

# WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern  
Woodworkers  
Association

June 2011, Vol. 20, Number 6

## NWA Picnic – *July 23, Jonesville*

*By Dan Tipton*

Each year we have enjoyed the wonderful opportunity of getting together at the Jonesville Firestation for the annual July Picnic. This year is no different!

If you are like me, it's a great time to do everything from learning fly-fishing techniques from Bart Chabot to the now famous hand plane competitions and tape measure races.

The Picnic will be held on Saturday, July 23rd at the Jonesville Fire Department (see map for directions) starting at 11:00 am. The price is again \$6.00 for adults, children under 12 are free. Please bring a dessert to share.

Bring your finely tuned and sharpened hand plane for the Hand Plane Challenge and your fastest tape measure for the Tape Measure Race. There will be door prizes for children and adults. Also, there will be demonstrations and/or participatory setups by some of our SIGs (the Turners and Carvers for sure). We are going to ask members to bring samples of their work for an instant gallery, with an emphasis on projects that can be completed in one day.

Please mark your calendars early so we can all catch up on our latest projects.

## NWA SHOWCASE Volunteers

*By Ken Evans*

As most of you all know by now, Woodworkers Showcase and Totally Turning was a great success. This was made possible by the enormous effort of the NWA Volunteers who work on each show. Over the last three years, these two events have happened on the same weekend and in the same venue with portions of each show blending into the other. The marriage of these two events has been most successful and they now seem to occur as a single event.

The success of these two events and their marriage, to the benefit of NWA, is entirely due to the dedication of the many NWA VOLUNTEERS who work to make both areas of the show happen seamlessly. From the forty two (42) co chairs who meet from September to March to plan the two events to the three hundred fifty (350) or so volunteers who work the weekend of the show to make it come to life, keep it running, and take it down and pack it away, the event depends entirely on these NWA members.

## NWA APPRECIATION VIDEO

This year, we engaged a videographer to make a video as a way of saying thank you to these volunteers. The content of the video was entirely in the hands of the videographer and it has just now been released to NWA.

The video is now viewable on [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) on the internet and on the Showcase website [www.nwawoodworkingshow.org](http://www.nwawoodworkingshow.org)

If you were a Showcase or a Totally Turning volunteer this past year, NWA wishes you to know that your efforts at the show are truly appreciated by the NWA and the people who attend the show. Showcase is the only show held in the city center that is produced and executed totally by volunteers.

Watch the video, I hope you were interviewed or seen by the camera in your role at Showcase 2011. In any event, the message is THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

P.S. There is a feature length video being made of Woodworkers Showcase and Totally Turning 2011 and this Volunteer video will be made a part of that video also. The full length video will be for sale to all Showcase and Totally Turning attendees sometime in June of 2011.

## New Officers!

The May meeting saw the election of several new officers for the NWA.

Our President Elect is Dan Tipton. Taking Dan's place as Vice President is George Rutledge. Austin Spang returns as Treasurer. All were elected by unanimous acclaim. Good luck to Dan, George, and Austin -- and many thanks to Roger Holmes for his excellent work as President!



*Dan Tipton and George Rutledge*

## OFFICERS

**President** - Roger Holmes  
roger.holmes@dewalt.com

**Vice President** - Dan Tipton  
reallybigdan@verizon.net

**Secretary** - Kitty Scharl 765-3189  
crowridge@nycap.rr.com

**Treasurer** - Austin Spang 393-2859  
spang@nycap.rr.com

**Past President** - Owen Arkison  
518 459-5348

owen.Arkison@earthlink.net

**Historian** - Wayne Diston 674-4171  
wdistin@nycap.rr.com

**Executive Secretary** - Charlie Goddard  
370-0388 Cgodd@aol.com



## CHAIRPERSONS

### Mid-Hudson Chapter

Bob Boisvert, President - 845-298-0454  
greenwd1@verizon.net

### Sacandaga Chapter

Co-Chairpersons

Clyde Cheney - 661-5138

Ray Laubenstein - 863-6071

RLAUB@Roadrunner.com

### Education

Herm Finkbeiner - 371-9145

hfinkbei@nycap.rr.com

### Youth Programs

Wayne Diston - 674-4171

wdistin@nycap.rr.com

### Fiske Fund

Tom Osborne

TTomosborne@aol.com

### Hospitality

Lew Hill

ssrhill@aol.com

### Library

Darrel Welch - 477-8431

ydwelch@fairpoint.net

### Membership

Joseph Bucci - 489-3719

josephbucci@nycap.rr.com

### Programs

Dan Tipton

reallybigdan@verizon.net

### Publications

Wally Carpenter - 434-1776

c.j.carpenter@earthlink.net

### Publicity

Tony Barrera - 783-9133,

tntb1143@juno.com

### Showcase Chair

Ken Evans - 753-7759

kevans1@nycap.rr.com



UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, PHONE  
NUMBERS ARE IN AREA CODE 518

