

WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern
Woodworkers
Association

December 2005, Vol. 14, Number 12

Family Night

Thursday Evening, December 1, 2005, 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Shenendehowa Senior Citizens Center
6 Town Hall Plaza, Clifton Park

- **Ken Evans**

This is it! The last NWA event of 2005. Don't miss this one!

Bring all your family and friends to the Shenendehowa Senior Citizens Center, just off Vischer's Ferry Road which is off Rte 146 in Clifton Park.

Family Nite is a relaxing evening with your friends and their families with good conversation, sweets to eat, some great entertainment, an Instant Gallery of fine

woodworking, and an Instant Gallery of craft items made by family and friends of NWA woodworkers.

So make plans to bring your family and or friends to the Shenendehowa Senior Citizens Center on December 1 at 7:00PM. Bring some items of wood for the Instant Gallery, encourage your family and friends to bring craft items for display, bring a plate of goodies if you wish, listen to the music, and enjoy the company of your fellow woodworkers and their families and friends.

See you there Thursday, December 1.

The Woodwright of Public Television Fame to be Presenter at the March NWA Meeting

A Roy Underhill Weekend to follow the meeting

-**Ken Evans**

Roy Underhill of the PBS television program "The Woodwright's Shop"

<http://www.pbs.org/wws/> will be the speaker at the March 9, 2006 NWA meeting and will then present a two-day program the Friday and Saturday (March 10 and 11) following the March 9 meeting. The regular March meeting will be held at the Shaker facility as usual and the Friday and Saturday program will be held at the Stillwater Community Center Auditorium in Stillwater, NY.

The Friday program will include the Use of Hand Planes to do Window and Door Sash Work and the Hewing of Logs with a Broad Axe (Roy will work on a 12 inch diameter log of about 8 foot in length with a broad axe)

The Saturday program will include Puzzling Dovetails and Pole Lathe Work (turners take special note here).



According to PBS:

"Twenty years ago Roy Underhill and a UNC-TV production crew taped a pilot episode for a new program at a small, tin-roofed "shop" in Eno Park. More than 230 episodes later, that program, now known as The Woodwright's Shop, continues to delight viewers around the nation. Since that humble beginning, The Woodwright's Shop has taped in 11 states and seven foreign countries with Roy Underhill creating one wooden masterpiece after another.

Underhill still hosts, writes and co-produces the show he created two decades ago. In that time, he's also added a number of other job titles to that of woodworker-teacher such as lecturer, consultant, author, entertainer and historian. The creative Underhill always engages his audience from serious woodworkers to weekend crafters to those who simply enjoy his show and have no intention of risking splinters.



Continued on Page 3

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UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, PHONE
NUMBERS ARE IN AREA CODE 518

From the President

- John Michne

The NWA boat builders have the hull about ready for closing the bottom. Then the fun part begins. This will not be your ordinary wood canoe... there will be a modified figure 8 pattern over the entire bottom, made of contrasting wood.

The Great Day Adult Medical Services has asked if our organization would be in a position to present a wood-working show/display for senior citizens in nursing homes. Specifically, the organization handles patient services for the Daughters of Sarah Nursing Home on Washington Ave. Extension in Albany. The organization may provide services to other Nursing Homes in the area as well. The clients are elderly, frail, and most likely wheelchair-bound and would not be able to handle tools, especially sharp tools. Small scale displays of finished wood working projects and possibly some small demonstration of woodworking would be of interest to the clients.

I believe we may have done something like this before. If anyone has an idea, would like to help out, or even lead the effort, let me know. Thanks! 🐾



The NWA boat is taking shape nicely.

Reminder - Lathe Tool Sharpening Class

- Ken Evans

Kurt Hertzog will present a Lathe Tool Sharpening Class from 9am to 4pm on Saturday, December 3rd at the Curtis Facility in Ballston Spa. This all day session will be great for both beginners and experts. The program should be especially valuable to non-turner woodworkers.

Bring your own tools and grinder, if you have one. The cost of the class is \$20 and attendance is limited to twenty students. Bring a brown bag lunch or we will send out for pizza and/or subs.

