

WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern
Woodworkers
Association

April 2014, Vol. 23, Number 4

April Meeting

Garrett Hack, Woodworker

Thursday, April 10, 2014, 7:00 pm

*Shaker Heritage Society Meeting House
Albany-Shaker Road, Albany, NY*

By Peter Howe

The year 2014 is off to a great start. NWA has a new and larger facility (The Herm Finkbeiner Learning Center), another successful Showcase and Totally Turning and lots of new and varied classes.

By popular demand Garrett Hack returned to Showcase to teach several classes on making elegant edges. He will be the presenter for our April general meeting followed by a special drawer making class on April 11th, 12th and half day on the 13th.

Getting a correct start on any project is essential for a good outcome, so here is some essential back ground on Garrett.

His earliest memories were of sawing and hammering, so naturally he became a furniture maker after first pursuing civil engineering and architecture at Princeton in the early seventies. Later study at Boston University's Program in Artisanry influenced his style of contemporary designs based on classic forms. Internationally known, his work and Federal inspired brick shop have been featured in numerous books and magazines. He is a contributing editor at *Fine Woodworking*, former chairman of the NH Furniture Masters, and teaches throughout the country, Canada, England, Japan, Germany, Italy, and Australia. Hand tools are integral to Garrett's work; he wrote *The Hand Plane Book* and *Classic Hand Tools* (Taunton Press 1997, 1999) about these essential tools.

Getting the Right Start "DESIGN "

Design is by far the most challenging part of building furniture. Good design is often the difference between a piece that looks elegant and functions well, and one that is not so successful. A well-designed piece might even be easier and quicker to build. Design is really just another skill that can be learned.

One of best ways to hone your design skills is to look at some excellent furniture that appeals to you. It's a good tactic to understand about proportion, detail, shape, how

the designer used his materials, or solved some basic design problems, and a whole lot more. We'll look at some contemporary furniture that will inspire you. And I'll do some demos of quick ways to get your design process moving. 🛠️

March AWA Meeting Update

By Kurt E Roullier

Photos by Kurt E Roullier

It was a great meeting! Jerry Sambrook, who was our presenter at the meeting, did an excellent demonstration on how to turn Off Set Goblets. We had an outstanding turn out of our members and had one of our best instant galleries of the year along with a very nice raffle. Kurt Roullier our Vice President, offered a challenge to both our experienced and inexperienced members to come to the Wednesday turning nights to work with each other.



The goal is for the less experienced members to have an opportunity to learn from our experienced members in the club. Also giving everyone the chance to build friendships and lasting relationships that this club has been known for. This is an exciting time to be an AWA member. We have a lot to be proud of!

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UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, PHONE
NUMBERS ARE IN AREA CODE 518

March AWA Meeting Update

Continued from Cover

Special NOTE: The upcoming presentation for April will be given by Don Orr, who will be demonstrating how to turn tops. See more photos of the Wednesday night meetings on our web site: www.adirondackwoodturners.com. Don't forget to check out the Banjo Men page!

For suggestions, comments or articles regarding AWA Newsletter contact: Kurt E Roullier 518-283-4743 or, KRoullier@nycap.rr.com



Jerry Sambrook, Presenter



Jerry Sambrook, Demonstration



Instant Gallery Discussion



Viewing the Instant Gallery



Instant Gallery Tables



Instant Gallery Tables



KWA Chapter News

BLEACHING WOOD

By John Franklin

Note: This part 1 of a two part series on bleaching and dyeing wood

Why would you want to bleach wood? The first obvious reason is to lighten the wood to enhance the grain. Even if you are not intending on dyeing a piece of wood, sometimes even small amounts of color are distracting to the appearance of a piece. Applying bleach to a piece before you apply the final finish may allow you to create uniformity in color that makes the shape and the grain more obvious. You can see in the photos below that even under clear coatings, bleached wood appears much lighter. After bleaching, the wood has a more consistent color so the grain pattern becomes more obvious. The two pieces on the left were cut from the same piece of wood. They were identical before one was bleached. The light brown and amber spots in the piece on the far left bleached out on the piece second from left. The same is true with the pepper mill and coffee grinder. The piece second from right is from the same tree section as the far right, just the natural color. After bleaching, the wood in the coffee grinder is a much different color.



