

WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern
Woodworkers
Association

August 2004, Vol. 13, Number 7

Ernie Conover to Kick Off NWA Program Year With a Three Day Woodworking Weekend

- Ken Evans



The first meeting of the new program year for NWA will feature Ernie Conover and will be held at the Shaker Heritage facility on Thursday, September 16, 2004. Ernie Conover has published widely on topics related to woodworking, operates a woodworking school (Conover Workshops in Parkman, Ohio), and is a contributing editor to *Fine Woodworking* magazine. The meeting will begin at 7:00PM.

This program is just a prelude to the two day series of great demonstrations which follow on Friday and Saturday, September 17 and 18 at the Sears Workshop in Colonie Center, Albany, New York.

Ernie Conover has been a friend to NWA for a very long time and we are always glad to have him visit. Ernie has done weekend demonstrations in the past and has participated in Showcase many times as a demonstrator, lecturer, and judge.

The topics of this woodworking weekend are shown in the adjacent column. Be sure to sign up early as the seats will fill fast for all demonstrations on Friday and Saturday.

SCHEDULE

Ernie Conover Woodworking Weekend September 16, 17, 18, 2004

At No Charge:

Thursday September 16, 2004

"Old Ways of Working Wood"

Regular September NWA Meeting

Begins at 7:00PM

At \$20 per session or \$50 for all sessions.

Friday September 17, 2004

12:00 - 4:00PM

"Old Ways of Working Wood"

(Continued from Thursday)

Friday September 17, 2004

5:00 - 9:00PM

"A Balance Between Hand and Power Tools"

Saturday September 18, 2004

9:00 - 1:00PM

"A woodturning Primer"

Saturday September 18, 2004

2:00 - 6:00PM

"Planes, Planes, Planes"

This promises to be a very exciting weekend in September with Ernie Conover.

To reserve a spot, please send your check made out to "NWA" to

John Michne
10 evergreen Avenue
Clifton Park, NY 12065

(518) 371-6690 • jmichne1@nycap.rr.com

NOTE: NWA Educational programs are open to everyone interested in woodworking.



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UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, PHONE
NUMBERS ARE IN AREA CODE 518

From the President

- Pat McCord

To accommodate NWA members who would like to attend the general meetings but would rather not drive, we'll try to put them in touch with other members who live nearby and are willing to provide a ride. If you would like to get a ride with someone or are willing to drive someone to the meetings, please contact Pat McCord at (518) 439-1232 or email at ptmccord@mybizz.net. This can be a great service to members who find it difficult to attend meetings because of transportation problems or because they do not wish to drive at night. Plus it can make the trip to meetings much more enjoyable for all who share the rides. 🐾

Short Notes

- Charlie Goddard

Lumber and Tool Auction, September 25, 2004 - Shaker Barn

Recent donations include some small power tools, a dovetail jig, magazines, an overhead dust collector, router tables, veneered plywood and a large miter box. Joshua Hoffman has promised another shipment of mixed lumber. In addition, we have 1,500 bd ft of black walnut that was sawed a year ago and is stored in the barn.

We need additional donations.

Let me know if you have tools or lumber you would like to donate. The auction is the main source of funds for the Fiske Fund. If you want to donate only a part of the value we can share the auction proceeds. Don't forget, all donations are tax-deductible. Please do not wait until the week of the auction to make your donations. I can meet you at the barn or arrange to have items picked up.

Fiske Fund

The Fiske Fund Committee awarded 8 grants from the applications submitted in April.

The courses that will be attended cover a wide range of topics and include an introduction to furniture making, traditional finishes, carving an owl, elegant case pieces, acanthus carving and advanced furniture making.

To date the Fiske Fund has provided 34 grants totaling over \$22,000.

The next deadline for applications will be September 30, 2004. If there is a course in woodworking that you would like to take, do not hesitate to apply for a grant. Information may be obtained from any of the Committee members, Jim Hartlage (518-370-4127), Bob Kehn (518-452-2572), Mike Kross (518-370-1302), Dave Lasinski (518-349-0617) or Charlie Goddard (518-370-0388).

