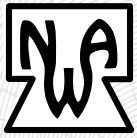


WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern
Woodworkers
Association

April 2023, Vol. 32, Number 4

Fiske Memorial and Showcase Presentations on Japanese Woodworking by Kuniaki Kishi

By *Juliana Shei*

NWA is privileged to host Kuniaki Kishi, for Showcase and Fiske Memorial presentations on Japanese woodworking. Mr. Kishi is the owner of ACROGE Furniture in Tokyo, Japan. He is a certified Class 1 Furniture Production Master Craftsman. He opened his woodworking school 15 years ago and has taught Japanese and foreign (including US) woodworking lovers, both professionals and amateurs, over the years. His popular school currently has over 300 students.

Acknowledgement: NWA thanks SUIZAN, manufacturer of some of the finest Japanese handsaws, for their generous sponsorship of Mr. Kishi's travels to Showcase and the post-Showcase presentations

Showcase Lectures

Four Practical Japanese Joints for Furniture,
Parts 1 and 2

Saturday, March 25, 2:00 pm & 3:30 pm, and
Sunday, March 26, 10:30 am and Noon

While many western woodworkers find Japanese joinery intriguing, they consider the joints too complex to adopt for their furniture projects. Many of the joints found online are in fact used in constructing or repairing temple and shrine structures and are not practical for furniture. Mr. Kishi will introduce four joints that are commonly found in traditional Japanese furniture that you can incorporate into your own furniture design.

Fiske Memorial Presentations – at Herman Finkbeiner Learning Center

Art of the Japanese Hand Plane (Lecture)

Friday, March 31, 2023, 7:00-8:30 pm

The simplicity of the Japanese hand plane makes it possible to get wispy thin shavings to attain silky smooth surfaces. Learn how the plane blades are made, how to set up the blade to a new plane body (dai), and how to tune it for specific tasks to achieve top performance.

Register [here](#)



Kuniaki Kishi at work

Concealed (Blind) Dovetail
Joint (Demonstration)

Saturday, April 1, 2023,
1:00-4:30 pm

Concealed dovetails are a type of dovetail joint that is completely concealed when the joint is assembled. Often used in high end furniture joints, the finished piece enhances the beauty of the natural wood. Mr. Kishi will demonstrate the entire process, from marking to assembly, in this demonstration.

Register [here](#)



Kuniaki Kishi

Building Together

By Daniel Packer

Mid-Hudson chapter members gathered at chapter VP Rich Cerruto's beautiful new workshop to learn and to volunteer to build shop stools for donation. Rich organized and led an all-day hands-on effort to build a set of wooden shop stools for the Hudson River Maritime Museum's Boat School. The Boat School has been very generous in allowing the Mid-Hudson chapter to leverage their woodshop, and so chapter members have been doing a lot of volunteering, especially to repair recent flood damage to the building. The goal was to give back to the boat school, and maybe take home a personal stool, once the goal quantity for the school was reached.

We followed the basic shop stool plans from *Woodworking for Mere Mortals*. The plans make very efficient use of materials, and each stool can be built for under \$20 with just a couple of 2x4s, though you can of course dress up your stool with hardwood if you're feeling fancy. The result, even with construction lumber, is a handsome and sturdy stool with some really functional and attractive joinery.

Most participants of the stool build were experienced woodworkers, but some of the less experienced folks (hand raised), got lessons in



safe and effective use of the table saw, jointer, miter saw, and chisels. The group started early in the morning and under Rich's guidance, split up into teams to attack different parts of the preparation. One team would be cutting smaller pieces of boards for the legs, jointing edges, and another team would be prepping seat material. Finally, leg pieces were ripped and the dados, tenons and half-laps were started on the table saw.

As the daylight faded, the group had produced enough parts for roughly 9 stools and planned to return to finish assembly and build even more. Some lessons were learned, for example, not to trust the length of your piece when setting up dado cuts, if your pieces do not have consistent length. The stool parts were cut from cheap construction lumber of various species, and for the most part, they were straight and clear, but a few pieces were badly bowed and made operations on the table saw difficult. The few small hiccups provided good learning and laughs.

It was a pleasure for all involved to socialize, do something good for a good cause, and enjoy a great new shop. Let us hope that Rich continues to generously open up his shop for similar member events in the future! Thanks, Rich! Stay tuned for a follow-up on the finished stools...

Photos by Andy Moss and Daniel Packer.



