

# WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern  
Woodworkers  
Association

December 2008, Vol. 17, Number 12

## Family Night Auction

Thursday, Dec 4th, 7:00 pm  
Clifton Park Senior Center  
Clifton Commons, Vischer Ferry Road  
Clifton Park, NY.  
*(where the November Meeting was held)*

## Tree Ornaments for Family Nite

### *90 degrees versus 360 degrees*

Debates between flatboarders and turners are a lot like political campaigns and we all know about those. They just go on and on and are packed full of distortions and innuendos. Let me set the record straight!

Never, did I say scrollers and carvers are "honorary turners" and I never had coffee with a terrorist. What I said was, turners, carvers, and scrollers make "CHIPS" or as my flatboarder friend Mr. Finkbeiner points out "horse bedding"! I am still working on that guy with a chainsaw. Users of chainsaws do make "chips" and they do work with "round things", so they are definitely NOT flatboarders.

Flatboarders use too many 90 degree angles. Right Angles are Wrong Angles. You can quote me on that! Give me a 360 degree angle anytime.

I again call upon the Rounders everywhere to make one or two Holiday Ornaments for the Auction at Family Nite. Let the ornament with the highest bid at Family Night tell the tale—chips or sawdust to prevail ...until the next year.

Anyway, I agree with my distinguished friend from the land of the flatboards, neither our political views nor our woodworking persuasions are the real issue here.

December 4 at the Clifton Park Senior Citizens Center is Family Nite and the Family Nite Auction raises money for the Educational Programs of NWA. I wish all the entries a high bid, but my money is on the ornament of a Rounder.

My name is Kenneth Evans, a rounder, and I approve this message.



## Call for Volunteers

*By Celia Carpenter*

NWA Members,

The Woodworker's Showcase 2009, Saturday March 28th and Sunday March 29th is fast approaching. Our hope is that it will be as successful as in the past 18 years. We are featuring several woodworkers with national acclaim. Adam Cherubini, 18th century furniture styles, W. Patrick Edwards known for his French marquetry, Jim Tolpin, custom cabinetmaker and author and Molly Winton, a turner with enhancement techniques.

As in every year we depend completely on the NWA membership to volunteer their valuable time and their skills to bring to our public this incredible weekend of lectures, demonstrations, vendor exhibits and our own members' work.

This year we will need as many if not more of your time and effort. We, as always, want to educate and inspire our public in the incredible hobby and for some profession of the art of woodworking. Whether your interests are in carving, turning, furniture making or musical instruments we hope that the men, women and children that enter through the doors of the 2009 Showcase will be amazed and inspired at the degree of talent that is present here in Northeastern New York.

As a new coordinator of volunteers, I have a desire to focus more on engaging the public. I see the role of the volunteer as an ambassador. Not only for our club but for woodworking in general. I feel that we need to educate and encourage everyone, young, old, man or woman to take an interest in our craft.

Remember "The Northeastern Woodworkers Association is a non-profit membership organization open without restriction to all who enjoy working with wood and want to get better at it."

There will be a volunteer sign up at our Holiday party and at all of the future meetings. Please volunteer for as many shifts as you can. Perhaps you could consider volunteering with a friend or spouse. Working with other members, whether old friends or new, is a very rewarding part of the process. When you sign up please include your email address so that we can limit the amount of mailing to be done thus keeping our costs down.

It is my pleasure to do my part as the coordinator but as you all know it will depend on the members to make this our 18th year, a year that we can be proud of.

Contact me: Celia J. Carpenter, 518-434-1776,  
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# Some Thoughts from the Past and the Creativity of the Hands

*By Herm Finkbeiner*

Thirty some years ago, Walter Kunkel, who at that time was widely known as "Mr. Sawdust", wrote the following essay in his bimonthly newsletter, **Bench Talk**. It's message is as pertinent today as it was then, perhaps even more so since far fewer have either the interest or the means of realizing the value of the "creativity of the hands".

