

WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern
Woodworkers
Association

May 2013, Vol. 22, Number 5

May Meeting

Thursday, May 9, 2013, 7:00 pm
Shaker Heritage Society Meeting House
Albany-Shaker Road, Albany NY

Question and Answer Panel

By Karen Arkison

The May meeting we will have a Question and Answer panel. Our current President, George Rutledge, will be part of our esteemed panel for his last official meeting as President. Joining George will be Ken Evans to assist us with our Turning needs, Charlie Goddard who is known for his flat board work such as boxes, and Dave Mobley, who is known for his artistic pieces.

So as you're working on next years Showcase piece or you have questions about issues you had working on last years piece, write down those questions and bring them to the May General Meeting to have them answered.

Yes, we've done this before. However, every time we have had a Question and Answer Panel, it has lead to very lively discussions. Take advantage of the knowledge our panel members have and ask those questions that have been bothering you about your latest project.

Just a reminder, don't forget to bring something for the Instant Gallery. It doesn't have to be something you just completed, it can be something that completed during the year that you haven't shown. It doesn't even have to be a perfect project, we learn much from our mistakes as well.

See you in May.

The Nominations Are In

By Karen Arkison

In accordance with the By-laws of the NWA, we will elect new officers during the Annual Meeting on May 9th. A duly formed Selection Committee has asked Rich Duval to stand for the Office of Vice President/President Elect. Rich has accepted the nomination.

Austin Spang has agreed to run again for a two year term as Treasurer. Additional candidates may be nominated by the membership prior to the election, as long as said candidates have agreed to serve if elected.

The By-laws also provide that the current Vice President, yours truly, will become the President for the coming year at the end of the May meeting. Our President, George Rutledge will become the immediate Past President and as such will serve as a special advisor to the NWA Board of Directors. 🐾

Woodworking 101 with George Rutledge and Dick Flanders

By William Gamble and James Lane

Woodworking is a craft, an art, and a science, and there is no better way to get introduced to it than with this WoodWorking 101 class taught by George and Dick. The curriculum focused on the use of hand tools, and how they apply to the



fundamentals of woodworking. The value of this approach not only gave the class members a basis for our future handcrafted projects, but also an understanding why and how today's power tools do things certain ways.

The course consisted of 10 three-hour classes on Monday evenings. Topics covered in the course included: Safety, Wood Tech (understanding wood as a medium), Basic Hand Tool Use (plane, scraper, saw, chisel, etc), Tool Maintenance,

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Woodworking 101

Continued from Cover

Measuring, Marking & Layout, Basic Joinery, Finishing, and last but not least Design and Drawing. Yep, we covered a ton of material!! Being in a class taught by Dick and George is like having a set of both Britannica and World Book encyclopedias at your fingertips! They gave very thorough explanations on the topics, and were always able to answer the questions posed by the class members.



A typical class would consist of about two-thirds demonstration/discussion, and about one-third hands on application. During the demonstration the instructors would cover the topic, lend insight on different approaches, and then give us a project on which to practice the new skill. George and Dick sometimes had different approaches; it was good to be able to gain insight from both perspectives. We were encouraged to bring in our own hand tools for use in the class, though George and Dick were kind enough to provide additional tools in the case where students didn't have their own.

Woodworking 101 is an extremely informative class, and someone could take the class 5 times in a row and still learn new things. We had a great group of people and we can all appreciate the instruction and knowledge that was acquired. We have a newfound appreciation for woodworking and craftsmanship. We learned that a proper fitting mortise and tenon is harder to get than a hole in one, which a board can be planed to the same texture as a baby's bottom, and finally, that dogs should be kept on a leash so that they don't disappear from the bench they belong to. Thanks guys for a great course!



A Limb has fallen from the NWA TREE

By Ken Evans

On a recent spring day, members of the Northeastern Woodworkers Association heard a resounding crash as one of the major limbs of the NWA TREE fell to the ground. Along with eight others, this limb was present as a twig on the trunk of the NWA SAPLING when it was planted twenty plus years ago.

Over the years as the NWA TREE grew slowly but steadily in girth and height, this particular limb grew significantly in size and influence. As the NWA TREE flourished, this limb added strength, stature, and majesty to the TREE. The limb helped to support, balance, and nurture the TREE through good times and tough times. The nutrients from the leaves of this limb unselfishly fed the ever growing TREE, helping the TREE to grow to its present state. Through these years, the outline of the NWA TREE against the sky was found visually appealing to many, and the silhouette of the NWA TREE upon the ground drew many to seek its shade.

