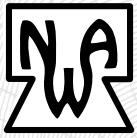


WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern
Woodworkers
Association

October 2025, Vol. 34, Number 8

A Message from the President

Folks,

This has been some summer, with heat, sun, drought, humidity, dust, algae, and millions of lightning bugs. I haven't seen so many in decades. I spent most of my summertime turning scrap slab wood into firewood and filling my woodshed to the roof. I hope your summer has been at least as joyous and productive as mine.

My thanks to the Bylaws committee that has worked so hard to draft the words that we approved at the September monthly meeting.

A couple things I'd like to bring up.

One, we could use some suggestions for the NWA monthly meeting demos. If you've got an idea, pass it on to our VP at NWA.vicepresident@woodworker.org.

Second, we could use some more Machine Knowledgeable trainers. I'd really like to see every member at least Machine Knowledgeable, if not Machine Qualified on every machine we own. The more trained we are, the safer we are. If you want to be a trainer, please contact Ray Puffer, the LCOC chair.

In friendship and sawdust,
Kay

NWA Annual Tool and Lumber Auction Was a Great Success!

By Susan McDermott

**Friday, September 5, 2025 -
Planing Day in Preparation
for the Auction**

Lumber and Tool Auction organizers Lee Hilt and Juliana Shei had a new idea to promote the sales of hardwood lumber. Since some NWA members do not own planers, a quantity of air-dried hardwoods was selected by Rick Bird, Woody Bower, and five volunteers for planing and pre-pricing. Rough cut boards will continue to be auctioned by



Rick Bird and volunteers plane hardwood on Wally Carpenter's planer

OFFICERS

Some recent position changes are not yet reflected

President - Kay McCampbell,
nwa.president@woodworker.org

Vice President/Program Chair
Roy Richardson

Recording Secretary - Linda Reiss

Treasurer - Alan Hayes

Executive Secretary - Vacant



NWA BOARD MEMBERS

Mid-Hudson Rep: Pete Chast

Board Members at Large:

Jordan Mapes

Diane Balch

Doug Wildes

Board Member Emeritus:

Charlie Goddard



Mid-Hudson Chapter

Bill Sterling, President

Rich Cerruto, Vice President

Patsy Boisvert, Treasurer

Phil Dudek, Secretary



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Registrar - Frank Necaise,

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Fiske Fund

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Nick Piedmont

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Totally Turning Chair

Todd Gunter

lots. We will announce in a future newsletter if this new idea is popular enough to draw significant sales.

Auction Set-up Day, Wednesday, September 10, 2025

Juliana Shei and Lee Hilt recruited 25 NWA members for a daylong set-up of power tools, lumber, hand tools, and miscellaneous donated wood working items. All of this is the result of a year's long collection of generous members' donations of their home shops because of family relocations, retirement from woodworking, or sadly, the instructions in their wills.

Lee Hilt recruited 5 - 8 members and their trucks to clear a donor's shop and transport power tools and hand tools to the barn where Juliana photographs, assesses, and records descriptions and donors. After the tools are sold at our auction, she will write letters to the donors verifying the prices of items sold for charitable tax donations.

Lee also recruited strong men for multiple millings of donated hardwood logs. 1 ½ and 2-inch slabs 8 to 12 feet long are sliced at the Shaker site and stored in the barn to be air dried for at least two years. Knowledgeable members like Ray Puffer identify the species, calculate board feet, and mark the boards with chalk. Again, Juliana will inventory this lumber and calculate a price per board or lot.

One can imagine there are lots of power and hand tools to bring to the barn floor as well as lots of rough-cut lumber to be bid upon. The Wednesday set-up brought 25 NWA volunteers directed by Lee, Rick, and Juliana for the placement and pricing of cash and carry items. There are always a lot of "free" items buyers can sort through and carry home.



Woody Bower planes one end to aid identification of wood species



The empty barn at 8:00 AM

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 November

Submissions are due by the
15th of each month

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Twenty-five volunteers worked from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM setting up the floor, posting Diane Balch's signage, and labelling cash items and planed lumber

Saturday, September 13 - Auction Day!

A mild, sunny day greeted nearly two hundred browsers and buyers at the Shaker Barn from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Ninety registered bidders eagerly awaited the start of the auction at noon.

Auctioneer Bob Williams has entertained and urged competitive bids at our yearly event for twenty-five years. He was first recruited by Charlie Goddard who organized our auctions until Lee Hilt and Juliana Shei assumed the responsibilities of the complex coordination of publicity, lumber selection and preparation, tool inventory, sales recording, and volunteer management. Morale is always high as our many volunteers interact with the public who delight in the bargains, the variety of power tools, and choice of hardwoods they bought.

