

WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern
Woodworkers
Association

February 2013, Vol. 22, Number 2

February Meeting

*Thursday, February 14, 2013, 7:00 pm
Shaker Heritage Society Meeting House
Albany-Shaker Road, Albany NY*

Finishing Problems and Solutions

By Karen Arkison

How many of us have completed the construction portion of a project only to be disappointed by the finish? Eric Marczak will present information and tips based on the knowledge he has gained from teachers, mentors and his own learning experiences.

Eric has been a member of NWA since 1994. His love of woodworking began as a 13 year old boy scout. His first project was carving a Kachina doll which earned him the woodcarving merit badge. Since this early beginning, he has worked on projects at the Grafton Peace Pagoda including building shoji screens and altering furnishings for the Buddhists. He has made custom furniture and Native American flutes since 1991. The last seven years have been devoted to his true passion, guitar building.

Eric's work has been displayed at local craft fairs, the NYS Museum, The American School of Japanese Arts in California, many local galleries and, of course, our own NWA Showcases. In 1996, Eric received a phone call from Myra Nakashima requesting he come to NYC to repair and refinish twenty-four abused Nakashima pieces that had been in a self storage shed in Reno, NV.

Eric has conducted woodworking courses at Burnt Hills High School, the Arts Center in Troy, and has been an adjunct professor at HVCC for several years. He has worked and presented many classes at the Woodcraft store which used to be in Latham. Eric conducts private classes and one on one guitar making classes. He has conducted flute making classes at the Double H Ranch in Lake Luzerne, the Northeastern Parent Child Association in Schenectady, the Keeper's of the Circle, and at our NWA Learning Center at Mustang Drive. Eric recently acquired a teaching position at the Adirondack Folk School in Lake Luzerne, NY. 🐾



Showcase is Almost Here

by Karen Arkison

Woodworker's Showcase is scheduled for Saturday March 23rd and Sunday March 24th. It is fast approaching. That could only mean one thing. That's right. It's time to sign up to volunteer.

We depend completely on the NWA membership to volunteer their valuable time and skills to bring to the public an incredible weekend of lectures, demonstrations, vendor exhibits and our own members' work.

Our goal is to educate and inspire the 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 2013 Showcase will be amazed and inspired at the degree of talent that is present here in Northeastern New York.

Continued on page 3

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UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, PHONE
NUMBERS ARE IN AREA CODE 518

Some Thoughts on the Table Saw

By George Rutledge

This article is a response to some of the statements made by C. Stuart Moore, the guest speaker at our January meeting. Now Mr. Moore is a fine gentleman and we are grateful to him for taking the trouble to come up from New Jersey to address our group. To be fair, he prefaced his remarks by saying that he was expressing his own opinions and most of them were fine but I believe some of the practices he advocated could be dangerous especially for beginners. At the outset we were told that the table saw has a personality and that it's out to get us and therefore it should be approached with fear. The only and far and away most important tool in the woodshop that has a personality is the one between your ears. All the others whether hand or power types are inanimate things devoid of life and personality and entirely without intent. I'm sure that Stuart was encouraging us to be careful but if you are actually afraid of the table saw (or any other tool) don't turn it on or pick it up. The proper approach is one of informed respect. Take the time to learn what the saw does and how it does it. Familiarize yourself with its fence, miter gage and its means of adjustment and be sure they all work properly. You should also possess a rudimentary knowledge of the material properties of wood to be prepared for how it may react when sawn. You will now be better able to learn and master the techniques of safe and efficient workmanship without teetering on the edge of "Fight or Flight".

It was also suggested that one could remove a riving knife or splitter with no ill effect. There are some cuts, notably grooves, dadoes and rabbets that require the saw guard to be removed and depending on its design perhaps the riving knife/splitter. These are exceptions. When you are sawing completely through the work piece as in ripping and cross cutting never remove or disable any of the saw's safety features. If you have an older table saw that lacks a blade guard or perhaps has one of poor design I urge you to acquire a good aftermarket blade guard and make a habit of using it.

As to the saw's rip fence, Stuart advocated setting the fence 10 thousandths of an inch out at the back of the blade to prevent burning the stock. The rip fence should in fact be set parallel to the blade. With a sharp blade, good technique and properly prepared stock, burning should be uncommon. When it occurs it is not a grave problem, as the correct procedure is to saw slightly heavy and to bring the stock to the finished dimension with a Thickness Planer or a hand plane, either of which will remove any burn marks on your wood. Akin to the issue of burn marks, it was suggested that you remove the finish and even the printed information on your saw blade to prevent it transferring to your work piece. This is not a problem for the same reason that burn marks aren't but there is no actual safety risk with removing the finish. You may want to consider however that the transfer may indicate a problem with your setup and thus serve as prompt to double check it.

In response to a question from the audience, Mr. Moore discussed re-sawing on the table saw which is known as deep sawing. This is an old and accepted procedure but it is definitely an advanced technique not recommended to beginners. Indeed even advanced sawyers would do well to look for another way and the band saw is the go to tool for re-sawing.

