

# WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern  
Woodworkers  
Association

May 2006, Vol. 15, Number 5

## NWA Mid-Hudson Special Meeting - Fly Rod Construction

- Wally Cook

*It's springtime...and a young person's fancy turns to well...fishing. John Gill described his passion for making split bamboo fly rods for those who share the love of the stream.*

John is owner of Gill Farms, a large producer of sweet corn. He keeps a busy schedule, yet devoted over 1000 hours last year to create custom fly rods.

Of course, the best rods start with the best materials. Tonkin cane is considered the prime choice. It grows on hillsides and is exposed to wind which constantly bends the cane, maximizing its strength. The material comes in stalks, which are first split in half and then further divided into three strips, such that each stalk provides six strips in a bundle. The outside surface of the bamboo is called enamel; it is removed during the planing process.

The planing process will take the cross section of each bamboo strip from a square to a rectangle to a triangle. The taper is controlled by adjustments in the jig, providing customized action of the rod. The tip of each strip will be planed to  $1/30,000$ " before it is assembled into a rod bundle. Wearing gloves is important since the bamboo splinters are extremely sharp.

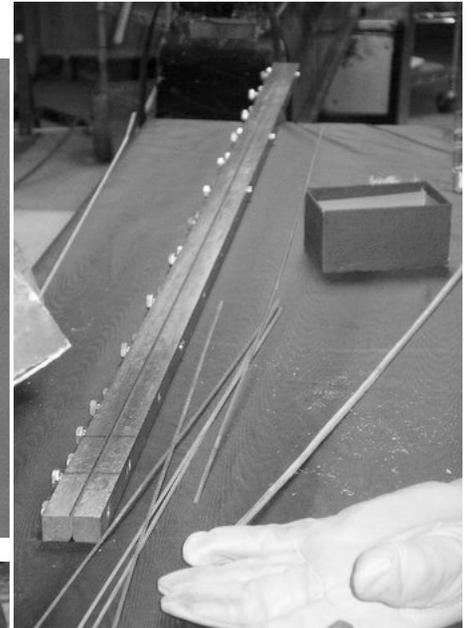
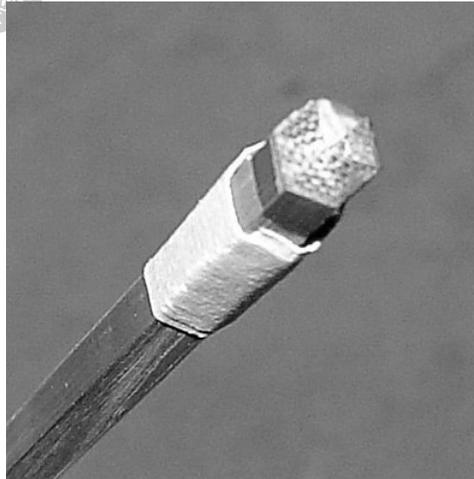
One rod is fashioned from the same stalk to ensure matching characteristics. Usually the rod is prepared with an extra tip section, since the tips are vulnerable to breakage.

Each rod progresses through forty-four steps, from splitting the canes to wrapping the ferrules and guides and then varnishing the rod. The overall process may be summarized in five phases:

1. Cane preparation - split one stalk into six strips; chisel out interior horizontal sections; heat treat to remove moisture.
2. Hand planing - plane the component strips to an equilateral triangle profile
3. Blank preparation - Bind and glue the fly rod blank, flaming to remove twist
4. Accessories - add ferrules, handle, butt cap and guides
5. Finish treatment - finish rod with spar urethane or varnish dip, pumice and oil

Each of these steps depends on specialized jigs and materials to ensure correct rod characteristics of balance, stiffness and resiliency, as well as accurate alignment of ferrules and guides. John estimates that each rod includes as much as \$350 in materials and takes approximately 100 hours to build.

For further information, John recommends the video by Everett Garrison and Fundamentals of Building a Bamboo Fly-Rod by Maurer and Elser.



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# Annual NWA Lumber and Tool Auction - September 16, 2006

- *Charlie Goddard*

Our annual lumber and tool auction has been scheduled for September 16, 2006 in the Shaker barn. We already have some very nice oak, walnut and cherry. A year ago we sawed up 1,100 feet of oak and it has been drying in the barn ever since. The last of the walnut we sawed 2 years ago will be sold, along with another walnut tree that we sawed last summer.

We can use some additional lumber but mostly we need tools to sell. If you have tools that you no longer need and want to donate please let me know. If you do not want to donate the full value we can split the proceeds from the sale. All donations are fully tax deductible, including the share which goes to NWA when proceeds are split.

Mark your calendars. The auction is a great place to get good lumber and tools at reasonable prices. The auction is the primary source of money for the Fiske Fund, from which grants are awarded to attend woodworking courses.

