

WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern
Woodworkers
Association

June 2020, Vol. 29, Number 6

NWA Holds Annual Meeting

By Irv Stephens

Outgoing President Rich Cerruto called NWA's first "virtual" Annual Meeting to order at 7:03 PM on Thursday, May 14. As announced earlier by email to members, the only order of business was the election of NWA officers whose terms were expiring. Cerruto briefly introduced the single nominees for Vice President, Richard DiGiulio, and for Secretary, Chris Stolicky, the incumbent. With no additional candidates proposed by meeting attendees, the nominations were closed, and the nominees subsequently elected by voice vote. With the election completed, Irv Stephens, the outgoing Vice President, became the association's President, and Rich Cerruto moved into the office of Past President as specified in the Bylaws.

In brief follow-up remarks Irv thanked Rich Cerruto for his leadership during the past year and promised to work towards continuing the initiatives that Cerruto had started as well as to make a special effort to keep members informed of NWA's actions relating to the Covid-19 emergency. Irv also thanked the Board, Committees, and individual members for their contributions during the past year while noting that lots of work lies ahead for all of them.

During a brief follow up discussion before adjournment, attendees' consensus was that NWA's most two immediate challenges are how to make up lost of revenues from the cancelation of this year's Showcase and the closure of the shop on Railroad Avenue in Albany. In response to the latter, Irv announced that the LCOC will be holding an initial meeting on May 20 to review how NWA might accommodate New York State's Safety Guidelines as currently promulgated while noting that the shop will most likely not be able to open until the Capital District region qualifies to meet Phase 4 requirements for re-opening.

Charles Goddard, the Executive Secretary, announced NWA's next scheduled Board Meeting is May 26 and that will need to be conducted by video conferencing, and the meeting was adjourned.

THE JUNE MEETING HAS BEEN CANCELLED

An Amazing Tree

A Reminder That Nature Is Strong': In Japan, A 1,000-Year-Old Cherry Tree Blooms

<https://www.npr.org/2020/04/14/832195428/a-reminder-that-nature-is-strong-in-japan-a-1-000-year-old-cherry-tree-blooms?sc=18&f=1001>

*The May newsletter received great articles and photos from our members.
This issue also welcomed articles from members
that fit the guidelines of submission. See them starting on page 5.*

Kaatskill Woodturners Association News

Gimme Shelter

By *Wally Cook*

During the PAUSE, when we all are sheltering in place, many of our woodturners “turned” to projects in their home shops. Not all the projects were, in fact, woodturnings. A quick survey of the KWA showed a wide diversity of woodworking being completed while sheltering.

It’s interesting that, although brought together by a common love of woodturning, each story is different. Like other SIG’s, we all have varying degrees of experience, equipment, and disposable time.

Jim Decker is a conservation carpenter, whose occupation was to restore and re-create historic artifacts for New York State. Recently retired, he has rekindled an interest in turning – particularly burls – to mimic other early bowls in his collection. He eschews shiny finishes, preferring the low-key patina that is a product of daily use. Jim’s passion is the restoration of his 17th century home, so has spent his shelter time rebuilding period windows and shutters, using traditional tools. In addition, he has prepared maple blanks for a spindle project in another historic house.

Pat DiStefano is an enthusiastic turner who started two years ago. When he is not rebuilding race cars, he is making pens as gifts. Pat is active in disabled veteran affairs and recently won first place in a Vets contest in Albany. His pen set – a redwood pen and matching barrel-shaped holder, was made from a wine barrel stave from central NY. Next stop: his pen travels to Florida for the national show.

Although Pat’s work is traveling to Florida, he is not. But some members like Doug Scharf, bring their lathes to Florida for the winter season. Doug, now a wood purveyor, says that’s when he gets most time to devote to woodturning. Doug has turned out several pieces, usually with striking examples of exotic woods (being a purveyor has advantages!). His hollowforms show his skill and patience. Check out Doug’s picture with a nine-foot diameter camphor tree – imagine the smell!

