

# WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern  
Woodworkers  
Association

February 2007, Vol. 16, Number 2

## February Meeting

### Thomas Wetzel -- American Windsor Chairs

Thursday, February 8, 2007, 7:00 pm  
Shaker Heritage Society Meeting House  
Albany-Shaker Road, Albany

- Chuck Hill

Last month's issue of **Woodworkers News** contained a front-page article about Thomas Wetzel and his work, which is handcrafting superb American Windsor furniture. Please read (or re-read) that article in advance of the General Meeting on February 8 and then come to the meeting to hear directly from Thomas about his methods in building this distinctive and timeless style of furniture.

For additional advance information about Thomas and his work, visit his website at <http://www.thomaswetzelswindorchairs.com>.

Also note that Thomas has agreed to teach a class at the Stillwater Shop on building a Windsor stool. Watch the club blog for further information. 🐾



## Yurts Aren't Just For Nomads

- Larry Zinn

Be sure to mark your calendar to attend the upcoming NWA meeting March 8, 2007, at the Shaker Hall. Stanley McGaughey will be there to pictorially and verbally lead you through the process of building a yurt...or in this case a set of yurts...for a home or vacation place.

The Nomadic people of Mongolia made circular domed tents out of animal hides that could be packed up and carried from one pasture land to the other on the backs of their yaks, horses or camels. The yurts featured for March 8th are built of wood, and they are very permanent. They were also an exceptional challenge to design and build. Come see how it was done. 🐾



*You can't pack this yurt up and haul it with you across the steppes of Mongolia or anywhere else, but wow is it beautiful and functional.*

## Fiske Fund

- Joe Kennedy

We have two applications pending this quarter. **Joe Pelcher** will take a Windsor Chair class with Mike Dunbar at the Windsor Institute. This seems to be a popular class with members. **Kurt Herzog** of the Rochester Club will take a three day fresh cut turning class with David Ellsworth in Quakertown, Pa. Classes with David Ellsworth are also popular with applicants.

If you submit an application (available on the NWA website) before March 31, 2007 it will be reviewed in April. If you submit an application after March 31 it will not be reviewed until July. 🐾

## OFFICERS

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UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, PHONE  
NUMBERS ARE IN AREA CODE 518

# Special Raffle for the Custom Made Canoe

- John Coleman

At the January committee meeting of the ShowCase 2007 Committee, we decided to have two separate raffles this year. The regular raffle will include a bench top planer, a custom made tool box, chopping block and a canoe shaped shelf. The price of these raffle tickets will be the same as last year... \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.

The second raffle will include only the custom made canoe. The price of the raffle tickets for the canoe will be \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00. These tickets will be placed in a separate bin and will be a different color than the regular tickets.

Our current plan is to provide the NWA membership an opportunity to purchase tickets for the canoe at our February 8, 2007 membership meeting. We anticipate that tickets for the canoe will be heavy at Showcase and purchasing your tickets at the general meeting will ensure that you are not shut out. 🐾

## The NWA Education Program: An overview of the first 6 months

- Gerry O'Brien

After a few initial class offerings last spring, the NWA Education Program went into full swing in September 2006. As we enter the sixth month of operation, I think it's safe to say that the program is a successful addition to NWA.

To date, almost 200 individuals have taken advantage of the class offerings covering a wide array of woodworking topics. They've learned the ABC's of woodworking while taking a piece of rough lumber through the processes to complete a handy tote box. Carver's mallets have been turned, holiday ornaments were scrolled and several folks have a lovely jewelry box or Shaker style table to show for their efforts. The Power Tool Fundamentals series continues to be a popular way to review the basics of set-up, maintenance and safe operation of the major machines in our shops while picking up a couple of "tricks of the trade" in the process. The February schedule (printed elsewhere in this newsletter) branches out a bit more with classes in relief carving and Windsor stool construction.