## Another Lumber Auction

On May 12 at 7 pm there will be a lumber auction at the Town and Country Auction barn, 3 miles north of Schuylerville on Route 32. This lumber was collected by a man who traveled all over the world and had lumber shipped home. Some of us had seen this lumber a year or so ago and we decided that there was too much for us to handle at our annual auction. Then recently we were contacted by Town and Country asking for help identifying the wood species. Ron DeWitt, Herm Finkbeiner, Bill McCormack, Ken Evans and Charlie Goddard spent a few hours handling each of the more than 600 boards. In return Town and Country gave us \$400 to put into the Fiske Fund.

Included are walnut, oak, cherry, butternut, maple and smaller amounts of bubinga, Brazilian cherry, ebony and rosewood. There are quite a few pieces of 8/4 and larger cherry.

This may be an opportunity to buy some nice lumber. NWA will not benefit from this sale, other than the \$400. 🐾

## The Fiske Fund

- *Joe Kennedy*

We currently are reviewing five applications that were received during the first quarter. *Ralph Herrmann* is enrolled in Master Bird of Prey carving class with Floyd Schulz at the Vermont Raptor Academy in Hancock, Vermont. *Bill Van Brunt* will take a one-week course in the use of hand tools at the Rosewood Studio in Toronto, Canada. *Matthew Clarke* will attend a one-week advanced turning class with Ray Key at the Anderson Ranch in Snowmass, Colorado. *Carl Ford* will take a one-week advanced turning class with David Ellsworth at the same school. *Elizabeth Rowland*, a new member, has signed up for a two-day class with Barry Gordon on the mechanics of spoon making in Baldwinsville, NY. It's nice to see so many members taking such interesting classes.

We still have some grant money available. Applications received before June 30 will be processed in July. Applications received after June 30 will be processed in October. 🐾

## Directions To The May 20th Loon Lake/Chestertown Woodswalk

- *Mike Kratky*

**FROM THE CAPITAL DISTRICT:** (About 1 1/2 hours from Colonie Center) Take the Northway to exit 25, head West to Rt 9. At the blinking light turn right onto Landon Hill Road, then Left on Ben Culver Road (Co Rd 75), follow the signs to on the right to John Sullivan's Kipp Mountain Tree Farm.

**FROM FULTON AND MONTGOMERY COUNTIES:** (About 1 1/2 hours from Mayfield) Take Rt 30 North picking up Rt 8 just above Wells, staying on Rt 8 continue on crossing Rt 28 then pass the Hudson River crossing at Riparius on to Loon Lake taking a left on Rt 9. Near the end of Loon Lake still on Rt 9 take a right on Butternut Flats Road. At the "T" take a right then at the very next corner a left onto Ben Culver Road (Co Rd 75). Follow the signs to John Sullivan's Kipp Mountain Tree farm on the left.

The walk is scheduled to begin at 9 am. 🐾

# New Members

- Pam Cook

Welcome to NWA to our newest members. We hope that you enjoy belonging to NWA and participating in the many activities that are available.

Allan Fosella, Schroon Lake, NY  
Arthur Erbe, Manlius, NY  
Bernie Mericle, Scotia, NY  
Bill Clark, Delanson, NY  
Bill Coffey, Northville, NY  
Bill and Margaret McDowell, Burnt Hills, NY  
Bob Adair, Maryland, NY  
Bob Darling, Gloversville, NY  
Bob Mellow, Horseheads, NY  
Bob and Doug Meyerhoff, S. Glens Falls, NY  
Bob and Stephanie Tinker, Middleburgh, NY  
Brad Oakes, Niskayuna, NY  
Brian and Deidre Bernard, Poughkeepsie, NY  
Bridget Fairchild, Waterford, NY  
Charlie Guadagnola, Woodstock, NY  
Chris Lamb, Niskayuna, NY  
Chuck Hill, W. Springfield, MA  
Chuck Sommer, Warrensburg, NY  
Dan Tipton and Margaret Syvertson,  
Petersburg, NY  
David and Jennifer Schlitzer, Ballston Spa, NY  
Deborah Bayly, Poestenkill, NY  
Dennis and Jeanne Picano, Queensbury, NY  
Diana Endres, Albany, NY  
Don Taber, Eagle Bridge, NY  
Ed Buell, Ballston Lake, NY  
Elliot Matlin, Wickatunk, NJ  
Frank Buehler, Lake George, NY  
Frank Malagisi, Caroga Lake, NY  
Fred DuBois, New Paltz, NY  
Fred Tromp, Latham, NY  
Fred Wyckoff, Cooperstown, NY  
Gary Hartman, Gansevoort, NY  
Gene Albright, Queensbury, NY  
George Guadiane, Austerlitz, NY  
George Rothbart, W. Fulton, NY  
Gunnar Seigh, Nassau, NY  
James Harvey, Castleton, NY  
James Robinowitz, Poughkeepsie, NY  
Jim and Linda Goodrich, Worcester, NY  
Joe and Jen Corbett, Scotia, NY

