

# WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern  
Woodworkers  
Association

May 2026, Vol. 35, Number 5

## A Message from the President

Folks,

Spring is here. Bulbs are blooming. Grass is popping. Trees are blooming. Lawnmowers are coming out of hibernation. It's an amazing time to be alive. I am at a loss for words to express my joy at seeing another Spring. Hopefully you all are enjoying it as much as I am, watching the beautiful green consume the grey of Winter.

I believe that Showcase/Totally Turning was a success. Financially, maybe not as huge a one as we all hoped for, but I do not think we lost money, and that is a good thing. As for the rest of the presentation, I was wowed. Everyone worked so hard and put on a great show. Great lectures and demonstrations, amazing exhibits, good vendors, the Toy Factory was excellent, the SIGs and Chapters really went all out in their booths, lovely items in the store. I heard so many good things from the attendees. It was grand. I can't thank you all enough for turning up and turning it out.

Thank you for approving the last of the Bylaws changes to help reorganize the Board. Thanks to the Bylaws Committee for their amazing efforts on our behalf. Hopefully, their services will not be needed too often in the upcoming years.

Elections are this month, so don't forget to vote.

It's been an interesting 2 years. We accomplished so much together. We recovered from the mess that COVID left us in, restored the Fiske Fund to functionality, changed the way the Board works, adopted much improved bylaws and policies, moved banks, held classes, made charitable contributions, and so much more. It's been a busy time. So many people have contributed to our success. It is bittersweet, that just as things are more organized and running smoothly, that I must step down. But that is life.

Of the many tasks I have performed for the NWA, I have enjoyed this monthly missive the most, and I will miss it, but my saga is over and this will be my last installment. My term is up this month and, as promised, I will not be running again. The next newsletter will get you a shiny new NWA president. I look forward to reading the new President's Message each month. I hope you enjoy their missives as much as you seem to have enjoyed mine.

In friendship and sawdust,

Kay

## NWA Library – Help Wanted!

*By Susan Hill*

It has been a pleasure to be the NWA Librarian for the past eight years and work toward making the library bigger and easier to use. This is still a work in progress! My time as NWA librarian, however, is ending since I will be leaving NWA and moving out of state within the next couple of months. The job is open and it is rewarding, I promise! The library has been a great benefit of NWA membership, and we should all be proud of it.

PLEASE CONTACT: [NWA.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:NWA.secretary@gmail.com)

The NWA library has grown so much in the past two years. Expanded shelving and a collection that has grown to over 1200 books whose subjects span all the woodworking arts our organization represents. I am pleased to see all the new users and thankful to all who have donated books and woodworking magazines for our membership to enjoy!

## 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

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*Registrar* - Frank Necaie,  
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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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### Publicity

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### Showcase Chair

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### Totally Turning Chair

Todd Gunter

# NWA's Monthly Meeting on April 9, 2026

*By Susan McDermott*

It is hoped we can resume monthly member meetings every month. The last meeting was held in September when members learned about the Crafters' contribution of forty "bone boxes" they made for the remains of Americans who died in the Revolutionary War, exhumed in 2019 at a Lake George, NY apartment site. On May 22, 2026 there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for the completion of a plaza, landscaping, and columbarium where the forty pine boxes will be stored.

Our recent monthly meeting on April 9th was opened with Dave Mobley explaining the revised by-laws and the final vote of members on-line and present at the meeting. Dave explained a committee of seven who worked for several months on the revisions and Bob Fleury, a lawyer, gave the committee legal advice. Doug Wildes later announced the official results, described in the article following.

Vice President Roy Richardson urged members to pay their membership dues if they wish to vote, be protected by NWA insurance, use the Learning Center's facilities, and attend SIG demonstrations. Roy also announced the May monthly meeting will hold elections for some Board member positions.