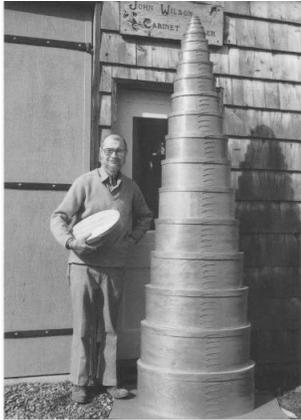
Like most worthwhile things, putting together a program of this type is not without its challenges. One of the hardest parts is getting the word out about upcoming classes. While we try to provide advance notice at the monthly meetings and through the newsletter, we occasionally are limited by the instructor's availability and have to announce a class immediately. The Blog (<http://woodworkerorg.blogspot.com>) has provided a communication link for these announcements. Beginning this month, we've added a new feature to the Blog which allows you to register to automatically receive an e-mail whenever a new item is posted on the site. Details are available on the Blog. For those members who don't have internet access at home, consider some alternative ways to get the information. All public libraries and most community centers have free internet terminals for your use as well as a ready and willing staff to help you along. Alternatively, ask a friend or family member to monitor the postings and give you a call when something of interest appears. If you do find that a class is filled up, register anyway. Several of the classes have been offered a second or third time in order to meet demand.

The first six months have been a great start. The biggest challenge ahead is to keep the program moving in a positive direction. If you have any comments about a class you've taken or suggestions for future sessions, we'd love to hear them. By the same token, if you have a topic you'd like to teach to other members drop me a line ([go12211@yahoo.com](mailto:go12211@yahoo.com)). The best way to ensure the continued success of the Education Program is for all to work together towards that common goal. 🐾

# Shaker Oval Box Making & Plane Making Classes

- *Bob Casey*

John Wilson returns to Syracuse on March 9th & 10th to teach a Shaker Box class for both beginners and advanced attendees. Each participant leaves the class with five shaker boxes over the 1-1/2 day session. Old timers who have already attended the introductory class may take the advanced class where they construct a jewelry box, handle basket and/or oval tray. The class will cost \$150 which includes all materials.



On March 11th, John will be teaching a plane making class. This year, one of four different planes can be made in the class for \$150. The planes being offered this year are the block plane, a router plane, a chisel plane or a spokeshave.



This class is more expensive than others offered because John Wilson drives from Michigan and brings all the supplies. Bob Casey coordinates the classes and they are held at Canton Woods. No tools are needed, nor any experience. If you are interested in these classes, please speak with Bob at (315) 455-2593 or via email at [woodnutbob@hotmail.com](mailto:woodnutbob@hotmail.com) as soon as possible.

To learn more about John Wilson, visit his website at <http://www.shakerovalbox.com>.

## Lie-Nielsen Tool Sale

- *Herm Finkbeiner*

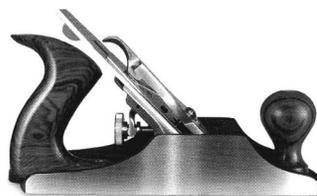
There has been a good response to the Lie-Nielsen Tools discount offer but we have not yet reached the minimum order level that we need to attain.

If you do not have a Lie-Nielsen catalog there is a complete listing on the web site: <http://www.lie-nielsen.com/>.

For this sale NWA members will receive a discount on everything Lie-Nielsen sells except workbenches.

We are being offered a 15% discount. Since we will not be paying either sales tax or shipping charges this amounts to an approximate 25% saving or considerably more than the 10% that is available at our show. However we do have to reach the minimum size order. We will continue to take orders until February 15. If you are interested please get your order in before this date.

To place an order send an e-mail to: [hfinkbei@nycap.rr.com](mailto:hfinkbei@nycap.rr.com) or call (518) 371-9145.



**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. It is assembled in QuarkXPress 5.0 on an iMac G5, duplicated by Shipmates, and mailed to more than 1,000 addresses.



Your next issue of **Woodworkers News** will be published in early March

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**WEBSITE(S)**

[www.woodworker.org](http://www.woodworker.org)  
[www.nwawoodworkingshow.org](http://www.nwawoodworkingshow.org)

**Blog Site:**

<http://woodworkerorg.blogspot.com/>

Website Editor  
Position to be Filled

NWA maintains two websites, the first noted here operates continuously. We also offer selected links to other sites of interest to our membership.  
Webmaster - Justin Rohrer  
[rohrej@woodworker.org](mailto:rohrej@woodworker.org)

The second site operates from January 1 to May 30 and carries specific information about SHOWCASE.



