

The Colonial Woodcutter

The Newsletter of the
Annapolis Woodworkers Guild

Meeting 7:00 PM February 13th, Davidsonville United Methodist Church

FEBRUARY Speaker:
David Kelsey
Whiskey Woodworks

February 2025

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Newsletter Submissions

If you have new projects, tools or fixtures that may interest to others, or if you have found a wood related news story, please share them with the Guild. Send a description, with pictures if possible, for inclusion in the Colonial Woodcutter to the editor, Duncan Adams at duncanladams@gmail.com. Items submitted by the first Thursday of the month will be published.

Many thanks to those who contributed to this month's issue.

February 2025 President's Message

Guild Members,

So, let's see. It's still cold out, so for many of us getting into our shops takes some real motivation. Wrestling season is winding down to tournament time. (Genna and I work the scorer tables. Best seat in the house and getting paid to watch wrestling!) We often get a mid-month snowfall, hooray...and, Valentines' day arrives. Kind of makes February the month of love. I touched on loving people versus things in a message a while back. So, is it "ok" to love woodworking? Woodworking isn't really a thing, and of course it's not a person. It's our craft. We often create gifts in our wood shops to give to our loved ones which often bring a smile. I'm pretty sure it's OK to love our craft, especially when we put it to use bringing a little joy to other's lives. I'm thinking of the toy shop and the couple of thousand kids who gave us a nice smile this past Christmas. We have so many outstanding craftsmen in our Guild. It is a real pleasure to be a part of it. Sharing what we've created, sharing what we've learned, solving other's problems – this is a real fellowship we have, and all because of our love for woodworking. Fire up the heaters and make some sawdust!



Stay warm,

Jim

Remember – Dues are due

Please remember that it is time to pay your 2025 Guild dues of \$50. If you have not yet paid you can give Treasurer Vince Antonioli a check at the monthly meeting or send him a check at the address below.

AWG
C/o Vince Antonioli
23408 Neck Road
Aquasco, MD 20608

February Monthly Meeting

**Thursday, February 13th, 2024, 7:00PM
Davidsonville United Methodist Church
819 W Central Ave, Davidsonville, MD 21035**

Please join us for our monthly meeting of the Guild. Please consider contributing to the “show-n-tell.” If you have an item you wish to show bring it to any meeting, leave it on the front table. There you will find a sign up clip board. Please write your name and description of the item. When your turn comes describe your project including wood species, finish, special techniques you used and any unusual problem you had to solve.

If you want to show off a project that is too large to bring to the meeting you have the option of showing your work via video or pictures. If you want to present a video or pictures at the meeting contact Chris Desautels before the meeting date at: Christopher.desautels@gmail.com or 301-332-8490.

February Speaker

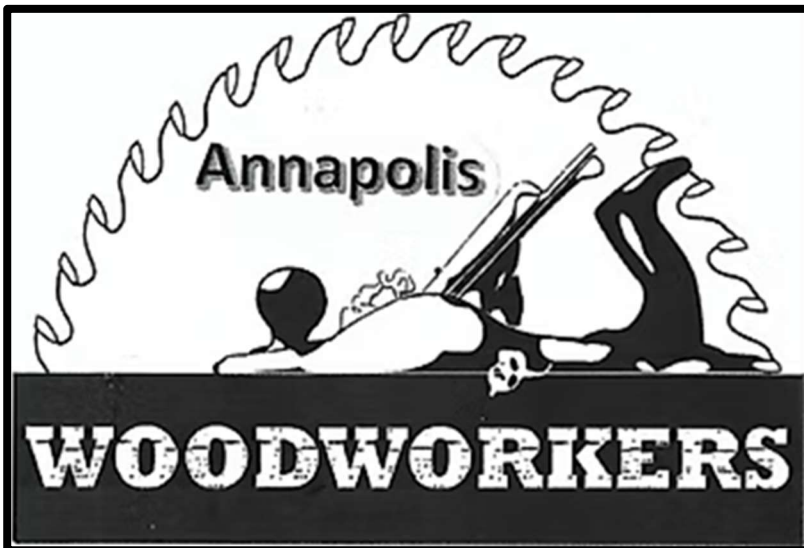
David Kelsey of Whiskey Woodworks will visit the Guild this month. Whiskey Woodworks embraces woodworking as an art form rooted in tradition and craftsmanship. Their goal is to create pieces that can be passed down through generations. They use only the finest materials in a variety of sustainably sourced woods, carefully selecting each piece for its unique beauty and character.

