

# WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern  
Woodworkers  
Association

February 2012, Vol. 21, Number 2

## February Meeting

*Thursday, February 9, 2012, 7:00 pm  
Shaker Heritage Society Meeting House  
Albany-Shaker Road, Albany, NY*

## The Why and How of Joinery

*By George Rutledge*

As the 2012 Showcase draws near, consider getting your Gallery entries in sooner rather than later and plan on signing up to volunteer if you haven't already done so. And speaking of Galleries, don't forget to bring something to February's meeting to share in the Instant Gallery.

The featured presentation will be given by yours truly on the The Why and How of Joinery. I will discuss the nature of the material, whether solid wood or man-made boards, as it informs our choice of joints and how a given application affects the design of the joint. Traditional joinery systems using both hand and machine techniques will be considered as well as some of the modern innovations available today. Gluing and clamping techniques will also be covered.

As for my background, I studied Furniture Making and Design for three years with Ian Kirby beginning in 1978 and have been a professional woodworker ever since with experience in custom commercial and residential cabinet and furniture making as well as Trade Show manufacturing. Currently I build things for the Mad Scientists at the Wadsworth Center for Laboratory Research in Albany. I take no small pride in the fact that the things I put together stay together.

## Ikebana Vases

*By George Rutledge*

Ikebana is the Japanese Art of Flower Arranging. A recognized art form since the 15th century, the origins of Ikebana can be traced back to the arrival of Buddhism in the 7th century. Relative to the Western style of Flower Arranging, Ikebana takes a minimalist approach. As with any art form with such a long history, many styles and schools have evolved and it can take years to achieve mastery.

While I am no expert on the art, I can tell you that it has both an aesthetic and spiritual component and emphasizes harmony with nature. I do have some experience making vases for Ikebana and this article was prompted by the response to the Center Pieces I created for our recent Family Night. They were simple affairs consisting of two pieces of butternut, one being  $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick by  $6\frac{1}{2}$ " square and the second  $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick by  $3\frac{1}{2}$ "

square. The smaller piece was glued using Titebond III to the underside of the larger to form a base and a 2" hole was bored into the center of the top to a depth of approximately  $1\frac{1}{8}$ ". The side and bottom of this bore were coated with epoxy for waterproofing and a  $1\frac{5}{8}$ " frog or kenzan was epoxied to the bottom.

A kenzan is an array of brass spikes in a weighted base to which the stems of flowers are affixed in the moribana style of Ikebana. Kenzan come in a variety of sizes and shapes and some even come in their own



**Join Us for  
Showcase 2012**  
*March 31 – April 1, 2012*

*Continued on Page 2*

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UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, PHONE  
NUMBERS ARE IN AREA CODE 518

## Ikebana Vases

*Continued from Cover*

cup eliminating the need to waterproof the hole you drill to receive them.

Don't worry if you don't have the time or inclination to spend years studying Ikebana. It's hard to go wrong with two or three stems of lilies or gladiolas. Daffodils work great and I've used forsythia and dogwood blossoms to good effect. You can also use grasses and cuttings from evergreens if you like but try not to overdo it. This is a classic case of less is more. If you decide to try your hand at this, remember to top off the water frequently as the reservoir is small and a few thirsty flowers can drink it dry in less than a day.

I've seen Ikebana vases made of glass, stone, ceramics and metal but not surprisingly I prefer wood and some of my other designs are pictured here. If you're interested in making an Ikebana vase and want to start with something simple like the ones I made for Family night, you can email me at gnarus@verizon.net and I will send you a scale drawing with instructions.

