

The Colonial Woodcutter

November 2010

The President's Angle

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Our Website = **www.awwg.org**

Please address all correspondence to:

The Colonial Woodcutter

Annapolis Woodworkers Guild

P.O. Box 6001

Annapolis, MD. 21401

Editor: **TBD**

Photographs by: Doc Bohlman and Pat Applegate

General Membership Meetings

2nd Thursday of each month 7 PM

Davidsonville United Methodist Church
819 Route 214, Davidsonville, MD.

Visitors are welcome

Executive Board Meetings

4th Thursday of each month 7PM

Davidsonville United Methodist Church
Members welcome

Annual Membership Dues \$35

For information on the Annapolis

Woodworkers' Guild call:

301-912-3132 or 410-695-0723

JUST REMINDERS THIS MONTH!!

SARAH's HOUSE – Just a reminder that we need both toys for the younger children and boxes for the older/teenage children. These items that we provide are available for a Parent, staying at the shelter, to pick from for holiday gifts for their children. The items are greatly appreciated by the recipients and help bring a measure of comfort and normalcy in their time of upheaval that puts them in this bastion of safety. I know we are all busy, especially, at this time of year, but please take a couple of hours and make something (toys or boxes) to donate to SARAH's House, *it will make your heart smile!!*



HOLIDAY DINNER (9 December) – Don't forget to make your reservation and purchase your seat for our annual party. You can also make a gift to be given out at the party whether you decide to attend or not, however I hope you will attend, you will thoroughly enjoy the evening. (rumor has it that there will be live music this year)

DEADLINE FOR SIGNUP IS 30 NOVEMBER 2010!!

SMALL BOX CONTEST – We have no entries as yet, but I am sure we will see some at the upcoming meeting. Just remember you will not only get the heartwarming sensation of providing a special box as a gift for the less fortunate young person, you have the chance to win a prize for your creation. (See our web site for details).

MEMBERSHIP NEWS:

Welcome to new member **Roy Leverone**.

Please remember to wear your nametags at our General Membership Meetings (GMM). If any of your information has changed (email, phone number, address, etc.) or you need a new name tag; contact Harlan Ray Jr. (Membership Chair) or send your changes to the Guild email address (info@awwg.org) for updating of the membership database. To ensure database integrity only the individual member can request changes to their information.

You can renew your membership (pay your annual dues) at a GMM, via US Postal System snail mail, **OR NOW, ON-LINE** via the Guild's web site calendar page, using your credit card through a service of PayPal (www.awwg.org/awg_calendar.htm).

We received several bounce-backs on last month's email distribution of the newsletter; please ensure your information in the membership database is correct.

Because of the Thanksgiving Holiday the Executive Board Meeting will be November 18th vice the 25th.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

(GMM), OCTOBER 14, 2010 (By D. Scrivens)

Prior to the start of the meeting **Bob Ashby** and the **AWG Mello Toners** favored **Vicki Kunde** with a birthday cake and off-key reminder that she's getting old.

I. GENERAL BUSINESS:

Lee Marshall opened the meeting with a plug for **Jerry Coles'** new book, "**Polygons,**" which gives all the settings for table sawing every compound angle known to man. The book comes with a show-all DVD as well. What's more, **Lee** enticed the publisher to give **AWG** members a discount, on a bulk order placed by the Guild by 20 October.

We are asked to keep reasonable track of the hours we spend on our charitable work, such as toys for Sarah's House, garden furniture for Paca House, historical reconstructions, etc. It all goes to defend our "tax exempt" status. Provide you information the Guild Historian, **Emmie Marshall** (emmiem@juno.com).

Fellow troopers! **We still need an editor for our newsletter!!!** Truth to tell, we need two so that they can alternate monthly responsibilities. The mail-out sessions have always been attractive social functions for those who stuff envelopes. Board approved expenses are promptly reimbursed. **Lee Marshall** will be available to mentor new editors. You have at your beck and call a crack team of photographer and reporter. What's not to like?

As many of us know, **Herb Segelhorst** ran an active and generous shop. There lingers after his death an unfulfilled commitment to develop a prototype "**Ottovertable.**" Help is needed to design and build the prototype. Anyone interested should contact **Harlan Ray**.

Ed Butala has moved south into a new community that doesn't allow wood shops. He is selling a Powermatic, DD225, Dual Drum Sander; a Delta, 10" Unisaw; a DeWalt, 10" model 925 and an 8" model DW708, sliding compound miter saw; a Woodmaster model 718 18" thickness planer; and a Bridgewood model BW-6R, 6" jointer. Interested? Call Ed in Atlanta on 678-710-9783

II. WOOD SHOW AT TIMONIUM:

Paul Dodson rose to ask for volunteers now for the exhibit setting-up and tearing-down crews as well for staffing our exhibit during the show. All who are interested in participating in any part of this rewarding **AWG** activity should contact **Paul**.

III. WHAT'S NEW:

Mike Arndt Had glowing things to say about the **Bench Cookie** featured in the Rockler catalog. Mike supplemented his enthusiastic review with a quick physics lab demonstrating how they would not slide off the magazine he held at more than a 45-degree angle. After Mike bought his cookies, Rockler came out with companion spacers that allow the cookies to be raised above the surface of the bench. It seems as though the Cookie is a really good product.



IV. MENTOR MINUTE: (new feature to introduce our Mentor list participants to the Guild)

Pat Applegate, with his usual enthusiasm, gave his endorsement for using shellac as wood filler. He had the primer on the wonders of shellac when **Don Williams** of the **Smithsonian**



Restoration Labs spoke to us at an earlier meeting and class. He has recently discovered and used finely ground shellac applied, cross-grain several times, as a wood filler. He achieved beautiful results on the test board he brought with him. Shellac, of course, sets-up in minutes so applying multiple coats is not so burdensome. **Pat** is a mentor for using Shellac.

IV. SHOW AND TELL:

Jim Luck brought in a lectern made of **Red Oak**. It is one of a pair that he made for his church. The top of the lectern includes an inlaid copy of the Presbyterian Cross in **Mahogany** and **Maple**.



The inlaying was done on a scroll saw. Jim also made an octagonal cover for their baptismal font. The top of the font is inlaid with **Walnut** and with **Satinwood** veneers. The satinwood was singed in hot sand which gives depth and interest to the piece. Both pieces are finished with shellac. Jim always comes up with something interesting and beautifully done.



Don Ames presented a handsome replica of an early spice chest he made for his granddaughter. The chest is made of **Walnut** with brass hardware and contains 13 dovetailed drawers plus a secret drawer. He promises to stuff the drawer with large denomination bills as a special surprise. The spice chest is finished with **General Finishes** gel. Don is an excellent joiner and always produces outstanding work.



Jack Herrlinger offered his usual creative constructs. In this case he had an alligator pull toy carved of **Maple** and a flipity flop of **Maple** and **Poplar**. Both toys are cleverly done and are certain to please children at **Sarah's House** this Christmas.



NOTE: It is easy to imagine why a novice woodworker sitting in the audience might feel intimidated while more accomplished members present their SHOW and TELL items.

Potential members, novices and wannabees must take this reporter's word that the speakers so accomplished were not always so. They learned by showing their early attempts, mistakes and all.

V. Field Trip:

Sixteen of our members went in three vans (**George Swisher's, Ed Stone's and Don Ames'**) to the **Wharton Esherick Museum** in Chester County, Pa. The museum had originally been built by Mr. Esherick as his home and his workshop. Something of an eccentric as well as an superb woodworker, Esherick built his place with rarely a straight line or simple angle. The AWG group stopped for lunch and from all reports had a grand time of the day.

Note: If you get sick of seeing the same names repeated over and over again, "Ed, Harlan, Don, Carl, Jack, Jim, George, Lee, Emmie, Andy, Pat, Mike and Doug, etc., why not add your name? These guys do the work, run the committees, bring in stuff for show and tell, get the awards and on and on. Why

not pitch in and help and have a good time in the bargain? In churches those who just come for services are sometimes called "pew zombies"

-----Why be among the living dead? -----

VI. DOOR PRIZE:

And the winners were;



- **Wayne Johnson-**
Dovetail jig



Martha Collinson- \$50
Gift certificate



Bob Eicher- AWG ruler

VII. PROGRAM SPEAKER:

World renowned clock maker, railroad tycoon, raconteur and bon vivant, our own **Ed Stone** gave a really interesting presentation on frames and miters and model trains and stuff. His considerable expertise was further enhanced by having all his props and demonstrations projected on the large screen. A few of the points that **Ed** stressed for making top grade miters are: 1. You must use very sharp blades. 2. Use true right angles as guides. 3. Cut in the corner spline when the glue in the miter is good and dry. He does his sharpening using .5, 5, and 15 micron sandpaper on a sheet of glass or other dead flat surface. These sand papers are available from **Klingspor**. He likes **Bartley's** gel varnish finishes. Good quality clock works are available from **Merritts** and lots of clock stuff from **Klockit**. The high quality veneer **Ed Stone** uses comes from **Certainly Wood**. They can be found at www.certainlywood.com .



Finally **Brother Stone** gave us a tour of the town of **Ames**. We investigated the **Cookery Casket Works** where he located the boss's outhouse and another for lesser folk. Next was the **Kunde Kerosene Works**,



largest

employer in Ames. We saw the **Borland's Best Dynamite & Blasting Powder** mill. Finally, we visited **Colleen,s Café** on our way out of beautiful **Ames**.



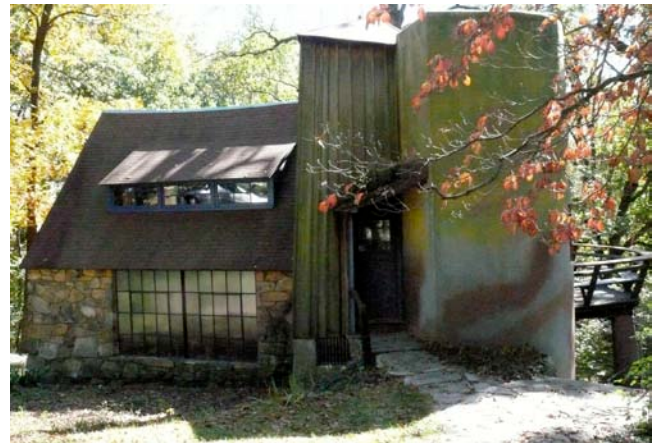
The Annapolis Woodworkers Guild at the Wharton Esherick House (By P. Applegate)

On a fine fall day, October 13th, seventeen AWG members trekked into Eastern Pennsylvania to visit the Home/Workshop of probably one of the least well-known American Icons in the artist/craftsman community. Wharton Esherick 1887-1970 was in



training as a classic painter when disgusted by the rigid standards demanded of him as an artist rebelled and found his true calling in sculptural forms. Building a modest workshop in Paoli, PA. the site was selected primarily on the merits of local cherry tree which later became a part of his work and home which over many

years evolved out of the original shop. Esherick was among the first of his generation to marry fine art with practical everyday items such as cooking utensils, furniture and even his outhouse. He followed Thoreau's vision of simplicity and modest living in



concert with his natural surroundings. In fact his shop, home, furniture and most everything he made, mostly by hand mimicked the natural shapes and forms of his surroundings. He was not constrained by a compelling need for squared corners or even proportions. An outbuilding which served as his garage appears to have been grasped by some ungodly pair of hands and twisted like a corkscrew. His cantilevered spiral stairway is a marvel of both visual balance and structural engineering. Two of his desks are fascinatingly designed for both visual delight and practical solutions to storage and usage. The house, grounds and outbuildings are now a museum and a testimonial to his artistry. Unfortunately, photographs inside the building are prohibited but you can see some of his pieces on the museum's website (link below) and there are several books of his work. If you missed the excursion check out the website and it is a not unpleasant daytrip-but don't necessarily trust your GPS-ask George.

<http://www.levins.com/esherick.html>



NOVEMBER PROGRAM - "GUILD MENTORS"

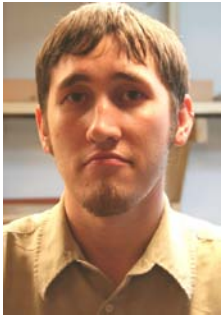
After several cancellations of scheduled speakers for this month, it was decided to make a program of our Mentors to let them introduce themselves and identify the area in which they can be of assistance.



Second installment of our column which is a short highlight of different members. We hope you'll enjoy it and may find commonalities with members that you may not have had a chance to visit and get to know a bit more.

A Few Minutes with Guild member Ian

Tracy: (By L. Marshall)



Ian joined the Guild in 2007 and has displayed several of his projects at show and tell. He has a nice shop in his basement with several of the usual power tools. He, however, prefers to work mostly with hand tools. I recently sat down with him to

gather some insight.

Editor – *Where did you grow up?*

Ian – I grew up and still live in the Glen Burnie area.

Editor – *Are you married, do you have children?*

Ian – Yes, my wife Wendy and I have a 13 month old daughter.

Editor – *Are you looking forward to making projects for her?*

Ian – Yes, I have several projects that I'm looking forward to making her including a rocking horse and a small chair.

Editor – *What is your career field?*

Ian – I am a health inspector, restaurants and residential rental properties mostly.

Editor – *At what age did you discover/start wood working?*

Ian – When I was around 10. There was an older gentleman that lived across the street who was a wood worker. He taught me woodworking with power tools. He gave me a small set of carving chisels that I still have today. He was a father figure as my parents had divorced.

Editor – *What has been your most rewarding project?*

Ian – I would say this trestle dining room table. It is made out of Honduras mahogany. There is over \$600.00 of mahogany in it. Everything was done with



hand tools except the long rips of the boards for the top. They were done with a circular saw. The ends of the top are pegged breadboards, with pyramid tops on the square pegs. The Trestles are draw board with double mortise and tenon joinery. The spanner is connected to the trestles with a wedged half dovetail so they can be taken apart to be moved because of its weight. The next most rewarding project would be our house, which I built.

Editor – *What has been your most challenging project?*

Ian – I would have to say this end table. I made it with a block plane, hand saw, and bench chisels. When I made it, I didn't even have a straight edge. I used the lally column in my basement, as my straight edge. I brought it in for show and tell.



Editor – *What aspect of woodworking do you enjoy the most?*

Ian – Just making things with my hands and the peace and solitude while doing it.

Editor – *Where do your creative ideas originate?*

Ian – Usually I think of and visualize a project, then I have to quickly sketch it up and work out the plans so I can build it.



Editor – *As one of our newer members is there*

anything you would like to see the Guild offering?

Ian – I would like to see more hand tool projects displayed at show and tell and hand tool techniques taught in classes or workshops. The Guild getting someone like Roy Underhill as a program or special workshop would be good. The meetings are harder for me to get to since they have moved to Davidsonville but I would like to see more "hands-on/how to" programs or demonstrations at the meetings.

Editor – *Is there anything you'd like to share with our membership?*



Larger View of SHOW and TELL items:

Larger views of Ian's projects.

