

WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern
Woodworkers
Association

September 2009, Vol. 18, Number 9

September Meeting

*Thursday, September 10, 2009, 7:00 pm
Shaker Heritage Society Meetinghouse
Albany-Shaker Road, Albany*

September is SIGS Session

By Ken Evans

Say that, five times fast!

In addition to a GREAT RAFFLE, there will be some terrific REFRESHMENTS, an enlightening LIBRARY, a SAFETY TALK, and the chance to meet all your friends in NWA.

The September Program will consist of mini presentations from the NWA SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGS). Each SIG will dazzle us with descriptions of the activities of their group and examples of the kinds of woodworking in which they engage. Members will have an opportunity to visit an informational table for each SIG and speak with SIG members who will answer any and all questions regarding SIG activity.

The SIGs will be represented by:

- Adirondack Woodturners Association
- The Scrollers
- Two Carving Groups
- Kaatskill Woodturners
- Jim's Hole in the Woods Gang
- Musical Instrument SIG

Membership Renewal Time!!

By Susan Howe

NWA memberships expire at the end of August each year. Please check your address label on this NWA Woodworkers News. The upper right corner shows the month and year your membership expires. If your label says "Aug2010" you are already paid up...thank you. If it says "Aug2009" its time to renew.

You can renew your membership two ways. First, return the renewal letter by mail along with your check in the envelope provided or second, bring your letter and payment to the September 10th general meeting at Shaker Meeting House.

Annual Tool and Lumber Auction

By Charlie Goddard

The annual auction will be held Saturday, September 26 in the big Shaker barn near where we hold most of our regular meetings. The doors will open at 10 AM to inspect the items for sale and the auction will begin at noon. Bob Williams will again serve as our intrepid auctioneer.

For lumber we will have large quantities of red oak and ambrosia silver maple. There will also be cherry, black locust, ash, aspen, red maple, hard maple, walnut, butternut, catalpa (slabs for carvers), and a few pieces of elm, horse chestnut, myrtle, various burls, elm, figured maple, big leaf maple, sycamore, mahogany, redwood, padauk, rosewood, Brazilian cherry and purpleheart.

In the tool category there will be a Ridgid table saw, many Craftsman tools (radial arm saw, bench top drill press, lathe, chop saw, 10" band saw, sander, router and biscuit joiner), an antique wall mounted drill press, roller stands, clamps, dust collector, Bosch scroll saw, circular saw and hand tools. Hopefully we will receive more tools before the auction. There is still plenty of time to make donations.

There is a lot of work that must be done, starting on Wednesday of the week prior to the auction. Tools and lumber must be moved from storage into the big barn; lumber needs to be arranged in piles and measured to determine the board-feet in each pile; tools and other items need to be arranged on the floor or on tables and all items need to be properly labeled. During the auction we will need help displaying items so bidders can see what they are bidding on and recording who bought what and for how much. The work will begin at 9AM on Wednesday, September 23 when we will move items from storage. This is always the busiest day. Please let me know if you can help set up or run the auction.

The auction is the main funding source for the Fiske Scholarship Fund. For the past few years we have cleared \$8,000 to \$10,000 each year. This is then turned into grants for those who want to take courses in woodworking.

If you have lumber or woodworking items to donate please contact Warren Stoker (wstoker@nycap.rr.com, 518-439-6089) or Dick Flanders (rflander@nycap.rr.com, 518-393-5215).



OFFICERS

President - Owen Arkison
518 459-5348

owen.arkison@earthlink.net

Vice President - Roger Holmes
roger.holmes@dewalt.com

Secretary - Kitty Scharl 765-3189
crowridge@nycap.rr.com

Treasurer - Austin Spang 393-2859
spang@nycap.rr.com

Past President - Warren Stoker 439-6089
wstoker@nycap.rr.com

Historian - Wayne Diston 674-4171
wdiston@nycap.rr.com

Executive Secretary - Charlie Goddard
370-0388 Cgodd@aol.com

CHAIRPERSONS

Mid-Hudson Chapter

Pete Chast, President
pchast@francomm.com

Sacandaga Chapter

Co-Chairpersons

Clyde Cheney - 661-5138

Ray Laubenstein - 863-6071

RLAUB@Roadrunner.com

Education

Herm Finkbeiner - 371-9145

hfinkbei@nycap.rr.com

Adult Programs

Position To Be Filled

Youth Programs

Ray Gannon - 664-2229

raymond.gannon@wildblue.net

Fiske Fund

Tom Osborne

TTomosborne@aol.com

Hospitality

Position To Be Filled

Library

Darrel Welch - 477-8431

ydwelch@fairpoint.net

Membership

Susan Howe - 885-9331

Programs

Ken Evans - 753-7759

kevans1@nycap.rr.com

Publications

Wally Carpenter - 434-1776

c.j.carpenter@earthlink.net

SHOWCASE

Ken Evans - 753-7759

kevans1@nycap.rr.com

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

Jim's "Hole in the Woods Gang" receives Grants & Donations

By Dick Flanders

2009 has been a good year so far regarding our projects for the Double H Ranch – a camp for seriously ill & disabled children in Lake Luzerne, NY. (www.doublehbranch.org)