You may find small round kenzan at a craft store like Michael's or A. C. Moore but I have found Stone Lantern in Passumpsic, Vermont to offer a very wide selection, good prices and prompt service. Their website is [www.stonelantern.com](http://www.stonelantern.com) and on a recent visit there I noted they do not seem to offer the 1 5/8th" kenzan anymore, but several other sizes both smaller and larger are available. If you're interested in learning more about this subject a good place to start is the website of Ikebana International, <http://www.ikebanahq.org/index.php>. 🐦



## Drill Preparation

*By Ken Miller*

Twist drills sharpened to 60 degree rather than 118 degree points follow the center better in wood. They tend to be self centering. Forchner bits are fine and produce a clean cut upon entry if they start properly. And they produce a clean hole. Brad points are not held in the center by the tips very well and tend to wander upon entry. In addition most on the market do not have a spur which can sever the fibers cleanly upon entry like a Forchner bit. They tend to dance around like the twist drills ground to 118 degrees. So for woodworking try sharpening a twist drill to 60 degrees.



# Let Me Tell You!

By Ken Evans

There is this wonderful Woodworking Show in Saratoga Springs, NY each year in the Spring! It is held at the Saratoga Springs City Center right off Broadway in the center of the city. The City Center is right next to the Saratoga Hilton and you can move between the two without going outside in the weather. This wonderful woodworking show is in its 21st year and the Northeastern Woodworkers Association, which produces the show, has it fine tuned to perfection. People come to the show and many spend the weekend, from as far away as Missouri to Maine. A few years back, Totally Turning, a woodturning Symposium, was added to the show and things really changed. Now there are people from around the world coming to the show. Vendors come from all across the country and from across the Atlantic Ocean. Vendors for woodworking and vendors for woodturning, (just over 100 in all) occupy a 20,000 square foot vendors' area.

There are many parts to the show in Saratoga. There are free classes in all aspects of woodworking presented by nationally and internationally known woodworkers as well as many fine programs by local woodworkers. A 10,000 square foot exhibition hall full of over 600 pieces of fine woodworking of all types is on display. There are live demonstrations of woodturning, woodcarving, and scrollsawing at all times in the vendor hall. There is a great raffle of wonderful woodworking items and woodworking tools.

There are special displays of unique woodworking items made by famous woodworkers. An art gallery, the Art in Wood Gallery, offers items for sale to the public. A Toy Factory making toys for children wherein you can see toys being made, sometimes by children, and made to be handed out free to children. No child goes home without a wooden toy.

Four thousand people (4000) attend the show each year for the entry fee of \$10 for the day. Children under 12 are free. For some, it is a family affair for the day, for others, they spend the weekend. Saratoga Springs is a great city to walk around and shop in during the Springtime. There is something for everyone in the family this coming March 31st –April 1st weekend.

It takes nearly 450 members and their families from the Northeastern Woodworkers Association to design, produce, set up, manage, take down, and store away this show until the following year when they do it all over again. They do it for many reasons including the fact the revenue from this show supports many of the activities of the organization, it is the organization's educational presentation to the community each year, and because it is FUN to do. Well, mostly because it is fun!

If you would like to help out with this undertaking, JOIN NWA, and get involved with showcase.

OH! You say you are already a member of NWA! Well, I'll be! You are already half way to having FUN on SHOWCASE WEEKEND! This is really going to be easy!

Volunteer to help with Showcase! Karen Arkison will be at the meetings, she will be emailing you, and gently twisting your arm to get onboard for the show. Watch for Karen. OH! Did I mention those more than 600 pieces of woodworking on display at the show? Well, YOURS should be one of them. Let's get it finished, and the entry form filled out and sent in so your piece can be enjoyed by all who come to the show.

**Remember, MARK your calendar  
SHOWCASE—March 31st and April 1st, 2012  
our 21st year at Woodworkers Showcase.**

**A successful man is one who makes more money than his wife can spend. A successful woman is one who can find such a man.**

Anon

**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 March

Copy deadline: February 15

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## WEBSITE(S)

[www.woodworker.org](http://www.woodworker.org)

[www.nwawoodworkingshow.org](http://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](mailto: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

**Hollowing Primer:** Matt Clarke provided an overview of how to get started in hollowing within a budget. As part of the discussion, Matt showed how to use four widely used hollowing tools. Boring bars and captured tool rests were excluded from this introductory talk.