The remaining hour of the meeting were brief shop tips and tricks by four of our most talented and experienced woodworkers. Juliana Shei showed members types of sanding blocks and disks while amusing her audience with the shortcomings of ones she hated! She credited Carver, Diane Balch, with introducing her to Abronet sanding mesh available in rolls, disks, and sheets. They last 3 to 5 times longer than sandpaper and offer a finer, smoother finish. 3M brand is cheaper and comes in 80 to 800 grits. Juliana also displayed sanding blocks, but prefers a large eraser wrapped in shrink wrap so that the sanding material adheres. Dick Flanders suggested chalkboard erasers work well.

Other Juliana's tips were using multicolored masking tapes to mark matching mortise and tenon joints while making a table or chair. She also uses Chapstick to lubricate screw threads and mascara brushes to apply glue precisely to small surfaces like her Kumiko frames.



*Juliana wearing an NWA shop apron available to members.*

## 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)



Your next issue of **Woodworkers News** will be published in early June

Submissions are due by the 15th of each month

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### NORTHEASTERN WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

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Chuck Thorne's Shaker box making videos are featured in *Fine Woodworking* magazine. He explained how to use story sticks for consistent, multiple measurements as they are much more accurate than a tape measure. Chuck must have less than  $\frac{1}{16}$ " margin of error in his box building. He uses story sticks to measure the box's wrap around sides for five sizes of nesting boxes.



Chuck Thorne



Using a story stick.

Wally Carpenter has made beautiful furniture for several decades and possesses many tips and tricks. He gave the audience a four-page handout that summarized his presentation. You may request it by emailing me, [s.mcdermott1945@gmail.com](mailto:s.mcdermott1945@gmail.com), and I will pass it on to Wally.

In summary, Wally explained the power router right hand rule to prevent kickback or damage to the wood piece. He advised examining board ends for checking and cutting off 1 or 2 inches of the end and breaking that piece with your hands. Repeat this until the waste piece no longer breaks.

He warned workers to cut out the pith in lumber as it is highly unstable. He also showed the Cabinet Maker's Triangle for orienting boards for glue ups. He always cuts wood on the waste side of the cut line, not the middle! Like Juliana, he praised the value of using blue masking tape. It marks a drill bit to the desired depth of the hole; it protects wood from glue squeezing out; it protects the clamping of wood pieces and serves as guidelines.

Regarding sanding with a power sander, let the sander do the work without bearing down. Slow and steady will make a good result. Orbital sanders leave "pigtailed" that are visible after you apply the first finish coat. Speaking of the finish, always choose your finish before you start to make your project. Finish all sides to minimize the effects of humidity and prefinish pieces prior to assembly.

Wally closed with valuable information on Titebond glue in six types for application. He showed how to date the product from the manufacturer's code. Do not buy large quantities to save money as it will turn thick and stringy or an orange gel making it useless.

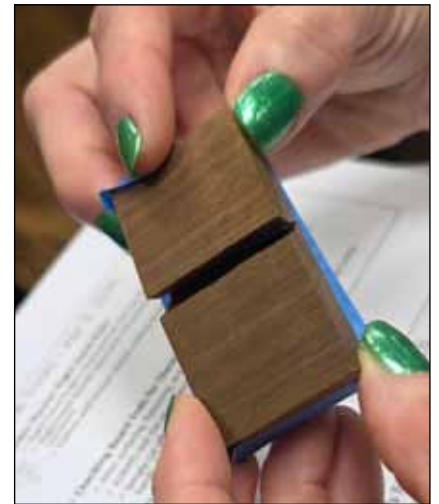
Dave Mobley's "Shims and Spacers" discussed common materials that can be used for shims: paper, cardboard, masking tape (0.004" per layer), Formica or laminate (0.050" from countertop and 0.025" vertical trim), casino playing cards (0.011" or 0.010"), and credit cards. Spacers can be made from plywood, wood strips, or Formica.



Wally Carpenter



Crazed hardwood board.



Its end breaks easily.



