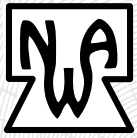


WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern
Woodworkers
Association

October 2026, Vol. 35, Number 8

Message From the President

By Lee Hilt, President NWA

As outlined in my first President article in June, one of my four goals was to focus on NWA finances. I wasn't aware of our fiscal position until my first board meeting in May. At that time, I learned that our club is operating at a net operating loss for the calendar year 2026. (CY26)

The reasons why, how, when, etc., are not important. Honestly, I don't know. What I do know is that this is an issue that needs to be addressed. As President, it is incumbent upon me to fix this. And I will.

The how? I've established several committees to attack this issue and in several different ways. Thank Goodness we have some pretty sharp members who are willing to step up and lead the various groups.

First, NWA now has a Fund-Raising Committee headed by Bob Fleury. Bob's plan is to focus on raising funds through grant writing, industry sponsorships, and other areas. Bob has some helpers with this but is looking for others. See Bob's article later in this edition.

NWA Membership is one of our main sources of income and one which we can increase with a little work. As a club, we do some great work in wood that I'm not sure the public knows about. To help get the word out, I've established two media committees to get NWA more visibility and hopefully drive an increase in memberships.

Janet Barnett has a strong background in advertising and is our go-to person for this. Janet consulted on advertising our recent auction and continues with our 2027 Wood Show.

Social Media is the avenue of tomorrow to reach the next generation of woodworkers and one that most folks of my generation know very little about. Nick Filippelli will be our social

media Chair and as such, will help NWA bridge the large gap between us and media platforms such as YouTube, Instagram, TicTok, etc.

However, we "seasoned" folks who do not use these other sites, can rest assured that email, our club website, and Constant Contact are not going anywhere. Nick's activities will simply augment what we're already doing.

Finally, details of these and other NWA activities will continue to be addressed at Monthly Board meetings. Our next meeting is Tuesday September 29 and all members are welcome. Check the club calendar for the zoom link.

Thanks all.

Lee Hilt,
President, NWA

NWA Members Sought for Clandestine Operation

By Bob Fleury

Got your attention with that title, didn't I?

Well – it's true. We have a need for expertise and experience that our members likely have. We just don't know who you are and you don't yet know how you can help on short assignments, without much recognition but serving the greater good.

So what gives? You know that our president is laser focused on the financial stability and future viability of NWA. Many avenues have the potential to contribute to that effort, one of which is to apply for public and private grants.

OFFICERS

President - Lee Hilt

nwa.president@woodworker.org

Vice President/Program Chair

Roy Richardson

Secretary - Linda Reiss

Treasurer - Alan Hayes

NWA BOARD MEMBERS

Board Members at Large:

Diane Balch

Steve Koonz

William Laymon Sr.

Jordan Mapes

David Ruger

MID-HUDSON CHAPTER

Rich Cerruto, Acting President

Vice President - Vacant

Patsy Boisvert, Treasurer

Phil Dudek, Recording Secretary

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nwauction1@gmail.com

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Registrar - Frank Necaie

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Fiske Fund Committee

Constituted as of October 28, 2025

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Bob DelSignore

John Kingsley

Jim Lefebvre

Steven Mapes

Nick Piedmont

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We know that there are grants of state aid made to many non-profits. We are seeking assistance from certain elected officials for advice on potential sources. We know that there are private philanthropies that support organizations like NWA through various means.

An obstacle for us right now is finding a person or persons with experience in putting together “knock your socks off” grant applications.

The pay structure is amazingly simple (\$0.00 per annum paid bi-weekly). The benefits can be passed on without taxation to friends and relatives. The personal satisfaction is inestimable.

Are you that person? Do you have experience in preparing and submitting grant applications?

NWA needs you.

Please give some consideration to helping your friends and co-conspirators at NWA by contacting Bob Fleury, either at constablefleury@yahoo.com or by cell or text at (518) 242-6204.

