

WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern
Woodworkers
Association

September 2004, Vol. 13, Number 8

Ernie Conover to Kick Off NWA Program Year With a Three Day Woodworking Weekend

- Ken Evans



The first meeting of the new program year for NWA will feature Ernie Conover and will be held at the Shaker Heritage facility on Thursday, September 16, 2004. Ernie Conover has published widely on topics related to woodworking, operates a woodworking school (Conover Workshops in Parkman, Ohio), and is a contributing editor to *Fine Woodworking* magazine. The meeting will begin at 7:00PM.

This program is just a prelude to the two day series of great demonstrations which follow on Friday and Saturday, September 17 and 18 at the Sears Workshop in Colonie Center, Albany, New York.

Ernie Conover has been a friend to NWA for a very long time and we are always glad to have him visit. Ernie has done weekend demonstrations in the past and has participated in Showcase many times as a demonstrator, lecturer, and judge.

The topics of this woodworking weekend are shown in the adjacent column. Be sure to sign up early as the seats will fill fast for all demonstrations on Friday and Saturday.

SCHEDULE

Ernie Conover Woodworking Weekend September 16, 17, 18, 2004

At No Charge:

Thursday September 16, 2004

"Old Ways of Working Wood"

Regular September NWA Meeting

Begins at 7:00PM

At \$20 per session or \$50 for all sessions.

Friday September 17, 2004

12:00 - 4:00PM

"Old Ways of Working Wood"

(Continued from Thursday)

Friday September 17, 2004

5:00 - 9:00PM

"A Balance Between Hand and Power Tools"

Saturday September 18, 2004

9:00 - 1:00PM

"A woodturning Primer"

Saturday September 18, 2004

2:00 - 6:00PM

"Planes, Planes, Planes"

This promises to be a very exciting weekend in September with Ernie Conover.

To reserve a spot, please send your check made out to "NWA" to

John Michne

10 evergreen Avenue

Clifton Park, NY 12065

(518) 371-6690 • jmichne1@nycap.rr.com

NOTE: NWA Educational programs are open to everyone interested in woodworking.



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From the President

- Pat McCord

The upcoming year will get off to a great start with the September General Meeting when Ernie Conover, one of the most respected and well-known woodworkers, will be the featured speaker. Ernie will continue his Thursday night lecture on "Old Ways of Working Wood" and cover additional topics during the "Ernie Conover Woodworking Weekend" which will be Friday and Saturday, September 17th and 18th, 2004.

Additional highlights of this year's programming include the Totally Turning 2004 symposium, the Fiske Memorial Lecture with Michael Puryear, Woodworking Weekend 2005, a lecture by well-known expert on finishing Jeff Jewett at the March General Meeting followed by a two day workshop on finishing conducted by Jeff, and a marquetry lecture and workshop by NWA member Clark Pell.

Check the entire year's program in the schedule appearing on the last page of the newsletter for more information on the great programs the Program Committee has put together. Mark your calendar now so you don't miss anything! 🐾

Annual Lumber and Tool Auction, September 25, Shaker Barn

- Charlie Goddard

The annual lumber and tool auction will be held September 25 at the Shaker Heritage Society barn located near the entrance road to the Shaker Meetinghouse where we hold our regular meetings. The doors will open at 12 noon for inspection of the items for sale and the auction will begin at 1 PM. Bob Williams will be the auctioneer again this year. This is the primary funding source for Fiske Fund grants.

We still need items to sell. Let me know if you have lumber or tools you would like to donate. I can make arrangements to get items into the barn most days, but please do not wait until the week before the auction. Just give me a call at (518) 370-0388. If you don't want to donate the full value we can share the proceeds. All donations are tax deductible.

In addition to the black walnut that we sawed up in June 2003, there will be some interesting lumber from Joshua's Trees, router tables, miter saws, a dovetail jig, a DeWalt radial arm saw, various hand power tools, cherry veneer plywood, magazines and a ceiling-mounted dust collector.

The auction is a good chance to pick up some nice lumber or a tool at a reasonable price. The walnut has been stickered in the barn for over a year and is now ready, and really is nice lumber. If you haven't attended the auction in the past, plan to come this year. Even if you don't end up buying anything it's a fun time.

We will need help to set up the auction during the week prior to the auction and help running the auction on the 25th. If you are willing to lend a hand, give me a call or send me an email at cgodd@aol.com. 🐾

Renew Your Membership

- Austin Spang

September is the time to renew your NWA membership. Look at the date following your name on the address for this newsletter. If it says "Aug 2005" you're already paid up... thank you. If it says "Aug 2004" you need to renew by mailing in your dues or bringing them to the September meeting. The dues are the same as last year, \$20 for a member and \$25 for more than one member residing at the same address. Please renew your membership as soon as possible.



