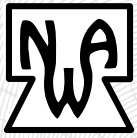


WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern
Woodworkers
Association

February 2025, Vol. 34, Number 2

A Message From the NWA President

by Kay McCampbell

Folks,

If you're reading this, then you've survived the holidays and the quadrennial turmoil of governmental changeover. My hopes for peace on earth and goodwill between my fellow humans goes on unabated. Their actualization may be up for debate. Such is life.

I'm hoping you all have warm shops to retreat to in this midwinter chill. If not, then I hope you are availing yourselves of the warmth and camaraderie offered at the Mid-Hudson and Albany premises. Everyone is always welcome.

While puttering around this winter, consider making an entry for Showcase. I know I appreciate seeing folks' work on display, no matter their skill level or design choice. So, pound something out for the rest of us to enjoy, and you might enjoy yourself, too. Maybe you'll pick up a new trick or two along the way.

We're closing rapidly on Showcase. Please consider volunteering, whether it be for preparations, setup, working the actual event, or takedown. Any contribution will be appreciated.

In friendship and sawdust,

Kay

PS - Good news. We're down to just hunting for an Executive Secretary. Please feel free to raise your hand.

SHOWCASE IS ON THE WAY

By David Rustin, Showcase Chair

The volunteers of Showcase 2025 are diligently working to ensure another successful year at the event. Last year, we experienced a weather-related incident with a snowstorm. Due to the adverse conditions, our turnout was lower than usual; however, both we and the vendors were very pleased with the number of people who attended despite the circumstances. Their presence had a significant impact. For those who attended, thank you!!!

This year, the NWA website displays the current list of vendors and presenters for Showcase 2025. We are seeking volunteers and individuals interested in joining the Showcase team. We have open positions and would love to see you come and be a part of a great group of people who are dedicated to NWA Showcase 2025

It's never too early to get your ticket or for a friend or a group of friends. This year we are offering a two-day ticket for \$25.00. Tickets can be obtained on Eventbrite. The hotel's discounted rate is now available and will book up quickly. Don't delay - get your room now before they run out. We also request that you consider donating a consignment item to the Showcase Store, which is currently in need of various items. If you have any questions or would like to join the Showcase 25 team, please reach out to me at nwashowcasechair3@gmail.com

We are looking forward to seeing you on March 29-30, 2025, at the Saratoga City Center. Don't forget, doors open at 10am.

Guideboat Restoration: *Progress Report*

By Rich Cerruto

Only a couple hours' drive north from the NWA shop lies the heart of the 6-million-acre Adirondack Park, famous for its pristine waterways and high peaks. While one can find many canoes and kayaks on these waters today (in addition to power boats) this was not always the case. In the second half of the 19th century as the Adirondack's abundance of outdoor activities became known to the city outdoorsman or "sport" as he was known, a method of traveling the waterways was needed. Thus was born the Adirondack guideboat, a boat that would serve anglers or hunters alike. Guides were employed by a hotel or were independent entrepreneurs.

Over time the guideboat was supplanted by the canoe, kayak, rowboat and powerboat, and the know-how to build the boat became lost. Enter John Michne, long-time NWA member and editor of this newsletter. John helped to bring back the lost art and documented his work in his book "Building an Adirondack Guideboat", now in its second edition. One of John's boats, and the subject of this article, won Best of Show at 2002 Showcase. This boat was stored outdoors for many years and suffered some water damage. John began the restoration himself but decided to retire from boatbuilding and generously donated the boat to NWA with the understanding we would finish the restoration and sell the boat for fundraising. The Boat Building SIG of the Mid-Hudson Chapter, run out of Rich Cerruto's shop in Gardiner, took up the task in November 2024.

John did much of the heavy lifting by fabricating replacement gunwales and deck pieces that had succumbed to water exposure. Our task was to shape and finish the new woodwork, polish and reattach the brass and paint the hull. Additionally we need to build a pair of oars from a single plank. We are happy to report the restoration is going well and we hope to complete it in time for Showcase.

One product recommendation we can pass along is known as Pump-N-Seal. Partially used paints and varnishes, in particular oil-based, tend to dry up over time if left in their original



John van Buren preps the hull for painting



Gunwales are removed for sanding and varnishing



Brass is polished

OFFICERS

*Some recent position changes
are not yet reflected*

President - Kay McCampbell
nwapresidentkay@gmail.com

Vice President/Program Chair
Lee Hilt
lhagrh@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



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Totally Turning Chair

Todd Gunter



Hull painting is completed



We used Pump-N-Seal to vacuum seal unused paint & varnish.

containers. With Pump-N-Seal you make a tiny hole in the lid of a mason jar (with a supplied tool), pump out the air and seal it with a special tape. John Michne, who introduced this product to the author, claims he has saved varnish for more than 5 years using this product. As a sidenote it's also used for preserving foodstuffs.

