

The Colonial Woodcutter

The Newsletter of the
Annapolis Woodworkers Guild

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



November Speaker
Harry Taylor
Colonial Williamsburg Cooper

November 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.

November 2025 President's Message

Somehow we have slipped into the month of November. The leaves are falling. The days are shorter. Thanksgiving is right around the corner. It is a very busy season for me. I host Thanksgiving dinner, a Christmas caroling party in December, early Christmas dinner with my daughters and families (2 of whom fly in from out of town), and then of course, a Christmas dinner on the 25th of December. I also spend hours baking Christmas cookies.

It is a season of reflecting and of thanksgiving. I am grateful for my good health, and blessed to have a wonderful family, siblings and daughters. I am also grateful for my woodworking friends in this Guild. You all are very special to me.

We should all be thankful for our AWG officers who dedicate their time and effort to keep everything running smoothly, and for guild members who are willing to teach classes. Check your gaggle emails and our website to see what is being scheduled. Refer to page 23 of this newsletter to learn more about gaggle emails.

As a reminder, bring your 2x4 creation to the November meeting. There will be **no show and tell** at this meeting. Instead, the 2x4 contestants will talk briefly about their creation. The winning woodworker will receive a paid membership to AWG for 2026.

A few dates for you to put on your calendar:

- November 13 General Meeting: judging of the 2x4 contest; **NO Show and Tell;**
 - bring your items for the Quiet Waters Artisan Market
- November 17: we will deliver all items to Quiet Waters for the Market sale
- November 30: deadline to sign up for the Christmas dinner (see page 16)
- December 11: our annual Christmas dinner!
 - Remember to bring a home-made ornament



I hope to see you at our meeting November 13th.

Ann

annsentinella@gmail.com; 443-742-7037

Help Wanted – Help Needed

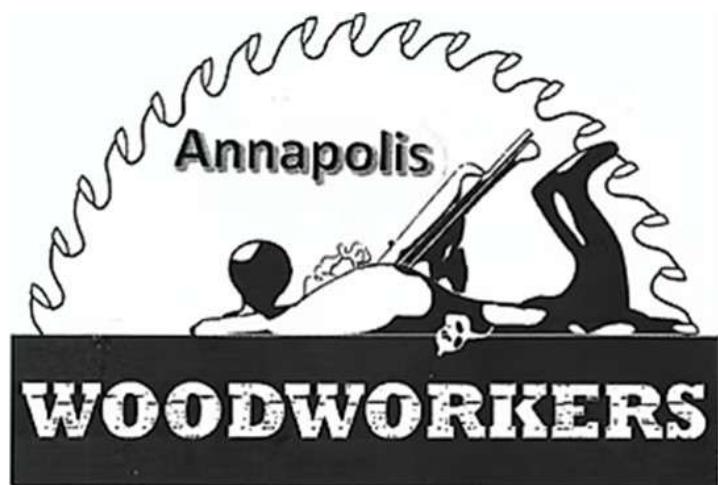
As we approach 2026, we have several open positions in our Guild which need to be filled. Please consider stepping up and helping to keep the Guild run smoothly and efficiently. “Many hands make light work.”

A. SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR: AWG sometimes receive requests from the community through our website, e.g., build a wooden puzzle for a sensory trail at Tuckahoe State Park; make a potty training platform for a preschool class in Georgetown Elementary School. The Special Projects Coordinator does not have to do the work; but, would coordinate the efforts by emailing the Guild membership of the request, and passing on the specifics of the request and the contact information of the requestor to the Guild volunteer. Additionally, you would coordinate the efforts for internal guild events, e.g., the 2x4 contest, by communicating the event to the guild, setting up parameters for the contest, finding judges, etc.

B. PROGRAM CHAIRPERSON: In the past we have been very fortunate to have a variety of speakers attend our meetings and teach us something about their woodworking craft. That is probably one of the biggest reasons members come to the general meetings. In order to continue this in 2026 we NEED someone to volunteer as Program Chairperson to coordinate future speakers for our general meetings.

C. 1st VICE PRESIDENT: Chris Bucknall is currently serving as 1st VP; but, at the end of May 2026, he will become the president of the Guild. At that time, we need someone to join our board as a 1st Vice President, to offer support to the president and the Guild. Start thinking now; can you serve on the AWG board as 1st vice president?

