

WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern
Woodworkers
Association

October 2017, Vol. 26, Number 8

October Meeting

PUZZLES

*Thursday, October 12, 2017 7:00 PM
Shaker Heritage Society Meetinghouse
Albany-Shaker Road, Albany, NY*

by Barbara Nottke

Ever wonder about where puzzles came from? At the next NWA meeting I will be discussing the art of puzzle making.

We will cover all types and techniques of puzzle making. I will try to spark your interest in this fascinating subject. We will not only learn the history and a few interesting tidbits, but how to proceed with a project using the scroll saw.

Some of the presentation includes different styles of puzzles, children's puzzles, the best finish to use, and miniature puzzles that are not only challenging but fun to do.

Hope to see you there.



Eleventh Annual MID-HUDSON WOODWORKERS SHOW

**Saturday, October 14, 2017
10:00AM to 5:00PM**

**HURLEY REFORMED CHURCH
Hurley, N.Y. 12443**

- Displays, Demonstrations, Raffle, Make a pen
- WoodMizer and Logs to Lumber Demonstration
- Gifts for the Children: Cars and Planes



Admission: \$3.00
(Children under 12 free)

For more information: www.show.midhudsonwoodworkers.org

The Mid-Hudson Woodworkers is a chapter of the Northeastern Woodworkers Association, an all-volunteer, non-profit organization.

**MID-HUDSON NWA WOODWORKING SHOW
OCTOBER 14, 2017, HURLEY REFORMED CHURCH
HURLEY, NY**

REGISTRATION FOR DISPLAY ITEMS -- submit by October 5th

NAME _____ **CITY/TOWN** _____

PHONE # _____ **E-MAIL** _____

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ITEM _____

MATERIAL _____

FINISH _____

APPROX. DIMENTIONS W X D _____

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ITEM _____

MATERIAL _____

FINISH _____

APPROX. DIMENTIONS W X D _____

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ITEM _____

MATERIAL _____

FINISH _____

APPROX. DIMENTIONS W X D _____

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ITEM _____

MATERIAL _____

FINISH _____

APPROX. DIMENTIONS W X D _____

Send to Bob Boisvert by October 5th so display cards can be printed. Otherwise you will have to print your own cards.

E-Mail: raboisvert47@gmail.com

Phone: (845) 242-5088

Mail: 44 Stephanie Lane, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

ATTENTION:

- We don't want any surprises of large items arriving unannounced on SHOW day and we have to rearrange the display floor.
- We want to setup as many items as possible on Friday, so bring your items on Friday October 13th from 6 to 8 PM or at 9 AM Saturday. If you are unable to deliver your item, try and have someone else bring it. If possible, bring a different item than previous shows.
- Items must remain on display until closing of the Show at 5 PM Saturday.
- If you are unable to pick up your item at 5 PM Saturday, then inform someone on the floor and arrangements will be made to either get the item to you or store it until you can pick it up.

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NWA Annual Auction at the Shaker Barn

By Susan McDermott

Once again Charlie Goddard has mustered the strong backs and brains of NWA's best to transform the Shaker Barn into the long-awaited auction of hard woods, hand tools, and power equipment. Charlie planned and coordinated this massive effort to collect, label, and display hundreds of items. This article will focus on the volunteers who helped Charlie pull off another successful day long auction.

Our yearly auctioneer, Bob Williams, moved rapidly to grab top dollar for choice items and kept us entertained with his banter. This is the turkey chick's first auction! But the same generous volunteers return yearly to put in their hours of set up and sales. There was a large quantity of lumber trucked in and lining both sides of the barn. Bob alternated between selling the wood and the tools. President Dick Flanders held a ten-foot pole next to Bob's item so dozens of buyers could view the bidding. Dave Mobley kept track lot number, item, buyer, and price sold while Pam Curtis recorded item tickets and confirmed Dave's records. Karen Goddard and Celia Carpenter collected the money and kept financial records while Mary Gillespie handled direct sales of non-bid items.