Whiskey Woodworks specializes in cutting boards, charcuterie boards, and serving trays and also offers a range of woodworking services including custom furniture, cabinetry, millwork, and architectural woodworking.



February Raffle

The February meeting raffle will feature two fine items – Rockler glue accessory kit and \$50 HValley Tools gift card.



January Meeting

President Jim Cowan called the meeting to order with a couple of announcements. First, after years of service Tom Dettweiler has retired as membership chair. Harry Chavez will take up the reins. The Guilds thanks Tom for his service and Tom for volunteering.

Jim then introduced Andy Borland who presented a report on the history of the Guild's toy making group and the 2024 activities.

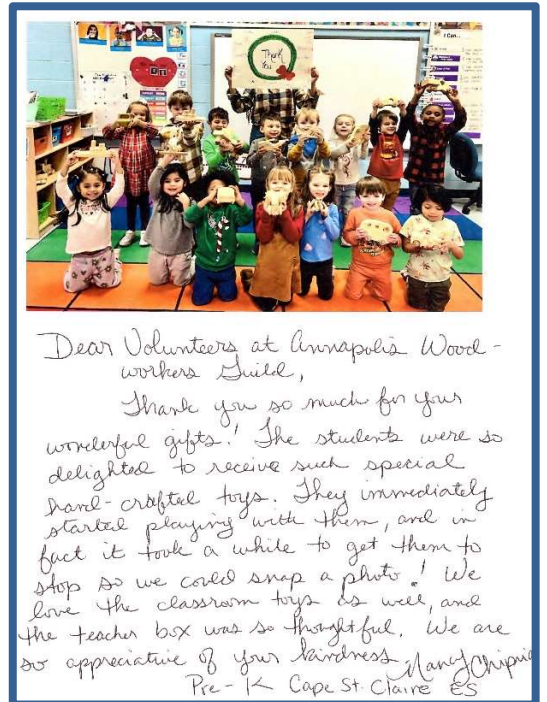


Toy Group Report

The Guild's charity toy making project was started by Vicki Kunde (far left) who, coordinated the work of individual members in their shops and collected wooden toys for delivery at Christmas time. A few years later, in 2013, Andy Borland built his shop and regular Monday morning toy work shop began. In 2013

they produced about 500 toys and have expanded to produce over 3000 toys in 2024 which were delivered to sixty one of Anne Arundel County's sixty four elementary schools that have pre-kindergarten and seven charities. Andy asked that if any members know of a charity that works with children they contact him so we can get them on next year's list.

The cost of materials to complete 2024 project was over \$2200, which was provided by Guild funds and generous donations from members. If you can, please consider a donation to support this worthy effort. It can't happen without your help.



