

WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern
Woodworkers
Association

June 2016, Vol. 25, Number 6

The 2016 NWA Family Picnic

Sunday, July 10, 2016, 11:00 am
Jonesville Fire Station
953 Main St., Jonesville (Clifton Park), NY
FIND IT ON GOOGLE MAPS

By Dick Flanders

Sunday, July 10, 2016, starting at 11:00 am, one of the NWA's best social activities will take place at the Jonesville Fire Department pavilion.

We all look forward to this event each year, so lock in the date on your calendars, on your electronic digital devices, and set your reminders so you don't miss it!

This is a great social event with activities for all - families and children are especially welcome.

Admission is only \$6 for adults, and children under 12 are free. This covers all food and beverages, plus door prizes chosen specifically for the children. Of course, another admission fee (non-monetary), is the home made deserts that each family brings along to share. It would not be an NWA event without these delicious items!

Don't forget to bring along your comfortable lawn chairs so you can enjoy the social circles on the grass under the trees while you meet old and new friends and discuss all the important things that have taken place since the last gathering.

And, bring a Show & Tell item to show your woodworking skills and get ideas from others for new ones to try out. Who knows



what may inspire you or others to try making something new or more challenging as your next project? We all enjoy hearing how you did something a little unusual, or especially beautiful and appealing to the eye.

Sharpen and tune your hand planes, and tune up your tape measure racers for those two competitions, sure to entertain many as they watch and compete in these fun activities.

There will also be Bocci, Horseshoes, Volleyball, and other games to get all involved - either watching or participating.

We expect to have demonstrations by the Turners, Carvers and Scrollers as well, so there are many things to appeal to all members, families, children.

See you there!

**Enjoy your summer and we will
see you for the next issue of
Woodworking News in September!**

May NWA Monthly Meeting Summary

by Susan McDermott

Announcements:

1. Dick Flanders requested the formation of a sub-committee to formulate new ideas for the social events (July's family picnic and the fall dinner). Several members expressed interest in being part of the committee.
2. John Heimke informed the membership that the burial boxes (ossuaries) made by the NWA volunteers will go to the NYS Museum on Tuesday, May 17, to receive the bones and be sealed with pegs. See John's article in this newsletter.
3. Mark Levanway shared information about places where antique tools can be found. He collects old wooden rulers. He suggested Martin J. Donnelly antique tool auctions and tailgate sales. See website <https://www.mjdtools.com/index.php> for auction dates and locations. Also, locally is Swamp Angel Antiques in Catskill, NY. swampangelantiques@yahoo.com
4. Wayne Distin proclaimed that after ten years, this was his last raffle! After applause, he asked that someone please volunteer to take over the role.
5. Dick Flanders announced a May newsletter **correction** on donated hardwoods dimensions for milling (see this newsletter). The diameter of logs should be **no greater** than 36 inches.



Tool auction flyer

ELECTIONS

Wally Carpenter becomes President of NWA
(no vote required)

Dick Flanders is Vice President
(by majority vote of members present)

Nancy Reilly is Secretary
(by majority vote of members present)

Wally expressed the membership's gratitude to John Heimke for his valued service as president of NWA 2015-16 followed by a rousing applause from the members. Past presidents stood up to be recognized. See Wally's statement in this newsletter on Page 8.

FURNITURE REPAIR & RESTORATION

Dick Flanders, Charlie Goddard and Joe Bucci discussed various methods or repairing furniture. The panel discussion was followed by questions from the audience about how to repair damaged wooden items and bring old pieces back to life. A few members brought in small pieces of distressed or broken furniture for advice on restoration. The discussion addressed types of finish used, glues used, fastening devices, and how to take furniture apart to clean and repair joints.

Dick Flanders showed the membership a chair with a repaired back leg. He skillfully drilled and inserted a dowel in the leg's center to reinforce the broken tenon. He showed the audience a second chair (with strong cane seat) with loose joints and a broken arm. All glues must be completely removed (unless it's hide glue) to insure adherence of fresh glues. Dick uses clamps with their jaws reversed to spread chair legs and separate joints.

