

WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern
Woodworkers
Association

September 2016, Vol. 25, Number 7

September Meeting

Lumber Drying and Handling

Thursday, September 8, 2016 7:00 PM

Shaker Heritage Society Meetinghouse

Albany-Shaker Road, Albany, NY

By Dick Flanders

Mark Levanway is an NWA member who retired from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation as the Head of the State Forest section in the Albany office. He has a degree in Forestry from SUNY College of Forestry (now called the College of Environmental Science and Forestry) and worked as a Forester for NYS DEC for 30 years. He provided assistance to private woodland owners as well as assisting to manage the state forests for multiple uses, including watershed protection, outdoor recreation, and forest crop production. This involved the marking, selling, and supervising of forest product sales.

Mark will be giving a talk about lumber drying, handling, and storage. This includes the proper handling of green wood; the mechanics of stacking and sticking lumber and protecting it from the elements; how long it must be stickered; and the long term handling and storage of lumber. Everyone who uses or wishes to use rough sawn lumber and air drying it will learn much valuable information from this discussion.



Photo Stacked Lumber

We Need Volunteers

See page 12 for positions that are open now!

Northeastern Woodworkers Association

Annual Lumber & Tool Auction

at the **Shaker Barn** on Heritage Lane
(near the Albany Airport)

Saturday, September 24, 2016

from noon until 5:00 PM

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

for the **SETUP** during the days on

Wednesday, Sept 21 and Thursday, Sept 22

starting at 9:00 AM both days

LUMBER and TOOLS BEING SOLD

Figured Walnut, Birds Eye Maple, Bubinga, Zebra Wood, White Oak
Red Oak, Black Oak, Cherry, Maple, Birch, Ash,
several small batches of exotic hardwoods, and one of a kind.

Tools include table saws, band saws, routers, jointers, and many other tools
from shops being closed or replaced.

DAY of SALE

Get there EARLY !! (doors open at 10:00 AM) to check out all the fantastic
items and lumber for sale. Bring your truck or trailer (and your checkbook or
cash) to get these bargains for your own projects and shop equipment.

DON'T MISS THIS POPULAR OPPORTUNITY

For more information, or to help out, contact:

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Pete Howe	885-9331	phowel@nycap.rr.com
Dick Flanders	393-5215	rflander@nycap.rr.com
Charlie Goddard	370-0388	cgodd@aol.com



Dave Parkis' Handtool SIG Invites Garrett Hack

by Susan McDermott

On June 10 to 12, 2016, furniture maker and Princeton graduate in civil engineering and architecture, Garrett Hack was invited to give three days' instruction to two groups of NWA members. Garrett also attended Boston University's Program in Artisanry and often



Garrett Hack

contributes many articles and videos to *Fine Woodworking* (www.finewoodworking.com). Check out the website. It has a slide show of 35 photos of his furniture. He has been building fine furniture for 40 years and farming in Vermont with his Belgian horse, Jazz. He teaches throughout the U.S., Canada, England, Germany, Italy, Australia, Austria, and Japan.

At NWA's 15 Solar Drive, Garrett demonstrated his use of a variety of hand planes (he never uses sandpaper to smooth surfaces), the sharpening of plane irons to 25 degrees with Sharpton or Norton stones, and polishing (8,000 to 10,000 grit) to remove the sharpening scratches which mar woods. He always addresses the back of the iron or blade every time he sharpens the edge as both wear. He believes a 1-micron diamond paste is better than a leather strop.

He demonstrated joining carefully planed boards' edges that are checked for collinear surfaces (with winding sticks) that when joined adhere without glue! He then roughs the edges slightly with sandpaper, applies a small layer of glue, and clamps the boards for an incredibly strong bond.

When he discussed wood movement and moisture content, he said all woods move, but mahogany, cherry, butternut, and walnut are the more stable woods. Local beech, locust, tulip poplar are not so. Quarter sawn boards are optimal for stability but more difficult to plane and prone to tearout.

He talked about creating curves with templates, the use of a sharp low angle block plane for smoothing fair curves, the use of a spoke shave for concave surfaces, and smoothing all curves with card scrapers. Ever resourceful, Garrett keeps a small can with lid to store a waxed rag to lube his plane soles. He makes small cutting blades of various shapes from pieces of old band saw blades that he sets in hardwood handles. Click on the link for an article with photos of Garrett's Vermont studio.

