

WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern
Woodworkers
Association

March 2005, Vol. 14, Number 3

March Meeting

Let's Finish This Project!

Thursday, March 10th, 7 pm.

Shaker Heritage Society Meeting House
Albany-Shaker Road, Albany

- *Ken Evans*

Everything you ever wanted to know about finishing, but were afraid to ask...Jeff Jewitt, a nationally-known finishing expert, will offer NWA members a chance to learn all about finishes on March 10, 11, and 12, 2005.

Thursday, March 10 is the regular March meeting of NWA and the program is Jeff Jewitt talking about "Finishes and The Weather". On Friday the program will continue with Jeff addressing "Surface Preparation", and Saturday Jeff will finish with "Coloring Wood" and "Applying Top Coats". With all this information NWA members should have no problem finishing (or re-finishing) projects.

As a special feature of this weekend program, some NWA members will have a unique opportunity to explore Jeff's vast store of finishing knowledge at a special Lunch with Jeff Jewitt session to be held at The Butcher Block on Central Avenue in Albany on Friday from 12 to 2:00 pm.

The Thursday evening program is free, of course. The Friday and Saturday programs are by reservation and a \$25 registration fee is required, which covers the entire weekend except for lunch with Jeff on Friday.

Lunch with Jeff Jewitt on Friday is limited to the first 14 people to sign up and the cost is \$25.

For reservations for the Friday and Saturday sessions at Sears or for the lunch with Jeff Jewitt at The Butcher Block, contact John Michne at (518) 371-6690. Reservations should be made before March 1 for the luncheon.



Jeff Jewitt

The complete schedule for the weekend follows:

Thursday, March 10

7:00 pm, Shaker Meeting House
Finishes and the Weather

Friday, March 11

12:00 pm to 2:00 pm
Lunch with Jeff Jewitt

Friday, March 11

6:00 pm to 9:00 pm, Sears Colonie Center
"Surface Preparation"

Saturday, March 12

9:00 am to 12:00 pm, Sears Colonie Center
"Coloring Wood"

Lunch on your own

Saturday March 12

1:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Sears Colonie Center
"Applying Top Coats"

Woodturning Classes to Resume

- *Ken Evans*

Anyone interested in attending woodturning classes for beginners should contact me immediately to reserve a place. These classes have been held once or twice per year for the last ten years in my shop in Valley Falls, NY. They are offered through the Northeastern Woodworkers Association and the Adirondack Woodturners Association without charge to anyone interested in woodturning.

Classes meet once a month on the Tuesday before the regular Wednesday meeting of the Adirondack Woodturners Association. The first class is April 5, 2005. Class begins at 7:00 pm (students should arrive around 6:30 pm) and end at 9:00 pm. The course will last about 8 months.

The format is an informal discussion of all aspects of woodturning from first lathe to turning bowls and boxes.

Interested persons should call Ken Evans quickly at (518) 753-7759, since my shop only holds about 12 people. 🐼

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From the President

- Pat McCord

NWA NEEDS YOU!

2005 is turning out to be a busy year for NWA. The fourth Woodworking Weekend was held January 29-30 at the Empire State Plaza and was our most successful yet. The NWA Kids' Program has resumed and our first event, a pen turning session, was held at Sears February 12th with both sessions filled. Our premier event, *Showcase*, will be held April 2 - 3 in Saratoga. Workshops by Jeff Jewitt, noted finishing expert, and Clark Pell, NWA member and marquetry award winner, will be held in March and May, respectively. The annual workshop tour is scheduled for April. All of these events happen because many people work very hard (and a lot of us "grayheads" are getting tired!). You can make their jobs easier and help bring more events to your fellow NWA members by volunteering to work on one or more projects. Even a few hours can help. It's a great way to meet other members, share in the camaraderie of working together as a team and have a good time doing it. If you can spare some time to help out, please let me or any of the other officers know and we'll match you up with one of our activities that suits your interest.

Remember, NWA is your organization and our goal is to have programs that you want. So please think about volunteering to help us improve and increase our programs and events. 🐾

Fiske Fund Applications

- Charlie Goddard

The next deadline for Fiske Fund applications is April 30, 2005. There are many good woodworking courses to choose from and there is enough money in the Fund to support a number of grants. Information about available courses can be obtained from Bob Kehn (518) 861-6423. Also, much information is available on the internet. Simply search for "woodworking courses".

For those not familiar with the Fiske Fund, it was established with money raised from the sale of lumber and tools that Milan Fiske left to NWA upon his death in 1995. Milan was one of the original eight members of NWA and was very interested in education. Since that time, additional funds have been raised from contributions and from sales of donated lumber and tools. In the last few years the most significant source has been the annual lumber and tool auction held in the Shaker Heritage barn. To date, 37 grants have been awarded for a total of \$25,884.

Grants are available for anyone to attend courses that will enhance his/her woodworking skills. If you are interested in further information or would like a copy of the application form, contact any of the Fiske Fund Committee members ... Jim Hartlage, Bob Kehn, Mike Kross, Dave Lasinski or Charlie Goddard. 🐾

Lumber and Tool Auction

- Charlie Goddard

The next lumber and tool auction will be held in September, 2005. If you have lumber or woodworking tools that you would be willing to donate, give me a call. If you are not willing to donate the full value we can work out a way to share the proceeds. All donations are fully tax deductible.

