

# WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern  
Woodworkers  
Association

April 2018, Vol. 27, Number 4

## April Meeting

### Live Demonstration of Turning Winged Bowls

*Thursday, April 12, 2018 7:00 PM  
Shaker Heritage Society Meetinghouse  
Albany-Shaker Road, Albany, NY*

*Presented by Keith Thompkins*

Keith is the winner of The Richard Pagno Award at Totally Turning with this walnut bowl.

He started from a rectangular blank to finished bowl. Keith will demonstrate various chucking methods, including jam chucks. He will discuss the hazards and risks of turning one of these pieces and show how to do it safely. Keith will turn a bead around the rim of the bowl, texturing it with wood burning, and finishing by adding an ebonized finish to the rim.

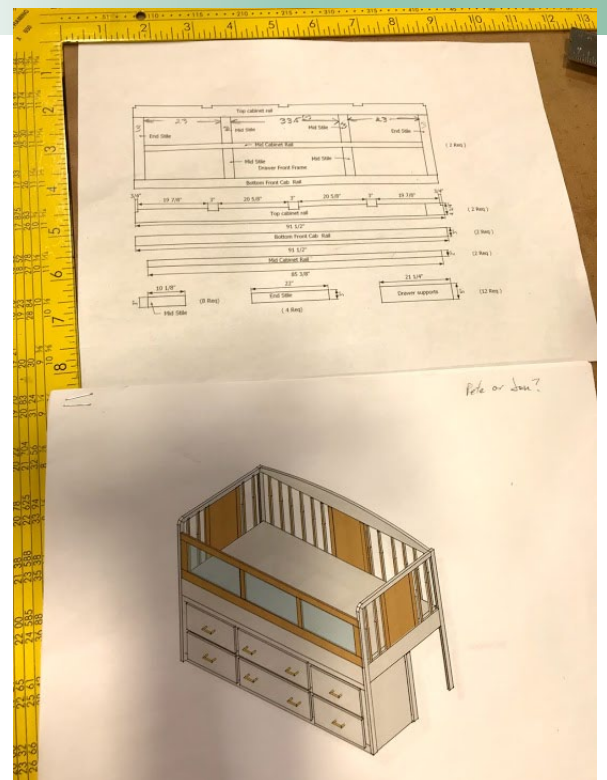


*Walnut winged bowl*

## Crafters Serve Make a Wish

*As told by Wayne Distin*

The NWA Crafters SIG of 50+ members have donated many woodworking hours of community service to the Double H Ranch for exceptional children, the Humane Society fund raising, the Veterans Recovery Program, the Toy Modification Project, the Ronald McDonald House, the Center for Disability Services, and most recently, the Make a Wish Foundation. On Tuesday and Saturday mornings, the Crafters assemble to instruct less skilled NWA members with their own wood projects, maintain and repair shop equipment, harvest and store hardwood lumber, and collectively build furniture, toys, enabling devices for persons with disabilities and special needs. Eight years ago, Make a Wish approached the Crafters requesting a Murphy bed be built for a disabled boy who loved Transformers. Charlie Goddard and Wayne Distin designed such a bed that had a fold out desk with the Transformers theme! About three years ago Crafters



*Austin Spang's plans*



build an open toy box. In February 2017, Make a Wish requested a high bed with storage be created for a 17-year-old girl. Austin Spang designed the 36" high bed with spacious storage drawers. The large bed can be disassembled to install in the girl's small bedroom. About 16 Crafters dedicated 500 hours to the building of this oak and cherry bed with a custom- made memory foam mattress from Portland, ME. The pictures taken by Juliana Shei show the stages of planning and building.



