

WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern
Woodworkers
Association

October 2006, Vol. 15, Number 10

Fiske Fund Presentations

October 12, 2006 – 7 pm, Shaker
Meeting House

-Joe Kennedy

The main topic at our October meeting will be presentations made by persons who took advantage of Fiske Fund grants during the past year. Previously, we had individual presentations by four or five members. Since this year we will have over 10 people, time constraints require a more informal approach. If you recall last year's meeting with a large number of scrollers, the membership rotated from table to table to view each scroller's work and talk informally to them. We will use this same format in October.

It should be an interesting session. We will have displays by members in many different areas of woodworking. For all you "flatboarders" the following persons will be able to show you their work and answer your questions:

- Eric Marczak on building a classical guitar;
- Beth Rowland on spoon making;
- Bill Van Brundt on hand craftsmanship;
- Pat McCord and Gerry O'Brien on precision with hand tools;
- Duane Henry and Chris Knite on Windsor chairs;
- Tom Osborne on chair design;
- Ron Wolfeld on using a Shopsmith.

For all you "rounders" the following persons will show their work and answer questions:

- Wayne Evancoe on basic David Ellsworth techniques;
- Pat Paraggio on turned and carved vessels using John Jordan techniques;
- Carl Ford on advanced David Ellsworth techniques;
- Matt Clarke on Pure Form Objects using Ray Key techniques.

I have already seen some of the results of all this education and they are awesome. It should be a great meeting.

Special note: Between the business session and the refreshments, Ken Miller will make a 10 minute presentation on safety with hand and power tools. 🛠️

Learn To Fly A Plane!

- Jeff Sutor

I have read several articles over the years from experienced woodworkers in NWA who expound on the pleasures of using a plane and the fine results that can be achieved from working a finely-tuned and sharp plane iron. Professional woodworking authors seem to hold the same reverence for these tools as you can tell by opening almost any magazine or book in which the author is using a hand-tool. I didn't get it.

I own a bench plane which I bought several years ago from Sears. I never really got it to work well, so I don't use it. It needs to be sharpened and tuned. No matter how many times I watched Garret Hack work on his planes at Showcase I figured I would

never get a plane to perform as well as he does. I even read his plane book. I watch him use a plane and he is actually smiling, which is something I had not done when holding a plane. Anyway, I do not use a plane in my shop because I

don't exactly know how. I remember a scene from the film "Witness" in which Harrison Ford repairs a birdhouse using hand tools while working in an Amish barn. Ford was once a carpenter himself and his skills at using a hand plane were obvious. The birdhouse ended up being a beautiful reconstruction.

I do not know how to sharpen tools well. The knives in my kitchen are not sharp enough and my chisels are not sharp enough. Fortunately I have a lot of chisels, but the number that still have anything that feels like an edge is getting smaller. I recently purchased a lathe and a set of turning tools which I am not using because the tools are no longer as sharp as when they were new, which is not even as sharp as they could be. When my tablesaw blade became dull I



Continued on Page 2

Fiske Fund News

- Joe Kennedy

So far I am expecting four applications for awards during the third quarter. If you submit an application before September 30, it will be acted on in early October. If you submit an application after that date, it will be acted on in early January.

I am looking forward to our October meeting. We will have many recipients of Fiske grants and use a "Show and Tell" format. Each recipient will show off his/her new skills and be able to answer your questions concerning the instructor and the school attended. It should be a great session.

