

WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern
Woodworkers
Association

February 2016, Vol. 25, Number 2

IT'S SHOWTIME!

By Ken Evans

Woodworkers Showcase is just around the corner. On April 2 and 3, 2016 at 10 AM, the doors open and 4000 members of the public will come to Saratoga Springs and OUR WOODWORKING SHOW just as they have been doing once per year for the last 24 years. YES, THIS IS OUR 25th ANNIVERSARY SHOW.

AND WHAT A SHOW IT WILL BE! Lots of changes and new IDEAS. But first some history for those new to NWA.

The first show was held in Curtis Lumber. It was called "EXPO". The date was 1991. The second show was held in the cafeteria of a Shenendehowa School in Clifton Park. I remember this show, because Wil and I stumbled on to it by accident. I found out about NWA and became an NWA member at that show. The show moved to Saratoga the next year and has been there ever since. The name was changed to Woodworkers

Woodworkers Showcase is doing quite well for NWA. Woodworkers Showcase is, I believe, the biggest show of its kind in the USA. This is something of which every member of NWA can be proud.

There have been four General Chairmen of the show over the years. Herm Finkbeiner, Charlie Goddard, Larry Zinn, and myself. I learned something from each of them, but I learned the most about the show from Charlie, who I and many others in NWA still consider "Mr. Showcase"!

You will notice some distinct changes in the show this year:

1. I have asked Charlie Goddard to act as a co-General Chairman with me for this anniversary show in order for the history book, when it is written, to show we shared this honor together in 2016.

2. We are hoping for the biggest ever turn out of items for the exhibit hall. PLEASE,

ready your items for this year's show. If you put an item in the show in the past, nothing says it cannot be entered again to be shown to the both new and returning public. If you made something in an NWA class, please put it in the show. REMEMBER, NOT ALL

ITEMS IN THE SHOW ARE ENTERED FOR JUDGING. Items can be judged or not judged, the choice is yours. Please, there have been many musical instruments made in the NWA

If for any reason you have problems downloading or printing the Showcase entry forms on pages 3 and 4 of this newsletter, copy the link below to your browser to access them.

<http://www.nwawoodworkingshow.org/16promo/entryform.pdf>

Showcase some years later, and in 2009 Totally Turning joined the event, and things really changed as the show expanded. In a time when many such shows are failing,

OFFICERS

President - John Heimke
heimkejohn@nycap.rr.com
279-9073

Vice President - Wally Carpenter
c.j.carpenter@earthlink.net
434-1776

Secretary - Nancy Reilly
nreilly@nycap.rr.com

Treasurer - Lee Hilt
jamtgs@earthlink.net

Past President - Rich Duval
rduval@nycap.rr.com

Historian - Wayne Distin 674-4171
wdistin@nycap.rr.com

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



CHAIRPERSONS

Mid-Hudson Chapter
John VanBuren, President
(845) 444-8281

Sacandaga Chapter
Gary Ratajczak, President
852-1204

Education

Stan Blanchard
Tom Moran
nwaeducation@gmail.com

Youth Programs

Wayne Distin - 674-4171
wdistin@nycap.rr.com

Fiske Fund

Max Bloomfield
max.bloomfield@gmail.com

Hospitality

Francis Legac

Library

Darrel Welch - 477-8431
ydwelch@fairpoint.net

Membership

Peter Lofrumento
nwamembers1@gmail.com

Programs

Wally Carpenter - 434 1776
c.j.carpenter@earthlink.net

Publications

Susan McDermott - 438-1909
s.mcdermott@hvcc.edu

Publicity

OPEN

Showcase Chair

Ken Evans - 753-7759
kevans1@nycap.rr.com



classes---guitars, Native American flutes, banjos, flat top guitars, arch top guitars, and violins have all have been made or are being made. Please enter these instruments in the anniversary show because the feature exhibit this year is hand- made musical instruments. Let's show this work to the public. Make this 25th year a year the public will never forget.

3. Please remember, you do not need to be an NWA member to enter items into the show for display or for judging.

4. As stated above, this year's feature exhibit is **Hand Made Musical Instruments**. The entire up-stairs of the Saratoga Springs City Center will be devoted to this exhibit, and there will be **six bluegrass bands** playing bluegrass music. Food will be served in a café style setting while the bands perform. I told you there were big things planned. Mark your calendar, get your items ready to enter for display or judging, tell your friends, plan to bring your friends, and plan to stay the weekend.

5. Totally Turning will be hosted in the Saratoga Hilton Hotel again this year, and the line-up of presenters, as usual, is awesome!

6. A commemorative lapel pin will be struck to commemorate this event. **Every volunteer** will receive a pin to commemorate the event. Maria Witkins, our new volunteer chairperson will be working in earnest to solicit your participation as a volunteer. A bank of NWA phone callers will be calling members to ask them to sign up early this year. This is because we need to order the volunteer pins early.

7. The Toy factory will again be making toys for the children. What a great job is done each year by the Mid -Hudson folks in showing young people the "joys of woodworking".