# See How He Does That

*By C. Howie Dudat*

This is the first installment of a new Question & Answer column which I hope to make a regular feature of the Newsletter. I will endeavor to answer any and all of our readers' questions about woodworking. Obviously, for this to work, I need questions. Please address your queries to c.howie.dudat@gmail.com. I will respond individually by email and publish as many as will fit in the monthly newsletter. With your help, I look forward to a full mailbag by September when the next Newsletter is published. If your question relates to a project at hand, please include a little info about the equipment you have available in order that I may tailor my answer to your situation. Now for the first Question:

**Q: So Howie, what are you, some kind of know it all?**

**A:** That depends on who you ask but actually no, I don't know it all. I've been woodworking for going on 40 years, most of that professionally, and if I spent another 40 I still wouldn't know it all. In that time I've made most of the mistakes you can make and many of them more than once. If we learn from our mistakes, then I must know a thing or two. The really good news is that I know people who do know it all and between us we should be able to cover all your questions without resorting to making stuff up.

Now the ball is in your court so let's start and keep those emails coming in.

*Editor: Great to have you join the team !*

## Shop Tips Draw Bars

*By Ken Miller*



Dowels of a particular size can be made by forcing a piece of wood through a draw bar. This can be simply made by drilling holes in a metal plate as needed. Leave the burr on. Unless very many are required it need not be hardened steel. Use either an existing dowel which are usually slightly oversize and true it up or cut a square piece of stock, plane off the corners and begin the process with a hole slightly oversize, then finish to size. By angling the dowel, the size can be reduced by the scraping action.

This method is best for the repair of doweled joints and not for finish work because the surfaces produced are not smooth.

## More Shop Tours This Month

*By Ken Evans*

There are three more Shops open in June on Sunday, June 12

These are:

### Roger Holmes (Turning and Flatboarding)

2059 State Route 67, Valley Falls, NY 12185 – 518 817-0660

### Ken Evans (A Turner's Shop)

2062 State Route 67, Valley Falls, NY 12185 – 518 753 7759

### Jack Betterly

138 Bott Lane, Troy, NY 12180 – 518 279-4866

Please use Google maps, Mapquest, your Garmin, TomTom, or Droid phone to locate these shops.



## Member Profile

### *A Visit to Bill Van Brunt's Workshop*

*By Stanley Blanchard*

I always consider it a privilege to scope out another woodworker's place of worship. There is so much to be learned about how he works in his allotted space and what type of equipment he uses.

When I visited Bill Van Brunt's shop in the middle of March I noticed how neat the area was and how proud he was of some of the work he had produced. Bill pulled out a perfectly flat and perfectly smooth cherry board that was 8 x 15 inches and 3/4 of an inch thick. He added the fact that it took him a week to make this one board so I was thinking that there might not be enough time in his life for him to finish a real case piece. It turns out that he had attended a workshop at the Rosewood Studio on a Fiske Grant and was learning to use a plane to finish wood for assembly.



Bill's interest in woodworking started in high school when he took a shop class and that interest has really accelerated since he became an empty nester. In September of 1999 he moved to the Capital region; in 2000 he attended Showcase and has been an active member of NWA ever since, learning much from the guys at Kennedy's and taking many of the classes offered by NWA. In one of the classes he made a Shaker table with a drawer using only hand tools under the guidance of Alden Witham, a NWA member. He has also taken two Shaker chair classes from Alden Witham, and likes to feature his hand made furniture upstairs in his house. All in all Bill has made two chairs, 10 to 12 small Shaker tables, and three coffee tables that he will admit to, and one Shaker wall table.

Bill is a fan of hand tools and has enjoyed being an assistant to Tom Osborn in the plane tune up and sharpening class. Bill was explaining to me that one can gauge the age of planes by carefully looking at the knobs on the planes. The shorter knobs are indicative of the older planes. He also has a variety of machine tools to speed the woodworking along and is a big fan of high quality tools that help him make high quality furniture.

To assist in building furniture Bill created a workbench under the tutelage of Herm Finkbeiner. Bill stressed that the top boards on the workbench need to have all the grain in the boards face the correct direction so one can hand plane the top of the bench without getting any tea rout. As a testimonial to Bill's craftsmanship, the workbench was one of the featured benches at Showcase 2011.

