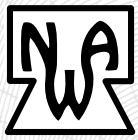


WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern
Woodworkers
Association

May 2023, Vol. 32, Number 5

President's Column

By Irv Stephens

Hi, Folks — As NWA's many Showcase volunteers already know, the March Showcase and the Totally Turning Symposia were well attended, vendors were satisfied with sales and the demonstrations were varied and interesting. Also, notably, 2023 marked Wally Carpenter's last year as the event's Chair, and the event's success clearly reflected the effectiveness of his sustained efforts over many years. Any attempt by me to say thanks for all your patience, commitment and ingenuity is admittedly inadequate. Fortunately, Wally will not be disappearing from NWA involvements, I know, and I hope he thoroughly relishes the additional time he'll now be spending with family, friends and woodworking.

Wally's dedication to NWA over his tenure as Showcase Chair serves as a strong reminder to us all about how important our commitments are to the organization. Showcase is special, of course, because it brings a lot of us together at one time to work for a common purpose; but, as Wally would agree, every member's volunteering impacts NWA for the good. Cleaning air filters on shop vacs, advising someone about how to sharpen a chisel or writing and a posting of an email about an upcoming SIG activity — all these volunteer jobs help to keep our organization viable and to sustain the camaraderie that is a special aspect of NWA. So, thank you again Wally for your service and for the example that you have set for all of us.

Reminder: Thursday, May 11 at 7:00 PM at the Learning Center on Railroad Ave. in Albany is the Annual Meeting. Following the election of Officers and other Board members, R. Scott Oliver will also be demonstrating how to sculpture Windsor chair seats.

— Stay safe, help others & keep woodworking,
Irv Stephens, NWA President

The shop stool project led by Mid-Hudson chapter VP Rich Cerruto and which involved many volunteer NWA members, resulted in seven completed stools being delivered to Hudson River Maritime Museum Director Lisa Cline on Friday March 31. The museum was happy to receive the stools and thanked all volunteers. Together with the first prototype, we delivered a total of eight stools, and several members have made their own stools along the way.



*Stools in late stages of assembly at Rich's Shop
(photo by Daniel Packer)*



NWA members deliver completed stools to the shop at HRMM (photo credit unknown)

This project continues the NWA tradition of opening personal workshops to fellow members for group learning and volunteerism. This short article is a follow-up and conclusion to the article about the project published in the April issue.

Showcase Thoughts and Images

To All,

I participated in the Toy Factory at the Showcase for 2 hours on Saturday and 5 hours on Sunday. I found that the whole Concept worked beautifully. The kids were happy because they got to put together a toy that they could keep. The parents were all smiles because their kids were happy.

Martin McNally

Showcase: The View from my Scrollers Stool

A child walks by tightly clutching her newly made boat, refusing to set it down even for a second toy. A woman in a wheelchair makes her first pen because of the ingenuity of a pen turner. Although the booth closes, time is made for one more pen or toolbox. A man with tears in his eyes tells of the comfort of a Comfort Bird given to a loved one.

Amidst the packing, unpacking, repacking and the agony of items not packed, these are the small miracles that occur throughout the transformed space of the Saratoga Convention Center.

While many will remember the Blue Ribbons won or almost won, the raffle prizes, the tickets sold and the number of people attending. For me it is the minute by minute interaction of people repeating again and again answers to the same questions as we educate, motivate and enlighten people young and old.

Faith is planting a tree, knowing you will never sit in it's shade. Showcase weekend, many seedlings were planted. Have no doubt they will blossom. Each year I volunteer emboldened by the small miracles that occur again and again. Thank you to all the volunteers who contribute to those miracles.

Jacquelyn Donahoe



Cara Stolickey demos at Totally Turning



Jim Snack magic



Pen turning



Toy Factory



Photos by Steve Schoenberg

Showcase Exhibit Gallery 2023 Awards Summary

By Dale Lombardo,
Gallery Registration/Judging Co-Chair

Thanks to all of our Exhibit Gallery participants, both NWA members and others: We had a lovely display this year thanks to your skill and hard work!

In case you missed it:

Best of Show was this laptop desk created by Charlie James, is based on Thomas Jefferson's desk.

The People's Choice award went to Roy Coolie for his Grant Style Adirondack Guide Boat.

The Carver's Choice winner was Diane Niznick's "Feeding Frenzy".

