

# WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern  
Woodworkers  
Association

December 2018, Vol. 27, Number 10



## Our Annual Family Night is coming up!



**Wednesday December 5th at 6:30 PM**

**at the Clifton Park Halfmoon Public Library on Moe Road  
Clifton Park, NY 12065**

**(off Rt 146, just west of Clifton Park Shopping Center)**

**Please note the  
DATE AND LOCATION!  
(we will be meeting in Room A-B on the second floor)**

As in the past, we ask that you bring a dessert or appetizer to share with the other guests and their families. This is a great opportunity to try out that new cookie or pastry recipe, or your tried and true holiday treat.  
(Coffee and beverages will be provided)

Don't miss this upcoming opportunity to meet your old friends, and new Members, and their families. Plan on a nice social evening to talk with them about what you have been doing, and what you plan to be doing next.

Family night is known for its goodies, wonderful company, great atmosphere, and dazzling displays of your, (and family members'), artwork (in any medium), and woodworking talents.



**We will have tables for the  
INSTANT GALLERY  
(No auction this year, only Show & Tell)**

**Don't forget to bring some items to display**

**These can be any art form, not confined to woodworking!**

# 2018 NWA Recognition Banquet Honors Lewis Hill

*By Susan McDermott*

Some 70 members assembled at the Italian American Community Center on October 27 to enjoy words about and by Lewis Hill, partake of delicious dinners, win raffle prizes, and socialize with their friends. The evening opened with Ken Evans' personal reminiscence of his friend Warren Stoker who passed away May 4, 2018. An excerpt of Ken's praises of Warren's NWA contributions over many years follows: "Warren was a sharing person, opening his home shop every Monday evening to NWA members... a former NWA president, a teacher of children, a maker of toys, an artist in wood, a banjo builder and player."

Ken was followed by an invocation by Wally Carpenter which gave comfort to those of us who knew Warren. The serving of dinner lightened the mood, and the banquet organizer, Pam Bucci brought Lewis Hill to the podium where she recounted Lewis's many talents as a hiker, weaver, wine maker, carpenter who built the South Mall (with help from hundreds of others), and his twenty years as an ambulance server.

Wayne Distin added to Pam's list of Lew's achievements: "Lew was always willing to help at the shop gathering tools, sanding, providing suggestions, holding parts for other wood workers. He has been my right-hand helper, maintaining and cleaning the dust collectors and shop vacs, trash removal and other odd jobs. He was the Hospitality Chair for the General Meeting for many years. And he was the jokester of the group. 'His jokes are so dry; a desert would be jealous.'"

After our applause, Pam Curtis and Jared Best drew the raffle tickets for the many prizes donated by members and vendors. The evening closed with the oldest member of each table being gifted by Pam's centerpieces. Special



