# Colonial Woodcutter

## *Annapolis Woodworkers Guild*

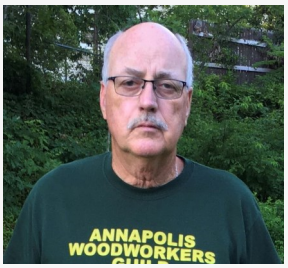
**July 2020**

**Virtual Meeting July 9th 7:00 pm**

# AWG President(s) Message

***T**his month we transition from one President to the next in line. Bob Ashby has served us well this last year and we now introduce Bruce Mitchell who will now be our guide during the coming year.*

Hello Members! This is the end of my term as President. My time in this position has been fun and has been easier than I thought it would be. Though most AWG Board members have elected to stay in their current positions for next year, we do need someone to step up as First Vice President. If you have any interest, please contact a board member. There are a number of people I would like to thank: Carl for proofreading my letters so my English does not look like a second language *(you're most welcome –ed);* all our board members, their help made my job enjoyable; and special thanks to Rick Hodgon, who was Second Vice President and who was supposed to be taking life easy. Instead, he was just a phone call away for any question I had and any help that I needed. That spirit pretty much sums up my view of the Guild—friends always there to help. I hope I can do the same for Bruce. — Bob Ashby




Hello Guild Members. Here's hoping everyone is in good health and trying to make the best of the situation that we have been experiencing for the past few months. As you know, the time has come for the Board to install it's new members, and I, Bruce Mitchell, will be the new President for the 2020/21 year. Bob Ashby will move to Second Vice President. All positions are currently filled except First Vice President. We need someone to step up and fill this position. It is essential that we have a complete slate in order to fulfill our Board's needs. By now, everyone should have received information about our first Zoom meeting and here's hoping for a great turnout. As always, we are open to any and all suggestions, so please let us know what you think. — Bruce Mitchell

# July Announcements

# July Virtual Meeting!

*Watch your email for a Zoom "invite"*

*Thursday, July 9th*

*7:00 pm*

**Please join us for this first general (and experimental) internet meeting of the Guild. While there will be no formal speaker for this first virtual meeting, there will be ample opportunity for our members to show what they have been doing in their shops, especially pieces too large to bring to a physical meeting or even tours of member's shop spaces. Please consider contributing in the "show-n-tell" segment by contacting Chris Desautels at:**

**Christopher.desautels@gmail.com or 301-332-8490 by June 6th.**

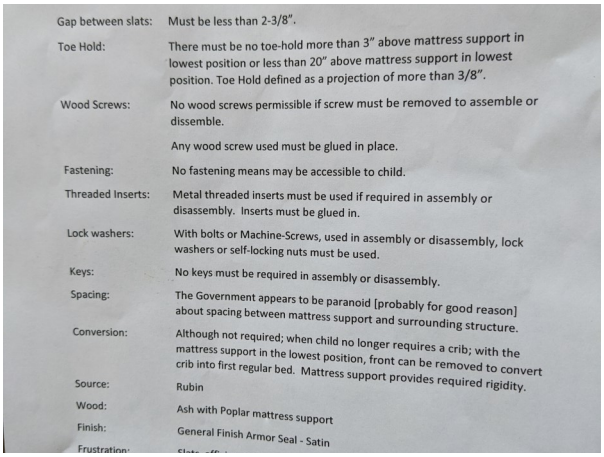
**A Zoom link will be sent on the day of the meeting to each Guild member we have on file. Simply click on that link a few minutes prior to the meeting time to activate your Zoom session.**

**If you're new to Zoom, please review this tutorial for joining a zoom meeting at this link: ZOOM (or put https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9isp3qPeQoE&authuser=0 in your browser)**