For the next auction we have the remainder of the black walnut that we sawed from a tree that grew in a residential yard in Albany. Other lumber has been collected as well, but we need more wood and tools. 🐾

Jigs for SHOWCASE

While we have a good number of items all lined up, we still need additional jigs and fixtures for Showcase. If you have any you would like to display, please contact Joe Kennedy at (845) 473-1598 or email jkenn23333@aol.com. 🐾

Showcase 2005, April 2 & 3, 2005

City Center, Saratoga Springs

- *Charlie Goddard*

By the time you read this there will be only one month before the Show. Much work has been done, including:

- The lecture schedule has been completed (see the website for details).
- Speakers have been hired who will also serve as judges.
- Commercial space has been fully booked.
- The "Women in Woodworking" special exhibit is being organized, but we still need more of our women members to participate.
- Many measuring tools have been promised for the special exhibit.
- Hundreds of birdhouse kits have been made for the Toy Factory to give away.
- The professional Gallery will include spaces for our hired professionals.
- Posters and fliers have been distributed; other publicity has been arranged.
- The website (www.nwawoodworkingshow.org) is up and running.
- The jigs and fixtures exhibit will be given a new look by the Kingston group, who brought you the "Practical Workshop" last year.
- The raffle will include a 14" Delta bandsaw, a box donated by Joe Kennedy and two wagons made by Jay VanVranken.
- Ribbons and awards have been purchased. We have added a new judging category for Adirondack furniture and accessories.
- Potted plants and Oriental rugs have been located for the exhibit hall. This year the rugs will be loaned by Stickley on Wolf Road.
- Scrollers, carvers, turners and toymakers are ready.
- Education and members' booths are ready.
- Videographers are ready to assist with the lectures.

Volunteers Now we need volunteers to put all of this into motion. When you are called about being a volunteer I hope you will be willing to help out. Don't be shy about volunteering for more than one shift. If you have been called already and have volunteered your time, think about a second or third shift. If you have declined, please reconsider. Volunteering does not take much time, gives you free admission to the Show, makes you eligible for the volunteers' drawing and it is a good way to meet other NWA members.

Entries We also need entries for the exhibit hall. As I write this, only 3 entry forms have been submitted. **Please get your entry forms in as soon as possible.** You do not have to wait for the finish to dry before submitting the form. Preparing the labels for the exhibit hall is a big job and last minute entries make the label maker very unhappy. **Another copy of the entry form is included in this newsletter.**

Judging Items may be entered for judging. You may exhibit more than one item in a given category, but only one of them may be entered for judging. Again this year, items in the main exhibit hall will not be judged against items in the professional Gallery. Items in the Gallery will be judged separately. 🐾

Surplus Abrasives Available at Reduced Prices

- *Pat McCord*

Space consolidation at Sager Spuck Supply in Albany has resulted in a surplus of a wide variety of abrasive materials that they are anxious to sell at reduced prices to make room for other inventory. If you are interested, please call John at 436-4711 for details. 🐾

Where all men think alike, no one thinks very much.

Walter Lippman

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 a Macintosh G4, duplicated by Shipmates, and mailed to more than 850 addresses.



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in early April.

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NWA maintains two websites,
the first noted here
operates continuously.
We also offer selected
links to other sites of interest
to our membership.
Webmaster - Justin Rohrer
rohrej@nycap.rr.com

The second site operates from
January 1 to May 30
and carries specific
information about SHOWCASE.



**NORTHEASTERN
WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION**
P.O. BOX 246
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A Simple Workbench Light

- *Charlie Goddard*

Study lamps used by many college students make excellent workbench lights. When used as a study lamp, the base is simply clamped to the overhang on the edge of a desk (without marring the exquisite finish on the dorm furniture, of course). Then the shaft at the bottom of the lamp is inserted into the hole in the base. This allows the lamp to swing to wherever the light is needed.



These lamps are readily available at garage sales and flea markets for very little money. If the switch does not work it can be replaced easily. Throw away the base and make a new one that will slip into the dog holes in your workbench. This T-shaped base is easy to turn on a lathe (even by flat-boarders). If the dog holes in your bench are round or square, turn the bottom diameter slightly smaller than the dog hole diameter (or length of a side of the square) so the base will rotate freely. Bore a center

hole in the new base to receive the shaft from the lamp. This hole should be snug so that the base will not fall off when the lamp is moved to a different location on the bench.

If the dog holes in your bench are rectangular, a new rectangular base can be made, but the hole for the shaft from the lamp should allow the lamp to rotate freely. When moving the lamp from one location to another, hold onto the base so it doesn't drop off and get lost in the woodchips, sawdust, spider webs and other items that reside under most benches. 🐀

Cabinetmaking Course for Beginner to Intermediate

- *Ken Evans*

Hal Bigelow is offering his beginner to intermediate cabinetmaking course this spring. The course will cover the essentials of cabinetmaking, including design; carcass, door, and drawer construction; and finishing. The course will be 6 two-hour classes on Saturday mornings at 9:00am. The dates will be April 9, 16, 23, and May 7, 14, 21. This will be a demonstration course. Students will not be constructing any pieces.

