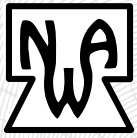


WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern
Woodworkers
Association

January 2025, Vol. 34, Number 1

A Message From the NWA President

by Kay McCampbell

Folks,

Today it's snowing. Everything is robed in winter white, sounds are muffled, and it allows me to do one of my favorite winter activities: run the snowblower. I love how it sprays snow everywhere, including on me.

For me, the big thing this month is not having a monthly board meeting. One less thing to worry about. However, I'm sure there will be a big January meeting. Even without one, there still is some important news.

The Fiske Fund has a new Charter and Guidelines approved by the Board. The Fiske Fund Committee has worked long and hard to update its guiding documents. They are a thrilling read, and available on the website.

The Board now has a Code of Ethics document that needs to be signed by each board member. It encompasses conformance with corporate law and personal behavior, as regards the NWA. I think it's an important step in giving

us direction in how we interact with each other and the group. We are gathering signatures as we speak.

In these very commercial times, my only personal wishes for the holidays are a warm place to sleep and enough to eat. I hope you all have the joy I have been granted this holiday season.

In friendship and sawdust,
Kay

PS - Still looking for volunteers for the Executive Secretary position and a Membership Chair. Come on folks, step up.

Mid-Hudson Chapter Elects Officers

by Rich Cerruto

At the monthly meeting of the Mid-Hudson Chapter held on November 21, 2024, the following Chapter Officers were elected:

President, Bill Sterling

Vice President, Rich Cerruto

Treasurer, Patsy Boisvert

Secretary, Phil Dudek

The 5th Board position, reserved for past Presidents, has been filled by Bob Boisvert.

Monday Night Scrollers' Class

By Susan McDermott

Scrollers SIG Chair Stephen Koonz and Vice Chair/Treasurer Karoline Sears greeted five NWA members to a "tree cutting" class. We did not need axes or chainsaws for the delicate art of scrolling!

On Monday, December 2, at 5:45 PM we assembled as anxious novices (with some exceptions) to try our skills. But first, Steve



Sample of goal for lesson



Tracing the tree on to the background for the second cut



Linda begins her cuts as Karoline adjusts cutting speed



Diane is the first to begin cutting as Stephen looks on

reviewed safety practices and assured us that scroll saws are one of the safest of the shop's power tools. He pointed out the differences in the eight scroll saws' features. Some are operated by a foot pedal that regulates the blade's speed. Others have an on/off switch and a knob to vary speed. The right speed is what feels good to the user, but if it is too slow, the project will take too long to cut. An adjustable nozzle blows puffs of air to clear the sawdust away from the cut.

Stephen and Karoline reserve Monday nights 5:45 to 8:00 PM for member walk-ins and announced classes. Wednesdays from 5:45 to 8:00 PM are for demonstrations and certified Machine Knowledge members.

This night's class was to make a holiday ornament which looked like a cactus or abstract tree set against a contrasting wood background. We had a sample to either copy or modify. After selecting our wood, we traced or drew our trees. Karoline suggested we cut our tree first, sand its curves; and then trace its outline on the second piece of wood for a better fit.

Christmas Potluck Dinner

By Diane Balch

The Carving SIG celebrated the Christmas holiday with a potluck dinner. It has been 6 years since the group has had such an affair. There were 12 carvers who ate while they carved. Yummy food, fun and comradery while we carved. After we enjoyed the potluck, the party expanded with the start of Lee Hilt's Holiday party open to the entire membership. See the next article...





NWA Members Celebrate the Holidays: A First Since Covid

By Susan McDermott; linked photos by Juliana Shei & Susan McDermott

The previously planned Carvers' potluck party kicked off the social gathering with delicious hot dishes and desserts Thursday, December 12 at 5:30. On the heels of their celebration, Vice President Lee Hilt had organized an NWA at-large party at 6:30 where at least fifty members assembled with more desserts in the main area of the shop. Some of our new Executive Board members were present - President Kay McCampbell, Recording Secretary Linda Reiss, Executive Secretary Emeritus Charlie Goddard and Delegate Doug Wildes. SIG leaders and committee members Diane Balch, Pam Bucci, Steve VanDerZee, Ray Puffer, Eric Marczak, Don Orr, and Steve Mapes were there, to name a few.

