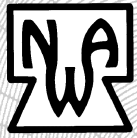


# WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern  
Woodworkers  
Association

March 2008, Vol. 17, Number 3

## March Meeting

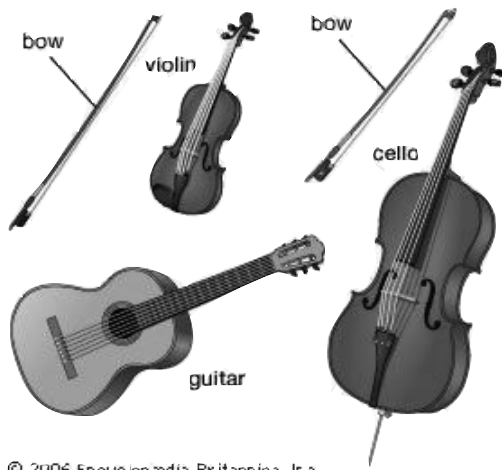
*Thursday, March 13, 2008, 7:00 pm  
Shaker Heritage Society Meeting House  
Albany-Shaker Road, Albany*

## NWA goes “note” worthy in March !

*By Ken Evans*

We will try to be a little “upbeat” this March meeting as the program will be related to woodworking and musical instruments. Will Welling will present on making unique violins, Dan Fera on making and understanding violin bows, Eric Marzac and Mark Pelkey will tell you all you need to know about guitars and guitar making, Craig Thayer will help you make a violin the old fashioned way, and maybe Ken Evans will tell you of the only musical instrument you can field strip, clean and reassemble in 30 minutes; The Banjo.

Each instrument maker will give you a 10 minute introduction to their work and then answer your individual questions at their display table. Not quite a “hootinany” but pretty darned close! 🎵



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## Showcase Help Wanted

*By Guy Garrett*

We are only 2 months and a few days away from the Northeastern Woodworkers' Association Showcase 2008. For most of you this seems a little early to begin asking for volunteers, but there is much planning and organizing to do yet. Some of our members have been working on Showcase '08, since we packed up Showcase '07. But in spite of all the work and commitment of these people, there cannot be a showcase without the volunteers who participate in the actual setting up and management of the thousands of people who come to the Showcase each year.

What the volunteer coordinator tries to do is to balance members' interests and schedules against the various jobs and duties required to put on the show. Over 150 of you indicated in your renewal of your membership that you wanted to participate in putting on the show. However, you did not indicate what days, times, or duties you wanted to help. I am asking that you take a little time in the next few days to decide what you want to do and when, and email me at [garrettg@midtel.net](mailto:garrettg@midtel.net).

On April 5 and 6, Saturday and Sunday, most duties are only two hours long, between the hours of 9:30am and 5pm. The duties during these day and hours are door hosts, floor hosts, ticket sales, lecture assistants, saw mill assistants, education booth, raffle, and membership. No special skills are required for most duties, and descriptions will be available when you arrive.

There are some duties that are necessary to the show that come before Saturday and Sunday. We need truck assistants Thursday and Friday to help load transport and unload tools, equipment, and other items in preparation for setup, and return it all to the various sites on Monday after the Showcase.

We also need telephone callers. Some of our members do not have email addresses. Last year we had enough telephone callers to limit calls to be made to around ten. Hopefully we will do better this year.

So what do volunteers get out of this besides satisfaction, pleasure and good fellowship?

Free entry and your name in a drawing for a prize. Can't beat that with a stick. Hope to hear from you soon.

(518) 287-1220

Volunteer Coordinator, Showcase 2008

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Kirk Hardenburg

725-1997

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, PHONE  
NUMBERS ARE IN AREA CODE 518

# Showcase Entry Forms

*By Charlie Goddard*

Entry forms have been coming in a little faster than in previous years, but we have a long way to go. We will need at least 400 items for the exhibit hall.

In past years most of the forms were submitted during the last two weeks before the show. This makes it very difficult for the Show committee to plan the exhibit hall. Also, labels need to be made for all items and this takes time. To encourage earlier submissions, the names of those who get their entry forms in by March 21 will be eligible for a drawing of a \$200 certificate from Lie-Nielsen or a \$100 certificate from Curtis. Don't allow procrastination to rule.

The items you enter do not have to be completed before you send in the form. Get in the forms now.

Also, when you bring those beautiful pieces into the exhibit hall on Friday, please remember: Pieces will be accepted through the NWA Office between 3pm-7pm where you will receive your labels and then you are free to place your entry in the hall. Thanks. 🐾

# Early American Industries Association

*By Charlie Goddard*

The EAIA will be holding its annual meeting in Albany May 28 - 31 at the Holiday Inn on Wolf Road.

There will be demonstrations of tinsmithing, broom making, blacksmithing, coopering, rope making, spinning, Shaker box making, etc. In addition, there will be talks and presentations on many topics which should be of interest to woodworkers. Many of the events are open to the public and admission is free. Friday evening will be a tool auction by Martin J. Donnelly, one of the antique tool vendors who usually attends Showcase.

More information can be found at [www.EAIAinfo.org](http://www.EAIAinfo.org). 🐾

# Wharton Esherick Annual Woodworking Competition

*By Charlie Goddard*

For the 15th year the Wharton Esherick Museum will be sponsoring a competition and exhibition. Each year the Museum selects a theme to encourage creative thinking and development of new and imaginative designs for everyday use. This year the theme is Side Chairs.

This is a juried exhibition and is open to all woodworkers. Submissions should be functional, primarily made of wood and should express a non-traditional, imaginative design. Cash prizes of \$500, \$300 and \$200 will be awarded.

The deadline for submitting slides and entry forms is July 1, 2008. For more information and an entry form write to the Wharton Esherick Museum, PO Box 595, Paoli, PA 19301 or email, [whartonesherickmuseum@netzero.net](mailto:whartonesherickmuseum@netzero.net).

