

WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern
Woodworkers
Association

April 2012, Vol. 21, Number 4

April Meeting

*Thursday, April 12, 2012, 7:00 pm
Shaker Heritage Society Meeting House
Albany-Shaker Road, Albany, NY*

Building Ice Boats

By George Rutledge

The April Meeting will feature a presentation by Rich Crucet of Lake Ronkonkoma on Long Island. Rich, who is one of my best and far and away oldest friends, built his first ice boat in 1990 from an old metal bookcase. In 1993 he built his first "DN", an international one design for hard water competition sailing. Since then, Rich has either built by himself or led construction workshops to build a total of 15 DNs. Rich's boats are light weight, strong and competitive, built to exacting standards with solid wood, plywood and epoxy. In addition to the fine points of construction, I expect Rich will share a story or two about racing, having campaigned as far west as the Mississippi, north to Lake Champlain and Point Claire near Montreal and east to Winnepesaukee and Sunapee New Hampshire. Locally, he's been known to hit the ice on Sacandaga Lake and Round Lake. DNs have been clocked at well over 70 mph which strikes me as just crazy for something with no brakes. Suffice it to say that Rich has nerves of stainless steel compared to my nerves of Balsa wood. Rich served as Commodore of the Lake Ronkonkoma Ice Boat and Yacht Club from 2002 until 2010 and if you would like to learn more about "hard water sailing" check out their web site. www.iceboatlongisland.com

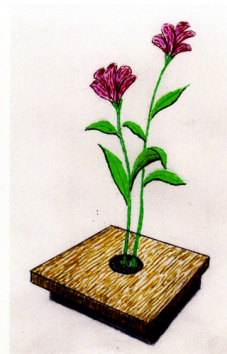
Finally let me exhort you all once again to bring something in for the "Instant Gallery". Hot on the heels of Showcase, I'm sure most of you have something to share that's well worth a second look. 🐼

Construction Notes for a Simple Ikebana Vase

By George Rutledge

Flowers are held in this vase by means of a kenzan or frog which consists of a weighted base with an array of upward facing pins into which the stems are inserted. Small round kenzan can often be found at garden centers and craft supply stores, while a great variety of sizes and shapes are available online including some that have their own cups. Stone Lantern in Vermont has good variety, prices and services and their web site is as follows. www.stonelantern.com Another online merchant with a large selection is Holy Mountain Trading Company and though I have no personal experience with them, I'm told they are worth checking out. www.holymtn.com

Now for some woodworking. First cut 2 pieces of wood (your choice) to the sizes indicated in the drawing and glue the smaller to the underside of the larger taking care that the grain runs in the same direction. Drawing diagonal lines on the underside of the top piece will make it easy to align the bottom whose four corners should land on those lines if both pieces are square. Apply a thin coat of waterproof glue like Titebond



A SIMPLE IKEBANA VASE
DRAWN BY GEORGE RUTLEDGE
SCALE 3/4" = 1"
FEBRUARY 2012
SEE NOTES FOR CONSTRUCTION
DETAILS

Continued on Page 3

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UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, PHONE
NUMBERS ARE IN AREA CODE 518

Save The Date!

By George Rutledge

The annual NWA Family Picnic will once again be held at the Jonesville Fire Station No. 1 in Clifton Park on Sunday, July 22. Expect the usual good food and camaraderie, and a cornucopia of desserts as well as demonstrations and competitions. Speaking of competition, I intend to tune up the "Spruce Goose" with an eye to dominating the Tape Measure Stakes. I'm throwing down the gauntlet and challenging any and all to man and woman up and bring your best to the starting line. We will once again be racing on Chuck Walker's awesome electronically timed "Tape Measure Downs" track. May your steeds be worthy. One last thing. Don't forget to bring something to display in the Instant Gallery. No excuses as you've plenty of time. Whatever your chosen style and type of woodworking and level of expertise, I guarantee that all entries will be welcome and subject to stringent admiration.



