

# WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern  
Woodworkers  
Association

March 2010, Vol. 19, Number 3

## March Meeting

*Thursday, March 11, 2010, 7:00 pm*

### My Shaker House Move and Restoration

*By Warren Stoker*

The program for March 11 will be a presentation by Robert Adams entitled "My Shaker House Move and Restoration". He has been an accomplished woodworker and craftsman since 1968 and by 1971 became a specialist in preservation and trades education. After 11 years as a secondary education instructor at vocational levels, Robert moved on for 26 years at the North Bennett Street School serving as instructor of Preservation Carpentry. In 1985, he conceived and developed a program to train adult learners at the NBSS in Boston. The program - Preservation Carpentry - uses on-site historic projects as a skills training venue for the learners. In the course of time Robert has created partnerships between the North Bennett SS and many preservation groups including Canterbury Shaker Village, Old Sturbridge Village, Historic Boston, and the Peabody-Essex Museum. As a speaker on preservation topics he has been sought out by local and national groups interested in preservation, techniques, and trade skills. 🐾



## Major Change - Fiske Fund Awards

*By Tom Osborne, Chairman, Fiske Fund*

The Fiske Fund will now accept applications to fund programs presented by NWA. Those programs whose tuition exceeds \$200 will be eligible for funding for up to one half of the cost of the class (excluding the cost of materials)

When the Fiske Fund was created in 1997 it was decided that no funding would be available to applicants who planned to take classes that were offered by NWA. That decision was based on the fact that NWA classes at the time were only 2-3 hours and cost \$25-\$30. In addition NWA did not at the time offer classes by nationally known woodworkers and teachers.

Both of those conditions have changed. Famous woodworkers are regularly coming to teach in our shop, this year for example, Garrett Hack and Teri Masaschi have been here and Ernie Conover and John Wilson will teach classes later this Spring. NWA members are also teaching longer classes, Tom Wetzel has a Windsor Chair class underway at the present time.

In order to receive funding it is necessary to apply to the fund. An application form is available on line at: [www.woodworker.org/forms/fiskefundapp090607.pdf](http://www.woodworker.org/forms/fiskefundapp090607.pdf). 🐾

## Win a Prize

*By Charlie Goddard*

Get your Showcase entry form in by March 12 and you will be eligible for a drawing for a DeWalt compact drill/driver with two 18 volt lithium ion batteries and charger, or a Beall digital inclinometer (similar to a Wixey).

Historically we have 400 to 500 items in the exhibit hall each year. And historically most of the entry forms don't arrive until the last week before the show. This causes a great deal of anguish for the organizing committee - not knowing what will be displayed. Also a label needs to be made for each item and an accurate list of items to be judged needs to be prepared. So again I ask, ***please get your forms in early.***

## 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  
wdiston@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

Herm Finkbeiner - 371-9145  
hfinkbei@nycap.rr.com

### Adult Programs

Position To Be Filled

### Youth Programs

Ray Gannon - 664-2229  
raymond.gannon@wildblue.net

### Fiske Fund

Tom Osborne  
TTomosborne@aol.com

### Hospitality

Lew Hill

### Library

Darrel Welch - 477-8431  
ydwelch@fairpoint.net

### Membership

Susan Howe - 885-9331  
showe@nycap.rr.com

### Programs

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

### Publications

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

## SHOWCASE

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

### Videographers

Dave Ellison - 872-0980  
ellisd@rpi.edu

Hans Kappel - 861-8753  
bluespruce@juno.com

Pat Pugsley - 634-7144  
ideas@mhonline.net

Bob Conahan - 355-9032  
conahanbob@hotmail.com

Kirk Hardenburg  
725-1997

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, PHONE  
NUMBERS ARE IN AREA CODE 518

# Shaker Crafts at the Shaker Meeting House

## Instructor: John Wilson

These classes, on April 27/28/29, mark the continuation of a cooperative program between NWA and the Shaker Heritage Society. All sessions will be held in the 1848 Shaker Meeting House. Fee includes all materials, use of tools and an instructional booklet. The class is intended for both new and experienced woodworkers.

John Wilson is the present day expert on the history, techniques and products of Shaker woodworking. His boxes are in museum all across the world and his students number in the thousands. For more information on John Wilson and oval boxes visit his web site: [www.shakerovalbox.com/articles/building/](http://www.shakerovalbox.com/articles/building/).

