

WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern
Woodworkers
Association

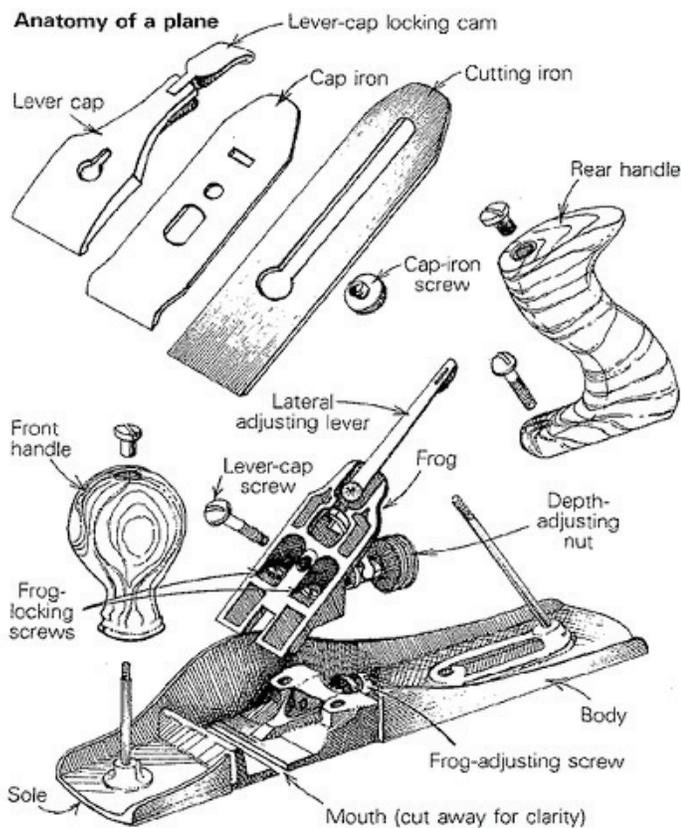
May 2010, Vol. 19, Number 5

May Meeting

Thursday, May 13, 2010, 7:00 pm

Handplanes, Then and Now

By Pete Chast



The Mid-Hudson Chapter will host the May meeting. It should be an interesting evening.

We will bring a large number of old handplanes, most of which Joe Benkert has acquired over the years. In addition, we will have a nice selection of planes from Ron Mower that were made in the Hudson Valley area over the years. We will also review some recent tips that Jerry Peterson and Joe Kennedy picked up at a Lie-Nielsen seminar.

We know that many members from the Capital region are interested in planes. We urge you to bring some of your handplanes, especially any that you made yourself, to this meeting. 🐾

April AWA Meeting

By Celia Carpenter

This month's meeting was attended by many new faces. I think that we have picked up several new people with the success of Totally Turning and the NWA Showcase this past month.

Unfortunately our demonstrator fell through at the last minute so we held an impromptu brainstorm on T.T. Most felt that it was a great success with only minor problems. A list of concerns, observations and all was given tonight at a summary meeting in Stillwater. If anyone has comments they will be welcomed by the T.T. board.

Every year we seem to have too much to do and not enough people but as the days grow closer we seem to be able to pull it together and have an incredible two days of demonstrations, vendors and superior woodworking on display.

It is because of the fine leadership and the work of the members that we are able to show the public our obsession with woodworking.

The month of May's demonstration will be by Jon Tobiesen on decorative edges. We are looking forward to his slide presentation and sharing of his knowledge.

I would ask that if you are working on anything to bring it in to share at the instant gallery. Ed VanWoerner our past president did a fine job this April in his comments about the work displayed.



Ed VanWoerner

STILLWATER TURNING

Remember that Wednesday starting at 6pm we have members to help new and even seasoned turners. Friday morning group is a smaller group and is held during the day. In both cases you will have the

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UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, PHONE
NUMBERS ARE IN AREA CODE 518

New NWA Members

by Susan Howe

We would like to extend a huge welcome to all our newest members! We hope you enjoy belonging to NWA and participating in the many activities that are available.

