

WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern
Woodworkers
Association

July 2003, Vol. 12, Number 4

Picnic Time Again!!!

Sunday, July 20th

Noon to 5 P.M.

Jonesville Fire Station No. 1

Main Street, Jonesville (Clifton Park)

Now that summer has finally arrived, it's time to get together for the annual NWA picnic. Come and enjoy a day of great food (especially the homemade desserts), lawn games (horse-shoes, croquet and bocce), woodworking demonstrations, and, best of all, talking to other members about woodworking. All of this happens on Sunday, July 20th.

The main attraction will be a demonstration of the Peterson portable sawmill, a unique saw manufactured in New Zealand. The saw uses a circular blade and was conceived and developed by Carl Peterson in 1977 while he was living deep in the jungles of the Fiji Islands. The design answered all the problems he encountered there such as inaccessibility, extra large logs, lack of logging machinery, lack of capital and inexperienced manpower. The first fully functioning prototype was shown in 1988 and the New Zealand business officially began in 1989 when the first sawmill was sold. (It is still operating in Gizborne, N.Z.) Peterson's prize-winning company employs 18 fulltime employees. The sawmill that will demonstrate at the picnic comes to us from their dealer in Vermont.

Another feature this year will be a silent auction of items made by members, as well as tools, wood, gadgets, etc. donated by members. Proceeds will go to the Fiske Fund. Please bring your donations to the silent auction table that will be set up in the pavilion.

NWA carvers and turners will also be on hand to demonstrate their skills and show how it's done.

The traditional picnic fare of hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken, sausage and peppers, salads, iced tea and soda will be catered by

NWA member John MacDonald and served at 2:00 P.M. Topping off the meal will be the homemade desserts prepared by the "pastry chef" from your family. The cost for this great day is only \$5 per person; children five and under are free.

So mark your calendar, prepare your favorite dessert, pack up your lawn chairs and silent auction items and join us on July 20th for a day of fun and relaxation. MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW! Call Pat McCord at (518) 439-1232 or email her at PTMCCORD@MYBIZZ.NET. Also please let Pat know if you can help with setup, cleanup, ticket sales or the silent auction. 🐾

Amendment to Certificate of Incorporation

- Dale Swan

After much coaxing of members to return the mailed ballot, we finally have received the necessary approval from two-thirds of the membership. Those who voted did so overwhelmingly 482 to 2 in favor of the proposed modifications. This allows us to file the amended Certificate of Incorporation with the State of New York. Thanks to all who voted.

Having amended the Certificate of Incorporation and updated our Bylaws, we may now proceed with the application to the IRS to be classified as a 501(c)3 organization. The benefits to NWA to becoming a 501(c)3 organization are: (1) There would be no limit to tax exempt donations to the Fiske Fund, (2) Tax-exempt donations may be made to NWA in general, and (3) Most likely, the State will exempt NWA from having to pay sales tax.

We have been advised that the 501(c)3 application process is likely to be lengthy and approval is not a certainty. 🐾

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From the President

- *Wayne Distin*

As another new year gets underway, Program Chair Pat McCord and her committee have already assembled an interesting array of programs for the ensuing year. (See the 2003-04 calendar on the mailing page of this newsletter.) The Association continues to grow and the future of our organization will continue to improve with the infusion of new ideas, revived programs and exploration of new areas of interest. If you are interested in seeing us grow into the future, volunteer to help with meetings and tours, chair an education program, bring projects to display or discuss at Show and Tell during regular meetings, submit exhibit items at SHOWCASE 2004, attend the summer picnic and family night, attend the meetings, take a class, read the newsletter..... Well, you get the idea. Participate!

After many dedicated years of serving as the Hospitality Chairs, Jim and Vi Mearkle have retired. Thanks to both for a job well done. The Hospitality Committee assembles and serves refreshments at the general meetings. I am seeking a volunteer(s) to coordinate this vital activity. Interested? Call me or any Board member.

If you have not visited the Association's revised website recently, log on to see the new layout our webmaster Justin has set up. Stay up to date with changes to the program schedule, new classes, and the latest news at www.woodworker.org. 🐾

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING REVIEW

- *Wayne Distin*

April 24, 2003 NWA Board Meeting

Charlie Goddard reported receiving various notices from organizations and business. We have received a hot glue gun kit from Franklin International that will go into the tool crib.

In Ken Evans' absence, Charlie Goddard reported for him the need to review our policies on subsidizing classes. Item tabled for a future meeting.

Austin Spang reported that 37 new members signed up at Showcase and 22 more since. There were 22 renewals. There are 733 individual members and 159 family members for a total of 872.

Chuck Walker, Mid-Hudson representative, reported three new members. A recent recognition banquet had 88 attending at which George Norton was the honoree. George has open shop every Wednesday morning where ideas are exchanged and coffee dispensed. In August, members will have a display at the Dutchess County Fair.

Dale Swann reported that 722 ballots were mailed to NWA member addresses regarding the changes to the Certificate of Incorporation. Charlie Goddard said 390 have been received so far. We would need 482 yes votes to have the two-thirds majority approval required.

