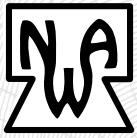


# WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern  
Woodworkers  
Association

September 2025, Vol. 34, Number 7

## Another NWA Community Service for the Shaker Heritage Society

*By Susan McDermott*

The Society's August newsletter expressed gratitude for NWA's valued labor at the Shaker site. The director, Johanna Batman, acknowledged Lee Hilt and his son, Liam's contribution of two days' work in June demolishing and disposing of the turkey cages next to the barn and the back steps to the porch of the Brethren's workshop.

Anyone who has attended the past twenty years of the annual Lumber and Tool Auction will remember the loud squawks of the turkeys, now silenced forever. Lee mentioned a movie crew was surveying the site for a shoot in July, but the turkeys are not in the cast.



*The old steps to the Brethren's Workshop*



*Demolished cages*



*Liam loads the debris in a 30-yard roll-off.*



## OFFICERS

*Some recent position changes  
are not yet reflected*

**President** - Kay McCampbell  
nwa.president@woodworker.org

**Vice President/Program Chair**  
Roy Richardson

**Recording Secretary** - Linda Reiss

**Treasurer** - Alan Hayes

**Executive Secretary** - Vacant



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Board Member at Large

Doug Wildes

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Rich Cerruto, Vice President

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Karoline Sears

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### Totally Turning Chair

Todd Gunter

# Remembering Jeannie Aldous

*By Steve Schoenberg*

On July 25 we lost a dear friend. Dorothy "Jeannie" Aldous was 76.

We remember Jeannie as the long-time leader of the NWA Scrolling SIG. She taught so many of us to scroll. Her big smile made it easy to think of scrolling as fun. Do you remember all the scroll sawed farm animals that were always a raffle item at Showcase? That was Jeannie's doing.

Jeannie and a team of scrollers were the driving force that filled the Showcase Hall with so many woodworking vendors year after year. We haven't seen Jeannie at NWA events in some years as she spent her last years caring for her husband "Billie".

This segmented bowl (see photo) was a collaboration project by Billie and Jeannie and is one of my favorite pieces, not only for its unique beauty but for its memory of two dear friends that enriched our lives and gave so much of themselves to the NWA.

I will always remember Jeannie's warm smile, her passion for scrolling, and her friendship. A link to her obituary is [HERE](#).



*Dorothy "Jeannie" Aldous*



*Jeannie teaching scrolling*



*Jeannie attending Warren Stoker's toy making class in 2012*



*Segmented Bowl crafted by Billie and Jeannie Aldous*

## 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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Rexford, New York 12148

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# AWA Benefits Patients of the Charles R. Wood Cancer Center in Glens Falls

*By Bill O'Brien*

The NWA SIG Adirondack Woodturner's Association undertakes a number of charitable initiatives and has recently added another.

Working with The Oncology Education and Support Services Office, AWA officers Bill O'Brien and Alan Silvia, and member Bob Fleury organized an opportunity for AWA members to design and turn wig stands for patients who have suffered hair loss associated with cancer treatments.

Commercially available wig stands tend to be utilitarian and not visually pleasing – often wire cages or Styrofoam head shapes. AWA members can use their imagination and skills to create stands that will be much more attractive.

Members were provided with wig stand specifications and guidance developed and used by other woodturning groups, including the Florida West Coast Turners Association.

The initiative began with a briefing in the July AWA meeting. The goal is to turn, finish and supply an initial set of 20 wig stands by the end of September when they will be presented to the C.R. Wood Cancer Center.

Members are encouraged to work through August towards our goal. Wig stand specifications and instructions can be downloaded [HERE](#), and spindle and bowl blanks are available for making wig stands.

For blanks or with any questions, contact Bob Fleury at [constablefleury@yahoo.com](mailto:constablefleury@yahoo.com) or Bill O'Brien at [williamobrien33@hotmail.com](mailto:williamobrien33@hotmail.com).



