

WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern
Woodworkers
Association

November 2011, Vol. 20, Number 9

November Meeting

*Thursday, November 10, 2011, 7:30 pm
Clifton Park Senior Center
Vischer Ferry Road, Clifton Park, NY*

NOTE: The meeting is at a different time and place

A Marquetry Odyssey

Silas Kopf to give the 2011 Fiske Memorial Lecture

Silas Kopf has been making studio furniture since 1973. He is a graduate of Princeton University with a degree in architecture. He apprenticed with Wendell Castle for two years.

In 1988 he was the recipient of a Craftsman's Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. He used the Fellowship to study traditional marquetry methods at the École Boulle in Paris with Pierre Ramond. Subsequently Kopf had the opportunity to travel and study marquetry and inlay in Italy, England, and Sweden, expanding his understanding of the European marquetry history of decorative arts.

Kopf incorporates a wide variety of techniques to decorate the furniture he both designs and builds. The standards are exacting and every attempt is made to build work of the highest caliber, creating work that is sought after by collectors. Most of the marquetry is made with wood, but occasionally other materials are used; brass, copper, aluminum, mother-of-pearl, abalone, and reconstituted stone.

Kopf's work is found in museums and private collections around the world. His shop is in Easthampton, Massachusetts. See www.silaskopf.com.

Silas will be teaching a marquetry class at the Mustang Drive shop on Friday and Saturday, to register send an e-mail to hfinkbeiner@nycap.rr.com

The Fiske Lecture each year is a special presentation that honors the memory of Milan Fiske, one of the original 8 that created the Northeastern Woodworkers Association. Milan had two special interests in woodworking, the use of wood in producing works of art and perhaps even more important to him, that NWA provide the means and opportunity to learn more about the "working of wood". These lectures are intended to advance both of those interests. 🐿



Bricolage

A Woodworkers Treasure Trove in Grafton

By George Rutledge

Those of you who attended the September and or October general meetings or the Sept 7 meeting of the Turners SIG may recall me speaking of a barn in Grafton that contained a large collection of woodworking tools and materials that were up for sale or some cases there just for the taking. For those of you who were wondering, what follows is the story as I know it of a once in a lifetime windfall for woodworkers that was almost missed.

There is a large bow roofed barn on Rte 2 in Grafton on the downhill run into Petersburg not 3 miles from where I live. I've been driving by this barn for well over 30 years and always admired its unusual construction and graceful lines but I never once stopped to think about what was inside it. It did not appear to be in use in all that time and I always assumed it was empty. I couldn't have been more wrong. The barn was owned by a Grafton resident who lived in a trailer nearby and who over a long period of time had been storing tools and materials inside it. It seems the gentleman worked for the NYC School System and as Vocational Educational programs were being discontinued, he would buy up the contents of entire shops and hide them away in this great barn in Grafton. This avid collector recently passed away and his son in California hired a contractor and sent him east to oversee the liquidation of the hoard. The barn itself is in disrepair and due to prohibitively high repair costs is scheduled for demolition. Hank, the California contractor, arrived on the scene around August 3rd and started to clean house. By his own admission he knew nothing of fine woodworking and his actions reflected that ignorance as he tended to grossly overvalue the stationary equipment and equally undervalue the hand



Barn

Continued on Page 4

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UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, PHONE
NUMBERS ARE IN AREA CODE 518

NWA Wood Carvers News

By Ray Gannon

In case you have missed it, the NWA Wood Carvers sessions now start off with dinner at 1 Mustang Dr. (Your choice) served by Top Chief Jeff. You will need to let Ray - LoRayG@Gmail.com or George - gnarus@verizon.net know that you are coming (no later than Tuesday 12PM via E-mail) to the session and want a dinner reserved **in your name**. The meals \$7.00 for a single dinner and \$12.00 for two dinners. Seriously we all enjoy the top notch food. Try it and you'll like it.

The NWA WC publicity coordinator Jacquie Donahoe has set up our WC display at the Burnt Hills/Ballston lake Public Library. If you have an opportunity please visit the Library by Oct. 31st and take in all the eye candy. This theme is **"So you think you can Carve"** providing everyone with the simple and basic of How to Carve Wood. Simply put Wood Carving is a learned skill not an inherited skill as once thought.