# Cabin Fever Show-N-Tell

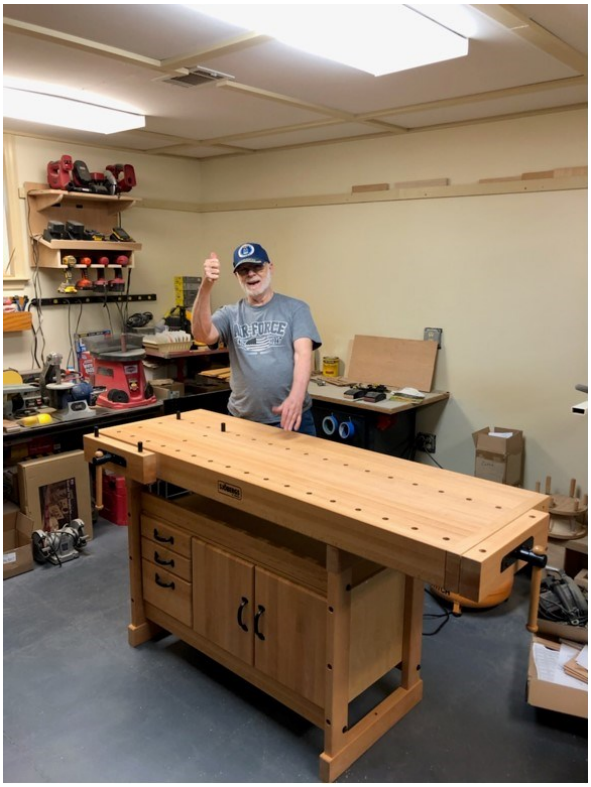
**What's been going on in Member shops?** Here are a couple of submissions.

**Bill Carbin** made a crib for a ***great grandchild*** *(are you really that old, Bill?)*. He also provided a list of things to consider in the construction of today's crib. Gone are the days of simplicity. The specs for a C-47 transport plane were shorter!



| | |
|---|---|
| Gap between slats: | Must be less than 2-3/8". |
| Toe Hold: | There must be no toe-hold more than 3" above mattress support in lowest position or less than 20" above mattress support in lowest position. Toe Hold defined as a projection of more than 3/8". |
| Wood Screws: | No wood screws permissible if screw must be removed to assemble or dissemble. |
| | Any wood screw used must be glued in place. |
| Fastening: | No fastening means may be accessible to child. |
| Threaded Inserts: | Metal threaded inserts must be used if required in assembly or disassembly. Inserts must be glued in. |
| Lock washers: | With bolts or Machine-Screws, used in assembly or disassembly, lock washers or self-locking nuts must be used. |
| Keys: | No keys must be required in assembly or disassembly. |
| Spacing: | The Government appears to be paranoid [probably for good reason] about spacing between mattress support and surrounding structure. |
| Conversion: | Although not required; when child no longer requires a crib; with the mattress support in the lowest position, front can be removed to convert crib into first regular bed. Mattress support provides required rigidity. |
| Source: | Rubin |
| Wood: | Ash with Poplar mattress support |
| Finish: | General Finish Armor Seal - Satin |
| Frustration: | |

Say "Hello" to **Paul Dodson's** new friend! Paul recently acquired this magnificent new bench (aka massage table?). Looking good Paul!



*Let us know what you have been up to! Send a picture and a short explanation to the editor Carl Wick at cewick70@gmail.com*

# Focus on Lathes


Are you a woodworker that has never used a lathe, but are a bit curious about them—maybe even to the point of contemplating buying one? This Focus columns' goal is to provide you with some information about what is important in selecting a lathe - and what may be needed in the way of equipment for lathe centered projects. A warning is due here—lathe work is FUN and addictive! Now that you've been suitably warned, please read on.

A reasonable place to start is to look at may be important factors in a lathe purchase. **Jim Francis** sent in the following video link that explores just that subject. Have a look at the following short video:

LathePurchase ( https://youtu.be/ULLSiwekIzo).

A good way to learn about a new tool is to have a project in mind and either watch others or take it on yourself. In this light, some simple projects that are often used in introducing and teaching lathe work are the turning of a bowl and the turning/construction of a pen.

A fun video: FirstBowl (https://youtu.be/WMnrTiE5s70) discusses not only what may be important in a lathe/tooling purchase, but also shows one man's experience in turning a bowl. The fun part for an experienced turner is to watch his "first " bowl shrink in size as turning progresses (we've all been there!).

I have been turning for about a decade now. I still vividly remember the first lesson I received at the now long-gone Woodcraft in northern Baltimore. There, in one day-long session, I turned both a bowl and a pen, and was forever hooked on turning.

Turning in general is an art form because you never know what is inside a block of wood. The process of turning may reveal flaws or "features" that must be worked around, or you may simply change your mind partway into the process. Shapes of turnings are learned largely from trial and error (as seen in the video) and from copying the works of others. There are a huge variety of turning tools (chisels) available (as are other "accessories"), but in reality there are just a few tools that are "necessary" and used frequently. My "goto" tools include a roughing gouge, a bowl gouge, a skew and a parting tool.