This limb had been failing for some time, and as with all things, time did its work and the limb fell from the TREE. The TREE, which this limb supported in so many ways over so many years, is greatly scarred by this loss. The NWA TREE, however, is healthy and WILL survive for many years to come, growing ever larger and more beautiful due, in part, to the past influence of this limb. The strong wood contained in this limb will never really leave the NWA TREE. The strength, and wisdom provided by the limb has become imbedded in the very cellular structure of the TREE and will remain a part of the TREE as long as it stands.

Today, there are many limbs on the NWA TREE, and these limbs will provide nourishment with renewed endeavor, to support the health and future of the TREE, in part, in memory of and respect for this recently fallen limb. The TREE has been left in good soil, and the future of the TREE seems secure "for all who work wood and want to get better at it".

Herman Finkbeiner has left the NWA, but his love of NWA, the wisdom he brought to NWA, and his love of working wood will never be forgotten within NWA. 🐿



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. The newsletter is available online at www.woodworker.org



Your next issue of
Woodworkers News
will be published
in early June

Copy deadline: May 15
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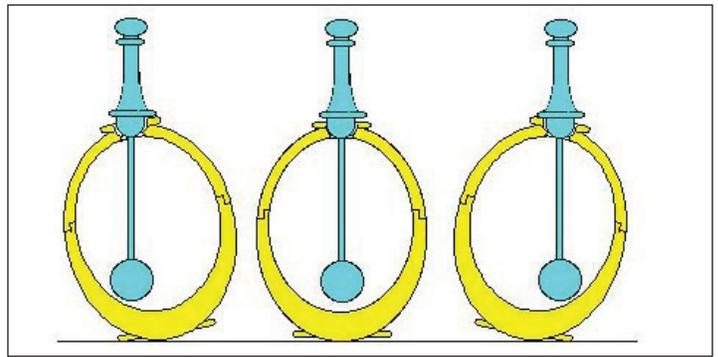
KWA Chapter News

By Wally Cook

Pendulum Box: If you have wondered how to include kinetic movement into turned pieces, you might try making a counterbalanced box. The idea comes from Charlie Belden (check out his great website: www.hypersurf.com/~charlie2/Turning/Articulation/Articulation3.html).

Wally Cook provided the demo for making counterbalanced boxes optimized for rolling, rocking, or spinning. The concept is straightforward: make a hyper ellipsoid (egg-shaped) box with a weighted bottom. The finial is made to “float” by means of a ball and socket joint at the top – and is attached to a pendulum inside the box. A flattened round bottom allows rocking movement; a slightly pointed bottom works for spinning; and a flange turned near the bottom lets you roll the pendulum box around an axis. The counter-weighted finial will always point vertically, providing interesting action when the box is set in motion.

This project lends itself to whimsical turnings that incorporate movement and fun. The following materials will help complete this project: postal scale, lead fishing weights, electrician’s duct seal, bamboo skewers, and rubber washers. Detailed instructions for making a rocking pendulum box such as Wally demonstrated may be obtained by emailing wally.cook@gmail.com. However, the general steps are as follows:



Pendulum box diagram (from Charlie Belden)



A trio of counter-balanced boxes designed for rocking, rolling, and spinning

1. Rough out an egg-shaped box, leaving tenons on both ends for chucking
2. Drill a hole through each tenon into the box ($\frac{1}{2}$ " diameter through the top and $\frac{3}{4}$ " diameter through the bottom is generally sufficient)
3. Hollow the box: top – thin-walled throughout; bottom – hollow to $1\frac{1}{2}$ " of the bottom; drill $1\frac{1}{4}$ " diameter hole creating a stepped shoulder to the $\frac{3}{4}$ " hole created in step #2. Weight will be packed later in the stepped shoulder. Ensure snug fit of top-to-bottom
4. Reverse-chuck the bottom and turn off the tenon; make a plug to insert in the $\frac{3}{4}$ " hole drilled in the bottom during step #2, but do not glue it until weight is installed
5. Reverse-chuck the top and turn off the tenon; create a socket for the finial
6. Make a finial with a ball-shaped end that fits in the socket – drill a $\frac{1}{16}$ " diameter hole to accept the bamboo skewer
7. Turn a counter weight to fit on the other end of the skewer. The counterweight only needs to balance the finial – make it as light as possible to do this task
8. Weigh the top half of the box, finial and counterweight -- add at least this much weight to the well in the bottom half of the box. Trial and error will determine how much weight you will need to get the action desired (e.g., fast or slow rocking)
9. Glue all components together, finish the box

