

# WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern  
Woodworkers  
Association

April 2020, Vol. 29, Number 4

## April Meeting

### **Veterans Building Boats**

*Thursday, April 9, 2020 7:00 PM  
Shaker Heritage Society Meetinghouse  
Albany-Shaker Road, Albany, NY*

Kevin Keaveny, President of the Hudson Valley Center for Veteran Reintegration (HVCVRV), will discuss the Center's program of building kayaks to assist veterans reintegrating back into civilian life. Boat building serves as an experience to help veterans and their families focus and work creatively together in a welcoming and open environment. HVCVRV became an independent non-profit organization in February 2019. Prior to that time, its programs were part of a VFW group. It now operates a wood shop in Kingston, NY.



*Kevin Keaveny*

**Dear Members,**

**As you know, Roger Holmes and I have been monitoring the COVID-19 (coronavirus) situation very closely over the last few weeks.**

**With today's announcement by our NY State Gov. Cuomo, he has stated there will be no gatherings greater than 500 people within NY State as of 5pm today.**

**This means our event is cancelled for 2020. I have already contacted both the Saratoga Springs City Center and the Saratoga Hilton to inform them of our cancellation.**

**I know this comes as both a relief to some as well as a disappointment to just as many. All of you put a tremendous amount of effort into making these events possible each year and this work goes on throughout the year in preparation.**

**Many of us have a lot of work remaining to minimize any further impact to all those volunteers, vendors, and presenters who are so important to making these Show and Symposium.**

**Again, thank you for your patience and understanding as the world addresses this virus.**

**Wally Carpenter and Roger Holmes  
Showcase and Totally Turning Chairs of NWA**

Dear Members,

New York State is experiencing the second highest number of coronavirus cases in the country. Moreover the growth in cases is exponential, roughly doubling every two days. This morning the Surgeon General stated that the US is about where Italy was two weeks ago. The only way to slow the spread of the virus and it's accompanying health toll is to limit social interaction. While wiping down surfaces and hand washing are necessary, the virus is very small and can be suspended in the air for up to 3 hours as an aerosol. That means transmission by breath is very plausible.

After consultation with the Steering Committee we decided the only responsible thing to do is to close the shop until further notice so as to enforce a measure of social distancing equal to the danger this novel virus poses.

Effectively immediately the Shop at 97 Railroad Ave. is closed. If anyone needs access, please contact Steve Mapes.

I wish you all the best through these trying times.

Sincerely,  
Rich Cerruto  
President

*To All Showcase 2020 Volunteers:*

*In response to the New York State Gov. Andrew Cuomo announcement banning all gatherings of more than 500 people due to the Coronavirus outbreak, The Showcase and Totally Turning Chairpersons cancelled these 2020 events.*

*We appreciate your support for 2020 and anticipate your continued cooperation in 2021.*

*See you next year!  
Thank you,*

*Maria Witkins, NWA Showcase Volunteer Coordinator*

# Adirondack Woodturners Association

## Met Wednesday, March 4, 2020

*By Susan McDermott*

### OFFICERS

**President** - Rich Cerruto  
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**Vice President** - Irv Stephens  
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**Past President** - Steve Mapes  
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**Executive Secretary** - Charlie Goddard  
Cgodd@aol.com  
518-370-0388



### Mid-Hudson Chapter

Jim Lee, President - 845-382-6045  
debbielee3649@gmail.com

### Sacandaga Chapter

Vacant

### CHAIRPERSONS

#### Banquet

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kmcccampbell@nycap.rr.com

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Chairperson - Steve Mapes  
mapessteven@gmail.com  
518-374-2207

Registrar - Chuck Watson  
nwaeducation@gmail.com

Members - Jim Lefebvre, Rich Glover,  
and Mike Mascelli

#### Fiske Fund

Chairperson - Bill Sterling  
Treasurer - Juliana Shei

John Betterly  
Woody Bowler

#### Historian

Wayne Distin - 518-674-4171  
wdistin@nycap.rr.com

#### Hospitality

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#### Learning Center

#### Operations Committee (LCOC)

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#### Membership

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nwamembers1@gmail.com

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

#### Publicity

John Olenik - 518-587-0306  
jolenik@nycap.rr.com

#### Showcase Chair

Wally Carpenter - 518-434-1776  
nwa.showcase.chair@gmail.com

AWA President Kevin Ramsey, Co-Chair for Totally Turning, opened the meeting with announcements, introduction of Vice President Max Ferris, the raffle, and Instant Gallery.

