

WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern
Woodworkers
Association

November 2008, Vol. 17, Number 11

November Meeting

*Thursday, November 13 7:00 pm
Clifton Park Senior Center, Clifton Park, NY.
(where Family Night will be held Dec. 4)*

Conover to deliver NWA's Fiske Award Lecture "The Evolution of the Dovetail"

By Herm Finkbeiner

Ernie Conover will receive the 2008 Fiske Award. The award, which is comprises an honorarium, lecture and plaque, is given each November to an outstanding woodworker. Now in its 12th year, past awardees have included Myra Nakashima, Michael Puryear, Garrett Hack, Hank Gilpin, Charlie Shackleton and most recently John Reed Fox. The meeting, like all NWA meetings, is open to the public.

The great turner, Rudy Osolnik has this to say about Ernie, "Ernie Conover's real gift is that he can express in words what most woodturners cannot. His book will guide you past the pitfalls that can trap a turner. I highly recommend this book for novice and advanced turners alike."

His lecture will draw from a book he has just completed, *The Woodworker's Guide to Dovetails* and in particular a chapter in the book on the *History of the Dovetail*. While writing the book Ernie went to the Yale University Furniture Study to examine and photograph historic pieces in order to show how both the methods of making dovetails and the purposes for which they are used have changed over the years. The other part of the book (and the talk) is split between hand and machine dovetailing. For the meeting Ernie will shows how to hand cut through, half-blind and secret dovetails and then goes on to de-mystify all of the major jigs that can accomplish these tasks. These include the Keller, Leigh, old and new Omni, Akita, Wood Rat and Router Boss. The talk will have close up photos of all these jigs and Ernie will share with you his feelings about their strengths and short-



comings. Many photos not included in the book will also be part of his talk. This is a must attend meeting for any woodworker.

Ernie is a recognized figure in the woodworking world; he is a furniture maker, a teacher, a writer, a turner and a tool aficionado. He first became a part of NWA activities in 1996 when he taught three classes at the Sears workshop and has been a featured presenter at Woodworkers Showcase four times since then. Ernie is often called upon as a machine designer, having made the Conover lathe, but it is his teaching and writing about woodworking that has made his a household name among woodworkers.

Conover has written eight books, including *The Router Table Book* (1994), *Turning for Furniture* (1996), *Turn a Bowl with Ernie Conover* (2000) and *The Lathe Book II Edition* (2001).

He often further amplifies his books and articles with pen and ink illustrations. He has also done four videos; *Turning*

for Furniture (a companion to the book), *Turning Furniture Spindles*, and *Reclaiming Flea Market Planes*.

Ernie and his wife, Susan, run Conover Workshops, a school in Parkman, Ohio, where he teaches woodworking and wood-turning courses, and Susan teaches fiber arts classes. They opened the school in 1980 and still operate out of a large workshop near their home. The mission of the school is to teach technically correct, proper and safe woodworking, weaving and spinning. Year-round programs provide a relaxed atmosphere and the programs boast graduates from every state in the Union including a number of NWA members who have received Fiske awards, all the provinces of Canada and a good many foreign countries. 🐾



OFFICERS

President - Warren Stoker 439-6089
wstoker@nycap.rr.com

Vice President - Owen Arkison
518 459-5348

owen.Arkison@earthlink.net

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

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

Past President - Pete Howe 885-9331
phowe1@nycap.rr.com

Historian - Darrell Welch (518) 477-8431
ydwelch@fairpoint.net

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

CHAIRPERSONS

Mid-Hudson Chapter

Joe Kennedy, President 845-473-1598
jkenn23333@aol.com

Sacandaga Chapter

Co-Chairpersons

Clyde Cheney - 661-5138

Ray Laubenstein - 863-6071

RLAUB@Roadrunner.com

Education

Gerry O'Brien 459-9266

go12211@yahoo.com

Adult Programs

Position To Be Filled

Youth Programs

Ray Gannon 518-664-2229

raymond.gannon@wildblue.net

Fiske Fund

Joe Kennedy (845) 473-1598

JKenn23333@aol.com

Hospitality

Al and Emily Stahl 587-2420

astahl@nycap.rr.com

Library

Wilhelmina Evans 753-7759

wiltw0@nycap.rr.com

Membership

Susan Howe 885-9331

Programs

Ken Evans 753-7759

kevans1@nycap.rr.com

Publications

Wally Carpenter 434-1776

c.j.carpenter@earthlink.net

SHOWCASE

Ken Evans 753-7759

kevans1@nycap.rr.com

Videographers

Dave Ellison 872-0980

ellisd@rpi.edu

Hans Kappel 861-8753

bluespruce@juno.com

Pat Pugsley 634-7144

ideas@mhonline.net

Bob Conahan 355-9032

conahanbob@hotmail.com

Kirk Hardenburg

725-1997

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, PHONE
NUMBERS ARE IN AREA CODE 518

Conover receives NWA's Fiske Award

By Herm Finkbeiner



Ernie Conover has been selected to receive the 2008 Fiske Award. The award, which is composed of an honorarium, lecture and plaque, is given each November to an outstanding woodworker by the Northeastern Woodworkers Association.

