

WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern
Woodworkers
Association

May 2019, Vol. 28, Number 5

May Meeting

Epoxy for Woodworking

Speaker: John Van Buren

Thursday, May 9, 2019 at 7:00 PM

*Shaker Heritage Society Meetinghouse
25 Meeting House Road, Albany, NY*

John Van Buren of the Mid-Hudson Woodworkers (an NWA Chapter) will provide a review of the uses of epoxy for woodworking that extend beyond boatbuilding. He will discuss types of epoxies, agents that can be mixed with epoxy, including fillers and coloring, and proper mixing and application techniques. At the end of the presentation, John will provide a handout that will provide sources of epoxies, fillers, etc. Hopefully, some of you will be inspired to add this useful material to your “bag of woodworking tricks”.



Epoxies

The Marvelous Magic of Maria Witkins

By Susan McDermott

Maria is the Showcase Volunteer Coordinator since 2015, an enormously demanding and sensitive position of responsibility for recruiting and managing over 300 volunteers for over 500 Showcase positions. She begins in November of each year by attending the General Meetings monthly and the SIG meetings weekly, as well as the NWA picnic, banquet, holiday party, and Showcase planning meetings. Anywhere NWA members congregate, Maria will be found gently encouraging us to help make the annual Showcase a huge success. She sets up a display for continuous recruitment, and with Theresa Duval, she telephones past volunteers to invite their return to prior Showcase duties or new positions. About 50% agree to return.

Volunteers receive a letter from Maria thanking them for the responsibility they have chosen, confirming the times, dates, locations, describing the duties of that position, identifying the co-chair they report to, and encouraging their contacting Maria with any questions or concerns.

Maria adds the name, telephone number and email address to the volunteer slots to a sophisticated, interactive data base



Maria Witkins

created by Pierino Bonanni (Perry). Maria adds to and consults this large data base which performs six functions of complex volunteer management.

1. It keeps an up-to-date electronic record of all open positions.
2. It gives the status of filled positions with contact information.
3. It allows easy navigation to multiple categories of data.
4. It allows prints out and distribution of lists to 45 + co-chairs.
5. It detects any time slot conflicts.
6. It generates a summary list for checking in volunteers at the Showcase office.

Thus, Maria instantly knows what positions still need to be filled and the volunteers who have agreed to assume specific duties on certain times, days, and locations. Some slots fill quickly such as the Room Monitors for the Totally Turning four hour instruction. These monitors are recruited by Nancy Reilly (who is the TT Volunteer Coordinator) to observe free of charge while the public pay a fee for the learning opportunity. Another popular volunteer sign up is with Dick Flanders who manages about 60 strong Truck Assistants members to move lathes, work benches, tools, and cameras the 37 miles to the Saratoga Springs Civic Center to set up classrooms and displays on Thursday and Friday and to dismantle such and return to the Colonie shop Sunday night and Monday morning. Also popular are the 32 Lecture Videographers (managed by Steve Woodard) who skillfully follow the movements of invited lecturers of the hour and a half program presentations.

Publicity directed by John Olenik informs the public by Showcase website, newspaper, lawn signs, postcards, and word-of-mouth of this nationally recognized annual event completing its 29th year. Motivations for families to attend include the Mid-Hudson Toy Factory, the NWA Store, the pen turning opportunities for the public, the many vendors of specialty tools and fine woods.

At the end of the weekend, Maria is very thankful to all the volunteers who participated in the Showcase and especially to her husband Ken Witkins, Volunteer Coordinator, who gives her all the support and assistance she needs during the volunteer recruitment and at the Showcase. She also awards volunteers who served in four or more positions with a Certificate "Volunteer of the Year" and a hand turned gift. Watch for this year's winners in next month's newsletter.



