

WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern
Woodworkers
Association

January 2021, Vol. 30, Number 1

January Meeting

**Our January 14 Meeting is Virtual
at 7:00 PM**

Dave Mobley announced that a video of Ray Puffer's demonstration of mother of pearl inlays will be made available to NWA members in early January through YouTube. Mother of Pearl (MOP) inlays are commonly used to enhance the appearance of many wooden items, ranging from musical instruments to jewelry, jewelry boxes, and furniture. This demonstration will cover MOP inlay materials, preparation of inlays, sources of supply, the tools used, and the inlay process. The item used for the demonstration will be a typical ring box.

On January 14, 2020, NWA will have a virtual meeting, which will include a Q & A discussion with Ray for questions or comments you may have about his demonstration.

Please look for email announcements from NWA for links to the video and the virtual meeting.

February Speaker

Presented by: Rich Cerruto

The skin-on-frame canoe differs from all-wood methods such as cedar strip in that it is simpler, lighter, and less costly in materials.

As such it represents good option for the first time boatbuilder. This particular boat is unique

in that it requires no strong back, or forms to shape it - it is built entirely on a pair of sawhorses.

Also, it requires no thwarts so that boats

can be nested, like Russian dolls, to save on space. Lastly, it is based on a scaleable design system allowing the builder to adjust the length, width, etc. to fit his needs. **Please watch for an e blast from our president on how the meeting will occur remotely.**



Diane Balch carves in COVID shutdown. The bird is made from dyed plywood. The finish is a coat of "True Oil" used for gun stocks.



The NWA Tool Market is Coming in 2021

Have you been looking for used tools?
Do you have quality tools you are ready to let go?
Then the NWA Tool Market
may be the right place for you.

The [NWA Tool Market](#) is only available to NWA members (another benefit of NWA membership). Only members can post an item or make a purchase, so if you are not a member, [Join Today](#) to take advantage of this great NWA benefit!

The [Tool Market](#) will begin sales at noon on January 9, 2021. Although you can view the [Tool Market](#) now, purchase requests to NWAToolMarket@yahoo.com with a date/time stamp prior to noon on January 9th will NOT be addressed.

Between now and January 9th you can:
1. Send us your questions. [Read the [Tool Market Rules](#) first—you may find your answer there.]

2. Members may donate an item(s) to NWA by contacting Lee Hilt for details and to schedule a pickup at: nwaauction1@gmail.com. Proceeds from donated items go to the NWA General Fund and the Fiske Educational Fund.

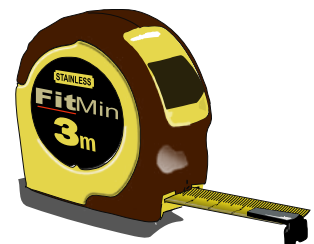
3. Members can email us items for posting (what you wish to sell yourself) to: NWAToolMarket@yahoo.com. You can list up to three items at a time. Send us a description, price, and photo(s) (no more than two photos per item, jpg format). Items can be sent in at any time but will only be posted during the first week of each month when the [Tool Market](#) page is updated with new items.

Important:

Before you do anything, [Visit the Tool Market page](#) and read the complete **Tool Market Rules** to fully understand how the process works. Then, if you still have any questions, email us.

Send your tool(s) for listing, or questions to our new NWA Tool Market email address: NWAToolMarket@yahoo.com

We look forward to hearing from you!
NWA Auction Committee
Lee Hilt, Chair



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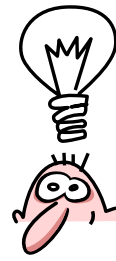
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"MEMBER'S WOODWORKING TRICKS"

Finishing with Minimum Mess



By Juliana Shei

After all the sanding and vacuuming to get the smooth surface, it is time to put the finish on. It is an exciting time to see all your hard work finally becoming a beautiful object. Putting a finish on the article without touching the wet surface can be tricky. I have found finishing three faces at a time works well. Let us take dice (cubes) as an example. Sum of opposite sides of two dice are always 7, so hold opposite sides, 1 and 6, and put finish on three sides you are not touching, 2, 3, and 5. Lay the object down on 4 (opposite of 3) and wait until dry to touch. Now hold 2 and 5, put finish on remaining 1, 4, and 6. This sequence works especially well with fast drying finish such as shellac or wipe-on poly.