Congratulations

to NWA member Thomas Wetzel for the publication of one of his projects in the "Current Work" section of the September/October issue of *Fine Woodworking* magazine. The project is a settee designed for a client by extending a sack-back Windsor chair to a length of 60". It is crafted from curly maple and finished with aniline dye and shellac. The seat is one solid piece of maple.



Windsor Settee

PHOTOGRAPH BY © MICHAEL L. NOONAN, C.I.P.P.

Tape Measure Trials

- Herm Finkbeiner

The NWA picnic was the setting of a curious, first-ever event to determine the fastest tape measure. It was won in rather convincing fashion by an unknown chap, evidently from the South, who should have been chased from the park by the angry mob. The South is more attuned to stock car racing than to the genteel sports found in Saratoga and this may have spurred him into action. Later, this reporter tracked him down as he was returning his entrants to the barn. Here is the scoop into the operations of his stable.

The opportunist was caught on tape; Teflon tape, that is, on the hooves of his steed. When confronted with the question of legality, he replied that he was highly motivated by the knowledge that the rules said it was an open competition. His excitement caused him to spring into action by first understanding the physics of such a device and then beefing up and lubricating the vital parts. He is sorry to have shut out the competition with a modified entry. On the other hand he feels that it was a great demonstration of what can be done by an unprincipled competitor.

This cheesy cheat, this Hopewell hooligan, this Poughkeepsie poltroon, a Dutchess dip not to mention a M-H Menace must be put in his place. He said that he is more than willing to abide by any rules that may be developed and in the future will even comply with being restricted to a "modified" class should that be the desire of track officials. He feels it would be good for the sport and encourages newcomers to enter in the "stock" category. He claims he will hew to the line but don't bet that he won't come up with something else.

He did express considerable pleasure in the trophy, made by Ken Miller, since monetary rewards from wagering were thin due to the short odds on his entry. 🐾



Chuck "Two Foot" Walker won the tape measure race with ridiculous ease due to highly modified entries. The iridescent colors of his steeds drew the attention of judges away from other TMs and gave the illusion of speed.

The longer I live in this world the more I am surprised
at the enormous amount of good advice that I can get along without.

Tom P. Morgan

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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the first noted here
operates continuously.
We also offer selected
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The second site operates from
January 1 to May 30
and carries specific
information about SHOWCASE.
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WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION**
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NWA Picnic 2004 Is Best Ever

- Ken Evans

What a day in Jonesville!

The weather was perfect...blue sky, fluffy white clouds and mild temperatures.

The most important news of the event is that the TURNERS will maintain the title of NWA BOCCE Champions and will keep the trophy for another year as neither the flatboarders, scrollers or carvers presented a challenging team. Maybe next year.

The new event of the picnic was the Tape Measure race. The track was assembled and races began shortly after the picnic started and continued throughout the afternoon. By all measures, the betting by individual tape owners was heavy. I saw as many as 15 popsicle sticks bet on a single race. The winner of the overall event was Chuck "Two Foot" Walker. Chuck's name will be inscribed on the race trophy that was made by Ken Miller. This reporter heard mutterings by race losers about souping up their measures for next year. Maybe some wheels and WD-40 will help.

Bart Charbot spent the day helping folks learn a bit about fly-casting. My wife was hooked (figuratively speaking), and I think there are water and waders in our future. The carvers, turners and scrollers also had ongoing demonstrations of techniques and products.

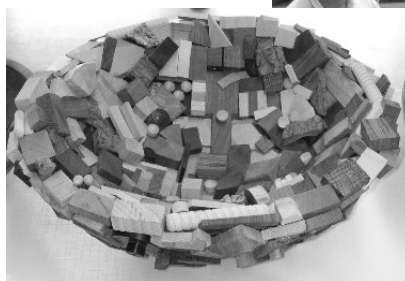
There was a table of interesting items made by members to be examined and enjoyed. Who would guess that John Michne, our own vice-president, is making a violin. On the same table were several exquisite bowls made by some turner with a cracked sense of humor. The silent auction table held many fine items for the benefit of the Fiske Fund. Thanks to all who participated the bidding was steady and generous.

The event began with one small table holding a few birdhouses for Camp Hole in the Woods. Before the picnic was over, there were over 100 birdhouses of all shapes and sizes on tables, chairs and the floor. What a great job the members of NWA did to support this very worthy cause.

That leaves the food. I am on a diet and did not taste "everything", but I personally can tell you the chicken, beef, hot dogs, sausage and peppers, potato salad, cole slaw, macaroni salad, tossed salad and the salt potatoes were just great. Then there was this cake decorated with a saw blade and the NWA logo and these peanut butter chocolate bars that looked sooo good. Well, after eating the entire "N" portion of the NWA cake, and untold numbers of the peanut butter chocolate bars, I was getting a little woozey and needed my afternoon power nap. So the 30 or so other deserts went untested by me but certainly looked delicious!

