

WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern
Woodworkers
Association

November 2021, Vol. 30, Number 79

November's General Meeting to be Announced
Please watch for E-blast for specifics

NWA at Shaker Heritage Society Holiday Market

10/13-12/19 Tuesday-Sunday 11am - 5pm

For the second year, NWA is participating in Shaker Heritage Society's holiday fair. Check out the NWA booth and other beautiful handmade crafts by 75+ local vendors. This is a great way to support local artisans while shopping in a fun environment. NWA will once again have everything from keychain ornaments to boxes, bowls, and a lovely jewelry box, at many price points. New items this year are earrings and 3-D jigsaw puzzles. Proceeds are shared between NWA and SHS, so your purchase will help two great nonprofits. And while you are at the fair, stop by another booth with items from Al Caruso, a long-time NWA member. Admission is free but be sure to bring your mask. That is required for entry.



Many thanks to the individuals and SIGs who already contributed items for our booth. The fair runs until December 19th, and we will be re-stocking for two months, so more donations are invited, encouraged, and (frankly) fervently hoped for. Shelves in the meeting room are labeled to distinguish already-inventoried items from incoming donations.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Brea Barthel (518-449-7159 landline; bbarthel@nycap.rr.com) or Linda Reiss (lreiss894@aol.com).

Brea & Linda especially thank Pam Curtis for the loan of booth infrastructure as well as the path-breaking work coordinating the first year at the fair. Now that we have seen how much the job entails, we are ever more amazed that she managed the project on her own last year.



FREE ADMISSION!

Shaker Holiday Market

Museum Shop and over 75 Artisans & Vendors

Unique, locally-handcrafted gifts in the
historic 1848 Shaker Meeting House

OCTOBER 13 THRU DECEMBER 19

Tuesdays through Sundays

11 am to 5 pm

Closed Mondays

SHAKER HERITAGE SOCIETY | 25 MEETING HOUSE ROAD, ALBANY, NY 12211
518.456.7890 | www.shakerheritage.org



**To: NWA - Northeastern Woodworkers
Association, Members, and Friends:**

**RE: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR
MARCH 2022 SHOWCASE**

The 2022 NWA Showcase Committee and Mr. Todd Gunter, Totally Turning Chairperson, are preparing great exhibits for the March 26 and 27, 2022 Showcase in Saratoga Springs, NY. We desperately need volunteers. Your cooperation will contribute a memorable experience for all the participants and the exhibit owners.

The Volunteer Coordinators and some of our NWA members are making a special gift for all volunteers who will participate in the 2022 Showcase if they wear the lapel pin given to volunteers during the 25th Showcase Anniversary. It is a token of our appreciation to you and friends of the NWA for sharing their valuable time working with us at the Show.

Remember, all categories and times are open now. Take this opportunity to sign up early and let us know the time and place of your preference. As of November 1, 2021, Ken and I will be at the NWA Shop located at 97 Railroad Ave., Albany, NY, on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights to sign up volunteers for the Showcase.

Please consider participating in any of the following categories:

Door Hosts, Floor Monitors, Membership Booth, Education/
Question Booth, Raffle Tickets, Ticket Sales, Lecture Videographers,
Truck Assistants, Set-up and Staging, Carvers, Scrollers, Take
Down, Toy Factory, NWA Store, Pen Turning, Vendor Assistants.

We hope you all have a delightful Thanksgiving with family and friends. Turkey, pumpkin, etc

Truly Yours,

Maria and Ken Witkins
NWA Volunteer Coordinators
mamawitkins@aol.com

Steve VanDerZee Takes Charge of Reviving the Scrollers SIG

By Susan McDermott

Eight DeWalt scroll saws have been idle for more than a year since SIG leader Tom O'Donnell left New York for a warmer climate, and no one stepped up to replace him. Steve Mapes began the animal cuttings, and Steve VanDerZee continued to make the stacks of animals for the Hole in the Wall Ranch which has counted on NWA to supply hundreds of these cut outs every year.