20th Anniversary Woodworkers Showcase Video

By Ken Evans

Get your copy of the 20th Anniversary Woodworkers Showcase video on DVD. Nearly 50 minutes of the demos, trade show, exhibits, gallery, interviews, and more. Also includes the Art in Wood Exhibit, Totally Turning, and Pen Makers Guild exhibit. If your work was displayed, it is probably in it. If you were there, you may be as well.

Only \$10 + \$2 shipping and handling. Order yours today!

Go to: www.woodworker.org and see the link to order one today!

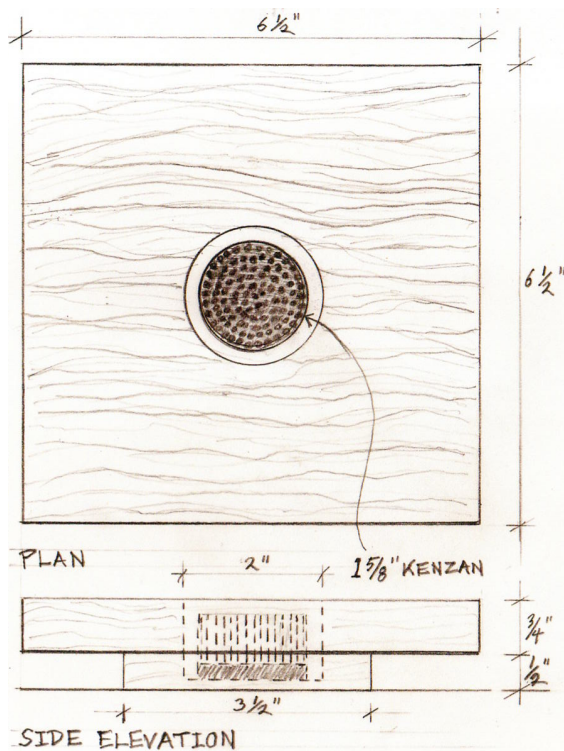


Simple Ikebana Vase

Continued from Cover

III to both surfaces and tack two opposite corners of the bottom piece with brads to prevent slippage under clamping pressure. Make sure the brads fall outside the circumference of the hole for the kenzan. After the glue has set, remove from clamps and prepare to drill a hole for the reservoir. You will need a drill press and a Forstner or similar type of bit at least $\frac{1}{4}$ " larger than the size of the kenzan you are using. Set up at least two fences or stops to keep the work piece from spinning and drill to within $\frac{1}{8}$ " of the bottom. Don't worry if the center spur of the drill bit breaks through as this will be sealed up by the next step which is to seal the bottom and sides of the hole with epoxy. If you did pierce the bottom, place a piece of masking tape over the hole on the underside and this will keep the glue from leaking out before it sets. As a precaution to prevent an allergic skin reaction, wear rubber gloves when working with epoxy. When only making 1 or 2 vases the epoxy syringe dispensers sold in hardware stores and home centers is a good choice. For a larger run, purchasing epoxy in larger bottle will be more economical. I usually mix some black powdered stain like Mohawk Blendal into the epoxy to create an illusion of depth. Mix according to directions and spread evenly on the bottom and sides of the bore using a small disposable brush of the kind plumbers use to spread flux. These can also be found in hardware and home improvement stores and can be reused if cleaned with acetone before the epoxy kicks. To insure a good seal I like to apply 2 coats of epoxy. At this time you can glue the frog to the bottom of the hole with the same epoxy. This makes cleaning between uses a little more difficult but eliminates the chance that the frog will accidentally fall out and land on your toes. The final step is to sand and finish the vase. My schedule calls for a couple of wipe on coats of Tung oil varnish over a shellac sealer coat, but you can use any water resistant/proof finish you're comfortable with. This design will scale up readily and if you go larger consider using $\frac{5}{4}$ " stock and a larger kenzan. You may also want to play with surface texture. I've sandblasted redwood and oak to good effect and one of my favorite tricks is to scorch yellow pine with a propane torch and then wire brush it to yield a softly uneven surface of lighter and darker stripes. If you enjoyed making one of these vases you may want to try your hand at your own designs. I often take my inspiration from nature or simple Japanese woodenware items like sushi boards. Whatever you do, try to keep it simple and let the beauty of the flowers take center stage.

