

# WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern  
Woodworkers  
Association

February 2026, Vol. 35, Number 2

## Crafters Build a Raffle Item for Showcase

By Susan McDermott

The Crafters have a project planned to be raffled off at Showcase. Dave Mobley showed us a sketch of a Shaker style bookcase to be made of white oak from the Shaker Barn supply and a donation by Juliana Shei. White oak was selected for its tan/brown color, hardness, water resistance, with closed pores. Here are some pictures of the progress of the project, as promised in the January issue of the newsletter.



*The challenge of white oak.*



*Crafters' project for Showcase Raffle.*



*Although its boards are precisely planed to the same thickness, there is movement that frustrates the glue up.*



*Shelves.*

## OFFICERS

*Some recent position changes  
are not yet reflected*

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

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**Recording Secretary** - Linda Reiss

**Treasurer** - Alan Hayes

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Doug Wildes

Board Member Emeritus:  
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Phil Dudek, Secretary



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**Auction and Hospitality**  
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nwauction1@gmail.com

### Education

Chair - Chuck Thorne,  
nwasearch1@gmail.com  
Registrar - Frank Necaise,  
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### Fiske Fund Committee

Constituted as of October 28, 2025

Chair: Robert Fleury

Bob DelSignore  
John Kingsley  
Jim Lefebvre  
Steven Mapes  
Nick Piedmont

### Historian

Wayne Distin

**Library**  
Susan Hill

**LCOC**  
Ray Puffer

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nwa.membership@woodworker.org

### Newsletter Editor

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**Publicity**  
John Olenik

### Showcase Chair

Dave Rustin,  
nwa.showcase.chair2@gmail.com

**Totally Turning Chair**  
Todd Gunter

# Coming Soon—SHOWCASE 2026

*By Linda Reiss*

Showcase 2026 is coming up in just two months and planning is well underway. NWA had the most successful year ever at this season's Shaker Holiday Market, but that success left us with little inventory to seed the 2026 Showcase store. We are once again asking members to donate one or more items to be offered in the Showcase Store. Showcase of course is our most visible and popular event of the year and allows us to both display the talent of our woodworkers and attract new members.

Donations can be dropped off at the Learning Center at 97 Railroad Ave. in Albany. If you need additional information about the Showcase store or about making a donation, please contact Linda Reiss at lreiss894@aol.com. As always, members can also offer their work on a consignment basis. Information on the consignment process is available on our website. Thank you all for supporting Showcase 2026!

## Wooden You Like to Know

*By Charlie James*

I use this method when I want to smooth out the inside of a hole or smooth out a curve quickly at my workbench. A large dowel works better; smaller dowels can split easily. Use a lathe or rough cut a tenon on the other end to fit your drill chuck. Cut a notch down the middle of a dowel with a bandsaw or thin bladed hand saw. Fold a piece of sandpaper around the diameter and add a little extra length so it will go into the fold enough to be held by a wedge. Push it into the center to hold the sandpaper tight.



# A Thank You to AWA

By **Bob Fleury**

Numerous AWA turners have been working over the last eight months to create wig stands that were donated to the Cancer Center at Glens Falls Hospital in September. While we made note of the effort in earlier newsletters, somehow we just got the very nice thank you from the Cancer Center and I wanted to be sure to share it with the too many to mention AWA turners and crafters who created some twenty wig stands.

Kudos to each and every one of you!

The letter is attached. Fair warning however: no good deed goes unpunished. We hope to create and manage an ongoing relationship with cancer survivors and become a reliable and continuing contributor to them and their unmet needs. We have the resources and they have the needs..... what's to stop us?



126 South Street  
Glens Falls, NY 12801  
Tel: 518.926.5960  
[GlensFallsHospital.org](http://GlensFallsHospital.org)

Dear Mr. Fleury:

Thank you for the in-kind donation of the 20-hand carved wooden wig stands for the patients of the CR Wood Cancer Center. Donors like you help us provide another level of care and elevate the patient experience.

Your support will help Glens Falls Hospital provide our regional community with advanced, quality care, close to home. With your generosity, we will continue to make a difference in the lives of local families for generations to come.

You are truly making a difference here in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cindy Sherwood".

Cindy Sherwood  
Vice President of Development

## Sawdust...

Every year at this time before Showcase the dates on the existing lawn and magnetic signs are updated so that they can be used this year. If anyone hasn't returned last year's signs, please do so as soon as possible. Leave them at the shop near the front door.

Thank you,  
Diane Balch



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# Five Things to Know About the Fiske Fund

By Bob Fleury

You have heard about it but gave it only a passing thought as a nice thing for NWA to do – help others. Well – here are five things to know about the Fiske Fund:

One: The Fiske Fund Committee is an integral part of NWA responsible for managing a fund set up by Milan Fiske, one of NWA's founders, dedicated to the furtherance of woodworking by granting educational awards.