*Warren Remembered*



*Ken Evans honors Warren Stoker*



*Wally Carpenter delivers a prayer*



*Pam Bucci organized the 2018 banquet*



*Lewis Hill speaks to members*



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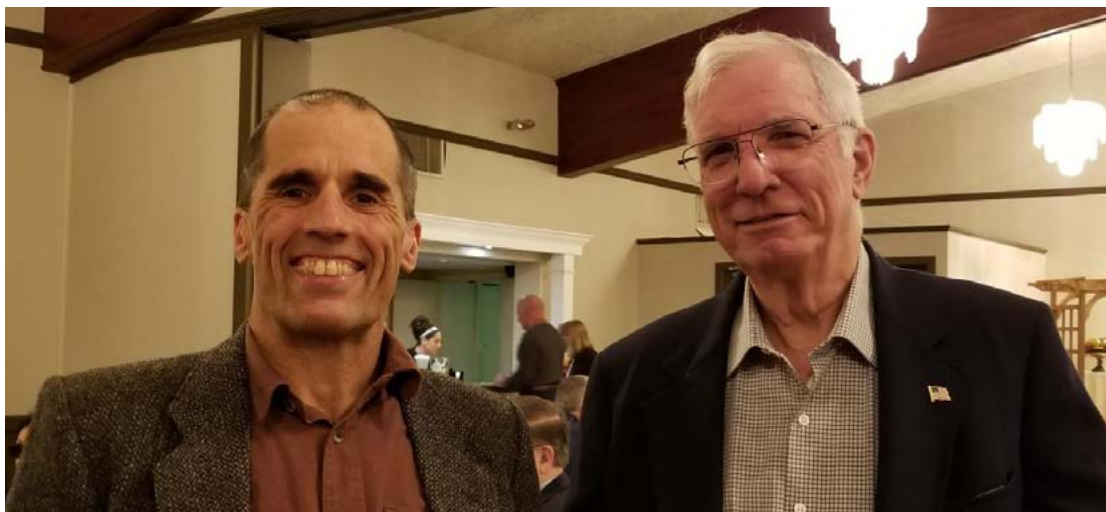
thanks go to some behind-the-scene work to make the banquet such a success: the financial wizard, Ron Roberts (treasurer) who settled accounts with the management and President Steve Mapes who updated us on the shop's progress. You can stop by nearly any day after his job or evenings and find Steve on a ladder wiring lights, hanging ceiling panels, managing sub-contractors. His countless hours of work should inspire us all to help make the Learning Center our new shop.



70+ attendees



President Steve Mapes and Steve Vanderzee



VP Rich Cerruto and Dick Flanders



## 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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**Woodworkers News**

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



*Membership Chair Bob Stanley*



*Pam Curtis and Jared Best pick raffle winners*



*Executive Secretary Charlie Goddard and Karen*



*Willie Evans and Marie Witkins*



*Wayne Distin with Pat and Tom McCord*



*John Heimke and Mary Beth*



# Steve Brown Held a Class on Compound Angle Joinery

*By Susan McDermott*

On November 2, 2018 eight NWA members attended a day long class at the 97 Railroad shop in Albany. Eight workbenches were equipped by NWA with the necessary planes, clamps, hand routers, and hard woods.

Each member constructed a hard wood tray with four sides and a bottom after observing the sequence of steps Steve demonstrated. The pictures below will attempt to show those steps.



*Each bench outfitted with NWA tools*



*Steve drafts the tray project first*



*Cherry and walnut stock provided by NWA*



*A desired angle cut in a wood block to transfer*



*Custom sled cuts angles in multiples*



*Two sides show grooves for beveled bottom*





*Steve sets the saw blade to match the corners*



*Steve gently chisels off clamp blocks*



*Table saw blade set to bevel tray's bottom*



*A dry fit*



*The beveled bottom*



*The finished tray*



As a side lesson, Steve cut compound dovetails. This is a difficult process with many opportunities for mistakes. It's not for the faint-hearted!



*Steve shows angled dovetails*



*Perfect fit!*

Credit must be given to NWA members who set up the temporary classrooms as it required considerable organization and heavy lifting: Dick Flanders, Steve Vanderzee, Wayne Distin, Jon Bennett, Roger Holmes, Rich Ceruto, and Chuck Watson. Dick and Chuck assisted Steve Brown's instruction and Vice President Rich Ceruto was responsible for inviting Steve Brown from the North Bennet Street School in Boston.

**Note to the eight NWA students:** the specialty jigs used for making the trays are available to borrow for any finish work or to make another tray. They are great Christmas gifts! See Dick Flanders for the jigs.

## 2019 WOODWORKERS' SHOWCASE

March 30 & March 31, 2019  
10AM – 5PM

Saratoga Springs City Center  
Saratoga Springs, NY

[Nwawoodworkingshow.org](http://Nwawoodworkingshow.org)

## Showcase 2019 is Coming!

Get those Woodworking Projects going and  
be sure to make time to put on that finish!!

As always, Showcase doesn't happen without  
VOLUNTEERS like each of you!!!

March 30 - 31, 2019

Saratoga City Center, Saratoga Springs, NY  
Contact Wally Carpenter [c.j.carpenter@earthlink.net](mailto:c.j.carpenter@earthlink.net)

# Kaatskill Woodturners' Association

By Wally Cook

**Small kits:** Doug Scharf discussed his experience at craft shows, purveying the products that emanate from small kits, such as pens, bottlestoppers, shaving paraphernalia, and peppermills. He compiled a resource list of manufacturers and retailers to assist anyone looking for specific items.