*We will allow no one to come into our school and start a discussion of "how bad things are"—and how they will have to get a lot worse before they get better." We don't wear blinders. We're realists. But this kind of negative talk is wasteful of both energy and time.*

THERE IS AN INNATE VIBRANCE IN THIS COUNTRY that will prevail through all our times of weak leadership, economic confusion, gutless politicians. Recession or depression, there is a pioneer strength in this country that is very much alive. Whatever comes is momentary -- even though the "moment" is a year or two -- and those, especially those who can work in a craftsman-like manner with their hands, will not only endure -- but will be the first to surface in the good times -- like a crocus in the spring.

NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO FOR A LIVING TODAY, LOOK AT YOUR HANDS. (Look at them!)

They are your answer to almost every mental and medical problem you'll ever have. Your fingertips are like electrical outlets -- draining off the mental exasperations you encounter during the day. The product of well-trained hands builds personal satisfaction, a pride, and provides an immediate therapeutic value. Better yet, a fine piece of workmanship exists as a personal tribute to your craftsmanship -- longer than you'll live.

For the 30 year old, look to your hands for a healthy and sane future. For the 40-year- old, TOOL UP -- invest in good tools. Secure adequate shop space. Set aside shop time out of each day to master your equipment. Remember this: your tools may someday be your most valuable physical asset. For the 50-year-olds, understand that most great success-stories have happened to people over 50 -- so GET GOING! And for all of us old duffers, let's get down to cases: This thing called "Retirement" was created by insurance companies and big corporations. It was a well-designed plan to get rid of us during a boom of War babies. WE HAVE THE REALLY GREAT VALUE ... and Retirement, as they figured it, is Death.

But we don't see it that way. RETIRE? YES. But retire to some kind of proud productivity. The young people need us. There are too few of us left to re-establish standards of quality and performance. Craftsmanship must become a re-plenishable resource -- and it's our obligation to fill the cup and to keep it full!

AS LONG AS YOU CAN STAND AT A WORKBENCH (or even sit!) you're young enough to command respect, turn out exemplary work, stay happy, and "make a buck" if you KNOW what you're doing. — *W.M.Kunkel*



If you fell down yesterday, stand up today.

H. G. Wells

## Member Profile - Joe Benkert

*By Joe Kennedy*

Joe Benkert has been an active member of the Mid-Hudson Chapter from its early days and has served as both Secretary and Vice President in recent years. Since his retirement as a lineman for Central Hudson about eight years ago, Joe has had more time to devote to his keen interest in woodworking. He is both a turner and a "flatboarder." In the past few years Joe has produced many beautiful segmented pepper mills and has taught his techniques both in the Mid-Hudson Valley and at Showcase '06. He has also made several beautiful furniture pieces such as a TV cabinet, a stereo cabinet and a shoe cabinet, to name just a few. One thing immediately noticeable from all of his work is Joe's attention to detail and excellent craftsmanship. We could all learn a lot from just watching Joe do his work methodically. Doing it right the first time really is faster in the long run.



Joe's activities on behalf of NWA include his hosting of the extended work parties for both Mid-Hudson's Adirondack Chair project and the CASA playhouse project. He has also participated in all of Mid-Hudson's major activities over the years, such as making display cases for the Dutchess County Fair as well as making birdhouse, toy car and tool tote kits.

Being a man of many talents, Joe contributes to the group in other ways. Each year Joe makes up a large batch of sausages that he provides for Mid-Hudson's annual picnic. Joe also lends a hand as a chef to cook these up.

One of his most significant recent contributions occurred last year when Joe installed a 220 volt heater in the Opdahl Building. This required some specialized electrical work in the constraints of this building. Since Joe is also a licensed electrician, he made this work look easy. Everyone who uses the Opdahl Building in the cold weather is grateful to Joe. He can always be counted on to do more than his share in contributing to any NWA project.