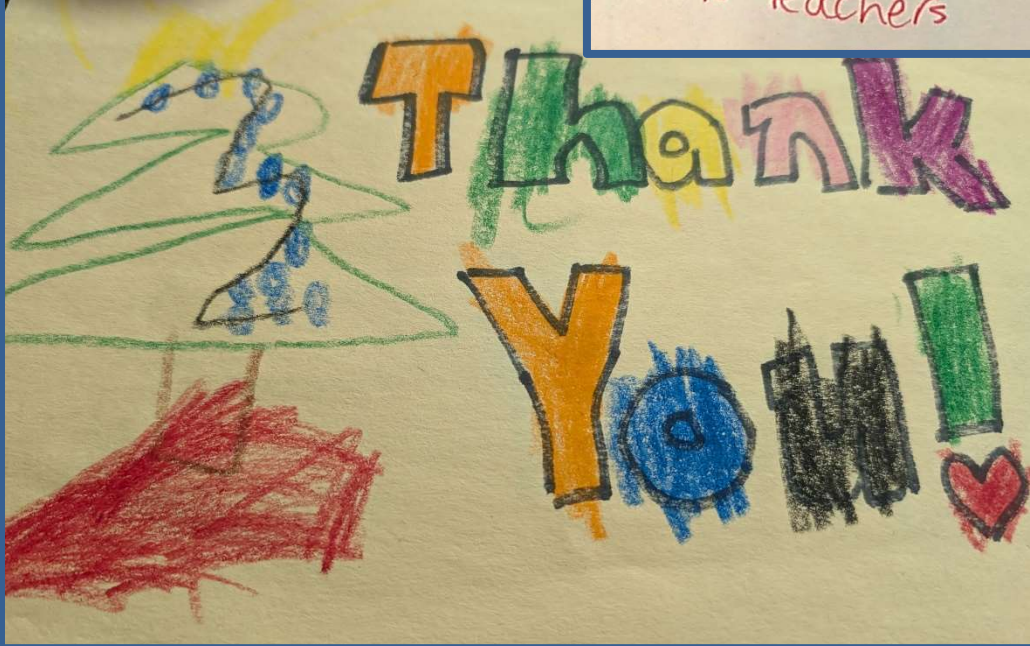


Thank
You!

Jan 3, 2025
Dear Volunteers with the Annapolis
Woodworkers Guild,

Thank you so much for providing
the wooden toys for our Pre-K
students at Seven Oaks Elementary
School! We really appreciate your
efforts and the time and energy
that went in to making the vehicles.
Several of our students chose to
draw vehicles for you all as
a way of saying thank you.

All the best,
Mrs. Hammer and Ms. Smigal,
Pre-K teachers



January Speaker: Cody Palmer

Knotty Viking Custom Woodwork



Cody Palmer is the founder of Knotty Viking Custom Woodwork (2023), which is dedicated to creating high-quality, eco-friendly kitchen products. Tonight he discussed his cutting boards.

Cody uses woods with Janka hardness numbers between 800 and 1600 – softer woods do not resist cutting and harder woods can dull or break knives. Within that range he chooses closed grain woods, preferably those with antibacterial properties such as cherry or black walnut. Purple heart is an example of wood that he does not use, though it is popular in other uses, because it is too hard (Janka 2520) and it is “food contact safe” but not “food safe.” He buys all his lumber at Maryland Select Hardwoods in La Plata.

All Cody’s cutting boards are between 1 ½” and 2 ¼” thick because he wants them to last for years. His goal is to create pieces that become family heirlooms for his customers. He makes thinner pieces, but only as charcuterie boards. Most of his cutting boards are end grain boards and he favors intricate designs like the chaotic pattern board at the

bottom left, which is very popular with customers.

To flatten his cutting boards he uses a planer and controls tear out by routing a ¼” to 1/2” round over on the trailing edge. For glue he prefers Titebond III which he has tested for resistance to exposure to heat cycles.



Cody's final finish is his own wood cream containing bees wax, coconut oil and mineral oil. He sells it in in 8 oz. jars for \$20.



Cody’s shop is a 24 x 12 foot building powered via a 100 foot extension cord. In it he has a \$100 Craftsman jobsite table saw and a DeWalt planer. His only other power tools are a router and a hand held sander. Knotty Viking has been selling at craft shows, but Cody is now working on building up on-line sales.



