December 2012, Vol. 21, Number 10

December Meeting

NOTE: (where the November meeting was held - see below)

Thursday, December 13, 2012 at 7:00 pm Shenendehowa Adult Community Center 6 Clifton Common Court, Clifton Park, NY

Family Night

By Karen Arkison

The days are getting shorter and the air is cooler. That could only mean one thing.

We've entered the Holiday Season. For those of you new to NWA, our December meeting is more of a time to socialize (more than normal) at our monthly meeting.

All we ask is that everyone bring a desert to share. We are also looking for items to show in the Instant Gallery and an item to auction if you have a spare item you're willing to donate to the cause.

Then join in the fun of trying to outbid your fellow woodworkers to start your Holiday shopping off with some hand crafted gifts. Just in case you're wondering, you should also bring your family or a friend to join us for an evening of fun. I look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones.

Hope to see you there.

Shenendehowa Adult Community Center

It's come to our attention that more than a few people have had trouble finding the Shenendehowa Adult Community Center. I know as I was one of them. The following is the correct name and address of the place which was formerly the Clifton Park Senior Center.

Shenendehowa Adult Community Center
6 Clifton Common Court
Clifton Park NY 12065
www.shenacc.org

- Your President

NWA WC SIG Wood Carving presentations are set for January and February 2013

By Ray Gannon

Subject: Caricature & Song Bird carving presentations Location: NWA LLOC 1 Mustang Drive

- January 17th, 2013 at 6PM
 Carl Borst will present Caricature carving.
- February 7th, 2013 at 6PM
 Walt LaClair will present Song Bird Carving

NWA Education pre registration will be necessary.

You will be impressed when you take the time to witness these special presentations.

Caricature Carver Carl Borst. Carl Specialty is on human heads & faces. Carl is a nationally known Caricature carver with many credits teaching at the University of Rohde Island, The Lake Placid Woodcarving Experience, Northeast Woodcarving Round Up in Pa, and The Caricatures Carvers of America round up.

Bird Carver Walt LaClair. Walt's Specialty is on Birds, Pins, Spoons and Fish. He is a woodcarving teacher with the ADK Folk School Club and his private lessons are one on one training or group sessions. Walt has presented as well throughout the Northeast.

The purpose of your NWA WC SIG is to promote the Art of Woodcarving.

The Art of woodcarving as we know it has many different carving process styles.

We need to hear about your carving wish list in-order for us to satisfy your carving needs. Please let us know your interest and we will do our best to satisfy your wishes.

Many Carvers and Carving presenters have expressed a desire to hold "hands on" carving sessions for you! We need to know. So many to do so little time.

- An interest for a formal Laser and CNC, carving presentation has been expressed!
- Chip carving for both Carvers and Turners!
- Carving working fishing lures from wood!

To express your interest please contact Ray Gannon at LoRayG@Gmail.com or 518-664-2229.

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OPEN

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UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, PHONE NUMBERS ARE IN AREA CODE 518

Douglas Fisher: Off-Center Off-Axis Turning

By Nick Kolak

Douglas Fisher is a full-time woodturning artist who hails from Vancouver Island, British Columbia. Since 1997, Doug has been creating wood sculptures where his artistic capabilities have led him to incorporate design elements from the local native tribes that reside in the surrounding area. His outstanding work

using "indigenous iconography" can be viewed at www. douglasjfisher.com.

On November 7th our members hosted Doug for a demonstration of the off-center/off-axis turning methods that he uses to create his works of art. With the afternoon session beginning at 1:00 p.m., approximately



41 members were amazed at the intricate sculptured form that Doug produced using a vacuum chuck. The 'bottom' of the piece is first turned to a gentle convex surface which will eventually be seated on the seal of a vacuum chuck in a 'ball and socket' type affair. A circle, representing the diameter of the vacuum chuck to be used, is visualized on the convex surface. After allowing ~ 1 " margin on both sides of the circle, some decorative shaping is made inside the circle and outside toward the rim. With the backside now completed, the piece is reversed so

that the convex surface now rides on the vacuum chuck. Periodically, Doug moved (tilted) the maple blank offcenter and off-axis to produce a cutting action which is heavy on one side of the blank while cutting almost nothing across the diameter. He refers to this one cut as 'introducing an element' into the piece. Subsequently, he turned off the vacuum, moved the piece about 1/2" off-center/off-axis in another direction and introduced another 'element'.