Dave Mobley

## Results of the April 2026 Voting for the Amendments to the NWA Bylaws

By Doug Wildes

Total valid votes (dues paid up to date, 1 vote per membership): 85

Early votes by web form: 74; in-person votes by paper ballot: 11

Final results - Yes: 84, No: 1

The amended Bylaws are approved.



# Support Our Shows

## Help Secure the Future of the NWA

*By Todd Gunter and Linda Reiss*

Our annual events—**Showcase** and **Totally Turning**—are the backbone of the Northeastern Woodworkers Association (NWA). These shows, along with our annual lumber and tools sale, provide the majority of the organization’s financial support—and they are powered entirely by volunteers. In recent years, both events have declined in scale and attendance. As a result, their ability to financially sustain the NWA has weakened. If we want to secure the future of our organization, we must strengthen these shows. That means focusing on four key areas: **understanding our events, improving marketing, cultivating vendors, and increasing volunteer support.**

### **What Are Showcase and Totally Turning?**

Surprisingly, many of our own members find it difficult to clearly describe these events. Let’s simplify:

**Showcase** is a general woodworking event that celebrates all aspects of fine woodworking. It includes:

- Vendor exhibits
- Professional demonstrations
- A judged gallery
- Hands-on activities (like pen turning and carving)
- The Toy Factory
- Two on-site woodworking stores

This event is designed for everyone—from complete beginners to professional artisans. Admission is currently **\$15 per person, per day.**

**Totally Turning** is a specialized weekend dedicated to woodturning. It features:

- Internationally and nationally recognized demonstrators
- Six classrooms run four sessions per day.
- A total of **forty-eight demonstrations over the weekend**

Registration is **\$225 for the full weekend** or **\$175 for a single day** (with advance registration). This event is ideal for turners at any skill level who want to expand their abilities.

Both events are held simultaneously, typically on the last weekend of March or the first weekend of April. **Totally Turning** attendees also receive complimentary admission to **Showcase.**

### **Marketing: Spreading the Word**

One of the biggest challenges we face is awareness. Many people in our community don’t know these shows exist.

Our current marketing efforts—limited newspaper coverage and minimal social media presence—are not enough. To grow, we need a more consistent and strategic approach, especially on social media and digital platforms.

Our goals are ambitious but achievable:

- Increase **Showcase** attendance by several thousand visitors.
- Grow **Totally Turning** registrations by at least 50 (with 75–100 as an ideal target)

To make this happen, we need a **dedicated marketing team** working year-round to promote both events.

### **Vendor Cultivation: Expanding the Experience**

Vendors are a major draw for attendees, but participation has declined since COVID. Rebuilding and expanding our vendor base is essential.

This effort cannot fall on one person—it requires the entire membership. Every time you interact with a supplier or tool vendor, you have an opportunity to invite them to participate in our shows. If many members each make a few connections, the impact can be significant.

### **Volunteerism: Many Hands Make the Work Lighter**

Our shows exist because of volunteers—but lately, fewer people have been doing more of the work. That's not sustainable.

We're asking every member to contribute in some way, no matter how small. Even a little time or effort can make a big difference.

We especially need help with:

- **Marketing Team Leaders** – to organize and guide promotional efforts.
- **Marketing Team Members** – to assist with outreach and content.
- **Vendor Coordinators** – to help recruit and communicate with vendors.

At a minimum, every member can serve as an ambassador for the NWA—spreading the word, inviting others, and helping grow attendance. Please contact our Volunteer Coordinator at [nwavolunteerchair@gmail.com](mailto:nwavolunteerchair@gmail.com) if you are interested in helping. Thanks!

### **A Shared Responsibility**

The success of Showcase and Totally Turning directly impacts the future of the NWA. With stronger participation, better outreach, and increased volunteer support, we can restore these events to their full potential.

Together, we can ensure that our shows—and our organization—continue to thrive.

