

# WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern  
Woodworkers  
Association

May 2021, Vol. 30, Number 5

## May General Meeting

**May 13, 2021**

***Irv Stephens, in an e blast, will explain the importance of your participation via Zoom to vote on the revised by-laws and NWA officers. June's newsletter will be the last before summer break as we do not publish in July and August.***

***Please send photos of your shop projects, classifieds, and Tricks and Tips of the Month. We welcome your contributions.***

## NWA Needs Lumber

*By Lee Hilt*

Although the Shaker Barn currently holds a healthy supply of NWA lumber for member sales, the job of maintaining that level of inventory is a constant concern. The minimum lumber drying time from milling-to-use is 2-3 years. Add to that we are coming off a year like no other before, and you will see why your club needs members' help in securing additional stock.

NWA member Bill Rogers recently became one of those member helpers. Bill's has friends who took down a backyard Ash tree that Bill suggested they donate to the club. With a little coordination, Bill and I were able to setup an onsite milling day which netted the club some clear 4/4 Ash lumber.

The tree was donated by homeowners Debbie and Jessie Hoffman of Troy with their twins Lucy and Maren. We were also able to leave a few slabs from the cut for a planned family project to remember their tree which lived on their property for years before they bought the house.

Bill was able to rope his son-in-law Justin Rice into helping with the day's milling and NWA member Rick Bird, as always, was on deck to lend a hand.

NWA needs wood. If you have a tree or two or know of someone who does, please contact me and let us see if we can make something happen.



*A view of the operation from second floor window*



*Rolling the trunk*



*Milling the trunk*



*A day's labor.*

Although we are limited in what we can do with respect to felling trees and moving large logs, I do have a portable sawmill which allows us to bring the mill on location to the trees.

Lee Hilt

nwaauuction1@gmail.com

518-698-3751

## "MEMBER'S WOODWORKING TRICKS"

### Router Tip – The Right-Hand Rule

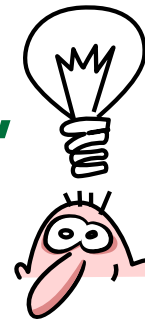
*Submitted by Wally Carpenter*

I was recently asked to share a woodworking tip that I have always found useful. There are so many tips we learn over the years and have adopted into our daily lives; it becomes difficult to pick one.

I chose to share the "Right-hand Rule for Edge Routing" because it is a simple approach to what can be a very confusing concept in knowing which direction to move either the wood or the router to avoid those jaw dropping and potentially explosive router events many woodworkers experience.

Of all the power tools in my shop, the router is the one tool I ALWAYS approach with the highest respect. Having a portable power tool which has a blade turning at 20,000 rpm deserves respect. One piece of information you should ALWAYS remember is, "*You should always be moving AGAINST the rotation of the bit*".

I know of two versions of the right-hand rule. They both involve a simple forming of your right hand. The one you choose will depend on your typical use of your router.



If you picture the router with the bit facing downward (typical of hand-held router), you will notice the bit rotation moves in a clockwise direction. Conversely, if you have a router table with the bit facing up (typical of router table setup), the bit will rotate in a counterclockwise direction. This begins the confusion of which direction you should move the router or board (in the latter case). Adding to the confusion the router is moving in the first case while the board is moving in the latter case. (confused yet?)

The following is helpful for general edge cutting cases. I am not addressing items such as climbing cuts other than say this should be avoided. This simply addresses router or board direction, depending on which is fixed.

#### Version 1 – Right-Hand "L"

I prefer this method when fixing the board to a stationary object (i.e., work bench) and the router is the moving element.