Outside of the barn, Scott Oliver sat astride his custom-made shave horse shaping tapered legs for stools he makes. He drew the attention of many curious onlookers.

At the end of an exciting, active day of sales with buyers loading their purchases, the auction added thousands of dollars to the NWA treasury. This enables us to pay the rent for the Learning Center, maintain our own power tools, hold classes, and keep our fees low.

Anthony Tassarotti, our roving photographer, took many photos that you can view at this [link](#).



Five strong men move one of many heavy power tools

Hand Tools SIG Presents Marking Devices

By Nancy Bunker, with contributions from Susan Mc Dermott.

Presenters included Jim Pate, Rich Riedel, Scott Oliver, Juliana Shei, and Dave Parkis.

A woodworker stands at the bench, gazing adoringly at the fine cherry boards needed to craft a delicate dovetail box. Each cut needs to be precise. The first step is marking and measuring. No room for error.

On a nearby worksite, a framing carpenter uses a flat contractors pencil, and a large white plastic square. A pencil is certainly fine for rough cuts. The flat pencil was free at the hardware store counter. Cheap, easy, and fun to sharpen with a pocketknife. The white plastic square is durable. It needs to be, as it often slides around in his truck bed without apparent damage. He ties sidewalk chalk on a string to make a rough compass.

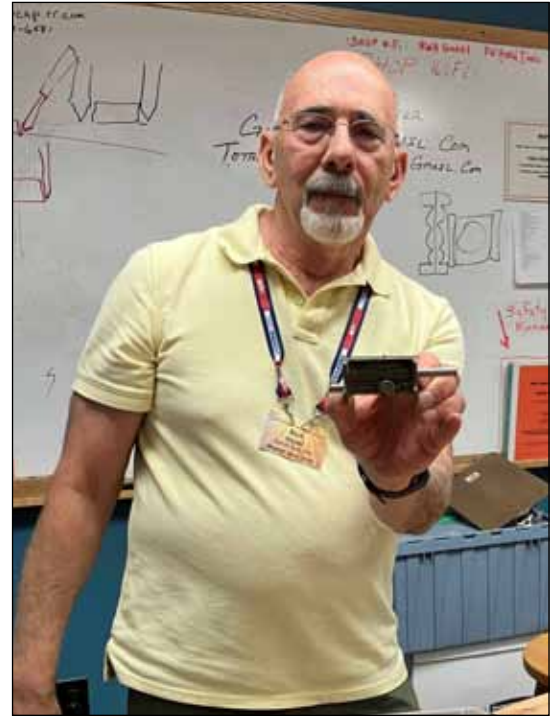
How does the woodworker choose marking devices to get the most effective and accurate cut?

Our fine woodworker has some other options. A talented woodworker chooses their straight edge, marking and measuring devices carefully...measuring units are exact, squares are confirmed to be square, straight edges are held together up to the light to ensure straightness. A well-made compass holds the angle without fail. High quality metals and proper machining are used to ensure accuracy.

For marking the line, a marking knife and straight edge is an excellent choice, particularly for surfaces inside the box, where the marking lines will not show. Antique furniture often has etched marking lines inside the drawers where the dovetails have been marked and cut. Jim started the discussion with some basics. A knife gives fine consistent lines; a knife is not pushed away from the straight edge by the thickness of a wooden pencil. A knife leaves a groove for chisel work, visible and tangible. A quality marking knife is flat on one side, with bevel only on the other. Keeping the marking knife bevel outside, away from the straight edge ensures that the cut follows the straight edge line exactly. Dave chimes in... "Line up on the straight edge, then cut on the waste side of the line...Keep the bevel on the waste side of the line."

If using a marking wheel, use a sharp wheel and 3 or 4 light passes. Sharpening of the wheel may be done by removing wheel and moving the wheel in a figure 8 on a flat fine sharpening stone. A quality compass may also be needed when circles or semicircles are in the design.

For making dovetails and detailed angle cuts, marking gauges and bevel gauges are helpful. Some are purchased and some may be homemade. Jim Pate went into some detail about making "consumable" marking gauges specific to a particular project, specific cut or joint. "1/4" diameter thumbscrew, threaded into a block and tapped." "A nail may be used for the pin, or a 5/32" drill bit". A custom homemade marking gauge costs about \$2 in supplies. He makes them all sizes, specific for



Rich Riedel describes an adjustable marking device.



Jim Pate enjoying the presentation

various projects. (Taylor Tools has a kit with beam and cutters. Knurled thumb screws are available on eBay.) Handmade marking gauges are great for repeated standardized cuts. A mortice marking gauge has two pins.

