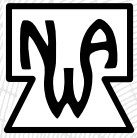


WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern
Woodworkers
Association

April 2025, Vol. 34, Number 4

A Message from the NWA President

Folks,

Spring has finally sprung, a bit. The crocuses are pushing up and blossoming. There is a slight hint of green to the grass. It's time to repair the ravages of winter and start your seeds. Maybe some tree seeds this year, if you're so inclined.

I'd like to thank all you lovely people who contributed to making Showcase and Totally Turning a reality. It was a grand event. Without all of you, it would not be. Mother Nature cooperated, and we had a good turnout. I also believe we are in the black this year. We definitely learned a lot, and hope to apply that knowledge to next year's event.

I cannot express how relieved I am that Showcase and Totally Turning is over and I'm sure you all are, too. It's a huge, exhausting undertaking. And now we can all catch our breath and relax. OK, that's enough. Believe it or not, next year's event is already in the pipeline. Venue contracts have been signed and the hunt for presenters and vendors is underway. Even if you are unable to work the event, consider helping out with the preparations. I'm sure there's plenty of work for willing hands.

Elections will be coming up sooner than you can blink. The Nominations Committee is still hunting for its last few heads. I hope you will consider joining the ranks of those that serve on the board. It can be a rewarding experience.

Enough of my drivel. On to this Showcase and Totally Turning issue.

In friendship and sawdust,

Kay

Special Raffle Items Crafted from 200 Years Old Black Walnut

By Juliana Shei & Ray Puffer

The Northeastern Woodworkers Association created special items from an historic black walnut tree. These items displayed at the NWA Showcase are still available for viewing at the Learning Center until April 15. No worries if you missed getting your the tickets at Showcase - raffle tickets are still available online until Saturday, April 12th; the drawing will be held on Tuesday, April 15th. Click [HERE](#) or scan the QR code at right to purchase your ticket.

The black walnut used in these items was milled from logs of a tree planted circa 1820 at Union College by Eliphelet Nott, president of the college from 1804 to 1866. He was the longest serving college president in the United States. Nott was also president of RPI from 1829 to 1845 and has many

NWA
SPECIAL RAFFLE
Scan this QR code to
buy tickets online



other accomplishments for which he has been recognized. Nott Road in Rexford, where his farm was located, Nott Street, Nott Terrace and Nott Memorial on the college campus are named for him. The proud owners of these items own not only the historical memento but also have an interesting piece of history to describe these items made from this black walnut.

Kumiko Coffee Table

\$20/ticket, \$50/three tickets



Kumiko is a traditional Japanese craft that involves intricate woodworking techniques to create beautiful and delicate patterns without the use of nails. Kumiko woodworking requires a high level of precision and skill, as pieces must fit together perfectly to create the desired patterns. The pattern in this table is “Asanoha” (hemp leaf) that symbolizes growth and prosperity. The Crafters SIG members crafted the table base; SIG member Juliana Shei produced the kumiko panels.

- Base and Top Frame: ~ 200-year-old black walnut
- Kumiko Panels: poplar and black walnut
- Two kumiko panels can be rotated to alter the design.
- Finish: polyurethane
- Dimensions: 20½” x 37” x16½”
- Includes ¼” glass cover

**Three Native American Style Flutes
(One winner for each flute.)**

\$5/ticket, \$12/three tickets

Flutes have been used by Indigenous peoples for about 1,000 years. Unlike other wind instruments it is an easy instrument to play. These flutes are characterized by having two air chambers: a slow air chamber, and a sound chamber. Air is directed from the slow chamber



to the sound hole by means of a block or fetish strapped to the top of the flute. Resonance is created by a set of finger holes over the sound chamber. People can create their own music on the spot because its intrinsic scale is pentatonic minor (no wrong notes). The three flutes produced by Jon Hedman are tuned to the keys of F#m, Gm, and Dm.

The winners of these three Native American Flutes will not only have an interesting historical memento but will also be able to play beautiful music with an instrument made from 200-year-old black walnut.

Thank You

From Dave Rustin

Dear Members -

Showcase and Totally turning has come and gone. This year was a low turnout on the vendors but a good turnout on attendance.

We have been through a great deal of change and turnover. We owe you all a great deal for all that you have done and will do. Without the volunteers we could not be successful. Many thanks and we wish you well.

We will be going full steam ahead in the next few weeks with getting ready for next year, and we are looking for people to help and fill open positions and more.

