

WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern
Woodworkers
Association

January 2009, Vol. 18, Number 1

January Meeting

*Thursday, January 8, 2009, 7:00 pm
Shaker Heritage Society Meeting House
Albany-Shaker Road, Albany*

The “Woodies”

By Dick Flanders

Several years ago I was participating in a class at Herm Finkbeiner's shop, building a traditional workbench. I was relatively new to the NWA, and Herm was talking one day about “Saturdays at Jim's”. He said that I would probably like getting together with the guys on Saturday mornings at Jims.

I started going to Jim's and got more and more involved with the group. I became friends with all the other “Woodies” (Jim Kennedy's name for the casual members who met at his shop on Saturday mornings), especially with Jim himself. I enjoyed the work we did in the shop, but especially the socializing as we produced many various craft kits for the Double H Camp.

After Jim Kennedy passed away, and the group started to expand in numbers and projects, Herm suggested that we set ourselves up as a SIG (special interest group). I agreed with several others to pursue the option. (You've all heard about the Finkbeiner lunches of course!). Well, we did become a SIG, known as **Jim's “Hole in the Woods Gang”**, and I became the president. Darrell Welch is secretary, and we have an unofficial “membership” of about 40 people, with an average of 15 in the shop on Saturday mornings.

Our activities are centered around building things for the Double H Camp – a Hole in the Wall camp in Lake Luzerne for special needs children. We make several craft kits (race cars, rocket ships, critter cages, animal and fish cutouts, memory boxes, airplanes, sail boats, Harry Potter wands, puzzle chairs, tool totes, etc.). There are also special request items, such as the miniature ski's we made last year with peoples names burned into them for an awards dinner, signs for the special buildings (Arts & Crafts for one), signs to identify interior rooms, animal shape signs for the various lodges, and currently new signs for the ski slopes.

We also had a request for some new Adirondack Chairs for the camp. These were made in kit form so the children could assemble them. (See the June 2008 NWA Newsletter for the article about these). Another request came from Eileen Minder, who is associated with Double H, but it was for Cat Scan and MRI models to be given to the pediatric units at Albany Medical Center. We spent many Saturdays on these models, and finally delivered them this fall. (see the October newsletter for this article). Since then, we have

requests for more of these, as well as some craft kits, for Ellis Hospital in Schenectady.

Other activities involve making things for the Shaker Society and the meeting hall. Recently an article appeared in the newsletter about Ken Miller and some of the gang making replacement Shaker Pegs for the perimeter of the meeting hall. We are also just completing some new bookcases for the office upstairs in the Shaker hall.

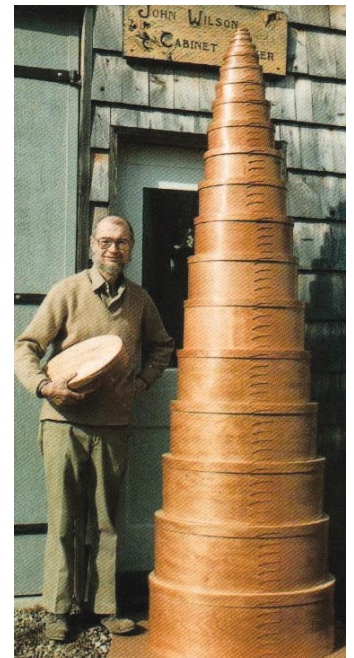
Many of the Woodies are active with Charlie Goddard in log retrieval and milling to provide an almost endless supply of rough cut lumber for our annual Lumber Auction at the Shaker Barn each September. We also make one or more items for the annual Showcase raffle. Last year was the cherry cradle, and this year we have two major projects in process to make the raffle more interesting.

Feel free to join us on Saturday mornings at the Kennedy shop. (directions on the back page of this newsletter). We even have coffee and doughnuts to aid in the socializing! ☺

Shaker Boxes at the Meeting House

By Gerry O'Brien

Perhaps the single most recognizable artifact of Shaker life may be the classic oval box. It's simplicity of form, economy of materials and utility of function immediately says “Shaker” to even the most casual of observers. By the same token, no craftsman today embodies box making in the Shaker tradition better than John Wilson. John's unique blend of experience as a woodworker, teacher and social anthropologist has led to him being referred to as “the Johnny Appleseed of Shaker Boxes”. He frequently writes for Popular Woodworking and Fine Woodworking magazines and travels the country presenting workshops on Shaker



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We Have Machines Now

By Ken Evans

Over the months, it seems to me, there has been a change in the composition of the Saturday morning Kennedy Group. A slow but steady increase in interest in hand tools has developed. It began about the time a Mid Hudson visitor brought to the Saturday Show and Tell, a box of hand tools, purchased, at good price, from Rockler.