Matt strongly suggested interchangeable tool handles that allow adjustment to the length of the tool holder. Shop made cutting tool holders can be fabricated from 5/8" or 3/4" round stock. Matt drilled the ends to receive the cutting bit and secured the bit with two set screws. Most commercially available tool handles will accommodate 5/8" bars, but Matt advised that 3/4" bars allow the tool to go deeper.

The cutters that were chosen for the demo were: a) Sorin Berger cutter b) Oneway Termite tool, c) Andre Martel hook tool, and c) Rolly Munro articulated hollower. Matt stressed that all of these tools have a "safe" position for starting the cut and become more aggressive as they are canted slightly. Each tool offers its own sharpening jig. In addition, he finds that several perform best in end grain hollowing.

The Berger and Martel cutters represent extreme ends of the hook tool spectrum. The Berger tool is slightly sculpted, while the Martel hook is described as a variable pitch



*Clockwise from top right: Berger, Munro, Martel, and Termite hollowing tools*

design which can be used in different positions for hollowing and sheer cutting. Matt achieved a fine finish with the Martel cutter, but admitted that



*New member Ann Miller shows a hanging ornament while new president John Franklin looks on this tool has*

a steeper learning curve the Berger tool, which efficiently removed material in the initial stages of hollowing.

The termite tool is a ring hollowing with one opening smaller than the other. It comes in different sizes – Matt recommended buying the smaller version. This tool is presented in a vertical attitude initially and canted to a 10:00 position for cutting. The larger opening is presented for clearing volume and smoothing the bottom; the smaller opening is presented for a fine finish cut on the interior sides of the vessel. The termite produced a very good finish on the test piece that Matt demonstrated.

Rolly Munroe's articulated hollowing system was the last cutter demonstrated. It sports links which allow the angle of the cutter to be changed from straight to an extreme hook. In addition, a scraper can be added to the tool holder for an excellent finish cut. While perhaps the most versatile of the tools shown, it is also relatively expensive.



*Matt Clarke discussing the Berger cutter*

**New President:** John Franklin has assumed the presidency of the KWA, succeeding Steve Sherman. We all thank Steve for his tireless work with the Kaatskill turners and welcome John to the helm! 🐉

## C L A S S F I E D S

### For Sale (repeated by request)

**Air Dried lumber** for sale. Wide black walnut, figured maple, clear rock maple, cherry, & quarter-sawn red oak. Also turning stock. Reasonable prices.

**Skill biscuit joiner with case; 16" craftsman scroll saw, Ryobi radial arm saw; 4" AMT table top jointer with spare knife; Chicago 10" compound slide miter saw; Chicago 3" x 21" belt sander; 12" Delta portable planer with extra knife; 10" dovetail template.** All are in working order and fair price.

**Also: 600bf of 4/4 cherry lumber,** 8 foot long, 4", 6", 8" and 10" widths. It's green. Will take \$2,000 for the lot. Contact [Tooksberry@verizon.net](mailto:Tooksberry@verizon.net)

**Craftsman 10" contractor saw** (model 113.196380) in great working shape. 3 HP motor, belt drive. 110V single phase power. With Biesmeyer T-Square Fence system and large custom outfeed table. Includes 4" dust collection adaptor and comes with original manuals. This saw has been well maintained over the years and still makes nice accurate cuts. Asking \$500. Call Adam at 518-221-5477.

Wife gave me a Sawstop for Christmas. Have 3 HP, Single phase 230v Jet 10" Cabinet Saw, 40" steel top with 36" extension table (76" total top) with dust cover/ riving knife assembly and Exacta Fence for sale. Very good condition; \$1600 or best offer. Call Steve Cleary at 436-0751(O); 421-5671 (C); 439-1240 (H).

# EXHIBIT ENTRY FORM

## NWA SHOWCASE      MARCH 31 & APRIL 1, 2012

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ Member: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ Professional: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Check here if you would like this information to be available for inquiries about your work..

