

# WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern  
Woodworkers  
Association

May 2015, Vol. 24, Number 5

## May Meeting

*Thursday, May 14, 2015, 7:00 pm  
Shaker Heritage Society Meeting House  
Albany-Shaker Road, Albany NY*

## Is it Real or Intarsia?

*By Barbara Nottke*

Intarsia is made by using the different species of wood, color and grain patterns to make a picture. The pieces are cut and shaped and then glued in place. The art is in finding the right piece of wood for the right place in your work. Anyone doing intarsia has a large box of wood pieces saved for "just that right" place. The technique of sanding and shaping the piece takes time to master but the finished project is well worth it!

Sylvia Rieth and Charles Rougle will be sharing their masterful skills of Intarsia with us at the May NWA Meeting at the Shaker Meeting House. They are both recipients of the Fiske Fund used those funds to improve their Intarsia skills at the Judy Gale Roberts Studio in Tennessee. At different sessions, they both have progressed to the Intermediate level and plan on expanding their knowledge of this technique at future sessions.

They will have examples of their work and answer any questions. Enjoy the early views of some of their work in these pictures.



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UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, PHONE  
NUMBERS ARE IN AREA CODE 518

# For the Safety of Our Members

NWA has decided to purchase two Sawstop table saws to replace the current table saws at the NWA Learning Center. To offset the cost of these saws, NWA will accept donations from the membership.

Tax-deductible donations can be made by check made out to NWA and sent to: **NWA, P.O.Box246, Rexford, NY 12148. Include "sawstop donation" in the memo space on your check.**

If you wish to give cash, stop by the 15 Solar Drive shop on Tuesday or Saturday mornings or the General meetings and see Wayne Distin or Tom Moran.

The Northeastern Woodworkers Association is an IRS approved 501(c)3 organization, thus your contribution is tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.



## Suggestion Box

*By Peter K. Lofrumento*

Well, another successful Showcase/Totally Turning is in the books! We had a good number of new members and member renewal applications during Showcase. The Membership Booth combined with the Education Booth this year to display all the wonderful items that were made in the variety of classes offered by the Education Committee over the past year.

We would love to hear from our members, new and old, on suggestions for new education courses, things you would like to see at our upcoming 25th Anniversary Showcase or any other topic that is on the mind.

You know, the Suggestion Box isn't just for suggestions, it is also for your questions, comments and even a gripe or two. For your convenience, the Membership Suggestion Box will be at all the NWA Meetings, at all NWA sponsored events and resides at the Solar Drive Workshop. Also, don't hesitate to send any comment or suggestion directly to nwamembers1@gmail.com if you can't get to the suggestion box.

Your suggestions help foster better communication and improvements for our Membership!



# Showcase and Totally Turning Thank You

By Ken Evans

The 24th annual Woodworkers Showcase of 2015 and the 2015 Totally Turning Symposium are now a recent and wonderful memory. Life could not have been better for woodworkers in general and woodturners specifically than to have been at this year's show in March.

I am not telling you all anything you do not know because most of you were at the show as you always are! It always amazes me how many members attend the show. But it amazes me more how many volunteer to help set up and run the show. I do not have an exact count, but I believe in all there are over 400 volunteers. You volunteer as a member, you bring your family members to volunteer, and you bring your friends to volunteer. Every year you do this and it's wonderful.

The SHOW, is wonderful for its two day life, but for me the show has a five day life! It begins on Thursday when we load the trucks, continues on Friday when the trucks arrive at the City Center and get unloaded and set-up begins, then the two days of the show when the public arrives, then Monday when the trucks return to the NWA shop for unloading. Five days, and you are present for all of them – making them happen.

Showcase and Totally Turning are five day events and these are a wonderful five days.

NWA members come together to make these five days both fun and serious at the same time. All the members of NWA's different SIGS and Chapters volunteer and work together to make this event happen. No show in the City Center or Hotel except Woodworkers Showcase / Totally Turning is produced by volunteers and the City Center folks are amazed at how organized we are. They tell me each and every year how easy we are to work with because WE ARE HAVING FUN.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank each and every NWA member for volunteering sometime over the five day event to help make it happen and to make it happen with FUN. I thank our families and our friends for pitching in also. We need them and we appreciate them.

The Showcase 2016 Committee is already working on next years' show and we have some exciting things to announce soon. Remember ---this will be our 25th ANNIVERSARY SHOW. We deserve to CELEBRATE!