Showcase 2005

The next Showcase will be held at the Saratoga Springs City Center on April 2 and 3, 2005. While that is about 8 months away the time will pass quickly. It is not too soon to be thinking about items to exhibit.

Soon it will be time to start the planning process for this next show. The first item to be determined is the special exhibit. Last year we had the "Practical Workshop", constructed and staffed by members from the Kingston area. I am interested in suggestions for a special exhibit. Also, there will be some openings on the planning committee. If you are interested please let me know. 🐾

POSITION AVAILABLE

NWA Hospitality Committee Chairperson

The chairperson coordinates the arrangements for the refreshments at the NWA general meetings held at the Shaker Meeting House, Colonie or Unitarian Church, Schenectady. The chairperson also represents the committee on the Board of Directors. Expenses are in the general budget.

If interested or for more information, please contact Past President Wayne Distin at (518) 674-4171 or email wpswan@capital.net

Chips and Bits

- Clark Pell

(Editor's note: I would like to make this type of article a regular feature. Send me a short article and some good pictures of a recent interesting project you have completed.)

The contact came via the Internet. Could I make a box with a different picture on each of the four sides? "Sure", I said, "What kind of box do you want?" The client responded "8 inches square by 12 inches high". Now I thought that was an unusual shape and began to explain why different dimensions might work better, when she said "I saw one with those dimensions recently at a funeral home."

The light came on at that point, and further discussion confirmed that the box was to hold an urn with the ashes of the client's recently deceased father. The images on the sides were to depict items of significance in her father's life.

The images were.... the father's initials (no problem), a tiger's head since he was a graduate of Princeton University (ok), the Marine Corps emblem since he was an ex-Marine (should be easy), and a large Life Saver (what????). Turns out that he was the former President of Planters/Life Savers.

Well, I thought, this should be interesting. I claim that any image can be created in marquetry, but a Life Saver? A white Life Saver? After further discussion and emails, the size and shape, woods and images were agreed upon. I needed four veneer panels for the marquetry, so I made the box with four book-matched cherry panels (front and back), comprised of the veneers glued to Finnish birch plywood, and embedded in an ebony frame. A book-matched cherry bottom and ebony and bloodwood hinged top completed the box.

The client was ecstatic with the product and I had a lot of fun making the box, but I don't expect to be making more wooden Life Savers anytime soon. 🐦



No bird soars too high if he soars on his own wings.

Wm. Blake

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 a Macintosh G4, duplicated by Shipmates, and mailed to more than 850 addresses.



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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
rohrej@nycap.rr.com

The second site operates from
January 1 to May 30
and carries specific
information about SHOWCASE.
Webmaster - Rich Pagano
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Why do we say 8 foot when it is plural?

- Mike Miller

Did you ever hear of an 8 feet ruler?

The "foot" / "feet" is actually an interesting story, one that not many people know. It turns out the measurement of distance, at least for the English units, was invented in a town populated by people who could not put one foot in front of the other. For instance, if someone asked you how many feet it was from here to there, you would carefully walk heel to toe and count off each step. Because of the townspeople's inherent inability to do this, it took many townspeople to actually measure distance, each one putting his or her (not so many "hers" because their foots were not long enough) heel in front of the previous person's toe. In deference to this fact, the language of measurement became "8 foot" since it took many villagers to measure distance, and not the "8 feet" we would think of. 🐾

To the Editor:

I'd like to offer my two cents' worth in the discussion on wood moisture content. Ron DeWitt gave a very insightful answer to Lee Hilt's question "why is my cherry warping?" His recommendation to use wood that has 8% to 12% wood mc, however, could cause problems.

In my career as a furniture maker and lately as a restorer of stringed instruments, I always try to get my wood mc down to 6% or 7%. To achieve this I follow the "one year per inch of thickness" rule to air dry it. Then I put it in my home made de-humidifier kiln which consists of a Sears de-humidifier inside a 12' long insulated box with a 6" diameter duct to re-circulate the air from the far end back into the de-humidifier. As with every electrical appliance, the de-humidifier is ultimately an electric heater and the temperature inside the box gets up to 120°. In the winter I need the additional heat of several 100w light bulbs. I find that pine can be dried in a few days down to 7% mc, but oak takes several weeks. The other hardwoods fall in between. I have also learned the origin of the folk wisdom "wood must be kiln-dried in order to set the sap". It didn't make sense to me that cherry, for instance, had any sap to set. But I had a job where I used my home-dried pine to clad a pair of exterior doors on the west facing side of a church. They were stained dark brown. In the afternoon sun the doors got so hot that the sap dripped out of every pore. In the many years since I refinished them, those doors haven't oozed a drop of sap.