Steve hopes to attract new members to join the Scroll Saw SIG where they can learn the skills and fun of making puzzles, toys, decorative pieces for wall or table. He has boxes full of patterns and ideas for projects of all skill levels. Members are welcome to work on their own projects and learn the safe operation of the scroll saw. Steve is available every Monday evening, 5:30 to 8:30 for walk-ins or arranged appointments. Steve can be reached at stevedz@msn.com

With the holidays approaching, why not try to make a few ornaments or gifts for your friends and family? For now, Steve can provide one-on-one tutoring to get anyone started. You will find him a natural and flexible teacher who is also a master wood turner working across the aisle with the Spindle and Pen Turners on Monday nights, assisting new turners.

What about making Halloween themes?



Angel tracings adhere to Pine wood stock



Making a shark



Cutting the shark



Boo!



Big and baby shark

OFFICERS

President - Irv Stephens
nwapresident1@gmail.com

Vice President - Carl Stoner

Secretary - Chris Stolicky

Treasurer - Paul Ruud
nwatreasurer2@gmail.com

Executive Secretary - Charlie Goddard
Cgodd@aol.com



NWA BOARD MEMBERS

Irv Stephens
Carl Stoner
Chris Stolicky
Paul Ruud
Charlie Goddard
Pete Chast
Wally Carpenter
Susan McDermott



Mid-Hudson Chapter

Bill Sterling, President
wster1156@aol.com

Sacandaga Chapter

Vacant



CHAIR/CONTACT PERSONS

Auction and Hospitality

Lee Hilt
nwaauction1@gmail.com

Education

Chairperson - John Slezak
nwaeducation1@gmail.com
Members - Jim Lefebvre, Rich Glover

Fiske Fund

Chairperson - Woody Bowler
fiskefund@gmail.com
Treasurer - Juliana Shei
fftreasurer@yahoo.com

Members - Jon Bennett, Dick Flanders,
Bill Sterling

Historian

Wayne Distin
wdistin@nycap.rr.com

Library

Susan Hill
Susanh1122@att.net

Membership

Alan Hayes
arhayes@gtel.net

Publications

Susan McDermott
nwanewsletter1@gmail.com

Publicity

John Olenik
jolenik@nycap.rr.com

Showcase Chair

Wally Carpenter
nwa.showcase.chair@gmail.com



Bulldogs



Siamese cat, angel, and dog



More cats

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 December

Copy deadline: November 15

Susan McDermott, Editor

Nwanewsletter1@gmail.com

Elizabeth Keays Graphic Artist
Designer



WEBSITE

www.woodworker.org

Webmaster: Andy Moss

nwawebmasterhelp@gmail.com



NORTHEASTERN
WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 246

Rexford, New York 12148



NWA Volunteers Save the Shaker Garage!

By *Lee Hilt*

In October of 2020, a temporary tarp was installed on the Shaker garage roof as a quick fix to keep the rain from entering NWA's half of the storage area below. It was anticipated the county would replace the roof "soon". Fast forward 11 months later, and the roof is as it was a year ago but now includes a weathered temporary tarp with many



The roof is saved!

holes. Add to that, there was 2" of rainwater on sections of our storage area's floor, and it was obvious something needed to be done quickly.

Thanks to the efforts of four hardy souls (Lee Hilt, Steve Mapes, Rick Bird, Jon Cochran), another covering was installed the morning of September 13 which should last for a while. Steve Mapes donated an in-ground pool liner which is "17 mills thick" and substantially heavier than a tarp. We're hoping this will last longer than a year and until the roof is replaced as it should be. We are grateful to our volunteers.

October 7, 2021, General Meeting Presents Ray Puffer, Precision Segmented Turner

By *Susan McDermott*

Instant Gallery

Turned art by Ray made from Maple burl and inlaid turquoise with ebony base, collar, and finial. The finish is Aqua Coat to fill in grain then sanded, and a matt finish poly spray applied.

