

# WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern  
Woodworkers  
Association

March 2004, Vol. 13, Number 2

## March Meeting

*The Quest for the Perfect Finish*

- Pat McCord

7:00 p.m. Thursday, March 11, 2004

Shaker Heritage Society Meeting House

Albany-Shaker Road, Albany (near Albany airport)

The topic of the presentation for the March meeting is one of great interest to all woodworkers... finishing. NWA member John Olenik, like many woodworkers, has been on the never-ending search for the "perfect" finish for his work. John will be sharing the knowledge he has gained during his quest and offering advice on achieving flawless finishes in the average workshop. Anyone who has attended Showcase has surely seen the evidence of John's woodworking and finishing skills. Don't miss this meeting, it's going to be a good one!



The business meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m., followed by socializing, refreshments and time to peruse the Tool Crib, Library and Show and Tell display. Everyone enjoys seeing and talking about what other NWA members are doing so bring something for Show and Tell. It can be a project in progress or completed, a new jig, tool or gadget – anything that would be of interest to others.

See you on March 11th. 🐿

## Showcase 2004

March 27 & 28, 2004

Saratoga Springs Civic Center

- Charlie Goddard

Plans for *Showcase 2004* are nearly complete.

- The lecture schedule has been completed.
- The speakers have been hired.
- Vendors have paid for their space.
- The floor plan is ready.
- The "Practical Workshop" special exhibit has been designed.
- Many planes have been promised for the special exhibit of planes.
- Hundreds of Hummers and tops have been made.
- The professional gallery has been given a new look.
- Posters and fliers have been distributed; other publicity has been arranged.
- The website HYPERLINK  
"http://www.nwawoodworkingshow.org"  
www.nwawoodworkingshow.org is up and running.
- The jigs and fixtures exhibit has been upgraded.
- Raffle items have been obtained, including another classic workbench from Herm Finkbeiner.
- Ribbons and awards have been purchased.
- Potted plants and Oriental rugs have been located for the exhibit hall.
- Scrollers, carvers, turners and toymakers are ready.
- Education and members booths are ready.
- Videographers are ready to assist with the lectures.

*Continued on Following Page*

## In This Issue

|  |   |
|--|---|
| March Meeting .....                              | 1 |
| Showcase 2004 .....                              | 1 |
| From the President .....                         | 2 |
| Fiske Fund .....                                 | 2 |
| Commercial Vendors Ready for Showcase 2004 ..... | 3 |
| Woodworking Weekend a Success .....              | 3 |
| Birdhouses for Kids .....                        | 4 |
| Woodworking Courses .....                        | 4 |
| Bus Trip to Long Island Woodworking Show .....   | 4 |

|                                   |    |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| Wood of the Month, Sweetgum ..... | 5  |
| Chapter News .....                | 6  |
| Referral List .....               | 7  |
| Planes Through the Years .....    | 7  |
| Jigs and Fixtures .....           | 8  |
| Basic Lathe Safety .....          | 8  |
| Classifieds .....                 | 8  |
| The Vehicle Wars .....            | 9  |
| Showcase2004 Entry Form .....     | 10 |



## OFFICERS

**President** - Wayne Distin 674-4171  
wpswan@capital.net

**Vice-President** - Pat McCord 439-1232  
ptmccord@mybizz.net

**Secretary** - Kitty Scharl 765-3189  
crowridge@empireone.net

**Treasurer** - Dale Swann 346-4172  
SwannD@RPI.edu

**Past President** - Jay Van Vranken  
664-3034 svanvran@nycap.rr.com

**Historian** -

Position to be Filled

**Executive Secretary** - Charlie Goddard  
370-0388 Cgodd@aol.com

## CHAIRPERSONS

**Mid-Hudson Chapter**

Joe Mikesch, President 845-687-4285

**Sacandaga Chapter**

Co-Presidents - Bob Beyer 883-3617

Dick Edel 773-5345

**Education**

Ken Evans 753-7759  
kevans1@nycap.rr.com

**Adult Programs**

Position To Be Filled

**Kid's Programs**

Dick Grimm 587-0030  
boltmdkkk@aol.com

and

Austin Petrie 686-4285

Holley222@cs.com

**Fiske Fund**

Charlie Goddard 370-0388

Cgodd@aol.com

**Hospitality**

Position To Be Filled

**Library**

Wilhelmina Evans 753-7759

wiltw0@nycap.rr.com

Jim Hartlage 370-4127

JMHartlage@aol.com

**Membership**

Austin Spang 393-2859

spang@nycap.rr.com

**Programs**

Pat McCord 439-1232

**Publications**

Position to be Filled

**SHOWCASE**

Charlie Goddard 370-0388

Cgodd@aol.com

**Tool Crib**

Tom White 489-6360

twhite10@nycap.rr.com

**Videographers**

Dave Ellison 872-0980

ellisd@rpi.edu

Hans Kappel 861-8753

bluespruce@juno.com

Pat Pugsley 634-7144

ideas@mhonline.net

Bob Conahan 355-9032

conahanbob@hotmail.com

Kirk Hardenburg

725-1997

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, PHONE  
NUMBERS ARE IN AREA CODE 518

# From the President

- *Wayne Distin*

Where has the time gone? Winter is winding down, with spring on its way. Also on its way is *SHOWCASE 2004* on March 27 and 28 in Saratoga Springs, NY. Have you sent in your entry form? Time is getting short, but you can still make an item or two. The *Showcase* committee has been working overtime to make this year's event the best ever. But what makes this show great and unique is the display of items made by our own members and friends. Won't you help make this show the best ever? Send in your entry form now, and bring at least one item to the show (must be delivered on Friday, March 26 for setup). In addition, please volunteer to help at *SHOWCASE 2004*. Our volunteers are another unique feature of our show.

See you at the general meeting on March 11 and at *SHOWCASE 2004*. 🐾

# Fiske Fund Applications

- *Charlie Goddard*

The next deadline for Fiske Fund applications is April 30, 2004. There are many courses to choose from and there is enough money in the Fund to support a number of grants. If you have been thinking about taking a woodworking course, check with Ralph Lichtenstein. He has a collection of course literature for many woodworking schools in the Northeast.

