

The Colonial Woodcutter

The Newsletter of the Annapolis Woodworkers Guild

Meeting 7:00 PM September 14th, Davidsonville United Methodist Church

**September Meeting:
AWG Finishing Roundtable**

A photograph showing a person's hands using a white cloth to polish a large, round wooden table. The table has a rich, dark wood grain and a glossy finish. The background shows a kitchen setting with various items on a counter.

September 2023

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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.

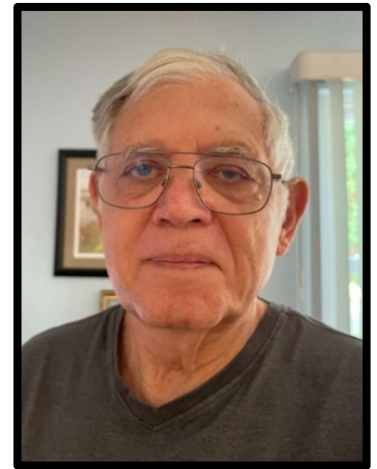
Many thanks to those who contributed to this months' issue.

September 2023 President's Message

Dear Guild Members,

I happened a few days ago to see an article in a local newspaper on the subject of “Kaizen”. For most of us not in the know, Kaizen is the Japanese name for a particular continuous improvement philosophy. While the article I read was slanted towards its use in constructing automobiles, it made me think this sort of philosophy might also find a home in woodworking.

If you are practicing Kaizen you are not trying to swallow an entire project in one sitting. Quite the contrary. You are instead aiming to improve whatever you are doing by some small percentage each sitting over a large number of sittings. You might think of the adages: “a journey starts with a single step” or “a marathon starts with tying your shoes” as a model for this philosophy.



I tend to shy away from large or complicated projects in my woodworking because I get defocused by thinking about all the bits that have to be made and fitted – all at the same time. This, of course, is not how pieces of a complicated project are made and eventually put together. Instead, a complicated project is typically accomplished in the same way as a smaller project, namely as smaller pieces or sections that are eventually glued together. Each part/section might require learning a new technique, making a jig, practicing, etc., ideally before tackling the final design. Additionally, if the project is new to you there will be trials and errors along the way. Nothing stops a project like a naïve goof on an important and expensive piece of the project, so it makes sense to have steps that involve thinking, learning, and practicing on scrap sub steps.

As I see myself taking on a Kaizen-like project I would not attempt to start by thinking so much about an end result, but rather as a series of small - sometimes very small - steps that, if taken collectively, would (somehow) eventually lead to a more perfect product. Notice the word “more” is used in the previous sentence, because perfection in Kaizen is strived for, but likely never achieved. If time is taken to learn and perfect skills at each step you and I are bound to have a better result and we will become better woodworkers because we have thought through each small step, learned techniques needed for that step and then have practiced them enough to expect success.

Suppose I were to construct a simple box. I might start by drawing out plans, but this will require some basic CAD knowledge. So I might start by learning basic steps on a simple CAD program – not designing the box yet – just learning enough to be able to draw what I want to draw. Next I might spend time learning how to do dovetails on scrap wood in a series of steps; maybe making jigs to allow me to make accurate angles and maybe learning how to use a dovetail saw – all without really thinking about the final box except to understand that a drawing and dovetails are steps along the way.

Maybe you are already practicing something like this in your woodworking. I intend to at least think about the spirit of Kaizen in my next project. If so, I'd like to hear your thoughts.

Carl Wick

September Monthly Meeting

Thursday, September 14th, 2023, 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.

September Raffle Items

These fine items will be raffled at the September meeting.



Keyhole bit and bushing

4 Bottles of butcher block conditioner and a Rockler cap

Woodcraft \$50 gift card

Wood Finishes Roundtable

At the September meeting, the Guild will dedicate the speaker portion of our meeting to hold a discussion about finishing. As we are all too well aware, finishing is often the make-or-break step in our project. Getting the finish “just right “can be a challenge. We have had speakers talk about finishing and most speakers will at least mention it. However, we are confident that there is a great deal of knowledge and experience right here in our own membership. While most of us are not experts, nearly all of us have some experience with finishing and so, great, good or – yes - even a dismal failure, we would like to hear about your finishing experiences. We need to learn from others, because we don’t have time to make all the mistake ourselves.