Doug's experience is that if your interest is in making money producing objects from kits, the profit margin will generally be lower than expected, except for the very high-end kits. Typically, the most expensive pen kits and peppermill hardware will supply a good return. He has good experience with Dayacom pen kits and Chefware kits, particularly the crush-grind kits from Denmark. Berea produces a quality wine opener and cheese knife set. Pool cue kits, bangles, and rings are the latest trend that Doug is investigating.

Of course, the kits are part of the expense, but the exotic or acrylic hybrid blanks can be the major cost. Stabilized wood or acrylic is a must for shaving kits. Bear Tooth Woods has a great selection of blanks. Specialized blanks



*Doug showed a variety of kits – his peppermills are in the foreground*



*Blanks come in diverse materials and designs*



using powdered metal, shells, and hybrid wood/acrylic can be very pricey. Material and shape are the prime determinants of customer attraction.

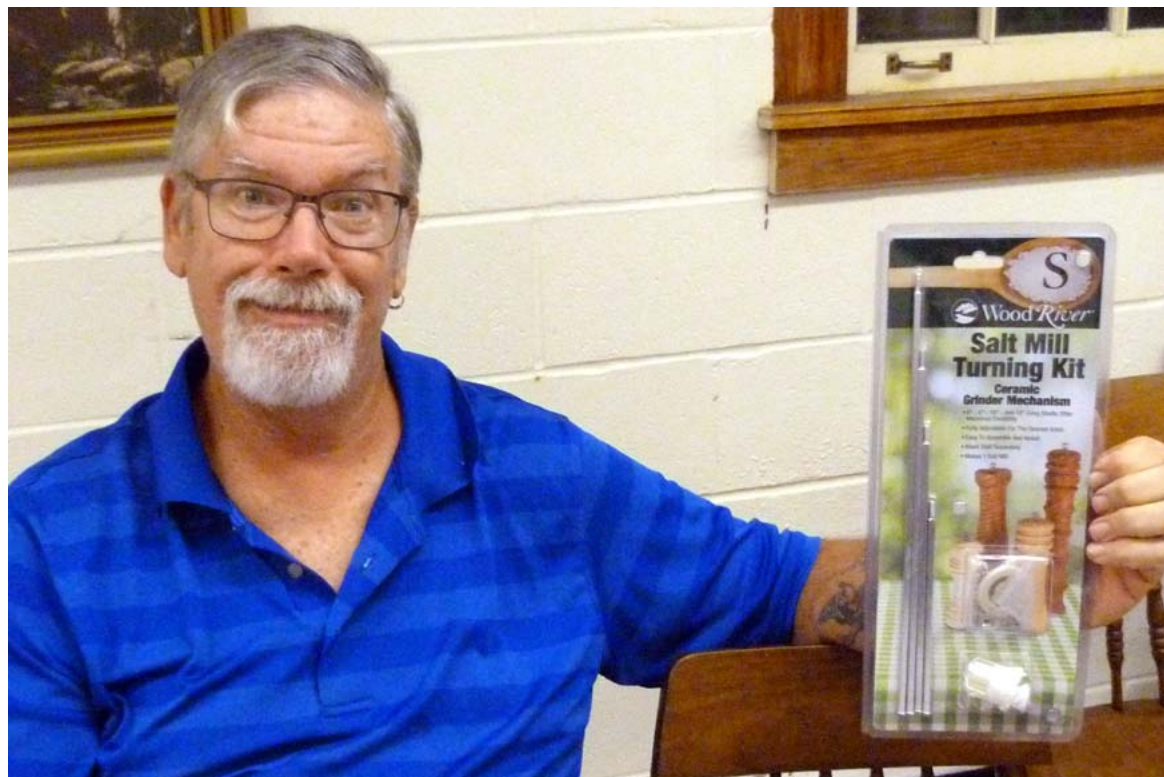
There are many choices to make. Shaving brushes feature nine grades of bristle. Bristles harvested from the neck of the badger make a very high grade brush. These brushes 'bloom' after first use, spreading to a greater volume. Badger may also smell while it is being broken in. Doug prefers the synthetic brush material.