The Fiske Award and the Fiske Scholarship Fund are in honor of Dr. Milan D. Fiske, a founding member of NWA. A bequest from Dr. Fiske's estate started the scholarship fund in 1996 and the Fiske Award was started the same year. Nomination for the award can be made by any NWA member and awardees are selected in June by the program committee of NWA.

Now in its 12 year, past awardees have included Myra Nakashima, Michael Puryear, Garrett Hack, Hank Gilpin, Charlie Shackleton and most recently John Reed Fox.

While honoring the memory of Dr. Fiske it is also the hope of NWA that providing this award will make NWA members more aware of the skill and artistry of some of the best woodworkers while at the same time stimulating a desire to improve the level of their own work.

To helping woodworkers learn and improve, the Fiske Scholarship Fund makes awards each year. The fund provides grants to individual for the pursuit of woodworking programs which enhance and advance their understanding and application of woodworking techniques and principles. Awardees do not have to be NWA members. In the 12 years of its existence the Scholarship Fund has made more than \$58,000 in grants.

The Scholarship Fund financial support comes principally from two sources, direct donations and from the annual wood auction. Each year NWA members collect logs from a wide variety of sources and mill them. The resulting lumber is then stickered and dried for sale a year or two after milling. That wood and any donations of lumber are auctioned at the September sale. The program has been so successful that NWA had a trailer made to help transport logs to the mill. It was often the case that there was just one log at a location and the yield from that log did not justify the work and cost of moving a sawmill to the site. With the trailer logs are moved to one site and milled thus using logs that had previously become firewood. 🌲



Corrections

The scrollsawn vase with flowers on page 4 of the October *Woodworkers News* was mistakenly attributed to Dick Dillon. It was actually made by Jack Collumb. Thanks, Chuck Walker

Life has a way of overgrowing its achievements
as well as its ruins.

Edith Wharton

Annual Tool and Lumber Auction

By Charlie Goddard

Thanks to those who donated auction items, volunteers who helped set up and run the auction an especially the high bidders, we had another successful auction. In total we took in over \$11,000 and cleared \$7,200 after paying a few bills and the shares for those who donated items on a 50/50 share basis. For comparison, last year we took in \$15,000 and cleared about \$9,000.

Forty people donated items for the auction – a record. Attendance was down from last year, possibly due to the current economic problems. 65 of the 92 who signed in actually bought something.

The money raised has been placed in the Fiske Fund and will be available for grants to attend woodworking courses. If you are interested in applying for a grant contact Joe Kennedy at 845-473-1598, JKen23333@aol.com.

We will do it again next year, so start thinking about what tools or lumber you would like to donate. We have space to store items year round. All donations are fully tax deductible.

Lathe Users Fail to Turn Over a New Leaf Flat Boarders Arise, Now is the Time

By Herm Finkbeiner

At the September meeting Mr. Evans had the audacity to ridicule efforts by flat boarders to make tree ornaments. By his tone he suggested that very idea of flat boarders making tree ornaments was ridiculous to the point of incomprehension. Do those of us who believe that the right angle and the straight line are the foundation of all that can truly be called craftsmanship need to tolerate such effrontery and innuendo? From those who solve the problems caused by a blunder by simply saying, "it's a little smaller than planned!"?

Flat boarder our honor and our fortunes are at stake. Let us overwhelm these miscreants. Make those tree ornaments for Family Night and help clear the cloud that has been cast over we who believe all society is being threatened by those who would shave every corner and turn every stick into horse bedding!

Christmas Ornaments: A Turner's Perspective

By Ken Evans

Well, there I've done it again. Seems, I am either in trouble with "LUCY THE CLOWN" at the PICNIC or with "Finkbeiner, the Flatboarder". Well, so be it, so be it.

Those flatboarders seem to think they can make tree ornaments. Well, I have news for them; Tree Ornaments have been made by woodturners long before flatboarders made chairs and tables. Tree ornaments are mostly round and that is the bailiwick of the TURNER type, not the flatboarder.

There seems to be some aversion on the part of flatboarders to us making chips or "horse bedding" as some call it, and I believe this is a shot at not just the turners who make chips, but carvers who also make chips, and scrollers who make small chips which fall from those little fret holes.

Therefore, I call upon all THE TURNERS, THE CARVERS, AND, THE SCROLLERS to make just one or two TREE ORNAMENTS for the AUCTION at Family Night in December.

