

# WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern  
Woodworkers  
Association

November 2014, Vol. 23, Number 9

## November Meeting

*Note: The meeting is at a different place*

**Thursday, November 13, 2014 at 7:00 PM**

**Clifton Park Senior Center**

**Vischer Ferry Road, Clifton Park, NY**

## Bob Van Dyke will present the 2014 Fiske Memorial Lecture

*By John Heimke*

Bob Van Dyke has been selected as the 2014 recipient of the Fiske Award and will be honored at the November general meeting. He will be the 19th woodworker to receive the award. Last year Doug Stowe was presented the Fiske Award and some previous awardees have been Silas Kopf, Phil Lowe, Teri Masaschi, Ernie Conover and Gary Hack.



Bob Van Dyke has become well known to NWA members through his popular program of classes and workshops that he has frequently offered here in the Capital District. In 2000 he formed a business partnership to open the Manchester, Conn. Woodcraft store and is the Founder and Director of the Connecticut Valley School of Woodworking. The school was an instant success and the demand for classes was so great that a second shop was built to allow two classes to run concurrently. In addition to teaching, Bob continues to build commission furniture pieces and develop new projects for upcoming classes. He has been featured in *Fine Woodworking Magazine* and *Woodshop News*.

Bob's approach to teaching centers on the belief that people learn "by doing rather than by watching". His successful contemporary furniture making utilizes a sensible combination of machine woodworking and handwork.

Please plan to come and join us to honor Bob Van Dyke for his fine contributions to woodworking education and to enjoy his lecture presentation. 🐾

## October AWA General Meeting

*By Kurt E Roullier*

*Photos by Kurt E Roullier*

Ray Puffer was the presenter at the October AWA general meeting and did a presentation on how to make friction fit boxes. If you weren't there for

Ray's demonstration, you can see pictures from the entire presentation on our website at [AdirondackWoodturners.com](http://AdirondackWoodturners.com). Click on the Events tab and look for the October General meeting. If you have missed any of our past meetings and demonstrations, you can also find pictures of those meetings on the Events tab as well. Ray does an excellent step by step presentation beginning with safety and ending with a lidded box. He showed us how to make the custom tools he uses, methods for sanding and finishing. Also had many examples of boxes he made to pass around for others to see. In the near future Ray will also be demonstrating segmented turning. It was a lot of fun; watching Ray make a box and answering all of our questions. I talked to Ray



*Continued on page 6*

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UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, PHONE  
NUMBERS ARE IN AREA CODE 518

# Thanks to NWA Crafters

*By Dick Flanders*

We became connected with the former Elfuns (now named GE Volunteers), Toy Mods group when we were still operating out of the Kennedy shop. John Hoff asked if we could assist them with making the wooden bases for the Big Button switches that they used to replace small switches on toys. Since the handicapped or disabled children could not access or operate the small on/off switches, the Toy Mods had come up with this oversize switch that only required pushing on it or hitting it with their hand, arm or other means.

They were cutting these out on a band saw and routing the groove for the peanut butter jar top, and it was a cumbersome operation. We knew that the bases could readily be turned on a lathe, and make several bases in the time it took them to make one previously. They were also readily adaptable for three different size jar tops.

Once the bases were made, the Toy Mods wire in an internal micro-switch that could replace the on/off switch on a toy, or even take the place of a mouse switch for a computer. (left or right click with the Big Button instead of the mouse button).

Another item that came up during conversations with John and others was the "card holders" for people to put playing cards into and be able to see what cards they had without the problem of holding many cards in their hands. We came up with a simple solution, using short lengths of 2 x 4 material and putting one or two 15 degree angle slots in the top to slide the cards into. This was done easily by just tilting the blade on the table saw and cutting half way through the 2 x 4 along it's length.

Later, when we were in the Mustang Dr. Shop, the slant board request came up. There were many instances where a person either could not hold a magazine or book or newspaper upright for easy reading, or they needed their hands free while reading. Over the past three years, and various design changes, we made the portable, easily carried slant board.