Thank you all for your support.

To the volunteers and Co-Chairs - You all did an amazing job, and it showed with your dedication and hard work.

Thank you one and all.

Cheers,

David Rustin, Showcase chair

... And the Winners Are...

By John Michne with picture and data contributions from Chris Stolicky and Dale Lombardo

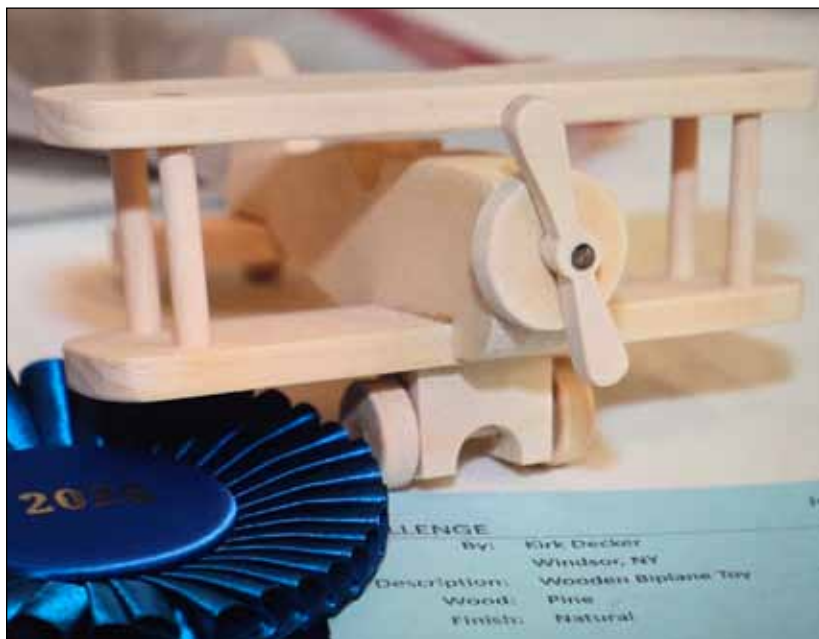
Showcase 2025 is history. The judges had their usual difficulty choosing the winners from among many exquisite pieces but managed to proclaim the Greene and Green style chest of drawers the Best of Show. Built by Craig Emblidge of Queensbury, NY, of African mahogany, ebony, and Baltic birch. The finish is wipe on poly.

Folks attending the show voted their People's Choice winner to be the beautiful, sculpted rocking chair by Dan Chernoff of Saratoga Springs, NY built of curly maple and finished with polyethylene varnish.

In the Toy Factory 2025 Challenge, both the winning entry and the Children's Choice were won by a very nice Wooden Biplane Toy from Kirk Decker from Windsor, NY. Simply built from pine with a natural finish.

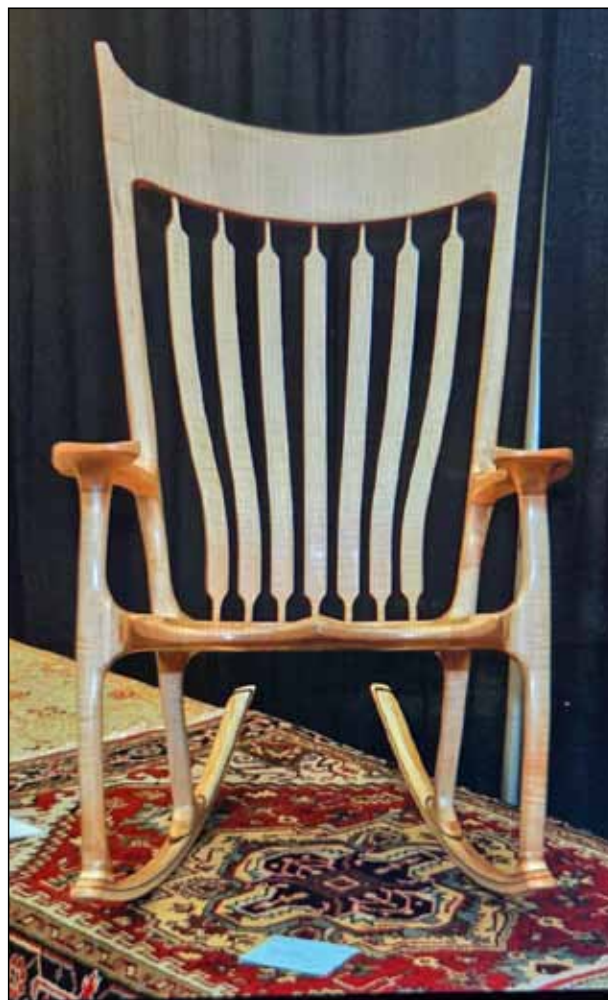


Best of Show



Toy Factory 2025 Challenge winner

For a complete set of over 300 pictures of everything Showcase and Totally Turning from Chris Stolicky click [here](#).



