

WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern
Woodworkers
Association

March 2017, Vol. 26, Number 3

March Meeting

Bright Ideas – Jigs and Fixtures

Thursday, March 9, 2017 7:00 PM

Shaker Heritage Society Meetinghouse

Albany-Shaker Road, Albany, NY

By Pete Howe

How many times have you looked at wood working publications and thought, “That’s a bright idea. That could increase safety and convenience in my shop.” But by the time you’ve looked through the remaining pages the thought may be forgotten or put on your “do it late list”.

Five fellow members have each built three (3) jigs and/or fixtures and will present them at the March 9th meeting. A sign-up sheet will accompany each item. If you are interested in building one or more for your shop, add your email to the sign-up sheets to receive a detailed sketch on building the item.

Each table will have its own sign-up sheet for each individual item. There are five woodworkers each doing three items and each person will have a sign-up sheet.

These are 15 ideas that might save you time and money and provide a safer way to go.

NWA Woodcarvers' Community Service

By Diane Balch

NWA carvers SIG has donated 31 comfort birds to the Women’s Cancer Treatment Center, on South Manning Boulevard in Albany and 31 comfort birds to “Healing a Woman’s Soul” in the Ballston Spa area. It is a service group for Battered Women.

This brings a total of 362 birds given to various organizations in the last 20 months. (Plus we personally have given away about 100 birds to people we are close to.)

We are making some to be sold in the NWA store at Showcase.

WOODWORKERS SHOWCASE 2017

Feature Exhibit

(second level)

“Fiber Arts Unraveled”

Presented by

Hudson – Mohawk

Weavers Guild

and

Rock Day Spinners

**The Adirondack
Bluegrass League
will again entertain
and delight with a
two day music festival**



*Comfort birds made from Zebrawood,
Butternut, Mahogany and Cypress*

NWA Woodworkers Showcase and Totally Turning Need Volunteers

Saturday and Sunday April 1st and 2nd, 2017

Kenneth and Maria Witkins, Volunteer Coordinators, will be at Learning Center Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM to sign-in volunteers or can be contacted by e-mail at nwavolunteer@gmail.com and by phone (518) 384-0403.

SHOWCASE

Door Hosts Exhibit Hall:

Sunday 1 slot 12:00 Noon to 2:30 PM

Vendor Door Host:

Saturday 1 slot 12:00 Noon to 2:30 PM;

1 slot 2:30 PM to 5:00 PM;

Sunday 1 slot Noon to 2:30 PM and

3 slots 2:30 PM to 5:00 PM

Hotel Door Host:

Saturday 1 slot 2:30 PM to 5:00 PM;

Sunday 1 slot 12:00 Noon to 2:30 PM

and 1 slot 2:30 PM to 5:00 PM

Floor Monitor Feature Exhibit:

Sunday 1 slot 2:30 PM to 5:00 PM

Floor Monitor, Exhibit Hall (downstairs):

Saturday 3 slots 9:45 AM to 12:00 Noon;

4 slots 12:00 Noon to 2:30 PM;

3 slots 2:30 PM to 5:00 PM;

Sunday 3 slots 9:45 AM to 12:00 Noon;

3 slots 12:00 Noon to 2:30 PM;

4 slots 2:30 PM to 5:00 PM

Lecture Videographer: - Free Training

Saturday 1 slot 10:30 AM to 11:45 AM;

2 slots 12:00 Noon to 1:15 PM;

2 slots 2:00 PM to 3:15 PM;

2 slots 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM;

Sunday 3 slots 10:30 AM to 11:45 AM;

4 slots 12:00 Noon to 1:15 PM;

4 slots 2:00 PM to 3:15 PM;

3 slots 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM.

NWA Invitational Gallery:

Saturday 1 slot 12:30 PM to 3:00 PM.

Sunday 1 slot 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Raffle Tickets:

Saturday 3 slots 9:45 AM to Noon;

2 slots Noon to 2:30 PM;

3 slots 2:30 to 5:00 PM;

Sunday 3 slots 9:45 AM to Noon;

3 slots Noon to 2:30 PM;

3 slots 2:30 PM to 5:00 PM

NWA Store:

Saturday 2 slots 9:45 AM to 12:00 Noon;

3 slots 12:00 Noon to 2:30 PM;

3 slots 2:30 PM to 5:00 PM;

Sunday 2 slots 9:45 AM to 12:00 Noon;

2 slots 2:30 PM to 5:00 PM

Ticket Sales:

Saturday 3 slots 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM;

3 slots 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

3 slots 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM;

3 slots 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM;

Sunday 4 slots 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM;

4 slots 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM;

4 slots 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM;

3 slots 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM.