### Announcements

The third Wednesdays, AWA meetings will hold demonstrations for members. The safety manual is being revised and will appear on the NWA website.

The Safety Committee wants to limit blanks to 10 inches in diameter. All blanks will be inspected for soundness before being turned. Use the sanding jig with vacuum hookup. Do not use power sanders without vacuums.

There is a need for a volunteer to provide snacks.

Donation box for NWA Store-small turnings will be sold and the money going to AWA.

Demonstrators are needed for April, May, and June AWA third Wednesdays.

Dick Flanders reminds members that although NWA is non-profit, it must collect NYS sales tax on anything the store or auction sells. Also, any logs donated to NWA need labels identifying species and donor.

Pam Bucci displayed the Play Tree House which will be raffled off at Showcase.\* All SIGS, please make and donate small items to decorate the house.

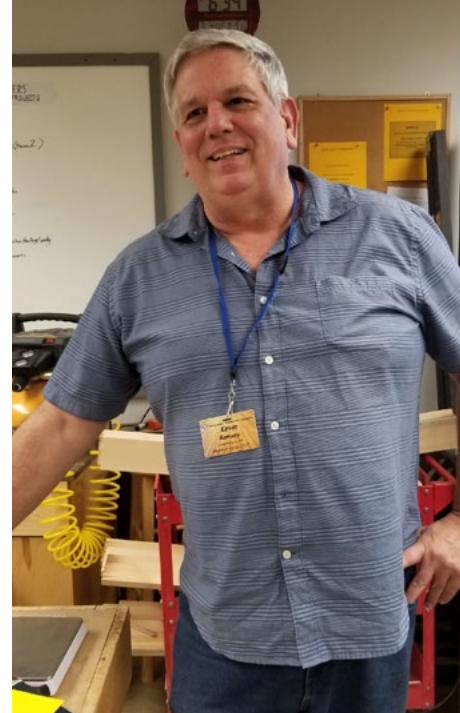
NWA member badges- if you lose it, get a new one free from Bob Stanley. Please wear your name tag at all events and meetings.

\*Update! Showcase was cancelled after the announcements of this meeting.

### Instant Gallery

Stan Blanchard's three bowls of Northern White Cedar, Pignut Hickory, and Black Walnut were finished with pasteurized Mahoney's oil. It is a walnut oil that dries quickly.

Todd Gunter's burl bowl and two acrylic pieces.



*Kevin Ramsey*



*Play Tree House*



## 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)



Your next issue of  
**Woodworkers News**

will be published  
in early April

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### WEBSITE

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**NORTHEASTERN  
WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION**

P.O. BOX 246

Rexford, New York 12148



Mike Jensen's spalted "punky" wood bowl and fluted bowl. He used a router with guide to make the flutes.

Jon Hedman's Locust flute (no finish, but very smooth) plays two octaves higher than most flutes.

Jerry Ela turned boxes with finial tops. His custom-made thickness gauge uses a \$3 laser light.

Raffle

Ice cream scoop, large pizza slicer, and Alumilite donation.



*Alumilite donation for raffle*



*Todd Gunter's acrylic bowls*



*Mike Jensen's wet, punky bowl*



*Jerry's thickness gauge*



*Jensen's fluted bowl*



*Stan Blanchard's three bowls*



*Jerry Ela's turned boxes*



*Jon Hedman's Locust flute*



## Todd Gunter's Demonstration of Coloring, Mixing, Pouring Acrylics

Todd's worktable displays his burls, molds, color kits, acrylic items with stories behind them, and tools. His blue acrylic eggs won Second Place in Showcase's mixed media. Todd's burls are purchased through Facebook, eBay, Internet auctions, and he admits he sometimes pays too much for them in a bidding frenzy.

For Todd's bottle stoppers, he demonstrated a four-color pour. For mixed media, he sometimes sprinkles Pearl Essence on wood burls before adding his acrylic pours. On any wood for casting, he adds Cactus Juice (a liquid resin under vacuum pumped pressure to remove all air from the wood) to stabilize the fibrous wood. He may soak this burl for two or more days.