After some minor sanding, the piece is ready for surface enhancement.

Recognizing that not all turners have vacuum systems for their lathes, Doug demonstrated a second technique which can be employed to mount the wood blank to achieve the same end result. By incorporating a PVC ring (approx. ½" wide x 3 ½" diameter) placed in between the faceplate and the convex surface of the wood blank, screws are installed to hold the unit together. Mounting the unit on the lathe and turning is accomplished in the traditional sense. To achieve off-center/off-axis placement, the assembly is removed from the lathe, all the screws are removed except for one, and the blank is pivoted a bit about the remaining screw. The screws are re-installed, the assembly placed back on the lathe, and turning resumes. While this method is able to produce the same final turned piece, one can see that this method is more time consuming than using a vacuum chuck and perhaps not as versatile.

Douglas Fisher Demonstration

Continued from Page 2

With 37 members attending the evening session, Doug continued to "wow" the crowd by demonstrating the surface enhancement methods that he uses (burning, carving, and coloring) to embellish his pieces. He showed us how he

uses various rotary carving burrs to create textured surfaces and relief carving, and various woodburning tips to create fine lines and shapes. The audience's level of interest was displayed by the many questions raised which Doug was happy to address.



The next day Doug held a full "hands on" workshop attended by 10 students. Stressing safety when pursuing off-center/off-axis turning, Doug stated that he always uses a full face shield. Thus, students at the time of registration had been informed to bring their face shield or they would not be permitted to use the lathe. Because the 3" thick x 10" diameter wood blank would be "wobbling" when spinning on the lathe, turners would be cutting into a "ghost" image of the wood *very carefully*. Because off-center/off-axis turning generates a lot of force, Doug had specified earlier in the scheduling process that the lathes be made immovable as possible to reduce/eliminate vibration. To satisfy the latter requirement, over the course of the previous month the benches for the 'lighter' lathes were reinforced, the lathes were bolted to the benchtops, and concrete blocks were placed underneath the benchtops to provide further stability - all accomplished with the expert assistance from Tom Moran, a 'budding' turner.

Since mounting of the wood blank onto the lathe is critical to safety and successful turning, Doug demonstrated each step for the group before allowing them to proceed on their own. As questions arose, Doug moved from student to student to provide assistance where needed and to maintain overall progress. By the end of the day, everyone had turned at least one blank. Because of our workshop environment, wood-burning a design for surface enhancement could not be done for fear of setting off the fire alarms. So, it was on to coloring the work piece. Students were instructed to cover their entire work piece with India ink. Ugh! Quick drying with a hair dryer (the entrepreneurs in the class utilized the exhaust from the shop vac) followed by sanding to subdue the black to a 'lighter' grey shade led to a work piece that can only be described as 'somewhat unappealing'. Repeating the latter step using yellow, red, blue, or combos there from, produced a work piece that, again, can only be described as 'even more unappealing'. However, after more sanding to further subdue the bright colors, the finished art form began to take on the appearance of an "aged" piece with a flat sheen. Now, only one more step was needed. Since the spraying of lacquer in the workshop by 10 students would not be allowed, students did the spraying outside and waited a few moments before bringing their pieces back inside. The lacquer topcoat made the pieces "pop" with color that brought smiles to all faces.

The workshop was judged by all to be a complete success. Out of 10 students, no one lost their wood blank on the lathe and that is a MOST important factor. But in a class like this one, there are always going to be surprises. When someone's 'spare blank' managed to vibrate off the lathe bench and hit the floor with a thud, a witness stated that Doug and I jumped 'close to a foot off the floor". All's well that ends well.