Show and Tell

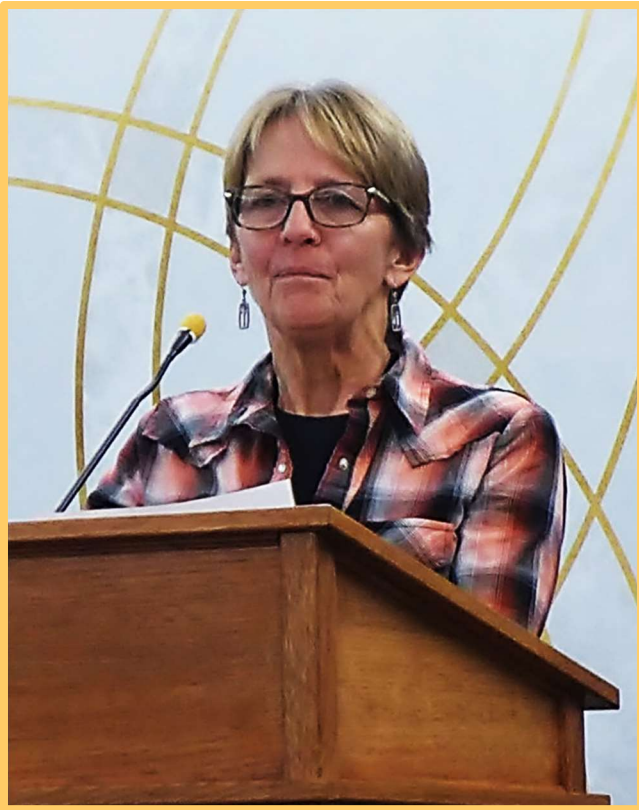
Ann Sentinella brought three cutting boards that she's made. She finishes them with Howard's Cutting Board Oil.



Chris Bucknall's wife received a beautiful duck decoy as an award in her workplace. Sadly, their new puppy thought it was a chew toy and badly damaged it.

Chris is looking for advice for getting it restored. Please contact the editor if you have a suggestion.

Safety Brief



First vice president Ann Sentinella presented the safety brief, suggesting that members think of using the winter season as an occasion to work on maintenance of their equipment. Machines are safer when they are running in good order, so it is important to make sure that blades are sharp and lubrication points are taken care of. If you have a tool that is making a funny noise you should stop and check it out.

Annapolis Makerspace

Need shop space?
Do you enjoy learning?
Want to meet other people like you?

Tools Available: Mitre Saw, Drill Press, Table Saw, Spindle Sander, Drum Sander, Band Saw, 20" Planer, Joiner, Various Hand Tools, 4x8ft CNC ShopSaber CNC Router, 100W CO Laser Cutter, 3D Printers, Cricut, SailRite Sewing Machine

Want to learn more?
Visit our website at:
www.MakeAnnapolis.org

Join Today!

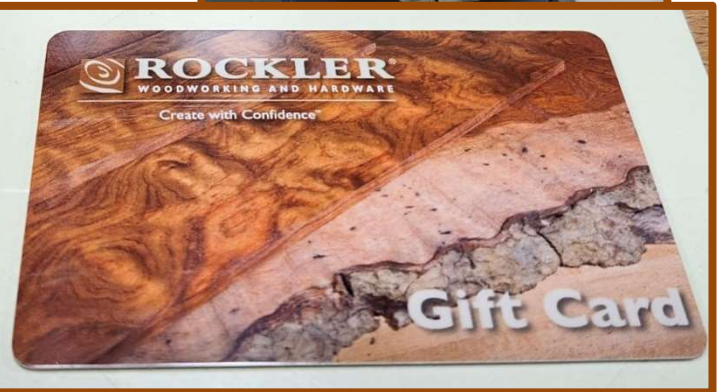
 [facebook.com/ AnnapolisMakerspace](https://facebook.com/AnnapolisMakerspace)
 [@annapolismakers](https://twitter.com/annapolismakers)

24 / 7 access is only \$65 per month



January Raffle

Paul Dodson conducted the monthly raffle and the members below won the prizes.



