

# Colonial Woodcutter

*Annapolis Woodworkers Guild*

April 2020

Meetings Cancelled Until Further Notice

## AWG President's Message

by Bob Ashby



Hello again,

I write this with high hopes that everyone is well and healthy.

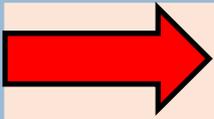
Your AWG board members started meeting over the phone this month in an effort to keep our club going and to keep our members as safe as possible. One of the things we have been talking about is to perhaps try on-line membership meetings instead of our normal church location. It was also suggested that we might undertake a contest of different projects that members have done to keep themselves busy during this time we need to stay at home. We will advertise changes by newsletter and by email as they occur—please stay tuned in. It is also, of course, a time of need, a time that we all pull together. I have been a member for about 15 years and in that time I have been secretary for two years and program chair for four years. As first vice and president I can tell you that Guild members have always had my back. I could not have made it through this year with work and a few other things that have gone on without your support. My guild is not just my friends, it's more like a family. I know if I need something all I need to do is pick up the phone and someone will try to help me. So, in this time of need if someone needs something, just reach out and ask. Right now like a lot of other people I am not working. I just turned 62 and I do not have underlined issues. So I am not as worried about going to the store as some people might be. So to any member that might need something that I could get and drop off—just ask. If you just want to talk about a project give me a call. We need each other to get past this event. Don't forget you have your friends in the guild to help and don't be shy about asking if you need help. We are all in this together and hopefully it will be over soon.

I look forward to when we can get back to a normal routine and meetings. I do miss them.

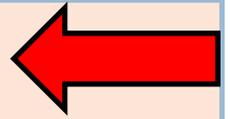
Stay healthy and safe!

BobA

## **April Announcements**



**No April Meeting**



**No April Class**

**April will reportedly still occur**

We're pretty sure....

### **Future Classes**

Would you be interested in future classes on the use/maintenance of routers? Perhaps in a class to help you make scroll saw boxes? Your board continues to actively look for class/demonstration ideas that would help broaden the interest and skills of a broad segment of Guild membership. If you are interested in the subject areas above or have another interest you would like your Guild to pursue once we are operating in normal mode again, contact one of your board members!

## Cabin-19 Fever Show-N-Tell

You're stuck at home—the 'Gov' is telling you to stay inside—all you have left in the world is to spend your days working in your shop.....

Can it get any BETTER than this??



Paul Dodson knows an opportunity when he sees it—here are some of his latest scroll saw box creations! Some even allow for 'social separation' of your favorite keepsakes.



There's something in your shop that wants your attention—a little bit each day is all it needs—and now you've got the time—in spades!

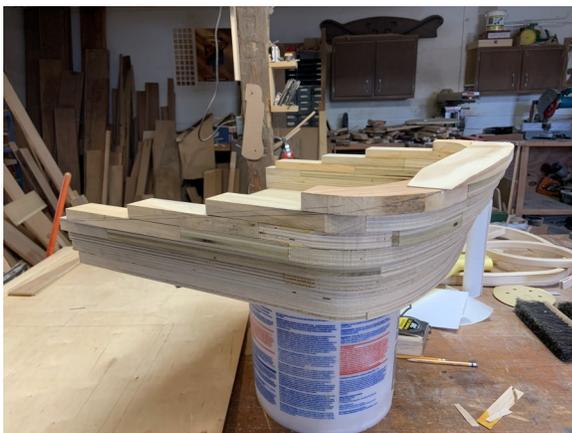


## Cabin-19 Fever Show-N-Tell

Rick Hodgdon is not one to let sawdust settle anywhere. He's refinishing a kitchen table he built years ago and is constructing a pulpit. Here we see a couple steps of that journey.



Pop Quiz: what species of wood is used in Rick's table? (ans in the usual place)



You've all heard endlessly that this is going to last a while. Take advantage of these moments to create something more memorable than a virus. When you do, send your photos to your equally sequestered editor! Now, get in your shop—doctor's orders!



# Feature Story

## Just Don't Fall Down My Stairs!

Or

We all make mistakes—don't we? don't we?

An error opus of ten parts

By

**Candee Van Iderstine**



Mistake #1- I just wanted to make a foyer seat for my husband Rich who needs to sit down to don or doff his shoes. My first mistake was thinking that this was such a simple project; one I could complete it in an hour or two (not counting finish coats).

I went to Exotic Hardwoods and said I wanted a 6' board, 9"+wide, 1" thick of some highly figured wood. After drooling over their beautiful slabs, I settled on a wenge board, which fit my specs. There were not many pieces to choose from in my size range and wider cuts were out of my price range. Only after bringing the wenge home did I look it up and find out that it is on the endangered woods list. That was Mistake #2. So I said my apologies to the earth and proceeded onward to make a 'waterfall' style bench.

After cutting miters, I decided to glue the residual miter 'triangles' together to make a wood block brace for underneath the miter corners. I glued the leftover miter cut pieces and put them in a vise overnight. In my gluing I was careful to be sure the braces would match the grain on the inside from whence they had come. After this task I glued up the bench itself, using the shelf I cut to stabilize the piece, wrapping it all in webbed clamps. Satisfied, I went back to my other life. Mistake #3.