The Big Day! September 12, 2026, NWA Lumber and Tool Auction

By Susan McDermott

Volunteers arrived at 9:00 AM to post parking signs, open the large doors, test sound equipment, and prepare to welcome the public at 10:00 AM. Our event was scheduled the same day as the Shaker Crafts Fair, so we could benefit from the curious crafts shoppers who visited the barn. Also, it was a balmy, sunny day that drew more folks to the beautiful grounds of the Shaker Heritage site.

The two hours prior to the start of the auction had brisk sales in hand tools, hardware, and pre-priced hardwoods. Shoppers also surveyed the power tools and large quantity of hardwood stacks that would be auctioned. About forty-four bidders signed up for their bidder's card. Following Bob Williams's retirement after 25 years, Rick Stevenson stepped in as our new auctioneer.

The auction moved rapidly through the sale of dust collection systems, wood lathes, miter saws, drill presses, and many species of hardwood boards and burls for turning. Our buyers found some real bargains. They saved at least 30 % per board foot compared to



Prior to the start of the auction, buyers browse what they will bid on.

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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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commercial suppliers, and air-dried wood is far superior to kiln dried.

All sales concluded at 3:00 PM, and volunteers helped buyers load their trucks and trailers. What was not sold went back into storage for the next online sale. Five hours of sales netted NWA much needed revenue. NWA President will announce the final totals at the next NWA Board meeting on Tuesday, September 29 at 7:00 PM. There will be a Zoom link, so all NWA members can observe.



Some of our volunteers cannot resist a bargain.



A woman with a heart bought a truck load of our hardwoods.



Rick Bird's height stands out as he records buyers' winning bids.



Cashing out at 3:00 PM.

Thirty-Five NWA Volunteers Set Up Shaker Barn's Lumber and Tool Auction

By Susan McDermott

Which is more inspiring? Watching thirty-five volunteers bustling for six hours on Wednesday setting up tables for fixed price tools, carrying hardwood boards ten feet long from the back room, struggling with carts to move heavy power tools like lathes, table saws, and shop dust collectors? Or the Saturday auction itself as we watch tools and lumber leave the barn and money fills our cash box?

Having been present for both those days, this reporter enjoyed the camaraderie and laughter of Wednesday with the Crafters who measured and priced the hardwoods all day. A few boards challenged us with the identification of species. We consulted Ray Puffer, Charlie Goddard, Lee Hilt, Don Orr, and Wally Carpenter, all experts on woods. Still, one mystery exotic board stumped all of them.

Dave Mobley and Wally Carpenter advised volunteers as they set up tables of hand saws, pneumatic nailers, battery powered drills, boxes of hardware and fasteners, planes, sharpening stones, items too numerous to list. They suggested prices which would move the items fast and free stuff to put outside the barn just to walk away.

Co-Chair Juliana Shei created an ingenious system where the winning bid receiver, Arline Acosta, would



Volunteers move air dried hardwoods from storage.



Don Orr (in yellow) assesses boards' quality.



Don Reiss does heavy work with humor.



Matt Jaskula's strong back.



NWA Board Secretary Linda Reiss with new volunteer.

receive texts at the cashier's table delivered by Ben Breiten's cell phone every 15 minutes with follow-up written data of sales on paper. This would be entered into a ledger under the bidder's name and number. By the time the buyer was to cash out, we had the items he/she bought listed and the price to be paid. Simultaneously, fixed price items were brought to the cashier, Dale Lombardo, to be paid for by cash, check, or electronically.

All the volunteers cannot be named in this space, but special thanks go to Linda Reiss, Diane Balch, and Mary Gillespie for organizing and pricing items as well as the strong backs of Rick Bird, Matt Jaskula, Dale Kasson, and Co-Chair Lee Hilt for the heavy work of moving lumber and power tools from the back storage area where lumber is air dried for at least two years.



Volunteers (L to R) Alan Silvia, Rick Bird, and Ben Breiten.



