

# WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern  
Woodworkers  
Association

September 2018, Vol. 27, Number 7

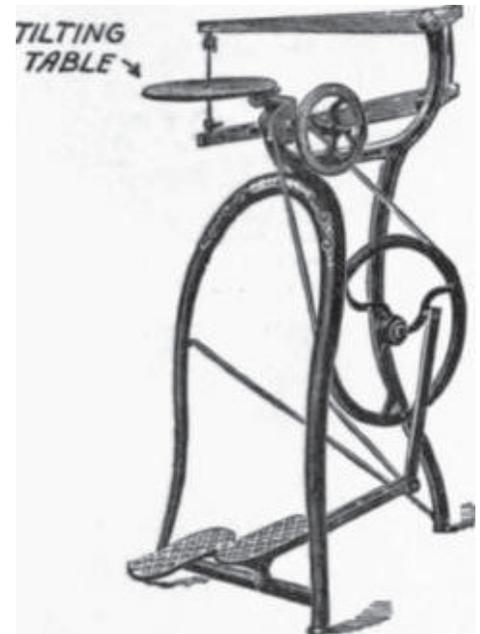
## September Meeting

**Scroll saw, that 60 pound coaster in your workshop, or it's not just a boat anchor anymore! Tom O'Donnell Presenter.**

*Thursday, September 13, 2018 7:00 PM  
Shaker Heritage Society Meetinghouse  
Albany-Shaker Road, Albany, NY*

Tom will cover the most common questions at demos and classes.

1. Where do you get your patterns, and how do you attach them?
2. What kind of wood or material is that?
3. What blade is that? Plus all the follow up questions on blades.
4. How long does it take to make that?
5. How long to learn to do that?



Scroll saw

**15 Solar Drive is closed except to movers to pack and transport its contents. See article on page 6.**

## NWA Annual Family Picnic

*By Susan McDermott*

On July 15, 2018, NWA members gathered for the traditional family picnic at the Jonesville Fire Station. It was a hot, sunny day, but members kept cool under shade trees, and the pavilion where food was served and members' crafts were displayed. Competitions for hand planing the longest, thinnest shavings measured by Wally Carpenter resulted in first place winner, Perry Bonanni (7 ¼ inches long, .003 thick). Second place winner was John DeBellis (69 ½ inches, .003) and third was Chris Stolicky (64 inches, .002).



Jonesville Fire Station

NWA Member Juliana Shei was applauded for her hand-crafted table featured in this September's *Wood* magazine.

A water balloon toss had seven teams of really good sports! Participants deserved to be recognized:

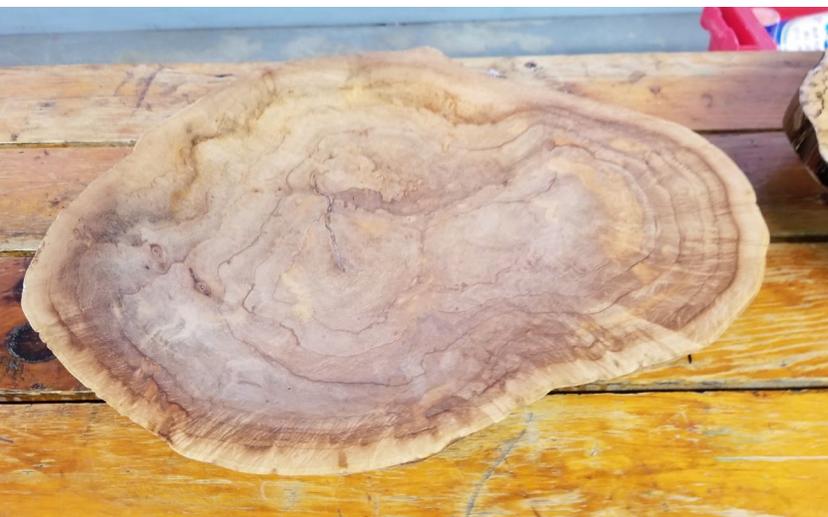
Betty and Lou Hill, Perry and Stefania Bonanni (second place), Anthony Lisosky and Ronald Reiss (first place), Mia and Chris Stolicky (third place), Kara and Rachel Stolicky, Ken and Willie Evans, and John and Cindy Ryan. John Ryan cooled off by bouncing a water balloon off his head as the grand finale.

