

WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern
Woodworkers
Association

April 2011, Vol. 20, Number 4

April Meeting

Thursday, April 14, 2011, 7:00 pm
Saratoga Auto Museum
Saratoga State Park

Wooden Cars

by Dan Tipton

The April 14th NWA meeting will be at the Saratoga Auto Museum, located in the Saratoga State Park. There is no admission into the park - use the Avenue of the Pines from either the Route 9 or Route 50 entrances. See map on page 12.

Our program, hosted by Steve Schoenberg, will feature a guest speaker, Marv Livingston. Marv is President of the Model A club. Last year, as a joint venture of the Model A club and the Museum, a Model A Huckster truck was restored by a group of 13 kids (ages 11 through 16) under the mentorship of the adults. The entire truck cab was new wood construction. We plan to have either this truck or one like it at the Museum that night.

We also plan to have a 40's Woody that night, along with its owner, Charlie Montano. There are a number of wood cars in the Museum for our members to examine and ask questions.

If there are any questions, call me at (518)279-9395.

Election Time

By Dan Tipton

In accordance with NWA bylaws, the election of officers will be held at the May General Meeting. A recommended slate of officers will be presented by the Nominating committee and will be listed in the May newsletter.

The by-laws provide that the Vice President/Program Chair succeeds to the presidency in the year following their election. Therefore, Dan Tipton, the current Vice President, will become President for the coming year. The Secretary and Treasurer are elected for two-year terms with the terms staggered so that one of these positions is filled each year. Additional nominations may be made from the floor prior to the election. Any nominee must be willing to accept the nomination and to serve if elected. 🐼

Showcase: Another Successful Year (With All Your Help)

By Ken Evans

This letter was sent to all Woodworkers Showcase co-Chairs the morning after the 2011 Showcase event.

Good Morning:

It is Monday morning and the show is not over for some. The BIG signs are being returned to their construction company lender, some of the art pieces are being returned, and the workbench truck and NWA truck are delivering their contents back to their starting points. It will be days before we are done.

I know we always measure success by the \$\$\$\$\$ we generate, but there are many other ways to measure success. I do not have figures, but I know both Showcase and Totally Turning were a success by this \$\$\$\$ yardstick.

But, let me tell you what I saw, that for me, are real measures of success:

I saw nearly 500 NWA members work like a finely oiled machine to pull off, what I am convinced, is the MOST well respected woodworking show of its kind in the USA. Vendor after Vendor made this known to me - we are HIGHLY respected among the show circuit vendors.

One new vendor this year came to me wanting to give me a 100 dollar deposit to reserve his spot for next year. I assured him this was not what we wanted and his spot was secure for 2012. He came to me later and wanted to give me the FULL booth cost for next year to reserve his booth. I declined the money and again assured him his booth was reserved. He would not leave the NWA office without writing down more contact information than I needed to know in order to contact him for next year. Not only this, he was a perfect vendor-happy, cooperative, glad to be there, and thrilled with NWA.

Continued on Page 8

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UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, PHONE
NUMBERS ARE IN AREA CODE 518

Woodturning With a TV Connection

By Stan Blanchard

I think I have developed a new method of helping four way chucks hold on to the foot of a bowl without leaving behind a mark on the foot, and I am eager to share my experience with the rest of you turners.

The story actually starts at one of our monthly wood turners meetings at Curtis Lumber. There was a large and thick piece of box elder on the table for one of the raffles. I managed to have the majority of tickets in the cup so essentially I purchased the wood at one of our summer meetings. At that point in time I had very little experience and little skill with the lathe and gouges necessary to turn a bowl so I put the wood on my pile of future possibilities.

Then in January of this year, after I had done a lot of practicing over the months, I screwed the round block of box elder onto the lathe and turned what I thought was a pretty good exterior bowl. When the outside was finished I bees waxed the exterior. I then pondered how to hold onto the bowl without marring the foot of the bowl. I showed the piece to Ken Evans and we both agreed that I had turned myself into a corner. Ken suggested I work with a vacuum chuck or re turn the foot after I finished the inside of the bowl. I did not have a vacuum chuck in my workshop and if I re-turned the foot it would change the proportions of my bowl and destroy the design I had created.

After consulting with Ken I came home and pondered my predicament. I wanted some method of clamping onto the foot without leaving jaw marks on the wood. I thought of leather and almost cut up a pair of old leather gloves but that didn't seem to be the solution I needed.