Good food, fun, conversation, weather and over 100 people marked this year's NWA picnic.

See you next year!



Segmented Bowl



Fluted Bowl



CHAPTER NEWS

Mid Hudson Chapter News

- Wally Cook

News and Notes...

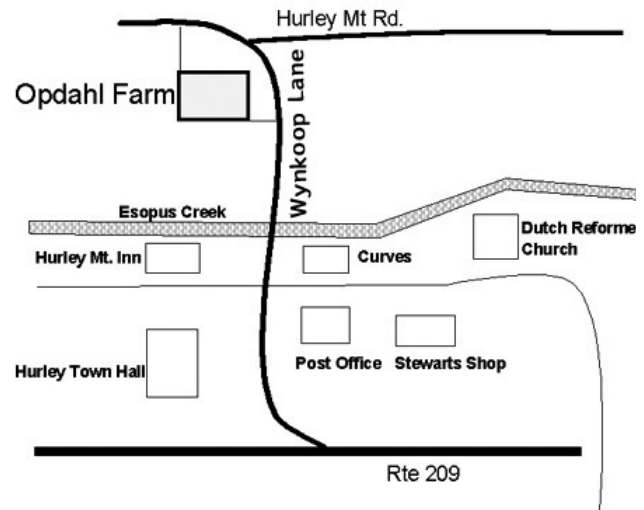
New Treasurer for Mid-Hudson Chapter: John Grossbohlman has assumed the financial reins from Bernie O'Malley. Bernie will remain the Chapter Historian. Many thanks to Bernie for the fine job he did as Treasurer; Bernie will work with John through the transition.

Dutchess County Fair participation: The Mid-Hudson Chapter will once again be represented at the Dutchess County Fair. The fair will run from August 24 through August 29 at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds in Rhinebeck. This is the second largest fair in New York State with 500,000 visitors expected.

We have a 16'x24' booth at the fair where members may exhibit items and participate in woodworking demonstrations such as woodturning and scroll saw craft. Daily teams and schedules have been set up by Joe Mikesh. If you are interested in participating or displaying something, please call Joe at (845) 687-4285.

Mid-Hudson Chapter Picnic: The annual chapter picnic will be held on Saturday, September 11 from noon to 4pm. Bob and Viola Opdahl have graciously agreed to host the picnic once again. The Opdahl Farm is located in Hurley; the 18th century farmhouse and grounds were featured in the movie Tootsie.

Please bring a covered dish to share, as well your soft drink of choice. It's also a good idea to bring your



own folding chair. The Chapter will provide hotdogs, hamburgers and sausage along with utensils and plates. Shirts ordered by members will be available for pick-up. We plan to hold a raffle, so everyone is invited to bring an item to include in the drawing. A woodworking demonstration will be held in the barn adjacent to Bob's woodturning shop.

To get to the Opdahl Farm, take NYS Thruway to exit 19 and take Rte 209 southwest. Exit at Hurley and follow Wynkoop Lane. The Opdahl Farm is located at the junction of Wynkoop and Hurley Mt. Road. Direct any questions to Bernie O'Malley at (845) 338-7597.

Sacandaga Chapter News

- Gary Spencer

Our May 12th meeting was a workshop on building a log cabin. Gary Spencer gave the presentation, detailing his own experiences in building two different log homes. The workshop concentrated on all phases of planning and construction of log structures including insulation, wiring, plumbing and roofing. Also discussed was how to deal with log suppliers, and different options for log packages from just logs to a complete kit with all logs cut to fit and all interior cabinets, interior doors, floors, windows and interior walls provided. The session developed much discussion with several people indicating they would be interested in building a log home in the future.

Our last meeting before taking our summer hiatus was on June 8th and was devoted to shop visits. Four shops were on this year's list for visitations, including those of Chapter members Joe Piccalino, Tom Rulliffson and Gary Spencer. Thanks for their efforts in the inevitable cleaning up to get ready for the visits.

Coming up on September 8th will be a session given by the folks at the Curtis Lumber- Broadalbin store. We will meet back at the High School in Mayfield at 7:00 p.m. and our topic will be "Do it yourself options". Come on out, everyone is welcome. We have door prizes for attendees and light refreshments are served.

All Members of NWA are invited to attend our regular 7:00 P.M. meetings that are usually held at the Mayfield High School woodshop on the second Wednesday of each month.

For information or directions call:

Bob Beyer, 883-3617 or Dick Edel, 762-4851 or Gary Spencer, 863-6433

We mortals have to swat and shoo the flies from dawn 'til dark,
'Cause Noah didn't swat the two that roosted in the Ark.