Carved Indian Headdress Wall Hanging

By Diane Balch

These Indian headdresses were CNC carved by Ernie Balch and were painted and feathers assembled by Diane Balch. They measure 20 inches high by 19 inches wide. The headdress of the Indian with the copper face looking to the right is the right wing and feathers from a large tom turkey. The tom's beard is attached to the beads medallion. The Indian looking to the left has the left wing and feathers of the same turkey. The turkey was hit by my son's car about 22 years ago.



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 March

Submissions are due by the 15th of each month
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Most Successful Year Ever at SHS Holiday Market!

By Linda Reiss

The Shaker Heritage Society had the most successful Holiday Market ever and the NWA booth as always, was a big draw for shoppers. You, our members, stepped up by contributing useful and creative pieces—we sold 230 items and netted just over \$2,000 for the NWA general fund.

Every SIG and many individuals deserve thanks for crafting and donating items for the booth. Items were priced from \$2 to \$100, the latter being a beautiful hand-carved nuthatch. Shoppers snapped up multi-wood grasshoppers, adorable tiny turned mice, useful bottle/can openers, pasta measurers and hand-carved spoons. Walnut dough scrapers and colorfully dyed “fish” boxes, beautiful cutting boards, shoehorns, pasta measurers, coasters and napkin holders were popular items. As always, members from every SIG contributed a variety of popular items like comfort birds, fairy wands, small bowls, whimsical gnomes, Christmas trees and more.

In addition to generating operating income, the SHS Holiday Market is a wonderful opportunity to advertise our organization. We had to replenish our supply of NWA brochures and business cards several times during the 2½ months of the Market. Hopefully, we'll be seeing some new members in the coming months!

Happily, the success of the Market left us with little inventory to take forward to the NWA Showcase store in March, so we're hoping that the membership will continue to support the organization through their generous contributions. Thank you to all!



Scott Oliver Demonstrates Carving Hollow or Concave Surfaces

By *Bruce Nelson*

On January 7th, 2025, Scott Oliver made a presentation to the Hand Tool SIG about carving hollow or concave surfaces. Twenty-one people attended. Scott demonstrated the carving process for three projects: a bowl, using an adze and curved gouge; a Windsor chair seat, using a scorp (inshave), travisher, heel shave, pattern maker's curved spokeshave, and card scraper; and a spoon, using a curved gouge, hook knife, and card scraper.

Scott started a bowl of unseasoned soft maple by using an adze to cut a groove perpendicular to the blank's grain direction. This allowed him to work from opposite ends or edges of the blank and minimized tear out in the center of the bowl. The adze is short-handled and beveled on the outside of the blade. He typically mounts the blank on a knee-high platform, using dogs and wedges to secure it. Once roughed out, he mounts the piece on the workbench and uses a curved gouge to refine the bowl. He recommended David Fisher's article on carving a bowl in *Fine Wood Working* #283 as a useful reference.

Scott started carving a Windsor chair seat of air-dried white pine, approximately two inches thick. Prior to beginning, he had drilled two small diameter half-inch deep holes in the rear of the seat where the maximum amount of wood



Scott discusses the layout of a bowl with an initial cut perpendicular to the grain



Scott discusses the use of an adze

was to be removed. Once his carving reached the bottom of these holes, he knew he should remove no additional wood. He mentioned that an examination of 18th and 19th Century

chairs indicated that seats were generally carved to only a shallow depth, unlike some more modern seats, e.g. Sam Maloof. Scott began carving with light strokes using a scorp. He had hollow ground the outside of the scorp for a bevel-down edge. He emphasized the need to frequently hone the bevel to maintain a good cutting edge. Next, he used a travisher to refine the shape of the seat, always skewing the travisher, regardless of whether he was pushing or pulling the tool. He briefly demonstrated a heel shave and pattern maker's curved spokeshave for refining tighter curves and then finished with scrapers. He recommended Curtis Buchanan's YouTube video, The Democratic Chair, as a reference.