Many pictures were taken at the event – too many to include here. To see them all, click on the link to them [here](#).



OFFICERS

Some recent position changes are not yet reflected

President - Kay McCampbell
nwapresidentkay@gmail.com

Vice President/Program Chair
Lee Hilt
lhagh@earthlink.net

Recording Secretary - Linda Reiss

Treasurer - Alan Hayes

Executive Secretary - Vacant

NWA BOARD MEMBERS

Pete Chast
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
Rich Cerruto, Vice President
Patsy Boisvert, Treasurer
Phil Dudek, Secretary

CHAIR/CONTACT PERSONS

Auction and Hospitality

Lee Hilt
nwaauction1@gmail.com

Education

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nwasearch1@gmail.com
Registrar - Frank Necaie
nwaeducation1@gmail.com

Fiske Fund

Chair - James Lefebvre
Nick Piedmont
Karoline Sears
Steven Mapes
Robert Fleury
Bob Lawless

Historian

Wayne Distin

Library

Susan Hill

LCOC

Ray Puffer

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John Olenik

Showcase Chair

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Totally Turning Chair

Todd Gunter

German American Club of Albany Thanks NWA

By Petra Reichmann

On Saturday, November 23, 2024, the German American Club of Albany, at 32 Cherry Street off of Fuller Road, held its first Christkindl Markt (winter market). The beautifully decorated GACA hall offered Glühwein (hot mulled wine), raffle baskets, full bar, home baked German pastries, garage sale goodies, craft vendor stalls, Spätzle and Wurst, a cozy cafe area, live holiday music, and a children's woodworking art station. The event was highly successful. At the children's Holzkunst (wood art) area, kids were able to assemble wooden wheeled cats, ducks and vehicles. A separate table was set up for kids to decorate and play with their new toys. Laubsäge (fret saw) art, hand woodworking tools, and wooden cutouts were displayed. We had the opportunity to chat up the Northeastern Woodworkers Association, its phenomenal resources just around the corner, and the NWA Spring Showcase in Saratoga. Thank you to the folks at the NWA (Dave Parkis, Juliana Shei, and Andy Moss) who were able to give us much appreciated guidance!



Cars, animals and trees cut out by Petra's husband Brian for children to assemble



Hand tools displayed at the Christkindl Markt



Petra Reichmann hosted the wood art table and the "Toy Factory" at the German American Club of Albany

WOODWORKERS NEWS

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Your next issue of **Woodworkers News**

will be published in early February

Submissions are due by the 15th of each month

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Rebuild in Yancey County, NC – Wrap-Up

By *Lee Hilt*

As mentioned in my November article on the N.C. hurricane relief work, we returned to Burnsville N.C. the week prior to Thanksgiving, but this time to work in the Rebuilding Phase. The new areas we worked in during this second trip were recently made accessible by road crews, but the storm damage was equally devastating to what we saw during our first trip. I can fill this newsletter with pictures and stories of houses, bridges, roads and lives destroyed by the storm. However, I will instead focus on the rebuilding work we did this time. It is expected rebuilding will continue for several years.

The goal this go-around was to work in structures that were not condemned by the building departments, and repair, replace and rebuild the structures to a “livable” status. We understood livable to mean adequate living accommodations for the incoming winter. As one resident told me in October, “We get NY winters here with -20 temps and many feet of snow.” A sound roof and structure with

working windows, doors, a kitchen and bathroom and heat were the main goal. Final touches such as wall finishing, carpeting, etc. would come later.

The first step in the rebuild was mudding-out the structure.

This was merely

removing mud, rocks and debris that were left behind when flood waters receded. The second step was to start 6” above the “high water mark” of flood waters inside the structure, and remove all interior wall coverings, insulation and floor coverings. These first two steps had already been completed in the house we were assigned.

The remaining steps in the rebuild were electrical wiring (rough-in), heating & plumbing, insulation & sheetrock, final wiring, inspection and issuing of a certificate of occupancy (CO). In addition to a few odds and ends jobs during the week, our main job was rough wiring a house along the Cane River.

