

WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern
Woodworkers
Association

November 2017, Vol. 26, Number 9

November Meeting

2017 Fiske Speaker to Talk on American Arts and Crafts Movement

Thursday, November 9, 2017 7:00 PM
The Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
4 Northcrest Dr., Clifton Park, NY

By Joe Pelcher

On November 9 the NWA Fiske Speaker, Darrell Peart will speak at The Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 4 Northcrest Dr., Clifton Park, NY at 7PM.

He has over 35 years of experience in the woodworking field in both commercial and custom furniture making. He started his woodworking career making and selling small wooden items at Seattle's Pike Place Market. To broaden his experience, he then worked for several years in various high-end custom shops throughout the Puget Sound area.

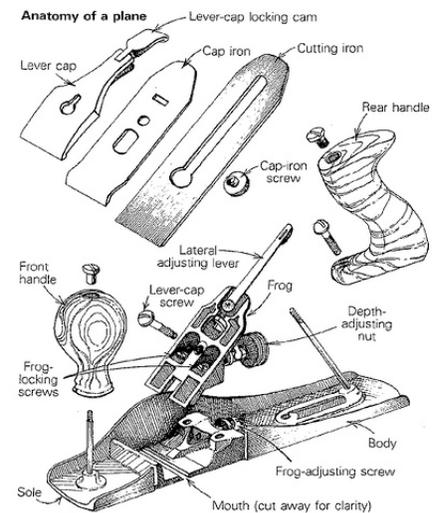
In 1989 he explored the American Arts and Crafts Movement and in was captivated by the works of Charles and Henry Greene. Although Greene and Greene furniture is Darrell's primary inspiration, the work of James Krenov, Thomas Chippendale, and Gothic furniture have also influenced his work.

Peart has written for *Home Furniture*, *Today's Woodworker*, and *Fine Woodworking* magazines. His wood projects have appeared in various galleries, featured in both local and national newspapers, magazines, and books, and some reside in private collections throughout the U.S.

His first book *Greene and Greene: Design Elements for the Workshop* (Linden Press) was published in April 2006. He periodically teaches Greene and Greene furniture making at schools on both the East and West coasts (<http://www.finewoodworking.com/author/darrell-peart>).

The Plane Truth of Chisels and Irons

By Tom O'Donnell



[Drawing from woodworkingchat.com](http://woodworkingchat.com)

Dave Parkis of the hand tool special interest group shared his passion for planes and chisels with NWA members in two classes.

Saturday September 23rd was for the refurbishment of older planes where nine members were taught how to clean and inspect those hand-me-downs and garage sale planes. Dave started with the disassembly of planes and had the class cleaning them with Scotch Bright pads. After the rust and sawdust were removed, the planes could be identified and then the real work began. All the planes needed lapping and Dave took every one through that process. Next

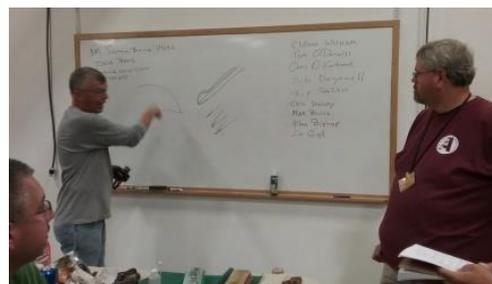
was the squaring of the irons on granite or Work Sharp sharpener followed by polishing the back then sharpening. The chip-breakers were checked and mated to the iron and then reassembled. Many of the planes required extra sharpening after testing on some hardwood. By the end of the day all the participants came away with the knowledge of plane anatomy and the steps to restore one to good working condition.

Sunday the 24th was for sharpen planes and chisels. More focus was on the process as all planes were ready for polish and sharpening. Discussion started with quality of irons from different manufacturers, then on cutting basics, where “Two highly polished surfaces meet at a zero degree radius”. Next Dave moved on to sharpeners and described the most popular powered sharpeners and the many choices of manual sharpeners. It was then time for the hands on portion of the afternoon.