This occurrence seemed to fuel an unhealthy interest in sharp chisels and the Japanese Water Rocks with which to sharpen them to scalpel like edges which already existed within the group. I almost became caught up in this early movement at Jim's when I won the door prize of a set of Japanese Water Rocks complete with a Water Pool and a virtual (Veritas) jig (which I still do not know how to use) at the Mid Hudson Banquet. I was then compelled, to run right out and buy a set of Chisels with which to practice sharpening. I nearly lost a fingernail testing the edges of those chisels.

From this interest in sharp chisel edges, some in the Kennedy Gang began to expound upon the virtues of hand planes. Near every piece of wood in the shop had a plane applied to it. Classes developed related to hand plane sharpening! The Ridgid Jointer was left rusting away in the corner of the shop. A hand plane contest at the Annual Picnic developed. People competed to produce the finest shaving with their new and old but restored, handplanes. An interest in hand tools was clearly developing. I actually saw one of my friends at the shop using a hand saw --- a real hand saw -- you know, BY HAND.

Then, the MOST curious thing occurred. A group order, open to all NWA members, to a major plane manufacturer was placed. I realized it was not just the Kennedy Group, but the affliction was contagious and had spread throughout NWA at large. Thousands of dollars was spent, and who knows how many hand planes were purchased. When this folly was over, I breathed a sigh of relief feeling this pandemic had subsided, BUT, a few months later; it was done again with results quite similar to the first. Madness, I tell you! An illness was afoot and spreading quickly throughout NWA.

And then, "THEY" began to show up at the Kennedy Shop. One each Saturday, without fanfare, at first, but then each Saturday more and more members gathered around the BIG workbench and watched as one member spent most of the morning attempting to tune a hand plane, the likes of which most woodworkers have never seen. Each week another such device brought by another member (possibly a carrier of this disease) was tuned. Looking much like mutations from a time long gone in woodworking with names like Stanley 45, and Mortising Detonizer, the restoration and tuning of these devices consumed much manpower in the Kennedy Shop. Many a Saturday morning was devoted to primping and tuning these critters to near working status. To no avail, I reminded the group, "We have machines now!" Sadly, no one listened. I fear the disease has won!

As I often do looking for answers, I went to the Internet -- You know, GOOGLE and Wikipedia and all that! Low and behold, the situation was worse than I anticipated. It seems this affliction has spread world- wide and those afflicted with it have a name--actually several names.

I felt I should share this with you all!

According to Wikipedia (You can check this out for yourself at wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page) Within Internet-based woodworking communities, a "galoot" is a hand tool aficionado, specifically old hand tools. This is contrasted with users of any hand tools who are called "Neanderthals" in a number of internet woodworking communities. For many, the two terms are interchangeable. In this context, a "galoot or Neanderthal" is one who hunts used hand tools and/or insists on using hand tools in preference to power tools, especially hand planes. Galoots may also champion tools that others would consider a lost cause, lovingly restoring a rusted or damaged tool by sanding, scraping, lapping, or using electrolysis to remove rust and repairing or replacing parts required to restore the tool to a usable state.

The galoot community includes, but is not restricted to, collectors of old tools. The only qualification for being a galoot is a love of hand tools (especially older hand tools) and a willingness to admit that this love may seem odd or unexplainable to others. By extension, galoots are often interested in old methods of achieving wood or metal work. For example, it is not uncommon for a galoot to create a replacement tool handle with a spokeshave, to resaw a plank with a frame saw, or even to forge

Continued on the following page

NWA Member Profile: Don Orr

By Chris Knite

What if in the war between flat boarders and turners there were no winners – or losers for that matter? Don Orr might be the first example of peace in this endless conflict.

Don has been a member of the NWA for over 10 years now, and he has no problem standing on both sides of the turners/flat boarder fence. Growing up with a woodworking patriarch, Don had spent many years “hacking wood into various forms of submission.” Luckily he stumbled across the NWA and its many educational opportunities which led him to both flat boarding and turning.