All of these items were happily made by our volunteers in the Crafters and Turners groups, and passed along to the Toy Mods for distribution where needed.

Our friends wanted to thank so many of you for your help and I thought it would be great to pass this along to all of you.

*"The GE Volunteers Toy Modification Program thanks the Northeastern Woodworkers Association and its Crafters chapter for its support during 2014.*

*You have provided us the following which we have been distributing to the facilities we donate to :*

*50 Wooden card holders*

*21 Slant boards*

*111 Turned wooden switch bases*

*Through our collective joint efforts, we have allowed many differently abled people to enjoy the sights, sounds, and motions of common toys and have provided therapists with varied tools to develop their clients' potentials .*

*Thank you again and we are looking forward to continuing our partnership.*

*John Hoff and Earl Barnes*

*on behalf of the GE Volunteers Toy Modification Program"*

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## SHOWCASE – March 28th & 29th, 2015

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# Wood Carvers SIG

By Diane Balch and Jacquie Donahoe

Jacquie Donahoe and Diane Balch, NWA Woodcarvers SIG members, recently attended a 5 day "Realistic Animal" carving class at the Northwoods Inn - Lake Placid Wood Carving Experience in Lake Placid, NY. The class was taught by Leah Goddard, from Sarasota Florida. She has competed nationally and has won numerous awards as well as Best of Show at the "Artistry in Woods" show.



There were 7 students, each making a different animal. We started out with a basic carving which took 2 days, 12 hours of wood burning (all the fine fur details and getting down inside the bunny's ears). Painting took another 8 hours. All total- about 43-45 hours it took from start to finish.

We had a great time, lots of laughs, great instruction, great accommodations and food. We both would like to do it again.

Jacquie has been carving for about 3½ years. She is currently carving a carousel horse and some "Comfort Birds". Diane has been carving less than 2 years. She is currently carving "Comfort Birds" and some Halloween Basswood eggs. Diane thanks NWA for the Fiske Fund Scholarship.

The NWA CARVING SIG meets every Thursday, 5:00- 8:30 pm at NWA Fiske Education center at 15 Solar Drive, Clifton Park, NY.



## 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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# KWA News

By Wally Cook

**Channeling Rolly:** Carl Ford III taught a 5 hour workshop on hollowing techniques with particular emphasis on the Munro Hollower II. The Hollower II features a change in the articulated links that allows the cutting head to be turned in either direction. This improvement allows the turner to set the lathe in reverse and cut on the right side of the blank. Carl prefers this approach for both comfort (no leaning) and visibility (can sight down the shaft). To get a feel for the Munro Hollower, Carl suggests that a new user practice on the exterior of the vessel where it is easier to see the quality of the cut.



Carl Ford shows use of the Versa-Mount system

Among the insights that Carl shared are the following:

1. Cutting edge: the carbide cutter is worth the cost. The Munro Hollower II comes with a HSS round cutter. Sharpening the cutter is a bit tedious – folks usually rotate the wheel after some use. However, after dull spots start to affect the cutting efficiency, the wheel must be touched up and readjusted in the guard. Resetting the cutting wheel is a matter of art – the edge reveal at the guard can change in several directions. Rolly uses both a torx key and a shim or screwdriver to position the cutter (see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFVrtRopITU>). The net result is that the tool can seem a bit different after each sharpening. On the other hand, the carbide wheel will stay sharp for far longer, allowing you to get used to the tooling technique.
2. Cutting motion: Carl adjusts the wheel so that there is more edge on one side, allowing him to take a more aggressive cut on the push stroke and a smoothing cut on the pull stroke. The lathe speed is set slow – about



Sharpening a HSS Munro cutter

500 rpm. The tool cuts very well at the slow speed, minimizing dramatic mistakes. The hollowing rhythm is slow and easy. Always hold the tool shaft horizontal on the rest and rotate the cutter from vertical attitude to a more horizontal attitude until you are engaging the wood surface in a clean cut. Note: the extreme horizontal attitude of the cutter head is the most aggressive position and should be avoided for a clean cut.

