

WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern
Woodworkers
Association

June 2018, Vol. 27, Number 6

The 2018 NWA Annual Family Picnic

Sunday, July 15, 2018, 11:00 AM

Jonesville Fire Station

953 Main St., Jonesville (Clifton Park), NY

By Steve Mapes

Let's make this a **Great** picnic this year. Remember, this is your event. Mark the date on your calendar! Admission is \$8.00, covering all food and soft drinks for adults and children under 12 are free.

Please bring your favorite desserts to share with the party and don't forget to bring your favorite portable lawn chair, so we can all be comfortable to socialize under the shade of the trees while enjoying the summer breezes.

Also, make plans to sharpen your best hand plane and tune up your tape racer for the competitions.

There will be numerous demonstrations and displays by our SIGS.



Bring a recent piece or pieces of work to share at our Instant Gallery. This piece does not have to be completed or perfect; it's an inspiration of work in the craft for us all. Your work is always important. Don't miss the opportunity to share your talents, so someone else can grow their skills.

Bring your family, bring a lawn chair, bring a piece to show, and bring a story to share.

2018 SHOWCASE

Photos by Alice Nash





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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. The newsletter is available online at www.woodworker.org



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will be published
in early September

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**NORTHEASTERN
WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION**

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NWA General Meeting of May 10, 2018

By Susan McDermott

General business and announcements:

- Dick Flanders introduced Steve Mapes as the new NWA president effective May 10, 2018.
- The election of officers receiving unanimous votes of members present were: Rich Cerruto is Vice President for one year and is President Elect automatically the following year. Chris Stolicky as Secretary for two (or more years), replacing Nancy Reilly's many years of service. NWA members thank Nancy for her valued work.
- There will be no monthly meetings for June, July, and August.
- July 15 is the annual family picnic, so watch for the announcement.
- August 25 is the annual lumber and tool auction at the Shaker barn, to be announced.
- Charlie Goddard has resigned after many years of arduous service and considerable labor organizing, setting up, promoting, transporting lumber and tools, managing hundreds of buyers, and closing the auction with its sales receipts and recording. Dick or Charlie can provide a detailed description of these duties to the **volunteer replacement** for Charlie.
- Dave Mobley reported on the past six-month search for a new home of the NWA Learning Center. We have not yet secured a place, but about 100 sites were considered and about six have potential. Hard choices must be made as we must vacate 15 Solar



Rich Cerruto, Vice President



Chris Stolicky, Secretary

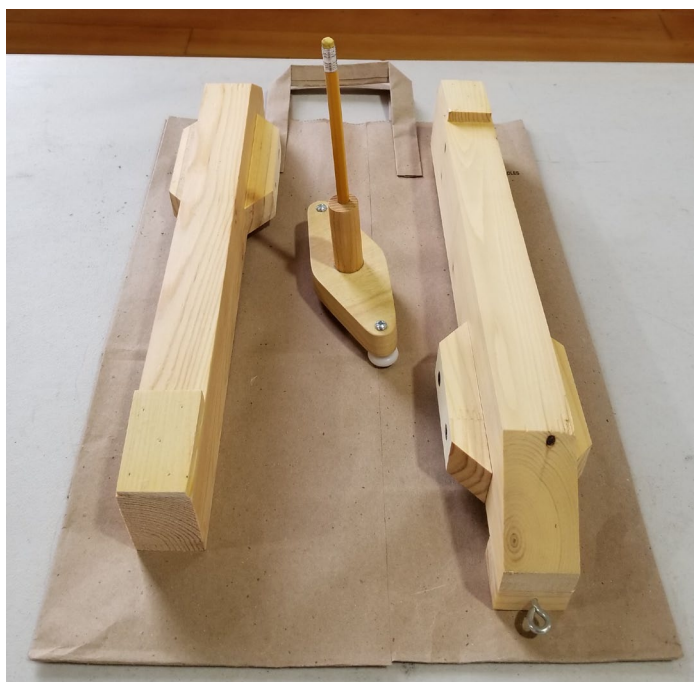
Drive by August 31, 2018. We can not expect to find as fine and affordable site as we have enjoyed these past years. The challenge is finding affordable light industrial space of 4,000 to 6,000 square feet in a location bounded by Troy, Schenectady, Northway Exit 10 and Crossgates.

- Pam Bucci encouraged increased participation in turning, carving, scrolling, and hand tool SIGs (see last page of this newsletter for days, times, and contact information). She also mentioned the building of tape measure cars for the family picnic races. Contact her for details.
- Dick announced the passing of our valued member, Warren Stoker. His memorial service is in this newsletter on Page 10.
- Dick received hearty applause from the members for his year of service as NWA President. His duties are hardly over!