*Wig stand*



# Musical Instruments SIG Builds Flutes and Guitars to Donate to Double H Ranch

*By Susan McDermott*

Jon Hedman, Erik Marczak, and Ray Puffer instruct some very talented students in restoring, building, and tuning musical instruments. The class meets the second Tuesday of the month from 6PM to 8PM. They are currently completing four flutes made by Eric Marczak and Dustin Lewis, two cigar box guitars, made by Jon Hedman, and accepting the generous donation of a custom built four-string, slide guitar by one of the students, Jeff Drake.

Jon's cigar box guitars will soon be completed. The smaller one pictured on the right will be four strings tuned like a baritone ukulele, and the left larger one will have its three strings tuned to G-D-G. Both will have pick-ups to accept plug in amps.

The four Native American flutes pictured below were made by Erik Marczak from the Union College Black Walnut tree, but Eric and student Dustin Lewis, as well as Armond Acosta and Ray Puffer are making other flutes for donation. All these instruments will be auctioned to raise money at a September gala for the financial supporters of the Double H Ranch.



*Marczak's Walnut flutes*



*Hedman's cigar box guitars (in construction)*



*Drake's slide guitar*

# Bioarchaeologist Lisa Anderson Will Speak at NWA Monthly Meeting, September 11 at 7 PM

*By Susan McDermott*

Lisa Anderson visited the NWA shop at 97 Railroad Avenue on a Tuesday morning in June to see the progress of the Crafters building forty-five pine boxes to hold the remains of soldiers discovered in February 2019. A construction site's soil was bulldozed for an apartment complex on Courtland Street in Lake George that unearthed human bones of soldiers who died of smallpox at the start of the American Revolution in the summer of 1776. Lisa said thousands of soldiers died of the disease at Fort George after they retreated from the British to Crown Point. The Colonies were reluctant to send more troops, and there were many deserters avoiding the deadly disease.

About fifteen full time archaeology trainers and students and 140 volunteers spent fifteen months sifting through piles of dirt to find the bones of forty-five bodies identified by tooth structures and thigh bones. The buttons of their uniforms identified the men as members of the First PA Battalion of the Continental Army. It marched 500 men from Philadelphia to the northern end of Lake Champlain and then on to Quebec and Montreal (<https://www.forticonderoga.org>).

The New York State Museum has been examining and cataloging the remains. According to the Courtland Street Reinterment Committee, "This constitutes one of modern history's most important archaeological findings to date in Lake George." McMaster University in Ontario, Canada maintains a data base of DNA to track the evolution of smallpox. For photographs of the excavation site and more about Lisa's leadership, read "*The Impact of 18th Century Human Remains Found in Lake George*" in Adirondack Explorer, (<https://share.google/6VJntb7BFx3EZrOiu>). NWA is pleased to announce that Lisa Anderson has kindly accepted our invitation to be the speaker at our first monthly meeting on September 11. Please watch for Constant Contact for details.

## Crafters Build Interment Boxes

*By Rick Bird*

The Crafters have been working on building 45 pine interment boxes for the New York State Museum. Lisa Anderson, Museum Curator for Bioarcheology (second from left) stopped by the shop this morning (June 24th) to pick up a second set of completed boxes. The Museum discovered a burial site in Lake George Village that contained the remains of 45 Revolutionary War soldiers. The bones will be reinterred in the boxes then placed in a memorial columbarium in the Village next Memorial Day. Many Crafters have been helping with the project but pictured here are (left to right) Juliana Shei, Lisa, Sue McDermott, Rick Bird (me), Dave Mobley, and Wayne Distin. We are about one quarter of the way through the project so work will continue in the months ahead.







*Gluing up an interment box*



*A few finished boxes*

## Crafters' Project for Double H Ranch (AKA Hole in the Woods)

*By Susan McDermott*

In addition to the Lake George interment boxes currently being built, the Crafters have given hours to making 40+ birdhouse kits for the children at the Double H Ranch children's camp located in the town of Lake Luzerne, NY. (<https://www.doublehranch.org>) NWA has been donating wooden projects made in our shops for over twenty years to the brave children suffering serious illnesses.

