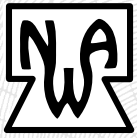


# WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern  
Woodworkers  
Association

December 2024, Vol. 33, Number 11

## A Message From the NWA President

*by Kay McCampbell*

Folks,

Today I awoke to the setting full moon and rising sun in the same sky. I feel myself sliding down the calendar towards Winter. The forests are grey and sombre, with bits of evergreen interspersed among the skeletal spires. Although it is beautiful, I know I will tire of it soon, and wish for the next season. This month of thankfulness has seemed to be relatively uneventful, so far. For which I am thankful.

I've had an education in saw-milling this month. Lee Hilt stopped by with his sawmill, and we turned what was a 100 foot red oak into boards, which are headed to the NWA Auction stacks. There is an amazing pile of scrap left over from such an operation. More than I'd ever imagined. Next winter will be very warm here, no matter what the weather.

Since I won't be writing to you all 'til the end of next month, here are some words for you. Stay warm. Be kind. Take care of your friends and family.

In friendship and sawdust,

Kay

PS - Still looking for volunteers for the Executive Secretary position, a Membership Chair, and Constant Contact Administrator.

## Working in Mud

*By Lee Hilt*

The story you are about to read is not about woodworking, but rather a story about what this woodworker and a few of his buds did to help some folks in need. A portion of the above was taken from our editor's suggestion to use as the opening for my story of a recent trip myself and three other old Marines made to one of the hurricane-ravaged areas of North Carolina. Thank you for your input, John.

In early October 2024, a bunch of old Marine friends were each watching news reports of several North Carolina counties being wiped off the map by Hurricane Helene. It was during the numerous chain-texts that followed that



*Floodplain debris*

these Leathernecks agreed that we had to do something to help. One thing led to another and four of us ended up heading south Columbus Day weekend.

We joined up with the Baptist on Mission organization simply because we found them to be the most organized during our internet research in the prior weeks. We arrived Sunday evening at a Baptist Church in Burnsville, Yancey County, NC which would become our base of operation for the week. This was ten days after the October 3 storm hit that area. The church group provided a hot breakfast and dinner each day and a bag-lunch on the way out each morning. We slept in a semi-trailer outfitted with 22 bunk beds; another trailer had showers, and several Porta-Johns were scattered around the area.

The relief work was into the Recovery Phase when we arrived, which followed the Rescue Phase that had ended about ten days earlier. We were not involved in the recovery of victims but rather assisted residents with their recovery from storm damage. If their house was still on its foundation, they stayed and were living in it. No water, no electricity, no refrigeration; most couldn't drive their vehicles from their driveways because roads were washed out. But they were still living there. It was their home.

Yancey County is located in the Blue Ridge Mountains with a terrain more common to Vermont than what I remembered from my days on Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, NC. We worked in a total of four different areas during our week and each area was 8 to 10 miles from the others. The devastation was everywhere; widespread and like none of us had ever seen. Although the water had receded by this time, there was still evidence of where small 25 feet wide, 2 to 4 feet deep streams had overflowed their banks by hundreds of feet on either side and grew to 20 to 40 feet high flood waters. Cars, trucks, mobile homes, semi-trailers, trees, boulders, bridges, guardrails, and pavement were pushed hundreds of feet from shores by fast moving flashflood waters.

One of our day jobs involved removing mud and debris that flooded down a hillside and into the back door of an enclosed porch of a house. This was a common task, a "mud-out", and



*Heavy Equip used for mud-out. (L-R) Lee, Michael and Tim.*

involved shoveling mud into 5-gallon buckets and carting the buckets from the living space to a dumping area. Most mud was 6 to 12 inches deep throughout a flooded structure. On one cleanout, in addition to carting out the furniture and other belongings, a hot tub had to be removed. This was the first time I used a Sawzall to cut a 12-foot hot tub into three pieces.

