

WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern
Woodworkers
Association

January 2011, Vol. 20, Number 1

January Meeting

Thursday, January 13, 2011, 7:00 pm
Shaker Heritage Society Meeting House
Albany-Shaker Road, Albany

Garrett Hack, Woodworker

by Herm Finkbeiner

Every now and then one meets or learns about someone and the reaction is, "How on earth can he possibly do all those things?"

Garrett Hack is one of those people. When I first met him I knew only about his furniture and so assumed that I knew all about him, he is a skilled craftsman albeit a very skilled one. Then I gradually began to learn more about him. He has written two of the best woodworking related books, *The Hand Plane Book* and *Classic Hand Tools*. Ponder for a moment what is involved in writing a book. Any book, even a poorly written one, requires discipline that far beyond normal experience. A great book is on a totally different level.

Not everyone who is skilled in an area is also an outstanding teacher, in fact the skilled artist who is also a great teacher is rare indeed. But Garrett is one of those, a woodworker whose abilities are obvious in his pieces and in his teaching. Every student of his that I have talked with has told me that as soon as another class was announced return participation was in order.

But there is more. Garrett is a farmer with very firm ideas about what constitutes a farm. Farming means animals. Not just a few chickens or a cow but horses to provide the power it takes to do the work of a farm. And, of course, the constant care that a farm demands. And, as is to be expected, he built his own shop on the farm.



How did he come by such a combination of interests and skills? Why clearly the thing to do as a young man is to go off to Princeton to study architecture and civil engineering. Which obviously leads to furniture making and a stint at the Boston University Program in Artisanry.

Today he is internationally

known, his work and his Federal-inspired brick shop have been featured in *The New York Times*, *Preservation*, *Home Furniture*, and *Fine Woodworking*, for whom he regularly writes articles about design and craftsmanship. He has developed an approach and a style that makes his

work a delight to all and an inspiration to those seeking to improve their own work. "It's all about warmth, detail, shape, usefulness, and impeccable craftsmanship."

Fundamental to Garrett's work are hand tools, for the polish of surfaces they cut and the subtle variations that are possible working by hand and eye rather than machine. He summarizes, "Living with beautiful objects is not a luxury. For me it's a necessity. It is the idea of living simply, it's the pleasure of a few and meaningful possessions that excites me. Each has a unique character and holds something of the spirit of the maker — in a hand-knotted rug, a shapely carved mixing spoon, or the handmade chisels and planes I use building my furniture. This connection with the maker is rare, for where today can you collaborate with a skilled craftsman to create something that becomes a unique and satisfying part of your life? In a piece of furniture I would answer." 🐾

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UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, PHONE
NUMBERS ARE IN AREA CODE 518

NWA Community Service

NWA Members Again Lend a Hand

by Herm Finkbeiner

One of the objectives of NWA is to make the woodworking skills of the members available to serve the larger community. In the past and continuing today this has meant doing projects for Double H Ranch, Clover Patch, Parent and Child, Albany Med, Saratoga Child Care and others.

On September 11 Pete Howe got an e-mail from Troy Fink, a long time NWA member. Troy needed a sarcophagus!

It turned out that the sarcophagus is a stage prop for the play, "The Man Who Came to Dinner", which a group of high school and junior high school age students who call themselves the Consortium Actors performed at Shaker Junior High School on Nov. 20 at 2 pm & 7 pm, and Nov. 21 at 3 pm. To see where the mummy case fits in go to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Em39yX1XgnM&NR=1>

So several of the NWA members who get together at Jim's shop, Pete Howe, Dave Mobley, Dick Flanders, Larry Zinn, Charlie Goddard, Frank Hogan and Jerry Verner said "we can do that".

The teen aged students, home schooled students, are in an acting class that is taught through Hudson Valley LEAH under the guidance of directors Andy Zawacki and Sharon Paluch. LEAH Consortium is a set of classes that are offered to the students 2 days/week at Grace Fellowship, Watervliet.

The Consortium Actor's first play, "You Can't Take It With You", was pre-formed to two sold out audiences at the Shaker Junior High School Auditorium this past Spring. It was a great success, and the 19 actors were eager to perform again.