Then I did what I so often did when working (I was a self employed photographer working out of my home), I started walking around the house looking for the solution to firmly grip the foot of my bowl without leaving a mark. Leather wouldn't work. Heavy rubber wouldn't

work. Semi firm foam failed. I went down to the basement. (My shop is in part of the garage.) Sandpaper scratched some. Then I went into my box of electrical stuff and pulled out a coil of coaxial cable. It seemed firm enough, small enough in diameter, just flexible enough and tacky enough to suggest that it might work. I cut off about four inches of the cable and worked it into the jaws of the chuck, making certain that the ends came together in an open portion of the jaw chuck. That's a spot where there is no part of the jaw metal



Continued on Page 11

NWA Wood Carvers Offer a Great Opportunity to Learn and Carve During Each Session

By Mariruth Brown

Come and join us!

The weekly gatherings of the NWA WC SIG are informal and focus on helping new carvers learn the necessary skills of wood carving and letting all know the latest happenings in the carving community and woodworking in general. It was mentioned that renowned carver Peter Follansbee will be presenting four segments at the 2011 Showcase.



Jack Connell showing NWA WC SIG President George his carved heritage box.

One of the highlights of the meetings are the show 'n tell, where members bring in their carvings- ones completed years ago or more recently, or Works in Progress and share their procedure, wood selection and commentary on what went right and what they might have done differently (i.e. Butternut is a beautiful wood, but not the best selection for carving.)

Jack Connell recently brought three exquisite masks that he's carved over the years, and a handmade box which he embellished with carvings to commemorate his marriage over 35 years ago. The box was his first attempt at dovetails, and the carvings combine his Irish heritage (Shamrocks) with his wife's Scottish birthright (the Thistle). Noting that it was a 'WIP', when asked if planned on it being a 50th anniversary gift, Jack remarked with a smile, "It might not be done by then."

Anyone wishing to see the progress of this and many other works are welcome to stop by the Mustang shop on any Thursday evening except the 2nd one of the month (due to the NWA meeting). 🐾

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.



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WEBSITE(S)

www.woodworker.org
www.nwawoodworkingshow.org



NWA maintains two websites,
the first noted here
operates continuously.

We also offer selected
links to other sites of interest
to our membership.

Webmaster - Kurt Hertzog
kurt@kurthertzog.com

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



**NORTHEASTERN
WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION**

P.O. BOX 246
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Biphenyl Aluminum Hexaurethane (BAH) Seems Magical For Medical and Woodworking Industries

Reprinted with permission (per Ken Evans)

The "Auckland Tribune Magazine" (www.tribunemagazine.co.uk/) recently carried a story which promises to send the pharmaceutical and industrial chemical industries into a frenzy of research and testing. According to this article published on March 26, 2011:

"A group of researchers at The University of New Zealand under the leadership of Dr. Jonas Salary have synthesized a material which has an affinity for water 4000 times greater than salt (Sodium Chloride). This material is called Biphenyl Aluminum Hexaurethane. The self polymerizing cross linked urethane with cubic centered Aluminum atoms in its molecular structure captures an unbelievable number of water molecules into its structure as it auto polymerizes. According to Herman Bayer, great grandson of Otto Bayer who did pioneering work on polyurethanes in 1937 in Germany, the number of applications seems endless for this chemical in all applications where water needs to be removed and retained.

According to Dr. Salary, "It is early in the research model, but speculation in the pharmaceutical industry regarding the possible uses range from injections of BAH to remove "water on the knee" to replacing diuretics (water pills) which lower blood pressure by removing water from the blood. "Of course, there are hundreds of other medical possibilities which will surely be investigated. Early studies show BAH seems not to react with body chemistry other than locking water into its polymerized structure. No further metabolism of the molecule seems to occur. The polymerized water bearing molecules of BAH are eliminated from the body in the feces. Actual doses of BAH which the body can tolerate will need to be determined by clinical studies so as to avoid dehydration. Other than dehydration risk there seems to be no side effects of BAH.

Many fields other than medicine are surely going to have an interest in BAH. In the unpolymerized state, it seems BAH is extremely soluble in TUNG oil and this fact makes BAH of great interest to woodworkers especially woodturners. Most woodworkers and woodturners understand the difficulties of working with green (wet) wood. As wood dries, the wood can twist and check and split. This makes working with green wood a serious problem for woodworkers. Acquiring dry wood through kiln drying makes the ever increasing cost of wood even higher. The possibility of soaking wet wood in a Tung oil / BAH solution to remove the cellular and bound water is a fascinating possibility for woodworkers. BAH which has polymerized after capturing water is rendered insoluble in TUNG oil and thus precipitates from the TUNG oil allowing the Tung oil to be reused by simply dissolving more BAH into it. Thus

the process can be repeated until the Tung oil finally polymerizes. Tung oil itself polymerizes, but slowly. Since the rate of polymerization of Tung oil is proportional to the temperature, keeping the Tung oil/ BAH solution at 30 degrees F will extend the life of the Tung oil greatly.

