

WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern
Woodworkers
Association

October 2014, Vol. 23, Number 8

October Meeting

Thursday October 9, 2014 7:00 pm
Shaker Heritage Society Meeting House
Heritage Lane, Albany NY

Men With Musical Instruments Who Know How To Make Them

By Ken Evans

This program was originally scheduled for February of 2014 but was canceled due to weather conditions.

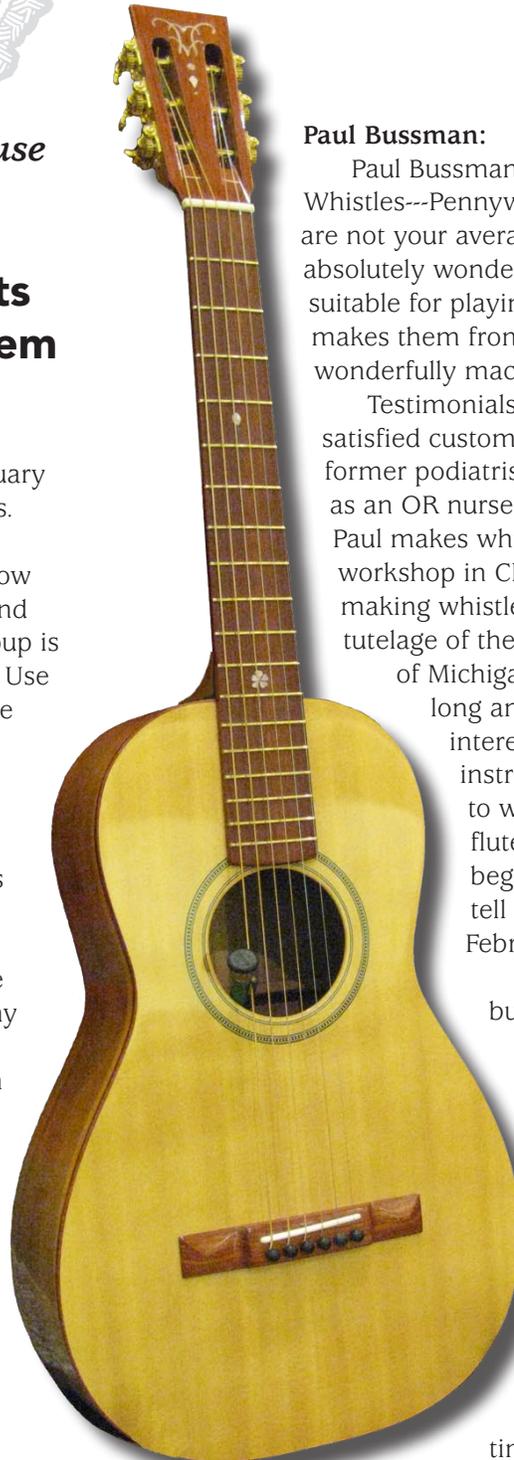
Once a year comedian Steve Martin (who is an Accomplished Banjo Player) appears on the Late Show with a group of other accomplished banjo players and they play a few arrangements. The name of this group is "Men With Musical Instruments Who Know How to Use Them". From this was derived the title for this article about the February NWA Meeting program.

Martin Macica:

Maker of Fine Stringed Instruments "I started making instruments under local makers when I was 18 years old. In my early twenties, I apprenticed in New York City on 57th street next to Carnegie Hall. I studied and learned the art of violin making. Once I learned the standard, I decided to move back to my hometown of Schuylerville, New York. In 1988, I opened "Macica Violins" on Broad Street-downtown Schuylerville and have established my business/trade for the last 25 years. I have instruments in several symphonies/orchestras both locally and nationally. I have also established a presence in the Bluegrass realm with my mandolins. I try to maintain an excellent standard in my making. Every one of my instruments is completely handmade using only hand tools.

I will be talking about my approach to building violins, mandolins and guitars. I will touch on subjects such as: scroll making, dovetail joints, tools, roughing out tops and backs and more. I also will be playing a few Irish tunes with the other speakers."