See my follow up note on page 7.



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 InDesign CS3 on an iMac, duplicated by Shipmates, and mailed to more than 1,000 addresses.



Your next issue of
Woodworkers News
will be published
in early May

Copy deadline: April 15
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WEBSITE(S)

www.woodworker.org
www.nwawoodworkingshow.org



NWA maintains two websites, the first noted here operates continuously. We also offer selected links to other sites of interest to our membership.
Webmaster - Kurt Hertzog
kurt@kurthertzog.com

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

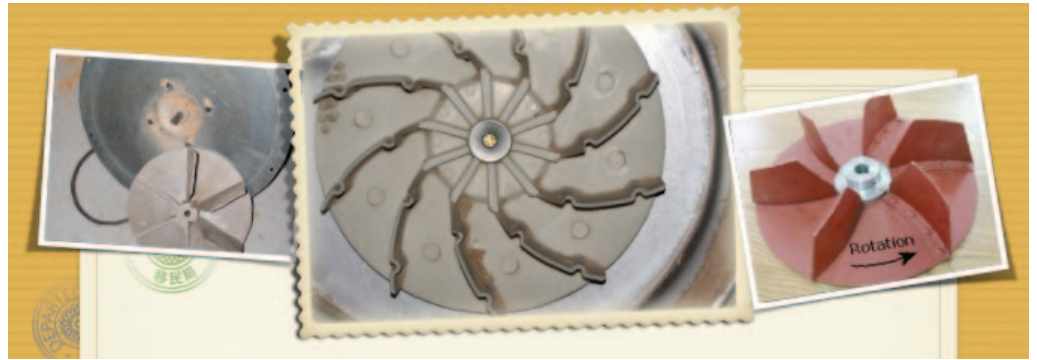


**NORTHEASTERN
WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION**
P.O. BOX 246
Rexford, New York 12148

Safety Issue: Impeller Failure on Cyclone

by Ken Miller

Last month the aluminum impeller came off the motor shaft on my cyclone. The set screws loosened, the impeller slipped down into the shallow space, three fins broke and 3 remained intact as shown in the first picture. Upon searching the internet I discovered that others had this problem too. My unit is about 15 years old. Subsequently,



several improvements have been made to solve this problem. The impeller on the cyclone used at Jim's has a washer bolted into the motor shaft which keeps the keyway in place as well as preventing the impeller from falling off shown in picture 2. However upon startup, vibration may loosen the cap screw too which may result in the same problem. Pressure type clamps are also used to prevent this problem. A retrofit I came cross and will incorporate into my new impeller will be to drill a hole through the arbor and motor shaft to install a pin, and to include a washer on the end of the shaft. Along with researching this problem, I note that newer impeller designs feature curved and offset fins which give improved efficiency. Such designs are found in the impeller on our cyclone (picture 2), Bill Penz' and Clearvue's sites. The impeller (a polymer) on our cyclone has ribs which probably reinforces the fins, but may interfere with air flow. I find that steel is currently used. Picture 3 shows one such curved fin design from Penz' site. Look at: <http://billpentz.com/woodworking/cyclone/blower.cfm> which gives dimensions for an improved impeller design, and <http://www.clearvuecyclones.com/supporting-products/45-15-inch-impeller.html> 🐼

CHAPTER NEWS

Sacandaga Chapter

By Gary Spencer

Our March meeting was a presentation and critique to the Chapter from the group of members who are constructing the items that were to be raffled off at Showcase. There were two items one a Cherry mirror with two drawers and a second a commemorative flag box also made of Cherry.