Joe is always available to give advice to new members. I recall when I first joined NWA asking Joe some questions about the proper use of a bench grinder. He immediately invited me to visit his shop and spent several hours teaching me about all aspects of the sharpening process. This year Joe, George Norton and I spent a few days working with Camilo Marquez, a new member, to make legs for a workbench at Joe's shop. They turned out quite well. Camilo was extremely grateful for the help and quite impressed with the members helping members attitude of NWA.

*Continued on Page 8*

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COUNT-DOWN !  
December, January, February,  
MARCH 28 and 29.

WOW!  
ONLY FOUR MONTHS UNTIL  
SHOWCASE 2009

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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. 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 Editor  
Position to be Filled

NWA maintains two websites,  
the first noted here  
operates continuously.  
We also offer selected  
links to other sites of interest  
to our membership.  
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The second site operates from  
January 1 to May 30  
and carries specific  
information about SHOWCASE.



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# Halloween at Curtis Lumber's Curious Woods

*By Wally Carpenter*

Once again, many of us found ourselves visiting Dave Whitehouse at the Curious Woods Halloween Wood Sale on the evening of Oct 30. We had representatives of our AWA members and Scrollers SIG's providing real time demonstrations. While everyone had a chance at the wheel of discounts, many walked away with some very choices pieces of wood to add to their own stock.

I thought it would be fun to show some of the very interesting and creative Halloween costumes from those in attendance. Yes, that is Dave Whitehouse as Superman! Most of us are still not sure if he really is Superman, but we know he's at least a super guy!

Hope we all take advantage of this event next year. 🦋



## C L A S S I F I E D S

### FOR SALE

**Craftsman 4 speed wood lathe, 12" dia. and 36" length on stand--with tools.** Good condition. Best offer. **And a Craftsman 6" jointer with 3 ft. bed, on stand and extra blades.** Good condition. Best offer. **And a Ryobi bandsaw 72" blade, 6" throat.** Good condition. Best offer. **And Walnut and ash slabs 3" to 6" thick and 4 to 7 ft. long.** Best offer  
Call Al Gedney @ 583-7032 to arrange to see these items.

**Older Wards 14 inch band saw.** Has stand and motor. Runs well. \$75 371-1160 Lou DeMola

**Wide Pine Boards,** lots of them. 14-20 inches wide, 8 to 10 feet long, 6/4 and 8/4. Some edged, some with live edge. All air dried under cover 2-3 years. Space and some health issues tell me they must go before the snow flies. How's 50 cents/BF?  
Call John Sullivan, Kipp Mountain Tree Farm, Chestertown, NY 518-494-3292. *(editor comment: I bought most of the 8/4 planks already !!!)*

Betty Dykstra at 518-322-9445 has a **collection of beautiful exotic hardwoods** which retail for ~\$800. She would love to find a good home for these Boards and is willing to negotiate for someone looking to buy the lot.

# Kaatskill Woodturners Monthly News

*By wally Cook*

Mike Kross took a class with Jean-Francois Escoulen and learned about trembleurs. A trembleur is a long turning with elements or beads separated by very thin sections. The thin sections -- if done correctly -- allow the entire object to wobble or sway without breaking. Trembleurs may be suspended or stand independently on a base. Either way the construction of a trembleur is a skill challenge and was once used as a test to advance an apprentice turner to master status.

Mike brought in examples of trembleur turnings that he has completed and then presented a slide presentation to demonstrate each step of the process. An important prerequisite is the ability to contain the wild oscillation of the piece as it is sculpted into elements and very thin connecting sections. For this purpose, steady rests are essential.

The steady rests are meant to contain the flexing of the spinning trembleur, but not needed as a point of resistance to "cut against". (Generally, the turner must support the area of cutting with a finger, while bringing the gouge or skew into play).

Mike showed a variety of steady rests. He typically uses string steadies, either in the tail stock or clamped to ways of the lathe. These string steady rests surround the turning in a cat's cradle of cotton thread (which has been



*A gaggle of trembleur sections*



*Mike demonstrating a string steady rest that he built for turning trembleurs*

*A completed trembleur on a base*

lubricated with beeswax). String steady rests are surprisingly strong and dampen the flex along the length of the narrow spindle.