## Date(s): Two different programs

### Making a Shaker Oval Box

Tuesday, April. 27, from 7 PM to 9:30 PM  
and

Wed. April 28, from 8 AM to 4 PM

and/or

### Making a Spoke Shave

Wed. April 28 from 7 PM to 9:30 PM  
and

Thurs. April 29 from 8 AM to 4 PM

**Location:** The Shaker Meeting House  
Next to the Albany Airport

**Cost:** \$125 for each program, all materials included, or take both classes for \$225

### Making a Shaker Oval Box

April 27-28, 2010

The most recognized artifact of Shaker life is the classic oval box. Its simplicity of form, economy of materials and utility of function immediately says "Shaker" to even the most casual of observers. In addition, no craftsman today embodies box making in the Shaker tradition more than John Wilson. John's unique blend as a woodworker, teacher and social anthropologist has led to his being referred to as "the Johnny Appleseed of Shaker Boxes". He frequently writes for Popular Woodworking and Fine Woodworking magazines and travels the country presenting workshops on Shaker Boxes.

### Making a Spoke Shave

April 28-29, 2010

While the Shakers are most recognized for their furniture and utensil production they were also prodigious makers of tools, both for the farm and the wood shop. One of the basic tools in the wood shop was and is the spokeshave.

It is the tool for making, obviously, wheel spokes. It is also used to make chair spindles, (Windsor chairs couldn't be made without them), broom handles or anything else with a cylindrical handle, curved surfaces of many kinds and even to just smooth out a rough area in a board.

This class will take participants through all of the steps in making a shave, shaping the wooden parts, cutting out the metal parts, tempering, sharpening, mounting and tuning and finally to making shavings. You will leave with a spoke-shave that will be picked up many times to do things that were much more challenging before you had this versatile tool.

To register for either of these classes (or both!) or send an e-mail to: [hfinkbei@nycap.rr.com](mailto:hfinkbei@nycap.rr.com) or call 518-371-9145. 📞

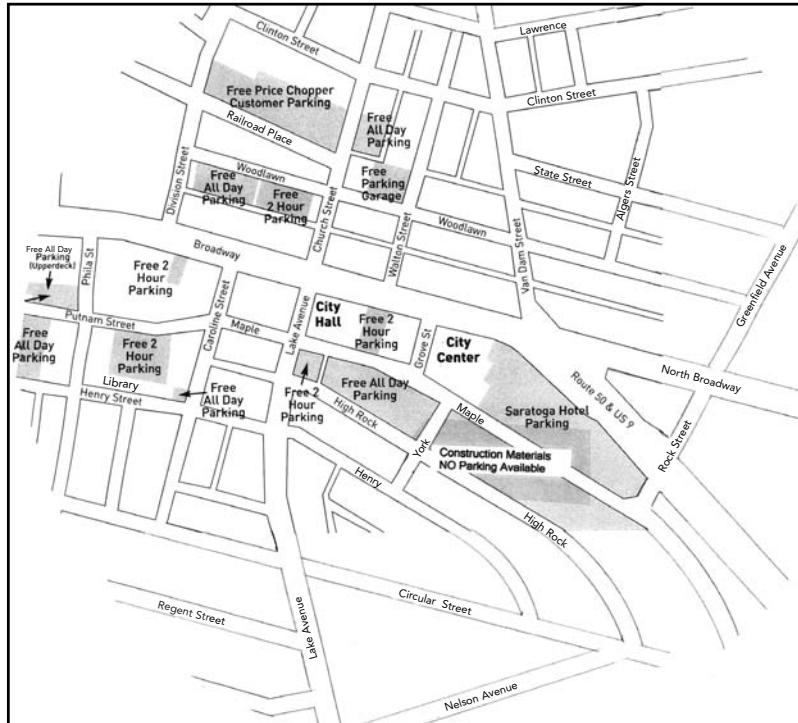




# Showcase Parking

By Larry Zinn

Because of major construction at the Saratoga City Center (where Showcase is held), parking will be tighter than in past years. One of the main parking lots, i.e., behind the City Center has been fenced off for construction materials and equipment, and the hotel now charges for parking in their lot. So, this notice is twofold. One purpose is to suggest where you might find a place to park; the other is to encourage you to keep in mind the fact that we need convenient parking locations for our patrons if we are to keep them happy this year and expect them to return in subsequent years.