8. The NWA Store is returning this year for a trial run. The NWA Carvers, Scrollers, Turners, Musical Instrument SIG, the Hand Tool Group, the Crafters, and the Mid- Hudson Wednesday Group all have contributed items which will be offered for sale to our attendees.

9. A new item this year called the NWA Invitational Gallery will highlight a few NWA members and their specific woodworking accomplishments.

The Showcase Planning Committee is still actively planning this year's show and there are surprises being considered. So:

1. Plan now to attend the show, enter a woodworking item, and please volunteer to help with the show.

2. Plan to bring family members to enjoy the show.

3. Plan to bring some friends who might enjoy introduction to fine woodworking.

4. Plan to tell all your musical friends about the show and the feature exhibit of musical instruments.

See you April 2 and 3, 2016

ENTRY CATEGORIES FOR SHOWCASE 2016

ADIRONDACK - Furniture and Accessories	ACCESSORIES 1 - Desktop Pieces, Clocks, Picture Frames	MARQUETRY
FURNITURE 1 - Tables, Beds	ACCESSORIES 2 - Boxes	INTARSIA
FURNITURE 2 - Cases, Cabinets, Desks	TOYS AND PLAY THINGS	PYROGRAPHY
FURNITURE 3 - Chairs	BOATS	CARVING 1 - Chip
SHOP EQUIPMENT	JEWELRY	CARVING 2 - Relief
WOODEN MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS 1 - String	SCROLL SAWING	CARVING 3- 3D in the round
WOODEN MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS 2 - Non-String	YOUTH - age 16 and under	CARVING 4- Birds, Fish, Animals, People
NOVICE FLAT BOARDER -age 17 & up, new to wood working in the last 12 mo.	ALTERNATE MATERIALS & MISCELLANEOUS Non-Wood, using woodworking tools and any piece not fitting into any of above categories	CARVING 5- CNC & Laser
		NOVICE CARVING -age 17 and up, new to carving in the last 12 mo.

Instant gallery items for Totally Turning no longer register through Showcase! Instant gallery items will be registered at the Totally Turning registration desk. If an item is to be judged it must be registered before 6 PM Friday. The registration desk will open at 1 PM Friday. There is no limit on the number of items for instant gallery but only one piece per category will be allowed for judging. At the time of registration a card for each item will be filled out to be displayed with the item.

ENTRY RULES

- Any woodworker may exhibit his/her work. You do not need to be a NWA member. There is no entry fee.
- Entry forms must be received by March 26, 2016 to be eligible for judging. Late entries will be entered for display only.
- All Showcase exhibit items must be brought to the City Center between 3:00 pm and 6:45 pm, Friday, April 1, 2016.
- Exhibits are not to be removed from the floor before 5 pm 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 and will be acknowledged as previous winners.

Judges have the right to re-categorize entries.

- Pieces entered at Totally Turning will be displayed in the Instant Gallery. Ex., if a turned piece is entered in the Accessories Category, it will not be in the Totally Turning Instant Gallery but in the Main Gallery.
- In order to be fair to everyone, if the judges deem that an entry from Miscellaneous should be in another category they will make the change. If the woodworker already has a judged entry in that category, the changed entry will no longer be judged.
- The exhibit hall is not a commercial area. Price tags or literature other than small business cards are not allowed and will be removed and disposed of.
- The decisions of the judges are final. At the discretion of the judges, some awards may not be given.

AWARDS

BEST IN SHOW: One from any entry
PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE: One per category except for Novice and Youth categories
FIRST PLACE: One per category
SECOND PLACE: One per category
THIRD PLACE: One per category
HONORABLE MENTIONS
CARVERS SIG BEST IN SHOW: one from any carving entry
RICHARD PAGANO MEMORIAL AWARD FOR TURNING

TOTALLY TURNING INSTANT GALLERY CATEGORIES

TURNING 1 - Segmented
TURNING 2 - Bowls, Platters, Plates,
TURNING 3 - Vessels
TURNING 4 - Pens
TURNING 5 - Spindles & Ornaments
NOVICE TURNER -age 17 and up, new to turning in the last 12 mo.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT:

Ken Evans, Showcase Chair
 (518) 753-7759

kevans1@nycap.rr.com

or

Pam Curtis, Judging Co-Chair
 (518) 374-9562

pam4arts@aol.com

Saturday and Sunday, April 2 & April 3, 2016, 10 AM – 5 PM

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

Member: Yes _____ No _____

Professional*: Yes _____ No _____

*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 Novice and Youth.

ADDRESS: _____
EMAIL: _____

ENTRY DEADLINE FOR JUDGING IS MONDAY, March 26, 2016. Any entry received after that date will be for display only.

Display Labels will be waiting at the Showcase Office when you bring your entry on Friday, April 1st between 3:00 – 6:45.

PLEASE only pick up labels for showpieces that you have with you as this helps the Judges.

Please Print.