For new members unfamiliar with the Fiske Fund, it was established with money raised from the sale of lumber and tools that Milan Fiske left to NWA upon his death in 1995. Milan was one of the eight original members of NWA and was always very interested in education. Since that time, additional funds have been raised from contributions and from sales of donated lumber and tools. In the last few years the most significant source of revenue has been the annual lumber and tool auction held in the Shaker Heritage barn.

Grants are available for any person to attend courses that will enhance their woodworking skills. If you are interested in further information or would like a copy of the application form, contact any of the Fiske Fund Committee members -- Ken Evans, Jim Hartlage, Dave Lasinski, Ralph Lichtenstein or Charlie Goddard. 🐾

# Showcase 2004

*(Continued from Cover)*

**Volunteers** Now we need volunteers to put all of this into motion. When you are called, please indicate you are willing to help out. Don't be shy about volunteering for more than one shift. If you have been called already and have volunteered your time, think about a second or third shift. If you declined please reconsider. Volunteering does not take much time, it gives you free admission to Showcase, it makes you eligible for the volunteers' drawing and it's a good way to meet other NWA members.

**Entries** We need entries for the exhibit hall. As I write this only 9 entry forms have been submitted. Last year more than 150 members exhibited nearly 500 items. **Please get your entry forms in as soon as possible.** You do not have to wait for the finish to dry before submitting the form. Preparing the labels for the exhibit hall is a big job and last minute entries make the label maker grouchy. Another copy of the entry form is included in this newsletter on Page 10.

**Judging** Items may be entered for judging. You may exhibit more than one item in a given category, but only one of them may be entered for judging. This year, items in the main exhibit hall will not be judged against items in the professional gallery. Items in the gallery will be judged separately.

**Jigs and Fixtures** Steve Defibaugh is looking for some new jigs and fixtures. Transportation can be arranged. 🐾

Nothing great is ever achieved without enthusiasm.

- R. W. Emerson

# Commercial Vendors Ready for Showcase 2004

-Clark Pell

Joshua's Trees is known to many NWA members as a source for specialty woods, unusual burls, turning stock, exotics and domestic lumber. Like many vendors, Joshua is pulling out the stops for *Showcase 2004*. Special purchases of reclaimed old growth redwood and water-cured redwood burl will be featured. The redwood logs were harvested either from logs cut in the 1800's and left on the forest floor, or from trees damaged

by wind or toppled from old age. The reclaimed redwood is high quality, clear, all-heart material, 40"-50" wide and 10'-20' long. The possibilities for use of wood this size are endless....for example conference tables, counter tops, bars or mantles.

Water-cured redwood burl is harvested from old growth stumps that were left submerged in the boggy forest floor. The huge stumps are carefully removed and sawed into large free-form slabs. The natural edge slabs are highly figured with curl, birds-eye and other unusual grain patterns. Coloration is from tawny yellow to mauve, a result of chemicals leaching out of the soils.

To complement the water-cured redwood, Joshua's Trees will be featuring an equally unusual, highly figured and colored wood, box elder. Box elder maple, also called ash leaf maple or Manitoba maple, often displays swirled, unpredictable patterns of hot pink to red grain. Referred to as false heartwood, the distinct figure is the result of branches dying. The trunk wood is depleted of nourishing chemicals and it is thought that fungus invades leaving its bright trail. Box elder is highly sought for pens, knife handles, decorative boxes and turning. If all goes to plan, Joshua will be working with the Wood Miser and flitch sawing some samples during *Showcase 2004*. 🐿



*Joshua Hoffman examines part of a recent shipment of reclaimed redwood that will be available at Showcase 2004.*

## Third Woodworking Weekend A Success

- Pat McCord

Over one hundred woodworkers attended the Third Woodworking Weekend held at Sears in Colonie Center on January 16th and 17th. With sixty presentations to choose from, everyone kept busy selecting which session to attend and hustling from room to room. Turners Brad Vietje and Peter Exton, the guest presenters, were both very impressive and popular.

Friday's door prize of a 16 piece Forstner bit set was won by David Anspacher and the 4 piece chisel set given away on Saturday was won by Deborah Traynor. Congratulations to both! 🐿



*Both Hal Bigelow and Alden Witham participated as instructors in the Woodworker's Weekend held in January at Sears, Colonie Center. See information about specific course offerings by these members on pages 4.*

**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 eight times annually, six regular editions and two special editions (Shop Tour and Family Night). The publication is assembled in QuarkXPress 4.0 on a Macintosh G4, duplicated by Shipmates, and mailed to more than 700 addresses.



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

Copy deadline: March 15  
Clark E. Pell, Editor 731-2475  
cepell@MSN.com  
Elizabeth Keays Graphic Artist  
Designer



**WEBSITE(S)**

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

Website Editor Bill Fahy 869-0954  
BBFahy1@nycap.rr.com

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@nycap.rr.com

The second site operates from January 1 to May 30 and carries specific information about SHOWCASE.  
Webmaster - Rich Pagano  
279-0936  
[Richpagano@earthlink.com](mailto:Richpagano@earthlink.com)



**NORTHEASTERN  
WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION**  
P.O. BOX 246  
Rexford, New York 12148



## Birdhouses for the Kids

*-Herm Finkbeiner*

Double H Camp Hole in the Woods at Lake Luzerne provides critically ill children with a camping experience, something not ordinarily available to them. The entire experience, which can range from a weekend to 10 days depending on the stamina of the child, is provided without charge to the youngster or family.

In the past NWA has been an active volunteer at the camp, providing a variety of woodworking contributions such as campfire benches, routed cabin signs, demonstrations for the woodworking classes and building kits for the craft classes.

Recently Bart Chabot revived NWA's commitment to Hole in the Woods by gathering some NWA members and building kits for birdhouses, critter cages and stars. When Bart and I visited the camp, Max Urenda, executive director and Eileen Nash, director of development, asked if NWA could build birdhouses to be used as the table center pieces at the annual fund raising dinner in August. Each table at the fund raiser would then hold its own auction with the high bidder at the table winning the centerpiece.

We immediately said, "Of Course".

**What we need are 80 birdhouses or bird feeders by August.** Just pick out a design (or create your own) and go to work. Since the objective is to raise as much money as possible for the kids, the more elaborate the design or the decoration the higher the bids are likely to go.

