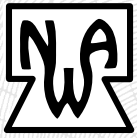


WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern
Woodworkers
Association

September 2026, Vol. 35, Number 7

Heads Up, NWA Members!

By Lee Hilt, President NWA

The NWA Annual Auction is Saturday, September 12th in conjunction with the Shaker Fall Harvest Craft Fair. We need your support in setting up, advertising, and inviting everyone you know to attend.

We need volunteers for Wednesday, September 9th for the setting up of tools and lumber on display. On Saturday, September 12th, we need volunteers to help with the actual auction to assist the auctioneer, help with buyers loading their purchases, watching safety protocols, and the closing of the auction at 3:00 PM.

The barn opens Saturday at 10:00 AM for previews. The auction begins at noon and ends at 3:00 PM. Please park across the street from the barn (Meetinghouse Road). More information about the auction can be found on page 11 of this newsletter.

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED!**

NWA Summer 2026 Events

By Susan McDermott

On June 6, 2026, Lee Hilt and eleven volunteers spent the morning milling butternut logs from Thatcher Park and last year's elm logs. As the photos reveal, this is heavy, dangerous work, but Lee is precise and vigilant about safely moving the logs on to the saw's carriage and slicing two-inch thick slabs with the help of his experienced volunteers.

Some of the volunteers remained in the Shaker barn moving air dried boards milled two or three years ago to make room for this day's storage. The hardwoods that are ready to be planed will be sold at the NWA Lumber and Tool Auction this fall (Saturday September 12). For years, Lee has contributed his labor and equipment to stock the barn with hardwoods that yield income for NWA's treasury. Members readily volunteer for this arduous work because they know it can't be done by Lee alone.

As the logs are milled, brushed off, measured in board feet, and loaded in volunteers' trucks, other members are moving the barn's stored hardwoods to make room for the just milled butternut



Horizontal slicing of a log.

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nwa.president@woodworker.org

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nwaeducation@gmail.com

Registrar - Frank Necaie

nwaeducation@gmail.com

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Nick Piedmont

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Totally Turning Chair

Todd Gunter

and elm. Curly maple recently donated and 40.75 board feet of cherry are restacked. Juliana Shei and Dave Mobley selected air dried cherry boards for the Crafters to build a blanket chest to be raffled at Showcase April 3-4, 2027.



Here is a tricky log to cut.



The final slice of a butternut log.



Alan Silvia brushes off considerable saw dust.



Don Riess calculates total board feet of each slab as it is loaded on to the truck.



Last year's elm logs are also milled.

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



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Back at the barn, curly maple is relocated.



Juliana and Dave select and measure cherry for the blanket chest.

Wooden You Like to Know

By Charlie James

I do a bit of traveling with my tools when I do demos. I used to protect the edges of saws and scrapers that I carried in my tool box with painters tape. Besides the inconvenience of carrying a roll of tape around and ripping it off a few times, if you leave the tape on too long the tape can attract moisture and cause rust. My wife is a teacher and uses these sliding bar protectors for plastic loose-leaf covers. I repurposed the protectors. They are inexpensive and hold tightly to the tools, reusable again. The protectors pictured here are $\frac{1}{8}$ " inch and hold very well to saws and scrapers but $\frac{1}{4}$ " work as well.

Take care, Charlie.



A box full.



On a saw and scraper.

NWA Fall Education Program Schedule

By Juliana Shei

The days are getting shorter, children are back in school, and woodworkers are getting ready to begin their holiday projects. The Education Committee is also busy preparing an exciting lineup of fall programs. To give everyone plenty of time to plan, we will announce each class as soon as the instructor has finalized the course outline and date. Please keep in mind that dates, instructors, and topics are subject to change.

Build a Staked Stool (Scott Oliver) – September 26-27

Bonsai Workshop (Dave Gehr) – October 2

Introduction to Wood Turning, 6-session class (Stan Blanchard) – Six sessions on Saturdays, starts October 3.

Leaf Serving Tray using Scroll Saw (Alex Beldan and Rick Stevenson) – Two classes, October 12 or 14

Streaming Shop Activities (Wally Carpenter and Rich Riedel) – October 15

Shaker Box, 2-day class (Chuck Thorne) – November 14-15

Corded and Cordless Power Tools (Pam Bucci)

Sharpening Plane Irons (Dave Parkis)

Stickley Table (Bob Kehn)

Introduction to Woodworking (Glen Pfeleiderer)

Exciting news: **Bob Van Dyke**, director of the prominent Connecticut Valley School of Woodworking, will return to teach classes at NWA. Watch for upcoming announcements.