Starting as a flat boarder who is now primarily a turner, the conversion happened during a training weekend at the old Sears classrooms. Don wandered into a pen turning class “put gouge to wood, and never looked back”. Successfully turning his first project, Don has moved on to bowls, hollow forms, toys, and all the endless possibilities of turning.

Admitting that turning is “an obsession and addiction”, Don never seems to have enough time to do as much turning as he would like, but still wants to concurrently further develop his skills as a flat boarder. He has taught classes on bowl turning at the Stillwater shop and he also took a class on shaker furniture there. He had one of those “wow” experiences when he hand-cut his first well executed dovetails. He wants to combine the two disciplines of turning and flat-boarding to make the woodworking possibilities endless.

Like all good woodworkers, Don has also been infected with the chronic (yet rarely fatal) tool collecting affliction. An equal opportunity tool buff, he has managed to get down to 3 lathes (not including his metal lathe of course) in addition to all the other hand tools that he loves to use – especially hand planes and antique saws. Luckily he doesn't have to fight with his spouse over this tool acquiring habit as she supports his efforts and even bought him his first lathe.

Inspired by countless people within NWA, particularly Paul Petrie, Don is also active in many other turning clubs and turning web-sites. An avid web-surfer he can share in the websites that have information every woodworker would want – from turning forums to how-to's on sharpening saws.

So what else is he up to besides his day job in medical imaging? He also volunteers his turning skills to the *Onrust* historic ship, managing to turn a 150lb monster piece of white oak into the 12” diameter main winch. And he doesn't always stay locked in his shop. Even in the winter he is often out hiking in his snowshoes and is one of the few Adirondacks 46'ers (hikers who have climbed all 46 Adirondack Mountains over 4,000 ft). I guess now we know why he doesn't get to spend as much time turning as he would like.



We have machines now

Continued from previous page

and temper his or her own chisels. Many galoots hold Roy Underhill, of the PBS series *The Woodwright's Shop*, in extremely high regard and may refer to him with the shorthand “St. Roy”.

My friends in NWA please be careful! This affliction can be passed from one member to another quite easily through conversation or a simple shop visitation. As far as is known, once afflicted, there is no known cure. Be CAREFUL and REMEMBER, WE HAVE MACHINES NOW! 🐼

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 an iMac G5, duplicated by Shipmates, and mailed to more than 1,000 addresses.



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Position to be Filled

NWA maintains two websites,
the first noted here
operates continuously.
We also offer selected
links to other sites of interest
to our membership.
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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

Kaatskill Woodturners Monthly News

By wally Cook

Eccentric: Multi axis or offset turning is an oft-requested topic for KWA meetings. Steve Sherman presented techniques for approaching a multi axis project. Steve chose the offset Christmas tree featured in the *Eccentric Trees* article by David Reed Smith (Winter 2008 issue of *American Woodturner*).

While David's article showed how to make the tree between two centers, Steve's challenge was to finish the piece in one standard chuck, after turning the initial conical shape between centers.

The first consideration is safety: keep the rpm within manageable limits and ensure the blank is tightly held. Steve strongly recommends using a short pipe on the chuck key to obtain leverage - and repeat the procedure on opposing sides.

The jaws of the chuck will make indentations in the tenon -- which can be used as registration marks. Color the grooves to increase visibility.

The first offset hold can be achieved by tilting one aspect of the tenon to the second groove (See picture). The registration marks allow repeatable cuts on each facet of the cone.



Steve Sherman mounting a blank for the demo

An offset piece can present many opportunities for error. The cutting tool should be brought slowly and gently to the object.

The first cut will be to the "ghost" or shadow produced by the off center spinning. A contrasting

color paper on the ways will help to sharpen the spinning image of the piece. In the tree project, Steve used a skew to cut grooves -- stopping frequently to check progress and transitions. The piece was rechucked to cut grooves on varying sides of the cone, working from the tip to the trunk.

Steve painted the ornament with Golden acrylic: dark green for the recesses of the cuts and a lighter wash of green, blue green, and yellow over the balance of the tree. Mica chips and Krylon 18k gold were used for highlights.