*Austin inspects the Crafters' progress*



*Happy Crafters making the rails*



*Dry assembly*



*Bed's brass hardware*



*Crafters near completion*



*The final bed sans mattress*



## OFFICERS

**President** - Richard Flanders  
rflander@nycap.rr.com  
(h)393-5215 or (c)461-7339  
**Vice President** - Steve Mapes  
mapessteven@gmail.com  
527-2976

**Secretary** - Nancy Reilly  
nreilly@nycap.rr.com

**Treasurer** - Ron Roberts  
nwatreasurer1@gmail.com  
845-245-8308

**Past President** - Wally Carpenter  
c.j.carpenter@earthlink.net  
434-1776

**Executive Secretary** - Charlie Goddard  
Cgodd@aol.com  
370-0388



## CHAIRPERSONS

### Mid-Hudson Chapter

Jim Lee, President - 845-382-6045  
dlee1963@aol.com

### Sacandaga Chapter

Gary Ratajczak, President - 852-1204  
info@sacandagawoodworkers.org

### Banquet

Pam Bucci - 429-6440  
woolglass2@gmail.com

### Education

George Jones  
nwaeducation@gmail.com

### Fiske Fund

John Kingsley  
jkingsley1@nycap.rr.com

### Historian

Wayne Distin - 674-4171  
wdistin@nycap.rr.com

### Hospitality

Lee Hilt  
jamtgs@earthlink.net

### Library

Irv Stephens - 273-4843  
irvstephens@gmail.com

### Membership

Bob Stanley - 429-5362 (cell)  
nwamembers1@gmail.com

### Programs

Steve Mapes - 527-2976  
mapessteven@gmail.com

### Publications

Susan McDermott - 518-438-1909  
Nwanewsletter1@gmail.com

### Publicity

John Olenik - 587-0306  
jolenik@nycap.rr.com

### Showcase Chair

Wally Carpenter - 434-1776  
c.j.carpenter@earthlink.net



# March 8, 2018 General Meeting

*By Susan McDermott*

## Announcements:

Dave Mobley updated the Search Committee's progress. No place is yet secured, but many places have been visited and evaluated. Dave asked that members look for appropriate light industrial space central to our members' communities and notify the Committee at nwasearch1@gmail.com .

## Show and Tell

Lee Hilt showed his three items: spalted wood table top, drawer, and possible clock face.



*Hilt's spalted drawer*

Gary Stephenson's blacksmith skills (used to reproduce a 1614 ship) show three cabinet latches of wrought iron with whales tail theme.

Jon Hedman's ingenuity created a candy box guitar which he strummed for the audience. The instrument is made with a white oak neck and a resonator from a Mrs. Field's candy box.



*Stephenson's wrought iron latches*



*Lee Hilt's spalted table top*



*Hedman's candy box guitar*



## WOODWORKERS NEWS

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



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Susan McDermott, Editor  
(518) 438-1909

Nwanewsletter1@gmail.com  
Elizabeth Keays Graphic Artist  
Designer



### WEBSITE(S)

[www.woodworker.org](http://www.woodworker.org)  
[www.nwawoodworkingshow.org](http://www.nwawoodworkingshow.org)

Webmaster - Kurt Hertzog  
[kurt@kurthertzog.com](mailto:kurt@kurthertzog.com)



**NORTHEASTERN  
WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION**  
P.O. BOX 246  
Rexford, New York 12148



## Guest Presenter: Mike Mascelli "A Short Walk through the World of Upholstery"

Vice President Steve Mapes introduced his old friend and fellow craftsman, Mike Mascelli who gave a short history by PowerPoint of the cushions primitive people used from animal furs and wood shavings or straw through the Middle Ages to the Renaissance, with the first upholstered chair, a leather cushion appearing about 400 years ago. Fillings were local materials such as sea grass, Spanish moss, or cotton. The British Guild of Upholders seal was a symbol of three tents in the Fourteenth Century. "Upholder" is an archaic word for "upholsterer". The signage of a workshop of an upholsterer was always three tents. Thomas Chippendale was a member in the mid 1700's. Mike's photos showed how the French influenced English

furniture makers who then influenced American crafts. American coach makers of the 1630's upholstered the seats for wealthy, ostentatious Americans. Mike traced the furniture styles of the 1700's, William and Mary; the 1800's Queen Anne silk upholstery; the Victorian ornate, decorative tufts. All would use curly horse hair, or shredded coconut (Cair Fiber) packed in barrels of imported china to prevent breakage.