Dave Mobley and Diane Balch in a sea of tools to be priced.



Wayne Distin identifies a mystery hardwood.

Wooden You Like to Know

By Charlie James

No pictures with this one, I figure it's self-explanatory. When you split the end of a board and want to save it, sometimes you can't push the glue all the way into the crack, especially as it gets tighter towards the "good" end. Place some painters tape along the edges of the crack so it will be easier to clean up. Wedge the crack open a bit trying not to make it worse and pour in some extra glue. Put your shop vac hose underneath and work it towards the beginning of the crack. The suction should pull the glue deep into the crevice. When you clamp the board you can tell by the squeeze out if you were successful.

Another Successful NWA Auction in the Books

I say it every year and it continues to be worth repeating - The amount of work that occurs each year for auction in such a short period of time by a few dozen volunteers is nothing short of AMAZING! Thanks to the worker bees that make this thing happen year after year. You are the best and we would not have an auction without you.

Sue McDermott has reported (this edition) on the personal side of our auction, and I thank Sue for that. I will therefore focus more on the administrative pieces of this massive puzzle.

This was the 3rd year the auction was held in conjunction with The Shaker Society Fall Craft Fair. By all accounts, it was a great move for both groups. Many attendees I met at the auction told me they were visiting both events and liked the variety.

Attendees would have noticed we had a new auctioneer this year. Member and Scroll Saw extraordinaire, Rick Stevenson, assumed the job of NWA auctioneer. We appreciate Bob Williams for his 20+ years of service and thank him for his many years working our auction.

The income from the Saturday auction was just under \$10k. Although that's down from our average, once we add in the \$4k we made in early July from our online auction, we're doing pretty darn good.

The cash/tag tool sale and pre-priced surfaced lumber continues to be a good addition to the event. All in, those two areas accounted for just over half of Saturday's gross.

We received great feedback via Corsicio as well as during our after-action zoom meeting. Your feedback is important and appreciated.

One feedback item involved pre-grading auction lumber. It's no secret that some of our pieces land at the common end of the scale while others are at the higher end as FAS. We will look into this more, as an option for next year's auction. This being said, I am looking for a member with lumber grading experience. If interested, please contact me.

A special thanks, as usual, to Juliana Shei for her endless work with this event. The lady never stops. However, due to Juliana being away during this year's auction, Linda Reese tagged-in to cover the management side of registration, pricing and the cashing out at the counter. Linda has worked the event many years in the past but added a few more items to her plate this year. Thank you Linda.

Finally, next to membership, our auction is the second largest source of operating capital for the club. Everything we sell at auction is from donations. If you have items to donate or know someone who does, please pass along my contact info listed below. As a 501(c)(3), all donations to NWA receive a donation letter which may qualify for a charitable contribution deduction at tax time. Thanks.

Lee Hilt, Auction Co-Chair
518 698-3751
nwa@woodworker.org

Classified

There comes a time when fine joinery becomes "close enough". When that happens, it's time to hang up the apron and clean out the shop. I am there. My first step is getting rid of offcuts. I have a lot of thin and thick cherry, pine, some chunky blocks, and miscellaneous other woods short, long, thick, and thin used in boat and banjo building. I would like to see them in jewelry boxes, toys, Kumiko art, carvings, picture frames, etc. All are free – it's worth it to me just to have them saved from the C&D dumpster at the local dump. Once I clean up and have room in the shop, a tool sale will follow, likely in the early Spring. Email me to set up a visit for the free offcuts – John Michne, jmichne1@nycap.rr.com.

Fiske Recipient Ben Knapp Demonstrates the Construction of His Windsor Chair

By Susan McDermott

On Tuesday, September 1 at 7:00 PM, Hand Tools SIG invited Ben Knapp to show some of the steps and specialized tools he used to make his first Windsor chair. He was so pleased with the results that he plans to make seven more for his home. He said if he works full evenings on the next chair, it should take about two weeks.

