

# WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern  
Woodworkers  
Association

October 2022, Vol. 31, Number 86

## Mid-Hudson Chapter News

By Bob Boisvert

Mid-Hudson Woodworkers will hold our 14th Annual Woodworkers show on October 1, 2022 in conjunction with the Hudson River Maritime Museum (HRMM) located in Kingston, NY on the Rondout Creek. The show will be open from 10 am to 5 pm. No entry fee will be required.

This year's show titled "Celebration of Woodworking" will be held at the Barn on the Museum grounds. Demonstrations will be held outside at various locations. Inside the Barn will be craft displays and a sales table.

To enter your fine woodworking item in our gallery, please use this link:

<http://midhudsonwoodworkers.org/mh-woodworkers-show.html>

Please volunteer a bit of your time to make this event a success. Please contact Bob Boisvert @ [raboisvert47@gmail.com](mailto:raboisvert47@gmail.com).

The Museum will hold the Kingston Boat Building Challenge where teams compete to build a boat in the shortest time. The boats will then be tested on the Rondout.

Demonstrations will include the following:

- Logs to Lumber – watch logs being transformed into boards.
- Pen turning on a Lathe
- Scroll sawing various decorative designs
- Kumiko – Japanese artform
- Children's Toy raffle – drawing every half hour.

## Come Join Our Carpool



We will be driving together to the Mid-Hudson Celebration of Woodworking on Saturday, October 1. Join us at our Learning Center at 97 Railroad Avenue, off of Fuller Road, Albany. Cars will be leaving at convenient times. Save gas. Share the fun. See some fine woodworking. Please contact Steve Schoenberg at [nwashop97@gmail.com](mailto:nwashop97@gmail.com).

**CELEBRATION OF WOODWORKING**  
**HUDSON RIVER MARITIME MUSEUM**  
In Conjunction with the Mid-Hudson Woodworkers  
& featuring the Kingston Boat Builders Challenge!

**Saturday**  
**October 1, 2022**  
**10AM-5PM**  
**FREE ADMISSION**

For More Information:  
visit: [www.hrmm.org](http://www.hrmm.org)  
call: (845) 338-0071  
50 Rondout Landing, Kingston, NY, 12101  
or email: [Wooden Boat School Manager,  
Derek Seifinger at hudsonrivermaritimemuseum.org](mailto:Wooden Boat School Manager, Derek Seifinger at hudsonrivermaritimemuseum.org)

# President's Message: Good New\$

Hi Folks - By the time you read this column summer may be officially over although, personally, I feel like I'm still trying to catch up with summer... Part of my catching up includes finally updating you on the Board's August 23rd meeting that, albeit brief, was filled with good news.

The Treasurer, Paul Ruud, reported that NWA was finishing Fiscal Year 2021-22 in the black. As you may recall, Showcase income exceeded expenses; income from the Auction Committee's work also was positive and Membership continued to show steady growth. Consequently, the Board directed the Treasurer to add \$9,600 to NWA's Reserve fund.

For FY 2022-23, the Board adopted a budget incorporating about a 6% increase over last year. This new budget allows for modest inflation includes new costs associated with our expanded use of media services and software licensing. Less income is anticipated from tool and lumber sales, somewhat slower membership growth and, notably, reduced income from NWA Education classes. The latter is important because it is an intentional decision to keep NWA's education efforts affordable to all our members. In short, Education's activities should be viewed as being a 'center for learning' and not as a 'center for profit.'

In other business, an Audit Committee consisting of Steve Schoenberg, Alan Hayes and Lee Hilt will conduct an internal review of NWA's fiscal records-keeping and related activities and report its findings back to the Board at an upcoming meeting. The Board also accepted the LCOC's recommendation to renew the Learning Center's lease for an additional 3 years starting in early 2023.

- Irv Stephens, NWA President

## Adirondack Chair made from NWA Auction Lumber

*By Bruce Wolford*

When I retired, I planned to do more wood working. So, I thought about what to build? One day I was looking through the Rockler catalog and spotted plans and instructions to build an Adirondack Chair. I thought I could build two of these for my wife and I, as well as each one of the kids. That would be a total of 10 chairs. And, these would be great Heirloom for the children. So I bought the plans, instructions and templates for the chair. I also decided to use Cedar wood to make the chairs.