H. J. Williams

Wood of the Month

- Ron DeWitt © 2004

Red Spruce (*Picea rubens*) An Evergreen Softwood Pinaceae; Pine Family

The spruces or “spruce-firs” number in total about 40 species, widely distributed across the Northern Hemisphere. Only seven are native to the U.S. Almost all of the spruces share some common characteristics; squared needles with unpleasantly sharp tips, scaly bark, pendent or dangling seed cones and neat, shapely conical forms. That elegant, ordered appearance is probably the source of its common name--“spruce,” a term meaning neat, trim, smart or dapper.

Of the eastern spruces--white spruce, black spruce and red spruce--the red is considered commercially the most important. Red spruce (*Picea rubens*), an evergreen conifer also called yellow spruce, maritime spruce, Virginia spruce, Eastern spruce or he-balsam, has a natural range extending from Canada's maritime provinces south into New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts. It also extends further south in discontinuous stands into the Appalachians of Maryland and Virginia and as far south as North Carolina and Tennessee. It is the most common spruce of New England, and although the only spruce reaching into the mountains of the southeastern U.S., it has the smallest range of any North American spruce.

Red spruce favors well-drained, thin, shallow organic soils, acid in nature and often unfavorable to other species. Growing best in a cool wet climate, maximum development is achieved in the higher sections of the southern Appalachians where it usually associates with Fraser fir, typically reaching 115 feet with stem diameters of 36 inches. In the Northeast, it also occurs in pure stands or associates with black spruce, hemlock, white pine or its more constant companion balsam fir. So regular is that relationship, the spruce here is called he-balsam and the fir she-balsam. In this region red spruce is typically 60-75 feet by 24 inches.

The current record in the U.S. for red spruce, as reported in the Register of Big Trees, is 146 feet by 46 inches DBH, growing in the Great Smokies National Park in North Carolina. Canada may have larger trees. New York's record is almost 100 feet by 30 inches DBH, located on Mt. Van Hoevenberg, Essex County.

The sharp-tipped leaves of red spruce are almost square in section, 1/2 to 5/8 inch long, curved inward and bristling forward all around the orange-brown twigs. Leaves are shiny dark green tinged with yellow and marked with fine rows of white stomata along each flat surface. Crushed leaves have a pleasant “orange-rind” aroma derived from their complex content of essential oils. Leaves persist on the tree for 5 to 7 years.

Seed cones are 1 to 2 inches long, chocolate brown and oval in shape, hanging from very short stalks. Cone scales



are stiff, bluntly rounded, lightly striated and smooth. Cones open in autumn of their first year to shed their winged seeds, dropping intact the following spring. Good seed crops occur every 2 to 11 years.

The bark of young trees is smooth, thin, light gray to reddish-brown, aging to darker gray-brown, scaly, sometimes lightly furrowed. Newly exposed bark is dull yellow or light reddish-brown.

The tree branches from the ground up with little tendency to prune itself, forming a narrow conical crown. Primary branches are only about 9 feet long with a flat non-bushy shape, sloping downward with tips that turn abruptly upward. Root systems of this spruce are quite shallow, typically only 13 inches deep, making the tree quite susceptible to wind tipping in spite of its narrow crown. Red spruce is very shade tolerant but quite vulnerable to damage from an acid bearing atmosphere.

Wood of the red spruce is nearly white to pale yellow-brown without distinction between heartwood and sapwood. Usually straight and even-grained, it is medium to fine-textured, lightweight, soft, strong for its weight, quite stiff and slightly resinous. It has no noticeable taste or odor when dry. Frequently dimples are found on flat sawn surfaces. The wood has a specific gravity of .38 at 12 % M.C. (air dried), similar to white pine or eastern hemlock but noticeably heavier than white spruce.

Growth rings are distinct; earlywood is a number of times wider than the darker latewood with a gradual transition between the two. Rays are very fine and indistinct to the naked eye. Small irregularly distributed longitudinal and transverse resin canals are present. The larger longitudinal canals appear as white flecks in heartwood, just noticeable to the naked eye.

Red spruce, often confused with fir or larch, can be separated from those species by careful comparison of gross features. The eastern spruces cannot be reliably separated from each other even microscopically (the different crushed leaf scents are much more dependable).

Red spruce dries easily with only a little care. Shrinkage from green to oven dry is in the high range for softwoods... 4.0 percent radially, 7.4 percent tangentially, and 12.9 percent of volume. Movement in service is minimal. This wood works easily to a smooth, lustrous surface with hand or power tools. Knots remain tight, gluing is moderately easy and finishes hold well after sealing. Threaded fasteners hold well but nails tend to pull with time. The wood develops a fine gray luster when exposed to the weather but is not durable in contact with water or soil.

There are reported eye, nose, throat, lung and skin problems from working with spruce. Prudent health precautions are advised.

The neat, slender, conical form has earned red spruce a place among the desirable ornamentals in the U.S. and especially in Europe, although growth of cultivated plantings is quite slow. In some areas its leaf scent makes it a popular Christmas tree, although gloves are recommended



The Corner Computer Cabinet

- Dale M. Brown

I finally finished the corner computer cabinet that I made for my daughter. The photo shows the completed piece standing in her apartment in Niskayuna. It fits perfectly. What a miracle!

