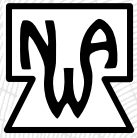


WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern
Woodworkers
Association

January 2023, Vol. 32, Number 1

Showcase Gallery Needs Your Woodwork

By: Irv Stephens

The Gallery at NWA's annual Showcase in Saratoga is central to the event. The Gallery provides a venue for members to share their individual work with other members and provides the public with a clear view of the scope of the craft and accomplishments of NWA members.

If you haven't already started working on project to display, there is still plenty of time to begin a piece. To help the Exhibit Chair plan for your piece(s), please use the links below for more details and to register your work. Pictured here and on page 2 are submissions from Showcase 2022.

Information about the 2023 Showcase
is available at:

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

Use these forms to register your work(s)
Online Registration Form

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdPcT7IQB_Bn19kmtBEAKBskDKRY12TDdjehInD1bzLxQCKRg/viewform

or

Printable Registration Form

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yQPzeZMg7fgh27o8fCVScnBujXV4N8W1/view>

And finally, don't forget about the "All Woodworker Challenge." This year's category is

- Something small that can be beautiful and useful as a gift...
- Something that can be made with nearly any type of woodcraft and material...
- Something that leaves time for your other projects (and your family)...
- Something that your furniture will thank you for...

What is it? **COASTERS**

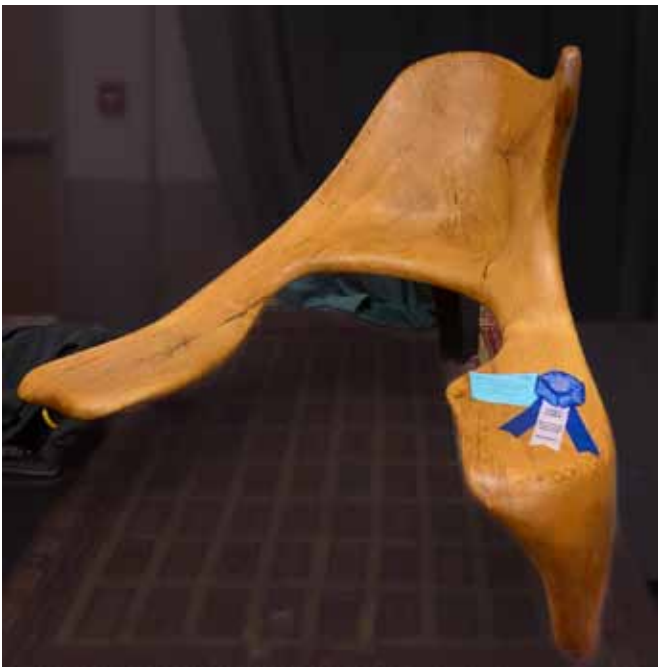
For more information about the "Coaster Challenge," follow the link above to Exhibit Categories and the 2023 Woodworkers' Challenge.



Best in Show 2022 - Drop leaf table by Jim Cox



*Table by Professional Craftsman, Mark Hotaling
Showcase 2022*



Unique Chair created by David Branch Showcase 2022



Doll Cradle for Steve Schoenberg's granddaughter. She loves butterflies. Showcase 2022



Wine box scroll sawed by Barbara Raymond-LaPrease Showcase 2022



Pet urn created by Mark Hotaling Showcase 2022



A bowl with composite materials by Samuel Amodeo Showcase 2022

NWA Volunteer Needed

Membership Assistant

Duties: Assisting Chair with membership renewals.

Requirements: Familiarity with Excel spreadsheets desirable, but not essential. Communication & listening skills important along with a persevering spirit...

Time commitment: 2 - 3 hours/month

Contact: Irv Stephens (NEwoodwork@yahoo.com) or Alan Hayes (NWAMembers1@gmail.com)

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Vice President - Carl Stoner

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Treasurer - Paul Ruud
nwatreasurer2@gmail.com

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Paul Ruud's Complement Jig

By: Paul Ruud and Susan McDermott

On November 1, 2022, NWA member and Treasurer, Paul Ruud gave a group of twenty members a demonstration of his own invention, a new table saw jig for finger or box joints. Paul began the session with a PowerPoint review of the cumulative errors that occur with the widely used index-pin set up. That approach is restricted to equally spaced fingers. His jig, on the other hand, has no such errors and permits arbitrarily spaced fingers.