As homeschoolers, the youngsters are outside of the public school system, and as such receive no tax support. In a message from the group they thanked NWA for the very much appreciated help that NWA provided. 🐾



The Router Table Series

By *Herm Finkbeiner*

To enter the next level of fun and productivity in your shop start using a router table for your projects. The router is the most versatile tool in the shop, doing everything from squaring an edge, setting locks & hinges, making curves, copying a template to mass producing dovetailed drawers. The major accessory to the router is the router table.

In a sense, the router table converts the router to a small shaper. The router table is used for everything from moldings to following patterns for complex shapes. It is the fastest, easiest and safest way to do round overs, cut wide dados or rabbets or blind cuts of many kinds. With the wide variety of bits available the uses are almost unlimited.

However one of the first things that crops up is what kind of a router table to make? As a reader of woodworking magazines you have noticed that there are dozens of designs and methods for making a router table available in your shop. It has even been said, tongue in cheek, that for the past 15 years at least one "ultimate router table" design has been published each year. How to sort through this morass?

That is where NWA comes in!

During the next several months NWA will offer a sequence of classes to help you design, build and use a router table. The steps in this program are:

Learn to draw a set of plans:

Making accurate scale drawings is an important part of designing and constructing anything, including furniture and other wooden items. Drawings in the past have been two dimensional with various techniques used to represent the third dimension. With computers we have an inexpensive (free!) program that does a first rate job of showing drawings in three dimensions. SketchUp creates, shows and modifies drawings in three dimensions. As expected, woodworkers have immediately jumped on it to do their work.

Decide on what your design should include:

There are many different options to be considered, included or rejected in building a router table. The next part in this series will take you through those options, the advantages and disadvantages of many of them.

How to make the various parts of a design:

If the decision is to make a free standing router table it will be necessary to construct a cabinet and fit drawers into whatever is build. This component of the series will cover designs for a variety of drawers and the process of fitting them to a case.

Building a Router Table:

The final part of the series will be the actual construction of a router table for the NWA shop at Mustang Drive. It will be a group project taking class members through the entire process of selecting a design, choosing the materials, making and assembling components, testing and finishing.

All of the parts in this series are designed to be free standing and valuable in their own right but the sequence is intended to add up to more than the sum of the parts.

For more information send an e-mail to: hfinkbei@nycap.rr.com or call 518-371-9145



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Your next issue of
Woodworkers News
will be published
in early February
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WEBSITE(S)
www.woodworker.org
www.nwawoodworkingshow.org



NWA maintains two websites,
the first noted here
operates continuously.
We also offer selected
links to other sites of interest
to our membership.
Webmaster - Kurt Hertzog
kurt@kurthertzog.com

The second site operates from
January 1 to May 30
and carries specific
information about SHOWCASE.



**NORTHEASTERN
WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION**
P.O. BOX 246
Rexford, New York 12148

SHOWCASE 2011 - 20 Years and Counting

By Ken Evans

WOW ! I remember going to garage sales one Saturday morning in 1994 and stumbling onto WOODWORKERS EXPO as it was called in the cafeteria and hallways of a Shendahowa High School. I remember Gloria Ericson and Fran Finkbeiner taking tickets while sitting at a table behind a HUGE block of spalted wood. My wife, Wil, and I entered and were overwhelmed by the fine wood-working. I joined NWA at that EXPO and learned there were two earlier at Curtis Lumber. EXPO subsequently moved to Saratoga Springs, was renamed Woodworkers Showcase, and became the largest woodworking show of its type in the United States.

Yes, the largest wood-working show of its type in the United States. Did you realize this? The wood-working organization to which you belong produces an event each year that is unrivaled in the entire USA. Yes, there are other woodworking shows, and there are some BIG shows, but these are vendor shows. Vendor booths gathered together as a trade show are the basis of those shows. Woodworkers Showcase is an educational event. With displays of fine woodworking at its core, its function is to educate the public about fine wood-working. Surrounding this raison d'être Showcase adds layers of other educational opportunities, classes, demonstrations, displays, and literature to produce a remarkable woodworking experience for the public.