## **Women in Turning (WIT) Meets at Totally Turning**

*By Liz Donati*

This year's WIT meeting at Totally Turning had more than twice the attendance of the 2025 meeting. The annual meeting held on Sunday March 29 drew a dozen turners from five clubs throughout the Northeast. Those attending shared their clubs' experiences and brainstormed ideas aimed at encouraging women to begin woodturning. NWA's two turning SIGs - Adirondack Woodturners Association (AWA) and the Katskill Woodturners Association (KWA) welcomed members from the Atlantic Shore Woodturners from New Jersey, the Association of Revolutionary Woodturners from Massachusetts, and the Central Connecticut Woodturners. Donna Zils Banfield, a demonstrator at Totally Turning and a nationally renowned turner, was a welcomed and honored guest.



*WIT meeting at Totally Turning*

WIT is a program of the American Association of Woodturners (AAW). Its mission is to encourage and assist women in their pursuit of turning. Throughout the year WIT provides women opportunities to further their skills and creativity. Scholarships that underwrite AAW membership and collaborative projects like the WIT Virtual Exchange are current offerings.

We look forward to a growing and enthusiastic turnout for the 2027 Totally Turning WIT meeting and increased collaboration until then. For more information contact your WIT Liaisons Liz Donati (AWA) at [eadonati@gmail.com](mailto:eadonati@gmail.com) or Rebecca Reuter (KWA) at [rebreuter@gmail.com](mailto:rebreuter@gmail.com).

# Oops!

By John Michne, editor

Imagine – It's late Fall, and you are thinking about your next turning project. Maybe you can come up with something worth entering in the next Showcase. You have some ideas, but one kind of floats to the top of your imagination. How about a segmented bowl? You research the method and try some test segments. You make some sketches, figure out the cut angles of the segments, and maybe try some tests on scrap. You establish a design and start cutting segments. Soon you have the bowl roughed out. Off to the lathe. Chips fly; all is well.

A shop cleanup gets rid of the loose dust, and the finish is applied. Nice. By now, it is time to register with Showcase and submit your masterpiece.

You won! A first place in class bright blue ribbon lays next to your bowl. Oos and ahs are heard and felt from onlookers. Pictures are taken with the hope one will appear in the next newsletter...

...and it did. There, in the lower right corner of page 5 of the April issue, is a picture of your winning creation - with the WRONG NAME on it! All that work, planning, precision cutting, gluing, turning...all for naught.

With sincerest apologies, here is the correct version:



*Dave Ruger's winning segmented bowl – Well done, Dave!*

## Sawdust...

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Carvers' SIG leader, Diane Balch, has an article published in Chip Chat. Members of the NWA Carvers are featured in Diane's article. Click [here](#) to open the pdf.

Submitted by Susan McDermott

# Introduction to Staked Furniture

*By Susan McDermott and Rich Riedel; photos by Susan McDermott*

With approximately 25 NWA members in attendance at the April 7, 2026, Hand Tool SIG meeting, Scott Oliver demonstrated the centuries old techniques used to create staked furniture which date back to ancient Egyptian and Roman times. Simply stated, staked furniture is made by attaching round tenoned legs into mortises in a solid base be it a table, stool, bench or chair. The same techniques can also be used to attach chair backs such as when making a Windsor chair.

There are plenty of plans and pictures available online and in the books that Scott included in his resources. But for those looking for more of a challenge and not afraid of some basic geometry he did a great job of leading us through the steps involved.

The process starts with proper layout of the legs to create a piece of furniture that is both aesthetically pleasing and structurally sound. You first start by selecting and labeling the top, bottom and front of the base. Using one good edge, usually the front, draw a center line from front to back on the bottom.