The two critical parts of the box are the finial/pendulum component and the weight application. The finial should not be so delicate as to easily break if mishandled, but do not add unnecessary weight at the top – the leverage will cause greater weight application in the bottom. The fit of the finial in the socket should result in smooth motion as the pendulum swings. If you want to restrict movement of the pendulum, shorten the pendulum or add a tight rubber washer near the socket. The rubber washer can also provide a quieter movement inside the box.

Adding weight to the bottom half of the box is part science, part art. Technically, you are attempting to move the fulcrum of the piece very close to the end of the bottom of the box. The density of the wood used for the box, as well as the actual placement of the weight inside the box will make a big difference in how much

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CHAPTER NEWS

Sacandaga Chapter

By Gary Spencer

Our April 10th meeting featured a master woodworker, Jim Schreiner, whose work on Adirondack & Rustic furniture is simply outstanding. This session was a second part this year and was devoted to rustic decorative features of Adirondack style furniture. His presentation covered the use of natural pieces from the environment to enhance the whole of the furniture.

He demonstrated how to use horn, wood, stone, metal and glass as decorative additions as well as pinecones, leaves, roots, linked by hand carved animals and birds in all kinds of Adirondack pieces. An excellent program and an outstanding evening. Our thanks goes out to Jim for a great job.

For our May 8th meeting we will have our focus on marquetry. One of our Chapter members Jeff Meuwissen of Northville is involved in a tabletop sized piece of work. He will present it as well as of other current pieces he has created. Jeff has always had an interesting program.

We will still have a show and tell and hope many of you will bring something to show. We will still have 50/50, and door prizes so come on out.

Our regular monthly meetings are the second Wednesday of each month and begin at 7:00 P.M. Our next regular meeting will be May 8th, 2013. We will meet at our shop at 55 2nd Avenue, Mayfield, NY. Come visit.

Ray Laubenstein - 863-6071
Clyde Cheney - 661-5138
Gary Spencer - 863-6433

Mid Hudson Chapter

By Wally Cook

Chainsaw Safety: Hal Hahn has worked for over 20 years as an arborist and provided his insights on chainsaw safety while in the field. His main message is that the foundation of chain saw safety depends on the user's comfort in turning off his/her saw. *Hmmm, why?* Hal's conclusion is that when operators do not feel comfortable turning off the saw, it is because they find it difficult to restart the saw, a sure indicator that preventive maintenance has not been performed on the machine... and so it is running in less than optimal condition. A saw in poor condition will not cut properly – and will lead to unsafe practices to compensate for its performance.

In addition, keeping the saw running will work against constant workplace adjustments needed to keep the area clear of rocks, brushes and branches. Hal cited the case of an operator who continued to brush away a branch that was hitting his face repeatedly, rather than clear his workspace. It was later determined by his doctor that the “branch” was actually a snake, which had continued to strike him in the face.

Safety apparel, such as helmet, ear and eye protection, and gloves are recommended. Chaps are also recommended, as long as they are intact and well maintained. Hal has mixed feelings about wearing chaps and heavy garments in extremely hot weather, as that can increase the possibility of fatigue and operator error. His conclusion is to always check your safety gear and match it to the conditions at hand.

Hal suggests that having a game plan is the first, most important step before the saw is turned on. He initially patrols and clears the area around the tree that will be cut, removing all rocks, brush, and obstacles from the immediate workplace. He determines all factors that prevent a clean drop. He then clears any leaning trees and ensures the drop area is adequate. He develops an exit strategy for the wood that is to be cut. When cutting, only one operator will wield a chain saw, the other(s) removes brush and keep the area clear. Turn off the saw when adjustments need to be made. Once a tree is dropped, cut all branches cleanly without leaving pointed ends to catch legs or truck tires.

Showcase: Showcase featured superb work, as always. Chapter members did well in representing the Mid-Hudson. Congratulations to Brad Conklin, John Franklin, and Andy Finnegan among others for their craftsmanship. **The Bill Reynolds Toy Factory** was very well attended. Thanks go to Ron Roberts, the Toy factory chair, for organizing a great event!