New finishes have been developed for small projects. A flexible CA finish is available from Mercury Adhesives. The benefit is that the finish will move with the wood and avoid the crazing that sometimes happens with a CA finish with temperature and humidity changes. This CA is guaranteed to be fresh and comes with a clog-proof cap. Craft Coat from Eco-Advancements, Inc. is a modified Linseed Oil product, which is water based. It is advertised to be as durable and clear as a CA finish. It is also applied in the same manner using a folded paper towel or dipped. Doug likes to apply it in thick layers. Craft Coat can be sanded back for a glass-like look. This finish is effective on oily or exotic woods as well. Water based clean-up is a plus.

**Regifting:** The KWA was the recipient of a donated Delta woodturning lathe a few years ago. However, an inquiry from Viola Opdahl resulted in a regifting of this lathe to a worthy cause. Jerry Grant, director of collections and research at the Shaker Museum in Mount



*Doug's shaving products are particularly striking*



*Doug shows an example of a peppermill kit – ceramic grind is key*

Lebanon has been searching for a lathe to start a youth program in woodturning. The lathe fit the requirements and is now in residence at Mount Lebanon in Old Chatham, NY. Happy turning!

**Upcoming:** Carl Ford will demo techniques for Big, Bold, and Fast Surface Decoration on Saturday, December 15 at 9:30AM. The program will be held at the Opdahl Building in Hurley. We will also elect new officers and identify topics for 2019.

# Twenty-third Fiske Award Lecturer

## Steve Brown

By Susan McDermott

On November 1, 2018 NWA members gathered at the Calvary Methodist Church in Latham to learn how Steve Brown applied his knowledge of Classical designs and proportions to the construction of 18th Century fine American furniture.

He unlocked the secrets of famous furniture builders like Chippendale, Frothingham, Sheraton, and Hepplewhite. NWA Vice President Rich Ceruto introduced Steve Brown who lives in Manchester by the Sea, began his wood working in a furniture shop,

graduated from North Bennet Street School, and became one of its instructors. Tommy MacDonald of "Rough Cut" was one of Steve's students.

North Bennet Street School was established in 1885 to serve the immigrant community with trades instruction in bookbinding, carpentry, jewelry making, locksmithing, piano and violin repair, cabinet and furniture building. Many of these skills continue to be taught today. Current students begin courses with hand planes and chisels to hand cut dovetails and construct stacked drawers as their first major project. Further instruction continues in carving and inlay for case pieces, chairs, foot stools with four types of cabriole legs.



Steve Brown, Fiske Award Speaker 2018

Steve teaches in both the full-time and continuing education classes. Steve worked with Phil Lowe (Cabinet and Furniture Making '74) at Makers of Fine Furniture in Beverly, MA, before joining the faculty. Steve's work has been shown in galleries and published in the *Fine Woodworking Design Book*, and many museum and private collections feature Steve's restoration work. He lectures throughout the Boston area and has developed several programs for the school's continuing education courses. His reproduction of Benjamin Frothingham's (1734-1809) Boston Dressing Table is pictured below. It is featured at Delaware's famous Winterthur. You can view a nine-minute YouTube video that includes Steve's reproduction in Winterthur (about 2 to 3 minutes in from the beginning). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rAao2Zjqupo>

