

# The Colonial Woodcutter

October 2011

*The President's Angle*

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*The Colonial Woodcutter*

**Annapolis Woodworkers Guild**

P.O. Box 6001

Annapolis, MD. 21401

Editor: Lee Marshall

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)

As an old football coach (47 years), I know we only get better at what we do by practicing, and I mean **PRACTICE, PRACTICE, and more PRACTICE.**

When you start a project in the woodshop, you want to complete it right now. You can't wait to put the finish on, be finished and show it off to your friends. Well, we would be better off many times by practicing on a piece of scrap wood first. You want to be sure you are doing it correctly. Does this strike home with any of you? It certainly does with me, and I know we could do it better if we practiced first. Think on it.

That first paragraph was brought home to me when Denny Scrivens called my house the other day to ask for a clarification (for the newsletter). He wanted to know why I was making a box each month. Well, I hope I am showing a different type of joinery each month, and by doing that it will help my skills become better and better. I encourage each of you to do something similar and become a better woodworker in the process. Creating a box is a small project, but because of its size, it draws a lot of scrutiny. Did you like Denny's box at the last meeting? Beautiful wasn't it?"

**MOTIVATION:** Do you ever look at a magazine and get encouraged to make the project pictured in that magazine. That is **MOTIVATION**. Those of you who had the opportunity to see Mario Rodriguez had to be motivated to do something. I was motivated, but I have not made my own inlay bands yet. It was wonderful to see the veneered bow fronts in the newsletter by **Pat Applegate** and **Bernie Lammers**. The hardest part of doing a project is getting started. **GET STARTED NOW!**

I was really pleased with the number of projects brought to the last meeting for **Show and Tell**. Keep up the good work.

Remember the toys for Sarah's House are due at the Christmas Dinner meeting. Providing gifts for the children at Sarah's House is very gratifying.

We will be having a contest the night of the Christmas Dinner to see what each of us has done with 3 board feet of any kind of wood. Come join the fun. It is a great time.

Yours in woodworking, **ANDY**



**SPEAKER –.The October Program features Ron Liston on making bandsaw boxes.**



**AWG will host two days of Marc Adams workshops in January 2012. The dates are Friday January 27<sup>th</sup> 1-7PM and Saturday January 28<sup>th</sup> 8AM-3PM. Both sessions will be held at the church. More details and cost per day will be available in the near future.**



## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

(GMM), September 11, 2011 (By D. Scrivens)

### GENERAL BUSINESS:

**Prez Andy Borland** started the meeting by holding up a box with splined miters that he felt demonstrated the mistakes he had made and which he discussed. He also plugged a system for hand sanding irregular pieces.



He announced that member **Robert Finnin** has approximately 200 BD FT of Black Walnut random widths and lengths 3/4 and 4/4. Also some crown and chair molding. The wood is located in Silver Spring contact **Mr. Finnin** at, 410-798-1765.

More wood, member **Chris McDonald** has 25000 BD FT of 4/4 kiln dried White Ash @ 1.50 a BD FT contact **Mr. McDonald** at 410 326 1685

**Harlan Ray** reported on the Benson/ Hammond House cabinets of which

he is team leader. The group is working in Bill Schramm's shop to standardize and stack all of the parts for the cabinets. When these initial tasks are completed, more volunteers will be asked to take the parts to their own shops to assemble and finish the cabinets prior to presenting them to the museum.



### II. SAFETY :

**JIM FRANCIS**, 1<sup>ST</sup> Vice President and Safety Officer presented a video by Marc Adams on Thickness Planer safety which emphasized the following points:

- The thickness planer differs from the jointer in that the cutter head is mounted above the feed table.
- Earlier Jim mentioned a three inch rule when operating the table saw. Likewise obey the same 3 inch rule when operating your thickness planer. Your hands and fingers must remain 3 inches away from the opening of the infeed and outfeed tables.
- Since the planer is self-feeding, it is very easy to get your fingers pinched between the board and the planer table.
- Always check the wood before planning to make sure it is free of nails and other foreign material and if there are any knots check to ensure they are solid and not loose.
- The board to be surfaced must have one true face. If the board is warped, cupped or twisted, joint the concave surface first.

- Always plane with the grain of the wood.
- A good rule of thumb for the shortest board to be planed is to measure the distance between the infeed and outfeed roller then add 2 inches.
- Always use a dust collector when planning.
- Never plane dirty, painted or varnished wood.
- Always stand to the side of the planer and never directly in line with the wood.
- If this sounds too much of a hassle, meditate for a moment on those spinning knives.

### KEEP YOUR HANDS FREE OF THE CUTTERS.

### III. QUESTION BOX/WHAT'S NEW:

There was one question in the box:

**Q** "Where to buy birdseye maple?"

**A** While several suppliers were noted, the consensus was Exotic Lumber in back of the small mall you pass shortly before the Bay Bridge. It is easiest to take the access road that parallels Rt. 50 from McDonalds to the Bay Bridge.

**Mike Arndt** with "What's New" made the case for tossing the spray can when they get down to about one third. The pressure gets too low and you wind up with runs. Save yourself the aggravation and the mess. You can tell by the sound of the can and the angle at which the spray stops being a useful spray.



### IV. DOOR PRIZE:

A \$50.00 Lowes gift certificate awarded to smiling **Lloyd Gleeson**.

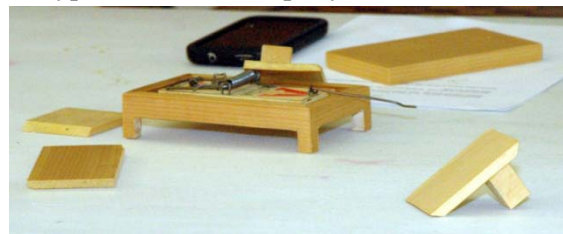
### V. SHOW AND TELL:

**Bill Perry** passed around a really nice dowel jig. The jig is

accurate and most useful when joining case pieces with dowels



rather than mortise & tenon or biscuits. He also show a new type of water based putty that he uses.



**Bud Powell** showed a really neat mousetrap bank, pieces flying all over the joint.

**Jim Menefee**, in support of **Prez Borland's** box project, showed a large beautiful bandsaw box. It was sawn from a single interesting log and featured the carving of a young goshawk on the lid.



**Bryton Lee** briefly demonstrated how he made a nicely laminated curved skirt for a table. He showed the several steps there is in gluing and clamping in a caul.

**Russell Battaglia** brought a fancy little box he made for his daughter. The box is made of eucalyptus, an unusual wood.



**Denny Scrivens**, again in support of Andy's interest in boxes, showed a small box featuring "feather" splined corners. Also, the box boasts one of **Ed Stone's** neat little homemade latches.

**Jack Hirrlinger** as usual, stole the show with a plastic jar pull-toy containing wooden "lighting" bugs. He's turning more out for **Sarah's House** this **Christmas**. Note the stress on **Sarah's House** and **Christmas**? It's coming soon. (*Presidents note: "Show & Tell is one of the best parts of our meetings. Bring in your projects: large, small, simple, complex, spectacular, or even something that didn't turned out like you wanted it to. All can be displayed and instructional"*)

**VI. SPEAKER:**

Was, again, one of our own, **Jerry Rosenberger**. Jerry's talk was built around a Power-Point presentation titled "**The Art of Woodworking**". He told how his dad got him a really nice workbench with all of the basic tools for Christmas when he was nine or ten years old. The middle school he attended required boys to take woodshop in the seventh grade. He has been with it, more or less, ever since. He began woodworking seriously with an interest in Queen Anne style. His interest has evolved toward



Asian influences. He now does one-of-a-kind pieces that please him.

Jerry showed how he was able to clamp curved pieces by gluing blocks to the surface of each piece so that they were parallel and thus provided a temporarily solid, even place to set a clamp. He also gave a refresher on how to lay-out and cut a chess board. His main demo piece was a very nice plant or *objet d'art* stand. The Asian stand is constructed of Kabukali, Paduak, Birch, Ebony, and Tatabu woods. The decorative diagrams are from the I Ching. He thinks of his work in four parts: Design, Construction, Finishing, Presentation. He is strongest and, not surprisingly, best at Design. Jerry stresses the importance of Presentation in determining how the customer and others view and respect a piece. See more of his work on his web site

[www.hardwoodoriginals.com](http://www.hardwoodoriginals.com) :



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**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
- Carving ~ Inlaying;** Scrivens, Jay D. /410-544-3247/ jdscrivens@verizon.net;
- Clock Making ~ Gilding;** Stone, Ed / 301-464-8079 / edwhstone@comcast.net;
- Finish repair ~ Furniture repair;** Arndt, Michael/ 410-551-8588/ MarylandWoodPro@gmail.com;
- Hand planes;** Ames, Donald /410-268-0509/ dfames@verizon.net
- Routing ~ Laminating;** Houghton, Hugh/ 410 -263-8615 / hjhoughton@comcast.net;
- Routing ~ Raised panels ~ Toys;** Bodnar, Joseph A./ 301- 390-0484/ joeblies@comcast.net;
- Scrollsaw;** Allred, Win /301- 587-3821 / winallred@yahoo.com ;

Scrollsaw; Dodson, Paul/ 410 -760-5382/

[pdwoodcrafts@verizon.net](mailto:pdwoodcrafts@verizon.net)

Skills improvement; Shaker Boxes; Marquerty;

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/ [tjhirr@verizon.net](mailto:tjhirr@verizon.net)

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

Welcome to New Member that joined at the September meeting: **Robert Finnin.**

Thanks to renewing members: **Don Ames; Ed Passerini; and Ward Brokett**

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**

**[Remember to Sign up for the December Holiday Dinner \\$35.00 per person. See our Treasurer \(Doug Richardson\).](#)**  
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### **A FUN GOOD DEED** (By Rich Valentich)



Every September my neighborhood of Berwyn celebrates Berwyn Day with a small affair at the local playground. We have face painting; Arts and Crafts table; moon bounce; sack races and egg toss for the kids. Last year a neighbor and I set up a table with our wood scraps, glue, clamps, sandpaper and let the kids be creative. It was moderately successful, so we did it again this year and included hammer, nails, 15 inch handsaw, couple of saw horses, sanding blocks and a couple of “egg beater” style hand

drills. Ninety minutes sitting at the table and not a tool had been picked up. Then boom. About eight to ten kids were at the table wanting to know what we were making. We told them that we weren’t making anything, but they could make whatever they wanted. We had kids at the table for the next three hours. They would hammer, saw, go do the egg toss, run the sack race and return to their woodworking project. One lady told me her 4 year old granddaughter spent more time at our table than in the moon bounce. I received an email a few days later from a neighbor. He told me how his son came home Saturday from Berwyn Day excited about his woodworking and couldn’t wait to show it to his Grandfather. Sunday evening he was in the basement making a wooden box. He insisted on doing it himself with just a little guidance from Dad. He cut and nailed pretty much on his own and was so proud of himself.

Needless to say with response at the table and feedback like that we will be back next year. I will be scouring the estate sales, flea markets, etc for more saws, lighter hammers for the younger kids, nails, small dowels and whatever else I think will add to the kid’s experience. And I noticed that some of these kids had already acquired the curse of woodworking; looking for the tool that is right in front of your face.

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***MENTOR’S THOUGHTS*** (By Pat Applegate)

#### **A Brushed Shellac Finish**

It ain’t your Dad’s shellac, maybe your Great Grandad’s. If you are using canned Zinnser Bulls Eye you don’t know shellac. It’s popularity is resurging but to take true advantage of its best properties you need to avoid the standard texts on the subject.



Here’s the skinny; you need to mix your own, using fresh flakes and alcohol and not the gallon can of denatured stuff you get at Home Depot. Get your shellac flakes at Woodcraft Supply or Homestead Finishing Supplies on the net and mix them only with Behlens Behkol (same supply sources) or Grain Neutral Spirits from your liquor store- don’t ask why just do it and ask me later at a meeting if you really need to know. Mix 6 oz. by weight of flakes and 16 oz by liquid measure of alcohol in a jar with tight lid at least 36 hours in advance to dissolve into a 3 lb cut and when ready to use dilute with another 16 oz of alcohol to get to a 1/2 lb cut-about the consistency of water. Next obtain a 3/4 “ or 1” synthetic sable (taklon) watercolor flat brush from an Art Supply or Craft house (Michaels. Etc.). This brush will be solely dedicated to shellac finishing and never needs to be washed in the traditional manner.

You are now ready to apply finish. The diluted shellac is so thin that you will need a minimum of 6 to 12 coats to build a proper finish. If this sounds burdensome and tedious do not despair. Shellac mixed in this manner dries exceedingly fast. In fact depending on the size of your project you will be able to place the second and maybe even the third coat immediately after the preceding coat because it soaks in and dries in minutes. Load the brush by dipping but do not wipe the side as you will lose all the finish loaded on to your brush-after dipping simply tap the ferrule on the top of the



MORE SHOW and TELL Photos:  
Denny Scrivens' box



Jack Hirrlinger's bug jar pull toy



Russell Battaglia's puzzle box



Jim Menefee's box with carvings



Andy's splined corner