Robert Drirot, spokesperson for South Seas Chemical Inc. located in Brisbane Australia, has predicted the potential yearly sales of the Tung oil/BAH solution to woodturners will be in the 5 to 6 million gallon range. Woodturners worldwide have long sought a simple means to remove water from green wood without seriously altering the turning and finishing characteristics of that material. No estimates of sales to furniture makers has been given, but it is speculated that kiln drying of wood for the furniture industry will become a thing of the past.

Obviously this is all good news for the Tung Nut growers and the Tung Oil producers who are likely to benefit greatly from this discovery. (www.highbranch-tung.com)"

Next month we investigate "self sharpening plane irons" made from the newly discovered material Nodulium Carbide.

April Toole
Chief Environmental Editor
Auckland Tribune Magazine

I have made
bowls
out of BURLS,

hollow forms
out of HICKERY,

boxes
out of BIRCH,

and platters
out of PURPLEHEART.

None gave me
as much pleasure
as making a bodger
out of BART



CHAPTER NEWS

Mid-Hudson Chapter

By Wally Cook

Graduated Drawers: David Bird demonstrated an easy method of laying out drawers where each successive drawer is deeper than the last. The method requires two dividers, but no ruler.

The method involves calculating the number of drawers and blades, where blades are the horizontal pieces that separate the drawers and connect one side of the carcass to another. Some of the blades will be “virtual” separators. A table to identify the number of blades necessary for the quantity of drawers is listed in Figure 1.

Fig. 1 Ratio of Drawers to Blades in Graduated Series

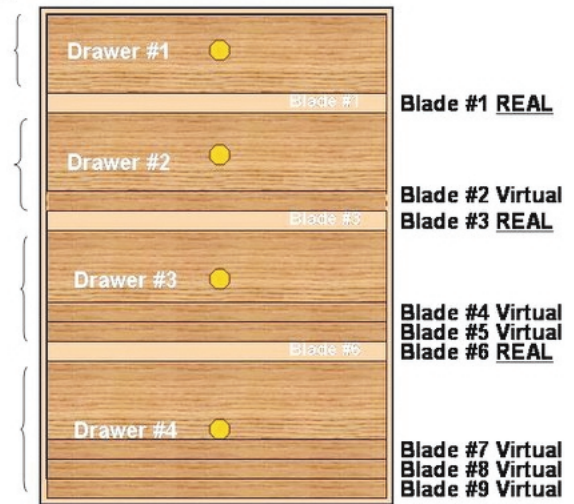
# of Drawers to # of Blades						
Drawers	2	3	4	5	6	Etc.
Blades	2	5	9	14	20	Etc.

For example, a chest with four drawers of graduated depth would necessitate four drawers of “equal” depth, plus nine equal blades. Of the nine blades, only three will be real dividers. The remaining six will be assigned as virtual spacers to increase the depth of the drawers. The four drawers and nine blades will total the overall inside height of the carcass. Once the depth of a blade is determined, the remaining measurements are straightforward. The spacing is shown in figure 2.

Steps:

1. Determine the thickness of an actual drawer blade – something in scale with the chest
2. Adjust one set of dividers to the thickness of the actual drawer blade (this will be distance “B”)
3. From the top of the opening, walk off the distance of nine drawer blades
4. With the second set of dividers, divide the remaining space into four equal drawer heights (this is distance “D”).
5. From the top of both sides of the opening, mark off one distance “D” – this is the height of the first drawer
6. From those marks, measure one distance “B” – the first actual drawer blade

Fig. 2 Layout of Graduated Drawers



7. From the bottom of the first actual blade walk off the height of the of the second drawer – one “D”, plus add one “B” – this is the height of the second drawer
8. Layout and mark both the next actual drawer blade and the third drawer ($D + 2B$)
9. Layout and mark the third actual blade. The remainder of the opening height belongs to the fourth drawer ($D + 3B$)



David Bird, assisted by Pete Chast, sets up a demonstration face frame.

Chapter Dinner: Don’t forget the Mid-Hudson Chapter Dinner to be held at Twin Lakes in Hurley on April 29 at 6PM. You can help balance karma in the universe by roasting Wally Cook, who has been chosen Member of the Year (MOTY11). You can also help by providing raffle items (preferably items that you have made) for the fulgent raffle table. Dinner tickets are \$28 apiece: contact Joe Benkert at 845-331-3811 or Matt Clarke at 845-454-9387 to reserve a spot.

