

# WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern  
Woodworkers  
Association

May 2008, Vol. 17, Number 5

## May Meeting

*Thursday, May 8, 2008, 7:00 pm*  
*Shaker Heritage Society Meeting House*  
*Albany-Shaker Road, Albany*

## Mid Hudson Chapter "Show and Tell"

*By Joe Kennedy*

The featured presentations at the May 2008 meeting will be from our Mid-Hudson Chapter.

So far the scheduled presentations will be:

Bill Fiederlein	- Router Circle Jigs
Matt Clarke	- Laser Light Guides for Turners
Joe Kirk	- Cardboard Chairs
Joe Benkert	- Bandsaw Circle Jigs
Joe Kennedy	- The Festool Domino

We may have additional presenters at the time of the meeting. The format will be in the "Show and Tell" structure just like last year's May meeting. It will be another very interesting and entertaining event. We look forward to your attendance and participation. 🐼

## Follow Up to March Presentation

*By Fred Roe*

I'm writing you as I have two items to pass along regarding the March meeting presentation on instruments.

The first is that I was the source of the Ukulele kit that Pete showed. As I'm a big proponent of getting kids involved in wood working I think that sort of kit is an excellent way for an adult and a child to work together to make something that is useful. Woodworking grandfathers with grandchildren make a great team!

The kit I had was obtained from Grizzley.com. FYI, the recent PBS documentary on Pete Seeger said he got his musical start with a Uke!

The second item is that located in Poughkeepsie (where I live) is the Violin Society of America, a fact I believe to not be well known, from their web site ([www.vsa.to](http://www.vsa.to)): Founded in 1973, the Violin Society of America is a non-profit organization created for the purpose of promoting the art and science of making, repairing and preserving stringed musical instruments and their bows.

## Showcase 2008

*By Ken Evans*  
*- Showcase Chairman 2008*

Showcase is intended to be an educational event wrapped around a Fine Woodworking Show aimed at and for the benefit of the general public. Showcase 2008 is now about one month past, and it appears that it was by all data collected from attendees, vendors, volunteers, and planners, a wonderful event. Everyone at the two day show just seemed to be having a good time learning about woodworking while enjoying the exhibits, demonstrations, classes, vendors, people, and the smell of woodworking in the air. So, I guess we better do it again next year. Mark your calendar for the 18th Showcase weekend of March 28 and 29, 2009.

This was my first year as Showcase Chairman, and although I have worked at Showcase for about 11 years, this year presented a steep learning curve for me as I realized the many aspects of Showcase which had escaped my attention in past years.

I have always believed that Clubs of any kind, NWA being no exception, are about PEOPLE more than the events within the club. As an event under the umbrella of NWA, Showcase is really about the people. The **people who attend**, the **people who demonstrate**, the **people who exhibit**, the **people who teach**, the **people who purchase vendor booths**, the many **people of NWA who volunteer**, and the **people who plan** the event all make Showcase possible and the great event that it has become. I hope you enjoy the people as much as I enjoy each of you.

A huge thank you to all those people mentioned above, but most importantly to the many NWA members who volunteer to help with the many aspects of the show. To you I offer the thanks of NWA and my personal thank you.

To Pete Howe, our current NWA president, I extend my sincere THANKS for enduring my many questions and all those daily phone calls.

In twelve months, NWA will gather all these people together again in Saratoga Springs for SHOWCASE 2009. Let's all be one of the PEOPLE who gets involved with this terrific event which brings together so many wonderful people!

**Check out Showcase Photos  
on Pages 4 & 5**

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# Electronic Newsletters

*By Susan Howe*

On December 3, 2007 an email blast was sent to members of NWA having an email address. A question was asked, "Would you, as an NWA member, like to have the option of receiving the monthly newsletter electronically?" The question was intended to determine if you would be satisfied with an electronic only newsletter.

At that time the number of email addresses listed was 421 in a total membership of 682. From December 3, 2007 to January 2, 2008 we received 152 responses. That is about 36 % of those surveyed and about 22 % of total membership.

The survey results were as follows:

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't Object but...</u>	<u>Either/Or</u>
91	47	10	4

After some discussion at the February Board meeting there was no resolution to this question on a larger basis. However, it was noted that the NWA newsletters are, and have been, available on the NWA website, [www.woodworker.org](http://www.woodworker.org). Anyone who wishes to do so can read and print the current monthly newsletter along with referencing issues going back as far as January 2003. Thank you to all who responded with either a short and sweet "YES" or "NO" and to those who stated their case with vigor. 🐾

# The Fiske Scholarship Fund

*By Joe Kennedy*

We are currently processing the three applications I mentioned last month. I have several additional applications that came in before the end of March, but had to be sent back for rewrite. Nobody wants to make it difficult for you to obtain a grant, but you must understand that we need a clear and complete application before we can evaluate it. If you don't submit a clear and complete application, we simply can't address it. Also, if you submit an application that looks like you don't care, you make it difficult to expect anyone else to care.