We all owe Charlie Goddard our deep appreciation for accomplishing this demanding and complex event which raises money for NWA and service to our members.



Bob Williams, Auctioneer



Turkey chicks

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 November

Copy deadline: October 15

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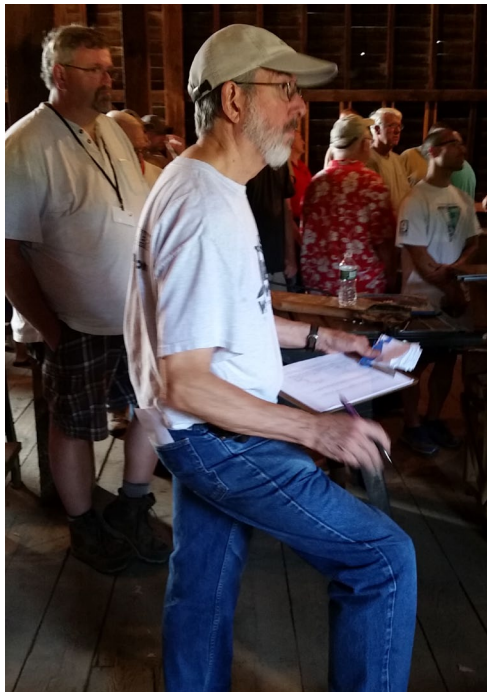
**NORTHEASTERN
WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION**

P.O. BOX 246

Rexford, New York 12148



Dick Flanders and NWA volunteers



Dave Mobley



Pam Curtis



Another row of hard woods



Karen Goddard and Celia Carpenter



Lumber and more



Mary Gillespie



Wood chipper



Turning blanks

The Connecticut Valley School of Woodworking Open House

By Susan McDermott

On September 9, 2017 Bob Van Dyke opened his school and its grounds to displays of wood furnishing, carvings, musical instruments, demonstrations, and sales of used quality tools. The Manchester, CT location is also home of Wood Craft, the woodworkers' paradise.

NWA Hand Tool SIG leader, Dave Parkis had a large table of planes, chisels, and unique routing tools. Mike Pekovitch, our Fisk Award Speaker last November 3, was present with his Kumiko boxes. Catharine Kennedy of Valatie, NY displayed tools with her beautiful hand engraving.



Wood carvings



Demonstration of Japanese hand planing



Table built from one board



Black Walnut table with inlay



Dave Parkis



Gavin Dodd by custom crafted guitars



Mike Pekovitch



Bob Van Dyke



Catharine Kennedy



Example of her hand engraving

Classifieds

For Sale: A Lesington Forge with a direct vent. It runs on propane and produces 15,000-19,000 BTU/hr. The manual and stove pipe goes with it. It was used 2-3 yrs. in Lew Hill's shop. Asking \$500.00. Can be reached at ssrhill@gmail.com or 518 885-1008. Betty Hill.

Chapter News

Mid Hudson Chapter News

by Wally Cook

Jerry Peterson presented “How to Make Dovetails on a Table Saw” at the August 17th meeting. He used Google Slides, a free presentation program available on-line, that can also be used off-line. Jerry has shown some fine furniture, and his work is characterized by a strong attention to detail, so there was a good deal of interest in this different approach to dovetail production.



Win and Marianna Crans' turnings and paintings

The presentation started with a brief description of how to efficiently layout the tails to minimize the time required. The tails are then cut using a saw blade ground to the desired angle for the tail along with tilting the blade to the same angle using a cross cut sled. In his case it was a 10 degree angle, which roughly comes out to a 1:6 ratio. The next step is cut a rabbet (1/8") parallel to the tails that is used to register the tail board to the pin board. The pins are then cut using conventional saw and pared using a chisel.