The popular **Machine Knowledgeable (MK) classes** will also continue. Because class sizes are small, we encourage you to join the waitlist if a class is full. Our dedicated MK instructors give priority to people on the waitlist in the order they signed up.

We are always looking for instructors who are willing to share their time and knowledge; prior teaching experience is not required. For more information, please contact any Education Committee member or email NWAeducation@gmail.com.

NWA Education Committee: Matt Jaskula, Dave Mobley, Frank Necaise, Don Orr, Chuck Thorne, and Juliana Shei (Chair Pro Tem).

AWA at the Saratoga County Fair

By Liz Donati

Young wizards were rewarded with homemade magic wands made by volunteer turners at the Saratoga County Fair in Ballston Spa on the weekend of July 25 and 26. The club's Adirondack Woodturners Association (AWA) SIG turned wands, spinning tops, and bowls in front of fairgoers all weekend. Adults were intrigued to see pieces of wood transformed before their eyes, and young children were delighted to receive wands and tops that were made in front of them.

Bill O'Brien, Dave Rustin, and Carl Stoner organized a group of club turners including Ken Aupperle, Diana Chilrod, Meredith Chilrod, Liz Donati, Ray Puffer, and Bill Wemple to demonstrate wood turning and to promote the benefits of NWA membership. Saratoga Fair organizers made a point of stopping by the booth on several occasions to thank the club for its participation. They especially appreciated that we provided live demonstrations all day, which is consistent with their educational mission.

AWA's next appearance will be at the Schaghticoke Fair on Saturday and Sunday of Labor Day weekend (Sept. 5 & 6). Given the enthusiastic response in Saratoga, AWA is encouraging other SIGs to join in and promote their special skills. Contact Carl Stoner at carlswoodturning@yahoo.com for more information.

Juliana Shei Constructs an Online Tool Auction

By Susan McDermott

For two weeks, June 23 to July 7, NWA held a public power tool auction and netted nearly \$4,000. The items were heavy, large ones like jointer/ planer, table saw, band saw, wood lathe, and drill press. These items were generously donated by members or their relatives, and our strong and steady volunteers accompanied Lee Hilt to the homes of donors and transported the machinery to the Shaker barn for the remote auction.

On July 11, the buyers came to the Shaker barn to truck their purchases home. The buyers, though strangers, helped each other load the heavy machinery on to their truck beds. The photos below give only first names as most of the buyers were nonmembers. They consented to the photos.

One remarkable, generous donation was a Robland Five Function European Combination Machine manufactured in Belgium. This extremely heavy machine had to be dismantled before loading on the buyer's truck. The donor wanted to minimize space in his shop with the five function features. They are as follows:

- 10" sliding carriage table saw
- 12" jointer
- 12" planer
- $\frac{3}{4}$ " and $1\frac{1}{4}$ " shaper (spindle molder)
- Horizontal slot mortiser

There were three separate single phase 240 volt motors. A new Robland sells for about \$9K. See it [here](#).

Imagine how happy the buyer was!



Bill Wemple donated many burls to wood turners.



Bill Wemple



Happy drill press owner.



Dave bought the band saw.



Lee loads the bandsaw.



Paul from New Jersey bought this wood lathe.



Frank, the new owner of the Robland.



Parts of the Robland.



Four men load the Robland body.

Ray Puffer's Basket Illusion Demo at KWA

By Wally Cook

Ray Puffer and Bill O'Brien visited the Mid-Hudson Shop as part of Ray's Basket Illusion demonstration. Ray showed several examples of platters completed in the style and discussed design, construction, and coloring aspects of the process.

Ray has been influenced by Harvey Meyer's work with basket illusion platters and vessels. He aims to recreate in wood, basket patterns and coloration found in native southwestern weavings, using vegetable dyes and subtle color variations. In addition, Ray weaves the rims as a hallmark of his work.

To start, a plain grained, very dry wood is critical. Conflicted and figured grain can disrupt the process of incising clean beads on the project. Green wood introduces error as it moves – even while the work is in progress. Ray used dry hard maple at least 1½" thick. The material is turned at 1500-2000 rpm. Generally, Ray strives for ¼" thickness on the finished piece.