Hal Bigelow has been a professional cabinetmaker for 30 years. In the Shaker tradition, his very practical approach to woodworking focuses on good design and simple, effective joinery. The class will be held in Hal's shop located on State Rt. 32 about two miles north of the Saratoga Battlefield. For questions and directions call Hal at (518) 587-3847. The cost to students for the course will be \$75. 🐀

Birdhouse Production

- *Herm Finkbeiner*

As everyone knows, the Toy Factory give-away for this year's show is a birdhouse kit which the young visitors to the show will either assemble at a workbench next to the Toy Factory or take home to be assembled later.

Jay VanVranken claims that at least 400 are needed for the show.

A group of members have been getting together at Jim Kennedy's shop on Saturday mornings to make kits. There have been more than a dozen members involved and thus far 120 kits have been completed.

If you are interested in joining this august group call me at (518) 371-9145 or send an email to hfinkbei@nycap.rr.com 🐀



What is wrong with the workshop in this photo?

New Members

- *Austin Spang*

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to NWA:

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|----|
| Tom Anderson | Lake Luzerne | NY |
| Len Berube | Glenville | NY |
| Kathy Blackwell | Mechanicville | NY |
| Tony Blake | Albany | NY |
| Corey Bufi | Troy | NY |
| Scott and Beth Carpenter | Northville | NY |
| Glenn Cullen | Middle Grove | NY |
| Joe DeJulio | Albany | NY |
| Melissa and Tara Devine | Cambridge | NY |
| Dick Dillon | West Hurley | NY |
| Cliff Dunworth | Poestenkill | NY |
| Lou Flanigan | Gloversville | NY |
| Chris Gierloff | Rhinbeck | NY |
| Amy Hancoski and Justin Vlietstra | Rochester | NY |
| Sue Jordan | Voorheesville | NY |
| Bruce Levett | Lake Luzerne | NY |
| Al McNamara | Delmar | NY |
| Wayne Mengel | Hurley | NY |
| Frank Murphy | Amsterdam | NY |
| Thomas Older | Albany | NY |
| Dave and Chris Otto | Ballston Spa | NY |
| Beth Rowland and Ann Marie Mills | Oneonta | NY |
| Tony Russo | Cohoes | NY |
| David, Dayton and Mariel Rutkowski | Catskill | NY |
| Paul Steinkamp | Altamont | NY |
| Mark Van Demark | Rhinebeck | NY |
| Don Wilson | Broadalbin | NY |
| John Zukowski | Valatie | NY |

We hope they enjoy being a member and participating in the activities of NWA

Woodworking Weekend 2005

- *Joe Piccolino*

NWA's Woodworking Weekend took place January 29 and 30, 2005 at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center. This was our first time at the Center and we used the space to full capacity.

Over 100 persons attended sessions covering a huge array of woodworking topics. All levels of expertise were represented along with a vendor's area with numerous demos and great tools for sale. Our thanks to Ken Evans and Pat McCord and the many volunteers who gave much time and talent to make the weekend a success. Many great door prizes were also awarded including a beautiful Delta Chop Saw from Woodcraft won by one lucky attendee.

The committee soon will begin to plan our event for next year. We want this to be a weekend that many more of you will enjoy, so please take a moment to email a note to me (joseph.piccolino@rcda.org) on what kind of presentations/activities you would like in the future. I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you in one of these pictures next year. 📷

Women Woodworkers Needed

- *Hal Bigelow*

This year NWA is having a special exhibit at *Showcase* entitled "Women in Woodworking". I am organizing the exhibit and would like to invite women woodworkers to submit a piece for display. The attendance is about 6,000 for the weekend and will represent a significant exposure of your work. Entries should include a brief bio about yourself, a blurb on your approach to woodworking and a photo of yourself. This material should fit into a 5" x 7" format. Digital would be nice.

Shipping and insurance costs both ways will be paid for by NWA, with the exception of the crating which would be provided by you. I'm guessing that any pieces larger than items accepted by UPS or Fedex would need to be hand delivered, but if there is an affordable (and safe) option out there, by all means let me know. You are invited to attend the *Showcase* and would receive a couple of complimentary tickets. The *Showcase* this year is on April 2 and 3 in Saratoga Springs, NY. There are some very expert speakers giving lectures on lots of topics.

Please give me a call soon at (518) 587-3847 or email at hbigelow@nycap.rr.com if you'd like to participate or if you have any questions. I would appreciate any suggestions of other women woodworkers that you think might be interested. 📷





invites all New England Guild members to the

New England Joinery Symposium

Saturday, April 9th Pinkerton Academy, Derry, NH

Come join us for an inspiring day of hands-on presentations!

13 accomplished professionals will each present for 90 minutes:

Phil Lowe – complex joinery
Allen Breed – hand cut dovetails
Tom McLaughlin – chair joinery
Will Neptune – traditional carcass joinery
Paul Ruhlmann – rustic joinery
Brian Sargent – joinery in nontraditional materials
Terry Moore – drawer construction
David Lamb – curved surface joinery
Dan Faia – thru tenon joinery
Matt Wajda – machine mortise and tenon
Bob Lacivita – fixtures for multiples
Jim Blauvelt – Japanese joinery
Christian Becksvoort – sliding tapered dovetails

There will be three sessions (9-10:30am, 11-12:30pm, 1:30-3:00pm)
All sessions will be videotaped and tapes will be available for purchase by order form.

Come at 8:30am for introductions and orientation.
Bring a lunch (it is possible to go out for lunch, but you'll miss the chance to chat!)

There is no admission charged in keeping with the Guild's mission of education.
Donations will be accepted at the door.