Thank you everyone!



## 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](http://www.woodworker.org)



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**Woodworkers News**

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# Showcase and Totally Turning Thank You





# KWA News

By Wally Cook

## Editor's

**Choice:** NWA's hardworking newsletter editor Wally Carpenter taught a class (Wood Grain Tricks and Treats) on how to incorporate grain direction into wood projects. Wally used a Maloof style chair that he constructed as an example to evaluate grain direction when

considering the cutting order for the raw material. While a great deal of the discussion dealt with furniture making, the lessons were not lost on woodturning projects. Wally showed the difference in bowl appearance by simply flipping the direction of the cut blank.

**SMWFE:** John Franklin extended the consideration of design challenges in his full day workshop on SMWFE -- an insightful summary of criteria for improving woodturning pieces by focusing on **S**hape, **M**aterials, **W**ow!, **F**inishing, and **E**xecution.

Shape equals form -- and pure form is the most important element in designing a woodturning. In order to bring the concept home, John shared his appreciation of Shapes for Woodturners by David Wheldon. The class practiced by cutting folded paper to create smooth flowing designs. A corollary to this foundation step is that complicated wood grain shows more effectively with simple designs; straight grain wood is more likely to support complex designs.



*Wally Carpenter discusses use of wood grain in design*



*Grain presents quite differently by simply flipping the orientation of the wood -- bowls by Celia*



*John Franklin involves the group in creating folded paper designs which can be used for turnings*

Materials knowledge is integral to the design. Knowing the attributes of the various woods and their limits will help determine design choices. Combining two or more materials leads to choices about wood grain direction and adhesives. John counsels segmented turners to "rebuild the tree" when combining pieces; in other words, the grain among various woods should all be grouped in the same direction. The premise that a glue-up should mimic plywood sandwiches with alternating grain just does not return dividends for woodturners, due to the stress created by wood movement.

When John talks about the 'wow!' factor, he is really encouraging thinking outside the box in framing new work. He encouraged applying new materials to old designs, changing scale or perspective, or employing color in new ways. Turn for practice, so that you can push limits.

**Finishing:** John demonstrated his rotisserie finish using polyurethane. This process works on pieces with greater than 1/4" diameter. Understanding the qualities of the finish is the first step: not all urethanes play by the same rules -- read the directions. He uses Minwax high gloss brush-on urethane. The urethane is applied with a chip brush while the piece is rotating on the lathe at 48-60 rpm. The slow speed allows the coating to agitate and spread evenly without the strong effect of centrifugal force. Upon application, brush marks will be visible -- but will disappear as the piece revolves. Since urethane needs a 'mechanical' adherence between coats, light sanding is required. A second coat is usually possible after 4 hours. Multiple coats are needed and John reminded us that 4-5 light coatings are better than two heavy coatings. Be aware that the Minwax Fast Dry spray-on Polyurethane has different recoating parameters than brush-on and spray finishes on small surfaces tends to waste about 2/3 of the material.

**Execution** is the culmination of all your abilities to turn, sand and finish a piece. Sandpaper is simply another tool for preparing bare wood or prepping finishes between coats. Sanding techniques are important to master. Sanding scratches on bare wood can add a great deal of additional time and effort to your work. In addition, the heat build-up will have



*The beautiful grain in this buckeye burl peppermill is showcased by a simple shape*

## Badge Raffle Winner

By Peter K. Lofrumento

### *Congratulations to George Rutledge!*

George Rutledge was our April Badge Raffle Winner. He joined NWA in 1997 and has been an active member/teacher/mentor for the past 18 years. He is a woodcarving enthusiast who teaches our basic woodcarving course, **Woodcarving 101** to many of our members. It is a **“Must”** course to take because George teaches the basics of sharpening, the elements of carving and instills the love of making wood creations with your hands in every student in the class. He is the current Carving SIG Leader and his infectious enthusiasm for woodcarving sets the friendly, warm atmosphere for the 20+ regular carvers who show up every Thursday evening to share their knowledge, woodcarving experiences and a little laughter with each other.

Since George already has a nifty NWA Cap, he chose to extend his family membership for an additional year.

The winners of the Badge Raffle have the option to pay this year's dues if they haven't done so, apply the free membership prize to next year's dues or transfer the membership prize to a friend...or, receive a smart looking NWA Cap as a prize!