Daniel Alcorn, Niskayuna, NY
Mike Basile, Gansevoort, NY
Charles and Linda Becker, Schenectady, NY
Gerd Beckmann and Christopher,
Altamont, NY
Steve Bowers and Marie McMahon,
Keene Valley, NY
Ted Brann, Scotia, NY
Guy Bucey, Brunswick, NY
Karen Cady, Schaghticoke, NY
Steve Carmel, Schenectady, NY
Sal and Veronica Casano, Loudonville, NY
Fred Champagn, Queensbury, NY
Brian and Rachel Clothier, Corinth, NY
Brad Conklin, Maybrook, NY
Michael Consolo and Ricki Shapiro,
Niskayuna, NY
Guy Cronin, Malta, NY
Mike and Karen Dauphinais, Latham, NY
Bob Diehl, Schuylerville, NY
Jude Dinan, Troy, NY
Patrick Donovan, Selkirk, NY
Bill Dorman, Queensbury, NY
Stan Duncan, Ballston Lake, NY
Anthony Finnerty, Troy, NY
Matthew Fogarty and Johna Rich-Fogarty,
Greenfield Center, NY
Dennis Fowler, Plattsburgh, NY
John Futia, Albany, NY
Chip Giordano, Peypalk, NJ
John, Charlene, Justin, Alison Grabowski,
Rock City Fls., NY
Steven Gully, Albany, NY
George Hallenbeck, Albany, NY
Barbara Hawn and Jonathan Clement,
East Greenbush, NY
Michael Hoffart, Altamont, NY
Myron Hood, Lee, MA

Dan Kenney, Berne, NY
Chris and John Kindschi, Slingerlands, NY
Morris Kopel, Queensbury, NY
Mike and Ann Kril, Saratoga Springs, NY
Michael LaMonica, Wallkill, NY
Matt Leary, Rexford, NY
Jon Lloyd, Valley Falls, NY
Jim Lynch, Clifton Park, NY
Rich Mahar Macray, Greenlawn, NY
Donald, Erika, Gabriel, Loretta Mahoney,
Chestertown, NY
Barry Mayer, Shaftsbury, VT
Colin McCluney, Mongaup Valley, NY
Mark McCollister, Cleverdale, NY
Tom Nagle, Herkimer, NY
Garry Neighmond and Janice Hornbach,
Delanson, NY
Phil Osborne, Schenectady, NY
Frank Ostrander III, Olivebridge, NY
Linda Palka, Albany, NY
Gene Pezdek, Wynantskill, NY
Richard Pine and Shannon Doherty,
Ballston Spa, NY
Tom Prato, Albany, NY
Alan Ramsey, Albany, NY
Morgan Reynolds, Greenwich, NY
Meyer Rothberg, Saugerties, NY
Andrew Ruby, Albany, NY
Brittany, Roy and Danielle Ryan,
Burnt Hills, NY
Bill Solis, Slingerlands, NY
David Stark, Rexford, NY
Ronnie and Allan Streichler, Tivoli, NY
Bill and Marlyn VanMeter, Greenwich, NY
Alfonso Varlaro, Herkimer, NY
Adam Wilson and Clare Dunn, Troy, NY
John Wright, Clifton Park, NY

April AWA Meeting

Continued from Cover

expertise of seasoned turners to advise and direct. Come and enjoy turning, come to help teach or come to enjoy the company of others.

BETTY'S BROWNIES

As always we are grateful for the time Betty Andrews takes to make sure that we have her treats each Wednesday at Curtis Lumber. We also thank Curtis Lumber and Curious Woods for their hosting us each month. Our last professional turner was impressed and even envied the setup that we have with Curtis. 🐦



Betty Andrews

Wood of the Month ^{©2010}

- Ron DeWitt

Strangler Fig *Ficus aurea* Nutt.

An evergreen hardwood

Moraceae - Mulberry Family

Syn. *Ficus aurea* var. *Latifolia* Nutt. and *Ficus ciliolosa* Link

Derivation of the genus name *Ficus* is from the classical Latin name for fig. The epithet or species name *aurea*, also from the Latin, is for “golden” from the yellowish fruits when ripe—except they may also become red to purple. Although it was the English physician and naturalist Sir Hans Sloane who first illustrated this species about 1725, it was Thomas Nuttall, the English botanist who is credited as its author, for his 1846 description of the tree.

