

# WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern  
Woodworkers  
Association

June 2013, Vol. 22, Number 6

## Family Picnic

*Sunday, July 21, 2013, 11:00 am  
Jonesville Fire Station No. 1, Main St.  
Jonesville (Clifton Park)*

*By Karen Arkison*

Winter is behind us and the temperature is getting warmer. This can only mean one thing! It's time for the NWA Family Picnic.

The Picnic will be held on Sunday, July 21st at the Jonesville Fire Department starting at 11:00 am. The price is \$6.00 for adults, children under 12 are free. Food and drinks (non-alcoholic) will be supplied. Please bring a dessert to share.

Bart Chabot will once again be teaching Fly Fishing techniques on the back lawn.

Tom Osborne will run the Hand Plane Challenge. So bring your finely tuned and sharpened hand plan to test your skill. We will have a prize for the winner.

Chuck Walker and George Rutledge will be there to run the Tape Measure Race. There are a few things you need to know to enter the race. Your tape measure must be at least 16 feet long. The hook is clamped at the finish line and it has been found that 12 foot long tapes are not long enough. The maximum dimensions for a vehicle are 2-7/8" wide, 7-1/2" long and 5" high. The starting gate door is 3/4" above the track so tapes should fit under it to get a clean start. We will have a prize for the winner.

There will also be door prizes for children and adults.





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UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, PHONE  
NUMBERS ARE IN AREA CODE 518

## NWA Tour of the Maplewood Center for Common Craft in Greenwich, NY

*By David Ashdown*

The Maplewood Center for Common Craft in Greenwich, NY will be hosting a tour for NWA members on Saturday, August 3rd at 10:30am. Master instrument maker Martin Macica and timber framer Nick Richards will be on hand to demonstrate and discuss their work and upcoming classes. In addition, the tour is scheduled on the final day of a month-long furniture making workshop with master craftsman Paul Sellers from the UK. Participants will have a chance to see the students' finished projects, which include a craftsman style rocking chair and dovetailed tool chest. Please visit [www.maplewoodcraft.org](http://www.maplewoodcraft.org) or call David Ashdown at 518-232-4788 to sign up for this free event. Space will be limited to the first 20 registrants.

### Upcoming Classes at the Maplewood Center for Common Craft *10% Discount for NWA Members*

Introduction to Guitar Making with Martin Macica - September 14

An Introduction to Timber Framing (3 Day) - September 20-23

Building a Traditional Joiner's Workbench (5 Day) - October 2-6

Parent Workshop: Introducing Hand-Tool Woodworking to Children - November 2

Restoring a Stanley #4 Smoothing Plane - November 30



## Reminder

Remember there is no newsletter for July and August!  
Enjoy the summer and we'll see you in September!  
Thanks, Wally

## Help Requested at Pruyn House

*By Dennis Fitzgerald*

My name is Dennis Fitzgerald and I am a long term NWA member. My wife's garden club is looking for somebody to replace in kind the arbor that is in the garden at the Pruyn House on Old Niskayuna Rd. in Colonie. A picture of the arbor is attached. It has considerable rot. I or my wife will be happy to meet any interested parties at the garden to recon the project. Thanks for your help. Dennis 518-783-0629



## New NWA Officers

*By Karen Arkison*

2013 NWA Officers were elected at the May General Meeting. Our new officers are:

President - Karen Arkison  
Vice Pres. - Rich Duval  
Treasurer - Austin Spang was re-elected

We wish them a successful year. Please stop by to introduce yourself and get to know them at the next General Meeting or at the Picnic.

Many thanks to George Rutledge, our Past President, for the wonderful job he performed leading NWA in 2012.

## 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 ASSOCIATION  
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# Hanford Mills

*By George Rutledge*

Hanford Mills is a rare jewel tucked away on the northwestern edge the Catskills in the town of East Meredith, Delaware County. This one time thriving saw mill and manufacturer of boxes and turnings has been preserved as a museum that sheds light, as they put it, on the “History of Power and the Power of History.”