There was much discussion about the proper position of featherboards to hold stock tight to the fence when ripping. Traditionally featherboards were a shop made tool and they still are but today we also have a wide variety of store bought devices that offer great improvements in ease of use on both

Showcase is Almost Here

Continued from Cover

Anyone who volunteers for at least one shift during the weekend will get in to the entire show for free. Volunteer sign ups were at the January meeting and will be at the next two meetings. If you know what you would like to volunteer for and cannot make it to a meeting, send me an email. Please volunteer for as many shifts as you would like. Volunteering with a friend or relative is a fun way to spend time together. 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. If you do not have an email address, enter your phone number. I will call to remind you. Here is a brief run down of the jobs.

- **Door Host** – Check for wrist bands on paid guests, direct to ticket booths for those who have not paid, hand out programs.
Times: 9:45-12:00, 12:00-2:30, 2:30-5:00
- **Floor Host** – Walk exhibit hall, answer questions for guests, make sure they don't touch or eat or drink. **Times:** 9:45-12:00, 12:00-2:30, 2:30-5:00
- **Raffle Tickets** – Sell raffle tickets for raffle items.
Times: 9:45-12:00, 12:00-2:30, 2:30-5:00
- **Membership Table** – Provide NWA membership information & applications to visitors. Answer questions and accept applications.
Times: 9:45-12:00, 12:00-2:30, 2:30-5:00
- **Lecture Videographer** – Helping lecturer with setup and aids. Point video camera on lecturer so it shows on TV screen (experience not needed).
Times: 10:30-12:00, 12:00-2:00, 2:00-3:30, 3:30-5:00
- **Setup & Staging** – **Times:** Friday 9am to 5pm
- **Take Down** – **Times:** Sunday 5pm until done
- **Truck Assistants** – Moving equipment & materials into trucks from Mustang, out of trucks at Civic Center & back again
Times: Thursday 3:00-8:00, Friday 8:00am-done, Sunday 5:00pm-9:00 and/or Monday 8:00am-10:00am

When emailing me, please include what position you would like to work, the Day and the shift. nydivergirl@earthlink.net

SAVE THE DATES

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

MARCH 23 and 24, 2013

WOODWORKERS SHOWCASE

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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In Praise of the Radial Arm Saw

By *Bill MacTiernan*

If you have been a member of the Northeastern Woodworkers Association for any period of time, you know that there is a division in the club between “turners” and “flat-boarders”. As a furniture maker, I am in the latter group. There is a second split between those who favor table or cabinet saws and those who favor the radial arm saw. I’m in the latter group here also. It’s a minority and, I may very well be a “minority of one”. I have been telling individual club members that the radial arm saw is a better tool than a table saw but all I seem to get in return is a patronizing nod. So, I thought that I might speak to a larger audience.

First, let's start with the obvious advantages of the radial arm saw. My saw is a 35 year old Craftsman. If I recall correctly, I paid less than \$400 for it. At that time, a good cabinet saw was around \$1200; about three times more expensive. Prices have risen in the last 35 years, but the ratio is still about the same. There is the first advantage: a radial arm saw is a less expensive tool.

The second advantage, and this is a big one where space is at a premium, is that a radial arm saw can be set up against a wall. It doesn't have to be in the middle of everything the way a table saw does. I do have to admit here that a well set up table saw with supporting tables or rollers may be better for cutting sheet goods. I make period furniture reproductions, so I don't use plywood and that shapes my analysis. My radial arm saw will, however, rip 22 inches off the fence.

My 35 year old saw, if it were a car, would be a “hot rod”. It's been “souped up”. First, its been rewired to run on 220 volts. This is quite easy to do, it certainly makes the saw run more efficiently and, I believe, with more torque. Second, I've replaced the original table (because it was worn out) with a thicker table made of two layers of MDF. This provides a more solid table with a smoother surface than the chip board original. Last and most importantly, I've settled on one blade for all cutting. This is a good quality, 24 tooth, thin kerf ripping blade. Both the reduced number of teeth and the thin kerf mean that less power is needed to drive the blade. This blade cuts smoothly in both rip and crosscut mode, and because it cuts so well, the beefy trunions of the table saw are not required to keep it straight and true in the cut.

So, how does my cheaper, “up against the wall”, “souped up” radial arm saw work. Let's start with crosscutting.



Photo 1

Crosscutting

On a radial arm saw, where is the first nick of the blade? On the top where you can see it and it can be a nick of less than 1/16 of an inch. You have that much control because no matter the size of the stock being cut, the unencumbered movement of the carriage on the arm is the same every time. Compare this to where a table saw starts to cut; on the bottom of the stock and probably under a guard. This is significant, because on the radial arm saw you can see exactly where your cut will be before you make the cut. In fact, with a little practice, before you even start the saw, you can see whether the cut will take, leave or split a pencil mark right down the middle. (see picture #1)

The second advantage is the ease of crosscutting the ends of long boards. I've never owned a table saw, but trying to square the end of an 8 foot plank must present significant problems; problems perhaps solved only with a sliding table. On a radial arm saw, a square end on a long board is a “piece of cake”.

What if the stock on which you've cut a square end is 1/64 or 1/128 too long? Here's a trick that works every time. With the saw stopped, pull the carriage out so that the end of the stock is touching a tooth of the blade. Now push the stock into the blade so that it deflects ever so slightly. Holding the stock in this position, return the carriage to behind the fence, turn on the saw and cut slowly. With a little practice you can tell by stopped blade deflection how much the cut will remove.

