

# WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern  
Woodworkers  
Association

August 2009, Vol. 18, Number 8

## The 2009 NWA Picnic

By Ken Evans

***WOW! What a time it was this past July 19 at the Jonesville firehouse. Lot's of stuff to tell you about in case you missed the event.***

First of all it was a perfect day sunny, white puffy Homer Simpson clouds cool with a pleasant breeze. You know, in all the times I have been to the NWA picnic, it has NEVER rained! How do we arrange this? Anyway!

The plane contest was held under the direction of planemeister Tom Osborne. I am told since I did not get a chance to participate that Bill Van Brunt won the event.

The competition was intense I am told by those who participated

and by the huge crowd that watched the event.

Now, I did have my trusty Miller Falls number nine sharp-ened and tuned for the event, but was distract-ed by other responsibilities and

never got a chance to enter. I believe there was collusion amongst the participants to keep me otherwise preoccupied getting my picture taken with the clown until the event was over. They knew I was coming for them. Well, ok "fool me once" as they say. Next year, we will see! Gosh, at least the clown did not have an entry in the plane contest.

Suzie, the Clown painted faces of adults and children. I saw faces painted with flowers to police cars. Everyone, the BIG and SMALL KIDS had a good time with SUZIE.

The entire group helped to celebrate the birthdays of Herm and Fran Finkbeiner. There were two BIG cakes one chocolate and the other vanilla. One said, "Happy Birthday Herm and Fran." The other said, "Ditto". As everyone knows Herm collects "wood planes". So, he was given two wooden planes for his birthday. One was a "biplane" the other a "glider"—both of wood. Fran was surprised with two beautiful "pink flamingos".



Hummmm! What an odd thing to collect! Both Herm and Fran were quite surprised.

The raffle this picnic was just terrific. Members brought item they had made for the raffle and the number of tickets purchased indicated the attendees loved this type of raffle. The list of donated items was outstanding and the winning attendees were thrilled. My own winnings included a cool wooden airplane (I think of Honey Locust) and a beautiful shaker box. I believe the wooden plane was from Herm's wooden plane collection. ☺

*Continued on page 8*

## WHY is Showcase?

By Ken Evans

WHY do we do SHOWCASE?

Showcase is an enormous amount of work both in the planning stage and in its execution. It takes about 32 co-chairpersons meeting each month from September to March, roughly 400 volunteers working throughout the weekend of the show, and many volunteers who begin their tasks weeks before the show date. WHY then do we have SHOWCASE ?

In the early days of NWA, the NWA Board of Directors decided it would be a good thing

1. "To have an activity that would bring the members together by working on a common objective."
2. "To make the larger community aware of the pleasures of working wood by exhibiting the work of members and by providing displays, lectures and demonstrations on the methods of working wood."

This was the original purpose of EXPO as the show was called in those days.

Please notice the idea of making money was NOT one of the original purposes of the show. In fact there have been some years where the show actually did not make money and the Board, true to the original objectives, continued to support the show in subsequent years.

Of course, it is good when the show actually pays for itself and NWA is able to "breaks even". When the show has made a profit, NWA has used those monies for many things including subsidizing educational events (classes) for