KWA News

By Wally Cook

Our February meeting featured a demo on historic chemical treatments of wood. We have all used paints, stains and dyes. All of these coloring techniques depend on adding pigments spread with a carrier. But did you know that there is another type of colorant called an **extractive**?

Extractives have been used for centuries and have arcane monikers such as green vitriol, Condy's crystals, lopazite, aqua fortis, and vinegaroon. Mainly, these compounds are used in woodworking for ebonizing (darkening) wood. Extractives are so-called, because of their ability to extract chemicals already in the wood – they don't add color, they actually change the chemical composition in the wood.



Applying Chemicals: Phil Dudek paints vinegaroon on wood samples

For instance, the Arts and Crafts movement featured fumed finishes on red and white oak, using ammonia.

The demo took face grain samples of red and white oak, maple, walnut and cherry to compare and contrast the results of various chemical application. All the medallions were cut from the same board and sanded to 320 grit. The treatments used were:

- Ferrous Acetate (Vinegaroon)
- Ferrous Sulphate (Green Vitriol, Copperas)
- Potassium Permanganate (Condy's Crystals)
- Potassium Dichromate (Lopezite)
- Nitric Acid (Aqua Fortis)
- Casein/Calcium Carbonate (Milk Paint)

Most of the above treatments are tannin reactors. Tannins are complex phenolic compounds that trees produce; they are glucosidal and astringent. It is suspected that tannins are a natural form of pest control for the tree, but they may also play a part in cell growth. Oak, Mahogany, and Oak are typically high in tannins and will react more strongly to the substances we used. Maple is a weaker tannin species and sometimes needs a 'booster' of tannic acid for the ebonizing treatments, such as iron acetate. Without a booster, maple will turn a mushroom color when treated with Ferrous Sulphate.

A weak solution of Nitric acid has been used for years to bring out the grain in gunstocks. The product is sold as Aqua Fortis (strong water). The darkening process tends to make curly maple really pop! The deep browns can be shaded with red highlights when a heat gun is brought to bear. The Nitric acid reaction will continue until it is neutralized. A solution of baking soda will serve to stop the chemical activity and cleanse the wood.

The treatments that work well with cherry wood include Potassium



Applying Heat: A heat gun is used to bring out red highlights with Aqua Fortis



Matrix of Extractives: The finished experiment with all the medallions treated

OFFICERS

President - Irv Stephens

Vice President - Carl Stoner

Secretary - Susan McDermott

Treasurer - Paul Ruud
nwatreasurer2@gmail.com

Executive Secretary - Charlie Goddard



NWA BOARD MEMBERS

Pete Chast

Charlie Goddard

Dale Lombardo

Susan McDermott

Paul Ruud

Steve Schoenberg

Irv Stephens

Chris Stolicky

Carl Stoner



Mid-Hudson Chapter

Bill Sterling, President
wster1156@aol.com

Sacandaga Chapter

Vacant



CHAIR/CONTACT PERSONS

Auction and Hospitality

Lee Hilt

nwaauction1@gmail.com

Education

Chair pro tem - Dave Mobley
nwasearch1@gmail.com

Registrar - Jon Bennett
nwaeducation1@gmail.com

Members - Stan Blanchard,
Dick Flanders, Don Orr,
Juliana Shei, Bill Sterling,
Carl Stoner, Fred Tresselt

Fiske Fund

Chairperson - Woody Bowler
fiskefund@gmail.com

Treasurer - Juliana Shei
fftreasurer@yahoo.com

Members - Jon Bennett, Dick Flanders,
Bill Sterling

Historian

Wayne Distin

Library

Susan Hill

Membership

Alan Hayes

NWAMembers1@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Daniel Packer

nwanewsletter1@gmail.com

Publicity

John Olenik

jolenik@nycap.rr.com

Showcase Chair

Wally Carpenter

nwa.showcase.chair@gmail.com

Dichromate and milk paint. Potassium Dichromate will age the cherry to a rich reddish brown; however, this chemical must be handled carefully; it is a carcinogenic which can be absorbed through the skin. In years past, this derivative of lopezite was heavily used in the hat-making industry – and is the cause of the term “mad as a hatter”.

Milk paint with its active protein, casein (and calcium carbonate), will turn cherry a bronze color when allowed to dry and sanded off the wood.