The radial arm saw allows you to crosscut pieces so small that the cut would be down right dangerous on a table saw. Just hold the stock into the 90 degree angle formed by the fence and the table with a push stick. (see picture #2) Your fingers are nowhere near the blade. Cut slowly.

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In Praise of the Radial Arm Saw

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Here is something else at which the radial arm saw excels; cutting multiple pieces to exactly the same length. Just set up a stop on the fence. The stop should be cut at an angle or to a point so that when it is clamped to the fence the stop is accomplished by a sharp edge and not a flat surface. (see picture #3) This prevents chips or sawdust from affecting the length. If the length of the piece is longer than the table, a simple extension allows the stop to be moved beyond the edge of the table. (see picture #4) There is one safety requirement to remember when using a stop: Always hold the stock that is on the stop side of the blade.



Photo 3



Photo 2

I do not move the arm to make a 45 degree cut. I just clamp on a homemade 45 degree fence. A dead accurate fence can be made in about two minutes. A spare piece of MDF works best. Lay the factory edge against a rafter square keeping the corner of the MDF just to the left of the saw kerf in the fence, clamp the MDF to the table and make the cut. (see picture #5) The 45 degree angle is as accurate as the rafter square. Now cut some strips of self adhering sandpaper and stick them on the face of the 45 degree cut. The MDF can now be clamped against the fence to get an accurate 45 degree cut. (see picture #6) The fence works on either side of the blade and, if a longer cut off at the end is needed, it can be moved out from the saw's fence with any parallel spacer. (see picture #7)

Ripping

O.K. so maybe the radial arm saw is better at crosscutting operations, but what about ripping? Everyone knows that this is where a table saw excels. My opinion is that, unless you own a Saw



Photo 4



Photo 5



Photo 6



Photo 7

Continued on page 6

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Stop (brand name) cabinet saw, a properly set up radial arm saw is as safe a saw to rip on as a table or cabinet saw. *Picture #8* shows my radial arm saw set up for ripping with the guard and anti-kickback pawls in place and push sticks within easy reach. It is easy to rip without getting fingers anywhere near the blade. Here are the rules I follow which have become habit: The stock needs to be held with strength and should be fed at a rate that is slower than the saw is capable of cutting. Whenever fingers would otherwise be near the blade the use of push sticks will prevent this dangerous juxtaposition. (This rule certainly applies to table saws also.) Last, I use leather gloves when ripping parallel to the fence. An argument can be made that gloves increase the danger of a hand coming into contact with the blade. However, this is more than offset by the ability to hold the stock more firmly and to put pressure against the outside top edge thereby continuously forcing the stock against the fence while it slides through your hand. (*see picture #9*) A good leather glove lets you slide the stock with pressure that on bare skin would produce splinters or cuts.

I have never tested the limits of my radial arm saws ripping abilities. I have ripped 5/4 maple and it cut straight, at 90 degrees and without strain on the saw. Softer woods, like mahogany are ripped with ease. Any stock thicker than 5/4, I rip on a band saw.

On my furniture, the drawer runners are thin cherry strips which are glued onto the drawer supports. This elevates the drawer just enough so that the bottoms of the drawer sides will not cut a groove at the outside edges of the front rail. Here is how I rip multiple 1/16 inch cherry strips on my radial arm saw: First, set the blade 1/16 inch from the fence. Set the height of the blade so that it does not cut completely through the stock, but leaves a paper thin remainder. A test cut or two taken to just beyond where the blade becomes tangent to the table is helpful in this regard. Now run the first cut. That paper thin stock left at the bottom becomes important when the cut is finished but the 1/16 strip still needs to travel from the tangent point of the blade with the table to full exit. It is perfectly sufficient to keep the strip attached to the main stock. (*see picture #10*) Once the cut is complete, snap off the 1/16 strip and true the edge of the stock with a sanding block. (*see picture #11*) You are now ready to cut another strip. One note here is, that you can't use all of one piece of stock for this process: You need sufficient mass on the outside of the blade to give control and to keep fingers away from the blade.



Photo 8



Photo 9



Photo 10



Photo 11



Photo 12



Photo 13

You may have noticed a few paragraphs back that I said that I used gloves when ripping parallel to the fence. But, parallel to the fence is not the only way you can rip on a radial arm saw. The saw will also rip with complete safety at 90 degrees to the fence. For example: Take a 2 inch wide, 8 inch long piece of stock and rip a 1/8 inch strip off of the edge. I wouldn't know how to set up a table saw to do this. On a radial arm saw there is no set up required. All you need is a square end and a pencil mark. Just put the square end against the fence and hold the stock in place with a push stick. Hands are not near the blade and kickout is impossible because of the fence. (*see pictures 12 & 13*) Like all cuts, this cut needs to be made slowly and under control.

Joints

There are two basic joints used in period furniture; the dovetail and the mortise and tenon. The radial arm saw is outstanding for making tenons. Just set up a stop on the saw that will provide a cheek cut establishing the length of the tenon. Raise the saw to a height that will allow the tenon which remains after cutting both sides to be slightly thicker than the width of the mortise. I don't bother with dado blades. I just remove the material between the cheek cut and the end of the stock with

In Praise of the Radial Arm Saw

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a series of back and forth cuts. (see pictures 14 & 15)
The resulting tenon can easily be trimmed to correct size with a shoulder plane. Lap joints can be made in a like manner.