Ben took the weeklong class with Peter Galbert, a famous chairmaker from Boston, MA. See his first book, *Chairmaker's Notebook* published by Lost Art Press. Ben mentioned Windsor chair maker, George Sawyer of Woodbury, VT who has classes in chair making. He uses green wood that allows the shaping and carving of chair parts that follow the natural grain for strength and durability. See Guild of Vermont Furniture Makers.

The NWA Fiske Fund awarded Ben half the tuition and cost of lodging for the week of classes. Any of our members can apply for a grant. Just go to the link on our website.

<https://woodworker.org/fiske-fund/>

Ben began by summarizing the start of his chair project since part of the process could not be demonstrated. The arms with the back bow is one piece of green ash or oak ten feet long which is steamed and bent. The curve is drilled with fifteen holes to accommodate the spindles secured from the seat to the back bow.

Ben showed the audience the cutting and shaping of the



Ben Knapp.



Ben uses a froe to split straight grained log.



The draw knife makes quick work to make a spindle.



This Lie Neilson spoke shave removes all corners.



Each spindle is rounded with the spoke shave.

spindles. He used a hammer and froe to split along the straight grain of an ash log (20 inches in diameter, ten feet long) squares of blanks for spindles. Then using an eight-inch draw knife he makes aggressive pulls to knock off the corners of the blanks. The spoke shave rounds the spindles to the desired taper and diameter. The spindles will then be dried in a kiln.

The chair legs are turned on a lathe. They are fitted into the four tapered holes of the seat. Ben uses his reamer to taper the holes. The seat shaping begins after the leg holes are finished. Ben used a bandsaw to cut the curves of the seat's back. He carves the saddle of the seat with a scorp (or inshave). It smooths the rough cuts by being pulled through its strokes.

Two unique tools of Ben's chairmaking are his high vise which holds his spindles at a comfortable height for smoothing and a travisher, a specialized hand tool for hollowing and shaping the green wood seats in Windsor chairs.

Ben drills depth holes into the seat to guide his uniformed hollowing. The audience had many questions and comments at the end of the presentation. Ben said he drilled his spindle holes by sight with an angle guide. Someone said a laser light may help. Scott Oliver added to our knowledge about the mathematics behind the angles of the chair's leg angles.



This reamer has easily removable blades for sharpening.



Ben cuts a tapered hole in the seat with a reamer.



Ben uses a scorp to hollow out the seat.



The travisher.



This is Ben's high vise.



Ben's Windsor chair with black milkpaint.

KWA September Meeting Focused on Hollowing Systems

By Wally Cook

The meeting focused on popular systems from Jamieson and Trent Bosch. The Monster Hollowing system was discussed but not demonstrated.

Mike Giuliano brought his Jamieson Hollowing System to show set up and demonstrate the system in use. Mike used a scrap vase blank mounted on a faceplate. Most of the time was spent on the components and set up process. The Jamieson style system used at the Mid-Hudson shop is an older one which does not extend to the height necessary for a Powermatic lathe swing. Mike used his own and the parts were certainly robust. In addition, he mounted his laser pointer which acts as a thickness gauge while cutting the interior of the vase.

The Jamieson consists of a tool holder that slides through a capture bracket, along with various cutting heads attached to (in this case) a $\frac{3}{4}$ " bar. The cutting bar also rides on a tool rest which has a locking collar. The system is massive and does a good job absorbing vibration. Turning speed is generally in the 400-500 rpm range – patience and gentle cutting provide good results.

The laser rig attaches to the Jamieson and is offset the desired distance from the cutting head. In fact, Lyle Jamieson includes a credit card-like measuring jig to set the offset distance that he prefers. The laser strikes a spot on the exterior of the blank – and when the spot “falls off” the edge of the piece, the desired wall thickness has been reached. One glitch is that the laser sometimes turns off during the process of cutting and needs to be returned to the ‘on’ status.



