WOODWORKERS NEWS
Northeastern Woodworkers Association
November 2026, Vol. 35, Number 9

Message From the President

By Lee Hilt, President NWA

Summer is over and many of us are finishing up projects to get ready for another northeast winter. October was a busy month for NWA volunteers who helped with four such events.

The first was a complete woodshop cleanout of long time member, Michael Barrett, who donated his entire woodshop to NWA. Michael is downsizing and needed to find a good home for his shop's contents. Thank you Michael. And thanks to the following members who helped move 5 pickup truck loads and another 2 SUV's worth of Michael's shop: Bill O'Brien, Bruce Nelson, Chuck Thorne, Ken Aupperle, Ray Puffer and Juliana Shei.

The month continued with a donation from an Albany homeowner of an Oneida dust collector system and a Skil table saw. Thanks for your help with this one: Bruce Nelson, Matthew Jaskula and Rick Bird.

We continued with a sawmill Saturday at the Shaker site on the 3rd. That gave us a boatload of very nice, solid, clear and super wide boards and slabs from a very LARGE Elm that was donated February 2025 by Rick Bird. Thanks to the following lumberjacks: Bill O'Brien, Ken Aupperle, Matthew Jaskula, Rick Bird and Walter Addicks.

We finished out the month with a fence build at the Shaker site. Sue McDermott details that event later in this issue.

The common denominator in all four of these events, which is repeated throughout the year – every year, is volunteers. NWA does many of these type things plus an enormous amount of other projects year-round that help in our communities. However, I am concerned that I'm seeing the same faces doing 99% of the work for our club. This is not a valid long-range plan for NWA. We're all getting older and I have noticed that many who have helped in years past, are no longer able to do so.

We need help from the younger generation of NWA woodworkers. It isn't hard; you need no prior experience and OJT is free.

Shop cleanouts and sawmill days is where we get 100% of items sold at auction each year as well as where the lumber used in the shop for SIG projects comes from.

None of us can do everything, but all of us can do something. Please, step up and get involved.

Lee Hilt
President, NWA

A Thank You From Curtis Lumber for Their Car Show Trophies

By Dave Mobley

NWA members from the Crafters and Turners SIGs have once again supplied trophies for the Curtis Lumber Car & Truck Show. As they have done for a number of years, they created over 20 "shifter" award plaques and two feature trophies. The feature trophies this year had a "fuzzy dice on a rear-view mirror" theme.

This year's event was held on Sunday, September 13 and raised $1,700 for Steve Caporizzo's Pet Connection. Curtis Lumber and the trophy recipients were once again

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nwa.president@woodworker.org
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nwa.president@woodworker.org

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Wayne Distin

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Moogec@gmail.com

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Ray Puffer

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nwa.membership@woodworker.org

Newsletter Editor
John Michne,
jmichne1@nycap.rr.com

Publicity
John Olenik

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Todd Gunter, Linda Reiss
nwa.showcase.chair2@gmail.com

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delighted with the awards. After we dropped off the awards, Jennifer Stickney, Marketing and Community Events Coordinator at Curtis Lumber, had this to say:



Carol Lang accepts the President's Pick trophy for her and Donald Lang's 1956 Chevy 3100 Pickup.

"I wanted to take a moment to sincerely thank you for dropping off the gorgeous shifter awards and trophies for this year's car show. They are absolutely beautiful and have already been a complete hit with everyone here. I know our car show participants are going to go nuts for them! You and your team blow me away every year, and you have truly knocked it out of the park again. The fuzzy dice are so stinking cute, and the glass rearview mirrors…my goodness! I just can't say enough about how creative and special everything is. Please pass along our heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to this year's awards and trophies."

After the show, Jennifer added, "All the shifter awards were so coveted! The folks truly BEAM when they win one."

All the NWA members who contributed deserve a big thank you.



An array of shifter award plaques.

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John Michne, Editor
jmichne1@nycap.rr.com
Elizabeth Keays Graphic Artist
Designer

WEBSITE
www.woodworker.org

Webmaster: Andy Moss
nwa.webmaster@woodworker.org

NORTHEASTERN
WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 246
Rexford, New York 12148
NEWoodwork@yahoo.com

NWA Introduces New Classes at the Learning Center

By Susan McDermott

Please consult the NWA Calendar on our website to learn in advance what classes will be offered. https://woodworker.org/calendar/

Some classes are free, and others have tuition for instruction and materials. Our Constant Contact notification of these classes fills rapidly, so reply quickly for limited enrollment slots. All our Machine Knowledgeable classes are free to members, and you may not operate our power equipment without completing the class for a particular machine and be supervised by a Machine Qualified member. This training is valuable for the safe operation and mechanical features of our shop equipment.