Safety

Why is the jointer the second most dangerous tool in the shop? Because it is not apparent where the blade is: This is especially a problem when concentration is dulled by repetitive cuts. This also may be one of the reasons why table saws are dangerous. Now compare a typical crosscut operation on a radial arm saw. (see picture #16)
Where the blade is going to go is patently apparent. Also note, that each hand has a firm grip that will never allow it to come into contact with the blade: The right hand is on the saw carriage handle and the left hand is holding the stock to the fence. Neither can move into the path of the blade.

As with any tool, power or otherwise, there are some rules for proper and safe operation. These are the ones that I recommend for the radial arm saw:

1. Use strength to hold the stock and the saw carriage. Cutting should always be done at a rate which is slower than the blades and the saws capabilities.
2. Clean the table after each cut. Chips and/or saw dust against the fence affect accuracy. Use a dust brush or a vacuum, not your hand.
3. In crosscut, don't push the carriage back if a cutoff scrap has moved into the saw kerf. Shut the saw off, wait for the blade to stop, then clear the scrap.



Photo 14



Photo 15



Photo 16

4. Lastly, and I try to do this with every power tool, before starting the tool, picture where your hands will be before, during and at the end of the operation.

I am certainly aware that radial arm saws are going the way of the dinosaur. Most likely this is attributable to marketing and profitability decisions by tool manufacturers. Perhaps in a hundred years some future Lie-Nielsen Toolworks will resurrect the tool and then, twenty-second century craftsmen will be able to appreciate its usefulness as a woodworking tool. 🙏

C L A S S I F I E D S

For Sale

One Delta 1440 lathe. The cover for the belt is missing and some spring under the top pulley needs to be replaced. I am looking for \$200.00

One planner – SHOP FOX w1723. It is a 3 hp single phase 220v, 3 knives. asking \$200.00.

One jointer – JET model 708457DXK. 1hp. asking \$300.00.

You can contact Everett Seifridsberger either at this email (eseifridsberger@gmail.com) or by phone 518-256-3860. The equipment is located in Hoosick Falls.

Craftsman Model 315.228490 10" table saw - \$400

Description: Craftsman 10" contractor's table saw (model 315.228490), cast iron top, align a rip fence, 2 miter gauges, new Shop Fox mobile base, 4" dust port, original Owners Manual. In brand-new condition all around.

Call Nick at 518-270-5048

CHAPTER NEWS

Mid Hudson Chapter

By Wally Cook

New Officers: Our December meeting initiated the terms of new officers for the Mid-Hudson. The officers for 2013-15 are:

President: John VanBuren
Vice President: Ralph Zimmerman
Secretary: Fred Roe
Treasurer: John Grossbohlin

We thank past president Bob Boisvert and retiring secretary Duane Henry for their dedicated work for the chapter!

In related discussion, Joe Benkert volunteered to chair the chapter dinner preparation and will try to secure a date in mid April. We also



President John VanBuren presided over the December meeting. Treasurer John Grossbohlin on his left

discussed the possibility of a chapter project challenge for the June timeframe. Ron Roberts and Wally Cook will come back with a proposal at the next meeting.

Show and Tell: A number of items were passed around during Show and Tell, including a maple box completed by Bob Lawless, Fred DuBois' salt and pepper shakers, John Franklin's maple natural edge "South America" bowl, and Bob Boisvert's lilly intarsia.



Santa Clause seating is always provided near the holidays



A variety of objects were shared during Show and Tell

Sacandaga Chapter

By Gary Spencer

Due to everyone being down with flu the January newsletter deadline was missed. With late reporting I will bring you up to date. Our December 14th meeting was a great success. Gary Ratajczak was our featured speaker who brought us up to date on pocket hole joinery and the latest tools from Kreg Jig Company. He finished his program by having a drawing of several items donated by the Kreg Company with a value of several hundred dollars. A good program and a good time were had by all. Thanks Gary!

Our January 9th Program featured a return by Jim Schreiner whose program was devoted to rustic Adirondack furniture embellishments. These included animal carvings and other rustic elements that can be added to the Adirondack furniture. This program was the first of two with Jim Schreiner. The second will be continued at our April 10th chapter program, and will demonstrate how to apply embellishments to an Adirondack chest cabinet.

For our February 13th program we are hoping to have Bill Bush a master furniture maker He will bring us up to date on the latest finishes for woodworking. He has done programs for us several times and his presentations our outstanding. Don't miss this one!

We will still have a show and tell and hope many of you will bring something to show. We will still have 50/50, and door prizes so come on out.

Our regular monthly meetings are the second Wednesday of each month and begin at 7:00 P.M. Our next regular meeting will be February 13th, 2013. We will meet at our shop at 55 2nd Avenue, Mayfield, NY. Come visit.

For Directions or information contact:

Ray Laubenstein - 863-6433 Clyde Cheney - 661-5138 Gary Spencer - 863-6433

EXHIBIT ENTRY FORM

NWA SHOWCASE & TOTALLY TURNING 2013

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____ Member: Yes _____ No _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____ Professional: Yes _____ No _____

Check here if you would like this information to be available for inquires about your work..