The current one page application form has been successfully used by most members for many years. However, I have noticed that some people don't read the instructions closely. In the near future we will redo the application form to help ensure that everyone who applies understands everything that is required.

Again, you can find the application on our website: [www.woodworker.org](http://www.woodworker.org). 🐾

# Safety Message

*By Ray Gannon*

Safety is an individual's attitude that may at times get lost in our busy environments. Can you remember our grandparents telling us about keeping a keen edge? Well then, here is a gentle reminder!

A Dull knife is one of the most useless and frustrating tools in your shop and the field. Since you cannot control the cutting action of a dull knife, you are just as likely to cut yourself as what you are working on, and the cut you will receive will actually be worse than a cut from a sharp knife. The only type of knife/tool you should ever use is a sharp one. Please take a few moments to review your tools to assure yourself that they are as sharp as you need them to be. If you have ever loaned a tool out than re-sharpening is in order. Putting a keen edge on your pocket knife is as important as one on your block plane irons.

Common sense is my shop model what is yours? 🐾

# All That's Cherry Is Not Gold

*By Leland H. Hilt*

Recently I spent the better part of a weekend sorting through my stock of lumber. The Lot was a mixture of 4/4 – 12/4 hardwoods, which I had cut over the last six years. By Sunday evening the “keepers” were less than half of what I had started with two-days earlier.

Why? Because I had kept a lot of junk.

Why - you ask – again? Because I had been more concern with the “type” of wood I was cutting, rather than with the “quality” of the wood coming off the saw.

Particularly with Cherry, I found that I had kept pieces that were more sapwood then heartwood. I also had large pieces where my cuts had run “in and out” of the log, from the wood to the bark and back again, simply because the log was crooked, and I didn't want to waste anything when “cubing” the work.

I have a portable sawmill and have done dozens of jobs for NWA members over the years. During this time I have come to know basically two types of woodworkers: Those who keep everything simply because it's Cherry, Walnut, or some other premium hardwood, or those who keep the Select stock and only the Select stock, and have no problem throwing away what sometimes can be as much as 60 % of the tree.

In retrospect, I see myself as the benefactor of lesson-learned as both the sawyer and the one who hires the sawyer. I know what I am thinking when I am sawing my wood. I also know what I see when it's not my wood and we're keeping everything that comes off the rails. I believe a woodworker can ultimately benefit by focusing on the “quality” of the wood coming off the saw, as opposed to the quality in the “name” – of the wood being sawn. It would have saved this woodworker at least one recent weekend's worth of time. 🐿

## Lumber and Tools Auction

*By Charlie Goddard*

It's time to start thinking about the next lumber and tool auction, which has been scheduled for September 20 in the Shaker barn. If you have lumber or wood-working tools which you would like to donate, please let me know, 518-370-0388 or cgodd@aol.com. We can store things in the barn year round. If you do not want to donate the full value of the auction items we can work out a split of the proceeds. Donations are fully tax deductible. The auction is the main funding source for the Fiske Scholarship Fund from which we can give grants to attend woodworking courses. 🐿

## Many Hands Make Light Work!

*By Al Stahl*

We all love our coffee and donuts for the social time at our monthly meetings. This benefit comes through the effort of a few dedicated people. We have a very big need for a few more hands to fill-in when the regular staffers have other commitments.

We have a need for an additional three volunteers who could make this task less restrictive. The equipment, ordering information and setup instructions are very well organized. The only requirement is picking up the donuts the day of the meeting, setting up the table, making the coffee and making everyone happy.

Those who would be willing to be added to a list of volunteers for the upcoming year, please contact Al and Emily Stahl at 518-587-2420 or astahl@nycap.rr.com. 🐿

The heaviest baggage for a traveler is an empty purse.

German proverb

**WOODWORKERS NEWS** is published by the Northeastern Woodworkers Association for its members. The Association's aim is to provide a common meeting ground for lovers of woodworking who want to know more about wood and the techniques for forming it. The newsletter is published monthly. It is assembled in QuarkXPress 5.0 on an iMac G5, duplicated by Shipmates, and mailed to more than 1,000 addresses.



Your next issue of  
**Woodworkers News**  
will be published  
in early June Copy deadline:  
May 15

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**Blog Site:**  
<http://woodworkerorg.blogspot.com/>

Website Editor  
Position to be Filled

NWA maintains two websites,  
the first noted here  
operates continuously.  
We also offer selected  
links to other sites of interest  
to our membership.  
Webmaster - Justin Rohrer  
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The second site operates from  
January 1 to May 30  
and carries specific  
information about SHOWCASE.