[illegible]

Please read the **ENTRY FORM CATEGORIES** sheet,
Complete this **EXHIBIT ENTRY FORM**
and send it to:

NORTHEASTERN WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 246
Rexford, NY 12148

**All Turnings will be
registered at
TOTALLY TURNING,
on premises, April 1
from 1:00-6:00 pm.**

TOTALLY TURNING CATEGORIES

TURNING 1 - Segmented

TURNING 2 - Bowls, Platters, Plates,

TURNING 3 - Vessels

TURNING 4 - Pens

TURNING 5 - Spindles & Ornaments

NOVICE TURNER -age 17 and up, new to turning in the last 12 mo.

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



Your next issue of
Woodworkers News

will be published
in early March

Copy deadline: February 15

Susan McDermott, Editor

(518) 438-1909

s.mcdermott@hvcc.edu

Elizabeth Keays Graphic Artist
Designer



WEBSITE(S)

www.woodworker.org

www.nwawoodworkingshow.org

Webmaster - Kurt Hertzog

kurt@kurthertzog.com



**NORTHEASTERN
WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION**

P.O. BOX 246

Rexford, New York 12148



February Meeting

Bugs In Lumber

Thursday, February 11, 2016 7:00 p.m.

Shaker Heritage Society Meetinghouse

Albany-Shaker Road, Albany, NY

By Wayne Distin

What bugs may be coming to a tree near you or are they already here? Come to the February meeting, when the speaker will be David Chinery, Senior Resource Educator and Horticulture Turf Advisor with Cornell cooperative Extension, Rensselaer County.

Learn how to spot these
invasive insects like the Emerald

Ash Borer, Asian Longhorned Beetle, Pine Beetle and others. Current control methods through monitoring activities, treatments and wood transportation restrictions will be discussed.



Asian Longhorn Beetle



Ash Borer

Carvers Pot Luck

By George Rutledge & Diane Balch

In spite of a slow start due to a power failure, the annual Carvers Holiday Pot Luck was a

rousing success. The first hour we dined by emergency light power, setting up dining in the hallway near the front door of NWA 15 Solar Drive. Thank you to all who attended and helped set out a sumptuous table.

As you can tell from the photo, everyone had a great time, even after the lights came back on.



Showcase Survey Feedback

By John Olenik

We received a lot of great feedback from our recent Membership Survey, which tells me you care about our organization. Many comments were submitted about our popular Showcase event, so this article will address the concerns and issues submitted.

As the person responsible for setting up the exhibit area at Showcase, I constantly encourage members to bring in examples of their work to exhibit, regardless of skill level. Comments from the survey said, “I’m not good enough”, or “the quality of other entries is intimidating”, or “my work can’t compare with others”. I will again try to dissuade this kind of thinking! As a member of NWA, your exhibit is just as important to our show as any other member’s. Again, regardless of skill level, by submitting your work, you become an active participant in the show instead of just an observer. Practically speaking, you have an opportunity to learn in discussions with other members what they liked or what could be improved on your piece, and how it can be done. What better place to get ideas! Remember, NWA is all about education.

Judging has always been a subject of controversy, and probably will continue to be so because of the variables involved, but let’s address some of the concerns. The question frequently asked is, “What do the judges look for?” We always try to enlist for judges, individuals who have attained a high degree of skill, and qualifications in the woodworking industry, and each year, for the most part, we bring in different people.

This removes the partiality or bias factor. That being said, each judge still has his own unique perspective which colors their preferences. Many years ago, when I posed the question to a nationally known woodworker of what he looks for in a piece, he said,

“Regardless of what is built, I want to feel the craftsman did the best job he is capable of. A small Shaker table may be simple, but take the time to do it well”. Style, design, and proportions initially will attract the eye of the judges. Then the mechanics of joinery and finish will be scrutinized, along with the small details. If you are replicating a Queen Anne Highboy, the standard

will be set higher than if you are building “in the style of” which gives more leeway for interpretation. A piece does not have to be complex to win a ribbon; just take the time to do it well. We understand that you are justifiably proud of your wood creations. If you felt your piece should have won a ribbon, speak with one of the judges and learn what was the deciding factor. Our judges (with their human foibles) are very willing to speak with you. It’s a great learning experience.

Setting up and breaking down the Showcase is always a challenge because of time and physical limitations of the venue, and we are immensely grateful for our volunteers.

The heart of Showcase is the Exhibit Room and your exhibits, and we will bend over backwards to accommodate the exhibitors and make it a pleasant experience, but again, we have time limitations which restrict our flexibility. It will take all morning and part of Friday afternoon to have the exhibit room set up, which is why we cannot accept any exhibits to display before 3pm, and limit acceptances until 7 pm when the room has to be completed and the judging will begin. Upon special hardship request, we will accept an exhibit earlier, set it aside and place it when the room is set up. Conversely, exhibits must stay in the exhibit room until the show closes at 5pm on Sunday, which is only fair to our paying guests; otherwise, we would have chaos. The Saratoga City Center may have limitations on entrance and egress, but it’s the best we have right now, and we ask that our members show patience and consideration, and we will do our best to accommodate you in bringing your pieces in and out.

Showcase should be a fun time for everyone, but inevitably, we have glitches which require a little massaging, but we usually arrive at a satisfactory result. In the event that something goes awry in your experience, please speak to me or any of the other co-chairs of the committee. (We prefer to send all problems to Ken Evans!)