Early this year our “grant writer” Larry Zinn was successful with two grant requests:

- Golub Corporation issued us a grant of \$500 for materials for Double H projects
- Saratoga Rotary issued a grant of \$1,000 for materials for Double H projects

As you may already know, a major function of “the Gang” that meets Tuesday and Saturday at the Jim Kennedy shop in Halfmoon is to build toy and craft kits for the children attending the various Double H camps. We purchase a lot of lumber for the various kits, so donations are welcomed whenever we can get them. Back in early June, a few of us delivered three carloads (over 1000) kits to the camp. This replenished their inventory for this year, but we need to keep going in order to fulfill their needs for the coming year already.

When we made the delivery, we were asked if it were possible to build more of the Adirondack chair kits like we did in 2008. We are currently making 10 more of these “ready to assemble” chair kits and hope to deliver them this fall. The older children really enjoy assembling them, and all the kids decorate them in their own unique ways.

When we analyzed the materials and hardware needed for these chair kits, we realized that they could easily cost between \$75 & \$100 per chair, plus many hours of labor. Consequently we started looking for potential donations, discounts or any possibilities to keep the cost down.

As a result, Dave Mobley found a donor (Michael Zeleznik) who gave us over 450 lf of 1” x 4” and 1” x 6” Eastern White Cedar, valued at close to \$500. This is enough to build the 10 kits for Double H as well as two extra chairs for the Showcase 2010 raffle.

Next, Dick Flanders contacted McFeely’s for a possible discount or donation for the stainless steel hardware needed for these outdoor furniture kits. After a few emails and phone calls back & forth, McFeely’s is donating all the stainless steel screws, bolts, nuts & washers required for the Adirondack chair kits. This donation equates to a value of \$250. In addition to the donation, McFeely’s is setting up our account with them so that all future orders placed by us will automatically receive a 15% discount.

We sincerely thank all those involved with these grants and donations, as they are becoming a necessity as costs go up with everything we do. Anyone knowing of other philanthropic organizations or individuals that could be contacted in the future, please let us know. 🐾



Sometimes the road less traveled is less traveled for a reason.

Jerry Seinfeld

Only a mediocre person is always at his best.

W. Somerset Maugham

For Those Who Enjoy Working Wood...and Want To Get Better At It

By *Herm Finkbeiner*

Shortly after NWA was founded the above motto was adopted. Although less than a complete sentence it completely summarizes the very reason for the existence of NWA. NWA exists so that members can learn from each other and make their own woodworking better.

To help reach that objective NWA has long been sponsoring classes where members can learn from other members and occasionally from invited experts. Below are the programs that will start the 2009-2010 year.

Garrett Hack returns to NWA

Over the past 4-5 years Garrett Hack has been an outstanding lecturer at Showcase and has offered classes for NWA members. He is returning once again on Oct. 16 - 18 to provide one more opportunity to learn from a true master in an outstanding 3 day program.

Precision With Hand Tools

Dates: Fri., Sat. & Sun. Oct. 16, 17 & 18, 2009

Time: 9 am to 4:30 pm

Where: The Stillwater Shop

Course Description

Hand tools open new vistas for all woodworkers, even for those who feel they have modest skills. In this course Garrett leads participants through a series of exercises, based on typical furniture making techniques. These include flattening a board to polished smoothness, fairing curves, fitting drawer faces, making moldings, chamfering edges, making inlay and cutting joinery, among others.

In the course the tuning and use of a wide variety of tools, including planes, marking tools, chisels and saws will be covered. Participants will be encouraged to work with several different kinds of wood to experience how each responds to the tools. More experienced students may even wish to tackle complex challenges such as shaping a bowed drawer face, joining and smoothing a coopered panel, or tapering a leg and then fitting an angled joint to it.

This is a unique opportunity to spend three days in a small group session with one of the country's most accomplished craftsmen and an exceptional teacher. While the cost may seem a bit high, compare it to the cost of traveling to one of the major woodworking schools in order to experience this level of instruction and you'll quickly realize what a bargain it is. Class size is limited and will be strictly on a first-come, first-served basis, so act quickly to avoid being left out.

The cost of the program is \$225. Since the attendance is limited, act now!