People's Choice

OFFICERS

Some recent position changes are not yet reflected

President - Kay McCampbell
nwa.president@woodworker.org

Vice President/Program Chair
Lee Hilt
lhagrh@earthlink.net

Recording Secretary - Linda Reiss

Treasurer - Alan Hayes

Executive Secretary - Vacant



NWA BOARD MEMBERS

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Mid-Hudson Representative
Wally Cook
Board Member at Large
Dale Lombardo
Board Member at Large
Doug Wildes
Board Member at Large
Charlie Goddard
Board Member Emeritus



Mid-Hudson Chapter

Bill Sterling, President
Rich Cerruto, Vice President
Patsy Boisvert, Treasurer
Phil Dudek, Secretary



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Fiske Fund

Chair - James Lefebvre
Nick Piedmont
Karoline Sears
Steven Mapes
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Library

Susan Hill

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Ray Puffer

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Totally Turning Chair

Todd Gunter

Juliana Shei Teaches Kumiko

By Yusuf Silk

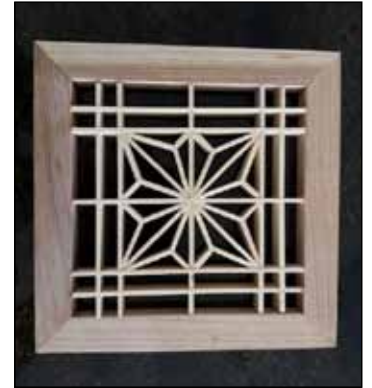
On March 1st and 2nd, 8 NWA members had the good fortune to enhance their woodworking skills under the guidance of Sensei Juliana Shei and her assistant Don Cooke.

We all made a Kumiko trivet with the square *asanoha* (hemp) design as our first piece. (It is considered good luck, and NOT because we are potheads!) It was not until we started working that we realized the intricacies and precision that is required to make this design piece.

Juliana had the foresight and diligence to make 8 sets of jigs, so that each of us had the necessary equipment to work on our project. Some of us, as expected, were a lot quicker and more sophisticated in our capabilities, but Juliana and Don did see to it that we were constantly monitored, and quickly given a helping hand every time we seemed to be flailing.

It was an immensely enjoyable experience, and we were glad to have such wonderful teachers to get us started on this new skill. Of course, we each also had a pretty *objet d'art* to take home and show off to our family and friends.

This class was held as part of the commitment of the experienced woodworkers of the NWA to get new (and not so new members who excel in other aspects of woodworking) to learn a new art form. It is, as all other classes are, open to any NWA member who wishes to acquire a knowledge of new or different ways to work with wood.



An example of our class' first creation



Juliana demonstrates how to cut the thin strips of wood to make the design



Juliana's collection of kumiko pieces for demonstration of patterns and variety of wood to use

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 May

Submissions are due by the 15th of each month
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Doug Wildes Breaks Down a Board with Hand Tools

By Manav Malhotra

Last month, NWA members were treated to a comprehensive demonstration hosted by the Hand Tools Special Interest Group where Doug Wildes walked through the art and science of breaking down a board with hand tools. Doug took us step by step through the process of transforming rough pine boards into flat, square pieces ready to be put to work.

Witnessing the iterative process Doug employed was particularly valuable. For those of us accustomed to feeding rough stock through a jointer and power planer and calling it a day, watching Doug identify high spots, check for twist with winding sticks, and make incremental adjustments was thorough and methodical. The progression from rough stock to finished board primarily using his #5 and #4 planes revealed just how much judgment goes into hand tool work. Doug's constant checking with straight edges, winding sticks, and eventually dial calipers showed that precision is not just about muscle memory but about developing a feedback loop between tool and eye.