Scott showed us a simple jig he made to hold a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " dowel at various angles. When placed on the chair or table base, one can visualize how the legs will look from the front and side by rotating and moving the dummy leg. The final position determines the location of the mortises relative to the corners. When viewing the piece from the front, the leg to base angle is called the splay angle and when viewed from the side it is called the rake angle. Scott then uses a laser with a 90-degree vertical line to align the leg with a sighting point. Once the laser line is aligned with the entire leg you have determined the sighting angle. Since lasers were few and far between in ancient times, a long square can be used to find the sighting angle instead. In either method the sight angle is the point from which the leg looks perpendicular to the base. Finally measuring the angle between the perpendicular and the dummy leg from the sighting angle gives you the resultant angle. This is the angle to which the mortise is drilled in line with the sighting angle.

Scott noted that you can simplify this by establishing 15 degrees for both the rake and splay of a leg. This typically yields an aesthetically pleasing and functional result. In any case whenever the rake and splay angles are equal, the sight line will be 45 degrees to the centerline. However, the resultant angle will not be equal to the rake and splay angles and must be measured or calculated.

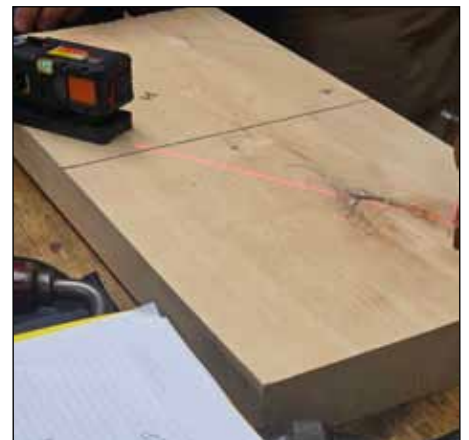
Once Scott determines the resultant angle, he uses a bevel gauge set to that value to angle his drill bit at the mortise point. It is best to do all laying out and drilling on the seat prior to cutting the final shape to provide more surface to position jigs and drills.

Scott uses soft Maple for his seats and hardwoods like Ash, Elm, Hickory, Red Oak, or White Oak for the legs. It is critical that the grain of the legs be straight for strength. He'll typically use  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " or 2" thick material for the seats and bevel the edges to make them appear thinner while still maintaining strength.

The three methods Scott demonstrated were first, free hand with a spade or Star F bit in a power drill or auger bit in a brace. Scott clamps sacrificial plywood under the seat's bottom to prevent



*The bevel gauge allows adjustment of the rod's angle.*



*Scott uses a laser light to align center of stake hole with center line.*

tear-out. The Japanese Star F bits are very sharp and do not create tear-out. Scott first drills 25mm holes with the bevel gauge guiding the angle. This allows him to follow up with larger bits, 1" and 1 1/16" to sneak up on the final mortise size. Scott made his own "jig" from a block of hardwood that measures the diameter of leg tenons: 1 1/16", 1", and 25 mm. He rubs graphite into the holes and rotates the tenons in the holes to reveal high spots in need of further shaving.



*Legs should have straight grain such as this ash piece for strength.*



*First method of hole drilling is with a brace and auger bit.*



*Scott steadies the angle of the auger with his body.*



*Using a bevel gauge to keep the correct angle of the drill.*

Determine the tenon length by adding approximately 1/4" to the depth of the mortise since the excess will be trimmed off later. Always make the legs 1 1/2" - 2" longer than the finished length to allow for trimming later. A square that is at least 24" long helps when determining what the final leg length should be.

The second method uses a jig designed by Peter Gilbert to make very accurate mortises using a spade bit on a bit extension

The third method uses an auger bit and brace held tight to his body to drill the mortise using an adjustable T-bevel to maintain the proper angle. When the lead screw, or "snail", comes out of the other side, remember to stop and finish drilling the hole from the other side to prevent tear out. To accommodate some of the shorter



*Scott's jig for measuring leg's diameter.*

bits Scott made a short T-bevel using the blade from a cannibalized Harbor Freight unit!