Show and Tell

Pam Bucci's (Contact her at 518-429-6440 or woolglass2@gmail.com) resin pens made from blanks created by John Ryan.

Tom Moran's bench hooks and centering tool.



Moran's bench hooks and centering tool

Jon Hedman's four string cigar box guitar with white oak neck, walnut fret board, tuned to G chord.



Hedman's cigar box guitar

Juliana Shei's two chisel and plane iron sharpening jigs set at 25 and 30 degrees. She will send the plans to any member requesting them. Bob Stanley should have her current contact information. rstanley1@nycap.rr.com



Shei's sharpening jigs

Stan Blanchard's step stool of curly maple and raised workbench with moxon vise.



Blanchard's stool and raised workbench

Dick Flanders's Display of Cordless Power Tools



Dick Flanders and his own collection

Cordless saws: chainsaw, reciprocating saw, circular saw (right and left hand models), miter saw (not a “chop saw”), compound miter saw, scroll saw.

Cordless drills: various power (12, 14.4, 18, 20, 40 volts) standard brushless, right angle, impact driver (rotary torque for driving screws), hammer drill (in-line power to drill concrete), Black and Decker mini (pocket size) drill/driver for light work.

Cordless variable speed trim router

Cordless rotary sander

Electric (cordless) plane

Cordless multitool with adapters for many functions (scraping, cutting, ratcheting)

Dremel with assorted tools (stones, cutters, sanding disks, buffers, reamers).

Portable florescent lights: Rigid Bright Work Light operates by battery or plug in, very bright but dimmable.

Batteries: Nickel Cadmium (NiCad) are cheaper but lose 20% charge overnight and lose ability to recharge over time. Lithium Ion batteries last ten times longer (but can overheat with prolonged use). Dewalt makes an adapter to interchange batteries. All smart chargers will give a trickle charge after a full charge.

Rigid offers lifetime warranties (including batteries).



Display 1



Display 2



Hand router



Rotary sander



Mini drill/driver



Adapter kits



Rigid Bright Work Light

**In sadness, NWA announces a memorial service for
Warren Stoker
To be held June 9 at 11:00 AM at The United Methodist Church
428 Kenwood Avenue, Delmar, NY 12054**

**Cards and flowers can be sent to his home:
Mrs. Arlene Stoker and Family
12 Hunter Road, Delmar, NY 12054**

Wood of the Month

Sassafras (Laurel Family)

*Reprint of article by
Ron DeWitt c. March 1998*

Sassafras is limited to just three species in the world: one in North America and one each in China and Taiwan. The name "Sassafras" comes from the American Indians and was passed on to the Spanish in Florida in the early Sixteenth Century.

Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), also called White Sassafras, Cinnamon-wood, Smelly Stock (by the Indians) or Camphor-wood (by local loggers) ranges from Maine south into Florida and west into Michigan, down into Oklahoma and eastern Texas. In the northern edge of its range, it tends to be a shrub or small tree, becoming quite

large in the Missouri-Oklahoma area. In New York the Sassafras typically grows 30 to 50 feet tall with trunks 12-16 inches in diameter. In the Southwest it reaches 100 feet with trunks six feet in diameter. A large Sassafras grows in Athens County, Ohio recorded to have a 13.1 foot diameter trunk and 75 feet high (as of 2001). They may live to be 800 years old.

Sassafras prefers sandy or rocky but fertile soil at the edge of forested areas or as an understory tree. They often get started along fence rows or roadways as pale orange or green whip-like twigs, suckering from creeping, thick, spongy roots. Branches become coarse, crooked, and stout, leaving the stem at right angles to form a rugged outline with an open crown. Bark on mature trees may be pale orange to a deeply furrowed dark-red brown.

Leaves of the Sassafras are unique in that they have five or six different leaf forms on the same tree: sometimes three forms on the same branch! The alternate, simple, ovate leaves may be two-lobed, mitten-shaped, or three-lobed. Many consider the brilliant yellows, oranges, and crimson red of the Sassafras to be the most attractive of all the fall colors.

A single tree usually displays only male or female versions of a small beautiful (1/2 inch)

yellow or yellow-green flower in early spring as the leaves unfold. The female tree produces blue-black stone fruits about 0.3 inch in diameter, on the ends of bright red club-like stems, a favorite of the birds.

The crushed leaves and bark of roots and twigs are highly aromatic with a distinctly pleasant odor variously likened to oranges, root beer, lemons, spices, vanilla, cinnamon, camphor, or combinations of those scents.