Throughout its run the mill used various energy sources from water to gasoline engines but is today driven by the power of an overshot waterwheel. When the sluice gates open and the wheel begins to turn the mill's lower level springs to life as the complex web of belts and pulleys responds with sound and movement. This network spreads beneath the entire building to drive saw mills and table saws, lathes and drill presses and a myriad of other machinery. To witness this process puts one in awe of the ingenuity and diligence of our forbearers in harnessing the power of nature.

On May 4th the Museum held its annual “Woodsmen’s Festival” to kick off the season and the NWA was invited to participate. Just after 7 AM, Ray Gannon, Jon Karl, Dave Axton and I sallied forth from the Herman Finkbeiner Educational Center in Cohoes. We rendezvoused at the Museum with a contingent of splendid wood workers from our Mid-Hudson Chapter led by Pete Chast. Joining Pete were Duane Henry, Fred Roe, Fred Dubois and Bob Boisvert.

We set up in front of their old hardware store building under a new banner produced for us on very short notice by Dianne Balch. Thank you, Dianne. For the next 6 hours we got to share our love of woodworking with the public, demonstrating woodcarving, turning, scroll sawing, fancy inlay work and traditional joinery.

The weather was the text book definition of perfect and the museum staff could not have been more hospitable. In addition to our displays there were demonstrations of post and beam building, coopering, adze work, turning on a foot powered lathe and the SUNY Cobleskill Woodsmen’s Team was on hand to demonstrate the manly and womanly arts of lumberjacking. We handed out many brochures and even signed up a new member, John Virga from Bovina NY. Congratulations John!

If you want to learn more about Hanford Mills and I highly recommend that you do, you can check them out at the following website - [www.hanfordmills.org](http://www.hanfordmills.org) 🐾





# CHAPTER NEWS

## Mid Hudson Chapter

By Wally Cook

### Resaw Tips

**Resawing:** Bill Sterling provided an overview of resawing tips. As a retired art teacher and luthier, Bill has a lot of experience resawing lumber for guitar building. He was inspired by James Krenov, who focused on book matched furniture.

The first priority for resawing is to understand the limits of your equipment. Bill's mantra is "tension, tracking, guide" which highlights the three important features of the bandsaw in regard to resaw activity.

He tests his bandsaw for the proper tension – 15,000 pounds of tension is recommended.

A 12" bandsaw simply does not have the beam strength to achieve such tension, while a 14" bandsaw can achieve it only on a ½" blade. Ideally, an 18-21" bandsaw is recommended for resawing. Generally, a bandsaw with 1/3 hp motor or less is to be avoided for resaw.

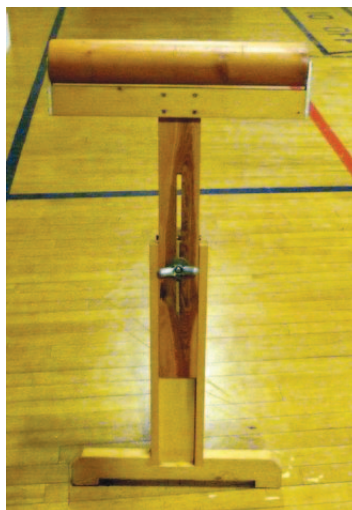
Tracking is another aspect of your equipment's ability to resaw. Drift is controlled by adjusting the track of the blade by

tuning up the bandsaw tires and bushings. It is also can be affected by the bandsaw blade wearing out on one side of the cutting edge (Bill recommends 3 hook teeth per inch or less for blade selection). Thinner blades such as the Highland Woodworking's Woodslicer will process wood faster – it is .0022" thick compared to .003" for most other blades.

He also favors HSS blades, because they stand up better than carbon steel at high temperatures. Carbon steel will lose its temper at only 400 degrees, while



*Bill Sterling discussing resawing techniques*



*Show and Tell --Materials roller constructed by Ron Wolfeld*



*Two views of Bill's resawing jig*

HSS blades are good up to 1200 degrees. Bill dedicates a bandsaw exclusively for resawing. Early experience showed that cutting bowl blanks on his bandsaw tended to ruin it for the straight cutting.