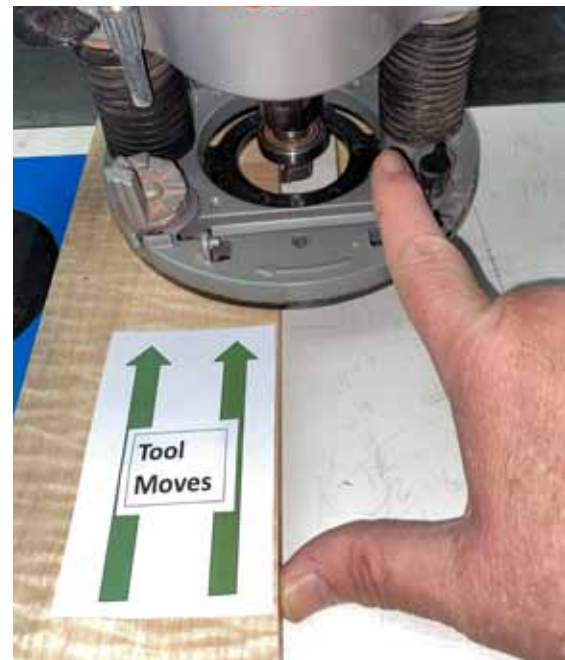


Begin by making the hand sign letter “L” using your right hand. In this case your thumb is the contact point between the router bit and the board, and the index finger indicates the direction of movement. The same hand position works for either router movement or board movement.

Review this with the router off and you will see how easily this works.



*“L” and Board Moves*



*“L” and Router Moves*

### Version 2 – Right-Hand “Y”

The best image I could find for this version was using the letter “Y” in hand signing. Modify your right hand by curling in your pinky finger to match the remaining fingers. Now, in this case your thumb is the router bit, your palm is the router, and the fingers display the rotational direction of the bit. If the thumb is pointing down, it is your handheld router. If the thumb is pointing up, it is your router mounted to the table.



Again, remember you should always be moving AGAINST the rotation of the bit. This simple hand sign lets you quickly see the rotation of the bit and then which direction you should move the router or the board.

Review this with the router off, and you will see how easily this works.



*Thumb down, router moves*



*Thumb up, board moves*

### The Final Word.

We are all intelligent woodworkers who have our own self-preservation at heart. When it comes to the power router, safety and planning is paramount. Take a moment prior to making that cut and review what you are doing. If it does not feel right, step back and rethink before cutting. Remember the power router has from 1-3 ½ horses and can pack quite a kick at 20,000 rpm. Be safe.

Send us your woodworking tips and tricks for a prize.

NWAnewsletter1@gmail.com Submission deadline is the 15th of each month (except June and July).

#### OFFICERS

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#### Sacandaga Chapter

Vacant

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Dick Flanders

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Vacant

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# Landis Arboretum

Esperance, NY

## SPRING PLANT SALE

BOOKS & BAKED GOODS TOO!

MAY 15 & 16, 2021

10 AM-4 PM

### OUT - OF - THE - ORDINARY

Perennials \* Trees \* Shrubs  
Bulbs \* Seeds & More!

Members Only Pick of the Pots (POPS)

May 14, Friday, 4 PM - 6 PM

Not a member yet?

Don't worry - we'll help you join at the gate!

Visit us at [landisarboretum.org](http://landisarboretum.org)  
or [Facebook.com/LandisArb](https://Facebook.com/LandisArb)



*A little humor*



## WOODWORKERS NEWS

is published by the Northeastern Woodworkers Association for its members. The Association's aim is to provide a common meeting ground for lovers of woodworking who want to know more about wood and the techniques for forming it. The newsletter is published monthly. The newsletter is available online at [www.woodworker.org](http://www.woodworker.org)



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**Woodworkers News**

will be published  
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WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION  
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Rexford, New York 12148



## Market Basket Weaving Workshop

*(from the current issue of the Shaker Heritage newsletter)*

**May 29 @ 10:00 am - 3:30 pm**

**Local weaver Sandy Salada will teach you how to create your own functional & fabulous Market Basket!**

This colorful market basket is plenty big enough for the trip to the farmers market! The basket measures 8"x 12"x 5½" deep with a sturdy oak handle. Woven in space dyed reed which is similar to variegated yarn, three main colors are blue, brown and red with other blended shades. The basket has a solid or filled bottom which will be pre-started to ensure successful completion in this one-day workshop.

Suitable for ages 14 and up, no experience needed!