All the parts were sanded and drilled to be fastened by the children. Typed instructions were placed in each plastic bag of parts with nails included.



*An assembled model with specs*



*One birdhouse parts with predrilled holes for nails*



*Birdhouse parts to be bagged as kits*

# News from the Fiske Fund

*Below is an article written by NWA member Kerry Lambertson which was provided by him as part of his documentation for his Fiske Fund grant. The Fiske Fund provided funds to Mr. Lambertson for this class.*

## *On the Making of Violin Bows*

*By Kerry Lambertson*

Making a violin requires patience, determination, and a high level of woodworking skill. But the violin, once made, can't fulfill its musical purpose without another wooden instrument. The bow, of course. It lends a violin its voice and allows the player to draw a broad palette of sound from the instrument. I've been building violins for about seven years now, and my interest in bow making has been growing for the past couple of years. In early 2025, I signed up for two weeks of bow making classes at the Learning Trade Secrets School in Ashland, OH. Then, later in the spring, I was awarded a Fiske Fund Grant by NWA to help support the trip.

The classes took place during July of this year. The first week of class focused on making the frog, which is the piece that captures the bow hair at the playing end. The frog is generally made from ebony. It also involves some silversmithing and working with shell. The basic hand work techniques-which included a lot of knife, file, and chisel work-were all familiar to me. But making the heel plate, ferrule, and underslide, and joining them to the ebony, were new and challenging. It was a bit of a race to get all of the frog's complex pieces together in five days, but I was able to finish by Friday afternoon.

The second week of class covered the making of the bow "stick". The traditionally desirable wood for bows is called pernambuco. It's native to Brazil and is now endangered. Though pernambuco is still available, we used an alternative material. The wood that the class used is called Katalox, also known as Mexican Ebony. It has bending characteristics and density that make it suitable for bows and was a good alternative to pernambuco. Personally, I'm always happy to use a less precious wood during my first few attempts at a project. Many

bow sticks are broken during the stage called cambering. During this stage the wood is bent over an open flame to the desired curve.

Again, many parts of the stick-making process were familiar to me. There was a lot of planing, knife work, and precise measuring involved. Other parts were new, like using a bow drill. This tool is similar to what the original French bow makers, like Tourte and Pecatte, would have used. It is a bench mounted horizontal drill that uses a drive cord tied to a "bow" (in our case, the bow was a bent fencing foil) to power the drill. It took a bit of getting used to, but I found it to be a very effective tool. By the end of the second week, I was able to make two bow sticks.

I'll have to string the bows with horsehair before I can hear their sound on the violin. But I had a great introduction to the craft of bow making and can't wait to explore it in more depth.

## A Thank You to Aaron Smith

*By Rick Bird*

Our thanks to member Aaron Smith for tuning, sharpening, and cleaning up seven crosscut and rip handsaws for use in the ongoing Fundamentals of Woodworking courses. These handsaws were donated to the NWA for potential sale in our fall auction but were instead repurposed for use in the techniques of hand sawing segment of the Fundamentals course. Aaron donated his efforts to the program, and we are grateful for his time. Should anyone need a handsaw sharpened give Aaron a call or check out his website: <https://benchandchisel.com/>