**PLEASE COMPLETE THE ENTRY FORM AND SEND IT TO:**  
**NORTHEASTERN WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION**  
**P.O. Box 246, Rexford, NY 12148**

**ENTRY DEADLINE IS MONDAY, MARCH 26th**

**Any entry received after that date will not be entered for judging, but for display only.**

***NOTE:** Display labels are made in advance using the information provided below. The labels will be waiting when you bring your entry on Friday, March 30th. No exhibit items accepted after 7:00PM.*

<b>ENTRY CATEGORY AND DESCRIPTION</b> <i>(State category; give brief description of your item, list types of woods and finish used.  Example: Furniture 3: Windsor chair, tiger maple, honey oak stain, lacquer finish)</i>	<b>FOR JUDGING ONLY</b> <i>(only one per category)</i>	<b>FOR DISPLAY ONLY</b> <i>(unlimited as space allows)</i>
<b>#1</b>		
<b>#2</b>		
<b>#3</b>		
<b>#4</b>		
<b>#5</b>		
<b>#6</b>		
<b>Additional notes:</b>		

**WHAT: NWA SHOWCASE 2012** (www.nwawoodworkingshow.org)

**WHERE:** Saratoga Springs City Center & The Saratoga Hilton

**WHEN:** Saturday and Sunday, March 31 & April 1, 2012, 10 AM –5 PM

### **EXHIBIT HALL ENTRY CATEGORIES**

1. Adirondack furniture and accessories
2. Furniture 1: Tables, beds
3. Furniture 2: Cases, cabinets, desks
4. Furniture 3: Chairs
5. Accessories: Clocks, boxes, desk top pieces
6. Toys/Miniatures: Play things, models
7. Turning 1: Segmented
8. Turning 2: Bowls, platters, plates, vessels
9. Turning 3: Pens, finials, spindles, ornaments
10. Beginner Turner: Over 16 and new to turning in the last 12 months
11. Beginner Woodworker: Over 16 and new to woodworking in the last 12 months
12. Youth: 16 and under.
13. Carving: Representational, conceptual, decorative
14. Inlay, Intarsia, Marquetry
15. Scroll sawing
16. Musical instruments
17. Other: Shop equipment, boats, or any piece not fitting into the above categories

### **ENTRY RULES FOR EXHIBIT HALL**

- ∞ Any woodworker may exhibit his/her work.. There is no entry fee.
- ∞ Entry forms must be received by March 26 to be eligible for competition. Late entries will be entered for display only.
- ∞ All exhibit items must be delivered to the City Center no later than 7:00 PM, Friday March 30th. No exceptions.
- ∞ Exhibits are not to be removed from the floor before 5PM Sunday.
- ∞ You may exhibit any number of pieces in more than one category, but only one piece per category for judging.
- ∞ Award winning pieces from a previous Showcase event are not eligible for competition, but may be entered for display.
- ∞ There must be at least three entrants in a category for an entry to be judged.
- ∞ The judges reserve the right to re-categorize an item for judging.
- ∞ The exhibit hall is not a commercial area. No price tags or literature other than small business cards will be allowed.
- ∞ The decisions of the judges are final. At the discretion of the judges, some awards may not be given.

### **AWARDS**

1. Best of Show: One from any entry
2. Professional Excellence: One each category except for 10, 11 and 12.\*
3. First Place: One each category
4. Second Place: One each category
5. Third Place: One each category
6. Honorable Mention: One each category
7. Richard Pagano Memorial Award for Turning

\* Professionals: You are a professional if half or more of your livelihood is derived from woodworking. You may submit an entry in any category except 10, 11 and 12. Professional entries displayed in the Professional Gallery will be judged.