With a smaller class Dave was able to spend a little more time with each participant. His final words of wisdom “Be Consistent”



Dave showing Clifton Witham Veritas Mark II setup.



Dave explaining sharpening fundamentals as Clifton & Chris Stolicky look on.



Dave showing WorkSharp as Pat & Susan look on



Sharpening observed by Pat, Gordon & Joe



Cindy, Steven, Gordon & Susan working on Plane Irons



Gordon McCellan polishing the back of his iron

Holiday Carving

By Diane Balch

With Christmas coming in a few months, the Carvers will be meeting weekly in November and December to carve various Santa Clauses. We will be teaching each other how to carve a variety of the ones we have carved on our own. We meet EVERY Thursday, at 15 Solar Drive from 5:00-8:30 PM. Jack Connell will be teaching knife safety and beginners carving to a boy scout troop in Delmar.

Notes from the Albany Scrollers Guild Meeting September 27th

Due to scheduling conflicts and holidays, the general meetings for October, November, and December will be held on the 3rd Wednesday of those months. Reminders will be sent by email. Contact Tom O'Donnell if you would like to receive reminders at todonnell180@gmail.com.

In January meetings will resume on the 4th Wednesday of the month. Project nights will continue on the 2nd Wednesdays.

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Hand Tools of the Farmers' Museum

By Susan McDermott

Many of you have visited the Farmers' Museum located in Cooperstown, New York. It recreates rural life from the 19th century through exhibits and interactive workshops. There are more than two dozen authentic, historic buildings on the grounds, including a tavern, a farmstead, a printing office, a pharmacy, a blacksmith's shop, a doctor's office and a general store.

A visit to the Cow Palace allows you to view the many specialized hand tools wood workers used from 1800 to the turn of the century. Tour guide Paul Mendelsohn

provided a self-paced individualized tour for this writer. Paul is warm, knowledgeable, and dedicated as a longtime volunteer of the museum.

NWA carvers will be amazed at the 40 hand carved animals on the full-sized Empire State Carousel with a variety of critters indigenous to New York State and the carved relief panels on and above the central hub of NY historical persons such as Jackie Robinson, Susan B Anthony, Alexander Hamilton, Helen Hayes, Irving Berlin, etc. The current operation was built on a vintage 1947 36-foot Alan Herschell carousel mechanism. The New York themed carousel carvings were made over a twenty year period by over 1,000 volunteer carvers, quilters, painters, and woodworkers from across New York State. Images are found on this link https://www.google.com/search?q=empire+state+carousel&tbm=isch&to=u&source=univ&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwj_sdquuu7WAhUD7iYKHTjWCkEQsAQIMA&biw=1152&bih=590&dpr=1.25

But this article will show the many **unique hand tools** used by American carpenters, wheelwrights, coopers, framers, and furniture makers nearly 200 years ago. No doubt, a few could be found in Dave Parkis' garage collection! The accompanying photos are self-explanatory.



Farmers' Museum



Carpenters' essential tools

WOODWORKERS NEWS

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



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**NORTHEASTERN
WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION**

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Rexford, New York 12148



More essentials



Paul Mendelsohn, tour guide



Early drill press



Carriage makers' tools



Barrel makers' tools



Stave maker's bench



Wheelwrights' tools



Adze squaring a log

Chapter News

Mid Hudson Chapter News

by Wally Cook

The Show goes on: It is amazing to watch the efforts of talented individuals working together... and here I mean the coordination needed to pull off a medium-sized one day event, not just the excellence required to produce world class objects made from wood.