Please consider becoming an active member of the Guild, someone willing to give a little back in exchange for all the benefits you receive being a member of AWG. It doesn't matter if you are a master woodworker or a novice woodworker; a member for 12 years, or a member for 3 months. What matters is your attitude and your willingness to help. If you have any questions, reach out to Ann or to any of the board members.



November Monthly Meeting

**Thursday, November 13th, 2025, 7:00PM
Davidsonville United Methodist Church
819 W Central Ave, Davidsonville, MD 21035**

Please join us for our monthly meeting of the Guild.

This month's meeting will feature judging of the 2 x 4 project contest. This will occur in the second half of the meeting after the speaker's presentation. Note that there will be no show and tell portion of the November meeting.

November Speaker Harry Taylor

The November speaker will be Harry Taylor, cooper at Colonial Williamsburg. He will talk about the traditional wood working techniques used in the cooper shop.

November Raffle

The November meeting's raffle will feature these fine items and a \$50 Woodcraft gift card.



Christmas Toy Donations

Christmas is just around the corner and the elves in Andy's shop have been working hard. If you are an off-site elf and have toys to donate, bring them to the October or November meeting, or, you can get them to Andy's house before Thanksgiving. Santa will begin his flights on December 1st.

And remember that the success of the Guild's toy donation project depends on funding by the Guild and by generous donations from individual members. We extend our thanks to those who donated this year, and request that any members who can do so consider supporting the 2026 effort. If you want to make a donation, which is tax deductible, contact the treasurer, Vince Antonioli.

vincentantonioli1969@gmail.com



An open letter to Rich Conlon Chesapeake Building Components Inc

Dear Rich,

On behalf of the Annapolis Woodworkers Guild (AWG) Toy Group and the thousands of Anne Arundel County preschool children we want to express our most sincere thank you for your generous participation with our efforts.

The #1 prime pine lumber you donated enabled us to create over 3000 quality toys for the littles. We generally receive thank you notes and sometimes pictures from a few of the teachers and kids. They really make all the effort quite gratifying. We will share what we get with you for your own gratification and to maybe dress up your office wall.

In closing once again thank you very much.

The AWG Toy Group

October Meeting

President Ann Sentinella opened the meeting with reminders of ongoing and upcoming events including; the conclusion of the 2 x 4 project contest, Rick Hodgdon still has slabs to sell, Rodger Young's plane and chisel sharpening class was a success and a lathe tool sharpening class is planned, and the Christmas dinner is planned for December 11 – price is \$55 per person. A sign-up sheet was passed around for those providing items for the Quiet Waters sale.

Also, Rick Hodgdon will be holding a veneer class in December and a marquetry class in 2026. A sign-up sheet was passed for both.



October Speakers

Chris Desautels – Moisture Content: The Crux of the Issue



Chris Desautels addressed the Guild about getting the right moisture content in the wood we work with.

The crux, according to Chris, is that you cannot count on conditioning your wood to a specific percent moisture content and expect success.

First, the correct moisture content is not universal, it is specific to the space in which it lives – usually a home. Relative humidity varies from region to region, from home to home and from season to season. The moisture content of the wood is going to find equilibrium within its particular space at a particular time. For average living space with 40 to 60% relative humidity wood will be at equilibrium between 8 and 12% moisture content.

Second, because the environment is not static and the wood will certainly move, your designs must accommodate movement. Chris showed examples of a breadboard end table and attachment of a table top to base (see below).