As an aside, if you are ever in this part of PA take the time to look up this fascinating museum. A few years ago NWA sponsored a bus trip to Philadelphia for the furniture show and we stopped at the museum on the way. Wharton Esherick was a great woodworker. 🐾

# Wood and Fibers

*By Ken Miller*

Ken, John and Brunhilde Miller will have a family show, "Wood and Fibers", March 1 - 25 in the Small Gallery at Hubbard Hall, 25 East Main St. in Cambridge NY. The Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm. Phone 518-677-2765. Come and enjoy ! 🐾

# Dave Mobley...."Artistry is the Draw"

By Bart Chabot

How many times have you heard or even remarked; "Boy, wouldn't it be great to work for yourself doing something you really enjoyed?" Well, that is the crux of this writing — to make you aware that it can be done, although it takes a certain amount of forethought. While some of us have this yearning, most of us only talk about it rather than taking the leap.

"It takes planning," says Dave Mobley, "and a lot of preparation behind the scenes to make an idea materialize. I had the dream to become independent for most of my working life, and since 2004 I'm doing it."

Dave Mobley hails from the western US: Colorado, Utah, Arizona, and California, which introduced him to variety. Variety, it turns out, is a stimulus that Dave relies upon to keep his interest and fuel his creativity.

Dave holds a BS Degree from University of Arizona and a PhD from University of California at Berkeley, both in Chemical Engineering. He met his wife, Debbie, at Berkeley, where she earned a degree in Genetics. She, too, enjoys a challenge, as she freelances for various organizations.

Dave was recruited by GE while at Berkeley. In 1980, he moved to Niskayuna to work at GE Research, where variety played a major role in keeping him on the team for 26 years and resulted in a very successful career. Working on and managing several talented research teams held his attention — on projects ranging from inventing new polymers and the processes to make them, to biochemical engineering, micro-fabrication and alternative energy sources.

If you save past NWA newsletters, you'll remember Dave gave a talk in January 2006 about his CNC (Computer Numeric Controlled) routing system. It is sort of a "Big Boy Toy" that can do incredible things, once you learn how to set it up and program it. Dave has incorporated the machine into his new business called Windhover Studios. He has tackled a wide variety of projects (variety again- a key word), most commonly, engraved lettering of signs and commemorative plaques. Another side of the business is creating artistic-sculptural pieces in wood and other materials, using a range of techniques, including carving, inlay, and painting. The long term plan is to develop the wood sculpture area as the major part of the business.

Dave met Herm Finkbeiner and Milan Fiske at GE and was one of the eight original members of NWA in 1991. He has held NWA offices: Membership Chair for several years, VP/ Program Director, and then President in 1994-95. He has regularly been part of and exhibited in Showcase, organizing the Membership booth for several years and co-chairing the Professional Gallery for Showcases 2005- 2008. Dave is also one of the regular "Woodies" who work on projects for Double H Ranch in

*Continued on Page 11*



## Items Needed for Showcase Raffle

By Jay Van Vranken

A few articles for the showcase raffle have come in but there is still a need for some additional items. Any person that would like to donate an article that they have made that would be something someone would like to have, please feel free to contact me. I know that there are woodworkers that would just love to donate something that they have created.

Please contact me at [s74vanv@nycap.rr.com](mailto:s74vanv@nycap.rr.com), 518-664-3034 or Jay Van Vranken, 212 RT. 4, Stillwater, NY 12170. 🐾

**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.



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Elizabeth Keays Graphic Artist  
Designer



**WEBSITE(S)**  
[www.woodworker.org](http://www.woodworker.org)  
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**Blog Site:**  
<http://woodworkerorg.blogspotcom/>

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**  
P.O. BOX 246  
Rexford, New York 12148



# Casting metals – Michael Sofronas Seminar at Kaatskill Woodturners

By Chuck Walker

Saturday January 19 the Kaatskill Woodturners held a special seminar on metal casting. The instructor was Michael Sofronas from New York, a third generation metallurgist. He started by getting everyone's attention when he took a piece of bronze about 3/8" thick and 8" tall and shaped loosely like an anchor or the cross section of a bell. He tapped it with a wooden mallet and it rang like a bell, and rang, and rang for some minutes. He has been perfecting the alloy and shape for some years obviously with good success. From this many other metals and alloys were discussed to familiarize us with their properties.

Some time was spent describing how to make a furnace for melting metal using a large tin can like popcorn comes in at Christmas time. The inside is a clay flower pot isolated from the can by an inch or so of mortar. A lid can be made from another flower pot inverted over the furnace. With a hole in the side for a forced air inlet and using charcoal as fuel, it will generate enough heat to melt Aluminum, brass, bronze, and perhaps even Iron.

After lunch Michael described the tools and materials used for the actual casting of metal forms. Most everything used is commonly found or easily made. Tools such as flask, (cope and drag), riddle, and terms like sprue, riser, and gate were explained. Casting sand can be made by sieving regular sand and adding Bentonite clay which can be obtained from crushed and sifted cat litter. A little moisture to make the sand have substance completes the mix. It is necessary for the sand to be able to hold a shape when squeezed into the hand.

The crucible or melting pot can be cast iron for lower melting metals or special ceramic/graphite materials are available if needed. It must have a lip for controlling the pour. Special tongs are needed for handling crucibles at red heat and long leather gloves are necessary also. Larger crucibles will need the assistance of a helper.

For our demonstration a simple pattern was simulated from four plastic condiment cups. They were filled with sand and placed upside down in the center of the bottom part of the flask (drag) or form that holds the sand. After coating with parting compound (talc), sand was sifted in with the riddle and rammed to compact it and fill any voids around the pattern. The drag was flipped over and the top part (cope) was put in place and filled with sand and also rammed to compact it and then struck off level. The halves were separated and the pattern removed. Sprues and gates were formed. Risers and vents were not necessary for this pour.

A low melting pewter alloy was placed in an iron pot on a propane stove. When ready, the dross was skimmed off and the molten metal poured into the flask via the sprue. When cool, the flask was opened and the resulting casting removed.