Parked on the grounds was Grondahl's Wizard Workshop bus where Grand Wand Master, Titus Grondahl, turned custom magic wands while mechanical and electric machines whirred, snapped, flashed a light show. Vice President Rich Cerruto's wife, Izumi, was presented with her own magic wand.

Members enjoyed roast chicken, salads, chips, sodas and water purchased from Price Chopper and the bountiful home-made desserts contributed by our generous members. Special thanks go to Rich Cerruto for the multitasking, communications, and organizing of the entire event and the NWA members who volunteered hours to set up, supply the foods, and clean up.



Food is served!



Pine bowl by James VanDerZee



Cherry bowl by James VanDerZee



Chip Carvings by Bonnie Lisosky

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Cutting board



Wally Carpenter measures shavings



Chris Stolicky's shaving



Chris and Mia triple winners



Water Balloon Toss Teams

## 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](http://www.woodworker.org)



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**Woodworkers News**

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**NORTHEASTERN  
WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION**

P.O. BOX 246

Rexford, New York 12148



*Eagle by Ronald Reiss*



*Eagle, fabric matted and framed chip carving by Bonnie Lisosky.*



*Juliana Shei's table featured in Wood magazine*



*Juliana's table*



*Rich's wife and her magic wand*



*Inside the magic bus*



*Magician turns a wand*



*Carvings by Linda Reiss*



*Good catch Mia!*



*Money Lady, Sara Hill (right)*



*Spalted bowl by James VanDerZee*

# NWA Board Approves Move to New Learning Center

On Thursday, August 9, 2018, NWA Board members emphatically approved the Learning Center's relocation to 97 Railroad Avenue in Colonie. NWA will rent 5000 square feet from Erie Materials, a supplier of building materials. The aerial view shows designated parking for NWA daytime use and abundant, well-lit parking for evening and weekend activities. The floor plan will eventually have a large open space, after we remove some office walls. Two rest rooms and a conference room will remain. The space is on ground level with two entrances and is handicapped accessible. The location is easy to get to, being very close to the intersection of I87 and I90.

The ad hoc Facilities Search Committee (Stan Blanchard, Dick Flanders, Roger Holmes, Steve Mapes, Dave Mobley, Dave Parkis, & Irv Stephens) spent the past nine months screening over 100 properties before selecting 97 Railroad as the most suitable and affordable site for the new Learning Center. NWA will have a five-year lease with two three-year renewal options. The location brings new responsibilities to our members such as interior maintenance and repairs, trash removal, and janitorial tasks.

Dave Mobley presented the proposed site, projected costs, and a financial plan to provide revenue for this space and prepare for a future permanent home for NWA. These will be

communicated to members in greater detail in the weeks to come. The more immediate concerns are the renovations necessary to move in as soon as possible. Some will be contracted, such as the removal of carpet on the cement floor, and expanding an entry door. Volunteers are also urgently needed for tasks such as taking down walls, installing electrical and dust collection lines, and moving NWA equipment, tools and supplies from 15 Solar Drive and some storage to the new location.

A Planning Subcommittee of the Learning Center Operations Committee (LCOC) will determine the equipment list and prepare the floor plan layout. A Construction Committee, led by Steve Mapes, will determine and secure contracted work, secure building permits, and manage both contracted and volunteer work. A Move Committee, headed by Dick Flanders, will manage the shutdown and packing of 15 Solar Drive, arrange for the storage of equipment that doesn't fit the new floor plan, and organize the actual move with trucks (members' and rentals) and volunteers.