CHAPTER NEWS

Sacandaga Chapter

By Gary Spencer

Our March 9th program featured our collaborative projects which were being built for NWA to raffle off at the NWA Showcase. There was discussion of the design, the process, the wood and the finish along with describing any problems and the solutions to these problems to other Chapter members.

Team one constructed a large compartmentalized wall Shadow Box of Cherry Wood for the raffle at NWA. Team members were: Neil Moyer and Jeff Vass.

Team two made a Colonial Pine Hutch and Base for Showcase.

In addition the cabinet was also made for each member of the team. All team members worked on all cabinets made. Team members were: Clyde Cheney, Dick Edel, Howard Ferguson, Fritz Henze, Jim Hopkins, Ray Laubenstein, Tom Ruliffson, Ralph Simonson, Don Wilson, and Paul Vingerhoet. The team used Tom Ruliffson's shop.

Thanks to all for a job well done!

For our April 13th meeting we will repeat a highly successful program from last year. Each member will bring one or more tools in the following categories

1. most useful tool or jig in their shop
2. least useful tool or jig in their shop.
3. most unique tool or jig in their shop.

A prize will be voted for the most interesting tool or jig.

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 April 13th, 2011. 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



C L A S S I F I E D S

Sale Items

1100 board feet of Oak and Maple. It is 8/4 (2 inches) and 5/4 inches thick. A lot of it is book matched. They are wide boards some of which are about 20 inches wide by 16ft long. It is all stacked in his barn and straight as an arrow. It's been drying for 10 years. The wood is located in Brunswick NY. Desire to sell it as a complete package. I thought if several were interested, they could all go in on it together?? Will sell at a fair price to pay property taxes. Also available a lot of large logs, Oak, Maple, Cherry on property. Many of them have been cut down and stacked. They are still in log form.

If anyone is interested, I can take them over to look at it. I can be reached at the following: home - 518-783-9133 cell 867-9949, or email tntb1143@juno.com

Grizzly Wood Lathe, Model G5979. The lathe has a cast iron bed and will turn 12 inches over the bed and 35 1/2" between centers. Includes tool rest, centers and bed extension for outboard turning. \$100.00 Call Bill at 518-209-4481

KWA News

By Wally Cook

Second Chances: John Franklin provided an overview of methods of working with epoxy. Epoxy resins work well with wood as coatings, gap fillers, or structural adhesives for broken pieces. John's focus was on the latter issue – when turned pieces exhibit substantial holes, cracks or splits.

The properties of epoxy require a chemical linking which mates resin and hardener. In many mixtures (such as the West System) the proportion involves specific ratios of resin and hardener. Proper mix of parts A and B is essential for the chemical reaction to proceed. In every case, the directions need to be reviewed (e.g., the proportion of resin to hardener is different for West System 205 and 207).

One output of the chemical reaction is heat, which increases substantially with the mass of the mixture. Consequently, structural epoxy is generally mixed in small batches with a typical working time of 10-15 minutes depending on temperature and hardener used.

Another output of the chemical reaction is a set of molecules known as amines. Amines are drawn to the surface of the epoxy as it cures – a process called an 'amine blush'. Amines have a soapy, slippery texture which complicates application of a second coat of epoxy. In order to apply a second layer of epoxy, the amine blush must first be removed by washing (amines are water soluble). Then the surface must be sanded to provide a base for the second coating of epoxy.

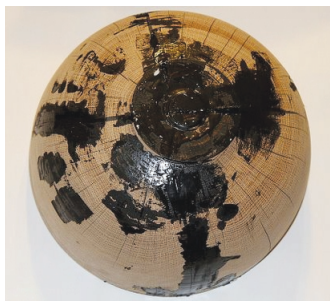
John demonstrated these principals with several pieces that he had rescued by using epoxy to fill large holes or cracks. He added color to the epoxy mix to match the tone of the wood – and in several cases also added wood chips to the epoxy mixture to mimic



John Franklin showed how to provide second chances to damaged bowls.



Oak bowl with severe cracks.



Same bowl with black epoxy applied.

bark inclusions. It is critical to add color and wood chips to the epoxy once part A and B are mixed. Adding any ingredients to either the resin or the hardener before mixing will interfere with the epoxy cross linking and degrade the bond. Since the working time is short, the wood chips and/or coloring agent should be close at hand.

The large oak bowl started with a severe crack on one wall. Filling one crack would have still drawn attention to the defect, so John created a series of additional cracks in the bowl by re-wetting and then force drying the wood. The pattern of cracks became part of the design. John also used ring clamps to keep the bowl in the round to facilitate later turning.



Finished bowl with the excess epoxy turned off.