Scott then showed how he carves the tenons with a draw knife, spoke shave, or rasp. He also uses a curved blade called a "Chair Devil" or gunstock scraper which smooths the marks and irregularities left by the draw knife or spoke shave. If using wedges in the tenons cut a thin slot in the top of the tenon before final assembly.

The steps to make a tapered mortise for tapered legs is the same with the addition of using a hand reamer to finish the hole's taper. He tests the angle by repeatedly inserting the leg's tenon into the hole until it is snug and pops out from the top side of the seat.

After trimming the top of the leg flush, Scott inserts the wedge perpendicular to the seat's grain direction to prevent splitting it and taps in the hardwood wedge. Scott makes his wedges on a bandsaw using Black Locust and chamfers the bottom corners to allow ease of insertion. He puts glue on one side of the wedge which will hold tight for many years while still permitting seasonal expansion.

In addition to his various custom jigs, Scott showed several specialty



*Peter Gilbert's jig design holds the drill bit's extension at the desired angle.*



*Scott lines up the auger bit with a bevel gauge.*



*Shaping the tenon with a draw knife.*



*Scott's reamer's blades are sharpened to curl and dig into the sides of the mortise.*



*The reamer's use.*



*Scott's hardwood wedges.*

tools that are very helpful to have, most notably a pattern maker's vise. Its jaws swivel independently allowing it to easily hold almost any tapered leg or seat back spindle. He put his to good use when also showing several tenon cutter drill attachments. After first tapering the leg tenon in the vise with a spoke shave, he used a Forstner bit to mark the legs center followed by a spoke pointer and then the tenon cutter to cut the tenon using an electric hand drill. It is very important to mount the leg level in the vise and keep the drill level when cutting. To accomplish this, he glued a small bubble level to his drill by holding the drill level in a vise to keep it steady until the glue dries.

Many thanks to Scott for a well thought out lesson in stake furniture making. Now go out and start creating some simple furniture that will last a lifetime!



*Note that the leg's end grain must be perpendicular to the seat's grain.*



*Scott's gunstock vice made by Grizzly.*



*Note bubble level on drill case.*

## **Picking (splinters) and Grinning (and sometimes bearing it): NWA Members Learn How to Build Banjos from Scratch**

*By Steven Doellefeld, with assistance and photos from Jim Lefebvre, Dustin Lewis, and Mark Raciti*

On a Friday afternoon in early January, four excited but slightly trepidatious students showed up with their piles of wood to the Herm Finkbeiner Learning Center with a common mission - to learn how to build a banjo from scratch.

In preparation for the course, the students took the necessary instruction to become “machine knowledgeable” to use the machines in the shop—including courses on the band saw, jointer, planer, drill press, table saw, and miter saw under the supervision of a “machine qualified” individual. These NWA approved courses were extremely useful, with even the most experienced woodworkers of the group learning something new. With our new machine qualified certifications in hand, we scheduled a standing time to meet at the Herm Finkbeiner Learning Center and work together on our banjos.

Under the tutelage of banjo builder Ray Puffer, the group dove right into their work, jointing and planing their boards, which then needed to be sawn to the correct width before moving on the miter saw where each board was cut into  $6\frac{7}{8}'' \times 2\frac{1}{4}''$  trapezoids with precisely cut 30-degree angles on both ends. The precision of the angle in the trapezoid pieces is crucial to the success of the project. With 30 degrees on each side of the trapezoid, each piece equals 60 degrees—or  $\frac{1}{6}$  th of a hexagon. Any error will lead to the pieces of the trapezoid not fitting together properly. The old “measure twice, cut once” adage applies here!



*Piles of rough cut lumber arrive at the shop, ready to be transformed into banjos.*



*Dustin planes a board to prepare it to be cut to width on the table saw.*

The trapezoid pieces are then glued and clamped into hexagons. The final pot needs to be at or around three inches thick, so the build will use 3-5 layers of hexagons, depending on the initial thickness of the boards used. When the glue is fully cured, the individual layers of hexagons are run through the drum sander to provide a flat, even surface to glue the individual layers together.