Eric Wilson - Two 3/4 x 4 x 18 Purple Heart Boards

Roger Behrend - \$50 Rockler Gift Card

Recruitment and Outreach Program

Candee van Iderstine will continue to coordinate the AWG outreach program in 2025. If anyone is aware of any craft fairs (maybe their church or community center), let her know via email and she will try to secure us a spot to display. This recruitment/outreach must be an ongoing effort to grow the club.



Safety First

Ann Sentinella

Distractions in the workshop occur when something takes the focus away from what you're working on. This is especially dangerous when you are working with a power tool, knife, or blade. Some examples of distractions are:

- Electronic devices – keep your phone away from the work bench so you are not tempted to glance at the screen when you receive a call or a text. Stay focused on your hands and the spinning blade, belt, drill bit...
- Conversations – even casual conversation can distract you from what you're working on; and if you walk up to someone engaged on a power tool, wait until they are. Consider putting a sign on your workshop door so no one walks in suddenly, possibly startling you.
- Visual distraction – looking away from the work area, even for a split second, can be hazardous when using power tools; stay focused, even if you hear or see something from across the room.
- Cluttered workspace – a messy/disorganized work area is in itself a distraction. Likely, you can't find a tool or a tape that you need because it wasn't put back where it belonged.
- Mental distraction – be careful working in your shop if you are preoccupied with other things. Daydreaming; worrying; thoughts of upcoming plans, can impair your focus and reaction time.
- Physical distraction – any physical discomfort: pain, hunger, cold, or fatigue can cause you to lose focus, and lead to accidents.

A few suggestions to keep you safer in the workshop:

1. When you do get distracted, stop what you're doing and address the issue.
2. Always allow time at a project's end to clean the workspace and return tools to their "home."
3. Take periodic breaks to get a drink or snack, to stretch stiff muscles, to take a brief walk to clear your head.

So, get out in your workshop. Have fun. Stay safe. Avoid distractions. Make some sawdust!

Chesapeake Art Center

Located in the former Brooklyn Park High School (194 Hammonds Lane), the Chesapeake Arts Center (CAC) is a 58,000 square foot facility supporting the arts in multiple disciplines. Part of the facility is dedicated to a maker space which includes a substantial collection of tools, including 3 Drill Presses, DeWalt Compound Mitre Saw, 3 Band Saws, SawStop, Delta Spindle Sander, Jet Belt and Disc Sander, Jet Drum Sander, Jet Jointer, DeWalt Planer, Kreg Router Table, Milwaukee Panel Saw, 2 Lathes (Grizzly and JET). They offer classes as well as Open Studio time. The fee for a day pass in the Open Studio is \$15 and there is a monthly pass for CAC members.



Photo credit, Google Maps

Link to their maker space page: <https://www.chesapeakearts.org/makerspace>

Planer Available

Scott Woodbine, who spoke at a Guild meeting few years ago, has a grizzly 6 inch jointer that he does not need anymore. If anybody in the club is interested he will give them a very good deal on it. You can contacted him at scott@salanwoodbine.com if you are interested.

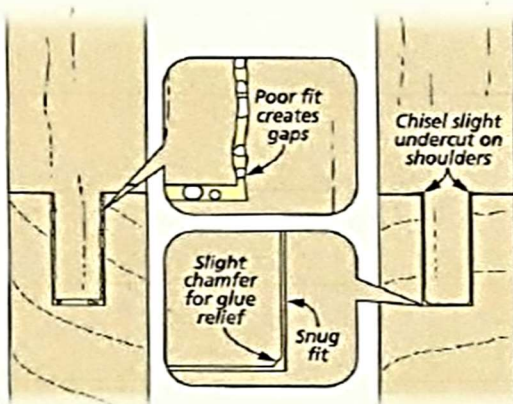


hand tool skills

perfecting a

Mortise & Tenon Joint

Cutting joinery with power tools works great. But fine-tuning the fit with a chisel and a hand plane kicks your craftsmanship up to the next level.