**NORTHEASTERN  
WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION**  
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Rexford, New York 12148

# Kaatskill Woodturners

- *Wally Cook*

**Try Angle Turning!** George Guadiane demonstrated his approach to building hollow forms with triangular staves. George's creations generally feature a segmented glue-up for the central section, capped by separate top and bottom turnings.

The focus of the discussion was the production of the central hollow form by laminating triangular staves. George has found that wood sections cut into longitudinal triangular forms will compose a cylinder with tight joints. The angles of the triangle may vary, but the sum of the two raised sides should add to 90 degrees (e.g., 44/46 or 43/47, etc.).



*George with finished vase*



*Examples of triangle glue-ups*

Design of the vessel can be altered by varying the number of segments, or by segmenting the individual staves. Examples of George's glue-ups can be seen in the pictures. When the hollow form is shaped, the joints of the staves seem to curve, providing an interesting sense of movement in the piece.

George cuts the staves on a table saw, using a Freud Diablo blade with 40 teeth. The saw blade is kept at 90 degrees and the angle of the sections is determined by a sled that has been constructed

for this purpose. The sled is built with a bed at a 45 degree angle. Special clamps are used, similar to picture framing or face framing clamps; these are set in a t-track in the MDF sled. Pictures of George's sled may be seen at <http://www.mid-hudsonwood-workers.org>.



*Rough turned cylinder showing off center swirl*

The assembly of the staves is completed with a strip of veneer between each section to highlight the slight swirl pattern of the joints. George uses Titebond II to good effect. The entire glue-up is clamped with three hose clamps.

The hollow vessel is mounted between centers for turning. George cuts a tenon on one end to fit a spigot chuck, while fitting the other end into a jamb chuck. The finished shape can be varied and then capped with a separate top and bottom. If George has arranged the staves for end grain hollowing, then a dovetail is turned in the bottom of the cylinder to better hold the separately turned bottom.

George's Tips:

1. Store the Titebond glue in a squeezable ketchup bottle with snap top for easy application and cleanup
2. A foam brush can be used to advantage to apply the glue.
3. Use a plastic laminated card (such as hotel card key) to smooth the glue on the staves and veneer pieces -- works well to lift the veneer pieces off the gluing station.
4. Be sure to place the ridged portion of the hose clamp in the middle of a stave, in order to avoid pulling the section off square when tightening.



## Your Services Are Necessary For Showcase

- *Larry Zinn*

If you have not signed up to volunteer for Showcase 2007, please contact Guy Garrett at a meeting, by phone (518) 287-1220 or by e-mail (GarrettG@midtel.net).

There are many different things you can do to help.

Members who volunteer are the only persons who get in free to Showcase. You also stand a chance of winning a nice prize that any woodworker would like to have. In addition, you aid and abet the quality of the show for all to enjoy.

See you there, March 23rd (setup day), 24th or 25th. 🐾

# Wood Guild

- Herm Finkbeiner

## Recognizing the Signs of Ancient Forests:

### A Woodworker's Primer

Fred Breglia, Director of Horticulture and Operations  
Landis Arboretum, Esperance, NY

Thursday, February 15, 7:00 pm  
Clifton Park Senior Center (where Family Night was held)

From the submerged logs of Lake Superior to the 17th century forests of England the term "old growth" has been frequently heard during recent years. Concepts of *old growth* vary widely and are not always easily applied or reconcilable with one another. *Ancient woodland* is a term used in the United Kingdom to refer to woodland dating back to at least 1600 in England and Wales. By contrast, in the U.S., *old growth* is often used to imply a forest that has experienced little or no direct disruption by European-Americans and looks about as it would have had Europeans not come to America.