Herm Finkbeiner reported 52 people are going on the bus trip to the Philadelphia Furniture Show.

Ron DeWitt reported on the retirement of the Publication/Editor Fran Finkbeiner after the September issue. He asked for suggestions regarding filling the position. He would prefer a member volunteer with publication skills and knowledge of the organization, but thinks we may have to have a paid professional. All agreed that the newsletter is the glue that holds the organization together.

Board meetings are open meetings. Any members interested in attending are cordially invited. Meetings are held at Curtis Lumber Company on Rt. 67 beginning at 7:00 PM. Contact Charlie Goddard for the next meeting date. 🐾

All of us could take a lesson from the weather.

It pays no attention to criticism.

Fiske Fund Awards: 10 Grants

- *Charlie Goddard*

The Fiske Fund Committee received a record number of applications for the period ending April 30, 2003. Ten applications were reviewed and the Committee has determined that all should be funded. The Awardees and courses they will attend are:

Karl Avenarius	Fundamentals of Wood-and-Canvas Canoes Wooden Boat School, Brooklin, Maine
Mike Basile	Introduction to Furniture Making Arts Center of the Capital Region, Troy, New York
Herbert Cook	Exquisite Surfaces and Details With Garrett Hack Center for Furniture Craftmanship, Rockport, Maine
George Covell	Intermediate Furniture Making With William LaBerge Dorset, Vermont
Lou DeMola	Bowls to Hollow Forms Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts, Gatlinburg, Tennessee
Chris Knite	Boule Technique of French Marquetry American School of French Marquetry San Diego, California
Julie Rodriguez	Introduction to Furniture Making Arts Center of the Capital Region, Troy, New York
Mark Turpin	Handcrafted Paddles Wooden Boat School, Brooklin, Maine
Barbara Turpin	Handcrafted Paddles Wooden Boat School, Brooklin, Maine
Larry Zinn	Build a Hall Table Dana Robes Wood Craftsmen, Enfield, New Hampshire

The next application period ends September 30, 2003. As is apparent from the above list, many different courses are available. Ralph Lichtenstein maintains a collection of course literature, (413) 698-3123, RCVino@aol.com. Let me know if you would like an application, or more information about the Fiske Fund, (518) 370-0388, cgodd@aol.com. 🐾

FROM THE PAST PRESIDENT

- *Jay Van Vranken*

I would like to thank everyone that helped me during my term of office. I enjoyed it very much. Everyone on the NWA Board - and even some people who are not part of the NWA Board - were the inspirations that made my job so gratifying. It is also through these people that NWA will continue to grow. We have one great organization, from the Mid-Hudson to Albany to the Sacandaga region. Whoever is a member should be proud to be part of it.

I started my term with a joke, so here is one last one. A woman walked into the kitchen to find her husband stalking around with a fly swatter. "What are you doing?" she asked. "Hunting flies," he responded. "Oh. Killing any?" she asked. "Yep, three males, two females," he replied. Intrigued, she asked, "How can you tell?" He responded, "Three were on a beer can, two were on the phone."

Bye! *Jay Van Vranken* 🐾

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 nine times annually, six regular editions and three special editions (SHOWCASE, Shop Tour, and Family Night). The publication is assembled in QuarkXPress 4.0 on a Macintosh G4, duplicated by Shipmates, and mailed to more than 700 addresses.



Your next issue of **Woodworkers News** will be published in early September.

Copy deadline: August 15
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NWA maintains two websites, the first noted here operates continuously. We also offer selected links to other sites of interest to our membership.
Webmaster - Justin Rohrer
rohrej@nycap.rr.com

The second site operates from January 1 to May 30 and carries specific information about SHOWCASE.
Webmaster - Rich Pagano
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**NORTHEASTERN
WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION**
P.O. BOX 246
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Bus Trip Upcoming: Harden Furniture Factory

- *Herm Finkbeiner*

Thursday, September 25, 2003

In 1997 NWA members toured the Harden Furniture factory in McConnellsville, NY. The trip was so interesting and enjoyable that we have arranged to repeat the visit on Thursday, September 25, 2003. The probable starting time will be about 7 a.m.

The Harden factory makes a wide variety of furniture with many hand operations and a number of unique machines. On our 1997 trip, we were able to follow furniture making from the harvested trees in the log storage yard, through the debarking and sawing process, measuring, assembling, adding decorative touches (turnings, carvings, etc. done while you watch), and on to upholstered, finished pieces. The management allowed us to get close to the working operators and encouraged our questions to the operators about their work. (Harden uses their own scraps and sawdust to heat the plant and the furnace area is part of the tour.)

While many details have to be worked out, the plan is to have lunch somewhere nearby and then visit the factory. In 1997 the overall cost of lunch and the bus was \$32.50 and the cost for this trip should be about the same.