A finished Christmas ornament



The tree is offset by chucking the piece at an angle, using the second groove as a registration mark



Showcase Exhibitor Drawing

By Charlie Goddard

A last minute rush of entry forms causes problems for members of the Showcase committee. When we don't know what will be exhibited it is difficult to plan the exhibit hall. We usually have between 400 and 500 items on exhibit, but some years we had received information for only about 25% of the exhibited items one week before the Show. Also, much has to be done with the information on the entry forms. When the forms come in I enter the data into a large database which is sorted for various purposes. Frequently I have to contact the exhibitor to clarify information on the form. This file is then sent on to Chris Knite who makes a label for each item. In addition, I prepare a listing of all items to be judged, by category.

Last year, in order to avoid this last minute flood of entry forms, we provided an incentive to get forms in early. Everyone who submitted his/her form at least two weeks before the show was eligible for a drawing of two gift certificates. It worked! For the first time we didn't have the last minute flood.

We plan to do the same this year. Everyone who gets his/her form into my hands by Friday, March 13 will be eligible for the drawing of a \$150 gift certificate from Lie-Nielsen and a \$50 gift card from Lee-Valley Tools. Don't give in to procrastination. Send your form in early. And please fill in the form legibly and completely. You do not have to put on the final coat of finish before sending in the form. 🐾

EXHIBIT ENTRY FORM

NWA SHOWCASE MARCH 28-29, 2009

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____ Member: Yes ____ No ____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____ Professional: Yes ____ No ____

☐ Check here if you'd like this information to be available for inquires about your work.

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

Submit your entry form by Friday, March 13 and be eligible for a drawing of two gift certificates

ENTRY DEADLINE IS MONDAY, March 23rd

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 you provide below. Those labels will be waiting you when you bring your entry on Friday, March 27th. No entries permitted after 7:00PM .*

ENTRY CATEGORY AND DESCRIPTION	FOR JUDGING ONLY	FOR DISPLAY ONLY
(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.	(only one per category)	(unlimited as space allows)
#1		
#2		
#3		
#4		
#5		
#6		
ADDITIONAL NOTES		

(see page 2 for entry rules)

WHAT: NWA SHOWCASE 2009 (www.nwawoodworkingshow.org)

WHERE: Saratoga Springs City Center & The Saratoga Hotel

WHEN: Saturday and Sunday, March 28-29, 2009, 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 23rd 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 27th. 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. Richard Pagano Memorial Award for turning
3. First Place: One each category - amateurs only
4. Second Place: One each category - amateurs only
5. Third Place: One each category - amateurs only
6. Honorable Mention: One each category - amateurs only
7. Best Professional: One each category except for 10, 11 and 12.*

* 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 separately.

For questions: Ken Evans, Showcase Chair (518) 753-7759, kevans@nycap.rr.com
Chris Knite, Judging Chair (518) 810-2757, 9danke@earthlink.net
Charlie Goddard, (518) 370-0388, CGodd@aol.com

Wood of the Month ©2009

By Ron DeWitt

Deodar Cedar (*Cedrus deodara*) (Roxb.) G. Don f An Evergreen Conifer Pinaceae - The Pine Family

Derivation of the genus name *Cedrus* is from the Greek “kedros,” probably the early name for an aromatic juniper. The genus name is now generally used for the four species and several varieties of the “true cedars.” All are either native to the Mediterranean Region or the Himalayan Mountains. The epithet or species name *deodara* comes from “devadaru,” a Sanskrit word that translates to “divine wood” or “timber of God.”

The deodar cedar, *Cedrus deodara*, is also called Himalayan cedar, Indian cedar, tree of God, California Christmas tree, dadar or simply deodar. It is native to and a major component of the forests of the western Himalayas from eastern Afghanistan, across northern Pakistan, north-central India and western Nepal. It is the national tree of Pakistan, the most important conifer of India.

First introduced in England in 1831, it has since been planted extensively as an ornamental and timber tree across western and central Europe, naturalizing in many mountain areas. More recently it has been planted and become equally well-established in south-central China, southern Australia and New Zealand. In North America it may be found in the U.S. from Virginia to Texas and California to Washington State, and in Canada as far north as Vancouver, British Columbia.