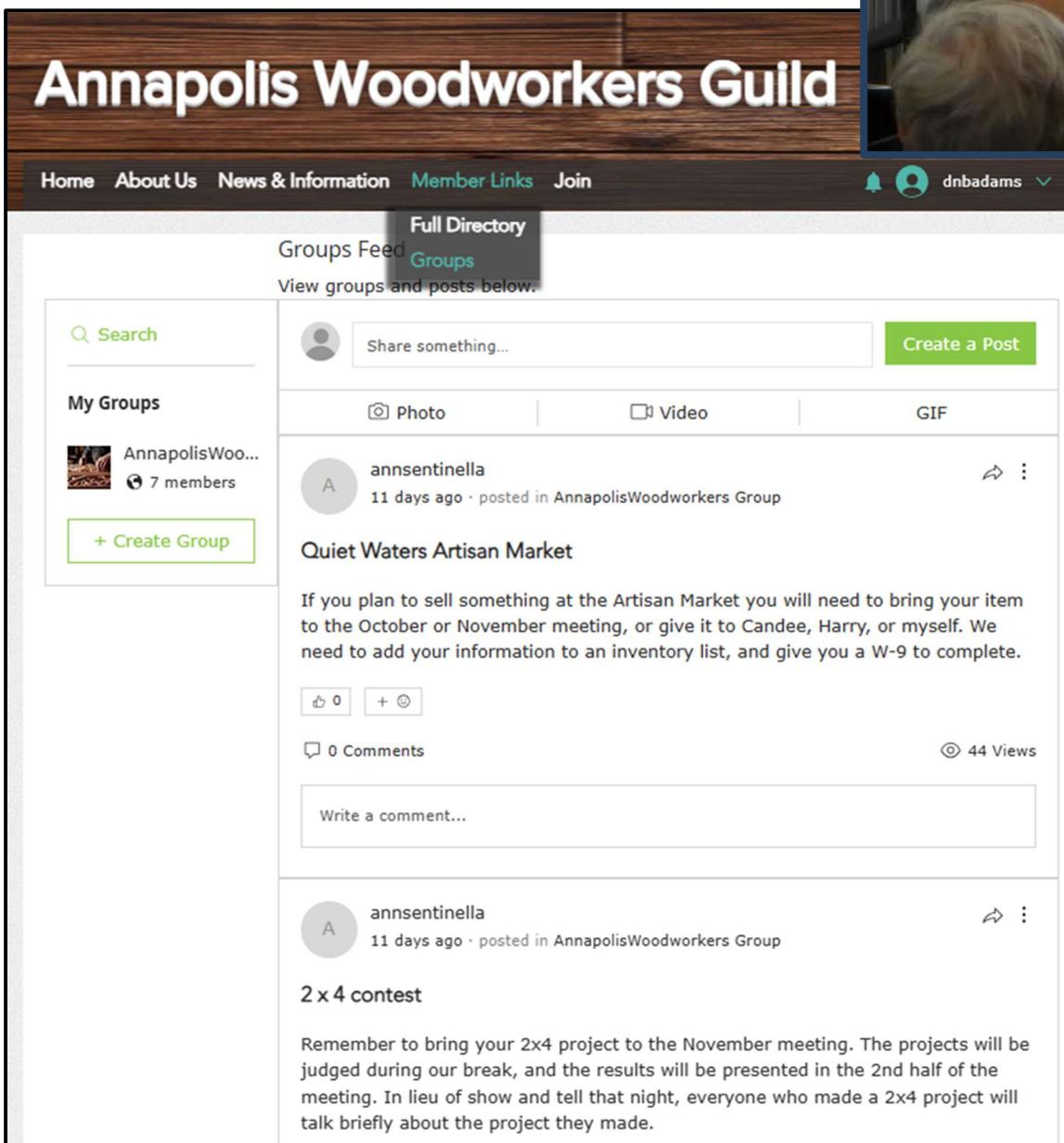
Chris also discussed the pros and cons of air dried and kiln dried lumber and the importance of having a high-quality moisture meter – particularly one that calibrates for the specific gravity of wood species.

Tyler Quevedo – The Annapolis Woodworkers Guild Web Site

Guild Web Master Tyler Quevedo spoke about accessing the site and using some of the features. In particular he demonstrated the new “Groups” function which members can use to ask questions and share ideas.



On page 22 you will find a link to an example article by Chris Desautels.



The screenshot shows the Annapolis Woodworkers Guild website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, About Us, News & Information, Member Links, and Join. A user profile for 'dnbadams' is visible on the right. Below the navigation, there is a 'Full Directory' section with 'Groups Feed' and a 'Groups' link. A message says 'View groups and posts below.' On the left, there is a sidebar with a 'Search' field, a 'My Groups' section showing 'AnnapolisWoo...' with 7 members, and a '+ Create Group' button. The main content area displays two posts from 'annsentinella'. The first post is titled 'Quiet Waters Artisan Market' and discusses requirements for selling at the market. It has 0 likes, 0 comments, and 44 views. The second post is titled '2 x 4 contest' and encourages bringing 2x4 projects to the November meeting. It also has 0 likes, 0 comments, and 44 views. Both posts include a 'Create a Post' button and a share icon.