He also uses a dead blow hammer to dislodge joints. Novices, a **dead blow hammer** is a specialized mallet helpful in minimizing damage to the struck surface and in controlling striking

force with minimal rebound from the struck surface. The minimal rebound is helpful in avoiding accidental damage to precision work, especially in tight locations (Wikipedia). Dick talked about the careful removal of finishes, but the furniture is first cleaned of any dust and dirt with a mild dish soap and water. Denatured alcohol soaked in a rag will dissolve shellac (blonde or amber) and lacquer thinner will remove layers of lacquer. Using a stripper is Dick's last resort, and the user friendly Citri-Strip is preferred when necessary. In the past, he had used the caustic strippers, and they worked quite well. But he was happy when they came out with the more user friendly ones. It may occasionally take a couple applications of the Citri-Strip, but much nicer to use. Dick also praised carborundum sponges which can conform to any shape of the wood and can be washed after use. He uses Norton sandpapers (wet or dry). These can also be used with shellac to fill in small cracks. Finally, Dick likes wipe on gels as the finish does not show brush marks. Water based urethane is another alternative. See Dick's handout link at the end of this article.

Joe Bucci began with his mantra, "Do no further damage" to the piece you want to restore. Hot wet towel, steam, or hair dryer may soften hide glue enough to spread joints without breaking tenons. Joe's slide show on a pc showed examples of furniture pieces he restored. One example was the 500 hours he spent restoring a bench that 75% was destroyed by powder beetles! Joe uses shellac, #20 or #30 steel wool, good stripping gloves (not disposable ones), and two reservoirs (one for the dirty steel wool, the other a rinse with #40 steel wool). Joe suggests you have the customer get an appraisal of the piece before attempting restoration. Was that bench worth 500 hours of Joe's work? Again, always try to clean the piece before considering removing its finish.

Charlie Goddard talked of wobbly chairs due to missing spindles or hardware or bad repairs (wrong glue used or worse, nails!). He spoke of the challenge of matching woods in color and grain to replace missing or broken parts. He recommended using blue painter's



Dick, Joe, Charlie



Charlie with his photos of restorations



Broken chair arm

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tape to label every part you disassemble for correct reassembly. Charlie showed the members small Minwax pen points of many wood stain colors and plastic epoxy fillers which can be pre-dyed to match the furniture repaired. He also held up a coping chisel (beveled on the inside) which is excellent for removing old glue. He suggested loose tenons can be tightened by making a thin curl of a planed wood shaving and wrapping it around the undersized tenon before gluing the joint. Charlie concluded with photographs of repairs he had done: a half round desk, cannon balls on a bed, a child's chair with broken spindles, the reproduction of rope spindles with files, and a walnut Victrola case needing veneers.

During the Q and A, the panel added more information. A good resource is popularwoodworking.com with hundreds of articles. The alligator appearance on an old finish is certainly distressed shellac. Furniture made with hide glue should be repaired with hide glue. Titebond hide glue is recommended as it allows more time for assembly. Look for the expiration date on any hide glue! While shellac or lacquer may be applied in layers that meld, urethane sits on top and will not meld into its lower levels. This makes scratch and dent repairs difficult. A dent in wood might be steamed out with a damp towel and iron before applying a finish.

Handout: Go to www.popularwoodworking.com and click on "Blogs" near the top of the page. Scroll down to "Flexner on Finishing Blog" and click on that. This brings you to multiple pages of articles related to finishing. It's well worth exploring!



Broken leg



Can this table be saved?

WOODWORKERS NEWS

is published by the Northeastern Woodworkers Association for its members. The Association's aim is to provide a common meeting ground for lovers of woodworking who want to know more about wood and the techniques for forming it. The newsletter is published monthly. The newsletter is available online at www.woodworker.org



Your next issue of **Woodworkers News**

will be published in early September

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**NORTHEASTERN
WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION**

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Kaatskill Wood Turners

By Wally Cook

Square Bowls Bernie O'Malley showed how to make a square bowl. He became interested in this application after watching a Keith Tompkins demonstration several years ago. The finished product looks like it is supported on four wings. A number of variants can be made, and Bernie brought in a dozen square bowls to illustrate various design opportunities.

Bernie suggested to start with a blank 7"x7"x 3.5" in order to get a feel for the process. He uses a screw chuck to mount the blank, working on the bottom of the bowl. The tailstock is brought up for extra support. A detail gouge is used to create a deep rebate around the center section of the bowl bottom. At this point the bottom of the bowl resembles a cone surrounded by a moat with wings rising up on the edges.