In its native range the deodar cedar is most often found in pure stands at elevations from about 3900 to 9800 ft. (1200 to 3000 m). In this range there are three distinct types of deodar forest: the dry arid zone of the inner Himalayas, the intermediate ranges and valleys, and the outer ranges where the full effect of the monsoons is felt and where growth is fastest. Whether native or naturalized, it has adjusted to a wide variety of usually moist soil types or conditions with abundant sunshine.

Temperatures in any of these zones may range from average seasonal lows of 5 deg. F (-15 C) to highs of 86 deg. F (30 C). Precipitation is more variable with estimated lows of only 2 in. (5 cm) to highs of 36 in. (90 cm). Wherever grown, it will not tolerate temperatures below -13 deg. F (-25 C).

Deodar cedars are tall, large-sized trees, typically reaching 130 to 200 ft. (40 to 60 m) in height by 5 ft. (1.5 m) dbh. Larger trees are occasionally found to 260 ft. (80 m) with stems to 8 ft. (2.4 m) dbh. These trees may live for 1000 years. Trees in many planted areas of the world's temperate zones reach 130 to 150 ft. (40 to 45 m) with 3 ft. (1 m) dbh stems.

The deodar cedar tree usually has a very straight single stem, quickly tapering to a broad conical crown with a weeping leader. Branching begins close to the ground and remains slightly down-swept with drooping tips to the treetop. Twigs are densely hairy.

Leaves are straight, three-sided, soft, evergreen needles, pale to bright green, .75 to 2 in. (20 to 50 mm) long, the longest leaves of any cedar. Leaves may develop scattered along long shoots or in rounded larch-like tufts of 10 to 20 needles on short shoots. Crushed leaves have a pungent resin scent.

Cones, the largest of the cedars, are erect (fir-like) and quite robust, usually developing on lower branches. Yellowish male cones are 2 to 4.75 in. (5 to 12 cm) long and shed their pollen in autumn. Green, barrel-shaped female or seed cones are 3.25 to 4.75 in. (8 to 12 cm) long by 2 to 3.25 in. (5 to 8 cm) in diameter with very short stalks and flat dimpled tops. Seed cones ripen to reddish brown in their second

year, dropping scales and winged seeds but leaving the erect axis intact. Cone structure relates the true cedars closely to the firs.

Bark on young trees is smooth and gray, progressing at maturity to wide black furrows with short scaly ridges.

Sapwood of this tree is generally narrow and creamy-white; heartwood is light yellowish-brown when freshly cut becoming uniformly light brown on exposure. The wood has a medium-fine texture with straight, close, even grain. Growth rings are clearly visible. Open-grown trees tend toward knotty and attractive wood without very exciting figure. It is soft to moderately hard, has good bending strength and stiffness, and is extremely durable when exposed to weather, soil or water. It is reportedly the strongest wood of any conifer, weight for weight about the same as teak. The wood dries quickly and easily with little tendency to check but is inclined to warp. Drying shrink is moderate. Dry wood is slightly resinous and has a strong, pleasant, characteristically cedar scent but is without taste. The wood has an average specific gravity of about 0.50 and weighs 36 pcf (580 kg/m³) at 12 % M.C.

Deodar works easily with hand or power tools, producing smooth, somewhat oily surfaces capable of taking a high polish. Most finishes require pre-sealing. It carves nicely, holds fasteners well; gluing requires careful preparation.

Deodar cedar has some toxicity. It is known to cause dermatitis, conjunctivitis, rhinitis and asthma. Appropriate personal protection is well advised when working with this wood.

Today deodar cedar is a wood of many different uses in the many different growing areas of the world. A tree of great religious significance, its lumber is used in areas of central and south Asia for constructing temples and mosques. It is also planted as an important component in the landscaping around these structures. So durable is this wood that some of these revered sanctuaries have survived the ravages of 600 to 800 years.



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In colonial India, the British used great amounts of this wood for barracks, public buildings, bridges, canals and railway cars, harvesting beyond the point of natural recovery until about 1864 when reforestation was initiated. About 1910, India chose this tree as its source of pencil wood after testing the properties of more than 80 domestic and foreign species.

In many of its growing areas, native or planted, this tree is used as a source of wood for railroad crossties, inexpensive furniture, clothing storage chests, dimensional lumber, packing cases, coffins, and fuel. It is also used for plywood veneer, shingles, siding and fencing. Significant quantities are used for incense. Frequently planted for landscaping, it has inspired the development of many cultivars while becoming the most popular decorative cedar in North America.