It stands to reason that wood shrinks as it dries. But I've discovered an interesting phenomenon. If you measure the width of a board at 12% mc and at every increment down to 5% mc, and then let it RE-humidify, 8% mc on the way down is wider than 8% mc on the way up. In other words, if you build a piece of furniture with 8% wood mc and it is placed in a dry room in winter, the wood will shrink. If you over dry the wood and let it rebound to a workable level, it will have already shrunk to a dimension such that the swings in relative humidity we experience here in the northeast will not affect it (as much).

This effect is a strong recommendation for kiln-dried wood, especially if you get it from a source as reliable as Berkshire Supply, with whom I've had good experience. My practice now, in preparing

New Members

- Pat McCord

New NWA members since May 1, 2004 follow:

Glenn Adams, Schenectady, NY
Bob Bauman, Saratoga Springs, NY
Big Jim Bell & Eileen Bell, Schroon Lake, NY
Ed Buckley, Albany, NY
Curtis Chittenden, Hagaman, NY
Dick Dorn, Franklin Lakes, NJ
David Elias, Schuylerville, NY
Ken Fortuin, Knox, NY
Charles Garrison, Rhinebeck, NY
Jim Kaplan, Saratoga Springs, NY
Alex Keleman, Clifton Park, NY
Ray Laubenstein, Mayfield, NY
Bob Lawless, Rhinebeck, NY
Barry Levine, Delmar, NY
Daryl Miller, Johnstown, NY
David Miller, Troy, NY
Bob Scott, Wilton, NY
Dan Sexton, Niskayuna, NY
Claes Sjogreen, Petersburg, NY
John Sullivan, Chestertown, NY
Paul Tomchik, East Nassau, NY
Paul Vingerhoet, Gloversville, NY
The Timberlaine Corp., dba Woodcraft, Latham, NY

Please make an effort to introduce yourself to these persons, make them feel welcome, and invite them to participate in all NWA activities. 🐾

CLASSIFIEDS

For Sale: Craftsman Laser Trac 10" Radial Arm Saw, 11 hp, 110-220 volt,
Price \$ 425.00, compare at \$599.99 + tax
DeWalt Portable Mitre Saw Stand
Price \$125, compare at \$199.99 + tax
Mike Kratky, (518) 863-6261 or
inspectr@frontiernet.net

For Sale: Vega 1446 Lathe, 46" between centers, 14" swing, 23" outboard. 1 hp TEFC, variable speed. Zero hours, too many accessories and turning tools to list, value over \$1,200.
Total package \$1,295.
Ray Goodlander, (607) 264-8394 after 4:30.

For Sale: Delta Unisaw, 3 hp with 50" Unifence and UniT fence add on. Biesmeyer guard with dust pickup; Accumiter gauge, Woodhaven router fence, 3 Amana blades. \$2,400
Daryl Rosenblatt, (516) 627-0647 or
DarylRos@aol.com.

Continued on Page 6



CHAPTER NEWS

Mid Hudson Chapter News

- Wally Cook

On the road... With no scheduled meetings in July and August, the Mid-Hudson Chapter took a road trip to visit Harry Clark's shop in East Springfield, NY. Harry is a retired carpenter and an NWA member for six years.

Harry and Alice (Allie) Clark reside on Highway 20 in the midst of some beautiful countryside. Over the last 19 years, Harry has renovated his shop on the site of an 1850 house and barn. The shop includes several rooms and a garage. Everything about this work space is industrial grade, including three large electrical panels for power.

As a devoted tinker and antique tool restorer, the shop is tailored for both wood and metal work. The main saw table features a solid Craftsman 10" saw with a clever out-feed matrix of oak stiles (see picture). Extension rods are fitted into the matrix for additional length on the outfeed.