For directions and other questions check the Guild's website www.GNHW.org

SHOWCASE 2005 RULES AND ENTRY FORM

ENTRY CATEGORIES

Adirondack furniture and accessories (new category)
Furniture: tables, beds
Furniture: cases, cabinets, desks
Furniture: chairs
Accessories: clocks, boxes, desk top pieces
Toys/Miniatures: play things, models
Turning: spindle
Turning: faceplate or chuck
Turning: segmented
Carving: representational, conceptual, decorative
Inlay, Intarsia, Marquetry
Scroll sawing
Novice: any piece crafted by a novice.
Other: fixtures, shop equipment, cooperage, musical instruments, any piece not fitting into the above categories.

*AWARDS

Peoples Choice - One, any entry.
Best of Show - One, any entry.
First Place - Blue, one each category.
Second Place - Red, one each category.
Third Place - White, one each category.
Honorable Mention - Judges' discretion, any entry.
*At the discretion of the judges, some awards may not be given.

ENTRY RULES

All exhibit items MUST be delivered to the City Center no later than 7:30 PM, Friday, April 1st
Exhibits will not be accepted Saturday morning.
Exhibits ARE NOT to be removed from the floor before 5pm Sunday.
Exhibits must be picked up between 5 & 7 pm, Sunday, April 3rd
You may exhibit any number of pieces, but only one piece may be entered for judging per category.
Entrants may enter more than one category.
Entry forms must include title (if applicable) and description of materials.
Award winning pieces from previous Showcase events 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 and the committee reserve the right to re-categorize an entry to ensure that all entries are judged.
Woodworkers may enter as novices as often as they wish until age 16. At age 16 and older, only beginning woodworkers may enter as a novice, and may enter as a novice only one year.
The exhibit hall is not a commercial area, no price tags or literature other than small business cards will be allowed.
Other than brief periods, you may not remain with your exhibit(s) during show hours.
Decisions of the judges are final.
NOTE: The entries in the hotel gallery area (Professionals) will be judged separately from the exhibit hall, except for "Best of Show" and "Peoples Choice".

EXHIBIT ENTRY FORM: NWA SHOWCASE 2005, APRIL 2-3

ENTRY DEADLINE: March 24, 2005

PLEASE FILL IN THE FOLLOWING FORM COMPLETELY.

NOTE: DISPLAY LABELS ARE MADE IN ADVANCE USING THE INFORMATION YOU PROVIDE.

THOSE LABELS WILL BE WAITING FOR YOU WHEN YOU BRING IN YOUR ENTRIES.

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

Member: ___Yes___No Fee: \$10 per entrant (no fee for members) \$____(Office use only)

| ENTRY CATEGORY (State category, give brief description of your item, list types of woods and finish used) | For Judging (only one per category) | For Display Only (unlimited - as space allows) | Display Preferences (Floor or Table) | Space Needed (Square feet) |
|--|--|---|---|-------------------------------|
| Example: Adirondack Furniture. Table. White and yellow birch, tiger maple. Lacquer. | X | | Floor | 18 |
| Example: Accessory. Jewelry box. Cocobolo. Poly. | | X | Table | 2 |
| Example: Novice. Book shelf. Walnut. Shellac. | X | | Floor | 4 |
| #1 | | | | |
| #2 | | | | |
| #3 | | | | |
| #4 | | | | |
| #5 | | | | |
| #6 | | | | |
| #7 | | | | |

Wood of the Month^{©2005}

- Ron DeWitt

Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*).

A Hardwood Aceraceae; Maple Family

The maples of the world number about 120 species; 14 of them are common to North America. The commercial value of the maples is considered to be equivalent to that of the almost 500 species of the world's oaks. Most important of the maples is the sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), also called hard maple or rock maple, valuable for its furniture and bowling pin wood as well as its maple products. Range of the sugar maple extends across eastern Canada and from Maine to Minnesota and south into Indiana and West Virginia.

March is the season for maple syrup, the most notable of maple products. This article will review the production and attributes of maple syrup, America's oldest agricultural commodity and the first agricultural crop of the season in the northeast.

A few drops of sap from a broken branch over the driveway, about the same time we hear the trills of the first red-winged blackbird, is our usual signal for the beginning of maple season. "Sugaring" is a rite of spring, the first respite from winter's cabin fever. About this time of year we get impatient for the big dose of fresh air and exercise that goes with the process.

Our operation is quite small compared to the serious maple producers. It takes about a day to set up our 2' x 3' evaporator in the sap house, a 10' addition to the old cow barn. Small as it is, it does provide a very cozy shelter from the inevitable wind, rain, snow and sleet of early spring. It also provides easy access to the full cord of dry hardwood required to produce the 20 gallons of syrup we try for each year.

Weather is key to maple syrup making. Tapping too early results in holes drying off; too late and we miss the best quality sap. We use a hand brace with a 7/16" drill to tap an assortment of our sugar maples and an occasional black maple (*Acer nigrum*). A tree 10" in diameter gets one tap while the 5' diameter monarchs in the yard can handle about 5 taps, roughly a tap per foot of diameter. Any maple produces sugar-bearing sap but we don't bother with the soft or red maples, silver maples or the boxelders because of their low sugar content.

A few guidelines are useful when tapping. Trees with large open crowns produce best. Taps are placed low on the tree; two to three feet above the ground depending on snow cover. South and west sides of trees flow earlier and heavier; "east is least." A tap over a large root or under a big branch does especially well. Previous tap holes are to be avoided--by four inches side to side and twelve inches above or below. This can be quite a challenge on mature trees with dozens of old hole scars.