Bill has also participated in several building projects making items for the Showcase raffle. This group of guys has become known as the Warren Stoker Group and meets every Monday at Warren's house to learn about woodworking and to build more raffle items. This group and NWA will miss Bill and his many contributions to NWA for he and his wife are planning to move to Tennessee. He will be missed. 🐾

## The Porsche of Snare Drums?

*By Wally Cook*

Ed Van Wormer brought his snare drum to the May meeting. He made the instrument out of cherry staves, then rounded the segmented blank on a lathe. This was a unique method to true the drum body, but worth the results. Ed says the sound is crisp and distinctive.



*Ed built his snare drum from cherry staves that he planed, then turned on a lathe*

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Wally Carpenter, Editor  
(518) 434-1776  
c.j.carpenter@earthlink.net  
Elizabeth Keays Graphic Artist  
Designer



**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

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



# CHAPTER NEWS

## Mid-Hudson Chapter

By Wally Cook

**Etched in Stone:** Bob Gauntt spoke about the capabilities of his laser etching business: Etched in Stone. He brought samples of wood, metal, and stone which he had processed with lettering or pictures. Bob is located in Port Ewen and established his business five years ago. He features a large bed laser engraving machine which can produce lettering or pictures on various surfaces, including pictures or graphics supplied by customers. Etched In Stone also has the capability to engrave in the round, as long as the surface can be set to a level plane where it rotates by the laser. The engraving machine can balance uneven heights by means of adjustable



Bob Gauntt displays various applications for laser etching



A wood plaque engraved with a graphic

## Sacandaga Chapter

By Gary Spencer

Our May meeting featured Jeff Meuwissen, a Sacandaga Chapter member who made a great presentation on "Intarsia It's Definition and Practice". Jeff is an outstanding craftsman who builds beautiful artistic pieces. This was an outstanding program on a very interesting topic. Jeff demonstrated how to blend stained glass with wood elements to achieve a remarkable finished intarsia. A fine presentation Jeff.

Thanks so much!

Our June 10th meeting will be a field visit to Rawlings Baseball Bat plant in Doldgeville, NY. We will see the process of developing a ball bat from an Ash log to a finished baseball bat that is the standard for professional baseball. In addition we will visit the nearby North Hudson Wood Craft plant, a company that makes furniture and parts for other furniture companies.

Those wishing to join the outing please arrive at the Rawlings plant parking lot by 10:00 A.M. on June 10th. Plant is at 52 McKinley Ave., Doldgeville, NY.

Our regular monthly meetings are the second Wednesday of each month and begin at 7:00 P.M. at Mayfield High School woodshop. For this meeting only we will not meet at the School. Our next regular meeting will be September, 14, 2011. Come on out!

rollers at either end of the bed. We discussed the possibilities of engraving names, quotations, or graphics on various woodwork or plaques. If you wish to learn more, visit <http://etchedinstone4you.com>.

**Chapter Dinner:** Over one hundred members and guests attended the chapter dinner. We were graced by the music of **Lost in the Woods** and an appearance of the



Over 100 members and guests attended the chapter dinner

**16th "Queen's" Light Dragoons.** Wally Cook was drawn and quartered, as well as knighted -- all in the same evening. As usual, the raffle table was filled with many beautiful, handmade items. Thanks to the efforts of Dick Dillon, over \$1000 of goods were donated by various manufacturers, including a \$150 DVD from Taunton Press and a \$250 wood plane from Lie-Nielsen Toolworks. The generosity of these companies is greatly appreciated. Many thanks are due to the dinner committee headed by Joe Benkert, and especially to Matt Clarke, Joe Kennedy, Chuck Walker, and Bob Boisvert for preparing a splendid program.



Wally Cook "knighted" at the Mid Hudson annual dinner

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

# Handtool Joinery With Ernie Conover

By *Brian Walsh*

NWA arranged for Ernie Conover to conduct a course in basic hand tool joinery at the Association's new facility on Mustang Drive. Ernie advertises the course as the equivalent of an old style European apprenticeship in one week. Eight NWA members, Dave Parkis, Ron Roberts, Brian Walsh, Barbara Hawn, David Bird, Darrell Welch, Austin Spang, and Seth Honeyman entered into a signed apprentice agreement with the "Master Craftsman", Ernie Conover for the "term" of May 2 through May 6: during which the "apprentices" agreed to, among other things, not to play unlawful games nor haunt ale-houses, taverns, or playhouses.

Ernie is a well known author of woodworking books and videos. He has published seven books and four videos on the subject and has written hundreds of articles related to working with wood. He is the recipient of numerous awards; and has conducted many one-man shows. He frequents the lecture circuit and has appeared at hundreds of clubs, trade shows, and woodworking stores. In addition, he does consulting work in the woodworking field.

Ernie has designed this course to teach authentic joinery as it was in the past when furniture was made to last. He believes that such joinery is as applicable today as it was two to three centuries ago. In the course

Ernie sets out to provide a thorough grounding in hand tools by having participants make a small cupboard, usually out of walnut. The piece measures 12" wide by 31" high by 6" deep. It has one drawer under a panel door.