Joe and Debra Martin, Queensbury, NY  
Joe Serencsics, Hyde Park, NY  
Joe Trembley, Hoosick Falls, NY  
John Los, Schenectady, NY  
John McInerney, Pawlet, VT  
John Tenuto, New Paltz, NY  
Jon Hedman, Burnt Hills, NY  
Jose Holguin-Veras, Clifton Park, NY  
Judy Connors, Schenectady, NY  
Karl Galusha, Berlin, NY  
Karl Stewart, Saratoga Springs, NY  
Kathy Wallace, Troy, NY  
Kurt Roullier, Wynantskill, NY  
Larry Payne, Newfield, NY  
LeRoy Diegel, Albany, NY  
Lou and Cindy Carusone, Schenectady, NY  
Michael Kril, Saratoga Springs, NY  
Michael Trinkala, Troy, NY  
Mike Burke, Middle Grove, NY  
Mike Chojnacki, Albany, NY  
Mike King, Castleton, NY  
Mike Knott and Lindsay Williams, Hannacroix, NY  
Mike Loveman, Rensselaer, NY  
Owen and Karen Arkison, Albany, NY  
Paris and Sara Rilveria, Schuylerville, NY  
Pat Morrow and Ed Tripp, Hadley, NY  
Paul, Jennifer & Ozzie Beichert, Rhinebeck, NY  
Phil Yourno and Emilio Linnea, Scotia, NY  
Randolph Myerson, Hurley, NY  
Ray Habbeck, Albany, NY  
Rick Charbonneau, Gloversville, NY  
Ron Lyke, Queensbury, NY  
Roy Thornton, Schenectady, NY  
Russ Lancto, Windham, NY  
Skip Upton, Saratoga Springs, NY  
Sven Gudmundsen, Clifton Park, NY  
Ted Weyhe, Albany, NY  
Tom and Candace Eustace, Brainard, NY  
Tom Mulderry, Stillwater, NY  
Tom Owens, Little Falls, NY

# I Am An NWA Member

- Don Partridge

I learned from books and videos borrowed from our *NWA Library*

I learned about woodturning in one of *NWA's Special Interest Groups*

I learned about manufacturing furniture on an *NWA Bus Trip*

I learned that my neighbor was a woodworker at a *Regular NWA Meeting*

I learned to sharpen my tools at an *NWA Woodworkers Weekend*

I learned to make my shop more efficient on an *NWA Shop Tour*

I learned to make a Shaker Chair in an *NWA Subsidized Class*

I learned about my friends' families at the *NWA Family Night*

I learned about the wood of the month at the *NWA Website*

I learned about lathe safety in the *NWA Newsletter*

I learned about dovetails at an *NWA Workshop*

I learned about lumbering at an *NWA Picnic*

I learned about gluing from an *NWA Friend*

I learned that *NWA* is about *Learning!*

I would like you to learn about *NWA!*



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



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# Horsing Around with Alden

Alden Witham and his son Steve do a fabulous job of keeping the flat-belt nostalgia in front of us at the Showcases. Well, Showcase 2006 is over. ...So what is a woodworker to do you may ask, why work some wood of course!

Not only do Alden and Steve entertain at the Showcases, but they also teach some fine woodworking classes. I recently took my second class with them. My first class with them was Building a Shaker Chair with Hand Tools. The most recent was Make a Traditional Shaving Horse on April 7 & 8. There were 3 students – Chris Knite, Charlie Long (a returnee taking the class for a second time), and myself (Jayson Cote). With Alden and Steve that made 6 of us as Guy Garrett also assisted with the class and finally finished the horse that he started last time.

As the first day of the class got started and the intros were over, we roughed out our stock based on the model shaving horse. Now some of us did not stick quite to the model. I, for example, decided to add ~6" to my length in order for my son to sit in front of me so that I can teach him to use the horse. And Charlie, well let's just say that he makes his horses of a different color as they do not resemble the model dumbhead horse. Alden suggested that the class might consider making an extra horse – for a raffle donation for Showcase 2007 – we agreed.

During conversation while dimensioning the pine planks I decided to ask Alden for suggestions on how to scale the horse in order to make a "pony" for my son when I got home. With a perplexed look on his face (or so I thought) Alden gave some thought to my question. His response was something like "Well I don't know that I ever saw one – how do these pieces look?" and he held up some otherwise scrap stock (just shy of long enough for becoming a bridge for a

horse). Soon, the class took on a new meaning for me as my focus was not on learning to build a shaving horse any more – now it was a challenge to create a nice present for my son's 6th birthday.