Actually the team making these projects was very busy since we made several duplicates of these pieces for other local charities to use as fund raisers. In addition every member made a piece for themselves. The total pieces made were fourteen. Fortunately the Cherry wood was supplied, dried and donated by one of our chapter members. There was great fun and satisfaction felt by our participating members during the process.

Our April 11th meeting will be devoted to getting ready for Spring and summer outdoor activities, specifically fishing. Our program will be about making your own fishing rod out of exotic woods. Our speaker will be Glen Flagler an NWA member and a fishing rod expert. He will cover design, construction, tools, wood, and finishing phases. This program should be extremely interesting. Don't miss this one!

Remember, our regular monthly meetings are the second Wednesday of each month and begin at 7:00 P.M. at 55 2nd Avenue Mayfield, NY. Our next meeting there will be April 11th.

Remember we have door prizes and refreshments are served.

For Directions or information contact:

Ray Laubenstein 863-6071 Clyde Cheney 661-5138 Gary Spencer 863-6433

CHAPTER NEWS

NWA Mid-Hudson Chapter News

By Wally Cook

Lathe Reconstruction Project: The Kiersted lathe is included in the displays at the NWA Woodworkers Showcase this year at the Toy Factory location.

The lathe was donated by the Lester Kiersted family and dates to the latter part of the 19th century. Constructed of white oak, the lathe was a multipurpose tool (woodturning, grinding, and circular saw) on the Kiersted farm in Hurley.

Members of the Northeastern Woodworkers Association spent a year researching and rebuilding the lathe. It is a treadle lathe featuring a flywheel weighing 100 pounds – the flywheel is wooden shell, filled with stones. Aply led by Chuck Walker and David Bird, contributors to the effort included Chuck Walker, David Bird, Ron Roberts, John Van Buren, Fred Roe, and Wally Cook

Annual Chapter Dinner: The annual dinner will be held on April 20 at Twin Lakes in Hurley. We will honor **Duane Henry** as Member of the Year. Tickets are \$27 apiece and reservations can be made by contacting Joe Benkert at 845-331-3811.

Turn with Beth Ireland: Beth will spend a weekend with us on April 21-22. Saturday's session will be "Turning with Your Mind" a design facilitation session describing Beth's creative design process. Sunday will be a hands-on session on various topics related to furniture and architectural turning. Any special requests from furniture makers will be entertained in this session. The cost is \$30 per day or \$60 for the two days and seating is strictly limited. Contact Wally Cook (wally.cook@gmail.com) to purchase a place in this valuable workshop.

Show and Tell: Interesting pieces were displayed by chapter members this month. New member Ann Miller brought a dollhouse she made which folds into its own case. The dollhouse features a working fireplace. Ann made all the furniture, even the wooden hangers in the armoire. New member Jim Lee built a raffle ticket box for the chapter 50/50 raffles. Brad Conklin brought his 'walking chicken' sculpture which was made using a full-stroke sander. The 800 lb. sander is powered by a 5hp Honda gasoline motor (it was originally a three-phase electric motor). Brad says the sanding belt for this unit is 8" wide by 289" long!



Members of the lathe reconstruction team Ron Roberts, John VanBuren, Lester Kiersted, and Chuck Walker pose by the lathe



Ann Miller's dollhouse in a case



Jim Lee's new raffle ticket box



Brad Conklin's sculpture

KWA News

By Wally Cook

Some Thoughts on Saving and Preparing Green

Wood: Many of us carefully save wood for future processing, but experience large failure rates. John Franklin shared his thoughts on preparing green wood and the results of a woodshed sample of fifteen year old wood.

The woodshed sports an intact roof and three walls, with one side open to the air. Wood stored in the shed was generally end grain sealed, but left in log form (pith intact). An effort to reclaim this wood for turning blanks revealed a poor success rate. Perhaps not surprisingly, most of the wood was destroyed by insect damage. Another finding is that the end-sealing definitely did not hold up under the storage conditions and for such a long period.