Some upcoming classes that are free or have tuition are as follows:

- Scrollers' training every Monday night at 5:30 and a class held October 29 at 2 to 4 PM.
- Crafters meet at the Learning Center Saturdays and Tuesdays 9 AM to noon. Just drop in and join the project in process. There is always something new to learn.
- Carvers meet Thursday nights 5:30 PM. Drop in and learn a lot from our friendly, helpful carvers.
- Check the Musical Instruments SIG for the classes and meetings and contact the instructors directly. They are listed on the last page of this newsletter.
- Pen Turners' instruction is every Monday from 9 AM to 12 PM.
- Cigar Box Ukelele class November 19 from 6:30 to 9 PM
- Sharpening Plane Irons November 21 at 7:00 PM $30 fee
- Shaker Box class November 14 and 15 - inquire about tuition times.

See the last page of this newsletter for all our SIG listings for meeting times and contact persons.

Remember! The Fiske Fund might reimburse you for tuition more than $100, but there are rules for applying. See this link.

Wooden You Like to Know

By Charlie James



I have a turning tip that I have found very useful to me over the years. I file the tip on just one of the teeth on a multi tooth live center drive down a bit or file a notch in the old-style spurs. It helps to line up the work again exactly as it was if you have to take it off of the lathe and place it back again in exactly the same position.

NWA Volunteers Build Privacy Fence for Shaker Heritage Site

By Susan McDermott

A few years ago, Dick Flanders urged members to build a fence at the milling area to hide unsightly logs piled in the woods that can be viewed by museum visitors. Lee said, "The fence building was done to add a visual buffer between the Shaker Meeting House and the NWA sawmilling site. It has always been our goal to never do anything that detracts from the beautiful and historical setting that is the Shaker Heritage Society."



The finished fence and volunteers (left to right) Ed Buckley, Chuck Thorne, Don Orr, Bill Rodgers, Bruce Nelson, and Ken Aupperle.

On Monday morning, October 5, 2026, Lee Hilt assembled six loyal volunteers to assemble the 6.5 foot high and 40-foot-long stockade fence. The black locust boards milled by Lee were donated by Scott and Helen Hollander. Juliana Shei and Chuck Thorne donated the white oak posts. The posts resist rotting in their dirt holes, and the locust will weather to a dark brown. No paint or preservative is needed.

Lee described the work. "The fence was constructed onsite and in place, meaning the six posts were installed into the holes first, the rails next and finally adding the pickets. Everything was attached using #9 & #10 exterior screws into predrilled holes. Building the five 8-foot sections on the ground and then muscling them up to attach to the posts would have proven to be a bit much for us seasoned volunteers. The wood is wet and each section easily weighed 150 + lbs."



Ken cuts all the boards to six-foot lengths.



Fence halfway.



Unsightly logs.

The volunteers worked steadily from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM to finish within minutes of a rainstorm. The pictures show it was a sunny, breezy day during the four hours' labor. Lee donated boxes of fasteners, his generator, and the transportation of the lumber to the site. He will not bill NWA for the tools, hardware, and gas used.

NWA Woodworkers Refurbish Conductor's Music Stand for Albany Symphony Orchestra in Time for Season Opening Concert

By Dave Mobley

An NWA team, led by Don Cooke, delivered a refurbished conductor's music stand to Albany Symphony Orchestra in time for their season opening concert on October 3, 2026. Led by Music Director David Alan Miller, the Grammy-winning Albany Symphony (ASO) performed to an audience of more than 1,000 people at the Palace Theatre in downtown Albany.

The wooden music stand was custom made for ASO over 20 years ago. The stand sustained wear from the constant use in ASO performances over those years and needed repairs.



The ASO conductor's music stand before restoration, showing some of the improvised repairs.



The appreciative maestro David Alan Miller with the restored music stand at an ASO rehearsal.

Susan Jacobsen and Joy Emery, active participants in Vanguard-ASO, the volunteer organization supporting ASO, attended NWA Showcase 2026 and sought help to restore the music stand. Susan

remarks, “We were very lucky to connect with a skilled group of volunteer woodworkers almost immediately. Northeastern Woodworking Association were the perfect craftspeople for this special, high-profile job, and we are thrilled with the outcome.”

The team of several NWA woodworkers tackled the project during the ASO’s late summer break from performances. In addition to replacing some broken wooden parts and making improvements to the height and tilt mechanisms, they restored the finish on the cherry wood stand.

Judy Kahn, chair of the Vanguard-ASO Board of Directors, added “Having a gorgeous, refurbished conductor’s music stand enables David Alan Miller to connect more deeply with the brilliant musicians of the orchestra, combining exceptional artistry with warmth, curiosity, and a spirit of adventure.”



Don Cooke, Bev Reinhardt, and Bob Reinhardt with the restored music stand prior to delivering it to ASO.

The refurbished stand will be in use for the remainder of the ASO 2026-2027 season and beyond (www.albanysymphony.com).

REMINDER!