One might ask what a woodworker might find interesting in metal casting and the reasons are many. For turners or small item makers, metal such as pewter can be made a decorative feature. For tool makers, parts or tools can be made of metal. In earlier years, patternmaking was a required trade in any factory making metal parts. The patternmaker of old worked with wood to make the model and



Flower pot furnace. Cast iron melting pot (crucible) left rear.



Michael Sofronas sifting sand over the pattern in the bottom of the flask (drag).



Ramming the sand to compact it and remove voids.



A dowel forms the opening (sprue) for the molten metal to enter.



Forming gates for the metal to reach the mold cavity with a teaspoon.

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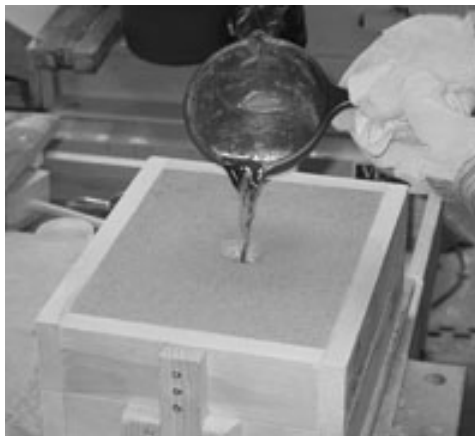
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used many specialized tools some of which remain today. Many of the hand tools we use now had their development in the patternmaking trade. Many of today's power tools are based on castings as part of their construction. Motors have castings for their housings.

This value of this seminar was to learn about a technique for forming metals which is rooted in antiquity. New ideas were gained for enhanced woodworking and making new tools and objects for the shop or just decoration. 🐼



*Pouring the molten pewter.*



*The cast pewter forms removed from the sand.*

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## Jigs and Fixtures (and sometimes Shop Tips)

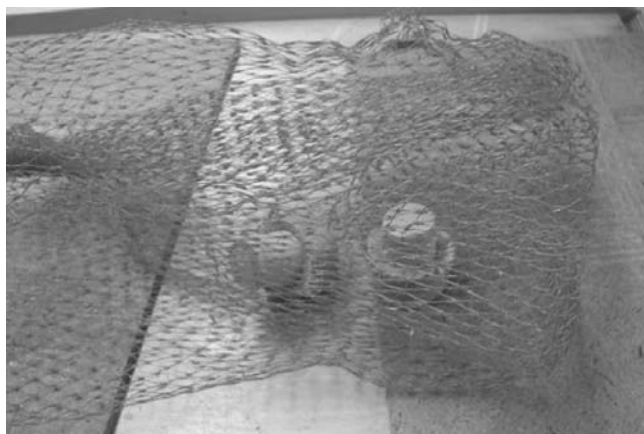
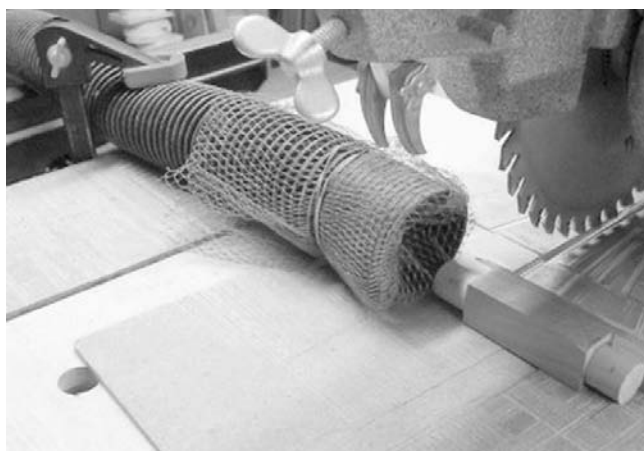
### *Catching Small Cut-offs in a Mesh Bag*

*By Toy Maker Bob*

The following tip comes from Stan Pulaski of Michigan via The Woodworkers Journal Shop Tricks. I have found this idea helpful many times while making toys.

When cutting small pieces on my radial arm saw or table saw I am uncomfortable holding the cut off so close to the spinning blade but if I don't hold them some way the air from the turning blade blows the pieces away. To save searching through the saw dust or around the floor and also to keep my fingers from being too close to the blade I put a mesh bag inside the body of my shop vacuum and hold it in place with one end of the vacuum tube. The intake end of the hose is then attached close to the saw blade where the small pieces are cut off. The vacuum pulls the saw dust and the small pieces into the mesh bag trap. The saw dust goes on through while the pieces are collected in the mesh bag. If I'm only making a few small pieces I put the mesh bag inside the intake end of the hose near the saw blade.

The attached pictures show the mesh bag on the intake end of the vacuum tube near the blade on my radial arm saw and the pieces trapped in the bag after removal from the end of the tube. 🐼



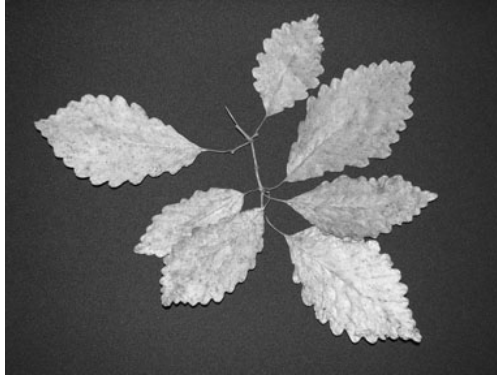
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First prize is a \$200 gift certificate from Lie-Nielsen  
and the second prize is a \$100 certificate from Curtis.**

# Wood of the Month ©2008

- Ron DeWitt

## Chestnut Oak (*Quercus prinus*) L. A Deciduous Hardwood Fagaceae - The Beech Family

The trees thought to have first appeared as oaks in what is now Thailand about 60 million years ago have evolved into a genus of, arguably, as many as 500 trees and shrubs worldwide. Except for a few species isolated in high mountains of the tropics, all are located in the Northern Hemisphere. Of the approximately 200 oaks native to North America, 58 are found in the United States, including 10 also native to Canada. As many as 130 species of oak are found in the mountains of northern Mexico. The numbers and confusion is certainly increased by their many hybrids.