This is your opportunity to use your woodworking skills (and all those tools) to do a wonderful thing for a bunch of kids whose lives are far more difficult than they should be. If you are able to build some houses or feeders or for more information contact Peter Howe (885-9331 or phowe@shakoinc.com) or me (371-9145 or hfinkbeiner@nycap.rr.com ).

To learn more about Hole in the Woods you can visit their website at <http://www.doublehranch.org>. 🐿

## Long Island Woodworking Show Bus Trip April 17

*- Herm Finkbeiner*

An NWA bus trip to the Long Island Woodworkers Show is scheduled for Saturday, April 17 at a cost of \$30 per person. While 25 members have signed up, we need commitment from about 10 more people or the trip will have to be canceled. There will be pick-ups in Clifton Park, Crossgates Common and New Paltz. It will take between 3½ and 4 hours to drive to the Hofstra campus. We plan to be back to Albany between 10:00 and 11:00 pm.

The Long Island Woodworkers have attended our show regularly and have patterned their show after ours. It will be interesting to see the similarities and differences. Much about the show is available on their web site at [http://www.liwoodworkers.org/events/show\\_2004/show.asp](http://www.liwoodworkers.org/events/show_2004/show.asp)

The trip is open to anyone who might enjoy the Long Island show. To sign up for the trip contact me at 371-9145 or at HYPERLINK "mailto:hfinkbei@nycap.rr.com" hfinkbei@nycap.rr.com. 🐿

## Lumber and Tool Auction

*- Charlie Goddard*

The next lumber and tool auction will not be until early next fall, but we need to start identifying items to sell. If you have lumber or woodworking tools that you would be willing to donate, give me a call. If you are not willing to donate the full value we can work out a way to share the proceeds. All donations are fully tax deductible.

For the next auction we have a large quantity of black walnut, sawn from a tree that grew in a residential yard in Albany. Though much of the walnut is spectacular, we need other types of lumber and tools to make the auction more interesting. 🐿

## Books are Available

*- Jim Hartiage*

The Taunton Book order has arrived. Please pick up your order at the March meeting. If you have any questions, please contact me at 370-4127 or [jmhartiage@aol.com](mailto:jmhartiage@aol.com). 🐿

## Alden Witham Woodworking Class

*- Ken Evans*

As everyone knows, NWA subsidizes tuition for certain woodworking classes offered by members. Alden Witham has offered several of these very successful classes several times in the past and another will be held April 17-18, 2004 at his shop in Sharon Springs, NY. The topic is building a Shaker-style chair.

Tuition for the two-day weekend class is \$150 plus \$100 for materials. NWA will subsidize \$75 of the tuition and the student pays one half of the tuition plus the materials fee. Thus, the cost of the class to the student is only \$75 plus a materials fee of \$100. The student saves \$75.

So bring your lunch and your hand tools and join Alden for this two-day workshop. Alden will provide the wood, the tools if you need them, and all the instruction required to send you home with a Shaker-style chair, lots of good information and fond memories.

Students should call Alden at (518) 284-2040 for further information.

Registration is limited to the first five persons who send a \$175 check made out to NWA to Ken Evans at 2062 NY 67, Valley Falls, NY 12185. You may contact Ken at (518) 753-7759.

Note: This class by Alden has received great reviews by those who have taken it.

## Cabinetmaking Course for Beginning/ Intermediate Woodworkers

*- Ken Evans*

This course will focus on the basics of good cabinetmaking. Included will be demonstrations of door, drawer, and carcass construction and associated details such as design and finishing. This will be a demonstration and Q & A class and assumes the student has access to major shop equipment such as a tablesaw, jointer, etc. Students will not be constructing any pieces during the 6 two-hour sessions, and are encouraged to call the instructor before enrolling if there are any questions regarding the content of the course. The course will be scheduled Saturday mornings from 9am to 11am on May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, and June 5.

*Continued on Page 9*

# Wood of the Month

- Ron DeWitt

## Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*).

### A Hardwood

### Hamamelidaceae – Witch Hazel Family

Of the three species in the genus *Liquidambar* only the sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) is native to North America. One is native to the eastern Mediterranean region; the other occurs in China and Taiwan.

The many unusual characteristics of sweetgum have resulted in a long, confusing assortment of names for this tree including redgum, sapgum, starleaf gum, gum, blisted, hazel pine, alligator tree, satin walnut, American mahogany, liquidambar, gumwood and incense gum, all of course for some good reason.

The natural range of Sweetgum extends from Connecticut and lower New York southward throughout the East into central Florida and across into eastern Texas. It extends westward across southern Illinois and Missouri into Oklahoma. It also grows in scattered areas of Mexico and as far south as Nicaragua. Landscape plantings of Sweetgum have significantly extended its natural range.

Probably one of the most adaptable of North American hardwoods, Sweetgum grows well in a wide variety of soil types and conditions. It does especially well in swampy or poorly drained areas typical of Mississippi and Alabama. This is a moderate to rapidly growing tree, intolerant of shade, often pioneering in old fields or logged areas. Young trees grow tall conical crowns around a single excurrent stem much like a conifer. As the tree matures the stem divides, rounding and spreading the crown. A big tree, it readily grows to 125' feet with a 4' diameter stem. A tree recently reported in Craven County, North Carolina measured 136' with a 7'-5" diameter stem. New York lists a standing tree in Nassau County at 92' with a diameter of 50".

Leaves of the Sweetgum, sometimes mistaken for maple, are lobed like a maple's but are narrow and more regular, forming a five-pointed (occasionally to seven) star. The four to six inch bright green shiny leaves are simple and alternate with serrated margins.

Leaves have a pleasant resinous fragrance when bruised. Male and female flowers occur separately on the same tree. The distinctive fruit develops as a hard, spherical mace-like cluster of horned carpels, 1" to 1 1/2" in diameter, hanging from a 2" to 3" stem. Seeds drop in autumn but the seed pod, sometimes hard enough to damage worn tires, persists through winter. The tree seeds easily and root sprouts are common.