Some general conclusions from John's investigation were:

- It is not worthwhile to store wood with the pith intact; better results are found when the pith is removed, the blanks are rough-turned and end-grain sealed
- When roughing a bowl blank for future use, plan on a thickness of at least 1" for every 10" of the bowl diameter
- Mark and date your sealed blanks
- End grain should be resealed periodically and definitely after re-sectioning
- Do not keep barked wood in your shop in order to avoid insect issues in your structure
- Wood should be treated immediately after harvesting; even a week's delay may prove critical for both coloring and integrity of the wood
- Natural edge vessels should be turned green -- the sooner the better
- If using faceplate with green wood, try tapcon concrete screws; the surface coating doesn't let the screws easily bind and break in the wood
- Clean and treat your bandsaw with appropriate lubricants after cutting green wood. Pay particular attention to cleanliness of bearings and blade

Different woods seemed to enjoy better success rates for reclamation after storage. In general, the traditional furniture woods of walnut and cherry fared

better than other fruitwoods such as apple and pear. A summary of considerations for preparing various woods for future use are listed in the table below.

Cedar

Preparation

Hard knots, soft heart wood. Will crack if left in log form. Split log down pith and allow to dry before turning; not favorable to green turning

Elm

Preparation

Difficult to save. Dries unevenly. Susceptible to spalting and insect damage. Best to turn green and allowed to dry quickly, so the elements don't destroy it.

Maple

Preparation

Difficult to save. Will crack if left in log form. Sugars in maple attract bacteria and insects. Quarter-saw logs, turn rough cylinders and seal ends. Natural edge bowls should be turned while green.

Variants

Spalted

Spalting is created by fungus which will continue to spread in side sealed wood, as long as moisture is available. When spalting is at desired state, dry and turn quickly.

Ambrosia

Ambrosia created by fungus which will muddy the pattern and coloring if the wood is allowed to sit before turning. Turn as quickly after cutting as possible to preserve the light and dark contrast areas.

Tiger

Can be saved if quickly quarter-sawn and bark removed. Large sections will crack and eventually discolor. Rough turn bowls while green, before maple gets cloudy.

Walnut

Preparation

Saves well as quarter-sawn blanks. Drying stresses tend to be low. The light sapwood will brown over time. If turned green be aware that some people are sensitive to sap – wear face protection and wash after turning.

Continued on following page

KWA News

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Cherry

Preparation

Saves well as quarter-sawn blanks. Rough turn for better saving possibility. Bark is shed easily after drying, so natural edge bowls should be turned green.

Variants

Burl

May crack despite good preparation. Can be turned to good appearance even if cracks. Save siftings of the dust to fill in cracks with epoxy. This wood is a favorite target of black ants.

Apple and Pear

Preparation

Very difficult to save. Susceptible to insects; may twist when drying. Will crack deeply if bark left on. Quarter saw, strip bark and seal; keep in an area free of bugs. Small sections may be easier to save.

Oak

Preparation

White and red oak are difficult to dry without cracking. If bark left on, cracks form in center. Short lengths of oak dry faster than maple or other woods.

Butternut

Preparation A rather soft wood, less likely to split. Saves well if quarter-sawn. Will get wormy if left in the open.

Box Elder

Preparation

Another softer wood with potential for saving. However, it will crack if left in log form. In addition, the red coloring is UV sensitive and will fade substantially if not over-dyed before the surface is sealed.

Ash, Locust, Hickory, Chestnut

Preparation

Hard, strong woods which will crack easily unless the bark is removed and it is quartered and sealed. Natural edge bowls should be turned green.

Notes:

Quarter-sawn in this context refers to quartering logs and removing pith.

All woods are assumed to be end grain sealed for future processing.

Cracks refer to all checking and shaking splits.



The bottom ambrosia platter was turned after a delay. Note the spots and muddy nature of the pattern.