*Continued on following page*

## OFFICERS

**President** - Owen Arkison  
518 459-5348

owen.arkison@earthlink.net

**Vice President** - Roger Holmes  
roger.holmes@dewalt.com

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

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

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

**Historian** - Wayne Diston 674-4171  
wdiston@nycap.rr.com

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

## CHAIRPERSONS

### Mid-Hudson Chapter

Pete Chast, President  
pchast@francomm.com

### Sacandaga Chapter

Co-Chairpersons

Clyde Cheney - 661-5138

Ray Laubenstein - 863-6071

RLAUB@Roadrunner.com

### Education

Herm Finkbeiner - 371-9145

hfinkbei@nycap.rr.com

### Adult Programs

Position To Be Filled

### Youth Programs

Ray Gannon - 664-2229

raymond.gannon@wildblue.net

### Fiske Fund

Tom Osborne

TTomosborne@aol.com

### Hospitality

Position To Be Filled

### Library

Darrel Welch - 477-8431

ydwelch@fairpoint.net

### Membership

Susan Howe - 885-9331

### Programs

Ken Evans - 753-7759

kevans1@nycap.rr.com

### Publications

Wally Carpenter - 434-1776

c.j.carpenter@earthlink.net

### SHOWCASE

Ken Evans - 753-7759

kevans1@nycap.rr.com

### Videographers

Dave Ellison - 872-0980

ellisd@rpi.edu

Hans Kappel - 861-8753

bluespruce@juno.com

Pat Pugsley - 634-7144

ideas@mhonline.net

Bob Conahan - 355-9032

conahanbob@hotmail.com

Kirk Hardenburg

725-1997

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, PHONE  
NUMBERS ARE IN AREA CODE 518

# Past President's Thoughts

*By Warren Stoker*

When in the events of NWA one becomes president then past president there comes a time to reflect on the year that has so recently concluded. Herman Finkbeiner reminds us that the basic philosophy is "NWA is for people who love working wood and want to get better at it."

That being the basic reason for our existence and judging the year against that standard, we had a good year. Our meetings reflected the education needs of our members with programs designed to help each of us improve our understanding and skill at various aspects of working with wood. The education classes, whether making a chair, or a box, or truing a plane, or making a Shaker table, or any number of other classes, offered additional opportunities for members to improve their wood working techniques. The somewhat regular meetings of various groups gave everyone a chance to work in small groups and in some cases show the larger community what we are all about.

New groups were added such as the Friday morning turning at Stillwater and the Tuesday carving at Stillwater. These supplemented existing groups such as the group who are rebuilding a historic garden building by the Sacandaga chapter, the work of the scrollers, the fine projects that come out of the Updahl building in Mid-Hudson, or the Wednesday learn to turn sessions at Stillwater, or the Tuesday and Saturday meetings at Jim Kennedy's shop, or the carvers meetings, or other meetings that take place at members shops, and there are others. We are teaching, learning, and enjoying working with wood.

The Showcase Event was successful in that many found a way to show their work, go to lecture demonstrations, and show others what we are all about. The best time for me has been the opportunities to chat with and listen to others at the meetings. I learn so much as I am certain that you also learn.

The informal times that we have at the holiday gathering, at the summer picnic, at the break time of each monthly meeting are the best times for getting problems solved.

The best aspect of this organization is that whenever I have a problem and ask someone for advice, I always get a thorough and understandable answer and am given an invitation for me to receive additional help if I do not understand. That is what we are all about and I can assure you that we are alive and well. Yes we had a good year and I look forward to the programs and educational opportunities of next year. 🐾

## WHY is Showcase?

*Continued from Page 1*

its members, supporting the Special Interest Groups, and by keeping the dues structure under control to name just a few.

I have watched the show for many years as a volunteer, and the past two years as General Chairperson. The pool of volunteers who produce Showcase are NWA members who have learned to work together and to trust each other as they cooperate in the production of the show and they remain in contact throughout the year. When NWA needs members to help throughout the year in other areas of club activities, it is often from within this pool of volunteers that the help and expertise often comes to solve the problem and do the work. I have seen this happen many times and I believe that the maintenance of this pool of problem solvers working together is exactly what was meant by the phrase "to have an activity that would bring the members together"

It is only August 2009 and Showcase 2010 is not until March 27 and 28 of 2010, but the co chairs will start their regular Showcase meetings on September 8.

When any of the chairpersons comes calling to ask you to volunteer for Showcase 2010, please consider the reasons above and sign up for a short tour of duty with Showcase 2010.

Oh! By the way, there is ONE MORE REASON to have SHOWCASE. It is one heck of a lot of FUN! Come to think of it, this may be the BEST REASON! 🐾



# Lumber and Tool Auction

*By Charlie Goddard*

The next lumber and tool auction will be Saturday, September 26 in the Shaker barn. Doors will open at 10 AM for inspection of the items for sale and the auction will begin at noon. This is the major source of funding for Fiske Fund grants to attend woodworking schools. Be sure to put the auction on your calendar. This is a great place to pick up an needed tool or some nice lumber. Even if you don't buy anything you will have a good time.