▲ The joint on the left has poorly mated surfaces, resulting in a weak bond. On the right, flat glue surfaces create a stronger bond.

Learning to make solid mortise and tenon joinery is a fundamental woodworking skill. And with the power tools in most woodworking shops, it's not a difficult joint to make. You just drill out most of the waste for a mortise and cut a matching tenon on the table saw using either a dado blade or a tenon jig. After that, it's just a matter of cleaning up the sides of the mortise with a sharp chisel.

Before going any further, it's worth taking a closer look at the joint. As you can see in the drawing at left, a mortise with uneven walls combined with a tenon that still has saw marks makes for a

joint that has two unmatched components and a lot of surface that never comes in contact.

No matter how strong your glue is, it can't save a joint like this. The second drawing shows a tight-fitting mortise and tenon joint. The smooth walls of the mortise and the flattened face of the tenon provide plenty of surface contact for the glue to do its job. So, the question is, how can you turn the rough-sawn tenons and drilled-out mortises into a tight-fitting joint.

The answer is in learning how to use a couple of hand tools effectively. The first tool is the simple

chisel, or in this case, a couple of chisels. With a chisel, you can pare away the ridges left by the overlapping drilled holes and make a smooth surface. The second tool you'll need is a shoulder plane like the one in the main photo on the facing page.

MORTISES

The first step to getting smooth walls is to pare away the ridges left by drilling out the waste. Keeping the chisel straight as you do this can be a challenge. By clamping a shop-made guide next to the mortise and clamping the workpiece to a bench, you can use the guide to keep the chisel vertical (photo at right).

TECHNIQUES. I usually make the first few chisel cuts with the aid of a mallet. This is the quickest way to remove waste. After getting rid of the biggest parts, paring cuts will finish up the mortise.

You'll need to find a position that allows you to use your weight to your advantage. For most of us, this means leaning

over the workpiece a little bit so your paring cuts are forceful enough to shave away the waste. That's the important task for now, just getting things smooth on the sides of the mortise.

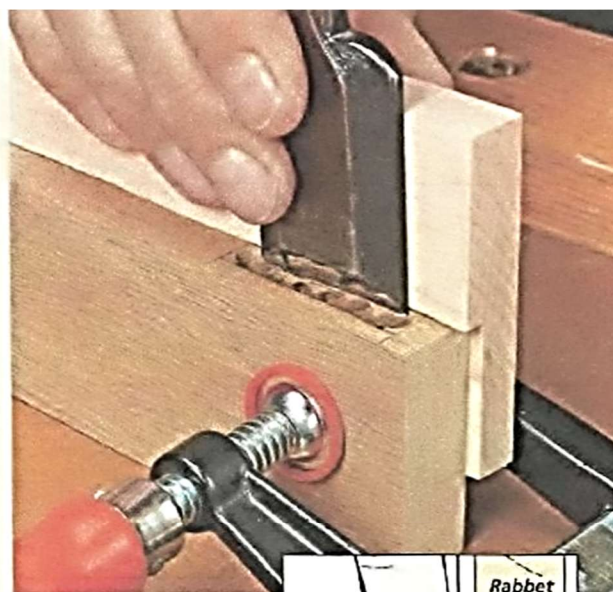
When you have achieved that, make a final stroke down the side. One stroke guarantees that there aren't any steps, or notches in the mortise. Use the same technique (with a narrower chisel) on the ends of the mortises.

TENONS

The same problems arise after cutting tenons, especially if you use a dado blade to make the cuts. You can see the ridges on the surface of the cheeks that prevent a good glue bond. Fortunately, the solution is pretty simple.

SHOULDER PLANE. To say that a shoulder plane was made for the task of refining joinery is an understatement. The name actually comes from its role in trimming the shoulders of the tenon. One thing that distinguishes a shoulder plane from most others is that the blade is just a hair wider than the plane body. This allows you to cut right up to the corner of a joint.