Photography supplied by Stan Blanchard



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 January Copy deadline: December 15 Wally Carpenter, Editor (518) 434-1776 c.j.carpenter@earthlink.net Elizabeth Keays Graphic Artist Designer



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

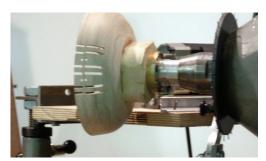
P.O. BOX 246 Rexford, New York 12148

KWA News

By Wally Cook

Incisive: Harvey Fein provided a demo of his incising system for the wood lathe. The system comes in a kit which includes:

• Index head: This indexing wheel is very versatile with four index rings: 36, 48, or 60 holes on the face and 60 holes on the edge of the wheel. The holes on the edge make re-indexing easy; the edge pins are replaceable #19 brads. Further, the index wheel can be adjusted for offcenter work. An eccentric on the arm allows you to select a starting place without losing your index.



Incising system consists of index wheel, adjustable incising jig, spindle extender, and router

- **Incising Jig:** The jig includes an adjustable table for the lathe banjo a platform for the router which is adjustable in height and tilt. It will accommodate lathes with different swing distances. The jig also includes a follower that fits on the router sled, controlling depth of cut.
- **Spindle Extender:** The extender moves the piece far enough away from the headstock to enable routing (or cutting) on the back of the piece while mounted on the lathe.
- **Router:** The Porter Cable 7301 router is the design point for the incising jig it affixes to the sled with one screw. The follower guard is also designed for this model router housing.

The adaptability of the incising system is a real benefit. Obviously, the routing is completed with the lathe not running. The sliding jig moves along the table (whether horizontal or tilted) to perform various cuts on the work piece. Piercing, fluting, diagonal cuts, and freeform 'squiggle' cuts can be accomplished. A fixed pin and spring loaded pin affix the indexing arm; they can be reversed to provide mini-tolerance changes allowing patterned "dash" cuts in the work. The edge pins in the index wheel let you create patterns in the width of the flutes, so that some flutes are wider than others.

Harvey demonstrated a flower petal shaped shallow bowl which features interrupted radiating cuts from the center of the bowl. The 'petals' are of varying width in a repeating pattern. With the lathe running, a gouge is used to create two concentric rings on the back of the bowl to provide structural integrity for the petals.

Further information about Harvey's incising system can be found at www.incising.net 📣



The index wheel is very flexible with rings of 36. 48, and 60 holes around the ring and 60 holes on the outside edge



The open lattice construction is made possible with stop cuts on the router



Cross-hatching is completed with straight cuts above center line

CLASSIFIEDS

For Sale

Furniture maker thinning out 40 years of lumber accumulation to make more room. Large selection of matched sets, figured woods, turning blanks, etc. Please email bob@gasperetti.com for list and pricing.

CHAPTER NEWS

Sacandaga Chapter

By Gary Spencer

Our November meeting was a great success. We were supposed to have three presenters discussing different types of woodcarving however Jon Carl was unable to come at the last minute.

But, Ray Gannon and Emie Balch stepped up to the plate and made it a great evening. Ray focused on carving in general, relief carving, and specific tools for wood carving, and utilization of them in relief carving. There was much interest and many questions.

Ray's presentation was followed by Emie Balch who had a slide show on laser carving and CNC carving by machine, he showed examples of carving shapes in 3D as well as carving signs and hand finishing of them. This presentation was state of the art and incredibly fascinating. A good time was had by all and everyone was delighted and impressed by both speakers.

Maybe we will be able to have Jon Karl come to speak to us on a future date to cover chip carving. In any case we had two outstanding presentations and we give thanks and appreciation to them for a job well done.

Our program for December will feature Gary Ratajczak who will bring us up to date on pocket hole joinery and the latest tools from Kreg Jig. There might even be some freebies! Gary always gives a good presentation, don't miss this one!

We will still have a show and tell and hope many of you will bring something to show. We will still have 50/50, and door prizes so come on out.

Our regular monthly meetings are the second Wednesday of each month and begin at 7:00 P.M. Our next regular meeting will be December 12th, 2012. We will meet at our shop at 55 2nd Avenue, Mayfield, NY. Come visit.