If you are interested in saving a space on the bus send me an e-mail hfinkbei@nycap.rr.com or call 371-9145. For more information about Harden see their web site: <http://www.harden.com/> 🐾

Berkshire Woodworkers Guild 4th Annual Show

The Berkshire Woodworkers Guild is a group of about 40 professional woodworkers who live and work in the Berkshires. Their 4th Annual Show will be held at the Berkshire Botanical Garden in Stockbridge MA, July 26 and 27, from 10 Am to 5 PM each day. Further information can be found at www.berkshire-woodworkers.org. 🐾

The Furniture Society: Call for Entries

The Furniture Society is soliciting entries for a juried exhibition, "Curv-iture", which will open June 10, 2004 at the Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, Georgia. If you bend, carve, laminate, twist, roll, slump, spin or melt, as part of making furniture, you may want to consider entering your work.

Entry deadline is January 15, 2004. For further information go to www.furnituresociety.org/exhibit/curves/curves.html. 🐾

Scenectady Arts District Being Created

There is a new arts district in downtown Schenectady that is being built created as a partner to the expansion of Proctors Theatre. Butch Conn, coordinator of the arts district is working to create a census of creative people as a basis for expanding the sale of work and making places for workshops and studios where the work will be constructed.

Those who are interested in this project and willing to share their ideas for what the district should be, contact Mr. Conn at 518-382-3884ext 40 or at bconn@proctors.org. 🐾

Annual Lumber and Tool Auction

- *Charlie Goddard*

September 20, 2003

Mark your calendar, the next lumber and tool auction will be held Saturday, September 20 at the Shaker Heritage Society barn near the Albany Airport. Doors will open for inspection at noon and the auction will start at 1 PM. Bob Williams will be our auctioneer again this year.

To date, we have obtained some very nice oak, some basswood a 10-inch DeWalt table saw, a Jet dust collector, a dovetail jig, miter boxes, various small hand tools and a tool chest. A more complete list will be printed on the September newsletter.

We can use more items. If you have lumber or tools that you would like to donate, please give me a call (370-0388) or send an email (cgodd@aol.com). Remember that all donations are fully tax deductible because the money goes to the Fiske Fund. If you do not want to donate the full value of your items we can sell them and split the proceeds of the sale. This is the primary funding source for the grants that are available from the Fund. Last year's auction raised over \$9,000 for the Fiske Fund.

Prior to the auction, help is needed to transport lumber and to set out items in the barn. During the auction, help is needed to keep records, move auction items, direct traffic, etc. Please let me know if you are willing to help out. It's work, but you will have a good time.

Though it is a year off, the auction in 2004 should prove to be very interesting. Stored in the barn is a large black walnut tree. It had been growing in Albany but the owner wanted it removed. After the tree was dropped, Ron DeWitt brought in his portable mill and turned it into more than 1,000 board-feet of spectacular walnut boards. It will need to air dry for a year before offering it for sale.

Will We Cut Oaks Down???

The following item appeared in the April 2003 issue of "Southern Lumberman." Ron DeWitt

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is spending \$717,000 to establish monitors to determine whether oak trees in the Ozark Mountains are contributing to high levels of formaldehyde in the air over St. Louis. The question is, if trees are producing pollution, will someone decide to remove them???

SUBSIDIZED CLASSES FOR 2003-04

- Ken Evans

Through the NWA subsidized classes program, NWA members can take certain classes and one-half of the tuition will be paid by NWA. The subsidized classes are listed below.

If you are an NWA member and wish to take one of these classes, contact Ken Evans at 518-753-7759 to make sure there is an opening. All classes have size limitations. If there is an opening, you will be instructed to send a check (made out to NWA) to Ken Evans, 2062 NY 67, Valley Falls, NY 12185 for \$75 plus any materials fee. Once enrolled, there is no refund of tuition or materials fee unless NWA cancels the class due to low enrollment.

Everything You Wanted to Know About Hand-Joinery

Instructor Leonard Bellanca

Six Saturday classes, 6 students maximum

Saturday, September 13 to October 25

Tuition: \$150 plus a materials fee of \$25

The classes will be at Leonard's Shop in Saratoga Springs

After acceptance, registrants are encouraged to contact

Leonard at 518-583-2032 for directions and instructions.

Making a Shaker Table with Hand Tools

Instructor Alden Witham

A two-day weekend class, 6 students maximum

November 1 and 2, 2003 (Saturday and Sunday, 8:00AM to 5:00PM)

Students should bring a lunch both days.

Tuition: \$150 plus a \$25 materials fee

The class will be held in Alden's shop in Sharon Springs, NY

After acceptance, registrants are encouraged to contact

Alden at 518-284-2040 for directions and instructions.

Introductory Furniture Making and Traditional Hand-Tool Joinery

Instructor Peter Leue

Six classes, 6 students maximum

Classes meet Wednesdays (September 24 to October 29)

6:30pm to 9:00pm

Tuition \$150 plus a \$25 materials fee

The class will meet at Peter's shop in Albany.

After acceptance, registrants are encouraged to contact

Peter at 518-465-6620 for directions and instructions.

Intermediate Furniture Making

Instructor Peter Leue

Six classes, 6 students maximum.