For one glorious weekend in the Spring, as if out of the sawdust of the previous year, NWA produces an event to which thousands come to enjoy the marvel that is wood. Slowly, but steadily the event has evolved into the format we all know and enjoy. Many have had a hand in this evolution. Past Showcase General Chairpersons have been Herm Finkbeiner, Charlie Goddard, and Larry Zinn. The Showcase Planning Committee now numbers over 30 Co-Chairs overseeing 30 different aspects of the show. Over 400 member

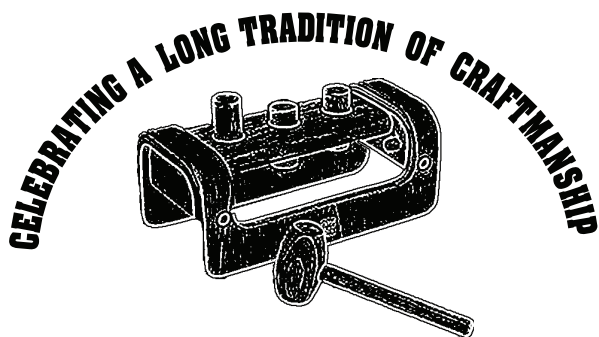
volunteers respond to the call each year to make the show rise, function, and return to storage until the following year. That's right! I did say, over 400 volunteers respond. There are roughly 850 members in NWA, and about 400 of them volunteer. This is an unbelievable

percentage of the membership. It is the volunteers to whom Woodworkers Showcase owes its purpose, its success, its very life, and its unique nature. We should all be very proud of our accomplishments.

Woodworkers Showcase has continued to change since its birth at Curtis Lumber 1991. In 2009 Totally Turning, the Adirondack Woodturners Association (an NWA SIG) woodturning symposium was appended to Woodworkers Showcase. Presenters at Totally Turning have come from Canada, New Zealand, and France. Totally Turning draws woodturners from many parts of the USA and Canada. This helps spread the word about Showcase to an even larger audience. NWA's Woodworkers Showcase is becoming known. Showcase and Totally Turning are advertised on the internet and marketed throughout the USA and Canada. Not Globally ---YET! We are changing, we are growing.

This coming year marks the 20th Woodworkers Showcase. We will celebrate! The Saratoga Springs City center has added new space. We will add 5000 square feet of this new display space to Showcase. New displays are being planned and organized. BIG PLANS are being made for the 20th year celebration. **Mark your calendar- March 26 and 27, 2011.** It seems far off just now, but planning has been underway since September and the show is coming fast.

The most important planning of all is the part you must do. Everything about Showcase hinges on one thing, the entries that members, you provide. Without those entries it would just be another vendor show, it



Northeastern Woodworkers Association Showcase

March 26 & 27, 2011 • Saratoga, NY

20th Anniversary Feature Exhibit Workbench Display

Even if you are taken with machines it continues to be true that the workbench is the most important tool in the shop. Up to a dozen workbenches will be chosen for our display at Showcase. The display will not be judged. All submissions will be recognized in a slide show so even if your workbench is not portable we want to know about it and have pictures.

To submit a workbench, send the following information in by email:

- Your name, address, phone, and e-mail address.
- One to two photographs of the bench.
- Approximate workbench dimensions, type(s) of wood, finish, etc.
- A brief history and a line or two on why the bench should be in the display at Showcase.
- **Send information to: judith.albertson@gmail.com**

Continued on page 6

CHAPTER NEWS

NWA Mid-Hudson Chapter News

By Wally Cook

Joe's Famous Peppermills: Joe Benkert reviewed the construction of his signature peppermills. These are characterized by a colorful segmented design and onion shaped tops, reminiscent of Russian dome architecture.

Joe works mainly in purpleheart, curly bubinga, maple, and walnut to produce a high contrast effect for the segmented peppermills. However, the pattern of the segmentation is the real eye-catcher.

To achieve the distinctive design, Joe glues up four 4/4" strips of contrasting wood eight feet long. He uses Titebond II as the adhesive, but employs numerous clamps to decrease movement. The glued-up stock may sit in the clamping station for one-two weeks.

When dry, Joe cuts the stock in either 7 1/2", 9 1/2", or 13 1/2" lengths. (He always adds 1 1/2" to his desired finished length of 6", 8", or 12"). The stock is then sawn on the diagonal, flipped, and re-glued. The result is a blank with the grain patterns running on a contraposed diagonal.

The blanks are turned, and then drilled for insertion of the grinding mechanism. Joe summarized helpful information that he has learned from doing many peppermills:

- If segmenting, use woods of similar hardness.
- Avoid padauk, as the color fades over time.
- Use a MT 2 brad point drill to avoid "wandering" that can occur when drilling through the blank
- Use a one inch maple dowel to attach the grinding knob to the shaft. It provides greater strength.