Clearly, well developed tool skills are necessary to attempt a trembleur. Jean-Francois Escoulen has managed trembleurs over five feet long, according to Andi Wolfe's blog! That brings into play the second, but perhaps the most important skill: the ability to transport trembleurs without breaking them!

## The Hand Plane Clinic

*By Tom Osborne*

On Saturday and Sunday afternoon October 18th & 19th a Hand Plane Tune Up Clinic was held at the Jim Kennedy shop in Halfmoon. Despite the clinic being in competition with the Garrett Hack Bent Laminations class in Stillwater we had a full house of seven participants and a good time was had by everyone, especially the instructors.

Saturday we covered the basic use of hand planes, the different types of plans and touched on building wooden planes and the proper use of plane makers Floats. We then started on tuning up planes by discussing the flattening of the sole, adjusting the mouth on planes with adjustable mouths and sharpening plane irons. Each participant had brought at least one plane, and they were assisted in sharpening their plane irons. After sharpening and adjusting their planes they were encouraged to "try it out" on a cherry board. Everyone was very happy at how much better their planes cut after sharpening.

Sunday we did more on sharpening, and then covered the different types of hand planes and what they are used for. They were shown how with planes most woodworkers already own they can make simple moldings. The class finished up on how to sharpen and use cabinet scrapers.

We came out of the clinic with some sharp planes and some nice ribbons of Cherry to show for all the effort put into the sharpening. The cabinet scrapers were tested on the same piece of cherry and nice curls were also achieved with them.

It is pleasing for me to see that through the effort of the NWA the skill levels of the members is much higher then when we started with the Hand Plane Clinic a couple of years ago. Thanks to Bill Van Brunt for his able assistance and everyone in the class for a great time. 🐾





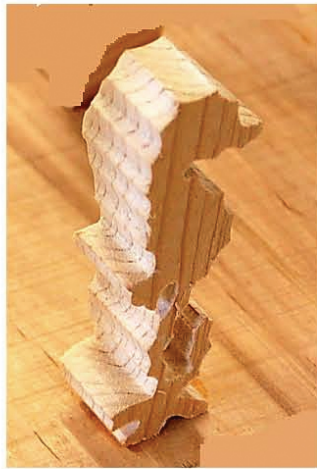
# Tree Ornaments: A Turner's Confusion

By *Herm Finkbeiner*

In the November newsletter a certain Mr. Evans has once more displayed the fact that his grasp is far beyond his reach. With neither justification nor argument, he has now claimed that scrollers and carvers should be classified as turners, (honorary turners?).

And what is his rationale for this outrageous usurpation? *That chips are produced!* As Col. Potter of MASH fame would say, "Horse Hockey!" That argument would mean that a logger with a chain saw is really a turner in hob-nailed leather boots!

However, the irrationality of Mr. Evans is not the issue at hand. On Dec. 4 at the NWA Family Night (Clifton Park Senior Center) there will be a display and auction of tree ornaments. It will be the real test of the skills and imagination of those who feel that the scroll saw, the band saw, carving knives and the router are tools of the flat boarder. We of the flat board persuasion will not accept the assertion that they are simply accessories to the horizontal boring machine!



## NWA Woodworking Classes at the Stillwater Shop

For more information about any of these classes log on to:  
<http://woodworkerorg.blogspot.com/>

### Windsor Turnings

*The First Installment of the Windsor Chair Series*

Tom Wetzel

Sat & Sun, Jan. 9 & 10

9 AM to 4:30 PM

Cost: \$75 plus materials

Seating preference will be given to those enrolling for the entire series

### The Bandsaw

Allen Craft

Tuesday, Jan. 20

6 PM to 9 PM

Cost: \$20

### Beginning Bowl Turning

Don Orr

Sunday, Jan. 25

9 AM to 5 PM

Cost: \$45 plus material

To register contact Gerry O'Brien at: [go12211@yahoo.com](mailto:go12211@yahoo.com)  
(518)459-9266

## Turned Ornaments Class

By *Karen Arkison*

Five members attended another fabulous NWA class at the Stillwater Shop learning how to turn Christmas ornaments. George Gurtler instructed with the helpful and knowledgeable assistance of Louie Andrews.

