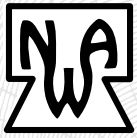


# WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern  
Woodworkers  
Association

February 2022, Vol. 31, Number 82

**NWA Members!**  
**Watch for an E blast about**  
**February's General Meeting program.**

## Daughter of Chuck Jones Donates Lumber to NWA

*By Lee Hilt, Chair of Tool and Lumber Sales*

Recently, long time NWA member Chuck Jones passed.

Lee described the lumber he loaded from the estate. "About half the stock is 5'-8' long pieces. The rest are many pieces 1'-4' long of various widths. I filled the back of my truck as well as my rear cab. Most is 4/4 with a couple dozen pieces 6/4 – 8/4. Much is highly figured Birdseye maple, beautiful stuff. A bunch more are figured cherry, oaks, and others, as well as two boxes of veneers. I moved all the short stuff (< 5') into the shop. The longer stock will go to the barn. "

Dave Mobley recalls Chuck's involvement with NWA, "Chuck was quite active. If I recall, at one point we asked him to be nominated for President, but he declined due to the travel distance from his home in Canajoharie."



*Chuck and Nancy Jones*



*Lumber donation*



*Lee's haul*



Charlie Goddard recalls Chuck Jones with fond memories.

Chuck was one the very early members of NWA. He joined in 1992, the year after NWA was organized. He lived on the hill on the south side of Canajoharie but had a separate shop that he rented down next to the railroad tracks in town. It was a well-equipped shop where he made excellent reproduction furniture. Some of his pieces were exhibited in Showcase.

I remember one time when Chuck, Herm Finkbeiner and I used his shop to make some legs for some workbenches that Herm was making. These benches are in the Railroad Avenue shop today. We were using black locust, Herm's favorite wood, and were having a hard time getting used to Gorilla glue. I suspect that none of us ever used Gorilla glue again.

Chuck was an annual participant in Showcase. However, the distance from Canajoharie to the Albany area made it difficult to participate in many other NWA activities.

Chuck was very friendly guy. Never a bad word for anyone. He was one of the nicest guys I ever met. Click on the link below for Chuck's obituary.

<https://brbsfuneral.com/tribute/details/230905/Charles-Jones-III/obituary.html#tribute-start>



*Queen Anne chair*



*Chuck's desk*



*Keeping box Cherry*



*Chuck at work*



*Inside keeping box*



*His dresser*

## Showcase Store

is accepting donated items  
and items on consignment.

For details and application forms,  
go to the NWA Showcase link.

<https://woodworker.org/about-showcase/>

Go to Pop Up Shop for the instructions and forms.

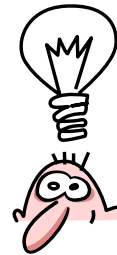
Questions?

Call Pam Curtis at 518-374-9562

## "MEMBER'S WOODWORKING TRICKS"

### Setting Stops on Miter saws and Chop Saws

*Submitted by Pete Chast*



I've been cutting dovetails by hand for a while. I started doing them better when Joe Kennedy told me to buy 6 feet of poplar and cut it in half. I was to do a joint a day. I cut it off as a sample and did another the next day. That was an eye opener for me.

A little later, while I was still struggling to get both sides to the line, I worked out a better idea... I can't attribute it to anyone. I can't remember seeing it before. I now use a mirror when I cut them. It allows me to see both sides of the cut. Its easier to keep things square and to the line.

It's a simple 2" enlarging makeup mirror.



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).



#### OFFICERS

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**Secretary** - Chris Stolicky

**Treasurer** - Paul Ruud  
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Irv Stephens  
Carl Stoner  
Chris Stolicky  
Paul Ruud  
Charlie Goddard  
Pete Chast  
Wally Carpenter  
Susan McDermott  
Steve Schoenberg



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Vacant



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# The Art of Flocking: An Easy-to-Apply Lining for Drawers and Boxes

by *Andy Moss*

I recently made a two-drawer bandsaw box at a NWA class led by John Slezak. To line the inside of the drawers John provided a very nice quality adhesive-backed velvet liner. The liner looks and feels great but does require careful measuring and cutting in order to line the sides and bottom without leaving any gaps. I was able to achieve a very nice fit and was pleased with how the drawers came out.