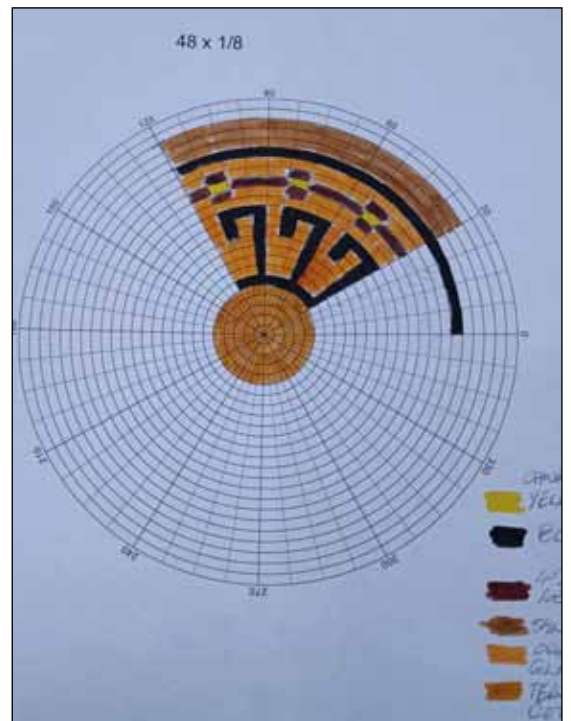
Prior to the actual turning, the design is laid out on polar graph paper. Initially, the design reflects the numbers of rows (rings) and columns (spokes) that will be cut into the front and back of the piece. Although various combinations can be applied, setting up the graph with 48 spokes allows for good detail and simple calculation. The intersection of the spokes and rings form the nexus of the individual elements to be colored later.

Ray surfaced the example platter with an Ellsworth signature gouge; that work went quickly. It is important to obtain a finished surface off the tool because sanding is discouraged, as it can result in slight ridges or depressions that affect the consistency of the beads. The beading on the demo piece was done with a ⅛" D-Way beading tool forming rings from the untextured area at the rim to the center of the platter. The beading is cleaned up using a teardrop shaped tool. Complete beads are important – check for flat spots. The beads are highlighted by burning with a slice of Formica or gasket material while the lathe is spinning.

Once the rings are formed, an index wheel is mounted in order to mark the spokes. Ray uses a Chef Ware 96-hole index wheel. A flat table is inserted into the banjo and adjusted to centerline height. A pencil mark is applied across the platter to indicate each horizontal spoke, as the index wheel is advanced. When all the spokes are marked, both front and back, the platter is taken off the lathe in order to use pyrography to incise the spokes.



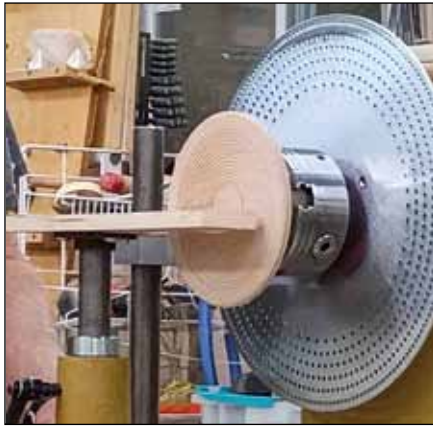
Ray Puffer's basket illusion platters.



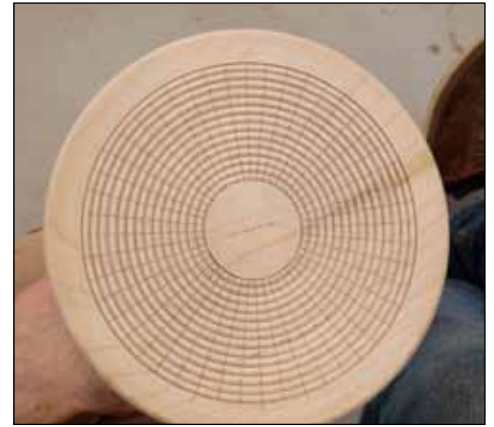
Polar graph with color design.



Teardrop tool cleans up the beads in the rings.



Spokes are laid out with index wheel and table guide.



Beaded rings and penciled spokes on platter.

The pyrography is tedious. A special tip is used for the spokes that is horseshoe-shaped, so it bridges the beads. A burn line is completed for each spoke, bridging each ring and forming a kernel for each intersection. These kernels will now be colored using archival acid-free inks.

Coloring also requires careful attention to detail. Ray uses Faber-Castell archival markers with a subtle color palette: sanguin, canary, India red, black, terra cotta, and orange glaze. Ray's aim was to recreate the subtle coloration of vegetable dyes used in the 1800's.

The tips may vary, depending on the application needed. For instance, he uses an extra-sharp black to outline each kernel. The design will mimic the polar layout produced earlier in the process by coloring each kernel.

When the coloring is complete, a flat lacquer spray is used for the finish. Several coats may be required.



Preparing to burn the spoke lines. Coloring each kernel follows.

Do You Use Tung Oil? Want to Try a New Brand?