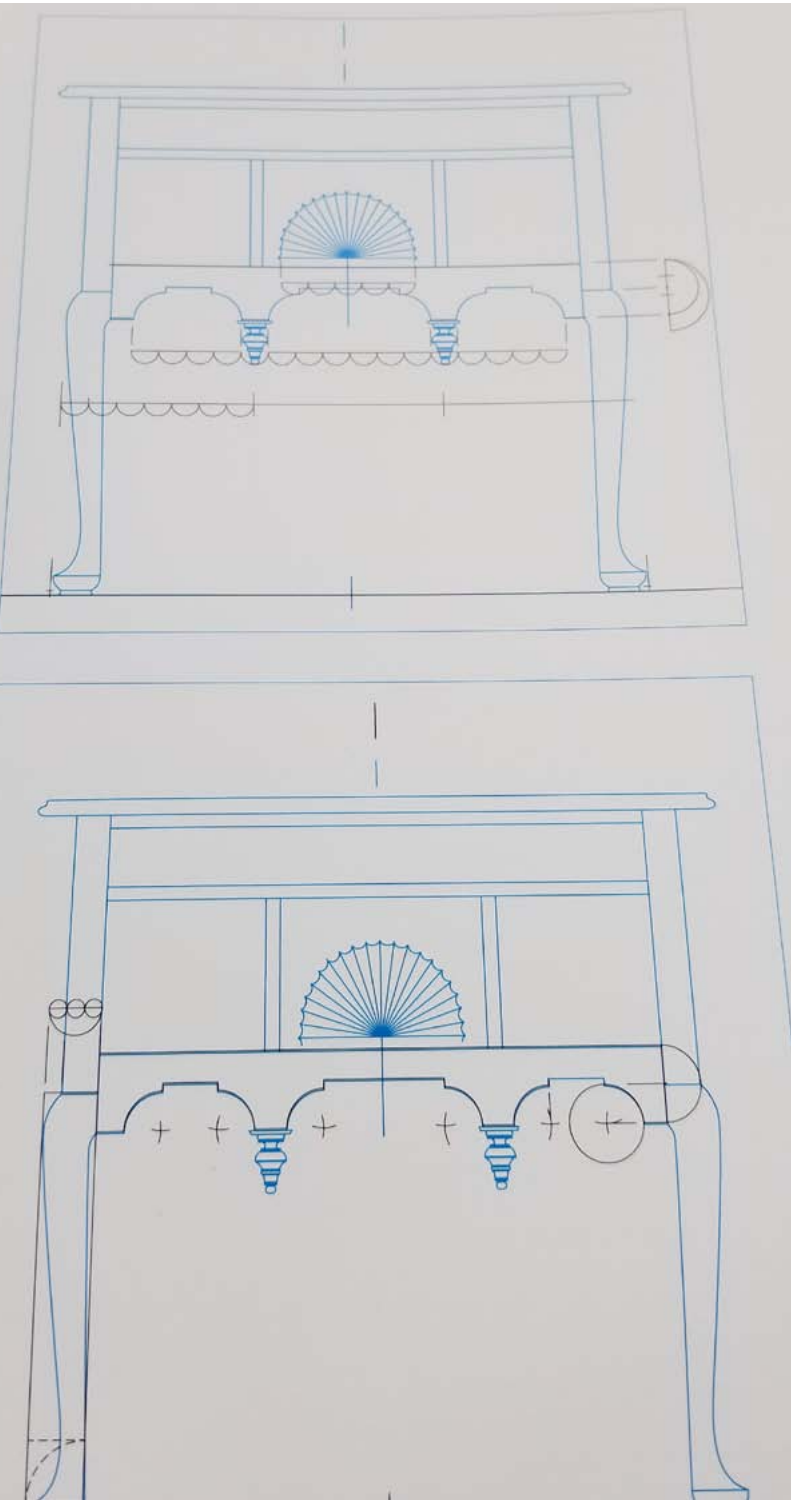
Steve coauthored *American Furniture* with Will Neptune. They researched 18th Century American furniture designs' Classical orders