The picture shows small box being finished three sides at a time.

Have You Heard of i-Tree?

By Susan McDermott

The November/December 2020 newsletter published by Arbor Day Foundation summarized the i-Tree software tools for public use first released in 2006 by the U.S. Forest Service. These tools help urban planners and individuals decide the optimal planting and management of trees in regions, states, cities, neighborhoods, even your own yard. This article gives an overly simple explanation to readers unfamiliar with i-Tree MyTree. Available is a suite of software apps that provide information about:

- Size, composition, and condition of trees in a specific street, city, or county
- The health benefits or risks of those trees to humans
- The value to our ecosystem of a single tree to an entire forest
- Predictions of the impacts of insects, disease, and storm damage

Go to <https://www.itreetools.org/tools>

Want information about one of your trees? Go to the i-Tree MyTree app, give your address, and answer a few questions about your tree. You will find out environmental factors such as: pounds of CO₂ withdrawn from the air, gallons of stormwater runoff avoided, air pollution removed, energy usage saved, and thus, avoided emissions from energy production.

The i-Tree Species app will give you a list of tree species for your hardiness zone, and you choose the criteria you want your tree to meet such as: low volatile organic compounds and low allergenicity, carbon storage, wind reduction, air temperature reduction, ultraviolet radiation reduction, energy reduction in your home, streamflow reduction.

Other apps have more sophisticated applications. I-Tree Eco produces information for a single tree to an entire city of forest. It can provide forecast models for future growth and environmental impacts. I-Tree Canopy uses satellite images that identify grass coverage, buildings, roads, bare soil, trees and shrubs, water, and other (impervious) surfaces.

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



Your next issue of
Woodworkers News

will be published
in early February

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**NORTHEASTERN
WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION**

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Temporary Roof Repair by Four Brave Members

Submitted by Dick Flanders



NWA volunteers completed the temporary repair of the Shaker garage roof over the section NWA uses for storage. They finished just in time before the rain started again, and the predicted snow coming the night.

There were four there: Lee Hilt, Rick Bird, Jon Cochran and Dick Flanders. The group planned on putting a tarp over the roof to try to keep the rainwater out of the garage since early spring. Albany County has the grant money to repair many things on the Shaker site with the garage roof being one of the items on the list. The NWA have had things damaged by water and could not wait for Albany County to get around to repairing the roof. Hopefully, they will get this on their priority list for next year. Photo by Lee Hilt

President's Column- January 2021

Greetings, Everyone - I hope 2020 closes with you all safe and sound and that we all soon see the faint lights of a better 2021 gaining in intensity quickly. Here are several items that might be of interest to you.

1. NWA BYLAWS: At its recent November meeting, your Board of Trustees discussed the desirability of revising the Bylaws to make the Board more efficient and (ideally) more responsive to the needs of this organization. The discussion ranged from wondering about how many NWA committees really need to be represented directly on the Board to whether the terms of office of some officers should be changed.

I am happy to report that three Board members: Rich Cerruto, Wayne Distiin and Chris Stolicky volunteered to take on the task of reviewing the Bylaws and to come back to the Board with proposed

revisions before summer. In line with this, I also asked Andy Moss, NWA's webmaster, to add a copy of the Bylaws to our website so that all members and the public can see how NWA operates as a non-profit charitable and educational organization. A now link [below](#) can be found under the **About NWA** tab in the opening paragraph labeled **Purpose**.

If you have the time, look at our Bylaws; and if you have suggestions about possible revisions, please let Rich, Chris or Wayne know your ideas. Proposed revisions will be reviewed by the Board and then they will be submitted to the membership for approval of the members attending the Annual Meeting.

2. JANUARY MEETING: Because the COVID-19 emergency clearly appears to be with us through at least January, we are going to try an "experiment" - a two-part video meeting instead of daring to get together at the Shaker Meeting House.

First, Ray Puffer has agreed to record his demonstration about how he inlays mother of pearl. This video will be made available to you via our new NWA YouTube Channel in early January for you to view at your leisure.

Second, a live video meeting will be scheduled later in January when Ray will be available to answer your questions. We hope this approach will prove to be a way to make demos

by members accessible to more members as well as providing a way for us to stay a little more in touch during these times. We will be announcing details about these two events via a Constant Contact email in January. Stay turned...