The rebate is refined as an inside curve with very fine cuts; tooling needs to anticipate "air cuts" as gaps are formed where the round and square shapes meet. Individual wings now appear at each corner. It is important to avoid making the wings too short – the bowl bottom and wings ought to be the same length.

Care is taken with sanding the bottom and into the inside curve. Hand sanding of the inside surface of the wings is required.

When the bottom is complete, Bernie reverse chucked the bowl and completed the hollowing using a vacuum system. In order to assure a good suction, he made sure that the bottom was a fit for the vacuum chuck. The inside of the bowl and outside of the wings are finished and sanded. The objective is to establish a consistent 3/8" thickness in these wings.

Bernie uses seasoned wood for the square bowl to avoid warping. Warping would become very apparent in the section where the wings and bowl rest on the surface. He also suggested to use woods which are not "chippy" to limit hand sanding.

Upcoming: The June 8 presentation will feature turning and steam bending spoons with Wally Cook.



Bernie starts with a square blank



The bottom is turned, shaping the wings and bottom of the bowl



The finished square bowl

Schuyler Flatts Burial Ground Project

By John Heimke

In January 2016, NWA was approached by Cordell Reaves, Committee Chair for the Schuyler Flatts Burial Ground Project seeking our assistance in constructing burial containers. This project was initiated to provide an honorable and respectful burial for the human skeletal remains of 14 African Americans found in Colonie. This location was a Negro burial ground in an area described as Schuyler Flatts, which was part of a large estate owned by the Colonial Schuyler family. In 2010, bioarchaeological analysis by the NYS Museum determined that the remains are about 200 years old and represent six women, one man, two children and five infants.



SCHUYLER
FLATTS
BURIAL
GROUND
PROJECT



I thought this would be a wonderful community project for NWA. To initiate interest in the project I asked a graphic artist, Dennis Bove, to come up with some design proposals. From these, George Rutledge drew up detailed work plans, created a scale model for the ossuaries, replete with spline joinery and a paneled top conforming to the prescribed dimensions of 2' x 1' x 1'.

After an over whelming response of support from NWA members, a proposal was submitted and approved by the Burial Committee. The Curtis Lumber Company and its supplier, Leonard Lumber generously donated a pallet of tulip poplar for the project to begin. Everyone in the shop contributed their woodworking expertise, and the project provided a focal center for many to learn new woodworking skills and techniques. George Rutledge provided several ingenious jigs that he created to accomplish the joinery and assembly of the mitered side panels. Our efforts culminated in making five boxes with paneled tops and

decorative spline joinery and four plain design boxes to give to the participating artists to decorate.

On April 30th John Heimke and Mike Hurley gave a presentation of the project at a public meeting at the New York State Museum. Other NWA members making burial containers independently for volunteer artists also gave talks. These members were: Don Orr, John Hodgson, George Rutledge and Peter Leue. NWA participation in the Schuyler Burial Ground Project was highlighted on a YNN spot news coverage as well as a spot on WMHT.

On June 17th from 12:00 PM to 8:00 PM, these burial containers will Lie in State at the Schuyler Mansion State Historical Site, 32 Catherine St, Albany, NY.

On June 18th from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM a Burial Ceremony will take place at St. Agnes Cemetery, 48 Cemetery Ave (off Broadway), in Menands, NY.

CHAPTER NEWS

Mid Hudson Chapter News

By Wally Cook

Sharpening Scrapers: Joe Kennedy and Chuck Walker provided a primer on sharpening scrapers. Scrapers come in a variety of shapes and sizes from small violin scrapers to scraper blades set in plane irons.



Joe Kennedy uses a scraper plane

Scrapers deliver a smooth surface as long as they are properly sharpened. The key is to roll a consistent burr on the edge. Chuck showed the process for preparing a card scraper by first flattening the edge on a diamond hone. Using water as a lubricant, the broad surface of the card is rubbed along the hone in order to eliminate the existing burr. Once each side has been flattened, the edge is now addressed. Held 90 degrees to the hone, the metal is worked alternately outward to both boundaries of the cutting edge. The result of this motion is to roll a double edged burr. The burr is further refined by running the edge perpendicular to the hone.



Chuck Walker sharpens a card scraper on a diamond hone

To use the card scraper, it should be slightly bent to display a camber. The burr can cut with the grain or diagonally across the grain for best results.