Pen Turning: Saturday and Sunday

Loading Dock Ram Assistants:

Friday and Sunday

Truck driver Job

Question and Answer Booth Coordinator

Saturday and Sunday.

TOTALLY TURNING

Loading Dock Ram Assistants

Registration: Saturday 1 slot 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Sunday 1 slot 7:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

Trucking: Thursday 3/30; Friday 3/31;

Sunday 4/2; Monday 4/3.

Room Monitors: Saturday 1 slot 8:00 AM to

12 Noon; Sunday 4/2 1 slot 8:00 AM to

12:00 Noon; 2 slots 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Gallery Room Monitors: Saturday 4/1

1 slot 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM; 2 slots 6:00 to 8:00 PM

Sunday 4/2 1 slot 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM;

1 slot 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon;

2 slots 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM

**Maria and Kenneth Witkins,
Volunteer Coordinators**

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NWA General Meeting, February 9, 2017

Holding the meeting with nearly a foot of snow at our doorsteps on Feb 9, we were treated to a panel session on Tool Sharpening Techniques. The panel consisted of Dick Flanders, Logan Simms, and Wally Carpenter. Even with all the snow during that day, we were pleased to see an attendance of nearly 30 members. We also appreciate the smart thinking of those who chose to stay indoors and keep the fireplace going as that meant more doughnuts for those in attendance!

Dick Flanders began the discussion with an excellent overview of why we need sharp tools with drawings of the ragged edges of dull tools. He gave an overview demonstration of how to sharpen flat surface tools using the Veritas MKS-II jig. He showed the importance of flat backs on blades as it significantly effects the overall blade sharpness.

Dick also covered the importance of keeping a flat surface on waterstones as a hollow in a stone will replicate on the edge of a blade causing a camber which is highly undesirable on chisels.

Logan shared some excellent secrets of sharpening using a set of diamond stones with a mild soapy water. Logan prescribes having a slight rounding on the top surface of chisels as this creates more strength on the edge making it less prone to chipping or edge roll over. He demonstrated the importance of listening in the honing process by hearing when the action changed in pitch. He then knew he had achieved the desired result at that level of sharpening. Logan also shared the importance of having a leather surfaced board laden with a very fine diamond compound. By using this at the end of the honing process, he was able to achieve a razor sharp yet durable edge.

Logan also shared his method of sharpening gouges using crescent and figure 8 movements on the diamond stones. By sharing this part of the demonstration, he made us more aware and less fearful of addressing non-flat edges with confidence.

Wally briefly discussed the benefits of using a wheel grinder at the initial phase of creating the top surface edge of flat blades and chisels. It simply reduces the amount of work required to create a very sharp edge using Dick's technique of sharpening with jigs. He did note that this method is never to be used on Japanese chisels and blades. These blades are created by laminating a hard steel to a soft steel. By creating a hollow, it leaves no soft steel in contact with the hard steel edge which leads to significant breakage of the more brittle steel.

Wally shared his time showing a number of different jigs, motorized honing tools and other items he has acquired over time in the search for the perfect sharpening tools. After all this time and investment, he was lead to free-hand sharpening as his preferred method of sharpening.

All in all it was a very informative evening and enjoyable for those who were able to venture into the snow filled streets.

WOODWORKERS NEWS

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



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Kaatskill Wood Turners

By *Wally Cook*

Celtic Knot: John Tenuto demonstrated the process for creating a Celtic knot inlay in spindle work. For this demo, John applied the knot design to a PSI Gatsby pen kit. The Gatsby pen is a popular kit and can be ordered from Penn State Industries or a variety of other purveyors. However, the knot inlay can be applied in most pen kits.

The Gatsby pen kit calls for a single blank and comes in a twist or click version. (Note, however, that the pen tube length is slightly different between the two versions. In fact, extra tubes for the click pen must be ordered through tech support to avoid mix-up).

To begin the Celtic knot inlay, John squares a pen blank $\frac{3}{4}$ " x $\frac{3}{4}$ ". A diagonal cut is completed on one side, stopping $\frac{1}{16}$ " short of a through cut. This hinged cut allows easier insertion of a contrasting wood inlay. The wood inlay is glued into each kerf before the next cut is taken. The blank is rotated and the cut is repeated for every side (four cuts). When complete, the glued inlays form an "X" on every face (see picture). The angle of the cut does not matter, as long as the angle is replicated for each cut.

John uses a bandsaw sled with stop blocks to ensure a repeatable operation.