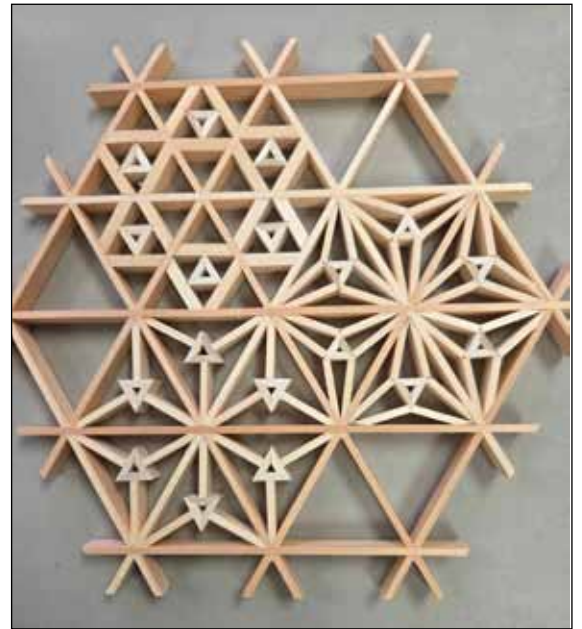


# Juliana Shei Teaches a Two-Session Class in Intermediate Kumiko

*By Susan McDermott*

On Friday, August 15, five of nine students began the first session by learning to build their own Triangle Grid Sled for their home table saws. The remaining four will meet in another scheduled class. The sled design is Juliana's preference for accuracy and simplicity. She brought two other sled designs and pointed out their disadvantages. Each student was given the wood parts precut, screws, metric rulers, and an excellent four-page handout. They built their sleds in the shop with the help of Juliana and her assistant, Don Cooke. At the end of class they took their sleds with two runners and some pennies as spacers to fit the miter slots of their own table saws. They will attach the two runners to the sled's underside using glue and #6 countersink screws. Don suggested paste wax on the runners and underside of the sled for smooth sled movement.

Juliana passed out a bundle of strips to be notched at home to construct the frame of their elected pattern (four designs to choose from).