For Directions or information contact: Ray Laubenstein - 863-6071 Clyde Cheney - 661-5138 Gary Spencer - 863-6433

Hands-On Event at Woodworkers Showcase 2013

By Herm Finkbeiner

Learn to Make and Use Scratch Stocks with Garrett Hack

Making and Using Scratch Stocks



A scratch stock is a woodworking tool used to apply decorative treatments, such as beads, inlays or coves, to wooden items.

Scratch stocks consist of a handle.

usually wood, with provision to clamp a steel blade into which the profile of the shape to be cut has been filed. Scratch stocks work by using a scraping action which gradually cuts away the wood.

In this session you will make a scratch stock with a blade shaped to the desired profile, cut the profile into a sample board and, if desired, fill the cavity with your choice of material. You will leave with the knowledge of how to make this very useful tool, the tool you have made and the sample board you decorated.

The sessions are 3 hours and the cost is \$65. There will be 4 sessions during the show:

Saturday, March 23

10:30 am - 1:00 pm or 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Sunday, March 24,

10:30 am - 1:00 pm or 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

To register send an e-mail to showe@nycap.rr.com Or call 885-9331

Showcase 2013 - March 23 - March 24, 2013

Wood of the Month ©2012

No. 107 in the series

By Ron DeWitt

Pond Apple Annona glabra L. An Evergreen or Semi-Deciduous Hardwood Annonaceae, the custard apple or sometimes called the paw paw or sugar apple family.

Derivation of the genus name, Annona, is from Anon, a Hispaniolan Taino word for the fruit. This name was changed to the Latin Annona meaning "a years' harvest." The species name, glabra, is from the Latin for "smooth or hairless" in reference to the fruit surfaces.

The Annonas number about 110 species worldwide. Some are deciduous evergreens, some are only

deciduous, some are evergreens, and a few are considered "late," "tardy," or "semi-deciduous." All are classified as tropical and all are native to the Americas, except for about 10 in Africa.

The pond apple is also known as swamp apple, monkey apple, corkwood, bobwood, or alligator apple (alligators do eat these apples). This tree is widely distributed in tropical America from the Bahamas through the West Indies, including Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, from southern Mexico along the Atlantic Coast to Brazil, and south along the Pacific Coast to Ecuador,



Double stem of a Pond Apple tree

including the Galapagos Islands. It is also found in some parts of West Africa and parts of south Asia, including the Philippines. In its native range of the U.S. it extends, often in swampy and mangrove areas from southern Florida across the Florida Keys.

The pond apple is the most northern extending member of the Annona genus. Although tropical in nature, it can withstand temperatures as low as 26 to 28 degrees F (-2 degrees C). Tree size and shape varies considerably with habitat, but it is always in or near water. In some areas it may be found in broad masses of short stems, deeply immersed in brackish or even salt water. Occasionally it can be found in impenetrable tracts of trees to 15 ft. (4.6 m) in pure stands. It favors pond borders, tidally influenced stream banks, banks of estuaries, and lakes.

This tree can reach to 45 ft. (15 m) in height with a spread of 20 ft. (6 m) and an open crown. Stems may be 15 in. (38.1 cm) dbh, straight, sometimes with multiple

stems, occasionally buttressed if standing in deep water. This tree cannot survive on dry soil. Branching tends to be on stiff, flat, vertical tapering shoots. Bark is graybrown and smooth with shallow fissures, somewhat like American hornbeam Carpinis caroliniana.

The semi-deciduous or occasionally evergreen leaves

form in two alternate rows. Leaves are about 4 in. (10 cm) long with a sharp tip, glossy green on upper surfaces, paler and hairy below. Pond apple has creamy-white, one



Leaves of the Pond Apple

inch (2.5 cm) diameter, three-part flowers that hang from the branches and open at night to expose their deep, rose-colored hearts. The fruits, rounded like an apple, can be up to 4 in. (10 cm) long and will be yellow-green when ripe. No other native south Florida tree has such a large or distinctive fruit. The fruit is pleasant-scented and

edible, raw or as juice, although it is seldom consumed by humans. It is regularly eaten by a wide variety of animals in its growing areas. These trees are most often propagated by its floating seeds.

Pond apple is a diffuse-porous hardwood. Pores are uniformly small, indistinct without a hand lens, numerous, mostly solitary, and uniformly distributed. Rays are 4 to 10 seriate, very fine, and not seen without a hand lens.