Two: An average of four to six grants are made each year to individual NWA members. Those grants can be as high as \$750.00. That is a chunk of change. Last year, grants helped defray costs of attending courses in Berwick, Maine; Boulder, Colorado; Ashland, Ohio; Provo, Utah and right here at home in Albany.

Three: It is a simple application. All the requirements and an easy to fill out application form are on line on the NWA website. Of course, there are limitations and requirements but not one applicant has ever complained about the financial help the Fiske Fund can offer NWA members.

Four: The Fiske Fund gets money each year from a portion of the proceeds of the tool and lumber auction – which as you know is an all-volunteer effort, and the committee tries to give as many grants as possible from that fund-raising effort. If there is anything left over, it goes into next year's budget.

Five: Go for it – as a member of NWA, you have access to the Fiske Fund to help defray costs that you incur in the furtherance of your individual quest to advance your woodworking knowledge.

Keep the shavings flying and the sawdust down.

## News From the Fiske Fund

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

### **Highlights from My Week with Peter Galbert, Chairmaker**

**The Physicality of it All:** What no one ever tells you, but I should have expected, is that building a chair is a physical endeavor. I developed two blisters on the first day, but I would not trade the experience for the world. Day one saw us jump right into the deep end with riving spindles from logs and shaving, shaving, shaving them on the shave horse with our draw knife. At the end of the day, the pile of shavings around our respective shave horses was enough to start a small business selling fire starters. After a grueling day one, day two was more of the same where we continued working on our spindles and started shaping our arm bows. While the remainder



Splitting out spindle stock from white oak logs.



A pile of shavings.

of the week was not as taxing, there was hardly a moment when you were not moving. Being a professional chairmaker could easily take care of your cardio requirements for the week!

**Tools:** In practice, you could make a chair with an ax, a pocket knife, and a curved blade for scooping out your seat...but that would not be much fun, and the results would be left wanting. The most effective, and pleasurable, route is to invest in some special chairmaking tools. During our class we used several tools including a draw knife, spoke shaves, travisher, curved card scrapers, tapered reamers, and tapered tenon cutters. Pete has worked with several talented tool makers to develop his own version of several of these tools, including the T2 travisher, which is just an awesome tool to behold and use.



Pete demonstrating shaping of the arm bow.



Arm bow bending form.



Drilling seat mortises with a drilling fixture.



Tapered reamer demonstration.

Other tools that are commonly used in chairmaking, but which we did not work with during our class, were an adze and an in-shave. The effectiveness of the T2 travisher allowed us to skip those tools entirely while shaping our seats.

## Getting Jiggy

**With It:** Like many other disciplines in woodworking, chairmaking is no exception when it comes to using jigs and fixtures to make creation and assembly of your chair easier. My personal favorite was the fixture we used when drilling the mortises in our arm bows, so much less stress! Pete's inventiveness is evident in the jigs we used throughout the process. Sometimes a couple of pieces of plywood are all it takes to make the job at hand that much easier!



*A couple pieces of plywood and some clamps make drilling leg mortises a breeze!*



*Fixture to hold the arm bow in place while drilling mortises.*

**People, Place and Pets:** While yes, making a chair is a good deal of work, there is much to be said about spending a week with like-minded folks with nothing to worry about other than making a chair. Add to that the serene setting of a converted 19th century barn in Maine and you have a winning combination for a fantastic woodworking experience. We had folks from all over - including a couple from Japan who are opening their own woodworking school. And special mention goes to Georgia, shop dog extraordinaire.



*The shop interior.*



*Georgia in all her splendor.*

**Thank You:** A massive thank you for the kindness, hospitality and knowledge shared by Pete and Georgia and to my classmates who made the class even more fun. Additional thanks go to the Northeastern Woodworkers Association who helped make this experience possible through their Fiske Fund. Thank you!

Find out more about Peter Galbert and his classes at <https://www.petergalbert.com>.

# 2026 WOODWORKER'S SHOWCASE

## &

## TOTALLY TURNING

## Annual Woodturning Symposium

March 28 & 29  
Saratoga Springs City Center  
Saratoga, NY

### SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs):

**Adirondack Woodturners Association** - The AWA holds a general meeting (usually including a live demonstration) at 6:00pm on the first Wednesday of each month (except for January and July, when the meetings fall on the second Wednesday). AWA also hosts Open Turning where turners can come to learn and refine their skills from 5:30pm to 8:00pm on all other Wednesdays. Contact: Bill O'Brien at [williamobrien33@hotmail.com](mailto:williamobrien33@hotmail.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](mailto: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](http://www.adirondackwoodturners.com) **Contact:** Pam Bucci at (518) 429-6440 or [woolglass2@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:jonwhedman@gmail.com), (518) 399-7849; Ray Puffer, [Ray.Puffer@gmail.com](mailto:Ray.Puffer@gmail.com), (518) 272-6421; Eric Marczak, [epm03@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:wster1156@aol.com) or Wally Cook [wally.cook@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:r_cerruto@yahoo.com).