The true oaks of the world are generally “simplified” by dividing them into two groups with similar characteristics. The **White Oak Group** includes the chestnut, chinkapin, burr and live oaks. The **Red Oak Group** includes the pin, black and willow oaks. The white oak group is older.

The chestnut oak (*Quercus prinus*), also called basket oak, cow oak, rock chestnut oak, rock oak, mountain oak or tanbark oak has an irregular native range, mostly in the U.S. It extends from southern Maine west across the Hudson Valley into southern Ontario in Canada and further west, just into Michigan, then southward into Mississippi. The range then extends eastward across South Carolina into central North Carolina avoiding the coastal plain, on northward until crossing the Chesapeake, then serving all of Delaware and New Jersey and on north over coastal Massachusetts.

Chestnut oak locates in a variety of soil conditions, but mostly on dry upland sites in well-drained sand, gravel or rock. It prefers south-or west-facing ridges or upper slopes, but it grows from sea level in coastal New England to 4000 ft. (1400 m) in the southern Appalachians. Average rainfall over most of its range is 40 to 48 in. (102 to 122 cm). Best growing areas are in the mountains of the Carolinas and Tennessee, and here it was considered the most valuable of the oaks.

Chestnut oak may be found in pure stands but usually associates with a wide variety of highly competitive tree species. Depending on habitat, these associates may include a wide variety of oaks, hickories, pines, several maples, black cherry, yellow-poplar, etc. It is able to maintain its position in these diverse woodlands for several reasons. It tolerates competition very well, it is moderately free of diseases and insect damage, and a high

percentage of this oak’s reproduction comes from root sprouts.

This oak is considered a medium-size, long-lived tree, typically reaching a height of 65 to 80 ft. (20 to 24 m) and 20 to 30 in (51 to 76 cm) dbh. Maximum size tends to be 100 ft. (30.5 m) tall and 6 ft. (183 cm) dbh, but trees to 140 ft. (43 m) have been reported. Trees mature in 125 years and may live 200 to 300 years. The Washington Oak, a very large chestnut oak seen along the Hudson River years ago, was estimated to have been 800 to 1000 years old. The current (2003) record holder in the U.S., listed in The National Register of Big Trees, is 99 ft. (30 m) by 7.25 ft. (2.2 m) dbh, located in Arnold, Maryland.

Open grown trees or trees on poor sites are usually branched low on crooked stems. In more favorable locations they tend toward clear, straight stems with broad, open, irregular crowns. Leaves of the chestnut oak are quite variable in size and shape, typically 4 to 8 in. (10 to 20 cm) long and 2 to 4 in. (5 to 10 cm) wide, elliptical and wider beyond the middle, gradually narrowing to the base. Leaf edges are wavy with 10 to 16 rounded teeth along each side. Leaves are shiny green above, dull gray-green and lightly hairy below. Leaves hang curtain-like, more concentrated on outer branches and toward the tree top. Like all oaks, the leaves are placed alternately along the twigs. Based on leaves alone, the tree could be mistaken for an American chestnut.

The oaks are monoecious—each tree possessing both female and male sexual parts. The fruit of the oaks are acorns. In this case they’re 1 to 1.5 in. (2.5 to 3 cm) long, stoutly egg shaped and encased for about one third to one half their length in a rough, warty cap. Acorns mature at the end of their first year, becoming a lustrous chestnut-brown in

autumn. The tree produces its first acorns at about age 20, but acorn production is irregular with good crops occurring only once every 4 to 5 years. This oak tends to hybridize with many of the oaks it associates with.

Twigs of chestnut oak are green, tinged with purple or bronze when young, darkening with age to shades of gray. Bark matures from smooth to rough to thick and very coarse, becoming deeply furrowed into v-shaped ridges, a prominent distinguishing feature.



The wood of the chestnut oak is classified as ring-porous. Earlywood is composed of a single row of large, round, solitary pores, clearly visible to the naked eye. Tyloses are plentiful in the earlywood of the heartwood. Latewood pores are thin-walled, very small, numerous and indistinct with a hand lens. These pores range outwardly across the latewood in radial flame-like arrays. Growth ring boundaries are easily noted unless the tree grew very slowly. The relatively tall rays are quite uniform in two sizes: large, conspicuous and visible to the



naked eye, or small and just visible with a hand lens. The woods of the various oaks in the white oak group cannot be separated with certainty.

The narrow sapwood is light tan. Heartwood may be a rich light to dark brown. Transition from sapwood to heartwood is not well defined. The wood is considered very heavy, hard, strong and durable. Average sp. gr. is about 0.67 and it weighs about 45 pcf (721 kg/m<sup>3</sup>) at 12% M.C., quite similar to white oak but a little heavier than northern red oak (*Q. rubra*). It is quite stable in service.

Chestnut oak dries slowly with a great desire to warp and check. End sealing is important and air drying must be done with care. As is typical of the oaks, this wood is easily stained by contact with iron. The wood has no distinguishing odor when dry but leaves a slightly bitter taste. It is usually straight grained with a moderately fine texture. Like white oak, it has a quite pleasant figure from the ray effect in quarter-sawn lumber. Except in its better growing areas, chestnut oak does not usually produce much long, straight lumber.

Chestnut oak is readily worked with power tools to produce smooth surfaces and crisp edges. Hand tools require more effort and care and must be very sharp. The wood has some dulling effect on cutting edges. Gluing calls for good adhesives and careful control. Fasteners hold very well, but pre-drilling is necessary to minimize an inclination to split along ray lines. This is an excellent steam-bending wood. Stains, oil or varnish work very well but those large pores require filling to get smooth finished surfaces. It polishes to a nice patina.

The high tannic acid content in chestnut oak, especially in the bark, twigs and leaves but in significant quantity in the wood, results in toxicity causing eye, skin, lung and nasal passage problems. Appropriate precautions are well advised when working with this material, green or dry.

