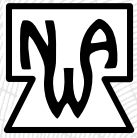


WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern
Woodworkers
Association

April 2026, Vol. 35, Number 4

Looking Ahead

By Roy Richardson, Vice President

Following a successful 2026 NWA Showcase and Totally Turning Symposium, our club is gearing up for some great upcoming meetings. Here is a look at what is coming up:

There will be a NWA meeting on April 9th at 7pm at the Herm Finkbeiner Learning Center located at 97 Railroad Avenue, Albany, NY. We have a vote on by-laws changes followed by hearing from several of our members who will share some of their favorite shop tips. Topics will include story sticks, ways to make fine tool adjustments, sanding aids, and milk paint finishing. Our presenters are Stan Blanchard, Wally Carpenter, Juliana Shei, Chuck Thorne, and Dave Mobley.

For our May meeting, we will be holding club elections. We are currently finalizing location and details for that meeting, so please read your email or check the website for updates. That meeting will be on May 14, 2026.

Finally, if you are interested in presenting at one of our monthly meetings or know someone who may be willing, the please email me at nwa.vicepresident@woodworker.org.

Thank you,
Roy

Showcase 2026: Behind the Scenes

By Susan McDermott

Ever wonder how our NWA members coordinate the setup of a huge weekend Showcase at the Saratoga Civic Center, year after year? It begins with a planning committee of twenty-five knowledgeable, experienced people meeting once a month for ten months. Each member has an area of responsibility such as the rental of three Penske trucks to load and haul our Learning Center's wood lathes, work benches, and tools. Other responsibilities are the recruitment of one hundred plus volunteers to fill 450 two or three-hour slots as ushers, ticket sellers, camera operators, security, NWA Store staff, Toy Factory teachers, Raffle ticket sales and awards, and SIG members demonstrations of carving, turning, scrolling, using hand tools, and building musical instruments. On Friday



Rick Bird loads a wood lathe from the Learning Center.

OFFICERS

Some recent position changes are not yet reflected

President - Open

Vice President/Program Chair
Roy Richardson

Recording Secretary - open

Treasurer - Alan Hayes

Executive Secretary - Vacant



NWA BOARD MEMBERS

Mid-Hudson Rep: Pete Chast

Board Members at Large:

Open Positions



MID-HUDSON CHAPTER

Bill Sterling, President

Rich Cerruto, Vice President

Patsy Boisvert, Treasurer

Phil Dudek, Recording Secretary



CHAIR/CONTACT PERSONS

Auction and Hospitality

Lee Hilt,

nwauction1@gmail.com

Education

Chair - Chuck Thorne,

nwasearch1@gmail.com

Registrar - Frank Necaie,

nwaeducation1@gmail.com

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

Membership

David Peterson,

nwa.membership@woodworker.org

Newsletter Editor

John Michne,

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Publicity

John Olenik

Showcase Chair

Dave Rustin,

nwa.showcase.chair2@gmail.com

Totally Turning Chair

Todd Gunter

night, the thirty-two thousand square feet of the Civic Center's event space is filled in a matter of hours with demonstration booths and vendors' space, all carefully measured to accommodate Totally Turning's gallery in the center and 26+ vendors. Some vendors will pay for two, three, or four booth areas.

Another large room accommodates the wood crafts entries of furniture, musical instruments, carvings, scrollings, intricate toys and clocks, a chess set, acrylic and wood turnings and tables, segmented bowls, and wooden works of art. Here, Best in Show, People's Choice, the 2026 Challenge, and categories of submissions were judged and awarded ribbons late Sunday afternoon.



The truck's tail gate lifts are overlapped.



The transfer is dangerous and slow.



The shop equipment fills one truck, loaded by Todd Gunther, Bob Reinhart, Don Orr, and Bill O'Brien.



The Shaker garage stores the crates and all these tools.



Three 2500-pound crates are loaded on the end of one truck and shifted to the back of a second truck.

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 May. Submissions are due by the 15th of each month. John Michne, Editor
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NORTHEASTERN WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

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Heavy cement blocks secure the booths' poles. Steve Talmadge lifts them into place.