Glenn McGraith (right) and Jon Bennett, Volunteers NWA Store



David Rustin, Pen Turning Co-chair



Tony Lysosky, Carver and NWA Store Volunteer



Heather Savage (right), Pen Turning Volunteer



John Ryan, Totally Turning and Truck Assistant Volunteer



Bonnie Lisosky, Carver NWA Store Volunteer



Don Reiss, Carver and Truck Assistant Volunteer

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Sacandaga Chapter
Vacant

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Kitty Scharl, Ticket Sales Co-chair and John Michanec, Ticket Sales Volunteer



Laura and Louis DeNovio, Exhibit Door Monitors Volunteers



Wayne Distin (left), Question Booth Volunteer and Rob Ray



Lee Hilt, Co-chair and Alec Lombardo, volunteer for Conklin Gallery



Theresa Duval, NWA Office Co-chair



Andy Moss, NWA Webmaster, videographer and Mid-Hudson Toy Factory Volunteer



Diane Balch, Co-chair Carvers



Kay McCampbell, volunteer and new Banquet Chair



Kira Lombardo, Volunteer Conklin Exhibit



The award

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



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An Interview with Brad Conklin

By Susan McDermott

Brad prefers to work with cherry, black walnut, and ash which reveal nice contrasts in their natural qualities. He never stains woods. He does not lathe- turn woods; rather hand carves and hand sands every aspect of a wood project's features. He will use a small Lancelot chainsaw to rough cut wood he finds on his family's 27- acre property in Maybrook, NY. Brad's extended family inherited the property from his grandfather, so the Conklin family heritage is a major theme in his art.

His preference of power tools is a 4" grinder for shaping prior to carving. He does weld and machine metal parts of his creations. His joinery is mostly hand -cut dovetails and box joints.

Brad has a deep love of nature in all its forms. His stingrays were inspired after a cruise ship vacation with his family. The Precariously Perched Purple Polka-dotted Pouring Pitcher was created from a 6" tree trunk growing near a brook on Conklin's property. The resulting project shows remarkable movement in the flowing liquid. The illusion of movement is evident in all of Brad's art pieces.

The family's many camping trips are memorialized in carved plants and animals (see "Food Chain", "Breeze", and his butterflies). Brad preserved the memory of his father who used to patrol the grounds of the Wallkill State Prison on horseback.

"When my father started to work for the state prison, he rode horses to patrol the grounds before they went to Jeeps. When my father died three years ago, there was a box of old horse tack and buckles. I welded them together in form of a horse jumping over a piece of driftwood that was always in my parents' living room. "

Freedom is another theme. Brad carved "Freedom from Ball and Chain" when he retired from his job to devote his days to making art full time! When asked what advice he would give woodworkers, he said that your projects and creations must be enjoyed in their making and rewarding in their completion.



Brad Conklin



Freedom from Ball and Chain



Untitled



Horse



Breeze



Broken Well



Black Walnut Vase



Food Chain



Precariously Perched Purple Polka-dotted Pouring Pitcher



Stingrays

2019 NWA Woodworkers' Showcase

By Susan McDermott

The 28th Year of Showcase opened with much excitement and anticipation for 3200 visitors and 300 volunteers. The planning, publicity, coordination of NWA members' tasks, and attention to every detail are credited to Wally Carpenter, the Showcase Chair for the past two years.

Unfortunately, this editor could not cover all the classes. The instructions by Will Neptune, Garrett Hack, and Al Jordan were all packed rooms with hallway observers! However, there were smaller classes far easier to observe and learn. The more accessible presenters will be briefly described here.

Steve Sanford presented two classes: Duck Decoy Carving and Painting and Duck boat Restoration. This newsletter ran an article last month on Steve's decoys. His second class presented the steps to rebuild boats for duck hunting. You may view the many boats he has restored at www.duckboats.net

Charlie Goddard gave a class on Making and Using Table Saw Sleds where he built one in front of the audience and displayed some jigs, he uses with the cross cut sled. His audience had many questions as we all want to build our own!