Since the cracks were through and through, aluminum tape was applied to the inside of the bowl to prevent dripping losses of the epoxy. Each edge was coated with clear epoxy first to prevent color bleeding and prepare the joint for the black colored fill. After the clear coat was applied, black Xerox toner powder was mixed into the rest of the pre-mixed epoxy and applied to all the cracks. Once cured, the piece was re-mounted and completed on the lathe.

John's Tips:

- Use commercial mixing cups and squared ended stir sticks. These are designed to cleanly scrape the residue off sides and bottom edges for thorough mixing. West System makes inexpensive, but very good cups and sticks.
- Use throwaway brushes to apply the epoxy. Leave the brush in the cup at the conclusion of application. It will become a handle to remove the dried excess epoxy from the mixing cup so you can reuse the cup.
- Avoid heating the wood after the epoxy has been applied. It creates air bubbles which will leave visible voids in the epoxy.
- Save different color wood chips for use in future projects. Sift the chips for finer findings which can be applied by squeeze bottles (John uses recycled ketchup bottles).
- Wear breathing protection when sanding epoxied surfaces. Epoxy particles are hazardous, particularly uncured epoxy.

Gilson Design

By Ken Evans

It was a “walk on the wild side” for 12 NWA members who took the Gilson Design Class on Saturday March 19 at the Mustang Shop. Everything began quite nicely with a discussion and slide show about design and designing in general. Questions and answers and all that good stuff were quite as you would expect during an academic discussion.

Then the fun began!

Members of the class were formed into groups and a topic was chosen by each. The teams were then released into the general workshop where, I might add, much other woodworking activity was taking place, to make a model of their design project. NWA had provided cardboard, plywood, foam insulation boards, paint of many colors, paint brushes, markers of all types, tape of all kinds, bamboo skewers, hot glue guns, soldering guns, wire of all kinds, spray adhesive in cans, and any other art supply that this writer could find in the two weeks prior to the class for these teams to use to construct their design models. “Pandemonium” comes close to describing the activity in the shop for the next few hours.

Do you know what happens when you place NR 14 electrical wire into a Weller Soldering gun as a tip and use it to sculpt blue foam board? It is magical. You can do so much neat stuff. Twelve people sanding and filing blocks of foam produces quite a unique mess, I can tell you. Slowly the teams of four members worked to fine tune their design and manipulate the art supplies to make their designs come to life in a Design Model.

Three teams created three design models, interactively fine tuned the designs, and worked together to make them a reality. Students found the creative design process informative, inspiring, surprising, and leaving them hungry for more. I believe the sale of blue or pink foam board at Home Depot will likely increase in the weeks ahead as these students now use what they learned in the class in their own design models.

In the discussion which followed, one member rose to say he never knew how people thought so creatively, but found himself doing just this when he was working with his team.

It was a fun day, an informative day, an inspiring day, and a day which will surely add useful tools to each participants design process. 🐼



Showcase 2012

Continued from Page 1

Several vendors I spoke with sold out of all their product and were taking orders which included free shipping. I shopped at one of those vendors.

I spoke with likely 80% of the vendors and each was extremely happy. One was not! Some vendors are always unhappy no matter what. I have learned this in the past 2 years. He sought me out on Sunday and assured me he did so well on Sunday that he was now very happy and would be back for sure in 2012.

I saw a show which increased its floorspace by 5000 sq feet, had the largest attendance in several years, had a significant increase in Exhibits, saw an increase in the number of vendors, saw Totally Turning double its attendance, and in some areas SHOWED ITS STRETCH MARKS.

I saw the NWA Volunteers rise to every occasion of those STRETCH MARKS and resolve them thoroughly and efficiently.

The words I use most during the weekend are “WE NEED.....”, “NWA NEEDS.....”, “We HAVE A PROBLEM.....”, “CAN WE FIND.....”, “WILL SOMEONE GO.....”. In all cases of the use of these words and other words like them, an NWA volunteer (some whom I do not even know) stepped up and volunteered to solve the problem which followed these words almost before I finished speaking. I WAS TRULY MOVED by the devotion and the willingness of our volunteers!

There were many HEROES among the volunteers (HEROES who rose to an occasion at the show beyond the level of what might be reasonably expected) who I would very much like to identify, but fear I will forget one or more and hurt their feelings.

If you think about the weekend, I am sure you will remember some of those HEROS. I intend to thank them, please do so also.

I saw presenters in Showcase and Totally Turning who demonstrated several times during the weekend without remuneration to make our classrooms interesting.

I saw volunteers visibly tired some even ill work through their commitment to Showcase and Totally Turning.