Grinders turners use to sharpen their gouges.



Just some of the lathes ready to be moved.



This vendor, Bob Garay of Takeadip Tools, is a retired shop teacher who has come to Showcase since 2016.



Vendor Bob Garay's Takeadip Antique Tools booth.

Showcase Highlights

By Susan McDermott

Some woodworkers' accomplishments and donations not mentioned in this newsletter's articles will be described here. We start with the Toy Factory which lures the children of families attending. Mid-Hudson NWA has organized this area for many years by creating kits of totes, birdhouses, race cars, spinning tops, and other build-it-yourself projects. Adult volunteers supervise the safety practices and proper use of tools. Throughout the Showcase Exhibit floor, one would find happy children carrying their totes, cars, and birdhouses.

Another children's activity was the scavenger hunt for twelve mice hidden about the exhibit area. The first to find eight and report to the Membership Booth, won a soap carving kit. NWA member and carver Jackie Donahoe ran the soap carving booth for adults and children to learn the rudiments of carving using safe wooden tools.



Girl gets instruction at Toy Factory.



Toy Factory's top spinner.



Scavenger hunt for mice.



The prize for mouse hunt winner.



Jackie Donahoe.



Soap carver with safe tools.

Every year NWA Showcase planners create a Woodworkers' Challenge. This year's was building a box 12" x 12" x 12", less than 15 pounds and "able to rest in place". It would be judged on "visual interest, creativity, and execution within the methods used." The winner was David Mobley's lidded box of maple with bargello marquetry top panel of mixed veneers.



Winner of NWA Woodworkers' Challenge.

In addition to the main raffle led by Marilou Pudiak-Town, a second one was held with items donated by the NWA Crafters and Musical Instruments SIG. Displayed were a white oak Roycroft display tower made by the Crafters, and two cigar box guitars (a three string and a four string) made and donated by Jon Hedman. The Music Instruments SIG crafted and donated three Native American style flutes.



Three Native American style flutes.



Jon Hedman with cigar box guitar.



Roycroft display tower.

The Showcase Gallery held hundreds of crafted pieces from furniture to art, to carvings, to musical instruments, toys, scroll work, boxes, all too numerous to include in this newsletter.

Totally Turning had its own large gallery on the Civic Center's main floor with beautifully turned bowls, pens, vases, lidded boxes, and urns. A sample of these are in the photographs below.



Kirk Decker's spindled chess set of maple and sapele.



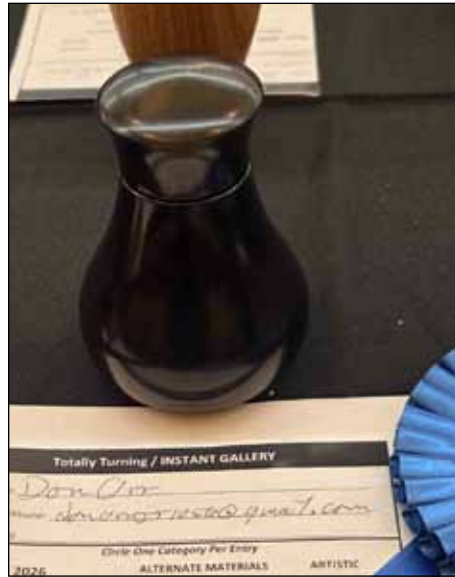
Todd Gunter's ash and epoxy bowl.



Charlie Felsen's segmented bowl.



Doug Watter's segmented snake.



Don Orr's African blackwood lidded box.



David Raymond's applewood art.



Brad Conklin's Melting Pot.



John Olenik's Art Deco sideboard.

A few words of appreciation go to Showcase organizer, volunteer recruiter, and the assigner of 450 stations of duties, Learay Silvia and to the loading, transporting, set up, take down, and return of a dozen lathes, wood benches, grinders, and tools managed by Lee Hilt.



Learay Silvia.