You may view all the Showcase Gallery winners by visiting the NWA website:

[CLICK HERE](#)

Photos of the Totally Turning winners may also be found on our website: [CLICK HERE](#)

We had 284 items pre-registered for display and judging at showcase and 26 items that were registered in-person on Friday. See the following page for the Winners and Places per our Judges by category.

Special recognition to the bold and shaded woodworkers that won more than one award from the judges!

Keep an eye out for announcements for the 2024 Showcase Gallery Exhibit! Start planning and making your pieces over the summer and see you there!



The Carver's Choice winner,
Diane Niznick's "Feeding Frenzy".

CATEGORY (Judged/Total)	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	Honorable Mention
ACCESSORY1 (13/15)	Howard Jackson	Andrew Gisondi	Jim Lee	
ACCESSORY2 (11/15)	Claire D Houlihan (2)	Mark Hotaling	Alan Adler (5)	Annika Nielson
ACCESSORY3 (17/31)	Springhurst Woodworking	Mike Papero	Bruce E Wolford	Brighton Nielson
ADIRONDACK (6/6)	Alan Adler (5)	Kyle Hall	MHC Jim Lee, Ron Roberts, Al Shinker, & Bob Boisvert	
ALTMATL (5/7)	Diane Lowe	Jordan Mapes (2)	Sister Mary Ellen Putnam	
BOATS (1/3)				Roy Cooley
CARVING1 (3/6)	Dennis Wilson	Scott Hunter	Linda Reiss (2)	
CARVING2 (10/23)	Diane Niznik (3)	Al Doty	Alec LaCasse	Dave Butler
CARVING3 (3/4)	Thomas Wetzel (2)	Marcy Chirdon	Pam Bucci	
CARVING4 (8/17)	Janet Barnett	Brad Conklin (2)	Bill Mayer	
CHALLENGE (15/26)	Karen Amodeo (2)	Diane Niznik (3)	Monica Soare	
CNC-LASER (3/5)	Ernie Balch	Kay McCampbell	Diane Balch	
FURNITURE1 (17/22)	Thomas Wetzel (2)	Andrew Kosiba	Bob Loughran	Brad Conklin (2)
FURNITURE2 (9/12)	Charlie James	John Haller	SHAWN EMERY	
FURNITURE3 (9/13)	Gabor Ruzsan	Kirk Decker	ALLAN RIDER	
INTARSIA (5/5)	Tyler Schrader	Bob Boisvert	Andrew J Gisondi (2)	
JEWELRY (4/4)	Barbara Raymond-LaPrease (3)	Alan Adler (5)	Jordan Mapes (2)	Michael Giuliano
MARQUETRY (2/2)	Diane Niznik (3)			
PYROGRAPHY (5/8)	Linda Reiss (2)	Alan Adler (5)	Karen Amodeo (2)	
SCROLL (5/9)	Barbara Raymond-LaPrease (3)	Andrew J Gisondi (2)	Ann Marie Miller	Chelsea Leader
SHOPEQUIP (5/8)	Jim Cox	Rod Castle	Don Orr	
TOYS (8/14)	Barbara Raymond-LaPrease (3)	Claire D Houlihan (2)	Alan Adler (5)	
WOODMUSIC1 (6/26)	Shane Cassidy	Raymond Puffer	Jeffrey Drake	
WOODMUSIC2 (1/20)	Jon Hedman			
Total (171/301)				

Classifieds

For sale: GENERAL 10 " Table Saw; Model # 650, 208/230 voltage, 13 amps. Excellent, like-new condition. 36" extension table on right side, and mobile base included. Contact: Al Struss - altheref@gmail.com. Home # 518-283-7549, Cell # 518-469-6241. Asking \$ 1,200



Writing with Fire

By Wally Cook

Karen Amodeo addressed the techniques of pyrography in our March meeting. She described both the equipment and her approach used to create her display pieces.

There is a wide range of woodburning equipment in the market, from inexpensive directly wired handpieces to modulated professional burners costing several hundred dollars. Karen has settled on the Colwood Galaxy after trying several other burners. The Galaxy was a \$228 model and has the benefit of a fine-tuned voltage regulator. Since the voltage will affect the heat at the tip of the pyrography pen, fluctuations can result in uneven lines. While this is less important for heavy burn strokes, it can make a big difference in the consistency of lightly burned lines.