Quality commercial or homemade marking gauges may have brass strips cut to length and inlaid to prevent wear, and for long term use on harder woods. High end tools may be made with ebony, rosewood, boxwood, or beech. Panel gauges are for ripping wide boards.

Juliana demonstrated a Japanese marking gauge and a mortice gauge. Instructions are available on the NWA website.

Dave Parkis discussed some high-end marking devices; expensive to buy, but great holiday gifts for the discerning woodworker (and might I add, lovely display tools for the carefully curated workshop/tool collections of popular internet bloggers!)

Some high-end tools include Hamilton marking gauge...A Blue Spruce marking knife that retails about \$75...Lee Valley micro adjusting wheel marking gauge...Bridge City mortice gauge with brass wear strips which was described as “real pretty” and “nice tool” The “absurdly expensive” Titemark marking wheel was also mentioned. Homemade marking devices work well and there are a “ton of you tube videos” on making marking devices. Your choice...functional homemade custom tools or high-end lovely collectors pieces? Maybe a little of both?

Scott rounded out the program with some helpful suggestions. Use a walnut handle with a utility knife blade for a marking knife. Use Japanese saws since the saw kerf will drop into the groove made by the knife. A short bevel gauge is great for seating chair legs as the shorter bevel gauge fits below the chuck of the drill. Scott used an inexpensive Harbor Freight bevel gauge, threw away the plastic handle, and designed a nice walnut handle to produce his short bevel gauge. He made mortice gauges specific to the width of his favorite chisels. Hint...red oak and fir are not recommended for this. A “fat boy” scribe is good for making chairs level.

Thanks to all the presenters.



Marking devices, old and new



Juliana Shei describes Japanese marking devices

Instrument SIG Mandolin Mania

By Ray Puffer

The August meeting of the NWA Musical Instrument SIG featured two local artists and mandolin aficionados giving a presentation, “All About Mandolins.” Greg Cuda and Alan Epstein enlightened the sizable audience with a review of the history of mandolins, with a special focus on Gibson mandolins.

Greg Cuda built his first guitar in 1979 while attending the Northwest School of Instrument Design in pre-Microsoft era Seattle Washington. The course focused on utilizing hand tools to construct traditional Spanish style guitars. Since then, he has built several steel stringed instruments and has also utilized his hand tool skills to build bamboo fly rods. Greg plays guitar, mandolin and fiddle in the Old Time and acoustic blues styles.

Alan Epstein has been playing mandolin for the past 54 years and has been teaching others to play mandolin for 30 years. Originally from Pittsburgh, PA, he has lived in the Capital District since 2008 and is currently living in Glens falls, NY. Alan has performed in bluegrass bands in Colorado, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and New York. In 2002 Alan was the founder of the modern-day Pittsburgh Mandolin Orchestra. and has been a Wernick Method Bluegrass Jam instructor since 2012. Alan teaches by ear and specializes in Bluegrass and Old-Time music.

The presenters and several attendees brought their own mandolins for display and discussion, including some vintage mandolin examples. As the presentation progressed, Greg and Alan frequently demonstrated the unique sounds and tones of the various mandolins, and they entertained the crowd by playing some well-known tunes.



Part of the well-attended presentation



Greg and Alan play a duet



The speakers describe various mandolin models

KWA News - Sharpening Woodturning Gouges

By Wally Cook

Sharpening Strategies: Carl Ford guided the Mid-Hudson Shop transition to a more modular sharpening station for woodturners. The shop holds a variety of common tools which members can use. Problems have arisen when different sharpening techniques are used on common tools. Carl suggested a system he employs at his turning studio to promote consistent results with his students. His focus has been to instruct students to replicate both nose and wing angles. Not only the angle of the grind is important, but also the length and shape of the sharpened wings need to be consistent.

Starting with a basic slow speed grinder, wide CBN wheels and the Wolverine system from Oneway, Carl introduced some improvements that particularly help with sharpening gouges. These improvements include:

1. Color coded blocks for consistent overhang:

The first step turners take to sharpen a gouge is to adjust the overhang on the Vari-grind template to either 1 ¾" or 2" by sticking the tip into a hole drilled into a wood template for either of those depths. Sometimes the holes get sloppy – either too wide or deeper than expected due to the tip of the gouge wearing away the bottom of the template. To combat this, David Ellsworth used to place a nickel at the bottom of the template to act as a bearing surface.

Carl's refinements standardize the overhang depth to 2", place an aluminum end cap as the bearing surface, and uses two blocks: separate 5/8" and 1/2" diameter holes to better fit different size gouges. The latter reduces the side-to-side play in the blocks.

