

WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern
Woodworkers
Association

January 2018, Vol. 27, Number 1

January Meeting

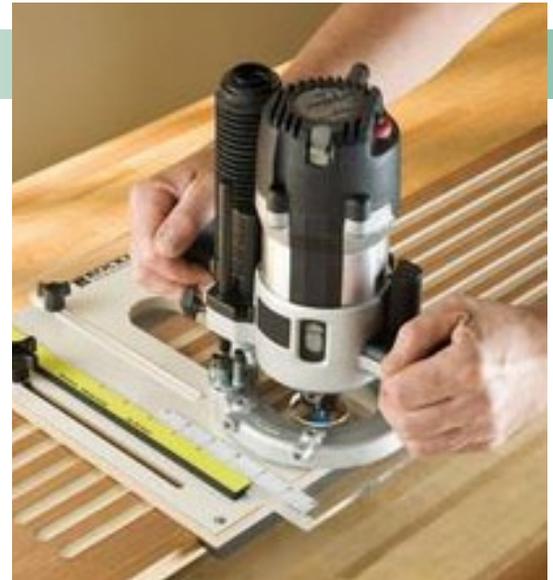
Router Potential

*Thursday, January 11, 2018 7:00 PM
Shaker Heritage Society Meetinghouse
Albany-Shaker Road, Albany, NY*

Presented by Dave Mobley

A router is one of the most versatile power tools in woodworking. Most woodworkers own one, but many never take it out of the box because they're uncertain of what it can do or how to use it. Dave will talk about some of the many things you can do with your router and common router features. He'll discuss and demonstrate best practices for safe router operation.

He'll answer questions you may have on topics such as bit selection, use of jigs and templates, and router tables. Most of all, Dave will encourage you to get that router out of its box and use it!



Router rewards

NWA Family Night December 7, 2017

By Susan McDermott

NWA members and their families gathered at the Clifton Park Halfmoon Public Library on Moe Road Thursday evening to enjoy the three tables of holiday sweets and appetizers they prepared and shared before and during the crafts display. Not all the crafts were of wood, but all were certainly unique works of art as these photos confirm. Pam Bucci's wool vest, diorama, soap bars, and necklace attest to other media besides wood as do Celia Carpenter's pastel flowers and Bob Reinhardt's acrylic landscape, and Bev Reinhardt's quilt.

The meeting concluded with a gift presentation by Dick Flanders to our youngest member and a raffle for the eight beautiful center pieces made by Jeanie Aldous.



Tables of goodies



Tea light base of cherry and oak by Wayne Distin



More goodies



Tom Osborne's hyperbolic box



Vases and bowls by Cary Hill



Applewood flute and music stick by Jon Hedman



Charlie Goddard's "rescued wood"

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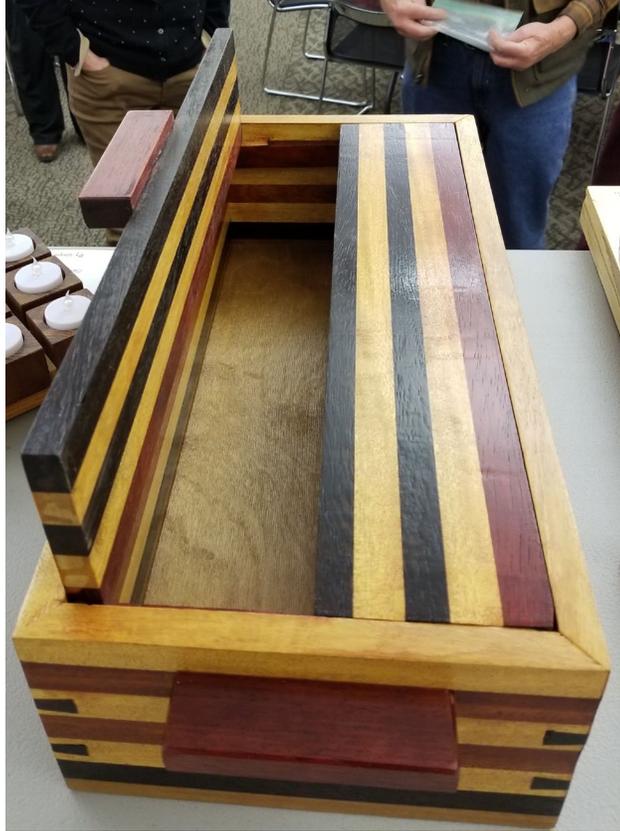
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Box of multi hard wood composition by Lou Hill