**Downtown Saratoga Springs Parking Map**

To the extent that you are able and willing, we ask that you consider parking at some of the more distant parking locations (see map of dedicated parking lots in the area). Please note, also, that there are many street side parking spaces along streets to the north of the City Center in the residential areas and along the extension of N. Broadway. If you really are more concerned for the convenience of our patrons than you are for yourself—and my wife insists that the majority of you will be—there is a CDTA bus (#472) that you could catch at the Wilton Mall right by the back entrance to the Bon Ton store. It stops there 27 mins. after the hour every hour of the day on Saturday and 22 mins. after each hour on Sunday. Just think, your significant other would be delighted to spend his/her time shopping while you are looking for new “playthings” at the Show. Now, while you are thinking about this option, you could also consider parking out at the Raceway Casino and taking the bus in from there. That way, your significant other could win enough money to pay for the goodies you buy at the show—maybe even a high end hand plane or battery powered drill. Good luck!!!

If we find enough volunteers willing to be outside, regardless of the weather, we will have people along the streets that go past the City Center to point the way to parking possibilities and/ or hand you a map. They will have on a green “safety” vest with NWA on it in big letters. If it is raining, their umbrella will be similarly embellished.

Hope to see all of you there!

Larry Zinn

P.S. The parking lot that is not open to the public is the one designated as “Free All Day Parking” across the street from “Saratoga Hotel Parking”. 🐾

**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.



Your next issue of  
**Woodworkers News**  
will be published  
in early April  
Copy deadline: March 15  
Wally Carpenter, Editor  
(518) 434-1776  
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

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

# GE ELFUN Toy Modification Group and Jim's "Hole in the Woods Gang"

*By Dick Flanders*

Many of our communities' physically and mentally challenged youth lack the motor control to manipulate the small switches on the majority of today's toys. The Toy Modification Program provides large switches and associated modified battery operated toys to over 10 licensed service providers in the Greater Capital District area. The group also modifies computer mice to allow activation of the left click mouse button by one of these switches. This allows a therapist to work with a client at a computer. The program also repairs toys/equipment for these providers. The program thanks the support of the GE Volunteers Asian Pacific American Forum for assembling many of the switches and the Northeastern Woodworkers Association for supplying the wooden bases for the switches.



Another need of the Toy Mods group is a supply of the Peanut Butter jar tops used in making the above "Easy Button" switches. Apparently the JIF brand works quite well with three different sizes, but any RED plastic screw tops of the following dimensions should work:

Small switches use a top with 2 3/8" I/D to 2 7/8" O/D  
Medium switches use a top with 3 1/4" I/D to 3 5/8" O/D  
Large switches use a top with 4" I/D to 4 3/8" O/D

Red is the preferred color to be consistent with switches already in use.

Anyone willing to save these types of jar tops, please bring them to the monthly meetings and we will collect them for the Elfuns Toy Mods group.

Thanks,

Dick Flanders on behalf of Jim's Gang

## CLASSIFIEDS

### *For Sale*

**Two year old Craftsman 16" Scroll Saw** for sale for \$60. Call Bill Van Brunt at 518-209-4481.

**Delta 46-700 Lathe** with stand for sale. Asking \$300. Contact Tom Hutchenson evenings (518) 537-3657.

# Help Wanted: Boatbuilder

*By Lawrence Downes*

Published: December 19, 2009

The New York Times

Somewhere out there is a man who can help me build a model boat for my little nephew. This man is between 82 and 84 years old, which means he was a 10-, 11- or 12-year-old boy in 1937, when the book I took the plans from was published.

I have reason to believe he knows things I don't.

I am not a model builder. But for years I have enjoyed flipping through my battered copy of the "Amateur Craftsman's Cyclopedia of Things to Make," a 342-page collection of model plans and workshop projects from Popular Science magazine.

I love this window on a lost world of shop-class artisans. Not that I've made anything in it — not the Gettysburg cannon, the bookcase aquarium, the fishing waders, the sextant, the "Small Portable Arc Furnace Easily Built of Clay and Bricks." The plans are daunting. One of them — "How to Cut a New Entrance in Any Frame House" — frightens me.

But the boat! "A Speedy Racing Schooner," it says. "SIMPLIFIED FOR BOYS TO BUILD."

With Christmas only months away, did I dare? "The construction has been so simplified that 10- or 12-year-old boys can undertake the model. Very few tools are required."

I was a 10-year-old boy once. My big project then, an oceangoing raft made from a screen door and Clorox bottles, failed. I could find only three bottles, and I knew my parents would not have allowed it near the beach.

This year I decided to make my nephew Christopher the beneficiary of my adult competence. I got the parts: plywood, dowels, screw eyes, copper wire, #20 brass escutcheon pins, tiny enough for the hinges on Barbie's coffin.