Using the proper guide is the third element of Bill's focus. The guide selection is influenced by the wood grain and what you are trying to accomplish. Do you want the wood absolutely straight, or just at a consistent thickness? In Bill's case, he will steam bend his resawn pieces, so consistency, not straightness is important. A single point fence works in this instance, so that the cut can follow a scribed line. In other cases, a longer fence may provide a straight cut. Bill also demonstrated a resaw jig which forces the wood between two rollers and a fence. A rule of thumb is that the fence should at least be as tall as the wood being cut. Bill's jig corrects for deflection in the fence by employing a plywood box to increase stiffness.

**Events:** John Van Buren talked about paddle construction at the May meeting. In addition, the chapter worked on the birdhouse project with Kingston High School. The chapter also had a successful experience participating in the Hanford Mills Museum Woodsmen Festival. Upcoming events are listed below:

#### June 20– Chapter Meeting

Brad Conklin discusses his 'magic cube' box

#### July – No Meeting

#### July 27 – 4th Annual Forest Festival

sponsored by  
the Catskill Forest Association, Margaretville

#### August 15 – Chapter Meeting

Wally Cook report on wooden shoe making

#### August 17 – Corn Festival

We will have a demonstration table

#### September 14 – Chapter Picnic

West Hurley Park

# CHAPTER NEWS

## *Sacandaga Chapter*

*By Gary Spencer*

Our May meeting was to feature Jeff Meuwessen on the topic of marquetry/intarsia; however a change in Jeff's plans caused a change in the presenter. We were pleased to get Jon Carl a master wood carver and another master Ray Gannon, both who excel in Chip Carving.

They were both excellent presenters with somewhat different approaches to chip carving. They were well received and many questions on chip carving technique were discussed. The total program was excellent. Our thanks goes out to both Jon and Ray in doing such a fine program on such a short notice. We will still get to see and hear from Jeff on his intarsia projects in the near future.

For our June 12th meeting we will have our usual Bar-B-Que to celebrate the end of this exciting woodworking year and to begin our summer hiatus.

We will still have a show and tell and hope many of you will bring something to show. We will still have 50/50, and door prizes so come on out.

Our regular monthly meetings are the second Wednesday of each month and begin at 7:00 P.M. Our next regular meeting will be September 11, 2013. We will meet at our shop at 55 2nd Avenue, Mayfield, NY.

Come visit.

For Directions or information contact:

Jim Hopkins – 725-7322  
Don Wilson – 883-3698  
Gary Spencer – 863-6433

Visit the  
Northeastern  
Woodworkers Association  
Website at  
[www.woodworker.org](http://www.woodworker.org)

## Wood of the Month ©2013

*No. 110 in the series*

*By Ron DeWitt*

Chinese Scholar Tree or Japanese Pagoda Tree  
*Sophora japonica* L.

A Perennial Deciduous Hardwood  
Leguminosae - The Pea Family

Derivation of the genus name, *Sophora*, is from the Arabic, *sufayra*, a tree with pea-shaped flowers. The epithet or species name, *japonica*, is from Japan where this tree was first thought to have been identified. Correctly, this tree is native to China and Korea, introduced into Japan. The tree's common Japanese name probably developed because it was often planted around Buddhist temples. This tree was introduced to Britain by famous English nurseryman James Gordon in 1753 and was cataloged by Linnaeus at about that time. This tree should not be confused with the Chinese tallow tree, *Triadica sebifera*, or the Chinese parasol tree, *Firmiana simplex*, also both interesting "imports."



A "Quartet" of mature trees

The *Sophora*'s number about 70 species of trees and shrubs worldwide. Various species are native to southeast Europe, southern Asia, Australasia, New Zealand, a number of Pacific islands, western South America, Mexico, the western United States, Florida, and Puerto Rico. The U.S. including Hawaii has three native trees and five native shrubs and herbs. Perhaps the most widely

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## Wood of the Month

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distributed in the U.S. is the naturalized *Sophora japonica* or Chinese scholar tree, sometimes simply called pagoda tree.