Doug shows the iterative process of planing and checking for flat

Doug demonstrated more advanced planing techniques, including his modified scrub plane for roughing work, skewing the plane blade to reduce tear-out, and carefully managing chip-out by employing knife lines for clean crosscuts. He also showcased end-grain finishing techniques using both Western and Eastern saws for cross-cutting, magnanimously attributing the Eastern saw's smoother finish to the skill of the sawyer rather than the saw itself. To finalize the surfaces, he demonstrated the effective use of shooting boards and low-angle block planes, highlighting the importance of sharp blades for achieving smooth finishes.

Doug emphasized the complementary nature of power tools and hand tools - power tools excel in quickly breaking down larger stock, while hand tools offer precision and a fine surface no power tool can achieve. Watching Doug's process with hand tools reinforces the idea that the joy of woodworking lies as much in the journey as in the final result. And as an added bonus that journey does not include sanding.



Doug crosscuts to final thickness and finishes the surface with a low angle block plane and shooting board

Doug Brown, Our Newest Carving SIG Member

By Diane Balch

Doug Brown, aged 104, is NWA's newest carving member. He has been carving for 80 years. He first became interested in carving back when Eleanor Roosevelt had a youth program. His specialty is birds. He also has carved beautiful fish. His daughter, Gail Moore, is a bird carver in our SIG. Doug lives in Plattsburgh; Gail lives in Clifton Park. She visits him several times a month and they go to the Champlain Carving Group. When he is down here visiting, he comes to carve with us.

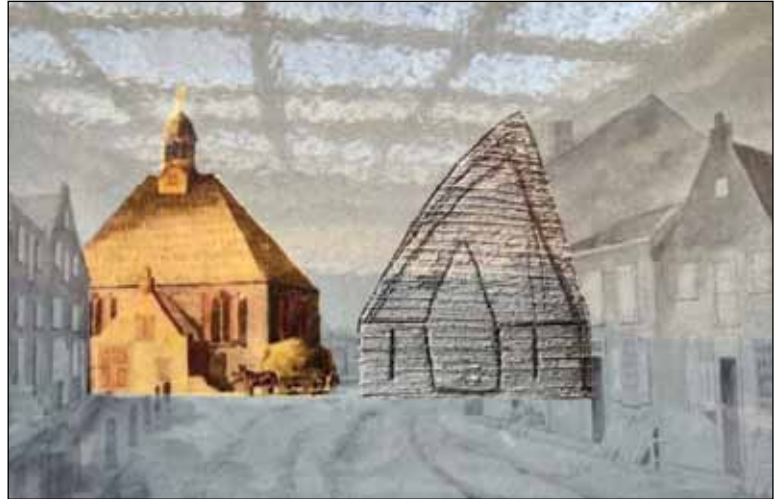
Here is a picture of Doug with the owl he was woodburning. He displayed the white owl in Showcase.



NWA Works with Schuyler Mansion Project

By *Linda Reiss*

As part of our grammar school education, many of us who grew up in the Albany area took a school trip to the historic Schuyler Mansion in downtown Albany. Schuyler Mansion was home to Philip J. Schuyler, the Revolutionary War Major General, US Senator, agrarian, and businessman. He and his wife, Catharine Van Rensselaer, descended from affluent and powerful Dutch families and together raised eight children in this home. The Mansion sat on a bluff overlooking the Hudson River, on what is now Catherine Street in the heart of the city.

