

WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern
Woodworkers
Association

March 2021, Vol. 30, Number 3

March Meeting

**Landis Arboretum:
Big Trees, Old Growth Forests, and more!**

Speaker Fred Breglia

Fred Breglia, Landis Arboretum Executive Director, is a certified arborist through the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA). He is an active member in the National Big Tree Measuring Cadre. With 33 years of experience in the green industry, Mr. Breglia is a nationally known award-winning arborist, frequent speaker, and educator. Capital Region residents know him well as "Tree Man," a regular guest on WAMC's Vox Pop radio program. Employed for 23 years at Landis Arboretum, Fred's reputation and influence has been paramount in expanding the presence of the Landis Arboretum. He has been Executive Director since 2011.



Fred Breglia

Mid-Hudson Chapter Announcement

By Peter Chast

There is a new agreement between Hudson River Maritime Museum and the Mid-Hudson NWA Woodworkers which will affect our meeting schedule in the near future, we hope. We have not been having in-person meetings with the current health crisis. Our meeting night and location will change to the first Thursday of the month when we are able to gather in person once again. The location will be at the museum's meeting room on the Rondout in Kingston, NY. In the interim, Mid-Hudson has held on-line Zoom meetings by invitation. Please watch for updates.



Appeal for Volunteers

The NWA Auction Committee accepts tools and lumber donations from the local community. On many occasions, we pick up large and small items from donors' homes, often helping to clear the entire workshops. It is one of the NWA's community services that is appreciated by the donors. Because the donations often include heavy items such as table saws and drill presses, we are seeking volunteers with strong backs to give a few hours once a month. Please contact nwaauction1@gmail.com if you are available help us in support this meaningful community service.

A Generous Donation to the Tool Sale

Bernard “Bernie” Herbert King, 92, passed away peacefully, at home, on Thursday, December 10, 2020 in Gansevoort, NY. His son, Brian, contacted NWA to donate his father’s considerable collection of power and hand tools. Lee Hilt coordinated trips with Julianna Shea and Jon Cochran, to the Gansevoort retirement community where the tools were stored. Because this remarkable 100 % donation of high- quality tools will generate much need funds for our NWA, Mr. King and his son, Brian, deserve special recognition in this newsletter.

Bernie King moved from a Canadian border town in Maine to Ballston Spa and then Clifton Park in 1964 where Bernie joined Carpenters Union Local 291. Bernie was a skilled carpenter and avid wood turner. He built his first home in Clifton Park, a second home in Stillwater, a third house for his grandson in Quaker Springs, and an addition to Brian’s home. While living in Stillwater, he met our Ken Evans when Ken was giving a wood turning demonstration at Curtis Lumber in Ballston Spa. Bernie was absorbed in watching Ken’s skill in turning, and the two became friends for the years Bernie lived in the area. Ken brought Bernie to NWA Monthly General Meetings at the Shaker Meetinghouse, and they spent hours in each other’s shops. Ken lost contact with Bernie when he moved north to his Gansevoort retirement community.

Recently, son Brian, contacted NWA about donating his father’s tools and wood which filled both Lee’s and Jon’s truck beds. There were two lathes, a Rikon and a custom built one. There were 49 turning tools which Lee’s team divided into five sets, each worth \$100 a set. Some 200 to 250 turning blanks were donated by Brian King, pictured - click on link <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/zj9bz23ry2vm0dk/AAB2ZBPxpAHQtcKdhngGS8ya?dl=0> are available for the NWA members at no charge (limit 10 pieces/person). Pick up is by appointment only on Friday and Saturday, **February 26-27**. Send e-mail to NWAToolMarket@yahoo.com for an appointment.

As our members know, NWA is in a serious financial challenge brought on by the COVID shutdown of our shop, classes, meetings, Showcase, and the annual tool auction. Our

income is considerably reduced while our expenses remain high. We still must pay rent, insurance, machine maintenance, Internet, etcetera. Our membership dues alone cannot cover these costs. Lee Hilt and his team have held online tool sales to generate income to keep NWA operating.