Peppermill blanks with distinctive pattern



Glue-up for peppermills may stay in Joe's clamping station for a week



Finished Peppermills may be 6", 8", or 12"

CHAPTER NEWS

Sacandaga Chapter

By Gary Spencer

Our December 8th Program featured a return visit by NWA's Paul Petrie. Paul first explained the differences among different types of available equipment for woodburning. He demonstrated the use of Pyrography

(woodburning) on wood. He showed how the techniques can be used with both woodturning and flatwood projects. He also demonstrated how to transfer stenciling onto wood and how to add color to the projects.

Paul's outstanding program was well

attended and everyone appreciated what was involved. Thanks Paul for a fine evening!

Our January 12th meeting will feature Jeff Meuwissen of Northville. His topic will be on "Intarsia". He plans to cover getting started, selecting woods, selecting a pattern, equipment needed, construction and finishing of the project. He will cover topics from the beginner to topics for the competent Intarsia crafter. Looks like a fine program for all of us.

We will also begin organizing our teams and selecting their projects to make for the raffle at the Showcase in March.



Our regular monthly meetings are the second Wednesday of each month and begin at 7:00 P.M. at Mayfield High School woodshop. Our next regular meeting will be January 12th, 2011. Come on out!

Remember we have door prizes and light refreshments are served.

For Directions or information contact:

Clyde Cheney – 661-5138 Ray Laubenstein – 863-6071

Gary Spencer – 863-6433

SHOWCASE 2011 - 20 Years and Counting

Continued from page 4

is those entries that make it unique. The other shows can't compete because they don't have the over 800 members to provide the exhibits of real woodworking.

Woodworkers Showcase is growing, it is changing, and it is getting bigger and better. Make plans to volunteer to help with the show. We have volunteer tasks for every experience level and every energy level. We need everyone from those with strong backs, those who can hang drapes, those who can take tickets, those who can be a floor host, to those who can set and spin tops for children. Come, be part of a unique woodworking experience next March. Volunteer and attend as a visitor. Make it a family affair at NWA's Woodworkers Showcase 2011 on March 26 and 27.

EXHIBIT ENTRY FORM

NWA SHOWCASE MARCH 26 – 27, 2011

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

ADDRESS: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

EMAIL: _____

Check here if you would like this information to be available for inquiries 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 21st
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 25th. No exhibit items accepted after 7:00PM.*

<i>ENTRY CATEGORY AND DESCRIPTION</i> <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>	<i>DISPLAY or JUDGING (only one per category)</i>	<i>AMATEUR or PRO</i>
#1		
#2		
#3		
#4		
#5		
#6		

Additional notes:

WHAT: NWA SHOWCASE 2011 (www.nwawoodworkingshow.org)

WHERE; Saratoga Springs City Center & The Saratoga Hilton

WHEN: Saturday and Sunday, March 26 - 27, 2011, 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 21st to be eligible for judging. 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 25th. 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: 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 (new)

* 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 Chair (518) 817-0660, bmwbikes2@yahoo.com

KWA News

By Wally Cook

Tools, Tools, Tools: Steve Sherman presented a DVD which describes the use of the hollowing and detailing tools which he has developed: The Nano Revolution Hollowing System. The DVD is in the final stages of editing, so the viewing was meant to encourage feedback and to share its progress.

The Nano tools are a set of interchangeable tools in a locking handle intended for detailed work in finials, small hollow forms, goblets, and ornaments – any art form 3-4" deep. The cutting tools are mounted in a common handle. The handle is non-slip rubber and allows the tools to be locked in adjustable lengths. The inserts feature high speed cobalt and carbide cutters. Tools currently available include:

- 1/8" straight borer
- 1/8" hooked hollower
- 3/8" round carbide cutter
- oval finishing scraper
- double ended bedan and 1/4" round scraper
- 1/32", 1/16", and 1/8" cobalt bead-ers
- dual cutoff and chatter tool



Steve Sherman covered the DVD for his new tools system

See a video on YouTube --
<http://www.youtube.com/> and search for Nano Woodturning.

Matt Clarke brought hand made decorating tools designed for surface texturing. The tools integrate cutting bits and burrs that fit into a ball bearing shaft. The bearing race allows the burr to freely spin while addressing the wood. Matt will demonstrate the use of the decorating tool at the February meeting.