The workshop has been planned to allow for social distancing in the spacious Shaker Meeting House, **with 8 participants each at a separate table around the room.**

\$45 per person for SHS Members and \$50 for Non-Members; plus a \$25 materials fee. The materials fee can be paid at time of purchase online or in-person on the day of the workshop. Materials were purchased before the pandemic and have been stored in a Covid-free space. Participants should bring the following household tools: ***an old bath towel, flexible tape measure, pencil, and sharp scissors.***

**Masks are required**, even for those who have been fully vaccinated. SHS is following all protocols to maintain a safe environment for visitors.

If you have any questions about the basket, you can find Sandy's contact information on her website at [SandysFiberArts.com](http://SandysFiberArts.com).



## General Meeting April 8, 2021 via Zoom

***President Irv Stephens' announcements:***

- May 13 General Meeting is especially important as there are by-law changes needing membership approval. The current board approved the revisions on March 23. Watch for an email blast from Rich Cerruto for the changes, which include reducing a 24-member board to 9 to streamline NWA business and policies.
- Future General Meetings will be streamed live to the entire membership as NWA resumes in-person meetings at the Shaker Meetinghouse in the fall.

- Our Railroad Ave. shop is now open on a limited basis. Communicate with your SIG leader for particulars.
- Juliana Shei announced the Lumber Sale to take place April 10.

## Traditional Dutch Ship Building Techniques

**By Susan McDermott with important revisions by Brea Barthel and Chip Reynolds**

William (Chip) Reynolds was the featured speaker at NWA's General Meeting via Zoom on April 8 at 7:00 PM. Brea Barthel introduced Chip, who supplemented his talk with engaging slides. (The photos in this article were extracted from his PowerPoint.)

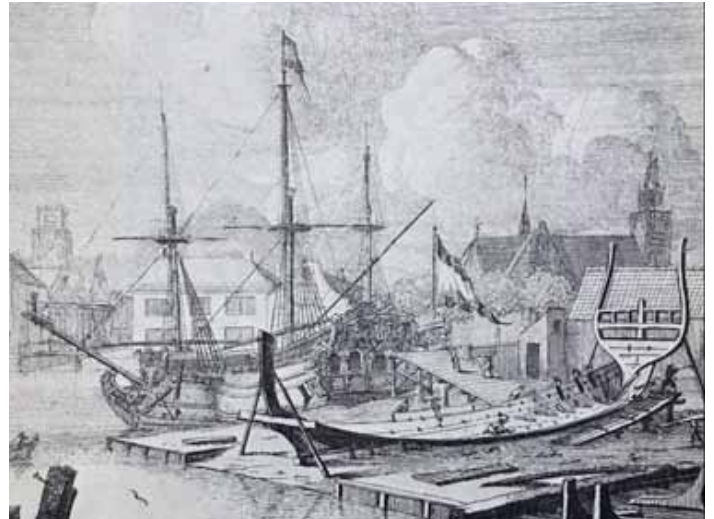
Chip, captain of the replica ship *Half Moon* for over 20 years, has a long history sailing other ships as well, including authentic 19th century and replica 17th & 18th century vessels. Chip first gave an overview of traditional ships and wood-working techniques of the 17th century in Amsterdam. The second part of his talk explained the building of sloeps which were small boats with a mast and oars carried on the deck of a ship. The third portion of Chip's talk outlined the replacement of the replica *Half Moon's* main topmast using traditional hand tools and specialized skills.



*The Half Moon replica*

The February newsletter has a detailed article of the making of the replacement mast written by Brea Barthel. You can find this at the NWA website <https://woodworker.org/newsletters/>

Dutch engravings show shipbuilding in the constricted conditions of dockside construction and launching. According to Wikipedia, Dutch ships were smaller than European due to shallow



*Shipbuilding 1700s*

home waters, but they built hundreds of deftly maneuverable vessels that dominated the English and French navies. In the 17th century, Dutch trade flourished all over the world from the East Indies, Australia/New Zealand, Virginia, the Caribbean islands, China, Africa, South America, and trade with the Native Americans of present-day New York, Connecticut, Delaware, and New Jersey.