The construction of the cabinet's case has been described in two other issues of this newsletter (December, 2002 and January, 2003). This article describes the method of assembling the doors and the finish.

Door Construction

There is a bead with a 1/4" radius on the inside edges of the cherry frames of the paneled doors. The steps to create this bead follow:

1. The beads on the styles were cut their entire length;
2. Matching concave cuts were made with a cove bit in the ends of the rails using a router table sled to hold the rails during this operation (this needs to be followed by a careful removal of wood below this cut to match the protruding step in the style below the bead...best done on the table saw);
3. The bead on the rails was then cut. Delaying this step allows one to fix any rip out that might occur during step 2;
4. The groove to hold the panel was cut all the way to the end of the rails and the styles and across the end of the rails using a 3 wing fly cutter, and
5. Loose tenons were made to fill the portion of the slots formed by the grooves in the ends of the rails and the styles that are not filled by the panel. (Fig. 2).

The sapele-veneered panels were completely finished, even waxed, before glue-up of the frames.

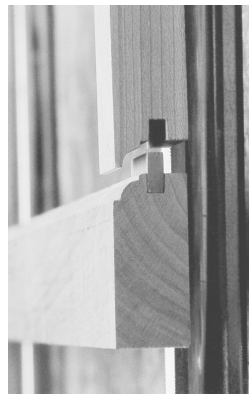


Figure 2

The Flip-Down Door

When closed the flip-down door hides the computer tray and its supporting in/out/tilting mechanism. In operation, the keyboard is out and the operator is sitting with knees close to the front of the cabinet. The flip-down door needs to slide into the cabinet out of the way, but

since it is a corner cabinet there is not much depth inside for a flip door 28" wide. Therefore, the height of the door had to be just right...high

enough to satisfy the requirements of the computer tray and its support system, but able to be pushed inside out of the way. Figure 3 shows the flip doors' in/out sliding mechanism after removing the top of the base.



Figure 3

Two steel Accuslide ball bearing drawer extension slides were fastened to two pieces of wood screwed to the supporting frame (shelf). A square frame was fastened to the inside surfaces of the drawer slides. Fastened to this frame was a long piece of cherry as shown. This piece holds the ends of two butler tray hinges. A wide rabbit in the lower surface extends backward from the hinge's pin at the front edge. The other ends of these hinges were fastened to the inside surface of the bottom rail of the door and were offset from the edge that is rabbited on the inside surface (Fig.4). This offset was required so that when the door is closed it eliminates the gap that would otherwise occur between the bottom of the door and the front of the cabinet. The height of the Accuslides above the frame was adjusted so that when the door is down (horizontal) and pushed in, the front does not touch the cabinet's frame. Because of the hinge offset, there needs to be "swinging" clearance between the bottom edge of the door's bottom rail and the cabinet face frame, specifically the horizontal piece between the top of the lower doors and the bottom of the flip door. This was accomplished by cutting a concave groove in the upper inside edge of this piece using a large core box router bit (Fig.5).



Finish

Two coats of Minwax golden pecan stain were applied to all the

solid cherry and highly figured cherry veneer in the tall side panels. Before staining, I always use Minwax preconditioner to even out the color.

The protective finish on all the exterior solid cherry on the cornice, face frames, side panel frames and paneled door frames is two coats of high gloss Waterlox and one coat of satin Waterlox. This is an easy finish to apply and requires only very light sanding (2000X) between coats.

The pommele sapele veneer in the doors was not stained but the pores were filled using Behlan's walnut-colored silox paste filler. First a wash coat of shellac is applied, followed by the filler thinned with naphtha. It is allowed to partially dry and then wiped off using burlap. All veneered panels were varnished using Benjamin Moore's Benwood high gloss oil varnish, thinned about 20% with paint thinner to improve brush application. Between each of 3 to 5 coats the finish was wet sanded, and the final coat was wet sanded using 1000X, 1500X and 2000X silicon carbide paper and then waxed.

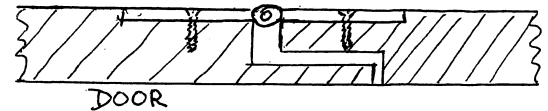


Figure 4

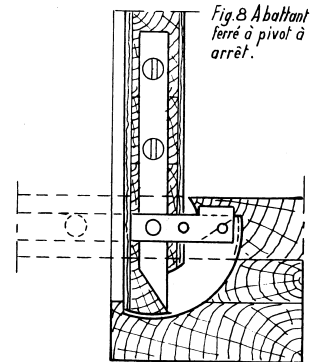


Figure 5

Fig. 8 Abattant
fermé à pivot à
arrêt.

For the Birds – Mission Accomplished...Absolutely!