Our crew this time consisted of three old Leathernecks, two repeat offenders from the October trip - Steve and I, and a third – Tony, who was new. Steve is a licensed master electrician in Virginia and was the brain behind the job. I know enough to not be dangerous so was able to work on my own, running new wires in the attic because



Outside of house above Highway 19W

the existing wiring was not compatible with the new installation. Tony worked as Steve's apprentice, running wires and mounting switch and outlet boxes in the living areas. I was doing ok crawling around the attic on my belly, even with a number of mouse and rat traps along with a healthy supply of d-Con scattered about. But that all changed midway through the second workday when I pulled back a layer of attic insulation to drill a hole and found a very - very large snakeskin. When am I going to find something hibernating under the next piece of insulation I pull back? Steve, being from VA, was not surprised and even less concerned. Me, a Yankee from NY? Concerned!

This house was situated on a hill above and across Highway 19W from the Cane River. We estimated the height of the front porch to be 15 feet above the road and the road to be 20 feet above the river. The high water mark inside the house was 18 inches. This meant the river had reached a height of 36.5 feet.

We never met the homeowner, but a neighbor stopped in one day and had many storm stories. He said that although the road in front of the house remained relatively intact during the storm, the current shoulder is new



Walls cut away to 18 inch waterline

and replaced a 30 foot shoulder that, along with the homeowner's two-car garage with his pick-up truck inside, was washed away by a raging river. He also told us a police officer was said to have clocked a very large tree going downstream at 55 mph.

Steve is headed back down December 15th and will be scouting other organizations that are more tradesmen-skills oriented. None of us are looking for anything other than to help folks and believe we can best do this by using our specific skills. We'll return again as a group beginning in 2025.



Tony



Lee



Steve

Mid-Hudson Holiday Pop-up Show

By Wally Cook

Saturday, December 14 was the second annual Mid-Hudson pop-up exhibit and sale. This is part of a strategy to hold informal exhibits to raise local awareness of the NWA activities. The show featured the work of fourteen makers representing various specialties from woodturning to furniture.

Over a hundred visitors dropped by to view the work and select holiday presents from the sale table. In addition, Bob Boisvert demonstrated scrollsaw projects throughout the day; Ralph Zimmerman and Wally Cook made pens for visitors. As an added treat, Stan Pressner engraved their names on the pens.

A focus point of the show was a display of the completed tool totes made by the 4H class. These totes were the culmination of a series of five classes Mid-Hudson members held to instruct kids 8-12 years old the basics of wood identification, measuring, tool handling, and finishing. Each of the students was invited to show their work at the exhibit and select a pen of their choice to be engraved. It was worth the effort to set up the exhibit just to see their happy faces!



Nathan, a 4H participant, stands by the exhibit with Mary Lou and Mike Giuliano who initiated the project



David Harvey brought his lightweight canoe



Bob Boisvert stands with his intarsia creation



Phil Dudek, a hand tool specialist, displayed his period furniture

Paul Phillips and his happy bandsaw boxes



Hal Hahn featured his turned lampshade – so thin!

We even had sculpture of a sort!

Sawdust...

Mid-Hudson President Bill Sterling has a great article in Guitarmaker magazine about choosing a band saw at <https://www.asiartisans.org/pdfmags/130.pdf>. Too big to include here but check it out – a good read.



Underrated Hand Tools – A Rich Riedel Demo

By Nancy Bunker

On the workbench of a serious hand tool collector, antique wooden block planes and Stanley Bailey bench planes are lovingly restored, sharpened, polished, and proudly displayed. Meanwhile, hidden somewhere in the workshop, often hanging on a bent nail near the workbench or kept in a nondescript drawer, till, or rusty metal toolbox, are a collection of various other tools. Card scrapers, spoke shaves, hand drills, panel saws and back saws, less glamorous by far, but no less functional. Often, they are hand-me-downs or procured at estate/yard sales.

This meeting of the hand tools SIG celebrated the simple and useful “underrated” hand tools that we depend on for critical steps in hand woodworking.