Thank you for participating in our survey, and I hope our responses give some clarity to what we do. Don’t hesitate to pass along your ideas or suggestions in the future!

CHAPTER NEWS

Mid Hudson Chapter News

By Wally Cook

Dust Deputy: Gerry Peterson demonstrated his portable dust collection system, using a vacuum and Oneida Dust Deputy with custom fittings. The benefit of a particle separator like the Dust Deputy is that it collects the heavier woodchips and particles, while allowing lighter dust to be processed by the vacuum without clogging the filter. A few years ago, the Dust Deputy was compared to the Clear-View Mini and the Rigid Dust Right Vortex and was deemed to be the best performer as well as the best price point. The system has remained popular. Oneida claims that the dust deputy will prevent 99% of the dust from reaching your shop's environment. The result is that the vacuum does not become clogged or overworks with reduced suction. Oneida recommends a collection bucket with at least 90 mil. side-wall thickness – or simply nest two five gallon buckets for



The Dust Deputy cyclone particle separator



Gerry Peterson made the mobile cart and integrated his vacuum and dust deputy

rigidity. A lone five gallon bucket may collapse due to the pressure on the walls.

While Oneida does offer complete kits, you can also purchase components to customize your unit. Gerry purchased the rubber hose from Rigid. His vacuum was purchased from Wynn Environmental. Since the unit may become top heavy, Gerry made a portable cart to integrate the dust collection and the vacuum.

Tool of the Month: Pete Chast explained how radiator fin combs work. Fin combs are used to straighten damaged fins for dissipation vanes on heat pumps or air conditioners.

Straightening the combs or fins increases air flow and improves efficiency. The combs are graduated for various thicknesses and can be purchased through Amazon, Sears, or Home Depot.



Fin combs are inexpensive tools to straighten dissipation vanes

In Memoriam: We celebrate the lives of two chapter members: Phil Whittington and Frank Carragher. Phil served in the 11th Airborne Division. He graduated from Paul Smith's college with a degree in Forestry and was a certified National Hardwood Lumber Inspector. Phil was an ardent woodturner.

Frank Carragher Jr. was a retired IBM Field Engineer. He served in the Airforce 1951-1955; one of his assignments was in support of nuclear tests conducted in the Pacific. Frank enjoyed carving and scrollsaw projects. He provided a workshop on scissor sharpening for the Mid-Hudson Chapter.

Upcoming: The February meeting will feature John Coffey of the Sherwin-Williams company. Sherwin-Williams offers paints and stains, including Minwax products.

Sacandaga Chapter

January Meeting

By Gary Ratajczak – Chapter President

For our January meeting, the Sacandaga Woodworkers ventured out on a crisp but clear night for a field trip. About fourteen members met in Gloversville, NY at Easterly Woodwork & Design for a tour of the operation. For some young adults, heading off to college is nothing short of an uphill battle, but for Susy Easterly, it was clearly the opposite. Her major at college was centered



Plywood chairs

around downhill ski racing. In the midst of all her academic classes, she needed to pick up an elective; here is where her life changed. That original elective was, you probably guessed it, woodworking.

From that point she was hooked. Soon her focus changed, with the culmination of her academic career providing a new life path along with a graduate degree in Industrial Design. As she described to the group, she had the opportunity to work metals, plastics and wood during her schooling. With her concentration on



Hardwood piece by Susy

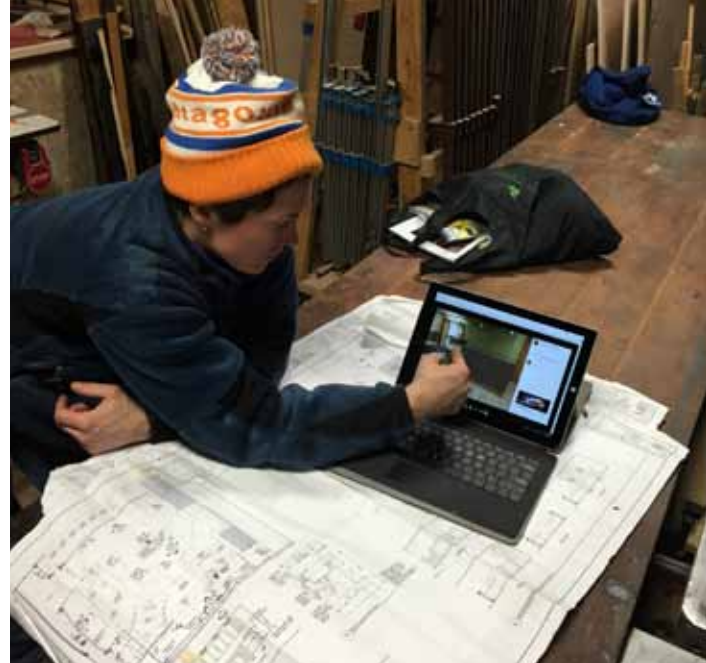
Industrial Design, Susy sharpened her skills in the areas of ergonomics and function. This training is clearly evident in the sample pieces the group got to see, simple, yet functional and comfortable designs. Prior to opening her business about five years ago, she had worked at several major furniture manufacturers. Putting in bench time and getting comfortable with her skills finally led to the opening of Easterly Woodwork & Design. Susy is currently the sole operator, but a local grant that has provided funding for some much needed tools will require the addition of employees. This is great example of giving back to the community by providing employment in the trades.