George gave us all detailed written instructions and diagrams to follow. All we needed was some flat wood to turn round and we were off. Bruce Mosher, Diane Mosher, Ed Buell, Ceila Carpenter, Bill McCormack (a carver in a turning class?) and Karen Arkison kept George and Louie hopping. It was a morning filled with wood chips, learning and a lot of fun. We ended up with quite an assortment of holiday decorations and the knowledge to make more. Just in time for the Family Night Ornament Challenge. Flat boarders....beware!



Happy  
Holidays

# Adirondack Woodturners Association Monthly News

*By Celia Carpenter*

The AWA focused on 3 separate methods of making Christmas Ornaments. We were instructed by our own local talent: Paul Petrie, Don Orr, and Mike Krouse.

Paul showed how to make a hollowed bulb like ornament and shared the details of hollowing using simple and inexpensive hand made tools. His outcome was a decoration with perfect proportions and delicate finials.

Don Orr gave us an example of a beautiful and detailed ornament but made from one piece of wood and without hollowing. This approach was an easier method making it An ornament that a novice turner could attempt. His final decoration was beautiful just smaller and not hollowed. Both of the decorations could be enhanced with stain, dyes or permanent markers. Don and Paul both said that remembering proportion is key. Also, that using light wood helps the ornament not to get lost among the depths of the tree branches.

Mike Kross surprised us with a simple tree ornament made by using a parting tool to create branches in measured intervals. This from the man that introduced us to "trembleurs".

Everyone enjoyed the evening and was inspired to go home to turn ornaments for the Holiday party. It was perfect timing that George Gurtler and Louie Andrews held a class at Stillwater the following Saturday in George's method to turn a holiday ornament. It just reminds us that each of us can find our own way to turn. Just for fun, our one and only Jan provided us with another extremely unique turning.



*Jan*



*Paul turning*



*Don turning*



*Paul turning an ornament*



*Don turning an ornament*



## Joe Benkert Profile

*Continued from Page 3*

Joe has a very well equipped shop. His shop is the size of a one car garage, but every machine (except for his new Powermatic lathe) sits on a wheeled cabinet and can be moved into the main part of his garage or even onto his driveway. When Joe hosts a group project, it is an impressive site to see so many members working both in his garage and on his driveway. One of the most impressive aspects of his shop is the beautiful and rock solid workbench Joe built a few years ago. Another impressive aspect is Joe's large collection of antique planes. Of course Joe has an equally impressive selection of Lie-Nielsen planes. He doesn't have them all, but he is getting close.

Do we ever really have enough clamps? The most noticeable thing about Joe's shop



is the vast selection of clamps hanging on the walls. We often tease him about all these clamps, but we also recognize that there are times when they are not sufficient for a particular job. We also love to tease Joe about his phenomenal luck when it comes to winning raffles. Of course, we recognize that much of his luck comes from the fact that Joe buys far more tickets than anyone else.

Joe's many contributions to NWA were recognized last year when he was elected the Mid-Hudson Chapter's member of the year. He was honored and roasted at our annual banquet. All of us in Mid-Hudson are ever grateful to be able to associate with Joe Benkert. 🐼

## Safety Message

*By Ray Gannon*

Although we have been reviewing many safety items in this column I think this would be a great time to reiterate our basic woodworker safety message. All of us need a nudge from time to time to rethink our safety practices and once again establish our personal safety and health commitment. Safety precautions start with proper usage of a few basic pieces of shop equipment. Let us all stop and rethink our current safety practices and take a moment to assure ourselves that each of the following are in proper working order and readily available.

**Woodworking** can be a dangerous hobby. By following a few common sense rules, you can decrease the risk of serious injury. Develop the habit of using the following pieces of safety equipment from the start, and you'll never want to work without them.