Please remember there is a woodturning symposium taking place in the hotel and attached to Showcase at levels which has its own layer of unique problems, crisis, and dedicated volunteers (roughly 90 of them). We are joined, SHOWCASE AND TOTALLY TURNING, to each other in a synergistic relationship with obvious benefits to both events.

There are times during the weekend when I question, “Why do we do this thing?” For me, the answer is embedded in the lines above and it has NOTHING to do with the \$\$\$\$\$. I choose to measure success with a different yardstick.

I am dogged tired, but feel GOOD ABOUT WHAT WE DID THIS PAST WEEKEND.

I wish to thank every one of you for your unbelievable efforts and devotion to this thing we call NWA Woodworkers Showcase!

Thank you,
Ken

Wood of the Month ^{©2011}

No. 96 in the series

By Ron DeWitt

Roble Blanco *Tabebuia heterophylla* (DC.) Britt.
A Deciduous Hardwood
Bignoniaceae – Bignonia or Trumpet
-Vine Family

The *Tabebuia* genus comprises over 100 species of trees and shrubs native to the tropical areas of the Americas and Caribbean. They may be “briefly deciduous,” deciduous, or evergreen, with simple or compound, three- to seven-fingered leaves. All have large, crowded, showy, trumpet-shaped flowers in a variety of colors. The flowers are followed by bean-like seed pods.

Derivation of the genus name, *Tabebuia*, is from words used by the peoples of Brazil to describe the trees of this

group. The epithet or species name, *heterophylla*, is from the Greek—for having leaves of more than one form. For a bit of more (helpful?) clarification, the species of *Tabebuia* are divided into four sub-groups: roble, white-cedar, lapacho, and miscellaneous.

The roble blanco *Tabebuia heterophylla* may also be called white-cedar, pink manjack, pink tecoma, trumpet tree, mayflower, pink trumpet tree, or simply roble.

Roble is native throughout the West Indies, from Cuba to Hispaniola, Puerto Rico, and Grenada. It is also found from southern Mexico to Venezuela, Ecuador, and Brazil. Although



Roble blanco tree in blossom.



Roble blanco flowers and five-fingered leaf.

it is not native to North America, it has been planted successfully in southern Florida and has become naturalized in Bermuda. It has been or is being cultivated in much of the rest of the world's tropics.

Roble is described as worldly, growing well in almost any sub-tropical zone of soil or soil conditions. It thrives in sand, limestone, or heavy, deep clay soils, acid or alkaline, wet or dry, from wet lowlands to dry mountainsides. On preferred sites annual rainfall varies from 39 to 98 in. (1000 to 2500 mm). Mean temperatures vary from seasonal lows of 61 degrees F (16 C) to highs of 88 degrees F (31 C). Roble does not tolerate frost. It is said to be an aggressive pioneer, readily adapting to any growing condition.



Bean-like pencil-sized seed pods.

Roble is considered a medium-size tree, 40 to 60 ft. (12 to 18 m) high, occasionally reaching 90 ft. (27.5 m). Stem diameters are commonly 18 to 24 in. (46 to 61 cm) dbh, sometimes to 36 in. (91 cm) dbh. Stems on some sites are buttressed for 7 to 10 ft. (2.1 to 3 m) above the ground. Trees maintain single stems over well-developed root systems, with narrow, irregular column-like crowns, even when open-grown. Trees may live to 200 years.

Twigs and small branchlets are brown and smooth. Branches spread upward almost from the ground. Bark darkens with age becoming silver-gray, then furrowed as the tree matures.

Leaves are opposite, palmately compound, usually with three to five unequally-sized leaflets radiating from a central stem. Leaflets are narrow, blade-like, from 2.5 to 6.5 in. (6 to 16 cm) long, bright green, smooth and leathery. Leaf size, shape, and number of leaflets vary considerably with growing conditions. On very dry sites leaflets become singular and rounded. Although classified as deciduous, leaves are evergreen throughout large portions of its range. Leaves drop just before flowers emerge. New leaves appear with the first flower flush in spring.

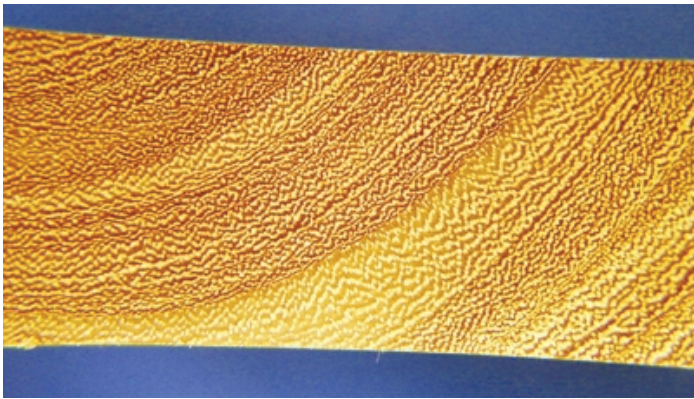
The showy display of 3 in. (7.6 cm) white to light purple trumpet-shaped flowers may be borne in terminal and lateral clusters or individually. The fruit is a narrow, dark brown, bean-like pod, 3 to 8 in. (8 to 20 cm)

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Wood of the Month

Continued from Page 9

long and .25 in. (6.5 mm) in diameter (pencil-sized), containing many long winged seeds. Seed dispersal is by the wind.