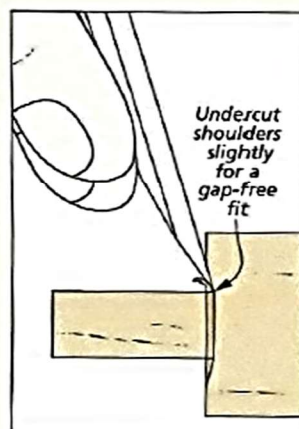
On many shoulder planes, the mouth is also adjustable. This lets you size the opening to suit the task at hand. Open it up a bit for rough work, or bring it close to the blade for fine work. The top photo at left shows how you can use the shoulder plane



▲ A simple guide block helps you keep the paring cuts square.



▲ A shoulder plane makes quick work of removing saw marks on cheeks and stepped shoulders.



to smooth the cheeks. The bottom photo shows the plane in use cleaning up a stepped shoulder, which is a small rise from being slightly off the mark at the table saw.

TECHNIQUES. For both tasks, the first step is to secure the workpiece in a vise or clamp it to the bench. With the workpiece secured, there are a just few things to keep in mind.

First, set the blade for a shallow cut. You want to take off very thin, wispy shavings as you go. Practice on a test piece using the same stock as your project.

The second thing to watch out for is tearing out the edges of the workpiece as you finish the cut. If the wood fibers are unsupported, you'll need to plane just over halfway, then complete the cut from the opposite edge.

UNDERCUTTING. Another trick for getting a tight joint line is to slightly undercut the shoulders. The idea is to remove a tiny bit of material that could prevent the joint from closing when it's glued up (drawing at left).

With these hand tools and the right techniques for using them, you're well on your way to producing first-class mortise and tenon joints every time. **W**

This month's tip is reproduced with the permission of Woodsmith Magazine.

One on One Skills Classes and Instructors

Rick Hodgdon is setting up a program that will enable members to learn woodworking skills from experienced woodworkers in one-on-one settings. If you are interested in learning or improving your skills in the areas listed below, feel free to contact the instructor and schedule a session.

Member/Instructor	Skills	Email address
Rick Hodgdon	Veneering -- Table saw	mattaponiguy@gmail.com
Bill Carbin	Box Making	carbinwilliamj@yahoo.com
Chris Desautels	Chairmaking: Maloof and Windsor	christopher.desautels@gmail.com
Carl Wick	Basic Lathe Skills	cewick70@gmail.com
Bob Ashby	Routers, Shapers and Moulding	toolsrus1958@gmail.com
Paul Dodson	Scroll Saw, Basic woodworking, Shop Safety on any machine	pdwoodcrafts@verizon.net
Harry Chavez	Scroll Saw and Intarsia	harry.chavez@gmail.com
Adam Schmitt	General woodworking	scott@salanwoodbine.com
Dennis Harvey	Pen making	denharv@aol.com
Bill Kovalick	General woodworking / Adirondack furniture	bkovalick@gmail.com
Bill Schneck	Woodworking machine operations & safety, Basic joinery, dovetails mortise and tennon	mrwoodbutcher@comcast.net
Joe Epperson	Medium level woodworking	joedirt3478@outlook.com
Phil Christenson	Handcut dovetails, Tablesaw techniques	machristenson@aol.com

AWG Member Mentors

Want to learn a new skill? AWG has many member-mentors to help you. See the list below to con-tact one.

Have a vexing woodworking problem? There may be many other members with the same situation. AWG has a “problem box” where you can anonymously place your problem or question for discussion and possible solutions at the next meeting. You will find the box at a table near the meeting hall entrance door (when we are back in session at the church). Until then send your problems to the editor, President, or other AWG officer.