A three-inch-deep hole, drilled slightly upward should remove a couple inches of wet, creamy-white sapwood to produce good flow. If the drill produces only dry brown chips we forget that hole and make another. On a sunny 40 degree F day sap will flow immediately, almost gushing, which helps flush the hole clear of chips. (Sap pressure has been measured as high as 20 psi in fresh holes.) Heaviest

flow will usually occur on a sunny 40 degree day after a 25 degree night.

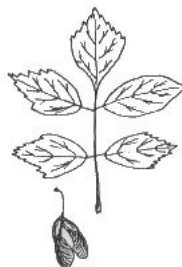
Sugar content of sap is quite variable from tree to tree, ranging from 1 % to 10 % *. In the early part of the season trees may produce about 4 % sugar but this soon drops to a seasonal average of about 2 % . Sugar content in a tree also varies with time of day, from day to day or especially with weather changes.



Red Maple



Silver Maple



Box Elder



Sugar Maple

A sap hydrometer gives a good indicator of boiling requirements. An old standard "magic number" of 86 is used--the percentage of sugar solids, on a weight/volume basis, in finished syrup. Sap of 2 % sugar requires about 43 gallons of sap for a gallon of syrup. Only about 21.5 gallons of 4 % sap will yield the same gallon of syrup. Sap of 1.5 % or less is not worth boiling.

On a general basis the longer the boil the darker and more flavorful the syrup, so the higher sugar concentrations in sap produce lighter grades (lighter color) of syrup. Syrup produced later in the season is usually darker.

The sap contains numerous biochemicals, not all of which have been identified. Sucrose is the major sugar constituent of sap solids, at 98 to 99.9 %. But sugar alone would not support growth of the tree. It is the small percentage of amino acids (19 identified), organic acids, phenolic compounds, hormones, minerals (10 identified), salts and other compounds in the sap that are responsible for establishing growth. During the boiling process various sap compounds precipitate out into the bottom of the pan as "sugar sand" or niter, a sludge of calcium oxalate.

When the hole is washed clean of chips the tap or spout is driven lightly in, firmly enough to seal the hole but not hard enough to split the tree--surprisingly easy to do to a frozen tree. Early Americans, who learned sugaring from Native Americans, whittled spouts of sumac sticks after pushing the pith out with a sharp probe.

A 16-quart bucket is hung from the spout and a weather lid is set. An average day will yield one to three gallons of sap per tap although several of our trees may occasionally overflow their buckets. (A heavily tapped tree only gives up about 20 % of its available

sap.) We usually set out about 60 buckets on 30 trees to finish that job.

I made Judy a nice form-fitting basswood shoulder yoke so she can carry a pair of five gallon collecting pails. We collect daily, if it runs, to get the sap quickly into the cool of the storage tank in the barn. This helps avoid bacterial action that seems to begin at about 40 degrees and can

Continued on page 11

CHAPTER NEWS

Mid-Hudson Chapter January Meeting...(Joels R Us)

- Wally Cook

(Please note: the following article makes numerous references to individuals with the name of "Joe". One might conclude that most everyone in the Mid-Hudson Chapter is named "Joe". In fact, an independent survey has indicated that this is almost true! So if you are named "Joe" and have been feeling lonely, please contact the Mid-Hudson Chapter; we meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month).

Items Needed for Showcase: Joe Kennedy presented the current outline for the Jigs and Fixtures booth at Showcase 2005. He thanked **Warren Cutlery** in Rhinebeck for making several tools available for use at Showcase. However, additional items are needed for the display. If anyone would like to loan an especially interesting jig or fixture for use in the show, please contact Joe at JKenn23333@aol.com.

Shop Tour: Joe Mikesh reported on the latest shop tour concluded by Joe Benkert and other members of the Mid-Hudson chapter to Joe Kennedy's abode at Red Oak Mills. Joe completed several international assignments during his career as an IBM attorney, notably in the Asia Pacific region. As a consequence, Joe has incorporated some architectural elements from Bali into his woodworking shop. Note the authentic Balinese doorway (inset picture).

Joe specializes in hand-cut dovetail joinery which is applied to construction of jewelry boxes and workbenches finished in exotic woods. The latter are created for use as coffee tables (one appeared in a Saratoga newspaper article covering Showcase 2004).

In addition to many hand tools intended for fine sawing and smoothing, Joe demonstrated several machine tools by INCA. These European tools tend to be compact and have interesting features; e.g., the table saw is equipped with a horizontal mortising attachment and the jointer/planer includes a European style guard which makes face planing easier and safer. Contact Joe with any questions about these products.

Winners: Four lucky members won tickets to the NWA Woodworking

Weekend in our January drawing. The winners were Joe Kelly, Joe Kennedy and two people with unlikely names such as Dave and John (that is, Dave Giles and John Grossbohlín). Congratulations to the winners and many thanks to the NWA parent organization for providing the tickets!



Kennedy discusses need for precision in Dovetail projects. Joe Kelly looks on.



Joe with dovetailed work bench in process

Natural edge walnut bowl by Win Crans

Wood of the Month

Continued from page 9

spoil sap. Heavy snow and snowshoes make the job more difficult.