Well the shavings, turnings, and chips were just a flying as we worked on the horses. The socializing and exchange of knowledge add so much to a class like this – everyone seems to know a trick, shortcut, or at least an anecdote to share. All skill levels benefit from the knowledge exchanges.

Somewhere during the course of the day, Guy mentioned that he would be back "tomorrow" as things were progressing quite well ... and he would bring his horse with him. Things were shaping up quite nicely by the end of the first day.

On day 2 of the class, we had to persuade some maple to become the dumbheads and so we called in the big guns (Steve's son Aidan) to help us out with the hard work.

Once again, the stories, jokes (we must have used every horse joke there is – only thing that we did not do was shoot one so we could then kick a dead horse) and yummys were great. By the end of the day the horses were quite lively. We finished off the horses by drilling and pinning the dumbheads.

Alden mentioned to us that this may have been the last class he will teach on the making of a shaving horse due to the inability to locate dry hard maple in a 5" thickness. But to that I say – time for an alternate design!

*Thanks Alden!*



# Scrollers Begin Intarsia Series

- Donna Phillips

About a dozen scrollers, tired of "oohing" and "aahing" at the lovely intarsia pieces brought in by our three or four resident experts, have persuaded the experts to guide us through the steps of completing a presentable project. Intarsia is not only for scrollers; many intarsia artists started with just a band saw and sandpaper. Over the next few months we will be learning how to select patterns and woods, how to cut and fit pieces, and how to finish and assemble the work. Participants have agreed to pace themselves with the group on this project...no racing ahead. With this approach, monthly discussions will focus on lessons learned and expected pitfalls in the next monthly assignment. Even woodworkers and turners who were not present can join in this project, because notes are taken and shared through email. The next monthly meeting will be May 17th at Woodcraft in Latham, starting at 5:30 PM. All are welcome to join.

At the April meeting, participants got to browse easy patterns from the Guild's intarsia library, discuss woods, and "ooh" and "aah" at Ernie LeClaire's magnificent intarsia tom turkey made from half a dozen different woods. Mark Hammond's hound portrait, done principally with western red cedar, just looks like it is made from half a dozen different woods. M.K. Purohit also impressed us with several well-crafted marquetry pieces.

The group took a vote to start another co-operative project, a chess set to add to the 2007 Showcase raffle. 3D cutting of the chess pieces is fun and easy and may only take a few minutes for each piece.



Use pressure treated lumber or your dock may rot before your ship comes in.

Junk is something you've kept for years...and throw away just before you need it.

# CHAPTER NEWS

## Mid-Hudson Chapter News

- Wally Cook

### April Meeting – Giles Gilson Seminar

The Mid-Hudson Chapter hosted Giles for the first in a series of workshops entitled Fine Finishing Techniques. Assisted by Steve Sherman, Giles covered a) surface preparation for coating and b) polishing and coatings, including post treatment of coatings.



*Psycho Symmetric by Giles Gilson*

Surface preparation centered on discussion of abrasives and their cutting characteristics. Sanding papers feature differences in material (flint, garnet, aluminum oxide, silicon carbide, and zirconium), backing weight (light = code A; heavy = code C),

resins used to glue the abrasive (wet or dry use), and grading system (e.g., FEPA or CAMI).

The key for effective use of abrasives is to recognize that they are a cutting tool with a scratch pattern that can be minimized by directional shift and progression through sanding grades. Giles demonstrated sanding techniques on Plexiglas to underscore cutting patterns. Giles tip: in woodturning, it is more effective to sand at low rpm.

Various coatings and their solvents were covered in detail including stains, colorants, sealers and topcoats. The class

demonstration was to apply potassium permanganate and potassium dichlorate in varying concentrations to hardwoods in order to see the differences produced by chemically induced pigmentation.

Giles' work shows the result of preparing wood for different types of coatings. His optic finishes and airbrush techniques are signature qualities in his pieces, such as his bowl, Psycho Symmetric (pictured).



*Joe Kennedy honored at Mid-Hudson Banquet*

### Mid-Hudson Banquet

The annual Mid-Hudson Banquet was held on April 7 with record attendance. Joe Kennedy was honored as Mid-Hudson Member of the Year for his many contributions, including chairing the Fiske Fund and his leadership in setting up the jigs and fixtures booth at Showcase 2005. Joe was also recognized as an honorary Hurley Tory with most of the rights and privileges that go with such designation. Bill Reynolds provided Joe, (HT) with a marketing technique to help him sell his jewelry boxes (add jewelry!).

The Finkbeiner's and Goddard's were on hand to observe the festivities and witness the induction of four members into the Purple Heart Society. In fact, Dap Cole presented Charlie Goddard with his own purple heart award, recognizing the anvil-thumb technique which Charlie has popularized recently.