So far we have very few tools to sell. If you would like to donate some woodworking tools there is plenty of time to collect them. We have year round storage in the barn so tools and lumber can be stored at any time. In the September newsletter there will be a listing of the tools that will be up for sale.

We will have a wide range of lumber for sale - cherry, ambrosia silver maple, red oak, red maple, ash and black locust. Thanks to a generous donation from Joshua Hoffman of Joshua's Trees we will also have walnut, elm, sycamore, various burls, butternut, figured maples and a few pieces of myrtle, redwood, horse chestnut and big leaf maple.

There is still plenty of time to donate. If you have lumber or tools you would like to donate contact Warren Stoker (439-6089, [wstoker@nycap.rr.com](mailto:wstoker@nycap.rr.com)), Dick Flanders (393-5215, [rflander@nycap.rr.com](mailto:rflander@nycap.rr.com)) or Charlie Goddard (370-0388, [cgodd@aol.com](mailto:cgodd@aol.com)). All donations are fully tax deductible. 🐾



**WOODWORKERS NEWS** is published by the Northeastern Woodworkers Association for its members. The Association's aim is to provide a common meeting ground for lovers of woodworking who want to know more about wood and the techniques for forming it. The newsletter is published monthly. It is assembled in QuarkXPress 5.0 on an iMac G5, duplicated by Shipmates, and mailed to more than 1,000 addresses.



Your next issue of **Woodworkers News** will be published in early September  
Copy deadline: August 15  
Wally Carpenter, Editor  
(518) 434-1776  
[c.j.carpenter@earthlink.net](mailto:c.j.carpenter@earthlink.net)  
Elizabeth Keays Graphic Artist  
Designer



## WEBSITE(S)

[www.woodworker.org](http://www.woodworker.org)  
[www.nwawoodworkingshow.org](http://www.nwawoodworkingshow.org)

## Blog Site:

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

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](mailto: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  
Rexford, New York 12148



# Wood of the Month ©2009

- Ron DeWitt

**Koa (*Acacia koa*) A. Gray**  
**An Evergreen Hardwood**  
**Leguminosae - Legume Family, The**  
**Mimosaceae - Mimosa Sub-Group**

Derivation of the genus name *Acacia* is from the Greek work akis for thorn and is the classical Greek name for a thorny tree of Egypt. The epithet or species name koa is an ancient Hawaiian name for the tree, meaning soldier or warrior.

The very large *Acacia* genus reportedly numbers 1100 to 1200 tropical and sub-tropical species of trees and shrubs worldwide. About 14 of these are native to North America, four are found in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, three in Hawaii, and as many as 800 in Australia. Many species in this genus are used for products ranging from gums, tannins, food, and fuel to dyes and perfumes, yet only about 75 have economic value. All of the *Acacias* have soil binding or nitrogen fixing properties. Although many of the *acacias* have thorns, the subject species does not.

The koa *Acacia koa*, also called black koa or Hawaiian mahogany, is native and endemic only to the State of Hawaii in the U.S. where it is found on all six of the islands of the Hawaiian chain: Kauai, Oahu, Molokai, Maui, Lanai, and Hawaii. It is economically, ecologically, and culturally the most important and best known tree of Hawaii, second only to the ohai, or bottlebrush, in abundance.

Koa grows in volcanic soils of various quality, from recent to very old ash, medium to strong acidity, moderately- to well-drained. Recent soils, having been exposed to less erosion and leaching, are higher in plant nutrients. This tree does well in an extremely wide range of growing conditions. Although not very shade tolerant it is otherwise not particularly choosy about its environment. As would be expected, growth rates are quite variable. Koa does best with annual rainfall of 75 to 200 in. (1900 to 5100 mm) where it grows straight and tall at 80 to 100 ft. (24 to 31 m) by 3 to 4 ft. (0.9 to 1.3 m) dbh. Elevations vary from sea level to high mountain areas of 7000 ft. (2100 m) where winter frosts are not unusual. On good sites in the "middle forest zone," seedlings may average 6 ft (2 m) in a year and 30 ft. (9 m) in five years.

In its natural habitat koa grows in nearly pure stands or in admixtures with ohai. In other areas it is found singly

with any of 20 or more other trees including kalia, kolea, loulu palm, olomea, and various sandalwoods.