One of eight center pieces by Jeanie Aldous



Small walnut box with inlay by David Grunenwald



Vase (a legacy) by Martin Fiske



Charlie's box speaks for itself

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, PHONE NUMBERS ARE IN AREA CODE 518

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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**NORTHEASTERN
WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION**
P.O. BOX 246
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Wool vest by Pam Bucci



Tree ornaments by Dave Mobley



Basket weave (ash and cherry) tray by Dick Flanders and Steve Woodard



Mirror by Chris Dentrone



Future wood worker receives gift from NWA



Quilt by Bev Reinhardt



Norfolk Pine bowl by Cary Hill



David Marks' turned plate



Putnam Pond by Bob Reinhardt



Pastel by Celia Carpenter

Chapter News

Mid Hudson Chapter News Going Dutch: Historic Hardware of the Hudson Valley

by Wally Cook

The November meeting was held at the Riverport Boat Building School in the Kingston waterfront district. The Riverport School is part of the Kingston Maritime Museum. Our meeting room was the workshop for small craft construction. It was a great setting for our discussion.

Jonathan Nedbor, of Canal Forge custom metal work, provided an insight into historic architectural hardware with a focus on the early Dutch settlements in New York. Jon is a specialist in reproduction of Colonial ironworks; his display featured a collection of antique door hardware, as well as his reproductions.

Jon began by analyzing the old hardware and stated that the iron used in the 1600 and 1700's in Colonial New York. It was almost pure iron – very little carbon (less than .002 carbon). As a consequence, the old hardware may produce a patina of powdered rust, but it will not scale and flake like modern steel.

In the heyday of blacksmithing, iron was drawn down and pounded out in multiple steps. Essentially, all the impurities were “squeezed” out. In those times, the leftover iron was sought after; items made from ‘scrap iron’ were prized, because the material had been worked and refined.

Jon provided a slideshow of latches and hinges. A variety of styles were reviewed from cigar bolts to pancake or pad hinges, butterfly, and H & L hinges.

This hardware was typically mounted with soft clinching nails – an approach that tended to stay strong, particularly as the wood in which it was mounted aged. However, it was noted that leather washers were inserted between rosehead nail and door hardware to allow some ‘give’, preventing the nail heads from being broken off due to tension in the clinching process.

Jonathan did a show and tell with his collection of antique hardware and discussed his process for reproducing these items and producing custom fittings. Check out his website at www.hudsonvalleyblacksmith.com.

No December Chapter Meeting: We will resume chapter meetings in January at the Hurley Reformed Church -- 7:30PM on the third Thursday of each month.



Blacksmith Jonathan Nedbor discusses historic hardware



Old Dutch colonial pintals and hinges



Jonathan's reproductions of early Hudson Valley ironware

Announcement

The NWA newsletter editor has a better e mail address for communications and submissions. It is nwanewsletter1@gmail.com - effective January 1, 2018.

Kaatskill Woodturners' Association

By Wally Cook

Shop Made Solutions: Bill Thiry hosted a roundtable on jigs, fixtures, and shop made tools. Bill loves to tinker – and he particularly wanted to demonstrate how his shop made items developed over time and in multiple iterations. Two items caught everyone’s attention: 1) his system for segmenting, hollowing, and registering globe Christmas ornaments and 2) his homemade tools for turning marble.

Bill’s segmented ornaments are extremely delicate. His recent Showcase entry weighed 7 grams! In order to achieve consistent wall thickness, Bill uses a specific approach that includes a jam chuck with a centering dowel to capture the ball from either side, allowing hollowing from both ends.

His hollowing tool is a modified nano-tool, which sports a laser. This shop made tool was designed on a 3-D printer. The hollowing tool resembles a larger deep hollowing system with captured tool rest. Bill’s son Alex printed the plastic fittings; several sizes were tried until the right feel was achieved.