## Sacandaga Chapter News

- Gary Spencer

On March 8 our program was devoted to the topic of "The Intarsia of LaVerne Teaney" This was a good program with beautiful examples of Vern's work. He demonstrated much of the complexities involved and discussed alternate ways of modifying patterns to fit individual needs. Thanks to Vern for a fine program.

The Chapter proudly completed two projects for NWA's Woodworkers Showcase. We met several sessions at two different members' shops and finished up in good time for the show. One shop group which met at Dick Edel's shop made an outdoor glider using white cedar. Members of that group were Joe Artikuski, Bob Burton, Clyde Cheney, Dick Edel, Kirk Hardenburg, Ben Siegle, and Ed Tanner. The other group met at Mike Kratky's shop and made a 6' by 30" shop work bench out of ash & maple with wenge, red heart, yellowheart and walnut trim. Members of that group included Fritz Heinze, Mike Kratky, Ray Laubenstein, Jeff Meuwissen, Rod Neilson, Ralph Simonson, Gary Spencer, and Paul Vingerhoet. Both projects were put up for raffle at the Showcase and were among the top receivers of raffle tickets among all the raffle prizes presented. The workbench was also given an Honorable Mention award by the Showcase Judges. All in all a good time was had by everyone!

On April 12th our program was devoted to "Dust Collection in the Shop" with a past President of the Chapter, Kirk Hardenburg doing the presentation. Kirk showed slides outlining the essential elements in planning for your shop dust collection system. There were many questions and a lively interaction on this topic. Kudos to Kirk for an excellent, well-prepared program which provided much topic for thought.

Our May 10th program will be devoted to either veneering or steam bending.

The Sacandaga Chapter meetings are open to all, and light refreshments are served.

Remember we have door prizes at every meeting but you do have to be present to win!

Our regular monthly meetings are the second Wednesday of each month and begin at 7:00 P.M. at Mayfield High School woodshop. Come on out!

For additional information or directions contact:

Joe Artikuski, 883-4436

Mike Kratki, 863-2821

Gary Spencer, 863-6433

# Wood of the Month<sup>©2006</sup>

- Ron DeWitt

## Osage-Orange (*Maclura pomifera*) (Raf.) Schneid. Moraceae - Mulberry Family

There is only one species of Osage-orange (*Madura pomifera*) although some taxonomists may include it with a related genus *Chlorophora* of Central America and Africa for a total of twelve. In the botanical name, the genus is derived from William Maclure (1763 - 1840), an American geologist who first described the tree. The species epithet comes from "pomes" or apples, which requires a good imagination for this fruit.

Osage-orange, depending on location, may be called bois d'arc, bodark, bow wood, hedge-apple, horse apple, hedge, mock orange, maclura, osage, wild orange, rootwood, osage apple tree or yellow-wood in addition to a number of Native American names.

The Osage-orange was native to just small portions of Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas in the United States. It has migrated and been planted extensively to become naturalized throughout much of the eastern and northwestern U.S. The "commercial range" now includes most of this country east of the Rocky Mountains and south of the Great Lakes.

This tree grows well in a wide variety of difficult soil conditions, doing best in open rich, moist bottom soils with little competition. It may be found in small stands, pure or with mixed hardwoods, or occasionally in large pure stands, sometimes referred to as "bodark swamps." Hardy to about -200 F, it is tolerant of severe drought, heavy flooding, heat, road salt and urban air pollution. Osage-orange is a rapid-growing, medium-size tree, typically reaching 50 to 60 feet with stems of 18" dbh. Stems are relatively short, often crooked, with numerous irregular branches. Crowns are roughly spherical and usually lopsided. The largest trees and those of the best quality grow in the bottom lands of the Red River in Oklahoma. Record trees are reported to be 60' tall by 8' 8" diameter in Charlotte County, VA and 75' by 50" diameter along Route 301 in Delaware. New York's big Osage-orange is 63' by 8' 9" diameter, in Lloyd Harbor, Suffolk County.

The alternate leaves of this tree are glossy dark green on top, light green below, with smooth margins. Leaves vary considerably in size, from 3" to 6" long and 1" to 3" in width. They are narrowly ovate with long points and smooth surfaces. Autumn foliage is a showy golden yellow and may last four weeks.

The stout zigzag twigs have no terminal bud. Twigs are orange-brown and well armed with a single 1" spine as well as a short twig or spur on most leaf nodes. Damaged twigs ooze a milky sap. Branches droop with age. The thick bark is gray to orange-brown and deeply furrowed into narrow forking ridges.

Male and female flowers appear on separate trees. Female flowers are wind pollinated to produce an unusual 3 1/2" to 5" diameter, heavy (2 1/2 lb.) yellow-green knobby grapefruit-sized fruit ball...a unique feature of this tree. The citrus-scented fruit is a synocarp, a flesh-covered, firm mass of single seed drupelets composed of tough stringy tissue. In the absence of a male tree a female tree may produce an abundance of fruit without seeds. If damaged the fruit exudes a bitter, mildly toxic juice which can cause a skin rash. The fruit are inedible except by occasional hardy, hungry livestock.