To sign up send an e-mail to hfinkbei@nycap.rr.com or phone 518-371-9145

Using a Hand Held Router

Date: Thursday, Sept. 17

Time: 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Where: Stillwater Shop

Presented by Windhover Studios

Instructor: Dave Mobley

Cost: \$30

The router is one of the most versatile tools in the shop doing everything from squaring an edge, setting locks & hinges, making curves, copying a template to mass producing dovetailed drawers. Dave will start with router basics and then move on to ways of getting much more out of your router. In this class the focus will be on hand held routers - both fixed base and plunge routers. Topics will include: router features and uses, bit selection, cut depths, feed rates and the use of jigs and templates. Four basic jigs that make your router more productive will be demonstrated. Especially and throughout safe use of the router will be emphasized.

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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Wally Carpenter, Editor
(518) 434-1776
c.j.carpenter@earthlink.net
Elizabeth Keays Graphic Artist
Designer



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

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

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For Those Who Enjoy Working...

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This course is designed for beginning to intermediate woodworkers and is a strongly recommended pre-requisite to the plunge router class and router table class which are coming up later in the year.

To sign up send an e-mail to hfinkbei@nycap.rr.com or phone 518-371-9145

Power Tool Fundamentals Series Tuning and Using the Band Saw

Date: Tuesday, Sept. 22

Time: 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Instructor: Allen Craft

Where: Stillwater Shop

Cost: \$30

Allen will show you how to maximize the performance of your band-saw by taking you step-by-step through the process of setting up and tuning this woodshop workhorse. The band-saw is one of the most valuable tools in the shop and its capabilities are often unknown because in many a shop it is neither set-up nor tuned correctly. Allen's topics will include: cleaning and inspection, installation and adjustment of thrust bearings and blade guides, table adjustments and blade selection, installation and tracking.

Operations that will be demonstrated will include cutting curves, circles, and most especially, re-sawing will be demonstrated. Allen will also cover the somewhat more specialized techniques used in making an elliptical band-sawn box, making negative and positive panels and three dimensional cutting.

And most important, band-saw safety and safe cutting techniques will be covered.

To sign up send an e-mail to hfinkbei@nycap.rr.com or phone 518-371-9145

NWA Classes October 2009

In addition to the program being taught by Garrett Hack, Tom Osborne and Bill van Brunt will present a two day class on hand planes, Ken Evans will start an 8 month class for beginning wood turners and Charlie Goddard's three session class is returning to once more teach a neat method of making a precision jewelry box. Each of these programs not only teaches skills and knowledge that is part of every woodworking project but also helps build the base on which to construct ever more elegant and precise techniques and understanding.

Sharpening, Tuning and Using Hand Planes

Date: Saturday & Sunday Oct. 10 & 11

Time: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Where: Jim Kennedy's shop Guideboard Road, Halfmoon

Instructors: Tom Osborne & Bill VanBrunt

Cost: \$30

A hand plane is one of the most useful tools in the shop, and until you have used a truly sharp and properly tuned plane you won't be able to understand why. This class has been presented several times in the past and is brought back again not because it has been popular but because it introduces one of the real pleasures of working wood! It is the ideal introduction to shaping wood with a

hand tool. You will be guided through a method of getting a plane iron that is actually sharp and then the other half of the story, tuning the parts of the plane so that the plane sings as it shaves the wood and leaves a surface far smoother than can be accomplished with sand paper (let alone any power tool). Tom & Bill will take you through the process step by step so that by Sunday afternoon there will be a smile on your face as the shavings fall to the floor. And lest you have any doubt, recall that Bill won the plane contest at the 2009 picnic.

To sign up send an e-mail to hfinkbei@nycap.rr.com or phone 518-371-9145

Woodturning Fundamentals

Date: Thursday, Oct. 1 This class will have 8 sessions, on the first Thursday of the month, that is: Oct. 1, Nov. 5, Dec. 3, Jan. 7, Feb. 4, Mar. 4, Apr. 1 and May 6

Time: 6 pm to 9 pm

Where: Stillwater Shop

Instructor: Ken Evans

Cost: \$40

This course has been taught at Ken Evans's shop in Valley Falls twice a year for many years. It will now move to the Stillwater Shop where hands-on work can be part of the class. The class is largely for beginning woodturners but even experience turners will benefit from the skills of a master like Ken. Ken will fully address topics ranging from safety, lathes selection, tools and tool selection, use of tools, sharpening, mounting work on the lathe, finishing, sanding, and many others through to actually turning a candlestick. No tools are necessary NWA will provide all that are needed.