Wood does not need to be exotic to be beautiful or functional. During our sheltering period, Fred DuBois and the Wednesday Group postponed their meetings, but donated thirteen birdhouses for use on the Hurley Rail Trail. Grandsons Alex and Chris helped to install them while gloved and masked. Boy, we will all remember these times.

In the spirit of COVID, Carl Ford III decided to make a hollowform for each day he sheltered in place. His COVID 19 hollowform collection – currently at 21 -- continues to grow. Carl’s love of color and experimenting with various surface treatments is fascinating – both rigorous and fanciful.

John Franklin also responded to an aspect of the COVID problem – an absence of toilet paper. John secured several industrial rolls of toilet paper (each roll is 1400 feet) and needed a way to



Jim Decker’s Ash burl bowl



Jim’s hand- built window and shutters



Pat’s redwood pen set

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Sacandaga Chapter

Vacant

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Vacant

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Doug's camphor tree

dispense it. He turned the world's most elaborate toilet paper stand. John is prepared for the long haul!

Others went back to basics: Ralph Zimmerman has always built furniture but decided to cultivate an interest in rustic work. He constructed a natural edge bench with turned legs and through tenons. He also used the time to recut a bowl and send away for a new chuck.

Win Crans worked on a variety of bowls, as did Wally Cook: objects large and small! Win has lately worked on segmented pieces with his usual craftsmanship. Win's collection includes a small olivewood bowl, Spalted Tamarind lighthouse, Jobillo with padauk lid maple insert purpleheart finial, Indian Laurel vase with oak stripe, bokote bowl, camphor bowl, large olivewood bowl, and redwood hollow form. A particularly nice bowl was

completed by Paul Phillips from spalted maple; Paul has been turning for just over a year and displays a nice design touch in his work. An audiophile, Paul's first turning project was a large cover for a speaker. The breadth of work is amazing. During a time where life has become somewhat constricted, our love of wood provides an outlet for creativity!



Doug's ambrosia bowl



Doug's hollow form



Alex and Chris Cook install a birdhouse

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



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**NORTHEASTERN
WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION**
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John's toilet paper roll



John's toilet paper holder



Carl's COVID collection



Ralph's bench



Win's collection



Wally's posset cup and fruit bowl



Paul's spalted bowl

A Flock of Comfort Birds

By Jordan Mapes

Mathew 10:29-31 - Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

I started making Comfort Birds a few years ago as a way to woodwork "in the wild" away from my shop. All you need is a piece of wood, a knife and some sandpaper (and a Hi Vise is optional). I made and gave away a few dozen to friends and relatives in need of comfort. Then one day I decided to make one for myself, from a Black Locust tree in my yard. Shortly after I thought it would be cool to make one from every species, I could get my hands on. I now have over 100 birds in 47 species and 37 different genera, also some metal and plastic ones. I carry a bird with me almost every day. They are like having a worry stone or a less annoying fidget spinner. I planned on having a display in Showcase, but now they will wait until 2021. If anyone is interested in helping my flock grow, I can make one bird out of a 1.5"x1.5"x3.5" blank or two birds (one for each of us) out of 1.5"x1.5"x5" blank. If you are interested, I can send you a list of the species I currently have. Just shoot me an email: grateful4thedead@gmail.com



(Black Locust) on top of Mount Marcy



Birds blanks after band sawing



Purpleheart Bird in Hi-Vise



Different sized birds (Front to Back) XS Olive-wood, S Ipe, M Lilac, L Bubinga, XL Douglas Fir, XXL Walnut/Maple/Cherry/Oak



*Latin American Bird (Purpleheart/Yellowheart/Goncalo Alves/Cocobolo)
blank*



*Latin American Bird (Purpleheart/Yellowheart/Goncalo Alves/
Cocobolo) finished*



Finished birds

Building Nest Boxes for Audubon

by Gordon McClelland

About seven years ago, having been retired, I approached the Audubon Society of the Capital Region (ASCR), a local chapter of the national non-profit organization dedicated to protecting birds and their environment, with a proposal. If they supply the materials, I would build the bluebird nest boxes, they sell them, and ASCR keep the money.