Classes meet Wednesdays (November 12 to December 17)

6:30pm to 9:00pm

Tuition \$150 plus a \$25 materials fee

The class will meet at Peter's shop in Albany.

After acceptance, registrants are encouraged to contact

Peter at 518-465-6620 for directions and instructions.



Woodlands Gathering

July 14-16, 2003

There will be a Gathering of woodworkers, basket makers, weavers, potters, gardeners, herbalists, artists, craftspeople, teachers, and naturalists at the Catskill Mountain Foundation in Hunter, NY. The cost for the 3-day event is \$225. For a single day the fee is \$85. For more information go to www.woodlanders.com or write to Catskill Mountain Foundation, PO Box 924, Hunter NY 12442.

Prior to the Gathering, on July 12 and 13 on the same site, Gathering instructors will be exhibiting and selling their work. More information can be found at www.catskillmtn.org. 🐾

News From the Turners

- Ken Evans

The NWA turner's SIG, the Adirondack Woodturners Association, will be active throughout the summer months. Meetings are every first Wednesday of the month (except in July when it is the second Wednesday), Saturday "Learn and Turn" sessions are scheduled, and we are actively working to plan the "Totally Turning" Woodworking Symposium to be held October 25 and 26 at Sage College in Albany. (See page 10.) Everyone is welcome at our meetings which begin with a beginner's session at 6:00 pm; the main program begins at 6:30pm. We meet at Curtis Lumber, Route 67, Ballston Spa. Check out our website and the Turning Symposium at www.woodturners.org or click the link from the NWA site www.woodworker.org. 🐾

There is a theory that states
that if anyone ever discovers exactly
what the Universe is and why it exists,
that it will instantly disappear
and be replaced by something even more
bizarre and inexplicable.
There is another theory which states
that this has already happened.

Wood of the Month

- Ron DeWitt

Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*).

A Hardwood

Cornaceae. Dogwood Family

There are about 11 species of dogwood in the U.S. that are trees or shrubs sometimes becoming trees; the worldwide total of about 40 includes several that are classified as herbs.

The flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*) is a pretty little tree of minor commercial importance today, but that was always not the case. Flowering dogwood, perhaps this country's most popular ornamental tree, is known to most people simply as dogwood but it goes by a variety of names: cornel, white cornel, boxwood, false boxwood, dog tree, bitter redberry, green osier or arrowwood.

Flowering dogwood ranges from just into southern Maine, west across New York and central Michigan and south from central Florida into Texas.

This tree is an understory tree that grows in a wide variety of soil conditions with a large number of forest associates. It does well in deep, moist, streamside soils or the lighter well-drained uplands. Its extensive root system is relatively shallow which rules out survival on dry sites. It does as well as a "subordinate" to the softwoods as to the hardwoods. Dogwood does not grow in pure stands.

On good sites it grows to 40 feet with diameters of 8-16 inches and may live 125 years. A record tree was reported at 55 feet with a diameter of 19 inches. New York's big tree, on state land in Lewis County, is 44 feet with a stem diameter of 16 inches.

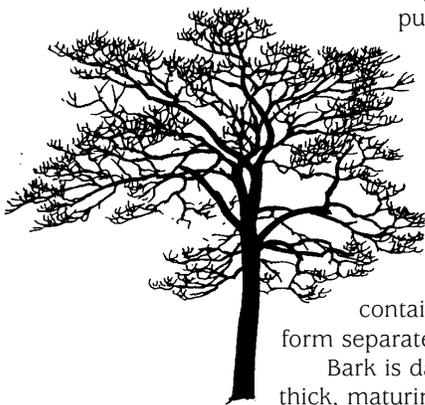
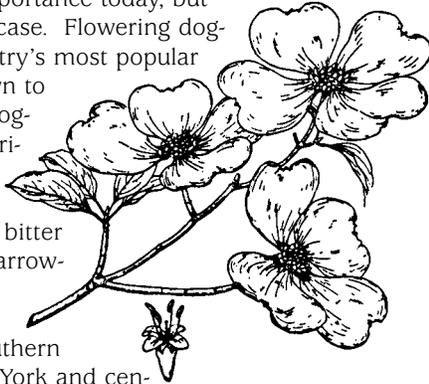
The tree tends to develop a bushy, broad, flat crown. The three inch to five inch opposite leaves are heavily veined, slightly elliptical and pointed at their ends with the overall appearance of being a little "baggy." Leaf top surfaces are bright green and hairy giving them a coarse feel. The leaves turn rich red in autumn. Twigs are usually green to dark purple. Flowers, an outstanding

feature of this tree, are small, inconspicuous and clustered; each greenish-white flower having four large white or occasionally pink bracts

(which are not true petals). The red berry-like fruits are drupes, usually an elongated quarter-inch diameter stone containing one or two seeds that form separately in terminal clusters.