The figs number just two native species in the U.S., both in central or southern Florida. Several more may be naturalized. Two more are native in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, for a total of four in North America. Worldwide, but especially in Indomalaysia and Polynesia, the total of fig species is about 900. Fig species are so plentiful, in part because of their unusual method of reproducing and their vast quantities of tasty fruit.



A Cabbage Palm in The Embrace of a Strangler Fig

Stranger fig *Ficus aurea*, also called Florida strangler fig, golden fig, banyan tree, or higuero, is considered native from the coastal areas of southern Florida, the western Caribbean, southern Mexico, and into Central America to as far south as Panama. This quite unusual tree is most often found growing on raised tropical hardwood areas called hammocks, sheltered from salt water, fire, or high water. It does have a moderate salt tolerance and readily forgives most other soil conditions, from sea level to 5500 ft. (1800 m) above sea level, from dry forest to cloud forest.

Typical associates of this fig, in the Florida everglades, may be cabbage-palms, slash pines, gumbo-limbo, live oaks, poisonwoods, and saw-palmettos.

The strangler fig is an epiphyte, a plant which grown on another but does not take food, water, or nutrients from it. Life often begins from a small sticky seed left in the overhead of a tree in the droppings of a bird or mammal. After germination the new seedling grows slowly at first, getting its nourishment from the sun, rain, and leaf matter on its “host,” often a cabbage-palm. This energy goes into producing tiny roots that creep down the stem of the host tree or hang as aerial roots from its branches. Some refer to this strange tree as a vegetable octopus.

As roots reach the ground they dig in and growth rate increases. The aerial roots thicken to become prop roots. A network of lattice-like roots encircles the host tree and fuses together as masses of ground surface roots also develop. The latticework thickens to girdle its host, effectively strangling it. While this fatal root pattern is developing, thick new foliage of the strangler, in an umbrella-shaped crown, eclipses its host, which then dies from strangulation, loss of sunlight, and root competition. As the former host disintegrates it sometimes leaves the strangler with an empty center that may eventually close to make a solid single stem or multiple stems.

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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 June

Copy deadline: May 15
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Elizabeth Keays Graphic Artist
Designer



WEBSITE(S)

www.woodworker.org
www.nwawoodworkingshow.org



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

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



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

CHAPTER NEWS

NWA Mid-Hudson Chapter News

By Wally Cook

Stitch and glue: John VanBuren gave a talk about assembling kayaks with a stitch and glue method. This type of joinery creates a strong bond for mitered joints and can be used with plywood furniture or other applications beyond boat building. Basic ingredients are copper wire and epoxy, applied to plywood.

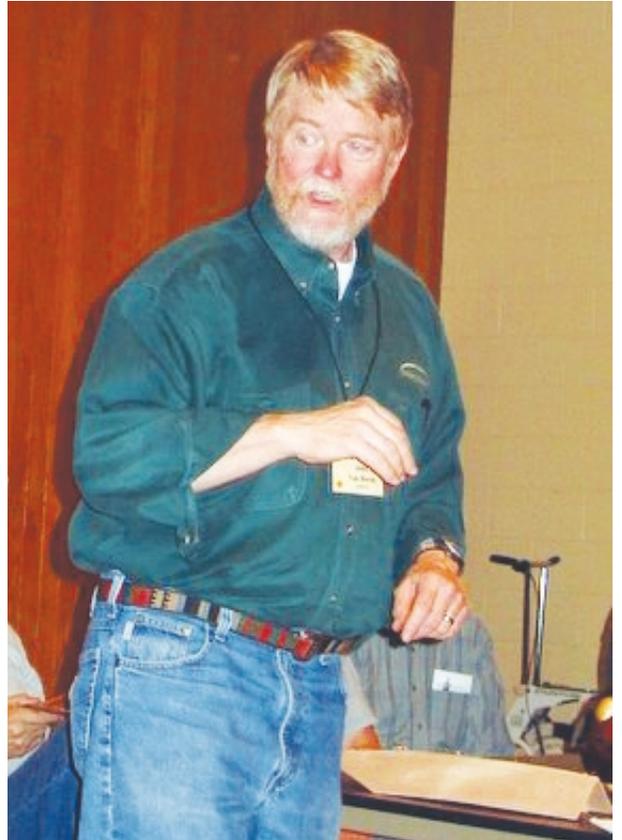
The process is straightforward:

- Match the pieces to be joined
- Drill small holes to accommodate your wire gauge (the holes should be spaced no closer than three inches, but no farther than ten inches). The holes should be matched to each board to be joined
- Place a strip of cellophane or painters tape 1/4" from edge to control epoxy squeeze out
- Mix epoxy (John recommends West System or System Three). Add wood flour or thickener until the epoxy is the consistency of peanut butter
- Butt the two pieces to be glued
- Thread wire through the holes and twist the wire to act as a clamp
- Apply epoxy into the mitered joint, using a spatula, dabbing around the wire (the wire will be removed later). This is a tack welding process.
- Once the epoxy is tacky, take off the painters tape
- Let the glue joint set for 24 hours, then cut out wire (if the wire is stuck, heat it and it will pull through the epoxy)
- Replace the strips of tape and re-fill the joint with more epoxy. Fill holes created by drilling. Can use a popsicle stick to smooth the joint
- Epoxy will not stick to cellophane tape and can be cleaned up with vinegar before it sets. The remainder will need to be sanded.

Joints made in this fashion are very sturdy. An oak tree with 30" diameter fell on a stored kayak -- the glue joints held, although damage was sustained by the rest of the kayak.



Two boards stitched with copper wire



John VanBuren explaining the process of stitch and glue kayak building



Section of kayak damaged by tree fall - glue sections held together

CHAPTER NEWS

Sacandaga Chapter

By Gary Spencer

Our April 14th program featured the efforts of two teams of Sacandaga members who made items that were raffled off at this year's show case. One team met at Ed Tanners work shop 2 days per week and made a hall table of Cherry. The other team met at Tom Ruliffson's workshop several days per week to make Cabinet Makers Tool Chests.

Many thanks go out to both Ed and Tom for opening up their shops for this cause. A total of 19 Tool chests were made in this brief time. The wood for these projects were donated, reclaimed, or reduced in price which resulted in little or no costs for materials used thus leading to an increase of funds for NWA.

Business's that donated were Curtis Lumber, Lowe's, Home Depot, Bill Bush Enterprises and others. Much appreciation goes out to them!

The members gave a blow by blow detailed description of how they planned, implemented and finished their projects. A great program that ended up a great chapter project and everyone had great fun.

Our May 12th program will be a presentation by a chapter and NWA member Kirk Hardenburg who will give us an update on various dust collectors available and their utility in the home shop. This will be a very useful presentation for all of us.

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 May 12th, 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



CLASSIFIEDS

For Sale

Walnut Lumber - Various sizes of green band-saw cut walnut boards in large lengths and widths including:
19" wide including sapwood of which 14" is heartwood x 3" thick x 14' long. 19" wide including sapwood of which 14" is heartwood x 2" thick x 14' long. Numerous 5/4 and 6/4 in wide boards @ 11' and 14' lengths. All with at least one side straight edge. Some desirable odd size pieces, thicknesses and lengths. \$4 to \$8 board foot. All are stickered and drying. Call Neal @365-2250, nshapiro@timesunion.com

Veneered panels. I have white oak, wenge, lyptus, anigre and more. A1 on both sides. Also have some very nice 12" saw blades with a 30MM arbor. Call Dave Parkis at 429-6581

My name is Dan Roys. I joined the NWA at the 2008 showcase. I was unable to participate because of sickness in the family (mother-in-law got sick, moved in, and passed away) my wife has just had a second total knee replacement) and my own health took a fateful turn (Guillain-Barré Syndrome I was paralyzed in the hospital for a month).

The reason I am contacting you is I had bought a beautiful WMH/Jet **Wood Lathe part number JW-1642EVS-2**. It has sat on the original pallet it was delivered on in my garage high and dry. Do to further illness I need to sell it. Please have someone contact me immediately if there is any interested in it. We need the money to pay bills. It is brand new, never opened and I would like to get \$1900 but am will accept a reasonable offer.