Matt Clarke's decorating tool



Bill Thiry's segmented ornament



John Franklin's salt and peppermills

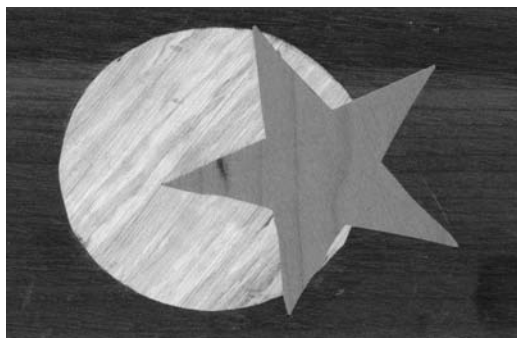
NWA Woodworking Classes

Marquetry at Mustang Drive

by Vince Sgroi

On two chilly Saturdays in December, 8 eager NWA members trekked to the Mustang Drive shop for a class on Beginning Marquetry. Instructor Clark Pell began the class with a Powerpoint presentation, showing slides of his shop and samples of his award winning work. Much of his work depicted fish, birds, animals and rustic scenes of boats on mountain lakes – Clark is a retired wildlife biologist. Many pieces were simply framed, while other pieces were incorporated into boxes and larger projects. But all showed a remarkable technical skill and artistry.

Then Clark, with a simple diagram, explained the basic ideas behind his double bevel marquetry. Decide on an image and break it up into lots of small sections. For each of



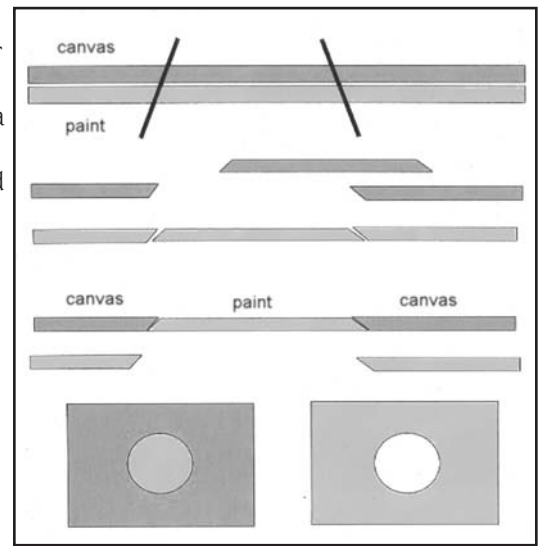
these sections, follow this sequence of steps. Take two pieces of very thin ($\frac{1}{24}$ ") contrasting wood. One will be the background (the "canvass") and the other will fill the section (the "paint"). Next orient the grain to your liking, then tape the pieces together. Tape or draw a pattern for a piece of your work (such as a bird's wing) on them. Then poke a tiny hole in the pattern with an Xacto knife, and insert a very tiny scroll saw blade in that hole, tilting the blade to 13 degrees. Now you move to a scroll saw, and (for right-handers) the table is tilted exactly 13 degrees to the right. Mount and tension the blade. Then begin cutting in a clockwise direction (rotate the wood counter-clockwise) and cut out your piece. You'll find, amazingly, that the bottom piece will fit exactly into the top "canvass" piece. Clark's diagram is shown.

Clark explained that he had worked out these details over many years of trial and error. Wood thinner than $\frac{1}{24}$ " would break, thicker wood would require a larger and more troublesome angle of cut. The 13 degree angle of cut worked exactly with the $\frac{1}{24}$ " thickness to produce a very tight fit.

He gets his wood from many sources (some purchased from sites like Constantine's), and resaws the wood, working it to final thickness with a drum sander. He passed around many samples of wood from walnut to ebony to sycamore and poplar, each with a distinctive color, grain pattern and hardness. Some of the wood, such as the sycamore, was dyed to create a blue or green piece.

Now it was time for the students to work on a basic cut.

Clark passed out two pieces of contrasting wood and a small circular pattern and a tiny scroll saw blade to each student. We



then followed his instructions, taping the wood and pattern, poking a small hole and inserting the scroll saw blade in the hole. We then moved to the scroll saws, tilted the tables and attempted to mount the blades. This was the tricky part, since the blades are jeweler's blades and are very thin and easily snapped. Several of us did manage to break at least one blade – but Clark buys them by the gross and he had lots available!