**PLEASE COMPLETE THE ENTRY FORM AND SEND IT TO:
NORTHEASTERN WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 246, Rexford, NY 12148**

ENTRY DEADLINE IS MONDAY, MARCH 18th
Any entry received after that date will not be entered for judging, but for display only.

NOTE: Display labels are made in advance using the information provided below. The labels will be waiting when you bring your entry on Friday, March 22nd. No exhibit items accepted after 7:00PM.

ENTRY CATEGORY AND DESCRIPTION <i>(State category; give brief description of your item, list types of woods and finish used. Example: Furniture 3: Windsor chair, tiger maple, honey oak stain, lacquer finish)</i>	FOR JUDGING ONLY <i>(only one per category)</i>	FOR DISPLAY ONLY <i>(unlimited as space allows)</i>
#1		
#2		
#3		
#4		
#5		
#6		
<i>Additional notes:</i>		

WHAT: NWA SHOWCASE 2013 (www.nwawoodworkingshow.org)
WHERE: Saratoga Springs City Center & The Saratoga Hilton
WHEN: Saturday and Sunday, March 23 & March 24, 2013, 10 AM –5 PM

EXHIBIT HALL ENTRY CATEGORIES

1. Adirondack furniture and accessories
2. Furniture 1: Tables, beds
3. Furniture 2: Cases, cabinets, desks
4. Furniture 3: Chairs
5. Accessories: Clocks, boxes, desk top pieces
6. Toys/Miniatures: Play things, models
7. Turning 1: Segmented
8. Turning 2: Bowls, platters, plates, vessels
9. Turning 3: Pens, finials, spindles, ornaments
10. Beginner Turner: Over 16 and new to turning in the last 12 months
11. Beginner Woodworker: Over 16 and new to woodworking in the last 12 months
12. Youth: 16 and under.
13. Carving: Representational, conceptual, decorative
14. Inlay, Intarsia, Marquetry
15. Scroll sawing
16. Musical instruments
17. Other: Shop equipment, boats, or any piece not fitting into the above categories

ENTRY RULES FOR EXHIBIT HALL

- ∞ Any woodworker may exhibit his/her work.. There is no entry fee.
- ∞ Entry forms **must** be received by March 18 to be eligible for competition. Late entries will be entered for display only.
- ∞ All exhibit items **must** be delivered to the City Center no later than 7:00 PM, Friday March 22nd. **No exceptions.**
- ∞ Exhibits **are not** to be removed from the floor before 5PM Sunday.
- ∞ You may exhibit any number of pieces in more than one category, but only one piece per category **for judging.**
- ∞ Award winning pieces from a previous Showcase event are not eligible for competition, but may be entered for display.
- ∞ There must be at least three entrants in a category for an entry to be judged.
- ∞ The judges reserve the right to re-categorize an item for judging.
- ∞ The exhibit hall is not a commercial area. No price tags or literature other than small business cards will be allowed.
- ∞ The decisions of the judges are final. At the discretion of the judges, some awards may not be given.

AWARDS

1. Best of Show: One from any entry
2. Professional Excellence: One each category except for 10, 11 and 12.*
3. First Place: One each category
4. Second Place: One each category
5. Third Place: One each category
6. Honorable Mention: One each category
7. Richard Pagano Memorial Award for Turning

* Professionals: You are a professional if half or more of your livelihood is derived from woodworking. You may submit an entry in any category except 10, 11 and 12. Professional entries displayed in the Professional Gallery will be judged.

For questions: Ken Evans, Showcase Chair (518) 753-7759, kevans1@nycap.rr.com
Roger Holmes Judging Co-Chair (518-817-0660) bmbikes2@yahoo.com

New Murder Mystery Spouses Program **Announced**

By Ken Evans

The all new 2013 **Spouses Program For Woodworkers Showcase**. Are you bored while your spouse enjoys Woodworkers Showcase? **WELL!**

JOIN our all new MURDER MYSTERY LUNCHEON on Saturday at Totally Turning and Woodworkers Showcase. It is part of our **ALL NEW SPOUSES PROGRAM!**

Get a wonderful Lunch, be entertained with laughs from early radio and TV, enjoy the standup comedy of Tony and Marylou, and then be treated to a Murder Mystery where you may get to play a part in the mystery **"MURDER ON THE MOTORCOACH"**.

You will laugh from 11:00AM to 4:00PM. The lunch is terrific also. See the menu below.

On Sunday, you can join our Crafts Program. Bring your own craft work or use our supplies and be creative while you enjoy the company and conversation of other crafting spouses.

**The cost of the program is: Saturday Murder Mystery Luncheon \$75
Sunday Crafts Experience \$25**

Registration is limited to 90 registrants! So, do not delay! If your spouse is coming to Totally Turning or Woodworkers Showcase, OUR SPOUSES PROGRAM may very well be for you!