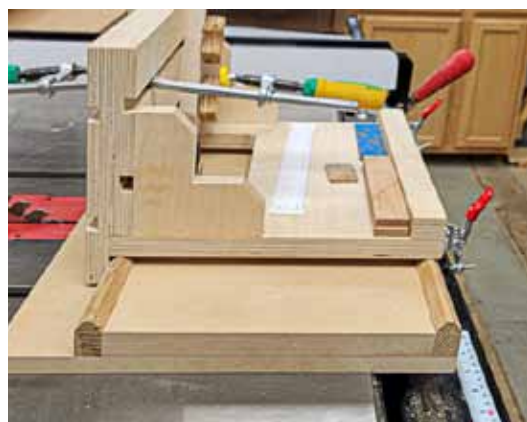
The jig uses one box side as a template to determine where to cut on another box side. Paul uses a sled with a miter groove stop to prevent the saw from cutting beyond the that box side. This jig makes either complementary or duplicate pins for box sides using index pins that fit in the saw blade's kerf in the sled. He advises you to make cuts with a slow, gentle entry into the wood to minimize blade vibration and enhance accuracy. The photos and captions below tell the story:



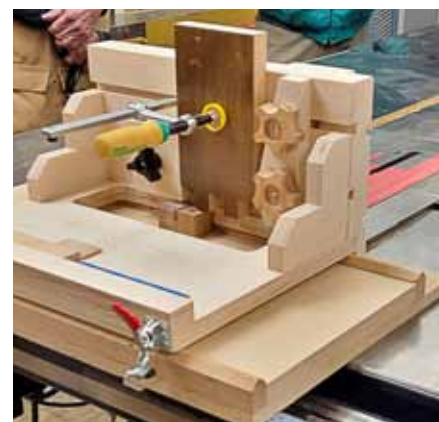
Paul mounts jig to sled



Paul points to two blocks which guide the placement of the jig on the sled



Side view of jig and sled



The back side of the jig holds the complementary box's side

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

Copy deadline: January 10

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**NORTHEASTERN
WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION**

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Paul makes the first cut



He cuts the spaces between fingers with multiple, precise passes



Complementary fingers on the jig's back side guide the cuts



Paul's custom-made wheels add to jig's beauty



Stop used on table saw's miter groove



Here are samples of the variations of box joints the jig can make

Where's Waldo - I Mean Metal?

By: Lee Hilt

I've been sawing logs since I purchased my sawmill in 2003. To say I've hit my share of metal - and other things, would be an understatement. If it was in there, I hit it. Nails, bolts, clothesline pulley wheels, barbed wire, bullets, and the worst of them all - telephone line insulators. Those things will take every tooth off a blade and you'll barely put a dent in them. But over the years and through the death of many, many blades, I've learned to pick up on the occasional but subtle signs that trouble was within.

Over the summer I sawed a bunch of red oak for a friend and learned a few things about bluing in red oak. I also learned why my "friend" brought his logs to me and not a mill.

NOTE: I am not an expert on this topic but simply a weekend warrior – sawer, who maybe learned a few things about bluing in red oak logs. Take it for what it's worth.

It seems red oak is one of those species that'll give hints that something not friendly to sawblades is within. Bluining turns out to be the thing to look for. More on that later. But the "why" was my initial question.

A quick internet search of "bluing in red oak logs", in part, yield one source in particular:

https://www.woodweb.com/knowledge_base/Blue_Stain_in_Red_Oak.html

"Blue stain in the logs means metal you get to cut while sawing the logs." "The blue from the nails or fencing in the logs will not plane away."

Bluing that develops on sawed lumber "is a result of the tannic-acid-rich log moisture mixing with the iron of the saw blade. The blue resulting from sawing should plane away in one pass."

So, now that I knew what caused bluing in logs, how do I use this to determine where in the log the bluing was coming from? Sometimes you'll get lucky and find objects protruding from a log. That's an easy one. But in the cases where bluing only appears on the end(s) of a log, how can I use this to maybe saw around the obstruction and save the log from the firewood pile?