A while back, at a Mid-Hudson Woodworkers meeting, one of our members (and my friend), Al Shinker did a presentation on a technique called Flocking which can be used to line a small box, drawer, or other project. The process uses an adhesive and rayon fibers which are easily applied to most any surface.

Here is a bit of history from the flocking.com website:

*Flocking is the application of millions of tiny fibers onto an adhesive-coated surface to create a velvetlike texture. Flocking is commonly used on the inside of jewelry boxes, glove compartments, waterfowl decoys, along with many other decorative and functional applications.*

*Believed to have begun about 3000 years ago in China, the first actual evidence of flocking was in 12th century Nuremberg when fibers were crushed and adhered as wall decorations. In the 19th century, flocking became popular as wallpaper and was first produced industrially in 1870.*

*In the 20th century, as the application of flocking fibers was perfected, the material's soft finish became popular to use on fashionable women's clothing, carpet, and in the automotive industry. As flocking's different characteristics were recognized, it became commonly used in several products, including cosmetics, phonographs, photocopiers and fax machines, speakers, paint rollers, and more.*

*The sportswear industry eventually began using flock for company logos. This market experienced a resurgence in the 21st century with upholstery fabric, shoes, bags and even the Hanes® underwear label being flocked. Today, flock can be used to finish almost any surface to create an attractive, textured appearance and add practical characteristics to the product.*

My project begins with my very first home-made bandsaw box cut from a piece of spalted maple that I saved from last year's firewood pile. I regret not having looked for, and saved more of this beautiful wood. In making this box I learned a lot about the challenges of making a bandsaw box and hope my boxes will improve with time as I develop my skills.



*Here is the box I made*

## 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](http://www.woodworker.org)



Your next issue of  
**Woodworkers News**

will be published  
in early March

Copy deadline: February 15

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WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION**  
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Rexford, New York 12148



*Here are the two drawers*

There are many online sources for Flocking materials, but not all companies carry all colors. I purchased my materials from Peachtree Woodworking Supply (<https://www.ptreeusa.com>) which offers very competitive pricing and had the particular wine color I was looking for. Visit the Suede-Tex website (<https://www.flockit.com>) to see all available colors and buy direct if desired. The fibers are available in both nylon and rayon material. According to the company, rayon (available in 23 colors) is preferred for liners as it provides a softer finish: "Traditional rayon flocking fibers are used to create a soft-to-the-touch lining on a variety of surfaces and create a decorative finish. One 3 oz. bag of fibers will cover approximately 10-15 sq. ft. (based on reclaiming and reusing)."

Here are the components I purchased: a 3 oz. bag of rayon flocking fibers (also available in a 1 lb. bag), an 8 oz. can of Suede-Tex color-matched adhesive and the Mini Flocker which is a simple applicator made of two cardboard tubes that are sleeved together.

To begin I used tape to avoid getting adhesive on the top edges. The adhesive should be applied so that it thoroughly covers the wood. If there is not enough adhesive the fibers

may not be dense enough and the wood might show through. I then used the Mini Flocker to "puff" the fibers into the drawers. It is important to use plenty of fibers so there is good coverage. Any extra



*The drawers just after applying the Flocking fibers.*



fibers that do not adhere can be shaken out and reused.

The instructions that come with the fibers are very well written and will make the process easy to follow. You do need to enclose the item(s) to be flocked as the fibers spread as you apply them. I used a large plastic veggie container. A cardboard box with a plastic bag liner would also work. I let the drawers sit overnight and then was able to reclaim all the extra fibers from inside the drawers as well as in the bin. When I removed the tape there was some adhesive that managed to get underneath so next time I will pay more attention to how the tape is applied.