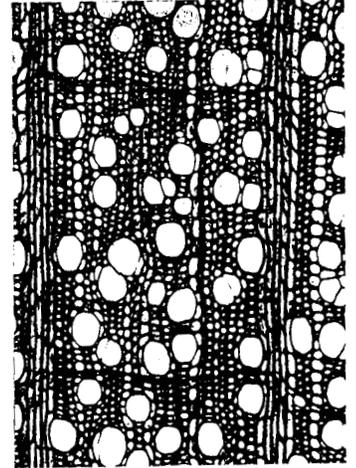
Bark is dark red-brown, a quarter-inch thick, maturing from smooth to checkered in an alligator-hide-like pattern.

Sapwood of flowering dogwood is creamy-white to pinkish and quite wide compared to the narrow, dark brown and fre-



quently variegated heartwood that is often not present. The wood is diffuse-porous with small pores, solitary or in radial groups of two or three and not visible without a hand lens. Growth rings are typically 24 to the inch, distinct but not sharply defined. Rays are of two widths; one is broad, three to eight seriate and visible to the naked eye although not well defined. The second is narrow and barely distinct with a hand lens. The wood is without characteristic taste or odor and is sometimes confused with sugar maple.

Wood texture is fine and uniform; grain is interlocked and very fine. The wood is very heavy - specific gravity of 0.73 and weighing about 51 pounds per cubic foot at 12 percent moisture content, similar to hickory. Wood is very hard, strong in bending and very strong in shock and wear resistance. Because so much of the wood is sapwood, it is not durable when exposed to weather or soil conditions.



***CORNUS florida* cross section**

Transverse or cross-section of flowering dogwood at 75X showing pore distribution and two growth ring boundaries. (From "Textbook of Wood Technology" by Panshin et al.

(Continued on Page 9)

Adirondack Chairs in Just Three Weeks, a Workshop

**The Arts Center of the Capital Region
265 River Street, Troy
6:30-9:30 pm, Wednesday, August 6-20**

Both novice and experienced woodworkers will have the opportunity to create their own classic Adirondack chairs in just three weeks this summer in a new class slated for August at The Arts Center of the Capital Region, 265 River St. in Troy.

Led by veteran woodworker and teacher George Rutledge, a long-time instructor at The Arts Center (and NWA member), each student will complete the project in the course of three three-hour sessions. The class will be held from 6:30-9:30 p.m. on Wednesday from Aug. 6-20. Students will learn how to make chairs from cedar, a naturally decay-resistant wood that can be finished or left to weather to a beautiful silver gray color. Through the process, they also will learn how to construct a piece of furniture with accuracy and precision utilizing a pattern, jigsaw, and simple joinery, sanding and finishing techniques.

Tuition is \$114 for members of The Arts Center or \$135 for others. There is a studio/materials fee of \$65.

For additional information, or to register, please call (518) 273-0552. 🐾

IN-SHOP TUTOR PROGRAM: Hands-on Classes

- Herm Finkbeiner

NWA has only two objectives - to have fun and to learn a bit more about woodworking - and probably in that order!

We keep searching for better ways to do both and something that is very promising is what former NWA President Chuck Newland called "In-Shop Tutors, Up Close and Personal." The idea is that an NWA member would host three to five members in her/his shop for a demonstration or a hands-on topic.

A number of classes have been held this Spring. Charlie Goddard has entertained two groups of jewelry box makers, one evening group and one daytime group. Each member went home with a jewelry box after two classes (although I understand that one well-known woodworker had to return to get help with putting the hinges on straight). Ken Evans has also had two groups at his shop - one group made those "little round things" called a bowls, and the other learned how to sharpen the tools needed. In my own shop there are four woodworkers, each making a "classic" workbench. We meet on Tuesday morning, and after five sessions, the core of the top, the legs and stringers and the bench endcaps are in various stages of completion. It looks like a number of additional Tuesdays will be needed.

If you are interested in taking advantage of this great opportunity to learn about some topic, to get to know more of your fellow members and have some fun, call the NWA member listed below for information about their classes.

Art Coleman, Ballston Lake 399-5550 - Chainsaw lumber making

Ron DeWitt, Salem 854-3757 - Finger joint boxes

Jack Ericson, Rexford 399-0908 - Precision circle cutting on a bandsaw

Ken Evans, Valley Falls 753-7759 - Sharpening turning tools

Ken Evans, 753-7759 - How to Turn a Bowl, A to Z

Herm Finkbeiner, Rexford 371-9145 - Make a classic workbench

Charlie Goddard, Niskayuna, 370-0388 - Make a small jewelry box.

Chuck Jones, Canajoharie 673-2827 - Dovetails

Ned Kneebone, Corinth 654-7515 - Steam bending wood for furniture

Earl Liberty, Cohoes 235-6543 - Making raised panel doors

Chuck Newland, Slingerlands 439-3462 - Varnishing and marine brightwork

George Norton, Kingston 845-331-1705 - Inlay with a router

Bill Reynolds, Hurley 845 331-0394 -Turning small items

(All area codes are 518 unless stated otherwise.)

If you have questions about the program or if you have a topic you are willing offer to NWA members, please call Ken Evans at 753-7759. 🐾



The In-Shop Tutor program's "bench building brotherhood" is shown contemplating the construction of a set of workbench legs during a class in Herm Finkbeiner's shop. Shown (left to right) are: Darrell Welch, Herm, Bill Stoddard, Bart Chabot, and visitor/kibbitzer Mervyn Prichard.