To that end, several members have volunteered to be panelists and they will discuss their experiences with finishing. The panelists are:

Vince Antonioli	Chris Desautels
Mike Arndt	Rick Hodgdon
Phil Christenson	Candee Van Iderstine

Various topics will be discussed including various wipe-on/wipe-off oils - some old ones and some more recent ones, oil & water based polyurethanes, cutting board finishes, and spray lacquer. Some items will be displayed as examples of various finishes. The expectation is that the panelists’ remarks will stimulate questions, suggestions and further discussions. So, plan on attending the September meeting to pick up some tips on finishing and come prepared to share your finishing experiences and have some fun!

Woodworking Tours Planned

At the September meeting Rick Hodgdon will discuss the possibility of two separate tours, one this Fall to the Wharton Esherick Museum in Malvern, Pennsylvania and a second tour next year to the George Nakashima Studio in New Hope, Pennsylvania.

For more information about the Esherick Museum please visit whartonsherickmuseum.org. This visit is described as an hour and a half in length with a maximum group size of eight. If there is interest of more than eight members we can arrange for multiple groups. Wednesday and Saturday tours are available. The cost for two groups is \$300 and this cost would be paid by the Guild. It should be noted that Malvern, PA is a tree hour drive away.

The Nakashima Studio visit cannot take place until next year. This a very popular destination and the earliest time we could visit is April. For more information please visit the web site nakashimafoundation.org. There are three choices to be considered when visiting the studio. The first is self-guided which limits the buildings available for viewing, the second is a guided tour by a staff member giving us eight separate buildings to view (cost \$75 per person) and the third option is a tour led by Mira Nakashima, the daughter of George Nakashima. This entitles visitors to see the same eight buildings and is offered on one Saturday each month, cost per person is \$150. Additionally, the expected travel time to New Hope is a three hour drive.



Perhaps four years ago about twelve members had a very nice visit to the Nakashima Studios spending about two hours walking the grounds.

Rick will circulate a sign-up sheet for each tour to learn who is interested and make arrangements for the future visits. This November could be a nice time for a visit to the Esherick Museum.

E-Learning on the AWG Web Site

The Guild's web master, Tyler Quevedo, has posted a collection of links to popular woodworkers on YouTube that cover a large array of topics related to woodworking. The hope is that you find a new resource to learn from or gain inspiration from. In addition to the links you'll find a short description of what each channel has to offer or specializes in. The page can be accessed from the Guild's web site menu or by directly using the address below.

<https://www.annapoliswoodworkers.org/e-learning>

Bill Schneck in Fine Woodworking

Guild member and Second Vice President Bill Schneck has his beautiful veneered chess table featured in the September issue of Fine Woodworking Magazine. Bill presented the table and discussed its construction at the September 2022 members' meeting.

Congratulations to Bill!



August Meeting

The August meeting featured the annual Guild member tool swap. A few dozen members turned out to share their treasures.





How to make a \$300 Table Using Free Wood for \$200

Duncan Adams

Last fall my daughter bought a new couch. Since it is a sectional affair that makes a wedge shaped space between the couch and the TV stand her rectangular coffee table needed to be replaced. So she went online to find the just-right table. The closest she could find is the teardrop shaped table pictured at right that didn't really do the job.

You have probably guessed where she turned next. When I got the call I thought of the bundle of scrap walnut strips that Will Hottle had given me a year before. There were enough of these to glue up to the width of the table, but they were a bit short. Then I found a booth at the Wood Show that was selling four foot lengths of one by six walnut boards for \$10 each. I bought one of those (don't ask me why I only bought one!) and then I got a one by two piece of maple.