A second set of tools featured the capability to cut stone. Bill adapted metal scraping bits for hand-held tools and showed how they would suffice for shaping marble.

Other folks also described the jigs they had fashioned to solve one problem or another. Carl Ford made some tools to assist in his woodturning instruction: a) a laser enabled bowl depth gauge and b) teaching aids which portrayed proper cutting direction for between-centers or faceplate woodturning. The latter instructional aids were adapted from a class with Andre Martel.

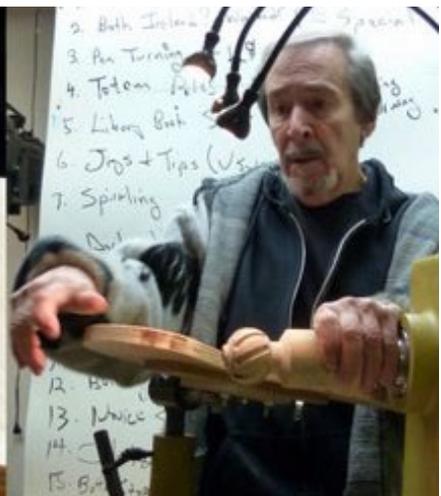
Steve Sherman demonstrated his modular tailstock revolving centers which he uses to capture finials of



Bill Thiry discusses his shop made tools: top right, mini hollower for ornaments - bottom right, turning tools for cutting marble



Carl Ford demonstrates teaching aides to show cutting direction for maximum grain support



Steve Sherman set up his tilting table, grinder and sled for producing grooves on bowls

different sizes. In addition, Steve made an adjustable tilt table that provides a base for cutting diagonal grooves in bowls or hollow forms. A pneumatic grinder is seated in a homemade sled to provide the cutting bit. A center finder consists of a pencil embedded in a block of wood. The pencil tip is set to line up with both the cutting bit and the center of the headstock spindle. Cutting lines can be drawn on the bowl, and followed up with the cutting process by engaging the grinder. Depth of cut can be adjusted by moving the cutting bit in-and-out of the bullnose cutting guard. Steve chose a pneumatic grinder to pare down the size and weight.

Club Business: Elections were held, and the following slate of officers were selected:

- President: Wally Cook
- Vice-President: Steve Sherman
- Treasurer: Ralph Zimmerman
- Secretary: Dennis Dugan
- Tech Committee: Doug Scharpf, Steve Sherman, Ralph Zimmerman
- Program Committee: Wally Cook, Steve Sherman, Doug Scharpf

In addition, the use of MyGrove was discussed. MyGrove is a club management tool which enables a central information repository and allows intra group postings, as well as email communication related to meetings and requests. We will be trying this tool to test long term effectiveness within the SIG. We also listed possible topics for 2018 presentations.



Remco Krafft shows his Longworth chuck

2018 Showcase Challenge

By Wally Carpenter

Everyone enjoys a good challenge, and I think we've come up with a good one! Break out your calculators and your best reader glasses; you're going to need them. We will be exhibiting Doll Houses upstairs this year and as part of this exhibit, we would love to see a large collection of small furniture made by you, our members.

The focus will be 1:12 scale furniture and accessories. You are welcome to use any type of wood and as many pieces you wish.

We would love to see many, many pieces! So, let's get started now.

Showcase Needs YOU!

By Wally Carpenter

I know I must be sounding like a broken record making this request, but as you can see, these jobs are critical to the success of Showcase. Wouldn't you like to develop new organizational skills and work side by side with some of our most dedicated members of NWA? If you're working full time or retired, this is a great way to focus on a specific area of a greater cause and see tangible results of your effort.

We still have critical needs to fill the following Co-Chair Positions:

- Volunteer Coordinator (previously Maria Witkins)
- Judging (previously Pam Curtis)
- Pen Turning (previously Jay Van Vrankin)
- Social Media (new position which I feel is critical to keeping Showcase Relevant)

My cell is 518-434-1776 and my email is c.j.carpenter@earthlink.net. I will ensure you get the training and support to be successful as a Showcase Co-Chair.

Thanks to all!