To sign up send an e-mail to hfinkbei@nycap.rr.com or phone 518-371-9145

Making a Jewelry Box

Dates: Tuesday, Oct. 6, 13 & 20

Time: 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Where: Stillwater Shop

Instructor: Charlie Goddard

Cost: \$60 plus materials

Students should have a reasonable knowledge of table saw operation prior to enrolling in this intermediate skill level program.

This class will have you make your own jewelry box under the guidance of an expert. Charlie will take you through the process as you design your project, select the wood for the effect you want, size the material, cut precise mitered corners, assemble the box and cut the top free. Options such as decorative corner feathers will also be covered. This is a great opportunity to add to your woodworking skills in several ways and also learn just how valuable a tablesaw sled is.

Materials: 3 options available

- 1) For \$25 the materials fee includes jewelry box lumber and a pair of quality solid brass (Brusso) hinges
- 2) For \$18 the materials fee includes hinges only (you provide your own lumber)
- 3) For \$ 0 you provide your own lumber and hinges (materials list available upon request)

To sign up send an e-mail to hfinkbei@nycap.rr.com or phone 518-371-9145



CHAPTER NEWS

NWA Central-Hudson Chapter News

By Joe Kennedy

The Mid-Hudson Woodworkers will hold its third annual Woodworking Show on Saturday, October 17 at the Hurley Reformed Church. The Mid-Hudson Woodworkers is a chapter of the Northeastern Woodworkers Association, an all volunteer, nonprofit organization. Many of its members are current or retired employees. This is the group that made the Adirondack chairs for our recreation center a few years ago.

This Woodworkers Show will feature some excellent displays of its members' work, including furniture, boxes, bowls, goblets, guitars and artistic pieces. It will also feature many interesting demonstrations by local experts. There are planned ongoing demonstrations of different aspects of woodturning, such as bowls, vases, finials etc. There will also be ongoing scrollsaw demon-

strations from basic to advanced, including holiday ornaments. Also planned are ongoing hand tool demonstrations, including the use of a handplane. Each visitor can take the opportunity to use a handplane to make a very fine shaving. For children, we will be conducting a "Children's Workshop" throughout the day, in which each child attending can make a birdhouse to take home (free of charge). There will also be wooden cars as gifts for younger children.

There will be a raffle of selected woodworking items as well as a sale of selected items.

Admission is \$3.00, free to children under the age of 12. Everyone who attended prior Shows had a wonderful time. This year's Show should be a fun day for everyone.

Sacandaga Chapter

By Gary Spencer

Our last meeting before our summer hiatus was a trip to visit a local woodworking shop. We were able to make arrangements with Bill Bush a long time supporter of our chapter and NWA. He opened up his wonderful shop in Amsterdam, NY.

Bill welcomed us on a Saturday morning and gave us a tour of a facility that all of us would love to have and drool over. We had a very good turnout and due to the number of questions we held Bill and his help for at least 3 hours which is much longer than is usual for this type of activity.

Everyone was pleased at this most successful trip. We want to thank Bill for his most interesting and fulfilling day. Thanks much from the group.

For our first program of the new season on September 9th, we will again welcome back an outstanding woodworker and a longtime NWA member Paul Petrie. Paul is a multitalented woodworker, He is a contractor of custom homes of any style, an fine cabinet maker, and an excellent wood turner who has demonstrated turning techniques many times to other skilled turners.

Paul's presentation for the meeting will be of interest to any woodworker who builds furniture. The program: "Duplication and Replication Techniques in Spindle Turning as Used in Making Furniture Pieces and Their Enhancements". This should be an outstanding program to start the new season.

You will be sorry if you miss this one!

Our regular monthly meetings are the second Wednesday of each month and begin at 7:00 P.M. at Mayfield High School woodshop.

Our next regular meeting will be September 9th, 2009. Come on out!

Remember we have door prizes and light refreshments are served.

For Directions or information contact:

Clyde Cheney – 661-5138

Ray Laubenstein – 863-6071

Gary Spencer – 863-6433

**Visit the NWA web site at
www.woodworker.org**

Turners and Flat boarders working together.....

By Dick Flanders

Early this spring, Ken Evans received a call from Dave Whitehouse at Curtis Lumber asking if we could help them out by making trophies for their upcoming Auto Show in July. Ken called me and asked that I look into the project for more details and to determine what would be involved.

Pete Howe and I talked with Dave Whitehouse and learned that they needed 20 small award plaques and two larger trophies. They would supply all the lumber and we would design and build the awards. They did not have any specific ideas for the design, so we said that we would come up with some ideas and let them review the designs before making anything permanent.

The next two Saturdays at Jim's the gang discussed various ideas and did a couple mock-ups and sketches. It was decided that the turners would make up a supply of shift knobs and we would assemble these on a shield shaped plaque as the smaller awards. Dave Mobley agreed to use his CNC Router to put a shift pattern on the plaques and we would insert the shift knob within this pattern.