Gerald de Weerdt, an expert on Dutch Sloeps and Ships designed and led the building of the sloep shown in the presentation. De Weerdt is presently building a replica of the sailing ship Willem Barentz sailed above the Arctic Circle in the 1590s.

This sloep (right) was built with live oak frame and white oak planks to shape the hull. While the Dutch used scrap wood fires to heat and bend the wood, to save time our project used propane torches to heat treat and bend the boards.



The third portion of the presentation was the description of the crafting and stepping of a new topmast on the replica ship *Half Moon*. Chip's PowerPoint photos showed the deteriorated original mast and the hewing of a new mast from Eastern



White Pine harvested in Saugerties. Traditional tools, particularly the broad axe and adze were used to square and then round the log to



*Heat-treated planks)*

proper dimensions. The two masts were placed side by side to be sure that the new mast had the same proportions as the old. Skilled woodworkers used the traditional tools of broad axe, draw knife, mallets, and chisels.

Chip concluded with a question-and-answer period.

**Q.** What are the ropes covered with?

**A.** Thin canvas is wrapped around some ropes to prevent chaffing on chocks and pulleys. Traditional ropes have oil, tar, canvas, and a final tar coating. Chip



*Shaping replacement mast*

prefers hemp rope to the synthetic materials on modern boats. On the Half Moon, the synthetic rope encases a stainless steel core for strength and durability.

**Q.** What about wet lumber for the mast?

**A.** The mast (vertical spars) and yardarms (horizontal spars) will check as they dry; sailors must pay close attention to ensure water does not collect in the checks and cracks, leading to rot. Bees wax can be heated and poured into the checks to prevent water collecting; the surface of spars can be treated with oil based compounds to repel water.

**Q.** If a mast breaks while sailing, what can be done? **A.** Secure the mast to prevent further damage, rig a replacement, and keep sailing!

**Q.** Is there a coating on a wooden mast?

**A.** Yes. Mineral spirits, tar, varnish. Chip prefers

oil which protects from sun and seals the wood to prevent water intrusion.

**Q.** Is there a formula for determining the mast's dimensions? **A.** It depends upon the force exerted on the mast; Dutch ship builders of the 17th century used standard rules to properly size masts.

**Q.** How is fitting the sloops' sides accomplished? **A.** Bending the planks is done both by eye and measure. Traditionally, dry heat from wood fires was applied to the planks to render them bendable. In contrast with steam bending, where the entire plank must be heated, the dry heat method enables the builder to apply the heat only to the area that needs bending, greatly reduces the time required for building, and has less detrimental impact on the wood compared to steam bending.

**Q.** Did the project include lofting (a drafting technique for curved planks in three dimensions generated by mathematical tables)? **A.** Yes, Gerald de Weerdts prepared detailed architectural plans, with 3D views of boats' parts. Still, the planks were laid up by eye.

**Q.** How long were the trunnels (wooden pegs of dry compressed timber which would swell when wet) to secure the planks to the frame? **A.** Some pegs were 6 to 8 inches, but some needed to be longer to go through the plank to the frame inside.

**Q.** Have you ever had a wedge pop out? **A.** No they are inserted firmly while dry, and the moisture tightens their grip. Where a trunnel 'bottoms out' in a hole, a shim can be placed on the inner end, which expands and firmly locks the trunnel in place when seated.

Chip concluded with generous praise for

our NWA woodworkers (one of whom, Steve Eftimiades, was pictured working on the top mast) and mentioned seeing the beautiful items and furniture at a past Showcase.



*Finished top mast*

Thanks to Chip for an engaging and beautifully illustrated presentation.

# NWA Volunteers Prepare for Lumber Sale (Part 1)

*By Susan McDermott*

On Thursday March 25, our loyal volunteers Lee Hilt, Juliana Shei, Jon Bennett, Rick Bird, Jon Cochran, and Dick Flanders assembled to sort, plane, measure, and label cured hardwoods to be sold on April 10 at the Shaker Barn site. This involved strong backs and assembly-line teamwork to prepare for NWA's first remote lumber sale. The lumber has been stickered and dried for two or more years, ready to become furniture, fixtures, and creative projects by NWA members only.