Unbleached
clear
polyurethane



Bleached
clear
lacquer



Unbleached
clear
polyurethane



Bleached
clear
polyurethane

The second reason why you may want to bleach a piece of wood is to prepare it for a dye application. When you want to add a bright colored dye, bleaching the wood will often enhance and brighten the final color. Bright yellows and reds are always better on a white background than an almond or brown background. We will see later in the section on dyeing how much of a difference the bleaching step can create.

BLEACHING PRODUCTS

There are several products available to wood workers that are effective in removing a lot of natural color. The most effective bleach I have found is Lite-N-Up bleach from Wood Cote. This product is intended for professional use. Wood bleaches are not your mother's laundry bleach, they are 2-part products that must be mixed just prior to use. These bleaches are designed to do a specific job. They are also designed

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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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KWA Chapter News

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to self destruct or neutralize a short time after they are mixed so that the bleaching action will occur only for a limited time after application.

These 2-part Wood Bleaches are very effective in increasing the whiteness of various woods. I have successfully bleached maple to great effect and cherry to medium effect. Lite-N-Up is not available in many locations. I bought my product from Klingspor this spring. They no longer have it in their catalog. There is a store in Florida, one in Ohio, one in New York, and one in Oregon that sells this product. A mail order paint store in Oregon sells the product through the internet, but charges a separate \$27.95 for a Hazmat shipping fee on a \$19.99 product. **Klingspor cannot ship Lite-N-Up into New York State per State regulations.**

The major reason why this product is hard to get is that it is a serious product to ship and to use. Several companies have stopped making this product. Most of the companies who sell this product will only deliver to a commercial address, not a homeowner. The 2-part bleach is made of one part strong Sodium Hydroxide, a very strong caustic. When used alone, it would continue to bleach forever in the wood. It must be mixed with Hydrogen Peroxide. Hydrogen Peroxide is a strong oxidizer. It starts to deactivate the bleach as soon as it is mixed and normally deactivates the bleach in 4 hours. It must be mixed accurately to balance the two liquids and complete deactivation prior to handling or finishing the wood.

WARNING: A 2-part bleach like Lite-N-Up may be one of the most dangerous things in your shop. Use extreme caution. Like CA glue and your power tools, this product must be used in a careful deliberate manner to avoid severe personal injury. The Sodium Hydroxide is a very strong caustic. If you get it on your hands it will burn you badly. If you get it in your eyes you have serious trouble. You must wear gloves and you should wear a full face mask. You cannot spill it on anything without

some consequences. If you don't have the patience to be careful I strongly recommend that you don't buy or use this product. Some companies have stopped selling this and similar products because their insurance companies have told them to do so. It is considered a hazardous material. 18 States currently prohibit shipment into those states.



You must mix this product in equal parts, apply to the wood and let it sit for 72 hours. If you try to shorten the wait time, you may have a problem applying finish if the bleach is not completely deactivated. I mix the product with small measuring cups to make sure I have the right ratio of chemicals. I almost only use the product outside the house; rarely inside my sealed outside-vented finish box. I usually apply the mixed bleach with a small brush and leave the bleached wood in an open wood shed for 24 hours before I return it to the shop.

You should not use any metal products with this bleach. The bleach will react with the metal and cause black staining on the piece of wood that will not come off. If you use a standard paint brush with a metal ferrule, you must keep the metal ferrule out of the bleach or you may stain your work.

After you apply a first coat, wait at least 8 hours and carefully examine the piece. At this point you should still pick the piece up with gloved hands. If you want to make the wood lighter, apply another coat after 24 hours.