Wood of the Month

Balsam Fir (*Abies balsamea*)

*A reprint of Ron DeWitt's series
c. November 1998*

*(A timely reprint of the tree used to celebrate
Saint Nicolas' Day.)*

The silver firs number about 40 very resinous species worldwide. They include nine species native to North America, several in Central America, a few in Africa, and a number in Eurasia- all in the North Temperate Zone. The only fir common here in the Northeast, where it grows in large stands, is the Balsam Fir.

Balsam Fir, also called Balsam, Canada Balsam, Eastern Fir, or Blister Pine, has a natural range from Labrador, eastern Canada and Maine as far west as Minnesota and southward through New York and Pennsylvania, with pockets in the mountains of Virginia and West Virginia. Balsam Fir is usually found growing with Red, White, or Blue Spruce in cold, damp areas, rocky wet hillsides, or along swamp borders.

The Balsam Fir is one of the most resinous of all firs. The smooth brown bark of trees and branches often has small oval blisters (thus Blister Pine) containing reservoirs of very pure liquid resin. The bark, marked with a fascinating pattern of elongated leaf scars, is commonly streaked white by leaking, drying resin. The unique scent of the Balsam Fir leaves brings back pleasant memories for many of us. This may be the reason that the most popular tree of the Northeast is the lovely Balsam Fir.

All of the firs grow tall and slender in precise conical shapes with branches in regular whorls or circular fans around their trunks. The first are significantly from the spruces: fir leaves are soft and leathery, usually without spines; flowers and cones grow upright; the cones disintegrate while still on the trees and the leaves leave a smooth stem when they drop.

Typically, the Balsam Firs grow 60 to 80 feet tall with 18 inch diameter trunks, and live 100 years. The 1998 record tree located in Brighton, New York is 106 feet tall with a two foot trunk. (No verification or update available for 2017)

The leaves (needles) of the Balsam Fir are ½ inch to one inch long, flat with rounded tips-no



Balsam Fir

spines, dark, lustrous green on top, silvery white (from double rows of stomata) on the underside. The leaves project outward in all directions around the branch but grow nearly at right angles to and on both sides of the branch in flat arrays. Flowers and subsequent cones appear toward the top of the tree. The small male flowers are yellow tinged with purple. Female flowers, occurring on the same tree, are of purple scales on yellow bracts. Cones are brown, upright, oblong, about one inch in diameter, two to four inches long with rounded scales that are twice as wide as they are deep.

Balsam Fir was the first Christmas tree of choice for many years because of that pleasing scent, and it held its needles longer than the spruces. In the 1930's Scotch Pine began to gain in popularity. It did a better job of holding its

needles, and eventually it overtook the balsam as the favorite. More recently, Fraser Fir is providing an increasing share of the 40,000,000 trees use by Americans each year for holiday decoration. (Update 2017: With the advent of artificial Christmas trees, there are approximately 25-30 million live Christmas trees sold in the U.S. every year. www.realchristmastrees.org/dnn/Education/Quick-Tree-Facts) The balsam remains the strong favorite, however, in Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire.

The scent of the Balsam Fir is unusual in that those who live or work near it constantly can no longer smell it. A brief respite quickly restores the ability.

Needles and small branchlets were once popular mattress stuffing and “balsam pillows” are still sold in mountain crafts shops (if the needles prick through the cloth of the pillow, it at least has some spruce needles inside). Needle-filled pillows are said to prevent headaches and bad dreams.

The resin (an oleo-resin commercially sold as “Canada Balsam”) is used to mount specimens on glass microscope slides. The thick, sticky liquid seals the specimen to preserve it while holding the glass mounts together. This resin has precisely to same refractive index as glass, so the glass/resin/glass sandwich is a distortion free single optical system. Canada Balsam is also used in varnish and quality lacquer production, and as a cement for compound lens systems.

The wood of the Balsam Fir has a fairly even coarse grain with moderate texture. It is rated as a lightweight: specific gravity = 0.36 or about 25 pounds per cubic foot, similar to White Pine but lighter, softer, and weaker than spruce. The color of the heartwood and sapwood are similar-light green to tan. The transition from earlywood to latewood is very gradual, but growth rings are distinct. Latewood may have a purple tinge; earlywood will be about $\frac{2}{3}$ of the growth ring width.