OFFICERS

President - Ken Evans 753-7759

kevans1@nycap.rr.com

Vice President - Pete Howe 885-9331

phowe1@nycap.rr.com

Secretary - Kitty Scharl 765-3189

crowridge@empireone.net

Treasurer - Austin Spang 393-2859

spang@nycap.rr.com

Past President - Pat McCord 439-1232

tmccord@localnet.com

Historian -

Position to be Filled

Executive Secretary - Charlie Goddard

370-0388 Cgodd@aol.com

CHAIRPERSONS

Mid-Hudson Chapter

Joe Mikesh, President 845-383-1338

Sacandaga Chapter

Co-Presidents

Mike Kratky 863-2821

inspectr@frontiernet.net

Joe Artikuski 883-4036

bandbequip@frontiernet.net

Education

Herm Finkbeiner 371-9145

hfinkbei@nycap.rr.com

Adult Programs

Position To Be Filled

Youth Programs

William Van Brunt 767-3060

wvanbrun@nycap.rr.com

Fiske Fund

Joe Kennedy (845) 473-1598

JKenn23333@aol.com

Hospitality

Al and Emily Stahl 587-2420

astahl@nycap.rr.com

Library

Wilhelmina Evans 753-7759

wiltw0@nycap.rr.com

Membership

Pam Cook 392-5638

butternuthill@taconic.net

Programs

Ken Evans 753-7759

kevans1@nycap.rr.com

Publications

Position to be Filled

SHOWCASE

Larry Zinn 583-1227

lrzn@aol.com

Tool Crib

Position To Be Filled

Videographers

Dave Ellison 872-0980

ellisd@rpi.edu

Hans Kappel 861-8753

bluespruce@juno.com

Pat Pugsley 634-7144

ideas@mhonline.net

Bob Conahan 355-9032

conahanbob@hotmail.com

Kirk Hardenburg

725-1997

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, PHONE NUMBERS ARE IN AREA CODE 518

NWA Board Needs Help

- Ken Evans

NWA members enjoy the many woodworking activities organized and run by the association. At the administrative level the leadership works continuously to provide these opportunities to the membership. However, many good ideas just sit on the board room table for lack of a member to help make them happen.

The NWA board needs help from the membership to make those ideas a reality. Please consider joining other NWA members at the administrative level to help with the following:

1. A committee to investigate the possibility of a yearly dinner to bring the NWA membership and their families together for an event other than woodworking. The committee will determine, among other things:
 - feasibility;
 - a possible structure;
 - location.
2. A committee to investigate the concept of lifetime memberships in NWA.
3. A Steering Committee to investigate possible future directions NWA might pursue. The committee would report its findings and recommendations to the Board.
4. Someone or several members to resurrect the WOOD GUILD and make it a Special Interest Group of NWA.
5. Someone to make mini-displays of members work at certain NWA events.
6. Newsletter editor.

NWA has the physical and financial resources to turn all of these ideas into reality. What is needed is an NWA member or members to commit to making these things happen. Be assured that the NWA board will provide the required support.

Please contact Ken Evans (518) 753-7759 with your offer to help. 🐾

Fly A Plane

Continued From Page 1

bought another. I dread the day I decide my stacked dado blade is dull because I do not want to buy another one of those. Ian Kirby's water-stone book is on my nightstand also and I have read it twice. I am still working toward buying some good stones but have not secured the financing yet.

Recently, I collected a box of old planes from my father-in-law. These planes belonged to his father, who was a carpenter back in the 1930s. Many are in pretty bad shape, because they have been sitting in a basement for forty years, but there are a couple of jack planes, bench planes, a rabbit plane, and a small block plane. There are about ten in all. The rabbit plane is all steel and must be zinc plated or aluminum because it is in nice shape. Most of the rest are badly rusted but I can see a future for them if I take the time to clean them up.

I needed to trim the edge of the bathroom door because it was sticking. I was going to sand it (ugh!) but instead I looked in the box of planes because I knew there was a small block plane there that was not a hunk of rust. I put it to the edge of the door and took a wafer-thin slice off without much effort. This was immediately followed by a smile and me exclaiming, "Wow!" I kept slicing off thin amounts of door and actually had to stop myself before I ended up needing to build a new door that fit the frame. This was a seventy-year-old plane that belonged to someone who knew what to do with it. Immediately I understood why I should start using a plane in my shop!

The problem is I need to know how to sharpen my tools first. So when I received a notice for a sharpening class offered by NWA members, I jumped on it. If all goes well, I should have my pilot's license soon and the curls will start flying in my own shop! 🐾

C L A S S I F I E D S

For Sale

Bar Size Pool Table (two available), good shape, buyer needs to disassemble and move from second floor location. \$400 each. Contact Ken Evans (518) 753-7759.

Lumber...walnut, cherry, maple, oak in various lengths, widths and pieces. Saturdays 11 am to 5 pm or by appointment. Abbott Wiley at his residence near the Tomhannock Reservoir at 55 Ascroft Rd., Valley Falls, NY (518) 753- 4335.



Think Inside the Triangle

- Wally Cook

The Kaatskill Woodturners hosted Keith Tompkins for further discussion of woodturning design. Keith began this dialogue at an earlier session, where he explained the design points for his turned rose and stem.

Keith has taken the message to the AWA in Louisville, KY that turners need to think outside the box...that is, outside the golden rectangle. Historically, the golden rectangle (defined by a 1:1.68 proportion of the vertical to the horizontal dimensions) has been a standard for a pleasing shape.