Colwood Galaxy wood burner control unit

Pyrography handpieces are offered with either fixed or interchangeable tips. The benefit of interchangeable tips is the need for fewer handpieces. However, the trade-off is waiting for the tip to cool down in order to allow replacement. Karen uses fixed tip pens with cork grips. The pens can easily be changed at the control box. She reports that these pens last a long time and that her go-to pens are the sharp tip and shader tip.

Material makes a difference. Light colored woods show the burned lines best. Basswood, Maple, Poplar, and Birch are preferred,



Karen Amodeo demonstrated the art of pyrography

particularly if they are straight grained. Pine is a good choice for practice. The wood should be raw, so that you are not releasing harmful fumes from a finish. Karen also suggests to work around any knots or blemishes in the blank.



Assorted pen tips

Most of Karen's work is free-hand, but it is possible to use a template to draw shapes. Karen uses Faber-Castell pencils and a Pearl White eraser to eliminate pencil lines without leaving an impression in the wood. The pyrography pens get hot – as much as 600 degrees F. -- so safety is important. Karen is usually burning in the 170-230 degree F. range. A holder for each fixed pen is at hand to keep off the work surface when not in use.

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A mask and air handling equipment or fan can direct the smoke from the workplace.

Once set up, make a few practice strokes on a separate piece of wood. Temperature and pressure are the variables

that will change the depth and darkness of the stroke -- it's wise to become comfortable with both, before setting off on a final drawing. In addition, grain changes will affect or interrupt the line of the stroke; best results come from a smooth, consistent line. Carbon may build up both on the pen tip, as well as on the burned section of the wood. Karen reports that this is less than you might expect, but it is good practice to clean the tips as you work with a cleaning cloth. She also reminds us to take inventory at the conclusion of a session to be sure that all electrical and heat sources are turned off and cleaned.



Eagle - Piece in progress



Kaia - Finished piece

Our Sincerest Thank You!

By Wally Carpenter

Working off the phrase, "it takes a village to raise a child", many members of our NWA "village" came together to enable the recent successful visit of Mr. Kishi as a Showcase presenter and as our 2023 Fiske Memorial Lecturer. Our thanks to all who contributed, many of whom may prefer to remain anonymous.

The full story of the visit, from its humble beginnings, needs to be told to recognize the dedicated efforts of one village member, Juliana

WOODWORKERS NEWS

is published by the Northeastern Woodworkers Association for its members. The Association's aim is to provide a common meeting ground for lovers of woodworking who want to know more about wood and the techniques for forming it. The newsletter is published monthly. The newsletter is available online at www.woodworker.org



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Shei. If she knew I was writing this, she might be embarrassed for bringing so much attention to her efforts. However, each of us should know how much work it takes to create and execute an event of this magnitude.

It all began while I was watching a YouTube video of a gentleman creating a dovetail with



Kunaiki Kishi and Juliana

incredible precision and skill. I mentioned this to Juliana, curious to know if she had seen this person on YouTube. Her response was totally unexpected as she said she not only knew him but this person was her woodworking teacher while visiting Japan. She agreed he was an amazing woodworker with a passion for perfection.

This conversation led to the wild idea of exploring some way of having Mr. Kishi join us as a presenter for Showcase in 2023. Juliana immediately accepted the challenge by starting a conversation with Mr. Kishi and then his sponsor, Suizan Saws. Juliana followed through with face-to-face conversations while she was visiting family in Japan. She knew we had a small Showcase budget which could not possibly cover his travel expenses. Her negotiating efforts resulted in a very elegant solution where Mr. Kishi's travel was sponsored by Suizan Saws in addition to Suizan Saws attending Showcase. Suizan Saws sold over 100 fine Japanese saws by the end of Mr. Kishi's visit.

Soon realizing Mr. Kishi's English skills were limited, Juliana immediately volunteered to act as translator for his Showcase and Fiske presentations. She did a fantastic job switching from Japanese to English and back again. By understanding the subject matter as well as she does, she not only translated but added significant value to both sides of the interpretation.

She housed and fed Mr. Kishi and his 15-year-old son during their visit and provided her personal transportation service which including the late-night plane arrival and very early departure.