97 Railroad Avenue attached to Erie Materials



Aerial view shows NWA space

Dave Mobley concluded his presentation by emphasizing the support of NWA members is essential throughout this important relocation – both through volunteering labor and by working together through the many details that are certain to come up. Through our shared efforts, we can create a new space to continue doing what NWA is all about – learning and teaching woodworking skills, doing community service, welcoming new members, and having fun together.



*Floor plan before removal of interior walls*

## **Memorial Service for Warren Stoker (August 1, 1938 - May 4, 2018)**

*By Susan McDermott*

On June 9, 2018, the family of Warren Stoker, a longtime member and generous supporter of NWA, held a memorial service for several hundred family, friends, and NWA members at The First United Methodist Church in Delmar, NY. Reverend Amy Gregory presided with prayers, followed by words by Warren’s sister, wife Arlene’s brother, and family friend. Warren’s granddaughter, Rachel Porter, shared her memories, love, and grief. Grandson, Benjamin Porter, performed Rachmaninov’s “Vocalise”. The service was followed by the family’s reception in the church’s Fellowship Hall. Memorial contributions are welcome by The First United Methodist Church of Delmar and an annual memorial scholarship fund for a Bethlehem High School senior in memory of Warren’s daughter, Christine Porter.



*Attendees*

# Kaatskill Woodturners' Association

By Wally Cook

**Wood Finishing Part 1:** Doug Scharf and Steve Sherman began a conversation about finishes and the process of preparing wood. Bob Flexner, in his book, Understanding Wood Finishing, asks, “Why finish wood?” The answer is to sanitize, stabilize, and enhance the beauty of the wood product. Doug and Steve began with Flexner’s categorization of finishes and went on to focus on the preparation of the wood surface prior to applying the final finish.

Wood finishes can be generally described as evaporative, reactive, or coalescing. These terms index the curing properties of a finish. For example:

1. Evaporative finishes such as shellac and lacquer float in a solvent medium. When the medium evaporates, the molecules become entangled and form a hardened surface. Subsequent layers dissolve into one another. Wax is also an evaporative finish, but it never achieves a hardened surface.
2. Reactive finishes are composed of the varnishes and two-part finishes. Linseed oil, tung oil, oil/varnish blends, and two part finishes like epoxies are included in this category. Their molecules tend to be smaller, reacting with oxygen to cross-link, or polymerize. These molecules chemically change, but new layers do not dissolve into one another. Additional layers benefit from a “mechanical” bond (e.g., sanding between coats).
3. Coalescing finishes all float in a water based solvent. As the water evaporates, the small droplets of finish contact one another. Each droplet is covered by a second solvent which becomes sticky when contacting another droplet. As the second solvent evaporates, the droplets coalesce. Latex is a finish in this category, as is water based polyurethane. Additional layers only partially dissolve into one another.

However, prior to application of any final finish, Doug and Steve showed why the proper surface preparation is critical. Doug covered the importance of using sandpaper grits in the prescribed order. The rule of thumb is not to proceed with a grit that is more than 50%

greater than the previous grit (i.e., not higher than 150 grit after using 100 grit, not higher than 220, after using 150, etc.). Essentially, finish applied over the scratches left by aggressive sandpapering will actually amplify the deeper scratches. The objective is to obtain an optical surface – that is, to eliminate open pores or scratches which reflect light differently. Steve demonstrated the result of sanding an acrylic sheet with 15,000 grit sandpaper – the scratch pattern was still visible. [Tip: if you want a preview of how your raw wood looks like with a finish, rub hand sanitizer on the piece].

So how do you achieve an optical surface? Doug showed a variety of fillers and sealers used after sanding, but prior to final finish. His process is to sand to 600-1000 grit, use a sealer, and then spend the remaining time “finishing the finish” with micromesh or liquid abrasives (see the Novus line of scratch removers). This works particularly well with film finishes – and all built-up film finishes are essentially a



*Doug and Steve discuss finishing methods*



*15,000 grit used on acrylic still leaves scratch patterns*

form of plastic (including urethane, cyanoacrylic, epoxy, and lacquer).