Thank you, Dan Roys, Cell- (518) 225-4704



Kaatskill Woodturners

By Wally Cook

Graeme Priddle Workshop: Our SIG was fortunate to host Graeme for a two day workshop in which he elaborated on vessels of the South Pacific and surface treatments using carving and pyrography.

It is important for Graeme's art to tell a story; to represent personal associations, belief systems, and her-itage. He has been influenced by Maori culture and oceanic themes; these may be readily seen in the organic forms and symbolic embellish-ments that define his body of work. His Starfish Vessel, which was featured on a New Zealand stamp, demonstrates Graeme's synthesis of turning, carving and surface texture. The embellishments all have meaning, reflecting outrigger



Graeme Priddle's outrigger form in vari-ous stages of completion

forms, sail texture, shark gills symbolizing strength, or spiral forms symbolizing birth.

Technically, Graeme uses specialized grinds on his woodturning gouges – and these may change depending on the work. He takes great care in the sharpening. In addition, a variety of carving tools may be used as well as commercial and handmade burning units. The pyrog-raphy is a strong feature in Graeme's work. He built a powerful burning unit from a battery charger, as well as custom hand piece and brands. Much of the mollusk type patterns on his boat forms are accomplished with pyrographic techniques.

Graeme also uses oils and acrylics on his pieces to provide color and depth. He does not prefer finishing materials which lay on the surface of the wood and act as a barrier between the viewer and the piece. Generally, he will use tung oil to rub into the wood for a finish coating.



Boat form feature multiple hollowing angles and surprise views



Graeme using pyrography to incise patterns (taken by Steve Sherman)



Bill Thiry made Graeme a pav to celebrate his birthday

We helped Graeme celebrate his 50th birthday with a "pav" [Pavlova – a New Zealand dessert: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pavlova_\(food\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pavlova_(food))] made by Bill Thiry. As a consequence we have signed Bill up as our chef in residence.

Harold Hahn's retrospective show: Congratulations to KWA member Hal Hahn on his twelve year retrospective exhibition of woodturning art at the Donskoj Gallery in Kingston. His works featured turned and carved bowls, as well as paper-thin wood lampshades. The exhibit can be seen at the Donskoj Gallery through April 24. See <http://www.donskoj.com/gallery.htm> for a look at the show.



Above: Hal Hahn at the opening of his show at the Donskoj

Left: Carved and turned bowl

Wood of the Month

Continued from Page 3

In the event the strangler can't hook-up with a host, it becomes a more honorable tree. A medium-size tree, it may grow 60 to 70 ft. (18.3 to 21.3 m) with a single knotty, twisted stem 2 to 4 ft. (0.6 to 1.2 m) dbh and may live several hundred years. A record tree, found in Dade County, Florida, is 67 ft. (20.5 m) tall, 10.6 ft. (3.2 m) dbh, with a crown spread of 48 ft. (14.6 m).

The alternate leaves of this tree are oval, smooth-edged, thick and leathery. Leaves are usually 3 to 5 in. (7.6 to 12.7 cm) long by 1 to 3 in. (2.5 to 7.5 cm) wide.

Dark green on top with lighter undersides, the leaves have a lustrous wax-like coating to help conserve critical moisture. Although the strangler fig is classified as an evergreen, it may be leafless for a short period in winter in the northern end of its range. Branching is irregular and profuse with small and large found side by side. Bark is light brown, thin, and smooth to somewhat scaly, occasionally separating to reveal the dark inner bark. Any broken twig or branch oozes a milky sticky sap.

Flowering of the strangler fig is at least as bizarre as its aggressive growth habits. Masses of tiny flowers are totally hidden in a pear-shaped modified stem shoot called a cyconia, which becomes the fruit. The cyconia has a small hole at the bottom to allow a very small fig wasp to enter and pollinate the flowers. Male and female wasps and male and female flowers are involved in the complex process. Typical of the figs, the wasp and the fig have an "obligate mutualism" relationship. Only this one species of fig wasp can successfully pollinate this one species of fig and this one species of fig wasp can only reproduce in this one species of fig flower.