*Stacks of trapezoids ready to be glued together to become the pot of the banjo (Peruvian Walnut, Hard Maple, Hickory).*



*Assembled and sanded hexagons ready to be glued and stacked.*

The first layer is then rounded on the band saw so it can be held in the Cole Jaws to facilitate the gluing together of the individual layers. The layers of these hexagons are glued together, with the seams offset to give strength to the piece, creating the “blank”



*Removing the corners of the blank to prepare the piece for turning on the lathe.*



*Mark's finished banjo pot ready to be dismantled from the Cole Jaws (Peruvian Walnut, Hard Maple).*

for the banjo pot. Once the glue between the layers has cured, the banjo pot blank is then taken to the band saw to round off the corners and prepare it to mount in the Cole Jaws for turning on the lathe.

With our banjo pots completed, we turned our attention to building the necks. The shaping of the neck blanks was the single most laborious part of the project. It takes time, a delicate touch, and infinite patience to shape, taper, and contour the neck properly. We had a set of banjo neck measuring gauges to give us an idea of when we were getting close to finished, but ultimately personal preference for appearance and feel had a heavy thumb on the scale. Some preferred a wider, chunkier neck, with others preferring a slimmer, more lithe profile.

Once the neck blanks were shaped and fret boards glued on, it was time to radius the heel end of the neck to match the radius of the pot. To accomplish this, we used a machine that Ray constructed that uses a side-mounted router and hinged arm to cut the radius into the clamped in neck.

After the neck is radiused, we're in the home stretch—it's time to start drilling holes! A total of 39 precisely aligned holes need to be drilled - 24 of them for the hardware that holds the drum head on the pot, and the others to hold the neck to the pot and the tuning machines to the neck. Drilling the hole for the 5th string tuner (sideways in the middle of the neck) is particularly harrowing and stress-inducing!

After the holes are drilled, finish is applied to the pot and neck, then the hardware is installed on the pot, the frets are installed on the neck, and final assembly is completed. The builders all wish to



*Dustin shapes his neck with planes, spokeshaves and rasps.*



*Steven uses Ray's neck radiusing jig.*



*Jim's banjo nearing final assembly.*



*Steven installs the hardware onto his completed banjo pot (Purpleheart, Hickory, Maple, Yellowheart).*

extend our thanks to the NWA for the use of the Herm Finkbeiner Learning Center and to the Fiske Fund for the financial support provided to this endeavor. We recognize and appreciate all the NWA course instructors for being willing to volunteer their time in the interest of teaching safe use of the machines and providing lots of useful tips and tricks—THANK YOU.

Most importantly, we want to express our deepest gratitude to Ray Puffer for passing along his extensive knowledge and providing us with gentle guidance throughout the process. Without his tutelage, these projects would never have come to fruition.



*L-R - Jim Lefebvre, Mark Raciti, Dustin Lewis and Steven Doellefeld displayed their banjo builds at Showcase '26.*

## Wooden You Like to Know

*By Charlie James*

I try to keep my inlays in one place, but they are fragile and always seem to get tangled with each other. This simple holder saves room and keeps the inlays and banding in order. The setup is a 4" x 4" piece of cedar that I had in my shop and 1 1/2" PVC pipe cut to 4 different lengths - 6", 12", 24", and 36". A 1 7/8" Forstner bit is too tight for the PVC, but I used a 1 7/8" rasping bit to expand the hole enough to fit the PVC. The holes are 2 1/2" apart x 1 1/2" deep, and I waxed the holes so the PVC and contents can be taken out easily and brought to my bench if necessary.



# Elections are this month, so don't forget to vote.



## 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](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** - 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 ([andyemoss@icloud.com](mailto:andyemoss@icloud.com)). **Hand Tool SIG** meets every Friday from 9am-12pm. Ben Markwell is the lead ([benmarkwell@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:r_cerruto@yahoo.com).