The critical aspects of the Celtic knot inlay are: a) consistent stop and start points for the cuts and b) the inlay placed in the cuts has to be a tight fit, but not so tight that all the glue is squeezed out of the joint.

When the blank is prepared and drilled out for the tube, the blank is finished like any pen kit. The rounded blank reveals a Celtic knot design as shown by the picture of the finished pens.

Upcoming: the next meeting is Saturday, March 11 – 9:00 AM at the Opdahl Building. Bob Lawless will review chatter work tools and techniques. Bring your own chatter tool and we will have an opportunity to mix and match tools in a hands-on environment.



Finished Gatsby pens alongside the rough blank for the Celtic knot



John Tenuto displays contents of Gatsby pen kit



John uses a jig for his bandsaw to cut the diagonals for the Celtic knot

Wood of the Month

Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*)

reprint by Ron DeWitt c. 1995

The hemlocks number only 14 species in the world, four in North America and ten in East Asia, all in North Temperate Zone. Of the four species native to North America, all are common to the U.S. Only the Western Hemlock of the Pacific Coast and the Eastern Hemlock of the Northeast are important.

The hemlocks are conifers or softwoods, closely related to the spruces. The name hemlock comes from the scent of crushed needles which have the same odor as the infamous herb of the same name.

The Eastern Hemlock, sometimes called Canada Hemlock or Hemlock Spruce, ranges from Nova Scotia south to Georgia, westward to Minnesota, and down to Kentucky.

A mature tree is usually 60-70 feet tall with a diameter of two-three feet. The tree shape varies from broad, strongly branched in open areas to tall and conical in crowded mountain groves. Big trees are in Lynville Falls, North Carolina (130 feet tall and five feet in diameter) and Aurora, West Virginia (125 feet tall and six feet in diameter).

Needles (leaves) of the Eastern Hemlock are small, flat, and slender, 5/16 to 5/8 inches long. They taper from the rounded base to the rounded tip.



Two white stripes

The closely spaced needles alternate along both sides of the branchlets in flat planes. A single line of widely separated needles also runs along the top of the branchlet,

twisted to show the double white stripes on their undersides. The tapered needles and twisted top row make a pattern unique to Eastern Hemlock.

Although hemlocks are classified as evergreen, they lose their needles on about a three year cycle - that is, each needle lives about three years before dropping.

The dark feathery sprays of rich green foliage of the hemlock is said to be the most delicate and graceful of our conifers, especially beautiful in spring when the new needles are pale yellow-green. Small brown cones are round ovals, only one and one-half inches long, carried on short stems from the branch tips. Cones form early in the summer and usually hang on through the following winter. The brown to black bark is deeply fissured vertically but is relatively thin at 3/4 to 1 1/4 inch thick.

Hemlocks are a patient, hearty lot waiting until a forest is well established by other trees before moving in. After the leaf mold has accumulated for hundreds of years, and the dense overstory is so thick that it shades out the seedlings of other species, conditions are ideal for the hemlock. They grow slowly in the deep shade until after 50 to 100 years, they finally overgrow and eliminate their neighbors except the equally shade tolerant beech.

Eastern Hemlock adapts well to rock, ledge, and north facing hillsides. They are able to establish themselves in the litter on top of a large rock and drop roots over the side or penetrate a crack with a root and split the rock. They favor deep, cool, moist soil and put out dense networks of shallow roots. The trees tolerate ground water well as long as it's cool and fast moving.



Conical Hemlock

Early settlers learned of the medicinal value of the hemlock from the Native Americans who used hemlock bark as an excellent treatment for burns and sores. Of greater value was the use of the bark as a source of tannin (tannic acid) for leather tanning. Vast forests of hemlock were clear cut over a period of two centuries, so the heavier bark of only the lower trunk could be peeled, usually in springtime. The rest of the tree was left to decay! Hemlock bark is still used by mountain dwellers as a source of good brown dye for wool. I also found a reference to the distilling oil of hemlock from young branches but found no reference to its use.

Hemlock is a softwood lacking resin canals. It is usually uneven-grained with a medium texture. The transition from earlywood to latewood is rather abrupt. Rays are plentiful and as with most conifers, are uniseriate. Ray tracheids are usually very narrow and inconspicuous. Heartwood is pale brown, occasionally tinged with a little red, a little different from the sapwood. The wood has no odor. Hemlocks are difficult to separate from each other and from the firs without a microscope.

Average specific gravity of Eastern Hemlock is 0.40. Weight is about 27 pounds per cubic foot, a little heavier than White Pine or about the same as spruce or butternut.