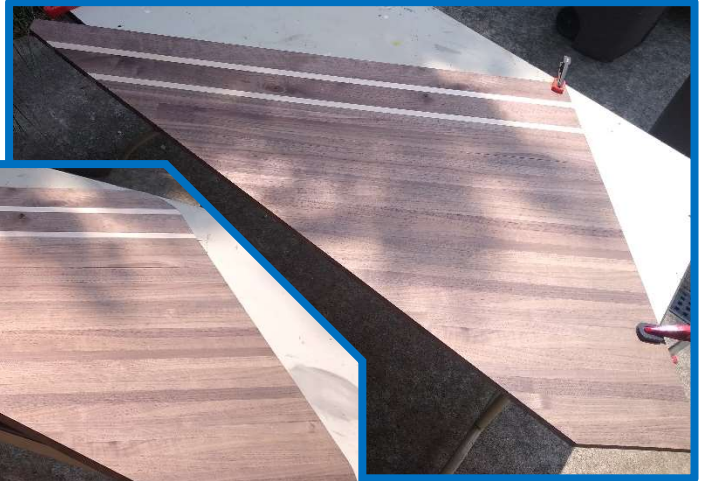


As the finished table at 32 inches wide wouldn't fit in any planer, I glued up three 11 inch sections. The first one was composed of the walnut and maple board which had been ripped in half, plus two of the scrap strips. The other two were composed of the scrap strips. Then I took them over to Bill Carbin's basement where Bill and I planed them smooth which resulted in a thickness of about 5/8 inch.

In order to minimize the joint misalignment that would require a lot of planing and sanding I glued the 11 inch glue-ups together one joint at a time.



When the full glue up was complete I made the angle cut and cut off the uneven ends with a hand held circular saw and a straightedge. I used the triangular cut-off to test every operation I used on the table and in the end I turned it into a tray. Then I used a saber saw to round



the corners and smoothed the curves with the Shopsmith disk sander – it's a 12 in disk and a far bigger table than the typical disk sander. Finally I used a ¼ round-over router bit on the top edge and hand planed a 30 degree bevel on the bottom.



I made a triangular pine frame joined with pocket screws. (I borrowed a Kreg jig from, once again,



Bill Carbin.) I applied walnut veneer around the outer edges to match the table top and attached the frame to the top with “Z” brackets. I attached screw on walnut legs with mounting plates from Rockler to complete

the project. The completed table was finished with General Finishes Arm-r-Seal.



So, the \$300 table, after buying a couple of cheap boards, table legs, mounting plates, veneer, finish and various shipping fees came in at about \$200. It's a good thing I'm not in this hobby for the money.



Special Chairs for Special Children

By Jim Cowan

I became aware of Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital through my sister-in-law (Meghan) who saw a request from the volunteer office asking for help in their woodworking shop and, being aware of my shop and enjoyment of woodworking, she passed the request on to me. After a day of reflection, I felt that this was something that I really had to at least look at.

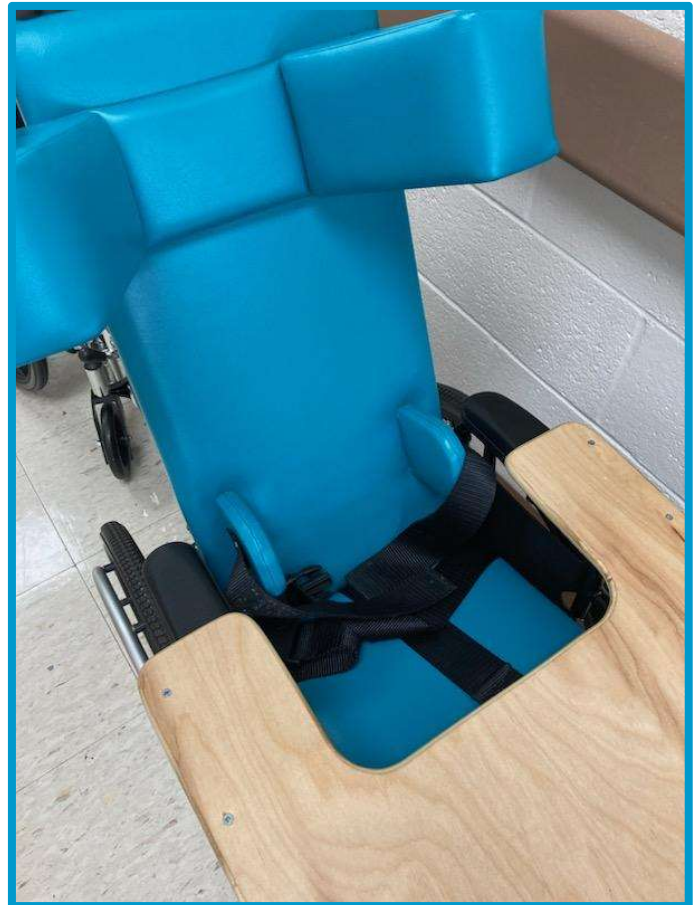
I have been participating in the AWG toy shop with the guys Monday mornings, and spent Tuesday and Wednesday mornings at Howard County General Hospital's Center for Wound Healing, and having rudimentary woodworking skills, I figured I would feel significant guilt if I didn't try to give some effort to a most worthwhile cause.