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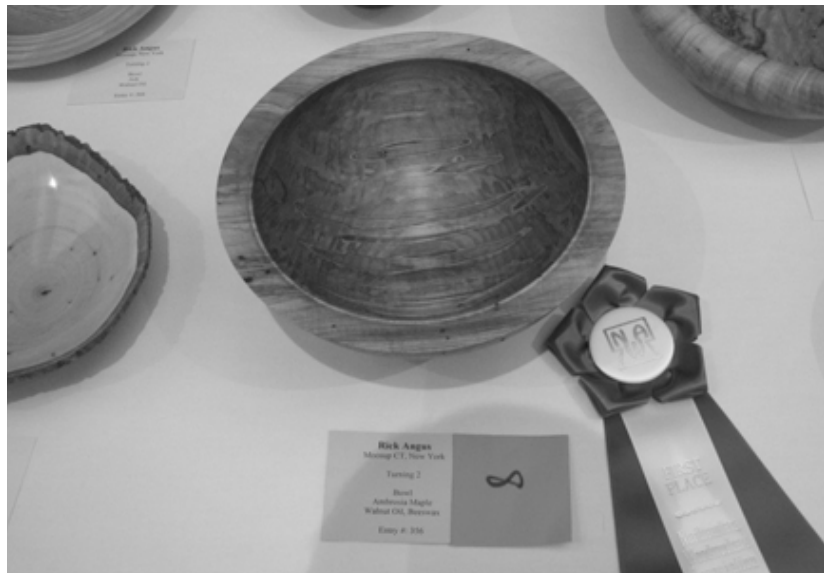
# SHOWCASE 2008



*Best of Show - John Olenik Sideboard*



*1st Place George Gurtler Segmented Vase*



*1st Place Rick Angus Bowl and Rich Pagano Award*



*Guitars at Showcase*



*Wally Teaching Elements of Design*



*2nd Place John Franklin Vase.*



*Our Volunteers in Action*



*Ken and Paul Debating Turning Techniques*



*Showcase Vendors*



*Earl Liberty Winning Piece.*



*Betty and Pam at the Office*

## Showcase Winners!

*By Jay Van Vranken*

I would like to thank each and everyone that volunteered to work at the showcase Raffle. Everyone did an excellent job of selling raffle tickets and in doing this, made the raffle a success.

### AND THE WINNERS WERE;

#### VOLUNTEER PRIZES

Paul Hesse	won	RIDGID JIGSAW donated By Ridgid Tool Co.
Mike Kross	won	PORTER CABLE DOVETAIL JIG donated by Allerdice

#### DOOR PRIZES

Claire Burnham Albany	won	TABLESAW BLADE donated by Ridge Carbide
Terry Lustofin Ballston Lake	won	CHEST SET donated and made by the Scrollers Sig
Anthony Maeliak Altamont	won	COFFEE TABLE made and donated by Bill Van Brunt

#### RAFFLE ITEMS

Muke Loveman Rensselaer	won	PIE CABINET donated and made by Sacandaga Chapter
Jeanne Picano Queensbury	won	HUTCH donated and made by Sacandaga Chapter
Walter Benreus N. Babylon, NY	won	CRADLE made and donated by Jim's Saturday Crew
Arnold Jaffae Hagaman	won	MOBILE UNITS donated and made by Sacandaga Chapter
Joseph Fisk Watervliet	won	CANDY BOX made and donated by George Rutledge
Jim Lane Selkirk	won	TV AND LAPTOP

## Summer Woodworking Classes at The Arts Center of the Capital Region

*By George Rutledge*

The Arts Center of the Capital Region is located at  
265 River St. Troy, NY 12180  
(518) 273-0552 [www.artscenteronline.org](http://www.artscenteronline.org)

### Introduction To Furniture Making:

A solid introduction to traditional hand tools and essential joinery techniques.  
10 classes, Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM  
Tuition; \$244.00  
Studio Fee; \$65.00 These are 2 credit courses in conjunction with HVCC's Craft for Credit Program.  
First Session - 5/20 thru 6/26 (no class on 5/27 & 5/29)  
Second Session - 7/1 thru 7/31

### Make an Adirondack Chair:

Build your own icon of the American summer out of durable 5/4 Red Cedar decking.  
4 classes, Wednesdays, 6:30 PM - 9:30PM  
6/4 - 6/25 Tuition; \$190.00 Studio Fee; \$75.00

### Woodworking for Women:

Learn about this amazing material as you explore hand and machine tool techniques for using it creatively.  
6 classes, Wednesdays, 6:30PM - 9:30PM 7/23 - 8/27  
Tuition; \$235.00  
Studio Fee; \$30.00

## NWA Woodworking Classes at the Stillwater Shop

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

### Make a Joiner's Mallet

Herm Finkbeiner  
Wednesday, May 7 & 14  
10 Am to 3 PM  
Cost: \$30 incl. materials

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



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

### For Sale

**Sjobergs bench.** 53" by 20", end vise and shoulder vise. \$250.  
518-854-3128. George Covell

**DeWalt DW735 planer,** with extra blade sets, extension tables. Three knife cutter head, two feed rates, used very little.  
\$375. John Michne, 371-6690.