Branchlets, another distinguishing feature, develop three to four parallel "corky" ribs beginning in their second year. These ribs are an apparent by-product of gum production and may slowly increase in width and thickness over many years. The bark on stems and mature branches is gray, deeply furrowed but very regular, with scaly ridges like an alligator's skin.

The wood of Sweetgum is especially desirable for its coloration and figure. It is considered second only to black walnut in attractiveness in this country. Thick sapwood, up to 40 or more rings wide, is white with an occasional pinkish tinge, and may be discolored by blue stain. Heartwood is gray to gray-brown or reddish-brown, often strongly streaked with various shades of darker pigmented figure. The wood is without charac-

teristic taste or odor. Sweetgum is one of only a few North American hardwoods where sapwood and heartwood are marketed separately. Sapwood is usually sold as sapgum, or in Europe as hazel pine. Heartwood is usually designated redgum or satin walnut.

Sweetgum is a diffuse-porous hardwood. Pores are uniformly distributed, numerous and extremely small, occurring singly, in multiples, clusters and/or radial chains. Rays and growth rings are quite indistinct even with a hand lens. Sweetgum wood is difficult to identify by itself and very difficult to separate from yellow buckeye or black tupelo except with a microscope.

Sweetgum has a uniform texture and fine, straight, close grain that is usually interlocked to produce a nice figure on flat-sawn lumber, and a ribbon stripe on quartered surfaces. It is moderately hard, stiff and heavy with a specific gravity of 0.52 at 12% M.C. and a weight of 35 pounds per cubic foot, quite similar to red maple or cherry. Any problems with the wood of Sweetgum seem to be related to that interlocked grain.

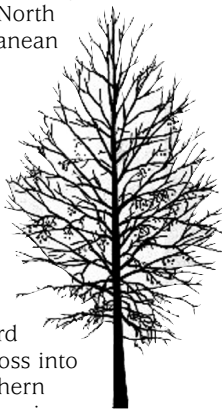
The wood dries with a tendency to warp, so drying requires careful attention. Shrinkage from green to 12% M.C. is about 5.8% radially and 10.2% tangentially. Once dry it is not always stable in use. Generally it machines well with only a slight tendency to tear-out. Hand tools require a little more effort. Fasteners hold well, splitting is minor, it glues up easily, smooths with some difficulty to a high luster, and accepts most finishes well. Stains are very effective and this wood is easily colored to look like other (more expensive) woods—cherry, walnut, mahogany, birch or maple. This wood turns beautifully, carves with little effort, and is above average in steam bending. It is not durable when exposed to soil or weather. It is extremely difficult to split for firewood!

Frequently, Sweetgum is known to cause dermatitis. Breathing and dust precautions are well advised.

This tree and several of its varieties are regularly planted as ornamentals. It has a nice form and its brilliant crimson, yellow and purple autumn foliage is likened to the colors of "the most spectacular sunset."

In addition to being an early source of chewing gum, Sweetgum has a long list of medicinal credits. Cuts or slashes into the inner bark cause the tree to exude a balsam or gummy aromatic resin having the appearance of "liquid amber." Called "copalm balm," the liquid resin was shipped to Europe in large quantity for making medicines and perfumes. In this country dried resin or gum was heated and mixed with olive oil or tallow to produce a beneficial antiseptic skin ointment useful in treating burns, ulcers, ringworm, frostbite, herpes and even hemorrhoids. Decoctions of bark, especially root or inner bark, were used to treat inflammation of the nose, throat and gastrointestinal tract, tuberculosis, asthma, gonorrhea and dysentery. Inner bark was once considered a stimulant. Dried gum, marked "storax", was also shipped to Europe as an inexpensive substitute for the same material taken from the Oriental Sweetgum. This was used to make incense, sometimes blended with frankincense and myrrh. In addition to medical applications it was also used for "glove perfume," improving the odor of tanned leather.

Today most Sweetgum is processed into high-grade veneer where its color and figure show to advantage. The first application of Sweetgum veneer was probably for early radio and Victrola cabinets. During World War II all tongue depressors for the U.S. military were made of Sweetgum. The lumber is commonly used in furniture, interior trim, cabinetry and paneling. It is frequently used in reproduction work. It is a very popular



# CHAPTER NEWS

## Mid-Hudson News

### - Chuck Walker

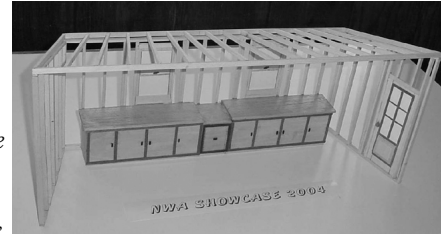
Dap Cole was honored twice at the Mid-Hudson December meeting. First, he was awarded the "purple heart" for drilling into one of his fingers in a moment of distraction. This is something we all do occasionally but not with such dramatic results. He showed up with his finger heavily bandaged and was presented with the award by its first recipient Joe Kennedy. Also, among the many taunts from Dap about "turners", he has said that maybe they should wear skirts. Later, he was overheard to say "if he won the lathe at the Showcase 2004 raffle, he would have to get a skirt too". Comments like that are prime bait for the Wednesday morning woodworkers who chipped in and purchased a small lathe. With appropriate ceremony, George Norton presented the lathe to Dap, and shortly after Phil Whittington presented him with a wraparound skirt! Dap is a great sport and with assistance from Ron Wolfeld promptly donned his new garb and wore it the rest of the meeting. "If you're going to dish it out, you'd better be ready to take it!" says Dap.



*Dap Cole is assisted into his new skirt.*

Mike Holst showed a clever and useful device he has built for viewing transparencies. It incorporates a lamp, reflectors and a projection lens so the images can be seen on a screen or wall.

In January, highlights were presentations of the design for the featured display The Practical Workshop at Showcase 2004. The planning committee of Dap Cole, Phil Whittington, and George Norton explained that limited project space is normal for most of us



*Model of booth for Showcase 2004 to display The Practical Workshop.*

since the typical shop is confined to a portion of a cellar or one bay of a garage. The objective of The Practical Workshop is to maximize the efficiency of limited space by the use of mobile workstations that can improve work flow, safety, organization, cleanliness and flexibility. They can be constructed easily within a basic budget.

