

# WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern  
Woodworkers  
Association

June 2010, Vol. 19, Number 6

## NWA Picnic – July 18

*By Wally Carpenter*

Each year we have enjoyed the wonderful opportunity of getting together at the Jonesville Firestation for the annual July Picnic. This year is no different! If you are like me, it's a great time to do everything from learning fly-fishing techniques from Bart Chabot to the now famous hand plane competitions and tape measure races.

The Picnic will be held on Sunday, July 18th at the Jonesville Fire Department (see map on back of newsletter for directions) starting at 11:00 am. The price is again \$6.00 for adults, children under 12 are free. Please bring a dessert to share. Bring your finely tuned and sharpened hand plane for the Hand Plane Challenge, and your fastest tape measure for the Tape Measure Race. There will be door prizes for children and adults.

Please mark your calendars early so we can all catch up on our latest projects. 🐼

## Shaker Box Class

*By Dick Flanders*

April 27-28 was a fine, but hectic, day and a half at the Shaker Meeting House. Twenty-three students spent the time learning the history, materials and techniques used in making beautiful wooden oval Shaker boxes. In the evening session we even had time to begin making the first of a nested set of 5 boxes, completing the group the



next day. Our instructor, John Wilson, is the present day expert on the history, techniques and products of Shaker woodworking. His boxes are in museums across the world and his students numbering in the thousands. [www.shakerovalbox.com/articles/building](http://www.shakerovalbox.com/articles/building)

This class, men and women, was attended by both NWA members and non-members. Some were Shaker Heritage Society members or friends, and others were individuals who heard about the class through various sources and decided to take advantage of the opportunity. I did not attend the classes on Shaker boxes last year because I didn't have much interest in them. That is, until afterwards seeing the boxes and talking with members who did attend. As soon as the class was announced this year, I signed up, not wanting to miss out.



We worked in stages, cutting the fingers on the thin veneer, soaking it in boiling water for 15-20 minutes, then bending the veneer around the appropriate forms to establish the shape. Next step was to nail the veneer together through the fingers with miniature copper nails, (another story in itself). Then we put "shapers" in place in the top and bottom of the bent veneer to hold its shape during the dry-

ing process. After the boxes dried enough, we removed the shapers and traced the inside outline of the box on pieces of wood to make the tops and bottoms of each box. Careful sanding with the disc sander allowed us to fit the top & bottom in place, hopefully on the first or second try. These pieces were held together with square wooden pegs (toothpicks!) tapped into predrilled holes.

A little touch up sanding around the edges, pegs, etc., and the box was complete – awaiting whatever finish we were going to apply later.

*Continued on Page 2*

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**In an effort to save expenses of producing the newsletter, the Board has chosen to eliminate the July and August monthly newsletter.**

**See you in the September Newsletter!**  
-editor

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## OFFICERS

**President** - Owen Arkison  
518 459-5348

owen.Arkison@earthlink.net

**Vice President** - Roger Holmes  
roger.holmes@dewalt.com

**Secretary** - Kitty Scharl 765-3189  
crowridge@nycap.rr.com

**Treasurer** - Austin Spang 393-2859  
spang@nycap.rr.com

**Past President** - Warren Stoker 439-6089  
wstoker@nycap.rr.com

**Historian** - Wayne Diston 674-4171  
wdistin@nycap.rr.com

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



## CHAIRPERSONS

### Mid-Hudson Chapter

Pete Chast, President  
pchast@francomm.com

### Sacandaga Chapter

Co-Chairpersons

Clyde Cheney - 661-5138

Ray Laubenstein - 863-6071

RLAUB@Roadrunner.com

### Education and Publicity

Herm Finkbeiner - 371-9145

hfinkbei@nycap.rr.com

### Youth Programs

Ray Gannon - 664-2229

raymond.gannon@wildblue.net

### Fiske Fund

Tom Osborne

TTomosborne@aol.com

### Hospitality

Lew Hill

ssrhill@aol.com

### Library

Darrel Welch - 477-8431

ydwelch@fairpoint.net

### Membership

Susan Howe - 885-9331

showe@nycap.rr.com

### Programs

Roger Holmes

roger.holmes@dewalt.com

### Publications

Wally Carpenter - 434-1776

c.j.carpenter@earthlink.net

### Showcase Chair

Ken Evans - 753-7759

kevans1@nycap.rr.com



UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, PHONE  
NUMBERS ARE IN AREA CODE 518

# Annual Lumber and Tool Auction

*By Charlie Goddard*

The next lumber and tool auction will be held in the Shaker barn on Saturday, September 18. With apologies to our Jewish members, this is the only Saturday available in the month of September.

The auction is the primary funding source for the Fiske Scholarship Fund. The money we raise is used for the grants that are awarded from the Fund to those who wish to attend woodworking courses.

We have collected some tools and we have quite a bit of lumber stored in the barn, however, additional donations are needed. If you have tools or lumber that you are not using this is the perfect way to free up some space in your shop. Obviously we like full donations, but we can also sell items and split the proceeds. All donations, including the NWA shares, are fully tax deductible.

For lumber or tools donations contact Warren Stoker (439-6089, wstoker@nycap.rr.com), Dick Flanders (393-5215, rflander@nycap.rr.com or Charlie Goddard (370-0388, cgodd@aol.com).

# Showcase Celebrates Its 20th Anniversary

*By Judy Albertson*

As a part of this momentous event the Showcase committee wants to include a display of Workbenches at the show in March, 2011.

Even if you are taken with machines it continues to be true that the workbench is the most important tool in the shop. In most shop it occupies the central spot. The display at Showcase will be of up to a dozen workbenches chosen among all benches we learn about. The display will not be judged. All submissions will be recognized in a slide show as part of the display so even if your workbench is not portable we want to know about it and have pictures.

If it holds wood while the wood is being shaped it is a workbench. The workbench can be old or new, general purpose or for a specific woodworking discipline, your bench or any bench you know of.

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

- Your name, address, phone, and e-mail address.
- Three to five photographs of the bench – digital would be best.
- Approximate workbench dimensions, type(s) of wood, finish, etc.
- A brief history and a sentence or two on why the bench should be in the display at Showcase.

Send information to: judith.albertson@gmail or Judy Albertson, 20 Michelle Drive, Gardiner, NY 12525.

# Shaker Box Class

*Continued from Page 1*

The pictures show the variety of sizes assembled and drying, as well as some of the equipment used in the process.

I plan to make more in the future, experimenting with various woods for the tops, and trying the music box variety as well. I am more than glad that I did attend this year, and my wife is very happy with the set of five boxes I brought home.

When the opportunity comes up next time for this Shaker Box Class, don't miss your chance – its well worth the expense and long hours when you take home your set of boxes. There are also advanced boxes, trays, etc., that you can attempt if you've already made the standard set. 🐦





# Hollowing on the Hoosic

By Ken Evans

Saturday, May 22, 2010 marked the first "hollowing on the Hoosic" event sponsored by NWA and the Adirondack Woodturners Association. The event was held on Roger Holmes' property in Valley Falls, NY along the Hoosic River.

Thirty (30) woodturners from the AWA and KWA (both SIGS of NWA) sent members to the event. Turners turned wood all day without stop. They turned pens, boxes, plates, a baseball bat (small), bowls, and baby rattles. They turned hollow forms and deep hollow forms. There was chainsawing of wood for hours and there were woodshavings everywhere.

The KWA turners and AWA turners helped any beginner needing attention and a great time was had by all. Prizes were awarded as door prizes and a prize went to Warren Stoker and Tom Hutchinson for best turning made in three hours from a piece of wood unseen until minutes before the turning began. This turning will be auctioned at Family Night in December.

There was Pizza and salad for lunch washed down with lots of coffee and soda. Lunch barely slowed the turning frenzies. There was shaving throwing and bull throwing all around.

A demonstration of deep hollowing by Kurt Hertzog was enjoyed by many and other impromptu demos took place throughout the day. Art Colman made his first pen with the help of Bill McCormack. A first pen is an event in itself. The first of many I am sure.

Nobody makes just one pen.

Steve Sherman of KWA showed his signature "nano tools" to the interest of everyone.

Carl Ford's face shield was very interesting. Don't miss a chance to see Carl wear this safety device. Maybe next year we have a contest for the best face shield ornamentation of the day.

There were new turners and experienced turners all having a good time and getting to know each other. It was definitely decided to DO IT AGAIN NEXT YEAR. The date is two weeks before Memorial Day, same place, same time. Maybe bigger!

Attendees parked on Ken Evans' front lawn? looked like a convention --- IT WAS A CONVENTION OF WOODTURNERS called HOLLOWING ON THE HOOSIC!

See the NWA website galleries for photos!



## It's Fair Time Soon

By Betty and Louie Andrews

We will be looking for volunteers and doing the schedules. Perhaps we can get a lot of it done at the June AWA meeting--even if it's, "I will, but do not know when". Also remember that we ran out of wood last year and asked if you would save wood suitable for tops, wands, honey dippers, etc. Now is the time to bring it to AWA June meeting so we know what we can count on. Our turners made over 300 wands just at Washington County Fair last year. Thanks to each of you for your help. You can contact us during the meetings, at July picnic, or AWA meetings or our home account: [loubetan@localnet.com](mailto:loubetan@localnet.com). 🐾

**WOODWORKERS NEWS** is published by the Northeastern Woodworkers Association for its members. The Association's aim is to provide a common meeting ground for lovers of woodworking who want to know more about wood and the techniques for forming it. The newsletter is published monthly. It is assembled in QuarkXPress 5.0 on an iMac G5, duplicated by Shipmates, and mailed to more than 1,000 addresses.



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**Woodworkers News**  
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in early September  
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Wally Carpenter, Editor  
(518) 434-1776  
[c.j.carpenter@earthlink.net](mailto:c.j.carpenter@earthlink.net)  
Elizabeth Keays Graphic Artist  
Designer



**WEBSITE(S)**  
[www.woodworker.org](http://www.woodworker.org)  
[www.nwawoodworkingshow.org](http://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](mailto:kurt@kurthertzog.com)

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



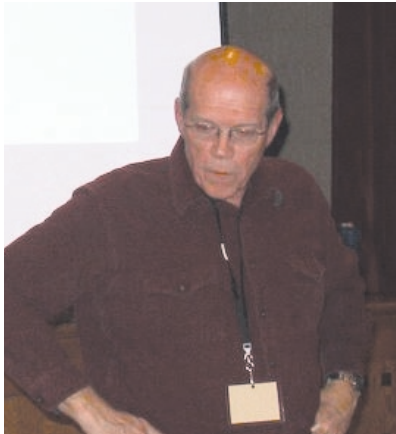
**NORTHEASTERN  
WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION**  
P.O. BOX 246  
Rexford, New York 12148

# CHAPTER NEWS

## NWA Mid-Hudson Chapter News

By Wally Cook

**Fun with Crown Moulding:** Ron Stout provided a comprehensive survey of crown moulding techniques on horizontal ceilings (vaulted ceilings involve a higher calling). Crown moulding involves compound angle cutting to trim properly, but the beauty is worth the effort. When the size of the moulding is matched to the proportion of the room, it frames the surroundings and provides a point of interest. Since there are many styles of crown, it helps to get a series of samples to choose the best fit for the room and furnishings. Dykes Lumber in Westchester provides patterns for a large variety of crown mouldings.



*Ron Stout proved a PowerPoint presentation on crown moulding*

Ron emphasized that the key to a well executed job is a long protractor which measures to half a degree. Quint Measuring Systems features a clear plastic adjustable arm protractor in both 18" and 30" lengths. Ron constructed a jig for corner miter cuts, which receives the stock upside-down on the miter saw. Coping miters were discussed as well, in which case it pays to have inside and outside 12" sections cut to act as templates for the mating piece. See also [www.finehomebuilding.com/how-to/departments/master-carpenter/coping-crown-molding-techniques.aspx](http://www.finehomebuilding.com/how-to/departments/master-carpenter/coping-crown-molding-techniques.aspx) article by Bill Shaw.

Nailing will depend on the size of the moulding. Moulding under 3" can be mounted with one nail every 12"; over three inches high requires two nails, and moulding over five inches high calls for two nails in a triangular block backing. At least one inch of nail should be into wood backing. Nailing should be avoided within 8"-10" of the corners, as corners may not be square – some latitude is needed for a good fit at the miter joints. A good reference for crown moulding planning and installation is Crown Moulding and Trim by Wayne Drake.



*A detailed look at Mike's proton pack*

**Who You Gonna Call?** Mike Holst followed up his first effort to build a Ghostbusters 'ghost trap' with a Ghostbusters 'proton pack'. As most of us remember, the proton pack was a piece of nuclear accelerative machinery used for weakeningen.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ghost" \o"Ghost" *ghosts* (thank goodness for wikipedia). Mike's version shoots ping pong balls. All Hudson Valley ghosts may soon be escaping northward.

### Chapter Dinner:

The Mid-Hudson Chapter dinner was lots of fun! Our honoree was Fred DuBois, who received accolades for his selflessness in supporting the chapter, as well as his ingenuity in redundancy engineering (again, see wikipedia). Thanks to all who helped to organize the event and to all those who contributed items for the raffle table. Many thanks as well to the NWA officers and spouses who made the trek south for the dinner. We hope all enjoyed the event.



*Fred DuBois receives commemorative MOTY plaque from Al Shinker*

## KWA News

By Wally Cook

**Boxmeister:** Joe Larese provided a demo on turning boxes and showed how a box can be created in a short period of time. He cited Keith Rowley's approach to woodturning as an excellent basis for box making.

Some of Joe's tips included creating a dovetail on either end of the blank and planning a third of the length

of the box to the top (including finial). Mount the blank with the top toward the headstock and work on this segment first.

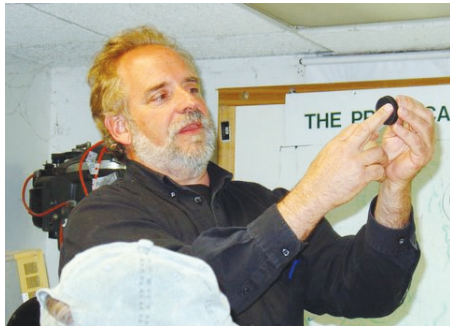
After shaping the top, the inside can be hollowed. At this point a decision needs to be made about the method of joining the top and bottom – an inside or outside tenon for the top. Either way, the tenon must be square. Joe then chamfers the edge of the tenon, using the long point of the skew.

*Continued on following Page*



In completing the finial, Joe is conscious that between center turning is a combination of beads and coves – with fillets providing space to work out the next components of curves.

The bottom is mounted, shaped, and hollowed with emphasis on good fit to the top. He starts with the edges and works back. If the top and bottom fit more loosely than desired, an application of tung oil at the finishing stage will help to expand the wood fibers and improve the fit. When hollowing, Joe uses a 1/2" gouge, drawing it from the center out (especially for end grain). While withdrawing the gouge, he lowers the handle to sheer scrape the sides. He noted some prefer to finish the inside with a scraper. For instance, Richard Raffan uses a scraper held at a high angle, while a negative rake scraper may obviate the need to hold the tool at a high angle. The bottom of the box is finished by placing on a jam chuck.



*Joe Larese explains that inside of a top should contain a surprise design feature*



*Box completed by Joe in demo*

**Toot Your Flute:** Matt Clarke and Steve Sherman did a tag team effort on fluting vessels. Their interest was piqued by a dvd featuring Al Caton's work. Fluting is accomplished by setting up a fixture on the lathe which will allow a trim router or an air grinder to address the bowl blank. In this case, Steve made a boomerang

shaped table from MDF that attaches to the banjo via a pipe flange. The table incorporates a knuckle which allows the table to tilt, if necessary (tilting allows diagonal fluting).

Fluting requires that the lathe has an indexing system – the more stops, the better. Pencil lines are made at each index stop as desired. These lines become the tracking for each groove created by the grinder or router. Steve fashioned a pencil jig which is exactly the same height off the table as the router bit to increase accuracy.

Steve and Matt used either a small router body (such as made by Trend) or air grinder (available from Husky or Harbor Freight), each secured to a small platform that can be moved across the table. They were fitted with a ball shaped bur (preferred to the conical burs) or a mini sanding drum. Matt's opinion is that the router requires more downward pressure than the grinder to prevent climbing through the cut.

The results are rewarding. Matt completed a small and large sized bowl with exterior fluting. Both provided an interesting look. The KWA is planning a continuation to practical hands-on fluting with Saturday sessions in September. Watch the blog for more information.



*Matt and Steve demonstrating fluting technique. Note lathe mounted table for routing*



*Matt's fluted bowl*

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

### For Sale



**Lathe bed, Cast iron,**  
4' long, 36" high. \$100.  
Jill Thomas, 518 753 4336,  
pinetree@wildblue.net

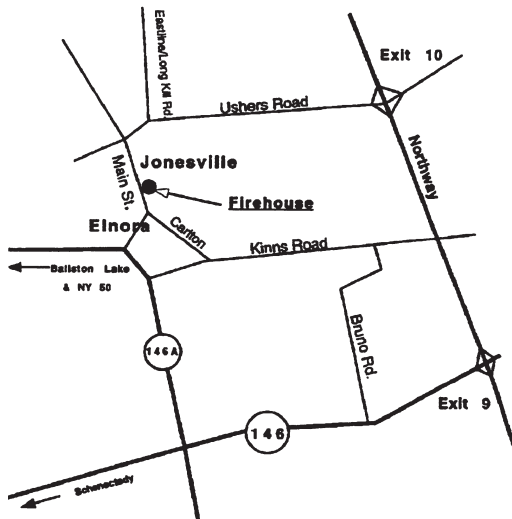


**Lathe bed, Cast iron,**  
6' long, 36" high. \$150.  
Jill Thomas, 518 753 4336,  
pinetree@wildblue.net





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



## Family Picnic

*Sunday, July 18, 2010, 11:00 am*  
*Jonesville Fire Station No. 1,*  
*Main Street, Jonesville (Clifton Park) NY*

GENERAL MEETINGS  
AND SPECIAL EVENTS

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

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

### SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)

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

**Carver's Guild** - meets every Friday at the Clifton Park Senior Center from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Sessions are intended for every NWA member who is interested in carving, from beginners to those wanting to learn a new technique. No reservations are necessary, just show up! Contact Bill McCormack, 233-7260.

**Scroller's Guild** - Meets on the third Wednesday of the month at The School at Northeast, 1821 Hamburg St., Schenectady. A beginner's session starts at 6:30 PM followed by a general meeting at 7:00 PM. Contact: Donna Phillips, (518) 372-3337 or [dlphill@nycap.rr.com](mailto:dlphill@nycap.rr.com).

**Kaatskill Woodturners** - Meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Opdahl property in Hurley. Contact 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](mailto:phowe1@nycap.rr.com)), Ed Buell (518) 384-0413 ([KC2NMY-eab@nycap.rr.com](mailto:KC2NMY-eab@nycap.rr.com)) or Dick Flanders (518) 393-5215 ([rflander@nycap.rr.com](mailto: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](mailto: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.