Please register with a call to Ken Evans at (518) 753-7759 and a check made out to Adirondack Woodturners Association in the amount of \$20. 🐾

NWA to Establish Workshop Space

- Ken Evans

At their October meeting, the NWA Board passed a motion to rent a 32' x 22' room in the Stillwater Community Center to turn into a workshop where NWA will hold small group meetings and woodworking classes. To accomplish this, a functional workshop will be developed at this site.

The Stillwater Community Center is about 4 miles north of Mechanicville just off routes 4 and 32 in the Village of Stillwater.

While there is much planning and work to be done, there is great potential benefit to NWA members in having a facility totally controlled by NWA.

The Center also has a large gymnasium with a stage and kitchen facilities that will be available for NWA use. This space will host the upcoming weekend programs in March and April involving Roy Underhill (of the PBS program The Woodwright's Shop) and John Alexander (working green wood to furniture). 🐾

Shaker Boxes

- Wally Cook

Duane Henry recently taught a session on shaker boxes at the Barn on the Opdahl property. The focus was on carving the "swallow-tail" joints.

Shaker boxes are generally made from cherry, maple, or lacewood strips (or bands) of different thickness. The thickness varies with the size of the box ... smaller boxes require thinner bands.

Typically, the boxes are made in sets; sizes 1 through 5 are most common. Duane used forms for a #2 sized box.

The process for making a box usually follows 18 steps, but here is a brief summary:

1. Carve swallow-tail joints on the bands... these always point to the right. Swallow-tails are two strap "fingers" at the end of the band. Shave the swallow-tails to a 10-20 degree bevel. Pre drill holes in the swallow-tails to prevent splitting when fastening.
2. Steam the bands to 180 degrees and bend around a form (or "core"). Cores are specific for different size boxes. Wooden pegs are used to hold bands in place on form.
3. Remove the band from the core and transfer to a pipe anvil. Clinch copper tacks in those holes.
4. Press top and bottom forms (shaping blocks) into the band and let stand for two days. Shaping blocks are beveled at 10 degrees to snug the fit. The band is slightly proud of the bottom and yellow glue is used to fill gaps around the seam.
5. Prepare the top band in similar fashion.

Shaker box construction can be a satisfying project. A good source of materials and information is John Wilson, <http://www.shakerovalbox.com>.



Duane Henry's shaker tray



Bending a cherry band around the form. Swallow-tail joint visible.

A Roy Underhill Weekend

Continued from Page 1

Regardless of skill level, Underhill instills a passion for history, ingenuity and sweat equity in his devoted fans. With 17 years at Colonial Williamsburg, first as master housewright, then acting as director of interpretive development, he engaged visitors from around the world in living history, actually giving visitors the tools to discover the wisdom of their ancestors."

If you would like to register for the Friday/Saturday program, call Ken Evans at (518) 753-7759 and send a check in the amount of \$35 made out to NWA.

This program is likely to be exceptionally popular and it WILL be open to the general public with much publicity generated by NWA. Send your check ASAP to reserve a spot. 🐾

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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WEBSITE(S)

www.woodworker.org
www.nwawoodworkingshow.org

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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@woodworker.org

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



**NORTHEASTERN
WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION**
P.O. BOX 246
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CHAPTER NEWS

Mid-Hudson Chapter has New Website

- Chuck Walker

Take a look at the new Mid-Hudson website. It is just off the ground within the past two months but has a lot of neat stuff. On the home page you will find links to recent additions. Click on Calendar, select September and you can find a bunch of photos from our picnic including the winner of the prestigious Golden Corkscrew Award created by Dap Cole and Herm Finkbeiner.

Feel free to prow! around wherever you want. We are still filling out some of the needed text but it is up and running thanks to John MacDougall. Comments are welcome.

Sacandaga Chapter News

- Gary Spencer

After being in recess for the summer, The Sacandaga Chapter had an outstanding beginning for the new season in September. Clark Pell was the presenter on marquetry as an art form. Fine job Clark!

In October the Chapter devoted its program to "jigs & fixtures" in woodworking. Gary Spencer presented this program with discussion of about 40 different jigs, both shop- made and commercial. There was also a brief discussion by Rod Neilson about the harvesting and planting of black walnut trees.

Paul Petrie conducted our November meeting with a presentation on "hand-cut dovetail joinery". The program was very enlightening and caused many members to question whether they should use commercial dovetail machines.