- Fran Finkbeiner

Last fall Bart Chabot and Herm Finkbeiner delivered bird-house kits to Max Yurenda, director of Double H Hole in the Woods Camp, Lake Luzerne. Kids who spend much of their lives in hospitals have the opportunity to spend a happy week here at no cost...doing what regular kids love to do. Among many other activities, the kids may choose a project from the kits NWA provides...and the woodworking kits are very popular.

"Hey! Could NWA make birdhouses to use as table centerpieces-to-auction at our August benefit gala?" asked Max. "Sure! How many do you need?"

"Ninety," was the reply. (Gasp.) "Sure, we can do that!"

One hundred thirty five birdhouses were delivered to Hole in the Woods on Monday, August 16 for the benefit dinner/gala at The Great Escape on August 21.

With coordination by Pete Howe, 13-14 persons met and worked in Jim Kennedy's workshop Saturdays for many weeks to make 32 birdhouses from designs by Ernie Harrington and Charlie Goddard. The other hundred or so are highly original designs, from rustic to elegant, by many individual contributors (both members and non-members)... a fishing cabin on pilings, churches with and without bells, barns, a caboose, a light house, a cuckoo clock with *bonafide* decorative parts and the cuckoo to be replaced by a NYS summer resident, no-nonsense blue bird houses, lathe-turned exotic-wood masterpieces, a simple tree crotch house, several seed feeders...and an elegant octagonal house decorated with eight birds created with marquetry that should never undergo more than a breeze on a well-protected porch!

At Pete Howe's home four vehicles were packed with birdhouses, each piece numbered, listed, and photographed, and then driven by Pete, Bill Van Brunt, Darrell Welch, and Herm Finkbeiner to Double H Hole in the Woods...with a short sustenance stop at Poppa's Ice Cream in Lake Luzerne.

NWA's involvement with Hole in the Woods goes back to 1993 and a (black-fly assisted) project to build benches and a wheelchair-friendly campfire circle. Since that beginning NWA continues to provide kits for woodworking craft projects, to demonstrate entertaining woodworking techniques, to assist in classes, and to make routed name signs for the residence cabins...chipmunk, bear, deer, beaver, squirrel, etc.

New projects are being discussed for wintertime design and building for next season's Hole in the Woods activities. You'll hear more about them in *Woodworkers News* and at meetings. Join in the fun. No one can visit the Camp without the feeling that to be part of it is good for the soul. 🐾



Pete Howe, Herm Finkbeiner, Darrell Welch and Bill Van Brunt labeled, packed and delivered all of the birdhouses to Camp Hole In The Woods.



Some of the 135 birdhouses delivered to Camp Hole In The Woods to be auctioned at their gala/benefit on August 21.

Corner cabinet...

Continued from Page 7

At *Showcase 2004*, a number of people asked me to duplicate this cabinet for their use or to sell them the piece exhibited. One lady came back twice and asked to purchase it. "No," I said, "This was built for a special person." Recently my daughter told me how much she enjoyed using it, how well it fit her, how neat it looked when closed and how much she used that secret drawer. That's all the payment I need. Thank goodness it is finally finished.

I wish to thank Ed Perazzo and his crew of transporters who moved this large piece to and from Saratoga Springs for *Showcase 2004*. The members of this fine group of NWA members included (in addition to Ed) Dick Lill, Pete Frisoni, Mike Murphy, Paul McElligot, Jim P Peacock, Jay Van Vranken, and Charlie Goddard. 🐾

Wood of the month...

Continued from Page 6

for trimming and needles drop early.

Spruce beer was a favorite and inexpensive drink of early Americans. Liquid from boiled young twigs and needles was fermented with molasses, honey or maple syrup to produce that pleasant orangy-piney tasting alcoholic beverage. "Essence of spruce," a concentrated needle tea, was also used as a beer preservative. Spruce provided ingredients for many early medications; inner bark tea was used for stomach distress, kidney stones, rheumatism and for throat and lung disorders. Powdered pitch speeded wound healing, and when rubbed in reduced the pain in rheumatic joints. Needle and bark tea, high in vitamin C, was very effective in treating and preventing scurvy. In times of dire need, soft inner bark was dried and ground for use as a slightly bitter flour or mixed to extend dwindling supplies of other flours.

Dried pitch of red or black spruce was also used recreationally as "spruce

gum" a favorite of children and woods-folk. So popular was this early chewing gum that in the period from the mid-1800's to the early 1900's as much as 150 tons a year were consumed.

Available at L.L. Bean until 1997, small quantities are still produced in Maine.

Red spruce, like white pine, is a wood of many uses. Because of its long fibers, the principal use is for pulp for a wide variety of paper products from newsprint to high-grade writing papers. Probably its most important application, although requiring only small select quantities, is for piano soundboards, organ pipes, and bellies of stringed musical instruments.