Let's show those flatboarders what we do and do so well with that which we don't turn into "horse bedding". See you all at Family Night! Let's see which ornament commands the highest bid. 🐾

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 December
Copy deadline: November 15
Wally Carpenter, Editor
(518) 434-1776
c.j.carpenter@earthlink.net
Elizabeth Keays Graphic Artist
Designer



WEBSITE(S)
www.woodworker.org
www.nwawoodworkingshow.org
Blog Site:
<http://woodworkerorg.blogspotcom/>

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
rohrej@woodworker.org

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



**NORTHEASTERN
WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION**
P.O. BOX 246
Rexford, New York 12148

The Fiske Scholarship Fund

By Joe Kennedy

In this fourth quarter the Fund approved two applications. This number was a bit disappointing compared with the third quarter when we had a record of eight applications. **Fred Bloom** took Skin on Frame Kayak Workshop in Maine. See www.kayakways.net for more information on classes like this. **Joe Larese** took a weekend turning workshop with Richard Raffin at the Brookfield Art Center in Connecticut. (Joe is not a member of NWA, but he has participated in many of KWA's activities in recent years as a volunteer instructor.)

During our October meeting, many of this year's awardees participated in an informal "Show and Tell" concerning the

various classes they took. Carl Ford explained his aluminum turning class at Brookfield in which you turn a wooden form and then press an aluminum disc on this form. You can make virtually any shape you like and also integrate the aluminum work with wooden finials and bases. Bob Boisvert and Jack Collumb showed us some excellent examples of intarsia work based on their road trip to Tennessee.

Joe Benkert and John Hodgson each took an intensive Finishing class at the Center for Furniture



Craftmanship in Maine and passed on quite a few practical tips on finishing. I suspect we will all be picking their brains for a while. Tom Osborne and Austin Spang each took an intensive sculptural furniture class at this same school and showed us two quite unique approaches to shaping furniture.

Michael Chrobot set a recent record by taking an eight week class in guitar making at the Galloup School in Michigan. Michael showed us an electric and an acoustic guitar he made at this school. Guy Garrett and Chris Knite took a hunt board class with Garrett Hack at the Shelburne Art Center in Vermont and explained some of the key aspects of its construction.

It seemed like everyone at the meeting enjoyed these presentations. Let's hope they inspired some of you to take a class and submit an application for a grant. We paid out a significant amount of money this year, but we still have some money left for you. 🐾



Education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper or your self-confidence.

Robert Frost

Kaatskill Woodturners October Meeting

By Chuck Walker

The group spent some time to assess the coming season and discuss the types of classes and programs to be offered. We also discussed the possibility of skipping a meeting in the month of February and perhaps adding a meeting during the summer. Plans were also discussed for making sale items for the next Mid-Hudson woodworking show. Items made by members are popular with visitors and assist the club's treasury.

For our program, we brought jigs and fixtures used in turning. Win Crans showed oversized spigot chucks that hold his tall hollow forms. Ron Mower brought a Longworth chuck used to hold bowls at the rim in order to finish the bottom. He also showed a nice steady rest of four skate wheels adjustable on "T" tracks mounted in a frame of MDF. The frame is painted with metallic blue to resemble metal. Matt Clarke showed a device to hold an indexing pin to engage with an indexing wheel. The pin mounting is adjustable in height and is secured to the lathe's ways with two 3/4" rare earth magnets mounted in cups that increase their holding strength. It is very secure! Chuck Walker brought a modified 6" handscrew clamp to facilitate holding either square or round pen turning blanks for drilling on a drill press. The toughest part of making this was to take the clamp apart to cut the grooves in each jaw. The handles had to be removed and then riveted again on reassembly. 🛠️



Ron Mower with steady rest.



Matt Clarke and index pin mount.

NWA Woodworking Classes at the Stillwater Shop

For more information about any of these classes log on to:

<http://woodworkerorg.blogspot.com/>

Turning for Furniture

Ernie Conover

Fri. & Sat. November 14 & 15

9AM – 4:30 PM

Cost: \$140 plus material

Hollow Forms and Boxes

Ernie Conover

Sun. & Mon. November 16 & 17

9AM – 4:30 PM

Cost: \$140 plus material

Turned Holiday Ornaments

(Intermediate to Advanced Turners)

George Gurtler

Saturday, Nov. 8

9 AM to Noon

Cost: \$25 plus materials

The Tablesaw

Ken Evans

Tuesday, November 18

6:30 PM

Cost: \$20

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

Peace, like charity,
begins at home.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

C L A S S I F I E D S

For Sale

Yates American tablesaw, 8"- jointer combination machine. Has 1/2hp motor. Asking \$200. Please call Ken Hapeman 518-587-7410 Saratoga Springs, NY.

Craftsman 10-inch Radial Arm Saw On metal stand with rollers, excellent condition, carbide cut-off blade. \$200 (518) 854-3392 John.