Mr. Kishi's visit was indeed a wonderful experience for any of us who took the opportunity to enjoy his presentations and learn more about woodworkers from our Asian friends.

In short, while it takes a village of members to pull off such an event, it **ULTIMATELY** takes an individual with vision and a passion to make such a thing happen. Juliana deserves our respect and admiration for providing us this unique experience in the heart of the Capital District of New York!

Safe Ramp To Freedom

Wayne and Penny Distin

NWA members are known for their creativity, skill, kindness and can do attitude. All these characteristics were put into action once again on Tuesday, April 18th, but this time at my own home in Averill Park. My wife was suddenly wheelchair bound on April 5th and we found there was no safe egress from our home.

Behind the scene NWA members organized, planned, plotted and offered a solution, a ramp build. Saturday, April 15th, site measurements were verified. On Monday, April 17th the lumber was delivered and on Tuesday Steve Mapes and Lee Hilt spent the day constructing a safe ramp, "a golden runway".

Many thanks to all the hands that touched this project, seen and unseen; "it takes a village". Your kindness, friendship and talents are greatly appreciated.

Gratefully, Wayne and Penny Distin



"MEMBER'S WOODWORKING TRICKS"



Submitted by Charlie James

Outdoor furniture that touches the ground wicks up moisture which can cause premature rot, see the first picture. I couldn't find any protective pads that suited my purpose. The nails were too small to hold the pad, the screws were way too short or the pads themselves were too small. I made my own from scrap 1/2" lexan. I pre-drilled the holes through the plastic a little oversized so the stainless steel screws don't grip the



plastic. I used a counter sink to set the screws below the surface. I coated the end grain of the wood with yellow type II glue as an additional barrier. Screws do not last long in end grain so I used dowels about an inch up to add extra gripping power and drove the screw through them. It helps a little to place the dowels so the screws drive into the side grain.



Stan Blanchard's Pepper Mill Demonstrations at 2023 Showcase

By Susan McDermott

On Saturday and Sunday, March 25 and 26, Totally Turning member, Stan Blanchard, gave a two-and-a-half hours demonstration of how to make a pepper mill. The photographs below show examples of his own mills. Stan has generously shared his instructions for members to try turning their own pepper mills. Click [HERE](#) to open the steps.



Showcase in Photos

Photos by Anthony Tassarotti









Turning Out of Context

By Wally Cook

Our April meeting hosted Andrew Finnigan, maker of fine furniture. Andy incorporates woodturning in his creations. His recent article in the Designer's Notebook section of Fine Woodworking summarized his feelings about the creative process. It also featured several new design approaches, including the pommel and bourrée tables.



KWA Meeting featured Andrew Finnigan

We asked Andy to display his pieces and discuss how he comes up with new ideas for his furniture. First Andy encouraged all of us to move forward with experimental design and not let self-doubt pose an obstacle to creativity. He paraphrased Jack London by saying that “when inspiration isn’t present, go after it with a hatchet”. By this he meant that it is important to assertively try new ideas, even if they don’t pan out at first. However, it must be pursued in a disciplined manner. Andy first schedules time for creative thinking and design and then makes small models of new designs. The models give a tangible view of proportion and allow finetuning in a faster cycle. The maquettes also provide examples to show potential customers and engage

their ideas. The high-end furniture business emphasizes the partnership between maker and customer.

With the pommel table, Andy explored the intersection of round and square forms in new ways. The traditional woodturner’s pommel cut, typically done with a skew, proceeds from square to round – but what if many of them were placed side-by-side at different lengths and joined together? The result is the pommel table with a butcher block combination of squares that morph into cylinders. Andy consulted design specialists to gather opinions on the variations among the pommel cut ‘legs’ and resulted in a new design that he has pursued. He has managed to give ‘lift’ to a design that could seem overly heavy.

Continuing the idea of graceful lift, Andy next designed the legs of the “bourrée” table to resemble ballerina forms. Standing en pointe, the legs appear to raise the entire table. The legs are turned in multi-axis mode and then shaped by hand. (A turning tip: Andy turns spindles between 1800-2500 rpm; fast enough to obtain a smooth cut, but not so fast as to burnish areas of the wood).

The Budding table was first constructed by fashioning negative templates from MDF to fit the intersecting circles together seamlessly. The picture below shows this innovative table.