On cold nights water tends to separate from the sap and freeze first. Unless temperatures get very low, sugar content can be concentrated by draining and removing ice from buckets before it remelts. Every little bit helps.

A trickle of sap from the reservoir is set to maintain about an inch of sap in the pan on the arch, as soon as the fire gets a rolling boil in the pan. Wood is added every five minutes. First syrup is ready to draw in an hour and thereafter we expect to draw off a quart an hour. Our best days produce nearly three gallons of liquid gold (and more than a little envy of the commercial operations that make four to ten gallons an hour).

We use a syrup hydrometer to accurately finish syrup to the final temperature (7.5 degrees above the boiling point of water that day) on the kitchen stove. This also makes it easier to do the final filtering. Syrup goes in the cans and is sealed at about 200 degrees. Syrup can be preserved indefinitely if kept sealed and in a cool, dark place or if refrigerated after being opened.

The maple season may extend from late February into April and is wholly weather dependent. Although sap flows most of the year, sugar flavor and content is best in early spring. Syrup flavor becomes unpleasant with a "buddy" taste after a few consecutive warm days and nights cause the tree buds to begin to swell.

We're usually a bit relieved when the season is over in spite of facing a big cleanup job. We often breakfast in the sap house while boiling and the first picnic lunches of the year are there. Social life begins anew as friends and neighbors drop in. And it's great having a cabinet full of syrup packed away in the cellar.

Judy uses lots of syrup as a sweetener in cooking. It also goes well over ice cream with walnuts or butternuts and on fresh strawberries or peaches. In calories it runs 80 to the ounce, about the same as honey or molasses. In fact maple syrup and honey are the only natural sweeteners containing phosphates, helpful in maintaining bone density. Other maple goodies are produced by continuing to boil syrup; maple cream and maple butter begin with syrup at 238 degrees, maple sugar at 248 degrees, and granulated sugar at 259 degrees.

In contrast to our little operation, commercial producers may tap with power drills and set plastic spouts piped to holding tanks with plastic tubing. Flow is

encouraged by pulling a vacuum on their pipelines. They may also filter through reverse osmosis units to remove about half the water. All of this is controlled by sophisticated computers assuring correct sap and fuel flow, syrup draw and temperature in a continuous round-the-clock operation. That doesn't seem like as much fun to us, but then our neighbor did make 2600 gallons of syrup last year, to our 21 gallons.

New England is the primary source for maple syrup in the U.S. New York State, with about 210,000 gallons, is third in production behind Vermont and Maine. Total annual U.S. production is about a million and a quarter gallons, or about half of Canada's crop. Of special note was the 1860 season when U.S. production hit a high of 4,200,000 gallons--a year of record high sugar cane prices.

The production of syrup from maple trees is a fascinating process. This is the season to visit a sap house in your area for an educational afternoon of fun. Enjoy another of the wonders of trees.

**The maple research station in Lake Placid, N.Y. operated by Cornell University, is currently developing a maple plantation of 10% trees by cloning selected high sugar trees.*



Wood Definition

- Ron DeWitt

Bumper tree - A standing tree, selected in the woods or along a skid road, against which logs were dragged to turn or straighten them as they were moved to the landing. These were sacrifice trees because the bark was scraped off in the process.

Wood Questions

Q. Black walnut has always been a popular furniture wood in the U.S. What common household device used most of the black walnut milled in this country in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries?

A. The sewing machine--table, drawers, trim and later the cabinet.

When you don't know what you're talking about it's hard to know when you're finished.

Tommy Smothers

NWA Kids' Program Hosts Successful Pen Turning Classes

- *Bill Van Brunt*

Thanks to Jack Teffenhart and seven volunteers from the Adirondack Woodturners Association (AWA), the pen turning classes on Saturday, February 12, 2005 were a resounding success. Fourteen kids, many children or grandchildren of NWA members, had a great time turning pens. Smiles were the facial expressions of the day as the kids were thrilled to have completed a pen after starting with square pen blanks.

Each class started with Jack captivating the kids as he provided instruction while simultaneously turning a pen. All eyes were on Jack as he mixed instruction on lathe safety with how to use a roughing gouge. After demonstrating turning, sanding and applying the finish, Jack moved on to assembling the pen.

After Jack's instruction and demonstration, the kids picked out their pen blanks and pen kits and charged to the lathes to meet their personal instructors. Very quickly chips were flying and square pen blanks were turned round. As they progressed in the turning process, each participant selected and turned the shape they wanted for their pen. It was very interesting to see each child put their personality into their pens. What vision and imagination they used!

The volunteers, who worked one on one with each child, also had a great time sharing their knowledge and love of turning. Each provided moral and hands-on support with great success. Every child completed at least one pen, with several turning two.

In addition to the children, we also had a couple of adults who came as observers and ended up as active participants. One of the



Jack Teffenhart with the successful morning class of Christian Beck, Michael Wasiczko, Heather Ault, Nathan Roher, Rachel Suitor, Sarah Goldberg and Dan Goldberg



Jack Teffenhart and Rebecca Bablin



Rachel Suitor, daughter of NWA member Jeff Suitor

observers, Kevin Courter, Esteemed Leading Knight of the Colonie Elks Lodge, was so impressed with the class that he gave AWA a donation to help cover the cost of the materials.

I want to thank the following AWA volunteers who made the class a success:

Jack Teffenhart (instructor and inspiration), John McDonald, Don Orr, Bill Storz, Louie Andrews, Dave Jarose and Frank Frazer.