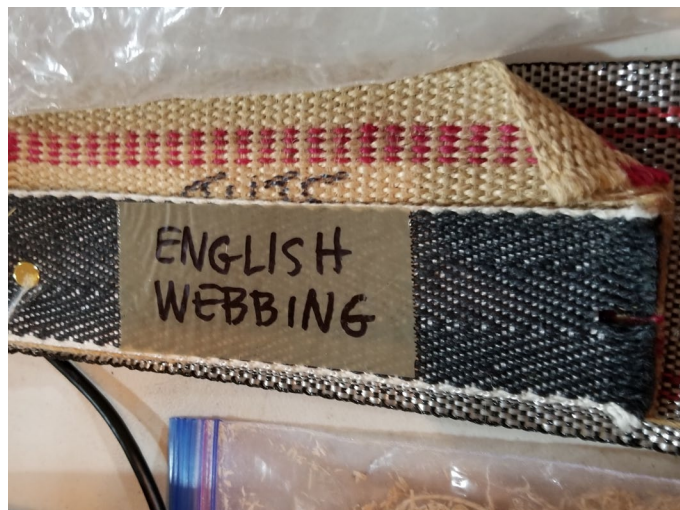
American Colonial furniture had the distinctive Martha Washington chair. The chair was wide, with a high back, open sides and short arms, and was normally upholstered in leather. Later, Shaker, Arts and Crafts, Art Nouveau, Art Deco styles all had distinctive webbing, weaves, fillers, and covers.



Mike Mascelli and Steve Mapes



Chippendale upholstered chair

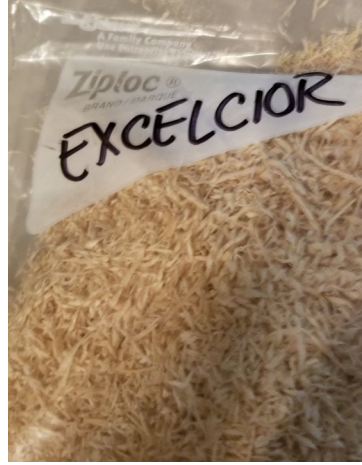


Three types of webbing



Mike displayed the tools of the trade: needles, tacks, stretchers, hammers as well as webbing, fabrics, and fillers. Mike concluded his passionate presentation with this message:

“Clothes make the man. The upholsterer makes the chair.”



Early wood filler



Early use of cotton filler



Curley horse hair and coconut fibers as filler



Variety of tacks



Web stretcher, hammer, tack pry



Imported tacks and welts



Two tack hammers



# Wood of the Month

## Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*)

*A reprint of a series*

*by Ron DeWitt c. July 1998*

There are about 20 species of walnut, ranging from across North and Central America, south to the Andes Mountains and from southwestern Europe across most of Asia to Japan. Of the six species found in the U.S., only the butternut and black walnut have extensive ranges in the eastern half of the country and into our area.

Black walnut, sometimes called Eastern black walnut or American black walnut, has a natural range from Massachusetts west to Minnesota and south into northern Florida and eastern Texas. It did not extend into South Carolina, Georgia, Louisiana, or Mississippi. Its range has been expanded through extensive planting, across Canada and westward to Washington and California.

Although big trees are not common to our area, there are many black walnuts, and it's mostly a matter of learning to recognize them. (Good trees are often kept a secret to protect them from theft.)

Black walnuts prefer rich bottom land and fertile hillsides where it grew abundantly in our old growth forests. Trees reached 150 feet with six foot diameter trunks, were clear of branches for 50 feet, and lived for 300 years. Lumber was straight-grained and uniformly dark-colored.

Today black walnuts are more often found standing alone in open areas or on the edges of fields. Big trees are 80-100 feet with four-foot trunks. The champion black walnut is still growing on Sauvie Island, Oregon (as of 2018), and until recently New York's biggest walnut at 109 feet with a six foot diameter grew in Rhinebeck, NY (see story of its history and demise in 2014 <https://www.poughkeepsiejournal.com/story/news/local/northern-dutchess/2014/07/24/rhinebeck-champion-walnut-dies/13132961/>)

The alternate compound leaves of the black walnut are one to two feet long with 15-23 opposite leaflets. The terminal leaflet is often



missing. The leaves leave a pleasant spicy odor when crushed. The undersides of the satin yellow-green leaflets are soft and fuzzy. Twigs have a lightly-scaled brown bark which changes to dark brown, becoming deeply divided with broad rounded ridges with thick surface scales on mature trees. Black walnut, like butternut, has chambered pith - a twig sliced lengthwise contains an open core separated by plate-like partitions, about 20 to the inch, a helpful identification feature.