By Linda Reiss

Please visit the Shaker Meetinghouse to see many holiday crafts booths including our NWA booth. Linda and Don Reiss set up the booth with the donations of hand-crafted wood items made by our NWA members. This is the perfect place to shop for gifts!

Linda and Don thank you for your generous donations. See the Shaker Website here.





Crafters Turn to Blacksmithing For Next Year's Showcase

By Rick Bird

The Crafters SIG is busy building a Shaker-inspired blanket chest to raffle off at next year's Showcase. We decided to use wrought iron hinges for the top and our NWA membership chairperson Dave Peterson offered to help us construct these hinges in his blacksmith shop. Bev and Bob Reinhardt, Al Silvia, Dave Mobley and Rick Bird met Saturday October 10th at Dave Peterson's shop to receive instruction and assist in building the two hinges. We started out with four pieces of steel, two 15" long pieces which will be attached to the underside of the lid of the chest, and two shorter pieces which will be anchored to the inside back of the chest.



Bev Reinhardt, Al Silvia, Bob Reinhardt, and Dave Mobley receiving initial instructions from Dave Peterson regarding the steel to be used and the steps needed to achieve the final result.

By heating the end of the steel in the coal-fired furnace, Dave Mobley and Rick Bird were able to hammer the round ball shape at one end of the long piece of steel, then taper that piece back along its length. The heating-hammering cycle was repeated over and over in order to achieve the final result.



Rick Bird hammering the end of the steel bar into a round shape on the hinge piece that will attach to the inside of the blanket chest lid.

By using a ball peen hammer we were able to add a scalloped edge to the now tapered edges. Once the taper and scalloping matched our template, we rolled the other end to create one half of the hinge pin socket. One end of the shorter piece of steel was also rolled to mate with the first piece. A bandsaw was used to cut out sections of the two rolled ends so they would fit inside each other, and after some filing the pin was able to be inserted.

The short pieces of steel now had to be bent at ninety degrees to fit over the top edge of the back panel of the chest. This allows the top to open completely while keeping the hinge entirely on the inside of the chest.



Dave Mobley hammering the tapered long edge on the hinge piece that will attach to the inside of the chest lid.



Dave and Rick holding the nearly completed hinges with Dave Peterson in the middle.

Our time did not allow us to complete the hinges that day and Dave P. has agreed to finish them for us in the near future. This will entail final fitting of the rolled ends, making the hinge pin from an old nail, wire brushing to remove any remaining scale, drilling holes for the screws, and spraying the finish coat of clear lacquer.

Our thanks to Dave Peterson and his wife Pam for hosting such an excellent event for our group. It was very enjoyable wielding a hammer to create something from raw steel versus wood.

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Build Your Own Stickley Side Table Taught by Bob Kehn - *Part I*

By Susan McDermott



Gustav Stickley No.603 Tabouret.

Bob is a new instructor at the Learning Center, but he comes to us with an impressive background in furniture making and teaching. He graduated from the College of the Redwoods Fine Furniture Program in 2003. James Krenov founded the College in 1981. It is now known as The Krenov School of Fine Furniture and is administered by Mendocino College in Fort Bragg, CA.

Bob was awarded the highest honors for "…exhibiting and upholding the values and philosophy of the school and its founder, James Krenov." Bob believes woodworkers should pass down skills and techniques to the next generation as is his purpose as a teacher. Bob currently teaches at the Arts Center of the Capital Region in Troy, NY. His courses are Furniture Making Studio I and II and Techniques for Furniture Making. He also teaches the Stickley style table at The Center.

The Gustav Stickley No. 603 tabouret is a classic American Arts and Crafts / Mission-style round side table or stool produced by Gustav Stickley's Craftsman Workshops in Eastwood, New York, circa 1905–1916. (AI)

What makes this course essential for NWA members is Bob teaches a variety of joinery such as lap joints, mortise and tenon, and edge joining. Bob obtained the red oak boards which we cut and trimmed with the joiner and table saw to specific sizes for the tabletop, legs, and stretchers.

The first class had participants cut two $^{3}/_{4}$" boards $9^{1}/_{2}$" wide by 20". They squared the edges to the surface with the jointer and then used Bob's biscuit cutter to join, clamp, and glue the two boards. Don Cooke of the Crafters assisted Bob in creating a band saw jig and keeping the progress of the students steady with no delays.

The second class had Crafters Bob Reinhardt helping Bob with the circular cutting of the tabletop's 18" diameter. The four legs were ripped on the table saw, and the participants began their careful measurements for the legs' mortises. Bob Kehn set up the power mortiser which involved many tedious adjustments to cut all the intended mortises with consistency on two sides of each leg with clean, smooth cuts.

Stay tuned for Part 2, the actual construction, which will be seen here in the December issue.

Sawdust…

The auction is over. For anyone who has signs please return them to the shop. They will be updated and used next year. Thank you, Diane Balch.



Happy Thanksgiving

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) 429-6581for 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-12-pm. 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.