Most mature trees have large, open, scraggy crowns, irregular branching, and crooked, fluted boles. The largest koa on record had a height of 140 ft. (43 m), a dbh of 11.9 ft. (3.6 m), and a crown spread of 148 ft. (45 m). Growth increments or rings do not correlate with annual rings; age of koa trees cannot be determined. Trees are thought to live 300 to 400 years.



*Leaves and flowers of koa.*

Leaves of this tree are unusual. Koa is phyllodial, a species that undergoes a change in leaf structure as it develops. In this case the leaf is a compound, feathery, true leaf consisting of 12 to 15 lacy paired leaflets, until about the time it reaches the seedling to sapling stage. Leaves then change to sickle-shaped modified leaf stalks that function as leaves.

Twigs are fine, smooth, light brown in color, and somewhat zig-zag. Bark on young trees is thin, light gray-brown, and smooth or slightly fissured, becoming rough and broken into deep longitudinal furrows at maturity. The thin bark of young trees is easily damaged by fire.

Flowering of the koa usually occurs from February to July, although in some areas it continues year round. The fragrant small powder-puff-like composite bisexual flowers, averaging 0.3 in. (8.5 mm) in diameter, are made up of numerous greenish-yellow florets. Flowering develops over the outer areas of the crown.

Fruit of the koa is a legume or pod about 6 in. (15 cm) long and 1 to 1.5 in. (2.5 to 4 cm) wide. The slow to open pods contain about 12 seeds that vary from brown to black, maturing at different times of the year depending on weather and location. The hard-coated seeds are very durable, remaining viable for up to 25 years if kept cool and dry.

The wood of koa is diffuse-porous. Pores are uniformly small to medium, indistinct without a hand lens, numerous, uniformly distributed, solitary, or in radial multiples usually of two but sometimes of four. Rays are uniseriate or occasionally biseriate, very fine, and not visible without a hand lens.

Wood color varies from blond to the beautiful, most common reddish-brown to dark chocolate. It quickly yellows in sunlight. The earlywood transition to latewood is rather abrupt, often marked by a dark band. Sapwood is narrow, yellow-white, and clearly demarcated from the heartwood, which begins to develop at about 15 years. Koa texture is fine to moderately coarse. Grain varies to extremes from straight to wavy to severely interlocked. Some 20 different terms are used to describe the resulting figures.

Average sp. gr. of koa is about 0.55 to 0.60; weight may vary from 30 to 80 pcf (480 to 1280 kg/m<sup>3</sup>) with an average of 60 pcf (960 kg/m<sup>3</sup>) at 12% M.C. Koa dries



*Flare figure in koa.*

quickly and easily without splitting, cupping, or warping. Drying shrink is small at 5.5 % radial, 6.2 % tangential, and only 12.4 % of volume. Straight-grained wood is easy to work with hand or power tools, but variations in grain orientation of highly-figured material is much more challenging and the tendency to burn is greater. It turns and carves well, takes fasteners nicely, glues easily and polishes to a high gloss. This wood is stable in service but not durable in soil or weather. It has no distinguishing taste or scent. All properties of koa are very similar to those of black walnut.

No specific toxicity was reported for koa, however several similar species are toxic due to the presence of cyanogenetic glucosides and toxic alkaloids. The usual preventive measures are well advised when working this wood.

Historically koa has been used for 70-foot (21-meter) Hawaiian war canoes carved from single trees, surf boards, spear handles, ukuleles, ships knees and planking, and general construction. It was the royal wood of native Hawaiians, chosen for all things used by the royal family, from cradles, stair treads, and walkways to coffins.

Present day usage includes fine cabinetry and furniture, paneling, interior trim, plywood, and veneer.

Internationally it is held in high regard because of its tonewood qualities. It continues to be used for ukuleles and is popular for piano sound boards, organ pipes, guitars, and wind instruments.

Also it is used for paddles, oars, gunstocks, handles, novelties, and large bowls. The flowering characteristics of koa have made it popular in landscape planting. Leaf mulch is also very high in nitrogen content.