Probably because of

its impressive odor, Sassafras was considered to be a cure-all, perhaps the first wonder drug, almost immediately after its discovery in the New World in the late 1500's. In various potions, it was used to restore youth and treat everything from headache to small pox, kidney problems to syphilis and toothache to malaria or ague (which gave the Sassafras another common name, Ague Tree). It is also used to flavor candy, beverages, and medicines, and as a scent in soap and perfume. So popular was Sassafras that its roots and bark were the first products exported from the colonies to Europe.

The oil in Saffrass contains about 80% safole, a cyclic chemical also found in anise, mace, pepper, cocoa, nutmeg, and cinnamon. Unfortunately, modern science has found



Mature Sassafras

no medicinal value in safrole, and it is now considered to be carcinogenic. [Editor's note: Studies in the 1960s suggested that safrole was carcinogenic, causing permanent liver damage in animals. Consequently, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) banned sassafras and safrole for human consumption. Safrole is still regarded by FDA to be a weak carcinogen in rats. (Wikipedia)] Root bark is still used, however, to brew a spring tonic and dried, powdered leaves remain an important thickening/flavoring agent in soup, stew, and gumbo.

The narrow sapwood of Sassafras is pale yellow. Heartwood is gray to dull orange-brown. The wood is soft, weak, brittle, coarse, but evenly grained with a nice figure, unusual in the softer hard woods. The wood has a spicy odor and taste and is very durable in ground or exposed to weather. It has a specific gravity of 0.45 and weighs about 32 pounds per cubic foot, similar to Yellow Poplar or spruce. It is very close in appearance to American Chestnut, an important factor for those doing reproductions or restoration work.

Sassafras is a ring porous hardwood very similar in technical features to lack Ash. The earlywood may be 3-8 medium to large pores wide with an abundance of sparkling tyloses in the pores. Latewood pores are thick-walled, solitary, and in radial multiple of 2-3 varying in size to very small. Rays are 1-4 seriate, barely visible to the eye. Oversized yellow oil cells as seen in a radial section under a microscope are a clincher in identifying this wood.

Sassafras is easy to dry and is stable; although there is some end checking. It has the least shrink, less than 10%, of any hardwood. Sassafras is easily worked with hand or power tools, and it's kind to sharp edges. Nailing requires some caution to avoid splitting, but fasteners hold well. It glues easily and takes all finishes nicely. The shop always smells pleasant when Sassafras is being worked. There are no reported hazards to working with it, but the usual dust precautions should be observed.

Sassafras has been used for fence posts, barrels, buckets, flooring, beds, and chicken roosts (thought to keep away bed bugs and lice). Its bark was a source of orange dye.



Autumn Sassafras



Male and female leaves

Native Americans valued the bark for dugout canoes. It is a poor firewood as the oil causes numerous little noisy, sparky explosions as it burns.

Today, Sassafras is used for small boats, windows and doors, interior trim, building sills, and boxes. Because of its chestnut-like appearance, it is often used in furniture and flooring. Other applications are probably limited by its obscurity.

Supplies of Sassafras are adequate and unthreatened. Demand is small but steady and not many yards carry it. Saw mills sometimes include it with ash, and some sell it as chestnut. It should be half the price of chestnut when it can be found. Currently, Sassafras is about \$3.55 per board foot (<https://www.woodeyewoodproducts.com/lumber-prices>)

A Touch of Class

By John Olenik

The company (Stockade Rugs) that previously provided us with the rugs for the Showcase presentation of our exhibits, was sold to Jacobsen Rugs, now owned by Faramarz “Frank” Asef, who graciously continued the tradition of loaning us the beautiful rugs which gives Showcase a real touch of class.

As a gesture of thanks and future good will for his generosity, John Olenik built a beautiful serving tray, crafted from curly maple and cherry, with a center field of “rain glass”, and brass handles. John presented this to Mr. Asef this past May 1st on behalf of NWA, and he assured us of continued collaboration in the future. Many thanks to our generous friend, “Frank”.



John's Tray

Classifieds

Jack Ericson, one of the founding members of NWA, is in his mid-90's and just lost his wife of 73 years. Our NWA members express condolences to Jack for her passing. He has a complete set of *Fine Woodworking* magazines. He would like to give them to a NWA member who would appreciate them. He also has an index on disc for *Fine Woodworking*. In addition, he has other magazines (not complete sets) he would like to give away. Jack's phone number is 518-399-0908

EDITOR'S NOTE

This is the last newsletter until September.
We will accept submissions up to August 15, 2018 for the
September newsletter. Important announcements
will be e mail blasts during the summer.