The two larger trophies were designed around a column rising out of a rectangular base and having the shift knob added to the top of the column, along with a black rubber boot. We made a cardboard mock-up of this idea to show the Curtis people.

Pete, Ken and I took the sketches and mock-up to Curtis and reviewed them with Dave and others who were involved in putting on the show. They liked our ideas and mock-ups very much, and we started picking out various woods for the awards. We had a choice of many, finally selecting walnut for the large trophies, and maple, cherry, walnut, and wenge for the various plaques. We also picked out many pieces of turning stock for the knobs – bubinga, cocobola, lignum vitae, maple, cherry, and an assortment of burls.

By the way – the engraved plates and the Curtis Lumber logo were done by Lee's Trophies in Rotterdam

Pictured are the trophies and award plaques on display at the Auto Show that was held July 12, 2009.



Wood of the Month ©2009

- Ron DeWitt

Bitternut Hickory *Carya cordiformis* (Wangenh.) K. Koch A Deciduous Hardwood Juglandaceae - Walnut Family

Derivation of the genus name *Carya* is from the ancient Greek for walnut. The epithet or species name, *cordiformis*, is Latin for a heart-shaped structure, in reference to the nut in its husk.

A significant number of hickory species are known to have existed in what is now Europe, northern Africa, Asia, and

North America prior to the Glacier Period. Of these only about 16 species worldwide have survived extinction. Today 11 are found in the eastern U.S., including a few that range into Canada, and three extending into Mexico. One more is indigenous to Mexico and four more are found in China and southeastern Asia.

The hickories are quite variable in leaves and fruit, further confused by the number of natural varieties and hybrids. In an effort to help sort the hickories, they are divided into two groups: the true hickories and the pecan hickories.

The true hickories are commercially more important for their heavier, harder, stronger (about 9%) lumber. This group includes the shagbark hickory, shellbark hickory, pignut hickory, and the mockernut hickory. The pecan hickory group includes the bitternut hickory, pecan, nutmeg hickory, and the water hickory. It doesn't help much that each of these hickories has multiple common names.

The bitternut hickory *Carya cordiformis*, also called "pignut hickory," swamp hickory, yellow bud hickory, or simply bitternut is the most uniformly distributed and abundant hickory in North America, and the only member of the pecan hickory group extending North. Its natural range, in eastern North America, extends from southeastern Ontario and Quebec in Canada, westward into northern Minnesota in the U.S. From there the range extends southward over the eastern half of the U.S. into



Flowers

Texas and Florida and further south, well into Mexico. It is most common and does best in the central portion of its range.

Bitternut hickory grows well in a wide variety of soil types and conditions from poor, dry, gravely, steep uplands to rich, moist bottomlands, stream banks, and swamps. It favors areas where average temperatures range from 5 to 54 deg. F (-15 to -12 deg. C) in winter to 40 to 65 deg. F (4 to 18 deg. C) in summer but can survive in occasional extremes of -40

to 115 deg. F (-40 to 46 deg. C). Generally it does best and reaches its largest size in the lower Ohio River basin. It does not venture into the high mountain areas of the Appalachians or the Adirondacks.

It is occasionally found in pure stands but most often associates in mixed hardwood stands, e.g. with oaks, beech, sugar maple, other hickories, white ash, and basswood, etc.

Bitternut hickory is considered a medium-size tree, commonly reaching heights of 60 to 80 ft. (18 to 24.5 m) and 12 to 24 in. (0.3 to 0.6 m) dbh, rarely to 180 ft. (55 m) and 40 in. (1.0 m) dbh. The *U.S. National Register of Big Trees* reports the current record holder at 120 ft.

(36.6 m) tall by 4.8 ft. (1.5 m) dbh, in La Grange, Tennessee, although the record may belong to a tree 136.5 ft. (41.6 m) tall, found recently in Cattaraugus County, western New York State.

Bitternut hickory is a straight, rapid-growing tree, the most rapid of the hickories, reaching maturity in 75 to 100 years. Its life-span is only about 200 years, the shortest life expectancy of any hickory. This tree self-prunes nicely leaving a smooth, slightly tapered, sometimes



Bark on a 16" stem



Leaves

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Wood of the Month

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End of 8" log

buttressed, clear stem to support a broad, handsome crown on stout spreading branches. Bark is smokey-gray, smooth, and tight for many years, finally developing reddish-brown, shallow furrows with narrow, interlaced, scaly ridges as the tree matures.