In the meantime, I joined the Northeastern Woodworkers Association ("NWA"). I next had to find the Cedar lumber, which was a bigger task than I had expected. After several inquiries with many lumber yards and wood suppliers, all with no luck in finding what I needed, I learned that the NWA sells wood. So, I contacted Lee Hilt and asked him if they had any Cedar to sell. Lee was very helpful with this. He checked the inventory and found several 2 x 8 Cedar boards. I bought all that NWA had.

I next planed the lumber to the thickness I needed, traced the templates on the planed lumber, cut the parts out with my band saw and table saw, sanded them on the table sander, and drilled the pilot holes, countersinking the holes for the screws. The screws had to be stainless steel so they won't tarnish and turn black over time. Now came the time to trial fit everything together to see if any adjustments were necessary. Everything fit together well and so it was on to finishing with a clear marine grade UV sealer. I finished the one chair pictured here and another is on its way.



# Town of Sand Lake Library Bookcase

By *Wayne Distin*

## OFFICERS

**President** - Irv Stephens  
nwapresident1@gmail.com

**Vice President** - Carl Stoner

**Secretary** - Susan McDermott

**Treasurer** - Paul Ruud  
nwatreasurer2@gmail.com

**Executive Secretary** - Charlie Goddard  
Cgodd@aol.com



## NWA BOARD MEMBERS

Pete Chast  
Charlie Goddard  
Dale Lombardo  
Susan McDermott  
Paul Ruud  
Steve Schoenberg  
Irv Stephens  
Carl Stoner



## Mid-Hudson Chapter

Bill Sterling, President  
wster1156@aol.com

## Sacandaga Chapter

Vacant



## CHAIR/CONTACT PERSONS

### Auction and Hospitality

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### Education

*Chairperson* - Carl Stoner  
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*Registrar* - Jon Bennett

*Members* - Jim Lefebvre, Rich Glover

### Fiske Fund

*Chairperson* - Woody Bowler  
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*Treasurer* - Juliana Shei  
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*Members* - Jon Bennett, Dick Flanders,  
Bill Sterling

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### Showcase Chair

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The Town of Sand Lake Librarian Melinda Fowler had asked volunteer Pat Wager if her husband could make a new bookcase for the Young Adults books area. Crafters member Ron Wager suggested that the Crafters SIG could take on the project.



*Librarian Melinda Fowler, Wayne Distin and Ron Wager at the library*

Ron and Wayne Distin, Crafters leader, met with the Librarian to determine the size and layout.

Ron and Crafters member Bill Winters designed the bookcase, located wood from Shaker barn and began construction. When finished, the bookcase was delivered and installed at the Town of Sand Lake Library in June.



*Ron Wager and Bill Winters in the shop*



*Books installed*

## 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)



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# THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

The NWA library collection has expanded thanks to generous donations from the personal collections of the following members: Gus Mueller, Tom Hutchinson, Walt Fleming, Kenneth Miller, Al Caruso, the collection of the late Bart Chabot, Ken Evans (a major contribution to the Turning collection), Jacquie Donohoe (our NEW Pyrography collection) and Gary Spencer. There are others who have graciously dropped off books and magazines to be included in the library. If your donation was not clearly identified, please know that every item left for the library is examined, considered and greatly appreciated. Where possible, each giver's name is recognized on the book pocket of the donated item as well as in the online catalog.

Not only has the library seen many new additions, we have added a new helper too! Many thanks to NWA member Sister Mary Ellen Putnam who was a great help with getting ready for the successful book and magazine sale at Showcase this year!

### A GENTLE REMINDER...

More people are browsing the library shelves. Great! It's there for the use of ALL members! Please do check out the books by signing the card in the book pocket with your name and the date (include the year, PLEASE) you checked it out. Just drop that card in the front section of the little file box. No need to file it under a letter! It is suggested you bring borrowed items back within the month. No fines, no penalties, your librarian will not chase you down with her carving knife... However, the following appeal is necessary at this time. The NWA library operates on the honor system with a regard for fair sharing with all members. A recent look at the book check-out box shows over 130 books are currently checked out – some since 2017 and even earlier. Please take a look around your house and workshop for any books that should be returned. Books that are “lost” are still listed in the online catalog and your NWA dues pay for bringing you this access according to the number of items listed. Please help us make sure this number is viable.