**For questions:** Ken Evans, Showcase Chair (518) 753-7759, [kevans1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:kevans1@nycap.rr.com)  
Roger Holmes Judging Co-Chair (518-817-0660) [bmbikes2@yahoo.com](mailto:bmbikes2@yahoo.com)



# Wood of the Month ©2012

No. 102 in the series

By Ron DeWitt

**Oriental Bittersweet *Celastrus orbiculatus* Thunb.**

**A Deciduous, Perennial, Woody Vine**

***Celastraceae* Family**

**Syn. *Celastrus articulatus* Thumb., *C insularis* Koidz.**

Derivation of the genus name *Celastrus* is from the Greek *kelas* meaning "the later season" (fruit remaining on the tree all winter). The epithet or species name *orbiculatus* comes from the Latin for "round circle" referring to the leaf shape.

The bittersweets number about 30 species worldwide, most in eastern and southern Asia, one in North America, one in Madagascar and one in the Fiji Islands. Perhaps the best known and most important is the Oriental bittersweet *Celastrus orbiculatus*, also called Japanese or Asiatic bittersweet, round-leaved bittersweet, Oriental staff vine, or climbing spindle berry, native to eastern Asia - Japan, Korea, and northern China. It was introduced into the U.S. as an ornamental in 1860 and had become naturalized in areas of the northeastern U.S. by 1916. The naturalization process has rapidly continued to where the Oriental bittersweet is well established today in much of the eastern half of the U.S. from Maine to Louisiana and west to Iowa. Patches are reported in California. Not to be spared, it has also naturalized in the provinces of New Brunswick, Quebec, and Ontario, Canada.

Oriental bittersweet is a strong, climbing, woody vine that may grow along the ground putting down roots and/or climb by twining clockwise around a support - brush, other vines, saplings, or mature trees, eventually strangling its host. Habitat preferences are quite varied. It favors moderately acidic soils of roadsides, fence-rows, upland meadows, steep hillsides, abandoned agricultural fields, brush-land, and reforested areas. It grows abundantly in full sun but will tolerate the dense shade of mature forests. Annual growth rate is 1 to 12 ft. (0.3 to 3.0 m).

Vines of 2 in. (5 cm) diameter are common and 5 in. (12.7 cm) diameter not unusual. Vines may climb to 60 ft. (18.3 m) and weigh as much as 500 lb. (227 kg). Growth of

above-ground plants may be 6 in. (15.2 cm) a day. The orange roots may cover several hundred square feet (18.4 m<sup>2</sup>) in a year. Bark of the oriental bittersweet is coarse, light gray-brown on outer surfaces, darkening to black at the bottom of the rough fissures.

The light green leaves are alternate, spiraling evenly around the stem. They are smooth and hairless, extremely variable in size and shape, from elliptical to egg-shaped to round. Leaf margins are rounded and saw-toothed; leaf stems are 0.4 to 1.2 in. (1 to 3 cm) long. Fruit of this woody vine are spherical capsules 0.2 to 0.3 in. (6 to 8 mm) in diameter. Upon ripening the bright yellow capsule splits open to reveal a fleshy red seed-coating.

This bi-colored seed makes stems very attractive for decorative use. Seeds, with a germination rate of up to 95 percent, are produced in great quantity and readily dispersed by birds.

Properties of the Oriental bittersweet were taken from a section of vine 6.5 in. (16.5 cm) diameter by 24 in. (61 cm) long, received from the Corning Biopreserve in Albany, NY, USA. The original specimen was planted about 1959 and cut in 2009. Green weight of this specimen was in excess of 60 pcf (962 kg/m<sup>3</sup>), air dry weight is about 29.8 pcf (478 kg/m<sup>3</sup>) at 12 % M.C.

Wood of Oriental bittersweet is ring-porous, hard, fine-grained, and finely textured. The dark tan sapwood is about 10 annual growth rings wide with an abrupt transition from the dark red-brown heartwood. Earlywood pores are solitary, open, in one to four rows, and fine, best seen with a hand lens. Latewood pores may be seen only with a hand lens. Rays are plentiful and easily seen without a lens. The wavy figure is quite attractive.