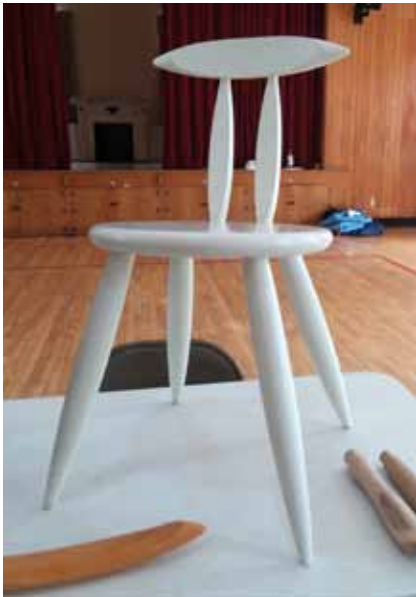
We asked Andy about his construction and finishing approach. Joinery methods for his chairs feature through-tenons or tenons with blind wedges. Blind wedges are challenging in



Andy discusses the elements of the bourree style

that you get one chance to do them effectively, since they compress in a pocket hole: measurement and tolerances make all the difference.

The finishing work is key, but also eclectic. Andy likes to use milk paint – many thin coats of milk paint brushed out in different directions. When milk paint is used, a Varethane finish is applied. Otherwise, Andy has used a variety of varnishes, acrylics, lacquers, and waxes (such as OSMO Polyx hardwax/oil finish). His preference is to work with finishes that can be easily maintained.



Side chair with through tenons finished in milk paint



Budding Table used MDF templates to ensure seamless fit.



Alan Hayes examines one of Andy's Pommel tables

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs): Please note meetings will commence at our new location at 97 Railroad Avenue.

Adirondack Woodturners Association (AWA) - The AWA is active throughout the year. **General** Meetings and Bowl Turning are held the first Wednesday of the month (except in January and July when it is the second Wednesday), at the NWA Learning Center located at 97 Railroad Avenue, Colonie, NY from 5:30 PM to 8:45 PM. **Contact:** Maxwell Ferris at maxwellferris@yahoo.com

Spindle and Pen Turners - Meets Mondays 5:30 PM - 8:45 PM. Contact: Pam Bucci at 518-429-6440 or woolglass2@gmail.com
Wednesday "Learn and Turn" sessions occur on all other Wednesdays at the NWA Learning Center. These sessions run 5:30 PM to 8:45 PM. www.adirondackwoodturners.com **Contact:** Kevin Ramsey Cell 518-769-9665 or kmrammer@yahoo.com

Kaatskill Woodturners - Also an AAW Chapter. Meets on the second Saturday of the month at the Hurley Reformed Church, 11 Main St. Hurley, NY 12443. Contact Wally Cook at 845-338-2193 or wally.cook@gmail.com.

NWA Crafters - Meet Tuesdays and Saturdays 9:00 AM to noon. They provide public service woodworking for various charitable organizations, including the Double H Hole in the Woods camp for children and the GE Toy Modifications Group, and the Make A Wish Foundation. Sharing information, fellowship, and relating experiences are a major part of these sessions. **Contact:** Wayne Distin at 518-674-4171 or wdistin@nycap.rr.com for more information.

The NWA Wood Carvers SIG – Meet Thursdays 5:00-8:30 PM all year at the NWA Learning Center located at 97 Railroad Avenue, Colonie, NY. The goal is to promote the art of wood carving and to have a good time doing it. The only prerequisite is a desire to carve while making new friends. Wood, tools, and patterns are available. **Contact:** Diane Balch at 518-885-9899 or signs@balchsigns.com

Hand Tool SIG – Meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00-9:00 PM in the Herm Finkbeiner Education Center at 97 Railroad Avenue, Colonie, NY. **Contact:** Dave Parkis at 518-429-6581 for further details: dparkis@nycap.rr.com

Scrollers SIG – Meets every Monday and Wednesday 6 to 8:30 PM. **Contact:** Steve VanDerZee stevevdz@msn.com

CHAPTERS

NWA Mid-Hudson - Presently The chapter meets on Zoom and at in-person meetings on the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM except the month of July. Meetings are at the Hudson River Maritime Museum located at 50 Rondout Landing, Kingston NY 12401. **Contact:** midhudsonwoodworkers.org Bill Sterling, President - 845-532-3754 wster1156@aol.com