6x end view or transverse section of wood.

Many of roble's technical properties and its appearance resemble both ash and oak. Sapwood is pale tan, heartwood is light brown or golden. Growth rings are distinct. Grain varies from straight to interlocked, occasionally providing interesting figure. This wood is fine-textured and diffuse-porous. Specific gravity is about 0.55 at 12 % M.C. and weight is about 38 lb/ft³ (609 kg/m³) at the same M.C., about the same as red maple, *Acer rubrum*. This wood air-seasons or kiln dries rapidly with little tendency to warp or check. Shrinkage from green to oven dry is relatively low.



3" x 6" specimen of flat-sawn roble blanco wood.

Roble works and bends quite well, is fair in planing if careful, excellent for drilling, routing, and sanding, good for both turning and carving. It takes and holds fasteners moderately well, glues easily, and finishes well. Unpainted wood develops considerable checking and is only moderately durable when exposed to the weather or in contact with the ground. Overall, roble is classified as tough and strong for its weight. It has no noticeable taste or odor.

Although this species of *Tabebuia* was not found to have toxic properties, many species of this genus are listed. As when working closely with any wood, appropriate protection for skin, nose, eyes, and throat is advised.

Roble, because of its very attractive flowers and long flowering period, is popular as a landscaping ornamental and as a shade or street tree. The flowers also produce a pleasant honey. Its rapid growth in almost any growing condition makes it useful in reforestation projects as a timber tree and for land stabilization or rehabilitation. In some areas it is cultivated as a shade tree for crops such as cacao and coffee.

In its native areas roble lumber is used extensively for flooring, furniture, cabinet work, interior trim, and boat building. It is also used for veneer, tool and sporting goods handles, millwork, and coffins. In some applications it is suggested as a substitute for ash or oak. Lower quality material goes into boxes, crates, poles, and posts and is used as fuel.

Unfortunately, roble often easily out-competes native and other exotic trees, earning it the distinction of being labeled highly invasive and prohibited in many of its naturalized areas. Such is the case on the island of Mauritius and the Pacific areas of Indonesia, Micronesia, Samoa, the Solomons, Hawaii, and others.

Except for a susceptibility to dry-wood termite and marine borer attack, this tree has few natural enemies.

Wood Questions

Q: What tree was favored by Native and Early Americans as the source of an important dietary supplement to ward off scurvy, when fresh fruit was not available?



A: Red spruce needle tea was a good source of Vitamin C, helpful in avoiding scurvy.

Wood Definition

- Ron DeWitt

Purfling: A thin strip of ornamental hardwood inlaid around the edge of a piece of furniture or musical instrument, occasionally as a we

One today is worth two tomorrows.

Benjamin Franklin

Discontent is the first necessity of progress.

Thomas A. Edison

Vacuum Filter Cover

By Ken Miller

To prevent pleated filters from clogging with a dust cake that is difficult to remove, enclose them with a cloth cover. Although not necessary, HEPA filters are convenient because they are stiff, will not collapse with continued use like the paper ones, and last much longer. In addition they are reputed to remove finer particles.



Although the pleated filters have more surface area than that of a simple cylinder, as the pleats clog the surface area decreases anyway, defeating its purpose. The cloth cover prevents this and facilitates cleaning because the dust cake remains outside the cover. While the pleated filter doesn't clog, it traps fine particles and must be cleaned. Even though the filter and cover can be cleaned by shaking or with an air hose, it is best to wash everything with water to ground the dust so you don't have to hold your breath or wear a respirator.

The cover is a simple cloth cylinder with a string at each end to draw the bag snug. HEPA filters can be purchased to fit most vacuums, but in this case I gave up, bought a longer filter, cut the polymer screw on the vacuum and installed my own 3/8-16 cap screw with enough nuts to extend the reach so that the wing nut holds the filter firmly in place.