Pen turning can be accomplished on just about any size lathe. The remainder of this article will show you the basic steps and material/tooling needs for turned wood pen making.—*Carl Wick*

## An Introduction to Pen Turning

**By Carl Wick**

Pen making is a thoroughly enjoyable activity. Starting with a few basic components you can enjoyably produce a keepsake quality writing instrument that will produce equal joy from it's recipient. Modern pen making starts with a kit of pen parts that all friction-fit inside a couple of brass tubes. These brass tubes are glued inside drilled-out blocks of wood that will form the handling surfaces of the pen. Lathe work involves reducing and shaping the blocks so that the ends of each block precisely fit the pen part that will be inserted later.

Let's have a quick look at a typical pen kit. Below are two types of kits I use —on the left is a "slim line" pen; on the right a larger diameter "cigar" pen. The major difference in kits is the internal diameter of the supporting brass tubes and often the kind of retraction mechanism (click-on or turn). Kit prices are typically on the order of $5.00; much less in bulk.

In addition to a lathe and lathe tooling (chisels or gouges), some specialized tooling is required to hold the brass tubes (which will be glued inside wooden blanks) on the lathe while turning. This additional tooling may include the following: a mandrel (a rod with a taper on one end) that fits in the lathe headstock and is supported by the tailstock at its opposite end. The brass tubes (with wood covering) are slid onto the mandrel and secured there by clamping with a knurled nut (kind of like a rotisserie spit).

When removing wood by turning, one of the goals will be to have the ends of each pen wooden blank turned down to exactly match the diameter of the corresponding pen part (e.g., nib, retraction mechanism, etc.). This precise diameter is easily achieved through a set of hardened steel bushings that are inserted into the ends of each brass tube prior to placing them on the mandrel. The diameter of the bushings are exactly the size of the corresponding pen part (so each pen kit type will have a corresponding set of bushings that need to be purchased). The blocks of wood (or other material) used in turning must also have a central hole that is sized so each brass tube can be secured in the wood with glue (usually CA glue). This requires a drill that sized for the pen kit you will be using (shown are two sets of drills and bushings, one set for a slim-line kit; one for the cigar kit).

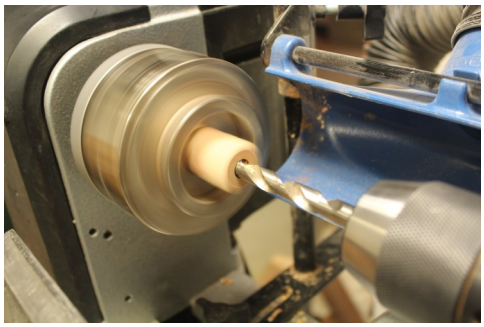
In short, you will need: one universal mandrel, a drill bit and set of bushings sized for each type kit you will want to turn. These are essentially one-time purchases that will last for hundreds of pens.

Once you have pen kits and tooling, choose wood for your pen. Here just about anything goes. I have used everything from commercially available blanks to yard tree trimmings to driftwood. All you

need is a stable piece of dry wood that is longer than the combined length of the two pieces of brass tube and about 3/4" by 3/4" or larger in cross section.

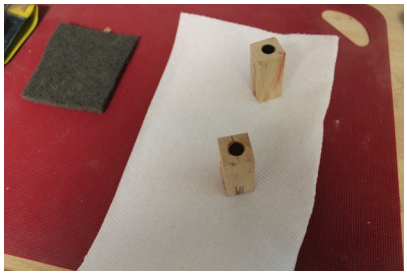
The construction process starts by cutting wood blanks to match the length of each piece of brass tube in the kit. Before cutting a blank, place some kind of mark on the blank so that you can reassemble the blanks on the mandrel in the same grain direction order that they were on the original blank. I typically put a pencil scribble in the middle of the blank and cut slightly longer than the tube lengths on a bandsaw (caution: tubes are often not the same size).

Once cut, the next step is to use the appropriate sized drill to drill a hole in the center of each blank. Use any reliable method to do this. Folks often use a drill press or the lathe itself to do this. Shown here is the lathe is being used to drill the blank. Drilling on a lathe of course requires lathe accessories—drill chuck for the tailstock and a chuck for the headstock—most lathes do not come stock with these.