The wood has unique musical resonance or tonal qualities, generally enriching, softening and dampening tones. Red spruce is considered to have the best of these qualities. Only the choicest old-growth, slow-grown, wide, clear, straight-grained, quarter-sawn boards with 25 or more growth rings to the inch are selected for instru-

ments. Users and makers of stringed instruments are also aware that wood cells in the instrument become more elastic with regular vibration but stiffen "arthritically" if neglected. Museums play their instruments systematically.

Red spruce is used for general construction, trim, doors, sashes, paneling, cabinets and flooring. Some goes into dry poles and piling, plywood, flake-board, dry cooperage, food containers and bee boxes. In the days of sailing ships red spruce was used for masts, spars, framing and decking. Some is still used for boat building. It is also used for hardboard, particle board, railroad ties, boxes and crates and is excellent for cant-sliced veneer. (Rotary-cut veneer from red spruce is of poor quality.)

Red spruce is in good supply in the Northeast. Most local mills carry it in construction grades. Big yards and the box stores usually include it in the SPF (spruce, pine, fir) category. 🌲

Wood Definition

- Ron DeWitt

Bird's-eye Figure - A kind of figure, due to distortions in fiber alignment, resulting in conical indentations in the growth rings. These indentations extend from the surface of the bark inward and, once started, continue in successive growth layers for many years, frequently for the life of the tree. When logs with bird's-eye figure are flat-sawn or rotary-cut, the area on the surface of the wood in which the fiber is distorted resembles bird's eyes.

Bird's-eye formation may extend throughout the length of the tree and even into the branches. More frequently the figure is limited to one side of the tree or confined to irregular patches scattered over the trunk. Considerable variation is found in size and in population density of eyes on a surface.

Bird's-eye figure is most common and most characteristically developed in hard maple, but similar figure is also found in soft maple, birch, white ash and cherry. No wholly acceptable explanation of the cause of bird's-eye figure has yet been given.

Wood Questions

Q. What native tree is considered the top-ranking medicinal plant of the United States?



A. The cascara or cascara buckthorn (*Rhamnus pershiana*) of Oregon and Washington. This important little 30 to 40 foot tree has bright yellow inner bark containing a laxative substance, the source of the drugstore product Cascara Sagrada.

C L A S S I F I E D S

For sale:

1. New Craftsman laser trac 10" radial arm saw, 110/220 volt. Develops 3 HP. \$400. Compare at \$600.
2. Native Adirondack 8/4 cherry 6" wide, random lengths up to 12', seasoned 4 years in a barn. \$3.00 Bd foot. 2000 feet to choose from.

Mike Kratky, 863-2821 or inspectr@frontiernet.net

Wanted: Hard Maple Logs 12" - 18" dia., 8' - 12' length, straight grain
Jim Hartlage, (518) 370-4127 or jmhartlage@aol.com.

Referral List

- Charlie Goddard

If you would like to be included on this list please complete the following form and return it to: Referral List, NWA, PO Box 246, Rexford NY 12148.

Name: _____ Business Name: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____ Email Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Business: Full Time _____ Part Time _____ By Appointment _____

Describe Specialty: _____

Should the list be made available to NWA members only? Yes ___ No ___

Should the referral list be made available on the website? Yes ___ No ___

Should the referral list be made available at Showcase or other public events? Yes ___ No ___

Name	Address	Phone/ email	Specialty
Anspacher, David	12924 Route 9W W.Coxsackie NY 12192	518-859-4368	Upholstery, Refinishing, Repair, Restoration, Parts Made
Bigelo, Hal	469 Route 32S Schuylerville, NY 12871	518-587-3847	Cabinetmaking/Furniture
DeMola, Lou	27 Linden Ct. Clifton Park, NY 12065	518-371-1160	Turning
Evans, Ken	2062 NY 67 Valley Falls NY 12185	518-753-7759 kevans1@nycap.rr.com	Turning
Flaws, Donald	353 Taber Rd Berne NY 12023	518-872-1615	Furniture Refinishing (no chairs)
Harris, John	18 DeGroot Rd Ft. Edward NY 12828	518-747-2521 reprote@capital.net	Cabinets, Chairs
Hilt, Lee	4 Sharon Dr Albany NY 12205	518-452-5701	Custom Lumber Sawing with Woodmizer HD 40 Portable Mill
Kratky, Marion	PO Box 902 Northville NY 12134	518-863-2621 marionk@frontiernet.net	Oil Paintings on Wood or Canvas, Scenic or Structures (Camps, etc)
Kratky, Mike	PO Box 902 Northville NY 12134	518-863-2621 518-863-8800 inspectr@frontiernet.net	Electrical Insp/Consult., Home & Environ. Insp/Consult., Woodworking Shop Consult.
Kronau, Michael	PO Box 100 Postenkill NY 12140	(see below) kronau@aol.com	Custom Furniture & Cabinetry, Architectural Woodwork"
McKinney, Martin	48 Homestead St Albany, NY 12203	518-489-5359 MartinM316@aol.com	Carpentry, Woodworking, Remodeling, Roofing, Windows, Doors & More
Mitteer, Dana	428 Canal St. Suite 6 Brattleboro, VT 05301	802-380-3536	Carousel Classes Flexcut Tools
Pell, Clark	336 County Route 61 Coxsackie NY 12192	518-731-2475 cepell@msn.com	Marquetry
Remis, Richard & Stephen	1067 Niskayuna Rd. Niskayuna, NY 12309	518-785-7795	Repair Chairs, Tables, etc.
Robinson, Pete	24 Dalton Rd Scotia NY 12302	518-372-7804 PLRCAB@aol.com	Custom Furniture, Cigar Humidors