Delta 16-inch Motorized Band Saw On metal stand with rollers, excellent condition, 9 extra new blades. \$200 (518) 854-3392 John.

Wood of the Month ^{©2008}

By Ron DeWitt

Ohio Buckeye (*Aesculus glabra*) Willd. A Deciduous Hardwood Hippocastanaceae - The Horse Chestnut Family

Linnaeus named the genus *Aesculus* after the Latin name for a European mast-bearing tree. The epithet or species name, *glabra*, is from the Greek for “smooth, without hairs,” referring to the foliage.

There are seven buckeyes native to North America, including one in Mexico. Six others are found, in Europe, India, China and Japan, for a world total of 13. Adding the usual amount of confusion to the genus is an assortment of varieties and hybrids, many found in North America.

Probably the best known of the buckeyes in the U.S. is the horsechestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) L., imported from England and extensively planted across North America. Although occasionally escaping from cultivation, it is not considered to be naturalized in the U.S.

The Ohio buckeye (*Aesculus glabra*) Willd., the state tree of Ohio, may also be known as fetid buckeye, stinking buckeye or American horsechestnut. Its native range, mostly in the U.S., extends across the diverse forest regions of western Pennsylvania westward into Iowa. This range extends south into eastern Kansas and central Texas and east from southern Missouri across Kentucky down into central Tennessee. Recently a stand was found in south-western Ontario, Canada. It has been successfully planted in much of the northeastern U.S. and in Europe.

Ohio buckeye locates in a variety of soil conditions but is considered a moist-site tree, most often found in bottom lands and stream bank soils where it achieves maximum growth. On dry sites it usually grows slowly becoming, at best, a shrub.

In favored sites average rainfall may be between 30 in. (760 mm) and 55 in. (1400 mm). Average annual temperature is 40 to 50 deg. F (4 to 10 C). It may survive in areas where temperatures have been as low as -40 deg. F (-40 C) and as high as 115 deg. F (46 C). This tree's best development occurs in the lower Ohio and upper Mississippi River valleys.

The Ohio buckeye is described as a small- to medium-size tree, typically growing to 30 ft. (9 m) in height and 16 in. (41 cm) dbh. On better sites it may reach 70 ft. (21 m) and 24 in. (0.6 m) dbh at maturity in 80 years. The largest

living tree reported in 1978 was 146 ft. (44.5 m) tall by 45.5 in. (1.2 m) dbh. In 2007, *The National Register of Big Trees* reported the largest living tree of this species in the U.S. at 73 ft. (22.5 m) by 56 in. (1.4 m) dbh growing in DuPage, Illinois.

The Ohio buckeye is classified as shade tolerant. It often must survive in the mixed forest under-story of sugar maple, oaks, white ash, black walnut, black cherry, Kentucky coffee tree, shagbark hickory, hackberry, and beech.

Leaves are opposite, palmately compound of five, sometimes seven oblong leaflets which have unevenly-spaced saw-toothed margins. Leaflets are on very short stalks supported by 4 to 6 in. (10 to 15 cm) long, stout petioles. Leaves are dark green to yellow-green on top, paler beneath. Buckeyes are among the first to leaf out in the spring and the first to defoliate in the fall.

Showy pale yellow to yellow-green narrowly bell-shaped flowers, 1 in. (2.5 cm) long, form in upright clusters 4 to 6 in. (10 to 15 cm) tall. The flowers, developing in late spring after the leaves are fully formed; have a scent that only a hungry bee could love.

Fruits develop in thin-walled, yellow-green, 1.5 to 2.5 in. (3 to 6.5 cm) diameter, two- to three-segment capsules, which mature in late summer to release one to four attractive, rounded, shiny brown poisonous seeds. Seeds may be 1 to 1.5 in. (2.5 to 4 cm) in diameter; more than two seeds in a capsule results in some flattening of the seeds. The fruit capsule of the Ohio buckeye is covered with short spiny prickles, a distinguishing characteristic. The point of attachment of the seed in the capsule results in a large white scar on the brown seed creating the appearance of a deer-like eye, the source of the “buckeye” name.

Twigs are short and very stout. Leaves and twigs are somewhat hairy initially, becoming smooth as they develop. Leaves, twigs, flowers and fruit capsules have an unpleasant nauseating odor when crushed. Open grown trees are characteristically branchy on short knotty stems. Bark on young stems and branches is dark brown and scaly. On old trees it thickens into dense, ashy gray furrows which separate into rough plates.

The white sapwood of the Ohio buckeye makes a subtle transition into the creamy or yellowish-white heartwood. The wood is sometimes stained with blue-gray streaks. Log centers are occasionally found to be discolored grayish-brown. Growth rings are usually imperceptible. The wood is diffuse-porous with numerous solitary or paired, very small, evenly distributed pores, invisible except with a hand lens. Rays are very fine, barely visible with a hand lens. It should be noted that woods of the *Aesculus* species cannot be separated on the basis of micro-anatomy.