*A close-up view of the two drawers.*



*The finished box and drawers:*

## Showcase 2022 IS HAPPENING!

*By Wally Carpenter*

While it is abundantly clear the U.S. is currently experiencing another spike in COVID, I can tell you between the Showcase and Totally Turning committees as well as Saratoga Springs' Hilton Hotel and City Center leadership, we are planning for a safe and an enjoyable weekend event.

Myself and all the Showcase Chairs before me have made it very clear that this event is unaffordable without the enormous volunteer staff that works so hard in making for such a wonderful event.

We need you as volunteers to connect with Maria Witkins ([mamawitkins@aol.com](mailto:mamawitkins@aol.com)). There are many positions ranging from loading and unloading trucks to ticket sales and beyond. I am sure we can find the best job for each of you!

As we are getting closer to March 26-27, 2022, we are looking for you to complete those PICTURE FRAMES for the challenge event as well as filling the exhibit area with your past and present wood-based items for display or judging. See the NWA Website for the challenge rules below.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vNfUmWB9n-Y4pKGfAFWuLVkZSxoVbmUq/view>

Our NWA Store has become a big hit and a great source of providing supplementary funds to our Special Interest Groups allowing them to purchase items for their groups. So, let's start making items to donate to the SIG's. Please contact Pam Curtis ( [pam4arts@aol.com](mailto:pam4arts@aol.com)) for more details.

Again, by following the safety protocols such as masking, washing hands, and vaccinations we can enjoy our 28th Showcase event! We are looking forward to your support and attendance.

# NWA SHOWCASE VOLUNTEER OPEN POSITIONS

## SARATOGA SPRINGS CENTER

### SATURDAY AND SUNDAY MARCH 26 AND 27 2022

#### **Door Host ~ Exhibit Hall**

##### **Sunday March 27**

from 12:00 Noon to 2:30 pm - 2 positions  
2:30 pm to 5:00 pm - 2 positions

#### **Door Host-Vendor Area**

##### **Saturday March 26**

from 9:45 am to 12:00 Noon - 1 position  
12:00 Noon to 2:30 pm - 3 positions  
2:30 pm to 5:00 pm - 4 positions

##### **Sunday March 27**

from 9:45 am to 12:00 Noon - 4 positions  
12:00 Noon to 2:30 pm - 2 positions  
2:30 pm to 5:00 pm - 4 positions

#### **Door Host Hotel**

##### **Saturday March 26**

from 9:45 am to 12:00 Noon - 2 positions  
12:00 Noon to 2:30 pm - 2 positions  
2:30 pm to 5:00 pm - 2 positions

##### **Sunday March 27**

from 9:45 am to 12:00 Noon - 2 positions  
12:00 Noon to 2:30 pm - 2 positions  
2:30 pm to 5:00 pm - 2 positions

#### **Floor Monitor ~ Exhibit Hall**

##### **Saturday March 26**

from 9:45 am to 12:00 Noon - 1 position  
12:00 Noon to 2:30 pm - 1 position  
2:30 pm to 5:00 pm - 2 positions

##### **Sunday March 27**

from 9:45 am to 12:00 Noon - 1 position  
12:00 Noon to 2:30 pm - 3 positions  
2:30 pm to 5:00 pm - 2 positions

#### **Membership Booth**

##### **Saturday March 26**

from 9:45 am to 12:00 Noon - 3 positions  
12:00 Noon to 2:30 pm - 4 positions  
2:30 pm to 5:00 pm - 4 positions

##### **Sunday March 27**

from 9:45 am to 12:00 Noon - 3 positions  
12:00 Noon to 2:30 pm - 3 position  
2:30 pm to 5:00 pm - 4 positions