The book said to make my own glue by melting celluloid toothbrush handles in acetone. I bought glue instead. I cut sides. I sawed ribs. I followed simple instructions:

"Spring the sides apart and slip the lower ribs into place at their proper stations. Set the ribs in so that the bevel begins at the edge of the side. Drive an escutcheon pin into each rib from each side. Make the inside keel from 1/4-in. square wood. Fit it inside the inside stem in the notches of the lower ribs, and spring it over to, and inside of, the stern, as shown."

My boat is getting there. The sides and bottom planks are fitted to stem, ribs and deck beams. I planed the mainmast while watching a Dolphins game, shavings piling at my feet.

The wood part of the keel is cut but not planed. I have not yet sewn the foresail. I still need to Google the words luff, leech, bobstay, gaff, jib stay and peak halyard. I suppose I'll be able to do the rigging. But I am nearing the limits of my ability.

Mr. Elderly Man, could you call or e-mail? At 44, I'm almost as crafty as you were at 10: I can sharpen a plane blade and use a sewing machine. I can transfer station lines to wood and calculate a stem angle. I can sand, saw and varnish.

But I have never cast a keel in molten lead. 🐳

# EXHIBIT ENTRY FORM

## NWA SHOWCASE     MARCH 27 – 28, 2010

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ Member: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ Professional: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**ENTRY DEADLINE IS MONDAY, MARCH 22nd**  
**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 26th. No exhibit items accepted after 7:00PM.*

<b>ENTRY CATEGORY AND DESCRIPTION</b> <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>	<b>FOR JUDGING</b> <i>(only one per category)</i>	<b>DISPLAY ONLY</b> <i>(unlimited)</i>
#1		
#2		
#3		
#4		
#5		
#6		
<b>Additional notes:</b>		

*(see other side for entry rules)*

**WHAT: NWA SHOWCASE 2010 ([www.nwawoodworkingshow.org](http://www.nwawoodworkingshow.org))**

**WHERE; Saratoga Springs City Center & The Saratoga Hilton**

**WHEN: Saturday and Sunday, March 27 - 28, 2010, 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 22nd to be eligible for competition. Late entries will be entered for display only.
- All exhibit items must be delivered to the City Center no later than 7:00 PM, Friday March 26th. 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. First Place Professional: One each category except for 10, 11 and 12.\*
3. First Place: One each category
4. Second Place: One each category
5. Third Place: One each category
6. Honorable Mention: One each category
7. Richard Pagano Memorial Award for turning (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](mailto:kevans1@nycap.rr.com)  
Chris Knite, Judging Chair (518) 810-2757, [9danke@earthlink.net](mailto:9danke@earthlink.net)



# CHAPTER NEWS

## *Sacandaga Chapter*

*By Gary Spencer*

This is a busy Chapter this time of the year. With working around the weather for our programs, we also have two teams of workers who meet often to design and build projects that are to be raffled off at this year's Showcase. This year one team is concentrating on a Cabinet Makers Chest. (One chest for showcase but each member of the group will also make that chest for himself.) The other team is working on a Cherry Hall Table for the raffle. Note: Last years Showcase project was a drop-leaf table, ended with 16 of them being built by Chapter members for themselves.

Our program for December 9th was to have featured Mike Kratky. His presentation was to be "Tuning and Honing Handplanes." However, the inclement weather forced us to postpone Mike's presentation. He will now give his rescheduled presentation on Wednesday March 10th. Mike also has a collection of older planes from his father that he will show.

Our February 10th program featured NWA's Tom Osborn. His presentation "All You Ever Want to Know About Chisels and How to Use Them". His program was outstanding and covered at least ten different types of chisels, tips on their use, sharpening them, and features on their differences and generally their costs. A big thank you goes out to Tom for this presentation, we were all impressed.

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 March 10, 2010. 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



# Kaatskill Woodturners News

*By Wally Cook*

**KWA Learn and Turn:** The Saturday learn-and-turn sessions have been thriving. Led by Steve Sherman with assistance from Matt Clarke, the group has taken on practical skill building projects: scoops, spoons, salt boxes, and icicle ornaments.

Demonstrations in hollowing and creating finials have the participants honing basic skills. The most recent demonstration covered barley twist layout and carving on a spindle blank. Steve showed the group how to design a spiral design, first scoring the lines with a saw, then widening the grooves with rat-tail file.

The ongoing project is the production of votive candle bases for the chapter dinner which will be held in April. Pictured below is a variety of votives in production – only sixty more to go!