However, woodturning has certain challenges compared to molding techniques used in more malleable materials such as ceramics and metals. The woodturner can subtract material, but not melt or bend the wood. In addition, the temptation for the turner to conserve as much material as possible, combined with the tendency for the chuck to dictate the size of the foot for a turned vessel, tend to corrupt good design.

To be sure, the form of the vessel needs to follow function. Keith's answer is to think inside the triangle. Starting with the proportions from a golden triangle, a turner can create a pleasing vessel shape with a better designed foot. In the demonstration, Keith first turned a cone, and then fashioned a bowl within the dimensions of this template. The diameter of the foot became 1/3 of the diameter of the mouth of the bowl, resulting in a stable, but diminutive base.

Within the triangle, organic curves can transmit a simple but powerful design statement. Keith's recommendation was to focus on an uninterrupted continuous curve, such as a parabola or ogee, rather than to introduce elements which "stop" the eye as the edge of the vessel surface is viewed.

Hail to the Chief: Matt Clark was elected President of the KWA, succeeding George Norton. Many thanks to George for starting the woodturners SIG and leading the way through our first two years.

Non-Smoking Award: Bob Doran was honored with a Non-Smoking Certificate for finally installing a lathe motor that hasn't burned up. This is his third. There was talk of chipping in for a sprinkler system for his workshop.

Robot Challenge: Carl Ford III issued a challenge for any team to turn a toy robot within 18" height (not counting antennae). The results will be judged at the December KWA meeting.

*Example of thinking outside the box
John Franklin's thin wall dovetail vessel.*



Keith Tompkins showing bowl shape turned within triangle template.



Matt Clark addressing the group.



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.



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Clark E. Pell, Editor 731-2475
cepell@MSN.com
Elizabeth Keays Graphic Artist
Designer



WEBSITE(S)
www.woodworker.org
www.nwawoodworkingshow.org
Blog Site:
<http://woodworkerorg.blogspot.com/>

Website Editor
Position to be Filled

NWA maintains two websites, the first noted here operates continuously. We also offer selected links to other sites of interest to our membership.
Webmaster - Justin Rohrer
rohrej@woodworker.org

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

Plane Fascinating

- Ken Evans

What can you do to an old or new hand plane to make it work better? This is the question I had and why I signed up for the plane class offered by Tom Osborne and Bill VanBrunt and sponsored by NWA.

I have had this plane for about 35 years and it has always been in my box of special tools given to me by my father. It is a simple Miller Falls No. 9 hand plane. So I took it with me to the class.



The class began with a really complete handout full of lots of plane nomenclature including plane parts like “tote”, “frog”, and “sole”. All were explained in detail. How the plane is supposed to work was fully explained and expertly demonstrated. The classic “swoosh” sound of a well-tuned plane cutting cherry hardwood was audible in Tom’s expert demonstration. Being a novice at planning, I must say I never hear a “swoosh”. To me it more like a “surrrip”, but none the less, it is obviously music to the plane lovers ear.

Tom explained the things which must be done to a hand plane in order for it to produce that musical sound so relaxing to plane lovers. After being shown how to make the adjustments to the planes and being given the proper equipment to do the job, each participant in the class went hands-on into the process of tuning his or her own plane.

Sharpening and flattening, flattening and sharpening were the order of business and individual help was given to each participant by Tom and Bill. Sandpaper on marble



squares, grinding wheels, waterstones, carborundum stones crystalon stones, and diamond dust were used in grits from 120 to 220, to 1000, to 4000, to 8000, to 3 microns.

When I was finished with my plane with some excellent one on one help from Bill, I tested my plane on a 1x 6 inch wide piece of cherry. It made just one beautiful sound as a paper thin ribbon of cherry curled from the throat of that Millers Falls No. 9. “SURRRRRRIP!” Beautiful!

Take the class, enjoy the sound, USE YOUR PLANE as it should be used.

Thank you Tom and Bill. 🐶

Wood Carving Show in Amsterdam

- Bill Johnsen

The Mohawk Valley Art and Wood Carving Club is presenting a Wood Carving Exhibit and Show on Saturday, October 21 at the Horace Inman Senior Center on Guy Park Avenue in Amsterdam, NY.

Hours are 10 am to 4 pm with adult admission \$2.00 and children under 12 free with an adult. The proceeds of the show will benefit the Inman Center.

The Show will feature some of the best wood carvers in the northeast in person, exhibiting some of their finest works. Some items will be for sale, plus there will a live auction where bids can be made on some works. Food and beverage will be available, plus raffles throughout the day.

Treat yourself to a great day and help support this great organization. 🐶

Going into the woods is like going home.