Modular workstations and construction of the booth itself are complete. Andy Champ-Doran, Technical Director for the Theater Program at Bard College, designed the "set" for the Showcase booth. It will be a frame reconstruction of a small workshop allowing the woodworker to see the layout and work flow inside a typical shop. The design is modular, breaking down into 4'x10' sections.

(Photos and copy for the January meeting courtesy of Wally Cook)

## Sacandaga Chapter News

### -Gary Spencer

Our December 10th program was a change of pace. We met at the shop and salesroom of "Rustic Hollow", a shop specializing in the making of North Country and rustic items and furniture.

Our January meeting was the first Wednesday, January 7th, because of conflicts with the turners group. The program had a dual focus, and included a video of joinery demonstrated by experts in woodworking and the beginning of production of toy cars to be given out at Showcase 2004

Our February 11th meeting focused on the use and tune-up of the table saw.

This abbreviated meeting was led by Mike Kratky, and was followed by our second session in building cars for Showcase.

The March 10th meeting will be devoted to the appropriate use of abrasives for cutting, sharpening, sanding, buffing and polishing. This session will be led by Gary Spencer and followed by any last minute activities necessary to complete our goal of 100 to 150 toy cars for Showcase.

Officers for the year are:

President - Jointly by Bob Beyer, 883-3617 and Dick Edel, 762-4851

Treasurer - Ron Custer, 762-2672

Newsletter- Dick Solar, 762-4308

NWA Liason - Gary Spencer, 863-6433

All Members of NWA are invited to attend the 7:00pm meetings held at the Mayfield High School woodshop. Light refreshments are served. For information or directions call Bob Beyer, Dick Edel or Gary Spencer.

## Wood of the Month

*(Continued from Page 5)*

wood with European furniture producers. The wood is also used for plywood, flooring, crates and boxes, baskets, cigar boxes, woodenware, dry cooperage and paper pulp. When treated it is used for railroad crossties, posts and mine timbers.

Sweetgum is second only to the oaks in U.S. hardwood utilization. Lumber is generally available throughout its growing range, although most commercial supplies come from the Mississippi bottomland belt. Sapwood will likely be labeled as

sapgum, heartwood as redgum (not to be confused with the Australian red gum). Darker grades with prominent coloration will likely be referred to as "figured redgum." Wide boards are usually available. Prices are mid-range, \$2 to \$4 per board foot. Good quality veneer ranges from \$.65 to \$1 per square foot. Rough lumber may hide its figure; a light misting with water or an alcohol wipe is sometimes helpful in revealing its true character. 🐼

# Referral List

- *Charlie Goddard*

If you would like to be included on this list please complete the following form and return it to: Referral List, NWA, PO Box 246, Rexford NY 12148.

Also, please respond to the questions concerning distribution of the list. Initially the list will be available only to our members or to answer inquiries received by NWA from the public. Based upon the responses to the questions below and experience in using the list within NWA, it may be distributed more widely at a later date. Those who indicate that the list should not be distributed publicly will be given an opportunity to remove their names before such distribution.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Business: Full Time \_\_\_\_\_ Part Time \_\_\_\_\_ By Appointment \_\_\_\_\_

Describe Specialty: \_\_\_\_\_

Should the list be made available to NWA members only? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Should the referral list be made available on the website? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Should the referral list be made available at Showcase or other public events? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

## Wood Definition

- *Ron DeWitt*

**Fitch** A log sawn on two opposite parallel faces, leaving two waney or barky faces. When intended for resawing into lumber, it is sawn perpendicular to its original wide faces. If sawn or sliced into veneer the resulting sheets of veneer laid together in the sequence of cutting are called a fitch. 🐿

## Wood Questions

Q. What tree is considered our most valuable and the most important commercial timber tree in the world?



A. Douglas-fir. This tree has the largest standing volume and the greatest variety of valuable uses of any tree. Heavily planted for reforestation, about 120 billion cubic feet of Douglas-fir are currently growing in Canada and the U.S. (about 20 percent of the wood reserve of the U.S.).

## NWA Exempt from Sales Tax

- *Dale Swann*

NWA has received sales tax exemption status from New York State. Effective immediately, we are exempt from payment of NYS and local sales tax. The only relevant exception is automobile and truck fuel. Board members and committee chairpersons have been provided with exempt purchase certificates and instructions for their use. If you are involved with a major purchase for NWA, be sure to obtain a copy of our tax-exempt certificate and avoid paying the sales tax. Do not use our certificate for personal purchases; misuse of the certificate will result in revocation of our exempt status and subject both you and NWA to substantial civil and criminal penalties. 🐿

## Planes through the Years

- *Ken Miller*

The antique tool exhibit at *Showcase 2004* entitled "Planes Through the Years" will span more than two centuries of these tools. It features hand planes used to perform various surfacing and shaping techniques such as flattening boards, joining and smoothing wood and fashioning moldings. On display will be planes under the following headings:

- **Made by Our Members**, for use in their shops
- **Standard Sets**, tools found in many workshops
- **Unusual**, usually residing in collections
- **Hudson Valley Planes**, in use and in collections
- **Molding Planes**, currently in use in a local cabinetmaker's workshop
- **Japanese Planes**, some from the Shaker Museum and Library collection
- **What is a Plane?** to round out the exhibit

Old planes of wood, transition planes with both wood and metal, and metal planes of cast iron and/or bronze will be found among the vast array on display. Removal of a long continuous single ribbon of wood will be demonstrated intermittently with a jointer's plane. Visit our web site at "[www.nwawoodworkingshow.org](http://www.nwawoodworkingshow.org)" to view 14 of the many to be displayed. The exhibit will be packed with such a fine assortment of planes that I expect no complaints. 🐿

Lost time is never found again.