After meeting Joe Piskor, who runs the Mt. Washington Pediatric shop and seeing the operation, I thought I would be able to make a reasonable contribution. As it turns out, Joe and I are kind of symbiotic, he works in a whirlwind, and I have some organizational skills, so together we've made a pretty good team.

The requested volunteer help was to produce, in quantity, chairs for small children who have very limited movement or ability to sit upright. These chairs were inspired by Doctor Lentz, and engineered by Joe Piskor's father. As a nod to the small world we live in, I graduated from Severna Park High with Doctor Lentz' son Andy, without even knowing it.

Together we have been able to reduce the lead time on delivering a chair from two weeks to two hours. It was *VERY* rewarding to see three chairs on the shelf ready to go, with two more in assembly, an hour or so from completion. I generally work three hours or so Thursday mornings, and often bring "homework" home to my shop. We don't have a router table at the hospital shop and after experiencing a router table with a lift at Coach Borland's I had to have one, which makes rounding over the various parts of the chairs significantly easier and faster.

The chairs are made using birch plywood. The sides, seat bottoms, trays and arm rest verticals are all 1/2" birch. The seat backs, arm rest horizontals, seat and tray cleats are all 3/4" birch.



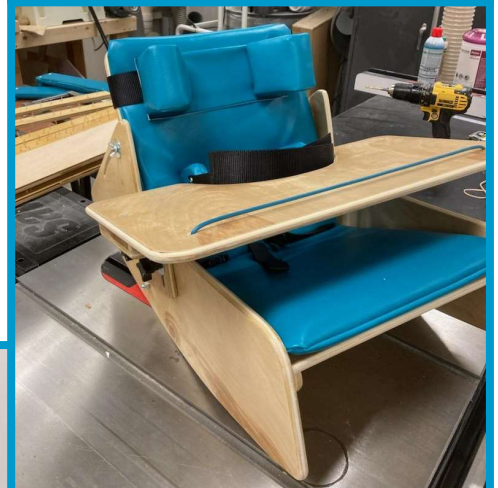
We brad nail two sides together to match drill seat bottom cleat locator and seat back reclining slot holes, then cut out the profile on the band saw. We cut out the recliner slot with a jig saw. I bring "homework" back to the house for round over, sanding, and so forth as I have a router table extension with a lift for my table saw that we don't have at Mt. Washington.

The arm rest verticals have two slots cut in them for height adjustment, the arm rest horizontals are then glued and brad nailed.

Some of our patients have severely limited movement or ability to sit upright. For them we make support inserts for their wheelchairs. We cut plywood to the width of the wheel chair seat and back, one piece for each then we cover in vinyl covered foam, hinged together. Head supports, again plywood backed vinyl covered foam, custom fitted for the individual patient. These are screwed into place from the back of the upright chair support. We also have, or custom fabricate trays for the wheel chairs, in a similar way as for the chairs, just scaled up for the wheelchair.

The sub assembly parts are sealed with two coats of water based urethane. Assembly of the chair takes about 20 minutes. Vinyl encased foam padding is added and the chair is ready for final fitting to a particular patient.