Scrollsaw Applications: Bob Boisvert brought his pump sanding system for intarsia. The system features a variable speed Delta grinder with two mandrels. The mandrels are modified to accept pneumatic tubes which support various sanding sleeves. The mandrel can also mount a wonder wheel for shaping. Bob added a computer fan and sawdust bag to evacuate and collect sanding dust from the system. In addition to mechanized sanding, Bob brought hand sanding fixtures which resembled bow saws, but hold narrow sanding belts. The tension is either relaxed or tight, depending on the degree of roundness to be achieved on the edges of the intarsia pieces.

Bob also discussed how to use software programs to connect text for cutting signs on a scrollsaw. In this application, Bob used Microsoft Word to create text for a sign, then condensed the space between letters, so that they touched one another. In this manner, text blocks may be treated as a unit, as the outline is cut for the sign. In order to

condense space between separate lines, Bob recommended Page Plus, a free download, which easily moves and positions multiple lines so that they can become one unit for sign cutting on a scrollsaw. Once set up, the text can be printed onto pre-glued paper and affixed to the wood as a template. Alternately, Bob has used plain paper and run it through a Xyron sticker maker.

Upcoming: The June meeting will feature Jim Decker discussing how he made a wooden carriage for a 4,000 pound cannon. Jim is a restoration carpenter for NYS and worked on the cannon for museum display. We will also conduct a member-to-member tool swap at 6:45 – bring any tool that you would like to trade or sell.

The chapter picnic is scheduled for July 23 at the Central Hudson recreation facility in Rifton from noon to 4PM. See Joe Benkert for details.



Bob Boisvert explains how to use a pump sanding system for intarsia

Our New NWA Officers

By Wally Carpenter

I would like to thank each of you for your collective support in our election of officers at our May meeting at the Shaker Meeting Facility. While, as your new President I fumbled through the process, each of you were patient and supportive as we voted in Richard (Dick) Flanders as our new Vice President, and voted in Nancy Reilly for another term as our Secretary.

I do want to say again that we owe a great deal of thanks to John Heimke for all his efforts, devotion, and dedication to NWA as our President leaving huge shoes to fill. I can only hope to carry the mantel of President with as much dignity as John. I am certain he will enjoy his new NWA badge which reads “Past President”.

We have an excellent organization with tremendous breadth and depth of skills. As Peter Lofrumento, our Membership Chair, has said many times, if we continue to reach out to our new members and share our talents, we can all grow as woodworkers.

NWA May's Newsletter Correction

Dick Flanders' announcement of the Saw milling of donated logs: Recently cut trees must have 8-10' long logs, no less than 5', no greater than 36" diameter. White oak is in great demand, cherry, locus, maple, and walnut are desired.

Black Cherry (Rosaceae Family)

by Ron DeWitt c.1995

This is the fourth reprint of a 1995 article on "Woods of the Month" by Ron DeWitt who intended to "...increase members' understanding of and appreciation for the woods they use."

The cherry species are included in the genus *Prunus* with plums, apricots, peaches, and almonds-those fruits with a single seed or pit. Of the 400 species worldwide, 18 are native to North America, along with about five more exotic species which have escaped from orchard cultivation.

Of this group, the wood of most interest to woodworkers is the Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*), sometimes called wild cherry" or "rum cherry". It's common in the rich woodlands of our area and ranges from Nova Scotia south to central Florida, west to Nebraska and into Texas. The big old growth cherry trees are gone. In our area they now average 60-70 feet; south and west of us are numerous 100 footers with clear trunks for 30 feet and diameters to 36 inches. The largest is reported just over 140 feet with a 60 inch diameter, growing in Washtenaw County, Minnesota (1).

The bark of the Black Cherry is aromatic, dark purplish gray, peeling in curved strips and aging to irregular scaly plates of brownish orange. The leaves are dark green on top, lighter below, two to six inches long. The half inch, five petal flowers develop drooping clusters of fruit which darken from pink to black as it finally ripens in September.

In addition to fine wood, Black Cherry has been an important source of pharmaceuticals and chemicals. The juice of fermented cherries was used to cure dysentery. The juice was also used to make alcoholic drinks, to flavor drinks (rum cherry), for jelly, and as a good source of Vitamin A. Cherries are a favorite food source for birds and animals. Bears especially pursue

them with a determination that earns them the name "cherry bears" as they are quite testy and best left alone!