Scott started carving a spoon from a piece of air-dried cherry salvaged from a firewood pile. He carved the bowl first with a curved gouge and hook knife, finishing with a card scraper for final smoothing. Scott stressed using care with a hook knife, as it can be a dangerous tool, especially two-sided ones. It is safest to use when you work piece is secured by dogs on a work bench and your second hand is not used to hold the work.



Initial roughing in of spoon bowl



Scott discusses the use of an adze

Classifieds

For sale - Genmitsu CNC Router Machine PROVerXL 4030 for Wood Metal Acrylic MDF Carving Arts Crafts DIY Design, 3 Axis Milling Cutting Engraving Machine, Working Area 400 x 300 x 110mm (15.7"x11.8"x4.3")

<https://a.co/d/dqvusR>.

Also included is the OEM magnetic dust shoe. Click on the above link for a full description on Amazon.com.

The machine is new, fully assembled, but has never been plugged in. Machine and dust shoe new cost just over \$1000 in 2023. Make a reasonable offer. John Michne, (518) 371-6690 or jmichne1@nycap.rr.com.



Initial use of the scorp for rough shaping of a Windsor chair seat

New Member Spotlight - Denise Watso

By Linda Reiss

A new NWA Member this year, Denise Watso is an active member of the Carving SIG, although she has wide interest in many areas of working and using wood products inspired by her Native American heritage. Denise is a citizen of the Abenaki Nation of Odanak, a group of about 70,000 Indigenous people who have lived in the northeastern United States and Quebec since time immemorial. Abenaki means “people of the dawn land” or “people of the first light.”

In early December, Denise did a presentation for our group and brought a broad sampling of many carved items and black ash baskets made by her family members, most of which were handmade by her father and aunt. Denise’s father and four of his eldest siblings are survivors of residential schools. The Canadian government enacted the Indian Act of 1876 to forcibly remove Indigenous children from their families and send those children hundreds of miles away. He spent most of his youth there until he returned to Odanak Reserve at 17 years old. These schools can only be described as evil. Eventually, he settled in the Capital District which has a large Abenaki population, and he now resides at Odanak, an Abenaki reservation which is close to Quebec.



Items made by Denise’s family members

Denise is very involved in participating in and preserving the culture of her Indigenous family and often is called on to speak at events to educate the public about the Abenaki culture. Denise was a Contract Management Specialist for the NYS Department of Transportation prior to her retirement in July 2024.



Deer skin drum and beaters made by Denise



Denise explains Abenaki basket-making techniques

Mid-Hudson News

By Wally Cook

Jimmy Lee Workshop: Work continued on the new shop. The final task is to complete the dust collection system. Pat DiStefano and Andy Champ-Doran led the team to install the piping. Two dust collectors will be used for the building, both installed external from the building, but under a roofed alcove.

A work team consisting of Andy, Pat, Andy Moss, Ron Roberts, Bill Sterling, Paul Phillips, Mike Guiliano, Steve Schoenberg, Wally Cook, and others spent several sessions cutting, fitting and anchoring the piping in the shop. Once the collectors are connected, the shop will be dedicated (Jimmy's Place) and ready for work!



The finished wall with drops to the equipment placements



Andy Champ-Doran and Pat DiStefano lay out the piping system



Mike Guiliano and Andy Moss install spacers on the metal ceiling to anchor the pipes



Steve Schoenberg attaches sections of the duct collection piping



Ron Roberts secures the main pipe to the ceiling

New Officers for the KWA:

The Kaatskill Woodturners Association elected officers for a two-year term. The new slate consists of the following individuals:

- President: Stan Pressner
- Vice-president: Paul Phillips
- Treasurer: Wally Cook
- Secretary: Pat DiStefano

A Big Thank You: to Michael Jensen, for hosting a special education session for the Mid-Hudson members on Band Saw operation. This is one of the entries in the Machine Knowledgeable program presented by the LCOC. Feedback from the training was extremely positive. Thanks, Michael!



Joe Kennedy looks on as Dap Cole (blue shirt) presents a purple heart to Ron Wohlfield

Sad News: Marvin “Dap”

Cole passed away January 6. He was a month shy of his 99th birthday. In better days, Dap was an irrepressible force among the Mid-Hudson membership. He loved a good joke and made himself responsible for fashioning “purple heart awards” for those members suffering any manner of mishap in the line of woodworking.

SHOWCASE

March 29th and 30th, 2025

Saratoga Springs City Center
Saratoga Springs, NY

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 stevevdz@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