### DID YOU KNOW...

About the economy... Yes, THAT! If you're looking for a place to save some bucks, and maybe a tree or two, here's a tip. Check your public library system's webpage for their online MAGAZINE LENDING resources via the app LIBBY: A quick look at public library webpages in Saratoga, Albany and Rensselaer counties shows that borrowers have this access. The good news is that FREE OF CHARGE you have online access, with your library card, to the following woodworking magazines:

[Woodworker's Journal](#) - June 2018 to present

[Popular Woodworking](#) - June 2018 to present

[Woodcraft Magazine](#) - April/May 2018 to present

[Woodsmith](#) - June/July 2018 to present

In most cases, magazines borrowed online are automatically returned from your device. You can, however, make copies of any number of pages you want to keep from each issue. No out-of-pocket subscriptions if you choose to take advantage of this great deal from your public library!

As always, please get in touch with me if you have any questions or comments about your NWA library.

## Carvers, Comfort Birds and Woodworkers Roundup

*By Diane Balch*

Kudos to Jacquie Donahue of the Carving SIG for spearheading a comfort bird project for birds going to Uvalde, Texas. Between NWA and two other carving groups that she contacted, Jacquie mailed about 400 birds to Texas for the survivors, families and friends of the victims of the school shooting.

In mid-July Jacquie, Diane Balch, Linda Reiss, Susan Hill and Pam Bucci attended the 4-day 20th Annual Woodcarvers Roundup at the Cherry Ridge Campground in Honesdale, PA. There were 178 people attending. It was a very informal setting with 20 instructors for about 24 classes.

Jacquie spent most of her time teaching people how to make comfort birds, and she gave out a lot of bird blanks. The bird carvers were as young as eight years old. By the end of the 4th day, there were 90 comfort birds, 3 comfort crosses and 4 comfort hearts. Jacquie mailed them all to Uvalde, Texas on the day after the get together and brought the total sent to Uvalde to about 500 items.

The Woodcarvers Roundup had various types of classes on carving, pyrography, gourd birdhouse making, leather burning, soap carving and intarsia. The instructors all donated their time, and we only had to pay for supplies. There were 47 items donated for the raffles. One of the items was a friendship walking stick consisting of 25 two-inch blocks that various people had carved and slipped onto a wood rod and capped off at the top and bottom.

We all stayed at the campground in an RV lodge room or tent camping. We all want to go back again next year.



*Jacquie Donahue with the comfort birds*



*Linda Reiss chip carving*



*Diana Balch carved a polar bear*



*Sue Hill*

# A Look at the Sorby Pro-Edge Sharpening Station

By Wally Cook

The Sorby Pro Edge sharpening station is a product that was launched about ten years ago, but has been less in the spotlight than traditional grinding systems such as the Onaway Wolverine or the horizontal grinding Tormek with its water bath. I recently acquired a Pro Edge and have been pleasantly surprised by its efficiency and consistency.

The Pro Edge is a belt sanding machine with specialized belts and pre-set positions representing standard grinding angles. The system can be used for flat chisels and knife blades, as well as woodturning tools.

The pre-set angles are easy to lock in, thanks to the integrated angle template with position holes that accept a threaded bolt. The pre-sets include the following grinding angles: 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 45, 60, 80



*Sorby Pro Edge Sharpening Station is compact and features a groove in the platform to hold various jigs.*



*It's easy to set angles, using the selector on the side of the machine.*



*An angle guide on the front of the station lists the built-in settings.*

and 90 degrees which adjust the attitude of the grinding platform.

Clearly, the pre-set angles were meant to replicate standard grinds on Sorby tools, but the platform can be set to any angle bypassing the template settings. The standard grinding platform has a channel which accepts a v-block holder or a skew jig. The platform can also be used without the jigs for sharpening scrapers. A smaller platform is available for sharpening short-shank tools and cutters, such as those used in pen-turning.

When sharpening spindle and bowl gouges, especially to fingernail or swept-back wings, the platform can be removed and replaced by a "boss" and tool holder which mimics the Wolverine Vari-Grind attachment. The nice part about the Sorby boss, is that it slides onto a fixed mandrel – no possible slipping off the pocket of the Vari-Grind or going off the edge of the grinding wheel. There are two bosses, a one-hole or a three-hole jig. The one-hole boss results in a standard fingernail grind, while the three-hole boss, lets you choose progressively more aggressive grinds. Angles can be also customized by changing the setting on the leg of the holder in the boss – and more commonly – by changing the overhang/

extension of the shank in the tool holder. Similar to the Wolverine system, overhang of the shank is critical to consistent sharpening. The Sorby has a jig which allows three different lengths to be set in the tool holder.