The advantages of this method are a) dovetails can be cut on almost any length or width board, in his case 4 feet by 17 inches, b) it is guaranteed that the tails will be cut perfectly perpendicular; when the pins are scribed/cut the fit of the joint will be greatly improved.

Although hand cut dovetails can be a much sought after technique, the less experienced woodworker may find this technique is a very desirable alternative.



Ann Miller's pinball

Chapter Show: The 11th Annual Mid-Hudson Woodworking Show is planned for Saturday, October 14 from 10AM to 5PM. The event will again be held at the Hurley Reformed Church. Outside and inside demonstrations of woodworking will be featured. Raffle items, wood identification, guided pen making, logs-to-lumber processing, will accompany the display of work by chapter members. Entries from all NWA members are welcome! The entry form can be found at this link:

<http://www.show.midhudsonwoodworkers.org> or contact Bob Boisvert at рабоisvert47@gmail.com. It is also on page 2 of this newsletter.



*Al Shinker's
rocking chair
from 2016 show*

A Refresher on Using the NWA Library

By Irving Stephens

Finding a book in any library can be surprisingly challenging. The NWA library is no exception. Although it appears small, there are now hundreds of volumes, and currently no catalog or booklists to aid access. The books are arranged in a single sequence usually by author. This means that books about a specific topic are dispersed throughout the collection. This sounds simple, but in reality it's not because 1) not every book has an author and 2) the information appearing on the spine or dust jacket occasionally does not include the author's name, or the title does not actually reflect the book's subject. Books without authors are shelved by their titles interspersed with author names. (And remember, the title on a book's spine, its dust jacket and its inside title page can all be a little different...).

However, given the size of the NWA library, you can probably browse the shelves and find several books on a particular topic that will be satisfactory. (But I'll bet that you probably won't look at the bottom shelves where the best books are invariably shelved).

If you are looking for a particular author, you may miss his or her books because they could be mis-shelved. Why? Because someone else did not notice the author's name on the dust jacket and thought the publisher, e.g. Popular Woodworking, was the author and filed the book in the P's; or they might have misinterpreted the author's last name (e.g. is it "De La Rosa" or "Rosa"?), or there are multiple authors and the book was filed under

the last listed author instead of the first listed author. Anyway...

So you persevered and found "Your Book". To borrow it is simple. In most cases look on inside back cover for a loan card kept in a book pocket. (For a few older books, the loan card is found on inside front cover.) Take out the card, write your name on the card, the current date, and place the card in the plastic Circulation Box located on the work table. If there is no loan card, please leave a note about your borrowed item for me on the table. That's all there is to it.

The NWA library works on the honor system. There are no fines, and you are expected to return the book within a month. When you return the book, find your card in the Circulation Box, place the card back inside of the book pocket and set the book in the **TO BE RESHELVED** box.

At the present time, finding DVDs or other media is a bit more challenging. Some items have been accessioned and have loan cards. Some do not. However, DVDs, video tapes, etc. have been stashed in various places around the library -- among, behind and beside books and inside cartons and file cabinets. Many media items are actually the property of SIG groups, and you should probably contact those folks about finding or using these materials. The SIGs that have collections include the Scrollers, the Turners, and the Carvers. In the future, the library hopes to keep its own DVDs and other media near books dealing with similar topics. - IES

Special Skills Request for Showcase

By Wally Carpenter

Members, having assumed the role of Showcase Chair I have become more aware of our program trends.

We remain strong as does Showcase with the support of each of you. I find that our methods of reaching out to the community (Showcase Customers) is not getting to larger population. This due in part to our not staying current with social media options. We need to be connected and active in various social media to ensure our potential customer base sees and is aware of Showcase as well as NWA. To that end, I am calling out to you to help find folks willing to build a framework around these tools and create more current visibility to Showcase and NWA.

I know the skill set is out there among us. Please help. Thank you.