*Koa seed pods.*



*Figure in a 14in. Koa slab.*

Native Hawaiians have used leaf and bark concoctions to treat broken skin injuries and stomach and urinary problems. Currently the phyllodial leaves are being tested for bio-chemicals with anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidant properties and for possible use in cancer treatment.

Koa has many natural enemies including insects, mistletoe, and heart rot. More serious, however, has been browsing by introduced animals, especially pigs and goats. Eradication programs have been successful, but it is believed that if these animal populations are allowed to increase, the koa rain forest ecosystem will deteriorate. Land clearing and poor harvesting practices further contribute to losses of koa forests. It is also noted that mature koa forests are an important habitat to several endangered bird and other animal species. Extensive reforestation projects in Hawaii are encouraging but not always successful. Timber produced from planting in South Africa and other countries is lacking in fine color and figure and is considered inferior.

Supplies of koa are limited. Good quality wood is becoming sparse and the future of this beautiful wood is considered to be uncertain, but serious effort is being applied to perpetuate this important tree.

## Wood Questions

Q. What tree is called the toothache tree?



A. The prickly ash *Zanthoxylum americanum*. The small red berry, a crushed leaflet or a fresh piece of bark held in the mouth or chewed will usually cure a toothache. (I didn't have a toothache but the bark made my tongue tingle.)

## Wood Definition

- Ron DeWitt

S2S - Lumber that has been planed or surfaced on 2 sides.

**Hell hath no fury  
like a bureaucrat scorned.**

Milton Friedman

**There are three classes of men;  
lovers of wisdom, lovers of honor  
and lovers of gain.**

Plato



# CHAPTER NEWS

## NWA Mid-Hudson Chapter News

By Wally Cook

**Chair Man of the Boards:** Gerry Peterson demonstrated the production and assembly of an Arts and Crafts style chair. Gerry is crafting a set of these beautiful chairs from Pennsylvania black cherry. He started the chairs after finishing a large remodeling effort for his daughter's home. He was ready to focus on a smaller project and was inspired by the design featured in the May 2007 issue of Fine Woodworking.

Gerry soon learned that chair making is a complicated venture and Gerry has learned some valuable lessons along the way:

- It's best to approach the construction of an Arts and Crafts chair in subassemblies: splats, back frame and legs, front frame and legs, and seat.
- The most critical joint is where the back frame and legs meet the seat support. If not done perfectly, the chair will rack.
- The joints at the stretchers and spreaders are also critical.
- Fine details make the difference: pyramidal finished ends should be repeated on all post ends; the same pyramidal shape should be applied to the ebony pegs.
- Particular care should be taken to match the grain direction in all horizontal and vertical pieces.
- Edges should be softened and not left too "sharp".

Gerry used a chopsaw to advantage on the steam bent rails – a plywood template assisted in working with the steam bent pieces. A clamping caul was used to ensure square mating of the elements. Gerry depended heavily on his Lie-Nielsen low angle block plane to smooth the components to desired shape. The ebony pegs were completed with chisel and rasp.

The chair was finished with six coats of Sam Maloof finish, steel-wooled between coats. Finally three coats were applied of a mixture of beeswax (melted in a double boiler), linseed oil, and tung oil.



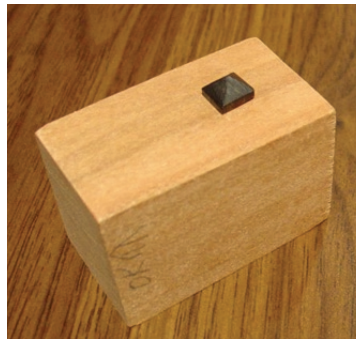
*Gerry Peterson's Arts&Crafts Style Chair.*



*Gerry describing chair construction.*



*Chair Components.*



*Ebony pegs were chiseled and rasped to shape while set in a block of wood.*

### Don't Forget the Chapter Picnic

Set for September 12 – more details at the August meeting!