3. A GOOD READ: The **Age of Wood** by Roland Ennos. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2020.

In case the holiday elf does not leave this by the fireplace, I suggest you seek a copy of this wood book to read during the many winter nights still ahead of us. This is not a book about fine furniture making. It's a book for the public in the vein of Jared Diamond about how our ancestors first adapted to trees and how our continued utilization of wood has shaped our material and social cultures, resulting in the semi-civilized species that we are today. The author, a biologist at UK's University of Hull specializing in the mechanical engineering aspects of trees, has also published, [Trees: A Complete Guide to Their Biology and Structure](#) (2001), a very brief, popular work about the biomechanics of his favorite subjects.

- Stay safe, help others & keep woodworking,
Irv Stephens

https://woodworker.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/NWA_By-LawsMarch2013a.pdf

NWA Books of the Month

By Wally Carpenter

I thought it would be fun to discuss a new book I picked up after listening to the author at our 2019 Fiske Lecture. The book is titled: [52 Boxes in 52 Weeks](#), by Matt Kenney. ISBN: 978-1-63186-892-4

Matt is a member of the *Fine Woodworking Magazine* team at Taunton Press. This is his first book which is followed by his most recent book, [The Art of Kumiko: Learn to Make Beautiful Panels by Hand](#). I can only imagine there will be more to come. In Matt's introductory pages he writes, "If you want to cut better dovetails, go into your shop and cut them. Then cut some more. After that, cut several hundred more. Repeat for several years...and then your (sic) cutting dovetails like Christian Becksvoort."

Following this logic, he set out to make a box a week over a one-year period which led to writing this book. Achieving such a goal takes a lot more dedication than I could muster with all of the distractions in life. Even Matt admitted he had time challenges along the way where one box took several weeks to complete, and in other cases, he produced multiple boxes in one week. By all rights his goal of producing 52 boxes over a 52-week period was met. What was much more interesting was what he learned and shared with the reader along the journey.

He candidly shared his growth and improvements in his aesthetic, technical, and design skills along with confidence and efficiency in each skill. While each box is unique, the reader begins to see the similarities in several aspects of this project. As an example, Matt is drawn to using milk paint to accent many of his boxes, and he loves to use colorful patterned paper to cover the base and inside tops of many boxes. These items begin to identify a style which is his and makes it more recognizable as a Matt Kenney box.

Each chapter begins with a picture of the box, an insert defining wood species, accent paint color, and box dimensions. He also spends time explaining what his objective was in making the specific box. In some cases, he was attempting a variation on a theme and in others were new techniques.

Matt openly shares his found knowledge including such things as what to pay attention to when working with cocobolo on page 87. I found it very educational and worth noting.

As Matt summarized his experience over the project, he notes his skills has certainly improved. More importantly, he recognized his higher goal was to make something that not only he saw a beautiful but that others shared in his feelings as well. Please take the time to check out this book and see for yourself.

Also this month, I am choosing another book which is relatively new: It is: *Discovering Japanese Handplanes* by Scott Wynn. ISBN: 978-1-56523-886-2

While this is an excellent, detailed review of the many forms of the Japanese plane, he covers history, tradition, and advantages of this humble tool form. I am aware of five books Scott has written related to handplanes. Each is very well written and researched to give the reader a well-nourished education of the topic.

Scott notes the simplicity of Japanese plane's form lending itself well to numerous variations in creating everything from its classic smoothing plane style to supporting concave, convex, and even compass planes by modifying its wooden base or dai and, of course, the blade.

He devotes the first third of the book to the plane's anatomy, how it works, and its various uses.

The second portion covers setting up the plane, troubleshooting, and more invaluable details on sharpening techniques.

The final portion talks to making your own or modifying an existing plane to support your specific needs.

Scott provides the reader with excellent insight into the history of steel blades without it becoming the whole story of the Japanese plane. After reading this, you will clearly understand the importance of the blade's grain, structure, and hardness along with their relationship to each other.

He has charts defining the best blade angles for gained efficiency with various wood types. I personally made a copy of one chart which I keep posted in my workshop. He also covers other important elements such as mouth openings and chipper position to improve and eliminate tear out.

Eventually, you may want to own a Japanese handplane as in my case. I recently purchased a 55mm Japanese smoothing plane which gave me reason to read through each step of tuning a new plane. Scott's detailed step by step process helped me to optimize what was already an amazing plane and gain more in its ability to cut without tearing or chipping. The drawings and directions were easy to follow, and the explanation of each step's importance provided me the skills to achieve a very positive result. I can report that Scott's book was an excellent source for my needs.