I can be reached at c.j.carpenter@earthlink.net and 518-434-1776

September's General Meeting on Rough Cut Lumber Selection

by Susan McDermott

Thursday night, September 14 opened with announcements of the Annual Banquet to be held October 21 at the Italian American Social Club on Washington Avenue in Albany. Watch for the e mail for reservations. Pete Chast of the NWA Mid-Hudson announced the October 14 Woodworkers Show (see page one). Wally Carpenter appealed to the members to volunteer their social media skills to promote 2018 Showcase. Darrell Peart will be the presenter for the Fisk Award Lecture held at the Clifton Park Library on November 9. Details of Darrell's background as a fine furniture maker from Seattle, WA will be in November's newsletter.

The Show and Tell had four projects on display:

Jon Cochran's birch bowl

Stan Blanchard's four cups

Phil Adams' Red Oak log bowl (front and back)

Dave Mobley's two trivets

President Dick Flanders and Vice President Joe Pelcher presented tips for lumber selection and corrections for board flaws. Dick began with his explanation of three ways a log is milled:

- Flat sawn wood which "moves" the most and can cup on one side and crown on the other. He showed how these flaws can be corrected by planing the cup side first and turning all boards end for end, not side over side. Plane sides with alternate side passes that result in equalizing board's stresses.
- Riff cut wood is good for table legs where the grain pattern will match on all four sides.
- Quarter sawn is identified by the parallel grain on the board's end and straight grain on the sides (avoid selecting boards with pith).

Dick suggested a twisted board could be cut into smaller lengths or strips to use the best parts of a defective board.

Joe showed how boards can be corrected and smoothed with his planes. The #5 coarse plane "hogs" off wood like a power joiner. His scrub plane with its narrow body can also cut rough wood with less resistance. His # 4½ smoothing plane (a little wider than the #4) finishes the board's surface better than a power planer.

The soles of planers as well as the beds of power joiners can minimize friction with paraffin or candle wax rubbed on their metal surfaces. Wood floor paste wax works well, too.

Finally, Dick demonstrated the use of winding sticks (either commercial aluminum or home-made hard wood sticks marked on the top edge with chalk) to detect any twist in a board.



Jon Cochran's birch bowl



Stan Blanchard's four ash cups



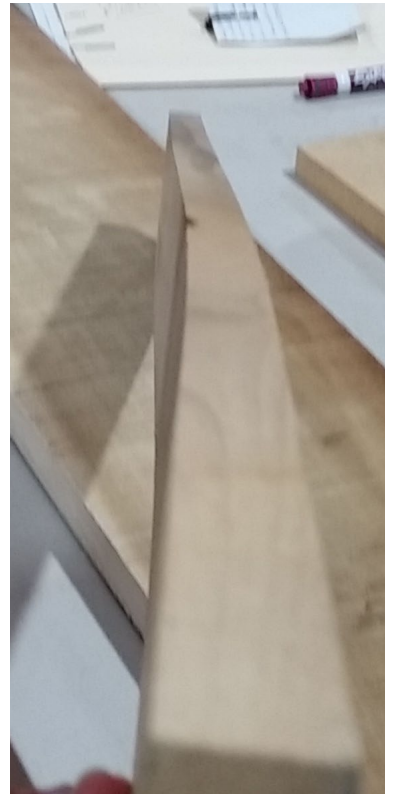
Phil Adams' Red Oak log bowl (front)



Phil Adams' Red Oak log bowl (back)



Dave Mobley's two trivets



Cup and crown in a board

Bow



Twist



Winding sticks



Joe's planes

Wood of the Month

White Spruce (*Picea glauca*)

Reprint of Ron DeWitt's "Wood of the Month" c. Sept. 1995. Ron wished to advance NWA members' knowledge and appreciation with monthly articles of trees and their woods. We honor his contributions and memory with these reprints of his articles.

The spruces or spruce-firs are a colorful bunch which includes Red, White, Blue, Black, Yellow, and Golden Spruce in a group of over 30 species growing across the Northern Hemisphere. Only seven of these species are native to the U.S... The most important naturalized species is the Norway spruce (which actually originated in Sweden).