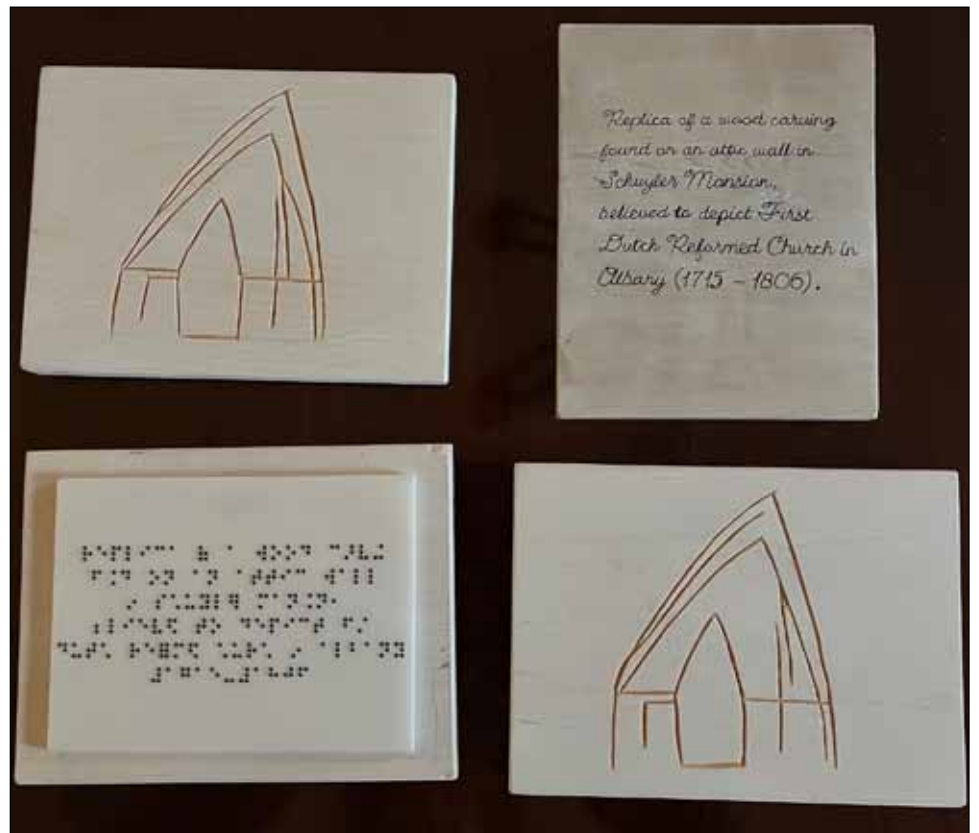


Throughout the Schuyler family occupancy from 1763 to 1804, the mansion was the site of military strategizing, political hobnobbing, elegant social affairs, and active family life. The wedding of daughter Elizabeth Schuyler to Alexander Hamilton took place in the parlor of the house in 1780, as did the second marriage of President Millard Fillmore in 1858. But with all its grandeur and affluence, the mansion was also home to more than fifty enslaved laborers, servants, and artisans over that span.

The Mansion, in conjunction with New York State, is working to create historically accurate materials to better serve visitors who may have limited or no sight, or other disabilities. As

part of this effort, they contacted NWA to ask if we could create several woodcarvings to replicate an image of a building that is etched on a beam in the attic. It is believed that the carving is of the Dutch Reformed Church, because it resembles the architecture of the old church very closely. The carving was believed to have been done by a person enslaved at Schuyler Mansion because the attic was one place where enslaved people slept. The Dutch Reformed Church was a meeting place for people who accompanied their enslavers every Sunday. Sadly, it burned down in 1806.

Several of the rustic carvings done by NWA have braille plaques on the back for the visually impaired and others have text for school children or other visitors. The carvings were very well received at the recent NYS Historic Sites Conference and will be used starting in May for public tours and events as well as field trips and outreaches.



Emma Willard Project

By Ray Puffer

In August of 2024 Ray Puffer was contacted by Ann Dejnozka, Head of Advancement for Emma Willard School in Troy, New York, at the recommendation of Jack Dejnozka, her father-in-law and longtime member of the NWA. Little did she know, but Ray's daughter, Chiara Shah, is a member of the faculty at Emma. It is a small world.

Emma Willard School, originally known as the Troy Female Seminary, was founded in 1819 by then 31-year-old Emma Hart Willard. She had previously opened a school for girls in Middlebury, VT in 1814. The school was first located in Waterford, and then in downtown Troy. Emma Willard remained Head of the Seminary until 1838. Following her passing in 1870 the name of the school was changed to honor its founder.

In 1910 construction of a new campus was begun at its current location on Mount Ida. Among the stone buildings was a gymnasium, which included a bowling alley and swimming pool in the basement. Following WWII, the gymnasium was transformed into a chapel.



A major renovation of the old chapel has been recently completed, transforming the building into a concert hall and performing arts center. This work included the removal of the bowling alley and swimming pool. The Emma Willard administration desired to present a thank-you gift to major donors to the renovation project, using materials from the bowling alley, thus the contact with the NWA.

During an initial meeting between Ann Dejnozka and Ray Puffer, Ray suggested that pieces of maple from the bowling alley might be used to make cutting boards or charcuterie boards. Also, the southern yellow pine comprising most of the bowling alley could be used to make pens. Using sample materials from the bowling alley, Ray made a prototype cutting board and a pen for approval by the Emma team. The biggest challenge was salvaging enough useable maple wood from the bowling alley, since the bowling alley was held together by hundreds of nails and metal tie bars. The eventual cutting board design includes a single stripe of maple, laminated with black cherry, with the Emma



Willard School logo laser engraved on the top. A decision was made to produce fifty cutting boards and a dozen pens.