In North America, although preferring the climate and altitudes of the lower U.S., the Chinese scholar tree has adapted well to a variety of soils and growing conditions. It tolerates saline, alkaline, or acidic, wet or dry. It does well on almost any disturbed site although favoring well-drained but damp clay-peat soils. City conditions, heat, or drought are tolerated at the cost of a slower growing rate. This tree is hardy from Zones 4 through 8 and at its best in full sun or partial shade.

The Chinese scholar tree is described as a medium to large tree, typically growing to 50 to 75 ft. (15 to 23 m) in height by 2 to 2.5 ft. (0.6 to 0.75 m) dbh. Spread is often equal to its height. The open, rounded crown of open spreading branches becomes irregularly contorted and domed with age. Stems are usually singular but not necessarily straight. These trees tend to be long-lived, occasionally to 300 years.

Twigs and branch-lets are smooth, olive green with prominent tan lenticels (breathing pores). Bark on young stems is pale gray, becoming light gray-brown and furrowed into fibrous, interlaced, scaly, vertical ridges.

The 6- to 10-inch (15.2 to 25.4 cm) long, bright green, odd-pinnate leaves in this case have 9 to 15 elliptic leaflets, 1 to 2 in. (2.5 to 5 cm) long by 0.5 to 0.75 in. (12 to 19 mm) wide. Leaflets are



*Spring leaves*



*Flower cluster*



*Fruit clusters*

lustrous, maturing from bright to dark green. Leaves are bristle-tipped without teeth, shiny dark green on top, pale and covered with fine hairs below. Perhaps because of their unusual, unpleasant odor, leaves are insect free. Leaves become pale green to yellow-green in autumn when they fall. Tree buds are very small, hidden in the enlarged base of leaf stalks.

*Authors note: It should be noted that ongoing genetic study is expected to result in changes to the genus and species classification of the *Sophora japonica* and others in the current *Sophora* genus.*

First blooms on trees begin at 10 to 15 years. Flowers are 0.5 in. (12 mm) long, pea shaped, with five unequal, creamy-white petals in upright or spreading, loose, showy clusters. Clusters are typically 6 to 12 in. (15 to 30 cm) long at twig-ends in late summer. Flowers have a slight pleasant scent, lasting about a month.



*Bark of a mature tree*

Fruits of the Chinese scholar tree are 2 to 3 in. (5 to 7.5 cm) long, 0.375 in. (10 mm) in diameter, and bean shaped with a greenish pod, narrowing between adjacent seeds like a string of beads. Maturing in late autumn, the pods turn yellow and then brown, often continuing to hang down in winter. Pods are quite similar to those of the more familiar black locust, *Robinia pseudoacacia*.

*Continued on Page 9*

# KWA Chapter News

*By Wally Cook*

**Exhibit at View:** The Old Forge Arts Center was renamed View and re-opened in February, 2012 in a brand new building in Old Forge, New York. The new space is home to several national shows, including the National Northeast Pastel Exhibit. This year, the Kaatskill Woodturners Association, a SIG of the NWA, was invited to accompany the pastel show.

The KWA held a juried qualification of potential submissions to select sixty-five items or collections for the exhibit. Don Orr and Barbara Costanzo served as judges to select the work from over 140 pieces. Their job was a true challenge, given the diversity of style and application. In the end, Don and Barb chose an array of items that demonstrated the breadth of woodturning art, from earrings to furniture, boxes to hollow forms and bowls. Linda Weal, curator of the show at View was very impressed by their selections for the show. Every person who submitted work had at least one piece chosen for the View exhibit. In addition to the woodturnings, large sculptural work by Brad Conklin highlighted the wood art submissions.

Installation for the show was accomplished on Wednesday, Thursday before the artist reception on Friday, May 3. The reception was well attended; the wood art received extremely positive feedback. The tagline of the Adirondack Express weekly newspaper stated “Kaatskill Woodturners Association blows away exhibition viewers.”