Vacuum filtration is accomplished by Oneida steel piping; the sawdust collector is located in a separate room. Harry found normal receptacles too small for the volume he produced, so the current collector is a wooden box large enough to hold a grand piano.

Harry enjoys tinkering with equipment and tractors, as well as building furniture. He showed the Mid-Hudson team a washstand he reproduced from pictures of a piece owned by his grandmother. Both machine driven and handheld tools were used to complete the piece, including a Stanley 45 to recreate the beading.

Allie Clark treated the Mid-Hudson crew to a barbeque with all the homemade trimmings. That may have been a fatal error, because the group promised to return to sample more of Allie's homemade relish!



Harry Clark's Shop



Saw table and work bench built by Harry



Outfeed extensions for Saw Table



Dap Cole blessing Harry's shop with lucky sawdust; Joe Mikesch and George Norton looking on



Mid-Hudson group in front of Shop with Harry and Allie

Introducing the Scrollsaw

- Will Charbonneau

It's quite interesting that in almost every shop I have visited, when I mention the word 'scrollsaw' the owner looks around and says "Yeah, I have one over there under the bench." Under the bench is not a very prominent place for any tool, so a good question is how important is the scrollsaw to the tool arsenal.

To answer this question we must first understand its use. Scrollsaws are



The Dewalt scrollsaw is a favorite because of quick blade changing, a variable speed motor and a large, sturdy table. It is also relatively inexpensive.

known primarily for producing fretwork. Fretwork itself dates back thousands of years as seen in Egyptian, Greek, Roman and Asian cultures to name a few. Generally these furnishings were adorned with elaborate veneers and overlays. In more recent history we saw fret style furniture being produced by European craftsmen like Thomas Chippendale and Duncan Phyfe. A great example of

how the scrollsaw influenced architecture is the Victorian gingerbread lavishly decorating homes of the period.

Modern day scrollsaws have a much more diverse role in woodworking. Scrollsaws are used for fretwork, marquetry, intarsia, inlay in instruments and furniture, and many other art forms.

I believe the greatest negative factor to more widespread use of the scrollsaw came about from the poor design of the saws. The number one complaint was the difficulty and time involved in changing the blades. While many of the saws produced during the 1800's had tool-free blade changing, they were manually driven. With the production of the power-driven saws came tool-assisted blade change and motors that could not handle the load. The modern day scrollsaw offers tool-free blade change, more powerful motors that are often variable speed, and greater throat depth and thickness capacity... all improvements that simplify its use.

A great example of what the scrollsaw can do was on display at Showcase 2004 in a rustic style piece created by Earl Taylor. Earl and I met at a gallery opening in Corinth and discussed our particular forms of woodworking. Earl was wondering if the tool could be used to accent his furnishings. I indicated the tool would handle woods up to two inches thick and there were various techniques he could incorporate. Earl purchased a saw and we spent a few hours together in order to acquaint him with the



This rustic birdhouse incorporates many scrollsaw techniques in its design and production.

use and techniques involved. Earl then produced a wonderful piece with a canoe carry scene and a fish inlay. He received an honorable mention and I had the enjoyment of hearing people comment favorably on the accents in the piece.

So please reintroduce yourself to your scrollsaw, or perhaps borrow the new Dewalt scrollsaw recently added to the tool crib. This tool can create new possibilities for any type of woodworking. 🐦

Letter to the Editor...

Continued from Page 4

wood for building and repairing double-basses, is to stack the wood I intend to use on top of my Russian masonry heater which is 11.5 feet tall and has a 1.5 foot space to the 13 foot ceiling. I leave it there for a full heating season where the relative humidity is in the 20's. At workbench level I try to keep the RH above 35%, which will result in an equilibrium moisture content of 7%. When my woodworker friends ask me how to dry wood I tell them to sticker it in the living room where it's bound to be warm and away from the humidity of the kitchen and bathroom. Bachelors find this to be useful advice.

The one circumstance where I'd recommend using 12% wood mc is in frame and panel work. We need to leave room for panels to expand and contract within their frames, so if we make the panels a tight fit at 12% mc in a frame that is made of 7% wood mc, we'll know it's going to shrink but it probably won't get any bigger. Chair builders can probably think of other scenarios.