The first step after sanding may be to coat the wood with a sealcoat of shellac, epoxy, lacquer, or a CA product. The sealer serves the purpose of filling small imperfections and providing a barrier coat in cases where the natural oiliness of some wood species makes finish application tricky. Doug has incorporated the use of Parfix into this procedure.

Parfix is a CA glue developed to set bones in military hospitals. The open time is longer than conventional CA glues – 40 seconds. Doug says that Parfix can be used as a sealer or final coating. All sealers should be sanded back to a level surface, but Doug will apply Parfix while the piece is on the lathe and quickly wipe off any excess with the smooth side of a Bounty paper towel (reduces paper lint). Micromesh sanding is completed if needed, and then he may apply another finish such as water based urethane over this surface. The application and curing of the urethane is done with a rotisserie motor (very slow rpm). The finish revolves and coalesces, producing a uniform surface coating.

More to come in part two!



*Dyed sycamore vessel seal-coated with Parfix and finished with urethane*



*Test surfaces seal-coated with epoxy, cut back and finished*

## The Annual Lumber & Tool Auction

**AUGUST 25, 2018 from 12 NOON to 5:00 PM**

at the SHAKER BARN on HERITAGE LANE (near the Albany Airport)

**IF YOU HAVE ANY TOOLS OR HARDWOOD LUMBER TO DONATE FOR THE AUCTION,  
CONTACT ONE OF THE PEOPLE BELOW**

**YOUR HELP IS NEEDED for the SETUP during the day on  
Wednesday, August 22 and Thursday, August 23 starting at 9 am both days**

**Also, we can use your assistance during the auction doors open at 10:00am,  
please come and help out**

### CONTACTS:

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Thanks - Rich Cerruto

# Wood of the Month

## Northern White-Cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*)

*A reprint of a series written by Ron DeWitt  
c. January 1999 with updates*

There are two eastern white-cedars of commercial importance and each lends its part to the confusion surrounding the general identity of the “cedars”. Neither of these white-cedars is a true cedar; in fact, there are no true cedars native to North America.

The Atlantic white-cedar, a coastal species growing from Maine to South Carolina is considered to be a “false cypress.” The northern white-cedar, common to our area, is a cypress. This article will discuss the northern white-cedar.

The northern white-cedar, also called white cedar, eastern white-cedar, swamp cedar or arborvitae, is one of only two of the *thujas* native to North America. One additional exotic species (*T.orientalis*) from China, is now naturalized here. Several other native species are native to China, Korea, and Japan for a world total of only six.

The name arborvitae has the meaning “tree of life” and comes from about 1535 when the French explorer Jacques Cartier learned from Native Americans how to use the foliage of white-cedar, high in vitamin C, to treat scurvy.

The northern white-cedar ranges from Nova Scotia westward to Manitoba and south from New York westward to Wisconsin and occasionally into the Alleghenies. The tree grows well in a wide variety of soil conditions, from upland limestone ridges and fields where it may grow to three feet on diameter in 200 years, to rich, wet, acidic swamps where it may only grow to one foot in diameter in the same time. It prefers

the wet habitat where it avoids fire, and its thick impenetrable lower growth easily competes with other species.

The tree is considered to be medium in size, typically 50 to 60 feet tall, two to three feet in diameter and may live for 400 years. New York’s largest white-cedar is in Livingston County and measured 170” circumference, 4.5 feet in diameter, and 64 feet high in 2013 (New York State Big Tree Register, June 2018).

The distinct and dense foliage of the northern white-cedar is green on top, yellow-green on the undersides, in flattened fan-like mats of branchlets. Twigs and branches are covered with four tight rows of 1/8 inch long, round, pointed, overlapping scale-like leaves. When lightly crushed, the foliage has an apple scent. Branches extend straight out from the stem but quickly turn upward to produce a conical tree form with a thick pyramidal crown.

The tapered trunks, often with two or three secondary stems, are strongly buttressed at

the base resulting in some fluting up the stem. Stems and branches are covered with coarse, long, stringy, fibrous furrows and ridges of orange-brown bark.