Cherry bark relieved the pain of childbirth. Pounded bark was used as a poultice for amputation wounds. Bark compounds are still used for cough suppressants and to ease cold symptoms. This medicinal value comes from low levels of amygdalin in the leaves, bark, and the seeds. When combined with certain enzymes, cyanogen releases hydrocyanic acid (cyanide), a powerful poison which, in lethal doses, paralyzes rather than sedates the respiratory system. The risk is slight except to cattle which have died from eating large quantities of green leaves, so avoid cutting cherry trees or brush in active pasture lands during summer.

The wood of Black Cherry is hard, strong, close-grained, but not very durable. The sapwood is narrow, white to pale orange brown with a gradual transition to the heartwood which is cinnamon to deep reddish brown. Color is quite consistent within the same tree. The wood has a distinct luster or patina. Occasionally the wood exhibits deep, colorful, wavy grain streaks (flame)

of striking beauty. Quarter-sawn figure is especially desirable because of its attractive ray fleck. Cherry develops burls frequently, and both burls and crotches are valued for veneer.

Black Cherry is a diffuse-porous wood, but it should be noted that the first row of earlywood pores is somewhat larger and generally in a continuous row. The pores are small and must be viewed with a lens. They run through the growth ring singularly and in



Black Cherry Fruit with Leaves

radial or irregular multiples. Rays are plainly visible to the eye, appearing uniform in size. Gum canals are often present, appearing as dark streaks on longitudinal surfaces. The wood weighs about 36 pounds per cubic foot.

Black Cherry is one of the most highly prized cabinet woods in America, ranking second only to Black Walnut. In addition to furniture, architectural woodwork and veneer, it is used for woodenware, caskets, patterns, gunstocks, paneling, and musical instruments. Because cherry is so stable after drying, it is the wood of choice for use with metal parts in scientific instruments and tools. It is also used exclusively for electrotype backing in the printing business.

Black Cherry dries quickly and machines easily and cleanly with little dulling of cutting edges. It drills and takes fasteners nicely. It glues satisfactorily (requires some care), but

has a high failure rate in bending. Cherry weathers badly and is difficult to keep painted (surely a felony!). It stains and takes all other finishes easily. A favorite coloring is to expose

finished wood to the sun for up to two weeks or to the correct depth of color. Because cherry reacts to daylight, if you desire lighter shades, your finish should contain UV blockers.

Furniture makers sometimes stained Black Cherry to easily pass as mahogany thus the name New England Mahogany. Now, as the price of cherry goes up, Sweet (Black) Birch (*Betula lenta*) is being stained to pass for cherry.

Black Cherry is in good supply, but prices are steadily increasing. Locally, expect to pay in the range of \$8 to \$10 per board foot for eight inch wide boards, 4/4 thick, clear on two faces (C2F), depending on grain and figure.

1. According to the National Register of Big Trees (2012), the largest Black Cherry recorded in 2008 had a height of 95 feet found in Tazewell, VA.



Black Cherry Growth Rings

Classifieds

Workshop Space For Rent

Artists, Designers, Craftspeople - in the Rivertown's area of Westchester, NY. I am looking to share my beautiful bright 1800 sq. ft. ground floor studio workshop. It's complete with 16' ceilings, floor to ceiling windows facing and on the Hudson River, kitchenette, internet access, loading dock, additional 800 sq.ft storage facilities and all the machines and hand tools needed to get creative immediately. Please let me know.



Possible business partnership opportunity - can create a 'Maker Space' or create a 'Co-op' style workshop. Extremely reasonable rent, convenient location 5 minutes' walk from the Dobbs Ferry Metro Train station.

If interested, contact Jon at 914-357-6838 or email me at jon@comotiongrp.com

For Sale in Guilderland, NY

6 inch Delta jointer with stand (\$250)

Delta 12 inch compound miter saw (\$250)

Both come with extra blades. Miscellaneous clamps, belt sander, small tools.