Many hours have been devoted by the Auction/Online Sale committee in picking up heavy machinery and tools from donors’ shops, Juliana Shei’s inventory, photographing, and descriptions, and Webmaster Andy Moss’ creation of pdf links online for our members to purchase these items. Some NWA members



Bernie King



Auction Committee chair, Lee Hilt and Jon Cochran loading up an item donated by late Bernie King's son, Brian.

have given their Saturday mornings to help buyers pick up their purchases at the Shaker Barn. The generous people who donate 100 % of the items’ worth to NWA are essential to the continuation of NWA’s operation. Brian King’s donation is just such an example of how grateful NWA is to the memory of his father, Bernie.

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/saratogian/obituary.aspx?n=bernard-herbert-king&pid=197307175&fhid=27396>

Member Survey Update

By Wally Carpenter

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Sacandaga Chapter

Vacant

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Members - Jim Lefebvre, Rich Glover

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Chairperson - Bill Sterling
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Treasurer - Juliana Shei

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Vacant

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I want to begin with thanking everyone for a fantastic response to the NWA Survey we just completed Jan 31, 2021. We had an amazing 203 responses! I certainly hope we kept it brief and interesting. We are in the throes of analyzing the output and hopefully be able to provide a summary within the next couple of weeks followed by survey results actions. We plan to put it into our website <https://woodworker.org> to make it available for everyone.

I can tell you a few items which we have found extremely encouraging already:

- Well over 130 of our members want to help in various capacities which encompass all areas noted in the survey! We will be in contact with you for more details on how and where we need your help. This again may take several weeks to get this rolling.

- Restarting educational classes and identifying specific areas of interests was extremely high in the written comments.

- Nearly everyone ranked access to skilled woodworkers either important or moderate as well as the camaraderie of other woodworkers.

- Those responding to the survey seem ok with the current forms of communication and perhaps reluctant to moving to social media, Blogs, and phone/texts. There is a strong desire for more videos such as YouTube and/or on our website.

We obviously have a lot more to extract from your encouraging responses, and we are working to learn from the data followed by the more important - **Doing Something About It!**

Thank you again for your comments and responses.

Much more to come.

February's General Meeting Presenter: Rich Cerruto

Because COVID pandemic prohibits in-person meetings, the NWA video team has made a second YouTube presentation where former NWA President Rich Cerruto gives

a step-by-step demonstration of building a skin on frame pack canoe. The video concludes with information about the plans available and materials used. Click on <https://woodworker.org/videos-from-nwa> to view it.



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
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in early April

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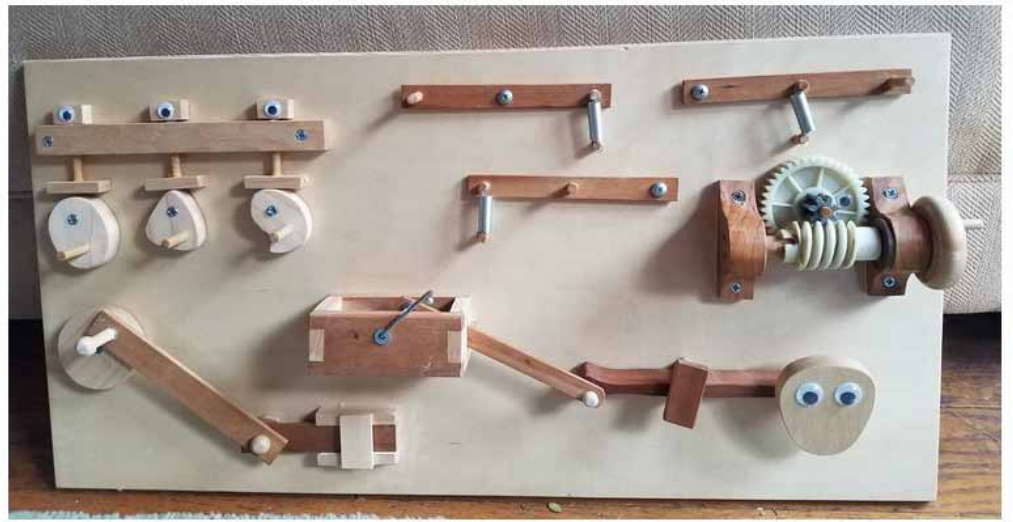
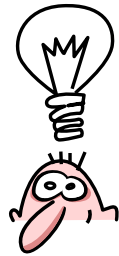