As a first for both View and the KWA, the exhibit was a great combination of juxtaposing 2D pastels and 3D wood art. Perhaps it will be the beginning of a local tradition.

The show will run until June 28. View Arts building is located on Route 28 in the village of Old Forge in the Adirondack Park. 🐾



*Steve Sherman's vessels stood at the entry to the show: Irma beaded two of the vessels with Swarovski crystals*



*Brad Conklin's Tipping of the Trades was the centerpiece of the main exhibit room*



*Woodturnings were distributed in three of the four exhibit rooms*



*John Franklin's peppermill and Matt Clarke's pumpkin boxes*



*Carl Ford's square bowls and Wally Cook's pendulum box*



# NWA Picnic's Useful Kitchen Item Challenge

By Karen Arkison

The challenge is to build something useful for the kitchen. It can be turned, carved, scrolled or made by a flat boarder. Keep in mind that if the item will come in contact with food you need to choose your wood and finish carefully.

Bring your item to the Family Picnic on July 21st. Judging will be done by the attendees. Everyone will get a ticket to place in a container by the item they believe should win the challenge. The item with the most entries will win. Yes, there will be a prize for the winner.

All entries will be donated to use as raffle items at the Annual Membership Banquet in October. Please supply with your entry a description of your item along the type of wood and finish used. 🐶

## CLASSIFIEDS

### For Sale

I am looking to sell proxy. 700 bd.ft. of **American black walnut**, all or split. 5/4 sawed, random widths, clear. Asking \$4.50 bd. Ft. air dried. Contact Roy Diegel at 456-3848 or e-mail wooddoc@nycap.rr.com

**Used Delta model 46-700 woodworking lathe** - runs perfectly. Comes with all original accessories (face plate, spur center, live center, and wrench) and original manual. I have owned this for about 15 years and have taken excellent care of it, like all of my tools. This lathe continues to produce beautiful pens, spindles, vases, and bowls. Selling because I am upgrading to a larger model. This is an EXCELLENT tool, offered at the low price of \$300. astewart8@nycap.rr.com

**Shopsmith with biscuit jointer**, in very good condition. This is an older model. \$500.00 Call Don Conners at 518-383-1916



## Wood of the Month

Continued from Page 7

Wood of this tree is usually seen in shades of brown, sometimes with a tinge of green or interesting stripes of brown. It is tough and durable, although coarse-grained, and relatively light weight. This wood is ring-porous, early-wood is 2 to 6 pores wide, individual pores cannot be separated without a lens. Latewood pores occur in wavy bands. Tyloses are absent from the early-wood. Rays are very fine, indistinct without a lens.

Specific gravity is about 0.40. Weight is 28 lb./cu. ft. (449 kg/m<sup>3</sup>) at 12 percent M.C. Hand or power tools perform best with sharp cutting edges. Machining qualities are considered average. Smoothed surfaces produce a nice patina. Turning results are quite good and carving is excellent. Most finishes, including paint, hold well.

Wood of this tree and its parts are reported to be very toxic, especially if ingested. Good protection for eyes, skin, nasal passages, and lungs should be used when working with this wood.

Because of its showing flowers, the Chinese scholar tree is a popular ornamental in Europe, Hawaii, South Africa, and wide portions of the southern and western U.S. where it often serves as a shade tree. In the Orient, tree buds were a historically important source of a brilliant yellow dye, used and traded around the World. Here too, wood from the same trees, because of its durability, was used to construct framing and columns for homes and places of worship. In Japan this wood was chosen to make the strong, springy, curved handle for the traditional woodworkers' adze, the *Chouna*.