Continued on Page 9

CHAPTER NEWS

Mid-Hudson Woodworkers News

Second Annual Mid-Hudson Show

By Joe Kennedy

The Mid-Hudson Chapter organized its second annual wood-working show on September 27 at the Hurley Reformed Church. It was a great venue to display projects made by members that would not ordinarily be seen at other meetings. The sheer variety of the show items was impressive, covering a wide variety of woodworking specialties -- from miniatures to larger pieces of furniture.

In addition to the display pieces, the show featured live demonstrations of scroll saw activity, guitar making, and woodturning on both mini- and full size lathes. The children's work bench provided a guided opportunity for kids to assemble tool totes, bird houses, or race cars.

Many of the visitors to the show were interested in the wood identification display, as well as the particular uses of wood species. Ron Mower presided over an exhibit of vintage wood planes made by Hudson Valley tool-makers and showed visitors how thin shavings (spills) were made for use as fire starters.

Of course, it wouldn't be a Mid-Hudson event without an outstanding raffle. Several tables, jewelry boxes, and turned vases were among the prizes won by lucky recipients. The raffle and the sale table helped to make the show a successful fund raiser. However, the main purpose was also achieved: to raise awareness of woodworking techniques.



The Show featured the small...



A great variety of work was displayed



Scroll saw demonstration attracted attention



And the large



Super raffle items went to lucky winners!



The Kids' Workbench provided an opportunity to assemble kits



The luthier exhibit was new

CHAPTER NEWS

Sacandaga Chapter

By Gary Spencer

Our October 8th program was supposed to be Paul Petrie however an emergency came up and Paul was unable to attend. Ray Gannon, NWA's Safety coordinator was so kind to fill in with his presentation "Woodworker Safety/ Wood Toxins". This was a very interesting and valuable presentation. Almost every person there was amazed about some of the woods that can produce difficulties and prevention of such troubles is paramount for all who work with wood. Thank you Ray for an important and interesting presentation!

Our upcoming meeting scheduled for November 12th is again scheduled to feature NWA's Paul Petrie of Gloversville. As many of you may recall Paul has presented programs to our group almost annually. We have seen examples every year of his expertise as a master woodworker. He borrows on his experience as an elite contractor of custom homes, a great cabinet maker, a fantastic wood turner and an exquisite design capability to complete outstanding projects no matter what they entail. Thus we have little doubt that we will experience a fascinating program. In short Paul can do it all! This year Paul will present a surprise program, entitled "Embellishment of" You have to come on November 12th to see what it is, you won't be disappointed! On Deck for our December 10th meeting will be a first for our group a presentation called "Ice Boats".

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 November 12, 2008. Come on out!

Remember we have door prizes and light refreshments are served.

For Directions
or information contact:

Clyde Cheney – 661-5138

Ray Laubenstein – 863-6071

Gary Spencer – 863-6433

Adirondack Woodturners Association

By Ken Evans

Program Schedule for 2009

December 2008 Totally Turning video --if video equipment is working.

January	Chris	Pens R Us
February	Paul Petr	Piercing Made Easy
March	George G	Open Segments
April	Ed Buell	Taking Pictures of Your Turnings
May	Kurt Roulier	Creative Design
June	Jan Panek	Color Color Color
July	Dave Jarose	Making a Turned Box
August	Tony Bararra	Candle Stick
Sept	Beverly Carhart	Feathers
October	Stu Hodsoll	Pepper Mills
November	Ken Evans	Holiday Tree Ornaments
December	Warren Stoker	A Toy

Showcase 2009 Needs You

By Ken Evans

It may seem early to begin thinking about Showcase 2009 which will be the weekend of March 28 and 29, 2009. By the time you read this article the Showcase Committee of about 28 co-chairs will have met twice and the planning for the event will be well underway.

This year Showcase will be different in several ways. The planning co-chairs have vowed that we will create a new look. There will be more activity on the floor for attendees to watch and we are still deciding on ways for the show to be more interactive.

This year Saratoga Springs City Center will be under construction affecting how we load in on Friday and load out of the show on Sunday. The new construction will eventually be good for the show but for this year might prove to be inconvenient. This inconvenience will take "people power" to overcome. Volunteers are people power! We will need extra volunteers to control the new traffic patterns required to alleviate the congestion caused by the construction work.

To all those who volunteer for Showcase (almost 300), please know NWA is grateful for your help. To those who have not volunteered in the past, please consider doing so this year. We really need your help. The work is not difficult, but there are just a lot of things that need doing.

Volunteer and your name will be placed in the volunteer raffle for a very nice gift. Yet the real reward is the satisfaction you have in contributing in making this yearly event a success.