"MEMBER'S WOODWORKING TRICKS"

Busy Board

Submitted by Susan McDermott

Paul Mendelsohn of Cherry Valley, NY made a "busy board" for his two-year old grandson over the holidays. He got the idea from Pinterest.



Send us your woodworking tips and tricks for a prize.

NWAnewsletter1@gmail.com

Submission deadline is the 15th of each month (except June and July).

NWA Seeks Education Registrar

Job Description:

After a class has been developed by the education committee, the education committee will email the class writeup to the registrar.

The writeup should include the following information:

class name, instructor's name, class date(s), class time, class cost, number of students a class can accommodate, the materials and tools required (needed to bring or supplied by instructor), cost of materials, experience level, requirements to attend this class, class description, and any special instructions or requirements.

The Registrar's responsibility is:

- Develop and post class e blast on Constant Contact and schedule date to send e blast out to the membership. E blast must be sent to the membership at least 30 days prior to class. The Constant Contact e blast should include the above information plus The Herman Finkbeiner Learning Center address, and parking information,
- Notify NWA Calendar Manager of class name, date, time of class and class description.
- Set up the Google spreadsheet for class registration.
- Register (on a 1st come basis) students' request to attend a class by emailing a reply "registration accepted" to students.
- Enter student's name and email information in the spreadsheet.
- As payments are received, you will get an email showing the name of the student paying and the amount paid. This is entered in the Google spreadsheet.

Interested volunteers should contact Steve Mapes, Chairperson of Education mapessteven@gmail.com or 518-374-2207

NWA Book of the Month

By Wally Carpenter

In this month's book selection, I'm choosing what I believe is the single best woodworking trilogy available. The author is Tage Frid.

It is: ***Tage Frid Teaches Woodworking. Book 1- Joinery, Book 2 – Shaping, Veneering, Finishing, and finally, Book 3 – Furniture Making.***

The set can be found on Amazon and other sources for ~\$65:

https://www.amazon.com/s?k=%3A+Tage+Frid+Teaches+Woodworking&ref=nb_sb_noss

Tage Frid learned cabinet making as an apprentice in Denmark prior to WW II and after the war, came to the U.S. where he became a professor at my alma mater, RIT, and ultimately became a professor at The Rhode Island School of Design. Tage passed away in 2004 leaving us a valuable treasure of woodworking knowledge.

These books are as important to woodworkers today as when they were written some forty years ago. It is evident as these books are still in print today. They are a "go to" series for any new or intermediate woodworker.

As a final note, the trilogy is available from our own NWA library if you are curious to know what is inside before making a commitment to buy your own copies. Here is a direct link to our library:

<https://www.librarycat.org/lib/Woodworkers>

Please let me know if any of these monthly book selections are useful or helpful! I have changed the format on this month's review to simply providing some "how to get it" information rather than details within the book(s). Let me know if you like this better. And as always, you are very welcome to join in the process by simply providing a selection of your own directly to Susan McDermott at nwa1newsletter@gmail.com

Correction

If you tried to obtain manuals listed in the "Manuals Available" section on February Newsletter and did not get an answer, that's because the email address listed was wrong. Please re-send request to NwaToolMarket@yahoo.com before March 1.

January General Meeting: Ray Puffer's Mother of Pearl Inlays

This is the first of the NWA created and transmitted youtube.com videos. Considerable hours of planning and videography accomplished by Stephen Brown (editor), Michael Donovan (coordinator of videography), John Kingsley (camera operator) and Dave Mobley (introductions). And thanks, of course, to Ray Puffer who created and presented this demonstration.

The 37-minute demonstration has been viewed by more than 200 viewers in the first two weeks.

Ray is pleased to also answer your questions by e mail ray.puffer@gmail.com

The video link below will allow you to replay Ray's presentation which took place in his Watervliet home shop. The conclusion lists the names of products and their manufacturers he used in creating his inlays.

Click on <https://woodworker.org/videos-from-nwa> to view the video.

On January 28 at 7:00 PM, Ray held a live Q&A discussion with 22 participants who signed into GoToMeeting. For 40 minutes, Ray addressed questions sent to him prior and ones at the meeting.



How Many Windows Does Your House Have?

In the midst of our tax season, you may be glad Uncle Sam does not tax the number of windows you have! You might find the link below of interest as windows dictated house designs of the English from 1696 to 1851.

<https://www.working-process.com/en/shavings-of-history-the-window-tax-imposed-on-english-citizens-in-1696/>

True One of a Kind Or *"The Godfather Would Be Proud"*

By Wally Carpenter

I knew my mother to say on occasion, "Just because you can, doesn't mean you should." It would normally cause me to at least give more thought to what I was planning to do.

In this case, it became a YOU MUST! YOU MUST DO THIS!

A little background. I was watching an episode of Roy Underhill a couple of years ago where he made something called a Roubo Folding Bookstand. As I watched this stand evolving over the tv-screen, I was simply amazed to see a hinged stand created from a single board with no gluing or anything that would be considered "cheating". I locked this into my memory and decided if someday time allowed, I would attempt to make one of these bookstands. (Here is a version of making one on YouTube: https://youtu.be/X8wt_eby9HI)

As luck would have it, time did become available so I reviewed the tape and began to make one. Then I made another and even one more. By now



Roubo Folding Bookstand

you realize this is not a “how to” article. This is about something even more magical. I found a piece of black walnut that had two knot holes near the outside of borders of the board. I was thinking this could be a pretty cool accent to the bookstand.

While making the bookstand, I kept staring at the knots and suddenly it came to me. These knots were perfectly located as eyes for a horse’s face. I found a picture that had a face shot of a horse which I enlarged and made markings on the board which you can see. It was only then I realized I didn’t possess the carving skills to create this image on the board. I contacted Diane Balch, and she gave me the name of another carver who might be able to help me.

During this time, I was talking to Dave Mobley about some unrelated items, and I happened to mention this idea of creating a horse’s face on the bookstand. After sending him a couple of pictures of the board, Dave



Other Bookstands



Horse Picture



Overlayed Laser Image



Final Horse Face Image

became intrigued by the idea and asked if we might want to try creating the image with a laser engraver. He sent me a drawing which looked great. He was able to modify and adjust the drawing of the horse’s face to ensure the laser images wrapped the knots (eyes) perfectly. When he sent me the picture of the completed image, I could not have hoped for a better outcome!

You can see in this final image that the laser engraving captured the image I was looking for. In this case Mom, yes. Yes, I should and with Dave’s genius, we did.

I’ve now retired from making Roubo Folding Bookstands for now. After all, how can you improve on a horse’s head on a Roubo Folding Bookstand?

NWA Newsletter Reaches Out to Members for Their COVID Projects

Richard Snyder submitted two wood projects he recently completed. He hopes to register his unique table in Showcase when it resumes. Below are four perspectives of his table.



The table is titled, "Brown Trout, Speckled Trout and Mottled Sculpin."



The only finish used is Bush Oil. Overall dimensions are "42" long, 22" wide and 19" high.



The entire unit is composed of 124 individual pieces of wood.



Jewelry box made from a solid cherry block, 18" long with a Bush Oil finish.



Those pieces consist of 20 different types of wood.



Jewelry box open

Landis Arboretum Director to speak at Virtual NWA Meeting 3/11

By Brea Barthel

Fred Breglia, director of Landis Arboretum, will be the featured speaker at our meeting on March 11. If you love seeing wood in its natural state, this session is for you! Landis, a wonderful resource in Esperance, NY (about 25-35 minutes west of Albany), has hundreds of acres of forests, gardens, and greenhouses, 14 miles of trails, and much more. Landis is one of only three arboretums in New York state with certified old growth forests. The site also offers, according to its website, “a labeled collection of nearly all the woody trees, shrubs, and vines native to Upstate New York, as well as collections of notable trees, flowering ornamental trees and tough trees for tough sites, conifers, and oaks” (<https://landislive.weebly.com/about.html>).

Fred “Tree Man” Breglia is a certified arborist through the International Society of Arboriculture, and a great font of knowledge and stories of all things wood. You may have heard him on WAMC answering callers’ questions about nature-related topics or caught him speaking at the Garden & Flower Show in Troy. Yet his passion for trees takes him far beyond Landis. As a “Big Tree Hunter,” Fred participates in a group working to identify the largest specimen for each tree species in a region

or state, thus finding the biggest trees in the nation.

His love of nature began as a young boy, when family trips included visiting a large tree and joining hands around it to marvel at its diameter. Yes, literal tree-hugging. Today he and fellow “hunters” use lasers and other tools for somewhat more accurate measurements. As Fred explained, “not all big trees are old, and not all old trees are big.” Fred has seen a Red Cedar in Schoharie that, despite a 4-inch diameter trunk, may be 400 years old. But biggest can be very big, and oldest very old. Landis’s former “Great Oak” (no longer standing, alas) was also estimated to be over 400 years old; Fred has personally counted 239 rings in one section of the fallen tree. The tallest tree in the U.S. is a coastal redwood named Hyperion in California’s Humboldt Redwood State Park, is over 381 feet tall and “only” a thousand years old. Another California tree, a bristlecone pine, less than 30 feet tall, is over 5,000 years old.

The group’s unusual focus caught the attention of Facebook, who featured it in an ad campaign in 2019. Much to Fred’s surprise, his picture was displayed in possibly the least-natural setting imaginable: the stories-high electronic billboard in Times Square. Photo

Fred’s “20 minutes of fame” has not gone to his head. In our first Zoom interview, he mentioned his gratitude for the ways NWA members supported the arboretum for decades, and that he considers NWA “a Landis ally.” Indeed, both groups share one generous benefactor: Herm Finkbeiner, the namesake of NWA’s Education Center/wood shop, also is recognized at Landis for financial support and years serving on the board of directors. (The board of an arboretum? This is calling out for a pun, but I will let you fill in your own.)

Another way that NWA folks have helped Landis has been crafting items to be sold in the Landis gift shop. Gathering dead wood is not allowed at Landis, because fallen wood is an important component of the Old Growth ecosystem. But when the collections of exotic non-native trees are pruned, limbs and chunks may be set aside for woodworkers. As Fred noted, most of the wood can be used for personal projects if some portion is returned to Landis as finished items.



Time Square Ad for Facebook



Fred photographing the ad

To see various types of wood in their original form, go to Landis Arboretum, 174 Lape Road, Esperance. For trail maps, collection listings, and more, see <http://www.landisarboretum.org/>. Or check out <https://www.facebook.com/LandisArb>. And join the virtual meeting on March 11 to hear stories and get answers to your questions. Anything from the effect of climate change on forests to the largest trees in New York state, or even the strengths and challenges of any tree you might be considering planting. I will e-see you there!

Geodesic Bowls

By Stan Blanchard

During this time of COVID isolation, I have found solace in my turnings on the lathe. At night when I find myself wide awake and on my daily walks in the morning, thinking about forms for my turnings and colors for items I have made keeps my brain occupied and makes the time fly by. If you join Pinterest and make your item of interest (bowls, for example) Pinterest will inform you several times a day of the latest work being done on bowls both in wood and in ceramics. It is a wonderful way to be inspired. I regularly print out ideas to keep in my workshop. There are more ideas in my stack of print outs than I will ever be able to pursue in this lifetime. It is important not to directly copy another artist's work. I have found that translating an image from a two-dimensional form into a 3D turning never results in a direct copy of what is on paper. So not to worry, at least in my experience.

As I think about wood turning, I am trying to figure out how to make my work different from what has come before and still express my desire for straight forward, clean bowl design. I carve on bowls; I paint on bowls; I turn green wood for the distortion of the wood, and I occasionally embrace the void in the turning that is OK with turners, but not practical for everyday use. (In order to keep my wife from being overwhelmed with bowls I was looking for a way to slow down production.) It occurred to me that band

sawing adjacent sections of the bowl all the way around could give me texture and interest, so I decided to band saw some larger wood blanks before I turned the insides. It is a very dangerous way to add texture. What I really wanted was the rough look of a chain saw on the wood, but I have not figured out how to hold smallish wood near a chain saw. So, then I thought of sanding the bowl blanks, and that worked. I put 8-inch diameter sanding discs of 60, 180 and 240 grit on the lathe to sand what I call the geodesic pattern into the bowl blank.

I can do that on 4-inch diameter bowls and that is small enough for me. The look is unique, and I think interesting. Thank you for the chance to share my work with you.



Stan sands a bowl on a sanding disk driven by a lathe.



The finished bowls

March Meeting

**Watch for the announcement
that provides the link
to the Zoom program.**

Fred Breglia
Landis Arboretum Executive Director

2021 MONTHLY MEETINGS*

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

For meeting cancellation information,
Charlie Goddard 370-0388

April 8 TBA

May 13 TBA Election of NWA officers

*To be updated with additional information

Announcement

Turning blanks donated by Brian King, pictured <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/zj9bz23ry2vm0dk/AAB2ZBPxpAHQtjcKdhngGS8ya?dl=0> are available for the NWA members at no charge (limit 10 pieces/person). Pick up is by appointment only on Friday and Saturday, February 26-27. Send e-mail to NWAToolMarket@yahoo.com for an appointment.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs): Please note meetings will commence at our new location at 97 Railroad Avenue.

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 97 Railroad Avenue, Colonie, NY from 5:30 PM to 8:45 PM. **Contact:** Kevin Ramsey Cell 518-769-9665 or kmrammer@yahoo.com

Spindle and Pen Turners - Meets Mondays 5:30 PM - 8:45 PM. Contact: Pam Bucci 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:** Kevin Ramsey Cell 518-769-9665 or kmrammer@yahoo.com

Kaatskill Woodturners - Second Saturday mornings at 9:00 AM at the Opdahl property in Hurley, NY. **Contact:** Wally Cook at wally.cook@gmail.com

NWA Crafters - Meet Tuesdays and Saturdays 9:00 AM to noon. They 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 518-281-0779 or kevans1@nycap.rr.com, or John Heimke at heimkj@sage.edu for more information.

The NWA Wood Carvers SIG - Meet Thursdays 5:00-8:30 PM all year at the NWA Learning Center located at 97 Railroad Avenue, Colonie, 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 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00-9:00 PM in the Herm Finkbeiner Education Center at 97 Railroad Avenue, Colonie, NY. **Contact:** Dave Parkis at 518-429-6581 for further details: dparkis@nycap.rr.com

Scrollers SIG - Meets every Monday and Wednesday 6 to 8:30 PM. Contact Pam Bucci woodglass2@gmail.com 518-429-6440 (for Mondays) Kay McCampbell kmcccampbell@nycap.rr.com 518-371-9608

CHAPTERS

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