The basic steps Todd demonstrated for using the Alumilite products:

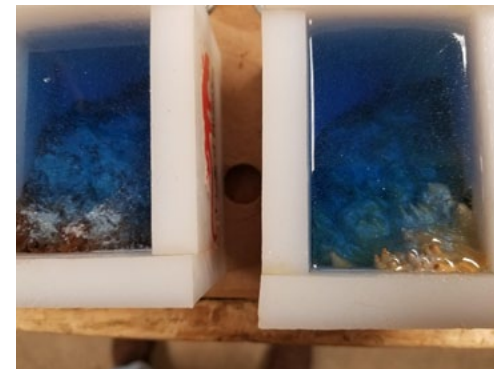
- Select the mold that best fits the burl securely. Put a bit of epoxy (or hot glue stick) on the mold's bottom, so the wood does not float. Todd likes Lizard blank molds. Cook the mold at 150 degrees to remove moisture. Also, Alumilite will shrink away from cold surfaces, so the mold should be warm.
- Select the colors (use a miniscule drop on a toothpick for blue) and mix to desired tint.
- Using his scale, he weighed each plastic cup, and zeroed out the scale (tare) to accurately calculate the ounces of pours in each cup.
- He poured resin A and hardener B into a plastic cup at a 1:1 ratio by weight. He calculated the quantity he wanted for the mold's capacity, minus the burl's volume. Todd estimated on the generous side, so he had some mix left over.
- Todd showed the options of colors (powder and liquid dyes), metallic Pearlex, glitter, stones, mica powders added before pours for decorative effects.
- He set the timer and rapidly mixed the two parts A and B in a larger container. Using a tongue depressor, he scraped the container's sides for a thorough mix to avoid air pockets.
- Once thoroughly mixed, he poured the Alumilite into multiple plastic cups, once for each color. Todd, with assistance from Dan Ryan, mixed the Alumilite and kept mixing until ready to pour.
- He kept checking the mixture's temperature using an infrared thermometer until it read 95 degrees F, and then he poured the 4 color mixes into one cup and then into two pen molds and the leftover Alumilite into another plastic cup to be used as a bottle stopper blank.
- He quickly waved a propane torch flame over the top of the liquid to draw any bubbles up to the surface. Also, a 40-psi pressure pot can remove air bubbles. The set time (demold time) for the Alumilite is 2-4 hours. The full cure time at normal room temperature is about four days.



*Todd's workbench with tools, dyes, resin*



*Acrylic blanks*



*Pours for bottle stoppers*



*Pour for pen blank*



*Todd's thermometer*



*Second Place Mixed Media awarded in Showcase 2019 (right)*



*Mixed media globe*



# Stan Blanchard's Demonstration to Turners on March 9, 2020

*By Susan McDermott*

Monday night's Turners SIGs were treated to an unexpected demonstration of bowl turning by our very skilled Stan Blanchard. Stan is very generous in sharing his considerable talent to anyone, including the most novice of turners!



*Stan Blanchard is all about safety*



*Stan sharpens his turning tools every three to five minutes of use*



*The parting to begins to separate the bowl from its base*



*Almost there*



*The bowl is separated from the chuck*



*The bowl's base will be sanded smooth*



*The finished four- inch white cedar bowl*



# NWA General Meeting March 12, 2020

*By Susan McDermott*

NWA President Rich Cerruto opened the meeting with three brief announcements:

Lee Hilt will replace Charlie Goddard after his 29 years as Auction Committee Chair

Showcase cancellation

Dick Flanders will serve as a new member of the Fiske Committee

## Instant Gallery

Don Cooke's remotes holder and tissue box. Several members want Don to teach them how to make this box.

Stan Blanchard's four bowls. He is holding a large blue milk paint bowl. One bowl of Northern White Cedar turns well without tear-out. The bark's underside makes an attractive grain. Another bowl features fluted sides.

Dave Mobley brought two of Milan Fiske's bowls of 30 years ago.

Juliana Shei presented two Shaker style step stools made by the Crafters. She did the dovetails.

Andy Moss created an elaborate jig for cutting many sizes of wood circles. The jig can also be used to sand the circles' edges with an attached belt sander.