This year, Celia Carpenter is the Volunteer Coordinator. You can be sure she will soon be underway signing up volunteers. You get to choose the volunteer job you wish (as long as everyone doesn't choose the same job) to do and the time you wish, but please say yes when Celia asks.

Thanking you in advance. 🐼

Wood of the Month

Continued from Page 6

This wood is uniformly fine-textured, straight-grained, light-weight, weak in bending, soft but resistant to splitting on impact. It air or kiln dries easily with little tendency to check or warp, but it is inclined to stain. Shrinkage from green to oven-dry is considered average. An unpleasant odor is sometimes noted in fresh-sawn wood, but when dry it has only a mild characteristic odor, similar to basswood but without a taste. The wood spalts easily developing very attractive, sometimes intense patterns. Wood from burls is also quite showy. The wood is most often mistaken for aspen.

Ohio buckeye has an average specific gravity of 0.36 and weighs about 25 to 28 pcf (400 to 450 kg/m3) at 12 % M.C. Hand or power tools require very sharp cutting edges for best results. Machining qualities are considered average. Gluing is good, sanding can produce a nice surface patina, and most finishes do well. Carving is excellent.

Except for the dust there are no reported hazards when working this wood. But the toxicity of all elements of the tree suggests that general protection is appropriate.

In addition to occasional use as an ornamental tree, Ohio buckeye has some interesting chemical constituents. It gets its leaf, flower, bark, and especially fruit (nut) toxicity from compounds called glycosides and saponins. Eating the nuts can cause serious illness, paralysis and occasionally death for children, horses and cows, although squirrels and deer eat with impunity.

Native Americans learned and later taught early settlers to leach the toxins from the nut meats to prepare the starch as food. (How did they safely learn to do that?) They also used a nut decoction to treat gangrene. Pulverized nuts mixed with animal fat treated hemorrhoids. Fresh nut paste with flour and bruised twigs was used to “stupefy” fish and cause them to float for easy catching. Saponins in nuts and roots produce a sudsy soap with some whitening benefit for wood and linen.

To this day some mid-westerners carry a buckeye in their pockets to ward off rheumatism.

Early American settlers used buckeye logs for their cabins. Short log sections were hollowed out for cradles, animal water troughs and to collect maple sap. Long-wearing mats were woven from carefully cut fine strips of buckeye wood. More recently buckeye was used for cigar boxes, its light weight made it ideal for artificial limbs and travel cases. Currently it is used for boxes, crates, wooden-ware and novelties. Some is used for toys, hidden parts of and inexpensive furniture, plywood core stock and musical instruments. Also it is used for drawing boards, carving, panels for pyrography, paper pulp and occasionally for firewood.

Demand for Ohio buckeye wood is low. Although its range has been expanded by planting, the big trees have been cut off. It is not seriously threatened by insects or fungi. Supplies are good in its growing areas where it likely will be included with horsechestnut and other buckeyes in the general category of “buckeye,” selling at a modest price. 🐾

Wood Questions

Q. How does the heat value compare between woods used for firewood?

Species	Weight (pounds per cord)	Heat Generated (per cord in million BTU)
Hickory	3900	27
Black Locust	3900	27
White Oak	3900	27
Sugar Maple	3800	26
Pecan	3800	26
Red Oak	3600	24
Black Walnut	3400	23
White Elm	3000	20
White Ash	2900	20
Sycamore	2900	20
Chestnut	2500	18
White Pine	2100	13
Poplar	2100	15
Spruce	2100	16
Willow	2100	14

Wood Definition

- Ron DeWitt

Stickers – Narrow wood or composite strips about one inch square used to separate the layers of lumber in a pile—to improve air circulation for drying.

Freedom is always and exclusively freedom
for the one who thinks differently.

Anon

There are people who want to be
everywhere at once, and they get nowhere.

Carl Sandburg

NUTS II

By Ken Evans

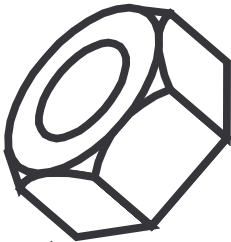
As you all may know by now, there is a group of NWA members who meet each Saturday morning at Jim Kennedy's Shop in Half Moon. This story comes from that group. "I am amused by problem solving and the thinking which goes into problem solving. If you are also, you may enjoy this story."

THE PROBLEM:

Several weeks ago at the Kennedy Shop, Dave Mobley, Tom Osborne, and I were building three shelving units out of 3/4 inch maple plywood for the Shaker Meeting House. While cutting dados in this material with a "wobbler" dado blade, the nut on the saw arbor came loose and the blade simply 'free-wheeled' on the arbor.