- B. Franklin




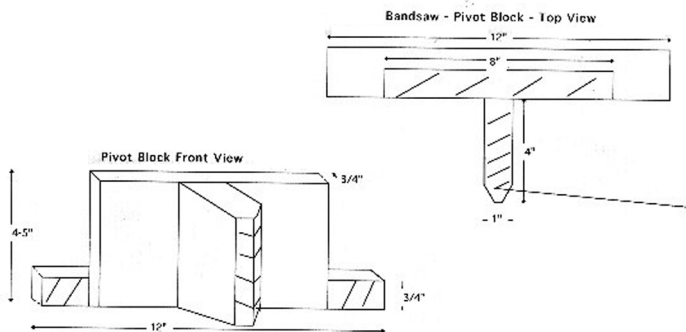
## Jigs and Fixtures

- Gary D. Spencer

A very helpful fixture for your band saw is a pivot block. If you are sawing intricate curves, use the fixed point on the pivot block as a fulcrum to move your work around and maintain control of the stock. You can also use the fixture in conjunction with a fence or a feather board to run a straight line such as when you re-saw a board.

To make a pivot block, take a clamping strip of  $\frac{3}{4}$ " stock 2  $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide and 12" long and attach another vertical piece that is 8" wide by 5" tall with 2" of the clamping strip extending from each side of the vertical piece (may need to be longer with larger tables). Attach a pivot nose piece 4"- 5" high and 4" in length outward from the vertical piece. The end of the nose should be angled to a point for easiest use.

Just clamp the pivot block on the opposite side of the blade from a fence when re-sawing. Or you can clamp the pivot block in place of a fence for use as a fulcrum for better control of your work when you are cutting curves freestyle. Rest your piece against the nose and rotate the work into the saw blade as desired. 



## Basic Lathe Safety, Part One

- Ken Evans

Woodturning is considered one of the safest forms of woodworking. However, since woodturning is the only woodworking process in which the woodworker holds the cutting tool in hand while the machine spins the wood, both the process and the safety considerations of woodturning are unique.

Most accidents on the lathe result from one or more of the following:

- Centrifugal forces acting on the wood as it spins.
- Increased rotational speed of the wood as the diameter of the piece being turned increases.
- Vibration forces which occur from spinning unbalanced pieces.
- Errors in the choice and usage of tools.
- Operation of the lathe under less than ideal conditions.
- Lack of plain old common sense.

The speed of a lathe is measured in revolutions per minute (RPM), and most lathes are capable of speeds from about 300 to 3000 RPM. The only information that RPM tells us directly is the number of revolutions the piece will make in one minute. It is not, however, the only piece of information the turner needs to consider when turning a piece on the lathe. RPM affects forces that must be considered by the turner.

When riding a spinning carousel, we get a feeling we are being pushed by an unseen force toward the outside perimeter of the carousel. We hold onto a brass pole of the carousel to prevent being thrown off. This apparent force that seems to push us toward the outside is commonly referred to as centrifugal force, and this same force acts on wood spinning on a lathe. As a piece of wood spins, each and every molecule of the wood's composition wants to fly off the lathe in a path tangent to the spinning piece. Just as our grip on the brass pole keeps us from being thrown from the carousel, the wood's structure holds it together and keeps it from flying off the lathe under this centrifugal force. Like the strength of our grip on the brass pole, the

*Continued on Page 9*

## CLASSIFIEDS

Any member may run an ad or ads in the Classifieds on a one- or two-time basis at no charge. Arrangements for a repeat ad should be made with the editor, observing publication deadlines which are noted in the side-bar on page two of each issue of the newsletter. At the discretion of the editor, non-members may run a free one-time ad in the Classifieds if the content is of appropriate interest to NWA members. Classified ads are considered to be a service to the NWA membership.

**Older Craftsman table saw**, -" dia. arbor with a 15" x 18" tilting table. Comes with a few blades and a stacked dado. Ernie Hearn, (H) 518-374-6351, (W) 518-387-6139, email [hearn@crd.ge.com](mailto:hearn@crd.ge.com).

**Craftsman 8" Tilt Arbor table saw** with accessories. Includes fence, miter, cast iron table extension, adjustable light,  $\frac{3}{4}$  HP capacitor start motor, carbide blade, manual and parts list. \$175.00. Pictures available by e-mail. Duane Dodds, (518) 355-8865, email [dldrott@localnet.com](mailto:dldrott@localnet.com).

**New Craftsman 10" table saw extension**, still in box. Cost \$99.40, will sell for \$ 80.00. Bart Chabot, 393-9918.

**Makita 12 inch planer model 2012**. Approximately 6 years old. Includes set of new knives, magnetic alignment fixture and dust collector hood. \$200.

**Sears Craftsman wood lathe**. This is the steel tube model, about 15 years old. Also included is copier, several centers of various kinds, a three-jaw chuck, sanding disk, bowl turning tool rest and a variety of other items (such as pretty skirts). \$100. Herm Finkbeiner, 371-9145 or [hfinkbei@nycap.rr.com](mailto:hfinkbei@nycap.rr.com).

**Rough cut hardwood lumber**, air dried for few years in barn, random width and length, minimum 100 board foot. Different grades or/ and species can be combined with minimum purchase of 500 bd ft plus 25% discount to regular price listed (prices per bd ft).

**4/4 soft maple** fas 386 bd ft \$2.25, **5/4 soft maple** fas 100 bd ft \$2.35, **4/4 hard maple** fas 150 bd ft \$3.00, **4/4 red oak**, fas 450 bd ft, \$2.00, \$2.50 > 10" wide, **5/4 red oak** fas 200 bd ft \$2.10, \$2.60 > 10" wide.

**18/36 Delta drum sander** with nice sturdy gray shop-made base stand. \$675

**20" Shopsmith scroll saw**, rarely used and still very good condition with accessories and metal stand legs. \$375

**Shop-made down draft sanding table** approx 30" by 60" with 1 hp Woodtek dust collector underneath. \$250  
Mike Kronau, [Kronau@aol.com](mailto:Kronau@aol.com), fax (518) 286-2583, call voice relay operator 1 (800) 421-1220 ask for (518) 283-2920 for weekends.



# The Vehicle Wars

## Subject: Hummers

Dear fellow turners-  
I have been insulted for the last time by that fellow Finkbeiner, who, in the latest Woodworkers News says he and his friends are "turning out Hummers (No, not on a lathe!)".

I take his insult most seriously, and feel that there is only one proper response - a well-turned vehicle, made on our revered and overly expensive lathes.

Are you ready to meet the challenge, save face and defeat the forces of squareness!