The next class in the new NWA Kids' Woodworking Program will be on Saturday, March 19 at the Shaker Meeting House where NWA holds its meetings. The project will be a Shaker peg rack. To ensure this class has the same success as the pen turning, we need six to eight volunteers to assist the kids in making these projects. If you are interested in helping, please call me at (518) 767-3060 or send email to wvanbrun@nycap.rr.com. 🐾

Logs at the Sawmill

– Herm Finkbeiner

Either when having logs cut in a woodlot or when looking for boards in the lumber yard, there is a particular terminology that comes into play, that is, how the log is to be cut or how it was cut.

There are three frequently-used techniques for cutting logs (more if you count the variations), (a) plain sawn, through and through, (b) plain sawn, round and round, and (c) quarter sawn. (Flat sawn is the same as plain sawn except that it applies to softwoods for reasons obscure to me.)

These methods exist for several reasons. First is economy. *Plain sawn*, through and through, nominally produces the least amount of waste and requires the least amount of saw time. *Quarter sawn* produces the wood with the most desirable physical characteristics. Plain sawn, *round and round*, is usually chosen when there are significant defects at the center of the log such as rot, major checking, growth ring separation, or a concentration of knots.

So given all these words, what is actually done is this.

Plain sawn, *through and through*.

Figure 1 shows the cutting diagram for log that is to be cut *through and through*.

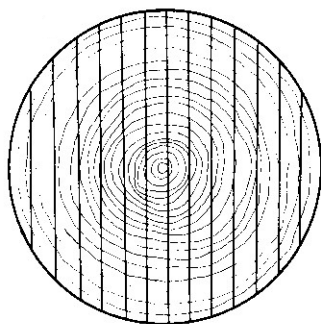


Figure 1

The log is mounted on the saw and repeated cuts are made as the log is moved to a new position. (On a portable bandsaw mill the cutter head is moved rather than the log, but the cutting plan is the same.) In actual practice the sawyer is likely to rotate the log 90° after the first cut or two (or 180° in the case of a portable band-mill).

Plain sawn, *round and round*

Figure 2 is the cutting diagram for log that is to be plain sawn, *round and round*.

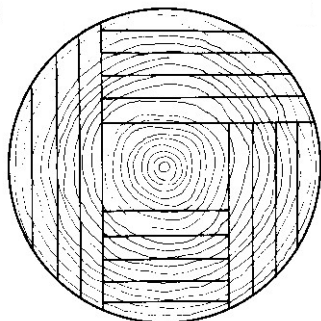


Figure 2

As in the case of *through and through* the log is mounted on the saw and repeated cuts are made until reaching the part of the log where the curvature of the annual rings is very pronounced. The log is then rotated 90° and the process is repeated until all of the most desirable wood has been harvested.

Quarter sawn

Figure 3 shows a cutting diagram for producing *quarter sawn* lumber.

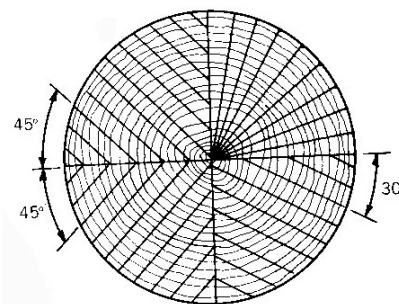


Figure 3

The objective in quarter sawing is to produce as much edge grain as possible. A number of variations are used, the three most common illustrated in Figure 2. In every case the log is first quartered. In method A the quarter is mounted on the saw with the face of the quarter at 45° to the saw. Method B mounts the log quarter at 30° whereas in method C every cut goes through the point center of the log. Method C produces true *quarter sawn* boards, the growth rings are at an angle of 60-90° to the surface of the board. In both method A and method B, the growth rings are at an angle of 30-60° relative to the wide face of the board. These boards are sometimes identified as *rift sawn*.

In plain sawn lumber the angle of the growth rings to the wide surface of the board is between 0° and 45°. As a result the surface displays the wide figure patterns shown in Figure 4.

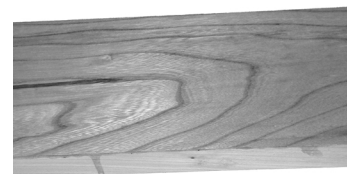


Figure 4 Plain sawn oak

In contrast, quarter sawn lumber has a very regular figure (as shown in Figure 5). For many species the quarter sawn figure is much less overpowering, showing more or less straight lines, the edges of the growth rings. Frequently, as in the case of oak, quarter sawing shows a very attractive ray fleck pattern.

Quarter sawn lumber has a number of physical advantages that make it preferred for some applications. Cupping and twisting are minimized, Seasonal changes are much smaller than with plain sawn lumber. Sapwood on a given

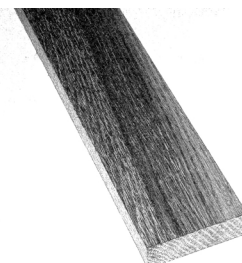


Figure 5 Quarter sawn oak

board is only as extensive as it was in the actual log and is confined to one edge of the board. In some species finishes are more uniform and easier to apply.

While quarter sawn lumber is more expensive if specifically milled for that objective, a close look at the cutting plan for plain sawing shows that even when a log is cut through and through some quarter sawn boards will be produced. Therefore diligent hunting through a stack at the lumber yard will almost always find a few quarter sawn boards. (Unless, of course, there have been other hunters there before you.)