THE SOLUTION

We re-tightened the nut on the arbor and assumed that somehow, through carelessness, it had not been tightened to begin with. However, within a few minutes the nut was again loose and the blade freewheeling. Certain we had tightened the nut the second time we, as a group, inspected the saw closely to determine the cause of the problem. A decision was made to suspend work on the shelving units until the problem was solved since this could present a safety issue. Minds were brought to bear on the problem. The only thing we could see was that the arbor nut was BRASS. We all agreed it was likely this was a 'second source' nut since our combined experience said such nuts were 'usually' steel. We suspected, although with no supporting data, the brass nut was heating and expanding or maybe just worn through use to a slightly larger diameter thus making tightening difficult if not impossible. It was decided to get a new steel nut. Ken Miller, the machinist type in the group, volunteered to take the BRASS NUT, measure it, and acquire another in steel. It was, of course, a left-handed thread,

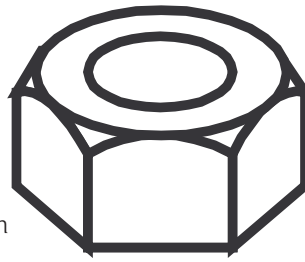


not easy to find, and somewhat expensive. Such

a steel nut was acquired by Ken Miller and delivered to me. We were not at Jim's Shop for the next two Saturdays due to the Wood Auction and the Mid Hudson Show.

Three weeks into the problem, I delivered the Steel Nut to Jim's Shop fully expecting we could now resume the creation of the shelving units. OOPS! It (the NUT) did not fit! It threaded on to the arbor about 1 turn or less and froze up. We looked for burrs, cleaned the arbor threads, etc. all to no avail. Someone suggested this was a DeWalt radial arm saw and we have Roger Holmes in our group who is manager of the DeWalt store in Latham. Roger might be able to get us a replacement nut. ROGER HOLMES. DUHHHH! Why we did not think of these three weeks ago, we do not know! Anyway, Roger was called from Jim's shop and as luck would have it he was at the DeWalt store, and did in fact have a replacement NUT. Since Roger happens to live across the street from me in Valley Falls, I had the replacement nut in my possession within hours and we could try it on the saw next Saturday. (By the way, this was now four weeks into the problem.) Roger presented to me a beautiful replacement nut. A NEW BRASS NUT just like the one at the beginning of this story except quite shinny. Don't cha just love a bunch of smart guys solving a good PROBLEM? I digress. Forgive me. But, now the problem was solved. Get back to Jim's on the coming Saturday and get to work on those shelves!

I did, in fact, take the nut to Jim's shop on Saturday, October 4 (the fifth Saturday since the problem occurred) and being there early, decided to 'try it out'. I put a blade on the saw, with flanges and the new BRASS nut looking just like the old BRASS NUT. On trying to tighten it with the wrench, I could not get it tight. Each attempt made the arbor spin without really tightening the nut. Jamming a piece of wood behind the blade to keep it from



spinning simply had no effect. It would not tighten. Well, I leaned back, sipped my morning tea, and cursed the engineer who would have designed a saw without some means of securing the arbor in order to tighten the NUT. I was thinking he likely got a job with the company who manufactured my car and is still laughing. As the caffeine began to take effect I realized that maybe we ALL had overlooked something obvious-like some way to keep the arbor from rotating while tightening the nut. So, I began to look. I looked for a pin which might push into a hole in the arbor, I looked for any kind of slot to hold a second wrench, I looked for any device to increase friction around the arbor. I found nothing of the kind. I did find an unexplained star shaped hole in the end of the arbor. Now, you don't suppose something goes in that hole to somehow gain purchase on the arbor, do you? A quick look in the cluttered shelf under the saw found a 10 inch long Allen wrench just the right size to go into the hole in the arbor. EUREKA! The perfect 10 inch lever to hold the arbor while tightening the NUT. QED and all that. Problem SOLVED!"THE SAW WAS WORKING!"

I could hardly wait to tell the gang of my accomplishments. I was soooo! proud to have solved the problem.

When the full gang arrived, I had my 'moment of glory'. Owen Arkison responded, "Why didn't you ask me? I could have told you the wrench used to tighten the NUT was under the saw on the shelf. \$\$\$ ^% % ^*&. Someone else in the group queried why didn't you guys look in the MANUAL for instructions on how to tighten the nut?" #5^&&% (%\$# % &^% (%^.

Well, I have an answer for both of you! If we had been smart enough to ask Owen, or to look in the manual, I would not have had a good laugh and any reason to write this story. Who reads MANUALS ANYWAY! Come join us Saturday mornings at 9:00AM at Jim's Shop at 86 Guideboard Road in Half Moon and become part of the next problem solving "adventure"

Safety Message

By Ray Gannon

Part II Respirator selection for wood dust – plus.