Robbie McIntosh
Cambridge NY 12816

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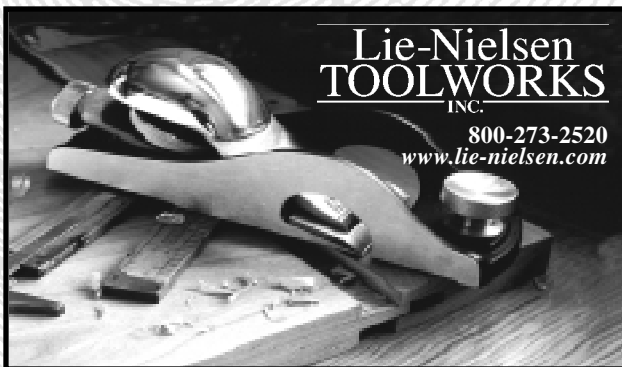
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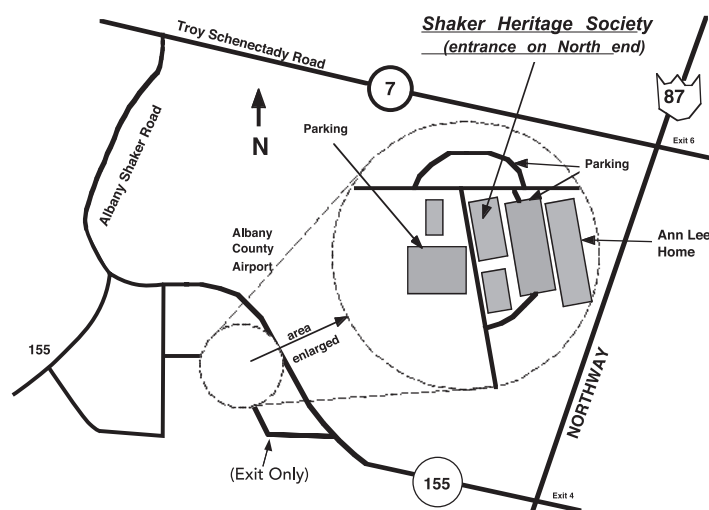
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NEXT MEETING:

7:00 p.m. Thursday, September 16, 2004
Shaker Heritage Society Meeting House
Albany-Shaker Road, Albany
(near Albany airport)

GENERAL MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

NWA Tentative Program Schedule – 2004-2005

Sep. 16, 2004	Ernie Conover Shaker Meeting House
Sep. 17-18	Ernie Conover Workshop Sears
Sep. 25, 2004	Wood and Tool Auction Shaker Heritage Barn
Oct. 14, 2004	Fiske Fund Grantees Shaker Meeting House
Oct. 30-31, 2004	Turning Symposium Empire State Plaza Convention Center
Nov. 11, 2004	Fiske Memorial Lecture Michael Puryear Unitarian Church, Schenectady
Dec. 9, 2004	Family Night Shenendehowa Senior Citizens Center
Jan. 13, 2005	"Post and Beam Construction" Shaker Meeting House
Jan. 29-30, 2005	Woodworking Weekend
Feb. 10, 2005	Mid-Hudson NWA Program Shaker Meeting House
March 10, 2005	"Finishing" with Jeff Jewett Shaker Meeting House
March 11-12, 2005	Jeff Jewett Workshop
April 2-3, 2005	NWA Showcase 2005 Saratoga Springs City Center
April 14, 2005	"Turning" Shaker Meeting House
April, 2005	Workshop Tours Dates and Locations to be Announced
May 12, 2005	"Double Bevel Marquetry" - Clark Pell Shaker Meeting House
May 14, 2005	Marquetry Workshop – Clark Pell Sears

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
Contact: Ken Evans, 753-7759 or Kevans1@nycap.rr.com

Carver's Guild - meets every Tuesday evening at the Clifton Park Senior Center from 6:30 pm to 9:00 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 6 p.m. at Woodcraft, Latham. Contact Will Charbonneau, 371-3709 or wcharbol@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 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.