While building the cupboard, the "apprentices" learned how to hand cut dovetails, mortises and tenons, grooves, and dados. Carcass construction involved two types of dovetail joints, through and half blind. Mortise and tenon joints were used for the face frame and haunched tenons were employed in the construction of the paneled door. Notched racks were made to support adjustable shelves in the manner used by traditional cabinet makers.

The "Apprentices" brought their own wood cut and dimensioned to



specifications supplied by Ernie. They were permitted to use machinery for that task. But, once they began construction of the cupboard they were required to use hand tools only. While Ernie supplied some loaner tools and the "apprentices" brought in their own tools. Ernie was quick to show the "apprentices" how to use their tools, some of which had never been used by their owners. He sharpened planes and saws for the "apprentices" to ease their work. Watching Ernie tune and use hand tools was a highlight of the week's activities.

Ernie had the "apprentices" use hot hide glue for their joinery. Most had not used hide glue much, if at all, and, they were generally skeptical about using it. However, after experiencing the benefits of using hide glue, the skeptical became converts: Hide glue is easy to clean up. It does not stain wood and it accepts finish invisibly, if you miss some at cleanup. It has a long open time, so you can take the time to properly align parts for gluing. And it is reversible. Some of the "Apprentices" reaped the benefit of this characteristic, including this writer, who, arriving at the shop one morning found that a rail and stile, glued up the night before, had become "mysteriously" misaligned and were out of square. Ernie showed us how to break the glue bond with a pipe clamp, realign the joint so that it was square, reactivate the hide glue with some hot water, and

clamp it until the joint was dry. Can't do that with white or yellow glue!

Another trick of the trade is Ernie's use of French polish for finishing the cupboard. Again, the "apprentices" were skeptical of the "masters" choice of method; but they soon became believers as they witnessed him apply several layers of finish, and within minutes produce a pleasant looking dry finish. No worries about dust ruining a finish while it dries with this approach. And, if the piece gets scratched or dinged, fix it with French polish for an invisible repair. You could even "restore" the finish a few years down the road with another polishing.

The tricks and fixes the "Apprentices" learned working with a "Master" like Ernie are too numerous to recount here. Not only is Ernie an outstanding craftsman, he is a wonderful teacher, and great guy.

I am pleased to report that no "apprentice" was fired. All faithfully served their apprenticeship; and, were deemed by "Master Conover", "as competent to ply the trade of woodworking".





# KWA News

By Wally Cook

Almost eighty members and guests gathered at the Shaker Museum to hear KWA turner Matt Clarke speak about building a woodturners decorating tool. The Elf Decorating tool by Henry Taylor has become a popular alternative to texturing devices that work primarily in end grain applications. The Elf is effective in both long grain and end grain texturing on wood, acrylics, and alternative ivory or bone. This tool can be used with cylinder or bud cutting burs to produce a wide variety of patterns.

The Elf retails for approximately \$60 – and higher when purchased in combo packages that include extra cutters or cove tools. Matt showed how a similar tool can be shop-made for under \$10.

The elements needed to produce a decorating tool are straightforward – and may already be in your shop: a wood blank for the handle, two widths of brass or copper pipe, a short piece of tool steel, two sealed ball bearings, and a rare earth magnet. A natural bristle brush (cut short) is recommended to take the wood fuzz off the textured surfaces.

The first step is to identify the type of cutter that you want to use in the tool. Bits or burrs that have wide flutes may work the best; older burrs may even be preferred, due to their simpler cutting design. The shaft diameter of the cutting burr will determine the size of the bearing: the inside diameter of the bearing needs to be equal to the shaft size of the cutter. For instance, a 5/16" cutter shaft requires a bearing with a 5/16" opening. **Two bearings of the same size are required.** The outside diameter of the bearings will determine the outside diameters of the remaining elements.

The remainder of the parts needed for the decorating tool includes:

**Two spacers:** the spacers are sections of metal tubing which match the outside diameter of the bearings. The first spacer is cut to about 1/2" long and the second spacer is 3/16" long. The longer spacer will rest on the bearing support.

**One bearing support:** The bearing support is a section of tool steel about 3/8" in length. The spacer and shaft of the cutting burr will rest against this element. The width of the bearing support should also match the

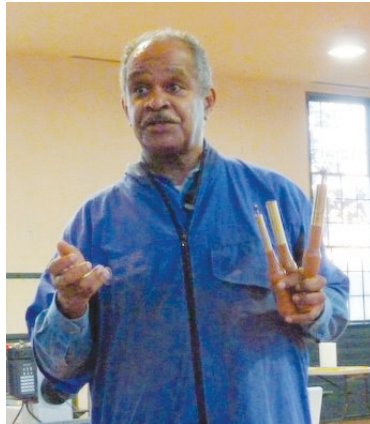
OD of the bearings. The support surface which comes in contact with the spacer should be crowned/convex. The other side of the bearing support will contact the rare-earth magnet -- it should be smooth and flat. Harden the bearing support by heating to cherry red and then cooling.