After pollination and reproduction of all parties is completed, the 5/8 in. (16 mm) diameter figs finish developing in pairs along the stem shoot. The strangler fig produces fruit for much of the year. Figs are referred to as "keystone" species because the abundant good tasting fruit is such a basic food for so many animal species.

The wood of strangler fig is usually of no commercial interest; their knotted and twisted wood is avoided by loggers. The sticky sap is difficult to clean from saw blades, equipment, clothing, hair and skin.

The wood is uniformly tan colored throughout with no noticeable transition from earlywood to latewood or from heartwood to sapwood. Texture is fine, grain is irregular, occasionally twisted, folded over or interwoven. The wood is ring porous with solitary earlywood



A Flat Sawn Specimen of Strangler Fig Wood

pores, visible with a hand lens. Latewood pores are very fine, just noticeable with a hand lens. Rays are fine and plentiful, also requiring a hand lens to be seen. Specific gravity is variable but averages about 0.46 and weight is about 31 pcf (497 kg/m³), both at 12% M.C.

The wood is a challenge to work, having a tendency to split, check, bend and warp when drying, and at times when working it. Care is required to avoid easily acquired blue stain and spaling, neither of which is very attractive. Workable pieces saw cleanly and plane smoothly with very sharp blades. It turns well and is satisfactory to carve. It glues nicely and will hold most finishes well.

No data were found on toxicity of this fig tree, but the sap is known to irritate the skin of some people. Skin, eye, and breathing protection are well advised.

Indigenous people and early settlers in what is now Florida used the fruit as a basic food source. The fruit also made a rose-red dye and the dried sap was used as chewing gum. The wood was cut for firewood and was durable enough for fence posts. It was occasionally planted for living fence. Slender aerial roots worked well for cordage.

Fruit, bark, and sap were also used in traditional medicine. Bark tonics were taken as an anti-diabetic treatment, to treat blood disease, aid in clotting, and to control excessive menstrual bleeding. Dried sap was chewed for aching teeth. An overdose of the fruit works as a laxative.

Strangler fig responds well to pruning and is often planted as an interesting ornamental in spite of its messy fruit drop. Some is used for bonsai or for indoor plantings.

This tree is quite resistant to disease and tolerates most difficult weather conditions without problems. If blown over by storm new growth turns up to vertical and it lives on.

A possible source for useable wood to experiment with, for those determined to be different, might be a tree service, arborist, or landscaper in southern Florida.

Wood Questions

Q. What are extractives?



A. Extractives are substances in wood, such as phenols or terpenes, not an integral part of the cellular structure, that can be removed by solution in hot or cold water or other neutral solvents that do not react chemically with wood components.

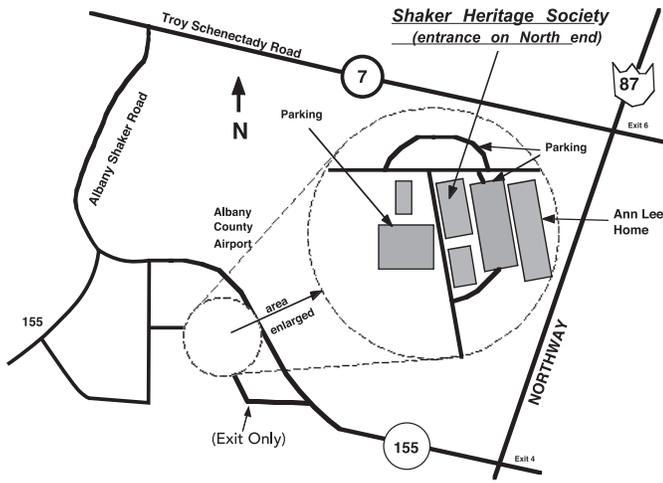
Wood Definition

- Ron DeWitt

Transpiration – The loss of water from the aerial parts of a tree or other plant. Most of the loss occurs through the stomata or breathing pores of the leaves.



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



May Meeting

Thursday, May 13, 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

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 Contact Ken Evans, 753-7759 or 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.

Kaatskill Woodturners - Meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Opdahl property in Hurley. Contact Matt Clark, (845) 454-9387.

Jim's "Hole in the Woods Gang"

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

CHAPTERS

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

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