#### **Education/Question Booth**

##### **Saturday March 26**

from 10:00 am to 11:45 am - 1 position  
11:45 am to 1:30 pm - 1 position  
1:30 pm to 3:15 pm - 1 position  
3:15 pm to 5:00 pm - 2 positions

##### **Sunday March 27**

from 10:00 am to 11:45 am - 2 positions  
11:45 am to 1:30 pm - 2 positions  
1:30 pm to 3:15 pm - 1 position  
3:15 pm to 5:00 pm - 2 positions

#### **Raffle Tickets**

##### **Saturday March 26**

from 9:45 am to 12:00 Noon - 2 positions  
12:00 Noon to 2:30 pm - 2 positions  
2:30 pm to 5:00 pm - 4 positions

##### **Sunday March 27**

from 9:45 am to 12:00 Noon - 2 positions  
12:00 Noon to 2:30 pm - 4 positions  
2:30 pm to 5:00 pm - 4 positions

#### **Ticket Sales**

##### **Saturday March 26**

from 9:00 am to 11:00 am - 2 positions  
11:00 am to 1:00 pm - 3 positions  
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm - 3 positions  
3:00 pm to 4:30 pm - 3 positions

##### **Sunday March 27**

from 9:00 am to 11:00 am - 2 positions  
11:00 am to 1:00 pm - 3 positions  
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm - 3 positions  
3:00 pm to 4:30 pm - 3 positions

#### **Lecture Videographer**

##### **Saturday March 26**

from 10:30 am to 12:00 Noon - 1 position  
12:00 Noon to 1:30 pm - 2 positions  
2:00 pm to 3:30 pm - 3 positions  
3:30 pm to 5:00 pm - 2 positions

##### **Sunday March 27**

from 10:30 am to 12:00 Noon - 3 positions  
12:00 Noon to 1:30 pm - 1 position  
2:00 pm to 3:30 pm - 4 positions  
3:30 pm to 5:00 pm - 4 positions

#### **Truck Assistants**

**Thursday March 24** - 17 positions **Friday March 25** - 21 positions

**Sunday March 27** - 17 positions **Monday March 28** - 14 positions

#### **Set up, Staging and Take Down**

**Friday March 25** - 24 positions **Sunday March 26** - 19 positions

#### **NWA Store**

##### **Saturday March 26**

from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm - 1 position  
11:30 am to 1:15 pm - 1 position  
11:30 am to 1:45 pm - 1 position  
1:15 pm to 3:15 pm - 2 positions

##### **Sunday March 27**

from 9:30 am to 11:30 am - 2 positions  
11:30 am to 1:15 am - 2 positions  
11:30 am to 1:45 pm - 1 position  
1:15 pm to 3:15 pm 2 positions

#### **Pen Turning**

##### **Saturday March 26**

from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm - 4 positions  
12:30 to 3:00 pm - 5 positions  
3:00 pm to 5:00 pm - 5 positions

##### **Sunday March 27**

from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm - 5 positions  
12:30 pm to 3:00 pm - 5 positions  
3:00 pm to 5:00 pm - 5 positions

Please Contact Maria Witkins at  
mamawitkins@aol.com to sign up



## Carvers Busy for the Holidays

Don Reiss actually carves seven of the same single ornament each year. One is a prototype, one for each of his four kids, one for sister-in-law's family and one for his own tree. So those in the picture were done over the past ten years.



*Sue Persico's carved basswood ornaments*



*Sue Persico's Seven Dwarfs*



## Self-Service Lumber Sale Results

*By Juliana Shei*

Thanks to the members who participated in self-service lumber sale events. The latest event in December generated almost \$1000 of sales that will support NWA activities.

Several people asked us how we price the donated lumber. We calculate board-feet (BF) by measuring width, length, and thickness of each piece. Unlike lumber suppliers that sell lumber by NOMINAL dimensions, we calculate the dimensions based on ACTUAL measurements. For a board  $1\frac{1}{2}'' \times 3\frac{1}{2}'' \times 8'$ , NWA calculation is 3.5 BF that is 34 % less than nominal calculation of commercial lumber based on  $2'' \times 4'' \times 8' = 5.3$  BF. Unit price is determined by researching multiple sources (local lumber store and online stores) and set less than average. Using this method, members are saving at least 34 %. When we are approached by non-members, we charge additional 20 % non-member fee which is still a bargain for them.