The earlywood transition to latewood is quite gradual as is the transition from heartwood to sapwood. This wood is colored in subtle shades and combinations of tan,



Pond Apple flower just opening



Fully opened Pond Apple flower

pale yellow, and green. Pond apple wood is moderately heavy, hard, strong, fine textured, and quite close-

Wood of the month

Continued from page 6

grained. Average specific gravity is about 0.55 (oven dry weight/green volume), equivalent to an air-dried weight of 42 pcf (673 kg/m3). The wood is without characteristic taste or odor. Pond apple wood works moderately well with sharpedged tools and sands to a soft patina. It has quite good durability when in contact with the soil or exposed to the weather. Details on toxicity of this wood could not be found,

but the usual protection for eyes, nose, lungs, skin, and hearing should always be used.

Only small quantities of pond apple timber are large enough to justify sawing out for lumber. Some is used locally for boats and rafts, shelters, and small structures. Some is used for items of furniture, fence posts, novelties, and fuel wood. Occasionally it is sought by collectors.



Pond Apple fruit (apple)

In recent years the deep taproots of pond apple, A. glabra,

were collected for grafting to improve the quality of more commercially desirable members of the Annona genus. As is sometimes the case with these types



Standard specimen of Pond Apple

of trials, the pond apple escaped cultivation and has become a very serious weedy invasive in some of the Pacific countries, including southern China, Vietnam, Fiji, and Australia, especially in Queensland.

The pond apple tree has had many uses in traditional medicine: treating tuberculosis, abdominal cramps, colic, and diarrhea. It also is used to treat dysentery, jaundice, and rheumatism, as an emetic to cause vomiting, for intestinal worms, and as a tumor inhibitor. It is made into an effective insect repellent and also a fish poison. Research is being conducted with seed, leaf, and pulp extracts for the treatment of malaria and H.I.V. Especially encouraging are the results with some of these extracts on Leukemia and several cancers. This little tree has a very large native and naturalized distribution around much of the tropical world.

Visit the
Northeastern Woodworkers Association
Website at
www.woodworker.org

Showcase 2013

March 23 - March 24, 2013

By Herm Finkbeiner

The perfect gift for the Woodworker, a spot in John Wilson's class!

Date: Two opportunities Saturday,

March 23 or Sunday, March 24

Time: Saturday 10:30 am or Saturday, 2:00pm

Saturday 10:30 am or Sunday, 2:00 pm

Where: Saratoga City Center during

Showcase 2012

Instructors: John Wilson and Eric Pintar

Cost: \$65

Have you ever wanted to make a Shaker box or a Shaker carrier? This will be your opportunity!

In 2012 there will be something completely new at Showcase. Showcase 2012 will feature a hands-on opportunity to make a Shaker box or a Shaker carrier with a fixed handle.

To participate, you will need to decide which

session(s) on which day(s) will best fit your interests and schedule.

John Wilson, the world famous maker of Shaker boxes, will lead two groups each day. On Saturday morning students will make a #2 Shaker box and in the afternoon a group will make a #6 Shaker carrier with a fixed handle. Both classes will be repeated on





Sunday (April 1) except that they will be reversed, the carrier in the morning and the box in the afternoon,

The cost of the program is \$65 for each part. Included is not only the expert guidance of John Wilson but all the needed materials and tools. You will leave the area with a box or carrier in hand to show off to any and all.

To register for the classes e-mail showe@nycap.rr.com or hfinkbei@nycap.rr.com or call 518-371-9145.



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



December Meeting

Thursday, December 13, 2012 at 7:00 pm Shenendehowa Adult Community Center 6 Clifton Common Court, Clifton Park, NY

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

> > January 10 Circular Blades

February 14 Finishing

March 14 Canoe

April 11 Basic Tools to Start Your Shop

> May 9 Election of Officers

CIAL 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 orkevans1@nycap.rr.com

<u>Scroller's Guild</u> - Meets on the first and third Thursday 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.

<u>Kaatskill Woodturners</u> - 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) 237-6942, 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 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 barrow 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, pochast@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