Showcase 2012 NWA. Wood carvers will need to let **both** Ray Gannon and Bill McCormack know by Dec. 20th. I'll be issuing carver space allotments at the end of Dec. 2011. This is all necessary because we will have two of the best known Wood Carvers at Showcase 2012 one local in Rick Butz and one nationally with Mary May working from the same area as our carvers. The area known as the City Ctr. kitchen area will be procured for us this coming year. The Turners and Scrollers SIG's will also be sharing this area. Active NWA WC will have first choice for benches and spot location. More to follow once you have notified me. This will be a first in line gets first choice. The many disciplines of carving need to be shown. The area that has been for displaying ones carvings will not be reduced in size. Benches with a small display area will be provided. Questions please let me know.

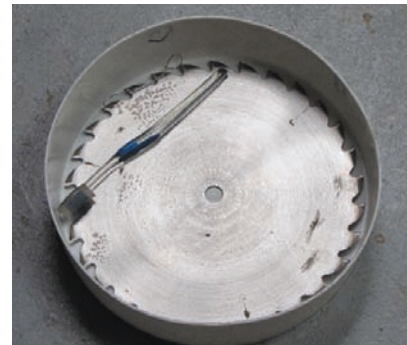


Cleaning Steel Saw Blades

By Ken Miller

Pitch and burned sap can be cleaned quickly with household ammonia. Do not use ammonia with soap or detergent added. And, do it outdoors. The advantage of ammonia over oven cleaner is that it leaves no residue. A 10" blade fits into the bottom of a (cutoff) 5 gallon bucket. After 10 to 30 seconds, a toothbrush is effective in loosening the remaining residue. The blade can be turned over with a wire hook or gloves. By this time the reverse side is nearly clean. If you are upwind, you might want to hold your breath. Rinse with water and discard the solution in the lawn or garden. *Note:* Ammonia was used as a fertilizer by injecting it into the ground so this is a safe disposal method. Dry the saw, and especially the hole, mount the blade to spin dry, and remove to complete drying.

When we had a lecture on Freud saw blades, we were told that oven cleaner etches the carbide composite. Freud promotes their cleaner. I asked whether ammonia can be used too, and the lecturer could not answer that question, and he did not get back to me. Because of the short contact time and the fact that it evaporates and leaves no residue leads me to believe that it is a very effective and blade friendly cleaner. 





Robert Teisberg discusses Kauri.



Last Month's Ancient Kuari Meeting

By Wally Carpenter

Thanks to Steve Schoenberg for taking these images of Bob Tiesberg and the ancient Kauri we saw and perhaps purchased last month! While these 40,000 year old samples were on the expensive side, we would all agree it was a VERY unique experience.

Our thanks to all who made this possible.



Olenik and Teisberg discuss Kauri

C L A S S I F I E D S

For Sale

18" Emmert Patternmaker's Vise. Turtleback Model, complete, no cracks

Recently restored, \$600

Charlie Goddard 3518-370-0388, cgodd@aol.com

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 December

Copy deadline: November 15

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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

Treasure Trove in Grafton

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tools and materials. Fast forward to September 1st and I get a call from my friend Scott Dorner who runs Rock City Restorations, a boat shop in Petersburg. Scott had only just heard what was happening at the barn and had already made some exceptional buys including an old cabinetmakers bench made by Hammacher Schlemmer that had an Emmert Turtleback Pattern Makers Vice mounted on it. Furthermore there was a pile of debris building up outside the barn containing among other things some useable hardwood timbers. Hank told Scott that any wood on the ground was free for the taking. There was no one around on my first visit so I took a walk around the building to reconnoiter passing as I did an old farm tractor, a jeep, some oil tanks and a rusting old saw mill. On the opposite end of the barn from where I parked I came upon another pile of debris and I was shocked to discover that entire pallets of fine veneer among other things had been thrown out the window from the second story of the barn. Interwoven in this pile I found flame crotch mahogany, bees wing mahogany, highly mottled cherry, prima vera, rosewood, walnut and poplar. There were also several 12' long whole pallets of veneer buried in the pile. I returned to the barn the next Saturday and Hank wasn't around but I ran into Scott going through the pile. He picked up a piece of wood about 3"x20"x40" and yelling "Catch", he threw it at me. Fortunately it was only balsa which is why I'm still here to tell the story. After Scott left, I grabbed some mahogany and walnut boards and some choice veneers that were lying about the edges of the pile. Returning Sunday, I met Hank and got inside the barn for the first time. The ground floor was strewn with old stationary woodworking tools of all kinds most of which were in dubious condition. Going up the ladder to the second floor, I found more heavy equipment and shelf after shelf laden with boxes of tools and hardware and similar strange delights. I came away from that visit with some carving gouges, a #58 Stanley compass, a #59 Stanley Dowelling Jig, an old Stanley box plane, a #8c jointer, a pair of Disston veneer saws as well as an antique spinning wheel and a small but functional loom. Yes there were other things besides woodworking tools. I also noticed an unusual tool I'd never seen before made by the Langdon Mitre Box Co. of Millers Falls Massachusetts. It turned out to be a Rodgers Mitre Planer and the next day after work, I went back and bought that item too. This extremely rare tool was patented in 1882 and designed for planning end grain for miters and the like. I gave Dave Parkis, the NWA's own old tool monger, a heads up and he



Hotcrotch



Rodgers mitre plane

took the ride up the hill to Grafton and also got some nice deals. The collection of smaller items was in such a jumble of boxes upon boxes upon shelves that you could make several trips through and still turn up something new. Scott would return several times and on one visit he purchased a Sargent "Ladybug" shoulder plane for \$5.00. If not for the fact that I was taking a vacation the following week, I'm sure I would have invested the contents of at least one more piggybank in tools.



Scrollsaw

Now as to the free stuff, I became increasingly appalled at the manner in which so much fine veneer had been cast aside. It seemed a sin against nature. In announcing the situation to the Turners and at the general NWA meeting in September I hoped that more of it could be rescued. Dan Tipton, our President and my neighbor offered to help me have a go at it and we met early on Friday morning September 8th. Neither of us had much time but we were able to uncover a unopened pallet of a quartered ribbon stripe veneer that looks like mahogany but is much lighter in color. The material in this pallet was pristine excepting a half inch or so of discoloration around the edges. We divided this up and took

a few other things before leaving. I was off to Lake Champlain the next day but Dan returned and was able to gather a lot more veneer that weekend, much of which he donated to the NWA Auction. While I'm told it didn't fetch a lot of money, at least it was saved from oblivion. For my part, I plan to feature fine veneer in a lot of future projects and will no doubt share some of it with friends and put some into next year's auction. I have no intention of leaving much behind in my stash when it's time for me to go.



Rosewood

Postscript: After everything was sold or sent to the scrap metal yards or thrown in the dumpster and Hank returned to California, Scott and I had the opportunity to do a little "dumpster diving". Sharpening stones and slips, polishing compounds, dowels, old "Buck" brand socket chisels and lots of books were retrieved. After the rolloff was pulled out, Scott found some perfectly good "Craftsmen" wrenches and an excellent "Sweetheart" era Stanley Mortise Gauge lying in the grass where they had clearly missed their mark. While it's sad to think about what might have been lost, I prefer to concentrate on what we saved and the good deals we made. I know I'll never look at an old and supposedly empty barn the same way again. 🐷

CHAPTER NEWS

Sacandaga Chapter

By Gary Spencer

Our October 12th meeting featured Paul Petrie a master woodworker who spoke about “The Technology and Techniques of Using Japanese Handsaws”. His presentation was a great success and challenged those in the group to compare the different Japanese type saws with American woodworker saws. Paul who is a contractor and builds houses, and cabinetry, as well as woodturning another recreational wood working forums says that he hasn’t used the traditional American saw in five years. Many in the group stated that they were interested in trying them out. Thanks Paul for a great program.

Our November 9th meeting will feature Jeanne Aldous. She has also been a previous speaker to the Chapter and an outstanding member and presenter to many NWA functions. Her topic is unusual. “How to Create a Bowl Using Scroll Saw Techniques” This should be an excellent and unusual program. Don’t miss this one!

Again we want to start off our meeting with Show and Tell please bring us something you are working on or have made to show. Following Show and Tell we will have refreshments followed by the presentation by Jeanne. The address again is 55, 2nd Avenue, Mayfield, NY. If you are at Stewarts on RT. 30 go two blocks toward Gloversville and turn left on 2nd Ave. Go one block and turn right to first road and you are at the shop for our meeting.

Our regular monthly meetings are the second Wednesday of each month and begin at 7:00 P.M. at 55 2nd Avenue Mayfield, NY. Our next regular meeting will be November, 9, 2011. Come on out!

Remember we have door prizes and refreshments are served.

For Directions or information contact:

Ray Laubenstein - 863-6071, Clyde Cheney - 661-5138 or Gary Spencer – 863-6433.

KWA News

By Wally Cook

Steve Sherman hosted a jewelry making class for the Kaatskill Woodturners membership. Woodenware adornment can take many forms in pins, brooches, rings, necklaces, bracelets, and earrings.

Steve demonstrated that the same skills used in normal spindle turning are the key to successful jewelry making in small scale. Beads, coves, and fillets remain the building blocks. Piercing becomes a natural inclination, as thin wall pieces predominate.

We focused on earring production. The round Nano tool was used on edge for sheer cutting to form beads for the earring. This technique requires that you address the cutting edge angle until dust appears on the cutter – then continue the cut; ride the bevel, but turn your wrist slightly as you cut. Very light cuts are critical, as is the tempo – fast lathe speed and slow cutting speed. The Nano allows you to cut in both directions – uphill as well as downhill. Use the tool to delicately sculpt the earring.

Snap swivels are used to attach the earrings to the hangers (size 16-18 swivels preferred). Supplies may be secured from Fire Mountain (firemountaingems.com) or Indian Jewelers Supply Co. (ijsinc.com). Two reference books are Gary R. Smith, *Turning Bracelets* and Hilary Bowen, *Woodworking Jewelry*. 🛠️



Steve demonstrating the cutting technique



The Nano tools help get into small spaces



Turned and pierced brooches finished by Steve Sherman



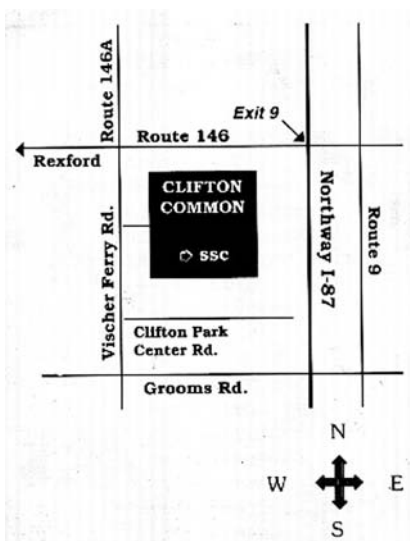
A collection of Steve's completed earrings



The scale is quite small for wooden jewelry



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



November Meeting

Thursday, November 10, 2011, 7:30 pm
Clifton Park Senior Center
Vischer Ferry Road, Clifton Park, NY

GENERAL MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

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

NWA Program Schedule 2011-2012

December 12
Family Night

Shenendahowa Adult Community Center

January 12, 7 PM
Sanding with Reps from
Norton Abrasives

Shaker Heritage Society Meeting House
NWA facilitator is Pete Howe.

February 9 TBA

March 8, 7 PM

The Architectural Woodworking Institute
Shaker Heritage Society Meeting House
NWA facilitator is Roger Holmes

April 12, 7 PM
Building and Racing Ice Boats
with Rich Cruet

Shaker Heritage Society Meeting House
NWA facilitator is George Rutledge.

May 10 TBA

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 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 shop, 1 Mustang Dr. These sessions run 6pm-9pm except on AWA member meeting nights as described above.
www.adirondackwoodturners.com Contact Ken Evans, 518-753-7759 or orkevans1@nycap.rr.com

Scroller's Guild - Meets on the third Wednesday of the month at The New Shop on Mustang Drive, Latham. A beginner's session starts at 6:30 PM followed by a general meeting at 7:00 PM. Contact: Jeanne Aldous at AMJAMtat2 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. Contact Matt Clark, (845) 454-9387.

NWA Crafters - Meets every Saturday and Tuesday, from 9:00 am until noon at NWA Shop at 1 Mustang Dr. 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 Dave Axton (518) 237-6992, 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 learning ctr. Our programs are determined at the previous weekly sessions, discussions start at 7PM. Our goals are to promote the art of Wood Carving. We assist with all carving matters. Individual private sessions are available Wednesday evenings by appointment only. All beginners are encouraged to attend often, as we will assist with 100 % of your needs. We offer the wood, tools, patterns and the how to carve training as you need it. NWA WC operates a carving tool crib for all to borrow tools.
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 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 (our workshop) If you are in Mayfield at Stewarts on RT. 30, just go two blocks toward Gloversville and turn left one block to first road on right. That's It! Contact Gary Spencer, 863-6433