Lee Hilt stands on right with the Executive Director of the Shaker Heritage Site, Johanna Batman, and her family.



*Best in Show
and People's Choice
was the
Broad-winged Hawk
by carver Diane Niznik*

Showcase Store 2026 is in the Books

By Linda Reiss

The work that goes into having a Showcase Store is huge - the hours that our members put into making the one-of-a-kind items, the volunteer effort to haul out and truck the fixtures, the volunteers that man the store. But from this writer's perspective, it is also a special place for connecting with people who come back every year knowing they'll find something unique and for reconnecting with so many members who I don't see regularly at the shop.

Enough of the sappy stuff - the Store did very well this year. We sold over \$3,700 (net of about \$2,700) of wood goods and that doesn't include Juliana's inspiration to bring back NWA aprons. Customer favorites of course included mini mice, keychains, jewelry, pasta measurers, bottle stoppers, coasters and the warm & fuzzy comfort birds, oh and let's not forget those bargain books. But many high-end items from our talented consignees went home as well including beautiful carved birds, bowls, and musical instruments.

The Showcase Store continues to be a fun place to shop, connect and re-connect with friends old and new. Keep up the great work, Members!

New Bylaws Vote on April 9

By Linda Reiss

All members should have received an announcement via Constant Contact describing the proposed changes to the NWA By-laws that will be voted on at the April 9 general meeting. Members may vote in person at the meeting or by voting in-absentia in advance of the meeting. Information and a form for in-absentia voting will be provided in early April. If members have questions about the proposed changes they can contact Dave Mobley at nwasearch1@gmail.com.

Carvers Choice Award

By Diane Balch

Each year at Showcase there is a special Carvers Choice Award. The winner is chosen by the Carvers in the carving booth. This year there was a 2-way tie, both NWA members. Doug Brown, age 105, carved a life size Blue Heron. Lou Manico carved a life size Northern Flicker.

Doug, who has been carving for a VERY long time, carved the Blue Heron in 2025. He is an avid bird and fish carver. Lou Manico carved the life size Northern Flicker, with outspread wings. There are over 120 individually carved and wood burned wing feathers applied to the wings.

Dear Readers,

After Diane submitted this article to our newsletter, she was informed that Doug Brown passed four days after receiving his award. He told his family, "The Carvers Choice Award was much better than a Blue Ribbon."



Louis Manico with his Northern Flicker.



Doug Brown with his Blue Heron.

Crafters Raffle Winners

By Juliana Shei

For the 2026 NWA Showcase, the Crafters SIG built an oak display tower for the special drawing. Members of the Music Instrument SIG built three Native American flutes and two cigar box guitars for the special drawing. Congratulations to all the winners and a huge thank you to all the NWA members who worked on crafting these beautiful pieces! Over \$1,400 was raised for the club from these raffles. Raffle winning tickets were drawn by SIG members and the winners are:

Display Tower - Jean Coonradt

Curly Maple Flute - Lucas Hellwig

Yellow Pine Flute - Laura McMahon

Walnut Flute - Ed Yetto

Four-string guitar - Trevor Oakley

Three-string guitar - Mike Maguire



Crafter group with display tower: Juliana Shei (left), Wayne Distin, Mel Rose, Bill Winters, Dave Mobley, Yusuf Silk, Charlie Goddard, Glen Pfleiderer, Ron Wager.



Display tower drawing by Dave Mobley (left) and Rick Bird.



Curly Maple flute drawing by Glen Pfleiderer (left) and Dave Mobley.



Pine flute drawing by Ron Wager (left) and Mel Rose.

Raffle Table Fun

By Marilou Pudiak

As usual, the Raffle Table had a good year. Located right at the entrance to the Vender's Area and nearest the Gallery, it seems a great place to see old friends and make new ones. As to raffle items, tools are always a big draw with the lathe chuck and shop vac most popular. The mood lamp and cherry bowl were popular wooden items. Tickets to the Palace Theater and memberships added a new angle to the offerings.