# Wood of the Month <sup>©2008</sup>

- Ron DeWitt

**Florida Torreya (*Torreya taxifolia*) Arn.\***

**A Coniferous Softwood**

**Taxaceae - Yew Family**

**(A Threatened Species)**

There are two species of *torreya* native to North America, both in the southern United States; one in Florida and one in California. Three species are also found in China and one is native to Japan for a worldwide total of six, all in the Northern Hemisphere.

The Florida torreya (*Torreya taxifolia*) was first discovered in what is now Florida, in the United States, in 1833. Also called Florida nutmeg, gopherwood, savin, torreya, stinking-cedar or stinking-yew, it is not closely related to the true cedars but is classified as a primitive member of the yew family. (This is also the gopherwood thought by some to be the timber used by Noah to build the ark.)

Florida torreya is considered one of the oldest living tree species in the world. Fossil records provide evidence that this tree is over 160 million years old, a relict of the Jurassic Period. At one time scattered throughout the Northern Hemisphere, scientists believe the species was pushed south by glacial cycling. When glaciers receded, the Florida torreya remained in only several small pockets in what is now the southeastern U.S., where it has been content for millions of years.

The very small native range of the Florida torreya is a narrow band about 40 miles long along the east bank of the Apalachicola River on the panhandle of Florida, and in several small populations nearby including one in Florida's Torre State Park and one just into Georgia. Total native range of this tree was probably not more than 70 square miles (181 square km).

The torreya preferred areas of steep limestone-based slopes and heavily-wooded, moderately- to heavily-shaded valleys. Soils in these areas are fertile, well-drained and slightly acidic. Climate is warm and humid. Average annual rainfall is 56 in. (1420 mm). Average growing season temperature is 81 deg. F (27 C) with winter temperatures averaging 54 deg. F (12 C) but lows of 15 to 20 deg. F (-7 to -9 C) are occasionally experienced.

Torreya associates with a broad range of species in the "beech/magnolia" forests of Florida. They may be an assortment of oaks, hickories, yellow-poplar, sweet gum, beech, several magnolias, American holly, and various pines. In 1920 it was estimated that torreya made up about 4 percent of the tree population in its native area, or about 600,000 trees.

Torreya is a small, slow-growing tree reaching heights of 40 ft. (12 m), 15 to 24 in. (38 to 61 cm) dbh, maturing in one hundred years and having a life expectancy of 300 years. The largest tree reported in *The National Register of*

*Big Trees* in recent years is 45 ft. (13.6 m) by 35 in. (1 m) dbh with a spread of 40 feet (12 m), possibly an outlier, but more likely a transplant, located in Norlina, North Carolina.

The tree develops in an attractive broad-based pyramidal form in somewhat pendulous whorls around a single straight stem. Leaves (needles) of the torreya are flat to slightly rounded, 1 to 1.5 in. (2.5 to 4 cm) long by about 0.12 in. (3 mm) wide. The almost stalkless leaves are glossy green, stiff and tapered to sharply-pointed tips which are punishing to the touch. Leaf undersides are of lighter color, marked with double bands of white stomata or breathing pores. Leaves develop in two flat, opposing rows along the mostly opposite, paired branchlets. Leaves persist for about four years.

Bark on mature branches and stems is thin, brown, lightly tinged with orange, irregularly fissured into broad, scaly ridges. The torreya is dioecious—having male and female sexual components on separate trees. Flowers appear in March or April. Male or pollen cones are quite small, pale yellow, occurring singly at leaf bases. The female seed is a drupe, initially round and leaf-green, fully grown by mid-summer to almost round and about 1 in. (2.5 cm) diameter, maturing to have a dark purple leathery cover, small prune- or nutmeg-like in appearance.

Sapwood of torreya is yellow to yellow-white, often difficult to differentiate from the heartwood which is clear yellow. The wood is even-grained, medium- to coarse-textured, and variable from moderately light to moderately heavy, soft to moderately hard. Average sp. gr. is 0.48 and weight is 36 pcf (576 kg/m<sup>3</sup>) at 12% M.C., similar to eastern redcedar (*Juniperus virginia*). Growth rings are fairly distinct, denoted by a band of darker, denser latewood. Most of a ring is occupied by earlywood with a very gradual transition to the latewood. Rays are very fine, not visible to the naked eye, forming a subtle fleck on radial surfaces. There are no resin canals. The wood has a mild, bitter taste and a characteristically strong, unpleasant resinous odor, equally prevalent in crushed foliage, bark or fruit.

