable dauber can be made by twisting fiberfill in a braid, folding over and securing the 'handle' with



Steve Sherman cuts away the material around the textured area

masking tape. Since epoxies and CA depend on mechanical bonding, they generally need to be sanded back before a second coat or additional finish is applied.

5. Try dry pigments: While Steve did demonstrate techniques for adding dyes and acrylic paint, an interesting aspect of his demo was the use of dry pigments. He coated the surface of a flat board with contact cement, over-sprayed with clear acrylic (thereby increasing 'open' time for working). He covered the board with a doily and 'pounced' the surface with dry pigment. The doily mask was removed and the negative pattern was left on the surface of the board. The pigments will dry and bond to the surface through the contact cement, but a protective coating will be needed (see 'inter-coat' below).
6. Consider the requirements of your finish: An inter-coat, such as clear acrylic spray, may be required over any artwork that is added. The inter-coat is a protective layer which prevents the pigment from bleeding or rubbing off. In regard to finishes, Steve described special oil/varnish finishes, 'roisserie' urethane finishes, and the use of buffing with two part auto epoxies. Urethanes also require mechanical bonding and need to be sanded between coats. In addition, urethane may exhibit an amine blush, a waxy surface coating which should be washed with soap and water to remove. Steve discussed the combination of combining color and finish, either through the use of glazes or colored wax. For our workshop project, Steve used liming wax on the ash vessel. The wax melted into the grain and highlighted the figure.



A dry pigment duster

Upcoming: The Wednesday evening regular meeting on October 14 session will feature Bernie O'Malley demonstrating square bowls. In addition, we will have an open bowl turning workshop on Saturday October 10.

New SIG Officer: Dennis Dugan was installed as the KWA Secretary, replacing Bob Lawless, whose work schedule prevented him from continuing in this role. We thank Bob for his work to support the turners!

The other current officers are president: Wally Cook, vice-president: Steve Sherman, treasurer: Len Peluso.

October Meeting

Thursday, October 8, 2015, 7:00 pm
Shaker Heritage Society Meeting House
Albany-Shaker Road, Albany NY

MONTHLY MEETINGS

November 12, 2015

Fiske Lecturer

December 10, 2015

Family Night

January 14, 2016

Finishes

February 11, 2016

Bugs in Lumber

March 10, 2016

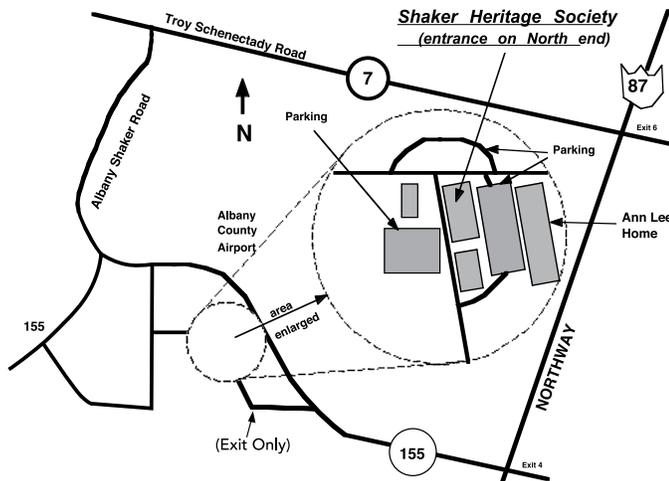
Spoon and Ladle Carving

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 Elfuns 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.

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: Jim Hopkins, President - 725-7332