The sweet acorn meat of the chestnut oak supports a wide variety of wildlife. It was also an important food source for native and early Americans and their livestock, especially their pigs. Inner bark decoctions treated their wounds as well as common ailments like diarrhea, fever, sore throat, consumption, ulcers and sore eyes. Here, too, the active component was tannic acid.

Because chestnut oak and white oak are similar in many properties, uses are often similar, but the higher tannin content (from polyphenols) of the inner bark of chestnut oak placed it in high demand for leather tanning. (The word *tan* is derived from the Latin for oak bark.) Through the first quarter of the Twentieth Century, great numbers of these trees, along with eastern hemlock were cut for only their bark, almost liquidating the chestnut oak from North America. At times millions of board feet of stripped trees lay decaying on eastern forest floors.

The closed pores in chestnut oak produce barrels impermeable to stored liquids, e.g. water, spirits, molasses. An added benefit of the ubiquitous tannins is that they interact with ageing wines, especially reds, improving their quality and character.

Where it is available, chestnut oak is selected for strength, hardness, resilience and durability. Split inner bark is still used for woven chair seats and baskets. It is used for railroad crossties, fence posts, shingles, boat

building, barn beams, bridges and farm equipment. Large quantities go into furniture, cabinets, caskets and steam-bent items. The attractive quarter-sawn figure makes it popular for plywood, veneer, flooring and general millwork. Off-quality stuff goes for charcoal, pallets and excellent firewood.

Today the chestnut oak is still recovering (This oak is on the threatened species lists for Maine and Illinois.), but supplies are good. Rarely sold as chestnut oak or rock oak, it is usually mixed with white oak and others of the white oak group and sold as "white oak," selling, in the northeast, for less than red oak.

## Wood Questions

Q. Which of the following popular wood flooring species is most likely to cause an allergic reaction: Brazilian walnut (ipe), red oak, white pine, or beech?



A. Brazilian walnut (ipe) is quite toxic.

## Wood Definition

- Ron DeWitt

**Balloon framing or balloon construction.** The method of building construction, developed about 1840, using closely-spaced, vertical planks or "studs" for side walls and general framing. It was considered light-weight, like "balloon skin," utilizing small boards and small nails as compared with the heavy post and beam construction commonly used at the time. Balloon framing was made possible with the use of efficient sawmills and nail factories.



## MEMBER PROFILE

# Bill McCormack "Wood is Something Special"

By John Zukowski

The stork that flew into Albany on January 20, 1935 brought a bundle to a certain house named McCormack. After carefully examining the bundle they decided to keep him and called him William (Bill for short). And he has not stopped talking since.

Bill's childhood was much like those of many others at the time. After school he joined the Marines and served in the Korean War. Returning home, he landed a job with Central Markets in the produce department where he worked his way up into the manager position. Then he took over the meat department. After that he started working on the store's advertisements (he is an "artsy" kind of guy). Overall, he worked for the store, which eventually became Price Chopper, for 43 years.

Bill has four children, eight grandchildren and one great grandchild. His fiancée Annie, who just happens to be Irish, keeps him in his place. An Irish trait. He is very proud of his children and is happy that three of them live in the area for him to enjoy. The fourth child moved to Binghamton, N.Y. Bill himself resides in Lansingburgh.

Now Bill, as mentioned above, is an artsy guy, although he wasn't always aware of it. His first love was drawing and oil painting. His second love was whittling. At the age of 6, he was given a knife and he started to whittle. He turned whittling into carving and to this day he is still carving and very skillfully.

Carving is a special gift. One must be able to see things in three dimensions. Michelangelo once said that the sculpture is in the block. It just needs someone to remove the material that doesn't belong there. Bill had that ability to see what was in a block of butternut and then went on to carve the Last Supper. He carved a five foot long fish out of a beam taken from the Silliman Memorial Church in Cohoes before it was razed. Of course he called it "Holy Mackerel". He envisions his ideas and then places them into the wood. He carves canes, relief images and anything you can think of. Bill has entered his work into a number of shows, such as the VA Peoples Choice Art Fair, winning first or second in many of the competitions.

His shop contains all the normal woodworking tools i.e. three bandsaws (yes, 10" 12" 14"), router, 2 lathes (had to be 2), a table saw, dust collector plus his prized carving tools as well as many other hand tools. And, of course, he would like to expand his shop, just like all the rest of us.

Bill loves to learn. He has taken several management courses from Cornell and wood related courses from UMass. A few years ago he had the opportunity to share the insights of wood researchers he met when staying in Florida. He has been taking courses with NWA and other groups since 1991. Reading is another major interest.

While his passion for learning is legendary, his passion to share his knowledge is even greater. During the week, Bill is shared by several woodcarver groups:

every week he is at the Shenendehowa Senior Center and at the Halfmoon Senior Center. He also helps out and teaches twice a week at the Sister Mary Ellen workshop at the St. Joseph Provincial House in Latham. He claims he needs all the prayers he can get. We will just have to believe him.

He is a member of the International Wood Collector's Society, and he now has over three thousand wood samples from all over the world. You probably saw some of them at Showcase several years ago. He also works with the carvers SIG when Showcase comes around organizing the carvers for the demonstration area. He's always looking for more help.

Bill enjoys the fellowship that the NWA brings. He especially likes meeting new people, exchanging ideas, learning new things. "Most of all, I enjoy the people you meet and get to work with to make something out of wood. Flat or round lumber becomes something special".

Have I mentioned that Bill likes to talk?



## WOOD Magazine Request

### Ultimate bragging rights: Your shop in a national magazine

Do you have the kind of shop other woodworkers like to visit? Is your shop filled with clever ideas that help you work smarter, faster, or safer? Have you designed and built special tool racks, machine bases, cabinets, jigs, or other shop helpers you think your fellow woodworkers would find interesting? If so, the editors at *WOOD* magazine invite you to submit your workshop or individual shop projects for review for possible publication in future editions of *America's Best Home Workshops*. Your shop doesn't have to be big, or nit-picky clean. The ideas could be storage solutions, task-specific jigs, shop tips, or the special way you designed, built, and outfitted your shop. To submit your shop visit [www.woodmagazine.com/homeshops](http://www.woodmagazine.com/homeshops)



# EXHIBIT ENTRY FORM

## NWA SHOWCASE      APRIL 5-6, 2008

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ Member: Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ Professional: Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

☐ Check here if you'd like this information to be available for inquiries about your work.