Preston Sweeney presented A Beginner's Guide to Tool Collecting. By attending estate sales,



Will Neptune's Ball and Claw carving



Will's rough-cut ball and claw



Will Neptune's Dovetail joinery



Garrett Hack Five Essential Hand Plane Techniques



Garrett Hack's Dazzling Details



Bill Sterling's building guitars with domestic, sustainable woods



Al Jordan Championship Carving as an art

antique tool auctions, the wood tools auction in Nashua, NH, and the Mid-West Tool Collectors Association's national meetings (see www.mwtca.org), Preston has snagged some rare finds. One is an 1872-3 Stanley Type 3 hand plane. Preston recommends Roger K. Smith's books, *Patented Transitional and Metallic Planes in America Volume I & II*. Volume 1 is hand planes 1827 to 1927.

Suzette Usher's class on a Beginner's Guide to Woodcarving was very encouraging to the most insecure of carvers! She demonstrated quick carvings and carving from bandsaw 3D shapes.

The Mid-Hudson Toy Factory deserves much praise for attracting children to the fun of woodworking. Many walk away with big smiles and toys made just for them.

Chris Stoliky, NWA Secretary, provided the newsletter with 363 photos of Totally Turning and Showcase. Control + Click on the link to view a great collection.

<https://flickr.com/photos/33681182@N08/sets/72157679638423288>

Alice Nash took over 800 Showcase photos which will be available in the near future.

Starting on page 9 are a few to view without captions. More of Alice's will be published in next month's issue.