*Lumber sort*



*Cherry*



*Elm*



*Exotic*



*Skidmore*

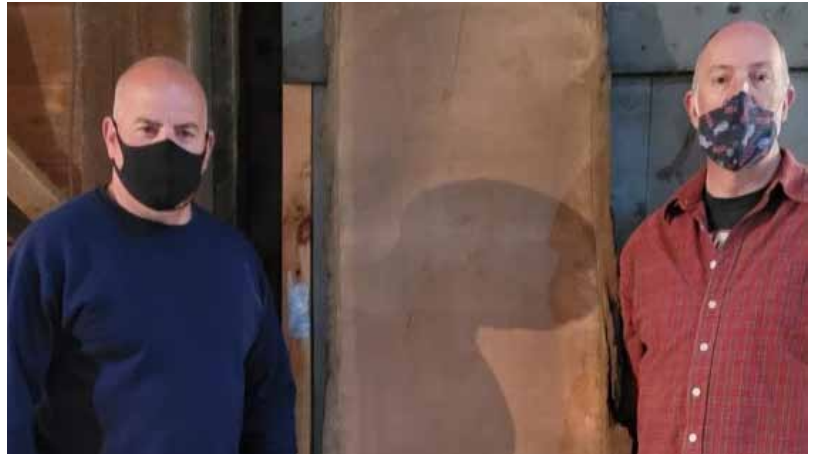


# NWA Lumber Sale on April 10, 2021 (Part 2)

*By Susan McDermott*

At 9:30 AM the Auction Committee volunteers Lee Hilt, Juliana Shei, Jon Bennett, and Rick Bird opened the Shaker Barn doors to seekers of air-dried hard woods. There was Jon Hodson looking for curly maple to turn his variety of custom-made flutes. Michael Barrett was looking for a fine piece of wood to carve the hands of an elder and child he rendered in a drawing. Chris Stolicky was contemplating building another bicycle (like his bamboo one) out of walnut. A young couple with their two children were examining curly maple and ash to build a bed. Grandpa and his camera-shy grandson Teeling came early for the best selection. And a mature couple drove from upstate Chestertown to purchase five sheets of Baltic birch intended for drawers.

Volunteers worked hard to prepare lumber for sale. They were there an hour early to setup and display before opening. The first Lumber Day sale was a success as member buyers found great quality and value.



*Lee (left) and Rick Gates next to a slab*



*Lee and happy buyer load Baltic birch plywood*



*There is always a need for more volunteers!*



*Jon Bennett hauls a heavy load.*



*Grandpa and Teeling*





*The Costas of Chestertown*



*Four Union College natural edge walnut slabs*

## Summer Craft Fair *(from Shaker Heritage Newsletter)*

**June 12 - June 13 -- Open from 10 am to 4 pm**

Bring your family for a safe and fun weekend featuring pony rides, food, live musicians, and over 60 vendors at our beautiful site.

All VENDOR BOOTHS will be OUTDOORS in the fresh air and sunshine. Vendors will be at least 6 feet apart, and we ask you to do your part and maintain your social distance, too.

MASKS are REQUIRED. For the safety of our staff, volunteers, and vendors, please make sure your mask covers both your mouth and nose. If a mask is not feasible in the heat, please wear a face shield to help protect others.

Tickets may be purchased online at [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com). In recognition of the economic hardship faced by many members of our community, admission fees are PAY-WHAT-YOU-WILL. You can set your own ticket price when you checkout.

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

#### **Saturday**

Live Music 12pm-4pm

Pony Rides and Petting Zoo  
1pm-3pm

Tours:  
Every hour on the half hour

#### **Sunday**

Live Music 11am-3pm

Pony Rides and Petting Zoo  
1pm-3pm

Tours:  
Every hour on the half hour

Open from 10 am to 4 pm



***Thank you for your support of Shaker Heritage and our Vendor Community!***



# President's Message:

## Railroad Avenue Shop's Limited Reopening

After reviewing the situation with members of the LCOC, I recently advised all SIG leaders that the Railroad Avenue Shop can open on a limited basis starting in April. Although COVID infection rates appear to be very gradually declining in the Capital District, and the fact that a growing number of NWA members are now vaccinated are what make this possible. The all conditions of shop use apply as follows:

- 1) group size should not exceed 10
- 2) social distancing of six feet is required
- 3) face masks are required and must cover nose and mouth and fit snugly
- 4) activity limited to 2 hours
- 5) sign in is required
- 6) a SIG leader must be present.