Not surprisingly, the deodar cedar is also valued for its medicinal properties. Bark, resin and wood powder are said to have anti-inflammatory, anti-oxidant, and anti-cancer properties. They are also used for fever, diarrhea, dysentery, skin diseases, and indigestion. Distilled essential oils are also used as an antiseptic, to treat TB, and as insect repellent for man and his animals including horses, cattle and camels. Furthermore, using the smoke of burning deodar incense is thought to provide divine inspiration. This is certainly a tree of great diversity.

The deodar cedar in many of its native areas is threatened by continuing overuse. Reforestation efforts are not keeping up with demand. The future there is uncertain. In many of its introduced areas it is found to be a valuable and reliable timber source.



NWA Woodworking Classes at the Stillwater Shop

For more information about any of these classes log on to: <http://woodworkerorg.blogspot.com/>

The Bandsaw

Allen Craft
Tuesday, Jan. 20
6 PM to 9 PM
Cost: \$20

Beginning Bowl Turning

Don Orr
Sunday, Jan. 25
9 AM to 5 PM
Cost: \$45 plus material

Carve a Windsor Seat

The 2nd Installment of the Windsor Chair Series
Tom Wetzel
Sat & Sun, Feb. 14 & 15
9 AM to 4:30 PM
Cost: \$75 plus materials
The 'Hands On' portion of the series is sold out.
This class is only available on an audit basis
Cost: \$30

Shaker Boxes

John Wilson
These workshops will be held at the Shaker Meeting House in co-operation with the Shaker Heritage Society
2 sessions available:
Thur. 3/12, 7 PM to 9:30 PM and Fri. 3/13, 8 AM to 4 PM
or
Fri. 3/13, 6 PM to 10 PM and Sat. 3/14, 8 AM to 4 PM
Cost \$125 including all tools and materials to build 5 nested boxes in cherry

To register contact Gerry O'Brien at: go12211@yahoo.com
(518)459-9266

Wood Questions

Q. What tree, common in our area, is a source of wintergreen oil?



A. Sweet birch, also called black birch or cherry birch, *Betula lenta* is a source of wintergreen oil which contains methyl salicylate—related to aspirin. Tapped in the spring, sap of the same tree can be fermented to make birch beer.

Wood Definition

- Ron DeWitt

Cultivar - A domestic variety of plant: a variety produced in cultivation and generally maintained only in cultivation. Many "garden trees" are cultivars.

Christmas Tree

By Bill Tyler

Thought you might like to see our Christmas Tree.

The Mohawk Valley Woodturners entered this tree in the Dolgeville, NY Festival of Trees. The tree is 7 1/2' tall with over a 1000 lights and all decorations are hand-turned Wooden ornaments.



CHAPTER NEWS

Sacandaga Chapter

By Gary Spencer

Our December 10 program was an exciting program on "Ice Boats". Our speaker was Ken Johnson from the town of Day. Ken who is master of Ice boat racing, having competed all over the country, brought along two of his ice boats and was able to fascinate the audience with his descriptions and demonstrations of how Ice boats work and how they are built. Ken also brought plans for their construction and sources for purchasing critical parts and materials. Several people in attendance expressed a desire to try building their own Ice Boats. In summary the program was an outstanding and stimulating one that was enjoyed by all. Thanks to Ken for a great presentation.

Our upcoming meeting scheduled for January 14th will feature NWA's Mike Kratky who will demonstrate "Lathe Techniques in Turning Bottle Stoppers out of Exotic Woods. This is a good program to get acquainted with some of the basic skills in woodturning. Don't miss this one!

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

Our next regular meeting will be January 14, 2009. Come on out!

Remember we have door prizes and light refreshments are served.

For Directions or information contact:

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

NWA Mid-Hudson Chapter News

By Wally Cook

New Officers: The Mid-Hudson Chapter is proud to announce our slate of officers for the 2009 season:

President:	Pete Chast
Vice-President:	Al Shinker
Treasurer:	John Grossbohl
Secretary:	Duane Henry

The officers all ran under the Flatboarders Party, promising a 'square deal' for the membership -- and no political 'plumbs' (oy). We're sure they will stay on the straight and level.

Instant Holiday Gallery: Best Wishes for a wonderful 2009!



