

The Colonial Woodcutter

December, 2012

The President's Angle

Executive Board

Jim Francis
President

Paul Dodson
1st Vice President

Andy Borland
2nd Vice President

Lee Marshall
Treasurer

Bambi Sublett
Secretary

Emmie Marshall
Membership Chairman

Hugh Houghton
Program Chairman

Emmie Marshall
Historian

Our Website = 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

2nd Thursday of each month 7 PM

Davidsonville United Methodist Church

819 W. Central Ave.,

Davidsonville, MD. 21035

Visitors are welcome

Executive Board Meetings

4th Thursday of each month 7PM

541A Baltimore Annapolis Blvd Serena Park

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

My how times flies! As I look into the rear view mirror, I see that my term as president has passed the half way mark and I have only a few more months to accomplish my campaign promises. I hate to sound so political but the national Presidential race is still fresh in my mind. If you recall, my vision for the Guild was to increase both our **training** and **charitable** efforts. I am very pleased with the Area Captains/ Toy Workshops as well as Guild individual members who have stepped up our toy production. At this point, they have produced approximately 500 toys for distribution in less than six months! **Thanks** to all those involved. We likewise have increased the number of charities from one to five that will receive toys this year. I am proud to report that one of the new charities will distribute our toys to needy families that were victims of Hurricane Sandy. A very special thanks goes out to Guild member Rick Schmitt for giving me the contact which through further exploration led to those Sandy victims.

I am not so pleased with our training efforts. Although some training has been accomplished, it falls short of what I had expected. Rather than dwelling on why it did not happen, I need to figure out a way to make it happen. There are several approaches that I will propose to meet the challenge. First as you know we now have a solid DVD library which members can use. The DVD's cover many facets of woodworking and any Guild member can use them for self-based education at their own schedule. Of course we have the Guild mentor list that can assist in many ways. I believe their most desirable use would be to have the mentor's train in small 3-5 member workgroups. The plan would also include having some of the trained eventually become trainers. Thirdly we could use the team captain workgroups to conduct training in addition to the toy making that is currently in process. Let me have **your** thoughts.

Our weather has been very accommodating thus far for the holiday season. I hope you are enjoying the days with friends and family and I wish all of you a happy and safe holiday season. Finally as you make your New Year's resolutions, consider putting woodworking into your 2013 thoughts.

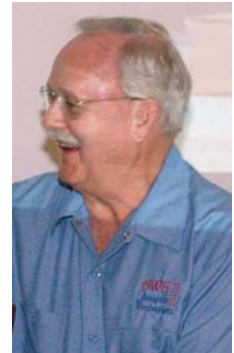
"Ability is what you're capable of doing

Motivation determines what you do

Attitude determines how well you do it"

Jim

NOTE: The Holiday Dinner will be held on December 13 instead of the General Membership Meeting. Be sure to bring your toys for Sarah's House to the dinner.



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

(GMM), November 8, 2012 (By D. Scrivens)

GENERAL BUSINESS: President **Jim Francis** opened the meeting summarizing the status of several activities which are taking place over the next three months. The first of these is the Holiday Dinner, which is held in place of our regular December General Meeting. At the time of the November meeting, the dinner was not yet fully subscribed.

The **Timonium Wood Show** is being held on January 4, 5, and 6. The club will have a booth at the show. In order for this to be successful, we need 1.) a crew to set up the display booth on January 3; 2.) crews of three members each to staff the booth for two hour shifts during the show; and 3.) a crew for Sunday afternoon to disassemble the booth and put it in storage. A sign-up sheet was circulated or you can call **Paul Dodson** who is coordinating the volunteers (**SEE DETAILS AT THE END OF THE NEWSLETTER.**)

Vicki Kunde finds that we have too many toys for Sarah's House alone. She and Jim are asking for the names of other local organizations for which handmade wooden toys might be appropriate. **In no way should this be taken that we don't need more toys, rather it means that we are doing a great job and we need to find more recipients.**

Anyone wishing to go with **Vicki** to deliver the toys to Sarah's House should meet at 8:30 am, Friday, December 13, behind the Dunkin Donuts on Route 175 in Ft. Meade. It is worth the effort to see the expression on the kid's faces.

Members may **list tools** they have for sale on the website under the "Members Only" section.

DOOR PRIZES: **Don Ames** won the grand prize-of-the-day – the new in box Lie-Nielsen #4 smoothing plane. **Leo Bessenhoffer** won the package of tack clothes and **Chris McDonald** took away the non-skid router pad.



PROBLEM BOX: **Q:** How to route an edge on a 30" round table without causing "tear out"?

A: Take small cuts, and sweeping from left to right if the router is on top of the piece.

SHOW AND TELL: (Jack Hirrlinger coordinator)
(President's note: "Show and 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 turn out like you wanted. All can be displayed and instructional")

Several of the Show and tell items were left over from the October program about jigs and fixtures but were limited by time and were not shown at that meeting.