<http://www.nhhomemagazine.com/September-October-2011/A-Unique-Collaboration-of-Furniture/>



Garrett and Jazz

Carving With Kids

By George Rutledge

On the afternoon of June 18th the NWA Wood Carvers sent an Away Team to the Score Center in Chatham to offer a presentation at Stride Adaptive Sports woodworking themed camping weekend. Our group included my wife Alison, Linda Reis, Jack Connell and myself. The Score Center, a former Girl Scout Camp, is located on 84 beautiful wooded acres off State Route 203. NWA Wood Carvers have been supporting Stride for the last two years, contributing Comfort Birds to Strides Wounded Warrior Snowfest, and all of the



services that Stride provides to children and adults alike are free of charge. When Stride's Director Mary Ellen Witney asked if we could help out with this venture, I knew that we would give it our best shot.

After a warm welcome from the Camp Director Stefon and the Head Counselor Sean, we met the ten campers and the rest of the counselors, and the fun began. We all brought examples of our work for the kids to see and touch, and after a very brief demo of carving, the kids and counselors alike all got to try their hand at carving soap with plastic utensils. We also gave everyone a carved but unfinished basswood comfort bird and some sandpaper to finish sanding them to make them their own. This dovetailed nicely with their morning program which was making



birdhouses. By the way, all of those birds had been carved by Alison with the expectation that I would do the sanding, so you may see some method to my madness here. By all accounts, it was a very successful outing, and we capped off our afternoon with a pit stop at Magdalena's, a Mexican restaurant (highly recommended) in Valatie.

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UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, PHONE
NUMBERS ARE IN AREA CODE 518

The Annual NWA Picnic

by Dick Flanders

We had a very good picnic on Sunday, July 10th. Attendance was 90 with several children.

There were many events enjoyed by participants with the new activities, games, and gift card prizes that worked out well, and children enjoyed Bubbles, sidewalk chalk, crayons and sketch pads, as well as Warren Stoker's "Flying Wings".

All enjoyed the Golf Chipping Challenge and Tic-Tac-Toe put on by Rich and Theresa Duval. Charlie Goddard & Darrell Welch ran the Hand Plane Challenge, with new winners. Chuck Walker ran the Tape Measure Races, and two young sisters tied to win that. Diane Balch ran a fun Water Balloon Toss Challenge that many people of all ages enjoyed.

Several people enjoyed Bocce, but they did not have a competition. Bart Chabot and another Trout Unlimited friend kept many people busy fly casting and catching the wooden fish in the back field for several hours.

Jay VanVranken and a couple other turners kept interested people busy with pen turning, while Pam Curtis helped many people wood burning their custom pendants.

The carvers also kept people busy carving Comfort Birds and later doing some Soap Carving. Tom O'Donnell kept the scroll saws going, and had some people using them as well.

We even managed to fill three tables with Show & Tell items that the attendees enjoyed viewing.

It turned out to be a fantastic day; everyone enjoyed lots of good food and desserts, and we were a happy bunch.

Winners of the various competitions were:

Hand Plane Challenge

1st place - Ian Macica at 61" long and .0015" thick
2nd place - Logan Simms at 50" long and .001" thick

Tape Measure Races

Children - Mia Stolicky and Kara Stolicky tied to win
Adults - Pam Bucci - 1st place, Chuck Walker - 2nd place



Here comes the FOOD!

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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Water Balloon Toss – Winning team Josia Macica and Ezra Macica

Golf Chipping Challenge – Fred Mapes

Tic-Tac-Toe – John Ryan

Bocce – No real competition - but these people enjoyed it for much of the afternoon:

Young Adults – Jocelyn Bucci & LaShawn

Adults – Shiela Pauly & Cindy Ryan

Prizes for all the competitions were a variety of gift cards for Lowes, Home Depot, Target, and Amazon.

All the children (under 16), were happy to get Stewart's ice cream cone gift cards and some (under 12) even received two, just for good measure!