Show and Tell

Duncan Adams is making nutcracker style figures without mechanisms. He calls them not-crackers. He brought the first two and has eight more in progress. They are turned from the traditional basswood (known as linden in Germany).



Jim Cowan made a wine rack and mirror from pallet wood.



Phil Foster brought two items. The first is a CNC holiday tray from a design he bought on Etsy.

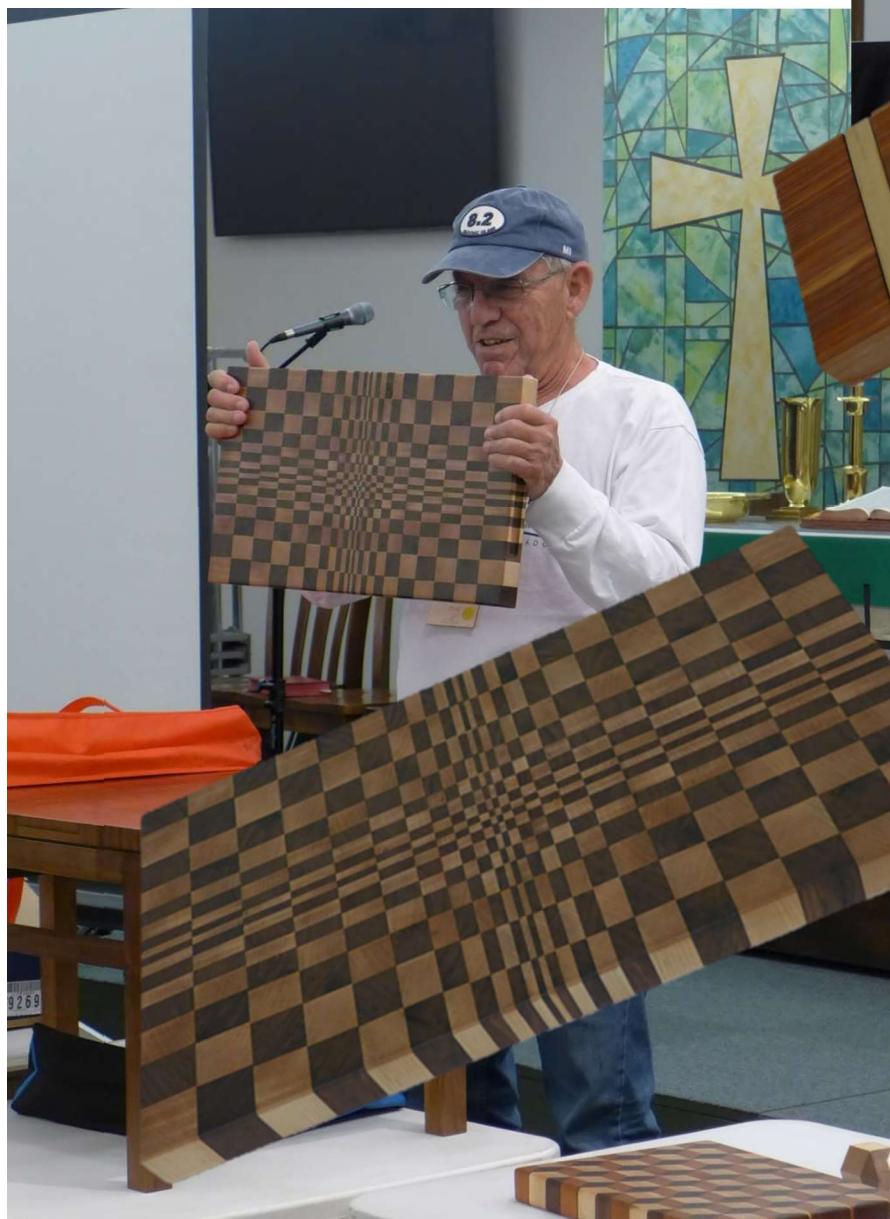
The other is a 3D cutting board.



Phil Christenson made a coffee table from a sycamore slab that he flattened by hand. He finished it with one coat of Danish oil, three coats of Tried and True and two coats of OSMO wood wax. This slab was one of those donated to the Guild by Anya and Mike Zander in March. If you want one of these they can be purchased from Rick Hodgdon.



Joe Epperson brought one of the folding coat hangers he makes. They mount to a wall with a French cleat bracket that he found on Amazon.



Ken Davis designed and made this walnut and maple 3D effect cutting board.



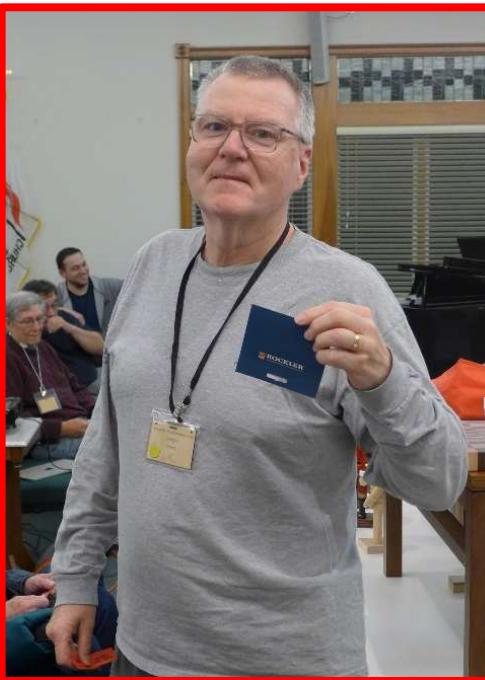
Bill Schneck showed us a basket weave coffee table that he made with teak veneer in a one-inch MDF substrate. The base is walnut joined with dominos. The table is finished with shellac and a top coat of Arm-r-Seal.

October Raffle

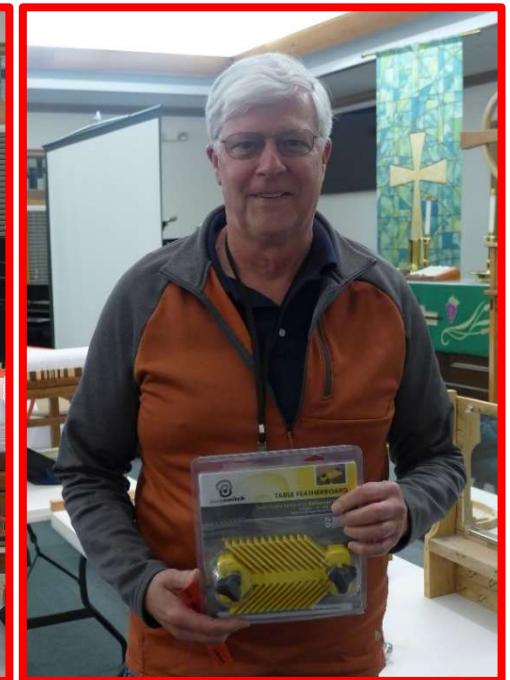
Paul Dodson conducted the monthly raffle, with Don Ames drawing the first ticket. The winners with their prizes are pictured below.



14 Piece Wrench Set
Jack Reid



\$50 Rockler Gift Card
Joe Lynott



Double Feather Board
Mike Conley

AWG Annual Christmas Dinner

Dec 11, 2025
Saints Constantine & Helen Greek Church
2747 Riva Rd.
Annapolis, MD

Time: 6:00 PM
Cost: \$55 per person

Time to Party:

Time to start signing up for the AWG Christmas Dinner. Contact our Treasurer by November 30. He will have the sign-up sheet at next meeting. Please provide your name and the number of guests you are bringing.

Sign Up:

Deadline for signing up is November 30, 11:59PM. There are 3 ways to sign up for the dinner.

- 1) At the November general meeting.
- 2) Website using Pay-Pal.
- 3) Mail a check to AWG (Treasurer).

Be sure to provide the number of how many guest you are bringing.

Check-In & Envelopes:

You must check-in at the door to receive your envelope and turn in your ornaments. Everyone is encouraged to bring a **handmade ornament** and get involved with the ornament exchange.

Gifts:

We are looking for a lot of gifts to be donated for the drawings. Bring as many homemade items as you would like. It would be great for everyone to go home with a gift. Gifts can be wrapped or unwrapped. Please help fill the table.



NOTE: If you have any questions please contact Paul Dodson, Events Coordinator.