Woods of true firs cannot be separated on the basis of general characteristics or even with a hand lens. Balsam Fir has no normal resin canals or ray tracheids and has no silica crystals in its ray cells. The very fine rays are uniseriate, up to 30 cells high and are not distinct to the naked eye.

The wood of the Balsam Fir dries quickly with moderate shrink and little check or warp.



Balsam Fir leaves and cones

The wood is low in compressive and bending strength, moderately flexible, soft and low in resistance to shock. It has no odor but may have a slightly salty taste. It is not a durable wood.

It works quite well using sharp power or hand tools but has a tendency to leave a slightly fuzz surface when routing or planing. It takes fasteners and glues well, stains well with a pre-seal and varnishes nicely.

Painting requires sealing of knots. There are no reported hazards in working with Balsam Fir, but the usual dust precautions should be observed.

Balsam Fir is used primarily for pulpwood. It is also used for general construction, boxes, crates, siding, molding, and trim. It was often used for dry cooperage-sugar and butter tubs and cheese boxes because there is almost no resin in the wood.

The supply of Balsam Fir is good although it is probably not practical to try to find the wood in a lumber yard. Unless cut as big trees, it would go to the pulp mill. If cut from saw logs, it is probably included in that catch-all SPF (spruce, pine, fir) and sold for construction use.



The holiday tree

Carvers SIG Instruction and Social

By Diane Balch

We had a workshop for new carvers. Tony Lisosky instructed seven new carvers. Tony provided snowmen blanks. All 14 of us had a lot of fun.

Thursday, Dec 14 the Carvers had their third annual pot luck carving dinner. Yummy, yummy!

Table Saw Safety: My Accident & How to Avoid Your Own

The link below is a video made by the victim, Erin Massy, of a table saw injury. He was highly experienced, but in this video he explains his errors that led a serious injury to his fingers and torso. This is a dramatic, instructive video.

Our NWA member Charlie Goddard pointed out that the missing riving knife should have been first. "The only problem with the video is that the missing riving knife is not mentioned sooner. If the riving knife had been in place the accident would likely not have happened, no matter how he pushed the piece through."

Copy and paste into your browser if link fails to open. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fifjjacLBE>

Classifieds

Belsaw Planer is Model 9103, 5HP, 220 Volt.

12" cutting width. A new set of 3 blades is included.

\$500.00 for the planer and \$50.00 each for the molding knives.

Sears Craftsman 12" Bandsaw Sander, 1/2hp reversible motor – \$100.00

Sears Craftsman 12" Lathe, 1/2hp motor – \$150.00

Sears Craftsman Copy Crafter Wood Turning Duplicator, brand new in box – \$150.00

Sears Craftsman 10" Radial Arm Saw, ball bearing motor – \$125.00

Sears Craftsman Joiner, 6" with 3/4hp Wagner Motor on a stand – \$200.0

Delta Rockwell Belt Sander on a stand with sanding belt 5 1/4" X 24"

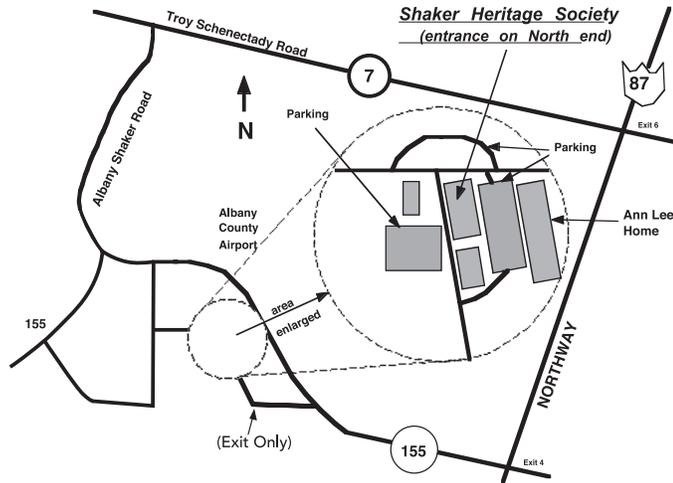
Marathon Electric Mfg. Corp 1 1/2hp ac motor, 115 volt – \$200.00