The meeting got off to a running start with a demonstration of spoke shaves, simple wooden ones on up to adjustable metal ones. The spoke shave blade of an older wooden handle spoke shave was removed by gentle tapping with a soft mallet. A spoke shave sharpening demo highlighted a homemade jig for securing the shave blade for sharpening and polishing. A Stanley 66 beading plane made a brief cameo appearance.

A discussion and demonstration of card scrapers came next. A rousing discussion of various techniques to obtain the perfect burr edge soon followed. An Accuburr burnishing rod was compared to the traditional cylindrical burnishing rod.

A saw vise was the basis of a saw sharpening demo, featuring a triangular file, a saw set tool and a steel bar frame for lining up the saw file to the correct angles needed for rip and crosscut.

The class was wrapped up after a discussion and demonstration of hand drills, including brace and bit, eggbeaters, types of drill ratchets and chucks, etc. Proper sharpening of the brace auger bit tips was discussed.



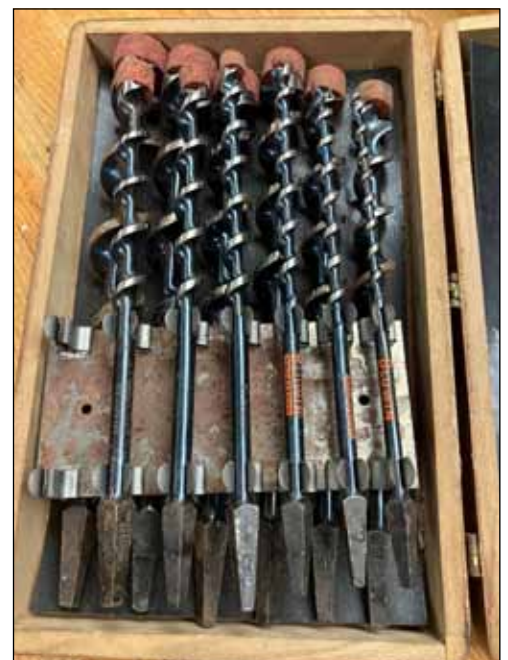
Rich Riedel demonstrated brace and bit drill to Ed Yetto



Spoke shaves and Stanley 66 (beading plane)



Drawing out edge of card scraper in preparation for setting the burr



Auger bits for brace and bit drill

Thank you, Bill and Woody

By Lee Hilt

Although our annual NWA auction only occurs over a few days each fall, the process of maintaining inventory in the Shaker barn is a year-round mission. Everything sold at auction, as well as lumber used for some NWA projects during the year, is stored in the barn and is 100% donated. To say we rely on the general public and members to keep us stocked with donated logs, lumber and equipment would be an understatement. We absolutely need these folks.

I receive dozens of calls and emails throughout the year from folks who found us on the internet, were referred by a member, or attended Showcase. Most often a donor's only request is that maybe someone could make a wood item from their donated wood? On one such occasion, a donor – Paul Russell of Latham, donated a boatload of butternut logs. My son Patrick, who was home on leave from the Marines, helped me pull the logs out of the woods and transport them to our Shaker milling site.



Bill O'Brien Bowl



Woody Bowler Bowl



Patrick Hilt helping with butternut logs

After milling the logs this past spring, I next went in search of someone who could help with making an item or two for Paul as a Thank You for his donation. Both Woody Bowler and Bill O'Brien were more than happy to help by each turning beautiful butternut bowls. Thanks, guys.

NWA does not buy any of the items in the barn. But as a 501(c)(3), we are able to provide folks an official Donor's Letter which may allow them to take an income tax deduction at tax time.

Finally, I just finished a large pick-up of logs from a member, who like Paul, would maybe like to have something made from his donated lumber. There are currently two medium sized cherry logs outside the RR Ave shop side door. Wouldn't it be great if someone could turn or craft a cherry wooden item or two? Thanks folks.

Lee Hilt,

For Donations:
LHHAGR@earthlink.net
518 698-3751



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 stevedvdz@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 biggrbird@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.

Boat Building SIG – Tuesdays at Rich Cerruto’s shop in Gardiner, NY from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm with a lunch break. r_cerruto@yahoo.com