This wood works nicely with sharp-edged tools, either hand or power, yielding crisp edges and smooth surfaces. It takes and holds fasteners well but pre-drilling is recommended. Sanding produces a soft patina on finished surfaces. This wood takes all finishes well. It turns nicely and can be carved with patience. The wood is stable in service, has little resistance to decay, and is quite susceptible to powder post beetles.

No toxicity has been reported for this vine, but it is suspect. The usual dust precautions are well advised when working with this wood.

Wood of the Oriental bittersweet is occasionally sought for making unique novelties, boxes, carvings, toys, pens, and walking sticks. Bark and root material is used in



Berry cluster



Clinging Oriental Bittersweet vine



10x section of vine

Continued on Page 8

# Showcase 2012 Special Exhibit

By Eric Marczak

To all members,

I am working on a special exhibit for Woodworkers Showcase 2012 and need your help.

Many who attend the show have little or no idea about whom or what NWA is. My plan is to provide an exhibit at the show that tells the story of NWA and of the men and women that helped make it the organization it is.

We need photos of the founders. Also photos of our volunteers at work in the shop or at the show. We need items you have crafted in classes and those made as the result of the Fiske Fund support. I would like to see what has happened to the wood that was sold at Dr. Fiske's home upon his passing. Anything made from that collection of wood will be appreciated.

We also need your bloopers; I'd like potential members to know that some of the artists that put out world class work had to make that first mistake. The help you can provide will steer the exhibit's content and final appearance.

Finally, we will honor those who have come before us, those who have pursued excellence, those who have encouraged many of us, and those who have sacrificed.

An attitude of gratitude has inspired the idea for a special exhibit. An exhibit like this has not yet been put together. The objective is to let the public, as well as newer members, know how the club was started, what makes it run, and what's in it for them. After 21 years the organization has a proud history worthy of relating to the public.

As we celebrate the Association's 21st birthday, I've been feeling particularly grateful towards the men and women of the NWA for guidance, instruction, and friendship. The organization has provided a platform for men and women to achieve excellence and in some cases make a career. Thanks to the tireless efforts of volunteers who have provided local organizations and charities with everything from bird houses to toys. Thanks to the volunteers that pull together to make the best woodworking show on the East coast happens.

If you can contribute to any of the above requests, please contact me. If you are at all interested in helping with this exhibit, please contact me.

Eric Marczak  
422 Beebe Rd.,  
Delanson, NY 12053  
Epm03@hotmail.com • 518-872-932



## Wood of the Month

Continued from Page 7

traditional Asian medicine. It is reported as having medicinal properties for treating rheumatoid arthritis and for reversing cancer cell resistance to treatment drugs. Leaf extracts may provide alternative enzymes for cheese making. The most significant use is for ornamental wreaths and flower arrangements. (Unfortunately trashing these arrangements at the end of their usefulness usually means giving the seeds a chance to germinate where they are dumped.)

The oriental bittersweet is a very invasive and destructive plant in North America. Practical ways to eradicate or reverse this plague are lacking, and there are few natural enemies. Herbicides are being developed and it has been made illegal to sell or move Oriental bittersweet plants in a number of states. At risk too is the native, American bittersweet, *Celastrus scandens*, now being crowded out by the invader, with which it also hybridizes, destroying its native character. The future is indeed uncertain for these two species of bittersweet in North America. 🐼



Section of a 6.5 in. diameter vine



3x6 specimen of vine wood



# CHAPTER NEWS

## *Sacandaga Chapter*

*By Gary Spencer*

For our first program of the New Year on January 11th we had a return visit by NWA's Ray Gannon. He addressed new findings regarding "SHOP SAFETY" especially new information regarding TOXICITY of different wood species. Ray also gave us a detailed description of the NWA workshop and the many things that are going on there. As a result of the presentation the Chapter decided to make a field visit to the shop on Thursday February 9th.

We will arrive at the mustang drive shop around 5:30 if you plan to eat at the shop. (reservations for dinner must be made with Ray Laubenstein, phone number below) if you are not having dinner plan to be there around 6:30. Ray Gannon will coordinate activities once we arrive.