The following day Rich looked at the glued up wood support blocks and brought up the point that they are quite small and that it would be nearly impossible to get a drill that close to the sides and top of the bench to drill and drive screws. I always think of power driving screws so fastening by hand did not even occur to me. That was Mistake #4.

So I went to the hardware store and bought inside corner braces. At least that is what the package said, and it seemed a reasonable solution. I did not notice that while it said "inside", the counter sinks for the screw heads were actually on the outside. I also did not notice it said 'made in China'. Mistake #5.

Now remember, this is a very simple bench with one shelf. The corner brace package said to drill 3/64" for the screws. I marked the screw spots and made the braces symmetrical in case anyone happened to fall down our stairs and while lying on the floor, look up and notice the braces. They are 1" in from each edge. I taped the drill bit at the desired depth so I would not drill through the wood and started to predrill the holes. The first hole went fine, but on the second one the bit came loose from the drill chuck while backing out of the hole. During multiple attempts to replace the bit and tighten the drill chuck, the bit

broke off just above the wood surface. There goes Mistake #6. Pliers and a few hours (or maybe minutes that seemed like hours) and cuss words later, the bit was out of the wood. I got another bit and drilled the remaining holes for the brace. I tried to screw one screw in and could not get it to go in, instead I stripped the screw head. Hmmm Mistake #7. Then I remembered that Rich had always suggested using soap on screw threads. It was at this point that I realized the 'inside braces' were recessed on the wrong side. Now that was already mistake #5 so I won't count it again. I decided to use the braces anyway. Mistake #8.

I insist on believing that drill and driver sets are made so that you can have a drill bit in one and drive the hardware with the other. Rich has corrected me on this in the past and insisted that a drill has better speed control for driving screws. This seemed to me to be a bit off since the drill was made for drill bits (straight shaft) and the driver fit the screw heads with a hexagonal base. So I ignored his advice. We are up to Mistake #9. Even after switching and locking the driver shaft into the drill, the screw would not go in to the wood. Hard stuff, this wenge. So I stripped another screw trying, but at least I could see the wisdom of using the speed and torque controls on the drill, instead of the driver to drive the screw in.

I check my drill bit and then check the next larger bit by holding the screw and bit together to make sure the threads will grip.  $3/32$ " (the recommended bit) was too small so I then checked  $7/64$ ". The threads were still visible outside the shaft so I changed bits again and drilled the larger holes for the first brace. I also put some soap on the threads and while the screws did not go in easily, they did go in. Then I began to drill holes for the second brace...each precisely 1" from the edge of the stool. But the bit once again came out of the chuck mid drill. Frustrated and not knowing why, I ask Rich for advice. In his attempt to help, he breaks the bit off in the wood. Ha, that was not my mistake so I won't count it. This time the bit was not coming out no matter what. So after a long time trying and cussing, I decide that since

the brace has six holes and I only planned on using 4 screws, I will let the bit reside there forever and use the adjacent hole in the brace for the screw. I realize that if someone fell down our stairs and looked up, they still might notice the screw was in the wrong hole, but I thought I could live with it. It seemed better than moving the whole brace which would certainly be noticed by any still-conscious person lying on the floor at the bottom of the stairs, looking up. As I put in all my fake-'inside' braces I then noticed how the screws, of course, don't sit flat since the brace was not recess drilled on the correct side. And one screw head is stripped and another screw is not fully in. Yup, looks pretty sloppy. Oh well, it is only a small bench.

I apply my first coat of varnish with the bench on it's side. Being clever, I did not yet permanently install the shelf so the finish would not have excess varnish in the corners of the shelf and I could keep the brush strokes smooth with the grain. With the bench on its side, the 'seat' part is now vertical. I varnish the horizontal surfaces and all looks OK so I then varnish the underside of the top (which is vertical). (Oops Mistake #10). At the time that looks OK so I varnish the (eventually very visible but still vertical) top of the seat. I go and clean the brush and when I finish, I notice the vertical pieces have sags in the varnish. Brush still wet with a bit of varnish, I smooth the sags. Nope -not a mistake. It worked OK-Phew. I finished putting multiple coats of varnish with light sanding in between and viola-the bench is friggin good enough for ME.

If you ever come over to our home, please don't fall down my stairs...but if you do, don't judge the braces under the seat miters!



## Toy Makers Mailbox

Got ‘Sawyers cramps’? Can’t think of anything to build? It turns out it doesn't take a lot to make someone else happy—a lesson our toy makers have learned many times over.



## For Sale

For Sale: Shopsmith Mark V, Model 510 plus a lot of accessories, including the bandsaw. Asking \$1750 or best offer.



Contact Paul Dodson

(410) 984-8488

If interested or if you have questions



## Segmented Cuts

### Perspiration Lumber

**Ruben Arizmendi**, local wood dealer, has offered Annapolis Woodworkers Guild members wood in exchange for labor at his shop. He will allow you to pick out the wood you desire, price it and then you can work off the cost at (NEW) \$40 per hour. No money need be exchanged—only your labor equivalent for the wood (you can, however, always buy the wood instead of supplying labor). Ruben says that a typical task he needs help with is planing raw lumber. Ruben did not supply a formal list of his wood types but is quite extensive. The deal is available now.