The vinyl cushions are custom designed for the rockers, and wheelchair supports. The vinyl is cut off a roll and cut to size, and then sewn into a pocket. Foam is cut to size and then inserted into the vinyl pocket, and then stapled shut.



Repurposed Wood

George Fox has some fine wood pieces to donate (the headboard from this antique full sized bed reused was reused but the footboard or side frame pieces are available.)

These pieces are available at George's cottage on Bay Head Road in Annapolis. You can contact George at georgefox3@sbcglobal.net



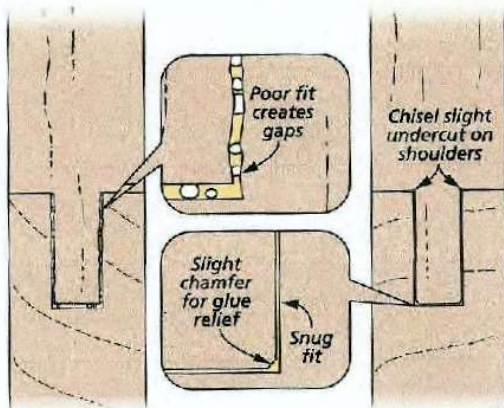
hand tool skills



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

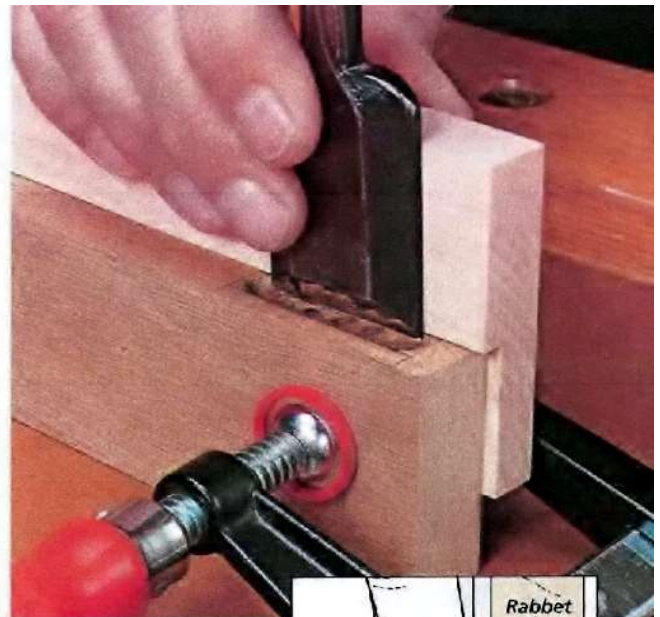
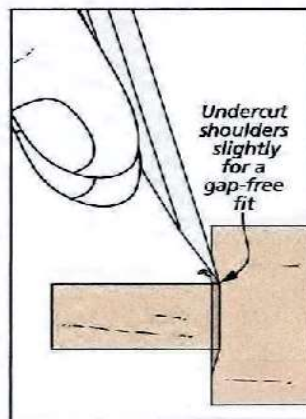
The same problems arise after cutting tenons, especially if you use a dado blade to make the cuts. You can see the ridges on the surface of the cheeks that prevent a good glue bond. Fortunately, the solution is pretty simple.

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 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 half-way, 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**

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

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

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)
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 & finish restoration/repair
Ashby	Bob	410-969-2910	toolsrus58@comcast.net	Shapers, router tables and tooling for same
Carbin	Bill	410-647-0393	carbinwilliamj@yahoo.com	Box making
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 2023 —May 2024 Term)

President – Carl Wick
1st Vice President – James Cowan
2nd Vice President – Ken Davis
Secretary – Jim Menefee
Co-Treasurers – Vince Antonioli and
Rodger Young
Tour Coordinator – Open
Program Chairperson – Chris Desautels and
Phil Christenson
Newsletter Editor – Duncan Adams
Historian - Open

Endowment Coordinator – Bill Carbin
Entertainment Coordinator – Paul Dodson
Show Coordinator– Open
Show & Tell Coordinator – Bill Carbin
Special Projects Coordinator – Open
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 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.Woodruffi@gmail.com

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