Leaves are alternate and pinnately compound, 6 to 10 in. (15 to 25 cm) long overall, with 7 to 11 narrow, finely tooth-edged, stalkless leaflets. The terminal leaflet is somewhat larger than the lateral leaflets. Leaflets are glossy green, and smooth on top, pale green and sometimes slightly fuzzy below. Autumn leaf color is bright golden yellow. Leaf buds are naked, slightly flattened, hairy, and bright sulphur-yellow-colored, a positive identifying feature of this hickory.

Bitternut hickory is monoecious—components of both sexes develop on the same tree. Tiny pale green male flowers hang from paired sets of three drooping 3-in. (7.5-cm) catkins. Female flowers develop in groups of two to 10 at the tips of the same branchlets. These flowers develop in early spring before the leaves. Fruits are husk-covered nuts, globular and



12" Board

broadest toward the tip, 0.8 to 1.5 in. (20 to 35 mm) long, forming singly or in pairs. The thin husk is often covered with a mat of yellowish hairs and has four ridges extending below to cover the short sharp tip. When dried the husk easily splits along the ridge-lines to release the smooth, tan, two-section nut. The nut is easily cracked to release the very bitter meat, so unpleasant that most animals, except an occasional hungry rabbit, avoid them.



Fruit or Nuts

This is the only hickory of the genus with an inedible fruit. Bitternut hickory usually produces abundant seed "crops" from age 30 to 125, with good seed crops at intervals of three to five years, light crops in intervening years.

Sapwood of bitternut hickory is creamy-white to tan and is relatively wide. Heartwood is a rich reddish-brown, sometimes streaked with darker hues which produce a nice figure. The transition from sapwood to heartwood is abrupt. The wood is considered semi-ring porous. The solitary earlywood pores are large and visible to the naked eye, in about five interrupted tangential rows. The pores gradually diminish in size, becoming small and thick-walled. Latewood pores are also solitary or in radial multiples of two or three, too small to be seen without a lens. The transition from earlywood to latewood is not well defined. Tyloses are moderately plentiful. Rays are one to four seriate and indistinct without a hand lens. Annual rings are distinct.

The wood of the bitternut has a sp. gr. of about 0.66 and weighs 48 pcf (796 kg/m³) at 12% M.C. Because of its high shrink in drying—7% radial, 11% tangential, and 17% in volume—bitternut is difficult to hold while drying and has a great tendency to warp and check. It is slow to air dry. Kiln drying at low temperature schedules gets much better results than air drying.

On a general basis, wood of the pecan hickories is considered inferior to that of the true hickories in mechanical properties, but still it rates high in all categories. It is hard, heavy, strong, and very tough. Bitternut is straight-grained, somewhat stringy and coarse-textured, high in bending strength and shock resistance, and excellent in steam bending and wear resistance. The wood has a faint scent of wintergreen when freshly cut, but no distinguishing taste or smell when dry. Bitternut will fungus stain easily if stored in a warm, humid environment.

Bitternut is rated good in machining qualities. It works well with power tools but requires care to avoid burning. It is not very user friendly to hand tools; in all cases it is hard on cutting edges, partly because of numerous small calcium oxalate crystals in the wood. It readily splits from fasteners unless pre-drilled, but fasteners hold well. Gluing requires close control and fresh-cut surfaces. Flat surfaces must be carefully sanded with a

firm pad to avoid contouring, but the wood polishes nicely to a soft patina. Paint won't hold, but stain, oil, and varnishes work well after some filling of the large pores. It is not particularly stable in service and is not durable when exposed to soil or weather.

There is no reported toxicity when working with bitternut, but the usual dust precautions are well advised.

Native and early Americans used leaf and bark decoctions of the bitternut as a skin treatment and to cure consumption (TB). It was also used as a diuretic, laxative, cathartic, and panacea. Nut oil was used to cure rheumatism.

Other early uses included brown dye from the bark and, although wood of the true hickories was preferred, bitternut was used for heavy flooring, ladders, tool handles, wheel spokes, fence rails, charcoal, fuel wood, to smoke food for preservation, and for sticks to administer discipline in school. Large quantities of nuts were boiled to separate the oil for use in lamps.

Present day uses include lumber, pulp, tool handles, pallets, dowels, crates, and ladders. It is also used for veneer, paneling, furniture, caskets, millwork, flooring, sports equipment, and wooden ware. The bitternut is also occasionally planted as an ornamental or landscape tree.

Like other hickories, bitternut is subject to many diseases and insects. Numerous fungi can limit growth or cause wood rot. Borers and bark beetles can also stress trees, increasing their susceptibility to fire damage or destruction.

Bitternut lumber, including that of other pecan hickories, is in good supply and can usually be found in local mills or specialty yards. Don't pay the higher price of true hickory lumber, but keep in mind they can't be separated without a microscope. Know what you are buying unless your application doesn't require the heavier, harder, stronger true hickory.