**One rare earth magnet:** A magnet 1/4" by 1/4" is fine for this application. The purpose of the magnet is to hold the cutting burr in the tool handle, while still allowing it to spin freely in the bearings.

**One metal ferrule:** The extended ferrule is the part of the tool that comes in contact with the tool rest. It should be a brass or copper tube whose inside diameter exceeds the outside diameter of the bearings and spacers by at least 1/4". It will be approximately 3" long. The exact length will depend upon the length of the cutting burr shaft.



Stacked bearings and spacers awaiting insertion in handle



Matt Clarke shows completed decorating tools of different sizes



Elements needed to build the tool

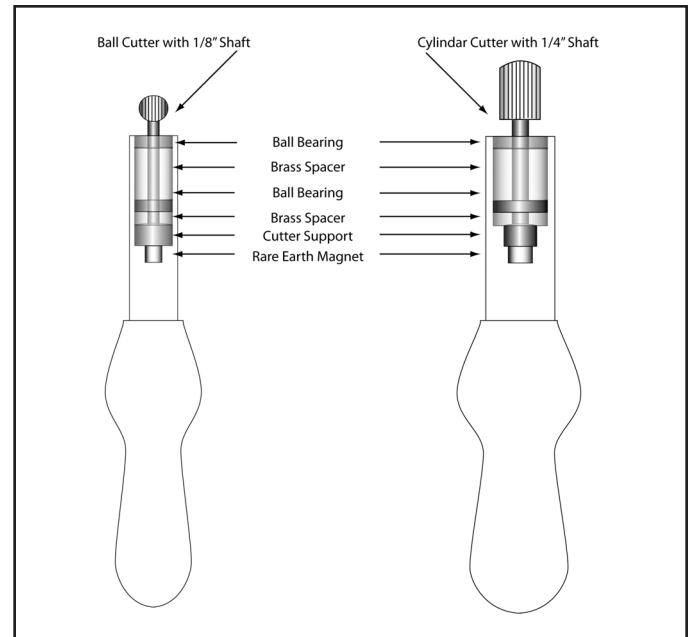


Diagram of the decorating tool

**One wood blank for the handle:** The handle may be as long as you desire, but is generally on the shorter side to enable a flexible approach. The vector of spacers, bearings, bearing rest and rare earth magnet is inserted into the wooden handle and that section of the wooden handle is reinforced by the extended metal ferrule, which is slipped over the neck of the handle.

Matt has detailed assembly instructions and sources for the decorating tool elements. Contact him at mattclarke@verizon.net. Put "Decorating Tool" in the title and he will forward the PDF instruction document by return email. If you are interested in how the decorating tool can be used, see Nick Agar's presentation on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VBtyWicLLSc>

# Wood of the Month <sup>©2011</sup>

No. 97 in the series

By Ron DeWitt

**Arizona Cypress** *Cupressus arizonica* E. Greene  
**Cupressaceae – Cypress Family**  
**Syn. *Cupressus glabra* E. Greene and *Callitropsis arizonica* (E. Greene),**  
**D. Little**

Derivation of the genus name, *Cupressus*, is from the Latin for the Mediterranean Cypress, *Cupressus sempervirens*, and also corresponds with the ancient Greek name, *Kyparissos*. The epithet or species name, *arizonica* is from the territory in North America (later to become the state of Arizona in the U.S.) where it was first described in 1882.

The cypresses number about 17 species worldwide. There are also five named varieties, thought by some authors to be separate species. Around the world the cypresses range in three general areas: one from Alaska south to Guatemala in western North America, a second around the Mediterranean Sea, and the third across the Himalayan region to southern China. Of the seven species found in North America, the Arizona cypress, *Cupressus arizonica*, also called rough cypress, rough bark cypress, smooth bark cypress, cedro or cedro blanco, has the widest distribution of any cypress species found in the U.S. and an even wider distribution in Mexico.

The natural range of Arizona cypress is in a band in the southwestern U.S. from south central Texas westward across southern New Mexico, much of Arizona, and southern California. This range also extends from Arizona south of the U.S. border into central Mexico as far south as the states of Coahuila and Durango.