In a small shop, paying the bills is always at the top of the list. A mix of commercial as well as private residential orders keeps the operation running. Susy also showed the group a selection of plywood based chairs that demonstrate a simple, clean design but provide a high level of comfort. As time allows, products such as these will be offered on Etsy and are currently sold at the Mohawk Harvest Market gallery in Gloversville. Susy

gave us a great tour of her shop, and we all drooled over the new forty three inch wide belt sander that was just installed. There is a good mix of old iron, as shown by the vintage jointer and Delta table saw, to a collection of Festool products. As Susy pointed out, some tools were acquired based on price, but more commonly for driving speed and precision in a commercial environment.

As she discussed how she builds her pieces, many of which use one of a kind and reclaimed materials, she gave a short demonstration on the Festool Domino. In the commercial world, speed is in many cases a major driver. From her portfolio, she showed the members numerous examples of past projects from traditional built-in bookshelves, live edge dining tables, to windows and millwork for churches.

I know all who attended had a great time. It was terrific to see someone born locally have her life's journey bring her right back home. It gave great inspiration for the group and a terrific view of what life is like after you take the jump from hobby to professional woodworker.



Susy's from plans to finished product

NWA MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENT

Wanted - Smiling, Gregarious People

Yes, that's right, the Membership Committee needs gregarious members to volunteer at the Membership Booth for Showcase! ***The Membership Booth is where it's at!*** Our Volunteers will be greeting Showcase visitors and explaining the benefits of our classes, our SIGs, our charitable community activities and most of all, the pleasure of developing lasting friendships with our experienced and dedicated members!

Everyone who comes to Showcase stops by the Membership Booth!

We will be taking new membership applications, selling NWA Baseball Caps and NWA Coffee Mugs, and generally having a good time talking to people.

We Need You!

All it takes is a Smile and a Warm Handshake!

We still have open time slots on:

Saturday

9:45am - to - Noon
Noon - to - 2:30pm
2:30pm - to - 5:00pm

Sunday

9:45am - to - Noon
Noon - to - 2:30pm
2:30pm - to - 5:00pm

If you can help, please respond to nwamembers1@gmail.com

Thank you for being a Loyal Member!

Favorite Finishes

by Susan McDermott

John Heimke began the monthly meeting with some important announcements:

1. Vacancies in NWA for important positions. Contact John Heimke for specifics at heimkj@sage.edu
2. Sign up as volunteers with Marie Wilkins, Coordinator for the Showcase program.
3. Wally Carpenter's summary of the 2015 Survey (see newsletter).
4. John Olenik's appeal to members to build projects for the showcase gallery. Contact John Olenik at irmjohn@aol.com
5. Ken Evans announced there are still a few openings in the banjo club. Contact him at kevens1@nycap.rr.com

For the January 14 meeting Ken Evans and Charlie Goddard organized a panel to discuss favorite finishes. Included were John Olenik and Bill MacTiernan (furniture makers), Warren Stoker (toy maker), Barbara Nottke (scroller), George Rutledge (carver) and Ken Evans (turner). Topics addressed were wood preparation, stain, type of finish, sheen, application methods, durability, and recommended brands.

George began the panel discussion with his philosophy of KISS = "Keep it simple, stupid". Let the wood speak for itself with the appropriate finish and the reasons why we finish wood (protection and durability, enhancement, authenticity of the piece). Many of his recommendations were confirmed by those who followed.

Bill makes reproductions of 18th Century furniture and favors Minwax polyurethane for its tough, quick dry, no rubbing finish. He uses Norton sand papers in a 150-180-220-400 grit sequence. He likes LeBran steel wool to smooth raised grain as it does not fleck pieces of wool into the finish. He recommends the use of a sealer to prevent blotching. He thins out the urethane with paint thinner (2:1 of urethane to thinner). He brushes or rag wipes 6 to 8 coats. While they dry in 15 minutes, he allows more time and waxes the final finish for a mellow look.

John also favors simplicity and recommends Enduro water-based urethanes which dry quickly. He sands with 220 grit except for oak (120). He finishes his pieces **before** assembly and glue up. The surplus glue is easier to remove. After the first coat of finish, he sands lightly with 400 grit; the second coat gets 500-



Bill Mac Tierman's 18th cen. reproduction drawers



Diane Balch finishes her projects in a humid bathroom!

600 grit pad, and then very fine steel wool and wax.

Barbara sands her wood before scrolling and uses Watco Danish Oil to enhance grain. She uses a spray lacquer (2-3 coats) as a finish.

Warren likes mineral oil for a safe finish to his toys. He submerges his pieces in a mineral oil bath.