The Jamieson System includes a laser mount option.



Note the locking collar for the tool rest supplied by Jamieson.



Mike used a left-hooked cutter with the lathe in reverse allowing better seeing the cut without the extreme angle over the ways.



Mike Mike Giuliano with a few of the vases he hollowed using the Jamieson system.

Mike also showed how the gooseneck cutting tool (fashioned with a right-hook, instead of the standard hook-left) can be profitably used with the lathe turning in reverse.

Stan Pressner set up his Trent Bosch Hollowing System and discussed its operation and differences with the Jamieson. The Bosch stabilizer is a heavy-duty scissors-like extendable arm which is inserted into the banjo in place of a tool rest. It is sold in configurations for $\frac{5}{8}$ ", $\frac{3}{4}$ ", and 1" toolbars. The tool holder is inserted through a hole in the stabilizer, so no capture bracket or separate tool rest is needed: it's all built into the unit. The obvious benefit is that it takes far less storage space when not in use.

The machining is excellent and vibration was minimal while Stan was cutting. There was some resistance when a knot was encountered, but otherwise it appeared to be a smooth operation. The Bosch also has a laser option for thickness calibration – and there is an optional “Visualizer” with a paired camera and mounted display which provides a view on the inside of the blank. (This was not demonstrated at our meeting).

The Bosch tools were impressive and used Hunter carbide cutters, although the system can accept a variety of other tools, including the Munro hollower.



The Bosch system is compact but allows many options. Engineering is excellent.



Sam Amodeo brought his well-crafted trays for show-and-tell. Using a router results in less sanding than expected. They are finished with Odie's Oil.

Report on the Segmented Woodturners' Symposium

Dave Ruger was given an opportunity to attend a symposium on segmented turning thanks to a grant from the Fiske Fund. Part of the expectation of FF recipients is to report on their experience. Dave wrote this article to address that requirement.

By Dave Ruger

Segmented woodturning comprises a small group of woodturners. I would estimate that less than 5 % of turners do segmented work, which makes it hard to find peers in the segmented woodturning community. Most of what I have learned has been from the few books on the subject and the internet. Even with these low numbers there have been many innovations to segmented woodturning over the last 20 years.

I found an online community called the Segmented Woodturners. They count some of the best segmenters in the country as members. They are very active in their forum, and their site is a wealth of information. It is well worth the \$25 yearly membership fee. Every 2 to 3 years they host a Segmented Woodturning symposium. This year it was in Chicago and I decided to attend.

The symposium was 3 days and comprised 5 classes in each rotation with a total of 10 rotations. There were approximately 130 attendees. The instant gallery displayed the most incredible segmented pieces I have ever seen.

I chose to attend three different classes on design elements. One described the steps to create a pleasing design. The two other courses

were about using online design software, specifically Segment Pro and Woodturner Pro. In Segment Pro we learned how to create a 3D model and then add features and designs to the model. The program calculates everything needed to build it. The program allows you to print out all the info needed - a big improvement over my current method of designing my bowls with graph paper.

I also took one class on using a vertical indexing jig. This is the method used to build the pieces designed on Segment Pro. The vertical index jig is used in building vessels, bowls and vases with 48 and more segments per ring. Such a task would be impossible to do with traditional methods that employ rubber bands and or band clamps on each individual ring. The jig uses an indexing wheel and a vertical and horizontal arm to place the segments in each position.

The last rotations at the event were classes on two-layer and sacrificial turnings, thin-walled stave projects, sacrificial segment turning, and using technology in segmented turning.

Here are some examples of segmented turning by experts in the field:



A vase by Doug Drury.



A vase with over 5000 pieces by Tom Lohman.



Tube by Malcolm Tibbetts.

The amount of information I got from these classes will be invaluable in furthering my segmented turning journey. I would like to thank the Fisk fund for helping me with the cost of this trip.



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.