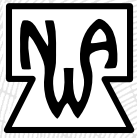


WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern
Woodworkers
Association

September Vol. 33, Number 9

Save the Date!

NWA Annual Lumber & Tool Auction

Saturday, September 14, 2024

The Lumber & Tool Auction is set for September 14th at the Shaker Barn, 820 Heritage Lane, Colonie, NY 12205. All NWA members and the general public are welcome to attend. Doors open for guests at 10:00 am for inspection and cash sales. Auction starts at 12:00 noon.

The Auction this year is held in conjunction with the Shaker Heritage Society Harvest Craft Fair at [25 Meeting House Road](#). The Craft Fair is hosting over 85 vendors as well as craft demos, tours, food, live music and petting zoo.

The Annual Auction is one of the NWA's major events and Volunteers are needed for the success of this event. We also need your help to advertise this event on your social media, neighborhood, and church groups.

Donations of tools you no longer use are greatly accepted. Bring them to the Shop with donor's name attached and leave them in the donation box next to the coat rack, or contact me.

Lee Hilt, Vice President & Auction Committee Chair

LHHAGRH@Earthlink.net

518 698-3751

We Have a New Editor!

By Susan McDermott & John Michne

After a long and arduous search, I finally convinced John Michne to take the job. John has been president of NWA (2006) and taught two canoe-building classes, was in Ken Evens's banjo SIG, and has made presentations at meetings and Showcase. He also... never mind, – let's let John tell it:

“From the New Editor -

It was at an early (first?) NWA Showcase, held at the Shenendehowa High School, that I realized what a poor wood worker I was. The pieces on display were exquisite and served as an inspiration for me to get better. I had a shop-built table saw powered by a Montgomery Ward

portable saw mounted in a 2 x 4 framed table. The fence was a ratty but true-edge straight piece of oak held in position by two C clamps. Functional, if not elegant. I continued wood working as time permitted while helping my wife raise our growing family, and managed to build my first boat in the detached garage of our Latham home from plans in a Science and Mechanics Boat Builder's Handbook, circa 1960.

The old home-brew table saw came with us to our new home in Clifton Park in 1968. My younger son was using the saw one day when he told me it quit, and there was smoke coming from it. RIP the saw, and welcome to a real table

OFFICERS

Some recent position changes are not yet reflected

President - Kay McCampbell
nwapresidentkay@gmail.com

Vice President/Program Chair
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Recording Secretary - Linda Reiss

Treasurer - Alan Hayes

Executive Secretary - Steve Schoenberg
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Mid-Hudson Representative

Wally Cook

Board Member at Large

Dale Lombardo

Board Member at Large

Doug Wildes

Board Member at Large

Charlie Goddard

Board Member Emeritus



Mid-Hudson Chapter

Bill Sterling, President



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Totally Turning Chair

Todd Gunter

saw, a decent Craftsman machine from Sears. The rest of the shop tools were corded portables along with a growing hand tool collection.

Building canoes from cedar strips and fiberglass was the first serious woodworking after retirement from Knolls Atomic Power Lab early in 1997, but lingering in the back of my mind was the image of an Adirondack guideboat I had seen at the Adirondack Experience (formerly the Adk Museum) years before. I could use my canoe building experience and build one.

That first guideboat was ribless and stripped *a la* canoe in red cedar. It rowed like the wind, but it was still a bastardized canoe. Then I met a fellow wood worker and guideboat builder who told me how to make boat ribs using laminations cut from lumber yard 2 x 6 spruce planks. Two more boats

followed, and my Showcase entries won Best of Show in 2002 and 2004. The fellow who got me started with boat ribs was Mike Olivette, and together we authored a well-received book, "*Building an Adirondack Guideboat.*" But I was still traveling up the learning curve. Original guideboats were fully ribbed and planked in thin quarter-sawn pine, fastened together as a hull with around 1,500 small brass screws and 3 to 4 thousand tiny, clinched copper tacks. I read everything I could about planking and was left with the impression that it was a challenge not easily conquered.



Best in Show, 2002



Best in Show, 2004

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 October

Submissions are due by the
15th of each month

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The old timers didn't have computers with Computer-Aided Design (CAD) software. I learned CAD and drew full-size CAD patterns to build boat ribs, then "planked" a boat on the computer. I figured out the exact curves and sizes of boat planks, and built a couple of boats that looked like they just rolled out of an Adirondack boat shop in 1905.

Our original book was now obsolete, but Mike was not interested in a second edition. I authored the new book, still including cedar stripping and some of Mike's contribution from the first edition, but added everything I learned about planking a boat and a lot more, including building special jigs and fixtures, seat layout and caning theory.

I look forward to getting the latest NWA news out in print, and hope the membership can help by sending me articles and appropriate pictures, if any. If it is an NWA event or SIG news, write it up and email it to me jmichne1@nycap.rr.com. Just let your thoughts pour out to a Microsoft Word document (preferred, but a pdf will also work) and I will see to it that your piece is polished and ready for publication under your byline. Pictures should be JPG format with a list of captions included.

I don't drive anywhere at night, and only short local daytime jaunts running errands and maybe an occasional touch-up visit to my embalmer. I will not cover events as a reporter, so if you want it here, you will have to tell me about it. The deadline is the 15th of the month prior to the next month's issue.

One-or two-liners are welcome. Have you gotten a new tool? Completed a project? Spilled a can of expensive varnish on the shop floor? Anything goes with the usual constraints. If I get enough input, you will see it in a last page collection I call *Sawdust*.

Lastly, I want to thank outgoing editor Susan McDermott for her help in the transition. I am sure I will call on her expertise now and then as I become more familiar with the role."

Don Poleto Presented an Introduction to Marquetry

By Stephen J. Koonz

Don Poleto presented a demonstration of marquetry to a group of twelve NWA members at an evening Scroller's SIG meeting on July 17. The demonstration focused on how Don uses the scroll saw to create beautiful designs and images. Don reviewed his techniques and shared several stunning pieces he created over the years.

Don's presentation generated considerable interest in scroll saw and marquetry techniques. Many attendees voiced surprise and interest in the myriad projects that can be completed or augmented with the scroll saw.

The Scrolling SIG holds open scrolling and orients/qualifies new scrollers every Monday evening, excluding holidays. Let us help you get started on your next project. SIG Co-Presidents, Stephen Koonz and Karoline Sears, contact information is also available on the Club's webpage.

Mid-Hudson News

By Wally Cook

The Common Workshop project has been an effort to establish a building where NWA members in the Mid-Hudson Valley can gather for hands-on education and monthly meetings. The Mid-Hudson chapter includes approximately one hundred members and a number of SIG's: Kaatskill Woodturners, Boat Building, Hand Tools, Musical Instruments, Scroll Saw, and Community Service groups.

Meetings for these interest areas have been held in a variety of venues: rentals in non-profit space like the Hudson River Boat Building School, church halls, private workshops, and member residences. Finally, a solution was identified that would allow all of the various meeting needs to be accomplished in one location. That location was proposed as a new building on property owned by Jim and Debbie Lee, long term NWA members.

Seed money for the investment was approved by the NWA Board and augmented by the Mid-Hudson Woodworkers and the Kaatskill Woodturners Association. The lion's share of the remainder has been raised by donations from Mid-Hudson members and the broad NWA membership. Thanks to all who have supported this effort, the dream is becoming a reality.

A pole building has been constructed and interior fit-up is currently underway. A benefit dinner/auction was recently held at the Reservoir Inn in West Hurley to help reach the project fund raising goal.

The dinner raised over four thousand dollars to assist with final fit-up and HVAC needs for the workshop. Auction items were all sold, ranging from turned demo objects from noted woodturners Stuart Mortimer and Steve Sherman; beautiful turnings by John Franklin and Win Crans; handcrafted workbench tables by Joe Kennedy and Jim Lee; to items such as a complete Stanly 45 plane set.

Kay McCampbell was on hand, along with Steve and Sharon Schoenberg, representing the NWA Board. Bill Sterling, President of the Mid-Hudson Woodworkers made welcoming comments followed by an invocation by Patsy Boisvert. However, the best part of the event was the camaraderie enjoyed by the attendees.



The Mid-Hudson Common Workshop is almost complete



Mike Giuliano and Greg Lapp help with interior framing



Jim Lee acted as emcee for the silent auction featuring a wide range of items



Dinner attendees renewed friendships

The Third Meeting of the Musical Instrument SIG

By Susan McDermott

The Co-leaders, Ray Puffer, Jon Hedman, and Eric Marczak, are very experienced in musical instrument building and bring their complementary skills to the class. I have observed that the students are impressively knowledgeable in instruments and perceptive in identifying the specific notes produced by those instruments. It is a sophisticated class for a complex project of building an acoustic guitar from air dried quarter sawn hardwoods. The neck or fret board is also hardwood (in this case, the black walnut from the 200-year-old Union College tree).

Eric and Jon divided the class time between Native America flute making and guitar building.

Jon began the class by demonstrating how to burn five or six holes while tuning the flute's body. He makes his flutes out of redwood, western red cedar, eastern red cedar, hard maple, walnut, or cherry. He may trim off a bit of the farthest end



Jon Hedman

of the flute body to achieve the fundamental F-sharp note. He started by drilling small holes (1/8th inch or less) in a straight line on the sound chamber, spaced for the spread of a player's fingers.

He then heated a steel rod (usually made from screwdriver shafts of various diameters) on a propane burner and gradually enlarged the hole nearest the mouthpiece, block, and nest while steadily blowing the flute to achieve the fundamental note of F-sharp. Jon's block is a carved fetish which can slide off when moisture collects. The



Rods are used to burn holes of specific diameters



Two flutes, one tuned, the other with drilled holes aligned



Bottom of the block, a carved fetish



The fetish mounted temporarily by a rubber band

class could tell when the burned hole was large enough to achieve the desired note, but this tone-deaf writer could not. An electronic tuner confirmed the correct note was achieved. Jon repeated this burning process for the remaining five holes. Jon employs the pentatonic scale of five notes per octave, instead of eight.

Jon suggested a more technical way to calculate the distance of the holes called the NA Flutomat <https://www.flutopedia.com>

Eric Marczak began his hour of the class by introducing the vocabulary of classical guitar tones. The lowest is E (the open string, #6). The next higher note is called an overtone. The classical six string guitar has four octaves, 49 notes. Each octave's frequency is twice as fast as the next lower. Eric explained as an example low E is 82 Hz per second. High C is 4000 Hz per second. String pitches (cycles per second) are tuned E, A, D, G, B, and E.

Amplitude and resonance were the last two factors the class will consider in beginning to build the acoustic guitar. Eric intends the class to learn the characteristics of wood behaviors, the physics of sound and its measures, and their influences in dictating the building of a quality instrument.

Eric explained the challenge of finding the most stable wood to construct the neck which will stand the stresses of tuned strings. He defined the action



Wood used for the neck is very stable



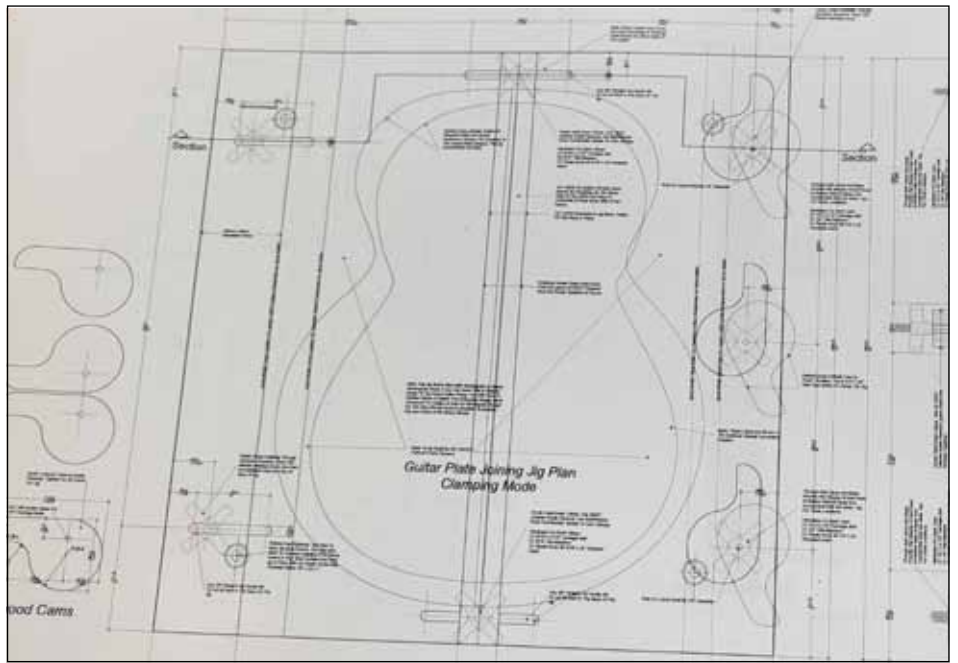
One of Eric's 47 custom built guitars

as the distance of the wire to the fret board, and that has a mathematical formula to calculate the sound produced when the string is pressed on a specific fret.

The next class scheduled for August 16 will include diagrams for the building of a guitar body's jig to shape the curves of the sides and secure them to the sound board and body. Eric will use fish glue which is a strong adhesive which can be reversed for disassembly with water.



Eric explaining some future steps



First the class must build the guitar body's jig from the diagram.

Sawdust...

Attention SIG and chapter leaders – Please verify that the when, where, and who info for your group is up to date. Let me know of any changes. Thanx...John Michne, jmichne1@nycap.rr.com.

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:** Rick Bird bigrbird@gmail.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 Mondays 5:45 to 8:00 PM - new scrollers welcome. Wednesdays 5:45 to 8:00 PM - machine qualified scrollers only (possible demonstrations) **Contact:** Stephen Zoonz 518-290-0722 (text only)-

NWA Musical Instruments SIG – Meets at #97 Railroad Avenue shop 6 to 8 PM, third Friday of the month. **Contacts:** Jon Hedman, jonwhedman@gmail.com, (518) 399- 7849; Ray Puffer, Ray.Puffer@gmail.com, (518) 272-6421; Eric Marczak, epm03@hotmail.com, (518) 872-9324

CHAPTERS

NWA Mid-Hudson - The address and hours for the Mid-Hudson shop to be changed. **Contact:** Bill Sterling wster1156@aol.com or Wally Cook wally.cook@gmail.com for details.