**Safety Glasses:** Is the most important piece of safety equipment. There are many styles of safety glasses, but all share the same features, namely impact resistant lenses and side screens to protect against dust and debris created by power tools.

**Hearing Protection:** When working with loud power tools and machinery such as routers, surface planers and joiners, it is wise to wear hearing protection. There are two common types: expandable ear plugs and ear muffs. Foam EAR plugs have proven to be the protection of choice for many of us. Ear Muffs tend to provide slightly better protection, but can be very wieldy and cumbersome. Consistent use of hearing protection will help protect you from long-term hearing loss.

**Respirators and Face Masks:** Sanders, Laths, routers and other power tools can generate a lot of dust. When using these tools, it is a good idea to wear a dust mask, to keep these fine particles from entering your lungs. When spraying varnish or paint, a respirator is a better choice, to protect you from any harmful effects of using these chemicals. (Remember that Western Red Cedar and Rose Wood dust require a respirator.)

**Face Shield:** When using a lathe, you'll likely generate a lot of flying chips. In addition to using your safety glasses, a clear full-face shield is a good idea. The shield is comfortable, can be flipped up when not needed, and will keep most of the flying chips away from your face.

**Proper clothing:** When working with power tools, you should always wear proper clothing. As such, you should never wear loose fitting clothing. Comfortable, long-sleeved shirts and long pants combined with good heavy duty work shoes/boots will each provide a layer of protection. However, loose articles of clothing can easily become entangled in a power tool, which can be very dangerous. A shop apron is also advisable at times, particularly when using a lathe.

If anyone has a specific Woodworker Safety question or have a need for clarification about a method or practice please let me know. I'll get into all your questions and provide you with the information to assist you with your decisions.

Remember our personal safety is up to each of us.



# Reproducing Pegs for the Shaker Meeting House

*Ken Miller*

Part of the NWA arrangement with the Shaker Heritage Society that let's us use the Meeting House for our meetings is a commitment to do various repairs and to occasionally make an item for use in the building. About four years ago we were asked to replace the missing "Shaker" pegs along the walls of the meeting room. Ken Miller agreed to take on the job. To his surprise, he found that the originals were threaded into the building framing. In addition to being a substantial support for chairs and other things the Shakers hung up without falling out the modern ones would, they also held the trim in place. Moral: The devil is in the details.

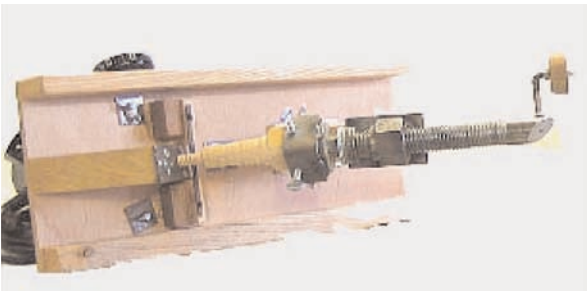
How to make dozens of pieces as complex in shape as a Shaker peg. See Fig. 1



*Fig. 2 Long Tap*

The process begins by fashioning a long tap of hard O1 steel to match the threads of the original. It is needed to clean out the old threaded holes, to make new ones as needed, and to be sure the new pegs fit like the old ones in both the old and newly threaded holes. The originals are 8 threads per inch, or nearly so, with an angle of 90 degrees. The outer diameter of the peg threads is 0.450", so a slightly larger tap diameter of 0.465" allows clearance for an easy fit. Figure 2 Maple stock, 1.25" x 1.25" x 5" was prepared, mounted in the lathe chuck, rough turned and the part to be threaded was dressed to about 5/8" Figure 3, A plug cutter held in the tailstock was advanced to dress the end to the required body diameter. Since the original threaded parts were consistent to a few thousands of an inch the plug cutter gave the needed accuracy quickly.