Website: www.macica.com



Paul Bussman:

Paul Bussman makes exquisite Whistles---Pennywhistles. These, however, are not your average kids toy whistle, but absolutely wonderful musical instruments suitable for playing in a concert. Paul makes them from exotic woods and wonderfully machined metal parts.

Testimonials on his website from satisfied customers says it all. Paul is a former podiatrist (30 years) now working as an OR nurse at St. Mary's in Troy. Paul makes whistles in his basement workshop in Clifton Park. He started making whistles in 2000 under the tutelage of the late, great Glenn Schultz of Michigan. That story is sort of long and involved but pretty interesting. Paul plays many instruments in addition to whistle including Irish flute, mandolin, guitar and beginner banjo. Paul will tell us the entire story at the February Meeting.

Website: www.busmanwhistles.com

Michael Zagorski:

Michael builds guitars. He will tell us about types of guitars, tonewoods, guitar shapes vs. tone, types of necks, and the tools and finishes used in making guitars. Michaels Guitars have been displayed several times at Woodworkers

Showcase. 🎸

OFFICERS

President - Rich Duval
rduval@nycap.rr.com

Vice President - John Heimke
heimkj@sage.edu

Secretary - Nancy Reilly
nreilly@nycap.rr.com

Treasurer - Austin Spang 393-2859
spang@nycap.rr.com

Past President - Karen Arkison
nydivergirl@earthlink.net

Historian - Wayne Diston 674-4171
wdistin@nycap.rr.com

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



CHAIRPERSONS

Mid-Hudson Chapter

John VanBuren, President
(845) 444-8281

Sacandaga Chapter

Co-Chairpersons

Jim Hopkins - 725-7322

Don Wilson - 883-3698

Gary Spencer - 863-6433

Education

Stan Blanchard

Tom Moran

nwaeducation@gmail.com

Youth Programs

Wayne Diston - 674-4171

wdistin@nycap.rr.com

Fiske Fund

Max Bloomfield

max.bloomfield@gmail.com

Hospitality

Lew Hill

ssrhill@aol.com

Library

Darrel Welch - 477-8431

ydwelch@fairpoint.net

Membership

Peter Lofrumento

nwamembers1@gmail.com

Programs

Wayne Diston - 674-4171

wdistin@nycap.rr.com

Publications

Wally Carpenter - 434-1776

c.j.carpenter@earthlink.net

Publicity

OPEN

Showcase Chair

Ken Evans - 753-7759

kevans1@nycap.rr.com



UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, PHONE
NUMBERS ARE IN AREA CODE 518

Open House Enjoyed By All!

By Peter K. Lofrumento

It was a beautiful September 14th Sunday afternoon for The Herman Finkbeiner Learning Center Open House. Despite the nice weather, hundreds of members and general public came to visit our new facility. People came from all distances (as far as 70 miles away) with all kinds of woodworking interests and asked every question imaginable of our demonstrators. The comments were favorable and everyone said they enjoyed the afternoon.

So the initial goal of introducing the Learning Center to the World was accomplished. However, there were a few other accomplishments that was derived from putting on the event. The first was achieved on Saturday afternoon, when the volunteers helping to prepare the workshop for the Open House realized the shop has never been so clean...we will see how long that will last. The second result came about the middle of the afternoon on Sunday when we all looked up from the tasks at hand and realized that we had all the SIGs under the same roof at the same time coming together for one purpose...there was a sense of community...and I think that is what Herm had in mind.

We were also very fortunate to have a reporter from the Daily Gazette visit us and write a very complimentary article about NWA and its Learning Center. Please click on the link below to view the article in the Daily Gazette. <http://www.dailygazette.com/news/2014/sep/15/0915woodwork/?free>

The Membership Committee wants to thank all the members who gave up a beautiful Sunday afternoon to participate in the Open House and everyone who came and spent the afternoon with a bunch of dedicated woodworkers.



**Exhilaration is that feeling you get
just after a great idea hits, and just before you
realize what's wrong with it.**

Sir Rex Harrison

Suggestion Box

By Peter K. Lofrumento

We had Our Suggestion Box out on the Membership Table at the September Meeting and received some very good input. One of the suggestions was for the Annual NWA Lumber & Tool Auction to bundle some wood and sell it at a set price. Some people don't like the stress of bidding or can't wait around for the wood they want to come up for auction.