As it happened, that turned out to be a cumbersome process, hauling a dozen boxes to different events where Audubon set up a display table promoting their program. Sales were minimal.

At one event, a scout master approached me and asked if I would lead a workshop for his troop where the boys would assemble and nail the boxes together themselves. The challenge was on.

A bird box is not a complicated thing to build. But leading a group of youngsters swinging hammers while keeping them all on task and following instructions – that’s an interesting scene. Trying to hold several pieces of wood while nailing them together can prove to be a bit much for adults, let alone 12-year-olds.

Having majored in sculpture in college and later working as a carpenter, I hit upon



Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



Step 4



Step 5

an idea – build a form around which the parts could be placed, held in place and then nailed together with much greater ease. What really made it work well was pre-drilling all the holes for the nails. It was tricky but I was able to cut and drill all the parts so that any part could be taken from any pile and all the nail holes lined up to build a box. A new approach to the mission of re-establishing the bluebird in our region was born.

The design for the final product was built to the appropriate bluebird specifications. My research indicated our box could attract other cavity nesters as well, such as chickadees, titmice and nuthatches which populate the towns and suburbs in our region. We weren't restricted to only bluebirds as they generally live in horse and cow country with lots of fields and grass.

We were able to hold workshops and any youngsters could install the boxes in their own neighborhood. They could attract a variety of tenants with reasonable success. We've held workshops at various venues around the Capital Region, including Mabee Farm in Rotterdam, Schodack Island State Park, Peebles Island State Park, as well as with several scout troops.

We've been sourcing our wood from a pine-only mill in North Clarendon, VT. They have large piles of 2' tailings left over from their milling process. From those piles we've managed to cull out what we need at \$20 per pickup load.

The ASCR is currently applying for a grant from The National Audubon Society to build 100 Eastern Bluebird boxes in wood assembly workshops at middle schools by January 2021. These boxes will then be established in local preserves and farmlands to help Eastern Bluebird populations cope with loss of natural habitat due to dead tree removal and competition with other species. Once these boxes have been established, they will be monitored during the breeding season. Data will be submitted to the citizen science program NestWatch. If successful, ASCR will extend this project beyond these first 100 boxes. We're looking for woodworkers who might be interested in helping by cutting and drilling parts to prepare the wood before the assembly workshops. In addition, if some of you are willing to be an instructor during the assembly workshops at middle schools, any help is welcome.



Voila! Step 6



Mabee Farm (Rotterdam) Fall Festival in October 2019



Schodack Island State Park Raptor Fest 2019

Please contact Gordon McClelland @ (518) 464-0460 for more information.

My Special Gift

By Barbara Ford

This is the jewelry box my husband, Paul Ford, made in his shop. There are four drawers. The top lifts to show a six -section area. The side doors swing open with knobs to hang jewelry, and there is a hidden drawer. The drawers and top section are flocked.

It is made of black walnut, cherry and mahogany. Other materials are Black Flocking, Russo hinges, and earth magnets that are used for door closures and the hidden drawer. Paul used a dove tail saw, his chisels, an Incra router, a Festool miter saw, a rotary sander, and his Dewalt planer.

The joints are hand cut dovetails. Most of the preparation of the wood was done with a Laguna band saw which minimized waste. The side walls are also dovetailed into the base. The handles are dovetailed into the top of the drawer. Paul routed and hand chiseled the dovetails. The finish is Osmo Top Oil Satin applied with a non- woven white abrasive pad.



Jarrood's Many Wood Projects

By Barbara Ford

The pictures below are of the many kitchen utensils my son Jarrod has made. He first drew the shape of the utensil he visualized on hard wood and used a band saw to cut it out. He then used chisels to complete the look and roundness he wanted. Finally, he sanded the utensil smooth and used a natural wood moisturizer to finish it.