Please let us know if you like the self-service format by dropping a note to locker #15 or sending an email to [nwatoolmarket@yahoo.com](mailto:nwatoolmarket@yahoo.com).

*Editor's note:* The self-serve lumber sale at the shop ended December 31, 2021. The remaining lumber will be returned to the Shaker barn where it can be purchased.



*Self-serve at the shop*



# Mid-Hudson Chapter News

By Rich Cerruto

Our Mid-Hudson Chapter got off to an auspicious start on January 21, 2021 by signing a partnership agreement with the Hudson River Maritime Museum (Kingston, NY). This partnership gives our Chapter use of the wood shop and meeting room at the Maritime Museum's Riverport Boat School. We hold Monday Night Shop sessions from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm and General Meetings on the first Thursday of the month from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm (live and via Zoom).

The Kaatskill Woodturners (a Mid-Hudson SIG) has had regular use of a shop in our area over the years, but our general membership did not. We are happy to say that now we have a shop for all our members. Our Chapter is free to use the shop for any purpose including classes, demonstrations, fund-raising project builds, discussion meetings, etc. In exchange for use of the shop, our Chapter pays an annual fee and builds items to sell in the Maritime Museum's store. We retain 80% of the revenue from the sales. The Boat School benefits by supporting woodworking locally and developing a talent pool from which to recruit instructors to teach at the school. We already have three Chapter members teaching at the school.

Upon signing the agreement, a Shop Committee (Chair: Rich Cerruto, member: Andy Moss) was formed and activities commenced on February 8th with a paddle carving class led by John Van Buren and Rich Cerruto. Shop sessions are run under a member-led project model and are tuition free. Each session is planned in advance and typically limited to eight participants. This scheme is not only easy on the wallet but takes the pressure off members who are willing to share knowledge but perhaps lack teaching experience. To participate in shop sessions, chapter members are required to join the Museum at a special rate of \$15/month in addition to being a Chapter member in good standing.



Front: Chapter President, Bill Sterling, HRMM President, Jack Weeks  
Rear: Chapter Vice President, Rich Cerruto, Past President, Jim Lee,  
Boat School Manager John Phelan

## Classes we have held include:

- Continuous Grain Spine Box (Rich Cerruto)
- Intro to Scroll Saw (Bob Boisvert)
- Cutting Dovetails on a Table Saw (Jerry Peterson)
- Cigar Box Guitar (Bill Sterling)
- Turning a Slim-line Pen (Bob Lawless)
- Shaker Berry Box (Allan Bishop)
- Shop Talk - Routers (Andy Moss)
- Sharpening Planes & Chisels (Bill Sterling)
- Introduction to Veneering (Al Shinker)

In addition to these classes, we also had member sessions where we made garden totes and cell phone holders (Chapter fundraising items) which will be sold at upcoming events.

The Chapter plans to resume its annual Woodworkers Show in the fall of 2022 which will be held at the Hudson River Maritime Museum.

Said Chapter President Bill Sterling, *"Having use of the boat school shop is a boon for the Chapter. While sometimes a challenge to recruit members to lead classes, we're making slow but steady progress. Since starting shop activities we've gained new and younger members. For 2022 we're looking to drive shop use higher through occasional daytime classes. This will deliver greater value to our members through fellowship and learning with like-minded woodworkers."*

On the following page are photos from a few of our classes.