Directions: generally go to Exit 8 on Northway and follow Loudon Road south (Rt. 9 south) to Fonda Road (about 1 and 1/2 miles below Crescent Bridge). Turn in Fonda Road to left on Mustang Drive and park on left but shop is on your right.

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 March 14th.

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

## *NWA Mid-Hudson Chapter News*

*By Wally Cook*

**Excellent Marquetry:** The chapter members who attended Silas Kopf's class reported an excellent experience. The annual Fiske Fund lecture attracted Chuck Walker, Bob Lawless, Ron Roberts, and Iulia Chin Lee among others. Chuck explained the basis of double bevel marquetry. The class project was a ten piece design accomplished with a fret saw and sawing station – scrollsaw optional.

**Ambrosia:** John Franklin provided an overview of design considerations when cutting ambrosia maple. Various patterns can be obtained if end grain and side grain log cutting is thought out. John showed a number of pieces which were a) end grain hollowed b) side grain hollowed from pith to outside of tree c) side grain hollowed from outside of tree to pith and d) side grain hollowed through an entire cross-section of the tree.

John also provided some tips when working with ambrosia. Most importantly, rough out your blanks quickly for drying or the sapwood will brown and contrast will be lost. If the tree has been dead for a while, the sapwood may already have begun to brown. Do not store ambrosia in plastic bags or the stain pattern will blur and spread. In fact, because the ambrosia is really a fungus, the brown stain can be spread to the white sapwood by rubbing hands or tools from the brown to the clear sapwood. Remove pith as early as possible – it dries at a different rate than the sapwood and will lead to cracks.



*Ten Piece project from Silas Kopf class*



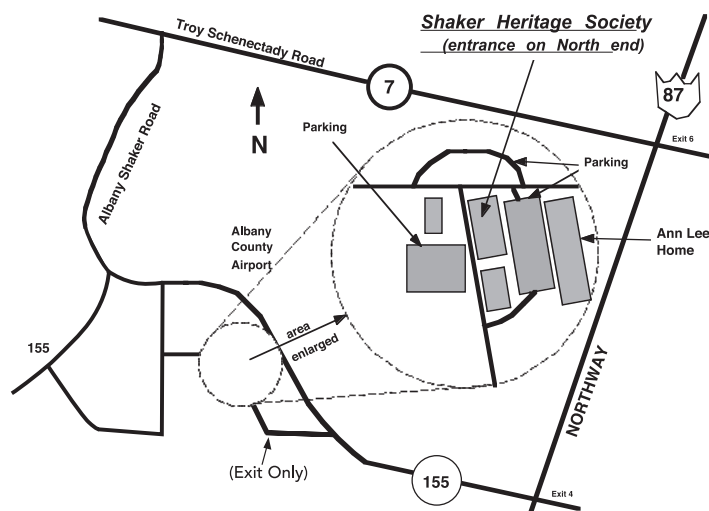
*Bowl end-grain presentation*



*Natural edge bowl side-grain*



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



## February Meeting

*Thursday, February 9, 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

### NWA Program Schedule 2011-2012

**March 8, 7 PM**  
**The Architectural Woodworking Institute**  
Shaker Heritage Society Meeting House  
NWA facilitator is Roger Holmes

**April 12, 7 PM**  
**Building and Racing Ice Boats**  
**with Rich Crucet**  
Shaker Heritage Society Meeting House  
NWA facilitator is George Rutledge.

**May 10 TBA**

**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](http://www.adirondackwoodturners.com) Contact Ken Evans, 518-753-7759 or [kekevans1@nycap.rr.com](mailto: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](mailto:AMJAMtat2) or Barbara Nottke at [scroller87@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:daxton@nycap.rr.com), Wayne Distin (518) 674-4171, [wdistin@nycap.rr.com](mailto:wdistin@nycap.rr.com) Steve Schoenberg (518-371-1260), [sschoen1@nycap.rr.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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