Osage-orange is easily propagated from seed, root or sprout cuttings. Often planted as an ornamental in residential or urban

park settings, it provides more character than beauty. It is a heavy bearer after about 10 years, requiring the messy clean-up of many bushels of useless fruit, although new varieties have been developed to eliminate the fruit and spines.

Sapwood of Osage-orange is light yellow and very narrow. Heartwood is golden brown to bright orange, often with reddish streaks. It darkens to reddish-brown on exposure. The wood is straight-grained, medium in texture, very heavy, hard and strong. At 12% MC, average sp. gr. is 0.85 and weight is 53 lbs./cu. ft.

This is a ring-porous hardwood. Earlywood pores are quite large forming in a band 2 to 3 pores wide. Earlywood pores in heartwood are fully closed with tyloses resulting in poorly-defined pore walls, appearing to the naked eye as a light-colored strip. Small latewood pores are clustered, appearing as broken, concentric wavy bands. The transition from earlywood to latewood is abrupt; growth rings are easily noted. Rays are just visible to the naked eye.

Osage-orange requires care to overcome a tendency to warp when drying. Shrink from green to oven dry is very small at 9.2% of volume. It is rated average for stability in service and is considered the most durable of North American hardwoods, even resistant to ants and termites. It has no distinguishing taste or odor. The wood of Osage-orange is easily confused with black locust.

Rated average to machine with power tools, Osage-orange is quite difficult to work by hand. It is hard on cutting edges; nailing is difficult, fasteners require pre-drilling but hold well, gluing is easy, and surfaces take a high polish. Most finishes work well but UV inhibitors are recommended to minimize darkening of the wood.

There is no specific toxicity reported when working with this wood but the tree sap and juice of the fruit and some bark components are toxic. The usual breathing, eye and skin precautions are advised.

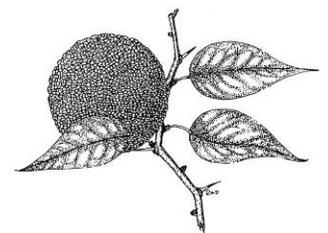
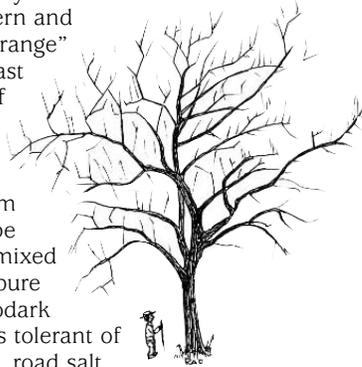
Because of its great strength and resilience, early Native Americans in what is now Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas used Osage-orange for hunting bows. Bow wood was an important trade item for these people, too. Osage bows remain popular today and are considered better than even the European yew bows.

These same Native Americans used the tree sap and whole apples for insect repellent. A mild sap solution on the skin discouraged ticks. Root tea was used as a wash for sore eyes. More recently an antioxidant in the sap has been found useful in food preservation and a non-toxic antibiotic shows promise in treating cardiovascular problems.

Wood and bark were long a source of a fine yellow dye. Although now replaced with synthetic dyes, much wood was used more recently for its yellow, green and

brown coloring principles. U.S. military uniforms for WWI were colored with these dyes. Bark was also a good source of tannin.

Probably the most important application for Osage-orange was for live fencing. Planted on 15" centers, six years of dense thorny growth produced impenetrable (and unpalatable) live-stock hedgerows which also served as soil stabilizer and erosion control. Starting in the early 1840s many miles of hedgerow were established on the mid-western prairies of the U.S. Eventually Osage-orange hedge fence was planted in all 48 of the contiguous states as well as in Southeastern Canada. Hedgerow fencing led to the development of barbed wire and as that became available; the hedgerows were cut to provide fence posts. Osage-orange is currently being planted on surface mine reclamation projects.



Continued on Following Page

# April Mid-Hudson SIG News

- Wally Cook

## What's in a Name?

The Mid-Hudson Scrollers created all the table favors for the NWA Mid-Hudson Banquet ... by scrolling the names of all the ladies attending the event. Forty-six names later, Bob Boisvert and his crew of John McDougall, Dick Dillon, and Jack Collumb had produced a really neat present for the ladies as well as producing a testimony to their scrolling skills. The wood was 150 year-old walnut donated by Chuck Walker. Thanks, guys!



A sample of the many names scrolled for the Mid-Hudson Banquet

## Dibble, for Example

Joe Benkert took bit in teeth to demonstrate dibbling at the April meeting. Dibbling, of course, is the fine art of making dibbles.