## Pen Turning



*Pen Turning*

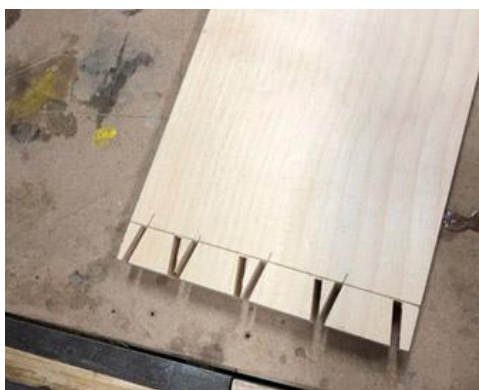


*Pen Assembly*

## Dovetails on the Table Saw



*Cutting sides of dovetails on the table saw*



*Cuts ready for waste removal*

## Carved Paddle



## Cell Phone Holders



*Assembly of figures to base. Each figure was cut out on the scroll saw*



*A menagerie of completed cell phone holders.*

## Garden Totes



*Gluing up ends to previously glued sides and bottoms*



*Garden totes in production.*



*Completed garden tote*



# Crafters Build Urns for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet

By Susan McDermott

In November 2021, Sister Mary Ellen Putnam approached Wayne Distin and Irv Stephens, asking if members of NWA could make pine boxes for the cremated remains of future deceased sisters of the Sisters of St Joseph of Carondelet, Latham, NY. See [www.csjalbany.org](http://www.csjalbany.org)

Sister Mary Ellen a woodworker, carver and scroller taught sisters in the CSJ Woodshop from 2000 – 2016 and displayed their wood carving skills at Showcase for several years as the Nuns With Knives. After closing the woodshop, Sister Mary Ellen put her DeWalt scroll saw in storage and recently began scrolling the designs that appear on these cremains boxes (used on the original boxes.).

While in the CSJ Woodshop, Sister Mary Ellen designed the box construction and built sixteen oak boxes from pews removed from the chapel to accommodate wheelchairs. Sadly, over the years, these boxes have all been used, so Sister Mary Ellen thought of NWA's Crafters. The boxes are biodegradable, and the cremation-cremains will be placed in hand made cloth bags also made by the sisters. The boxes are decorated with a cross on the top and an original designed community logo on the side. The box is opened from the bottom and secured with pins resting on four ball feet.

It is with deepest gratitude that Sister Mary Ellen thanks the members of NWA for their skills and dedication to donating time, skills and supplies in making these beautiful Cremains boxes.



Five of nine boxes. Wood donated by NWA



Peter Errol and  
Sister Mary Ellen Putnam



Floor removed



Bottom secured with pins



Finished box with Sister Mary Ellen's  
scroll saw designs

# Workbenches on YouTube Part III

By Joe Kennedy [Jkenn23333@aol.com](mailto:Jkenn23333@aol.com)

## Part III of Three Part Series for the NWA Newsletter

### Options

There are many options one can choose from when it comes time to make or buy a bench. One can buy a kitchen countertop ready made from Home Depot or Lowes. One can also buy a top from Highland Hardware or Grizzly. You can even purchase a “kit” consisting of pre-cut hardwood boards to build a top and the legs. The cost is high, about \$1,300. See [Bellforestproducts.com](http://Bellforestproducts.com).

Most people use wood to make their legs. You could also buy metal legs from companies like McMaster-Carr. Some people use extruded aluminum for the legs. See *JSK-koubou* and *80 20*. One could also make bench legs from laminated plywood. With judicious cutting and gluing it is possible to make mortise and tenon joints without actually cutting joint.

Prices for hardware vary depending on quality. See *Benchcrafted's* for an example of a very nice hardware kit for several different types of vises. You can also Google this subject for additional ideas. If you prefer, you can make your own vises. There is a good article in *FWW* 268 about this.