The northern white-cedar flowers in April or May with separate flowers of each sex on the same tree. The 3/8 inch upright, bell-shaped cones, with four prominent scales, release their seeds in the fall. Propagation is most easily achieved, however, by layering (folding a living branch under the dirt and cutting it off after it roots).

The northern white-cedar is valuable as wild-life food and shelter, especially for deer, rabbits,



*White-cedar trunk*

porcupines, and birds. The bark and foliage patterns make it desirable as a landscaping planting. (It's interesting to note that there are 120 cultivars\* of this species.)

The heartwood of this white-cedar is light tan to pale brown; sapwood is a narrow, white to cream colored band, very different from the much more dramatic red-cedars. Texture of the white-cedar is quite fine. Growth rings are vaguely distinct with a gradual transition from earlywood to latewood. There is usually not enough parenchyma (thin-walled food storage and distribution cells) to be visible with a hand lens, and there are no visible rays. Most of the characteristics of the two eastern white-cedars are very similar, and the wood of the two species is not easily separated.

Mature trees are often found to have heart rot and occasionally ring shake (separation of one growth ring from another).



*Fruit of white-cedar*

Specific gravity of northern white-cedar is about 0.31. It weighs about 19 pounds per cubic foot, dry, and the lightest of the commercial softwoods.

The wood dries easily with little degrade; although thick stock requires extra care to avoid internal honeycombing rot which could lead to future collapse. The wood has a slightly pungent but mild cedar aroma and a faint bitter taste. Northern white-cedar is tough, brittle, soft, and weak; it has little bending or crushing strength and little resistance to shock. It is unsatisfactory for steam bending.

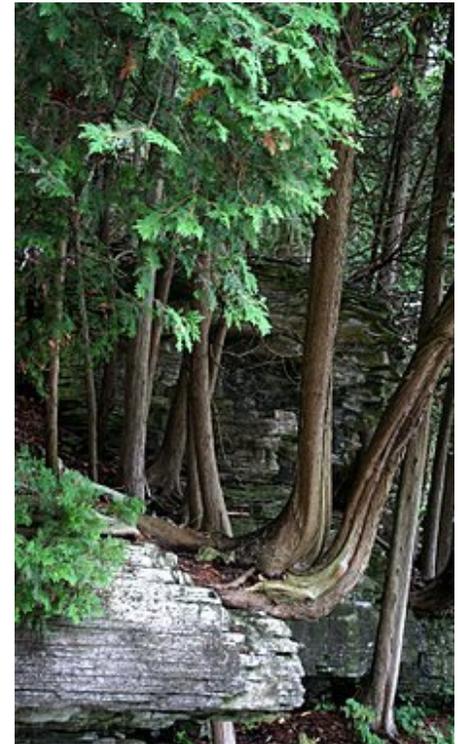
The wood works well with sharp (to avoid fuzzy surfaces) power or hand tools with little dulling effect. It takes fasteners easily and glues well on fresh-cut surfaces. This wood stains and finishes satisfactorily –sealing is desirable. Dust protection is advised when working with this wood. It is moderately durable when exposed to weather or the ground but is subject to insect damage, especially carpenter ants.

This wood is used for fencing, lumber,

poles, shingles, cabin logs, and occasionally for the framing of light structures. Some is used for paneling, pails, tubs, barrels, railroad ties, boat and canoe planking, rustic furniture, and fish net floats. It is considered to be excellent for particle board and as pulp for Kraft paper (paper or cardboard produced from chemical pulp). “Cedar leaf oil” is still distilled from the boughs for use in medicines, perfumes, air fresheners,