- Lunch Menu as follows: Salmon — Chicken — Vegetarian Lasagne
- Checks should be sent to: *Please give name and lunch choice!*
Peter Case
177 Werking Road
East Greenbush, NY 12061
- Or register online with a credit card
<http://www.totallyturning.com/2013registration.htm>

Some Thoughts on the Table Saw

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table saws and router tables. Always position the featherboard to apply pressure to the stock against the rip fence before the cut. They should never be set up in such fashion as to bring pressure to bear against the side of the blade or against the waste piece after the cut. Featherboards can also be used to apply downward pressure against the table and in this case we're not concerned with binding the blade. Just have a care that their placement does not interfere with your ability to push the stock completely through the cut. This is a good place to emphasize the importance of having and using push sticks. Like featherboards they can be shop made or store bought and it doesn't matter which kind you have but it is imperative that you use them whenever the rip fence is set at 6" or less from the blade. They serve to keep your fingers away from the cut and extend your reach so that you don't have to lean over the saw to push your stock past the blade.

If you came to the January meeting hoping to learn about the different types of saw blades for different cuts, you doubtless left unsatisfied. To address that, I have asked our editor to reprint an excellent article on saw blade selection by Herm Finkbeiner that was first published in our March 2011 Newsletter. (*See page 12*) You can also find good information on the web sites of top saw blade manufacturers.

In closing let me remind you all of the true purpose of the NWA. It exists to promote the enjoyment of woodworking and share knowledge of its safe and efficient practice. As a newcomer, there is no shame in not knowing how to do something and in truth that's where we all begin. It would be a shame however not to avail yourself of the tremendous educational resource that is the NWA. Intermediate and advanced woodworkers already know that there's always something new to learn and in that spirit our members are only too happy to share what they know. 🐼

Basics of Saw Blade Selection

An introduction to the important characteristics of various saw blade types.

by Herm Finkbeiner

*Adapted from an article provided by
Rockler Woodworking*

Making smooth, safe cuts with your table saw, radial arm saw, chop saw, or sliding compound miter saw depends on having the right blade for the tool and for the type of cut you want to make.

Saw blades look more or less simple but there are complexities that have to be considered. To put together a saw blade collection, you just need to know a little about what different types of saw blades do best and why. There are also manufacturing differences that are inherent in top-quality saw blades. To choose the blades that best suit your woodworking needs and budget a bit of background in both saw type and quality characteristics will help.

Most saw blades are designed to do their best work in a specific type of cutting operation. There are blades designed for ripping lumber, crosscutting lumber, cutting veneered plywood and panels, cutting laminates and plastics, cutting melamine, and cutting non-ferrous metals. There are also “general purpose” and “combination” blades, which are designed to work in two or more types of cut. What a blade does best is determined by the number of teeth, the type of gullet, the tooth configuration and the hook angle (angle of the tooth).

As a general rule, blades with more teeth yield a smoother cut, and blades with fewer teeth remove material faster. A 10' blade designed for ripping lumber, for example, usually has as few as 24 teeth, and is designed to quickly remove material along the length of the grain. A rip blade isn't designed to yield a mirror-smooth cut, but a good rip blade will move through hardwood with little effort and leave a clean cut with a minimum of scoring.

A crosscut blade, on the other hand, is designed to give you a smooth cut across the grain of the wood, without any splintering or tearing of the material. A crosscut blade will usually have from 60 to 80 teeth. More teeth mean that each tooth removes less material. A crosscut blade makes many more individual cuts as it moves through the stock than does a ripping blade. The result is a cleaner cut on edges and a smoother cut surface. With a top-quality crosscut blade, the cut surface will appear polished.

Gullet

The gullet is the space cut away from the blade plate in front of each tooth to allow for chip removal.

In a ripping operation, the feed rate is faster than in crosscutting and the chip size is larger, so the gullet needs to be deep enough to have room for the large amount of material it has to handle. In a crosscutting blade the chips are smaller and fewer per tooth, so the gullet is much smaller. The gullets on some crosscutting blades are purposely sized small to inhibit a too-fast feed rate, which can be a problem, especially on radial arm and sliding miter saws. The gullets of a combination blade are designed to handle both ripping and crosscutting. The large gullets between the groups of teeth help clear out the larger amounts of material generated in ripping. The smaller gullets between the grouped teeth inhibit a too-fast feed rate in crosscutting.

Tooth Configuration

The shape of the saw blade tooth and the way the teeth are grouped also affect the way the blade cuts. The configuration of the teeth on a saw blade is a factor in whether the blade will work best for ripping, crosscutting, or laminates.

Flat Top (FT) Flat top teeth are used on blades made for ripping hard and soft woods. Since wood is much less likely to chip and splinter when it is being cut in the direction of the grain, the focus of a rip blade is to quickly and efficiently remove material. The flat top tooth is the most efficient design for cutting and raking material out of the cut.

Alternate Top Bevel (ATB) “Alternate top bevel” means that the saw blade teeth alternate between a right and left hand bevel. This tooth configuration gives a smoother cut when crosscutting natural woods and veneered plywood. The alternating beveled teeth form a knife-like edge on either side of the blade and make a cleaner cut than flat top teeth.

Combination Tooth (Comb.) The combination (4&1) configuration is used for “combination” blades -- blades designed to do both crosscutting and ripping. The teeth are arranged in groups of five - four ATB teeth and one FT -- with a large gullet in between the groups.