You can purchase nice wooden threads from Lake Erie. You can save money by using a jig to make wooden threads in your shop. (Just be sure to use absolutely straight dowels. In my experience the best approach here is to order dowels from a mail order supplier.) The Beall jig uses a router. I have a great deal of experience with this. Sometimes, it works great, other times not. (The fault could easily be mine.) Highland Hardware sells a hand operated jig, which looks nice in the videos. See *Darbin Orvar*. Probably the nicest jig for cutting threads by hand is the Holzgewinde (German) wood threader. Its only drawback is that it is very expensive. If one makes a lot of wooden threads, it might be worth the cost, but it is not for everyone. One can make one's own threading jig. See *John Heisz*, *I Build It*, *Jimmy O Show*.

If you use metal threads, there are a variety of options. You could use standard threaded rod,

which is available at any hardware store. This is cost effective, but it takes longer to tighten and release a vise. See *GreenSaw* and *Crafting Garage*. The standard type is the classic Acme threaded rod, which is used in all store-bought vises. There is also something called “Allthread Rods,” which is a bit cheaper. Both types can also be acquired from McMaster Carr and others. here are several different threaded rod kits for a Moxon Vise. You can Google this topic for a list of many other options.

Some woodworkers avoid the need for threaded rods by the ingenious use of cam locks. See *John McGrath* and *Marius Hornberger*. You could also use a wedge lock type of tail vise. See *David Reife*. Another option is to use Lee Valley's wonder dogs to clamp work on the top of a bench. A similar approach would be to use a holdfast and batten. See *The English Woodworker*.

One great option for a less experienced woodworker would be to attend a class. Our Fiske Fund could help defray the cost. Another option would be to ask for help from one's woodworking friends. This could be a fun project for everyone involved. Just remember that too many cooks can spoil the broth.

### Panel Glue-Up

If you make your own top, you will have to do a very precise panel glue up. There are many ways to do this. The traditional clamps and cauls approach is time tested and still works well. I just noticed that Bessey has an attachment for their clamps that allow you to place vertical pressure on the clamp bar, thus eliminating the need for cauls. There are also jigs to help keep the boards aligned. Rockler sells the classic jig. I have used this from time to time and like it. However, I must say that I had my best success when the boards I was gluing were about 1” thick. I had less success with thinner or thicker boards and have no idea why. I also found this jig to be cumbersome to set up. There are other jigs for sale which are more expensive. Google “Clampzilla” for a nice clamp from Woodpeckers. Also, check out “Dunstom” clamps. Another option is to use the nice glue up hardware from Lee Valley. There are other jigs



on the market that you could find by Googling “panel glue up jigs.” To save money one could also make one’s own jigs. See *Renaissance WW* and *RB Wood Creations*. There is nothing wrong with saving money.

### Attaching the Top

There are many ways to attach the top to the legs. The classic approach is to use two 1” dowels sticking up from the top of the legs into the top. The weight of the top makes for a stable bench. Tage Frid and Frank Klausz used this method. One could also use bolts to attach the top. One could also do blind pegging of multiple dowels. See *Wood and Shop*. I suppose the ultimate way to make a solid joint of the legs and the top is to follow the classic Roubo design, with its double tenon at the top of four legs. Whether one really needs all this is open to question in my mind.

### Vises

Most of us will purchase a vise or at least the vise hardware. There are many options available. Woodcrafter makes nice hardware for several types of vises. Most of us have seen the Lee Valley double screw vise, which is very useful. There is an Australian company called HNT Gordon which makes beautiful hardware for vises. They also make hand planes. See *Kuffy’s Woodworking* and *Dunstone Design* for excellent descriptions of this hardware.

The leg vise for the Roubo workbench merits special treatment. It is not an easy vise to make but it is very functional. There are many videos on this vise. See the references noted above for the Roubo bench. There is a video by *Wood By Wright* that shows two leg vises: on the left is a leg vise with a wooden screw and on the right is a leg vise with a Horvath X vise. This vise is unique in how easily one can move it in and out.