Denny Scrivens was first up with a small jig that is an essential part in the making of small Celtic crosses. It assures a degree of uniformity when drilling the partial holes where the four arms of a cross come together.



Jim Francis showed his collection of "preachers". Preachers are small pieces of board of exact thickness. Preachers are used to mark other boards assuring duplication in size. **Jim** also showed his jig for making string molding. This is more than handy for those who use string decoration especially when making colonial pieces.



Dave Tate showed a simple frame in which were housed five ribbons he won at the fair for various wood projects. It was his message that the competition for honors at the County Fair is pretty light and he urged Guild members to enter.



Lloyd Gleason showed a nicely made small helicopter of sycamore. The spinning helicopter was one of twelve **Lloyd** made as his part in the Toys for Sarah's House project.

Rich Valentich presented a small and nicely carved head of a bearded old man in a long red hood. The piece was made to hang on the wall. It marks the beginning of a long and hopefully distinguished career in carving.



Jack "Pop Pop" Hirrlinger showed and told about making a neat little airplane that he made for his grandchildren in California. It was solidly built and will survive many emergency landings and hair-raising crashes.



SPEAKER: Our speaker, **Michael Clarkson**, was introduced by the **Guild's Program Chairman, Hugh Houghton**, to bring us detailed information on making chairs, furniture and tools using green wood. **Mr. Clarkson's** demonstration included several techniques for making legs and rungs for a colonial ladder-back chair. For the most part, he prefers to rive the material out of white oak or birch. He begins to make a chair by cleaving in twain a piece of oak of the proper length. The subsequent pieces are cleft in equal halves until he has pieces about the size of the legs he is making. The piece is held firmly in the jaws of a shaving horse (holdfast). When they are square and the right dimensions he adjusts his holdfast so the he can plane the four edges to produce an octagonal leg. Each leg is made separately into an octagon then rounded by scrubbing with a sharp hand plane. The same process is followed for the rungs. Finally, **Mr. Clarkson** makes the round tenons using a lathe for some and for others a tenon former he bought through the Veritas Tool catalog. **Mr. Clarkson** learned much of his craft from **John Alexander** who spoke to our Guild years ago about the beauties of greenwood case pieces, stools, etc. When the greenwood rungs and rails are dried to the proper level they are connected to wetter styles and chair legs. Thus as the drier pieces absorb moisture they swell while the wetter pieces begin to dry and to shrink. A very tight joint is thus made without the use of glue.

Few tools are used to produce authentic looking colonial furniture and tools. **Michael** demonstrated the fro and maul, scrub plane and the drawknife. His tools were sharp and well applied. It is an interesting side path of woodworking, one fraught with historical lore and knowledge. Once again **Hugh Houghton** has produced an informative and interesting program!



AWG MENTOR LIST: We are still looking for members who are willing to be mentors in the following areas: Band Saw; Turning; 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; wasdfames@verizon.net

Routing ~ Laminating; Houghton, Hugh/ 410 -263-8615 / hjhoughton@comcast.net;

Scrollsaw; Allred, Win /301- 587-3821 / winallred@yahoo.com ;

Scrollsaw; Dodson, Paul/ 410 -760-5382/ pdwoodcrafts@verizon.net

Skills improvement; Shaker Boxes; Marquetry;

Inlay: Jim Luck / 410-647-6622 / 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

Toys ~ Electrical Problems; Hirlinger, Jack/ 410-798-1339/ tjhirr@verizon.net



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



MEMBERSHIP NEWS: President **Jim Francis** introduced new member **Dave Markham** who was warmly welcomed to our meeting.

Please remember to wear your nametags at our General Membership Meetings (GMM). If any of your



FINISHING SEMINAR

PETER GEDRYS

On November 16 and 17, about 40 members of the Guild along with guests from the Howard County Woodworkers Guild attended a seminar on the topic of applying a finish to our projects. The seminar was supported, in part, by an endowment from past member **Bill Shramm**. Bill wanted to provide funding to be used specifically on seminars and training programs. The seminar by Peter Gedrys certainly fulfilled Bill's vision.



Peter Gedrys is a professional wood finisher whose business is located in East Haddam, Connecticut. He spent over seven hours each day sharing with us his experiences in a hand-on demonstration delivered in an engaging and at times humorous manner. Peter was presented with two challenges during the two days. The first was to make a poplar box made by **Pat Applegate** appear to have been made out of cherry. The finished box will be given out as a door prize at the Holiday Dinner. The second challenge was to “repair” the finish to a dusty shelf clock **Jim Francis** purchased at a yard sale.