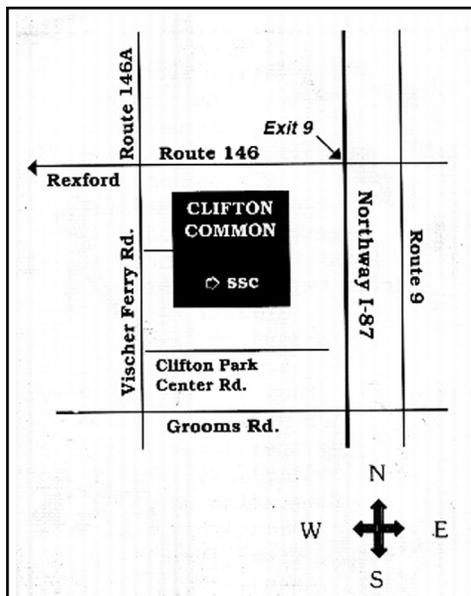
The interest of woodworkers lies not so much in the age of the wood but more in the characteristics that make it different from currently available "second growth" lumber.

Fred Breglia is a cofounder and current president of the New York Old Growth Forest Association. He is a passionate and vocal advocate of locating and preserving those areas of old forest that still exist in New York State. He'll discuss the many unique features that distinguish "old growth", ranging from trees of great size, shaggy or balding bark, and spiral trunks, to buttressed roots and other signs that become evident with advanced age and the changes that occur which allow

trees to attain that great age. The meeting will show how our ancient forests are both sacred and awe-inspiring, especially to those with the insight and the sensibilities of artisans exploring the inherent beauty of wood.

Fred is a certified arborist, speaker, author, and educator. Capital District residents know him well as a regular guest on WAMC's Vox Pop with Susan Arbetter and Larry Sombke.

**Note: Previously it was announced that Ed Miller would be speaking at the February 15 Wood Guild meeting. Ed will be out of town on the 15th and will tell us about identifying trees at the March 15 meeting.**



# NWA Woodworking Classes at the Stillwater Shop

For more information about any of these classes see: <http://woodworkerorg.blogspot.com/>

## Introduction to Relief Carving:

### Decorate a Panel

Jim Schreiner

Monday, Feb. 12 & 19 from 6 PM to 9 PM

Cost: \$30 plus materials

## Beginning Woodworking

Ed VanWormer

Tuesday Feb 13, 20 & 27 from 6 PM to 9 PM

Cost: \$50 plus materials

## Power Tool Fundamentals:

### The Radial Arm Saw

Note: This class will be held at Jim Kennedy's Shop in Halfmoon

Ed VanWormer

Saturday, Feb. 17 from 1PM to 4PM

Cost \$20

## Sharpening Shop Tools

Ken Miller

Saturday Feb. 17 from 9AM to 5 PM

Cost: \$35

## Build a Four Legged Stool

Herm Finkbeiner

Tuesday Feb. 13, 20 & 27 from 9AM to Noon

Cost: \$50

## Build a Windsor Stool

Tom Wetzel

Fri., Sat., & Sun. Feb. 23, 24 & 25 9 AM to Noon

Cost: \$50 plus materials

## Power Tool Fundamentals: The Jointer

Allen Craft

2 sessions are available

Monday Mar. 5 from 6 PM to 9 PM

OR

Tuesday Mar. 6 from 1 PM to 4 PM

Cost: \$20

**Coming Attractions: Watch the Blog for Further Information**

## Build a Jewelry Box

## Make a Joiner's Mallet

## Hand Plane Tune-up Clinic

## Power Tool Fundamentals: The Table Saw

Repeat of a Sellout

To register contact Gerry O'Brien at:  
[go12211@yahoo.com](mailto:go12211@yahoo.com) (518) 459-9266

# Scrollers Complete Intarsia Series; Plan For Upcoming Move

- Donna Phillips

Members of NWA's scrollers' guild recently concluded a series of workshops in which beginners had a chance to learn the basics of intarsia from experts in the group. Intarsia involves cutting, shaping, and fitting wood pieces to create 3-dimensional designs. As the more expert members of the group can attest, the finished products may incorporate hundreds of pieces in dozens of species (or just western cedar, depending upon your preference). As the beginners among us learned, it can also involve just a few pieces, carefully worked and nicely finished, to produce an object we could be proud of. The rookies learned about selecting and copying patterns for use on multiple pieces of wood, choosing the right woods, cutting and shaping pieces to achieve the 3-dimensional depth, fitting and gluing pieces to a backer, and completing the piece with the right finish. Experienced members helped the beginners while working on their own projects. They continue to inspire the rest of us with the possibilities that intarsia offers.