*White-cedar hedge*



*Old cedars growing on rock ledge WI*

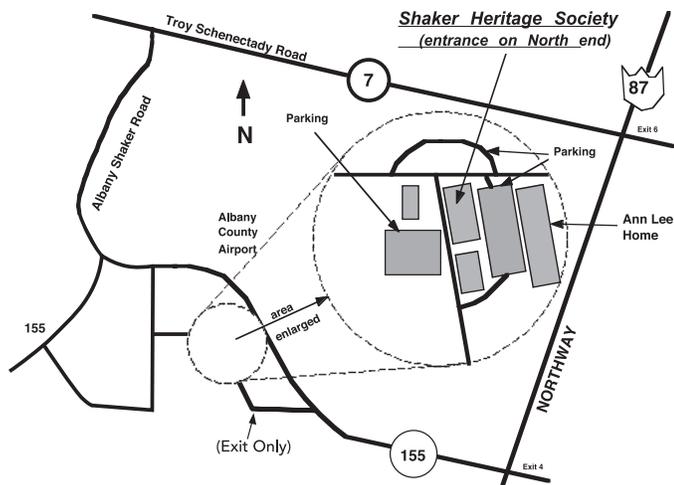
and furniture polish. Native Americans took advantage of the ring shake tendency of this species and were able to easily remove thin strips of wood from a log for canoe making, simply by pounding along the length of the log.

Currently, harvesting is done on a small scale, demand is low and supplies are good. The lumber can be easily found in lumber yards where white-cedar is commercially logged. Often Atlantic and northern white cedar is mixed. Expect to pay \$3.30 per board foot ([https://cedarspecialties.com/store/atlantic\\_white\\_cedar\\_lumber.html](https://cedarspecialties.com/store/atlantic_white_cedar_lumber.html)) for 4/4 boards to six inches wide, and don't expect to find much clear material here in the Northeast.

\*A variety of a plant that has been created or selected intentionally and maintained through cultivation. (American Heritage Dictionary on line)

# September Meeting

Thursday, September 13, 2018 7:00 PM  
Shaker Heritage Society Meetinghouse  
Albany-Shaker Road, Albany, NY



## 2018-19 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

\*To be updated with additional information

### September 13

Scroll Saw Techniques - Presented by Tom O'Donnell

### October 11

The Uses of Epoxies - Presented by John Van Buren

### November 1

Fiske Speaker - TBA

### December 6

Family Night

### January 10

TBA

### February 14

TBA

### March 14

TBA

### April 11

TBA

### May 9

TBA

## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)

**Adirondack Woodturners Association (AWA)** - The AWA is active throughout the year. **General Meetings** are held the first Wednesday of the month (except in January and July when it is the second Wednesday), at the NWA Learning Center located at 15 Solar Drive, Clifton Park, NY from 5:30 PM to 8:45 PM. **Contact:** Pam Bucci, President at 518-429-6440 or woolglass2@gmail.com

Wednesday "Learn and Turn" sessions occur on all other Wednesdays at the NWA Learning Center. These sessions run 5:30 PM to 8:45 PM. www.adirondackwoodturners.com **Contact:** Pam Bucci at 518-429-6440 or woolglass2@gmail.com

**Scroller's Guild** - Meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at the NWA Learning Center located at 15 Solar Drive, Clifton Park, NY. Shop opens at 5:30 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 518-869-6268.

**Kaatskill Woodturners** - (will now shift to) Saturday mornings at 9:00 AM -- the 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 at 518-674-4171 or wdistin@nycap.rr.com, Ken Evans at 518-753-7759 or kevan1@nycap.rr.com, or John Heimke at heimkj@sage.edu for more information.

**The NWA Wood Carvers SIG** - The NWA Wood Carvers SIG - Meet 1st, 3rd, 4th & 5th Thursdays 5:00-8:30 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 at 518-885-9899 or 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 at 518-458-7242 for further details: dparkis@nycap.rr.com

**Spindle and Pen Turners** - Meets Mondays 5:30 PM - 8:45 PM. **Contact:** Pam Bucci at 518-429-6440 or woolglass2@gmail.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 or dlee1963@aol.com

**NWA Sacandaga** - The chapter meets at 7:00 PM. on the Second Tuesday of each month from Sept through June. at 55 Second Avenue, Mayfield, NY. **Contact:** Gary Ratajczak, President at 518-852-1204 or info@sacandagawoodworkers.org