When applying these types of bleaches to a dried wooden bowl you must make allowances for water expansion. If you have finished a bowl, sanded it and let it dry and now want to bleach it, remember the bleach is water based. You must not make the mistake of applying the bleach to the inside of the bowl first. The dry interior wood will absorb water, swell and expand against a dry exterior and crack the bowl in your hand. To avoid this problem, just wet the outside and bottom first. It will expand away from the dry inside center and not cause it to crack. Once the outside is wet, then do the inside.

When you bleach an item, you must understand that the wet edge or bleach line on the wood may stain badly. It will usually become discolored. For this reason, you normally must bleach the entire piece or you will get less than desired results.



CHAPTER NEWS

Mid-Hudson Chapter News

By Wally Cook

French Marquetry: Chuck Walker gave a slide presentation on the techniques of French marquetry. Chuck gave a background on the art and its historic perspective. He explained that marquetry has different flavors:

- **Parquetry:** geometric designs using pieces
- **Bouille marquetry:** both foreground and background layers cut at the same time in a sandwich. Traditionally, tortoiseshell or rosewood, and brass as materials were used to create two pictures. But veneers and other materials can be used as well. The foreground and background are reversed in the pair of pictures.
- **Piece by piece:** a pattern is coded by numbers. Both wood type, color and grain direction are varied in order to enhance the picture.
- **Painting in Wood:** different colors and types of veneer are laid up in a stack so that when cut the pieces will be assembled into a completed picture with more varied colors. Gaps are filled with waste veneer for ease in cutting the packet.

French marquetry is distinguished by the motifs of leaf, stem, and flowers. In addition, the invention of the chevalet or marquetry saw in the 1700's in which the blade is held perpendicular to the stack, so that multiple identical pictures can be made of identical dimensions. The French were keen to sell the excess pictures to other makers of furniture throughout Europe.

Stacks are built up by including grease paper (paper treated with bacon drippings or lard) as one layer. The grease paper acts as a lubricant to the saw blade. Then layers of veneer are stacked to make the packet. In Bouille marquetry the packet is held



Bouille pattern packet: Veneers, top and bottom for Bouille marquetry.



Bouille pattern piece layout: Veneer selections and packet for Bouille marquetry.



An example of piece-by-piece French marquetry laid up by Chuck Walker.

together with gummed tape. For piece by piece the various packets of individual pieces are held together with thin flat head nails driven through and riveted on the back. The pattern is glued onto the stack.

After cutting the pieces are assembled in a tray to make it easier to visualize the project and to keep them together in a secure manner.

The pieces are glued to a build board, covered with a craft paper that has one water resistant side. Hot hide glue is the medium of choice to assemble the pieces. Hide glue has the benefit of a neutral color and the ability to be reconstituted for repairs.



Mid-Hudson Member of the Year Ron Roberts

MOTY14: Ron Roberts was selected as Mid-Hudson Chapter Member of the Year! Ron will be honored at our chapter dinner on April 25 at Twin Lakes. Ron has contributed mightily and has chaired the Toy Factory for the past two years. Come celebrate with Ron -- reserve your tickets from Al Shinker (anpshink@optonline.net). Tickets are \$29 apiece.

Sacandaga Chapter

By Gary Spencer

Our March 12 meeting was to be devoted to a discussion of the projects that were to be raffled off at the annual Showcase at the end of the month. As has happened several times this winter we had to cancel the meeting due to inclement weather. The projects however, thanks to the diligence of our members, were ready for Showcase and included one Adirondack style piece, a Birch bark framed picture of the Great Sacandaga Lake and one piece of oak furniture, a solid wood entry hall cabinet. These are outstanding and should have been very desirable at the Showcase raffle. Good job by many members of the Sacandaga group.

Our April 9th meeting will feature a presentation by Mike Kratky, a Sacandaga Chapter member. Mike has been a prolific wood turner for many years, and he says he will unfold a new dimension in his art. He says is developing this presentation for a presentation at the Showcase plus a later presentation at the Galway Lions Club in the spring. Should be one not to miss! We will have show and tell and 50/50 as usual, so let's have a good turnout for a very interesting topic.