Kaatskill Woodturners Meeting

- *Wally Cook*

At the regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, February 9, Stan Rosenberg continued his pre-meeting series on sharpening lathe tools. In this session, Stan focused on three common cutting edges for lathe gouges... the side grind (also known as the Irish or Celtic grind), the Ellsworth grind, and the classic bowl gouge. He demonstrated the proper grinding techniques using homemade jigs, then followed up with a demonstration of each tool on the lathe.



Stan demonstrates jig for performing an Ellsworth grind

The main program featured Joe Mikesh on the fundamentals of turning a bowl using a bowl gouge. Joe stressed the importance of bowl gouge mastery before attempting the use of other grinds.

Joe explained and demonstrated the proper method of mounting a bowl blank on a screw chuck. The first operation is to establish the exterior shape of the bowl. The foot of the bowl was pointed out as an important aspect of the bowl for two reasons. First, the foot must be shaped so that the bowl can be reverse mounted (that is – to remove the bowl from the screw chuck, then mount the bowl in the chuck jaws by the foot in order to hollow the interior).

The second reason is that the foot will greatly enhance or subtract from the overall appearance of the finished bowl. It



Creating the foot



Joe Mikesh shaping the exterior of the bowl

is therefore important that the turner add a little detail to the foot to enhance the vessel.

After reverse mounting the bowl, Joe hollowed out the interior and completed the bowl. He concluded his demonstration by recommending that the bowl be completed in one session to avoid distortion as the wood moves in the drying process; if left too long, the bowl may become impossible to “retool”. 🐼

NWA again offers to subsidize woodworking classes by NWA members

- *Ken Evans*

Alden Witham will offer a Shaker chair-making class on April 23 and 24 at his shop. You will produce a Shaker chair using hand tools. The process will include water soaking and steam bending of wood. The Class is \$250 for the two 8:00 am to 5:00 pm days of woodworking. Students should plan to bring their own lunch both days. NWA will subsidize the cost of these sessions at \$75. If interested, please call Ken Evans at (518) 753-7759. Registration in these classes is limited to 7 students.

Alden Witham will offer a Palantine German Traditional Dumbhead Shaving Horse construction course on May 21 and 22 at his shop in Sharon Springs, NY. The cost of the course is \$285 and registration is limited to 7 students. NWA will subsidize this course at \$75. Students should plan to bring their own lunch each day, which will begin at 8:00 am and continue until 5:00 pm. Interested NWA members should contact Ken Evans. 🐼

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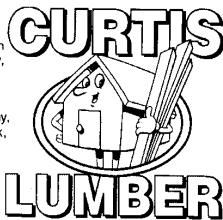
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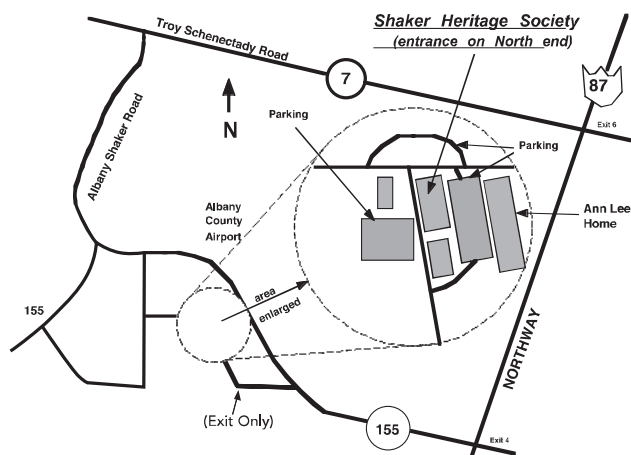
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Northeastern Woodworkers Association
P.O. Box 246
Rexford, New York 12148-0246



NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, March 10th, 7 pm.
Shaker Heritage Society Meeting House
Albany-Shaker Road, Albany
(near Albany airport)

GENERAL MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

NWA Program Schedule – 2004-2005

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| March 10, 2005 | “Finishing” with Jeff Jewett Shaker Meeting House |
| March 11-12, 2005 | Jeff Jewett Workshop |
| April 2-3, 2005 | NWA Showcase 2005 Saratoga Springs City Center |
| April 21, 2005 | “Turning” Shaker Meeting House |
| April, 2005 | Workshop Tours Dates and Locations to be Announced |
| May 12, 2005 | “Double Bevel Marquetry” - Clark Pell Shaker Meeting House |
| May 14, 2005 | Marquetry Workshop – Clark Pell Sears |

For meeting cancellation information,
call Pat McCord 439-1232,
John Michne 371-6690
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. Saturday “Learn and Turn” sessions are also scheduled. www.adirondackwoodturners.org
Contact: Ken Evans, 753-7759 or Kevans1@nycap.rr.com

Carver's Guild - meets 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at the Clifton Park Senior Center from 6:30 pm to 9:00 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 the third Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. at Woodcraft, Latham. Contact Will Charbonneau, 371-3709 or wcharbol@nycap.rr.com

CHAPTERS

NWA Mid-Hudson - The chapter meets at 7:30 p.m. on the third Thursday, except July and August, at the Central Hudson Electric Company Community Center, Route 28, Kingston. Contact: Joe Mikesch, (845) 687-4285

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.