Last Name	First Name	Phone	E-mail	Mentor Subject
Ames	Don	410-268-0509	dfames@verizon.net	Use and maintenance of Edge Tools (planes, chisels, scrapers)
Ashby	Bob	410-969-2910	toolsrus58@comcast.net	Shapers, router tables and tooling for same
Chavez	Harry	410-863-5940	harry.chavez@gmail.com	Intarsia
Dodson	Paul	410-984-8488	pdwoodcrafts@verizon.net	Scroll saws and scrolling
Harvey	Dennis	240-463-4641	denharv@aol.com	Pen making
Hirrlinger	Jack	410-798-1339	tjhirr@verizon.net	Toys, tricks and puzzles
Luck	Jim	410-647-6622	jfl639@verizon.net	Inlay and shaker boxes
McDonald	Chris	410-326-1685	cmcdonald@thewavaz.com	Cabinets

AWG Officers

(June 2024 —May 2025 Term)

President – James Cowan
1st Vice President – Ann Sentinella
2nd Vice President – Carl Wick
Secretary – Jim Menefee
Co-Treasurers – Vince Antonioli and
Rodger Young
Tour Coordinator – Open
Program Committee – Brian Parker, Sue
Springett, Bob Ashby, Art Mensch
and Carl Wick
Newsletter Editor – Duncan Adams

Historian - Open
Endowment Coordinator – Bill Carbin
Entertainment Coordinator – Paul Dodson
Out Reach – Candy Van Iderstine
Show & Tell Coordinator – Bill Carbin
Special Projects Coordinator – Open
Membership Chairperson – Harry Chavez
Charity Coordinator—Andy Borland
Webmaster— Tyler Quevedo
Education Chair—Rick Hodgdon

MEMBERSHIP and MEETINGS

Membership is open to all interested Woodworkers.

Annual Dues: Current members renew dues in January at \$50.

New members added during the course of the calendar year will be assessed dues that are a pro-rata portion of the remainder of the full calendar year during the month joined.

General Membership Meetings:

2nd Thursday of each month 7 PM
Davidsonville United Methodist Church
819 W Central Ave, Davidsonville, MD 21035

Executive Board Meetings:

4th Thursday of the Month at 7 PM
By phone/video until further notice
All are welcome at board meetings
Contact a board member for invitation

CONTACT INFORMATION

Correspondence:

Annapolis Woodworkers Guild
P.O. Box 6001
Annapolis, MD 21401

Website:

Annapoliswoodworkers.org

AWG's Supporting Vendors



Exotic Lumber Company

1610 Whitehall Road, Annapolis, MD 21409
410-349-1705 WWW.Exoticlumber.com



Rockler Woodworking & Hardware

12975 Fair Lakes Shopping Center Ste 2975
Fairfax, VA 22033
571-435-8030
<https://www.rockler.com/retail/stores/va/fairfax-store>



Somerset Door and Column Company

174 Sagamore Street, Somerset, PA 15501
800-242-7916 WWW.Doorandcolumn.com



Klingspor

2555 Tate Boulevard Southeast, Hickory, NC 28603
800-645-5555 WWW.Klingspor.com



American Woodcrafters Supply

212 East Main, Box G, Riceville, IA 50466
800-995-4032 WWW.Americanwoodcrafterssupply.com



Bruso Hardware LLC
67-69 Greylock Avenue
Belleville, NJ 07109
212-337-8510 WWW.Brusso.com



Lake Erie Toolworks
1234 Irwin Drive, Erie, PA 16505
815-528-4337
WWW.LakeErieToolworks.com/Pages/Club
10% Online Discount Code: **AWG10**



Würth Wood Group
6660 Santa Barbara Road
Elkridge, MD 21075
410-796-7600
WWW.Wurthwoodgroup.com



Hartville Tools
Hartville, OH
800-345-2396
WWW.Hartvilletool.com

MARYLAND SELECT HARDWOODS
7470 Mason Springs Road, La Plata, Maryland
301-743-2225 Dennis.Woodruff@gmail.com

Timberline Farms Sawmill
Arnold Sewell, owner/operator
13000 Old Frederick Rd, Sykesville, MD
Phone (410) 707-0158