Wood Questions

Q. Wood from which tree was (is) used to make the standard 12" varnished school ruler?



A. Wooden rulers may be made from either hard maple, beech, or sycamore.

Wood Definition

- Ron DeWitt

Peeler – A high quality log, suitable for veneer, that will be cut by a rotary slicing process.

Special Turning Programs

By Ken Evans

The Adirondack Woodturners Association (AWA), a Special Interest Group of NWA, would like to inform everyone of TWO special turning programs being sponsored by AWA.

Program Number ONE:

Wednesday, September 2, at the regular meeting of AWA at Curtis Lumber on rte 67 in Ballston Spa, Rick Angus, former NWA member, will present a program titled "Bowls to Vases". Rick won first place at Showcase two years ago with a wonderful bowl with a terrific satin finish. The program will begin at 6:30 PM and will end at 9:00PM. There will be NO raffle, NO store, No business, just Rick, turning, and lots of chips.

This program is free to everyone interested in wood-turning! Seating is limited to the first 100 to arrive.

Program Number TWO

Saturday, October 3 at Curtis Lumber on rte 67 in Ballston Spa, AWA presents Dennis Fuge with a program titled "How to say I Love you from the Lathe". The second portion of the program will include "Turning Decorative Platters". Dennis was a presenter at our first Totally Turning Symposium.

This full day program is from 8:30 AM to 3:30PM will have coffee and donuts as well as lunch (Pizza, salad, soda, water, brownies) provided by AWA. There is pre-registration and a charge for this program.

SEATING IS LIMITED!

Registration WILL stop at 80! YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER FOR THIS PROGRAM.
TO PRE-REGISTER, YOU MUST BE AN NWA MEMBER AND GIVE KEN EVANS \$10.
YOU CANNOT PAY AT THE DOOR!

PRE-REGISTRATION FOR NON-NWA MEMBERS IS \$35 (\$25 will go to an NWA MEMBERSHIP)

SO, send your NAME and \$10 to: (yes, you can give it to me in person—just not on the day of the program)

Ken Evans
2062 NY 67
Valley Falls, NY 12185

Member Profile

Celia and Wally Carpenter

By Warren Stoker

"We have always done things together whether it is golfing or cycling or whatever. It was a natural thing for us to invite the other to participate in woodworking projects." Real joy is working in the shop together all weekend with no demands from outside. Celia and Wally Carpenter support each other in projects although each favors a different facet of woodworking. Wally, our newsletter editor and commercial sales coordinator for Showcase and Celia the Showcase volunteer coordinator also find time to do woodworking of high quality.

Necessity got Wally started many years ago with the need for a bed for the baby. A design course in Maine changed Wally's focus from copy to inspiration as he began to look at what in the end product he really liked. His engineering skills

and mindset made the easy transition. Celia moved into turning, rather timidly at first but with the help of Louie Andrews' patience she made her first pen. Her confidence grew as the soft teaching approach of the turners, and support by Wally, made her explore new projects. She thanks the group of turners who meet on Wednesday's at Stillwater, especially Louie, George Gertler, and Ken Evans who treat everyone in the best sense of family. "They are modest, helpful, and so creative that one can not help but learn and improve."

Frequent customers at Curtis Lumber, especially the Curious Woods section Wally gravitates to his favorite, the highly figured woods and Celia to turning blanks. Celia says "the people at Curtis are so nice and so knowledgeable." The future looks to more projects. Wally wants to make a coffee table which he describes in ethereal images. He credits Kitty Scharl for forcing him to think of design in new ways. Celia looks to her turning buddies for new inspiration. Celia says she hopes Wally will teach a class and Wally says Celia is ready. Each is ready to learn and offer help to anyone and everyone. Wally's parting comment was "solving a problem, after a design, so the end product works is the real joy. Doing is work, problem solving is fun."

Look up Celia and Wally and have an enjoyable chat, you will learn.



Wally and Celia

NWA Newsletter on the Web Site

By Herm Finkbeiner

I suspect that most NWA members are aware that NWA has a web site – www.woodworker.org, but probably have not looked at it since Kurt Hertzog has become the web master. I say that because the "hit" logs shows very little activity from visitors who have been at the site before.

Except for the day after the e-mail "blast" goes out letting members know that a new edition of the newsletter is available. On that day and subsequently for a day or two a total of about 150 members look at the newsletter. There are some real advantages to having the newsletter on the site. It, of course, is available well before the print edition reaches members, it can be easily downloaded as a PDF file so if you keep your newsletter it is readily stored, available at any time, can be computer searched and it is in color! Or for that matter, if you don't want to store your own copy Kurt has the web site setup so that every edition of the newsletter back to Jan. 2003 is always available.