In March, the group will begin to meet at a new location, the technology room at the School at Northeast. The school is at 1821 Hamburg Street in Schenectady. Meetings will still be the third Wednesday of each month. If you need directions, please contact Donna Phillips by phone (372-3337) or email (dlphill@nycap.rr.com).



Experts and beginners proudly display their finished pieces. Pictured are Glenn Cullen with his boxer and eagle; Sylvia Rieth and stork; Betty Hammond and snowman ornament; Donna Phillips and pelican; Tom O'Donnell with butterfly and daisies; Mark Hammond and horse framed with horse shoe.

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## Are You a Videographer Or a Wannabe?

We need volunteers for Showcase, March 24 and 25.

Experience is good, but you can be trained!

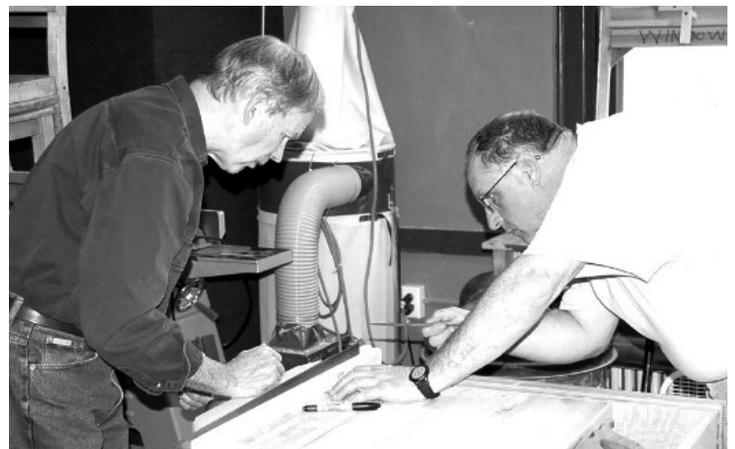
Call Hans Kappel at 861-8753 or send email to KappelHK@aol.com.

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## Sharpening Class



John Beisler, Art Nokes and Louie Andrews watch as Ken Miller demonstrates sharpening a pruning shear. Austin Spang eavesdrops.



Dave Miller and Ed VanWormer sharpen a handsaw

# CHAPTER NEWS

## *Sacandaga Chapter News*

- Gary Spencer

The Sacandaga Chapter last met on January 10th when our featured speaker was Bill Bush of Amsterdam, NY. His topic was "Wood Surface Preparation and Fine Finishing". This was an unusually good program and we had a large turnout. No one was disappointed and members stayed long after the program asking questions on design and finishing. Our thanks to Bill Bush for a third fine program.

Our next program will be on February 14th and will feature two of our members. Kirk Hardenburg of Gloversville will offer a program on "Evaluation and Use of Random Orbit Disc Sanders" and Joe Artikuski will give a segment on "The Making of Cabriole Furniture Legs"

The club again has endorsed having members construct some items for Showcase 07. The items will be a Row Boat Shaped Bookcase, a Deluxe Tool Cabinet, and a Butcher Block Kitchen Table & Workcenter. Three teams will use up to six different members' shops to build these projects in time for the raffle at Showcase. All three projects are underway with the intent of completing them in time to show at the local Sacandaga meetings.

The Sacandaga Chapter meetings are open to all, and light refreshments are served.

Remember we have door prizes at every meeting but you do have to be present to win!

Our regular monthly meetings are the second Wednesday of each month and begin at 7:00 P.M. at Mayfield High School woodshop. Come on out!



## **Fine Furniture Design Class**

Ken Miller "recovered" a wooden bedstead from the roadside. A group of NWA members converted it into this fine example of the early 21st century Miscellaneous Style furniture.

## **Clinics at Jim's Shop**

Got a woodworking question, a problem, or a technique you'd like some help on?

On the first Saturday of each month there will be a woodworking clinic at Jim Kennedy's shop, 86 Guideboard Road, Halfmoon. The clinics begin at 9:00 am and there will be NWA members there who can answer almost any woodworking question you may have. 🐾

Timing has a lot to do with the outcome of a rain dance.