J. Muir

September Meeting Was Plane Entertaining

- *Ken Evans*

The September meeting featured Alden Witham on the topic of planes and using them to flatten a board. What a show this was! The crowd loved Alden and his wonderful ideas related to handwork. Flattening a board by hand is hard work even with the tips on winding sticks and sharpening offered by Alden. No matter, folks left the meeting planning to use their planes in their next project. The program received high marks for entertainment as well as education. What more can you ask. Thanks Alden, see you at Showcase.

Ken Miller provided a few remarks on shop safety and appeared in costume for the session. Ken will be a regular part of every NWA meeting delivering his tips on safety as only 'Professor Miller' can. 🐼



Totally Turning Symposium October 14-15, 2006

The Adirondack Woodturners Association (a SIG of NWA) will sponsor Totally Turning 2006 at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center in Albany, NY on October 14 and 15.

About 300 woodturners from the Eastern USA and Canada will attend classes offered by world famous woodturners presenting material on topics of interest to beginners and experts.

The symposium will feature a banquet buffet on Saturday evening, an Instant Gallery of fine woodturning, a vendor's area, a spouses program, an Instant Gallery Critique, a live auction of the woodturnings of NWA founding member Milan Fiske, and many chances to interact with friendly woodturners.

All particulars including a registration form can be found on the website WWW.totallyturning.com. 🐼

Membership Renewal Time!!

- *Pam Cook*

Most NWA membership dues are up for renewal at the end of August 2006. Some of you may have already renewed at Showcase for the 2007 year and any new members joining since March have membership until August 2007. But for everyone else, you should have received a renewal letter in September. If you did not, please use the form on page 7 of this newsletter to update your membership. If you are unsure of your renewal status, please check the date listed on the mailing label of this newsletter. If it says August 2006, you need to renew. If you have any questions, please email or call me. 🐼

Necessity is the mother of taking chances.

Mark Twain

CHAPTER NEWS

NWA Mid Hudson

- Wally Cook

Mid-Hudson

Picnic: Drawn by the smell of homemade sausage, over a hundred people attended the Chapter picnic at the Opdahl farm. Chefs Bob Doran and Bill Reynolds outdid themselves in an effort to install extra calories into chronically malnourished NWA members and their families. The hot dog quota was exceeded early on, leaving Joe Benkert's sausage for later in the day (remember this tactic for next year's picnic and hold off until the good stuff is on the grill!).

The picnic was an opportunity to show appreciation to



Bob and Viola Opdahl with their tribute plaque

Bob and Viola Opdahl, who have been so generous in opening their home and grounds to the NWA. A group of members teamed to create a special tribute to Bob and Vi... a combination scrolled and turned art piece. Thanks to Dick Dillon, Steve Sherman, Ron Wolfield, and Bob Boisvert (who did the scroll work), and others who helped make and assemble the piece. In addition, Joe Kennedy constructed a hand dovetailed chest of drawers for the Opdahls. The chest was crafted from barky maple (bark inclusions penetrate the wood) and ribbon grained maple... a beautiful piece.



John's scrolled clock

Dutchess County Fair: The chapter represented the NWA at the DCC Fair. Two of the NWA entries received awards: Duane Henry's inlay chest won Best of Show and John MacDonald's scrolled clock took a first place ribbon. Congratulations to both for their fine work!



Barky maple chest created by Joe Kennedy



Duane's chest with inlay



Mid-Hudson booth at the Dutchess County Fair

Sacandaga Chapter News

- Gary Spencer

The Sacandaga Chapter last met on Sept. 3, when our featured speaker was Tom Rullifson of Mayfield.

His topic was "Antique Axes and Hatchets used in Early Carpentry", an unusual and interesting program. Thanks to Tom for getting our new season off to a good start.

Our October 11th meeting will feature Paul Petrie of Gloversville. His presentation titled "Basic Techniques of Joinery" is another session of our continuing series in examining all forms of joining wood together. Paul has been a speaker several times before and every program has been outstanding. We are fortunate to have Paul in our Chapter and NWA.

New Officers of the Chapter this year follow:

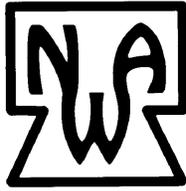
Co-President – Fritz Henze and Rod Nielson, both of Northville

Co- Secretary (including Newsletter) – Joe Artikuski of Gloversville and Dick Edel of Johnstown

Treasurer, NWA Rep. – Mike Kratky of Northville

NWA Liaison – Gary Spencer of Day

The Sacandaga Chapter meetings are open to all, and light refreshments are served. Remember we have door prizes at every meeting but you do have to be present to win! Our regular monthly meetings are the second Wednesday of each month and begin at 7:00 pm at Mayfield High School woodshop. Come on out!



Northeastern Woodworkers Association
Membership Application Form

Check the applicable box: First Time Member Renewal Change

Dues: \$25.00 Individual Membership
 \$30.00 Family Membership (at a single address)

Student Professional Woodworker Retired

Full Name: _____ Nickname: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Areas of Interest: Furniture Making Turning Carving
 Antiques/Restoration Toy Making Finishing
 Decorative Woodworking Musical Instruments Wood Technology
 Scroll Sawing Boat Building
Other _____

For Family Memberships only:

Family Member #1: _____ Family Member #2: _____

Contact me to help with the next Woodworker's Showcase or other NWA activities.

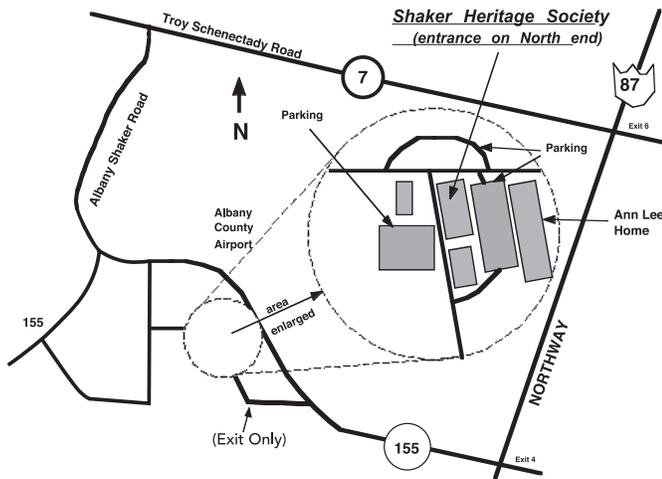
Voluntary donation to Fiske Educational Fund in addition to dues: \$2.00 \$5.00 Other: _____

**Bring this completed form to the next regular meeting or send it to:
NWA, P.O. Box 246, Rexford, NY 12148
(with check or money order for dues, payable to NWA).**

For NWA Use: _____
Total Received _____ Date _____ Initials _____ Record _____ appez6.doc
8-06



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



NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, October 12th, 7 pm.
Shaker Heritage Society Meeting House
Albany-Shaker Road, Albany
(near Albany airport)

NWA PROGRAM SCHEDULE 2006-2007

- October 12, 2006**
Fiske Recipients
- October 14-15, 2006**
The Totally Turning Symposium
- November 9, 2006**
Fiske Memorial Lecture - Hank Gilpin
- December 7, 2006**
Family Night
- January 11, 2007**
Furniture repair - Charlie Goddard
- February 8, 2007**
Windsor Chairs - Tom Wetzel
- March 8, 2007**
Youth Gallery
- March 24-25, 2007**
Showcase
- April 12, 2007**
Making Stools - Tom Osborne
- May 10, 2007**
Jigs and Fixtures - Pete Howe

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

**GENERAL MEETINGS
 AND SPECIAL EVENTS**

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Adirondack Woodturners Association - The AWA is active throughout the year. Meetings are every first Wednesday of the month (except in January and July when it is the second Wednesday), and are held at the Curtis Lumber conference room on Route 67, Ballston Spa. Beginners' sessions begin at 6 pm; the main program at 6:30 pm. Saturday "Learn and Turn" sessions are also scheduled. www.adirondackwoodturners.org
 Contact Ken Evans, 753-7759 or Kevans1@nycap.rr.com

Carver's Guild - meets every Friday at the Clifton Park Senior Center from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Sessions are intended for every NWA member who is interested in carving, from beginners to those wanting to learn a new technique. No reservations are necessary, just show up!
 Contact Bill McCormack, 233-7260.

Scroller's Guild - Meets the third Wednesday of each month at Sears, Colonie Center. Beginners' session starts at 5:30 followed by a general meeting at 6:15.
 Contact Tom O'Donnell (518) 581-1167 or todonne3@nycap.rr.com.

Kaatskill Woodturners - Meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Opdahl property in Hurley.
 Contact George Norton, (845) 331-1705.

CHAPTERS

NWA Mid-Hudson -The chapter meets at 7:30 p.m. on the third Thursday, except July and August, at the Central Hudson Electric Company Community Center, Route 28, Kingston. Contact Joe Mikesch, (845) 687-4285

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