*A sample of a complicated design made by Juliana*



*Materials Juliana prepared for the class*



*Examples of other sled designs*



*30 and 60 degrees for trimming wood strips*



*Saw blade set at 4 millimeters*



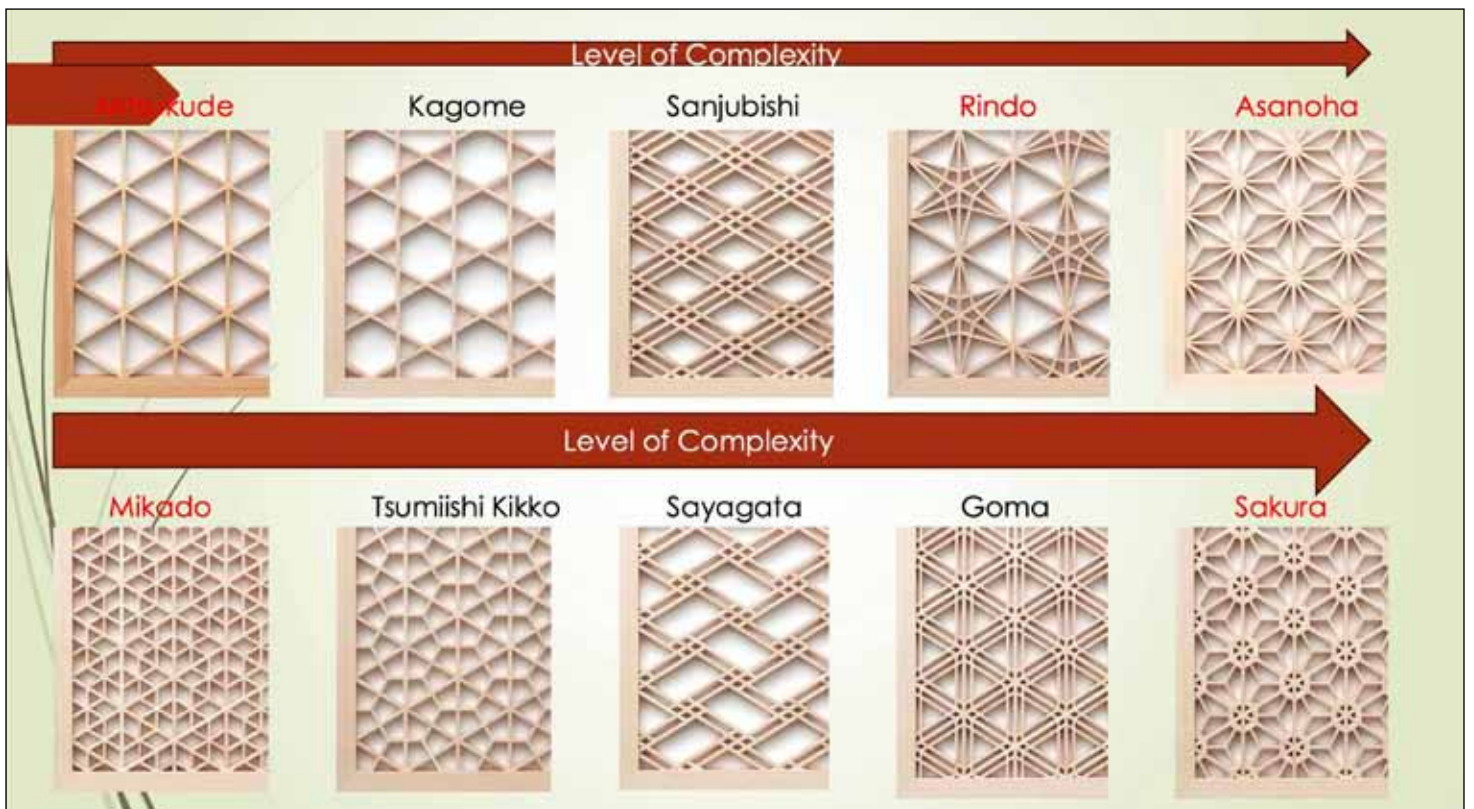


*Don waxes the runners*



*The class with Juliana*

*Runners spaced for StopSaw's miter grooves*



*Kumiko Designs with their Japanese names*

# Fifteen NWA Members Attended Steve VanDerZee's Burial

*By Susan McDermott*

One of our most valued members was laid to rest in St. Mary's Cemetery, Waterford, NY.

James Steven VanDerZee passed suddenly on Easter Sunday, and his ashes were interred at the family grave site of his deceased wife Shirley Ceccucci-VanDerZee. Don Orr turned a beautiful urn for Steve's ashes and gave a moving eulogy at the shop's celebration of Steve's life at the May 12th Potluck. Steve's small family of a sister, Kathryn and brother, David was made larger by Steve's family of NWA members. He spent many hours and days at the shop teaching turning, scrolling, and prep work in the machine room. He was qualified to oversee the use of all the shop's power tools and was always available to help the less skilled wood workers. His absence has left a great void in our shop's activities as we are painfully reminded of daily.



*Don Orr's Urn*

## Wooden You Like To Know

*By Charlie James*

*Editor's note – Please welcome NWA member Charlie James to the list of contributors to this newsletter. You probably haven't seen much of him since he lives in Nassau county. He has contributed many shop tips to Fine Wood Working magazine and the Long Island Woodworkers newsletter and will contribute his expertise monthly here in "Wooden You Like to Know".*

I recently bought some Felpro cork and rubber gasket making material for padding vise jaws. It helps to prevent marring my work as well as preventing my work from slipping in the vise; it really holds the work tight. It is packaged in 10" X 26" X  $\frac{3}{32}$ " sheets, very inexpensive and holds up well to abuse. I used hide glue to hold it which works well but I'm sure there are other glues that work as well. You can get it [HERE](#) and probably at similar stores.





# Sawdust...

The “10 Corny Carvers” met for a corn fest after spending the evening carving. We just had to take advantage of wonderful very fresh picked corn! - *Diane Balch*



## 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:** Vacant

**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. Meetings are held at 12 noon on the second Saturday of the month at the KWA Shop, 2076 Sawkill-Ruby Road, Kingston, NY. **Contact:** Stan Pressner 917-535-4195 or spressner@me.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.