**PLEASE COMPLETE THE ENTRY FORM AND SEND IT TO:  
NORTHEASTERN WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION  
P.O. Box 246, Rexford, NY 12148**

**ENTRY DEADLINE IS WEDNESDAY, April 2nd**

**Any entry received after that date will not be entered for judging, but for display only.**

***NOTE:** Display labels are made in advance using the information you provide below. Those labels will be waiting you when you bring your entry on Friday, April 4th. No entries permitted after 7:00PM .*

ENTRY CATEGORY AND DESCRIPTION	FOR JUDGING ONLY	FOR DISPLAY ONLY
(State category, give brief description of your item, list types of woods and finish used)  <b>Example:</b> Furniture 3; Windsor chair, tiger maple, honey oak stain, lacquer finish.	(only one per category)	(unlimited as space allows)
#1		
#2		
#3		
#4		
#5		
#6		
ADDITIONAL NOTES		

(see page 2 for entry rules)

**WHAT: NWA SHOWCASE 2008 ([www.nwawoodworkingshow.org](http://www.nwawoodworkingshow.org))**  
**WHERE: Saratoga Springs City Center & The Saratoga Hotel**  
**WHEN: Saturday and Sunday, April 5-6, 2008, 10 AM – 5 PM**

### **EXHIBIT HALL ENTRY CATEGORIES**

1. Adirondack furniture and accessories
2. Furniture 1: Tables, beds
3. Furniture 2: Cases, cabinets, desks
4. Furniture 3: Chairs
5. Accessories: Clocks, boxes, desk top pieces
6. Toys/Miniatures: Play things, models
7. Turning 1: Segmented
8. Turning 2: Bowls, platters, plates, vessels
9. Turning 3: Pens, finials, spindles, ornaments
10. Beginner Turner: Over 16 and new to turning in the last 12 months
11. Beginner Woodworker: Over 16 and new to woodworking in the last 12 months
12. Youth: 16 and under.
13. Carving: Representational, conceptual, decorative
14. Inlay, Intarsia, Marquetry
15. Scroll sawing
16. Musical instruments
17. Other: Shop equipment, boats, or any piece not fitting into the above categories

### **ENTRY RULES FOR EXHIBIT HALL**

- Any woodworker may exhibit his/her work. There is no entry fee.
- Entry forms must be received by April 2nd to be eligible for competition. Late entries will be entered for display only.
- All exhibit items must be delivered to the City Center no later than 7:00 PM, Friday April 4. No exceptions.
- Exhibits are not to be removed from the floor before 5PM Sunday.
- You may exhibit any number of pieces in more than one category, but only one piece per category for judging.
- Award winning pieces from a previous Showcase event are not eligible for competition, but may be entered for display.
- There must be at least three entrants in a category for an entry to be judged.
- The judges reserve the right to re-categorize an item for judging.
- The exhibit hall is not a commercial area. No price tags or literature other than small business cards will be allowed.
- The decisions of the judges are final. At the discretion of the judges, some awards may not be given.

### **AWARDS**

1. Best of Show: One from any entry
2. First Place Professional: One each category except for 10, 11 and 12.\*
3. First Place: One each category
4. Second Place: One each category
5. Third Place: One each category
6. Honorable Mention: One each category
7. Richard Pagano Memorial Award for turning (new)

\* Professionals: You are a professional if half or more of your livelihood is derived from woodworking. You may submit an entry in any category except 10, 11 and 12.

**For questions:** Ken Evans, Showcase Chair (518) 753-7759, [kevans@nycap.rr.com](mailto:kevans@nycap.rr.com)  
Pat McCord, Judging Chair (518) 439-1232, [ptmccord@verizon.net](mailto:ptmccord@verizon.net)  
Dave Mobley, Professional Gallery (518) 346-1146 [dmobley@nycap.rr.com](mailto:dmobley@nycap.rr.com)

# CHAPTER NEWS

## *Sacandaga Chapter*

*By Gary Spencer*

The Sacandaga Chapter of the Northeastern Woodworkers Association had a meeting scheduled for Feb 13, but, unfortunately mother nature decided we could not meet. This was a shame because Barney Bellenger was to be our featured speaker. His topic was about his love of rustic and Adirondack furniture. How to design it and build it. We could not let Barney go however and persuaded him to reschedule. Barney agreed and we do plan to reschedule his presentation in a couple of months.

Our next month's program will feature NWA's Pete Howe. Pete has recently completed restoration of an antique barber chair. The chair weighs about 1600 pounds and thus could not be hauled to our meeting, so Pete took careful photos of the restoration and will present a slide show to the Chapter on the process.

He has created a unique chapter of our nations history and this should not be missed. This presentation is upcoming for our March 12, Chapter meeting. Should be a great meeting don't miss it!

Our regular monthly meetings are the second Wednesday of each month and begin at 7:00 P.M. at Mayfield High School woodshop. But for this meeting only we will meet in the school library. Our next regular meeting will be March 12, 2008. Come on out!

Remember we have door prizes and light refreshments are served.

For Directions or information contact:

Cliff Danke -883-6011 • Carl Siegel -853-3866 • Gary Spencer -863-6433

## **Dave Mobley**

*Continued from Page 3*

Luzerne including making craft kits, moving the Memory Wall and just recently has led a project making 14 engraved wooden signs for the new crafts building at Double H using his CNC routing system

I asked Dave who or what developed his interest in working with wood. "My Dad," he said. "My father, who was a minister, built a couple of the houses that I grew up in. Wanting to be like him, I was picking up a hammer to help him way before I was in grade school. That was my start of enjoying tools and making things."