Let us know if you want the new style Member Badge. Send an email to [nwamembers1@gmail.com](mailto:nwamembers1@gmail.com) with “Need Badge” in the title and we will make you a new badge and mail it out before the next meeting.

***The May meeting is the last Badge Raffle. Remember to wear your badge and don't miss the last chance to be a Badge Raffle Winner!***

**Remember, always wear your Badge...so everyone knows your name!**



## Annual Elections to be Held at the May Meeting

By John Heimke

In accordance with the By-Laws of NWA, the election of officers will be held at the May meeting. The nominating committee offers the following slate for the positions indicated:

Wally Carpenter - Vice President

Lee Hilt - 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, Rich Duval will become the immediate Past President and as such will serve as a special advisor to the NWA Board of Directors for the coming year.

## KWA News

*Continued from Page 5*

negative effect. Traditional sandpaper cannot effectively get rid of the dust and therefore produce more heat, riding on a layer of sawdust. John finds Mirka Abranet open mesh products more efficient in this regard, reducing heat and leaving less scratches. Initial sanding with coarse grits can be done at higher speeds: the object here is shape changing. Grits above 220 should be addressed with slower lathe speeds for dressing the surface.

Sanding between finish coats is best done with paper that does not readily clog. John uses Norton Sandblaster Gold. Finally, the dust produced by sanding must be removed before applying finish. Microfiber cloths work well, but still leave dust that may not be visible. Check thoroughly to be sure that the job is complete – wipe your hand in the piece and rub on a dark cloth to see if there is residue.

**Kudos:** There were two articles in the April issue of the American Woodturner by KWA members: Keith Tompkins wrote on ‘Skew Chisel Primer: Learn the Basic Cuts’ and Carl Ford III contributed an article on ‘Custom Tool Handles’. The issue also carried features on the passing of Giles Gilson and ‘Audacious’, the Peabody-Essex museum exhibit containing two works by Steve Sherman.

**Upcoming:** Matt Clarke will present Turning Christmas Ornaments on Wednesday, May 6 at 7PM and a collaborative workshop on holiday ornaments will be held on Saturday May 9 at 10AM. Both events will be at the Opdahl facility.



# CHAPTER NEWS

## Mid Hudson Chapter News

By Wally Cook

**Ghent Wood Products and Meltzer Lumber Company:** Trevor Williamson provided a history of the Meltzer Lumber enterprises, which include Ghent Wood Products. Emil Meltzer founded Meltzer Lumber Company in 1946 as a sawmill and custom cutting operation; Ghent was started in 2003 primarily as a retail center.

Today, this fourth generation sawmill cuts 23,000 board feet of lumber per day. They have two bandsaw head rigs which will accommodate 30-32 inch wide logs. All other logs are sent to their chain saw mill. The typical process is to first debark all logs, then square off the butts in a circular saw mill. Next stop is the head rigs (one with a 1 1/2" bimetal blade and the other sporting a 3" blade).



*Trevor Williamson provides an informative background on Ghent Wood Products*

Meltzer/Ghent employs two foresters to assist with their primary services:

1. Selective Timber Harvests – generally in woodlots greater than 5 acres
2. Timber Stand Improvement – brush and vine removal
3. Land Clearing – typically to support large agricultural or development projects – not clear-cutting for lumber harvest
4. Wildlife Habitat Improvement -- increase biodiversity

The products sold by Meltzer/Ghent include custom cut beams up to 26', log firewood by the tri-axle, hardwood logs by the truckload, green lumber (wet or air-dried) by the truck, and hardwood lumber and table top slabs. The latter are stocked at Ghent Wood Products – all species of domestic woods are stocked, as well as a growing amount of exotic and reclaimed woods. Ghent does have two kilns for drying: 2,000 ft. and 4,000 ft. capacity kilns.

Ghent Wood Products offers custom cut hardwood for a variety of uses. They can produce flooring and moulding to specification (they feature a 17" moulding machine). Wood products are offered as kiln dried or air-dried wood. For instance, air-dried beams are usually preferred to kiln dried beams. One note is that their air-dried pine and hemlock do not carry a structural stamp – they are intended for sheds, fences, and landscape timbers.

Not much is left to waste and Meltzer sells both mulch and sawdust. No dyes are added to the mulch, so it comes in light and dark (reground) varieties. The sawdust is sold in 50-80 yard units – and there is a waiting list for this product. The demand is agricultural for animal bedding.

A new effort for Ghent is producing glue-ups for table-tops or stair treads using a 24" planer and 60" timesaver sander. Ghent will also sand other's glue-ups. For more information, call Trevor at 518-828-5684.

**Toy Factory:** Good reports from the Toy Factory chair, Ron Roberts. Thanks to the Wednesday Group and the Solar Drive Crafters, the Toy Factory helped kids to build approximately 225 cars, 90 bird houses, 110 planes, over 50 boats and gave away 8 log home kits to some very happy kids. All-in-all, a very successful weekend, with great fun had by many kids and adults, on both sides of the table.



*Joe Kennedy helps a customer build a birdhouse. Dick Metzger, Pat Shinker, and Debbie Lee stand ready to assist other kids.*

**Upcoming:** April meeting featured Dr. Eli Morales from Blue Stone Natural Health. The May 21st meeting will present Rob Hare on bending wood.

# NWA Store Project

Hello NWA members:

Next year is the 25th anniversary of Woodworkers Showcase and a few of us members of the Crafters SIG have developed a plan to do something special to celebrate. We drank lots of coffee and tea as we discussed THE PLAN and, of course, THE PLAN involves each and every NWA member.

Here is THE PLAN!

NWA will have a double booth called the NWA STORE at Showcase next year and in this booth we will offer to the public quality woodworking items (at reasonable prices) made by members of the Special Interest Groups of NWA.

We are looking for items made by members of the Special Interest Groups of NWA at their regular gatherings. This is an excuse to work together at SIG meetings for the benefit of everyone and everything NWA.

These groups include:

NWA CRAFTERS

The MONDAY NIGHT PEN TURNERS of NWA

ADIRONDACK WOODTURNERS of NWA

KAATSKILL WOODTURNERS of NWA

NWA SCROLLERS

NWA CARVERS

NWA Albany AREA MUSICAL INSTRUMENT GROUP

NWA MID HUDSON MUSICAL INSTRUMENT GROUP

NWA HAND TOOL GROUP

NWA's MID HUDSON WEDNESDAY GROUP

SACANDAGA CHAPTER WEDNESDAY GROUP of NWA

And additional SIG's as created.

If the members of each of these SIGS would commit to making three to five different quality items in a quantity of say ~ 10 each, these items could be sold in the NWA STORE at Showcase 2016 and the proceeds could go to running the Herm Finkbeiner Learning Center.

The idea here is to make the production of the items part of your regular meeting format, so members new and old will have a reason to come to your meetings and participate.

Let's consider what this could do.

1. Build unity among the members of your SIG
2. Be a chance for all SIGS to contribute to the funding of the great place we all have to meet, the Herm Finkbeiner Education Center!
3. Be an opportunity to meet new NWA members.
4. Be an opportunity to learn new woodworking skills as we all participate.
5. Be just the ticket to grow membership in our group or SIG.

6. Be part of an opportunity to show the general public what woodworking is all about.
7. Be the reason why new members will want to join one or more of the NWA SIGS.
8. Be a reason for new members to join NWA
9. Be the reason you complete certain Machine Qualification at the shop.
10. Be just the project, along with Showcase, that brings all of NWA together for one unified purpose.

The suggestions below are just that, suggestions, and I am sure the members of your SIG will have many other suggestions as to what unique items your group could offer.

- Turned pens in nice wooden boxes - a collaboration between turners and crafters.
- Comfort birds
- Holiday ornaments
- Bird houses
- Wooden toys of various types
- Cutting Boards
- Weedpots
- Paper towel holders
- Napkin holders
- Wooden games

Help us out here-send me more suggestions as to what we could make.

The Showcase Planning Committee is planning other unique venues for the 25th anniversary of Showcase. These venues and the NWA STORE will help make Showcase 2016 a show to remember. It will likely benefit NWA and YOUR SIG in many other ways.

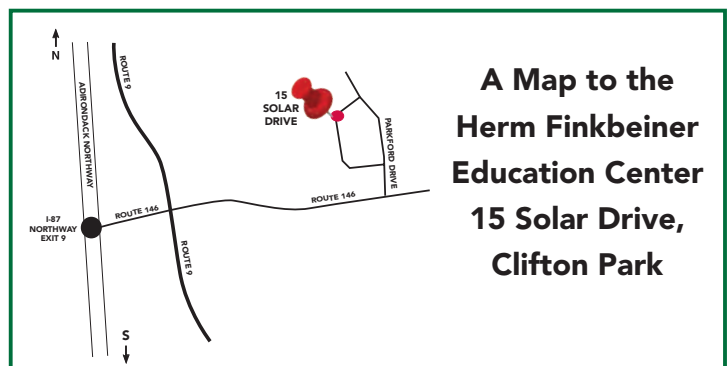
Let's solicit other NWA members to join our SIGS to help us with this endeavor.

Please feel free to contact John Heimke-Wayne Distin-Tom Moran-or Ken Evans with your ideas and suggestions

If you read this and you do not yet belong to a SIG, an email will follow to help connect you to a SIG contact person.

Thank you.

John, Wayne, Tom, and Ken

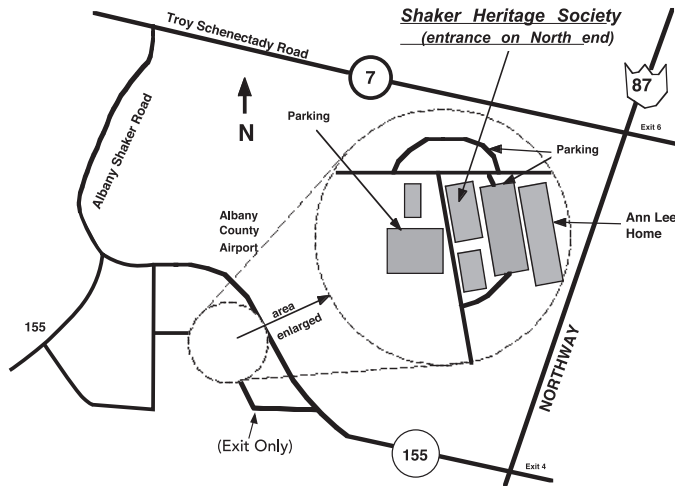




# May Meeting

Thursday, May 14, 2015, 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

## New Hand Tool SIG

*By Dave Parks*

Many of us use hand tools (planes, chisels, rasps, braces, etc.) in our woodworking projects, but many of us are unsure of how to use certain hand tools, how to maintain these tools, or, in some cases, what the tool's intended use is. If you fall into any of these categories, the new Hand Tool SIG might be just what you're looking for. Starting on Wednesday, January 14, 2015, the Hand Tool Sig will meet at the NWA shop at 15 Solar Dr., Clifton Park from 7:00PM until 9:00PM and will meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month after that.

At the meetings, we will discuss hand tools, their uses, how to maintain/repair them, and (hopefully) conduct some "build alongs" where we can develop/enhance our skills and take home a nice project when we're done. Topics and projects will be determined by consensus, so if there's a tool you want to learn about or a skill you want to get better at, stop by.

For more information, contact Dave Parkis at [dparklis@nycap.rr.com](mailto:dparklis@nycap.rr.com) or 518-429-76581

## 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 15 Solar Drive, Clifton Park, NY 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](http://www.adirondackwoodturners.com) **Contact:** Ken Evans, 518-753-7759 or [kevans1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:kevans1@nycap.rr.com)

**Scroller's Guild** - Meets on the first and third Wednesday of the month (Starting Nov. 19) at the NWA Learning Center located at 15 Solar Drive, Clifton Park, 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](mailto:AMJAMtat2@aol.com) or Barbara Nottke at [scroller87@aol.com](mailto: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 15 Solar Drive, Clifton Park, NY. The Crafters provide public service woodworking for various charitable organizations, including the Double H Hole in the Woods crafters 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](mailto:daxton@nycap.rr.com), Wayne Distin (518) 674-4171, [wdistin@nycap.rr.com](mailto:wdistin@nycap.rr.com) Steve Schoenberg (518-371-1260), [sschoen1@nycap.rr.com](mailto: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 15 Solar Drive, Clifton Park, 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](mailto:LoRayG@Gmail.com)

**Hand Tool SIG** - Meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 8pm in the Herm Finkbeiner Education Center at 15 Solar Dr, Clifton Park, NY. **Contact:** Dave Parkis for further details: [dparkis@nycap.rr.com](mailto:dparkis@nycap.rr.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 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, [pchastnow@gmail.com](mailto:pchastnow@gmail.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.