# Wings at Mid-Hudson Woodworkers

By Chuck Walker

A very unusual treat for the Mid-Hudson Woodworkers was in store at the June meeting. It actually started in the afternoon with Bob Opdahl inviting member Remco Krafft to come to the farm and give a presentation on building an airplane! We've had boats and kayaks but never before an airplane. Remco was slated to give a talk at our regular meeting but the afternoon session allowed

more time and promised greater detail of this construction feat. In addition, he repeated the essence of his talk at the regular evening meeting. It all started for Remco in the days when he was becoming a bit jaded after 20 years

as a translator at the United Nations. His work required much air travel which he did not like and of which he admits some fear. To conquer this he decided to take flying lessons and became a pilot. The next natural step was to build an airplane. The result of all this is that he discovered that he actually enjoyed building more than flying.

The details of the process were covered as well as the requirements to obtain a permit from Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The actual oversight of the process is under the control of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA). They provide a contact that acts as a mentor to guide and advise the construction process. The resultant aircraft is registered as experimental which does not mean that the design has not been proven in use but that it has not been subjected to the rigorous (and expensive) FAA certification process.

Remco strongly recommended buying a proven plan from a company that is trustworthy and has an established record. This helps minimize some risk of the unknown by having a customer base that has successfully completed their planes. He said to be prepared to spend 2-5 years in construction if you do all the work yourself.

The materials that Remco used were Sitka spruce as the wood used as stringers and rib frames. Quality of the wood is important in that it must be straight, free from defects and not have grain runout or fibers that spring out when curves are formed. Plywood must be "Aviation Grade". Hardware such as bolts require a special grade

with certification. The covering is a grade of Dacron™ that is shrunk tightly to the frame using a household iron. The engine was a modified snowmobile engine, not overly powerful but then the aircraft is very light weight.

Remco's experiences flying the plane that resulted from all the years of hard and demanding work are quite another story. But he is back at work on another airplane. He says it is the best thing he has done in his whole life, thus far.

Of course, this was not all of the interesting things presented at the meeting. We had an unexpected surprise when former president Joe Mikesh showed up from Florida for a short visit. Jack Collumb and Bob Boisvert are always ready with interesting projects from the scroll

saw. This night it was flowers in turned vases by Jack and an intarsia cloud castle from Bob. Jerry Peterson brought a very handsome jewelry box and Joe Kennedy, the perennial great box crafter had another one of



George Norton with fence, Joe Mikesh looks on.



Remco Krafft with wing framework at the Mid-Hudson meeting.



Joe Kennedy with box.



Jerry Peterson with box.



Jack Collumb and Bob Boisvert with scroll saw projects.



interesting wood. He is planning to donate the box for the Boy Scout fund raiser auction. Bill Fiederlein had a framing square that could be adjusted for exact angle. He also showed a router base that makes life easier. Matt Clarke brought five turned bowls with varying treatments of the surfaces from spiral tool to color. George Norton showed a special router fence and Win Crans had a very special turned goblet with a motor armature for the pedestal.

Win Crans and goblet with electric motor armature.



# The 2009 NWA Picnic

*Continued from Page 1*

Well the TAPE MEASURE RACES were next! If you remember from my last BLOG about last year's picnic, this was to be my year at "UPSAND DOWNS" Racetrack.☺

Well, I was ready with my trusty entry that, I might add, almost won last year. It was to be me and the clown this year. Well, to make a long story longer, let me tell you that this year, my entire family was at the picnic—my daughter and her husband to be (September wedding), my other daughter and her husband and their two children. They all spent Saturday (the day before the Picnic) constructing TAPE MEASURE RACERS. Now, to compete against the clown is one thing, but to be challenged by the entire family is just too much to bear. Well, you can likely see this coming! My daughter Heather Evans won the Tape Measure Contest. How am I ever going to like with this. She, of course, will never allow me to live this down. Congratulations Heather! By the way, I believe the grand-kids beat me also. I guess its back to the drawing board for next year. I can only hope Heather doesn't have a plane next year. What fun! Join us next year at "UP's AND DOWN's"!

The pallet challenge was won by Marty McKinney who made beautiful cabinets of many different wood types from pallets. Marty brought maybe seven different cabinets. All were wonderful! Congratulations Marty.

The door prizes for adults and kids were many, varied, and age appropriate.

Bart Chabot gave casting lessons to many adults and kids. Many kids caught some pretty nice wooden fish in Bart's pond. Thanks Bart for a great job!