A dibble is the tool that is used to plant flowering bulbs. Its main components are a handle and a pointed end. Correct...it is basically a sharp stick!

Well, perhaps it is a bit more than that. A dibble also has graduated measurements so that the gardener plants the bulb at the right depth. Joe makes his dibbles to fit comfortably in the hand, as well as providing a broad pommel to push the dibble into the earth. Simple and useful.

Turning a dibble is a great between-centers turning project, particularly if practice with the skew or Irish grind gouge is desired. The graduated depth markings are burned into the business end of the dibble with stainless steel wire.



It's a dibble!

## Upcoming Events

Stuart Mortimer will provide a workshop at the Opdahl Barn on Sunday, June 4. Contact Stan Rosenberg for details. 🐾

# Wood of the Month

Continued from page 7

The wood has also been used for farm wagon wheels, tool handles, plowshares and harrow teeth, game calls, smoking pipes, crutches and piers. Although hard to carve it is popular for turnings and novelties. It continues to be used for fence posts, railroad crossties, utility pole insulator pins, machinery and musical instrument parts and tree-nails (the pins used in post and beam construction). Much goes for firewood.

Osage-orange is in good supply. Commercially little is cut for lumber or veneer and none goes for paper pulp. The price, when it can be found in a local mill, is moderate.

# Wood Definition

- Ron DeWitt

**Phloem** - The living inner bark of the tree; the principal tissue concerned with the distribution of highly-developed foodstuffs from the leaves, characterized by the presence of sieve tubes.

## Wood Questions

Q. What part of a favorite fruit tree was used to support the war effort of WWI?

🐾   🐾   🐾

A. Peach pits were collected and used to make charcoal for gun powder and gas mask filters.

# NWA Picnic July 30, 2006

- Ken Evans

NWA members, families and friends...please remember to mark your calendar and plan to attend the NWA picnic on Sunday, July 30th.

We had a great time last year and the same is expected this year. Bring the family and friends for great food, demos, rigged tape races (Chuckie Walker didn't win the Golden Corkscrew award for nothin' last year), conversation, super deserts, and above all relaxation with friends.

See you there! 🐾

Excellence can be attained  
if you care more than others think is wise,  
risk more than others think is safe,  
dream more than others think is practical  
and expect more than others think is possible.

Unknown

Laughter won't cure ugly  
but it will sure stop it from spreading.

# Classes at the Stillwater Shop

## TUNING AND USING WOODWORKING POWER TOOLS

**Joe DeJulio and Associates, Instructors**  
**Ken Evans, special consultant (lathe)**  
**Anna Thompson, Women's Instructor**

**Date(s): Monday-Thursday, May 22-24**  
**Time: 2:00 – 5:00 pm and 6:30 – 9:30 pm each day**  
**Cost: Monday plus Tuesday \$20**  
**Entire program \$50**

The Monday and Tuesday sessions are limited to 50 participants

The Wednesday- Thursday sessions are hands-on and are limited to 10 participants so early sign-up is encouraged.

**Joe DeJulio**, a past president of NWA and a trainer for RIDGID TOOLS, will be doing a multiple day program and will cover 9 power tools of the woodworking shop...table saw, drill press, band saw, router, miter saw, disk/belt sander, oscillating spindle sander, planer, and the jointer. The program has been arranged so that it will be possible to attend any part of the sessions.



**Ken Evans**, a well known expert turner is familiar to NWA members (he is the president!), and will be doing the segment on the lathe.

**Anna Thompson** is a cabinet maker, editor, designer, and builder of all kinds of furniture and other wood working projects. For many years she has been an editor, designer and cabinet maker for "Woodworking for Women" magazine which is based in Berne, Indiana. Anna is well versed in the use of all the wood working tools, and has all the stationary tools such as the table saw, bandsaw, planer, jointer, miter saw, drill press, etc. Also, she has all the usual hand tools and uses both powered and hand tools on a daily basis.

She has been woodworking from the age of 3 when she started with the scroll saw. Starting with her teenage years, Anna has made all the furniture in her house. This ultimately resulted in her attendance at many wood shows and becoming a presenter at many of them including ones as far

north as Toronto. Her talent was recognized at one of the shows by the publisher of the magazine which led to her becoming involved with it. She is now the premier person that the magazine sends on shows and tours to do their presentations and seminars. Anna has at least 2 projects in each issue of the magazine.

### A Special Feature - Woodworking for Women

Anna Thompson will devote the mornings of May 23-24-25 to sessions for women woodworkers only. These will be held from 9:00 - 12:00 noon each day. There is no extra charge for these sessions, signing up for either segment of the regular program covers the cost of the morning classes.

To a large extent these sessions will be very informal and the program will go wherever the class wants to take it.