The actually cutting is supposed to go very slowly and carefully, again being conscious of the fragility of the blade. The pieces were cut, the blade was taken out, and now the true test – would the cutout fit into the background piece? After only one or two tries, the answer was yes. The pieces fit together very well, with no daylight in between – except maybe where we had cut the initial hole too big. We had created a piece of marquetry looking somewhat like a moon against a sky.

Clark then gave us a star pattern, and asked us to cut the star so that it overlapped our moon and background. See the photo of the result. Our second project was to create a falling leaf pattern, using four different inlays. A photo of one such completed project is enclosed. As you can see, after 6 hours of Clark's instruction we had produced some real marquetry.



The NWA Woodcarvers are a reality as of December 8th 2010

By Ray Gannon

Our Purpose; "The NWAWC purpose is to promote the Art of Woodcarving"

George Rutledge Has accepted the 1st Presidency NWA Woodcarvers position. Thank you George. George is a professional Woodworker. Ray Gannon, I accept this position as NWAWC Program event organizer. More positions are available and we expect & need every member carver to assist in anyway they can to make the NWAWC SIG healthy. We're asking for all NWA members that are interested to let us know. We're a small group.

The NWA Woodcarvers will continue to meet each Wednesday evening at 6PM. Location, New NWA Learning Ctr. Please contact us for directions if you're not familiar with the area. (This location couldn't be any easier and convenient for all of us.) Our first meeting was addressed by Ray Gannon; we discussed the many facets associated with carving. We addressed one another's ideas and individual expectations.

The following task discussions are what to expect from the NWAWC.

How to start carving in the Relief and Faces.

The Dec. 15th meeting will be on How to construct a bench hook from your shorts. This kind of how to do it session will be a major meeting topic at all meetings. This is a never ending subject.

How, what & why methods on your project or actual carving will be some of the questions answered during our meetings. If none of us know I'll research the issue and use it for the next meeting topic. Your questions will be our subjects. We will work on the current needs of each carver.

Carvers are encouraged to bring their current or past projects. Upticks are free. Criticism is not allowed. Carving with-in a group will require a couple of items that are not the norm as if you were carving in your own shop. A bench hook with a clamp will be most helpful for you to hold your carvings at NWA's New Learning Ctr.

Thursday evening sessions are under consideration and we need more carvers' in-order to adopt a second weekly meeting day

Are you a carver or a want to be carver, an NWA member or you desire to expand on your turnings or furniture woodworking base? The new NWA Carvers SIG can be just what you dreamed of.

All you need to do is tell us what your needs are!

Please contact George Rutledge and Ray Gannon. Via E-mail please.

George Rutledge, gnarus@verizon.net

Ray Gannon, LoRayG@Gmail.com.

Silky Smooth Drawers

Instructor: Garrett Hack

Dates: Friday though Sunday, January 15-16-17

Location: Mustang Drive Shop

Time: All day, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Cost: \$170

Every bit of cabinet work, be it for a kitchen, a Chippendale reproduction or a masterpiece of your own design requires drawers. It is the drawers, their stability, their movement, their wear that are the hallmark of quality in woodwork-

ing.
Drawers are no more complicated than sliding boxes, in a nearly unlimited variety of sizes, shapes, and ways they are built. In this class

we'll explore the best ways to construct and support those boxes within a case, drawer joinery using two types of dovetails, solid wood bottoms, the thickness of the various parts, tips for adjusting drawers for a smooth gliding fit while accounting for seasonal wood movement, and a few decorative touches such as cock-beads and pulls. We can even shape a few drawer faces into a bowed curve for some added challenges.

During the class each of student will construct a drawer fit to a simple "box" made beforehand. We'll start by fitting the drawer face to the box, and then cut the joints by hand and machine: a locking rabbet for the face and sliding dovetail for the rear. A sliding dovetail is an extremely useful joint for a lot besides drawer construction. From there you will cut and fit the bottom to a groove, glueup, do a final cleanup and fit of your drawer, and finally add a decorative touch or two. The ideas presented will improve every drawer you go on to build.

There are a number of things that the student will need to do beforehand.