Another project was a timber frame that first started as a log Paul and Jarrod cut with the sawmill. Then by hand Jarrod carved and chiseled the wood to complete the



Kitchen utensils with cutting board

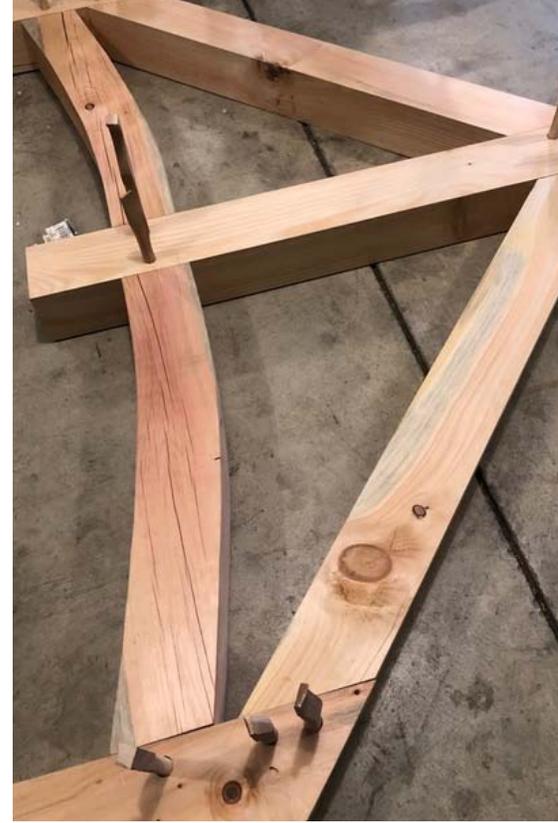
traditional mortise and tenon joinery. The archway will decorate Jarrod and his fiancé's wedding platform as the bride and groom will stand under it when they take their vows.



Kitchen utensils



Jarrod's scoop



Timber frames

Waste Not!

By Juliana Shei

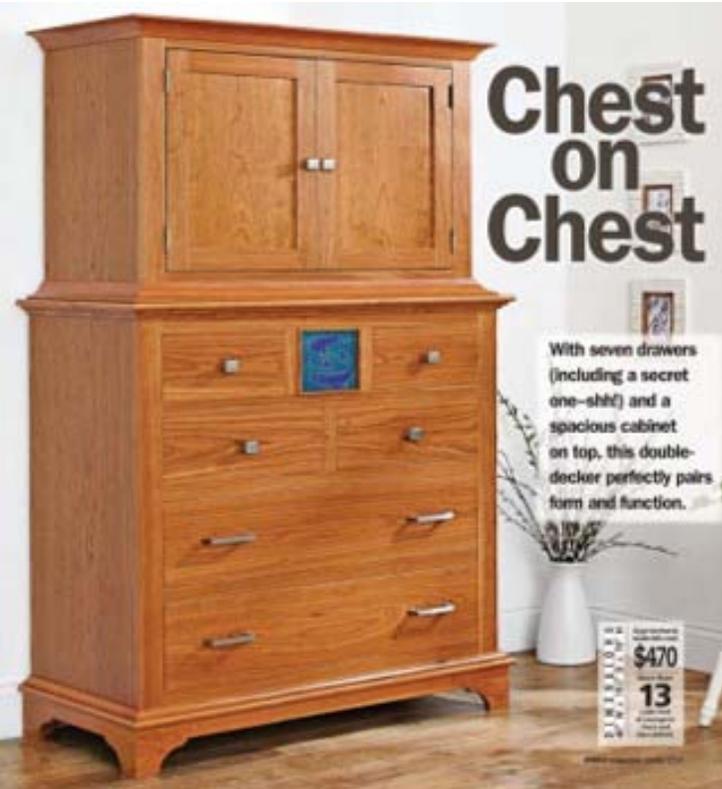
When one of the organizations I volunteer with renovated its office last year, several furniture pieces were disposed of. I picked up five oak shelf boards that looked in good shape. This workshop storage cabinet I designed. I utilized these boards to hold things that tend to be stashed in the corner of my dusty workshop and collected saw dust. Two side panels are the original size; the top doors are half of the third board. The remaining boards were used for drawer fronts.