Triple Chip Grind (TCG) The TCG configuration excels at cutting hard materials like laminates, MDF, and plastics. Teeth alternate between a flat raking tooth and a higher “trapeze” tooth. The TCG configuration is also used for non-ferrous metal cutting blades.

High Alternate Top Bevel (HiATB) The HiATB configuration is used for extra-fine crosscutting and to cut materials surfaced with melamine, which is prone to chipping. The high bevel angle increases the knife-like action at the edge of the blade.

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Basics of Saw Blade Selection

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Hook Angle

On most saw blades, the tooth faces are tipped either toward or away from the direction of rotation of the blade, rather than being perfectly in line with the center of the blade. Hook angle is the angle formed between the tooth face and a line drawn from the center of the blade across the tip of the tooth. On a blade with a positive hook angle, the teeth are tipped toward the direction of the blade's rotation. A negative hook angle means that teeth tip away from the direction of rotation, and a zero degree hook angle means that the teeth are in line with the center of the blade.

Hook angle affects blade operation in very important ways. A blade with high positive hook angle (+ 20 degrees is a high hook angle) will have a very aggressive cut and a fast feed rate. A low or negative hook angle will slow the feed rate and will also inhibit the blade's tendency to "climb" the material being cut. A blade for ripping lumber on a table saw will generally have a high hook angle, where an aggressive, fast cut is usually what you want. Radial arms saws and sliding compound miter saws, on the other hand, require a blade with a very low or negative hook angle, to inhibit overly fast feed rate, binding, and the blade's tendency to try to "climb" the material.

Kerf Width and Plate Thickness

The width of the "kerf" - the slot the blade cuts in the material - is another important consideration. Most obviously, the kerf width determines the amount of material that is removed in the cutting process. But kerf width isn't just a matter of economics. The size of the kerf is determined in part by the thickness of the blade plate, and a solid, reliable blade plate is one of the features of a good saw blade.

Thin Kerf Blades

A saw blade's teeth have to make a wide enough cut to allow the blade plate to pass through the kerf. For the blade to operate smoothly and make a true cut without a lot of scoring on the face of the cut, the blade plate has to be substantial enough to absorb vibration and to handle the heat generated during the cut. For full kerf saw blade, a kerf width of around 1/8" is standard. But for so called "underpowered" saws -- under 3 HP for a table saw -- a full 1/8" kerf has another effect: drawing too much power. The saw slows down causing excessive friction. The blade heats up and can become distorted or burn the cut surface.

Fortunately for woodworkers who work with smaller saws technological advances in blade design has led to "thin kerf" blades that rival the best industrial quality full kerf saw blades. Thin kerf saw blades are extremely helpful for the simple reason that the blade has to cut through less material, and therefore doesn't have to work as hard as a blade with wider teeth. The best thin kerf blades employ laser cut dampening systems to inhibit vibration, and are made out of the best quality hardened steel to help them stay true in the face of high rotation speeds and stress generated in cutting.

Quality Makes a Difference

How a saw blade performs depends on both manufacturing techniques and the quality of the material that go into making the blade.

The Best Saw Blade Teeth

One of the most important things to look for in a saw blade is a good set of teeth. How long the blade will stay sharp, how clean it will cut, and how many re-sharpenings it will take all depend on the quality of the cutting tips. These days, carbide has just about replaced steel as the material for cutting tips of saw blade teeth. But not all carbide is created alike. On some of the best premium blades, the carbide is formulated specifically for the application of the blade. At minimum, look for a blade with C3 grade micro-grain carbide teeth, which are thick enough to allow a number of re-sharpenings. C4 carbide is the most durable grade for saw blade teeth, and is usually found only on premium blades.

A Quality Blade Plate

For a saw blade to make a true cut, the teeth must be held rigidly in line with one another. The blade plate needs to be as close to perfectly flat as possible, and it needs to stay that way during the cut. The blade plate should be made of quality, hardened steel. The arbor hole also needs to be sized and placed with extreme precision. The best blade manufacturers like Freud and Forrest laser cut their blade plates to insure that the blade will fit the saw's arbor precisely and the teeth will maintain as close to a perfectly consistent path through the material as possible.

The blade plate also has to be "tensioned" for it to remain straight and rigid when it comes up to speed. On a high quality blade, correct tensioning keeps the blade becoming "floppy" as result of the centrifugal force generated in operation. Blade Plates can also be treated to make their surface resistant to picking up resin and adhesives from the materials they cut. Many Freud LU series blades have a permanent red Teflon coating to reduce friction and help them resist corrosion and resin build up. 🐾

KWA News

By Wally Cook

New Officers: The Kaatskill Woodturners elected new officers for the 2013-2015 terms:

President: John Franklin (term ending 2014)
Vice President: Steve Sherman (2015)
Treasurer: Matt Clarke (2015)
Secretary: Bob Lawless (2015)

Staved Construction: John Franklin did a chalk talk on how to make a staved vessel. He was inspired to try staved construction after seeing Ray Rio's work. As some may remember, Ray was an accomplished wooden clock maker, but he also experimented with ornamental engraving and stave construction objects.

John's stave construction consisted of three elements:

- a) turning the top and bottom rings
- b) building the staves, and
- c) weaving or caning the staves.