Hal Hahn discussing chainsaw safety issues



Toy Factory continued to draw families

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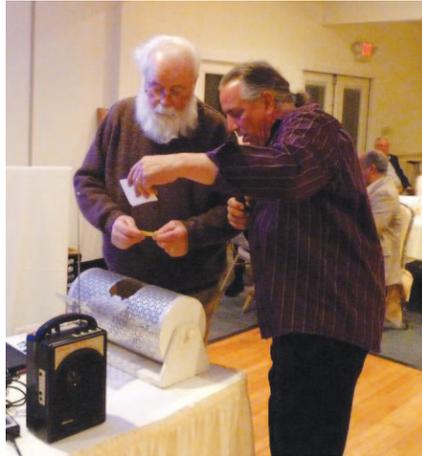
CHAPTER NEWS

Mid Hudson Chapter News

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Chapter Dinner: The twelfth annual chapter dinner was held at Twin Lakes on April 12 with over 90 people in attendance. The dinner featured recognition of John Grossbohlin as chapter Member of the Year. John is an avid outdoorsman, active with both the Boy Scouts of America and the Ruffed Grouse Society. He is a long distance bicyclist, as well as former docent at Colonial Williamsburg. His many interests were celebrated in story (but not song) and mementoes. Willie Evans won the door prize – a beautiful shaker box donated by Charlie Goddard. As usual, the raffle table overflowed with donated and handmade items. The Wednesday Group provided table favors – innovative candle holders.

Thanks to Joe Benkert and the dinner committee for executing an entertaining evening!



Dick Metzger and Jim Lee operating the raffle at the chapter dinner



John Grossbohlin, Chapter Member of the Year, with sons Josh and Jesse

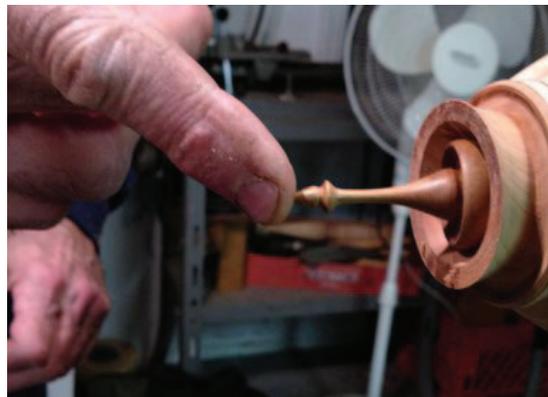


Charlie Goddard trying the marble race built by Ann Miller

KWA Chapter News

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counterweight is necessary. The suggestion is to place lead fishing weights in the $\frac{3}{4}$ " hole and pack it with electrician's duct seal up to the surface of the $1\frac{1}{4}$ " diameter shoulder. Add or remove until you have achieved the motion you want. The duct seal stays malleable and will allow altering the weight. You may have to adjust the weight once more after the box has acclimatized to an indoor environment.



The finial socket is key to the floating movement

View Exhibit: Thanks to Don and Barbara Orr for acting as judges to select wood-turned items for the Old Forge Arts Center. They had a daunting job and carried it off with grace and style. The exhibit will be installed on May 3 and runs through end of June concurrent with the National Pastel Show. Sixty mini-collections and individual pieces of turned art were selected, representing members of the KWA. In fact, all individuals submitting work had at least one piece selected. These items included furniture, platters, bowls, boxes, vessels, jewelry, and spindle turnings. The objective is to display a wide variety of woodturning to showcase the breadth of the craft. In addition to the woodturnings, the sculpture of Brad Conklin will be exhibited. Thanks to Joe Larese for the pictures!



Whimsical chicken rotates head while box revolves on flange

Maplewood Center for Common Craft

*By David Ashdown
from the Maplewood Center*

The Maplewood Center for Common Craft is located in Greenwich, NY, just a few miles from the Washington County Fairgrounds. Their booth at this year's Showcase was busy with hand-tool demonstrations including some young woodworkers making spoons and spatulas. They even gave away a handmade workbench! Congratulations to NWA member Tony Barrera from Niskayuna who was the lucky winner (pictured below).



The Center is offering a 10% discount to NWA members for upcoming classes including workbench building, timber framing, guitar making and more. One popular class is the one-day Restoring a Stanley # 4 Smoothing Plane class where a classic Bailey pattern plane is included in the class fee. There is also a class to help parents and grandparents introduce safe hand tools like the spokeshave and rasp to young woodworkers.