NWA Family Picnic

Sunday, July 15, 2018, 11:00am

Jonesville Fire Station

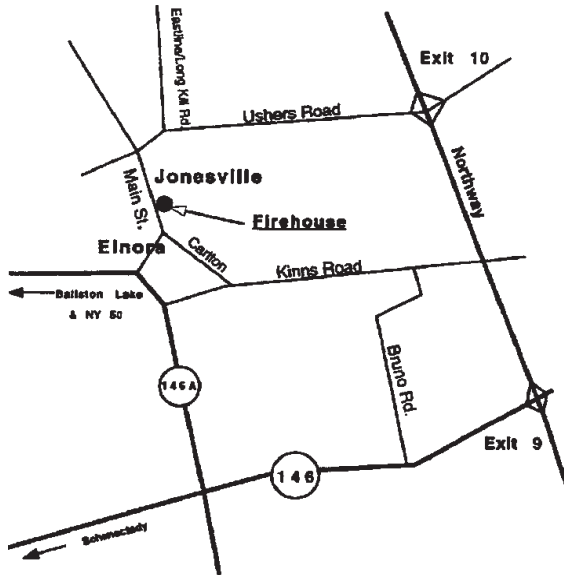
953 Main St., Jonesville (Clifton Park), NY

2018 MONTHLY MEETINGS*

Unless noted otherwise, held at the Shaker Meetinghouse
on the Second Thursdays at 7:00 PM

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

*To be updated with additional information



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)

Adirondack Woodturners Association (AWA) - The AWA is active throughout the year. **General** Meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month (except in January and July when it is the second Wednesday), at the NWA Learning Center located at 15 Solar Drive, Clifton Park, NY from 5:30 PM to 8:45 PM. **Contact:** Pam Bucci, President at 518-429-6440 or woolglass2@gmail.com

Wednesday "Learn and Turn" sessions occur on all other Wednesdays at the NWA Learning Center. These sessions run 5:30 PM to 8:45 PM. www.adirondackwoodturners.com **Contact:** Pam Bucci at 518-429-6440 or woolglass2@gmail.com

Scroller's Guild - Meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at the NWA Learning Center located at 15 Solar Drive, Clifton Park, NY. Shop opens at 5:30 PM followed by a general meeting at 7:00 PM. **Contact:** Jeanne Aldous at AMJAMtat2@aol.com or Barbara Nottke at scroller87@aol.com or 518-869-6268.

Kaatskill Woodturners - (will now shift to) Saturday mornings at 9:00 AM -- the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 until October. at the Opdahl property in Hurley, NY. **Contact:** Wally Cook at wally.cook@gmail.com.

NWA Crafters - Meets every Saturday and Tuesday, from 9:00 AM until noon at the NWA Learning Center located at 15 Solar Drive, Clifton Park, NY. The Crafters provide public service woodworking for various charitable organizations, including the Double H Hole in the Woods camp for children and the GE Toy Modifications Group, and the Make A Wish Foundation. Sharing information, fellowship, and relating experiences are a major part of these sessions. **Contact:** Wayne Distin at 518-674-4171 or wdistin@nycap.rr.com, Ken Evans at 518-753-7759 or kevans1@nycap.rr.com, or John Heimke at heimkj@sage.edu for more information.

The NWA Wood Carvers SIG - The NWA Wood Carvers SIG - Meet 1st, 3rd, 4th & 5th Thursdays 5:00-8:30 PM all year at the NWA Learning Center located at 15 Solar Drive, Clifton Park, NY. The goal is to promote the art of wood carving and to have a good time doing it. The only prerequisite is a desire to carve while making new friends. Wood, tools, and patterns are available. **Contact:** Diane Balch at 518-885-9899 or signs@balchsigns.com

Hand Tool SIG - Meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Herm Finkbeiner Education Center at 15 Solar Dr, Clifton Park, NY. **Contact:** Dave Parkis at 518-458-7242 for further details: dparkis@nycap.rr.com

Spindle and Pen Turners - Meets Mondays 5:30 PM - 8:45 PM. **Contact:** Pam Bucci at 518-429-6440 or woolglass2@gmail.com

CHAPTERS

NWA Mid-Hudson - The chapter meets at 7:30 PM 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:** Jim Lee, President - (845)382-6045 or dlee1963@aol.com

NWA Sacandaga - The chapter meets at 7:00 PM. on the Second Tuesday of each month from Sept through June. at 55 Second Avenue, Mayfield, NY. **Contact:** Gary Ratajczak, President at 518-852-1204 or info@sacandagawoodworkers.org