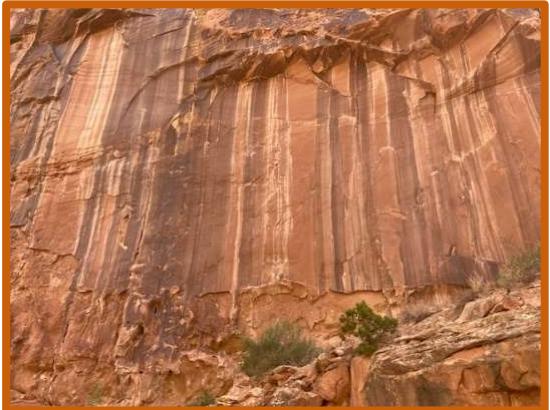
Thinking about Wood Grains, Stains and Varnish While Hiking in Utah's Canyon Lands

By Rich Batiuk

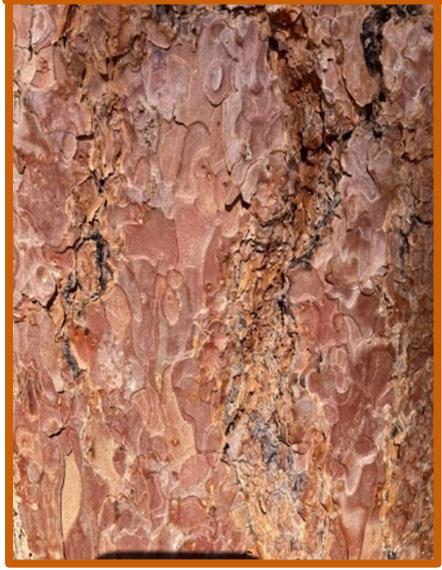
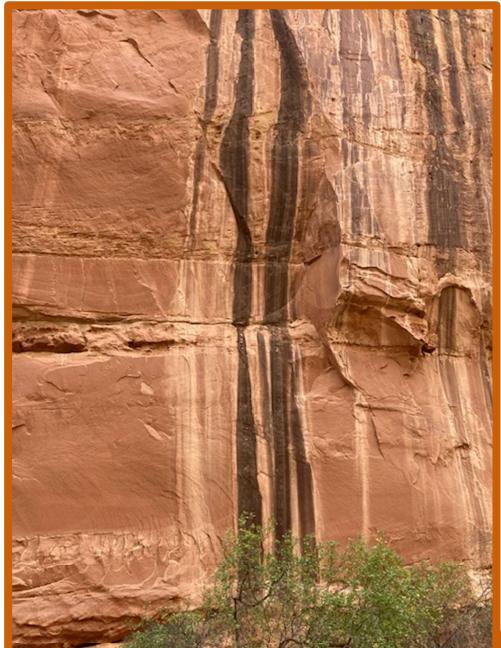
Yes, back in mid-September I was focused hiking with my wife Susan in several national parks (e.g., Arches, Bryce Canyon), national monuments (Cedar Breaks), state parks (Goblin Valley) and national forests (Dixie) in the canyon lands region in southwestern Utah, when my mind was actively thinking about woodworking. And why, you would ask, given the truly incredible scenery I was hiking through (e.g., canyons, hoodoos, cliffs millions of years old eroding in a rainbow of colors) would I be thinking about woodworking. I will blame Mother Nature.



First, there were the walls of several canyons we hiked through which were covered with 'desert varnish' According to a Google search, "Desert varnish is a dark, thin layer composed of clay minerals, iron oxides, and manganese oxides that forms on rock surfaces in arid and semi-arid environments. It is created over long periods by the slow accumulation of wind-borne dust and atmospheric particles, along



with the action of microscopic bacteria that help concentrate manganese and iron." As you can see in the accompanying photos, this type of varnish comes in a multitude of colors. Walking up close and looking skyward, I started to image what these shades of 'desert varnish' would look like on the wood in my shop back home.



Thinking about stains was prompted viewing the various colors the bark of the different species of pine, juniper and cedar trees in these high desert ecosystems. This included the bristle cone pine tree, some of which have been aged at about 1,500 years old in parts of Bryce Canyon National Park and Cedar Breaks



National Monument. And colors within the surrounding geological formations were like Mother Nature's palette on display. I am not recommending an orange stain, but just further consider Mother Nature's advice on what really catches your attention on your next walk or other activity outdoors when choosing your next wood project finishes.