The food was served at about 1:30 PM and this year it was quite different. Everyone wanted to know who cooked the delicious chicken. Well, the entire picnic lunch was prepared at Price Chopper. They did a fantastic job and everyone was well fed and loved the meal. The deserts were, as usual, beyond description. They were delicious, scrumptious, superb, delightful, low calorie,☺ nutritious, did I say delicious,☺ and mostly non- fattening. Life rarely gets any better for a woodworker than the NWA picnic in July. Remember, we do this every year in July around the 20th of July on that weekend at the Jonesville Firehouse. Mark your calendar now, bring your family and friends.

Thanks to Owen and Karen Arkison and Roger and Liz Holmes for their attention to detail in planning the picnic.







**The 2009 NWA Picnic**  
*See You Next Year!*



# Member Profile

## Kitty Scharl

*By Charlie Goddard*

Kitty grew up in Schenectady and attended college at SUNY earning degrees in French and art and continuing on to get a Masters of Fine Arts. She received certification to teach French. Her artistic side certainly shows in her woodworking. She has exhibited a number of her pieces at Showcase, including a table which won a ribbon last year and a beautiful small cabinet which took a second place ribbon this year. Her favorite wood is redwood, the predominant wood used to build the house in Voorheesville where she and Karl have lived for the past 36 years. The contemporary designed house was built by one of Kitty's teachers at SUNY. The small redwood cabinet is right at home on the kitchen counter. She has built at least five tables, including their dining room table.

There must be more to the story, but she and Karl met at a local car repair shop. Their son, Chris, is married and lives not far away. Kitty is not the only woodworker in the family; her brother is also an accomplished woodworker.

Kitty has a strong interest in Japanese design. Upon admiring a Japanese lantern one day a friend said to her "you could make that". So she tried it and found that she really liked woodworking. She took some classes locally, including one with George Rutledge at Hudson Valley. Fortunately for NWA George suggested that she should consider becoming a member. She has taken courses on using Japanese tools and elements of design at the Center of Furniture Craftsmanship in Maine. Another course was with Toshio Odate, making shoji screens. In addition, she takes full advantage of the classes offered by NWA members and hired instructors.

A few mornings each week Kitty will be found in her workshop where she is currently working on a new chair

design (see accompanying photo). It is being constructed of mahogany instead of her favorite redwood and will have cushions for the seat and back and portions will be sculptured in the style of the late Sam Maloof. Her tools are a jointer, a dust collector, a nice Laguna band saw, a router table and the usual powered and non-powered hand tools. Curiously absent is a table saw. She doesn't

want one. Instead, she uses the band saw for all of her ripping and material preparation. The shop was originally built as a detached garage, but now has heat, a wood floor and lots of windows along the south side which provide great lighting. This is the kind of shop space that many woodworkers long to have.

In addition to woodworking her interests include cooking, baking, weaving, reading, listening to classical music, visiting with her son and daughter-in-law and visiting with her mother who is in assisted living locally. For a few years she and Karl ran a wine and liquor store in Voorheesville. She is quite partial to fine wines. In her words, "there have been two constants in my life – making stuff (currently woodworking) and reading." Her reading list is quite varied - from science and human behavior to biographies (at least 10 Lincoln biographies).

Kitty also has served her community as a member of the Voorheesville Planning Commission for the past 10 years.

NWA is blessed to have many members, like Kitty

Scharl, who give freely of their time to make the organization great. She is always ready to offer a helping hand in setting up and running the annual auction, sawing logs, work parties at Shaker or wherever help is needed. Since May 2002 Kitty has served as NWA Secretary, attending NWA Board Meetings and keeping board members honest by writing up what was said at the meetings and preparing the minutes. She has also been an active participant in showcase, first by organizing the lecture schedule and, for the past 4 or 5 years, managing ticket sales. 🐾



**All right everyone, line up alphabetically according to your height.**

Casey Stengle



# Wood Carving Techniques

*By Ray Gannon*

In preparation for our NWA Wood Carving Classes to be offered during our winter this year, I'll expose you to the many different Styles or Techniques of Wood Carving. If you're interested in wood carving this will give you a few ideas to hang onto your walls. Yes you can do that!