Members of the NWA Crafters SIG and the AWA have worked hard over the past few months to produce the cutting boards and pens for Emma Willard. The bowling alley materials had to be disassembled, nails removed and planed to the desired thickness. Finding useable material, given all the nail holes, was a challenge. We were able to find barely enough useable Maple to make the desired fifty cutting boards. The black cherry came from Ray Puffer's personal supply.



The contrasting-colored woods were cut to rough lengths and thickness, glued together, planed to final thickness, cut to final length and width, edged routed, then sanded. The first coat of mineral oil finish was applied before the laser engraving was done in Ray Puffer's home shop. The final coat of finish was with spoon butter (mineral oil and bees wax). Rubber feet, donated to the project by Chance's Hardware in Latham, were added to complete the project.

On February 26, 2025, Rick Bird and Ray Puffer joined with personnel from Emma Willard for the formal presentation of fifty cutting boards and a dozen pens. Present at the ceremony were (L to R): Chiara (Puffer) Shah, Ray Puffer, Rick Bird, Jenny Rao (Head of School) and Ann Dejnozka.



In a letter of thanks from Ann Dejnozka, Head of Advancement for Emma Willard School, she says, "It had been our pleasure to work on an collaborative project with the NWA Crafters and the AWA. These beautiful pens and cutting boards will be used as gifts for the donors who have made this renovation project possible." Emma Willard has made a very generous donation to the NWA in furtherance of our education programs.

Sawdust...

Working the NWA Membership booth at Showcase, I wondered where my cap with the NWA logo was. Wait! ...I don't have one! I saw some there. Are they available?

Carvers Choice Award

By Diane Balch

This beautiful "Flying Bluebird" by Louis Manico, was awarded the "Carvers Choice Award" at Showcase. It is life-size. Each of the feathers on the wings are carved from veneer and applied to the bird. The bird is carved out of basswood. It is airbrushed with acrylic paint.



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs):

Adirondack Woodturners Association (AWA) - The AWA is active throughout the year. General Meetings and Bowl Turning 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:** Steve VanDerZee, (518) 727-6511 or stevevdz@msn.com.

Spindle and Pen Turners plus Introduction to Woodworking - Meets Mondays 9:00 AM to noon and Mondays 5:30 PM – 9:00 PM, including holidays except Christmas. **Contact:** Pam Bucci at (518) 429-6440 or woolglass2@gmail.com. Wednesday "Learn and Turn" sessions occur on alternate 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.

Kaatskill Woodturners - Also an AAW Chapter. Meetings are held at 12 noon on the second Saturday of the month at the KWA Shop, 2076 Sawkill-Ruby Road, Kingston, NY. **Contact:** Stan Pressner 917-535-4195 or spressner@me.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, Saratoga Builders Association, the Warren Washington and Albany Counties ARC (A Respectful Commitment), and the Northeast Construction Trades Workforce Coalition which is the non-profit arm of Curtis Lumber. Sharing information, fellowship, education, and relating experiences are a major part of these sessions. **Contact:** Rick Bird biggrbird@gmail.com 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 dbalch1@nycap.rr.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 Mondays 5:45 to 8:00 PM - new scrollers welcome. Wednesdays 5:45 to 8:00 PM - machine qualified scrollers only (possible demonstrations) **Contact:** Stephen Koonz (518) 290-0722 (text only)-

NWA Musical Instruments SIG – Meets at 97 Railroad Avenue shop 6:00 to 8:00 PM, second Tuesday of the month. **Contacts:** Jon Hedman, jonwhedman@gmail.com, (518) 399-7849; Ray Puffer, Ray.Puffer@gmail.com, (518) 272-6421; Eric Marczak, epm03@hotmail.com, (518) 872-9324.

CHAPTERS

NWA Mid-Hudson - The address and hours for the Mid-Hudson shop to be changed. **Contact:** Bill Sterling wster1156@aol.com or Wally Cook wally.cook@gmail.com for details.

Boat Building SIG – Tuesdays at Rich Cerruto's shop in Gardiner, NY from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm with a lunch break. r_cerruto@yahoo.com.