

WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern
Woodworkers
Association

June Vol. 33, Number 6

NWA Annual Meeting and Election May 9, 2024

By Susan McDermott

Vice President Chris Stolicky brought the Zoom and shop meeting to order at 7:00 PM for approximately 32-40 attendees. The only order of business was the election of NWA President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, and one Delegate at large. The nominating committee had a slate of willing nominees and called for any other nominees. As none other came forward, a vote of 10% of the active membership unanimously confirmed Kay McCampbell as NWA President, Lee Hilt as NWA Vice President, Linda Reiss as NWA Recording Secretary, and Doug Wildes as Delegate at Large. This was announced to the entire membership by the Recording Secretary, Linda Reiss, via Constant Contact.

NWA Musical Instrument SIG (Part 1)

The major part of the meeting was about the proposed resurrected NWA Musical Instrument SIG led by Co-chairs Ray Puffer, Jon Hedman, and Eric Marczak. Ray shared the history of the NWA Musical Sig prior to Covid when members held monthly meetings with demonstrations, music theory, and general camaraderie. They held jam sessions and music lessons with Jeff Belding and Bob Altschuler. NWA even had a blue grass band called “Out of the Sawdust” and played at Showcase. This year, Ray, Jon, and Eric set up a booth at Showcase, and about thirty people (mostly nonmembers) expressed interest in joining NWA classes. On April 19, 2024, Eric, Jon, and Ray held a “kickoff” meeting of planning.

Monthly meetings are planned for the third Friday of the month, 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the 97 Railroad Avenue shop. Interested participants can contact Ray Puffer (Ray.Puffer@gmail.com).

The class will begin with a shared participants’ project of a guitar built from Union College’s Black Walnut stock called, “The Tree.” The finished instrument will be sold to raise money for the specialized tools needed in musical instrument building.

The Co-chairs each bring their own skills and experience to the SIG. Ray has built several banjos and guitars with mother-of-pearl inlay. Jon, a musician who has performed with “Mother’s Own Goodtime Jug Band,” makes cigar box guitars, canjos, and flutes. Eric, who has studied Native American cultures, makes flutes in the tradition of Indigenous peoples.

NWA Newsletter Editor(s) Needed

This newsletter needs one (or two co-editors) if it is to continue. It serves an important function to inform with articles and photographs the important activities of the Mid-Hudson and #97 Railroad Avenue Learning Center. Ideally, an editor from Mid-Hudson and an editor from the Learning Center could share the work and cover events in a larger geographic area with balanced content. NWA has many woodworking SIGs and community service projects as this current newsletter proves. Please contact your NWA Board officers to volunteer.

Part 2 The First Meeting

Friday, May 24 at the 97 Railroad Shop

Eric Marczak and Jon Hedman greeted the class. Ray Puffer was on a road trip to PA. What was first discussed was whether a Friday night was optimal for monthly meetings. Eric needs feedback on this. The next meeting is June 21 at the shop. Watch for the Constant Contact notice. A survey will be sent soon to interested class members about the scheduled meetings. Is the third Friday acceptable or are other options for evening meetings possible?

Eric opened the meeting with a bit of background on his musical experience. His wife is Mohawk who teaches at the Helderberg Workshops and has inspired his interest in Indigenous people's music and their instruments. Eric began repairing violins in high school in 1959 and transitioned into guitars. To date, he has built 49!

Jon and his wife were at a Manchester, VT. flute shop where she bought Jon a flute as a retirement gift. From then on, Jon knew he could make a variety of his own. (Please note, wives' inspirations!)

First, will be a communal building of a guitar, so the class can learn all the steps and skills involved. "The Project" will use black walnut from "The Tree" which is part of Union College's famous 200-year-old walnut tree that NWA Crafters have built two beautiful tables with.

Eric explained the skill sets involved in guitar building that the class must learn. These are knowledge of woods for sound boards and necks, precision measurements in the metric scale, carving, routing, steam bending, machining, use of router, finishing, tuning, etc.

Eric explained the top of the soundboard (two pieces book matched) must be quarter sawn entirely as this cut is stronger, has less shrinkage, and an attractive grain. It will also steam bend well. The Project will use a 000 Martin guitar design with the sound board top sanded down from 5 mm to 2.5 mm thick and the sides 2.1 mm



Eric and his guitar



Book marked walnut for the sound board's



A classical guitar neck of Spanish cedar



Gabon ebony could be steamed bent for the sides



A steel guitar neck with truss rod mahogany

OFFICERS

*Some recent position changes
are not yet reflected*

President - Kay McCampbell
nwapresidentkay@gmail.com

Vice President/Program Chair
Lee Hilt

Recording Secretary - Linda Reiss

Treasurer - Alan Hayes

Executive Secretary - Steve Schoenberg
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NWA BOARD MEMBERS

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Dale Lombardo
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Doug Wildes
Board Member at Large
Charlie Goddard
Board Member Emeritus



Mid-Hudson Chapter
Bill Sterling, President



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thick. Eric uses fish glue for his guitars as they make disassembly easy, it's easy to clean up, it draws joints together, and has been used for 4000 years.

Jon explained the making and tuning of flutes to the pentatonic scale. The longer the flute or larger the diameter, the lower the notes. Jon showed us the profile of a Native American flute of Western Red Cedar he cut in half lengthwise, so we could see the sound chamber, the flue (block and nest), the slow air chamber, and mouthpiece. Jon routs the air chambers of the flute's two halves and coats the channels with tung oil or polyurethane to retard moisture from blowing. He glues the halves together with Titebond and sands the external to a smooth, seamless finish.

Jon pointed to a website, <https://www.flutopedia.com> for all you need to know about Native American flutes and the spacing of their finger holes. It has a spread sheet to determine desired sound features with factors of length, wall thickness, hole size, and their position. Jon makes small holes (1/8") and then heats up steel rods and burns the holes gradually, testing the flute's sounds as he enlarges the holes.



Eric and Jon jamming



Jon's profile of a flute with fetich



Jon's array of cigarbox three string guitars and Native American Flutes

WOODWORKERS NEWS

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will be published
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A Visit to Mr. Kishi at Acroge Furniture in Japan

By Juliana Shei

Mr. Kuniaki Kishi, the 2023 Showcase presenter and Fiske Memorial Lecturer, has been busy expanding his Acroge Furniture business and Kagurazaka Woodworking School. I had an opportunity to visit his shop during my visit to Tokyo and saw his impressive collection of his lumber that his customers can choose from. Mr. Kishi acquired most of this lumber from all over Japan, some from a logger's auction, some from his special trips to the forests in different parts of Japan. Kagurazaka Woodworking School now has about 300 students; some come from overseas for private lessons. He welcomes NWA friends to visit his shop and school when they have a chance to visit Tokyo.

Click [HERE](#) to see his school and [HERE](#) to see a video about the school activities.



Acroge Furniture office displays some of the table tops available for custom tables



Carving marks give this live edge tabletop a lovely special effect



Mr. Kishi's warehouse/showroom has an impressive collection of lumber to choose from

Mid-Hudson Launches Boatbuilding SIG

By Rich Cerruto

The Mid-Hudson Chapter formed a Boat Building SIG in 2023 and meets weekly in Rich Cerruto's shop in Gardiner (a 36' x 24' building erected in 2023). So far, three skin-on-frame canoes have been completed. Skin-on-frame canoes offer the advantages of fast build times, low costs, and light weight as compared to all wooden or canvas-on-wood structures. Due to the svelte nature of skin-on-frame boats, most plans are for solo boats paddled with double-bladed paddle (kayak style). For our first project, we wanted to build an ordinary tandem canoe suitable for two adults using single-bladed paddles. With no commercial plans available, we took a set of plans for a wooden boat and adapted them to skin-on-frame. We traced out forms, mounted them on a strongback, and set to work. For stringers and keel, we used eastern white pine, for the ribs northern white cedar, and various hardwoods for the rest. The boat was skinned with a 12 oz. "ballistic" nylon and coated with a two-part polyurethane that has its origins as a garage floor coating. The result was the "Cottager" which came in at 47-1/2 lbs. and was floated in December 12, 2023. This boat was raffled off at Showcase 2024. (Note: the lucky winner was Susan Rushman of Saratoga Springs)

Inspired by success, we began two new projects right away. New member, David Harvey, built his first canoe, "Dave's Folly", based on a novel method invented by Cape

Falcon Kayaks (www.capefalconkayaks) which offered an on-line course. No strongback is used - rather the entire boat is built on a pair of sawhorses. Lots of careful measurements and (simple) math is needed to precisely size the parts, but the results are impressive.

Dave produced a fine 14'-8" solo boat and we are pressing him to display it at Showcase 2025.

Rich Cerruto built "Skinny Pete" which he plans to race in the Adirondack Classic 90-Miler in September. This is a solo canoe of length 14'-3" and weighs 27.3 lbs. The pilot sits on the floor and paddles it like a kayak. Speed and light weight are essential to complete the three-day race which averages 30 miles per day and includes several portages. The unique feature of the Cape Falcon Kayak method is there are no fixed plans; rather, there is a "system" that allows the boat to be sized according to user requirements. In both boats, stringers and keel were eastern white pine with white oak used for the ribs.

These two boats were floated on April 30, 2024 in New Paltz. Rich achieved 4 MPH in his boat which he deems adequate to finish the race, but he is very concerned about his stamina! Stay tuned.

The SIG is about to begin its next project which will be John Van Buren's lightweight "pack" canoe for fishing and portaging around the remote lakes in the Adirondacks.



Cottager



Dave's Folly



Skinny Pete

Round Two of Shaker Fence Painting

By Susan McDermott

Lee Hilt rallied about twelve volunteers at 9:00 AM sharp for Friday, May 24 to return to another morning of fence painting. Shaker Heritage Society Executive Director, Johanna Batman, greeted us with smiles and donuts! She is always appreciative of the work NWA does for the Shaker grounds. In the recent past, Charlie Goddard cut hundreds of fence pickets for the herbal garden. The NWA Crafters built a bridge over a busy creek. They built counters and display cases for the Shaker Gift Shop and refinished the huge floor in the Meeting House. NWA members have made tourist signs about the grounds and repairs to the barn. All of this volunteer work has placed NWA in good stead with the staff and trustees of the SHS.

Below are photos of our intrepid NWA volunteers.



Lee Hilt's gang of nonunion, underpaid painters!



Don Reiss



Stan Blanchard



Learay Silvia



Wally Carpenter (L) and Dave Mobly (R)



Bev Reinhardt



Bob Reinhardt (L) and Don Orr (R)



Brea Barthel (L) and Anne Hilt (R)

Visit to Urban Industrial Design

By Don Orr

On Thursday January 11, 2024, the monthly meeting of NWA was held at Urban Industrial Design on Morris Rd. in Schenectady. Our gracious host, Brian Seitz, welcomed us into his new workshop to see what he and his crew produce. He described how he started from his garage and progressed into a beautiful, well-equipped 10,000 square foot workshop that is very busy building large scale commercial furniture and other specialty wood products. He also described how he acquires trees, saws them and kiln dries the resulting wood in his large vacuum kiln. He demonstrated his very large CNC router that he uses to flatten and surface his large slabs and then showed his very large helical head planer in action as well. Even though the wood is kiln dried, he lets the wood relax before final planing and sanding. They also have a large spray booth where they spray a proprietary finish to most of their work.

Brian wanted us to know that his machine services are available, for a fee, to woodworkers who may need to have large wood surfaced and planed. He will also kiln dry green wood in his kiln as space is available. Call, email, or stop in for pricing and availability.

Contact information is.

Email: info@uidwoodworks.com

Phone: 518-217-2248

Address: 208 Morris Rd.

Schenectady, NY 12303



NWA members visit Brian Seitz's shop. Brian is the tall man in black, third from left

There is also a retail section where you can find many dried and surfaced natural edge slabs, finishes, dimensional hardwoods, and lots of smaller offcuts at very reasonable prices. They even have a small selection of exotic hardwoods. They also carry an excellent epoxy resin called Ecopoxy that they use for their resin tables, counter tops, and other furniture and cutting boards and the colorants used in the epoxy. Feel free to stop in during normal business hours.

Brian was also extremely generous recently when he donated his services to NWA to flatten and surface two large Black Walnut slabs that came from a Union College tree, well over two hundred years old when it needed to be removed. These slabs will be part of an upcoming benefit raffle at Showcase 2024 to raise funds for NWA programs and classes. Details to follow.

Many thanks to Brian for his hospitality.

Website <https://uidwoodworks.com/>

Saw Milling Returns!

Lee Hilt recruited twenty-two volunteers on Saturday May 18 to resume the large task of slicing logs into boards to be air dried in the Shaker Barn for two to three years. Below is a list of the volunteers including our NWA President, Kay McCampbell and a new NWA member, Denise Watso, whom Dick Flanders taught measuring board feet and labelling wood species as they were carried off the sawmill.

Edmund Buckley, Richard Flanders, Robert Fleury, Charles Goddard, Michael Jensen, Dale Lombardo, Kay McCampbell, Susan McDermott, Gus Mueller, Bill O'Brien, Scott Oliver, Ray Puffer, Learay Rayburn-Silvia, Robert Reinhardt, Don Reiss, Yusuf Silk, Alan Silva, Carl Stoner, Chuck Thorne, Jesse Weinstock, Douglas Wildes.

This huge turnout is a sign of the generous volunteerism and camaraderie that thrives under Lee's leadership.



Lee



The mill



The logs



Volunteers



Volunteers

NWA VP Column

By Lee Hilt

As my first official move as the newly elected NWA VP, I am declaring free pizza and wings at all NWA functions going forward.

No? Oh well, I guess we can always wish.

Now that I have your attention, let me get two administrative issues out of the way.

First, one of my VP duties is to act as Chair of Programs/SIG Committees. As such, the NWA-By-Laws require that I meet with Programs/SIG Committees at least four times per year. My main goal during these meetings will be to determine how NWA can best support you. I'll be looking at a date in June that will work for us all. More to follow.

Secondly, I am also charged with scheduling presenters and other events for monthly membership meetings that will best meet members' interests and needs. I have a few ideas but would like input from the membership as to what you want to see. Also, I'm looking for anything you may want to present. Please let me know via email, cell, or grab me at the shop. LHHAGRH@EARTHLINK.NET 518 698-3751

Other:

Fence Painting

Thanks to the folks who helped with the May 23rd Shaker site fence painting. We're down to the final coat of painting. Thanks to the NWA Members who helped:

Anne Hilt, Brea Barthel, Bev & Bob Reinhardt, David Mobley, Donald Orr, Don Reiss, Stan Blanchard, Susan McDermott, and Wally Carpenter.

This was the fourth day working on the fence project. The current plan is to hold a fifth and final morning of painting sometime in June. More to follow.



Sawmilling 2024

We conducted our first sawmill day of 2024 on May 18th at the Shaker milling site. 619bf of 5/4 butternut lumber was milled along with bowl turnings and flat blanks. A big **Thank You** was published in May for the large group of helpers we had for that. It was a great operation.

We will be looking at two more milling days in the next two months. Stay turned.

Annual NWA Auction (*date change*) September 14, 2024

The Shaker site folks are interested in holding their annual Fall Craft Fair during our Saturday NWA Auction. Both events are free and open to the public and should increase foot traffic for both groups. Work is underway to also hold NWA woodworking demos at the barn and before the noon auction begins. Details to follow but for now, mark your calendar for a Saturday, September 14, 2024 auction.



EDITOR'S NOTE

This is the last newsletter until September.
Important announcements
will be e mail blasts during the summer.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs):

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:** Steve Vanderzee, 518-727-6511 or stevedz@msn.com

Spindle and Pen Turners plus Introduction to Woodworking - Meets Mondays 9:00 AM to noon and Mondays 5:30 PM – 9:00 PM, including holidays except Christmas. Contact: Pam Bucci at 518-429-6440 or woolglass2@gmail.com
Wednesday “Learn and Turn” sessions occur on alternate Wednesdays at the NWA Learning Center. These sessions run 5:30 PM to 8:45 PM. www.adirondackwoodturners.com Contact: Pam Bucci at 518-429-6440 or woolglass2@gmail.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 dbalch1@nycap.rr.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

NWA Musical Instruments SIG – Meets at #97 Railroad Avenue shop 6 to 8 PM, third Friday of the month.

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