NWA Vice President, Carl Stoner, introduced Ray as the monthly speaker although he is well known to our organization. Ray will oversee the NWA Machine Qualification Program in our shop as he has mastered all of them in his 60+ years of woodworking. Making his segmented bowls, platters, and decorative art entails skillful and safe use of planers, jointers, table, band, and miter saws, lathes, and disk and drum sanders.

NWA member, Ray Puffer, is a master in many aspects of wood working. “I grew up in a small farming town in Vermont. My first exposure to woodworking was when I was ten years old. Our family was building a new house, and I jumped at every chance to spend time at the building site, and to pitch in whenever I could help. I cut down trees with an ax, I carried tools and materials for the carpenters, and I even got to help nail the sheathing on the exterior wall where my bedroom would be. I loved the smell and the feel of the lumber, and I got a great feeling of accomplishment in watching the house take form.”



Turned art by Ray

By the time he was in middle school, he was inspired by the wood shop classes. In high school, he was asked by his former shop teacher to serve as a teaching assistant to the junior high students. Precision became his obsession in his early twenty's. In 1967, he built a ten-foot-long stereo entertainment cabinet which was true to about 1/16 of an inch. He built bookcases and gun cabinets but shifted to the greater challenges of making cherry or mahogany tall clocks (Grandfather and Grandmother styles) with greater precision of about 1/32 of an inch. In 1971 he made a reproduction of a kettle stand from photographs of the original DuPont Winterthur piece.

After graduation from West Point and a career in the Army, Ray was a professor and researcher at RPI where he applied his advanced mathematics and statistical knowledge to even greater precision in wood craft. He uses digital calipers and protractors that measure 1/10,000 of an inch.

Change your thoughts about fractions of an inch. Ordinary tape measures and rulers are fine for carpenters but not for precision turners. Ray converts fractions of an inch to decimals. $1/256 = .00390625$. “Not good enough!” he says.

When Ray began making banjos and guitars, measurements became critical. When he began segmented turning, he had to be better than 1/200 of an inch. The larger the diameter and wider the segments, the more precise the turner must be.

Ray compared the results obtainable when using the table saw, miter saw, and miter saw with disk sanding for the most precise and repeatable segments. The third method produced the best results by far. Readers may view the YouTube of Ray's presentation for the comparison of the statistical results of his experiments. While the accuracy of segments obtained can be adjusted, the repeatability (spread of values) of segments is difficult to fix.

When asked what glue Ray uses, he answered that Titebond Original is the most stable whereas Titebond II or III glues “creep.”

Additional photos with their captions may be viewed at this link. <https://woodworker.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Puffer-photos.pdf>

Ray Puffer's presentation about Precision in Segmented Turning was video-graphed by Carl Stoner, NWA's Vice President, who has been working hard along with help from David Mobley, and a few other members to identify equipment, staging and crew needs that will enable us to stream video more reliably from the Meeting House and/or 97 Railroad Avenue Shop. Early usage indicates that members are using NWA's YouTube Channel. The same evening, Ray's live presentation was watched by double the number of attendees at the Meeting House, and within 24 hours the number of views had doubled again. There is much more to Ray's presentation than this article covers. Go to You Tube, Northeastern Woodworkers Association for the program recorded on 10/7/21. You can skip the first eight minutes of video set up and announcements. Please bear with us! Vice President Carl Stoner is refining our videography recording with NWA's limited equipment. We hope to purchase better quality, updated software, cameras, microphones, and larger video screens soon.



Finished segmented bowl

Chuck Thorne Attended the Center for Furniture Craftsmanship in August 2021

By Chuck Thorne

I recently attended a two-week class at the prestigious Center for Furniture Craftsmanship (CFC), in Rockport, Maine (woodschoool.org). The course was led by Executive Director and school founder, Peter Korn, who has been making furniture since 1974. Korn's book, *Woodworking Basics: Mastering the Essentials of Craftsmanship* (Taunton Press, 2003), is the text and essentially the guide for this course. CFC boasts instructors such as Lead Instructor Tim Rousseau and guest instructor Garrett Hack. A peek at the faculty resumes shows most creating gallery level work. The two instructors I had were highly skilled and communicated those skills clearly.