Contact Frank Vitale at 518-355-3525

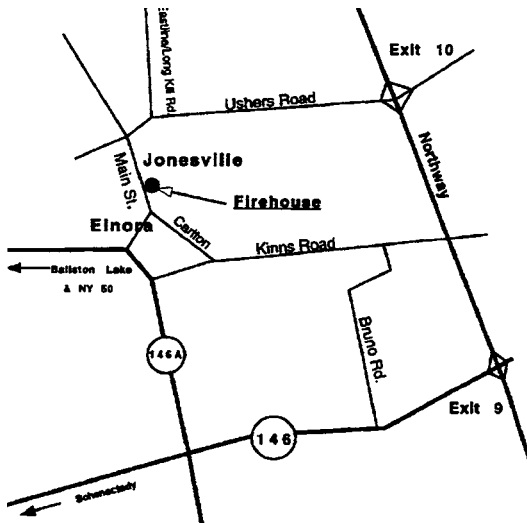
NWA Family Picnic

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Sunday, July 10, 2016, 11:00 am

Jonesville Fire Station

953 Main St., Jonesville (Clifton Park), NY



For meeting cancellation information,
call Ken Evans 753-7759
or Charlie Goddard 370-0388

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)

Adirondack Woodturners Association (AWA) - The AWA is active throughout the year. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month (except in January and July when it is the second Wednesday), and are held at the NWA Learning Center located at 15 Solar Drive, Clifton Park, NY from 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM.

Wednesday "Learn and Turn" sessions occur on all other Wednesdays at the NWA Learning Center. These sessions run 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. www.adirondackwoodturners.com **Contact:** Ken Evans, 518-753-7759 or kevans1@nycap.rr.com

Scroller's Guild - Meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at the NWA Learning Center located at 15 Solar Drive, Clifton Park, NY. A beginner's session starts at 6:30 PM (TBA), followed by a general meeting at 7:00 PM. **Contact:** Jeanne Aldous at AMJAMtat2@aol.com or Barbara Nottke at scroller87@aol.com or 869-6268.

Kaatskill Woodturners - Meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Opdahl property in Hurley, NY. **Contact:** Wally Cook at wally.cook@gmail.com.

NWA Crafters - Meets every Saturday and Tuesday, from 9:00 AM until noon at the NWA Learning Center located at 15 Solar Drive, Clifton Park, NY. The Crafters provide public service woodworking for various charitable organizations, including the Double H Hole in the Woods camp for children and the GE Toy Modifications Group, and the Make A Wish Foundation. Sharing information, fellowship, and relating experiences are a major part of these sessions. **Contact:** Dave Axton (518) 237- 6942, daxton@nycap.rr.com, Wayne Distin (518) 674-4171, wdistin@nycap.rr.com Steve Schoenberg (518-371-1260), sschoen1@nycap.rr.com for more information.

NWA Musical Instrument SIG - Meets every first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the Learning Center. The purpose of the group is to discuss all aspects of all musical instruments, playing, building, repairing, and history. Meetings involve a show and tell table, a program on an appropriate topic, and lots of member interaction. If you want to be on the email list for notifications, **contact** Ken Evans at kevans1@nycap.rr.com or 518-753-7759 or 518-281-0779.

The NWA Wood Carvers SIG - The NWA Wood Carvers SIG - Meet each Thursday at 5:30 PM until 8:30 PM all year at the NWA Learning Center located at 15 Solar Drive, Clifton Park, 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:** George Rutledge (518) 366-3606, c.howie.dudat@gmail.com, Diane Balch (518) 338-5637, signs@balchsigns.com

Hand Tool SIG - Meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Herm Finkbeiner Education Center at 15 Solar Dr, Clifton Park, NY. **Contact:** Dave Parkis for further details: dparkis@nycap.rr.com

Segmented Turning - Meets the first, third, and fourth Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM at 15 Solar Drive, Clifton Park, NY. **Contact** Toby Pauly 362-6071 (cell), e-mail tobyp@bpiping.com

CHAPTERS

NWA Mid-Hudson - The chapter meets at 7:30 PM on the third Thursday, except July and August, at the Hurley Reformed Church. The Church is just off the the Hurley exit from Rte. 209. Right at the exit, right at the stop sign and left into the Church parking area. John VanBuren, President (845) 444-8281 **Contact:** Pete Chast, pchastnow@gmail.com.

NWA Sacandaga - The chapter meets at 7:00 PM. on the Second Wednesday of each month at 55 Second Avenue, Mayfield, NY. **Contact:** Gary Ratajczak, President - (518) 852-1204