New Members

- Austin Spang

Paul Barrowman, Voorheesville, NY
 Bill Galusha & Dolores Galusha, Argyle, NY
 Mark Hammond, Ballston Spa, NY
 Allan Kirk, Delmar, NY
 Barbara Nottke & John Nottke, Albany, NY
 Dana Spice, Belchertown, MA
 Woody Whitman, Gloversville, NY

**The current Fiske Fund application period
ends September 30, 2004.**

**Applications will be available at the
September 16 regular meeting,
or may be obtained by
calling Charlie Goddard at (518) 370-0388.**

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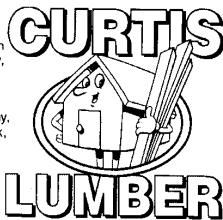
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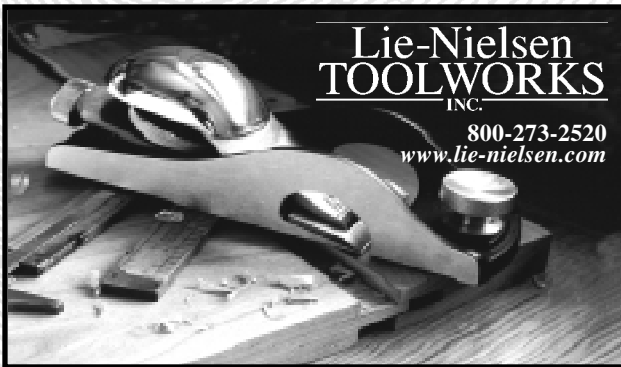
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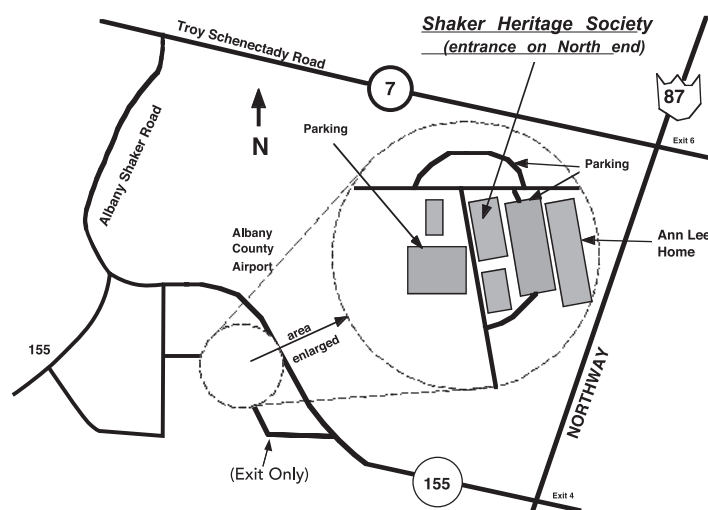
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Northeastern Woodworkers Association
P.O. Box 246
Rexford, New York 12148-0246



NEXT MEETING:

7:00 p.m. Thursday, September 16, 2004
Shaker Heritage Society Meeting House
Albany-Shaker Road, Albany
(near Albany airport)

GENERAL MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

NWA Program Schedule – 2004-2005

Sep. 16, 2004	Ernie Conover Shaker Meeting House
Sep. 17-18	Ernie Conover Workshop Sears
Sep. 25, 2004	Wood and Tool Auction Shaker Heritage Barn
Oct. 14, 2004	Fiske Fund Grantees Shaker Meeting House
Oct. 30-31, 2004	Turning Symposium Empire State Plaza Convention Center
Nov. 11, 2004	Fiske Memorial Lecture Michael Puryear Unitarian Church, Schenectady
Dec. 9, 2004	Family Night Shenendehowa Senior Citizens Center
Jan. 13, 2005	"Post and Beam Construction" Shaker Meeting House
Jan. 29-30, 2005	Woodworking Weekend
Feb. 10, 2005	Mid-Hudson NWA Program Shaker Meeting House
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 14, 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

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 every Tuesday evening 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.