Birdhouses for HABITAT

- Dale Swan

Many NWA members have donated bird, butterfly, and bat houses to Habitat for Humanity (about twenty-five to date) to be auctioned on August 2. Proceeds will help fund building of two houses this summer. Thanks to those who have contributed. If you haven't contributed and would like to, it is not too late. Bring your birdhouse to the July picnic or call Dale Swann (346-4172) to arrange a pickup.

The August 2 auction, called "Wings", will be at the Mohawk Golf Club in Niskayuna (Route 7 and Balltown Road). A light buffet, cash bar and bidding on silent auction items on the club veranda will begin at 5 pm. Selected items will be sold in a live auction inside the club starting at 6 pm. Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$20 for children under 19. You are all welcome. 🐾

C L A S S E S F E E D S

FOR SALE: Delta Model 40-130 13" scroll saw, like new. Adjustable table 120 volts, 0.9 amps, 1700 RPM with Sears multi-purpose stand (35" high), \$100. Contact Jim Kirby 377-9525.

SPECIALTY LUMBER FOR SALE - MAHOGANY: 160 bf, planed 4 sides, seasoned, originated from 150 yr. old church pews, 3/4" thick, \$5.00 bf, \$800; BLACK CHERRY: 150 bf, rough sawn, not edged, seasoned, various lengths and widths, very wide boards, 1-1/2" thick, \$5.00 bf, \$750; RED OAK: 60 bf, quarter sawn, seasoned, various lengths and widths, 1-3/4" thick, \$5.00 bf, \$300. CALL: Franz Kuhne, 607-965-8803 (Cooperstown area) 🐾

CHAPTER NEWS

Mid-Hudson Makes Adirondack Chairs

- Chuck Walker

Eleven members of the Mid-Hudson woodworkers who meet regularly at George Norton's and/or Joe Benkert's shops on Wednesday mornings have built six mahogany Adirondack chairs for the Central Hudson Energy employee training and recreation facility in Rifton, NY. Mid-Hudson meets at Central Hudson's conference room in Kingston so it seemed appropriate to return a favor. The Rifton facility is devoted to training year around but is available to employees and their guests for recreation from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Central Hudson purchased the wood and the group made the chairs at Joe Benkert's shop and under his watchful eye. John Kemble computerized the original plans, found a few errors and printed full size drawings. Joe Benkert then made a prototype from clear pine to verify the plans and usability of the design. Joe said that the pine cost more than the mahogany! Cutting, sanding and assembly was done by the group over several Wednesday mornings. Each chair has over 100 screws hidden with wooden plugs. The total job required 12 to 14 hours per chair.



M-H Adirondack chair builders: (front row, l to r), Central Hudson Retirees George Norton, Joe Benkert, Dap Cole; (second row, l to r), Stan Rosenberg, Ron Mower, Ron Wolfield, Joe Kennedy, Rifton Supervisor Terry Oakley; back row, (l to r), Terry Conlin, Richard Metzger. John Kemble and Phil Whittington were absent.

Mid-Hudson Second Annual Banquet

- Chuck Walker

The enthusiasm for the Mid-Hudson banquet was evident with 86 people attending this year! The primary purpose is to provide an occasion where family members can get to know one another and find out who their spouses are talking about after the meetings. Another aim is for the Chapter to honor someone who the members select as their choice for M-H member of the year.

This year's honoree is George Norton. George has been a long time and constant supporter of Mid-Hudson and served as president. Mainly though, George has distinguished himself by his "open shop" on Wednesday mornings. Any member can come and get help with their projects and share knowledge with one another. For experienced and new woodworkers alike it is an opportunity to learn how to get better at woodworking. With coffee and an occasional doughnut to stimulate thoughtful solutions to problems or just plain poke fun at each other, these Wednesday mornings with George have become a tradition.

The main speaker for the evening was Charlie Goddard, Executive Secretary of NWA who was there with his wife Karen. Herm and Fran Finkbeiner also came with the Goddards. Charlie told us about the history and experiences with Showcase, giving some perspective to the main event of NWA. There was a raffle from a table filled with 65 items donated by vendors and members alike. Each winner was free to choose from the remaining items on the table. Some folks won four different items. When the drawings were finished, there were only eleven tickets remaining! The Mid-Hudson banquet has become a tradition looked forward to by all members.



George Norton tries out the teak rocker presented to him as Mid-Hudson Member of the Year.

SACANDAGA CHAPTER

Sacandaga Chapter is holding their own local home shop tour on June 28. If you are interested in making the tour, phone Gary Spencer (518-863-6433) or Tom Rullifson (518-661-5587) for information. The chapter also arranged a June 18 tour of Manchester Wood, Granville, NY and the J.K. Adams Company in Dorset, VT (*Tour information came too late for the last issue of Woodworkers News and the tour will be history before this issue is published - sorry! - Ed.*)

New officers include Bob Beyer and Dick Edel, Co-presidents; Ron Custer, Treasurer. Except for these special events, the chapter is on summer hiatus.