Ken gave members rules of finishing:

- There is no universal finish
- There is no favorite finish (for him)
- Finishes can ruin a project
- Finishes are first all about **surface preparation!**

Ken uses bees' wax, real turpentine with bees' wax, polymer oils, non-poly oils, brush oils, Danish oil, lacquers (especially sprays), and French polish (bees' wax over shellac). If you use shellac flakes, dissolve them in denatured ethyl alcohol. He concluded with a great polish product – Crest mint toothpaste!



Barbara Nottke's scrolled projects



Warren Stoker's toy train finished with mineral oil

Classifieds

For sale: Nova DVR XP lathe including 20" bed extension and outboard tool rest assembly. This equipment has been used about one year and is in excellent condition. It sits on a custom made, mortised and tenoned, adjustable height bench which can be purchased separately if desired.

Also available for sale is a new, unused, **Powermatic Outboard Turning Stand** model 6294732 which is made for Powermatic 20" wood lathes and will fit other full size lathes as well. Inquiries call Jerry at 518-677-3913

Bob Cramer's moving to Colorado and will sell his **entire woodshop tools and equipment** (e mail Bob at rjc20@fairpoint.net if you are interested).

Left in NWA Halfmoon Shop after Sharpening Demo class...

2 sets of bench chisels:

- 5-piece set of "Footprint" brand chisels (red handles)
- 4-piece set of "Craftsman" brand chisels

If found, please call Al Caruso at 518-877-8770

Kaatskill Wood Turners

By Wally Cook

Tru-stone for Turners: John Franklin discussed the handling of tru-stone – a stone and resin compound available from a number of purveyors. Tru-stone mimics semi-precious gemstone such as turquoise, lapis, and malachite. The material is composed of 85% ground stone and 15% pigment and acrylic resin. It can be worked with woodturning tools, but the hardness does vary. According to the Golden Nib website, hardness of the various blanks varies as follows:

- **Soft** - Persian turquoise, White turquoise, Turquoise web, Kingman turquoise, Larimar turquoise, Black/white banded, Malachite, Leopard skin jasper, Obsidian, Red/Black, Rhodinite, White web
- **Moderate** - Reds with gold veining, Turquoise with gold veining, White Horn, White with gold veining
- **Very Hard** - Red & Yellow Dino bone, Honey jasper, Black with gold veining, Chrysocolla

Tru-stone is expensive and the price has increased dramatically. A recent survey of sellers show pen blanks ranging from \$12 to \$27 per blank. A variety of colors are available – up to 74 different pen blanks on one site (beartoothwoods.com). Blanks may be either ¾”x5 1/2” or 7/8”x5 1/2”. Finding bottle stopper blanks may be problematic; 1 ½” blanks are in limited supply.

John shared his experience with turning pens, shaving equipment, and jewelry with tru-stone. The advantage of the material is its substantial weight and finish – it presents as real stone, requiring no additional finish after polishing. In addition, the material is waterproof, making it ideal for shaving products or items exposed to moisture. However, it does have some peculiarities which need to be understood.

The material can be chippy. It is important to keep tools sharp. John recommends carbide tools for optimum cutting. Actually, John prefers scrapers on tru-stone, using the scraper in a negative rake attitude.

The ring cutter on the nano-tool works very well if applied slightly below center. He

avoids tools which depend on rubbing the bevel, as heat caused by friction may affect the surface (melting or deformation).

Drilling tru-stone is also an issue.

Common issues are wandering and blow-out. Brad point drills should be avoided according to some

web site advice. Leaving extra length in the blank is recommended, in case there is blow-out at the exit point. If at all possible, drilling from both sides is helpful.

Nova’s new soft jaws are non-marring and can be custom cut to hold small pieces. John used these jaws to turn lifesaver-sized beads for a necklace. The soft jaws work with all Nova and Record chucks.



A variety of jewelry and projects completed with tru-stone by John Franklin



A close-up of the lapis lazuli tru-stone shows the veining standing proud as a result of finishing in a rock tumbler

Tru-stone is also prone to splitting if press-fit. In other words, some project assemblies depend on forcing fittings into brass tubes – this action expands the brass tube and will very likely crack tru-stone. The solution is to ream pen parts to be slightly loose and glue the fittings together with CA. John showed homemade jigs he uses to sand the inside of specific pen fittings prior to assembly and glue-up.

Finishing tru-stone is accomplished as would be applied to acrylic material. Polishing with sanding pads intended for acrylics work well. If the material is sanded to a high grit, the surface will be uniform, presenting an optic plane. However, many tru-stone blanks incorporate veining of gold or black. The veining is a different hardness than the rest of the material. In order to feature this natural rock-like characteristic, John may finish his jewelry pieces in a rock tumbler. The result leaves the veining slightly proud of the surface.

Upcoming: The February 13 meeting features Bill Thiry showing jigs for making segmented hollow form icicle ornaments. Meetings begin at 6:30 at the Opdahl shop.



Nova soft jaws were used to turn small round jewelry pieces

2015 NWA Membership Survey

By Survey Analysis Team

We had a very successful survey with an overwhelming response. We asked you what you thought and you responded with an overall positive endorsement of NWA programs and activities. More importantly, you submitted over 375 individual comments to our 9 questions. Some questions had 70+ comments, averaging out to be 42 comments per question. They consisted of both complimentary and constructive suggestions. You were very honest in telling us what we were doing right and where we needed to improve.