Prices are negotiable as I want to sell. All the items are in my basement in Selkirk, NY

Contact Agnes Bohl atb829@gmail.com 518-461-4478

January Meeting

Thursday, January 11, 2018 7:00 PM
Shaker Heritage Society Meetinghouse
Albany-Shaker Road, Albany, NY



2018 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

February 8

Fixing Mistakes - Presented by Logan Simms

March 8

Turning Techniques - Presented by Trent Bosch

April 12

Upholstery - Presented by Mike Mascelli

May 10

Small Power Tools - Presented by Dick Flanders

*To be updated with additional information

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)

Adirondack Woodturners Association (AWA) - The AWA is active throughout the year. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month (except in January and July when it is the second Wednesday), and are held at the NWA Learning Center located at 15 Solar Drive, Clifton Park, NY from 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM. **Contact:** Pam Bucci, President - 429-6440, woolglass2@gmail.com

Wednesday "Learn and Turn" sessions occur on all other Wednesdays at the NWA Learning Center. These sessions run 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. www.adirondackwoodturners.com **Contact:** Ken Evans - (518)753-7759 or kevans1@nycap.rr.com

Scroller's Guild - Meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at the NWA Learning Center located at 15 Solar Drive, Clifton Park, NY. A beginner's session starts at 6:30 PM (TBA), followed by a general meeting at 7:00 PM. **Contact:** Jeanne Aldous at AMJAMtat2@aol.com or Barbara Nottke at scroller87@aol.com or 869-6268.

Kaatskill Woodturners - (will now shift to) Saturday mornings at 9:00 AM -- the second second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 until October. at the Opdahl property in Hurley, NY. **Contact:** Wally Cook at wally.cook@gmail.com.

NWA Crafters - Meets every Saturday and Tuesday, from 9:00 AM until noon at the NWA Learning Center located at 15 Solar Drive, Clifton Park, NY. The Crafters provide public service woodworking for various charitable organizations, including the Double H Hole in the Woods camp for children and the GE Toy Modifications Group, and the Make A Wish Foundation. Sharing information, fellowship, and relating experiences are a major part of these sessions. **Contact:** Wayne Distin - (518)674-4171, wdistin@nycap.rr.com, Ken Evans - (518)753-7759, kevans1@nycap.rr.com, or John Heimke, heimkej@sage.edu for more information.

NWA Musical Instrument SIG - Meets every first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the Learning Center. The purpose of the group is to discuss all aspects of all musical instruments, playing, building, repairing, and history. Meetings involve a show and tell table, a program on an appropriate topic, and lots of member interaction. If you want to be on the email list for notifications. **Contact:** Ken Evans at kevans1@nycap.rr.com or (518)753-7759 or (518)281-0779.

The NWA Wood Carvers SIG - The NWA Wood Carvers SIG - Meet each Thursday at 5:00 PM until 8:30 PM all year at the NWA Learning Center located at 15 Solar Drive, Clifton Park, NY. The goal is to promote the art of Wood Carving and to have a good time doing it. The only prerequisite is a desire to carve while making new friends. Wood, tools, and patterns are available. **Contact:** Diane Balch - (518)885-9899, signs@balchsigs.com

Hand Tool SIG - Meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Herm Finkbeiner Education Center at 15 Solar Dr, Clifton Park, NY. **Contact:** Dave Parkis - 458-7242 for further details: dparkis@nycap.rr.com

Segmented Turning - Meets the first, third, and fourth Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM at 15 Solar Drive, Clifton Park, NY. **Contact:** Toby Pauly - 788-7253, e-mail tobypauly@yahoo.com

CHAPTERS

NWA Mid-Hudson - The chapter meets at 7:30 PM on the third Thursday, except July and August, at the Hurley Reformed Church. The Church is just off the the Hurley exit from Rte. 209. Right at the exit, right at the stop sign and left into the Church parking area. **Contact:** Jim Lee, President - (845)382-6045, dlee1963@aol.com

NWA Sacandaga - The chapter meets at 7:00 PM. on the Second Wednesday of each month at 55 Second Avenue, Mayfield, NY. **Contact:** Gary Ratajczak, President - (518)852-1204, info@sacandagawoodworkers.org