Steve Cowen -  
turner extraordinaire

Subject: Hummers in the round

Dear Ken and Steve and, in a round about way, all turners,

First let me point out that I am acquainted with madrigals, choruses and a number of other musical activities which are done "as rounds" but never before have I heard of hummers using the format??

That aside, I quake in my boots (had I any) that a Hummer produced by a turner will bear a resemblance, not to a committee designed horse, but rather to a 1920's "modern" with curves wherever they can be force fit rather than where they belong.

However, being fair minded (more or less) I look forward to whatever feeble attempts might be made to convince real woodworkers who are dedicated to the straight, the flat and the true, that there is place for those whose every attempt at woodworking leaves the vast majority of the elegant material in the sawdust box.

Herm Finkbeiner

Squarers Face Rounders Straight Off  
-S. Oumynona (Oo-my-no-nah)

The woodturners and the toymakers face off in a plainly defined challenge to determine who can produce the "best" Hummers. Rounders expect to knock the comers off the Squarers. Squarers expect to set the Rounders straight. Each will make 17 Hummers for Showcase, and have the young people pick the best ones. Whichever group wins the most votes expects to have bragging rights for the coming year.

It's very well known  
the gauntlet's been thrown,  
by the Rounders with airs  
to the Squarers' despair,  
to meet and compete  
for the other's defeat.

Trumpets have been sounded,  
Square comers have been rounded.  
Round trees have been squared,  
Both groups have been dared,  
to produce a brand newcomer,  
that might look like a Hummer.

Rounders believe in dimensions three,  
and work like hordes of busy bees.  
the Squarers in dimensions four,  
and know time settles every score.  
Rounders and Squarers face off in a race  
for the upcoming Showcase.

Rounders claim the Squarers cheat  
by using wheels instead of feet.  
Then in clandestine backroom deals,  
Rounders request store-bought wheels.  
To apply with gobs of Titebond glue  
so their fine creations might run true.

Squarers very well may capture  
relief, joy and subtle rapture.  
But the Rounders could win by far and away,  
with their designs on that fateful day,  
the coveted bragging rights for their jibes,  
and watching Squarers make 400  
Bummers for 2 Oh Oh 5.

While we all anxiously wait,  
neither Squarers nor Turners will capitulate  
in their rush to realize,  
the Hummer Bummer Zinger Dinger prize.  
But, alas, it's the children who'll settle the score  
at this month's Showcase 2 Oh Oh 4.

# Lathe Safety

(Continued from Page 8)

strength of the wood structure is the one of the factors to withstand the centrifugal forces trying to tear it apart and throw it from the lathe.

As the RPM increases, the centrifugal force acting upon the wood increases. If the RPM becomes high enough, the wood structure cannot withstand this force and the piece will be torn from the lathe. Sometimes this can happen explosively.

The weight of the object experiencing centrifugal force also determines the magnitude of the centrifugal force, since heavier objects experience greater centrifugal forces than lighter ones at the same RPM.

However, heavier woods do not necessarily have greater internal structural strength to withstand these increased forces. Therefore, any heavy piece of wood or any piece of wood with a defect in its structure such as a crack, bark inclusion, sap line or weak grain pattern is subject to having parts or all of it being thrown from the lathe at relatively low RPM. Such pieces are a disaster waiting to happen at higher RPM.

These same centrifugal forces acting on a structurally sound spinning piece can become great enough at some RPM to tear the wood from its mechanical holding on the lathe, and it is safe to say that every piece of wood spinning on a lathe, structurally sound or not, **will** be thrown from the lathe at some RPM due to centrifugal force.

Therefore, all pieces of wood to be placed on a lathe should be inspected carefully for any sign of structural impairment. If defects are found, ideally the piece should be replaced. Otherwise, eliminate as many dangers as possible in turning such a defective piece of wood.

Turn at the lowest speed necessary to do the job. Never turn at a speed that makes you uncomfortable!

There are charts available in many turning publications that give recommendations for speeds for various diameters of wood. These charts make many assumptions regarding the mechanical holding and structure of the piece mounted on the lathe. Therefore, the speeds indicated on these charts should be regarded as absolute maximum under ideal conditions, rarely approached in practice. You will go a long way toward making your woodturning experiences safer simply by reducing the speed at which you turn. 🛠️

## Cabinetmaking Course

(Continued from Page 4)

Hal Bigelow has been a professional woodworker since 1973. His work focuses on furnishing pieces for the kitchen, bedroom, office, dining room, etc. His approach is very practical, stressing good basic design and construction.

While his designs and construction are dictated by his customers needs, they have a solid grounding in traditional joinery such as that used by the Shakers.

The course will be held in the instructor's shop which is located on State Rt.32 about 2 miles north of the Saratoga Battlefield. For questions or directions call 587-3847.

The tuition for this class is \$150 of which NWA will pay \$75. Interested NWA members should contact Ken Evans at (518) 753-7759. 🐾

Your name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ Member \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Town State, zip Entry fee - \$10 **per entrant**  
(No charge for members)

\$\_\_\_\_\_ (Office use only)

| ENTRY CATEGORY (State category, identify your piece, list woods used, identify finish used) | For competition<br>(One per category only) | For display only<br>(Unlimited)* | Preferred display location |       | Space needed<br>Sq. ft. |
|---|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------|-------|-------------------------|
|   |  |                                  | Floor                      | Table |                         |
| EXAMPLE: Cases & cabinets. Desk. Cherry. Varnish  | x  |                                  | x                          |       | 20                      |
| EXAMPLE: Toys/Min. Truck. Oak, cherry. Tung oil   |  | x                                | x                          |       | 6                       |
| EXAMPLE: Novice. Book shelf. Walnut. Poly.  | x  |                                  |                            | x     |                         |
|   |  |                                  |                            |       |                         |
|   |  |                                  |                            |       |                         |
|   |  |                                  |                            |       |                         |

\*As space allows

CUT HERE. KEEP THE MATERIAL BELOW FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

- Furniture: tables, beds
- Furniture: cases, cabinets, desks
- Furniture: chairs
- Accessories: clocks, boxes, desk top pieces
- Toys/Miniatures: play things, models
- Turning: spindle
- Turning: faceplate or chuck
- Turning: segmented
- Carving: representational, conceptual, decorative
- Inlay, Intarsia, Marquetry
- Scroll sawing
- Novice: any piece crafted by a novice.
- Other: fixtures, shop equipment, cooperage, musical instruments, any piece not fitting into the above categories

## EXTRAORDINARY WOODS EXTRA LOW PRICES

### Joshua's Trees

Big Leaf Maple • Buckeye • Quilted Redwood  
Spalted Woods • Exotics • Free Forms  
Weird Burls • Live Edge Flitches

483 N. Moore Hill Road, Stephentown, NY 12168  
Fax 845-855-wood email joshuatrees02@msn.com  
800-745-3504

### Kiln Dried Hardwoods—In Stock!

Sold in random widths + lengths. Stored indoors.