First a couple reminders;

- Wood dust has several hazards associated with exposure to it. In general, exposure to excessive amounts is considered to have an irritant effect on eyes, nose and throat in addition to pulmonary function impairment and is considered a human carcinogen. Western red cedar dust has also been shown to cause asthma. Significant accumulations of fine particles of wood dust can also be a fire and explosion hazard in the shop. The health effects associated with wood dust come not only from the wood dust itself but also biological organisms such as mold and fungi which grow on the wood, and chemicals such as formaldehyde, copper naphthanate, and pentachlorophenol used in the processing of some woods.
- ***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.
- Have good ***dust extraction equipment working*** in your shop; this should be your first line of defense from wood dust exposures.

We are now ready to select our wood dust respirator using an estimated concentration level for Wood dusts -- use 5mg/M3. Remember to use 2 mg/M3 for Western Red Cedar and Rose wood.

1. ***General Hazards*** we will choose a respirator for the commonly used North American woods.
2. ***Contaminants Exposure*** to Wood Dust
3. ***Environmental Questions*** your individual shop ventilation system. For example--if you don't have a working dust vitalization system we must consider a respirator that provides more comfort for the longer periods of time we will need protection.

Gannon suggested Solutions – we need one respirator type that is comfortable to wear while still providing us with proper protection for our wood working activities. One solution would be to use an AO N95, a respirator that is light weight only 5 ounces and offers a comfortable fit over the well known dual cartridge respirators (which will protect you as well -- provided you use them properly). This type of respirator AO-N95 provides protec-

tion against non-oil containing dusts – fumes and mist commonly associated with sanding and cutting wood, metal and plastic. The soft rubber facepiece features two exhalation valves for easier breathing. Easy to disassemble and clean. Yet more economical than disposable dust masks. We can find this respirator at http://www.aosafety.com/diy/resp_detail.cfm?con_prod_num=95190&con_family_id=6&con_platform_id=1

For the wood worker that has a ventilation system a solution would be to wear a dust mask! Disposable dust mask provide protection against Nuisance levels of non-toxic dust. You can find these at http://www.aosafety.com/diy/resp_main.cfm?con_platform_id=2

When we need a respirator we need to look for a supplier, which will honestly answer our questions and provide us with a respirator that will fit us properly. Remember to fit test each respirator we use each time we use one.

Now that we have an idea as to what to use in our woodworking we need to look at the respirator package where ever we shop for our safety gear and make sure that we are purchasing the proper product.

1. Make sure that the respirator is for Dust/Fume/mist
2. I look for a maintenance free unit-- a throw it away unit.
3. A unit that does not obstruct my vision – a clear vision unit. (After you use a unit you will know if it doesn't obstruct your vision or cause your safety glasses to fog up.)
4. Lightweight –if it is heavy you will not use it and you may be exposed.
5. Contour fitting – adjustable for over your nose and conforms comfortably to facial features.
6. Easy breathing/speaking – can breath normally. You must be understood when speaking otherwise you pull the unit down and you will not take the time to properly adjust for proper fitting again.
7. Fitting instructions must be included with your respirator.

For example for a dust mask;

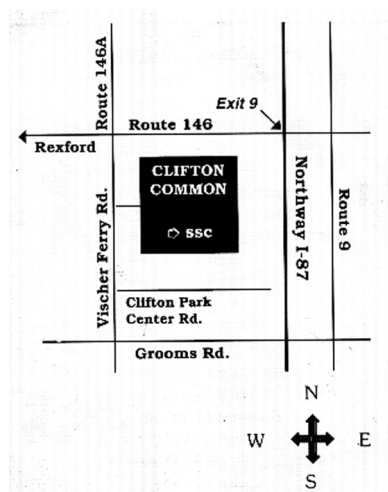
- Cup mask under chin with metal nosepiece up.
- Pull headband up to the back of the head.
- Press soft metal nosepiece to conform snugly around the nose.
- Breathe in and out to assure that the respirator stays put on your nose and face.

The health effects associated with wood dust come not only from the wood dust itself but also biological organisms such as mold and fungi which grow on the wood, and chemicals.

Read the instruction for any type respirator you plan on using prior to using. Remember that if you miss understand the instructions or don't follow the instructions the respirator will not be affective and may cause sickness or death. But remember that this warning must accompany all respirator usage for every one of us may react differently to the wood dust we are creating. 🙏



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



November Meeting

Thursday, November 13, 2008, 7:00 pm

Clifton Park Senior Center

Clifton Commons

Vischer Ferry Road, Clifton Park

GENERAL MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

NWA Program Schedule 2008-2009

November 13, 2008
Fiske Memorial Lecture
Ernie Conover

December 4, 2008
Family Night

January 8, 2009
Jim's Hole in the Wood Gang

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

March 12, 2009
Shaker Boxes
John Wilson

April 10, 2009
Sacandaga Chapter

May 14, 2009
Jigs & Fixtures
(Mid Hudson)

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

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)

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

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

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

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

Jim's "Hole in the Woods Gang"

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

CHAPTERS

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

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