This session led to our program that will be on December 14th on making dovetails by machine. Members are encouraged to bring their own machines and learn to use them at this hands-on program. If you don't have one there will be about 10 machines available, so just bring some wood.

The Chapter also decided to make a Chapter project for exhibit at the NWA Showcase. We will meet some extra half-day sessions at different members' shops in order to finish in time for the show. The Chapter will continue to make model cars to be given out to children at the Showcase.

Our regular monthly meetings are the second Wednesday of each month and begin at 7:00 P.M. at Mayfield High School woodshop.

The Sacandaga Chapter meetings are open to all, and light refreshments are served. Remember we have door prizes at every meeting but you do have to be present to win. Come on out!

Our Officers for the 05/06 year are:

Co-presidents: Joe Artkuski and Mike Kratky

NWA liason: Gary Spencer

Newsletter: Dick Solar

For additional information or directions contact:

Joe Artkuski - 883-4430

Mike Kratky - 863-2821 or

Gary Spencer - 863-6433



Walnut for the 2007 Auction

Charlie Goddard, Pete Howe, Darrell Welch, John Zukowski and Dave Lasinski muscle a log onto the sawmill.

NWA Youth Program

- William Van Brunt

Scroll Saw Classes

Thanks to Tom O'Donnell and volunteers from NWA, and the Scrollers Guild Special Interest Group, the eight youth participants in the two Scroll Saw classes on Saturday, October 8, 2005 had a great time. The kids each spent about 2½ hours in the Sears workshop learning how to use a scroll saw. They started with an exercise to teach them how to safely use the scroll saw, and then graduated to cutting out a cat and finished up the day cutting out a fish.

The class taught them how to attach the patterns they would be cutting out to the work, proper and safe technique for using the scroll saw, and finally sanding and finishing their projects. All the participants went home with their two projects completed and with another pattern they could cut out at home.

While there was a lot of hard work by the kids (gluing on patterns and sanding anyone?), smiles were seen through out the day. The kids were thrilled to have completed two projects to take home for their 2½ hours of effort.

In addition to Tom, a big thanks to Donna Phillips and Pat Cummings who assisted the kids during both the morning and afternoon classes.

Pen Turning Classes

On Saturday, November 5, 2005 seventeen kids participated in a pen turning class instructed by Jack Teffenhart of Adirondack Woodturners Association, and assisted by volunteers from NWA and AWA. The two pen turning classes were a huge success, repeating the pen turning classes Jack lead in February 2005.

The seventeen kids, including several children or grandchildren of NWA members, had a great time turning pens. Smiles were the facial expressions of the day, and the kids were just thrilled to complete turning a pen after starting with square pen blanks.

Each class started with Jack holding the kids' (and some of their parents) attention as he provided instruction while simultaneously turning a pen. All eyes were on Jack as he mixed instruction on lathe safety with how to use a roughing gouge. After demonstrating turning, sanding and applying the finish, Jack showed the kids how to assemble the parts to complete the pen.

After Jack's instruction and demonstration, the kids picked out their pen blanks and pen kits and met their personal instructor at a lathe. Chips started flying and the square pen blanks were quickly turned round. As they progressed in the turning process, each participant selected and turned the shape they wanted for their pen. As in February, it was very interesting to see each child put their personality into a pen. What vision and imagination they used!

The volunteers, working one on one with each child, had a great time in sharing their love of woodworking and knowledge from their own experience. Each provided moral and hands-on support with great success. I encour-



age you to speak with the volunteers about their experience...you will find out how much fun and satisfying working with the kids can be.

The next class in the new NWA Youth Woodworking Program is still being developed, and will be announced in the newsletter when plans are finalized. Your ideas for a class project are welcome, along with any interest you have in assisting with a Youth Program class in the future. Please contact me at (518) 767-3060 or email wvanbrun@nycap.rr.com. 🐾

November SIG Meetings

Kaatskill Turners November Meeting

- Wally Cook

Got Pepper?

Joe Benkert is not just famous for sausage. His segmented pepper mills have been showing up regularly at Show 'n Tell for the last few years. Finally, he consented to show us his approach to pepper mill construction at the November meeting.