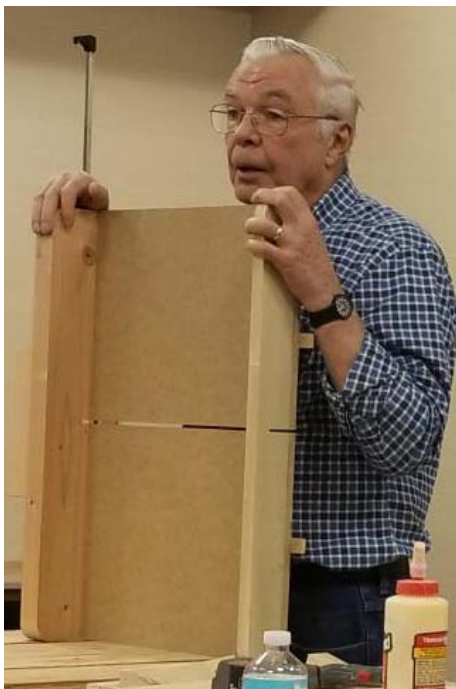
Quick carving demos



Steve Sanford's decoy carving and painting class



Steve Sanford's restored duck boat, Sweet Gerkin



Goddard's Crosscut Sled



Goddard's jig for cutting box corners



Sweeney's squirrel-tail palm plane



Rare Stanley Type 3 plane



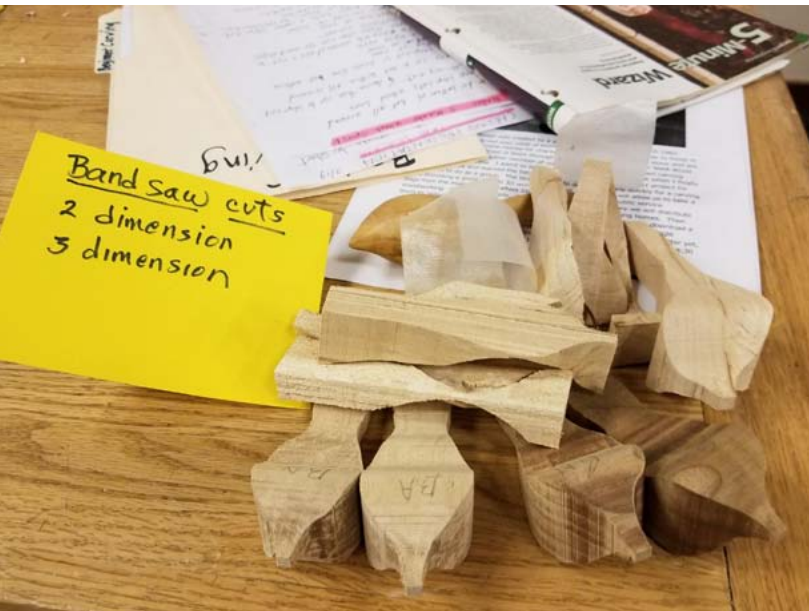
Preston Sweeney and son, Dylan



Suzette Usher



Five-minute ornaments



Bandsaw blanks for comfort birds



Toy Factory volunteers teaching



Happy Toy Recipient



Bob Boisvert







NWA General Meeting on April 11, 2019

By Susan McDermott

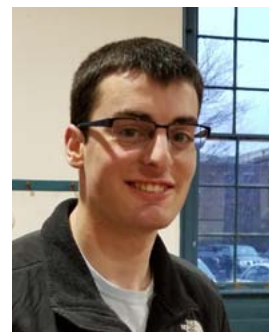
Announcements:

Wally Carpenter reported on Showcase. Approximately 3200 participants attended Saturday and Sunday, March 30-31. More vendors are needed for next year. A strategy to lure more is being explored. NWA members would approach specific vendors well in advance of Showcase to persuade them of the genuine interest we have in their product or service. We also hope for more woodworking project entries than this year. The six months of our shop's inaccessibility may explain SIGs' fewer entries.

Irv Stephens announced the NWA library is fully functional. There is a shelf of new acquisitions and a shelf for returning books. Do not re-shelf books; let the librarian do this. Please donate good woodworking books you may have.

Lee Hilt's son, Patrick T. Hilt will no longer manage our raffles. On April 22, he will join

the Marines' bootcamp in Camp Lejeune, South Carolina. Upon completion, he hopes to become part of the Marine Security Force guarding Navy docks and nuclear submarines. NWA congratulates Patrick on serving our country. Dad must be very proud!



Patrick T. Hilt

Instant Gallery

2019 Showcase Challenge Second Place Winner! - Walnut Side Table built by Peter Howe and Tom Moran.

Construction requirements: No nails, no glue, no other hardware used in construction.

Materials used: Table is all solid walnut with maple dowels.

This is an original design. Top is made up of three pieces of walnut held together with floating tenons and maple dowels securing

tenons. The top is beveled and is sitting on spacers which give it a floating appearance. The top has surface plugs which have wedges on the lower side that secure the top to the leg tenons. The legs are attached to aprons with mortise and tenon joints secured with maple tenons. Rails are attached to legs with mortise and tenon joints secured with maple dowels. The stretcher is attached to the rails with a through tenon secured with a stepped maple dowel.

The finish: The top is French polished. The legs, aprons, rails, stretcher have shellac with a poly top coat.

Dave Mobley's two turned bowls, cherry with shellac finish, done while he was a student of Trent Bosch's turning class. Rich Ceruto has made 68 various Shaker boxes and baskets. One is his Easter basket.



Howe and Moran Table



Mobley's bowls



Rich Ceruto's Shaker Easter baskets (one of six made for his nieces)



Lee Hilt's old tools



Max Bloomfield's wooden shell

General Meeting Guest Speaker Mike Pekovich Designing Furniture

Dave Parkis invited Mike to talk about how he approaches an idea to make a piece of furniture. Mike has over 30 years as a furniture maker and 22 years with *Fine Woodworking* magazine where his own creations are often featured.

Mike began by explaining that what he makes will be used by someone else, the client. It is important to make a connection with that person's

needs and desires and the maker's self-expression in the design. Mike claims everyone can make a design; we need to see ourselves as creators. It's a step-by-step process from idea to finished piece.

First, get inspired, capture the idea, sketch it, connect it to the real world. Later in his program, he suggests visiting museums, antique shops, historical places like the Shaker Village in Hancock, MA.

Collect your sketches in a notebook, shape the idea; you don't need to be an artist or draftsman.