By Bob Fleury

As part of a potential fund-raising effort for NWA, Tallahassee Tung Oil has sent us a sample of their "fresh pressed" tung oil. You can check out their website [here](#). The offer is this: if our members buy their tung oil at a reduced price using a 10 % discount code, they will (assuming sufficient purchases) make a donation to NWA equal to another 10 % of the value of purchases.

But (there's always a "but"!) before I become a shill for a company I don't know, I'd like to have a couple of regular tung oil users try it out and let our members know their opinion of the product.

I have 8 ounces to share and if you use tung oil, you know a little goes a long way. So, if you'd like to try out this product and are willing to share a "compare and contrast" review, get it touch with Bob Fleury at constablefleury@yahoo.com and we will make arrangements to get some product to you. Two or three volunteers are needed on a first come first served basis.

Thanks!!

Twice Turned Bowls

By Ray Puffer

Twice turned bowls are a great way to process green wood and create beautiful bowls that will last a lifetime. This summary gives an overview of the process, tools, benefits and results of using the twice turned method.

If left alone, green wood will eventually split, as shown in the photo below. There are some things one can do to delay or reduce this splitting, but eventually it will nearly always happen.



You can use an end grain sealer such as Anchorseal, paraffin wax, or stretch wrap to trap the moisture in the wood and allow it to dry very slowly. I have stored turning blanks in this condition for more than a year, mainly to allow natural spalting to occur.



Once I am ready to turn the bowl(s) I remove the stretch

wrap, and using a template, cut the timber into a bowl blank using a bandsaw.



I then mount the blank on my lathe, using a Spike Plate, or a faceplate, and a live center in the tailstock.



With the bowl blank mounted on the lathe I then cut a tenon and the outside shape of the bowl. I then reverse the blank and mount it in a large jawed chuck. Depending on the size of the bowl blank I either rough turn the inside profile for one bowl or core it to get two or three bowls out of one blank. (Coring will be demonstrated at the November AWA meeting) What is important, however, is to leave the wall thickness of the bowl(s) at least 10 % of the outside diameter of the bowl(s). Also, be sure to round over the corners of the bowl rims, in order to reduce the chance of splitting while they dry.



I then pack the rough turned bowl(s) in the wet shavings in a paper bag, label the bag with the date, size(s) of the bowl(s), and type of wood. I usually keep the bowls in the bags for about six months to be sure they are fully dry when I remove them.



After six months I remove the rough turned bowls from the bags and check their moisture content. They are typically around 8 % moisture content. I set the blanks in a pile of bowls to be final turned.

During the drying process the rough turned bowl will have distorted significantly, that is why I leave the wall thickness to at least 10 % of the outside diameter. When I am ready to finish turn the bowl I mount it on my lathe using a jam chuck. I true up the tenon and the outside profile of the bowl. I then reverse the bowl and mount it in a chuck. I true up the rim and turn the inside profile of the bowl. I add any embellishment to the bowl I may like, such as inlay on the rim as shown below. Next, I mount the bowl in jumbo jaws and turn off the tenon, finish sand, and apply the desired finish. The cherry bowls below have three coats of Bush Oil, followed by paste wax and buffing.



Crafters Support Classical Music

By Susan McDermott

The Albany Symphony approached our Crafters to restore the music stand conductor David Allen Miller uses. Here is a photo of the plumbing parts used to hold the stand together!

Watch our next newsletter for the restoration!

The music stand in dire need of repair.



The Auction is Coming! The Auction is Coming!

Save the Date - NWA Annual Lumber & Tool Auction

Saturday, September 12th, 2026

The Lumber & Tool Auction is set for September 12th at the Shaker Barn, 820 Heritage Lane, Colonie, NY 12205. All NWA members and the public are welcome to attend. Doors open for guests at 10:00am for fixed price sales and Auction inventory review. Auction starts at 12:00 noon.

The Auction again this year will be held in conjunction with the Shaker Heritage Society Harvest Craft Fair at 25 Meeting House Road. The Craft Fair is hosting over 85 vendors as well as craft demos, tours, food, live music, and petting zoo.

The Annual Auction is one of the NWA's major events and Volunteers are needed for the success of this event. We need your help with set-up and advertising. Please mention our auction on your social media, in your neighborhood, and church groups.

Wednesday & Thursday September 9th & 10th, 9am – 4pm is Auction set up at the barn.

Donations of tools and lumber you no longer use are greatly accepted. Bring items to the RR Ave. Shop with donor's name attached and leave them in shop lobby.

Pick up can be arranged by contacting Lee Hilt 518 698-3751 or LHHAGR@Earthlink.net

Thanks,

Juliana Shei & Lee Hilt – Auction Committee Co-Chairs

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 (andyemoss@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.