- build the case (sleeve)
- prepare the stock to be used for the drawer
- a list of tools will be provided

To register for this class or for more information send an e-mail to, hfinkbei@nycap.rr.com or call 518-371-9145



Combining the Half-Dovetail Dado and Rabbet and Dado Joint for Joining Shelves or Frames to Case Sides

By Dale M Brown

Past Experience with the Full-Dovetail dado Joint

I have made many cabinets in which the case sides were composed of boards about 2 inches wide and edge glued together to form a wide solid wood panel. The shelves or drawer frames were fastened to the inside of the sides using a full dovetail joint. The female dovetail slots were cut from edge to edge in the sides using a router. The dovetail pins were made on the router table by holding the shelves or frames perpendicular to the table and first drawing one side and then the opposite side past the bit. The advantage is that this sliding dovetail joint allows for wood movement of the solid wood sides and holds the sides perfectly flat. The disadvantage is that it takes force fitting and repeated trial and error trimming of the long dovetail pin to accomplish a good edge fit.

Garret Hack teaches us about the tapered sliding dovetail in which the slot is tapered. However, forming the pins to fit sounds just as tedious as for the full dovetail joint described above. Garret writes, "trial and error is the only way to fit the pin cut for a perfect sliding fit....Using a side rabbeting plane to taper the pins or a paring chisel". (*Fine Woodworking* Nov/Dec 2006 p.44)

A Different Method – The Half Dovetail Dado and Rabbet and Dado Joint Combination

Using figured cherry veneer on a solid core plywood for sides and $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick cherry plywood for shelves allows for a different approach since they are very flat and stable. Recent interactions with fellow members of the Society of American Period Furniture Makers made me aware of this different approach. This being to use the half dovetail dado joint one to two inches long at the front and use a long rabbet and dado joint for the remaining length to the back edge. How to do this is described below.

Case Sides:

Cut $\frac{1}{2}$ inch wide grooves $\frac{5}{16}$ inch deep from the edge to edge using a dado blade in the table saw. The top edges of these dados will locate the top edges of the shelves.

Using a 14 degree dovetail router bit, remove a small amount ($\sim \frac{1}{8}$ inch) of material from the bottom inside edge of the dado and cut 2 inches back from the front edge. The bottom of the dado at this location is now about $\frac{5}{8}$ inch wide with the top only slightly wider than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch.

Shelf End Bottom Edges:

Using the router table, hold each shelf on end with its side against the fence and pass the bottom end edge over a straight bit so as to form a rabbet $\frac{5}{16}$ inch wide and $\frac{1}{4}$ inch deep along the bottom edge of the shelf stopping about 2 inches short of the front edge thereby forming the male part of a rabbet and dado joint. Do this for all the shelves.

Now using the dovetail bit set for $\frac{5}{16}$ inch deep trimming cut, and the shelf on end with its side against the fence carefully remove material from the bottom front 2 inch wide edge until it fits tightly into the half dovetail cut in the front edge of the side thereby forming the male part of the half dovetail dado joint. Do this for all shelves.

All shelves are easily fastened to the side and a little glue in the slots binds the entire assembly together.

Gold Leafing Class with Giles Gilson

By Herm Finkbeiner

Date: Saturday, February 12
Time: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Where: NWA shop at Mustang Drive
Instructor: Giles Gilson
Cost: \$35

This is a lecture and demonstration class.

Giles Gilson, one of the areas best known artists in wood, (<http://www.gilesgilson.com/>) will demonstrate the application of 23 k gold leaf, imitation gold leaf, copper leaf, and silver leaf to a variety of surfaces. He will show the types of leaf, surface preparation of the substrate, sizing methods, handling and application of the leaf, burnishing, and top-coating. Chemical tarnishing techniques on the applied leafs will also be discussed and demonstrated.

This is a stand-alone class where you will learn how the process is carried out and the effects that can be obtained.

However it is also a primer for the hands-on class that will take place on Saturday, Feb. 26. Most students will benefit a great deal from watching Giles demonstrate in this class before tackling the process themselves on the 26th.

Lunch is on your own. There is a Domino's Pizza less than 2 miles away and they deliver to the shop. There is a refrigerator in the shop if you prefer to brown bag it. Lunch will be from 12 Noon to 1:00PM.

This class would make a very nice GIFT to someone special for the Holiday Season.