Dave is part of the team of instructors at our Stillwater classes where he has taught classes on the basics of the plunge router and using the router to make boxes. I think once you meet him you will see that he is an optimist and he exudes confidence. When you set up an appointment to visit the studio, check out the neat red cedar arch he constructed last summer over the entranceway.

FYI, Dave is usually at of our meetings. Take advantage of his being there and get to know him, or if you need custom creative woodworking on a project or an idea, he can be reached at 518-346-1146 or e-mail - [dmobley@nycap.rr.com](mailto:dmobley@nycap.rr.com). 🐾

Tradition is what you resort to when you don't have the time or the money to do it right.

Kurt Adler





# Spoons Carved at Stillwater Shop

*By Herm Finkbeiner*

Have you ever used a draw knife, a spoke shave, a shaving horse? All historically important woodworking tools that many of us have never learned to use properly. Like all hand tools they need a bit of learning and some practice to appreciate how useful they really are.

On Thursday, Jan. 17 Tom Wetzel taught a 6 hour wooden spoon making class at the Stillwater shop. The seven class members, Gerry O'Brien, Kitty Scharl, Wayne Evancoe, Joe Pelcher, Mike Kratky, John Los and Austin Spang, started by learning to split out (rive) straight uniform pieces from a green cherry log that Mike had obtained for the class. It took a little while to get used to the behavior of wood that was dripping wet but woodworkers learn quickly (usually).

Once the blank was in hand it was on to the shaving horse. Gerry O'Brien had made six bench top shaving horses (maybe "shaving snakes" since they have no legs but hold wood very firmly in a mouth) that were based on a design that Alden Witham had developed. Thus, thanks to Gerry, everyone had a personal work station and "horse". The horses did double duty later in the month as they were used by the Windsor chair making class in making spindles.

It was immediately obvious that draw knives and spoke shaves are as efficient as lathes at converting most of the starting blank into shavings on the floor. And as the day wore on the class members became increasingly skilled at making those shavings. Wet shavings!

By mid-afternoon everyone had gotten to the point where it was clear that a finished spoon was within reach. Now all that was needed was a pot of chowder to test it on. 🍲



**Check out our  
SHOWCASE website:**

**<http://www.nwawoodworkingshow.org/>**

# Adirondack Woodturners Association Monthly News

*By Celia Carpenter*

## February's Demonstration:

We had an incredible evening with Paul Petrie demonstrating the art of hollow turning. He took great care to explain to all the tools that are used. If one is to attempt this for themselves it is an opportunity to purchase additional tools. As if we need excuses.

Paul again emphasized the "dance" that is crucial for acceptable results. We learned different approaches as all turners know there are for everything.

Paul is an exceptional teacher, knowledgeable, patient and able to convey the art. If you have not already signed up and there is room. Paul is teaching a class April 19 and 20th at Stillwater. Don't hesitate. The class will be filled early.

## March Demonstration:

Mike Kross will be teaching us how to turn "tremblers". I hope I am correct in stating that historically tremblers were for an apprentice to perfect their work. I am sure it will be an informative and interesting demonstration.

## Something About How AWA Functions

*By Ken Evans*

It seems there were several questions raised at the last meeting (February) of AWA regarding certain aspects of AWA functioning. I was not present at this meeting, but received several calls from members concerned by the meeting's departure from the planned agenda. Unfortunately, I was not able to attend due to the extreme weather conditions in my area.

The following is an attempt to answer some of the issues I was told were raised:

1. AWA is a Board directed organization. Policy is set by a Board of member elected officers. The Business meeting of the AWA is the monthly Board meeting which begins at 5:00PM and ends at 6:30PM before each regular monthly meeting.

Any member of AWA or NWA is free to attend these meetings and such visitors are ALWAYS welcome...

If you have an issue you would like to discuss with the Board, you should contact the Secretary (Peter Case) to be placed on the agenda of a meeting. Board agendas are set roughly 1 week before the meeting.

2. The regular monthly meeting of the club is NOT a business meeting. It is a meeting of programming, a raffle, an Instant Gallery, some of Betty's great brownies, and the camaraderie of fellow woodturners. This is why members come to meetings and what they expect when they get to the meeting. Business belongs at the Board Meeting.
3. Some AWA members choose to donate a \$20 per year activity fee. This is a donation and is not mandatory

for membership. Under the current By-Laws, the only requirement for membership is filling out the yearly application form

4. The reason the AWA news is in the NWA newsletter is because the vast majority of our members are NWA members and it seems inefficient and wasteful to publish and mail a newsletter when one already exists and is available without charge. Those AWA members who are not NWA members can still receive the newsletter at [www.woodworker.org](http://www.woodworker.org) where it is posted as a PDF file.

We are not restricted in space in any way in the NWA newsletter. If you have articles or pictures about AWA you would like to see in the newsletter, please give them to our newsletter editor, Celia Carpenter. The more, the better.

## Instant Gallery

This past months instant gallery held many pieces from the group. Don Orr does an excellent job of critiquing yet being kind to those who may be a bit afraid to "show" our work.



*Continued on following page*



### Betty's Brownies

Due to the impending storm Betty and Louie took a break from the long journey to the meeting this month. We missed the brownies along with the absence of the Andrews.

We do appreciate the effort made on their part every month to help us maintain our weight.

### Stillwater Classes on Wednesday

The Wednesday group of turners has continued to be beneficial to turners with questions. This past week we had at least three people there that were new. We have a great time turning, and talking. Perhaps we should call it Talk and Turn at Stillwater.

Please come and join us at 530 or 6 pm every Wednesday except for the first Wednesday when we are meeting at Curtis.

We thank all those that come to advise and encourage.

### AWA Auction at Curtis

We had a great assortment of items for the auction this month. Added to the usual were about five tools, gouges, scrapers and etc. We are grateful for the efforts on the part of the staff that find the items each month to tempt us.