Frothingham Dressing Table



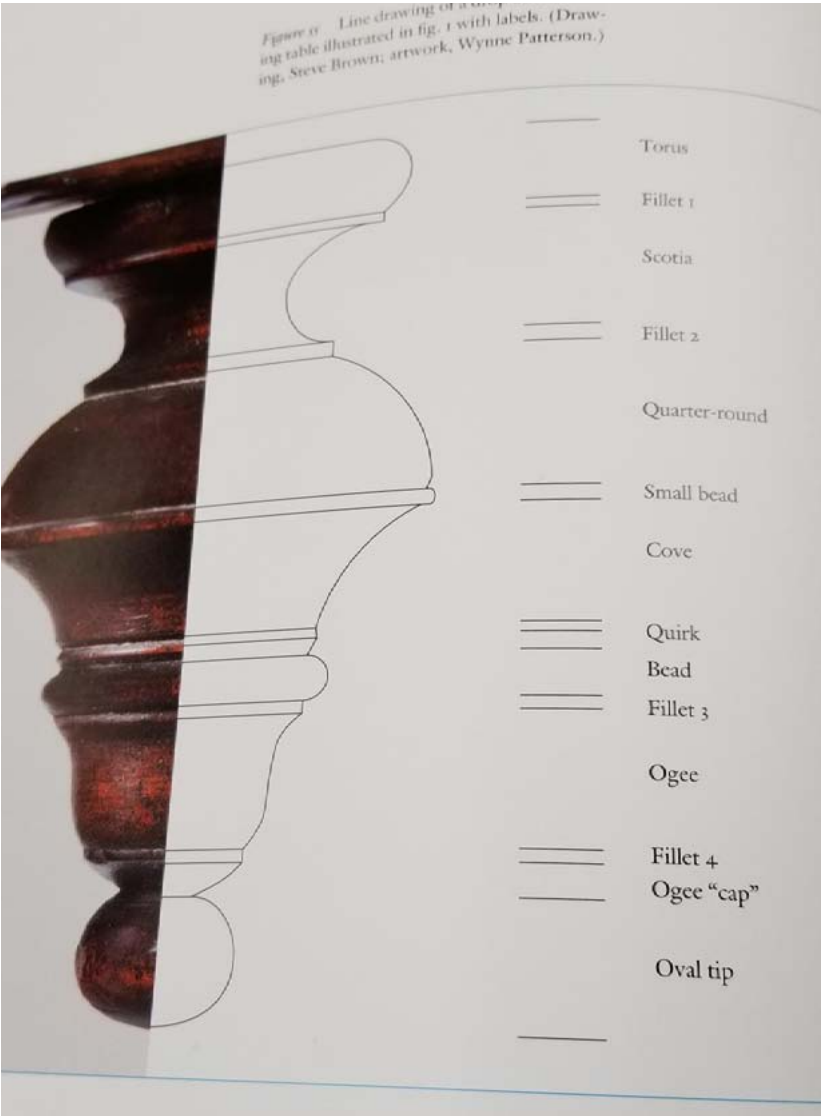
and proportions which were the secrets of the period's famous furniture builders. The Tuscan order of Frothingham's dressing table can be divided into fifths which achieve an internal harmony with tapering elements and accelerating curves. The photos below illustrate the application of proportions.



Tuscan proportions of the table



Gift to Steve made by Stan Blanchard



Its finial proportions

# Tool Box Moved from Central Avenue to Watervliet

*By Susan McDermott*

Colonie's best kept secret is the Tool Box (Tool Thrift Store) which opened for business in Hilltop Plaza on September 1, 2018. Enter the address 143 Troy-Schenectady Road to Google or Mapquest directions. Its hours are Wednesday through Saturday 10-2 when volunteers like our NWA Dave Parkis are available to receive donations, sell tools at 10 to 40 % of retail costs, and accommodate the tool needs of all the trades from carpentry, plumbing, electrical, masonry, gardening, and auto repair.

The Tool Box mission statement: "The Tool Box is to provide opportunities for retirees, men and women, to engage in purposeful and meaningful activities that benefit the local community; to provide a source of sustainable revenue to support Colonie Senior Service Center (CSSC) Umbrella of Colonie home maintenance program and its members; and to create a gathering place for volunteers, customers, and community members."

A second, greater detailed article about the Tool Box and CSSC will be published in January's NWA newsletter. Meanwhile, visit the Tool Box for your shop needs and talk to Dave Parkis about shop and estate sales, hand tools, and his many woodworking resources. 518-608- 4758



*Volunteer Steve repairs and restores donated tools*



*Storefront*



# NWA WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

Showcase announcement

November 1, 2018

## We need volunteers for the Showcase

The NWA Showcase Committee is actively working to present a great display of fine woodworking and live music entertainment for the 2019 Showcase. As you all know, we depend on the NWA members to volunteer their time and skills and also present their best efforts in woodworking to display. All volunteers will get entrance free for the weekend... Find friends and family to join in your volunteer efforts. Please select your date and time as well as the job you would like. Include your name and phone number as soon as possible. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. All positions available include: Door Hosts, Floor Host, Question Booth, Videography, Lecture Videographer, Membership Booth, Raffle Tickets, Tickets Sales, NWA Store Attendant, Truck Assistants, Loading Dock Ramp Assistant.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Date and Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please give this information to the Volunteer Coordinator Maria Witkins, or, call (518) 384-0403 or send your information to [mamawitkins@aol.com](mailto:mamawitkins@aol.com)

For details visit: [www.nwawoodworkingshow.org](http://www.nwawoodworkingshow.org)

*"Bring your friends to see displays of fine woodworking, free lectures and demonstrations, tools and materials, exhibits and sales... Children will enjoy to visit the Toy Factory."*

*Children under 12 free.*

NWA SHOWCASE

March 30-31, 2019

At the

Saratoga Center

Saratoga, Springs, NY

JOIN US! IT IS

FUN, FASCINATING  
AND INFORMATIVE!

**The preferred method of submission is the print form filled in with volunteer's information and mailed to**

**Maria Witkins c/o NWA  
PO Box 246  
Rexford, NY 12148**

**If printing and mailing is not convenient, volunteers may email an attached document (PDF or Word) to Maria at [mamawitkins@aol.com](mailto:mamawitkins@aol.com)**

# December Meeting

## Family Night



*Wednesday,*  
**December 5, 2018**  
**6:30 PM**  
**Clifton Park**  
**Halfmoon**  
**Public Library**  
**475 Moe Rd,**  
**Clifton Park, NY**

## 2018-19 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

\*To be updated with additional information

### January 10

Mike Mascelli - Wood Finishing

### February 14

Steven Sanford - Decoy Duck Carving

### March 14

TBD

### April 11

Mike Pekovitch TBD

### May 9

John Van Buren - Epoxy for Woodworking

## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

### SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs):

Please note meetings will commence when our new location at  
97 Railroad Avenue is officially open.

**Adirondack Woodturners Association (AWA)** - The AWA is active throughout the year. **General** Meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month (except in January and July when it is the second Wednesday), at the NWA Learning Center located at 97 Railroad Avenue, Colonie, NY from 5:30 PM to 8:45 PM. **Contact:** Pam Bucci, President at 518-429-6440 or woolglass2@gmail.com

Wednesday "Learn and Turn" sessions occur on all other Wednesdays at the NWA Learning Center. These sessions run 5:30 PM to 8:45 PM. [www.adirondackwoodturners.com](http://www.adirondackwoodturners.com) **Contact:** Pam Bucci at 518-429-6440 or woolglass2@gmail.com

**Scroller's Guild** - Meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at the NWA Learning Center located at 97 Railroad Avenue, Colonie, NY. Shop opens at 5:30 PM followed by a general meeting at 7:00 PM. **Contact:** Jeanne Aldous at AMJAMtat2@aol.com or Barbara Nottke at scroller87@aol.com or 518-869-6268.

**Kaatskill Woodturners** - Second Saturday mornings at 9:00 AM 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 97 Railroad Avenue, Colonie, 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 at 518-674-4171 or wdistin@nycap.rr.com, Ken Evans at 518-281-0779 or kevans1@nycap.rr.com, or John Heimke at heimkj@sage.edu for more information.

**The NWA Wood Carvers SIG** - The NWA Wood Carvers SIG - Meet 1st, 3rd, 4th & 5th 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 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 97 Railroad Avenue, Colonie, NY. **Contact:** Dave Parkis at 518-458-7242 for further details: dparkis@nycap.rr.com

**Spindle and Pen Turners** - Meets Mondays 5:30 PM - 8:45 PM. **Contact:** Pam Bucci at 518-429-6440 or 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 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 or 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 at 518-852-1204 or info@sacandagawoodworkers.org