Florida torreya dries quickly with average shrink but have a tendency to warp. Once dry it is quite stable and very durable. Except for the "stink" it works nicely with hand or power tools yielding smooth surfaces with crisp edges. It glues well and accepts most finishes easily.

No data were found on toxicity of this wood, but some in the Taxaceae family are quite toxic. In any case, if you should get a chance to work with salvaged wood, dust protection should be used. Florida torreya had an insignificant population of relatively small, hard to get at trees in densely-forested areas of big trees. Its smelly, sharp-needed foliage seemed to give it added protection. Commercially it was impractical to use for much, although significant quantities were cut for Christmas trees. Locally it was cut for roof shingles and milled for siding, trim, attractive cabinetry and novelties. Substantial quantities were taken for river boat fuel and its durability made it desirable for fence posts. These uses resulted in harvesting most of the large trees by the mid-20th Century.

And now for the sad part of this tree story. After surviving for more than 160 million years, perhaps thousands of years in its present habitat, the Florida torreya is now classified as very rare and threatened with extinction, possibly, within the next ten years.



*Continued on Page 10*

# CHAPTER NEWS

## MidHudson Chapter

By Wally Cook

**Metal Detectors:** The March chapter meeting featured a discussion of metal spinning by Carl Ford. Carl recently attended a class through the Fiske Fund and found it extremely worthwhile. Terry Tynan is likely the foremost modern proponent of the craft, which dates to the Egyptians and Chinese.

In this medium, a flat metal disc is formed against a wooden mandrel. Carl described the process used in the class to make hollow forms and cups. Aluminum is the easiest metal to form -- he started with a disc less than 1/8" thick and no more than 6" diameter. The disc is pressed hard between centers: a flat turn center and a tail stock wooden mandrel. While spinning, a heavy burnishing tool presses and stretches the metal over the wooden form.

Randy Myerson also experimented with metal casting -- in this case pewter -- based on the class that Michael Sofronas presented in January. Check out his partridge casting.

**Instant Gallery:** We've had some excellent show-and-tell items passed around, which included two fine jewelry boxes by Win Crans and Joe Kennedy.



*Aluminum disc is pressed over wooden form*



*Carl's metal hollow forms*



*Randy Myerson's pewter casting*

## Sacandaga Chapter

By Gary Spencer

The Sacandaga Chapter of the Northeastern Woodworkers Association last met on April 9th, our program featured Stanley Krolkowski of Amsterdam. He builds miniature cars, trucks, earthmovers, trains etc. all to scale usually one inch to one foot. He brought samples of his work to our meeting and described the process to start and complete one of these scale models. This was an outstanding program! Thanks to Stanley for such a great presentation!

Stanley is also due congratulations for being awarded the "People's Choice Award" at NWA's Showcase this year. His piece was an elaborate model of a vintage steam shovel. This award was given by being voted as the most outstanding piece in the show by people who attended the Show.

Other members of our Chapter who won awards were Kirk Hardenburg, who received a first place award for a corner cabinet. Mike Kratky received both a first place and a second place award for a Rustic Table and a Morris chair. These projects were excellent. They will be discussed at the May 14th Chapter meeting along with a critique of each of the three team projects that were built and raffled off at the Showcase. Each team will show pictures of their projects and discuss the positive aspects of their projects as well as any difficulties they may have met in constructing them.

**Team A** -- This team was composed of Cliff Danke, Ed Tanner, Neal Mayer and Jeff Vass. They cooperatively built a Jelly Cupboard at Ed. Tanners Shop.

**Team B** -- This team was composed of Clyde Cheney, Kirk Hardenburg, Tom Rulliffson, and Carl Siegle. They built several Step-Back Cupboards at Tom Rulliffson's shop.

**Team C** -- This team was composed of Fritz Henze, Rod Neilson, Ralph Simonsen, and Paul Vingerhoet. This team built a Deluxe Shop Storage/Bench System at both Fritz Henze's and Paul Vingerhoet's Shops.

Each of the team's projects were at the April 5 & 6 Showcase and were raffled off to the public. One our Chapter members was fortunate to win the raffle on the Team C project.

Our regular monthly meetings are the second Wednesday of each month and begin at 7:00 P.M. at Mayfield High School woodshop. Our next regular meeting will be May 14, 2008. Come on out!

Remember we have door prizes and light refreshments are served.