Of the three pictures I took of one log - Log B, you can see B-1 shows not only bluing on



B-1 You can see the orange wire protruding from the log but also the distinct bluing on the end of the log



B-2 The bluing on the end of the log is one foot from the metal

the end, but an orange painted metal wire sticking out of the log about a foot from the end.

Picture B-2 shows the log sawed in two and the well-defined bluing inside the log at the cut. This cut was made about 1-foot from the metal.

Picture B-3 shows the top



B-3 Eight feet from the metal and no bluing is seen

end of the log – about 8-feet from the metal, and has no bluing on the end.

At one time I thought maybe the bluing extended in one direction from the metal, maybe in the direction of growth? But log B would negate that idea and suggest the bluing travels in both directions originating from the metal.

Log C had a telephone line insulator imbedded inside, which I tried to saw around. I knew something was in there but couldn't see it from the outside and only had a little bluing on the outside diameter of one end of the log.

C-1 shows the 4" cut I made into the log before I hit the insulator.

C-2 shows the insulator in the log, and the pieces that were covering it in C-1.

I had started at the top of this log after cubing up the sides and was starting to cut my last piece of 4/4 when I hit this. Like I said at the beginning, if it was in there, I hit it.

Hope something here helps someone in a future milling job. Happy sawing.



C-1 Four inch cut before finding the insulator



C-2 shows the insulator in the log and the pieces that were covering it in photo C-1

President's Column: Getting Ready for 2023

By: Irv Stephens

Hello Again, Woodworkers - We're now well into the Holiday Season, and I hope you all will be able to be with family and friends in some manner in the days ahead.

You may have noticed that announcements about Showcase 2023 are appearing with more regularity. I hope you will read those notices and make early decisions about volunteering again in some manner because March is not really that far away. If you are a new member, I'll just say that Showcase is the best way to get a sense of the scope of NWA as well as to meet all different kinds of woodworkers.

And now for something entirely different: After the holidays when you may have time to read a good book, I recommend **The Treeline** by Ben Rawlence (St. Martin's Press, 2022). It's available both in print and various electronic formats that you probably can easily obtain from your local public library or, of course, you can buy a copy.

Ben Rawlence is an independent journalist who has written about some of the world's worst trouble spots like Somalia and the Congo, but this work is about a different kind of trouble spot —

the boreal forests surrounding the Arctic Circle. These forests, which are different from each other, are undergoing very rapid climate change - changes that are occurring much faster than what we have experienced so far in our temperate zones.

The book is the author's account of his travels to Scotland, Finland, Siberia, Alaska and Canada and his meetings with both indigenous people and scientists living and working in these areas. Rowles describes the various ecologies of the earth's boreal forests in engaging detail as well as presenting what their pending loss and/or change means for us.

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

KWA News – Resin Casting

By: Wally Cook

Todd Gunter and John Ryan teamed up to explore hybrid resin and wood casting. If you have seen Todd's work, it beautifully showcases clear resin encased burls in a variety of shapes. Todd covered the stabilization of his wood blanks and pouring larger castings. John has been producing smaller turnings, featuring pens and bottlestoppers, focusing on casting molds.

The demo separated the phases of stabilization and casting. Stabilization is the process of replacing air and water within wood with a catalyzing liquid. The resulting blank is essentially plasticized. For hybrid wood/resin casting, stabilization is necessary to reduce air escaping into the casting resin in the form of bubbles – or allowing the wood to crack away from the finished casting.

Todd discussed the materials and equipment required for stabilization. Both Todd and John highly recommend Cactus Juice for the stabilizing liquid (a good source is www.TurnTex.com). The juice activates when over 85 degrees, so it recommended to keep the vacuum pump five feet away when using the material (vacuum pumps generate heat). The liquid may be reused and will keep for a year after opening, if kept for in cool and dry conditions.

Stabilization occurs in a pot connected to a vacuum pump. The pump sucks out the air and infuses the blank with liquid epoxy. The catalyzing process begins at 200 degrees and about 20 minutes, but is important to keep the blank submerged in the liquid for twice as long as the last bubbles escape from the wood. A pot with a clear lid is best, so that

the bubbles may be viewed. When the stabilization is complete, John recommended placing the blanks in a sealed plastic bag until use in order to avoid exposure to moisture.