We (actually Susan Howe) will continue to send out an e-mail blast notifying members of the arrival of a new issue of the newsletter in the hope many members will find it an advantageous way of getting, reading and keeping the newsletter. Using the internet and the web site more extensively will also, someday, allow an inexpensive expansion of articles, commentary and information for members to see, read and use. 🐼

There is nothing in nature
I am as fond of as a tree.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Better to light a candle than
curse the darkness.

Anon

I like restraint if it doesn't go too far.

Mae West

www.woodworker.org

AWA Chapter News

By Celia Carpenter

For any turner who has heard of vacuum systems for the lathe but never knew how it was done, well let's say that question was answered this last month. Ken Evans, George Gurtler, and Chris Stolicky brought each of their systems to the meeting and shared with us how they were made, where to purchase parts, and when the use of the vacuum chucking would be beneficial for turning.

During the discussion, George actually demonstrated how powerful the suction was with his recently made unit.

More importantly was learning the nearly infinite number of chucks that can be produced for very specific applications. They were nearly all made from multiple layers of plywood and painted with normal wood glue which sealed the plywood making a very tight and secure connection.

Many thanks to these gentlemen and those in the audience who also had vacuum chucking systems of their own for the open sharing of their knowledge of these systems!



George sharing making technique



Ken George and Chris, Ken demonstrating vacuuming



C L A S S I F I E D S

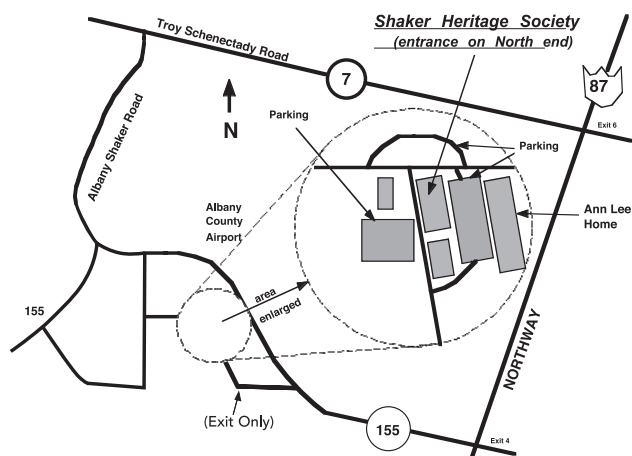
For Sale

Black Cherry for Sale -- About 800-1,000BF 5/4 x 8' un-planed boards, random widths from 4 to 10 inches. Air dried under roof for two years. Quality ranges from poor to good (some end checking and twist). My own plans for it can't be realized, so it's someone else's turn. Make me an offer that's not insulting. John Sullivan, Chestertown: 518-494-3292.





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



September Meeting

Thursday, September 10, 2009, 7:00 pm
Shaker Heritage Society Meeting House
Albany-Shaker Road, Albany

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 Curtis Lumber conference room on Route 67, Ballston Spa. Beginners' sessions begin at 6 pm; the main program at 6:30 pm. Wednesday "Learn and Turn" sessions in Stillwater are also scheduled from 6 pm - 9 pm except on AWA member meeting nights. 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 on the third Wednesday of the month at The School at Northeast, 1821 Hamburg St., Schenectady. A beginner's session starts at 6:30 PM followed by a general meeting at 7:00 PM. Contact: Donna Phillips, (518) 372-3337 or dlphil@nycap.rr.com.

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.

Jim's "Hole in the Woods Gang"

Meets every Saturday, from 9:00 am until noon at Jim Kennedy's shop at 86 Guideboard Rd., in Halfmoon. (just 1 mile east of the Halfmoon Diner on Rt. 9). Our general purpose is public service work for various charitable organizations, including the Double H Hole in the Woods camp for children. 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, as we do accomplish many tasks during our times together as well. Contact Dick Flanders, (518) 393-5215 (rflander@nycap.rr.com) or Darrell Welch, (518) 477-8431 (ydwelch@taconic.net) for more information.

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 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.

GENERAL MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

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

NWA 2009-2010 General Meetings

October 2009
Tom Osborne
Fiske Fund recipients

November 2009
Herm Finkbeiner
Fiske Presentation

December 2009
Roger Holmes
Family Night

January 2010
Dave Mobley
Architectural Salvage

February 2010
Ray Gannon
Wood selection and characteristics

March 2010
Warren Stoker/ Pete Howe
Millwork from a
professional perspective

April 2010
Charlie Goddard
Material preparation

May 2010
Mid-Hudson Chapter
Planes, Then and Now

July 2010
Roger Holmes
Picnic

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS