

# The Colonial Woodcutter

April, 2012

*The President's Angle*

## **Executive Board**

**Andy Borland**  
President

Jim Francis  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

Lee Marshall  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Doug Richardson  
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Harlan Ray Jr.  
Membership Chairman

Hugh Houghton  
Program Chairman

Emmie Marshall  
Historian

Our Website = [www.awwg.org](http://www.awwg.org)

Please address all correspondence to:

*The Colonial Woodcutter*

**Annapolis Woodworkers Guild**

P.O. Box 6001

Annapolis, MD. 21401

Co-Editors: Lee Marshall

David Blois

Photographs by: Doc Bohlman

## **General Membership Meetings**

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month 7 PM

Davidsonville United Methodist Church

819 W. Central Ave.,

Davidsonville, MD. 21035

Visitors are welcome

## **Executive Board Meetings**

4<sup>th</sup> 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

Email – [info@awwg.org](mailto:info@awwg.org)

## **PLANE TALK FROM THE PRESIDENT**

My term as President of this wonderful Guild is about to be over. I thought you had to be a Master Craftsman to be President, but I was wrong. I have enjoyed my term and the most frightening thing for me was writing this column. I have really enjoyed putting my words down in print and trying to keep everyone updated.

The Board meetings are a snap. There is so much support and guidance and that makes life so easy when you have the help from so many.

The Nominating Committee will bring us a new slate of possible officers at the April Meeting. You may nominate from the floor if you have asked that person prior to the meeting. Elections will be in May.

Attached to this newsletter is a **SURVEY** to help the Board. We need to decide what direction we want to take in regarding our mission. The Board has commissioned a survey which is included in this newsletter. **Please take time to fill out this survey so we will really fine tune our mission.**

We have been given a gift of all of Bill Schramm's tools to sell, keep, give away or throw away. There is lumber at Schramm's as well. This is an outstanding gift. More information will come later as to what we decide to do with the Schramm gift.

The attendance at our last two Guild Meetings was at 80 people. That is one half of our total membership. Our programs and our speakers have been fantastic. I know that has contributed to the increase in attendance.

**Jim McMartin** and **Jim Beggins** put on a great show. Some of us held wood in our hands that was 450 years old. Thanks again **Hugh Houghton**. Keep up the great attendance! We had ten **SHOW AND TELL** last month. Way to go!!! Remember we must limit our time explaining our projects.

Since my next letter will be my last column, I want to thank the many people who have made my term in office a **JOY!** The Executive Board of Jim Francis, Lee Marshall, Doug Richardson, Bambi Sublett, Emmie Marshall and Hugh Houghton are the normal ones you thank. However, when you have 20 at a Board Meeting, the thanks goes to all of them as well. Make sawdust!

Andy



## **IMPORTANT SURVEY ENCLOSED – PLEASE COMPLETE**

**SPEAKER – Guild member, George Swisher, will present a demonstration and explanation of the Work Sharp sharpening system** (see details at the end of the newsletter).

## **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**(GMM), March 8, 2012** (By D. Scrivens)

### **GENERAL BUSINESS: President Andy Borland**

opened the meeting and announced that the General Meeting in May will be held one week later than usual, on May 17<sup>th</sup> and not on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Andy** reminded those assembled that election for Guild officers will be held at the May meeting. Nominations should be finalized by the April GMM.

**The President** suggested that a good use for woodworking magazines when we've finished with them is to remove name labels and slyly drop them off in the doctors and dentist offices. They are interesting, socially acceptable and might stimulate interest in the craft. He also suggested affixing a label identifying the Guild

**Andy** noted that there had been discussions of the pros and cons of having a Guild owned and managed workshop/meeting facility. A survey will be circulated shortly to gauge member interest in such a project. All members are strongly urged to complete and return the survey – it is very important to get member feedback.

**Andy** again urged members to bring a guest to a meeting.

**Harlan Ray** announced that there is 150ft of air dried walnut available, asking \$275. Anyone interested can contact **Harlan** or call F. Darney, 717-229-2090.

Anyone interested in the services of a **WOODMISER** band saw for making lumber should call Mike McKinsey, 410-490-3555.

**SAFETY:** Jim Francis, Guild Safety Officer, lead a discussion regarding power nailers. Among the points made were the following:

There are basically two types of nail guns: Those that are pneumatically operated and cordless ones that use a battery and gas cylinder as a power source.

1. Review the owner's manual carefully to make sure you know how to handle, load, and operate the tool. It also contains info on the settings depth of drive, maintenance required, troubleshooting, and maximum air pressure requirements.

Most importantly remember to oil the gun before using.

2. **Always Wear Safety Glasses** Your eyes are vulnerable to permanent damage from flying nails or other debris. Make sure to also wear hearing protection to protect your ears from the constant trigger of the nails.

3. Keep Your Finger off the Trigger - A power nailer is very similar to a firearm. Never put your finger on the trigger until you are ready to shoot. Since the trigger is one part of a two-part system, if the trigger is held, all you need to do is depress the nosepiece on any surface to a point of contact to discharge a nail.

4. Operate the Tool on the Work Surface

Don't squeeze the trigger unless the tool's nosepiece is completely on the surface of the material that you are working on fastening. Check lumber surfaces before nailing; looking for knots, nails, straps, etc... these can cause the nail to ricochet.

5. Keep Hands and Feet Away From the Fastening Area - Knots, splits, or grain structure of the wood can cause the nail to shift, possibly even out of the wood. While it is common to use your hands to help hold the two pieces just right, using a clamp or holding fixture is a better option.

6. Secure the hose when working on scaffolding to prevent the weight of the hose from dragging the tool off the scaffolding.

7. Disconnect Energy Source Before Servicing Tool  
Pneumatic nailers are tough and reliable, but sooner or later they will jam or breakdown. Always disconnect the air supply or battery before removing a jam or fixing a malfunction.

Considerations

Use the nails / staples / brads designed for the nailer – trying to jury rig, or using the improper type can lead to jamming and misfires.

### **QUESTION BOX:**

**Q.** Where can you get maple plywood pre-finished on two sides?

**A. Wurth Wood Group**, Elkridge, MD ([www.wurthwoodgroup.com](http://www.wurthwoodgroup.com)). Note that they are a Guild sponsor.

**SHOP TIP:** A member spoke glowingly about the helical cutter heads on a new thickness planer. The cutter head has sets of small four-sided carbide cutters individually screwed to the roller in a spiral pattern across the cutter head. If one gets chipped or they are dull, just rotate the cutters; you don't have to change a whole set of blades, with all the fuss and time that job calls for. They were said to be expensive, but worth it in a shop where there may be multiple users or doing work rough on planer blades.

**DOOR PRIZE:**

**Dennis Harvey** won the Lowe's gift card

**Adam Schmidt** took away the quart of Watco Finish

**Bob Ashby** scored with a set of calipers



**SHOW AND TELL:**

**Sanford Ashton** was first up and thoroughly explained how he made a model of the wooden innards of a clock. It is a most precise project. Though greatly expanded, the model had each gear and sprocket that a watch has. Amazing.



**Jerry Lacey** presented a very nice cherry funerary urn he made for himself. The piece is handsomely decorated with his zodiac sign and a nickel from the year he was born. The finish is polyurethane. It was a well done though somber piece that we hope remains in Jerry's closet for many years.



**Paul Dodson** showed an interesting plaque of the symbol of a military organization that he had scroll sawn. It was an intricate cutting project done from light colored wood. When backed by a dark colored wood the effect is really very attractive.



**Russell Battaglia**, in response to a request from his daughter, produced a desktop of tiger maple and purple heart. He routed into the purpleheart a Celtic knot that he filled with contrasting epoxy/wood filler for an inlaid look. Good job **Russell**.

**Pat Applegate** presented a tray/table that also tipped up to serve as a book stand. The piece is made of quarter sawn oak and is finished with blond shellac over coated with varnish. **Pat's** know-how and all those fine



Festools are cranking out some very nice products.

**Jim Francis** was one of two beautiful end tables shown this week. **Jim's** boasts curved front drawer which Jim had made in the workshop by Mario Rodriguez (a great use of this table part!). It also had string inlay on the front and the legs which also featured inlaid bell flowers. The table was finished with a water-based acrylic. The piece looked to be very well done.



**Andy Borland's** entry in Show and Tell was a mirror made of salvaged mahogany. **Andy** used biscuit joinery in the mitered corners and was pleased with both the ease of use and the finished mirror. It is a neat looking job and should be a great help to **Andy** when combing his hair in the morning.



**Harry Chavez** stood to tell something of his experience making intarsia. He showed two pieces one of which was of lilies primarily made of bloodwood and tigerwood the other picture was of dogs in oak and wenge. The work was beautifully done.



**Tom Longest** presented yet another mahogany end table. **Tom's** table features neatly inlaid string work. (There is a lot of that going around, **Jim Francis's** and **all**.) **Tom** intends to donate the table to an auction benefitting **The Brain Injury Association of Maryland**.



**Fred Oakes** has undertaken the challenge of using pieces of re-covered bowling alley wood to make five or six sections of kitchen countertop. The wood is hard maple and the individual pieces are held together with glue, nails and all-thread as appropriate. The pieces are being made to fit around a sink, etc., on a cooking/eating island in his kitchen.



**Jack Hirrlinger** concluded **Show & Tell** with a child's toolbox he made. He may have been jogged into showing the toolbox by last month's Show & Tell when two such boxes were shown. Jack, of course, always has a gimmick, in this case it was the handle of the toolbox which was cleverly held in place by a clip but detached to be used as a hammer.



**SPEAKERS:** **Hugh Houghton** introduced **Jim Beggins** and **Jim McMartin**, furniture designers, cabinet makers, furniture refinishers, and lumbermen with their shop located in Easton. They said that people are sometimes surprised that they do as much lumbering as they do. The fact is they have become well known in Talbot County for handling large and exotic trees that fall victim to the developer's bulldozer or to the storm's blast. (Recall the speaker last month who shared a similar reputation for lumbering in Montgomery County.) They showed samples of Osage orange, English walnut, Chinese chestnut and other exotic woods they had salvaged in Talbot County. **Beggins & McMartin** became well known after they won the bid to salvage and use the Wye Oak (more or less 460 years old) that had been knocked by a storm. Everyone thought the wood left in the ancient tree was too rotten to use. **Beggins and McMartin** found more than enough good wood to make a beautiful executive desk for the Governor of Maryland. The desk includes gorgeous panels of oak crotch and burl veneers and carries a top that measures 72"W x 46"D. Surprisingly, they used a light stain of aniline dye in alcohol together with the shellac finish. Pre-finishing the panels in the desk allow movement in the wood without the danger of a color line forming around the periphery of the panel. The finished piece sets in the Governor's Mansion in Annapolis.



## AWG MENTOR LIST:

We are still looking for members who are willing to be mentors in the following areas: Band Saw; Dust Collection; Finishing Methods; Sharpening; Reading and Understanding Plans; Equipment Maintenance. Or if you have a skill that is not listed please let us know.

The AWG Mentor list follows in this format:

**Subject;** Name/Phone/Email

**Antique furniture restoration;** Quinan, Johnstone/ 410-956-5428/ ;

**Brushed Shellac ~ Hand planes;** Applegate, Patrick /410-426-8287/ [pappleg@jhmi.edu](mailto:pappleg@jhmi.edu)

**Carving ~ Inlaying;** Scrivens, Jay D. /410-544-3247/ [jdscrivens@verizon.net](mailto:jdscrivens@verizon.net);

**Clock Making ~ Gilding;** Stone, Ed / 301-464-8079 / [edwhstone@comcast.net](mailto:edwhstone@comcast.net);

**Finish repair ~ Furniture repair;** Arndt, Michael/ 410-551-8588/ [MarylandWoodPro@gmail.com](mailto:MarylandWoodPro@gmail.com);

**Hand planes;** Ames, Donald /410-268-0509/ [dfames@verizon.net](mailto:dfames@verizon.net)

**Routing ~ Laminating;** Houghton, Hugh/ 410 -263-8615 / [hjhoughton@comcast.net](mailto:hjhoughton@comcast.net);

**Routing ~ Raised panels ~ Toys;** Bodnar, Joseph A./ 301- 390-0484/ [joebflies@comcast.net](mailto:joebflies@comcast.net);

**Scrollsaw;** Allred, Win /301- 587-3821 / [winallred@yahoo.com](mailto:winallred@yahoo.com) ;

**Scrollsaw;** Dodson, Paul/ 410 -760-5382/ [pdwoodcrafts@verizon.net](mailto:pdwoodcrafts@verizon.net)

**Skills improvement; Shaker Boxes; Marquetry;**

**Inlay:** Jim Luck / 410-647-6622 / [jfl639@verizon.net](mailto:jfl639@verizon.net)

**Stains ~ Hand rubbed oil finish;** Sparks, Roy A/ 302 -337-1016 / ;

**Tooling ~ Cabinet making;** Ashby, Robert /410 -969-2910/ [toolsrus58@comcast.net](mailto:toolsrus58@comcast.net)

**Toys ~ Electrical Problems;** Hirrlinger, Jack/ 410-798-1339/ [tjihirr@verizon.net](mailto:tjihirr@verizon.net)

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**REMINDER – if the AACO schools are closed due to bad weather there is no Guild Meeting that evening.**

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS:

At the March GMM, **Harlan Ray** gave new member kits to **Phil Green** and **Fred Oakes**.

The following new members were welcomed: **Bob Pearson** and **Steven Williams**.

Renewing members: **Bob Bence, Jim Francis, Tom Frank, Hugh Houghton, James Jordan, Tim Koles, Nicholas Liberini, Chris McDonald, Doug Pringle, Walton Rogers, Ed Stone, James Vrancik and Mike Walsh.**

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](mailto: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 the service of PayPal ([www.awwg.org/awg\\_calendar.htm](http://www.awwg.org/awg_calendar.htm)). **If you want to receive your copy of the newsletter via email (exact same content as paper copy except the pictures are in color) or you want to be added to the informational emailing list, send your request to the Guild's email address and you will be added to the appropriate list, likewise, if you want to be removed from one of the lists.**

**We ask our Members to patronize the following businesses that provide discounts to the Guild when they are looking for tools, supplies or wood:**

**Hartvilletools – [www.hartvilletool.com](http://www.hartvilletool.com) 15%**

**Klingspore – [www.woodworkingshop.com](http://www.woodworkingshop.com) 10%**

**Woodline – [www.woodline.com](http://www.woodline.com) 10%**

**Exotic Lumber (Annapolis, MD) – [www.exoticlumber.com](http://www.exoticlumber.com) 10%**

**World of Hardwoods (Linthicum, MD) – [www.worldofhardwoods.com](http://www.worldofhardwoods.com) 10%**

**Wurth Wood Group (Elkridge, MD) – [www.wurthwoodgroup.com](http://www.wurthwoodgroup.com)**

**WoodWorkers Supply – [pro.woodworker.com](http://pro.woodworker.com) 5-25% depending on item, make sure you indicate you are an AWG member when you register for an account.**

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**AWG HATS AND SHIRTS FOR SALE:**

AWG hats and shirts are available for members to purchase. **AWG hats are \$15.00 each.**

The AWG shirt is a long sleeve industrial work shirt, (65% polyester/35% cotton poplin) light blue in color (SGG101). **The price including embroidered AWG above the pocket is \$35.00.** Shirts are available in sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL, 3XL, 4XL, and 5XL. The Guild will have sample sizes available at the April GMM. To order a hat or shirts contact Guild Treasurer **Doug Richardson** (410-268-0847 or [gpabug@verizon.net](mailto:gpabug@verizon.net)).

**WEB:** The AWG Board, after much discussion, has decided to not sanction any Guild endorsed or hosted FACEBOOK, TWITTER, BLOG or FOURM accounts or services at the present time. This however does not discourage members from having woodworking discussions on their own personal accounts of this type. The Guild web site currently has an option to send questions or comments which are answered directly or forwarded to the larger Guild population for comments. You can also send questions to the Guild email address [info@awwg.org](mailto:info@awwg.org). The best method remains to pose your question or problem at the regular GMM.

**SURVEY:** Included with the newsletter is a survey for the Membership to complete and return. The survey will help the Board determine if it should move the Guild in a new direction the goal of which is to have a Guild owned and run woodworking facility. This is a serious decision and the Board hopes that you will thoughtfully complete and return the survey.

**SARAH'S HOUSE:** It is time to start working on toys for the kids at Sarah's House. The Guild library has numerous books on toy making, plus many members have plans available. There are various parts (e.g., wheels and axles) and free wood available to make toys. Contact **Vicki Kunde** for information and let her know if you would like to host or join a toy-making group.

**REPORT FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** At the April meeting, the Nominating Committee will recommend the following slate of candidates to the Guild for the coming year:

*President: Jim Francis  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Paul Dobson  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Andy Borland  
Secretary: Bambi Sublett  
Treasurer: Lee Marshall  
Membership Chair: Emmie Marshall  
Program Chair: Hugh Houghton*

Nominations may also be made from the floor, provided the nominee is present and consents to being nominated.

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**Mentor on Scroll Saw Blades** (by Paul Dodson)  
When asked to write a scroll saw article I pondered long about what to write about and where to start. I decided to start by answering the most frequently asked questions about what blades to use. The choices are many and can be quite confusion.

Scroll saw blades come in two types: Pin-end and Plain-end. Most all scroll saws today use the plain-end blade giving a large variety of choices. Pin-end blades come in fewer sizes. Scroll saws using pin-end blades can be converted to accept the plain end blades.

Plain end blades are categorized as 1) scroll blades, 2) fret blades, and 3) spiral blades. Scroll blades are coarse cutting blades used in handsaws. Most pin-end blade are scroll blades. Fret blades are the commonly used blades in all scroll saws. They range in size using a generic numbering system from 3/0 to 12. You'll find blades in skip tooth, double tooth, reverse skip tooth, precision ground tooth, spiral tooth, crown

tooth, hook tooth and more. Skip tooth is the most widely used blade. Scrollers will use and have in their collection all available blades. A beginner will find himself using No. 5, 7, 9 and 12 for most of his work.

Here are a few guidelines to help you determine which size blade to use:

Sizes 3/0 to 1: For extremely intricate sawing and very thin cuts in 1/16" to 3/32" material, wood, veneer, plastic, hard rubber, pearl and more.

Sizes 2 to 4: For tight radius work in then materials 3/32" to 1/8", veneer, wood, bone, fiber, ivory, plastic and more.

Sizes 5 & 6: For close radius cutting in material 1/8" or thicker, hard or soft woods, bone, horn, plastic and more.

Sizes 7 to 12: For cutting hard and soft wood 3/16" up to 2", plastic, paper, felt, bone and more.

For cutting metal such as aluminum and brass you will use metal cutting blades. Available in plain-end and in sizes 3/0 to 9

There are a lot of brands to choice from. I mostly use Olson blades. I have other brands and I do use them. What blades do I use the most in my everyday scrolling activities? Skip tooth, sizes 2/0, 2, 5, and 7.

Happy Scrolling



**EDUCATION:** 2 hour mini seminars on the Work Sharp sharpening system will be presented on the 21st and 28th of April. Each seminar can handle up to 8

attendees. The seminars are tentatively slated to be held at **George's** shop from 9-11am and possibly 1-3pm if required. Cost is \$12 per person with coffee, tea, soft drinks and water provided. Participants need to bring a chisel or plane blade for sharpening. **George** will provide an explanation and demonstration of the system at the April GMM. Seminar signup will also be available at the meeting.



## REMINDER

THE APRIL GMM WILL BE HELD ON THE USUAL DAY AND TIME, 7P.M. 12 April 2012.

## HOWEVER

THE MAY GMM WILL BE DELAYED ONE WEEK BECAUSE OF CHURCH ACTIVITY DURING OUR NORMAL MEETING TIME.

**THE MAY GMM WILL BE 7P.M. 17 MAY 2012**

MAKE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS APPROPRIATELY SO YOU DO NOT MISS THE MEETING OR THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS!!