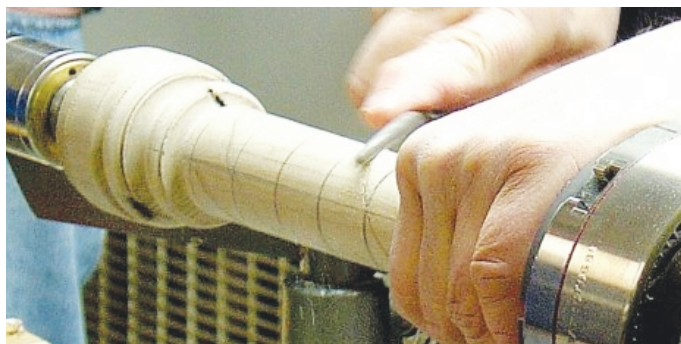
Learn and Turn sessions are held at Bob Opdahl's farm every Saturday from 9AM to Noon. Any skill level is acceptable. If you have never turned on a lathe, please come to observe and make plans to take a lathe orientation and tool safety session. The Learn and Turn is available to any member of the NWA; several new members have joined as a result of the program.

**Graeme Priddle Demo:** Thanks to Matt Clarke, we are fortunate to have Graeme visiting the Kaatskill Woodturners on April 2-3 at the Opdahl building. He will be offering two workshops: "Surface, Surface, Surface" and "Vessels of the South Pacific". The hands-on workshop is limited to the first fifteen participants – cost is \$60 per person for the two days. Contact Wally Cook if you have any questions at 845-338-2193 or [cooker.1@earthlink.net](mailto:cooker.1@earthlink.net).

**KWA Logo Merchandise:** Steve Sherman has designed a logo for the KWA which include patches, hats, and tee shirts. Please see Steve, Matt, Wally, or Dick Dillon if you have an interest in any of the items.



*Bill Thiry holds barley twist he completed*



*Steve demonstrates filing along the layout lines to begin a barley twist*



*A collection of votive holders completed by learn and turn members*

## AWA Chapter News

### AWA February Demonstration

*By Ken Evans and Celia Carpenter*

This month's demonstration was by Len Berube on epoxy. So many of us find ourselves in a "comfort zone" with a process that seems to work and then extrapolate this process into areas which they weren't intended. Len shared many years of experimental results which were extremely insightful.

Len shared with us the types of epoxy, the different uses, how to calibrate the epoxy and hardener with syringes. There were lots of questions and everyone came away with a better appreciation for the uses of epoxy. It is likely we will now see some epoxy glue-ups and who knows maybe even an epoxy finish on a few bowls.

We appreciate the time and energy spent to prepare for the demos each month and thank those that do so. We invite members to approach any of the Board members if they wish to demonstrate at our monthly meetings.

Remember to bring your recently turned items to display at our Instant Gallery. It is a nice way for you to share your work and receive helpful criticism from the members.

As a final note, the Wed evening Turning sessions at Stillwater continue to be very positive events. 🙌



*Steve Sherman's work in progress - an ebony box with barley twist finial and turned brass topper*



# NWA Classes

*By Herm Finkbeiner*

Last Fall Dave Mobley gave a class on basic operation and use of the router. That class had enough interest that it was presented 3 times.

Dave is now offering a new series on using the router. This series is a hands-on program and as a result the class size is restricted to 8 members. It has been offered once before and quickly filled up so he has agreed to provide a second opportunity.

## Getting More Out of Your Router

Presented by: Windhover Studio

Instructor: Dave Mobley

Place & Time: Stillwater Shop, 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

### (1) Template Guides and Inlays

Date: March 1, 2010

Cost: Class \$30

Materials \$60

This is the first of a series of hands-on workshops to help you get more out of your router. Template guides are useful for a number of router operations, including hinge mortising, inlays, letter engraving, and dovetailing. In this class you'll outfit your router with a centered base and template guides. Then you'll learn the basics of creating inlays with your router by making a butterfly key and the corresponding recess. The skills you learn in this inlay example can be used in a variety of template guide applications. Safe use of the router will be emphasized throughout.

The course is designed for woodworkers with some router experience, preferably including the NWA Router Basics class.

You will need to supply your own hand-held router with a 1/4" collet (or equipped with both 1/2" and 1/4" collets). A router with a plunge base is preferred, but not essential.

Materials fees: \$60 (Materials include a new router base plate with hardware, centering cone, template guides, 1/8" spiral downcut bit, butterfly key template, and wood for the inlay exercise. Discounts can be applied if you already have suitable template guides or centering cone.)