The Mid-Hudson Chapter Show is in its eleventh season and it features a variety of indoor and outdoor activities designed to whet people's interest in woodworking. Now, saying this is a chapter show is not precisely accurate; it is a show in the Mid-Hudson region featuring the talents of any member of the NWA. To illustrate the point, many beautiful pieces were brought to Hurley from the Albany area. Also, folks like Pete Lofrumento and Dick Flanders manned the membership table. Wally and Celia Carpenter, Charlie Goddard and others attended the event and interacted with attendees. The result is the representation of an integrated organization where all the parts are supported. No wonder the much larger NWA Showcase is such a success.

The chapter show planning was led by Bob Boisvert and kudos to Jim and Debbie Lee,

Ron Roberts, Pete Chast, Fred DuBois and many others who worked hard to advertise the event, move equipment or participate in the demos during the day.

Feedback from the show was very positive. People are always amazed at the work shown each year – the artistry and craft demonstrated by the diversity of work is astounding. This year, Jim Lee won the popular vote for his inlaid pub table. In addition, most attendees walked away with some tangible memento, whether a free bird house, toy, pen, compact mirror, or raffle item. A list of the raffle winners includes:

- Maureen Moore: Drop-leaf table
- Ron Roberts: Side Table
- Mike Cherry: Barley twist shoehorn
- Andy Moss: Spalted maple bowl
- George Fischer: Chess board
- Dot Chast: Heart trivet
- Joe Mastro: Log home kit
- Mike Giuliano: Wine glass set
- Linda Cook (high bid): Painting and turned spoons

Sad News: We mourn the passing of member Becky Chast, artist and scroll sawyer. Our support and healing thoughts are aimed at her husband Pete and Becky's family.



Chairs! Scott Neeley and Wally Carpenter made beautiful examples



Bill Thiry embedded an ornament in a buckeye slab



Hal Hahn's bowl featured carved feet



Visitor Steve Remer made his own pen at the pen station



Jim Lee's pub table won the popular vote

Kaatskill Woodturners' Association

Making a cross-grain box

By Wally Cook

The Raffan-style box that Joe demonstrated is engineered around the chuck size. In this case, the rebates and dimensions were set relative to the Oneway stronghold chuck using #4 jaws. These jaws have an external compression of $4\frac{1}{4}$ " and an internal expansion of $4\frac{7}{8}$ ". All of the significant dimensions of the box and lid derive from these two measurements. Two clear benefits are that the jaws do not need to be changed and reproducing the same box is straight forward.

Joe starts by drilling a $\frac{3}{8}$ " hole in the blank to receive a Oneway wormwood screw. A thin plywood spacer is placed between the blank and the chuck for better holding integrity; the screw penetrates the spacer and bites into the blank. [Joe's tips: a) put a grind mark on the flange of the wormwood screw to mark where it fits into the chuck for ease of insertion, b) to remove the screw from the blank, loosen the chuck slightly, before twisting off the blank].

After the blank is trued and faced, the lid is shaped, using a Stuart Batty grind (40 degree angle on the nose of the gouge). First, the inside dimension of the lid is fixed at $4\frac{7}{8}$ ", in order to assure an expansion hold when it is re-chucked. The outside dimension of the lid is much wider – $5\frac{3}{16}$ " – to provide an overhang from the body of the box.



Joe Larese roughs out the lid for a Raffan Style box



It is critical to ensure the lid tenon is perpendicular



Joe uses a Raffan spear point to start a bead



The demo box -- Joe will add a contrasting knob

The height of the lid is also dependent on the chuck jaws. The #4 jaws are only ½” deep, so a holding surface on the top of the lid is scribed at 4³/₈” diameter, within ½” of the top of the lid. This tenon is used to hold the lid, while it is being hollowed. As a side note, Joe sizes the spigot to be slightly wider than the minimum grip of the #4 jaws. His reason is that the #4 jaws do not form a perfect circle at the minimum setting of 4 ¼”, therefore less holding power.

When the lid is hollowed and a tenon is established to fit inside the body of the box, Joe uses a bedan to refine the tenon to be sure it is a square cut. He accomplishes that by lining up the bedan parallel to the ways of the lathe. Since this box is meant to have a loose fitting lid, a suction fit is not required.