Mature hemlock tends to be “shakey”, a term used to describe the separation of growth rings within the trunk. Occasionally boards sawn from a shakey log will literally fall apart as they leave the saw. Experienced sawyers usually check the hemlock logs carefully and reject any that show signs of shake.

Hemlock is usually considered to be a second class wood. It dries quickly and easily



Sprawling Canadian Hemlock

but requires careful stickering to offset the tendency to warp and check. Hemlock does not machine well. It acts hard because of the rock hard knots which will occasionally chip steel blades. It splits easily and produces an abundance of splinters. It is ideal for rough construction, but in other applications it requires predrilling for fasteners. Once nailed, it never lets go of a nail or spike.

The wood is moderately hard, moderately heavy, and moderately strong. It does not bend well, is low in shock resistance, and does not hold paint well. It is not durable.

Eastern Hemlock is used primarily for plywood, pulp, and lumber. The lumber is good as general purpose construction material for framing, beams, sheathing, subflooring, and roofing, as well as for crates, boxes, pallets, and railroad crossties.

The supply of Eastern Hemlock is good and demand is modest. Most lumber yards will have some hemlock in stock as framing lumber, and most of it will be Western Hemlock. Local sawmills will have Eastern Hemlock for a dollar or so per board foot or 75 cents for rough sawn.

Attention Turners

by Jay Van Vranken

This year at Showcase, due to long lines waiting to turn pens, we would like to have a least 6 lathes with the possibility of having as many as 8 lathes. To be able to accomplish this feat, we will need all the volunteers that we have had in the past plus several more volunteers. Right at the moment, all shifts are open so first come first pick. Please contact me on s74vanv@nycap.rr.com. Or 518-424-5442. The sooner the better.

Message from the NWA President

By Wally Carpenter

I am continually impressed by the dedication of so many of you as I see NWA activities being run by our completely volunteer community every day.

Since we are all volunteers and peers in our love of woodworking, we need to remind ourselves that we each contribute to the continued success in our organization. We all have our jobs to perform and know each of us do this with the dedication we devote to any pursuit.

Yes, it's that time of year again where we create the magical world of Showcase, and the call goes out to each of us to find some way to help make this year even better than the last. While some of us are privileged to be retired from our working life and can devote more energy to Showcase, there are many of us who can't. Just remember that all tasks are important. Find something and some way to

contribute at your ability to do so, and you will find that you will benefit as well as NWA.

One thing I can say with certainty is every volunteer, which means every member of NWA and even outside of NWA, knows that he or she is never alone in a task. All they need to do is ask for help and help will always arrive. This is part of our culture and much of what makes us special. So if we are prepared to listen for that call for help, we will ensure each of our volunteers are successful in what they have accepted to do.

Finally, I would want each of you to remember that NWA could not and would not exist without our hundreds of volunteers who freely give of their personal time and talents. As I said in the beginning of this message, I am continually impressed by you each and every day!

Chapter News

Mid Hudson Chapter News

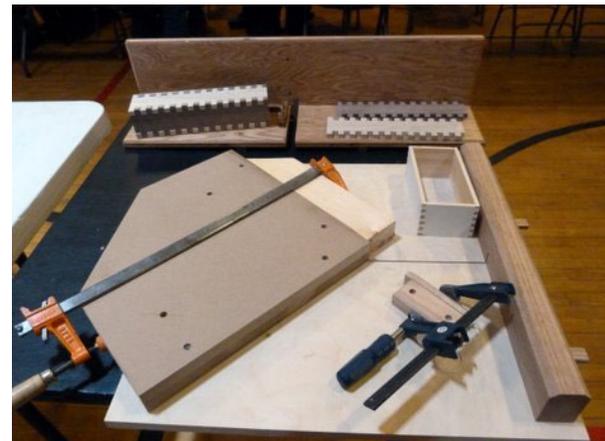
by Wally Cook

Winter Sledding: The January meeting featured a table saw jig discussion. A number of finely crafted sleds were shown and each had an individual flair.

The majority of sleds were table saw cross cut fixtures with extensions for miter-work, box and spline joint creation. These sleds are used to ensure precision and repeatability in making accurate crosscuts on the tablesaw. The basic elements of a working sled were on display:

- Base: plywood or mdf
- Front and rear fences: hardwood or plywood sandwiches for stiffeners
- Runners: hardwood, aluminum or high density plastic
- Blade cover: wood or Plexiglas to keep fingers away from the blade
- Stop blocks: to prevent the sled from cutting past the edge of the base

Most of the discussion centered on two critical aspects of building the sled: squaring the base and fence to the cutting blade and squaring the runners to the base. It is important to have the runners fit snugly into the slots in a tablesaw, but also allowing for nonbinding movement. Runners were



Jim Lee built a sled for box joints, while Ron Roberts had miters in mind

generally first glued, then pin-nailed or screwed from the underside – carefully completing one runner before finishing the second. Consensus among the group was to place pennies or dimes in the saw slots in order to raise the runners above the table surface in order to make the gluing process easier. On some sleds, the runners were left longer than the base to assist fitting them into the slots of the tablesaw.