### Make or Buy?

The first consideration as to whether you make your own bench or buy one depends on your skill level. It is no shame to admit one does not yet have the skills to make a good bench. I personally used rookie enthusiasm to get me through my first bench project. I recognize, however, that I would have been better off if I had built a simple bench first and waited to develop more skills for a complex

bench. Everyone agrees that it is easier to build a workbench if you already have a workbench. Also, your experience with your first bench will guide your thinking on what you would like to have in your next bench. Even something as basic as the height of the bench or the length of the bench are important considerations. In many cases a shorter bench with some auxiliary support is a better option than a long bench that you may get tired of walking around.

Another important consideration is your own budget. When one is starting out in woodworking, there are so many tools one needs and wants to acquire. One might be better off to make do with a simple homemade bench and use the budget for nice tools.

An intermediate approach would be to attend a class to make a workbench. A few years ago, Ron Roberts made a beautiful workbench at a class that looks just as nice as the Lie-Nielsen. There is something to be said for having a beautiful, yet functional, workbench. It inspires confidence in prospective customers as well as guests. Further, it gives its owner inspiration to continue to make beautiful things.

There are many other factors related to workbenches that I have not covered, such as the ability to adjust the height. Sjoberg makes a hinged addition to the bottom of its legs. You could also make your own. Another factor is the ability to move your bench or not. Personally, I always liked to keep it in one place. Others may wish to move it around. It may depend on the size and layout of your shop. There are many different types of casters one could purchase. I have a strong feeling that it would be better not to economize when choosing which casters, you want to put on your bench. It would be awful if you have a tough time moving your bench because of poor casters.

### Conclusion

I hope this article has been helpful. Any specific questions you may have will probably be answered when you look at a particular video. One video is worth more than a thousand words. It might be beneficial for two or more members to get together from time to time to jointly review some of these videos.

# Gloversville NY Woodworking Tools

I am selling woodworking tools throughout the year 2022 as I reduce the size of a 30-year-old shop. I'm pleased to offer the tools EXCLUSIVELY to NWA members.

To begin shopping, email Paul at [kalac@twc.com](mailto:kalac@twc.com) with your interest. I'll respond to your email with the details you'll need to view each woodworking tool in a short video. The videos will give every detail needed in advance of purchasing a tool. The format includes a means to communicate with me. The website format will be real-time as tools are sold and more tools are listed. Check it out! All tools are located in Gloversville NY. All purchases will be Local Pick Only. All prices are firm. All sales will be cash. -- Paul Kalac, Gloversville NY

## NWA raises over \$2000 at Shaker Crafts Holiday Fair

By Brea Barthel

Thanks to the generous donations of so many members, our booth at the Shaker Heritage Society's holiday fair sold over 230 items, raising over \$2,000 for NWA. Hand-crafted items ranging from small keychains to large bowls were purchased as gifts or personal indulgences. Booth coordinators Brea Barthel and Linda Reiss give special thanks to Pam Curtis for initiating an NWA booth last year, and supplying the shelving units for this year, and to Steve Vanderzee and the rest of the Crafters, Carvers, Turners, and Scrollers for dozens of wonderful pieces. Watch for photos and a longer article in our next newsletter. For now, THANKS!

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.adirondackwoodturners.com) **Contact:** Kevin Ramsey Cell 518-769-9665 or [kmrammer@yahoo.com](mailto:kmrammer@yahoo.com)

**Kaatskill Woodturners** - KWA SIG no longer meets the second Saturday of the month. KWA plans a January meeting to establish a schedule for 2022 and to hold elections for officers. Contact: Wally Cook at [wally.cook@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:wdistin@nycap.rr.com) 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](mailto: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](mailto:dparkis@nycap.rr.com)

**Scrollers SIG** - Meets every Monday and Wednesday 6 to 8:30 PM. **Contact:** Steve VanDerZee [stevevdz@msn.com](mailto:stevevdz@msn.com)

#### **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](http://midhudsonwoodworkers.org) Bill Sterling, President - 845-532-3754 [wster1156@aol.com](mailto:wster1156@aol.com)