3. Clogging: Although wood shavings fill the gap between the guard and the cutter, it is not clogged. Pressing the cutter to the spinning wood will clear the old shavings (and accumulate new ones) – the tool continues to cut.
4. Laser guide: Carl has made a laser thickness guide for the Munro that lets you know where your cutting edge is inside the vessel. Carl has found the thickness gauge to be an efficient method for learning hollowing, as well as speeding the process of finishing the task. Carl makes and sells these adjustable laser guides (see [http://www.carlford.info/pages/jigs\\_tools/jigs\\_tools.html](http://www.carlford.info/pages/jigs_tools/jigs_tools.html)).

In addition to the above tips on the Munro tool, Carl demonstrated holding techniques for the Oneway Versa-Mount detachable faceplate system. Carl does not reverse chuck his vessels, but rather works both exterior and interior from one position. The exterior is formed with a combination of Ellsworth gouges and Al Stirt shear scrapers.



Munro Hollower II and Ford G6 laser thickness gauge

If done correctly, no sanding is necessary. The vessel is wrapped in clear plastic wrap over the faceplate for added stability before hollowing the interior. Interior work is started with a morse-tapered one inch drill drilled to the final depth of the vessel. The Munro cutter fits nicely in this hole to begin the hollowing process.



HSS cutter on left, carbide version on right. Note the carbide requires a longer screw. Both need Torx key.

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## KWA News

Continued from page 4

**Road trip!** KWA members Steve Sherman, Phil Whittington, Joe Gaddis, Henry Rua, Sam Anodeo, and Wally Cook visited Berkshire Wood Products in Sheffield, Massachusetts (telephone: 413.229-7919). The amazing variety and quality of wood is definitely worth the trip! In addition a couple of the folks also visited Dave Walker at Mt. Breeze Lumber in Greenville, NY (telephone: 518-429-0072). Berkshire Wood Products does source some wood from Dave, who has quality logs. 🐾



Collage of visit to Berkshire Wood Products

## Suggestion Box

By Peter K. Lofrumento



Another great suggestion was placed in the Suggestion Box at the October 9th Membership Monthly Meeting. The suggestion pertained to this year's Showcase. We gave it to Ken Evans, the Showcase Chairperson for his review.

The Suggestion Box isn't just for suggestions, it is also for questions that you might have. For your convenience, the Membership Suggestion Box will be at all the NWA Meetings, at Showcase and will reside at the Solar Drive Workshop. Also, don't hesitate to send any comment or suggestion or even a gripe or two to [nwamembers1@gmail.com](mailto:nwamembers1@gmail.com) if you can't get to the suggestion box.

**Please give us your suggestions to help foster better communication and the betterment of NWA!**

## Badge Raffle Winner

By Peter K. Lofrumento

*Congratulations to  
Steve Galley!*

Steve is our second Badge Raffle Winner at our October 9, 2014 Membership meeting. He is a regular attendee at our monthly meetings. He opted to apply his \$25.00 prize towards this year's Dues.

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.

We have new clips for your badges. We have earth magnet clips that will keep your badge tight to your shirt...great for working in the Learning Center Workshop...and we have two styles of Alligator clips, also used to keep your badge from twisting and turning. We can change your clips at any of the meetings. Let us know if you need your badge replaced.

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



## October AWA General Meeting

*Continued from page 1*

after about how boxes can be made in many shapes and forms that you would not think of as boxes. I made a rattle for my nephew's daughter in the shape of an egg on a handle. The egg part was the box filled with rice and glued back together. Now there is an example of how you would use this same technique to make a rattle for a baby as you would for a box. There are many ways to use this technique and that is what makes making boxes so much fun. Thank you, Ray Puffer.



### Volunteers Needed for Totally Turning

It's that time of the year where we are looking for volunteers for Totally Turning. If you want to get in for free then you need to volunteer to help. Please contact Bruce DeCesare to sign up. You can reach Bruce at 280-4436 or 421-1456 (cell) or by email at [bcdecasare@hotmail.com](mailto:bcdecasare@hotmail.com).

### Special NOTES:

- Pam Curtis and Pam Bucci will be the presenters for the November general meeting. The presentation will discuss how to start selling your work at craft shows.

For suggestions, comments or articles regarding AWA Newsletter contact: Kurt E Roullier 518-283-4743 or, [KRoullier@nycap.rr.com](mailto:KRoullier@nycap.rr.com)



*October AWA Raffle (Tom Hutchinson)*



*AWA Instant Gallery (Bruce DeCesare)*

# CHAPTER NEWS

## Mid-Hudson Chapter News

By Wally Cook

**Care and Maintenance of Garage Doors:** Jim Lee gave a very interesting talk on the construction, installation and maintenance of an opening that opens and closes at least 730 times per year.

Critical components of the garage door system include:

1. Rollers and stems: Except for the head plate rollers, the bearings are not sealed. Generally, they are differentiated by the number of ball bearings used – which range between five and twelve ball bearings. All of the bearings, whether steel or nylon, need lubrication.
2. Hinges: Garage door hinges are actually graduated, since the door gets tighter to the wall as it descends. The stem of the rollers slide in and out of the hinges as they move.
3. Pullies and springs: Extension springs are the least expensive and most prevalent; they run on cables along the track. In the 1990's safety cables were introduced that string through the extension spring to contain damage in the event that the spring breaks. Torsion springs are installed over the header and are wound specifically for left and right hand doors (so one is tightened clockwise and the other counter-clockwise). Care should be taken when adjusting torsion springs – they are dangerous! A



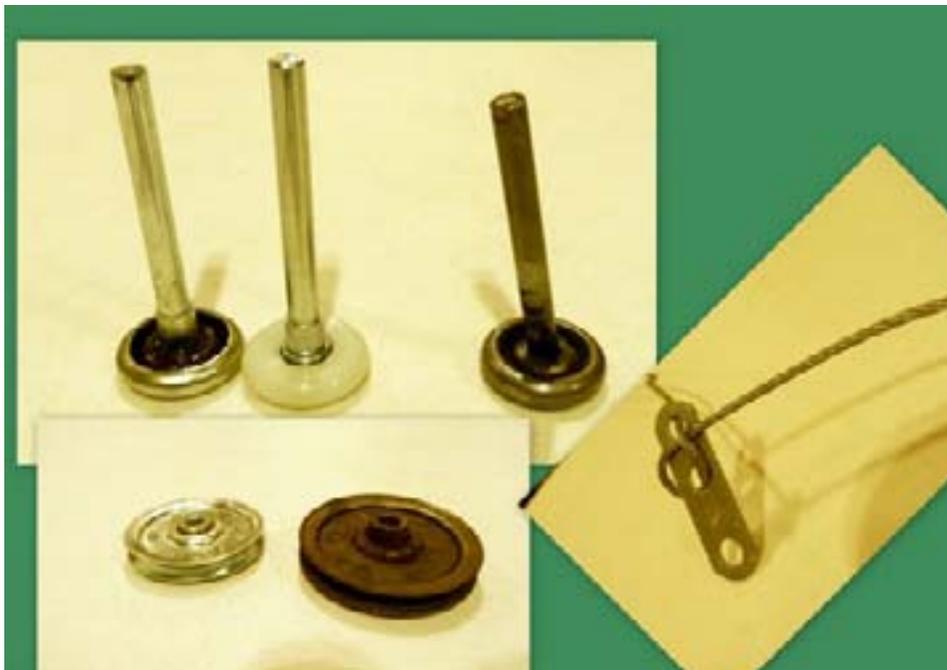
Jim Lee stands by the largest door he has installed -- 40'x40'

professional will use a winding bar and turn the correct direction and amount. Springs are color-coded according to strength (e.g., yellow = 120 lbs, black = 130 lbs., green = 140 lbs, and red = 150 lbs). Pullies are either clevis or stud pullies. When strength of spring and weight of door matches, the door should stay in any position it is placed, even when disconnected from the cable.