To register send an e-mail to hfinkbei@nycap.rr.com or call 518-371-9145

Safety First...and Foremost... An Introduction to Woodworking Machines

by *Beth Rowland*

The last couple of Wednesdays have been a pretty neat journey...taking Introduction to Woodworking with Charlie Goddard at the new shop at Mustang Drive.

Besides being clean, well lit, quiet and well organized / well equipped, it's spacious....really spacious! The shop now has the advantage of being able to have most equipment set up and ready to switch on. What a treat!

Granted, building a wooden tool tote might not be the most adventure-some evening for most people, but it is affording me the opportunity to be up close and personal with some of the heavy duty bench equipment that I don't own (yet!).

Charlie, ever the patient soul, is well versed in the use of the equipment. His conversation flows effortlessly from scratching out diagrams on the flip chart, to the bench for some layout work, to the band saw, to the jointer, onto the table saw and then onto the planer. Safety leads the discussion, followed by the abilities (and limitations) of the equipment, jigs and work holders, and finally...we get to cut, joint, plane our wood. The class was structured to be a small group, where individual attention, and questions and answers are possible. This has been an excellent INTRO course!



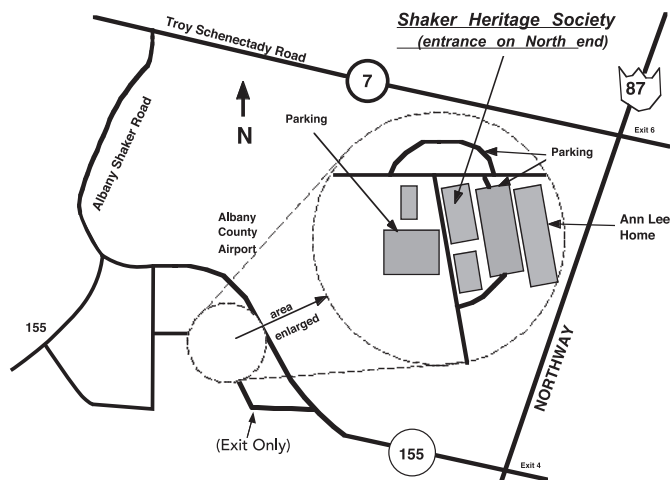
The New Shop at Mustang Drive

We've talked a lot about
it in the last
couple of newsletters.
Now, for those of you
who have not had
a chance to visit yet,
a map to help you
find your way.





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



January Meeting

Thursday, January 13, 2011, 7:00 pm
Shaker Heritage Society Meeting House
Albany-Shaker Road, Albany

GENERAL MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

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

NWA 2011 General Meetings

February 10, 2011
Feb 2011, Fiske Fund Recipients
at NWA Learning Center
Tom Osborne

March 2011
Frank Lloyd Wright Structure Design
Kyle York / John Olinic

April 2011
Woodies – Wooden Cars
Presenter's Name Needed
Steve Schoenberg

May 2011
Mid-Hudson Turners
Peter Ghast / Tony Barrara

July 2011
Picnic
Dan Tipton / new VP

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)

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

Scroller's Guild - Meets on the third Wednesday of the month at The New Sop on Mustang Drive, Latham. A beginner's session starts at 6:30 PM followed by a general meeting at 7:00 PM. Contact: Jeanne Aldous at AMJAMtat2 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. Contact Matt Clark, (845) 454-9387.

Jim's "Hole in the Woods Gang"

Meets every Saturday and Tuesday, from 9:00 am until noon at Jim Kennedy's shop at 86 Guideboard Rd. in Halfmoon (just 1 mile east of the Halfmoon Diner on Rt. 9). Our general purpose is public service work for various charitable organizations, including the Double H Hole in the Woods camp for children and recently the GE Elfuns toy mods group. We strive to foster a learning environment for our members through the projects we work on and the informal training/learning sessions given by and for our members. Sharing fellowship and relating experiences are a major part of our sessions. Contact Pete Howe (518) 885-9331 (phowe1@nycap.rr.com), Ed Buell (518) 384-0413 (KC2NMY-eab@nycap.rr.com) or Dick Flanders (518) 393-5215 (rflander@nycap.rr.com) for more information.

CHAPTERS

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

NWA Sacandaga - The chapter meets at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month at Mayfield High School in the woodworking shop. Park by the section of the building that protrudes further into the parking lot and enter the nearest of the (5) doors. Contact Gary Spencer, 863-6433.