Draw the project from different perspectives Then draw the idea to a useable scale with dimensions. Place a person next to the project (seat a person at the table or chair) for proportions. Three-D drawings can be easily achieved with a free program called SketchUp. <https://www.sketchup.com/>

Then build a mock up in plywood or Styrofoam with hot glue. This is very important. Also try your joinery with scrap pine before attempting your hard woods. Then there are no surprises! Your original design will be realized in the final project. Mike sometimes adds items such as a tea set or tools or a lamp to the intended case or table or shelf as he builds the piece to visualize its proportion and purpose. Match the size of the piece to its function.

Build from the inside out and scale the parts to the overall piece. Go heavy or light, but not in between. Decide what will be massive or heavy; what will be delicate or light. Build the outside parts thicker and the middle parts thinner. Design with the joinery in mind-strength and aesthetic appeal.

Mike does not believe in classical formulas for designs. He encourages rule breaking, taking risks, but be your own harshest critic (keep it to yourself). Then forgive yourself. Design with the wood species in mind. Color, grain, texture, the part of the log it was cut from all contribute to design. A great board won't guarantee a great piece of furniture, and there is no such thing as a bad piece of wood!

Design for your client, paying or not. What is your connection to that person? Who is he or she?

Then find your inspiration by looking into the past. What traditions do we find in fine furniture? Stay faithful to the sources. Use history as a starting point and then introduce your variations. Find original designs in nature, the slant of grass, the shape of leaves, tracks in snow.

Eventually you will find your voice, your personal style. Mike showed Garrett Hack's works as examples of whimsy and humor in design as an example. But Mike has made his own unique expression in furniture. In recent years he has employed Kimiko Japanese designs in his Arts and Crafts and Shaker style furniture. You can watch Mike make this feature in the video given here. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NSGmPd1vzGA>

Mike sees Arts and Crafts style as "democratic", using local woods while the Shaker style is austere, functional, and both invite his creative modifications.

Mike concluded with his firm belief that furniture must have a use and a long life. Everything we make should be important, worthy of its use and user. What we make is not complete until it finds its purpose.



Dave Parkis and Mike Pekovich



Wall Cabinet



Cabinet with fruit bowl



Cabinet with Kimiko design



Another example of Kimiko

NWA Library Update

By Irv Stephens

The Library is finally set up again. The books are available, and Susan Hill and I are catching up on adding the Turners' DVDs and new books from a recent donation. Because the library now occupies a smaller space, not all its magazines can be shelved, and we are reviewing which titles to keep and which either to store or remove from the collections. Books, in my opinion, clearly take precedence over magazines because their contents are more accessible, of longer value, and typically more thorough than articles in magazines.

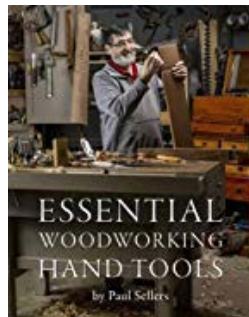
New Library Titles in Catalog

For new members, the NWA Library's Catalog is available online. (<http://www.woodworker.org/librarycatalog>) Look for a link to it on the Library's webpage. When you get to the library's homepage, you will a scrolling banner under the search. The covers that you will see moving across the screen display the books in the library in order of their acquisition. Looking at this display for 30 seconds is a good way to see the newest additions to the collection, and if you click on a cover's image, you will get to the full catalog record.

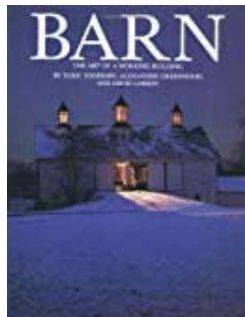
Recent Gift Books

As mentioned above, the library recently received a notable gift of outstanding books focused on hand tools, Colonial construction techniques - especially barns, and fine furniture. Here is just a sampling of the titles now part of the library.

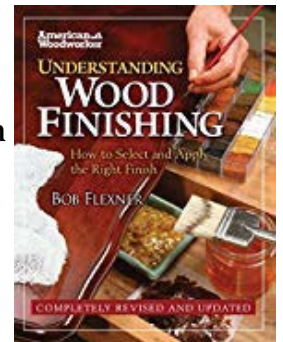
Paul Sellers. **Essential Woodworking Hand Tools** (Roksmith Ltd, 2016, 480 pp). This book might become the bible for hand tool woodworkers. Sellers shares his experience with using tools and takes special attention to their maintenance.