We passed the suggestion along to the Auction Organizers. They thought it was a good idea, so there was set price items at this year's Auction. Thanks to the anonymous member who submitted that suggestion.



The Suggestion Box isn't just for suggestions, it is also for questions that you might have. For your convenience, the Membership Suggestion Box will be at all the NWA Meetings, at Showcase and will reside at the Solar Drive Workshop. Also, don't hesitate to send any comment or suggestion or even a gripe or two to nwamembers1@gmail.com if you can't get to the suggestion box.

The Membership Committee also wants to thank Tom Moran of the Crafters who volunteered to make the Suggestion Box for us. He did a superlative job attending to every detail of the joinery and finish of the box. So now that we have fine looking box, please put your suggestions in it to help foster better communication amongst our members.

Badge Raffle Winner

By Peter K. Lofrumento

Congratulations to Roy Satzman!

Roy is our first Badge Raffle Winner! He is a new member and has already paid his dues for this year. He opted to use his one year free membership prize to extend his membership. So, the next time he will have to pay dues will be in September 2016!

Roy is already a very active member and a regular at the Learning Center. He is part of the group that is building Cedar Park Benches.

The winners of the Badge Raffle have the option to pay this year's dues if they haven't done so, apply the free membership prize to next year's dues or transfer the membership prize to a friend.

We have new clips for your badges. We have *earth magnet clips* that will keep your badge tight to your shirt...great for working in the Learning Center Workshop...and we have *two styles of Alligator clips*, also used to keep your badge from twisting and turning. We can change your clips at any of the meetings. Let us know if you need your badge replaced.

Remember, always wear your Badge...so everyone knows your name!



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



Your next issue of **Woodworkers News** will be published in early November
Copy deadline: October 15
Wally Carpenter, Editor
(518) 434-1776
c.j.carpenter@earthlink.net
Elizabeth Keays Graphic Artist
Designer



WEBSITE(S)
www.woodworker.org
www.nwawoodworkingshow.org

Webmaster - Kurt Hertzog
kurt@kurthertzog.com



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



KWA News

By Wally Cook

Polymer clay embossments: Linda and Wally Cook demonstrated casting with polymer clay. Polymer clay was originally designed as a replacement for Bakelite, according to Wikipedia. Bakelite was a popular modeling material in the early 1900's, but had the drawback of being flammable. The first polymer modeling clay was Fimo, named after the owner's daughter (**Fi-Fi's Modeling Compound**). Others followed, such as Sculpey, Sculpey Primo, and Modello,

These compounds contain PVC and gelling agents. In addition, certain phthalate plasticizers are included which may compromise the use of some polymer clays for food use. Fimo has eliminated phthalates from their products after 2006, resulting in a stiffer clay body and less color bleed.

The more the clay is kneaded or conditioned, the softer and more workable the material becomes. Manufacturers offer softening solutions for their version of poly-clay, but mineral oil can also be used to soften the clay if needed. The clays come in bars. Some are uncolored, but others have a variety of colors and textures (e.g., Granitex).

Avoid burning the clay, as small amounts of hydrogen chloride gas may be released in those circumstances. Baking the clay at lower than recommended temperatures avoids the problem and also results in a more pliable casting. The clay may also be twice-baked to further

harden the object. Polymer clays are safe to use when the directions are followed.

Sculpey Ultra Light is great for casting: it is pliable right out of the package, needs no conditioning, and accepts a finish. It is lighter weight than other forms of Sculpey or Fimo, therefore more suited to insertion in turned objects where weight is an issue. Ultra Light is uncolored, but Pluffy is similar and comes in solid color bars. If more structural integrity is needed, there are denser versions of poly-clay.

Once the clay is conditioned, the following steps are required to make a casting:

1. Choose a shape to cast from items with a good negative relief pattern. That is, find a mould where the design is raised on the inside surface. Look for pressed tin or brass plates, old embossed escutcheons, buttons, and novelty items – or make your own moulds.



Joe Gaddis looks on while Linda Cook guides participants in making polymer clay castings

Continued on page 5



Painted and unpainted poly clay castings (pictures by Steve Sherman)

KWA News

Continued from page 4

2. Press the clay into the mould and trim the excess off with an X-acto knife. Metal moulds work well: bake the clay inside the mould for best results. Keep the clay $\frac{1}{8}$ " to $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick if possible. Thicker clay needs longer baking times and sometimes the clay may distort.
3. Use a toaster oven (dedicated to this use if possible) to bake the clay for 260-275 degrees Fahrenheit for 15 minutes for Sculpey; 230 degrees Fahrenheit and 30 minutes for Fimo. Be sure to preheat to the desired temp, before introducing the clay on a piece of aluminum foil or parchment paper.
4. Retrieve from oven and allow to cool – extract from mould
5. Trim any excess clay with an X-acto knife
6. Sand if necessary: the bottom of the piece can be sanded with grits in the 150-220 range, but use finer grits on detail areas
7. Re-bake if more hardness is desired
8. Recommend using acrylic paints or powdered pigments in acrylic medium or acrylic varnish

9. Use a finish compatible with your paint. Acrylic varnish works well.
10. The finished object may be glued on a backing and trimmed on the lathe to ensure perfect fit in the recess planned for the embossment.



Poly-clay forms can be used as appliquéés on bowls, boxes, and spindle work (pictures by Steve Sherman)

What Is The LCOC ?

By George Rutledge

The NWA was founded to provide its members with the opportunity to come together to share their knowledge and love of woodworking and hone their skills. To further those aims, the NWA's Board of Directors established the Herman Finkbeiner Learning Center as a place where all facets of woodworking can be explored under one roof. It is the venue where all our members are welcomed and encouraged to participate in group activities such as classes and the meetings of our many Special Interest Groups.

The Learning Center Operations Committee or the LCOC is a standing committee of the Board of Directors charged by the Board with overseeing the day to day operation of the Learning Center and establishing guidelines for the safe and enjoyable use of its resources. The LCOC consists of representatives from all groups within the NWA that utilize the Learning Center including the SIGs and the Education Committee as well as a liaison to our landlord PVA. It's worth noting at this point

that in the person of founder and CEO Anthony "Tony" Hynes, PVA is in fact our Patron without whose support and generosity the Learning Center would not exist. Our debt to him is incalculable. True to the name, all of those who have been involved in the establishment and utilization of the HFLC have been afforded an ongoing and evolutionary learning experience and that is surely the case for the LCOC.

Our decisions are reached by consensus which is not always easy to achieve but in the end involves more discussion and thought. Paramount in our deliberations, is our concern to maximize safety without diminishing your fun and though great strides have been made we always look to improve our efforts.

We welcome questions and constructive input from all our members who use the Learning Center and maintain a Suggestion Box on the wall outside the Carvers and Scrollers Studios. In addition you may attend our meetings, the schedule of which can be found on the NWA website calendar. If you wish to address the committee about a specific subject it's best to contact

our Chairperson, Steve Schoenberg so that you may be added to the agenda. Contact info for Steve as well as the rest of the committee can be found on the last page of the Learning Center Safety Manual which is available to read or download from the NWA's website www.woodworker.org.

In conclusion, I'd like to address what appears to be a misconception on the part of some of our members that the Herman Finkbeiner Learning Center is or should somehow be an open shop where members may come and do whatever they like whenever they like. This was never the intent of the Board and it is simply not a realistic goal for a volunteer organization such as ours. We simply do not have the Human Resources to manage the added complexity of an open shop. If you think about it, the shop's raison d'être is contained in its name, The Herman Finkbeiner Learning Center. In this I believe we are succeeding admirably thanks to PVA and all our members who worked so hard to set up the shop and who give it life by participating in the activities of our SIGs and our Educational programs.



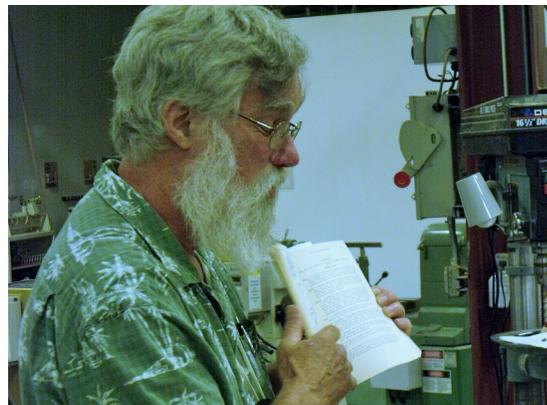
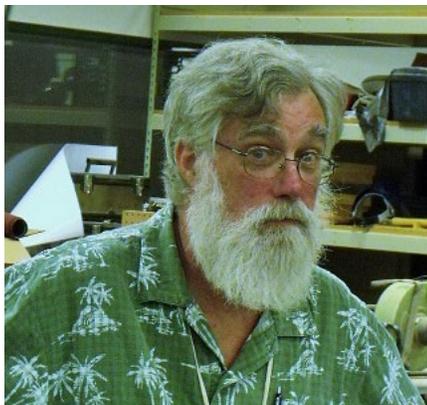
September AWA General Meeting

By Kurt E Roullier

Photos by Kurt E Roullier

Bob Bernardi was the presenter at the September AWA general meeting and led an open discussion on the different types of native wood naturalized to our area. Bob brought multiple examples of different wood species which he used to show everyone how to identify the various woods we often procure for turning. As you can see in the pictures, Bob laid out all of his wood samples in a specific order. He had a complete lay out of wood from fruit wood to black walnut. Bob talked about each different type of wood individually and described how hard or soft each wood was, what type of grain, how easy or hard they were to turn and if they were conducive to stain or oil or any finish at all. He answered every question and offered plenty of tips and advice. He is truly a wealth of knowledge and we all were grateful he shared his time and experience with all of us. Thank you, Bob, from all who were there!

Continued on page 7



AWA General Meeting

Continued from page 6

Volunteers Needed for Totally Turning

It's that time of the year where we are looking for volunteers for Totally Turning. If you want to get in for free and volunteer to help, please contact Bruce DeCesare. You can reach Bruce at 280-4436 or 421-1456 (cell) or by email at bcdecesare@hotmail.com.

Special NOTES:

- Ray Puffer will be the presenter for the October general meeting.
- Don't forget to get your tickets for the Third Annual NWA Recognition Banquet to be held on Saturday, October 25, 2014. We need Raffle Items for the wonderful Raffle we have planned. NOT ALL RAFFLE DONATIONS NEED TO BE MADE OF WOOD. You can give your raffle donation of a hand-made wooden object, a new tool, a bundle of wood, a book, or other craft item to Willie Evans anytime.

For suggestions, comments or articles regarding AWA Newsletter contact: Kurt E Roullier 518-283-4743 or, KRoullier@nycap.rr.com

September AWA Raffle Table



CHAPTER NEWS

Mid-Hudson Chapter News

By Wally Cook

Sharpening: Joe Kennedy, Jerry Peterson, and Bill Sterling provided tips on sharpening hand tools.

Joe has taught several classes on sharpening with various stones and systems; his focus was on how to get the back side of the chisel or plane iron dead flat.

Jerry followed by demonstrating how to hone the bevel.

Bill brought in a Tormek grinder and explained how to get the most from this tool. Great tag team!



George Norton and Ron Roberts line up a log at last year's chapter show

Mid-Hudson Chapter Show: October 4 will mark the fifth chapter show at the Hurley Reformed Church. The show runs from 10AM to 5PM and will feature a "Logs to Lumber" outdoor demonstration. Members will display handmade items inside, as well as information booths highlighting wood species identification, hand tool usage, and NWA membership benefits. The children's area features guided kit building, while the adult demonstrations include scroll saw basics, woodturning, and "Make Your Own Pen" activities. As usual, there is an extensive raffle



The chapter show provides an opportunity for many local people to learn more about the NWA

for member made items and a sales table. The raffle section will feature a swing-leg table like the item made for this year's Showcase raffle.

Corn Festival: The Mid-Hudson chapter participated in the 34th annual Hurley Corn Festival.

A display of the raffle items for the chapter show attracted a good deal of attention. Jim Lee, Jack Collumb, Jack Maasz, and Bob Boisvert answered questions about scroll saw craft and made 3d cuttings. Ralph Zimmerman, George Norton, and Fred DuBois helped visitors make pens.



Jack Maasz and Jim Lee man the scroll saw during the Hurley Corn Festival

Wandmaster

By Ken Evans

According to wikipedia, “Steampunk is a sub-genre of science fiction that typically features steam-powered machinery,[1] especially in a setting inspired by industrialized Western civilization during the 19th century. Steampunk works are often set in an alternative history of the 19th century’s British Victorian era or American “Wild West”, in a post-apocalyptic future during which steam power has regained mainstream use, or in a fantasy world that similarly employs steam power. Steampunk perhaps most recognizably features anachronistic technologies or retro-futuristic inventions as people in the 19th century might have envisioned them, and is likewise rooted in the era’s perspective on fashion, culture, architectural style, and art.

Such exists in the tent of “Titus Grondahl – Wandmaster” of NWA as he travels the Capitol Region teaching woodturning to young and old alike.

John Kingsley, an unassuming gentleman who works as a IT guy in the field of computers by day, is a longtime NWA member, is currently the President of the Adirondack Woodturners Association (one of NWA’s Special Interest Groups), and on Special Occasions he is Titus Grondahl-Wandmaster to thousands .

Many years ago after our members were turning at a local fair making MAGIC WANDS, a call came to NWA from a mother wanting to get a woodturner to come to her daughter’s birthday party and turn MAGIC WANDS for the girl’s friends. John answered the call, attended the party and made the wands. It was a great success and one thing lead to another and now after many years in development Titus Grondahl -Wizard and Wandmaster attends many SPECIAL EVENTS as a steampunk costumed wizard with a great deal to offer.

I offered to write about John’s adventures, but I have decided to allow him to describe the enterprise in his own words:

“My wizard show is an opportunity for attendees to learn about the art of turning, wrapped in an environment that adds mystery and theatrical effects.

My tent (the wizards realm) holds props, many that are automated and controlled wirelessly by me, a uniquely decorated lathe dedicated to the show, lights, sound, and motion triggered external actions.

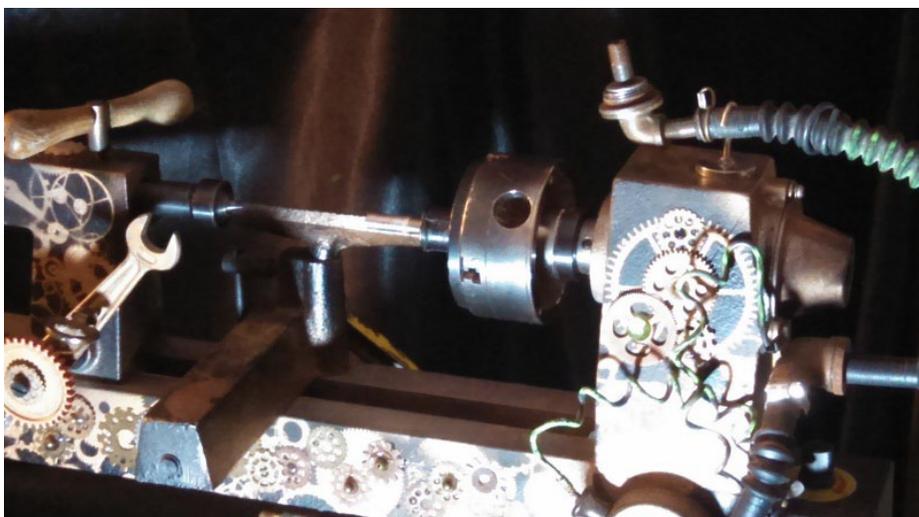
This realm incorporates turning, microprocessors, custom software, a healthy dose of ‘steampunking’, and a costumed wizard to guide each apprentice as we create a one of a kind wooden wand.

The scope of this show continues to grow in complexity as I envision more things to add to the realm. Each new feature brings a new challenge. The challenge drives me. I really enjoy pulling together my multiple strengths in these diverse fields into a cohesive show that is fun and unique.

The ability for me to bring turning to kids, (and many adults too) , and hear them say ‘this is so cool’ is so worth the countless hours that have gone into bringing it to fruition.”



Titus Grondahl



The wizard's Wand Making Machine



The Wizard's Trunk

The Comfort Bird Project

By George Rutledge

The Comfort Bird design was created by a gentleman named Frank Foust in 1982. Since then he has carved over 1000 of them and he either gives them away to those in need or sells them to raise money for charity. They function like a worry stone and are soothing to hold.



I learned of them through Jacquie Donahoe, one of our NWA Wood Carvers. Jacquie and another member of our SIG, Jon Cochran, have been carving them for some time now. I admit to being a little slow on the uptake but when I finally took a closer look and learned the backstory, I realized this was a perfect project for the Carvers to do as a group.

The birds are fun to do and go fairly quickly for a carving while providing a good intro to 3D work. Best of

all, this project will allow us to take a page from the mighty NWA Crafters SIG and join them in some public service woodworking. Our plan is simple. Once we've built some inventory we will distribute them to organizations like Hospice as well as to hospitals and nursing homes. Then we'll carve another batch and repeat.



If you want to learn more, you can download a pdf article from Wood Carving Illustrated about Frank and his birds. Just Google comfort birds and it will be one of the first hits titled, "A Bird In The Hand."

Better yet, stop in at a Wood Carvers SIG meeting any Thursday

evening between 5:30 and 8:30 at the Learning Center and one of us will be happy to get you started. 🐦

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

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 9:00PM.

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

Scroller's Guild - Meets on the first and third Thursday 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 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 - Meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Opdahl property in Hurley, NY. **Contact:** Matt Clark, (845) 454-9387.

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 Elfuns 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 Steve Schoenberg (518-371-1260), sschoen1@nycap.rr.com for more information.

The NWA Wood Carvers SIG - Meet each Thursday at 5:30 p.m. until 9 p.m. all year except the 2nd Thursday of each month at the NWA Learning Center located at 15 Solar Drive, Clifton Park, NY. Programs are determined at the previous weekly sessions. Discussions start at 7PM. The goal is to promote the art of Wood Carving. Individual private sessions are available Wednesday evenings by appointment. Wood, tools, and patterns are available. **Contact:** Ray Gannon. LoRayG@Gmail.com

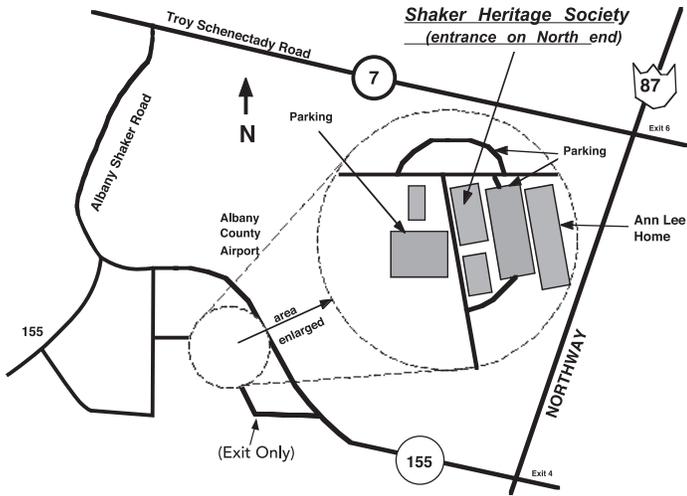
CHAPTERS

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:** Pete Chast, pchast@francomm.com.

NWA Sacandaga - The chapter meets at 7 p.m. on the Second Wednesday of each month at 55 Second Avenue, Mayfield, NY. **Contact:** Gary Spencer, 518-863-6433.

October Meeting

Thursday October 9, 2014 7:00 pm
Shaker Heritage Society Meeting House
Heritage Lane, Albany NY



GENERAL MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

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

NWA Program Schedule 2014-2015

November 13th, 2014
Fisk Lecture: Bob Van Dyke

December 11th, 2014
Family Night

January 8th, 2015
Turners Program

February 12th, 2015
Dust Management
(Safety & Control)

March 12th, 2015
Carvers Program

April 9th, 2015
To be Determined

May 14th, 2015
Scrollers Program