CFC offers one and two-week workshops, eight-week and twelve-week Intensives, and a nine-month comprehensive program. I attended the two-week Basic Woodworking Class

A course at the CFC is both educational and humbling. A total woodworking emersion that, as an amateur woodworker, felt more like Woodworker Summer Camp than school.

Our class began on Monday morning with a 90-minute lecture on the origins of the school, what we were to expect from the course, and shop safety. Following days began

with a lecture or demonstration at 9 a.m. with a second immediately after lunch. The rest of our day was open for practicing what we were learning or, in week two, building our project.



Chuck Thorne's ash and walnut tool tote.



Assistant Instructor Joseph Flynn demonstrates cutting blind dovetails as father and daughter Steven and Jenny Gold look on.

Classes were scheduled from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with an hour for lunch at noon. The facility was open to us around the clock, and most of the students took advantage of that and put in anywhere from 10 to 12-hour days. But even with that access, I wished the days were longer.

The various lecture and demonstration topics included properties of wood, joinery, power woodworking machines and hand tools. Most of the hands-on class time centered on sharpening skills, mortise and tenons and dovetails.

One of the things that sets this CFC course apart from other courses I have attended is the focus on design. Throughout all the various lectures and exercises, there was an undercurrent of design.

Completion of a three-view technical drawing was required before a cut list was created, or lumber was milled. Other shorter

courses that I have taken I worked from a furnished plan.

We were free to choose any project, but our project had to include milling a piece of wood four-square and hand-cutting mortise-and-tenon and dovetail joints. The recommended project is a dovetailed bench,

with a through tenon stretcher. If we chose the bench, we were required to modify the dimension of the bench featured in the text or any sample benches used in the course. In the end, no two benches looked alike. After a discussion with assistant instructor, Joseph Flynn, I chose to do a dovetailed tool tote – essentially an upside-down bench with side walls.

There were ten other students in the course whose levels of experience varied from beginner or intermediate level of woodworking. The small class size allowed instructors to give everyone ample individual guidance.

CFC draws students from across the country. In our class there was a father and son from Texas, a retired professor from Florida, a shop teacher from South Carolina, a gent from Virginia, a “recovering corporate attorney” from Brooklyn, and three folks from Massachusetts. Ages ranged from 16 years old to 70-something.

Although a class at the CFD felt like an extraordinary self-indulgence, the experience was well worth the effort. CFC goes beyond teaching basic woodworking; they present a woodworking philosophy. A philosophy that makes a commitment to quality and an introduction to woodworking as a craft and an art form. [Watch for Chuck Thorne’s instruction on dovetails with hand tools in December’s newsletter.](#)



Cherylyn Aherns shows off her flattened board

Jordan Mapes’s Ambitious Project for Showcase

Jordan Mapes plans to carve two hundred birds and place them in a custom-made cage for the Showcase Gallery. Here are some of his birds. He has built the cage, but it is a secret until Showcase! Here is a good reason to attend Showcase in March 26 & 27, 2022. 10:00 am – 5:00 pm. Saratoga Springs City Center Saratoga Springs, NY. Purchase your tickets online beginning January 1, 2022. <https://woodworker.org/about-showcase/>



Birds left to right: Panococo (S), African Blackwood (S), Mimosa (M), Pau Ferro (M) Lignum Vitae (S), Argentine Lignum Vitae (S), Katalox (S), and Bloodwood (S)

Carver Jan McEney Builds a Slab Table

“The slab tables were originally suggested by Pam Bucci. Her friend, John Ryan came to do a demonstration on epoxy resin and my slabs were almost ready. Both tabletops are finished with poly for durability.”

“The legs on the second table are “diamond willow” - willow that is distressed naturally by a fungus the leaves distinctive markings. The diamonds will be carved out, but not filled with epoxy resin- just left in their sanded, but distressed states.”



First finished table is 25 1/2" high. The legs on the first table were from a long pole that I bought at an estate sale for \$1.00.



Second slab The top is roughly 25" X 23"



Legs of second project are Diamond Willow stripped of their bark



Jan carves out the fungus and sands the legs



These legs will be left in their natural state

NWA Trophies a Big Hit at Curtis Lumber Car Show

Submitted by Dave Mobley

After being cancelled last year, the Curtis Lumber Car and Truck Show came back strong this year on Sunday, September 12, at Curtis Lumber in Ballston Spa. The heavily attended event, which is a fundraiser for The WTEN Pet Connection, filled most of their large parking lot with car and truck entries.

As in past years, NWA provided trophies and awards for the show. Ken Evans designed and built the two large trophies with assistance from Charlie Goddard. The “gear shifter” awards were very much a group effort. Several Crafters SIG members made the shields from a variety of high-quality woods provided by Curtis Lumber and several Turning SIG members made a variety of attractive shifter knobs, so each award was unique.

The efforts of all these members are greatly appreciated. As Jennifer Stickney, of Curtis Lumber, put it: “Thank You NWA! Folks were just completely BLOWN-AWAY by the Car and Truck Show shifter awards and two trophies you all did for us. They are just loved by the car show guys and gals! The spectators also stand in awe, and I wish you all could just hear the compliments!”



Kendra Curtis presents the winner with the Spectator's Choice Trophy



The NWA-made trophies and awards on display at the 2021 Curtis Car and Truck Show

“MEMBER’S WOODWORKING TRICKS”

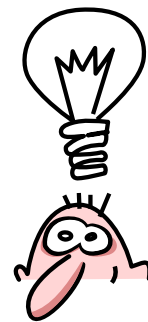
Submitted by Susan McDermott

This editor reaches out every month to solicit shop tricks from our readers. This month, no one donated an idea, so you will suffer one from me!

Handyman magazine ought to be renamed as we find many talented woodworkers who are women. But it did suggest using painter’s tape to line up the mitered sides of an intended box for glue-up. The four panels rest their outsides on waxed paper. Photo#1 A good start.



Photo #1



After brushing Titebond wood glue on the eight mitered edges, I fold the sides in to a box with the tape securing three corners (in theory).

Photo #2 But cheap painter's tape fails to adhere (here's your lesson)

As the tape peels away, this frustrated woodworker resorts to corner clamps as the glue dries.

Photo#3 corner clamps which save the glue up.

The fourth corner is joined by previously nailed strips of wood and string woven on the brads securing a tight final corner.

Photo#4 Fourth corner laced up like a corset!



Photo # 2



Photo # 3



Photo # 4

Send us your woodworking tips and tricks for a prize.

NWAnewsletter1@gmail.com Submission deadline is the 15th of each month (except June and July).

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
March 26 and 27, 2022 Showcase
in Saratoga Springs, NY.

November's General Meeting to be Announced

Please watch for E-blast for specifics

Showcase and Totally Turning 2022 is only SIX Months AWAY!!

By Wally Carpenter, Showcase Chair

The Showcase team is heavily engaged in making Showcase 2022 an event to remember. We will be looking forward to all of you supporting Showcase and Totally Turning Symposium, a gleaming success. Remember, your contribution can include displaying your wonderful woodworking skills, as well as your volunteer efforts. PLEASE, help us by making yourselves known. It's an amazing weekend and one not to be missed! See the Showcase link on the NWA website for details. <https://woodworker.org/about-showcase/>

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 - Presently The chapter meets on Zoom and at in-person meetings on the first Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM except the month of July. Meetings are at the Hudson River Maritime Museum located at 50 Rondout Landing, Kingston NY 12401. **Contact:** midhudsonwoodworkers.org Bill Sterling, President - 845-532-3754 wster1156@aol.com