People were very happy with the door prizes which were different at each hour. Sandpaper, measuring tape, topcoat, squares, chisels, paint brushes and more. These were gifts everyone could use, even those not dedicated to woodworking.

It is so fun to have the Scavenger Hunt for our visitors under the age of twelve begin at the Raffle Table. There were a lot of smiling faces throughout Showcase, but the best ones were the children's as they raced through the area looking for Wedgy. The vendors also enjoyed the fun as some of them played along, pretending not to see the mouse. The prize this year was a tool bag with a book on carving soap. Tools made of popsicle sticks were included along with three bars of soap. Many of the children carved soap with Jacquie Donahue. Thank you, Jacquie! Parents wanted the children to win so they could carve together as a family. The winner was a little girl about 8 or 9 years old. Carve on, young lady!



Walnut Flute drawing by Wayne Distin (left) and Charlie Goddard.



Four-string guitar drawing by Bill Winters (left) and Jon Hedman.



Three-string guitar drawing by Yusuf Silk (left) and Jon Hedman.



As the rings – or editions – are glued, Dave joins them with a shop-made clamp.



The foundation of the bowl is formed as a solid block.



Each succeeding ring is glued together in a spring-loaded device: the stomper.

and clamped in place. Dave has a shop-made cord clamp which keeps the segments in place during the glue-up. Dave has found it handy to do his glue-ups on a silicone sheet. It makes clean-up easy. Each ring is then run through a drum sander to ensure tight horizontal joints.

The only part of the bowl that is not pieced is the bottom. Dave normally uses a 3-inch solid bottom or a segmented ring with a floating disk. The bottom section can either be recessed or tenon shaped.

Successive rings are glued together using a “stomper” - a spring-loaded press. The bowl segments are held in place by a Longworth chuck. Once dry, the segmented bowl blank can be turned like any other bowl. He finishes the outside of the bowl, then moves to the inside. He aims for a finish thickness of 5/16” to 1/4”.



A Longworth chuck holds the rings in place within the stomper.

Sawdust...

Please return the Showcase magnetic and yard signs to the shop, 97 Railroad Ave. They will be reused next year with updated dates. You may leave them at the coat rack area next to the front door.

Diane Balch

* * * * *

As Showcase chair this year I would like to thank all the volunteers and vendors that came to make our 34th year a smooth one. I hope to see you all again at Showcase 35, April 3 & 4, 2027.

Dave Rustin

Wooden You Like to Know

By Charlie James

When I install a bullitt catch I usually tap it in with a small block of wood, but I don't like hitting the ball too hard for fear of breaking the spring and once it's in it is hard to get out. I came up with this idea recently while driving catches for a project.

I drill a hole in a block of wood that is just a little larger than the bullitt. It's just a matter of hitting the block of wood with a hammer which sets the housing in flush with the wood. If it's at all possible when drilling the hole for the catch I drill a small diameter hole all the way through first.

If the catch must be replaced in the future it's easy enough to punch it out from the back rather than mar the finished work.



Cool!

By Rick Bird

Rick Stevenson, Don Cooke, and Bob Reinhardt have nearly completed the new enclosure surrounding the dust collector in the shop machine room. The enclosure is larger than the previous one to help prevent overheating the dust collector motor. Our thanks to each of them for making the noise levels so much lower!



Don Cooke in the back and Bob Reinhardt installing the final piece of sheathing to the enclosure.



Rick Stevenson during an earlier construction session.

**There will be a NWA meeting
on April 9th at 7pm
at the Herm Finkbeiner Learning Center
located at 97 Railroad Avenue, Albany,**

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

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.

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 - All meeting are held at the Mid-Hudson workshop located on Sawkill Ruby Road. **The Mid-Hudson Chapter** meets on the 4th Thursday of each month from 3pm-5pm. **Community Service SIG** meets every Wednesday from 9am-12pm. Andy Moss is the Lead (AndyMoss@icloud.com). **Hand Tool SIG** meets every Friday from 9am-12pm. Ben Markwell is the lead (benmarkwell@gmail.com). **Boat Building SIG** meets 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.