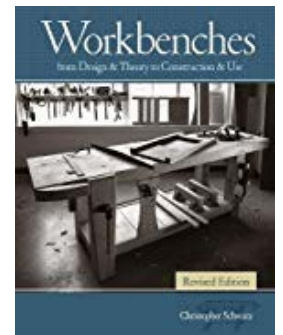
Elric Endersby et al. **Barn** (Houghton Mifflin Company, 1992, 255 pp). For those intrigued by mortise and tendon technique, this is a mouth-watering book filled with historic European and American designs. Exquisite photography of details matches the care of photographs showing how the external design fits naturally into their sites.



Bob Flexner. **Understanding Wood Finishing - How to Select and Apply the Right Finish** (American Woodworker, 2005, 308 pp). This is Flexner's major revision of his original work published in 1994. We'll keep a copy of the older work, but this one is a keeper, even after 10 years.



Christopher Schwartz. **Workbenches - From Design & Theory to Construction & Use** (Popular Woodworking Books, 2015, 192 pp). Schwartz discusses the functions that a workbench must fill and various ways these have been incorporated into design. Lots of details and shop drawings. A necessary read if you are thinking about building a new (or another) bench.



Roubo, Andre-Jacob. **With All the Precision Possible - Roubo on Furniture** making (Lost Art Press, 2017, 456 pp). This is a translation from the French of Roubo's 18th century tome on furniture making. It is a book for the uncompromising specialist. All the illustrations from the original work are reproduced and include both design and tools. This is a rarity - a copy is available at Yale and British Museum, but not the Library of Congress.



May Meeting

Thursday, May 9, 2019 7:00 PM

Shaker Heritage Society Meetinghouse
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2019 MONTHLY MEETINGS*

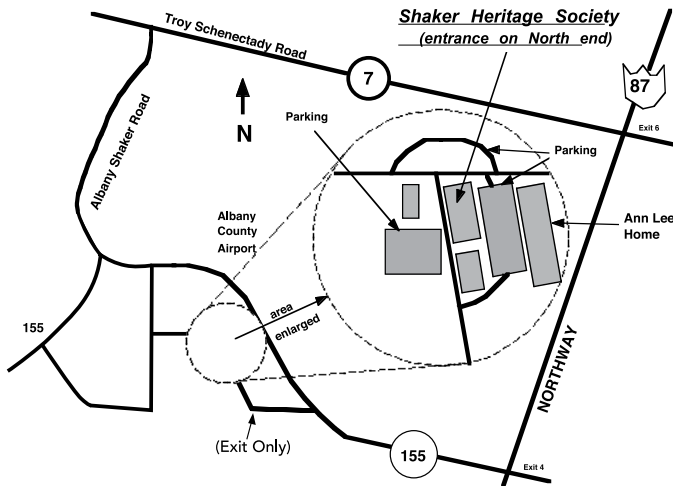
Unless noted otherwise, held at the Shaker Meetinghouse
on the Second Thursdays at 7:00 PM

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

*To be updated with additional information

May 9

John Van Buren - Epoxy for Woodworking



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs):

Please note meetings will commence at
our new location at 97 Railroad Avenue.

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

Spindle and Pen Turners - Meets Mondays 5:30 PM - 8:45 PM. Contact: Pam Bucci 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 **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 both Wednesdays followed by a general meeting at 7:00 PM on the fourth Wednesdays. **Contact:** Jeanne Aldous at AMJAMt2@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 - Meet Tuesdays and Saturdays 9:00 AM to noon. They 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 - 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 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00-9:00 PM in the Herm Finkbeiner Education Center at 97 Railroad Avenue, Colonie, NY. **Contact:** Dave Parkis at 518-429-6581 for further details: dparkis@nycap.rr.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:** midhudsonwoodworkers.org Jim Lee, President - (845)382-6045