This tree is a drought-resistant “dry land species.” Its range is predominately in hot, dry areas that may include rough rocky scrubland and the steep slopes of mountain canyons from 2500 to 8000 ft. (750 to 2450 m). It prefers full sun and is hardy to -15 degrees F (-30 degrees C). Soil quality seems to be of little importance. Arizona cypress in this range is widely scattered, and species identification can often be confused by variations in bark texture, leaf form, resin distribution, and seed-cone configuration among populations in different areas.

At lower elevations Arizona cypress may associate with mixed hardwoods including Arizona sycamore, green ash, cottonwood, box elder, big-tooth maple, and Arizona walnut. On intermediate elevations associates tend to include alligator juniper, pinyons, and oaks, including silverleaf, netleaf, and Arizona white oak. In stands at higher elevations associates become mixed

with other conifers – Arizona pine, Apache pine, Chihuahuapine, Douglas-fir.

Arizona cypress is a medium-size tree. In Texas it is usually 30 to 40 ft. (9 to 12 m); in Arizona, it is commonly 50 to 60 ft. (15.5 to 18.3 m) tall and 2 to 3 ft. (0.6 to 0.9 m) dbh (diameter breast high) but may reach 90 ft. (27.5 m) with a dbh of 5.5 ft. (1.7 m). A record tree, reported in the *U.S. National Register of Big Trees* a few years ago, is 93 ft. (28.4 m) by 6.5 ft. (2 m), growing in Arizona’s Coronado National Forest. This cypress species has a long life span and may live for 700 years.

The tiny leaves of this tree are evergreen, dull gray-green to blue-green or silver, 0.06 in. (1.5 mm) long. Leaves are scale-like, keeled, opposite, and tightly crowded on fine 4-sided, 3-dimensional branch-lets having the appearance of “braided bullwhips.” Leaves are frequently marked with a white resinous gland-dot. A hand lens reveals the very finely-toothed edges of the leaves. Foliage has a mild mint-lemon scent which when crushed becomes unpleasant like spoiled garlic.

Stiff, stout, horizontal branching develops around a single stem. Depending on growing conditions, branching may begin close to the ground or the stem may be branch-free for some distance. On young trees, bark is greenish-brown with red flakes breaking into thin, large, irregular scales. Bark on older stems and branches is furrowed, gray or gray-brown, fibrous, and “shreddy.” Crowns are dense, narrowly conical, broadening with age. Pure stands will often form closed canopies, preventing formation of any understory.

The small male or pollen cones open over winter. Female or seed cones are spherical or slightly elongated, 0.8 to 1.2 in. (2 to 3 cm) long with 3 to 6 pairs of sturdy, woody seed scales, reddish-brown or dark gray when mature at the end of their second year. Cones are numerous, growing singly on the tips of short branches.

Cones remain closed, persisting on the tree for many years until opened by the heat of a fire or from repeatedly drying out with age. Trees are then wind pollinated.

Sapwood of Arizona cypress is pale yellow with a gradual transition to the yellow-brown heartwood.

Grain is medium-fine and uniform with subtle but distinct growth rings. This species does not have resin canals. The wood is moderately

soft and light, texture is fine. Specific gravity at 12% M.C. averages 0.48; weight also at 12% M.C. is about 34 pcf (545 kg/m<sup>3</sup>), similar to Douglas-fir. The wood works nicely with



Foliage of Arizona cypress



Seed cones

Continued on the following Page



## Wood of the Month

*Continued from Page 7*

hand or power tools, glues well, sands to a soft patina, holds paint satisfactorily, and takes most other finishes well. It is moderately durable when exposed to soil or weather if carefully seasoned. Dried wood has a light, pleasant scent but no taste.

There is no reported toxicity related to working with this wood. However the usual sawdust precautions are well advised.

Arizona cypress is planted as an ornamental and for wind breaks. It is also cultivated for Christmas trees. The wood is used locally for rough construction and sometimes for sashes, doors, and trim. Some is used by hobbyists and woodworkers. There are not enough large accessible stands to make this timber commercially important.

Primary enemies of this cypress are mistletoes and rusts. It is quite susceptible to fire. Supplies of the Arizona cypress are adequate and at present are not threatened.

*Stringy bark of mature Arizona cypress*  
Photo by Craig DeWitt



*Flaky bark on falling Arizona cypress*  
Photo by Craig DeWitt



## Wood Questions

**Q:** There are a number of species of ebony growing worldwide. Which is the only one of commercial importance growing in the U.S.?



**A:** Persimmon, a species of ebony, grows in the southeastern U.S. It produces an edible fruit and its dense, hard wood is still used for golf club heads and knitting mill shuttles.

## Wood Definition

**- Ron DeWitt**

**Weed Tree:** A tree that has little or no commercial value, and sometimes an excellent tree of good quality, but in a stand or position where cost of removal and use would be excessive.