The single or paired fruit, in a thick spherical furry aromatic hull, may be up to four inches in diameter when they drop in mid-October, just after the leaves fall. The one to two inch nut (more correctly called a "drupe stone") conceals an oily delicious meat, well worth the effort and persistence to crack the deeply fissured and very hard shell.

From the more technical side, black walnut is semi-ring porous. The pores gradually change from large in the earlywood to small in the latewood. Pores may be solitary or in radial multiples of two to a few. Tyloses are common. Rays are one to five seriate, quite fine, and barely visible with a hand lens. Cells often contain small calcium compound crystals and silica nodules.

The sapwood is creamy-white and may be three inches wide. Heartwood is rich chocolate or purplish brown and dull. This wood is noted

for its beautiful grain character, producing more figure variation than any other wood. It is relatively heavy, hard and strong with an average specific gravity of 0.55, weighing about 36-38 pounds per cubic foot at 10% moisture content- not quite as heavy or strong as red oak.

Walnut should be dried slowly, but it air dries nicely with little tendency to warp or check. Once dry, it is extremely stable. It absorbs shock well but is not a good bending wood. It is quite durable when exposed to soil or moisture and is resistant to insect damage.

The wood works easily with power or hand tools but may cause some dulling of cutting edges. Planing, turning, shaping, routing, and sanding all produce crisp detail. Fasteners hold well with little tendency to split. Any adhesive works well and stains go on uniformly, but the large pores make filling desirable. Walnut takes any finish and most compliment the lovely satin sheen of the wood.

The wood and sawdust are known to cause irritation of the eyes, nose, skin, and lungs, and may stimulate allergies and asthma-precautions advised.

The leaves, bark, roots, and nut hulls of black walnut, like butternut, produce a natural herbicide, *juglone*, a cyclic compound which oxidizes to become toxic to many neighboring plants, fungi, insects, fish, and occasionally mammal. Tomatoes, apples, potatoes, and roses are especially vulnerable; most grasses, begonias, pansies, and blackberries are resistant. So toxic are walnuts hulls that they were crushed and dumped into streams to kill fish, a practice which is illegal today. Farmers still plant these trees around barns to keep flies away.

The nuts of black walnuts have a long and interesting history as food and medicine. Recipes from as early as the 1300s specify these nut meats in many foods. Today they

are still popular in desserts-cookies, cakes, pies, and ice cream. The nuts are very high in protein, more than milk or most meats. About half the weight of the nut meat is oil which, like butternut, was used for furniture polish and lamp oil.

Our ancestors ground nut shells to treat head injuries and ate the meat for headaches and as a treatment for mental illness or epileptic seizures. Walnuts were thought to ward off witchcraft and to prevent lightning strikes. Walnut oil was used to treat eczema.

Nut hulls were used to make a very permanent dark brown dye- just handling these products produces stains which take weeks to wear off.

Today the real value of black walnut is in the wood. So valuable is this species that spotters in helicopters often search for big trees, offering property owners substantial sums for high quality timber ( a good veneer log could

bring \$10,000). Big saw mills maintain lists of woodworkers who want to look at every log brought in. Stumps and branchwood are salvaged for their wood value. To the extreme, a steaming process is used to darken sapwood, so it looks like heartwood, increasing the yield from each log.

That's a little different from early America when black walnut was used for miles of fence rail because it split easily, and for millions of railroad ties because it was durable.

The wood has always been used for fine furniture. During World War I it was used for airplane propellers and was popular for automobile parts and trim. Now it is used for interior trim, paneling, and flooring. Large amounts are used for veneer. Its stability and shock resistance make it the wood of choice for gun stocks.