An elderly couple on another job told us how they held their kitchen door shut in the middle of the night, as mud and water cascaded down the hillside, through their backyard and into an enclosed rear deck, threatening to next burst through their kitchen door and into the rest of the house. The only thing that saved them was one side of the enclosed deck gave way and allowed the mud and water to escape out and alongside the structure. The muddy waterline on their kitchen door was over my head.

One of the last jobs we did involved a mud-out of a garage along the Toe River. Most of

the bridges over this river had been washed away. The garage we worked at had water lines 11 feet above the floor. The work benches, toolboxes, and vehicles inside were covered with 6 inches of mud. Any drawers I opened may have had tools in them - or not? All I saw was mud and water up to the tops of each drawer. On the way out, we noticed excavators working in an area where piles of trees, telephone poles, and other debris had been pushed over the banks by flood waters. We asked a local guy what was going on. He said they are using cadaver dogs to locate victims and that the dogs "hit" on something there, and the excavators were looking for victims. It was then he told us that they had pulled five victims out of that area in the last two days.

This was three weeks after the hurricane hit, and they were still finding victims.

One thing that we found consistent throughout our work in NC was that no matter how much people lost, how beat up they were, how insurmountable the rebuilding was going to be for them, was their unshaken faith they held in their religion – whatever their denomination was. We met people who had lost everything, some had lost family members. We heard of a mother who had lost a daughter and her own mother, and they still believed there would be a tomorrow and that they would see their lost family members again someday. Amazing.

We're going back to Burnsville NC, Sunday 11/17 but this time we'll be involved in the Rebuilding Phase. This is the



*Vehicle retrieved from river*



*Typical washout driveway*



*Damaged car in floodplain*

## OFFICERS

*Some recent position changes  
are not yet reflected*

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nwapresidentkay@gmail.com

**Vice President/Program Chair**  
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lhagh@earthlink.net

**Recording Secretary** - Linda Reiss

**Treasurer** - Alan Hayes

**Executive Secretary** - Vacant



## NWA BOARD MEMBERS

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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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### Fiske Fund

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Nick Piedmont  
Karoline Sears  
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### Library

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Ray Puffer

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### Showcase Chair

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### Totally Turning Chair

Todd Gunter



*Semi-trailer in Toe River*



*Bunk trailer outside*



*Bunk trailer inside*

## 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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15th of each month

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most intense and longest of the phases. The goal now is to provide winter proof houses for the residents. As one resident told me, "We get NY winters here, -20° temps and feet of snow."

Lee, Stephen,  
Michael and Tim



*Showers*



*Chowhall*

## Boat Building SIG Update

*By John Van Buren*

Thus far, 2024 has been a very active year for the relatively new Mid-Hudson Woodworkers Boat Building SIG.

Meeting only once a week on Tuesdays, we have constructed three skin-



*John and David Harvey skinning Kermit*

on-frame canoes. We started with sawn boards, some nylon cloth, a bunch of screws, some waxed nylon thread, and some Goop for

waterproofing. (The Goop is a two part liquid coating originally developed for treating concrete floors in high traffic areas.) We ended up with three attractive, light weight, durable and quite functional canoes.

The construction was guided by a series of videos produced and marketed by Brian Schultz. Each canoe was built using laminated softwood gunwales as a base with steam bent white oak ribs. This frame is covered with ballistic nylon cloth that is tightly stretched prior to final attachment. (A similar construction method was used by the Wright Brothers in their aircraft.) Then the cloth was waterproofed with several coatings of the aforementioned Goop. A photograph of one of the boats is included.

Due to the open design concepts in the construction methods developed by Brian Schultz, each of our canoes was built with a different design optimized for different uses.