NWA Officers Visit Mid-Hudson

- Chuck Walker

On May 15 Jay Van Vranken, Wayne Distin, Charlie Goddard, Dale Swann and Herm Finkbeiner visited the Mid-Hudson group. During the afternoon there were visits to Bob Opdahl's turning education center followed by visits to the shops of George Norton and Joe Benkert. In the evening our visitors came to the regular Mid-Hudson meeting. Mid-Hudson is a fairly informal bunch and there is always a lot of banter and humor between members.

There was a very active "show and tell" session with over a dozen brief presentations in a variety of differing phases of woodworking. These sessions are very popular at Mid-Hudson and provide one more way of learning from one another. We find this one of the best ways to improve our woodworking skills. It is usually a single limited topic that can be focused on in detail. And because it is friends presenting to one another, everyone feels free to ask questions and not feel intimidated.

We look forward to visits from any member of NWA on the third Thursday of each month except July and August. Call any Mid-Hudson member for directions and don't forget to bring something for "show and tell." It does not have to be a finished project and it can be something as simple as a special tool or technique that you have found useful. 🐾

Wood of the Month

(Continued from Page 6)

Flowering dogwood is very difficult to dry without severe warping or checking as indicated by its extreme shrinkage in drying from green to oven-dry; 7.1% radial, 11.3% tangential and 19.9% in volume.

The interlocked grain causes some difficulty for hand tools but it machines nicely. It turns easily but carves with determination. Fasteners require pre-drilling but hold well. It glues well and takes all finishes nicely - pre-sealing is recommended when staining to avoid blotching. This wood takes a beautiful polish.

There are no reported health hazards when working with this wood but the usual dust precautions are advised.

Although no longer considered commercially important, at one time 90 percent of the harvested dogwood was used for textile shuttles (yarn didn't wear the shuttle and the shuttle didn't wear the yarn). Other uses include spools, bobbin heads, small pulleys, skewers, jeweler's blocks, malleheads, turn-pins for shaping lead pipe and machinery bearings. It was also used for golf club heads, tool handles, brush backs, novelties, instrument knobs, kitchenware, folding rules and charcoal.

Early history records that this wood was once used for daggers and may account for the name "dogwood" - dogwood or daggerwood - the genus name *cornus* is Latin, derived from the word horn - for the hardness of the wood.

A dogwood tree is a veritable chemical factory. Dogwood contains significant amounts of calcium, phospho-

rus, potassium, magnesium, boron, copper, zinc and numerous other elements. Dogwood leaves, for some reason, concentrate fluorine and the bark is strongly acidic. Dogwood leaves decompose more rapidly than almost all other hardwoods, making their accumulated minerals quickly available.

Bark of the flowering dogwood was used by Native Americans to produce a scarlet dye. Although the berries are considered toxic to humans, dried stem and root bark, flowers and inner bark have been used medicinally. Bark has proven to be a tonic, astringent and slightly stimulating. Bark decoctions were used (with bear grease) to make salve for sore muscles and skin ulcers. Bark was also used to treat intestinal worms, fever, colic, cholera, sore mouth, jaundice, liver ailments and anthrax. Root bark was also a substitute for and only slightly less effective than quinine in treating malaria. Stripped twigs are effective in cleaning and whitening teeth. Bark solution was even used to wash dogs with skin problems! These materials are not to be experimented with as they can cause serious discomfort.

Flowering dogwood is very popular as an ornamental and numerous varieties have been developed, mostly in the interest of flower colors. More than 20 cultivars are available commercially.

Flowering dogwood is also noted for its religious symbolism. Legend says that the crucifixion is represented by the flowers. The four bracts form the cross, the indent in the edges of the bracts signify the stigmata while the small green flowers surrounded by the bracts designate the crown of thorns. Pink spots on the bracts further depict blood droplets. Today some still carry bits of bark and flowers as protection from harm.

Dogwoods are especially valuable to wildlife which use the seed, fruit, flowers, twigs, bark and leaves for food, benefiting from the high calcium and fat content.

The thin bark of dogwood is quite susceptible to fire damage and the tree is readily destroyed by high water. Of greater concern is a fungus, *Discula destructiva*, which first appeared in Seattle in 1976, then two years later in New York - both major ports. The fungus causes a disease - dogwood anthracnose - by breaking down leaf and stem tissue and releasing toxins that kill the leaves. Although the disease has killed millions of dogwoods in the U.S. and Canada, it is now thought to be manageable with fungicide. Only time will tell.