Large crowd enjoying socializing at the Annual Picnic



Past President John Heimke and Current President, Wally Carpenter



Fly Casting with Bart



Tony Lisosky, Diane Balch, and Pam Bucci carving



Logan Simms talks about hand planing and the Hand Plane Challenge



Tom O'Donnell shows Tom Hutchinson the scroll saw



The Show N' Tell table with many items on display

Kaatskill Wood Turners

By Wally Cook

Holding Strategies: There are myriad ways to secure a workpiece on a lathe. Steve Sherman reviewed a number of holding methods with focus on finishing the bottoms of bowls and vessels. Steve related that Giles Gilson taught him that a turner should be able to plan a project such that it could be constructed or deconstructed right up until the artist's signature is placed on the piece. Holding strategies need to be thought out as if the piece will be chucked and re-chucked more than once. All of the approaches that Steve discussed are alternatives to self-centering chucks and vacuum systems:



Steve Sherman discusses the finer points of bowl finishing

Headstock Methods included:

1. Drive Centers
 - Dead center with a cup and point; scallop the cup for better gripping power
 - Elio drive works well on natural edge bowls and uneven surfaces
2. Screw chucks
 - Threaded disk on screw chuck can be used to adjust for desired depth
3. Jam chucks
 - Close-celled rigid foam – dock billets – can be turned to size and is non-marking
 - Pine tapped for the spindle thread makes a great jam chuck and can be cut to size/shape
4. Tape
 - Shurtape double sided tape is effective for faceplate applications
 - Carpet tape and shelf liner are useful as a cushioning layer for certain jam chucks

- Electrical tape is a “go to” radial wrap to secure piece to jam chuck
 - Saran wrap
5. Cage chuck
 - Threaded disk becomes the driver. Carriage bolts attach a second disk which secures the piece in a disk ‘sandwich’ (see picture)



Steve assembles a cage chuck around a bowl. The opening in the outboard disk allows access to finishing the bottom

Tailstock Methods included:

1. Sanding foam pad in Jacobs chuck
2. Faceplate attached to live center to push a piece square to the headstock
3. Wooden dead center with embedded ball bearings can be a base for specialized add-on live centers (see picture)
4. Tapped hardwood attachments which thread onto a live center for tailored needs



A wooden dead center with internal ball bearing can host a variety of specialized live center attachments

Steve turned the bottom of a small bowl using a tapped pine jam chuck. The pine disk threaded securely onto the headstock spindle. Steve prepared a chamfer on the disk to accept the bowl and then turned the jam to the outside diameter of the bowl. Several clockwise wraps of electrical tape around the union of the bowl and pine jam chuck made a solid unit. For safety's sake, the tailstock was brought up to the bottom of the bowl for all but the final cuts. Steve made sure to dish out the foot in case adjustments were needed later in case of wood movement. A small foam sanding disk cleaned up the bottom nicely.

We also talked about the importance of registration marks in the process of chucking and re-chucking. Steve pointed out that turners are generally careful to mark the centers on each side of a bowl, but may occasionally turn off the registration mark on the spigot too early. Steve brought out a simple solution which was machined by Henry Rua -- a pointed rod machined to the diameter of the headstock. The rod is inserted through the headstock and makes an accurate center dimple in the piece.

Upcoming: Don't miss Carl Ford's demo on Plate Bowls, coming Wednesday, Sept 7 at the Opdahl Building in Hurley on Wynkoop Rd. The session will start at 6:30PM. This will be our last Wednesday evening meeting before switching to light-friendly Saturday mornings in October.

Scroller's News

by Barbara Nottke

At the June meeting the Scrollers were pleased to have Paul Petrie Jr. as our guest speakers. It was opened to all of the NWA and many different SIGs were represented.

Paul Petrie is an amazing artist. His turnings and piercings are incredible to see. Paul introduced us to the Art of Airbrushing at the meeting. In his demonstration he explained about the different equipment needed and paints that he likes to use. He then showed us how to do basic steps to create different effects. It was amazing how little paint is used.

Paul's presentation was well received, and we hope to have him return to expand our knowledge.

At our meeting in September we will have Clark Pell as a guest speaker. Clark will be presenting getting started in Marquetry. This too will be open to all NWA members.

The Scrollers Guild meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at the shop. The following is our schedule of planned events. Everyone is invited to come and see what we're up to! It's time to dust off that old saw you have sitting in the corner of your shop!

August 28: Jeannie Aldous and Pat Nilson will demonstrate different painting techniques.

September 28: Clark Pell will be doing a presentation on marquetry.

October 26: All will bring in Halloween decorations to discuss and share

November 16: TBA

December 23: Christmas ornament and cookie exchange.

PLEASE NOTE: THE NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER MEETINGS TO BE HELD ON THE THIRD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH DUE TO THE HOLIDAYS.



Paul Petrie

White Ash

by Ron DeWitt (sixth reprint Wood of the Month c. summer 1996)

The ash species number about 70 in the world; 16 are native to North America. Only about ten get much recognition and of these, two or three are of interest to woodworkers.

Assigning ashes to the Olive Family may seem a bit unusual. The olives are evergreens; ashes are deciduous-losing their leaves yearly. Olives have sweet smelling, petaled flowers; the ash flower has no petals and no odor. The ashes, however, have an oil in their wood which is chemically very similar to olive oil. That pegs them as members of the Olive Family!

The ashes tend to be named by some of their respective color characteristics: White, Black, Green, Red (or Pumpkin), etc. White Ash (*Fraxinus Americana*) is the most important of North American ashes. It ranges from Nova Scotia to the Rockies, mid-Texas to Florida. Green Ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), which ranges still farther north and south, is becoming an important species as a replacement for the steadily decreasing White Ash. These two species have the widest range of any tree species native to this country.

Oregon Ash (*Fraxinus oregona*), ranging the full length of the U.S. West Coast, is the only important commercial ash in that area. Black Ash (*Fraxinus nigra*) has lost its commercial significance with the decline of the woven basket industry.

In the marketplace White, Blue, Green and Oregon Ash are usually graded together as “tough” ash, the others as “soft” ash.

The White Ash in old growth forests lived 300 years were 175 feet tall and eight feet in diameter. Pressure for this versatile wood has resulted in average trees, now 70 to 80 feet, 2-3 feet in diameter. The largest known White Ash today is 95 feet tall and eight and a half feet in diameter, growing in Palisades, NY. As of 2015, the largest White Ash is on

the George Washington Victory Trail in West Trenton, NJ. Its height is approximately 80 feet and girth is 18 feet 5 inches (Monumental Trees.com).

The White Ash is still considered a noble tree, the equal of the loftiest oak or maple. When young, it is slim and graceful, growing sturdier as it matures with stout branches spreading over a tall, heavy trunk, sometimes 50 feet to the first branch. In the forest, the crown is narrow, but when growing in the open, the crown is broad and symmetrical, matching that of the White Oak.

The leaves are opposite, compound, 8” to 12” long with 5 to 9 leaflets which may or may not be toothed. The leaves are dull green on top, pale or silver green (white) beneath. Ash flowers are single sexed; the two sexes grow on separate trees. The flowers have no scent, so bees don’t seek them. The flowers rely on wind for pollination. The fruit, in clusters, are single winged keys or samaras, bluntly pointed at both ends, one to two inches long, each containing a single seed.

The keys are considered beneficial in warding off witches, warlocks, and serpents. At the mere touch of the ask key, one of these creatures it is thought to return to its maker!

The heartwood of the White Ash is light brown to gray brown, sometimes tinged with red. Sapwood is clear white. In old growth trees, sapwood is very narrow, an inch or less, while in second growth forests, the sapwood may be more than for inches thick. This is an example of the results of changing forest practices.

The wood is straight grained, coarse, even textured with no taste or odor. Only occasionally does White Ash show any interesting figure. It is tough, hard, has good strength (among the best in strength to weight ratio), high shock resistance, and

excellent bending characteristics. It is not considered a durable wood when in contact with the ground.

White Ash is ring porous. Earlywood is 2-4 pores wide. These pores are quite large and are surrounded by lighter colored tissue. Tyloses (balloon-like swellings that fill spaces to plug water conduction in the sapwood) are abundant. Latewood pores are thick-walled, solitary, and in radial multiples of 2-3. Rays are 1-3 seriate (series or sequence), not distinct to the eye but are clearly visible with a lens. On the basis of wood alone, White Ash is often confused with and is indistinguishable from Green Ash. White Ash has a specific gravity of 0.66 and weighs about 41 pounds per cubic foot, similar to sugar maple and Red Oak. It is rated very high (with sugar maple) in heat value for firewood.

Ash dries quickly with little shrinkage and minor degrading. There is very little movement after drying.

White Ash works easily with hand or power tools with only slight wear on cutting edges. It glues, stains, and polishes well, but predrilling is recommended for fasteners, any of which hold well. There seems to be no safety hazard from the sawdust except as a nuisance dust—reason enough to wear a mask.

White Ash applications have developed around its shock resistance and easy bending. Ball bats, hockey sticks, polo mallets, tennis rackets, oars, tool handles (whose specs usually require 5-17 growth rings per inch and weigh 41 pounds per cubic foot), bent parts for boats, chairs, ladders, and church pews are basic uses. It is also used for plywood, high class joinery, and veneer. Earlier it was used for spears, lances, battle-axe handles, and arrow shafts.

Reserves of White Ash are still good, but all is second and third growth trees. The past few years have seen a blight kill many trees in the Northeast. Forestry experts believe this disease is on the decrease and are predicting a recovery without further damage. Time will tell! We learned in 2016 that the Emerald Ash Borer has destroyed 50 million ash trees (David Chinery, Horticultural Educator for the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Rensselaer County. Lecture at NWA Meeting 2/10/16).

White Ash can be purchased at most hardwood lumber yards. Often the browner colored wood is less expensive.

Note: Curtis Lumber quotes 2016 prices for White Oak as \$5.89 per board foot (4/4 1 inch)

Susan McDermott

NWA June's Newsletter Correction

by John Heimke

George Rutledge brought to my attention an error in the sequence of launching the design plans for the Schulyer Flatts Burial Ground Project. The original design concept began with

George's submission of a ¼ scale model along with subsequent drawings and construction notes. The excellent contributions that Dennis Bove made to the project was to apply graphic design elements to a photo of George's model as seen in the April issue of the Newsletter. Apologies go to George for our not reporting the correct sequence of these activities in the June Newsletter.

Apologies also go to George and the Carvers SIG for missing the opportunity to thank them for their donation of 14 Comfort Birds to the project. "A comfort bird was placed in each of the ossuaries as a symbolic token of comfort and reconciliation for the spirits of those whose rest had been disturbed".

Help Wanted!!

The following **VOLUNTEER** positions are vacant

We need your assistance in filling these positions

Hospitality Chair - provide hot and cold refreshments at all the monthly General Meetings and some special activities.
(This could be more than one person, share duties & work)

Raffle Chair - purchase prizes and run the raffles at the monthly General Meetings

Kitchen inventory supply person - maintain supplies for the kitchen at the Learning Center, including coffee, sodas, water, etc.

Annual Banquet Chair - Organize and run the Annual Banquet each fall (This could also be a committee, not just one person)

Think about what our meetings and activities will be like without someone in these positions ????

Please consider volunteering for a position and contact

Wally Carpenter c.j.carpenter@earthlink.net

or

Dick Flanders rflander@nycap.rr.com

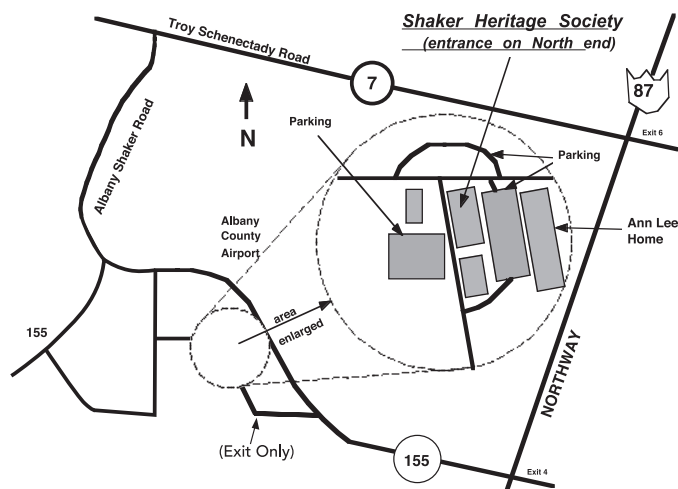
for further information

September Meeting

Thursday, September 8, 2016 7:00 p.m.

Shaker Heritage Society Meetinghouse

Albany-Shaker Road, Albany, NY



2016 - 2017 MONTHLY MEETINGS

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

September 8

Storage and Drying of Lumber - Mark Levanway

October 13

Shaker Buildings - History and Construction - Charlie Goddard

November 3

Fiske Award Lecture - at the Clifton Park Halfmoon Public Library on Moe Rd.

December Family Night-(DATE TBA)

held at Clifton Park Halfmoon Public Library on Moe Rd.

January 12, 2017

Prototypes/Templates/Story Sticks/Planning and Executing/Order of Work - Wally Carpenter

February 9

Tool Sharpening - both power and hand tools - Dave Parkis

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 - Meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM 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 Steve Schoenberg (518-371-1260), sschoen1@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 5:30 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:** George Rutledge (518) 366-3606, c.howie.dudat@gmail.com, 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 362-6071 (cell), e-mail tobyp@bpipiping.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