Individual variations included some interesting tips. Karl Hastings cut a relief groove on his fences to prevent sawdust build-up. In addition, he cut slots in the fence to allow insertion of quick-clamps to secure the stock. Richie Shoulkin added a solid HDPE blade cover and used T-nuts for adjustments in squaring the base. Jim Lee added extra stiffeners for his box joint sled to ensure a solid unit. Fred DuBois crafted a beautiful fence extension made from jatoba.

Ron Roberts fashioned his miter sled from the [Fine Woodworking](#) article by Craig Thibodeau in the Nov/Dec 2016 issue. John Van Buren used his miter sled to make scarf joints for his kayak projects.

While the needs and specialties varied, the craftsmanship was clear!



Rich Shoulkin's sled used t-nuts for adjustments



Jim Lee shows Scott Neely's miter sled



Al Shinker made a sled for spline joints, along with his finished product

Upcoming: Joe Kennedy and John Grossbohlin will demonstrate techniques for hand cut dovetails. In addition, we will select the Chapter Member of the Year.

Garrett Hack's spoke shave techniques

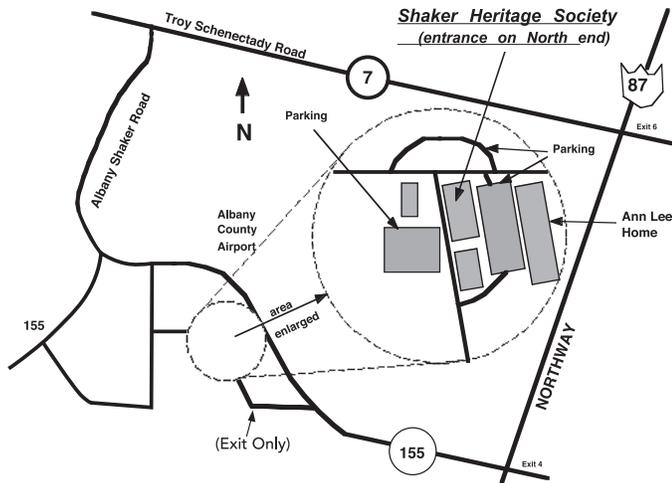
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WOODWORKERS SHOWCASE 2017

April 1 and April 2, 2017

March Meeting

Thursday, March 9, 2017 7:00 PM
Shaker Heritage Society Meetinghouse
Albany-Shaker Road, Albany, NY



2017 MONTHLY MEETINGS

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

March 9

Shop Tips & Techniques, plus Jigs & Fixtures - Pete Howe

April 13

Fundamentals of Bowl Turning - Rick Angus (Dave Mobley)

May 11

World Famous Tool Chest - Mike Mascelli (Wally Carpenter)

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

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)

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

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

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

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

NWA Crafters - Meets every Saturday and Tuesday, from 9:00 AM until noon at the NWA Learning Center located at 15 Solar Drive, Clifton Park, NY. The Crafters provide public service woodworking for various charitable organizations, including the Double H Hole in the Woods camp for children and the GE Toy Modifications Group, and the Make A Wish Foundation. Sharing information, fellowship, and relating experiences are a major part of these sessions. **Contact:** Dave Axton (518) 237- 6942, daxton@nycap.rr.com, Wayne Distin (518) 674-4171, wdistin@nycap.rr.com for more information.

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

The NWA Wood Carvers SIG - The NWA Wood Carvers SIG - Meet each Thursday at 5:00 PM until 8:30 PM all year at the NWA Learning Center located at 15 Solar Drive, Clifton Park, NY. The goal is to promote the art of Wood Carving and to have a good time doing it. The only prerequisite is a desire to carve while making new friends. Wood, tools, and patterns are available. **Contact:** Diane Balch (518) 338-5637, signs@balchsigns.com

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

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

CHAPTERS

NWA Mid-Hudson - The chapter meets at 7:30 PM on the third Thursday, except July and August, at the Hurley Reformed Church. The Church is just off the the Hurley exit from Rte. 209. Right at the exit, right at the stop sign and left into the Church parking area. John VanBuren, President (845) 444-8281 **Contact:** Pete Chast, pchastnow@gmail.com.

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