The spruces, especially the Red, White, Black, and Norway, common in the Northeast, have many similar characteristics.

They are tall, slender, straight, conical trees with scaly or flaky bark which is rarely furrowed. Foliage

is harsh with stiff, usually sharply-tipped, four-sided leaves (or needles) which grow singly in spirals around the branchlets. The leaves of each spruce have a distinctive and different odor. The branches are rough from the knobs left when the leaves drop-after seven to ten years. The leathery or woody egg-shaped cones hang down (unlike the upright cones of the firs), usually dropping as soon as they ripen.

The White Spruce, also called Cat Spruce or Skunk Spruce (for its odor) or Canadian Spruce ranges across the continent from the northern tree line in Canada, southward across New York, Ohio, and South Dakota. It is one of the heartiest conifers, capable of growing on permafrost and withstanding temperatures of - 70 degrees F. They commonly grow 40 to 100 feet tall, 12 to

24 inches in diameter and live for 100-150 years. Growth rates are extremely variable. An 100 year old tree could be 30 inches or only three inches in diameter, depending on habitat, crowding, etc. Old growth trees reached 150 feet in height, 36 inches in diameter, and lived for 400 years. Finch Pruyn owns a 100 foot, 34 inch diameter White Spruce in Essex County, NY. A 37 inch diameter, 128 foot tree stands in Koochiching County, MN.



Foliage and cones

Editor's note: As of 2016, the largest White Spruce is in Ontario, 35 inches diameter and 154 feet tall (see video of this beautiful tree <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o-bGwzy5i3Y>).

Bark on young White Spruce is nearly smooth, but on old trunks it cracks into thin, light gray or light brown irregular scales. Twigs and buds are hairless. Needles are blue-green, 3/8 to 3/4 inch long, sharp pointed, slightly curved, and bent upward to crowd the upper side of the branchlets. The needles often have a white "bloom". Ripened cones are cylindrical, 3/4 inch in diameter, one to two inches long, brown, lustrous, soft, and papery with thin, round-bottomed scales. Frequently, the cones are plentiful enough to cover the top of the tree.

The spruce is valuable for construction material. The lumber drives for spruce sprawled across New York beginning around 1830, after the great White Pines had been cut off. By 1850, the spruce was gone, too. Land which had been cleared of pine and spruce was then considered valueless! About that time the Norway Spruce was brought from Europe to help stabilize the barren land, especially around farms. Since then, the Norway Spruce has become the most common and widespread spruce in North America.

The wood in spruces is sometimes difficult to separate from Douglass Fir and larch. Each has



White Spruce

relatively small, sparse, unevenly distributed resin canals occurring singularly or in small tangential groups. Spruce is usually more even-grained with a gradual transition from earlywood to a narrow, distinct band of latewood. Spruce has a dry feel, a soft luster, and often has dimples, features which may distinguish it from the others, but it usually requires a microscope to be certain.

The wood of Red, Black, White, and Norway Spruce is usually designated as “Eastern Spruce” because they cannot be separated from each other even with a microscope, unless needles and cones are available.

The wood has a specific gravity of 0.40 or about 27 pounds per cubic foot, a little heavier than White Pine or cedar but not quite as heavy as hemlock.

White Spruce wood has no odor or taste, is considered moderate in strength but above average in stiffness. The wood seasons fairly easily with only moderate shrinkage in drying. The wood hand works or machines easily and holds fasteners well. It is moderately easy to glue and takes all finishes quite well. It is not a durable wood when exposed to moisture or weather.

The wood is soft, straight-grained, and has a beautiful pale buff yellow. There is no distinction between the color of the heartwood and sapwood.