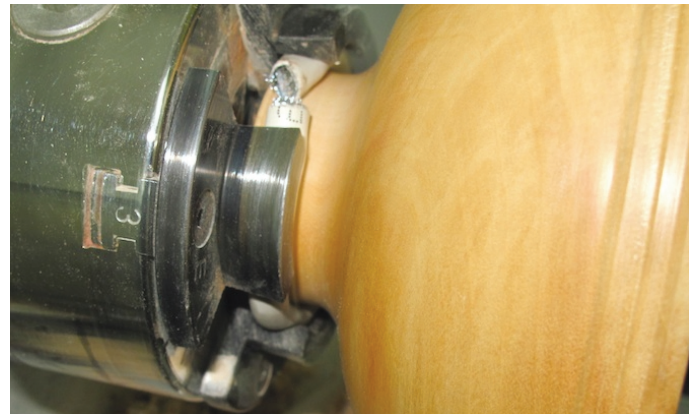
Woodturning With a TV Connection

Continued from Page 2

touching the ends of the cable. I did not want to mar the foot with any of the sharp ends of the cable. I tightened the jaws some and loosened them again. No marks on the bowl's foot! I was giddy with success. I high fived myself and started to turn.

Everything worked superbly. The bowl stayed on center better than it does with the jaws directly clamped to the wood. I think that is due to the stickiness or what I call tackiness of the plastic cover of the coaxial cable. Everything just stayed put. I have tried the coaxial assisted four way chuck on other bowls and was delighted with how it works. I have not yet tried this on large bowls but I think it will work beautifully.

Once I started thinking about different materials that might work, other items came to mind that could also work. Nalgene tubing, other kinds of electrical wiring, different size tubing for water, you name it, it is out there.

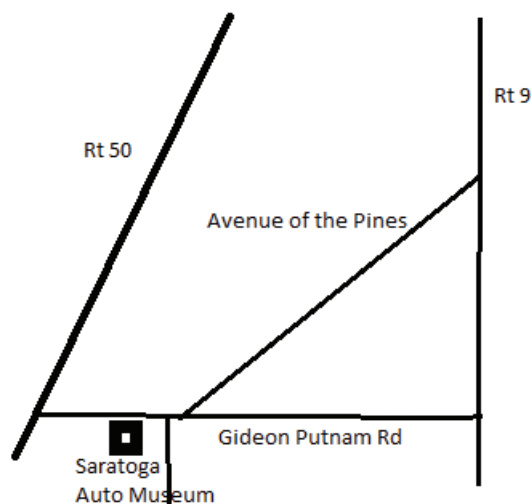


Now maybe this is not a new concept and you have done all this in the past. It is for me an exciting idea that I wanted to share with everyone. When you see me at meetings tell me about your success with the coaxial cable assisted grip on the foot of your bowls. 🙌

**Visit the NWA Web Site
at
www.woodworker.org**



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



April Meeting

Thursday, April 14, 2011, 7:00 pm

Saratoga Auto Museum

Saratoga State Park

GENERAL MEETINGS
AND SPECIAL EVENTS

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

NWA 2011 General Meetings

May 2011
Mid-Hudson Turners
Peter Ghast / Tony Barrara

July 2011
Picnic
Dan Tipton / new VP

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 the NWA shop, 1 Mustang Dr, are scheduled from 6pm-9pm except on AWA member meeting nights. www.adirondackwoodturners.org Contact Ken Evans, 753-7759 or Kevans1@nycap.rr.com

Scroller's Guild - Meets on the third Wednesday of the month at The New Sop on Mustang Drive, Latham. A beginner's session starts at 6:30 PM followed by a general meeting at 7:00 PM. Contact: Jeanne Aldous at AMJAMtat2 or Barbara Nottke at scroller87@aol.com or 869-6268.

Kaatskill Woodturners - Meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Opdahl property in Hurley. Contact Matt Clark, (845) 454-9387.

Jim's "Hole in the Woods Gang" - Meets every Saturday and Tuesday, from 9:00 am until noon at NWA Shop at 1 Mustang Dr. Our general purpose is public service work for various charitable organizations, including the Double H Hole in the Woods camp for children and recently the GE Elfuns toy mods group. 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. Contact Pete Howe (518) 885-9331 (phowe1@nycap.rr.com), Ed Buell (518) 384-0413 (KC2NMY-eab@nycap.rr.com) or Dick Flanders (518) 393-5215 (rflander@nycap.rr.com) for more information.

NWA Wood Carvers - Meets Thursdays at 6 p.m. until 9 p.m every month except the 2nd Thursday of each month at the new NWA shop located at 1 Mustang Dr. Our programs are determined at the previous weekly sessions. Our goals are to promote the art of Wood Carving. We assist with all carving matters. Contact Ray Gannon 664-2229 or LoRayG@Gmail.com

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 Pete Chast, pchast@francomm.com.

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.