## Router Table

**By Barry Mayer**

A router table I built was exhibited at this year's Showcase, although due to a prior commitment I wasn't able to accompany it. I am told there was some interest in how it came to be put together the way it did.

For years I had been fascinated by the many articles and advertisements for the profusion of router tables available from cast iron, granite and MDF to plywood and aluminum. From micro-adjustable fences to trick router lifts. The cost, however, was more than I could justify. Still, I felt I needed an upgrade to the table I had built about 25 years ago out of plywood and two-by lumber.

At the woodworker's show in W. Springfield, MA two years ago I attended a workshop with Bill Hylton. He had a table he had made that looked very affordable and practical. The article showing its construction is titled: *Shop-Built Router Table: Feature-Rich for only \$100* and is in [American Woodworker #134, March 2008](#).

I had also flagged the router table featured in [AWW #99, March 2003](#) by Dave Munkittrick titled *Best Buy Router Table* because I liked the top and fence on it.

In [AWW #142, June/July 2009](#) there is a piece by Jerry Spruiell called *Two-cent Micro Adjuster*.

(By the way, I do read other woodworking publications; it's just a coincidence that all three of the articles I used to come up with my table were in AWW.)

I used biscuit construction with fir legs for the main box suggested by Bill Hylton. It has a clean look and is solid. The rest of the design regarding the top and fence came from the Munkittrick piece. Since I am in constant need of more drawers in my shop, I wanted space for as many as I could accommodate and sized the overall unit to accept two large drawers on glides on the bottom and 4 smaller drawers above on the sides. The lower small drawer on the left is drilled for router bits and can hold more than I currently own.

I put a door in the front and back of the router slot in the center for access. Initially I put a 2 1/2" dust port in the rear door and Y connector to the collector port in the fence. I don't have enough pull on my central system to draw from both, so I abandoned the lower one and only pull from the fence now. I am thinking of trying to pull with a 4" duct and Y fitting, but it seems to be pretty good the way it is. I faced the drawers and front door with stained 1/4" lauan plywood for some contrast. I painted the legs flat gray. The formica top is from Home Depot, chosen to go with the rest of the colors including the blue T track

Since I do a bit of metal working on a lathe, I have a number of dial depth indicators lying around. I added one to the hold down that attaches the micro-adjust mechanism behind the fence

*Continued on the following Page*



# NWA Wood Carvers

## So You Think You Can't Carve

By George Rutledge

I've been carving wood for almost 40 years now and many people have been kind enough to comment favorably on my work. They often conclude their compliments by saying they could never do anything like that and I find myself asking how they know that and have they ever tried. While it's true that certain individuals are naturally adept, I believe that wood carving is a skill that almost anyone can learn. If you can sign your name you have more than enough eye hand co-ordination. More important by far than motor skills is desire. Like any art or craft, proficiency in wood carving comes with practice. In today's society there is little monetary incentive to practice, so for the most part we find ourselves to be amateurs in the best sense of the word. We pursue our craft for the love of it, for the pure joy of it. So the question becomes not can I carve but do I really want to carve. If you think the answer may be yes, the NWA Wood Carvers is a resource you should plan on checking out. We are the NWA's newest Special Interest Group (SIG) and we formed especially to promote the Art of Wood Carving. The SIG provides a time and place for our members to carve and to share with and learn from each other. As president and on behalf of my fellow officers and members, I invite you to stop in at one of our regular meetings to find out if wood carving is for you. Do not let the lack of tools or experience stop you. I guarantee that someone will put a tool in your hands and a piece of wood in front of you while providing some advice and encouragement to get you started. We meet at the NWA's new Learning Center on the 1st 3rd and 4th Thursdays of each month year round. The Learning Center is at 1 Mustang Drive in Cohoes just off Rte 9 about 4 miles north of Latham Circle and 1 1/2 miles south of the Mohawk River. Turn (left from the north, right from the south) onto Fonda Rd and take the first left onto Mustang Dr. and then turn right into the first parking lot and drive all the way to the end. You'll see the NWA sign at the door. If you have any questions feel free to contact me at gnarus@verizon.net or Ray Gannon at LorayG@gmail.com .

# Photo of a Young Ken Evans Surfaces

By George Rutledge

While ambling about the 3 Dubya's, (editor: 3 W's, for more info: <http://www.loohan.com/W1.htm>) I stumbled upon this photo at [www.toolemera.com](http://www.toolemera.com). Toolemera is a labor of love by Gary Roberts where you will find a selection of facsimile reprints for sale. These are classic tomes on woodworking and building trades most of which were originally published in the mid 1800's through the early 20th century but one, Mechanick Exercises by Joseph Moxon, dates to 1703. While several of these titles are now on my acquisition list, there's also a wealth of free stuff in the Museum section of the web site courtesy of Mr. Roberts. You can view early Trade Catalogues, Books and Booklets, Photographs, and pamphlets from Manufactures & Merchants. You should also check out Gary's blog and his list of Hand Tool Makers. I highly recommend a visit to Toolemera and when you go there, be sure to look at the early photos. Maybe you too will see someone you know.