I can honestly say I have no intention of making my own Japanese plane, but if the reader were interested in making one, Scott's book would be a great companion to achieving such a goal.

I do hope that if you want to know more about the use of woodworking handplanes, Japanese or European, you seek out Scott Wynn's books to learn more.

Finally this month, PETER KORN is the founder and Executive Director of the Center for Furniture Craftsmanship (CFC), a non-profit woodworking and design school in Rockport, Maine. As the school is relatively close to the Albany, NY area, some of us have had the privilege of attending one or more classes offered at this amazing school. Perhaps you

even saw him speak at Showcase or as a guest lecturer at Skidmore College.

Peter has written several books including: *Why We Make Things and Why it Matters*, *Woodworking Basics*, *The Woodworkers Guide to Handtools*, *Working with Wood*, and a recent documentary about him, *A Life's Work* as well as co-authoring *Little Book of Wooden Boxes* with Oscar Fitzgerald. Any one or preferably all these books should be on a woodworker's shelf. They are classics in learning the fundamentals of woodworking for furniture making.

This month I will be discussing: *Why We Make Things and Why It Matters*, ISBN 978-1-56792-511-1.

This is not a "how to" book by any means. It is an autobiography detailing the path that led Peter as he states, "... on my road to Damascus". I have chosen this book because it speaks to a sincere topic for any crafts person wishing to understand that basic question of *Why*.

Peter spends a significant portion of the story setting the background of how he became head of his school. The CFC provides the training any person serious in the art of woodworking needs to realize their fullest potential. He is very giving in defining points in his life that remind us of our own mortality as he deals with two bouts of cancer. Two key points in his life which defines for him as his first and second epiphanies are laced through his story. These define for him and hopefully for the reader an answer to that question of

Why. Only in reading this book do you gain a true appreciation of what drives a person in pursuing such a goal.

If you share in the passion of woodworking, you will thoroughly enjoy reading this book.

If you do not have the time to read this book (*which I beg you to find that time*), you can take away this message of his life's work from page 102: *My own values became clear when I eventually realized that the words I used to describe my aesthetic goals as a furniture maker – **integrity, simplicity, and grace** – also described the person I sought to grow into through the practice of craftsmanship.*

While these three words may not describe each reader's specific goals, the message is the same in seeking out how your work reflects who you want to become. There is so much more read and appreciate in this book. I have personally enjoyed reading this book several times and find something new with each read. *Why We Make Things and Why it Matters* is one of my favorites, and I hope might become one of yours as well.

As a reminder, I would ask that any of you who have interests in other woodworking disciplines to take the challenge of sharing authors who have influenced your woodworking skills. I am certain our NWA Newsletter Editor would be delighted to place your review under the same heading of *NWA Book of the Month* and a "by-line" with your name!.

Classifieds

Local basket maker seeks to commission a woodcrafter to create sanded round or custom oval wooden bases for baskets, size 1/2 inch thick, in various diameters 3"-12", with thin slot around full outer edge ~ 1/16" wide and 1/2" deep. For samples, see Sandy Salada's baskets in the Shaker Heritage Society holiday crafts fair. Contact Sandy (sandy.salada@gmail.com) or Brea (bbarthel@nycap.rr.com) for more details.



FOR SALE \$400 GOGO Elite PRO Mobility Scooter

This Scooter was used three days a year at WOODWORKERS SHOWCASE by me when I was Chairman of the event. The model is still available online for about \$970.

The Scooter comes with a new battery and charger. The Scooter comes APART EASILY to be transported by CAR. Tires are very good. There is very little usage on this scooter. It is designed for indoor and outdoor usage. Contact Ken Evans 518-281-0779



January Meeting

**Our January 14 Meeting
is Virtual at 7:00 PM**

2021 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

February 11
Skin-on-frame canoe
Presented by: Rich Cerruto

March 11 TBA

April 8 TBA

May 13 TBA Election of NWA officers

*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

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 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

Scrollers SIG - Meets every Monday and Wednesday 6 to 8:30 PM. Contact Pam Bucci woodglass2@gmail.com 518-429-6440 (for Mondays) Kay McCampbell kmcccampbell@nycap.rr.com 518-371-9608

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