Wood Carving is a learned hand art so don't think that you need to draw a straight line to be a wood carver. None of us can draw a straight line with out a string.

## Line Carving

Often called the simplest of carving, line carving is an ideal project for the beginner. In line carving the outlined subject and the background remain at the original surface level of the panel being carved. By making practice cuts on a piece of scrap of the same wood being carved, you will get the feel of working with Chisels and gouges and will experience what can be accomplished working both with and across the grain with sharp tools. By making a series of short cuts with your tool, better control will be maintained. Select a pattern that appeals to you. And go to it.

### The ten (10) steps of line carving;

1. Cut a panel to the desired finished size.
2. Smooth the face and edges. Try not to use sand paper! Sand paper leaves sand behind that dulls your tools.
3. Draw border lines that will frame the completed carving.
4. Transfer the image to be carved to your prepared panel using carbon paper, making sure that the image fits within the predetermined border limits.
5. With a V or U shaped gouge, cut a shallow groove in each of the lines of the pattern. Care should be taken to control the gouge from slipping too fast forward. This can be done by holding the gouge with the left hand just above the cutting edge and exerting a reverse pressure to control its forward motion.
6. When the carving has been completed, lightly sand the surface of the panel to remove any splinters or fuzz. With a soft brush remove all of the sanding dust from all of the depressions.
7. Apply a coat of wood sealer to the panel. A common preferred product called Sanding Sealer. The sealer will prevent any color material you may want to use to highlight the image from bleeding into the surrounding areas. Be sure to work the sealer down into the depressions to prevent any undercut bleeding. Be certain, however, to brush any excess from the grooves with a dry brush in order to keep from filling in the image and keep your color material from getting into the background area.
8. When the sealer has dried completely, work the color of your choice into the depressions.
9. When the color has dried completely, sand the face of the panel until all excess color has been removed. Once more dust out all excess sanding dust from the depressions.
10. Now finish the entire panel with a varnish of your choice or apply a good paste wax and buff to a good finish.

**Stamps are a good source for acquiring patterns. Just Enlarge and have fun getting started.**

Keep making Chips!

# NWA Tuesdays Night Wood Carvers Group

*By Ray Gannon*

## Group Gatherings

- Each Tuesday nights at 6pm
- Stillwater Comm. Ctr. Corner of Palmer St. and School St. Village of Stillwater
- Contact George Rutledgeat gnarus@verizon.net
- Ray's gone fishing

Many of you have expressed an interest on having Night Wood Carving groups so don't be shy. We are having fun and invite everyone to join in on the activities'.

We are currently working on a;

1. community project,
  2. working up turning and carving combined
  3. doing relief,
  4. fish carving
  5. General Wood Carving interest Subj. discussions and demonstrations.
- Each Tuesday a subject one of us has an interest in is worked on and we try to have it going for the next group session.
  - We are working up an antique ceiling relief carving a style with special features for viewing while looking directly upwards > 10'

Summer is over so don't wait.

Ok it is still July so keep making Chips.





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

## GENERAL MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

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

NWA 2009-2010 General Meetings

September 2009  
Ken Evans  
SIGS – An Introduction to  
our Chapters and SIGS

October 2009  
Tom Osborne  
Fiske Fund recipients

November 2009  
Herm Finkbeiner  
Fiske Presentation

December 2009  
Roger Holmes  
Family Night

January 2010  
Dave Mobley  
Architectural Salvage

February 2010  
Ray Gannon  
Wood selection and characteristics

March 2010  
Warren Stoker/ Pete Howe  
Millwork from a  
professional perspective

April 2010  
Charlie Goddard  
Material preparation

May 2010  
Mid-Hudson Chapter  
Planes, Then and Now

July 2010  
Roger Holmes  
Picnic

## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

### SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)

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

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

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

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

### CHAPTERS

**NWA Mid-Hudson** -The chapter meets at 7:30 p.m. on the third Thursday, except July and August, at the Hurley Reformed Church. The Church is just off the the Hurley exit from Rte. 209. Right at the exit, right at the stop sign and left into the Church parking area. Contact Pete Chast, [pchast@francomm.com](mailto: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.