Flowering dogwood is often available to the small quantity user on a do-it-yourself basis. It is usually considered a trash tree in logging operations and may be had for free or at firewood rates. 🐾



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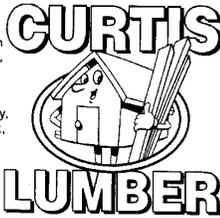


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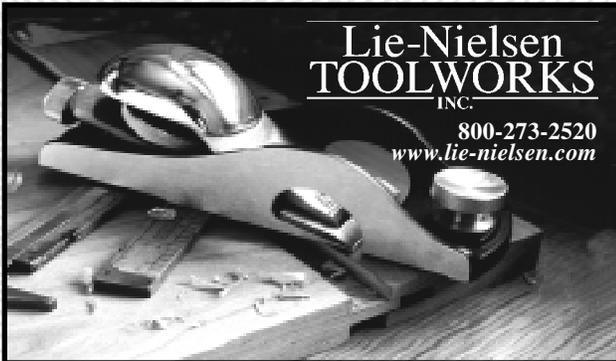
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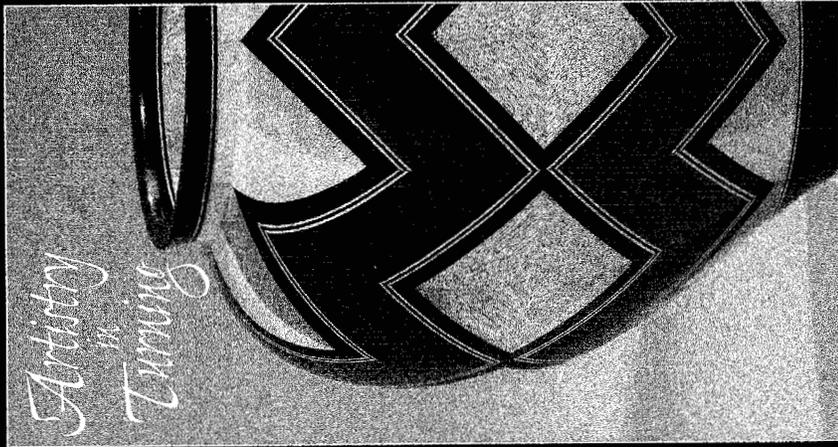
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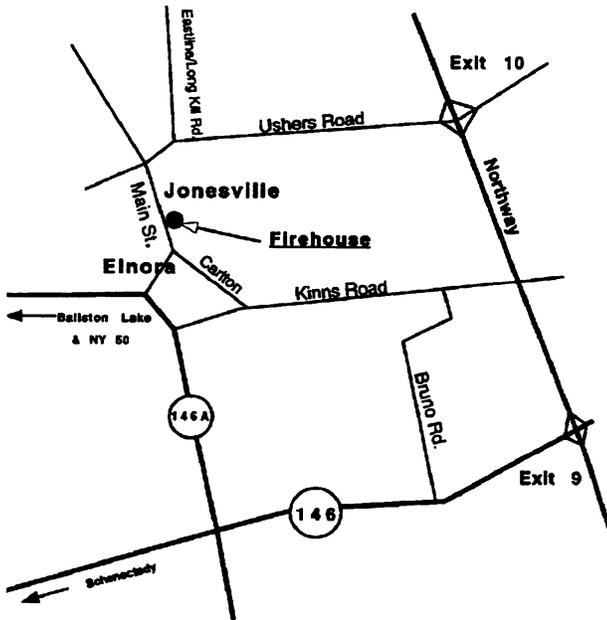
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GENERAL MEETINGS

CALENDAR 2003-04

	..incomplete, a sneak preview
July 20, 2003	Family Picnic
September 11	Jonesville Fire House, Clifton Park "Setting Up a Workshop," Shaker Meeting House
September 20	Wood and Tool Auction Shaker Heritage Barn
October 9	Fiske Fund Recipients Presentations Recipients who have completed classes or courses will make presentations on their projects. Shaker Meeting House
October 25-26	"Totally Turning" Symposium Sage College
November 13	Fiske Memorial Lecture Unitarian Church, Schenectady
December 11	Family Night Time and location to be announced
January 8, 2004	"Dust Collection Systems" - Panel discussion, Shaker Meeting House
January 23-24	Woodworking Weekend Sears Colonie Center
March 11	"Veneering" Shaker Meeting House
March 27-28	SHOWCASE 2004 City Center, Saratoga Springs
April, 2004	Home Workshop Tours Dates and locations to be announced
May 13	"Segmented Turnings" Shaker Meeting House

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)

Meetings are held at the Curtis Lumber Company conference room on Route 67, Ballston Spa.

Adirondack Woodturners Association - The AWA is active throughout the summer. Meetings are every first Wednesday of the month (except in July when it is the second Wednesday), beginner's sessions begins at 6 pm; the main program at 6:30 pm. Saturday "Learn and Turn" sessions are also scheduled. www.woodturners.org
 Contact: Ken Evans 753-7759 or Kevans1@nycap.rr.com

Carver's Guild - Meets second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. Contact Bill McCormack 233-7260.

Scroller's Guild - Meets the third Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. Contact Jean Aldous 893-2273 or AMJAMTAT2@aol.com

CHAPTERS

Mid-Hudson Chapter -The chapter meets at 7:30 p.m. on the third Thursday, except July and August, at the Central Hudson Electric Company Community Center, Route 28, Kingston. Contact: Joe Mikesch 845-687-4285

Sacandaga Chapter - 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.