We created a Survey Analysis Team consisting of Wally Carpenter (*NWA Vice President*), Wayne Distin (*LCOC*), Tom Moran & George Rutledge (*Education*), Dave Mobley (*Steering Committee*), John Olenik (*Showcase*) and Peter Lofrumento (*Membership*).

The team has categorized the 375+ comments into 5 subject areas:

- Communications (Newsletter/News Blasts)
- Showcase
- Education
- Membership/Social
- LCOC (Learning Center Operating Committee): Team charged with shop procedures and maintaining all the equipment at the Herm Finkbeiner Education Center (*Solar Drive Workshop*).

The responses that expressed a desire for change fell into two types of categories. Some revealed misconceptions about NWA policies and procedures, other responses offered specific ideas for improvement.

The Team had a Twofold Objective:

First -- To clear up the misconceptions by addressing specific comments and clarifying the reasoning why NWA has established its policies and procedures.

Second -- Make specific suggestions to the 5 areas mentioned above where our services can be improved

The Initial Deliverable:

The team is reporting back to the membership at its January 14, 2016 Membership Meeting at the Shaker Heritage and will post both its report and the results of the survey on our website. Subsequent actions will occur over the next weeks and months as appropriate. We thank those of you who took the time to participate in the survey and invite those of you who didn't to take the opportunity to participate in our next annual survey! Thank you for being an active NWA Member!

Survey Summary

Newsletter / News blasts –

**Susan McDermott, Dave Mobley,
Wally Carpenter**

Need more broad base articles from SIG's Social events, etc.:

Susan has already reached out to SIG's to schedule articles on a rotation through the calendar year. Additionally, Susan is planning to start a "Past Presidents" article each month again on a rotation schedule.

As a reminder, anyone can submit an article to Susan and she will gladly work with you to assist you if needed.

Bring back Ron's wood articles and / or more Technical articles by members:

Charlie has already made contact with Ron's wife to gain access to articles we no longer have in our records. Susan is combing past newsletters to begin recycling select articles.

Return the Hardcopy newsletter:

Sadly, this will not happen. The cost of producing the hardcopy newsletter was in excess of \$1,000 per month. These funds were reallocated and will not be redirected back to hardcopies. Susan makes a dozen hardcopies each month to pass out at the monthly meeting for those without access. Mid-Hudson and the Sacandaga Chapters are also printing limited copies of the newsletters and distributing them to the members at their meetings.

Reformat for on line reading (i.e., continuous article and not "continued on page 6"):

Susan is currently investigating this action. The current layout is conducive to making PDF hardcopies for those who are printing copies for friends and members without internet access.

Oversaturation of News blasts:

First, in this area in particular, there was an overwhelming endorsement that our email announcements are valuable. (One caveat: the survey was communicated by email, so, naturally, people who don't read email announcements wouldn't have responded. The results should be regarded as skewed.)

The one concern – oversaturation – can be addressed pretty easily: remind everyone who prepares announcements that it's possible to go overboard. We just need to show a little restraint when advertising any single event.

Showcase

– John Olenik

All the following items will be addressed in an article authored by John Olenik in the next newsletter:

- Intimidation saying their work isn't good enough.
- Clarification of what judges are looking for.
- Complication of bringing pieces in and getting them out of gallery.
- Misconceptions of the facets of the gallery show (e.g., everything is judged)

Education

– Tom Moran, George Rutledge

How the courses are announced and how they get filled up so quickly:

All courses are announced via Constant Contact just after midnight approximately

30 days prior to the class start date. It is not the practice of the Education committee to register anyone before the announcement.

People are registered 1st come 1st registered.

Popular classes fill up very quickly (sometimes the same day) and most classes are filled up within 1 week of the announcement. Occasionally a second announcement will be sent out if there is not enough registrants to fill the class in a reasonable time.

We do place people on a waiting list if a class becomes full.

If a class is to be offered again in the same year an announcement will be sent to the people on the waiting list first.

Scheduling of the days & times of the courses

Scheduling is restricted to 3 Tuesday evenings a month, Friday evenings, Saturdays afternoon, and Sundays. This is due to the various SIG group meetings. Any remaining time available is during working hours which excludes a lot of members.

Scheduling is also dependent on the instructors' availability.

Distance – make the courses more local

The only courses the Education Committee is equipped to offer are at the Solar Drive Shop.

The other chapters are free to offer whatever local courses they find their members request.

Reoccurring Course topics:

Topics are usually suggested by the Instructor who will teach them. We try to rotate topics enough so everyone gets a chance to attend but do not become boring.

More Basic courses...Finishing/Refinishing & Repair / Hand Tool / using Power Tools

Most of these courses have been offered at least once in each of the past education years.