The signature aspect of Joe's pepper mills is the unique glue-up that he does to achieve the spiral effect in the turned pieces. He is also very precise about the beginning dimensions for the turning block. For instance, an 8" mill should start with a 3"x3"x9³/₄" block.

Detailed pictures of the process and the resources hand-out are available at www.midhudsonwoodworkers.org. Here's a brief summary:

Step 1: Glue-up – sandwich 4 boards (3/4" stock) in a glue-up to achieve a 3"x3" thick block. The length of the block depends upon the desired finished size of the pepper mill. Look for contrasting colors to create interest. Cut the block along a diagonal; then flip both parts and re-glue. The shape at this point will be a parallelogram. Square the ends.



Starting Block is cut diagonally



Pieces are then flipped and re-glued to form parallelogram

Mid Hudson Scrollers November Meeting

-Wally Cook

The scrollers continue to follow the Scroll Saw Work Book for project ideas. This month Bob Boisvert and his band of renown worked on cutting plexiglas ornaments.

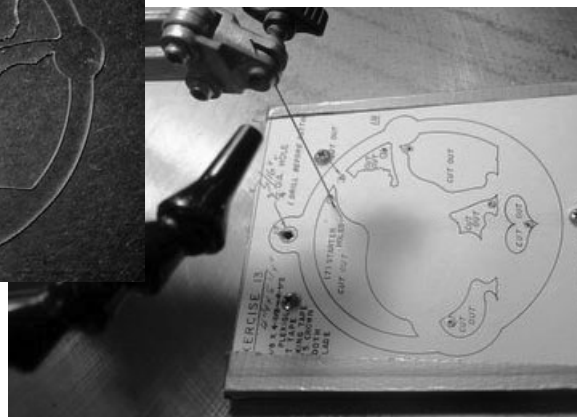
Plexiglas can fuse back together if the saw blade generates too much heat. A number 5 blade was used at a controlled speed to prevent this occurrence. The pattern was applied to a stack of three Plexiglas blanks. In order to stabilize the stack, the set of blanks was edge taped using duct tape and small screws were inserted into the stack at the corners.

Cutting proceeds from the inside to the outside of the blank. The finished ornament is pictured. 🐾



Pattern ready for cutting

Finished Plexiglas ornament



Step 2: Turning Blank – rough out a cylinder. Smooth with a skew and create a 3/8" tenon at one end for mounting the blank in a spigot chuck.

Step 3: Drill Three Holes – Holes need to be drilled to accept the stainless steel grinding mechanism. Lathe drilling is accomplished at a slow lathe speed, but with a fast cranking action. First: use a 1³/₄" Forstner bit to drill the base to a depth of 7/16". Second: use a 1" brad point drill to a depth of 6" for an 8" mill. Third: use a 1¹/₁₆" Forstner bit to a depth of 5/8". Since the holes drilled on the lathe may not be precisely straight, Joe recommends finishing the 1" through-hole on a drill press. Drill press action is fast drill speed, with slow cranking.

Step 4: Shape the exterior profile – cutoff marks are scribed as well as sections for coves. The plan is available on the website. It's important to note that the top will be cut flush to the base in order to maintain a continuous pattern. A dowel will be inserted to join top to base once the top is parted and finished. (Joe uses Titebond III and pushes the dowel into the base with the tail stock).

Step 5: Finish the base: mask the top and apply 4-8 coats of lacquer to the base. The top will be finished separately in the same manner, once it is shaped and parted. Do not finish the surfaces that rub at the top of the base and bottom of the turning knob.

Step 6: Insert the grinding mechanism. Joe recommends stainless steel grinders for durability. The grinder will be inserted through the bottom of the base and fastened with small screws; start the screws with a 1/16" drill bit.



Joe's pepper mills

Viola! Joe guarantees it won't be the same old grind. Our next meeting will be December 14 at the Barn. Bill Reynolds and Jim Zitz will demonstrate pen turning.

Leaves are not only for the Birds... but Scrollers too!

- Tom O'Donnell

The Albany Scrollers Guild October meeting started with a beginner's discussion on methods to make clean, sharp corners in various types of wood. The discussion was based on renowned author John Nelson's *Scroll Saw Workbook* and his first four projects. Tom, Donna, Pat and Will used those patterns at the Kids' Scroll Saw Class held at Sears on October 8th.