The sanding belts come in different materials and grits. A re-grind to rehabilitate a tool can be accomplished with the coarse green aluminum oxide belt, ceramic or diamond belt. Finer grits are offered for finishing treatments, as well as 3M Trizact belts. The quick-change lever on the sanding machine enables simple belt replacement: simply loosen two bolts on the safety guard, retract the lever and slide on the new belt... super simple. Perhaps the only negative is that the belts are specifically sized for the Sorby. The belt tracking can also be adjusted in a straight-forward manner if needed – feedback from other users, as well as myself, is that it runs true right out of the box. A small drawback is that the sharpening process seems to magnetize the metal filings, such that they accumulate under the housing and should be vacuumed out on a regular basis.

Overall, my experience has been very positive for sharpening scrapers, roughing gouges, and those tools requiring a parabolic profile, like bowl and spindle gouges. I have had a bit of trouble with sharpening skews and prefer the Vari-Grind skew attachment to the Pro Edge. Two small skews turned out just fine, but two larger skews were not usable for me. I needed to regrind the two larger tools on the Wolverine system. Although there has been some chatter in forums about the skew issue, I believe it's more a matter of skill and practice. The Pro Edge sanding arm is lowered for sharpening skews (so that it does not interfere with the attached motor), and requires holding down the skew on the platform, while keeping the length of the tool constant on the sanding belt. In contrast, the Vari-Grind lets gravity be your friend and is quicker to master. However, I did find that putting a radius on a skew (if you desire to do that) is easier for me using the Sorby.

The Pro Edge has additional accessories, such as a standard grinding and buffing wheel, as well as the knife sharpening jig. I've not tried sharpening of knives or cutter heads yet. The price of the Sorby seems comparable to the Tormak and its attachments – both seem to be a serious investment. Perhaps others reading this can share their experience with their sharpening systems.



*Like the vari-grind, overhang is important for repeatable sharpening. Sorby includes a set-up template for different angles. V-block and skew jigs are included in the package.*



*A "boss" can be used to fit a sharpening arm for parabolic profiles. The holes in the boss allow greater degrees of sweep back on the wings of the gouge.*



*Other optional accessories include a jig for sharpening knives and a narrow platform for sharpening smaller tools.*

# NWA Library News

*By Susan Hill*

Greetings from your library to all NEW and seasoned NWA members! It may look dusty (hey, we're in a woodshop!), but we haven't been dormant! Over the past months, the NWA library collection has grown to more than 1100 titles covering a wide range of woodworking topics. Take a look at our attractive online catalog here: <https://www.librarycat.org/lib/Woodworkers>. It's easy to use and you are encouraged to see what is there to CHECK OUT and BORROW when you come into the shop.

The horizontal scrolling "river" shows you the latest additions to the collection. Click on any cover for details.



# AWA Meeting

*By Jack Betterley*

The AWA broke our post-COVID record for a monthly meeting with 23 members in attendance. Don Orr gave a well-received demonstration of multi-axis turning.



# Thank You NWA Newsletter Editor Sue McDermott

Many of us have known the detailed work and time required in writing and submitting an article for the NWA Newsletter. The details that are needed such as names, times, dates, places, etc., as well as the formatting and seemingly endless rewrites and proof readings can easily overwhelm a writer. Add to this the inclusion of an occasional picture and the formatting takes on a whole new burden. Now, do this for 8-15 articles in ten months of each year since September 2015 and you'll come to appreciate the value of Editor Sue McDermott.

I've had the pleasure of working with Sue on several of my own newsletter submissions and can tell you she makes the process amazingly easy.

In addition to newsletter editor, Sue covers many NWA activities such as monthly Board Meetings, General membership meetings including presenters, and Showcase planning meetings. Sue has also been a constant with the Online Lumber & Tool Sale committee's shop cleanouts and sales from the Shaker Barn, since the pandemic forced NWA to an online sales format beginning in August 2020.

It's easy to take our newsletter landing in our email inbox each month as "just one of those things that just happens – all by itself." But it doesn't happen by itself and in fact, takes an enormous amount of work to produce this publication each month. Sue McDermott is passing on the editor's pen but will continue in other capacities, in keeping NWA the successful organization it is.

Thank you Sue.

## 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 and Bowl Turning 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:** Maxwell Ferris at maxwellferris@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** - 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

**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 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:** Steve VanDerZee 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 Bill Sterling, President - 845-532-3754 wster1156@aol.com