Friday's seminar focused on preparing the wood for a finish. This involved sanding steps, grain filling, dyes, stains, tints and glazes. Most importantly, we learned the differences between dyes and stains and how to optimally use each. Reputable sources for these products and suggestions for the most commonly used colors were discussed. To the shock of the attendees, Peter applied a blue dye to a piece of curly maple. Using the color wheel, which was the basis for most of his presentation on coloring, he showed how an application of a yellow dye on top of the blue wood produced a beautiful warm brown color to the maple. Understanding the color wheel is simple but basic to producing desired colors on wood, either a new finish or in matching an existing finish. In this demonstration, Peter started the process of turning poplar into cherry by applying coats of dye to Pat's box.

Using four shades of gel stains, Peter demonstrated how colors could be added to produce desired shades or where a gel stain could be used as a glaze. A glaze is a translucent color over a sealed surface. In applying a glaze to tight corners or along applied trim, it is possible to add the appearance of age to a newly made piece. We also learned how

to use paste filler to fill the grain in open-pore wood, such as mahogany, and how to seal a dyed, stained, glazed or tinted surface prior to application of the finish.



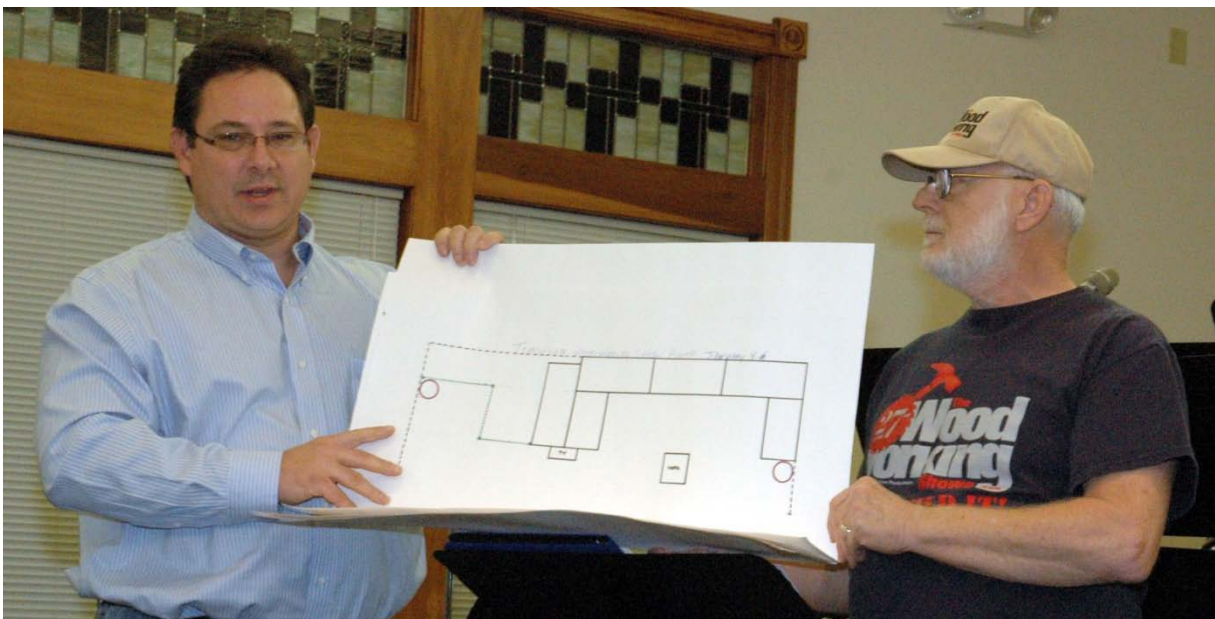
On Saturday, the day was devoted to the application of finishes. He explained the differences between the different types of varnishes and the best use of each. His preferred method of producing a shellac finish is by padding on the finish. This is similar to a French polish, but is not the same thing. We learned how to make a pad and witnessed how to apply a beautiful shellac finish quickly and easily. Importantly, Peter showed us how to correct mistakes that beginners inevitably make. A first coat of shellac was applied to Pat's box on Saturday.

Throughout the seminar, Peter emphasized the need to practice finishes on a scrap piece of the wood the project is made from and then to practice again. Finishing need not be the chore that woodworkers hate to do after building a project – it can enhance the beauty of that object.

The seminar was taped. Anyone who wishes to view the tape should contact Pat Applegate.

Timonium Woodworking Show January 4th, 5th, and 6th 2013.

Tom and Paul displaying the show booth layout.



ATTENTION MEMBERS: Tom says if you would like to have any of your projects displayed in the Guild's booth please contact him (tom@vav1.com or phone: 443-577-2552) . He will need to know by December 21st 2012 if you want any of your items to be displayed. He will also need to know what the item is; the wood it is made from; its size; and if you want it to be picked up (he has help to do that). Tom explained if anyone plans on personally bringing their items to the show, the deadline is no later than 10 am Friday, 4 January, 2013. He said he cannot have people bringing things unannounced, they will not be shown to avoid the apparent issues from last year of not knowing what was coming or having items unorganized for the booth.