At the regular meeting a discussion was held of the types of finishes for intarsia, fretwork and other projects. This brought out some fabulous examples. Mark Hammond brought his Trumpeting Angel and Roses in the watering can, both finished with gel varnish. Tom O'Donnell came with 4 crosses with one to four coats of polyurethane and showed progressive coats and the results, and his intarsia Lion with Bush Oil. Ernie

LeClair showed some of our new members his dozen miniature reindeer. The highlight of the evening was when Donna Phillips presented her aviary of 12 different Birds in Leaves. Well done, Donna!



Ask for Ornaments and Woooooow !

- Tom O'Donnell

The Albany Scrollers were challenged to bring in ornaments to the November 16th meeting to decorate the Woodcraft Christmas tree. The results were spectacular. Ornaments of all different types: traditional, non traditional, compound cut, religious, humorous, slotted & segmented. The finishes were great also: poly, oil, lacquered, painted, glittered and even rubbed with gun stock oil.

The winners of the categories were:

Donna Phillips Best Beginner

John Rigsbee Best use of 2 mediums

Betty Hammond Best segmentation

Maurice Burton Best Non-Traditional

Barbara Nottke Best Intermediate

Bill Galusha Best Compound

Ernie LeClaire Best Advanced

Tom O'Donnell Honorable mention from John Rigsbee
(he liked my version of a pineapple, don't tell him but it was supposed to be a rocket, he was looking at it upside down)

Prizes will be awarded at the December 21st meeting. 🍷



Even a stopped clock is right twice every day. After some years
it can boast of a long series of successes.

Marie Eschenbach

Hack Woodworking Weekend



Garret Hack responds to a question from one of the 30 participants at the recent Woodworking Weekend held at Sears on November 11, 12 and 13.



Garrett demonstrates how to create string inlay.



Steve Mapes and Tom Osborne use files and tempered spring steel to make their own tools to create beading and string inlay.

C L A S S I F I E D S

FOR SALE: two - 33 1/2" X 54 3/4" white Norandex replacement windows. Paid \$350 total. Will sell for \$175. Call Tim Zinn, 239-6040.

CARVING TOOLS FOR SALE: Brand new set of 15 carving tools in canvas roll, made by Henry Taylor, donated to NWA by Woodcraft in Latham. This set retails for almost \$500.

The first \$400 takes them (for the Fiske Fund). Charlie Goddard (518) 370-0388 or cgodd@aol.com.



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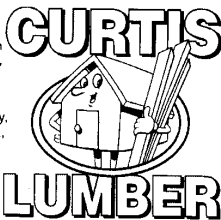
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NEXT MEETING: **Family Night**

Thursday, December 1st, 7 pm
Shenendehowa Senior Citizens Center
6 Town Hall Plaza
Clifton Park, New York

GENERAL MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

December 1, 2005 - Family Night
Clifton Park Senior Center

January 12, 2006 - General Meeting
Shaker Meeting Hall, 7:00 pm
Dave Mobley on CNC woodwork.

February 9, 2006 - General Meeting
Shaker Meeting Hall, 7:00 pm
Scroll Sawing by Mid-Hudson and Albany Groups

March 9-10-11, 2006 - Woodworking Weekend
Thursday evening, Roy Underhill of the PBS Series
"The Woodwright's Shop"
Friday, Saturday - Workshops, Sears Colonie Center

March 25-26, Showcase 2006 -
Saratoga Springs Civic Center

April 13, 2006 - General Meeting
Shaker Meeting Hall, 7:00 pm
John Alexander on "Working Green Wood to Furniture"

May 11, 2006 - General Meeting
Shaker Meeting Hall, 7:00 pm
Woodcarving by Mid-Hudson and Albany Groups

June, 2006 - NO MEETING

July 23, 2006 - NWA Picnic
Jonesville Fire Station

August, 2006 - NO MEETING

For meeting cancellation information,
call Ken Evans 753-7759,
John Michne 371-6690
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
Contact Ken Evans, 753-7759 or Kevans1@nycap.rr.com

Carver's Guild - meets 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month 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 Woodcraft, Latham. 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.

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.