Jack's intarsia toy soldier



Jack Collumb's 3D scroll art



*Ron Mower's
turned
ornaments*

Shaker Boxes at the Meeting House

Continued from Page 1

Boxes. His business The Home Shop in Charlotte, Michigan conducts classes on Boxmaking and other traditional wood crafts and is the major supplier of materials to the Boxmaking trade.

On March 12-13, and 13-14, 2009 the Northeastern Woodworkers Association in co-operation with the Shaker Heritage Society will welcome John Wilson to present a series of workshops on constructing the traditional Shaker Oval Box. These sessions will be conducted in the Shaker Meeting House. The workshop gives the participants hands-on experience in making a nesting set of five oval boxes in cherry. Fee includes all materials, instructional booklet and tools and is intended for both new and experienced woodworkers. Background is given into the Shaker life and craftsmanship.

The workshops will be offered in two sessions.

The first session will be held on Thurs. Mar. 12 from 7 PM to 9:30 PM and Fri. Mar. 13 from 8 AM to 4 PM.

The second session will be held on Fri Mar. 13 from 6 PM to 10 PM and Sat. Mar. 14 from 8 AM to 4 PM.

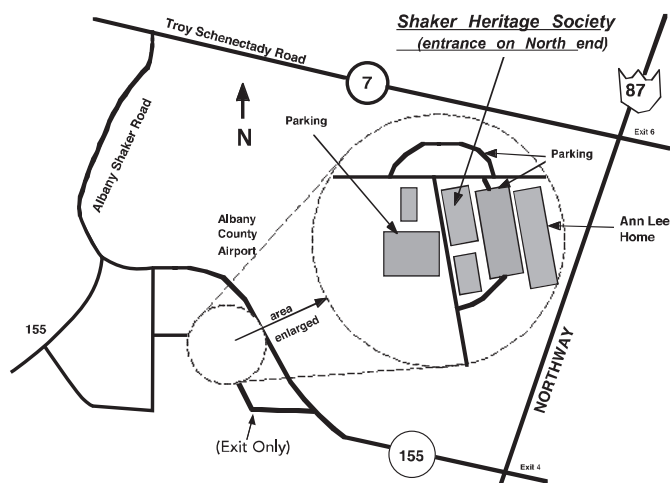
The all-inclusive cost for each 2-day session is \$125 per person. Advance reservations are required to attend. Don't miss this special opportunity to experience this time honored craft first hand and bring the spirit of the Shakers back to life in this historic setting.

For further information or to reserve your place, please contact: Gerry O'Brien - go12211@yahoo.com or call (518) 459-9266





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



January Meeting

Thursday, January 8, 2009, 7:00 pm
Shaker Heritage Society Meeting House
Albany-Shaker Road, Albany

GENERAL MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

NWA Program Schedule 2009

February 12, 2009
Solid Wood Case
and Drawer Construction
Bill MacTiernan

March 12, 2009
Shaker Boxes
John Wilson

April 10, 2009
Sacandaga Chapter

May 14, 2009
Jigs & Fixtures
(Mid Hudson)

For meeting cancellation
information,
call Ken Evans 753-7759
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. Wednesday "Learn and Turn" sessions in Stillwater are also scheduled from 6 pm - 9 pm except on AWA member meeting nights. www.adirondackwoodturners.org Contact Ken Evans, 753-7759 or Kevans1@nycap.rr.com

Carver's Guild - meets every Friday at the Clifton Park Senior Center from 9:00 am to 1:00 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 on the third Wednesday of the month at The School at Northeast, 1821 Hamburg St., Schenectady. A beginner's session starts at 6:30 PM followed by a general meeting at 7:00 PM. Contact: Donna Phillips, (518) 372-3337 or dlphill@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.

Jim's "Hole in the Woods Gang"

Meets every Saturday, from 9:00 am until noon at Jim Kennedy's shop at 86 Guideboard Rd., in Halfmoon. (just 1 mile east of the Halfmoon Diner on Rt. 9). Our general purpose is public service work for various charitable organizations, including the Double H Hole in the Woods camp for children. 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, as we do accomplish many tasks during our times together as well. Contact Dick Flanders, (518) 393-5215 (rflander@nycap.rr.com) or Darrell Welch, (518) 477-8431 (ydwelch@taconic.net) for more information.

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 Joe Kennedy, (845) 473-1598

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.