In the past spruce, usually Red or Black, was the source of the very popular spruce gum, the original chewing gum. In the late 1800's, Americans were consuming as much as 1500 tons of the stuff each year. Collected in late winter by gum-gatherers who used a chisel on a long pole to collect exposed lumps of pitch, it was first melted down to permit the filtering out of forest debris, cooked, rolled out, sliced, and packaged usually in wooden boxes. Although still produced in Maine, spruce gum has been mostly replaced by chewing gum made from chicle, a chewable latex taken from the sapodilla tree of South America.

Editor's note: The gum-chewing craze began in the conifer forests of Maine and the Adirondacks. Made from the dried and crystallized sap of spruce trees, spruce gum was an important commercial crop in the Adirondack region during the 19th and early 20th centuries. (<http://www.adirondackalmanack.com/2010/05/lets-eat-adirondack-spruce-gum.html>)

Spruce has also been used for its medicinal value. Needle and bark teas were used to prevent



Spruce chewing gum

and treat scurvy. In addition to providing these same benefits, spruce beer fermented from young spruce branches and molasses was also alcoholic. (Alcoholic spruce beer was common in the colonial United States and eastern Canada. See recipe from 1796. www.spruceontap.com/aboutus.sc) “Essence of spruce”, a concentrated needle tea, was used as a beer preservative. The very pliant White Spruce roots were used by the Native Americans for lacing in canoes, moccasins, and baskets.



Spruce beer

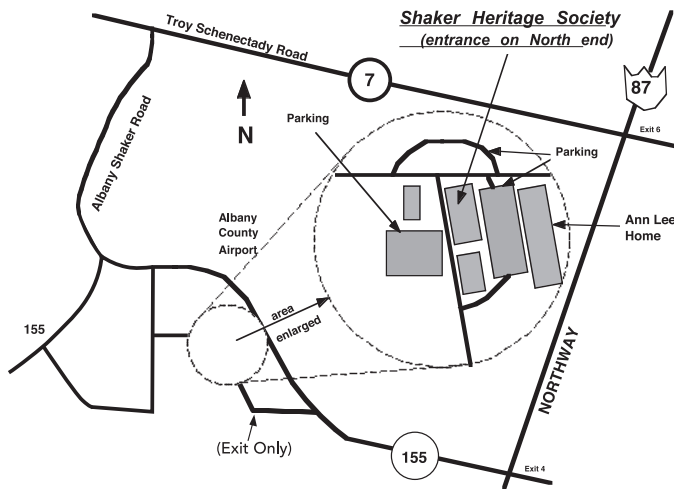
Spruce is the wood of choice for stringed musical instruments, organ pipes, and piano sound boards because of its special tonal qualities. The tree is a favorite of Christmas, too.

Spruce is also used in boat building, for canoe parts, oars and paddles, bee hives, model making, interior finishing and trim, doors, windows, sheathing, flooring, interior parts of furniture, plywood, general construction, and especially paper pulp where the long, soft fibers of spruce make it the most important for pulp production (Sitka or Airplane Spruce is not considered here).

White Spruce is in adequate supply although most is going to the pulp industry. Clear wide boards are scarce. Most spruce we buy today is lumped into the category of SPF (spruce, pine, fir), common in the lumber yard as framing material.

October Meeting

Thursday, October 12, 2017 7:00 PM
Shaker Heritage Society Meetinghouse
Albany-Shaker Road, Albany, NY



2017-18 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

October 12

Scrolling Puzzles - Presented by Barbara Nokke

November 9

Fiske Lecturer - Presented by Darrell Peart

December 14 - Family Night

January 11

Router Potential - Presented by Dave Mobley

February 8

Fixing Mistakes - Presented by Logan Simms

March 8

Turning Techniques - Presented by Trent Bosch

April 12

Small Power Tools - Presented by Dick Flanders

May 10 - TBA

*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 6:30 PM to 9:00 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

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 Wednesday of each month at 55 Second Avenue, Mayfield, NY. **Contact:** Gary Ratajczak, President - (518)852-1204, info@sacandagawoodworkers.org