If you turn in 5 tops (regulated size) to Louie Andrews you will earn one free ticket. We need many tops to hand out to children at Saratoga in April. 🐾

An optimist sees opportunity in every calamity.  
A pessimist sees calamity in every opportunity.

Anonymous

As scarce as truth is, the supply is always greater  
than the demand.

Henry Wheeler Shaw

Often the search is more profitable than the goal.  
E. L. Konigsburg

## NWA Woodworking Classes at the Stillwater Shop

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

### Windsor Chair Steam Bending

Tom Wetzel

The 5th Installment in the  
Windsor Chair Series

Sat. & Sun., March 1 & 2, 2008

9 AM to 4 PM

The 'Hands On' portion of the series  
is sold out.

This class is only available on an audit basis

Cost: \$30

### Furniture Design

Garrett Hack

Fri. & Sat., March 7 & 8

9 AM to 5 PM

Cost: \$120

### Windsor Chair Assembly

Tom Wetzel

The Final Installment in the  
Windsor Chair Series

Fri., Sat. & Sun., March 14, 15 & 16, 2008

9 AM to 4 PM

The 'Hands On' portion of the series  
is sold out.

This class is only available on an audit basis

Cost: \$30

### Gluing Up Wood Panels

Charlie Goddard

Wednesday, March 26

1 PM to 4 PM

Cost: \$20

### Beginning Scroll Saw

Tom O'Donnell

Sunday April 13

1 PM to 5 PM

Cost: \$20

### Beginning Wood Carving - Decorate a Panel

Jim Schreiner

Mon., Apr. 14, 21, & 28 and May 5

6 PM to 9 PM

Cost: \$75

### Turning Hollow Forms

Paul Petrie

Sat. & Sun., April 19 & 20

9 AM to 4 PM

Cost: \$70

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



# Double H Ranch Hole in the Woods Gang

*By Herm Finkbeiner*

Each year approximately 1,000 youngsters with serious illnesses come to the Double H Ranch just north of Lake Luzerne for a week of outdoors, something that is missing from their lives most of the rest of the year. From the very first year of its existence NWA has provided kits that the campers use in the arts and crafts program and, of course, each year a new supply is needed. This year the requested kits and the numbers of each that is needed is shown on the list below. Some of the kits are made by the NWA members who get together at Jim's shop (48 Guide Board Road, Half Moon) each Saturday morning at 9:00 am. If you can make one, or 10 or 100 your contribution will help and if it works best for you to make the kits in your own shop contact me, hfinkbei@nycap.rr.com or 518-371-9145 and I will get the drawings or plans to you.

Critter cages - 40

Cars - 175

Picture Stands/Frames - 50

Airplanes - 75

Harry Potter Wands - 50

Bears - 100

Deer - 100

Muskrats - 150

Beavers - 150

Chipmunks - 180

Eagles - 200

Bobcats - 80

Moose - 40

Foxes - 150

Wolves - 50

Raccoons - 75

Hearts - 75

Fish - 75

Stars - 75

Small Adirondack Chairs - 30

Small Rocking Chairs - 20



Recently NWA did a different kind of job for Double H Ranch.

The ranch was able to build a new building for use as the center for the Adaptive Winter Sports Program during the colder part of the year and the arts and crafts program during the summer.

As a part of the construction NWA was asked to make wooden interior signs for the new building. Under the leadership of Dave Mobley the Saturday morning gang made up the blanks, finished the surfaces, put on the masking and then turned them over to Dave for engraving. The pictures show part of the process of installing the signs on Friday, January 25, a cold but sunny morning in the north country.

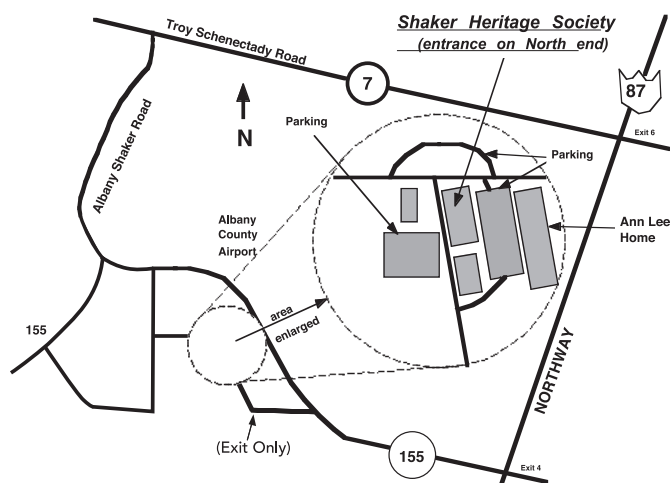
To learn more about Double H Ranch see [www.doublehbranch.org/](http://www.doublehbranch.org/)



**Mark Those Calendars**  
**APRIL 5 AND 6, APRIL 4 is SETUP, Help us out.**  
**GET your PROJECT finished and your ENTRY**  
**mailed to CHARLIE. EARLY EARLY EARLY.**  
**SHOWCASE 2008 is THE APRIL PLACE TO BE.**



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



## March Meeting

Thursday, March 13, 2008, 7:00 pm  
Shaker Heritage Society Meeting House  
Albany-Shaker Road, Albany

GENERAL MEETINGS  
AND SPECIAL EVENTS

### NWA Program Schedule 2008

March 13, 2008  
Musical Instruments Making

April 10, 2008  
Fly Rod making  
(Howard Bartholoemew)

May 8, 2008  
Spec. display (By Mid Hudson Chapter)

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. Wednesday "Learn and Turn" sessions in Stillwater are also scheduled from 6 pm - 9 pm except on AWA member meeting nights. [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 on the third Wednesday of the month at The School at Northeast, 1821 Hamburg St., Schenectady. A beginner's session starts at 6:30 PM followed by a general meeting at 7:00 PM. Contact: Donna Phillips, (518) 372-3337 or [dlphill@nycap.rr.com](mailto:dlphill@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 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 Joe Kennedy, (845) 473-1598

**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.