One was built as a traditional solo canoe with a single raised seat amidships. It is 15 feet long and 29 inches wide. The second was designed for use in a multi-day long distance race that includes several portages. It is built for speed and durability since no assistance is allowed for the carries. Keeping its weight as low as reasonable was a consideration. This narrow, sleek canoe is 14 ft-3 inches long and 26 and a half inches wide. The third was mine. Since I plan to fish remote ponds in the Adirondacks, its design was optimized to be stable enough for fishing and light enough to



*John's finished Kermit canoe*

easily carry it for up to a mile. Several ponds are too far back from the road for most fishermen to drag a conventional boat. I also wanted the boat to be sturdy. Thus, my canoe weighs 24 pounds, has a flat bottom center section to keep it stable while casting, and it has substantial white oak ribs with a ballistic nylon hull that should prove to be very tough. It is 28 inches wide and 13 feet 8 inches long, plenty big enough for a larger person like me. I call it Kermit because of its frog green skin and in honor of Jim Henson's Kermit's cheerful approach to life.

It was a joy to create. The design process was uncomplicated. I was pleased at how readily the steamed ribs bent to match the various shapes I needed. Next, I found the process of lashing the frame together relaxing. It was exhilarating to stretch on the nylon skin, and see the frame become a canoe. Then to top it all off I found applying the signature frog green coating to be much easier than expected.

If you have an interest in building your own canoe, kayak, or rowboat or are just curious about small craft construction, consider joining us. We meet on most Tuesdays at Rich Cerruto's shop in Gardiner, NY from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm. (YES! – We do break for lunch at a pizzeria that is an easy walk away.)

Currently we are refreshing a wooden Adirondack guideboat that was generously donated to NWA by John Michne. Once our work is done this award winning boat will be sold to help fund our Club activities.

# Halloween at Curtis Lumber

By Diane Balch

On October 24th Curtis Lumber held their annual Halloween Hardwood Re-awakening Sale and fun activities. Most of their employees were dressed in Halloween costumes. They had their hardwoods on sale, giving a 20% to 45% discount.

If you were in costume, you received an additional 5% discount. There were many customers in costume, including adults, children and dogs. They had a DJ and some other vendors.

NWA was invited to participate in doing some demo's. Steve VanDerZee and Ray Puffer set up some small lathes and were turning small bowls, tops, and ring holders. Diane Balch, in-costume as "Little Bo Peep", was carving a chicken cooking spoon. She also displayed a variety of items she made. She displayed "Comfort Birds" that the carving group made. She sold 2 of them; the money will go back to NWA. Curtis has invited us back for next year's Halloween Hardwood sale.



*Tops turned by Steve VanDerZee.*



*Ray Puffer turning a bowl.*



*Steve & Sharon Schoenberg at the Curtis Halloween Hardwood sale*



*Little Bo Peep carving a chicken cooking wooden spoon*

## Sawdust...

Great article by Lee Hilt about his North Carolina trip helping with hurricane recovery. He is returning there for a second week and promises to write up more of his story for the next issue...I hope someone will attend the Scrollers event on December 2, 6:00 pm at the shop for a hands-on scrolling party and gets some pix...The New Member Spotlight article is planned to be a monthly feature... Sincere best wishes to all in this Holiday season, from the chief and staff here at Woodworkers News...

# Hand Tool SIG Demo - Special Hand Tools for Musical Instruments

*By Juliana Shei*

The topic for the November demo session sponsored by Hand Tool SIG, “Special Hand Tools for Musical Instruments,” attracted more than a dozen music lover members. Ray Puffer, Jon Hedman, and Eric Marczak each showed the special tools to make their beautiful instruments.



*Ray Puffer's first banjo with wenge and bubinga*



*Micro planes, Japanese files and other tools to make banjo*



*Jig designed by John Michne (past NWA President and current Newsletter Editor). Horizontally mounted router shapes the neck end to match banjo body.*

The Native American style flute consists of a tube with hollow sound chamber, finger holes, sound hole and a block (also called fetish or bird). Jon Hedman uses a low-angle block plane to shape the tube, and burning rods to make finger holes according to the flute map.



*Native American style flute sound chamber is formed on the board (front), then glued up to form the flute (behind.)*



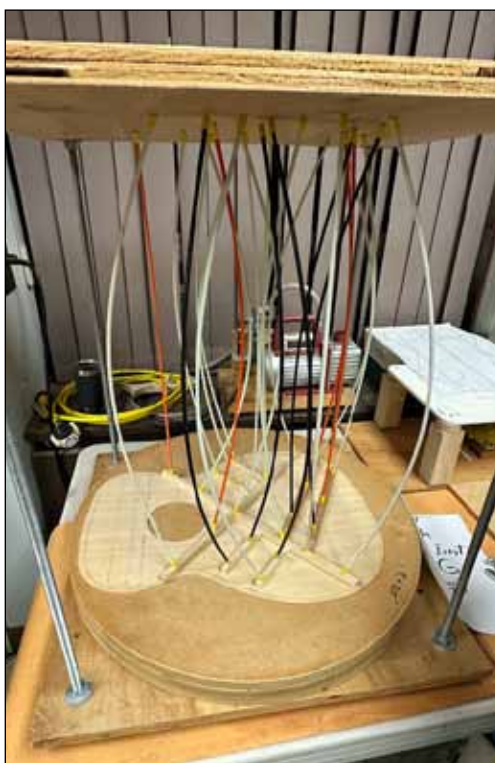
*Jon Hedman drills pilot hole for finger hole according to the map, then uses burning stick to enlarge it to the appropriate size. Burning stick is forgiving, easily can make minor adjustment for the finger holes.*

Using quarter-sawn 2.5 mm thick spruce material, the curvature of the guitar top at a 25-foot radius and the back at a 15-foot radius are formed using the jig in the picture. A circle cutter is used to carve out sound hole, and a rosette is inlayed around it. Eric showed an interesting use of burnished razor blade as a card scraper to achieve fine details.

The newly formed Musical Instrument SIG meets at 6-8 pm on the second Tuesday of the month at the NWA Shop. All woodworkers and music lovers are invited. Contact Ray Puffer for details.



*Eric demonstrates razor blade scraper to work on fine details of guitar making.*



*Guitar body is formed by this special jig to form large radius (15' for back and 25' for top) on the board. Each go-bar applies about 20 pounds of force.*



*Eric Marczak's guitar. He placed spider inlay to add decorative effect and cover up imperfection on the guitar top.*

# There is Still Time -

By Diane Balch

NWA has a booth at the annual Shaker Holiday Craft Sale. It is located in the Shaker Meeting House on Heritage Rd, near the Albany Airport. Hours are Tuesday through Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm, now through Dec 15. Linda Reiss is the NWA coordinator for this event. Please come to our booth

and shop. The money we make goes into our General Fund to help pay our shop rent. Linda will welcome any wooden crafted items that will fit in our 3 feet deep by 6 feet wide space. If you have any items to donate for the sale, please leave them in our shop conference room along with a description and a suggested sale price.



Typical craft items for sale in the NWA booth at the Shaker Holiday Craft Sale

## Showcase 2025 Lecture Line-up

By Learay Silvia

Showcase 2025 planning is under way and we already have lecturers lined up to teach or demonstrate. Those that will be presenting so far are:

**Jonny Tromboukis** on Kimuko, **Aaron Smith** on Saw Sharpening, **Scott Oliver** on Safe wood finishes, **Worth Getter** on Restoring a wood/canvas canoe, **Peter Cooper** on Wood Safety Gear, **Kay McCampbell** on CNCs, **Charlie James** on Dovetails, **Logan Simms** on Dovetails or Sharpening of Chisels, **Lie-Nielson** on Sharpening and Core Hand Tools, **Ken Page** on Wendell Castle, the Father of the Art Furniture Movement and **Kyle Hall** will again be doing chainsaw carving.

We are looking for a few more lecturers so if interested please contact Learay Silvia at [nwavolunteerchair@gmail.com](mailto:nwavolunteerchair@gmail.com). Finalization of lecturers is desirable by Thanksgiving in order to update the web listing and begin the volunteer sign up process.

# Mid-Hudson News

By Wally Cook

**Workshop Project:** Work continues on the new workshop in Kingston. As the weather turns colder, attention is focused on completing the outside tasks. All the remaining materials and tools have been moved out of the Opdahl building. In addition, tools, workbenches, and wood for the Toy Factory were relocated to the storage container at the new shop from rental space secured by the Mid-Hudson Chapter. We now have all Mid-Hudson inventory items at the Jim Lee shop on the Sawkill-Ruby Road. Ron Roberts and Andy Moss oversaw the move, assisted by a number of members.

Many thanks to Kay McCampbell for installing the mini-split HVAC system at the shop. The splits work very well – just in time to deal with November weather! Two separate units are in place and anchored on the cement pad between the shop and the storage container.



*Kay McCampbell puts the final touches on the mini-split installation*

Andy Moss drew up a plan for roofing over the cement pad, including a unique gutter solution to divert water away from the pad and storage unit. The roof construction is now complete. Ron Roberts, Andy, Win Crans, and Bob Boisvert worked on that project. With the roof completed, the HVAC and dust collection systems will be protected from the elements.

The inside configuration is the current focus. Rich Cerruto and Phil Dudek are rehabbing the used Sawstop table saw, while the woodturners are organizing space for the lathes. Storage for lathe accessories and common tools will be provided by a rolling tool center built by Pat Destefano, Stan Pressner, and Wally Cook.

**Outreach:** The program with 4-H and Cornell Cooperative is on its third session. Twelve participants, aged eight to twelve years old, are using a tool tote project to learn about



*Ron Roberts, Andy Moss, and Win Crans celebrate the completion of the alcove roof*



*Pat Destefano and Stan Pressner fitting the panels onto the rolling tool center*

woodworking. The kids are using hand tools to cut wood into components to assemble the totes and in the process, learn about hardwoods vs. soft woods, hand saw, hammer, and measuring techniques. The program was the initiative of Marylou Giuliani and Andrew Ruiz of Cornell Cooperative. The NWA provides guidance for each of the participants at the Hudson River Boat School in Kingston.



*Marylou and Mike Giuliani address the 4-H students in the classroom session*



*A 4-H student labels her work, after cutting and sanding components for her tool tote*

## New Member Spotlight – Lou Manico

*By Linda Reiss*

Since joining the NWA in March of this year, Lou has been a very valuable member of the Carving SIG. Although Lou has been carving for over 50 years, after retiring as a bricklayer he's had more time to devote to his carving and devoted he is. Most days will find him carving on another beautiful song bird, each of which takes 50-90 hours on average to complete. Lou's birds are very richly detailed and set on beautiful natural bases. Most are offered for sale, and many are pre-ordered by those aware of Lou's craftsmanship.

When he's not carving, Lou can be found fishing, hunting, spending time with family or enjoying his remote lakeside cabin on Lake Champlain. The pictures here represent a tiny sample of the breadth and depth of his incredible work!



*Some of Lou's exquisite carvings*

# Classifieds

**Jet 10" table saw.** Model number JPS-10TS. Good condition and lightly used in hobbyist climate-controlled workshop. Built-in router table and aftermarket overarm dust collection. Includes miter gauge, original table insert, blade shroud, manual, sled, and several zero-clearance inserts. Perfect balance between a contractor saw and full cabinet. Selling because I now have two table saws. \$675, or best offer. Contact Chris Stolicky, at stolicky@hotmail.com, for more information.



Table saw with additional components



Table saw model and serial number plate

## 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, Saratoga Builders Association, the Warren Washington and Albany Counties ARC (A Respectful Commitment), and the Northeast Construction Trades Workforce Coalition which is the non-profit arm of Curtis Lumber. Sharing information, fellowship, education, and relating experiences are a major part of these sessions. **Contact:** Rick Bird biggbird@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 Koonz (518) 290-0722 (text only)-

**NWA Musical Instruments SIG** – Meets at 97 Railroad Avenue shop 6:00 to 8:00 PM, second Tuesday 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.