Walnut reacts well to Ferrous Acetate (essentially rusty water) and will turn black. Iron acetate has been called vinegaroon and the “nightmare finish”, due to the ugly mess of iron filings, white vinegar, and water that sits in the bottom of a jar. If left long enough, Iron Acetate will rust out a metal cover on a glass jar.

Oak can be shaded to brown, blue, or black with various tannin reactors. Potassium Permanganate, and Ammonia will shade to rich brown; Ferrous Sulphate can bring out a bluish cast, and Iron Acetate will shade toward black. Potassium Permanganate is easily recognized by its purple solution; it is exothermic, so crystals are always added to water and never the reverse. The initial purple color on the wood quickly fades to a rich brown.

Ammonia fuming was discussed, but not demonstrated, due to the time required. Basically, the fuming process takes up to 72 hours with dishes of ammonia replaced at intervals under an enclosed covering. Ammonia comes in several common solutions from weak to strong: household, janitorial, and industrial or 80/80 concentration. The fuming process will work with any of these products, but weaker solutions take longer, result in a lighter color, and penetrate less deeply.

Members were invited to apply each chemical extractive to a cross sample of various wood species, resulting in a variety of opinions about which treatment they preferred.



Weed pot challenge: The results of the SIG's weed pot challenge for February

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 May

Copy deadline: April 10

Daniel Packer

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



Hand Tool SIG Demo Session on March 6th



The Hand Tool SIG held a Hand Plane Basics on March 7. The SIG Leader, Dave Parkis lead the session.



Participants had a chance to look at various types of hand planes and learned their differences and uses. Dave freely shared his vast knowledge of those versatile tools.

A Schaghticoke Tree Reclaims Place As New York's Largest

Article republished from *The New York Almanac*, February 24, 2023

<https://www.newyorkalmanack.com/2023/02/schaghticoke-tree-reclaims-place-as-new-yorks-largest>

An eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*) located in Schaghticoke, Rensselaer County, NY, has regained its title as the largest known tree in New York State. The tree had been discovered and crowned the largest in the state back in 1972, but was removed from the list when it was not remeasured or confirmed to still exist.

The cottonwood became a forgotten entry gathering digital dust until the tree was rediscovered this past fall after Fred Breglia, an arborist and big tree enthusiast, made some message board inquiries based on an old article about the tree. Breglia connected with Kris Dulmer, whose uncle used to take him to see the tree.

If you think you've found a big tree candidate, measure its circumference at 4.5 feet above the ground and compare it to the existing champion – a large part of a tree's score comes from the circumference, so it is a good way to see if your tree has a chance of making the list.

If it's close, contact the Lands and Forests Program at a New York State [Department of Environmental Conservation \(DEC\) office near where the tree is located](#) to have a forester measure the tree, or find a non-DEC professional experienced in identifying and measuring trees, such as a certified arborist or cooperating forester, to determine the tree's total point score.

Then complete a [New York State Big Tree Nomination Form](#) and submit it to DEC for verification. The New York State Big Tree Register is updated once a year in January. Nominations must be submitted by September 1 to make it into the following year's list. Email the Big Tree Coordinator Erin Brady at erin.brady@dec.ny.gov if you have questions.

The list of New York State Big Tree Champions is available in [scientific name \(PDF\)](#) and [common name \(PDF\)](#). American Forests, which runs the National Champion Trees Program, is the authority for determining which tree species are eligible for champion status. You can view their [list of eligible native and naturalized tree species](#) to see if your tree qualifies.

Photo of the Schaghticoke eastern cottonwood courtesy Fred Breglia.



Classifieds

For sale: Shopsmith Mark V, Model 510. Price: \$1,200.00. Excellent condition. Looks and performs like new. Multiple accessories including the following: Mortising system, Router chuck and shield, Conical sanding disc plate, 6" Freud dado set, Adjustable dado, Multiple saw blades along with multiple arbors for them, Multiple sanding discs, Drum sander and sanding sleeves, Miter gauge extension, Several miter gauge bars to make your own jigs, Original saw and drill press table inserts, Many already fashioned blank inserts for zero clearance table saw cuts, Multiple feather boards, Dust cover, After market tenoning jig, After market tapering jig, After market connectable table rails (although I still have all the original connector tubes). Contact me at cemblidge@roadrunner.com or call 518-798-3345.



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 - Also an AAW Chapter. Meets on the second Saturday of the month at the Hurley Reformed Church, 11 Main St. Hurley, NY 12443. Contact Wally Cook at 845-338-2193 or 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 fourth 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