Membership

- **Peter Lofrumento**

New and existing members find it hard to break into the club member mix:

- The Membership Committee will work with the chapters and SIGs to encourage all our members to wear their Member Badges to all NWA events and SIG meetings
- The Membership Committee will inform the chapters and SIGs with the contact information of every new member who resides in a certain chapter or designates an interest in a specific SIG discipline and ask the chapters/SIGs to contact each new member and invite them to their next meeting/work session.
- As part of the features of the new online Multimedia Messaging Service (MMS), the Membership Committee will develop:
- A **“Buddy List”** for members to reference for rides to NWA events
- A Member **“Expertise List”** consisting of members who have experience in certain areas of woodworking and are willing to be a resource to other members who have questions or need help on a woodworking project.

LCOC

- **Wayne Distin**

Due to the complexity of these comments, all the following items will be addressed in an article authored by Wayne Distin in the next newsletter to ensure clarity:

- Clarification of qualifying power tool classes.
- More charitable projects to do training.
- More machine qualified teachers available.
- Open shop concept? – Perception it's open only to a special group.
- Inconsistency of rules applications.

Again, our sincerest thanks to all who participated in making this a valuable tool for us to improve our organization!

February Meeting

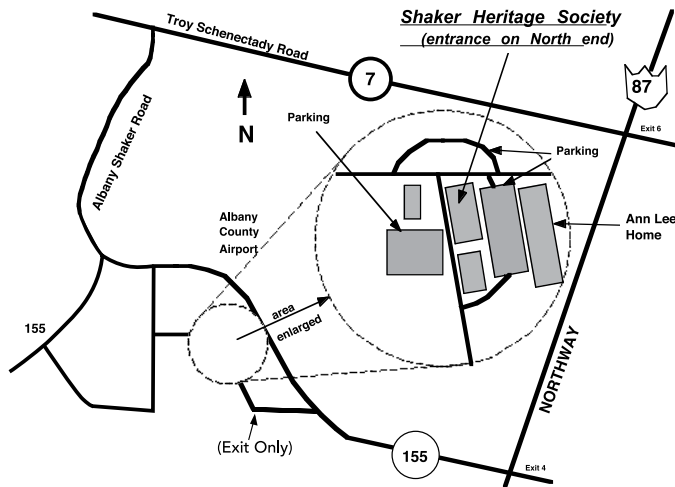
Thursday, February 11, 2016 7:00 p.m.
Shaker Heritage Society Meetinghouse
Albany-Shaker Road, Albany, NY

MONTHLY MEETINGS

March 10, 2016
Spoon and Ladle Carving

April 14, 2016
Grain vs Design

May 12, 2016
Furniture Restoration



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

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)

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

Wednesday "Learn and Turn" sessions occur on all other Wednesdays at the NWA Learning Center. These sessions run 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. www.adirondackwoodturners.com **Contact:** Ken Evans, 518-753-7759 or kevans1@nycap.rr.com

Scroller's Guild - Meets on the first and third Wednesday of the month (Starting Nov. 19) at the NWA Learning Center located at 15 Solar Drive, Clifton Park, NY. A beginner's session starts at 6:30 PM followed by a general meeting at 7:00 PM. **Contact:** Jeanne Aldous at AMJAMtat2@aol.com or Barbara Nottke at scroller87@aol.com or 869-6268.

Kaatskill Woodturners - Meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Opdahl property in Hurley, NY. **Contact:** Wally Cook at wally.cook@gmail.com.

NWA Crafters - Meets every Saturday and Tuesday, from 9:00 AM until noon at the NWA Learning Center located at 15 Solar Drive, Clifton Park, NY. The Crafters provide public service woodworking for various charitable organizations, including the Double H Hole in the Woods camp for children and the GE 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.

NWA Musical Instrument SIG meets every first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the Learning Center. The purpose of the group is to discuss all aspects of all musical instruments, playing, building, repairing, and history. Meetings involve a show and tell table, a program on an appropriate topic, and lots of member interaction. If you want to be on the email list for notifications, **contact** Ken Evans at kevans1@nycap.rr.com or 518-753-7759 or 518-281-0779.

The NWA Wood Carvers SIG - The NWA Wood Carvers SIG - Meet each Thursday at 5:30 PM until 8:30 PM all year at the NWA Learning Center located at 15 Solar Drive, Clifton Park, NY. The goal is to promote the art of Wood Carving and to have a good time doing it. The only prerequisite is a desire to carve while making new friends. Wood, tools, and patterns are available. **Contact:** George Rutledge (518) 366-3606, c.howie.dudat@gmail.com, Diane Balch (518) 338-5637, signs@balchsigns.com

Hand Tool SIG - Meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Herm Finkbeiner Education Center at 15 Solar Dr, Clifton Park, NY. **Contact:** Dave Parkis for further details: dparkis@nycap.rr.com

CHAPTERS

NWA Mid-Hudson - The chapter meets at 7:30 PM 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. John VanBuren, President (845) 444-8281 **Contact:** Pete Chast, pchastnow@gmail.com.

NWA Sacandaga - The chapter meets at 7:00 PM. on the Second Wednesday of each month at 55 Second Avenue, Mayfield, NY. **Contact:** Gary Ratajczak, President - (518) 852-1204