2. A revised arm with two pivot points. This arm replaces the sliding Wolverine extender and allows fixed positions for primary tip sharpening and a secondary bevel relief. The sockets on the arm are custom made. The positions are set for the traditional 4" x 7" x 2" distances that Ellsworth used.

3. The Vari-grind holders are fixed and color coded to ensure the proper profile for popular gouges:

- Red: 60 degrees: Ellsworth 5/8" and Jordan 5/8" gouges
- Green: 60 degrees: Stirt 1/2" bowl and detail gouges
- Blue: 45 degrees: Hosaluk gouge

All of these improvements have helped to achieve consistent results across a variety of users in the shop.



Depth stops and widths are color coded for 5/8" and 1/2" gouge flutes



The new arm is a fixed distance from the wheel. The socket at the end of the arm is used for the Vari-grind holder for primary sharpening. The socket closer to the wheel is used to define a secondary bevel.



Sharpening distance uses the standard Ellsworth set-up

News from the Fiske Fund

Below is an article written by NWA member Bob Fleury which was provided by him as part of his documentation for his Fiske Fund grant. The Fiske Fund provided funds to Mr. Fleury for this class.

Technical Turning

By Bob Fleury

Adirondack Woodturners Association SIG member Bob Fleury returned Saturday, September 20 from a weeklong course at the Dale Nish School of Woodturning in Provo, Utah. The Dale Nish School conducts courses throughout the year taught by both resident and visiting instructors. The School's staff includes a talented instructor, Mike Nish, who is the grandson of founder Dale Nish.

The course Bob attended was presented by Matt Monaco, a nationally recognized woodturner with many publications, instructive videos, and presentations to his credit. The course involved emphasis on use of the skew and a signature interior/exterior deep fluted gouge tool design developed by Matt. Matt's turned designs often incorporate elements found in Native American pottery, particularly from the Southwestern United States. Matt is known as a highly technical wood turner who incorporates and applies a mechanical and science-based understanding of wood characteristics and tool design in his work.

The course, entitled The Matt Monaco Signature Course, included several presentations each day, from spindle work to bowl and platter work and box work followed by firsthand experience using state of the art equipment and tools. Students were encouraged to develop and expand designs and expressive forms that they found particularly pleasing while enhancing tool repertoire, technique, and control, emphasizing finesse.

A dozen students attended from Arizona, California, Utah, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and New York. Bob was able to apply for and receive approval of a grant from the Fiske Fund to assist with the cost of the course. He also received a veterans tuition discount from Craft Supplies USA which is the home base of the Dale Nish school. Bob will be sharing his experience with fellow SIG members consistent with Fiske Fund guidelines and is working on a couple of technical articles, one being Grain Oriented Chuck Mounting - why it should be considered and what it can do for your work. Bob prepared this article in order to encourage fellow NWA members to explore educational opportunities and also to encourage applications to the Fiske Fund for grants in support of tuition and costs associated with their personal advancement.

In the photo below, Bob is on the far left and instructor Matt Monaco is second from left. One of Bob's pieces is the platter on the far right.



NWA Monthly Meeting for September

By Susan McDermott

On September 11, 2025, NWA members assembled at the Shaker Meetinghouse at 7:00 P.M. to vote in person on the bylaws changes presented by Dave Mobley and to hear the presentation of bioarcheologist Lisa Anderson. Dave has published the results of the membership vote elsewhere in this newsletter.

Lisa accepted our invitation to speak on the excavation and research she and her crew conducted for 15 months at the burial site on Courtland Street in Lake George. Lisa, Curator of Archeology at the New York State Museum and her colleague, Charles Vandrei of the Department of Environmental Conservation, investigated the construction site in 2019 where bones were found in the huge mounds of soil left by bulldozers.

Crafters' leader Rick Bird introduced Lisa to her audience of rapt listeners. He displayed one of the forty-five pine boxes the Crafters built to hold the remains of forty-four individuals, some adult males, and boys as young as sixteen. Two were children, but the fragmented bones of other victims could not be positively identified as women, Indigenous, or slaves. It is estimated that thousands suffering from untreatable smallpox, consumption and other diseases were sent from Crown Point and Fort Ticonderoga to Fort George in 1776. Lisa's PowerPoint slides showed arial views of the excavation conducted by a dozen professionals and over one hundred volunteers and graduate students sifting through dirt mounds the size of a house and the NYS Museum storage of thousands of bones, teeth, and military buttons.

The presentation ended with many questions from the audience.



Rick Bird introduced Lisa.