### (2) Fractionating Base with Straight Edge Guide and Offset Base

Date: March 8, 2010

Cost: Class \$30

Materials \$35

The second of a series of hands-on workshops to help you get more out of your router. Two of the most useful operations with a router are straight cuts and edge profiling. In this class you'll outfit your router to make these operations easier. To help with straight cuts (dadoes, rabbets, edge jointing), you'll make a straight edge guide and equip your router with a fractionating base. The fractionating base works with the straight edge guide and expands the effective width of cut of any of your straight bits. For edge profiling, you'll outfit your router with an offset base that keeps your router steady and balanced when working along an edge. Safe use of the router will be emphasized throughout.

The class is designed for woodworkers with some router experience, preferably including the NWA Router Basics class.

You will need to supply your own hand-held router (fixed or plunge base) and a straight bit (1/2" diameter recommended).

Materials fees: \$35 (Materials include a new fractionating base plate with hardware, parts for a new offset base plate with hardware, and a centering cone. A discount can be applied if you already have a suitable centering cone.)

### (3) Fractionating Base with Straight Edge Guide and Offset Base

Date: March 15, 2010

Cost: Class \$30

Materials \$25

One of a series of hands-on workshops to help you get more out of your router. Routers are excellent tools for making mortises – if you have a mortising jig to guide the router. In this class, you'll build a mortising jig that's easy to use with your plunge-base router. This simple-to-build jig is easily adjustable to use with different widths of stock. You'll attach the mortising jig to the base of your router and practice using the jig. Safe use of the router will be emphasized throughout.

The course is designed for woodworkers with some router experience, preferably including the NWA Router Basics class.

You will need to supply your own hand-held router with a plunge base and a straight bit (1/2" diameter recommended).

Materials fees: \$25 (Materials kit includes parts to make the mortising jig, including hardware, and wood for mortising practice.)

***There is a special price for the set of three classes, a cost of \$75 saving \$15. The cost of the router accessories remains the same, of course.***

To register for any or all of these classes send an e-mail to: [hfinkbei@nycap.rr.com](mailto:hfinkbei@nycap.rr.com)

## Dovetail Jigs Demystified

***Instructor: Ernie Conover***

**Dates: March 30-31 (Tuesday & Wednesday)**

**Place: NWA shop at the Stillwater Community Center**

**Time: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm**

**Cost: \$160**

Have you ever considered getting one of those dovetail jigs? Or do you have one in a drawer somewhere and almost never use it? Find that it is a challenge to just to remember how to set it up let alone how to adjust and use it?

In this two-day class Ernie Conover, author of *Woodworker's Guide to Dovetails*, bring understanding to dovetail jigs. He will start with the history of dovetail jigs and then demonstrate each type of jig: single pass

*Continued on Page 11*

# Wood of the Month ©2010

- Ron DeWitt

**Virginia Pine** *Pinus virginiana* Mill.

**An evergreen conifer**

**Pinaceae - Pine Family**

**Syn. *Pinus inops* Aiton and *Pinus turbinata***

**Bosc ex Loudon**

Derivation of the genus name *Pinus* is from the Greek, *pinos*, for the pine trees. This is the largest and most widespread genus of conifers in the Northern Hemisphere. The epithet or species name, *virginiana*, meaning "of Virginia," is from the North American Colony where this tree was first documented in 1789.

The pines number about 97 species world-wide, all but one of them (in Sumatra) ranging north of the Equator. About 60 species are found in North America: 36 native and one naturalized in the U.S. (nine of these are also native to Canada), seven-

teen more native to Mexico, three to Central America, and four to the West Indies. Eurasia and North Africa have about 37 more. Two varieties of Virginia pine native to the south central U.S. are usually treated as separate species.

Virginia pine, *Pinus virginiana*, also called scrub pine, Jersey pine, spruce pine, possum pine, shortstraw pine, poverty pine, or Oldfield pine, is considered a hard pine and a minor species. All in the eastern U.S., the native range of this pine extends from Long Island in southern New York along the Atlantic Coastal Plain and in the lower elevations of the mountains, southwestward from Pennsylvania into northeastern Georgia, Mississippi and Alabama. In scattered areas it extends as far west as Ohio, Indiana, and Tennessee. The Arnold Arboretum in Boston has some excellent specimens. It has become naturalized in areas of Ontario, Alberta, and British Columbia in Canada.