Storage cabinet



Cabinet's use



Wood magazine's design



Juliana and her finished chest on chest



Raw wood of cherry and mahogany

Chest on Chest

By Juliana Shei

I liked the concept of “chest on chest” project in *Wood* magazine (vol 242, Oct. 2016). This design is two chests as one sits on top of the other. It’s less intimidating to build two smaller chests than building one big one, and it also makes moving them easier. The picture on the top left is the project in *Wood* magazine, the bottom left is mine. Although I borrowed the two-piece concept from *Wood*, I designed mine to suit my needs. I think mine looks simpler and more elegant. But it turned out the building process was not as simple as I hoped.

My cherry and mahogany chest was built as five parts: a base, the lower chest, a connecting frame, an upper chest, and the top. I wanted all visible joints mitered. Since I didn’t have a plan to follow, I built several small prototype joints with scrap woods until I was happy. Two of the pictures show my prototype joints. The base was built with a mahogany frame and plywood. Mitered corners were reinforced by the legs and the bottom of the lower chest fits snugly in the groove on mahogany frame (see cross section of the frame). Face frame rails and styles are joined with half-lap miters. For the chest top, the mitered front rail is connected with a tongue to the panel that has breadboard joint to allow wood movement. Learning how to assemble large parts was a new challenge for me. I had to purchase few long clamps to assemble the carcasses. Finally, the handles are made of mahogany cutoffs. I had fun designing and making them.



Planed boards



The glue ups required long clamps



Clean cuts for partitions



Sample joinery



The carcass of the lower chest



Three dimensions of joinery



Top section



Great dovetails

Woodworking for The Bees!

By Debbie Lee

Mid-Hudson President, Jim Lee, has built many woodworking projects through the years—from a custom built bedroom set to tables that have won awards, but there is one project he is working on that is literally helping to feed the world.

Megan Denver, owner of Hudson Valley Bee Supply in Kingston, NY approached him several years ago to build swarm boxes for her. Jim found a project that was both different from anything he had ever done, and one that also introduced him to the fascinating world of beekeeping.

So, what exactly is a swarm box? Simply put, it is a home which attracts wild swarms of bees looking for a place to live. Each spring, the hive of bees become congested due to new generations of young bees being born. Scout bees go out to locate a new home, and a swarm box is the perfect location for the searching scouts. Like a birdhouse, you set your swarm box out, and the bees move in.

Built out of rough sawn common pine, they are planed to 5/8" thick to reduce the weight of the box. Dimensions of the boxes (the outside measurements, the inside, and even the size of the hole) are critical or the bees won't use it. The boxes measure 20 X 15 X 8 1/2". No finish is used. Jim puts the boxes together using rabbet joints (which are not seen when the boxes are assembled) and no fasteners are used except glue and staples. His current project was the building of forty swarm boxes.

Besides helping people interested in beekeeping, creating more bees means greater pollination which is critical to agriculture. Hudson Valley Bee Supply works with Bees for Development, a non-profit international charity working to alleviate poverty through beekeeping.

<http://www.beesfordevelopment.org/>

According to their website, "Beekeeping contributes to supporting sustainable livelihoods in poor and remote communities and honeybees provide an essential ecosystem service." Bees for Development currently has programs in Uganda, Zanzibar, Ethiopia, and Kyrgyzstan.

And even though Jim has worked on projects with much more exotic wood and designs, his help with the talented beekeepers at Hudson Valley Bee Supply and his well built pine boxes, together lift people out of poverty, one bee box at a time.

For more information on beekeeping visit <http://www.hudsonvalleybeesupply.com/> Their shop is located at 600 Sawkill Rd. in Kingston, NY.



A Rare Wood from Ancient Trees

By Charlie Goddard

About 30,000 to 50,000 years ago giant trees on the northern island of New Zealand were buried and preserved in peat swamps. They are now being mined and sawed for commercial use. The wood is a deep golden brown with a sheen which changes under different light (chatoyance). This wood is like, if not the same as, some lumber Curtis sold for a short time called Agathis. Once the supply of Agathis dropped, New Zealand stopped exporting it.