For Directions or information contact:  
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Gary Spencer -- 863-6433

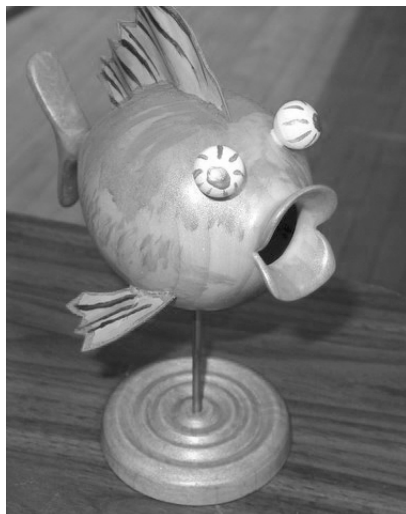


# Kaatskill Woodturners Monthly News

By Wally Cook

Go Fish: Carl Ford provided an overview of small hollow forms. Carl's thesis is that small vessels are a stress free way to experiment with both hollowing and form. In a nutshell, small vessels can be formed with lighter tools, completed more quickly, and -- since the time investment is smaller -- they are good venue for experimentation with form.

The degree of difficulty for shapes varies directly with the size of the opening. Wide-mouth 'tulip' style vases are easier than long neck vases with wide bottoms. Similarly, hollow forms with rims are more difficult than those without. Of course, the main issue is the opportunity for 'swing' with the tool at the entry point. Carl showed how vases can be made easier to hollow if the neck or rim is flared.



*Carl's whimsical fish turning: small hollow form*



*Cutting pattern for the fish form. #1 straight tool, #2 hook tool, #3 straight tool finish bottom*

Carl's favorite shape is similar to a football; he recommends this to beginners: straightforward access for hollowing, as well as a pleasing shape. In addition, Carl has been experimenting with forms which can be morphed into fish. The process of hollowing is begun with a drilled hole to eliminate the nib at the bottom of the vessel (Carl prefers a Morris taper shank drill). The first series of cuts is done with a straight tool; the second series completed with a hook tool; and a straight tool finishes the job (see picture). The transition near the midway point is the tricky area -- and can become too thin, if the hook tool is used aggressively.

Finish and coloring are Carl's trademark interests. The fish project is an excellent opportunity to try stains

or acrylics. Carl's demo included a discussion on the selection of woods and stains. He prefers WoodBurst Stains and leans toward primary colors and his own color mixing.

Last, no discussion with Carl is complete without reference to his tools. Carl is a mighty tool builder! He has begun to favor square stock bars (edges rounded, please), which he fashions into hollowing tools. He also like Don Derry's Torque Arresting Tool rest and has made his own variant. The crown jewel remains his laser positioning system, which Carl constructed out of hardened copper: it is adjustable, stable, and features a feed to an AAA battery pack. Check out [www.carlford.info](http://www.carlford.info) for further information on his tools, techniques, and whimsical turnings.



*Carl showing Hosaluk gouge and square shank straight hollowing tool*



*Jim Zitz tried a variant of Carl's fish, using cherry burl slices for fins*

Not to be able to grow old is just as ridiculous  
as to be unable to outgrow childhood.

Carl Jung

# Wood of the month

continued from page 7

About 1960, scientists realized that almost all remaining trees had been killed or were dying from a fungal blight. At least seven different fungus species are involved. The present surviving population is estimated at fewer than 200 specimens. The exact cause(s) remains a mystery, but a number of factors may have contributed; namely—repeated regional droughts, an introduced pathogen, global warming, raised water levels from new dam construction, heavy logging which opens the over-story, wildfire suppression which reduces the smoke which may have controlled fungus growth. Other factors are being considered as well, but old trees are dying and new trees in the wild don't live long enough to set seed. Some believe it is inevitable that this species will become extinct in the wild.

A possible bright spot is the continuing survival of some young cloned trees started in areas of Georgia and North Carolina, well removed from the affected native habitat. Trees are doing well, also, in the National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. and as far north as the Henry Foundation Garden in Gladwyne, Pennsylvania. Some are beginning to set seed. Several fungicides are also showing promise. Time will eventually tell. Hopefully this contented little tree will not become another part of the price we pay for the quality of life we have chosen.

*\*Author's note: Although this article is written assuming the tree and its wood are still available, all remaining trees on public lands are protected.*

## Wood Questions

Q. What is a marking hammer?



A. A marking hammer is a tool used to mark the end of a log with a brand-like stamp or impression to identify the log's owner. Logs were marked so they could be properly credited at the end of a river drive.

## Wood Definition

- Ron DeWitt

**Core stock** - A solid or discontinuous center ply, often of lesser quality, used in making plywood and panel-type glued structures such as furniture panels and solid or hollow-core doors.

# Harvest Festival at Bethel Wood

By Charlie Goddard

The Swansea Corporation is looking for high quality hand-made crafts, fine art, outdoor garden sculpture and hand crafted furniture for the 10th annual Festival at Bethel Woods. The festival will be held on eight consecutive Sundays from August 24th to October 12th on the site of the original 1969 Woodstock festival.

The fee for an 8' by 10' space is \$70 per week (\$90 after June 30th) and you may apply for up to 5 Sundays. For more information call 845-295-2448, email to [farmfest@bethelwoodscenter.org](mailto:farmfest@bethelwoodscenter.org) or go to [www.bethelwoodscenter.org](http://www.bethelwoodscenter.org).

## Showcase Entries

By Charlie Goddard

I would like to express a big "Thank You" to all of you who got your entry forms in by the March 21 cut off date for the drawing. Of the 160 people who entered items for the exhibit hall, 108 sent in the forms in time for the drawing. This represented 283 of the 450 items exhibited. In comparison, last year we had received entry forms for only half of the items one week before the show. The winner of the \$200 Lie-Nielsen gift certificate was George Rutledge. Stan Krolkowski won the \$100 Curtis certificate. This was a good show for Stan, he also won the People's Choice award for his steam shovel.

Next year everyone should plan to get their forms in early, especially those few who brought things to the show Friday night without submitting entry forms in advance. 🐾

In every real man a child is hidden that wants to play.

F. Nietzsche

Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again.

No discovery was ever made without a bold guess.

Newton

I like trees because they seem more resigned to the way they have to live than other things do.

Willa Cather

# Adirondack Woodturners Association Monthly News

*By Celia Carpenter*

## May's Demonstration:

We will be privileged to have a demonstration by Pete Thomas. We have seen many of his bowls in our instant gallery but this will be the first time he would have taught at AWA. We know that for many of us we try many different techniques before we land on one that suits our needs, so having a new teacher show us his particular method will be interesting.

## April's Demonstration:

This past month's demo was very successful. Many came with questions and answers were provided by the group. A lot of questions were centered on the finishing aspect of the work. Perhaps that is a subject that we will need to set up for a future demo.

## Instant Gallery:

The instant gallery in April was slight perhaps due to many of us attempting to ready our work for Saratoga. It was fun to attempt leading the gallery review this month and everyone was very encouraging. Of course as usual we had exceptional pieces and much fun talking about and asking questions of the work displayed.

## Library News:

We have been very fortunate that Betsy and Missy from Fine Woodworking Magazine have donated books for our library. Betty is busy preparing them for circulation.

## Bowl

*Give me a bowl, wide  
And shallow. Patient  
To light as a landscape open  
To the whole weight  
Of a deepening sky.*

*Give me a bowl which turns  
For ever on a curve  
So gentle a child  
Could bear it and beasts  
Lap fearless at its low rim.*

Poems for the Underground  
Elizabeth Cook  
(b 1952 )



# Exotic Wood Toxicity

*By Ray Gannon "LoRay"*

## Wood Toxicity

There is no doubt that some woods can be potentially toxic to some people. The question is always one of "what degree". This cannot truly be answered. Each individual has different degrees of resistance, some more prone to allergic reactions, and others not so. Every day our knowledge of tree biology and chemistry grows, leaving us with more information, but also more questions. How all this relates to each individual is impossible to know. All we can say is "be cautious". Use new woods in a limited way, with proper respirators, until you know that it has no adverse reaction with your body.

Toxicity of wood can mean a lot of different things to different people so here are some basic concepts of wood toxicity, some natural and some man-made:

## Natural Chemical Poisons

This normally refers to chemicals produced by the tree. It has been suggested that these chemicals originated as part of the tree's natural defense system against insect and other animal attack. They tend to be present in higher concentration in the sap, bark and foliage of the tree, and to a much lesser extent in the trunk. For example, the foliage of black cherry contains a precursor of cyanide, but yet we work with the wood with little difficulty. Woods that are naturally oily, even after kiln drying are much more likely to cause an allergic reaction, just because the wood's oil can transfer onto your skin more easily and enter the blood stream. The reaction can range from that of a mild irritant, to something that is truly toxic and lethal, although the latter is very rare.

## Natural Physical Poisons

Fine wood dusts, even if they have no chemical toxicity, can pose a health risk. Dust can act as an irritant to the skin and particularly to the respiratory tract of people that have a natural sensitivity in this area. Western Red Cedar has an extremely small dust particle size, prone to penetrate deeply into the lungs and cause severe reactions in asthma sensitive people. Wear a dust mask! Have good dust extraction equipment working in your shop.

## Introduced Poisons

Nature can introduce toxins as the wood rots on the forest floor. Fungal spores and bacteria that invade a rotting tree, creating beautiful spalted wood, but can be toxic if they are able to invade the human body. See the section on spalted wood for more information. Mankind has also introduced toxins into wood. Every time the wood is chemically treated with products like creosote to prevent rotting. Formaldehyde glues are used extensively to glue plywood layers together in both sheet materials and flooring. In sawing these materials, the dust generated introduces these toxins back into the air. Many of these glues emit vapors' long after the manufacturing process has been completed. Both the dust and the vapors can be very toxic.