Allan Woodward (Woody) displayed a tray of small faces, creative caricatures painted or burned on small wood disks and burls. He sells them to raise funds as "Ward of the Wood" to plant trees around two upstate lakes.



*Cooke's remotes and tissue holder*



*Stan Blanchard with blue milk paint bowl*



*Stan's fluted bowl*



*Stan's White Cedar bowl*



*Stan's fourth bowl*



*Milan Fiske's large turned bowl*





*Andy Moss's bandsaw jig to make wooden CDs*



*Jig can make and sand a variety of size disks*



*The underside of the jig*



*Rich Cerruto's Shaker box*



*Cerruto's finger pattern and pin for box making*



*Cerruto's letterbox with spline joints*



*Allan Woodward 's tray of small faces*



*Fiske's abstract bowl*



*Crafters' Shaker style step stools*

After the raffle, Charlie Goddard introduced Lorraine Weiss, Education and Program Director of the ShakerMuseum. She expressed profuse appreciation for the contributions of NWA (see her statement at the end of this article). Using her slide show, she explained the characteristics of a Shaker chair:

- Usually made from local wood species pine, maple, walnut, hickory, or cherry. Chairs from the Shaker community were covered with a brown-toned stain or a blue, green, red or yellow paint.
- Legs are delicate and straight; they may be square or round, often tapered.
- Prominent fasteners include hand-forged nails and double-pins.
- Graduated slats with the height of the back
- A backward slant
- Seats either bent hickory or woven tape (taped seats introduced in the 1830's were colorful fabrics)



arranged in checkerboard patterns which replaced the caned backs and seats on chairs).

- Any finials were unique to the community making the chair, but Shakers preferred plain designs to their furniture. Shaker Millennial Laws mandated “beadings, moldings and cornices which are merely for fancy may not be made.”
- Genuine chairs will show the Shaker maker (see a display of original chairs in the NYS Museum).

Lorraine gave a brief history of Shaker settlements (eight Shakers came to Watervliet in 1776 and 25 years later there were 46). By 1870 there were 278, but as men left the community, women took over all levels of production. Mount Lebanon, NY became a major industry selling furniture to the world.

Lillian Barlow (1876-1942) challenged gender norms when she began working in the chair shop at Mount Lebanon. From early on the Shakers divided work between men and women, and the chairs were men’s work. By the beginning of the 20th century, however, Barlow ran the Mt. Lebanon Woodworking Co. alongside Brother William Perkins (and Sarah Collins). This prominent business created patterns and models, produced cabinets and woodcarvings, and restored antiques. (New Lebanon Shaker Museum).

## Conclusion

Lorraine Weiss sent the newsletter the following statement of gratitude:

*Shaker Heritage Society staff is very grateful for generous assistance we receive from Northeast Woodworkers members and are delighted that the organization can use the SHS facilities. NWA members have contributed their skills and know-how for a number of projects at Shaker Heritage Society over the years. Most recently, Steve Mapes replaced exit signs and Meeting Room lights; Charlie Goddard and Dick Flanders led a team of members who repaired the bridge across Shaker Creek on the SHS site; members made a new sliding door and the sales counter for the Museum Shop and rehabilitated the exhibit room in 2018; and a member also produced countless pegs to replace those missing in the Meeting Room peg rails. NWA*



Lorraine Weiss



Lillian Barlow at the wood lathe



Chair seat woven from one continuous tape



Sarah Collins made taped seats and finished chair



Original Shaker chair



Reproduction

*has also assisted SHS off site, as when Dick Flanders responded to a request from the Fist and Heel Performance Group who needed a Shaker peg rail to use as the only prop for a dance piece premiered at Jacobs Pillow in July 2019. SHS had worked with the choreographer who created a work that explored the worship of the Black Shaker community in Philadelphia.*

# Library Corner: Scroller SIG's Books Merged

By Irv Stephens

**Books** from the Scrolling SIG's collection are now integrated into NWA's main library collections. Most of the titles will remain in the section labeled "Scrolling" (dark red dots), but a few titles not directly related to scrolling have been relocated to different sections.

**TOYS:** That said, in case you are looking for ideas about what to make for toddlers or young children AND want to start working now on those presents for the end of the year, the NWA Library has over 50 books on toys that you can build covering everything from doll houses, kites, puzzles and future heirloom toys (that probably the kids may never be allowed to touch). About half of the books are together in a section labeled "Toys" in the "Projects & Design" section (white dots). Many of the others will remain in the "Scrolling" section. While a few can be found in other sections. To review all the titles, just search the word "toys" in the Library Catalog.

**New Books:** Spring is a-coming...The library has recently added two books that might get you in the spirit. The first is the Creative Homeowner's **Ultimate Guide to Fences, Arbors and Trellises**, and the second one is Dawn King's **Rustic Garden Projects** - If you are tempted to make Adirondack stick furniture with your yard's tree debris, this may be the inspiration you need.



Rustic

## Classifieds

**#1. 1948 Delta Unisaw** in excellent condition. 27" x 37" cast iron table ribs 24". Sheet steel cabinet and HTC custom mobile base. Completely rebuilt 12018 with 3h.p. 220v Baldor motor and AEG thermal protected switch. New Delta steel arbor pulleys and belts. Custom welded steel motor cover with dust port. Two original miter gages, mag feather board, and dado insert plate. \$900.00

**#2. Tormek wet grinder** in excellent condition. Upgrade black silicone stone and original stone. New skew chisel, knife sharpening, V chisel, and parting tool jigs included. Optional leather strop, stone grinder, and cover. \$300.00 Prices negotiable.

Contact Gregory Stoddard - gregorystoddard@icloud.com  
518-761-6900



Delta Unisaw



Tormek

**Used Woodtek 25" Dual Drum Sander** for sale \$1,750 (like new) Model #: 109352

Capable of handling stock 1/4" to 5" thick x 25" wide, the Woodtek® 25" Dual Drum Sander uses three steel hold down-rollers for positive material feeding. The table adjusts 0" to 5" with crank powered, micrometric adjustment system - conveyor and height adjustment bolts for proper alignment. Retail for about \$3,000. Also includes shop rollers for easy movement.

### SPECIFICATIONS:

**Sanding Drum Motor** - 3HP, 220VAC, 15A, 3,450 RPM - 2 "V" belt drive (power cord included).

**Main On/Off Switch** - Push button, magnetic.

**Conveyor Belt Motor** - 1/6HP, 180VDC, 1A.

**Conveyor Belt Switch** - Toggle, mechanical with speed control.

**Conveyor Belt Speed** - 5.5 to 20 FPM.

**Feed Roller (2)** - 2.36" dia. **Abrasive Drum Size (2)** - 5" x 25" **Abrasive Drum Speed** - 1,600 RPM.

**Dust Port** - 2 @ 4" dia.

**Overall Dimensions** - 52"H x 45"W x 28"L. **Net Weight** - 396 lbs. **Shipping Weight** - 558 lbs.

**NOTE:** Although deemed accurate, specifications are not guaranteed.

Contact: Gary Mittleman, 33 Old Niskayuna Road, Loudonville, NY 12211 (518) 527-4747 gmittlem@nycap.rr.com



# NWA Education Offered Classes:

## Two Ways to Make Finger Joint Box (Part 1)

*By Susan McDermott*

On Saturday, March 7, Eight NWA members and two teachers met at the shop for a half-day instruction in box making. Dave Mobley led four students on the construction of a cigar sized box using the router and custom jig to cut the fingers while Joe Carmola simultaneously taught the other group of four the same steps of construction using two jigs and a table saw. The two instructors had planned and coordinated the class, so there was little to no down-time and plenty of individual attention to students. This April article will address the router method, and May's newsletter will publish the table saw method.

For both means of cutting and assembly, the measurements are the same. The 34 + inch long planed hard maple board for the four sides is first cut for two grooves to hold the top and bottom panels. The grooves are  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (with router bit or dado blade) and  $\frac{3}{16}$ " deep and  $1\frac{1}{32}$ " from either edge (see photo #1). The board is then cut into two 9" and two 6" sides with the miter saw (photo #2).

Finger slots are first cut on the short 6" sides using the jig (photo#3&4 ) and router, working from the top of the box to the bottom (photo#5). The long 9" sides start with a spacer on the same jig (photo #6). Cut remaining fingers with spacer removed.

While the finger joints now mesh perfectly for all the sides laid flat (photo #7), rabbets will have to be cut on the inside ends of the long sides  $\frac{3}{16}$ " wide and  $\frac{3}{16}$ " deep (photo # 8). Also, the short sided will have rabbets cut  $\frac{3}{8}$ " wide and  $\frac{3}{16}$ " deep (photo #9) for a tight 90 degree fit.

With all cuts made, some sanding and trimming of fingers will help the dry assembly of the entire box before glue- up. Then glue the box together with Tight Bond II glue applied to each fingers' sides. The jig and wedges will square up the box (photo #10) and plastic wrap around the joints insure a tight bond (photo # 11).

One minute in the microwave will speed the glue drying. Another minute with the box and jig turned 180 degrees will complete the drying process. Then the box lid will be cut from the box body on the table saw after setting the fence exactly to separate the box from its lid(photo#12).

A custom- made piece will separate the partially cut box so as not to collapse the uncut sides (photo #13). A final sanding can ensure a good fit of the top to the box.



*The box project*



*The finger joints*



*#1 Hard maple board  $3\frac{7}{16}$ " x 34+ " with  $\frac{1}{4}$ " grooves for top and bottom*



*#2 Four sides are cut from board with miter saw: two 6" and two 9"*

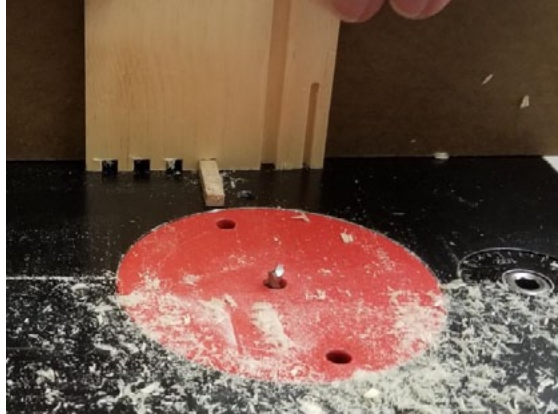


*#3 The jig used to cut the fingers on the router*





#4 the back of the jig



#5 Repetitive cuts



#6 Using a spacer for the first cut only, the longer sides' fingers are cut



#7 Tight fit of fingers laid horizontally



#8 Saw set to cut rabbets



#9 Rabbets on all inside ends to make 90- degree fir to box corners



#10 Jig used to square up glued box



#11 Plastic wrap tight around box joints



#12 Setting fence to box groove to cut off the top.



#13 Separates top from box to finish cuts without collapse



# April Meeting

Thursday, April 9, 2020 7:00 PM

**Shaker Heritage Society Meetinghouse**  
**Albany-Shaker Road, Albany, NY**

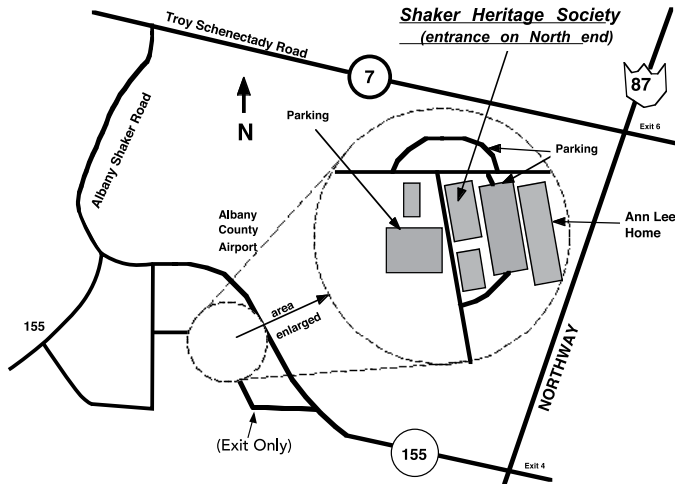
## 2020 MONTHLY MEETINGS\*

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

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

**May 14th** - Turning Topic - Ray Puffer

\*To be updated with additional information



## 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:** Kevin Ramsey Cell 518-769-9665 or kmrammer@yahoo.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:** Kevin Ramsey Cell 518-769-9665 or kmrammer@yahoo.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:** Tom O'Donnell at Todonnell180@gmail.com

**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, 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