Finally, the wood and specifically the grains and textures that really grabbed my attention were the trees which had long since stopped photosynthesizing but were still visible parts of the landscape.



The grey grains and the whirls were like Mother Nature's own attempts modern art. Spending years under hot summer suns and long winters covered by snow, all at high elevations above 8,000, these sculptures kept capturing my attention from the trail.

So, the next time you find yourself out in Mother Nature, spend a bit of time looking around you and see if your mind starts thinking about your woodshop and your choices of wood, stains, and varnish for your next woodworking project!

Demi Loom Table

After many hours of construction, I finally finished my Steve Latta demi loom table. Although I have built similar tables in the past, this was my first semi-circle table and it proved to be more difficult. My hand skills for banding and inserting inlay had to be honed once again which caused several do overs on the legs. The bellflower inlay on the legs was not set in using select chisel sweeps but with an exact-o knife which required more accuracy. Further the front legs had three sides with inlay while the end legs only



The table top proved to be difficult as well not because of the inlay and large medallion but the finishing. I used an older finishing technique that was on early originals. Somehow, I got contamination in the painting process and had to do the top several times.

received two. The front legs also were joined to the curved apron using both a bridle joint and sliding dovetail joint. All the banding and bellflowers I made except the medallion on top of each leg. It is a Baltimore Thistle which I ordered and set in.



Many thanks to the following AWG members who helped me with the project.

Karl Hoke for the full-size drawing and select fixtures.

Paul Dodson for cutting out the initial bellflowers used on each leg.

Bill Schneck for the Baltimore black and white banding.

Plane and Chisel Sharpening Class

Presented by Rodger Young

Rodger Young presented a basic course for the home woodworker to instruct him on how to put a keen edge on the modern M-2 or M-42 chisels and plane irons. This included using the bench grinder, oil stones and diamond plates. The use of sharpening jigs and gauges were explained to achieve optimal results. Classes had three students who brought their own blades to sharpen.



The members who attended had high praise for Rodger's class.

"Thanks very much for the class this morning.... learned a lot and enjoyed it. I appreciate you taking the time to do this and for providing that pumpkin roll!!! I've ordered a guide and a stone so hopefully will have sharp tools going forward."

Mike



"Thanks from me too! My tools are the sharpest they have ever been and the pumpkin roll was excellent."

Eric

A list of upcoming Guild classes follows on the next page.

Woodworking Classes

For those looking for woodworking instruction the following list of options was researched by president Ann Sentinella.

1. The Chesapeake Arts Center offers various woodworking classes frequently, Two 6 week classes, on Beginning and Intermediate Woodworking will be held in October. They start 10-21 and 10-27.

They are located in Northern AA County:

194 Hammonds Lane
Brooklyn Park, MD 21225

Beginner Class info at:

<https://canvas.chesapeakearts.org/classes/1542>

The beginning instructor is "Michael Holcomb is a self-taught maker based in Annapolis, MD, with a BS in Graphic Design from Arizona State University and a BS in Computer Studies from the University of Maryland"

The intermediate Class info;

<https://canvas.chesapeakearts.org/classes/1526>

2. Troy Beall may still hold limited classes - contact him at troy@annapoliswoodworks.com

3. Mark Suprik teaches woodturning in Baltimore. For more information, go to <https://www.marksupikco.com/workshops>

4. Annapolis MakerSpace in Annapolis sometimes offer classes, specifically for CNC work, laser, or 3D printing. Membership is \$65/month and that gives you access to their space 24/7 to work on projects, socialize with other members, and learn. Visit their website at www.makeannapolis.org.