Wood specimen of *Sophora japonica*

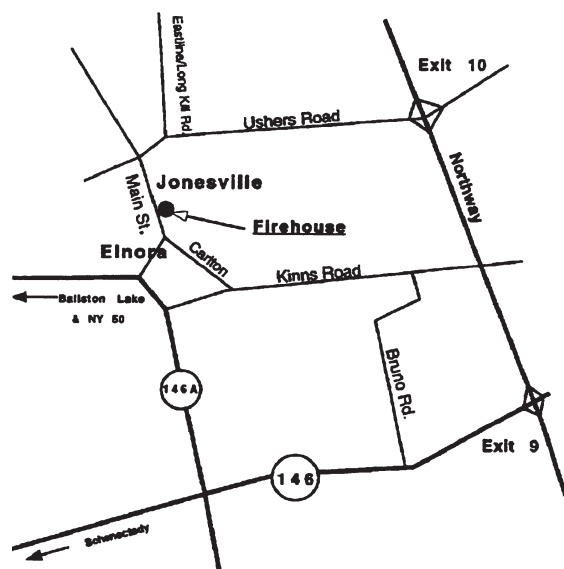
*Sophora japonica* is the source of one of the 50 fundamental herbs used in traditional Chinese medicine. It has many medicinal properties, including antibacterial, anti-inflammatory, antispasmodic, diuretic, emetic, purgative, styptic, and tonic. Bark, leaves, flowers, fruits, and seeds were used. Examples might include a dilution of bark for severe diarrhea, various other parts to adulterate opium, cool blood, control bleeding, treat skin disorders, heal infections, treat tumors and various cancers, usually with combinations of alkaloids.

Demand for the Chinese scholar tree for most of us does not extend much beyond its use as an ornamental or shade tree. Some is harvested for the character of its wood, usually by collectors or for making knickknacks.





Northeastern Woodworkers Association  
P.O. Box 246  
Rexford, New York 12148-0246



## Family Picnic

Sunday, July 21, 2013, 11:00 am  
Jonesville Fire Station No. 1, Main St.  
Jonesville (Clifton Park)

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

GENERAL MEETINGS  
AND SPECIAL EVENTS

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

## 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 1 Mustang Drive, Cohoes, NY. (This is just off Rte 9 at the light at Fonda Road) 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 6pm-9pm. [www.adirondackwoodturners.com](http://www.adirondackwoodturners.com) **Contact:** Ken Evans, 518-753-7759 or [kevans1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:kevans1@nycap.rr.com)

**Scroller's Guild** - Meets on the first and third Thursday of the month at the NWA Learning Center located at 1 Mustang Drive, Cohoes, NY. A beginner's session starts at 6:30 PM followed by a general meeting at 7:00 PM. **Contact:** Jeanne Aldous at [AMJAMtat2@aol.com](mailto:AMJAMtat2@aol.com) or Barbara Nottke at [scroller87@aol.com](mailto:scroller87@aol.com) or 869-6268.

**Kaatskill Woodturners** - Meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Opdahl property in Hurley, NY. **Contact:** Matt Clark, (845) 454-9387.

**NWA Crafters** - Meets every Saturday and Tuesday, from 9:00 am until noon at the NWA Learning Center located at 1 Mustang Drive, Cohoes, 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 Elfuns 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](mailto:daxton@nycap.rr.com), Wayne Distin (518) 674-4171, [wdistin@nycap.rr.com](mailto:wdistin@nycap.rr.com) Steve Schoenberg (518-371-1260), [sschoen1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:sschoen1@nycap.rr.com) for more information.

**The NWA Wood Carvers SIG** - Meet each Thursday at 5:30 p.m. until 9 p.m. all year except the 2nd Thursday of each month at the NWA Learning Center located at 1 Mustang Drive, Cohoes, NY. Programs are determined at the previous weekly sessions. Discussions start at 7PM. The goal is to promote the art of Wood Carving. Individual private sessions are available Wednesday evenings by appointment. Wood, tools, and patterns are available. **Contact:** Ray Gannon. [LoRayG@Gmail.com](mailto:LoRayG@Gmail.com)

## CHAPTERS

**NWA Mid-Hudson** - The chapter meets at 7:30 p.m. 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:** Pete Chast, [pchast@francomm.com](mailto:pchast@francomm.com).

**NWA Sacandaga** - The chapter meets at 7 p.m. on the Second Wednesday of each month at 55 Second Avenue, Mayfield, NY. **Contact:** Gary Spencer, 518-863-6433.