Our regular monthly Chapter meetings are the second Wednesday of each month and begin at 7:00 P.M. Our next regular meeting will be April 9th, 2014. We will meet at our shop at 55 2nd Avenue, Mayfield, NY.

Come visit.

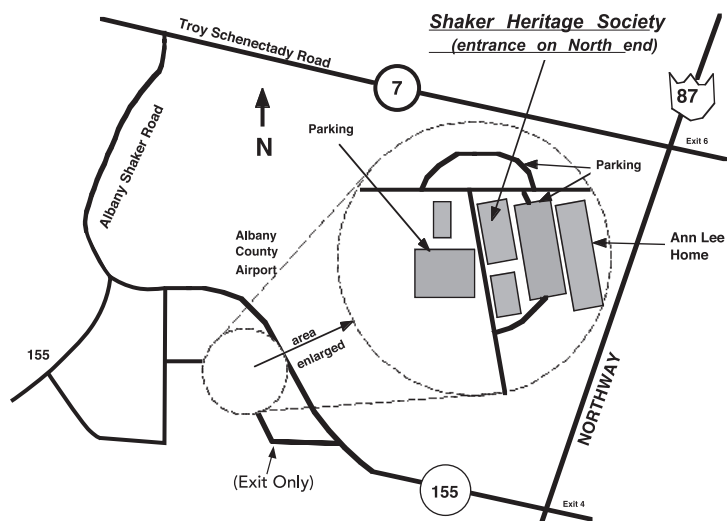
Directions or Information contact:

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April Meeting

Thursday, April 10th at 7:00 pm
Shaker Heritage Society Meeting House
Albany-Shaker Road, Albany, NY

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

April 10, 2014
Garrett Hack

May 8, 2014
Mid Hudson "TBA"
Election of Officers

GENERAL MEETINGS
AND SPECIAL EVENTS

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)

Adirondack Woodturners Association (AWA) - The AWA is active throughout the year. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month (except in January and July when it is the second Wednesday), and are held at the NWA Learning Center located at 15 Solar Drive, Clifton Park, NY from 6:30 PM to 9:00PM.

Wednesday "Learn and Turn" sessions occur on all other Wednesdays at the NWA Learning Center. These sessions run 6pm-9pm. www.adirondackwoodturners.com **Contact:** Ken Evans, 518-753-7759 or kevans1@nycap.rr.com

Scroller's Guild - Meets on the first and third Thursday of the month at the NWA Learning Center located at 15 Solar Drive, Clifton Park, NY. A beginner's session starts at 6:30 PM followed by a general meeting at 7:00 PM. **Contact:** Jeanne Aldous at AMJAMt2@aol.com 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, NY. **Contact:** Matt Clark, (845) 454-9387.

NWA Crafters - Meets every Saturday and Tuesday, from 9:00 am until noon at the NWA Learning Center located at 15 Solar Drive, Clifton Park, NY. The Crafters provide public service woodworking for various charitable organizations, including the Double H Hole in the Woods camp for children and the GE Elfuns toy modifications group, and the Make A Wish Foundation. Sharing information, fellowship, and relating experiences are a major part of these sessions. **Contact:** Dave Axton (518) 237-6942, daxton@nycap.rr.com, Wayne Distin (518) 674-4171, wdistin@nycap.rr.com Steve Schoenberg (518-371-1260), sschoen1@nycap.rr.com for more information.

The NWA Wood Carvers SIG - Meet each Thursday at 5:30 p.m. until 9 p.m. all year except the 2nd Thursday of each month at the NWA Learning Center located at 15 Solar Drive, Clifton Park, NY. Programs are determined at the previous weekly sessions. Discussions start at 7PM. The goal is to promote the art of Wood Carving. Individual private sessions are available Wednesday evenings by appointment. Wood, tools, and patterns are available. **Contact:** Ray Gannon. 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 55 Second Avenue, Mayfield, NY. **Contact:** Gary Spencer, 518-863-6433.