Casting is the phase where the stabilized blank is encased in resin. Again, the chemical process will produce bubbles. However, use of a pressure pot (40-50 psi) and compressor



Todd Gunter presenting large resin pour procedures



An example of Todd's resin and burl turning



Pressure pot and compressor used for resin casting

combine to make any existing bubbles microscopic. The result is glass-like clear compound. Todd reinforced the need for safety equipment, clothing, eyewear and gloves – epoxy fumes and material are deleterious, as well as difficult to remove from skin and clothing.

Todd and John also are in agreement that Alumilite is a favored resin for casting. Alumilite is a two-part urethane which must be mixed by weight. A fine digital scale (to 1/10 gram) is recommended for the estimating the amount of part A and part B needed. Like epoxy, Alumilite also offers fast and slow hardeners – be aware of what your open time needs to be.

The size of the pour is a prime variable. Heat from the chemical reaction increases with volume. While stabilization process works best when conditions are cool and dry, resin casting works better when conditions are warm and dry. The mix at first will appear cloudy; continue to stir until the mixture is clear – then the pour can occur. Alumilite works best if warmed slightly before use. Todd uses a warm water bath for the containers – but, because the material is sensitive to water and humidity, thoroughly dry the containers before mixing parts A and B.

If using a mold, a mold-release spray should be applied. For small objects, John uses silicone molds, but also thin wall plastic pipe.

During both stabilization and resin casting can support dyes and colorants.

With Alumilite, mix A and B, before adding colors. Segmented pours are also possible by waiting for partial set-up between pours. Both Todd and John mentioned that pearlescent additives can make the resin ‘pop’.

Turning the cast blanks works best with carbide and negative rake tools. Todd has used a bowl gouge presented upside down, cutting with the bottom edge. Sanding is done with Abranet to 1000 grit and buffed with Tripoli and white diamond. John has gone from carbide negative rake cutters directly to plastic polish for small castings. The results speak for themselves!



John Ryan answering questions about small item casting



John's cast and turned bottlestoppers

Where is the Furniture?

By: John Olenik

Back in 2020, we were within two weeks of presenting Showcase, when Covid not only brought NWA to a grinding halt, but the rest of the country as well, and it seemed that everything went dormant for two years. Thankfully, we were able to crawl out of that hole and piece together a Showcase presentation for 2022, albeit, somewhat modified. It was just great to see some of our old woodworking friends again, and enjoy the camaraderie of discussing our collective favorite pastime of creating, and building beautiful works of art in the various forms of woodworking. The creativity of our members being displayed in our Exhibit Room, has become one of the popular favorites of our patrons who attend Showcase, who marvel at the skill, beauty, and uniqueness portrayed in all the various categories including, carving, marquetry, scrolling, musical instruments, toys, boats, accessories, and...furniture.

Furniture...what happened to all the interesting and one-of-a-kind furniture exhibits which we displayed in the past?

When I was setting up the exhibit room for our 2022 show, I was anticipating a large

number of furniture entries, since it was three years since our last show, and I assumed that our members were very busy in their shops, sniffing sawdust. To my surprise, the entries did not materialize and we had to re-arrange and fill empty riser spots, leaving me a little perplexed. On the other hand, we had an overflow of the smaller exhibits which are displayed on the tables, indicating that there were some busy craftsmen, but where were the furniture builders?

We know there are many furniture builders, of all skill levels, in NWA, who have provided Showcase with a vast variety of unique pieces in the past, so in anticipation of making our 30th Anniversary Showcase very special, bring those projects which you built during the pandemic, or start working on that table, chair, nightstand, dresser, cabinet, bed, or sideboard that has been on your list to build. Your level of skill is not important, but your ideas that may inspire others are important, since we want a representation of ALL our membership at Showcase, and as always, it is the members participation that make it a success.

Let's see your stuff!!



Dave Mobley, Bob Reinhardt, Ron Wager and two headless Crafters help a toy soldier stand on his own two feet. This sentinel will be guarding the vendor arcade on Broadway in Saratoga Springs.



Irv Stephens and Ron Wager painting ornaments for our holiday craft sale at the Shaker Heritage meeting house.



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 stevedz@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