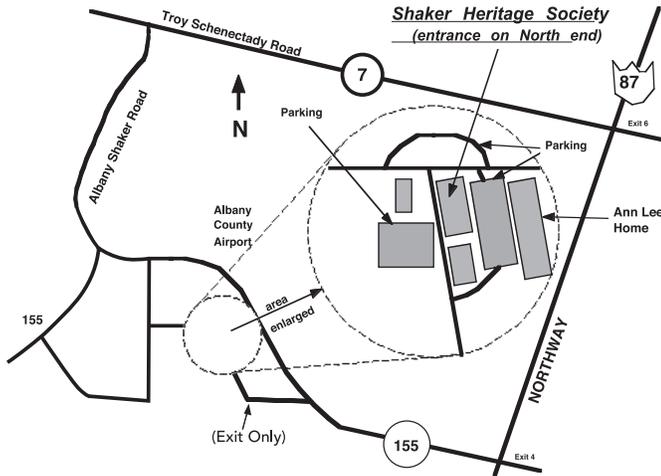
An Old Farmer's Advice

Never confuse motion with action.

Ernest Hemingway



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



## February Meeting

Thursday, February 8, 2007, 7:00 pm  
Shaker Heritage Society Meeting House  
Albany-Shaker Road, Albany

GENERAL MEETINGS  
AND SPECIAL EVENTS

### NWA PROGRAM SCHEDULE 2006-2007

**February 8, 2007**

Windsor Chairs  
Tom Wetzel

**March 8, 2007**

Yurts

**March 24-25, 2007**

Showcase

**April 12, 2007**

Making Stools  
Tom Osborne

**May 10, 2007**

Jigs and Fixtures  
Pete Howe

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

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

### SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)

**Adirondack Woodturners Association** - The AWA is active throughout the year. Meetings are every first Wednesday of the month (except in January and July when it is the second Wednesday), and are held at the Curtis Lumber conference room on Route 67, Ballston Spa. Beginners' sessions begin at 6 pm; the main program at 6:30 pm. Saturday "Learn and Turn" sessions are also scheduled. [www.adirondackwoodturners.org](http://www.adirondackwoodturners.org)  
Contact Ken Evans, 753-7759 or [Kevans1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:Kevans1@nycap.rr.com)

**Carver's Guild** - meets every Friday at the Clifton Park Senior Center from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Sessions are intended for every NWA member who is interested in carving, from beginners to those wanting to learn a new technique. No reservations are necessary, just show up! Contact Bill McCormack, 233-7260.

**Scroller's Guild** - Meets the third Wednesday of each month at Sears, Colonie Center. Beginners' session starts at 5:30 followed by a general meeting at 6:15. Contact Tom O'Donnell (518) 581-1167 or [todonne3@nycap.rr.com](mailto:todonne3@nycap.rr.com).

**Kaatskill Woodturners** - Meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Opdahl property in Hurley. Contact George Norton, (845) 331-1705.

#### **Jim's "Hole in the Woods Gang"**

Meets every Saturday, from 9:00 am until noon at Jim Kennedy's shop at 86 Guideboard Rd., in Halfmoon. (just 1 mile east of the Halfmoon Diner on Rt. 9). Our general purpose is public service work for various charitable organizations, including the Double H Hole in the Woods camp for children. We strive to foster a learning environment for our members through the projects we work on and the informal training/learning sessions given by and for our members. Sharing fellowship and relating experiences are a major part of our sessions, as we do accomplish many tasks during our times together as well. Contact Dick Flanders, (518) 393-5215 ([rflander@nycap.rr.com](mailto:rflander@nycap.rr.com)) or Darrell Welch, (518) 477-8431 ([ydwelch@taconic.net](mailto:ydwelch@taconic.net)) for more information.

### CHAPTERS

**NWA Mid-Hudson** -The chapter meets at 7:30 p.m. on the third Thursday, except July and August, at the Central Hudson Electric Company Community Center, Route 28, Kingston. Contact Joe Mikesch, (845) 687-4285

**NWA Sacandaga** - The chapter meets at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month at Mayfield High School in the woodworking shop. Park by the section of the building that protrudes further into the parking lot and enter the nearest of the (5) doors. Contact Gary Spencer, 863-6433.