*Editor's note: Black walnut might be available in hardwood lumber yards at \$15 per board foot (Woodworkers Source)*



*Black walnut nut*



*Black walnut girth*

## Mid-Hudson Woodworkers

# *Annual Dinner*

**Saturday, April 14**

Roudigan's Steakhouse  
16 NY-28, Kingston, NY

Cocktail hour will begin at 6 pm  
with dinner at 7 pm.

Cost: \$30 per person

Choice of:  
Sliced Garlic Steak  
Chicken Francaise  
Broiled Filet of Sole

A vegetarian option of  
Pasta Primavera is also available

**Come join us as we honor our  
Member of the year Pete Chast**

Please send your payment and  
dinner choices to Vince Guido

Vincent's address is  
153 Old Flat Bush Road  
Kingston, New York 12401  
Phone number: 845-331-6302

Please remind everyone to NOT use  
perfume, cologne, or shave lotion when  
dressing up for the dinner. This is just in  
consideration for our honoree who suffers  
from asthma and we would not want to put  
him in misery on such a delightful occasion.

--

Bob Boisvert  
Mid-Hudson NWA  
raboisvert47@gmail.com  
845-242-5088

## The Tale of the Dove

*By Tom Quimby*

On February 24 and 25, I had the pleasure of participating in Bob Van Dyke's 10 Ways to Cut Dovetails workshop. We started with cutting straight lines with a handsaw, something Bob calls "dovetail calisthenics". He says he always warms up with this before doing serious work. Bob explained the importance of positioning feet and body in relation to the cut and letting the saw do its work. From there we moved on to using a cutting gauge, paring to a line with a sharp chisel, and sharpening techniques.

We then took a good look at dovetail joints, why they work, and the importance of layout and labelling pieces and faces to cut down on confusion. As we moved on to making a dovetail, Bob showed his very pragmatic approach and explained how to salvage mistakes, not get rattled, and move on. Bob stressed the importance of practicing the "5-minute dovetail", one tail, two half pins with no layout. Just practice the motions.

We started Day 2 creating a second "5-minute dovetail" (they all took longer than 5 minutes!) which looked better than the first we made on Day 1. We moved on to different methods of cutting and removing waste using a table saw and jig, trim router and jig, band saw, scroll saw, coping saw, and sharp chisels. When done accurately, this leaves good pins which are the sides of the space that hold the tail and create a tail that fits tightly between the pins.

Bob is a pragmatist when it comes to tools and processes. He explained why he usually cuts pins first when cutting dovetails by hand but cuts the tails first if using machine. He chooses hand tools or machinery based on the size of the job and the location of the joint. He also emphasized that practice increases speed, accuracy, and ultimately enjoyment.

For people who can't wait for Bob's next workshop to come to NWA, Bob heads the Connecticut Valley School of Woodworking in Manchester, CT.



# 2018 Showcase Gratitude to Volunteers

*By Wally Carpenter*

Hopefully as you read this article, Showcase 2018 will have been another happy memory for each of us. There are so many of you I never even get to see and thank personally for freely giving your time and talents in making Showcase possible. I do appreciate your work and support of this amazing event.

I am very much honored to be able to work with you in making this happen. I remind you that we are the only group at the Saratoga City Center who puts on such an event with its own volunteer team. I hope you took some time to actually enjoy the efforts of our collective work. It IS a beautiful event. Combined with our Totally Turning Symposium, makes this one of the largest and most interesting events in the woodworking community.

To simply say thank you to the hundreds of you who create this amazing venue doesn't come close to what I feel. You create the impossible and do this with a smile. Enjoy the well-deserved break before we begin our efforts in earnest for 2019!