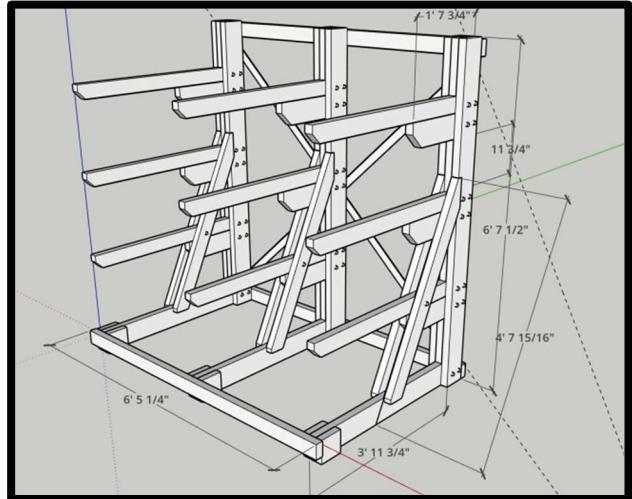
5. Local Woodcraft stores in Towson MD Rockville MD, and Springfield VA offers various classes along with the Rockler Woodworking store in Fairfax VA. See their websites.

6. If you want to travel, there are classes at Philadelphia Furniture Workshop Philadelphia PA, Woodworking Workshops of the Shenandoah Valley in Berryville VA. and as mentioned, Marc Adams School of Woodworking (a premier facility) Franklin, IN.

Industrial Strength Wood Rack

An AWG web site Groups article by Chris Desautels

Hey everyone! I have a wood storage issue that is a common problem among woodworkers - a system that is more like a total disaster. So, I decided to build a proper wood storage rack.



You can read the full article in the groups section of the Guild website by using the link below, or by clicking the "Groups" menu on the web site as presented by Tyler at the October meeting.

<https://www.annapoliswoodworkers.org/group/annapoliswoodworkers-group/discussion?entity.topics=e6888832-7aea-4258-affa-f236a1abd74>

Powermatic Bandsaw for Sale



Al Veiel is beginning the process of closing his shop. He is starting by selling his 14 inch Powermatic bandsaw. It has a 15" x 20" two piece cast-iron table, 6 inch riser block and mobile base. If interested, call Al at 410-647-9131 or write to alloring@gmail.com.

Email Filters – AWG – Gaggle mail - communication

Email is an easy way for us to keep in touch. But it only works if you check your email, and if the email is sent to your primary account as opposed to your spam folder. I recently learned that if I send a mass email (gaggle or personal) it often ends up in the recipient's spam folder. Chef Demetrios sent me a suggestion and I think it would benefit all of us. Therefore, any future Guild emails that I send to a broad distribution list will have "AWG" included in the subject line, and I recommend that everyone else include AWG in the subject line of your gaggle/mass emails too. And for all of us, as recipients, we need to set up a filter in our email platform to always allow emails with AWG in the subject line to be moved to our primary folder.

For gmail users:

1. Open your gmail platform.
2. In the 'Search mail' bar, click on the "show search options" icon  and a form will pop up.
3. Type awg in the Subject line in that form.
4. Click on Create filter (at the bottom of the form).
5. Click the box: Never send it to Spam.
6. You can also click the box: Categorize as: Choose category... and click on the drop-down arrow and select 'Primary' as your category

For those of you who use other email platforms, once you figure out how to set up a filter, feel free to post the directions in the Groups app on our website so others can benefit.

Ann



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
Chris Desautels	Chairmaking: Maloof and Windsor	christopher.desautels@gmail.com
Carl Wick	Basic Lathe Skills	cewick70@gmail.com
Bob Ashby	Routers, Shapers & 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
Dennis Harvey	Pen making	denharv@aol.com
Bill Schneck	Woodworking machine operations & safety, Basic joinery, dovetails, mortise and tenon	mrwoodbutcher@comcast.net
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 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 (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
Kovalick	Bill	443-822-4850	bkovalick@gmail.com	General woodworking/ Adirondack furniture
McDonald	Chris	410-326-1685	cmcdonald@thewavaz.com	Cabinets

AWG Officers

(June 2025 — May 2026 Term)

President – Ann Sentinella
1st Vice President – Chris Bucknall
2nd Vice President – James Cowan
Secretary – Tim Wilson
Co-Treasurers – Vince Antonioli and
Rodger Young
Tour Coordinator – Rick Hodgdon and
Rodger Young
Program Committee – Chris Bucknall, Sue
Springett, Bob Ashby, and Carl Wick
Newsletter Editor – Duncan Adams

Historian – Mike Arndt
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 – Paul Hansen
Church Liaison – Steve Lund

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:

Website:

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

Annapoliswoodworkers.org

AWG's Supporting Vendors



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

 **ROCKLER**
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



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

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



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

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

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