SIG members should check with their group's leader(s) to find out how and when their SIG will be trying to use this opportunity. I know that not all SIGs may be able to immediately restart and that we all need to keep in mind that COVID-19 is still very much present in our communities, requiring each of us to remain alert and flexible on a daily basis.

- Stay safe, keep helping others and trying to do some woodworking,  
Irv Stephens

## Classified

### LIST of MACHINES

### ASKING PRICE

AMF/DEWALT RADIAL ARM SAW MODEL 1030 .....	\$600
DELTA 3HP/2SPEED SHAPER MODEL 43-375 w/ Many cutters .....	\$1500
DELTA 18x36 DRUM SANDER MODEL 31-250 .....	\$750
DELTA 12" LATHE w/DUPPLICATOR & 32 GOUGES .....	\$2700
DELTA BOSS SANDER MODEL 31-780.....	\$250
POWERMATIC LONG BED JOINTER MODEL 54A.....	\$450
WOODTEK 15" PLANER MODEL CT-38 w/ Base & Roller Feed .....	\$1000
SHOPSMITH--(NO ATTACH.) -- Frame, Power Head, Saw Table .....	\$300
Basically, set up as a horizontal boring machine.	
CRAFTSMAN DRILL PRESS w/Delta Oscillating Spindle Sander.....	\$250
CRAFTSMAN BAND SAW .....	\$200

*MOST HAVE ROLLER A BASE, I'LL INCLUDE AVAILABLE PARTS,  
CONSUMABLE SUPPLIES, MANUALS, etc, etc.*

### OTHER ITEMS AVAILABLE

COMPLETE DOVETAIL TOOL SET (AS A SET ONLY) .....	\$800
Leigh 24" Jig, 2 Porter Cable 691 "D-Handle" Routers, 17 Jesada Bits	
FREUD 4" BISCUIT JOINTER MODEL JS-100 .....	\$125
MAKITA HAND POWER PLANER MODEL 19008.....	\$125
PORTER CABLE HAND POWER DRUM SANDER MODEL 320.....	\$100
PORTER CABLE 3"X21" HANDHELD BELT SANDER MODEL 352VS.....	\$100

**MUCH MORE THAN THIS LISTING. PLEASE TEXT INQUIRIES.**

PLEASE TEXT ME AT 518-469-7376

PHOTOS on REQUEST

JOHN P. (Pete) BADE, SHARON SPRINGS, NY 13459

# May Meeting

*May 13 at 7:00 PM.*

## **Election of NWA Officers and vote on new by-laws.**

**Watch for the announcement  
that provides the link  
to the Zoom program.**

### **2021 MONTHLY MEETINGS\***

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

For meeting cancellation information,  
Charlie Goddard 370-0388

\*To be updated with additional information

## **SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS**

### **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

**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 kevan1@nycap.rr.com, or John Heimke at heimkj@sage.edu for more information.

**The NWA Wood Carvers SIG** - Meet 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

**Scrollers SIG** - Meets every Monday and Wednesday 6 to 8:30 PM. Contact Pam Bucci woodglass2@gmail.com 518-429-6440 (for Mondays) Kay McCampbell kmcccampbell@nycap.rr.com 518-371-9608

### **CHAPTERS**

**NWA Mid-Hudson** - The chapter meets on Zoom at 7:00 PM on the third Thursday, except July. Post Covid, in-person meetings will take place on the first Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM at the Hudson River Maritime Museum located at 50 Rondout Landing, Kingston NY 12401 **Contact:** midhudsonwoodworkers.org Bill Sterling, President - 845-532-3754 wster1156@aol.com