## Classifieds

### West WoodWorks Shop Contents

#### Stationary Machines

Table saw Jet JTAS-10-1 (w/table ext. & misc. blades) 1997, Planer Jet JWP-15HO 1999, Jointer Jet JJ-6CSX 2001, Band saw Jet JWBS-14CS 2002, Drill press Delta 17- 1999, Router table Jess Em, Vacuum sanding table, work bench/assembly table 4'x8', 2 wood vices, adjustable height, Air Filtration Unit Jet AFS1000 2008

#### Portable Power Tools

Router PC7529 2 ½ hp w/plunge base, Router PC 1 ½ hp., Belt sander PC 3"x21", Belt Sander PC 4"x24", Orbital sander PC 330, Plate Joiner PC, Jig saw Makita

#### Power Tool Accessories

DP support/table HTC PM128, Tenoning Jig Delta, Dado set Freud 6", Miter Gauge Incra, Misc. special drill bits, roller stand, cabinet, 3 drawers for under table saw table extension, sanding drum set.

**Tool Cabinet** 4'x7'x16", Low angle block plane Stanley, standard block plane Stanley, 2-bench planes misc. jack plane, fore plane, chisel set Irwin 5-piece, Japanese pull saw, Japanese dove tail saw, back saw, cross cut saw Disston, carpenter's square, combination square, tri square, speed square, 3' metal straight edge steel, 4' metal straight edge Al angle, wood mallet, tack hammer, claw hammer, nail sets set of 3, T-bevel, cabinet screwdrivers set of 5, depth & height gauges, files set of 7, dividers, compass, mini pry bar set, cabinet scraper set (3), misc. small tools, bench brush & dust pan

My price for the whole shop is \$5000 firm. I will not sell individual items. My phone number is 607-264-3217. They can be seen in Cherry Valley, NY, just off State Route 20 about 50 miles west of Albany. (The shop is in storage now, not set up for use or viewing) Please call for an appointment to inspect the tools.

– Dan West



# April Meeting

**Thursday, April 12, 2018 7:00 PM**  
**Shaker Heritage Society Meetinghouse**  
**Albany-Shaker Road, Albany, NY**

## 2018 MONTHLY MEETINGS\*

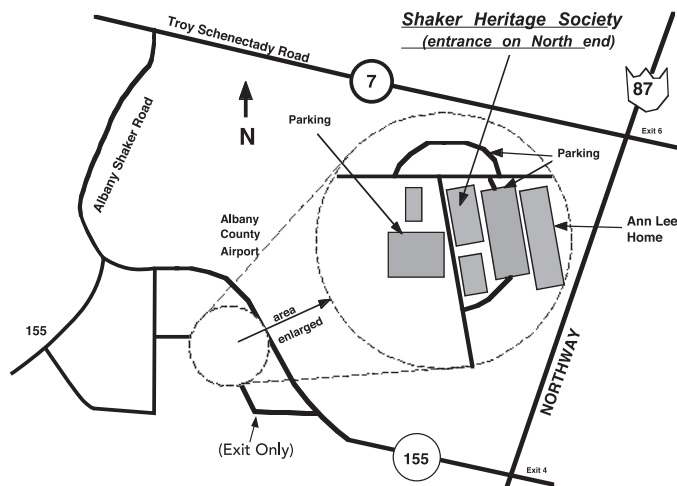
Unless noted otherwise, held at the Shaker Meetinghouse  
on the Second Thursdays at 7:00 PM

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

**May 10**

Small Power Tools - Presented by Dick Flanders

\*To be updated with additional information



## 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 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM. **Contact:** Pam Bucci, President - 429-6440, woolglass2@gmail.com

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** - (will now shift to) Saturday mornings at 9:00 AM -- the second second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 until October. 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:** Wayne Distin - (518)674-4171, wdistin@nycap.rr.com, Ken Evans - (518)753-7759, kevans1@nycap.rr.com, or John Heimke, heimkej@sage.edu 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 5:00 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:** Diane Balch - (518)885-9899, 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 - 458-7242 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 - 788-7253, e-mail tobypauly@yahoo.com

**Spindle and Pen Turners** - Meets Mondays 5:30 PM -8:00 PM. **Contact:** Pam Bucci - 429-6440, woolglass2@gmail.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. **Contact:** Jim Lee, President - (845)382-6045, dlee1963@aol.com

**NWA Sacandaga** - The chapter meets at 7:00 PM. on the Second Tuesday of each month from Sept through June. at 55 Second Avenue, Mayfield, NY. **Contact:** Gary Ratajczak, President - (518)852-1204, info@sacandagawoodworkers.org