Lisa's PowerPoint presentation



Tarps cover the mounds of dirt that will be sifted.



Storage of labelled artifacts at the NYS Museum

Wooden You Like To Know

By Charlie James

I have a cabinet over my bench, and I screwed this holder to it. I made this very quickly, but it works well. I use it when I'm doing hand work and don't want the chisels laying on my bench. It's a piece of scrap pine and I drilled six 1" holes the size of the rare earth magnets (25mm x 2 mm) and glued them in even with the surface of the pine with Gorilla glue. I centered the magnets on the wood 1½" apart and glued a shop made 1/16" thin veneer over the magnets. I glued wood as spacers to keep the blade tips from hitting into each other. If you notice the bottom of the block you'll see a piece of

wood glued to the bottom.

It kicks the bottom of the wood out ¼" from vertical so it's easier to grab the chisels and put them back. The block of pine is 1" x 3" x 12". For those that do not have a wall in front of their bench it's easy enough to fashion a stand.



Side view



Front view

Time to Shine!

By Linda Reiss

It's time again to show off the creativity and skills of NWA Members! The annual Shaker Heritage Society (SHS) Holiday Market opens on October 8 and runs through December 14. The NWA booth is one of the most popular at the market with many shoppers coming back year after year. It is also a key fund raiser for us so once again, we are asking all members to donate at least one item that they've made. Items will be priced to sell, but members are welcome to suggest a price that they think is fair. All donations can be dropped off at the shop in the conference room by October 1, although later donations will be added to our booth in early November for the peak holiday rush. And if getting to the shop isn't possible for you, the shop manager has been known to do local pick-ups. (email Linda Reiss at ltreiss894@aol.com) 😊

Thank you again for your generous support of NWA.

Crafters' Contribution to the Curtis Lumber Annual Classic Car Show

By Susan McDermott

NWA Crafter Dave Mobley led Turners and Crafters to make twenty-three shifter trophies, one President's Award, and one People's Choice Award for the annual Classic Car Show held at Curtis Lumber in Ballston Spa, NY. See drone video footage at this [link](#). Jennifer Stickney, Curtis Lumber's Marketing and Community Events Coordinator, sent a letter of appreciation with a portion that reads as follows:

"Hi Dave,

I wanted to send a heartfelt thank-you for the incredible shifter awards and beautiful trophies the NWA created for this year's 15th Annual Curtis Lumber Car & Truck Show. The craftsmanship of each piece was the talk of the day, truly showstoppers! Below are event photos, plus an album featuring winners accepting their awards (the smiles go on for days!). The crowd loved every detail; we had our biggest show ever with 451 registered show vehicles and thousands of spectators all oohing and aahing over the artistry the NWA provided."

The photos show the coordinated work of our Turners and Crafters as well as Dave's laser engraver to create these trophies.

Curtis Lumber also holds a 50-50 raffle to benefit the Pet Connection in support of area animal shelters.



Crafters made trophy plaques



The President's and People's Choice awards



Turners made the gearshift knobs

Members Unanimously Approve Amendments to the NWA Bylaws

By Dave Mobley and Doug Wildes

At the September 11, 2025, general meeting and through online voting in the 10 days prior to the meeting, NWA members unanimously approved amendments to our Bylaws. The 50 online votes plus 14 in-person votes easily exceeded the quorum required for votes by the membership.

The amendments, all of which will strengthen the management of the association's finances, were developed and proposed to the NWA Board by a Bylaws Committee consisting of Wally Carpenter, Dave Mobley, Ray Puffer, Learay Rayburn-Silvia, Ron Roberts, Juliana Shei, and Doug Wildes. The proposed amendments were unanimously approved by the Board with a recommendation to the membership to vote for the changes.

The full text and reasoning behind the amendments were provided to the membership prior to the voting. In summary, the approved changes to the existing Bylaws were:

- Change the fiscal year (previously Sept. 1 to Aug. 31) to match the calendar year.
- Clarify who has signature authority on NWA accounts: only the Treasurer, and two backups, all of whom must be elected (not appointed) members of the Board.
- Recognize that some NWA sub-groups (AWA, KWA, Mid-Hudson) have their own accounts. Because these groups are part of NWA, the NWA Treasurer needs "inquiry access" (see, not act) to these accounts for tax filings and fiduciary responsibility.
- Clarify and simplify the paragraphs on annual inspection of the financial records and on approval of expenses that are outside an approved budget.

Following our usual practice, the amended Bylaws will be posted to the NWA website.

The members of the Bylaws Committee wish to thank the Board and membership for their input on the proposals and support of the changes.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

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:** Vacant

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.