John showing how ambrosia maple sections warped while drying

Ikebana Follow Up

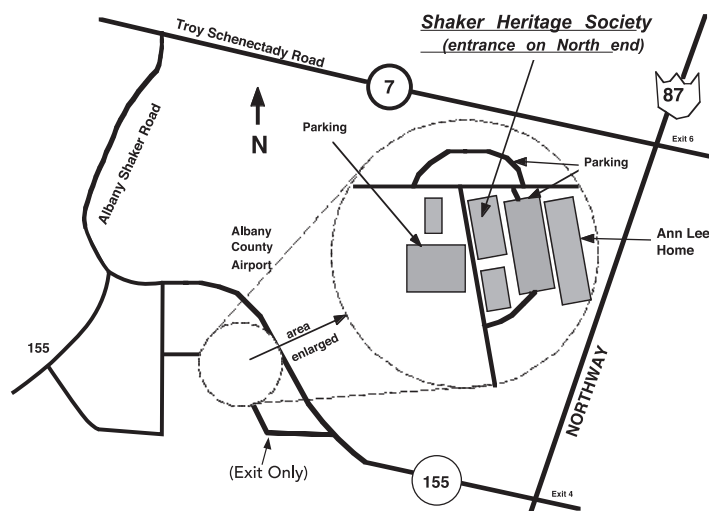
By George Rutledge

In February's Newsletter I wrote an article on Ikebana Vases and promised to send a drawing and construction notes to anyone who emailed me. Well, every once in a while Verizon decides to cull some of my emails without warning even though I'm only using a fraction of my allotted storage. Cute, right? This happened again last month and I believe that I lost some requests before I had a chance to respond. If I did not get back to you, I apologize and ask that you please try again using my gmail address as follows. c.howie.dudat@gmail.com





Northeastern Woodworkers Association
P.O. Box 246
Rexford, New York 12148-0246



April Meeting

Thursday, April 12, 2012, 7:00 pm
Shaker Heritage Society Meeting House
Albany-Shaker Road, Albany, NY

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

GENERAL MEETINGS
AND SPECIAL EVENTS

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 NWA Learning Center located at 1 Mustang Drive, Cohoes, NY (This is just off Rte 9 at the light at Fonda Road) from 6:30 PM to 9:00PM. Wednesday "Learn and Turn" sessions occur on all other Wednesdays at the NWA shop, 1 Mustang Dr. These sessions run 6pm-9pm except on AWA member meeting nights as described above.
www.adirondackwoodturners.com Contact Ken Evans, 518-753-7759 or kekevans1@nycap.rr.com

Scroller's Guild - Meets on the third Wednesday of the month at The New Shop on Mustang Drive, Latham. A beginner's session starts at 6:30 PM followed by a general meeting at 7:00 PM. Contact: Jeanne Aldous at AMJAMtat2 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. Contact Matt Clark, (845) 454-9387.

NWA Crafters - Meets every Saturday and Tuesday, from 9:00 am until noon at NWA Shop at 1 Mustang Dr. Our general purpose is public service work for various charitable organizations, including the Double H Hole in the Woods camp for children and recently the GE Elfuns toy mods group. We strive to foster a learning environment for our members through the projects we work on and the informal training/learning sessions given by and for our members. Sharing fellowship and relating experiences are a major part of our sessions. Contact Dave Axton (518) 237-6992, 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 learning ctr. Our programs are determined at the previous weekly sessions, discussions start at 7PM. Our goals are to promote the art of Wood Carving. We assist with all carving matters. Individual private sessions are available Wednesday evenings by appointment only. All beginners are encouraged to attend often, as we will assist with 100 % of your needs. We offer the wood, tools, patterns and the how to carve training as you need it. NWA WC operates a carving tool crib for all to borrow tools.
Contact Ray Gannon. LoRayG@Gmail.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. Contact Pete Chast, pchast@francomm.com.

NWA Sacandaga - The chapter meets at 7 p.m. on the Second Wednesday of each month at 55 Second Avenue Mayfield, NY (our workshop) If you are in Mayfield at Stewarts on RT. 30, just go two blocks toward Gloversville and turn left one block to first road on right. That's it! Contact Gary Spencer, 863-6433