Ruben's business is located at 8163 New Cut Road Severn Maryland, Phone: (443)-871-3394.

### Pen Making

Want to learn the “Ins and Outs” of making fine writing instruments? Dennis Harvey has volunteered to tutor anyone interested in learning how to make keepsakes that will be treasured by yourself and others. Dennis Harvey—find him at the next meeting or call 240-463-4641.

### Volunteer at Historic London Town and Gardens

Interested in demonstrating 18<sup>th</sup> Century Carpentry?  
Join us in our Carpentry Shop, interpreting hand tool wood working.  
Period clothing is provided and an interest in Colonial American furniture is preferred.  
If interested visit <https://www.historiclondontown.org/volunteer>  
For questions, contact [visit@historiclondontown.org](mailto:visit@historiclondontown.org) or call (410) 222-1919.



No, it isn't a electron microscope shot of a virus—it's the “outside view” of a maple burl.

**Rick quiz: Persimmon!** Harvested from a tree on his property

## Mentors and Problem Solution

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

### AWG Member Mentors

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)
Applegate	Patrick	410-426-8287	patrick__applegate@comcast.net	Finishing with Shellac (brushed and padded)
Arndt	Michael	410-960-3239	MarylandWoodPro@gmail.com	General wood finishing and finish restoration/repair
Ashby	Bob	410-969-2910	toolsrus58@comcast.net	Shapers, router tables and tooling for same
Borland	Andy	410-647-1242	AHBorland@aol.com	Box making
Chavez	Harry	410-863-5940	harry.chavez@gmail.com	Intarsia
Dodson	Paul	410-760-5382	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

# Administration

## AWG OFFICERS (June 2019 —May 2020 Term)

President – Bob Ashby

1st Vice President – Bruce Mitchell

2nd Vice President – Rick Hodgdon

Secretary – Jim Menefee

Treasurer – Vince Antonioli

Tour Coordinator – Harlan Ray

Program Chairperson – Chris Desautels and  
Phil Christenson

Newsletter Editor – Carl Wick

Historian - Jim Francis

Endowment Coordinator – Bill Carbin

Entertainment Coordinator – Paul Dodson

Show Coordinator– Candee Van Iderstine

Show & Tell Coordinator – Bill Carbin

Special Projects Coordinator – Harlan Ray

Membership Chairperson – Tom Dettweiler

Librarian—Lloyd Gleason

Charity Coordinator—Andy Borland

Webmaster— Tyler Quevedo

Education Chair—Rick Hodgdon

## MEMBERSHIP and MEETINGS

Membership is open to all interested Woodworkers.

**Annual Dues: New Members Joining between Jan and June: \$50; joining between July and Sept \$25; Free between Oct and Jan, but be sure to “re-up” the following year!**

### General Membership Meetings:

**2nd Thursday of each month 7 PM**

**Davidsonville United Methodist Church**

**819 Route 214, Davidsonville, MD**

### Executive Board Meetings:

**3rd Thursday of the Month at 7 PM**

**By phone/video UFN**

**contact a board member for invitation**

**All are welcome at board meetings**

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Correspondence:

Annapolis Woodworkers Guild

P.O. Box 6001

Annapolis, MD 21401

Website:

**[Annapoliswoodworkers.org](http://Annapoliswoodworkers.org)**

## The following vendors support AWG



**Wurth Wood Group**, 6660 Santa Barbara Road, Elkridge, MD 21075

410-796-7600 [WWW.Wurthwoodgroup.com](http://WWW.Wurthwoodgroup.com)



**Hartville Tools**, Hartville, OH

800-345-2396 [WWW.Hartvilletool.com](http://WWW.Hartvilletool.com)



**Exotic Lumber Company**, 1610 Whitehall Road, Annapolis, MD 21409

410-349-1705 [WWW.Exoticlumber.com](http://WWW.Exoticlumber.com)



**Somerset Door and Column Company**, 174 Sagamore Street, Somerset, PA 15501

800-242-7916 [WWW.Doorandcolumn.com](http://WWW.Doorandcolumn.com)

## The following vendors support AWG



**Brusso Hardware LLC**, 67-69 Greylock Avenue, Belleville, NJ 07109

212-337-8510 [WWW.Brusso.com](http://WWW.Brusso.com)



**Klingspor** 2555 Tate Boulevard Southeast, Hickory, NC 28603

800-645-5555 [WWW.Klingspor.com](http://WWW.Klingspor.com)



**American Woodcrafters Supply** 212 East Main, Box G, Riceville, IA 50466

800-995-4032 [WWW.Americanwoodcrafterssupply.com](http://WWW.Americanwoodcrafterssupply.com)



**Lake Erie Toolworks** 1234 Irwin Drive, Erie, PA 16505

815-528-4337 [WWW.LakeErieToolworks.com/Pages/Club](http://WWW.LakeErieToolworks.com/Pages/Club)

10% Online Discount Code: **AWG10**