Top and bottom rings: A wood should be chosen with limited torsional movement. John selected purple heart and maple. Both top and bottom are turned to desired thickness and grooved to receive the staves. The grooves are approximately 1/4" deep and 1/16" wide – slightly angled inward to better engage the edges of the staves.



John showing staved and woven vessel

Decoration of the top is dependent on the maker's imagination. John segmented the top and added a finial.

Staves: The staves define the shape of the vessel. Height and width need to be determined first, then a form must be made to press each stave into shape.

To form the stave, the individual bend is drawn and transferred to a 2"x6" board. Next, cut the bend line, dividing the



Staves are shaped from two layers of veneer

2"x6". Each section of the 2"x6" now becomes one half of a press to mould the stave.

The staves are fashioned from two layers of veneer: one layer is long grain and the

other is short grain to create a more stable 'plywood sandwich' in 2" strips. John used TiteBond I glue. Wrap the stave in waxed paper and place in the 2"x6" press while the glue is wet. When dry, the stave will conform to the shape of the press with some minor spring-back. John found that he could complete one stave in a 24 hour period, allowing for the glue to thoroughly dry. A paper template of the desired stave shape is needed to taper the two ends of the stave to the final shape (John sands the staves to desired shape).

Spacing is important. In order to achieve an even spacing interval around the circumference, John developed a quick reference spreadsheet that details diameter of top/bottom, number of staves, and width of each stave. An odd number of staves should be used for optimal appearance of the weave on the vessel. The staves are glued into the top and bottom grooves, using the lathe as a handy clamp.

Weaving: A variety of materials can be used for the weave. However, care should be given to the length of the strip, so that the end of one strip can be effectively anchored and hidden alongside the beginning of the next strip. John hid his overlaps inside the basket and used CA glue to match the ends. This is a slow process – John's vessel took 11 hours to weave.

Turning Around America: Sanctuary: Beth Ireland and Jenn Moller and raising money to build a self-sustaining mobile art studio that can be used for outreach instruction and exhibition. Their goal is to raise \$30,000.00 for the project by February 6. Check out their progress and help the effort at www.usaprojects.org/project/Sanctuary



The lathe is a great clamp for fitting the staves into



Finished staved vessel

Build a Hand Plane Class

By Tom Osborne

The class on building a wooden hand plane went rather well. We all had fun and many finished their plane by the end of the class. The first session was a discussion on how to build the wooden body of the plane, and making the iron and cap iron. Every one then got started on their metal working. The rest of that session and two others were spent on making the iron and cap iron. We heated the cap iron so we could smith the proper end, then drilled and taped it to attach to the iron. There was some polishing and flattening to be done to mate it to the iron. The iron was rough ground drilled and slotted so it could be attached to the cap iron.

The next step was to heat-treat it to the proper hardness, taking it to cherry red in the furnace then quenching it in an oil bath. The next step was to anneal it in the oven to the proper Rockwell hardness. I guess just two and a half classes isn't too bad for a bunch of woodworkers working with metal.

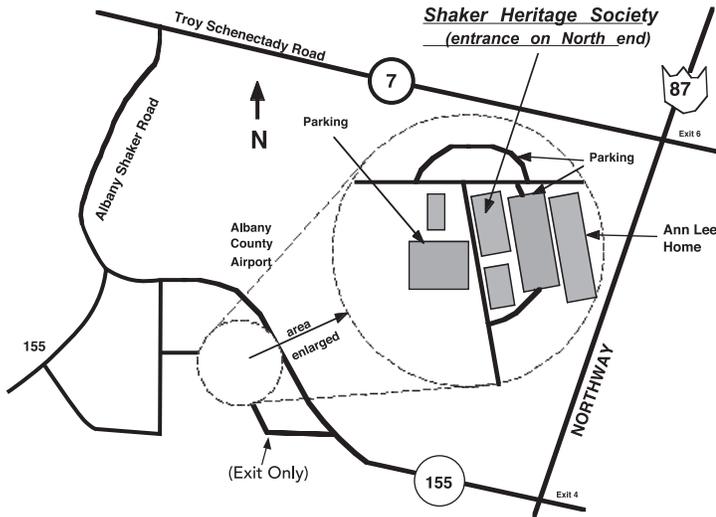
The next class and some homework were used to build the wooden body of the plane, and there were some very fancy ones made with some exotic woods. The last class was used to sharpen and fit the iron and tune the plane to make a fine cut. Most everyone was cutting nice shavings by the fifth class and all seemed to be quite enthusiastic about plane making.

As you can see by the smiling faces, the fun lasted to the end. 🐾





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



February Meeting

Thursday, February 14, 2013, 7:00 pm
Shaker Heritage Society Meeting House
Albany-Shaker Road, Albany NY

**GENERAL MEETINGS
AND SPECIAL EVENTS**

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

March 14th
Canoe

April 11th
Basic Tools to Start Your Shop

May 9th
Election of Officers

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 1 Mustang Drive, Cohoes, NY. (This is just off Rte 9 at the light at Fonda Road) 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 1 Mustang Drive, Cohoes, NY. A beginner's session starts at 6:30 PM followed by a general meeting at 7:00 PM. **Contact:** Jeanne Aldous at AMJAMat2@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 1 Mustang Drive, Cohoes, 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 1 Mustang Drive, Cohoes, 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 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.