## Router Table

Continued from Page 8

on the right side, screwed in a piece of hardwood for the gauge plunger to bear on and was set up to be able to move the fence 0.001" at a time. That would correspond with movement of the fence where the router bit is to 0.0005", major overkill when it comes to woodworking. Yet, it is probably better to err on the side of micro adjustment than the other direction.

I didn't need a lift since I am using a Porter Cable 890PK router with above table height adjustment. I got a *Pinnacle*® aluminum router table insert, about \$100 that I think is well worth the money. In all, excluding the router, I think I probably have about \$250 in the table, well worth the money and with a fence that is certainly more finely adjustable than what I could have bought for a good deal more.

Pictures of this project can be seen at: <https://picasaweb.google.com/barry.mayer/RouterTable#>

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

### FOR SALE

**102" Antique Cushman Gate Leg dining room table with 8 chairs, one is a captain's chair.** Needs refinishing and some re-gluing on the chairs. Also matching hutch in good condition. Must sell. Best offer. This is a classic set that is very restorable. Contact Ron Loeber at 872-2154 or at [rloeber@nycap.rr.com](mailto:rloeber@nycap.rr.com).

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**Forrest Woodworker II Carbide 10-Inch, 30-Tooth Table Saw Blade** \$40

**Craftsman Carbide Tipped Adjustable Dado Blade** (Model 720.3263) (With Table Insert) \$40,

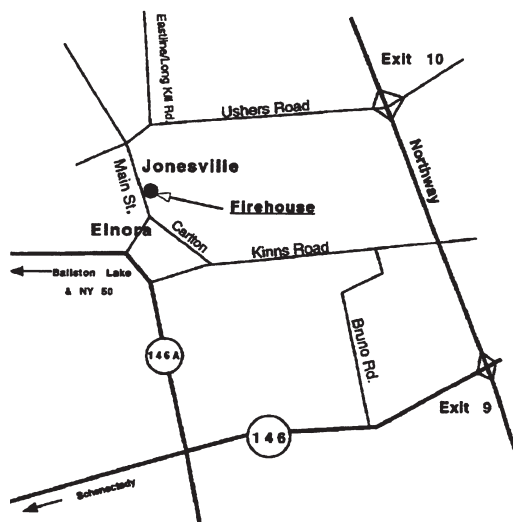
**3-inch Blade Stabilizers** (Set of 2) \$10

**Porter-Cable 557 Deluxe Plate Joiner Kit** - (Lightly Used) \$200

Seven-position rotating depth stop for FF, #0, #10, #20, Simplex, Duplex, and Max (#6) biscuits. 7 Amp motor, four-inch blade makes standard-size cuts; two-inch blade easily handles cuts as fine as 1-1/2 inches. Comes with case, two blades, centering plate, spanner wrench, dust bag, and chip deflector. Contact Bill Cherry at 518-383-1220, [bcherry1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:bcherry1@nycap.rr.com)



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



## Family Picnic

*Saturday, July 23, 2011, 11:00 am*  
*Jonesville Fire Station No. 1,*  
*Main Street, Jonesville (Clifton Park) NY*

GENERAL MEETINGS  
AND SPECIAL EVENTS

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 the NWA shop, 1 Mustang Dr, are scheduled from 6pm-9pm except on AWA member meeting nights. [www.adirondackwoodturners.org](http://www.adirondackwoodturners.org) Contact Ken Evans, 753-7759 or [Kevans1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:Kevans1@nycap.rr.com)

**Scroller's Guild** - Meets on the third Wednesday of the month at The New Sop 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](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.

**Jim's "Hole in the Woods Gang"** - 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 Pete Howe (518) 885-9331 ([phowe1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:phowe1@nycap.rr.com)), Ed Buell (518) 384-0413 ([KC2NMY-eab@nycap.rr.com](mailto:KC2NMY-eab@nycap.rr.com)) or Dick Flanders (518) 393-5215 ([rflander@nycap.rr.com](mailto:rflander@nycap.rr.com)) for more information.

**NWA Wood Carvers** - Meets Thursdays at 6 p.m. until 9 p.m every month except the 2nd Thursday of each month at the new NWA shop located at 1 Mustang Dr. Our programs are determined at the previous weekly sessions. Our goals are to promote the art of Wood Carving. We assist with all carving matters. Contact Ray Gannon 664-2229 or [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 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.