**Monday, 22 May 06**  
**2:00 pm -- 5:00 pm**

#### The Miter Saw

Set-up, tuning, safety issues, operational choices, fences and fixtures

#### The Drill Press

Set-up, speed selection, bit types, drill press techniques, safety, fixtures for the drill press

#### The Planer

Safety, thicknessing, feed tables, selecting cutting depth, snipe

**6:30 pm – 9:30 pm**

#### The Band Saw

Set-up, safe operation, tuning, basic saw blade selection, cutting curves, three dimensional patterns, jigs & fixtures

#### The Disk/belt Sander and the Oscillating Spindle Sander

Types and sizes, safety, dust collection, grits, sanding techniques, replacing disks, pattern sanding, selecting the spindle diameter, feed rates, grit selection,

**Tuesday, 23 May 06**  
**2:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

#### The Router

Types of routers, safety, bit geometries, bit types, router tables, free hand routing, router techniques and operations, feather boards

#### The Lathe

Lathe selection, accessories, holding the work, use of the 4 lathe tools, making the basic shapes, spindle turning, hollow work

**6:30 pm – 9:30 pm**

#### The Table Saw

Set-up, tuning, safety, basic saw blade selection, fences and miter gauges, dadoes, tenons, hold downs, feather boards

### The Jointer

Safety, set-up, tuning, jointing techniques, getting a flat board, feed blocks

The Wednesday and Thursday sessions will follow the same sequence as above but will have a large component of hands on experience. Attendance on Wednesday and Thursday is limited to 10.

The aim of the program is to introduce the operation and uses of each of these machines in way that will expose the experienced woodworker to a broader range of the capabilities of the machine and provide the novice woodworker with sufficient understanding of the machines to be able to undertake their use with a reasonable level of confidence.

### To sign up:

Send an e-mail to [hfinkbeiner@nycap.rr.com](mailto:hfinkbeiner@nycap.rr.com) or call 371-9145.

## BEGINNING WOODWORKING

**Ed VanWormer, Instuctor**  
**Charlie Goddard, Assistant**

**Date(s): Monday, June 5, 12, 19**  
**Time: 6:30-9:30 pm**



Ed and Charlie will lead a class through building a simple box. Students will go home with a small tote box. The class will start from scratch beginning with designing the box and selecting the wood. Woodworking operations will include cutting pieces to the correct size for the joints to be used, making the joints, methods of making the bottom of box, designing and making the handle(s), selecting and applying the finish. The classes will be held at the Stillwater shop beginning on June 5 and continuing for three Monday evenings from 6:30 to 9:30 pm. There is a charge of \$50 plus the cost of materials.

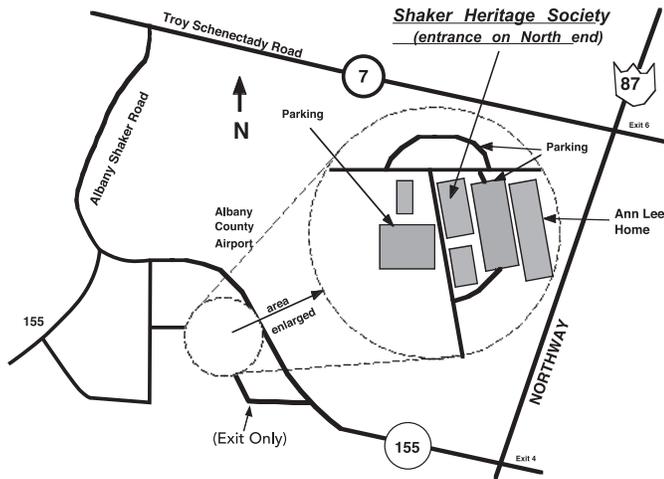
### To sign up:

send an e-mail to [JustEd@Acmenet.net](mailto:JustEd@Acmenet.net) or call (518) 356-2431.





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



## NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, May 11th, 7 pm.  
Shaker Heritage Society Meeting House  
Albany-Shaker Road, Albany  
(near Albany airport)

## GENERAL MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

May 11, 2006 – General Meeting  
Shaker Meeting Hall, 7:00 pm  
Woodcarving by Mid-Hudson and  
Albany Groups

June, 2006 - NO MEETING

July 30, 2006 - NWA Picnic  
Jonesville Fire Station

August, 2006 - NO MEETING

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. Saturday "Learn and Turn" sessions are also scheduled. [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 the third Wednesday of each month at Woodcraft, Latham. Beginners' session starts at 5:30 followed by a general meeting at 6:15. Contact Tom O'Donnell (518) 581-1167 or [todonne3@nycap.rr.com](mailto:todonne3@nycap.rr.com).

**Kaatskill Woodturners** - Meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Opdahl property in Hurley. Contact George Norton, (845) 331-1705.

### CHAPTERS

**NWA Mid-Hudson** -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

**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.