My niece, who lives in New Zealand not far from where the kauri logs are being excavated, sent me some blocks which are 5" by 5" by 2". With the coronavirus constraints in place, I have plenty of time to work in the shop. So, I decided to make a small box from the Kauri and send it back to my niece. The box is only 5" by 3 1/2" by 2 1/4" high.



Classified

100 year- old (approx) dining room set. One expandable table with a leaf, five chairs, and one buffet. Solid wood with mahogany veneer. One chair needs repair. Table needs some restoration.

No charge, just pick up set at 107 Euclid Ave. Albany, NY. Contact Vince Manti 518-482-2026



June Meeting

Cancelled

2020 MONTHLY MEETINGS*

Unless noted otherwise, held at the Shaker Meetinghouse on the Second Thursdays at 7:00 PM

For meeting cancellation information,
Charlie Goddard 370-0388

*To be updated with additional information

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs): Please note meetings will commence at our new location at 97 Railroad Avenue.

Adirondack Woodturners Association (AWA) - The AWA is active throughout the year. **General** Meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month (except in January and July when it is the second Wednesday), at the NWA Learning Center located at 97 Railroad Avenue, Colonie, NY from 5:30 PM to 8:45 PM. **Contact:** Kevin Ramsey Cell 518-769-9665 or kmrammer@yahoo.com

Spindle and Pen Turners - Meets Mondays 5:30 PM - 8:45 PM. Contact: Pam Bucci at 518-429-6440 or woolglass2@gmail.com Wednesday "Learn and Turn" sessions occur on all other Wednesdays at the NWA Learning Center. These sessions run 5:30 PM to 8:45 PM. www.adirondackwoodturners.com **Contact:** Kevin Ramsey Cell 518-769-9665 or kmrammer@yahoo.com

Scroller's Guild - Meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at the NWA Learning Center located at 97 Railroad Avenue, Colonie, NY. Shop opens at 5:30 PM both Wednesdays followed by a general meeting at 7:00 PM on the fourth Wednesdays. **Contact:** Tom O'Donnell at Todonnell180@gmail.com

Kaatskill Woodturners - Second Saturday mornings at 9:00 AM at the Opdahl property in Hurley, NY. **Contact:** Wally Cook at wally.cook@gmail.com

NWA Crafters - Meet Tuesdays and Saturdays 9:00 AM to noon. They provide public service woodworking for various charitable organizations, including the Double H Hole in the Woods camp for children and the GE Toy Modifications Group, and the Make A Wish Foundation. Sharing information, fellowship, and relating experiences are a major part of these sessions. **Contact:** Wayne Distin at 518-674-4171 or wdistin@nycap.rr.com, Ken Evans at 518-281-0779 or kevans1@nycap.rr.com, or John Heimke at heimkj@sage.edu for more information.

The NWA Wood Carvers SIG - Meet 1st, 3rd, 4th & 5th Thursdays 5:00-8:30 PM all year at the NWA Learning Center located at 97 Railroad Avenue, Colonie, NY. The goal is to promote the art of wood carving and to have a good time doing it. The only prerequisite is a desire to carve while making new friends. Wood, tools, and patterns are available. **Contact:** Diane Balch at 518-885-9899 or signs@balchsigns.com

Hand Tool SIG - Meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00-9:00 PM in the Herm Finkbeiner Education Center at 97 Railroad Avenue, Colonie, NY. **Contact:** Dave Parkis at 518-429-6581 for further details: dparkis@nycap.rr.com

CHAPTERS

NWA Mid-Hudson - The chapter meets at 7:30 PM on the third Thursday, except July, at the Hurley Reformed Church. The Church is just off the Hurley exit from Rte. 209. Right at the exit, right at the stop sign and left into the Church parking area. **Contact:** midhudsonwoodworkers.org Jim Lee, President - (845)382-6045