Virginia pine grows best in slightly acidic, moderately- to well-drained clay or sandy loam and in areas of limestone or shale, at elevations of 0 to 3000 ft. (0 to 900 m). Annual precipitation averages 35 to 55 in. (890 to 1400 mm) and is usually relatively uniformly distributed. Temperatures average 70 to 75 degrees F (21 to 24 C) in summer to 25 to 39 degrees F (-4 to 4 C) in winter. This

species is among the hardiest of pines. It may develop in large pure stands or associate with a variety of pines, oaks, river birch, sweetgum, eastern redcedar, red maple, hickories, eastern hemlock, etc.

Virginia pine is a small- to medium-sized, unkempt looking pine with an undistinguished past. Once considered a "forest weed," it was referred to as scrub pine. In more recent times it has risen to a place of commercial importance. Typically it grows 30 to 60 ft. (9 to 18 m) tall and 12 to 20 in. (30 to 50 cm) dbh, rarely to 100 ft. (30 m). Life expectancy is a relatively short 65 to 90 years. However, trees have been reported at an estimated age of 150 years. A record tree noted in the U.S. *National Register of Big Trees* is 91 ft. (28 m) tall by 2.3 ft. (0.7 m) dbh, located in Arlington, Virginia.

From a shallow root system this tree may grow either straight or occasionally contorted, usually with a single stem. Numerous slender outreaching branches begin close to the ground and remain firmly in place after they die. The tree does not self-prune. The open, broad crown becomes rounded, wide spread and irregular. Branch tips, from ground to crown are lightly covered with living as well as persistent dead cones and needles. Virginia pine is sometimes mistaken for jack pine or shortleaf pine.

Leaves, or needles, in bundles of two are 1.5 to 2.5 in. (4 to 6.4 cm) long, stiffly outstretched, sturdy, slightly flattened, and somewhat twisted. Upper and lower surfaces of individual needles have up to ten very fine, inconspicuous, longitudinal lines of stomata (breathing pores). Classified as evergreen, these dull, dark green to yellowish-green needles live for three to four years, and may persist on the tree for many more.

Twigs and small branches are reddish-brown to purple-brown, hairless, and smooth, sometimes with a pale waxy coating. Bark is orange-brown and flaky when young. It becomes grayish-brown and breaks into scaly, irregular, narrow blocks separated by shallow furrows, then thickens to be shaggy at old age.

Typical of most pines this species is monoecious-bearing both sex components on the same tree. The yellow-brown male or pollen cones are only 0.4 to 0.8 in. (10 to 20 mm) long, obscured in the needles. The female or seed cones, 1 to 2.25 in. (2.5 to 5.7 cm) long, egg-shaped to conical and symmetrical, mature in two years to become reddish-brown, opening then or remaining tightly closed although viable for many years. Cone scales are egg-shaped and keeled, ending in a stiff sharp prickle. Seed cones may develop singly or in pairs on short stalks and may not be oriented in any specific position or direction. In this pine, cones are produced in all parts of the crown. The tree is wind pollinated.

Sapwood of Virginia pine is pale yellow or light tan, variable in thickness. Heartwood is distinct, grading toward tan or light brown. The earlywood to latewood transition is gradual but does produce a dark band of latewood. Growth rings are distinct. Resin canals are small and few. Combined with the relatively small tree size and difficulty in reaching the tree stem, tapping for naval stores was impractical. The wood is heavy, hard and weak,





tending to break easily. Texture is medium, grain is close and uneven with an abundance of knots. Specific gravity at 12 % M.C. averages 0.48, weight also at 12 % M.C. is about 34 pcf (545 kg/m<sup>3</sup>), similar to that of Douglas fir. Dry wood has a mild resin odor and no distinguishing taste.

Skin, eye, nasal passage, and respiratory problems are known to result from working with some of the hard pines. Appropriate precautions are well advised. It should also be noted that fresh needles are occasionally poisonous to grazing cattle.

Virginia pine is said to be "almost useless" for construction or utility lumber. The frequency of knots and the difference in hardness between knots and wood causes difficulties in working this wood with hand or power tools. Fasteners split out, finishes are unpredictable, and durability in soil or the weather is only moderately good. Results when turning or carving are usually poor.

On the brighter side, when available this is an inexpensive rough lumber. Some is used for railroad cross ties and mine timbers. Stand density and growth rate makes it an excellent choice for biomass or fuel wood. Some is used for shelter belt and median strip plantings. Virginia pine has also become an important source for paper pulp and for charcoal production. It is an eager pioneer, first in on abandoned agricultural lands, mined sites, and even roadsides, cut-overs, and burned sites. It is planted extensively on land recovery jobs, and then often replaced with more valuable timber in 10 to 15 years. Plantings outside its native range are usually encroached upon and overwhelmed by native species within 15 to 20 years.

Native Americans also used this species for an impressive variety of medicinal purposes. Inner bark was used in decoctions to treat swollen breasts, or chewed to control diarrhea. Pine needle infusions were taken for fever and used to bathe or soak rheumatic joints. Colds were treated in pine oil steam baths, root infusions treated hemorrhoids. Also mumps and swollen testicles responded to "pine syrup" (resin) in a poultice, and by going one step further, heated poultices of pine tar treated tuberculosis. Similar preparations were used for common ailments from colic to venereal disease. Athletes used an infusion of pine needles in apple juice to improve their "wind." A root tea served as a stimulant.

Virginia pine is in good supply. Heavily planted as nursery stock and in the field, it does well in its native



range. It has few significant natural threats except for the southern pine beetle, pitch canker, fungal heart rot in trees 60 years or older, lightning and man with his fire. Wood softened by heart rot is appreciated by many of the cavity nesters; plentiful seeds nourish a variety of small animals as well as deer.

## Wood Questions

**Q.** The unique grain figure of birds-eye maple has been treasured for fine furniture for at least 2000 years. What percentage of sugar maple trees are likely to contain commercial quality birds-eye figure?



**A.** Little more than one percent of sugar maple trees will contain commercial quality birds-eye figure.

## Wood Definition

- Ron DeWitt

**Decoction** - A tea steeped from boiling water and the medicinal parts of a tree—inner bark, leaves, buds, flowers, sap, etc.

## Dovetail Jigs Demystified

*continued from Page 9*

half-blind, through and finally half blind with adjustable spacing. He will then go on to demonstrate many of the major jigs such as Porter Cable's Omni, The Leigh, The Keller and The Wood Rat.

Class members are urged to bring in their own jigs and work along with Ernie when their jig is covered. They will leave with a jig that is properly tuned and ready to make furniture. If your jig is not in the above list, also bring it along and Ernie will help you to make it work.

Ernie is a recognized figure in the woodworking world, he is a furniture maker, a teacher, a writer, a turner and a tool aficionado. He first became a part of NWA activities in 1996 when he taught three classes at the Sears workshop and has been a featured presenter at Woodworkers Showcase five times since then. Ernie is often called upon as a machine designer, having made the Conover lathe, but it is his teaching and writing about woodworking that has made him a household name among woodworkers.

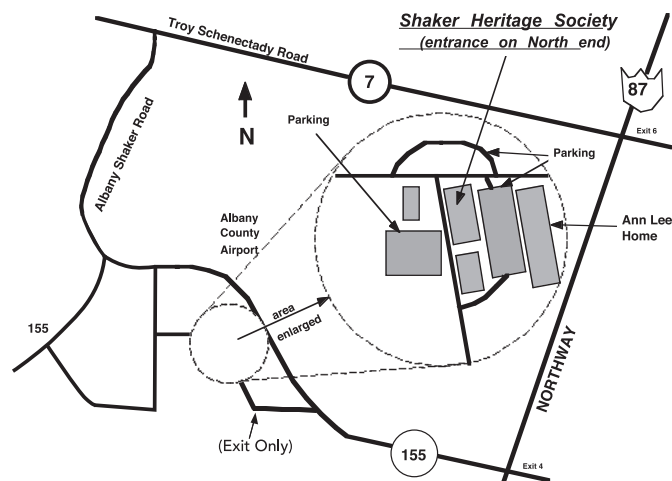
Conover has written eight books, including *The Router Table Book* 1994, *Turning for Furniture* (1996), *Turn a Bowl with Ernie Conover* (2000) and *The Lathe Book II Edition* (2001). He often further amplifies his books and articles with pen and ink illustrations. He has also done four videos; *Turning for Furniture* (a companion to the book), *Turning Furniture Spindles*, and *Reclaiming Flea Market Planes*.

To register for this class; send an e-mail to: [hfinkbei@nycap.rr.com](mailto:hfinkbei@nycap.rr.com) or call 518-371-9145. 🐿





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



## March Meeting

Thursday, March 11, 2010, 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 2010 General Meetings

April 2010  
George Rutledge  
Getting started in woodworking

May 2010  
Mid-Hudson Chapter  
Planes, Then and Now

July 2010  
Roger Holmes  
Picnic

### 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.