The stock was then transferred to the threading machine. Shown is the machine, a router with a milling bit. Figure 4 A square tube-vise holds the square end of the wood for threading. The pegs were advanced into the milling cutter at 45 degrees to create the 90 angle on the threads with the 1 x 8 tpi threaded rod. The metal plate below the unit protects fingers from injury while the router is running. The cutter itself is mounted in laminate router, the entire assembly secured to a common base.



*Fig. 4 Threading Machine*

How did all this get done? Ken Miller was the designer behind all the mechanical systems, Louie Andrews handled the lathe chores and Darrell Welch managed the threading machine. Figure 5 Additionally, George Covell did the staining as evidenced by color on his hands, and Frank Hogan with equally tarnished fingers did the shellacking.



*Fig. 5 Darrell, Ken & Louie*



*Fig. 1 Original Shaker Pegs*



*Fig. 3 Peg Stock*

After the treading is complete the piece is moved to the lathe. The wood calipers with sketches of the pegs seen in Fig. 5 are used to size the largest diameter at the knob end and the shoulder end just before the threaded part. To get the length, the beginning and end of the knob, a pair of pencils was mounted in a holder to form a marking gauge.

The chuck, Figure 6, holds the threaded blank, ready for turning the body of the peg. From there, we tried to get the correct Shaker curve,

*Continued on the following Page*



*Fig. 6 Threaded Chuck*

ing, the talented turner Lou Andrews who captured the Shaker shape as well as the demanding boss.

But that's not the end of the story. All the pegs were in hand and off we went to thread them into place only to discover that in some of the holes that were supposed to hold the pegs the threads were stripped. Since the trim had been painted and nailed to the walls, and could not be removed, a technique was needed to put, in an inconspicuous manner, a tube internally threaded to about 1/2" but with a 9/16" OD into the holes that had been stripped. Put that in your pipe and smoke it turners - see if you can make such a tube internally threaded. We made them 5" long and cut them to length as needed. A hole drilled through the trim and into the wall accepted this threaded tube as a repair with the shoulder of the peg sufficient to hid any repair we did, although a few are visible. About 15 repairs were needed. That is probably an overestimat to show how talented we were, but we are!

And now you know the rest of the story!

without any "S" shapes. After looking at a number of originals, (and making a few 'trial and error' attempts) it became clear what constituted the Shaker look.

Color was introduced with walnut dye made from walnut husks, and orange shellac, as well as some burn marks and other aging qualities we unintentionally introduced. By now we can't tell the difference between the originals and the reproductions. Can you? See Figure 7. And of course in Figure 5 you see the mischievous Darrell Walsh who did the roughing and thread-



*Fig. 7 Peg Collection Old & New*

## Just for Fun!

*By Ken Evans*

Popular Songs About Woodturning:

- \* Pete Seeger "If I Had A Skew."
- \* Woodie Guthrie "This Chuck is Your Chuck."
- \* Ray Orbison "Beautiful Reamer."
- \* Alfred Bryan "PEG of MY Heart."
- \* Tanya Tucker "He's Got the Whole Burl in His Hands."
- \* Allison Krause "I'll Sand Away."
- \* The Statler Brothers "Counting Woodchips on the Wall."
- \* Stonewall Jackson "Waterlox."
- \* Elton John "Goodbye Yellow Birch Bark"
- \* Boxcar Willie "Osage Orange Special"
- \* George Jones "I Stopped Sanding Her Today."
- \* Willie Nelson "On The Floor Again"
- \* Ricky Nelson "Poor Little Tool"
- \* Byrds "Turn Turn Turn"
- \* George Jones "My Wild Irish Grind"
- \* Beach Boys "Be True To Your Woodturning Club"
- \* Beach Boys "Sanding USA"
- \* The New Seekers "I'd Like To Teach The World To Turn"
- \* Dovells "The Bristol Stump"
- \* Willie Nelson "To All The Lathes I've Loved Before"
- \* New Seekers "What Have They Done To My Bowl"
- \* Mary Hopkin "Those Were The Rays"
- \* Morman Tabernacle Choir "Battle Hymn of the Symposium"
- \* Johnny Cash "Daddy Turned Basswood"
- \* Diana Ross "Ain't No Wood Priced High Enough"



# Shaker Box Class

*By Wally Cook*

Whole Lot of Shakin' Goin' On -- Duane Henry held a class on two consecutive Saturdays to focus on Shaker box construction.