## The Last Word

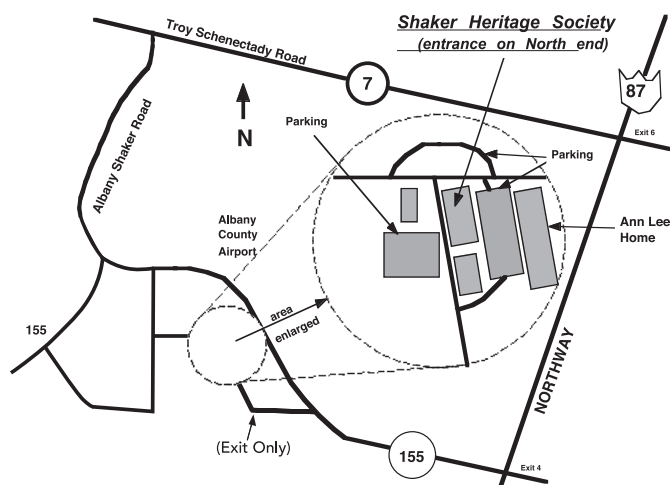
Be cautious. Just because something doesn't cause a reaction the first time doesn't mean you'll never have an allergic reaction. Your sensitivities can build with exposure. Allergy-prone people should be more cautious in the woods they chose and everyone should limit exposure to sawdust of new woods the first few times you work with it.

Have fun, but be healthy! Think about exotic wood toxicity as it relate to YOU.





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



## May Meeting

Thursday, May 8, 2008, 7:00 pm  
Shaker Heritage Society Meeting House  
Albany-Shaker Road, Albany

GENERAL MEETINGS  
AND SPECIAL EVENTS

### NWA Program Schedule 2008

May 8, 2008  
Spec. display (By Mid Hudson Chapter)

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

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

### SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)

**Adirondack Woodturners Association** - The AWA is active throughout the year. Meetings are every first Wednesday of the month (except in January and July when it is the second Wednesday), and are held at the Curtis Lumber conference room on Route 67, Ballston Spa. Beginners' sessions begin at 6 pm; the main program at 6:30 pm. Wednesday "Learn and Turn" sessions in Stillwater are also scheduled from 6 pm - 9 pm except on AWA member meeting nights. [www.adirondackwoodturners.org](http://www.adirondackwoodturners.org) Contact Ken Evans, 753-7759 or [Kevans1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:Kevans1@nycap.rr.com)

**Carver's Guild** - meets every Friday at the Clifton Park Senior Center from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Sessions are intended for every NWA member who is interested in carving, from beginners to those wanting to learn a new technique. No reservations are necessary, just show up! Contact Bill McCormack, 233-7260.

**Scroller's Guild** - Meets on the third Wednesday of the month at The School at Northeast, 1821 Hamburg St., Schenectady. A beginner's session starts at 6:30 PM followed by a general meeting at 7:00 PM. Contact: Donna Phillips, (518) 372-3337 or [dlphill@nycap.rr.com](mailto:dlphill@nycap.rr.com).

**Kaatskill Woodturners** - Meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Opdahl property in Hurley. Contact George Norton, (845) 331-1705.

#### **Jim's "Hole in the Woods Gang"**

Meets every Saturday, from 9:00 am until noon at Jim Kennedy's shop at 86 Guideboard Rd., in Halfmoon. (just 1 mile east of the Halfmoon Diner on Rt. 9). Our general purpose is public service work for various charitable organizations, including the Double H Hole in the Woods camp for children. We strive to foster a learning environment for our members through the projects we work on and the informal training/learning sessions given by and for our members. Sharing fellowship and relating experiences are a major part of our sessions, as we do accomplish many tasks during our times together as well. Contact Dick Flanders, (518) 393-5215 ([rflander@nycap.rr.com](mailto:rflander@nycap.rr.com)) or Darrell Welch, (518) 477-8431 ([ydwelch@taconic.net](mailto:ydwelch@taconic.net)) for more information.

### CHAPTERS

**NWA Mid-Hudson** - The chapter meets at 7:30 p.m. on the third Thursday, except July and August, at the Hurley Reformed Church. The Church is just off the the Hurley exit from Rte. 209. Right at the exit, right at the stop sign and left into the Church parking area. Contact Joe Kennedy, (845) 473-1598

**NWA Sacandaga** - The chapter meets at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month at Mayfield High School in the woodworking shop. Park by the section of the building that protrudes further into the parking lot and enter the nearest of the (5) doors. Contact Gary Spencer, 863-6433.