The lid is re-chucked to finish the outside surface. In addition, a stepped hole is drilled part way through the lid to accept a knob of contrasting wood.

Joe works the body of the box with a slight taper from the base to the mouth. He adds two beads at the base, which also act as a bottom limit to the inside depth of hollow. A recess for an expansion hold is formed at the base to hold the box as the body is hollowed. Joe uses a specially ground scraper to form a sharp corner at the inside base of the box. The box may be re-chucked to finish the bottom and touch up the beads if necessary.

Joe’s demo box was roughed out using a sassafras blank. We did not make the knob during this session, but Joe generally uses a contrasting wood. The final knob is meant to be functional i.e., sturdy enough to grab. The fit should allow the lid to be lifted with one hand.

Buying & Selling Woodworking Books

By Irving Stephens

A few years ago when I thought that I would like to do a little woodworking, I started to look around for books about woodworking. I knew very little about hand tools, finishing techniques, etc. So I started looking around in new bookstores and did not find much. Next, I looked in used bookstores and found even less. One day I asked the owner of the now defunct Used Book Barn in Latham if he ever got any woodworking books. His answer was that he hardly ever saw any and wryly added that he thought woodworkers probably were buried with their books.

Now, however, I know what happens at least to some old woodworking books -- NWA members give them to the NWA Library for other woodworkers to use. Over the last several years, thanks to the generosity of members, many duplicate copies of library books have accumulated; and, to be honest, although the library collection can use extra copies of certain titles, it does not need multiple copies of most books.

Some of these extra copies I think might be of interest to NWA’s newer members. As an experiment, a selection of these books will be offered for sale at monthly meetings while other duplicates will be made available to the general public at the Showcase. Given my experience with trying to find

woodworking books, I think that these books can fill a niche market by being made available to others who are also interested in some aspect of woodworking.

And while on the topic of old books... for those who are interested in out-of-print books beyond Amazon's offerings, my favorite websites are **abebooks.com**, **alibris.com**, **biblio.com** and **betterworldbooks.com**. Although all of these sites link to specific dealers, "abebooks" and "biblio" focus on used book dealers. "Alibris" emphasizes textbooks and trade books. "Betterworldbooks" is unique in that it sells ex-library books and uses that revenue to send other books to under developed countries. These used book market sites are not just for rare book buyers or collectors. You should think of them also as being sources for newer books at less than cover price.

General Meeting of October 12, 2017

President Dick Flanders coordinated the meeting's raffles and announcements.

Wally Carpenter asked NWA members to reach out for more new attendees at April's Showcase. Our flyers and lawn signs are not sufficient. We should explore social media and find experienced members to develop these communication strategies.

Vice President Joe Pelcher is arranging for Fiske Speaker Darrell Peart to present Thursday, November 9. See Joe's article in this newsletter for details.

Irv Stephens brought duplicate books from the NWA library to sell to members at this meeting and at Showcase. The Mid-Hudson NWA donated 200 + books to our library. Irv is looking into electronic cataloging to replace the confusing system we presently use.

Dave Parkis informed members that Jerry Grant of the Mt. Lebanon Shaker Museum will speak about Shaker tooling and furniture making on Wednesday, October 25 7-9 PM at 15 Solar Drive.

Charlie Goddard reported on the Auction numbers: Sales pulled in about \$18,000 and NWA should clear about \$10,000 after expenses. There were 120 bidders, 20 more than last year. Charlie concluded his report with his expression of appreciation for all NWA volunteers' work to make this major annual event a success.

Show and Tell

Jon Hedman presented his strum stick, similar to a dulcimer, classical folk stringed instrument. As part of Ken Evans' Musical Instruments SIG, Jon constructed the strum stick from a single stick split and covered with thin hardwood surfaces to make the body and sound hole. He set the fingerboard/fretboard on the neck and tuners for four strings.