Shaker boxes were made for almost 200 years by the religious communities known as the Shakers (United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing). Elder Delmer Wilson (1873-1961) is reputed to have been the last Shaker box maker. Shaker communities made the oval wooden boxes as a commercial product to hold dried herbs, buttons, and other dry goods.

Extremely light and strong, the boxes exemplify Shaker principals of simplicity and superior craftsmanship. The boxes are meant to nest within one another and are generally sized between #000 (1"x2" base) to #20 (25 7/8"x38 1/2"). We made #2 and #3 boxes in the class session. Most popular choices for materials are either maple or cherry veneer for the bands and 1/4" solid pieces of maple or cherry for the base and lids (lacewood may also be used).

Swallow tails are carved at the end of each band and the veneer is poached in hot water for ten to twenty minutes. The pliable bands are gently bent around a formed core and fastened with copper tacks. Forms are specific for the box and lid size, as are the stretchers inserted in both the top and bottom of the box until drying is complete.

The original Shaker boxes employed no glue. Bands were either tacked or pegged into the base and lid. Duane used toothpicks as pegs and used a spot of glue to hold the pegs fast. Each of the class members easily constructed two boxes within the ten hour class. The materials are readily

available from a variety of sources; we used the class guide from John K. Wilson of Charlotte, Michigan. It is a great offering for a woodworker at any level of skill -- watch for the next class schedule!

Shaker boxes were made by Shakers for sale to "the world" and for their own uses. Oval boxes were first made in 1798 and continue to be made until the mid Twentieth Century. The last Shaker Brother to make boxes was Brother Delmer Wilson of Sabbathday Lake, Maine.

The shakers made oval boxes in a wide range of sizes for household and workshop use. They were used to store dried herbs, spices, thread, buttons, nails, medicines - anything but liquids. The Shakers began making oval boxes (they also made round and rectangular boxes) in the 1790's at Mt. Lebanon, New York. The craft continued with the work of Elder Delmer Wilson (1873-1961) of Sabbathday Lake, Maine, the last Shaker oval box maker.



*Shaker boxes are known for simplicity and strength*



*Finger joints, called swallow tails, are cut in each band*



*Bending around core.jpg -- the wet bands are formed around a wooded core and then tacked on a pipe anvil*

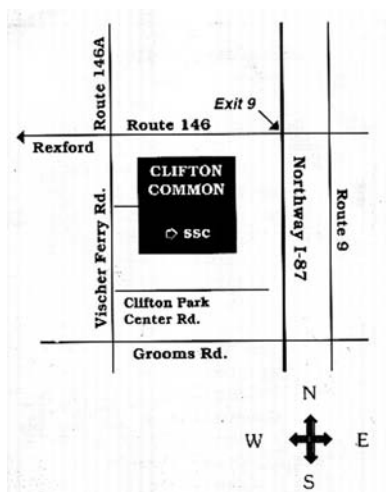


*Stretchers are inserted in the top and bottom of the base until the piece is dry*





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



## December Meeting

Thursday, December 4, 2008, 7:00 pm  
Clifton Park Senior Center  
Clifton Commons  
Vischer Ferry Road, Clifton Park

### GENERAL MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

#### NWA Program Schedule 2008-2009

December 4, 2008  
Family Night

January 8, 2009  
Jim's Hole in the Wood Gang

February 12, 2009  
Solid Wood Case  
and Drawer Construction  
Bill MacTiernan

March 12, 2009  
Shaker Boxes  
John Wilson

April 10, 2009  
Sacandaga Chapter

May 14, 2009  
Jigs & Fixtures  
(Mid Hudson)

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

### 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 George Norton, (845) 331-1705.

#### 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 Joe Kennedy, (845) 473-1598

**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.