#### Exotic Hardwoods

Cocobolo, Goncavo Alves,  
Agathis, Bloodwood, Peruvian  
Walnut, Philippine Mahogany,  
Honduras Mahogany,  
Brazilian Cherry, Canary,  
Bubinga, Zebra, Wenge,  
Purple Heart, African Mahogany,  
Bolivian Rose, Padauk, Teak,  
Spanish Cedar, Lacewood

## CURTIS



## LUMBER

Call our  
Hardwood Experts  
Dave, Trace, or Bob at  
1-800-724-9663

www.curtislumber.com

#### Domestic Hardwoods

Red Oak, White Oak, Ash,  
Hard Maple, Walnut,  
Basswood, Birch, Cedar,  
Premium Cherry, Birdseye  
Maple, Soft Maple, Cypress,  
Hickory, Cherry, Butternut,  
Tulip Poplar

Ballston Spa

Rt. 67  
885-5311  
Mon.-Fri. 7 am-7 pm  
Sat. 7 am-5 pm  
Sun. 9 am-4 pm



### ATTENTION WOODWORKERS!

**J. E. SAWYER & Co., Inc.**  
INDUSTRIAL & CONTRACTOR SUPPLIES

with branches in:

GLENS FALLS - JOHNSTOWN - LATHAM

**800-724-3983**

www.jesawyer.com

Carries all your woodworking needs. Names like:  
**JET\*MILWAUKEE\*DELTA\*POWERMATIC\*PASLODE**

**Save 10%**

Bring this Ad to Sawyer's and receive 10% off your next purchase of woodworking tools



## BUSH OIL

PREMIUM FINISHING OIL

### BUSH PRODUCTS INC.

P.O. BOX 769 - AMSTERDAM, N.Y., 12010

BUS # 518-843-3773 ♦ FAX # 518-843-2317

EMAIL : BushProducts@aol.com

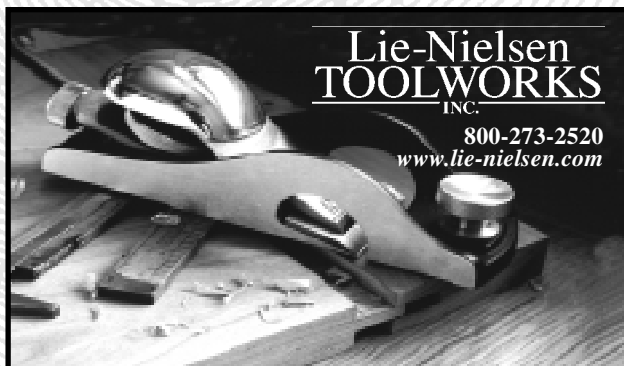


### CAMBium PRESS

P.O. Box 909  
Bethel, CT 06801  
203-426-6481

#### Distributed by

The Lyons Press  
123 W. 18 St, 6th Flr  
New York, NY 10011  
212-620-9580



## Lie-Nielsen TOOLWORKS INC.

800-273-2520  
www.lie-nielsen.com



Quality Kiln Dried Hardwoods and White Pine Lumber  
Wholesale, Retail

146 County Route 35A  
Portlandville, NY 13834

Phone: (607)286-9201  
Fax: (607)286-7136

www.wightmanlumber.com

Dave Muelrath

Exotic & domestic wood



2931 Route 121 E., Grafton Vermont 05146

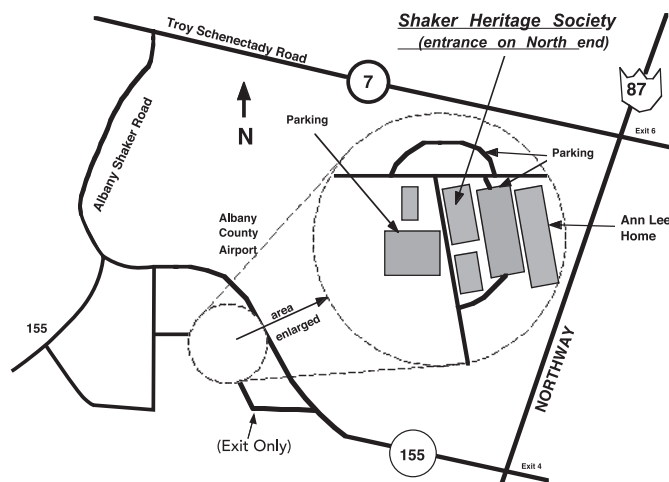
Ph: 802-843-2594

Fax: 802-843-2274

Email: trade@vermontel.net



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



## NEXT MEETING:

7:00 p.m. Thursday, March 11, 2004  
Shaker Heritage Society Meeting House  
Albany-Shaker Road, Albany  
(near Albany airport)

### CALENDAR 2004

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| March 11, 2004    | "Finishing"<br>Shaker Meeting House                           |
| March 27-28, 2004 | SHOWCASE 2004<br>Saratoga Springs City Center                 |
| April, 2004       | Home Workshop Tours<br>Dates and locations to be<br>announced |
| May 13, 2004      | "Segmented Turnings"<br>Shaker Meeting House                  |

## GENERAL MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

### SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)

Meetings are held at the Curtis Lumber Company conference room on Route 67, Ballston Spa. Details of specific events will be carried in the newsletter.

**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). 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 second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. Contact Bill McCormack, 233-7260.

**Scroller's Guild** - Meets the third Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. Contact Jean Aldous, 893-2273 or [AMJAMTAT2@aol.com](mailto:AMJAMTAT2@aol.com)

### 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.

## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS