

WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern
Woodworkers
Association

December 2021, Vol. 30, Number 80

Wife of Fred Luck Makes Large Donation to NWA

By Susan McDermott

When our members look on December's tool and lumber sale, they will find some very high-quality power tools donated by Colleen Maloney in memory of her husband Fred. This huge donation took eleven volunteers to photograph and load the haul onto several pickup trucks and a trailer.

Fred was a graduate of Siena College, a practicing CPA, and worked 20 years with Mechanical Dynamics and Analysis as a Vice President, Treasurer, and CFO. He was an avid woodworker, camper, angler, and golfer. He was a self-taught woodworker and particularly enjoyed using hand tools (planes and carving knives). He collected old tools and attended Showcase every year for over 20 years.

The Northeastern Woodworkers Association expresses its condolences to Fred's wife, Colleen Maloney, and our great appreciation for her generosity. *(photos donated by Colleen)*



Fred D. Luck (1955-2017)



The mighty NWA volunteers: Row 1 Lee Hilt, Row 2 (from left) Steve Mapes, Woody Bowler, Jon Cochran, Don Orr, Ray Puffer, Row 3 (from left) Bob Stevens, Steve VanDerZee, Rick Bird, Matt Jaskula, absent Juliana Shei at time of photo.



Quilt rack



Jewelry box



Dovetail chest



Fred's tall clock



Trailer with Luck donation



Fred's end table

NWA Online Tool Market goes SILENT AUCTION

Since the launch of online sales one year ago, your NWA Auction Committee listened to member feedbacks and continue to make improvements in the process. The latest change is to respond to the concerns from members who cannot be at the computer when the Tool Market opens at noon on the first Saturday of the month. In the spirit of improving the process, the December Tool Market will be a Silent Auction.

- Online posting format stays the same as before with the starting price.
- The sale starts on the day of e-Blast announcing the Tool Market, no need to wait until Saturday.
- To request a purchase, send an email to NWAToolMarket@yahoo.com specifying the item(s) number and name in the email subject line as well as in the body of the email.
- **You may make a bid on an item** by specifying “pay up to” amount for the item. You may submit a bid for any amount larger than posted price in \$1 increments for items less than \$50 or \$5 increments for items over \$50.
- Bidding is optional, you may submit the purchase request at the listed price.

- The item will be sold to the highest bidder who submitted the request earliest.
- The bidding must be received by the date announced, normally at midnight one week after the sale is announced.
- You will be notified the results on Sunday, after the sale is closed, whether you won the bid.
- Items that are not sold by the close of Silent Auction will stay on the Tool Market website. Purchase requests for those items are accepted until the next cycle starts.

The online Tool Market will continue for the first half of 2022, March through May, 2022. We hope to resume the annual in person Lumber & Tool Auction in the fall of 2022. Check the Auction page <https://woodworker.org/lumber-tool-auction/> for the latest schedule.

Members and non-members may donate an item(s) to NWA by contacting Lee Hilt for details and to schedule a pickup nwaauction1@gmail.com

Thank you.
NWA Lumber & Tool Auction/Online Sale Committee,
Lee Hilt, Chair

Hand Tools Demonstration of Mortise and Tenon by Jason Mapes

By Susan McDermott

Dave Parkis introduced his SIG member, Jason Mapes, to the twenty-four masked attendees on Tuesday night, November 2, 2021. Jason often makes his own tools when possible, such as his mallet and marker.

Jason used a ¼ inch mortise chisel with mallet blows and started well away from the baseline (some woodworkers begin in the middle of the mortise). Each chop will push the chisel toward the baseline. He said go as deep as the tenon is wide.

The waste ends of the mortise board (called “horns”) protect the mortise from the stresses of prying out wood chips. A mortise gauge checks the depth often as he cuts deeper.

Click here for steps to cutting the tenon. <https://woodworker.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/How-to-Cut-a-Tenon.pdf>

You can open this in your browser or Adobe or PDF drive viewer. Swipe left for slides.

Jason makes his mortise first to fit the tenon snugly. He uses a bench hook to secure the tenon board. It is easier to modify the slightly thicker tenon by paring its sides. Sometimes he will have to cut the mortise a little deeper and clean its sides where he sees marks left on the tenon as he tries to fit it. A little deeper mortise allows glue a space without squeezing out.



Jason with his sharp tools, some hand made



Heavy blows with his custom mallet



Mortise shavings

Carvers' Resources

By Diane Balch

Matthias Wandel's web site, www.Woodgears.CA has many YouTube videos. He makes his woodworking machines from wood. Some of them are the bandsaw, mortising machine, and table saw. Check him out on YOUTUBE.

OFFICERS

President - Irv Stephens
nwapresident1@gmail.com

Vice President - Carl Stoner

Secretary - Chris Stolicky

Treasurer - Paul Ruud
nwatreasurer2@gmail.com

Executive Secretary - Charlie Goddard
Cgodd@aol.com



NWA BOARD MEMBERS

Irv Stephens
Carl Stoner
Chris Stolicky
Paul Ruud
Charlie Goddard
Pete Chast
Wally Carpenter
Susan McDermott



Mid-Hudson Chapter

Bill Sterling, President
wster1156@aol.com

Sacandaga Chapter

Vacant



CHAIR/CONTACT PERSONS

Auction and Hospitality

Lee Hilt
nwaauction1@gmail.com

Education

Chairperson - John Slezak
nwaeducation1@gmail.com
Members - Jim Lefebvre, Rich Glover

Fiske Fund

Chairperson - Woody Bowler
fiskefund@gmail.com
Treasurer - Juliana Shei
fftreasurer@yahoo.com
Members - Jon Bennett, Dick Flanders,
Bill Sterling

Historian

Wayne Distin
wdistin@nycap.rr.com

Library

Susan Hill
Susanh1122@att.net

Membership

Alan Hayes
arhayes@gtel.net

Publications

Susan McDermott
nwanewsletter1@gmail.com

Publicity

John Olenik
jolenik@nycap.rr.com

Showcase Chair

Wally Carpenter
nwa.showcase.chair@gmail.com

NORTHEASTERN WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION



JOIN THE SHOWCASE COMMITTEE FORCE FOR THE BEST

SHOWCASE EVER - MARCH 26-27, 2022

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS

**PLEASE CALL (518) 229-3078 OR CONTACT US AT
MAMAWITKINS@AOL.COM**

**WE HAVE A PLACE FOR YOU TO SHARE YOUR VALUABLE
TIME WITH US. IT WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED**

KEN AND MARIA WITKINS

NWA SHOWCASE VOLUNTEERS COORDINATORS

Classified

Lumber Sale

120 feet of red oak. 7/8" X 5 1/2"

Miscellaneous cherry and cedar boards \$100 for all.

Contact JEFFREY WELLS <jwells616@yahoo.com >

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 January

Copy deadline: December 15

Susan McDermott, Editor
Nwanewsletter1@gmail.com
Elizabeth Keays Graphic Artist
Designer



WEBSITE

www.woodworker.org

Webmaster: Andy Moss
nwawebmasterhelp@gmail.com



**NORTHEASTERN
WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION**

P.O. BOX 246
Rexford, New York 12148



Hand Tools SIG Program: Chuck Thorne's Demo of Dovetail Cuts

By *Susan McDermott*

On October 5, 2021, thirteen attendees observed Chuck Thorne's technique for cutting pins and tails with hand tools. He learned the steps for neat, tight dovetails from the Center for Furniture Craftsmanship (CFC), in Rockport, Maine. See November's newsletter for Chuck's summer at CFC.

This article will not substitute for the hands-on experience that comes from Chuck's demonstration as it only summarizes the major steps and suggestions he gave his audience. The photos provide visual clarification when needed. The members' appreciation for this demonstration was obvious, and we hope Chuck will give more hand tool instruction in the near future.

Chuck first explained calculating the desired angles of the dove tails such as 7:1 for hard woods which is seven inches long by one inch wide on a combination blade. You can see dove tail hand-made guides like the one by Paul Sellers. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tZfZ9qNKkks> Soft woods should use 6:1 ratio.

Dovetails are stronger joints than butt, lap, or finger joints. They are ideal for drawers in furniture or on chest joinery as they can take more stress. Drawers should have dovetails on their sides to address the stress of being pulled repeatedly.

Dovetails need to be slightly deeper than the thickness of two boards to be joined, so they stand slightly proud to be sanded or pared after assembly. Chuck first measures the tails by drawing straight lines on the board's end and crossing off the waste. Chuck uses a marking knife or Olfa utility knife with a snap-off blade to scribe his cut lines. He then bevels his cut line with the chisel's bevel towards the waste side of the board. The board's precisely cut tails are now a template for the pins.

Chuck suggests clamping the board in a wood vise and sitting while cutting, looking down on the board's end. This



Chuck gives demonstration



Use tail as template for pins



Cut on the waste side of the cut line.

gives greater stability to the saw or chisel. The cutting lines are perpendicular to the bench table. Chuck likes his Lie Neilson saw for dovetail cuts and a straight saw for tenon cuts. For this class, Chuck works with poplar rather than pine because pine compresses too much to make clean chisel cuts. The straight grain of poplar is very forgiving with chisel cuts while oak or ash grains may force a chisel off course. Note Chuck's hands positions to hold and guide his chisel.

He emphasized sharp chisels are necessary, especially on end grain. After creating a small V groove with the chisel, he starts the saw cut using the thumb as a fence to keep the saw steady and straight. Chuck then uses the tail's board as template for the pins.

The nibs are pared off last to protect the squareness of the shoulders of the tails. Chuck uses a coping or fret saw to cut out the waste between pins. After assembly, the proud dovetails will be pared or sanded. If you see small gaps in the joinery, the glue may swell the wood and close those gaps.

The Center for Furniture Craftsmanship website has an excellent library of free instructional videos, <https://woodscool.org/>



Cut lines perpendicular to bench top. Sit while chopping or sawing for tool stability. Note Chuck's hands holding his chisel.



Chuck cuts waste between pins with coping saw.



Note the nibs which protect the shoulders of the tails.



The proud dovetail will be trimmed off last.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

March 26 and 27, 2022

Showcase

in Saratoga Springs, NY.

The Crafters SIG is Busy

By Juliana Shei



Race car team

A team of Dick Flanders, Irv Stephens, and Rich Duval is building bookshelves to hold NWA Library's expanding collection.

Another team, Bob and Bev Reinhardt, Don Cooke, Bill Winters, and Ron Wager is building the popular race cars for the Shaker Craft Sale NWA booth. These are perfect stocking gifts for the little ones!

A third team of Chuck Watson and Rick Bird construct totes and toy boxes.



Toy Box 1



Toy Box 2



Bookshelves team

Message from President Irv Stephens: Amazon Smile

A Way to Help NWA

The holiday season is upon us again, and it is time to remind you that NWA, as a qualified 501(c) cultural and educational organization, participates in Amazon's Smile program and receives donations from Amazon based on your individual purchases.

Although I recognize that in these times there are many deserving organizations, I hope you will consider specifying NWA as your designated charity and will also tell your friends and family members about it too. So far, 22 members have elected to designate NWA as their designated charity.

To use **Amazon Smile** you need to have either a regular Amazon or an Amazon Prime account and then use the **Amazon Smile** website to shop. The prices and goods available via **Amazon Smile** are exactly the same as those offered via the familiar amazon.com website.

To get to **Amazon Smile** from your desktop computer,

1. Sign on to your regular Amazon account and open the menu labeled, "Hello, Sign in ACCOUNT & LISTS, and click on the link, "Amazon Smile Charity Lists." This will take you to the **Amazon Smile** website.

Do not be tempted to enter a search for NWA in the search box appearing in the center of your display and labeled "Amazon Smile Charity Lists" because NWA does not appear in these lists.

2. Look for the "**Amazon Smile**" label next to the "**All**" label located on the left hand side of the menu bar running across the top of the display. Open this link and enter "**Northeastern Woodworkers Association**" in the search box, then check the box to select it.

That is all you have to do. Amazon will send you an email confirming your selection. To change your designated charity or to opt out of the program, just go to the **Amazon Smile** via your ACCOUNT & LISTS menu and update your preferences.

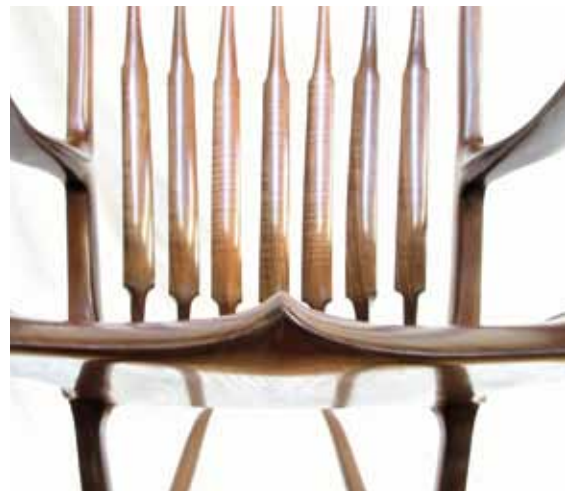
*Note that some mobile devices provide apps that will let you go to **Amazon Smile** directly.*

More detailed information about **Amazon Smile** is also available from this Amazon Site: <https://www.aboutamazon.com/news/community/how-to-sign-up-for-amazonsmile>



2022 WOODWORKERS' SHOWCASE

**March 26 and 27, 2022
in Saratoga Springs, NY.**



Using the Showcase Webpage

Getting There...

As with all things internet, there is more than one way to do it. To go to the Showcase information webpage:

- ∞ <http://woodworker.org/about-showcase/> This should take you straight to it.
- or
- ∞ <http://woodworker.org/> Then mouse over the “Shows & Events” menu item. Select “About Showcase”
- or
- ∞ IF you have a smartphone connected to the internet, most current phones make it very easy to use one of

these:

Vendor Booth Registration
Tell Your Favorite Tools, Supply, and
Wood Artisans to come join us!

Compilation of 2018 and 2019
Gallery Entries



Point phone’s camera at this and it may take you automatically or need you to confirm you want to go to the coded web page: <http://woodworker.org/about-showcase/>

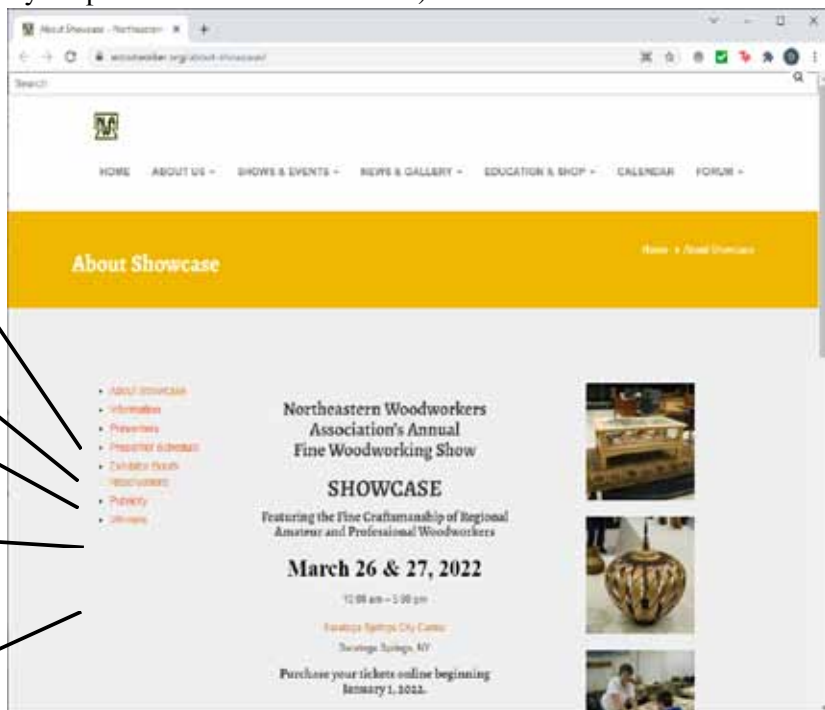
Once You Are There...

You should see this (or similar if you’re on your phone or a different browser):

Date, Time, Place, Parking and more!

Presenters’ Biographies

Presentation Schedule



Workbenches on YouTube

By Joe Kennedy Jkenn23333@aol.com

Part I of Three Part Series for the NWA Newsletter

Introduction

In recent months I have been looking at YouTube on many woodworking subjects. Like most people, I wish we had You Tube when I started out. I was especially impressed with all the videos they have regarding workbenches.

In this article I propose to review YouTube's coverage of the different types of workbenches there are as well as the distinct types of vises available. There are so many options regarding make or buy, type of wood to be used, size, casters, etc. The purpose of this article is to point out the various videos available for your own study. Hopefully, one side benefit of looking at the various presenters is to find someone you might consult for other topics. All these people are great woodworkers, and many are quite entertaining presenters.

For those who like to read books, I would suggest you look at Scott Landis, "The Workbench Book" (1998) and Lon Schleining, "The Workbench" (2004). Perhaps the two best known books on this subject are by Chris Schwartz. His first book is "The Workbench Design Book" (2011). His most recent book is the revised edition of "Workbenches" (2017). Both are excellent.

Many of us favorably recall Chris's participation in one of our Showcases, where he displayed his single slab bench top. There are also many magazine articles on workbenches, e.g., Fine Wood Working # 209 (Garrett Hack's new bench) and FWW # 230 (Jeff Miller's Roubo bench). In this article I will concentrate only on the offerings from YouTube. For overviews on workbenches in general, I would recommend you first look at videos by the following people, who are all experts:

*Stumpy Nubs, Woodsmith, Rex Krueger
Rob Cosman, John McGrath.*

I do not mean to imply that these are the only experts worth checking out. There are many other great teachers, as you will see from the following text.

Types of workbenches

I was surprised to discover how many different types of workbenches there are.

I am personally familiar with the **classic Scandinavian bench with** a shoulder vise. This design has been in use for centuries and is still widely used today. James Krenov, Tage Frid and Frank Klausz were fans of this type. This design has many advantages. Some experts, such as Garrett Hack, do not like how the shoulder vise

juts out from the bench. Also, this design can be difficult to make. *Rob Cosman*, a Canadian woodworker/teacher, has a good video on this type of bench. One change he makes is to substitute a "wagon vise" for the traditional end vise. This has an advantage in that this front right-hand corner can be as flat and sturdy as the rest of the bench.

A novel idea can be found at *DavidBarron-Furniture*. David Barron has created an add-on shoulder vise. It can be attached to any workbench just like a Moxon Vise, discussed below. This has the advantage of adding a few inches of height to the work you are sawing. Note that the height of most workbenches is ideal for hand planning. The ideal height for hand sawing is a few inches higher.

When I first started out, I read Tage Frid's and James Krenov's books. Tage Frid had a detailed chapter on building this type of bench. At this stage in my woodworking efforts, I guess I just did not know any better. I fumbled through a very detailed process and finally had a bench that worked. It did not look all that great, but it got the job done. At this point I would recommend a "newbie" try a less complicated design. You can always build a new bench after you have acquired more skills.

My early efforts did instill in me a keen interest in workbenches. Over the years, I have built many workbenches both for woodworking and for display. Once I built a classic shoulder vise Scandinavian bench to be used as a desk. I have also built many mini benches for use as an end table, a coffee table, or a sofa table. One learns more as one goes along on this path. I still have a lot to learn.

A related type of bench is the classic **Scandinavian bench without** a shoulder vise. This is a popular design and is the bench you can see in all of the *Stumpy Nubs* videos. It is a beautiful bench, sold by Sjoberg for about \$2,000. Jerry Peterson has this and likes it very much. You could, of course make your own. It is not as difficult to make as the bench with the shoulder vise.

Perhaps the most famous type is the **Roubo** bench. This named after a French woodworker called Andre Roubo who wrote in the 1780's. There is a famous woodcut of his bench, which originally had no vises. In modern times a Roubo bench has a unique front leg vise as well as a double tenon attachment for the top and legs. It also has what can be called a gap stop or a center board in the gap between the two top sections. It usually has a "deadman" board that can slide along the front of the vise to hold a holdfast. Many great videos on this bench include those by *Matt Estlea, The Woodcrafter, Wood and Shop, Fine Tools, Steve Branam, and Stumpy Nubs*. There is also a great video by the *Wood Whisperer* where he explains why he built a new, simpler workbench to replace his Roubo. It is not that he dislikes the Roubo so much as he desires to design a simpler bench for others to build. He does, however, raise some interesting points about bench design. His experience over the years made him decide to eliminate the deadman feature, since he rarely used it. Also, he now feels that round holes for bench dogs are preferable to the traditional square holes. Finally, he loves the expensive hardware he used on his Roubo bench but feels that one can get by with less expensive vises.

The **Nicholson** workbench is plain by comparison. It is often used without a vise, but it does make extensive use of holdfasts. *Mike Siemsen* has an informative video explaining in detail how one can get by without a vise. The most distinctive aspect of this design is the large skirt connecting the front legs. The videos at *Renaissance Wood Working and Oldwolf Workshop* cover this well. Also, *Rex Krueger* gives a great description.

The **Moravian** bench is notable for its angled legs, which adds stability when using a hand plane. The top is traditionally plain but could be made of any design. The following videos are

of interest: *Christopher Orso, Dunstone Design, and Bradley F.* Also, Joshua Farnsworth (*Wood and Shop*) has a nice video showing his portable Moravian bench.

I will mention the **Moxon Vise** at this point, since it can be used on any type of workbench and because many examples of this vise could be viewed as a small workbench. The Moxon Vise may well be the first vise ever used on a bench. They are very useful in that they raise the height of the workpiece for sawing dovetails and can hold wide pieces. One can buy a completed vise from Sjoberg and Lake Erie. Benchcrafted makes a nice hardware set, which is expensive. There are also cheaper alternatives if you Google "Moxon Vise hardware." You can also make your own. See *Mike Farnsworth's* video. There are also videos showing the Moxon Vise with a small table attached. Such a small table is useful when using a chisel to chop the waist from dovetails and to mark out the pins from the tails (if you cut dovetails "tails first"). Look at *Half-Inch Shy and East Oak Woodworking* for this type.

Related to, but slightly different, would be a **mini workbench**, or a tabletop workbench. There is a good video on how one woodworker made a mini Roubo bench that does everything a full-size bench can do. *A Canadian Woodworker*. Another type of mini is one made with twin screw front vise. *Parillaworks*.

The **Shaker** type of bench is plain, as the name would suggest. See *Woodsmith*. However, one can add any feature one desires to this bench. If you add enough upgrades you may end up with a different type of bench.

The **Roman** style bench is notable for being small. *Rex Krueger* gives a good description of this bench. *Octavian Dan* shows a detailed overview of this type of bench with a unique design inspired by Chris Schwartz. One can see that it is handy for many jobs.

What I would call a "**hybrid**" bench is a combination of any of the benches described above. One good example of this is described by *Third Coast* regarding a Nicholson bench on one side and a Scandinavian bench on the other side. Another example of a hybrid bench would be *Hai Yanta's* knock down Moxon Vise with small table. (If you look at Hai Yanta's video, you will see that the Japanese word for "Moxon Vise" is "Moxon Vise.")

Any discussion of workbenches would not be complete without mentioning the Festool **MFT** (multi-function table) bench. This is definitely not made for pounding with a chisel or hand sawing. It is, however, an excellent bench for use with the Festool panel saw. The precise layout of the holes in this bench allows for precise laying out of a workpiece. *Peter Millard* is a British woodworker and teacher. He has several videos on this subject as well as many other interesting topics. One could also make one's own MFT with an English made jig that is quite ingenious. See *John McGrath*. One could also make a portable MFT. See *Dave Stanton*.

When we talk about workbenches, one of our members reminded me that we should not

forget the classic Black and Decker **Workmate**. Most of us have used these and probably still have one gathering dust in a corner of the shop. These are definitely light duty, but they are still useful for certain work, especially if you have left too much stuff on your principal workbench. You can even use your workmate to plane boards at times. See Paul Sellers. Note that *Paul Sellers* has two different videos on workbenches. In this article I am referring to the two-part video on the edge grain plywood top.

January's newsletter will publish Part II

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:** Steve VanDerZee stevevdz@msn.com

CHAPTERS

NWA Mid-Hudson - Presently The chapter meets on Zoom and at in-person meetings on the first Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM except the month of July. Meetings are at the Hudson River Maritime Museum located at 50 Rondout Landing, Kingston NY 12401. **Contact:** midhudsonwoodworkers.org Bill Sterling, President - 845-532-3754 wster1156@aol.com