Fall 2013 Classes

An Introduction to Timber Framing (3 Day)
September 20-23

Building a Traditional Joiner's Workbench (5 Day)
October 2-6

Parent Workshop: Introducing Hand-Tool
Woodworking to Children
November 2

Introduction to Guitar Making with Martin Macica
December 14

Restoring a Stanley #4 Smoothing Plane
November 30

Keep an eye out in the coming newsletters for soon-to-be-scheduled tour of the Maplewood facilities.

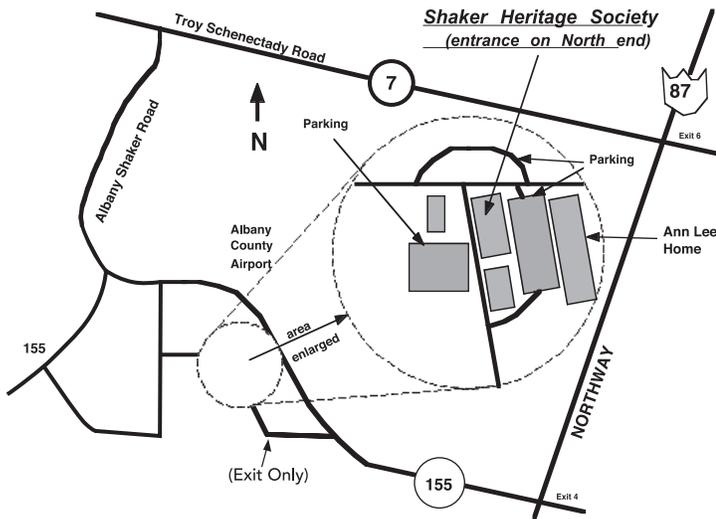
For more information of upcoming classes visit www.maplewoodcraft.org or contact David Ashdown at (518)232-4788 or dashdown@gmail.com



Visit the
Northeastern Woodworkers Association
Website at www.woodworker.org



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May Meeting

Thursday, May 9, 2013, 7:00 pm

Shaker Heritage Society Meeting House

Albany-Shaker Road, Albany NY

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

GENERAL MEETINGS
AND SPECIAL EVENTS

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)

Adirondack Woodturners Association (AWA) - The AWA is active throughout the year. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month (except in January and July when it is the second Wednesday), and are held at the NWA Learning Center located at 1 Mustang Drive, Cohoes, NY. (This is just off Rte 9 at the light at Fonda Road) from 6:30 PM to 9:00PM.

Wednesday "Learn and Turn" sessions occur on all other Wednesdays at the NWA Learning Center. These sessions run 6pm-9pm. www.adirondackwoodturners.com **Contact:** Ken Evans, 518-753-7759 or kevans1@nycap.rr.com

Scroller's Guild - Meets on the first and third Thursday of the month at the NWA Learning Center located at 1 Mustang Drive, Cohoes, NY. A beginner's session starts at 6:30 PM followed by a general meeting at 7:00 PM. **Contact:** Jeanne Aldous at AMJAMtat2@aol.com or Barbara Nottke at scroller87@aol.com or 869-6268.

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

NWA Crafters - Meets every Saturday and Tuesday, from 9:00 am until noon at the NWA Learning Center located at 1 Mustang Drive, Cohoes, NY. The Crafters provide public service woodworking for various charitable organizations, including the Double H Hole in the Woods camp for children and the GE Elfuns toy modifications group, and the Make A Wish Foundation. Sharing information, fellowship, and relating experiences are a major part of these sessions. **Contact:** Dave Axton (518) 237-6942, daxton@nycap.rr.com, Wayne Distin (518) 674-4171, wdistin@nycap.rr.com Steve Schoenberg (518-371-1260), sschoen1@nycap.rr.com for more information.

The NWA Wood Carvers SIG - Meet each Thursday at 5:30 p.m. until 9 p.m. all year except the 2nd Thursday of each month at the NWA Learning Center located at 1 Mustang Drive, Cohoes, NY. Programs are determined at the previous weekly sessions. Discussions start at 7PM. The goal is to promote the art of Wood Carving. Individual private sessions are available Wednesday evenings by appointment. Wood, tools, and patterns are available. **Contact:** Ray Gannon. LoRayG@Gmail.com

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 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 55 Second Avenue, Mayfield, NY. **Contact:** Gary Spencer, 518-863-6433.