Strum stick

Barbara Nottke's Presentation: *Making Puzzles with the Scroll Saw*

By Susan McDermott

Barbara began her instruction with a short history of puzzle making as an educational tool, a recreational activity, an art form, and a means of income for the crafts person.

The origins of jigsaw puzzles go back to the 1760s when European mapmakers pasted maps onto wood and cut them into small pieces. John Spilsbury, an engraver and mapmaker, is credited with inventing the first jigsaw puzzle in 1767. The dissected map has been a successful educational toy ever since. American children still learn geography by playing with puzzle maps of the United States or the world. With the onset of the Great Depression in 1929, puzzles for adults enjoyed a resurgence of popularity, peaking in early 1933 when sales reached an astounding 10 million per week. Puzzles seemed to touch a chord, offering an escape from the troubled times. With incomes depleted, home amusements like puzzles replaced outside entertainment like restaurants and night clubs (Anne D. Williams, edited by Puzzle Warehouse). Barbara described the Victorian treadle scroll saw used to produce many 19th Century puzzles.

As a modern puzzle maker, Barbara gave the NWA members much advice for making successful puzzles and demonstrated with some examples of her projects:

- Always check your saw blade is exactly 90 degrees to the table with a machinist's square and adjust to a strong tension to prevent blade flexing.
- Adjust saw speed to your comfort level but not so slow that you have to push the wood and distort the blade.
- A slight wandering from the cut line can be gently and gradually corrected as the puzzle pieces will still fit well.
- Danish oil rubbed on the puzzle is suitable for non-toy wood puzzles as a finish.
- A reverse tooth blade gives a smoother cut with crisp edges and minimizes sanding.

Ideas for children's puzzles can be found in color books, pictures from magazines, pet photos, and patterns available online. If you are selling your work, make sure it is age appropriate regarding pieces' size, puzzle complexity, and non-toxic finishes. Use a bigger kerf blade for easier fitting pieces for young children's



Lizard from pine 2 x 4

puzzles. Put a warning on the item's label with the age range. Puzzles can be made from pine, cherry, maple, walnut, or MDF (which cuts well and is stable).

Barbara showed patterns and pictures that were laminated on wood boards or glued with 3M spray glue (Home Depot or Lowes) and pressed with a roller for complete adhesion. Sand the board's surface and clean all wood particles off with a tack rag before gluing.

Barbara uses packing or painter's tape on the outside edges and back of puzzle boards to prevent burns from the cutting blade.

Interested scrollers may subscribe to instructive and inspiring magazines such as *Scrollers' Choice* & *Scroll Saw Workshop*. NWA members may sign up for the holiday ornament classes offered at the end of October at 15 Solar Drive.



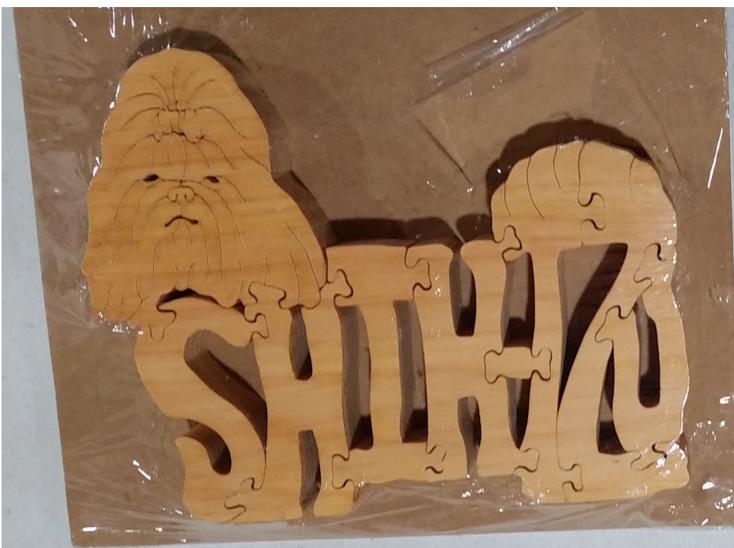
Laminator and spray glue



Celtic Knot



Victorian treadle scroll saw



Pet dogs memorialized

November Meeting

Thursday, November 9, 2017 7:00 PM
The Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
4 Northcrest Dr., Clifton Park, NY

2017-18 MONTHLY MEETINGS*

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

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

November 9

Fiske Lecturer - Presented by Darrell Peart

December 14

Family Night

January 11

Router Potential - Presented by Dave Mobley

February 8

Fixing Mistakes - Presented by Logan Simms

March 8

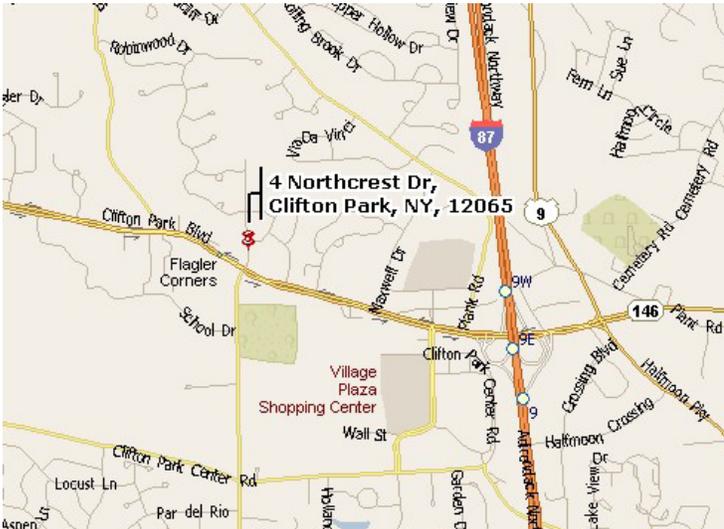
Turning Techniques - Presented by Trent Bosch

April 12

Small Power Tools - Presented by Dick Flanders

May 10 - TBA

*To be updated with additional information



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)

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

Wednesday "Learn and Turn" sessions occur on all other Wednesdays at the NWA Learning Center. These sessions run 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. www.adirondackwoodturners.com **Contact:** Ken Evans - (518)753-7759 or kevan1@nycap.rr.com

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

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

NWA Crafters - Meets every Saturday and Tuesday, from 9:00 AM until noon at the NWA Learning Center located at 15 Solar Drive, Clifton Park, NY. The Crafters provide public service woodworking for various charitable organizations, including the Double H Hole in the Woods camp for children and the GE Toy Modifications Group, and the Make A Wish Foundation. Sharing information, fellowship, and relating experiences are a major part of these sessions. **Contact:** Wayne Distin - (518)674-4171, wdistin@nycap.rr.com, Ken Evans - (518)753-7759, kevan1@nycap.rr.com, or John Heimke, heimkej@sage.edu for more information.

NWA Musical Instrument SIG - Meets every first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the Learning Center. The purpose of the group is to discuss all aspects of all musical instruments, playing, building, repairing, and history. Meetings involve a show and tell table, a program on an appropriate topic, and lots of member interaction. If you want to be on the email list for notifications. **Contact:** Ken Evans at kevan1@nycap.rr.com or (518)753-7759 or (518)281-0779.

The NWA Wood Carvers SIG - The NWA Wood Carvers SIG - Meet each Thursday at 5:00 PM until 8:30 PM all year at the NWA Learning Center located at 15 Solar Drive, Clifton Park, NY. The goal is to promote the art of Wood Carving and to have a good time doing it. The only prerequisite is a desire to carve while making new friends. Wood, tools, and patterns are available. **Contact:** Diane Balch - (518)885-9899, signs@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 - 458-7242 for further details: dparkis@nycap.rr.com

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

CHAPTERS

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

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