4. Doors: Material for doors is wood, steel, or heavy plastic. A Canadian firm does also make aluminum doors which are twice the cost of steel. A typical 9' by 7' door averages 300-400 lbs, or about 100 lbs per section.

5. Openers: Chamberlain Liftmaster makes all the garage doors openers sold by any garage door manufacturer – except for the openers used by Genie. The cheaper versions use nylon gears and have a life expectancy of twelve years; higher end openers may last 20 years.

Jim stressed the need for maintenance on doors, cables and stems/pullies. Stay away from grease – it will interfere with the rolling motion of the door. Similarly, WD40 is not indicated. Either use 30 weight oil or a product called ZEP 2000.



Healthy and unhealthy rollers and pullies, the correct way to lace a garage door cable

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# CHAPTER NEWS

## Mid-Hudson Chapter News

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**Chapter Show:** The eighth annual chapter show was held October 4. The show was well received, even though the day was persistently rainy. Many thanks to George Norton and Ron Roberts for operating the portable sawmill in the adverse weather. The indoor display was terrific, along with wood species identification, and demonstration areas for scrollsaw and woodturning. A dozen door prizes and as many raffle items were provided to lucky recipients during the day. The Popular Choice award was won by Brad Conklin for his sculpture Rake in the Water, Butterflies in the Sky; Al Shinker came in second for his occasional table. And Jim Lee was third for his handkerchief table.



John Grossbohlin, Dan Morehouse, and George Norton at the 'Logs to Lumber' demonstration



Al Shinker and Fred Saar man the sales table



Popular Choice award went to Brad Conklin's butterfly sculpture

## 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 Thursday of the month 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 [AMJAMt2@aol.com](mailto:AMJAMt2@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 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](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)

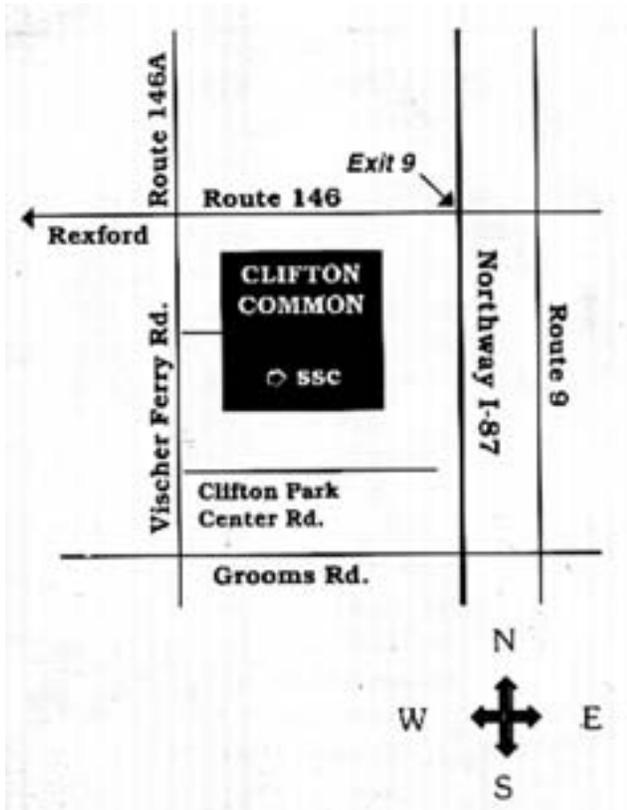
## CHAPTERS

**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](mailto: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.

# November Meeting

Thursday, November 13, 2014 at 7:00 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 2014-2015

**December 11th, 2014**  
Family Night

**January 8th, 2015**  
Turners Program

**February 12th, 2015**  
Dust Management  
(Safety & Control)

**March 12th, 2015**  
Carvers Program

**April 9th, 2015**  
To be Determined

**May 14th, 2015**  
Scrollers Program