Next, the individual brass tubes are glued into the holes—most often with medium viscosity "super glue".

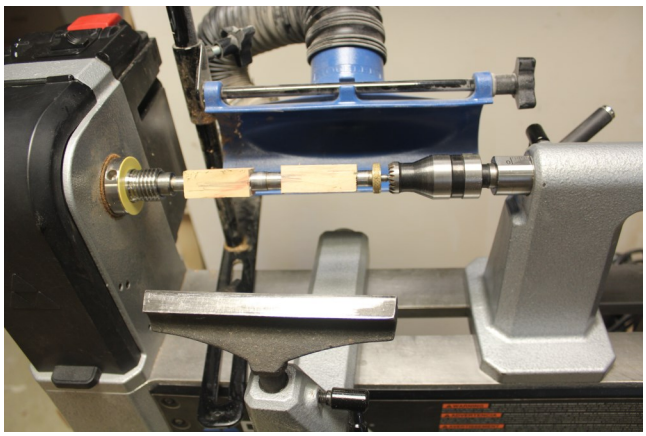
Tubes are roughed a little with sandpaper, then a bit of glue is smeared on the tubes, then they are quickly pushed into the holes.



Since the wood blanks were cut a little longer than the brass tubes the wood blanks need to be trimmed to be the same length as the tubes at this point. This may be done a variety of ways, but the best is by another specialized tool called a "pen mill".

The mill fits in any electric drill and is inserted into the brass tube. The mill then grinds the wood away until it's length matches the length of the brass tube.

The two trimmed blanks are now mounted on the mandrel in the same order they were cut from the original piece of wood (remember the pencil marking?). Bushings are added to the ends of each piece, indicating the correct end diameters for each piece. The whole assembly (blocks, bushings and mandrel) is mounted onto the

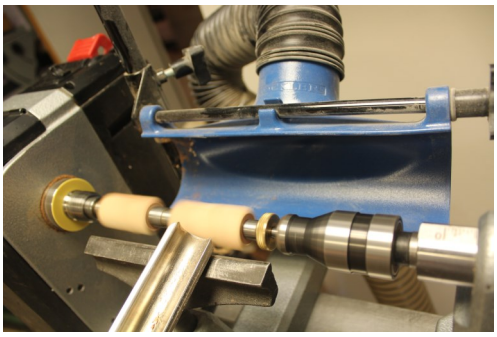


lathe between headstock and tailstock.

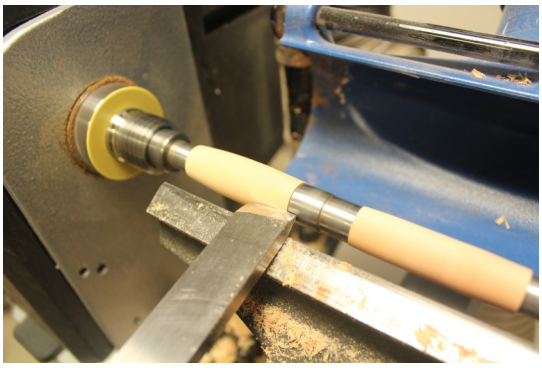
The lathe tool rest is brought close to the work piece and turning commences.

The first step in turning is to knock off the square edges of the pen blanks. The best tool I have found for this is a "roughing gouge" - a tool I would call "necessary". The roughing gouge is a heavy-duty tool that is well suited for knocking off edges and making square things cylindrical.

Lathe cutting is accomplished by bringing the sharp edge of the tool to the wood workpiece at the same level as the center of the mandrel. Easy does it. Very light pressure and the sharp gouge will easily remove wood. Move it back and forth until edges are rounded off to form a cylinder.



Next, using this same tool, or preferably a smaller "spindle gouge" ,or "bowl gouge" ,or shown here ,a "skew gouge", continue to remove material between the ends of each blank piece until (most importantly) the ends meet the bushings.



What you do between the ends is where the "art" is in your pens. I will usually taper the wood so that the final pieces will feel best in the hand. Of course that is what I think. I know of no formula. In short, between bushings you can do almost anything you want, but be sure to leave at least the bushing diameter of wood (so you don't go all the way through to the interior tubes).

Once you are satisfied with the shape, sand your creation on the mandrel up to about 600 or more grit. I do this with the lathe turning, then occasionally stop and sand a bit at right angles to the turning.

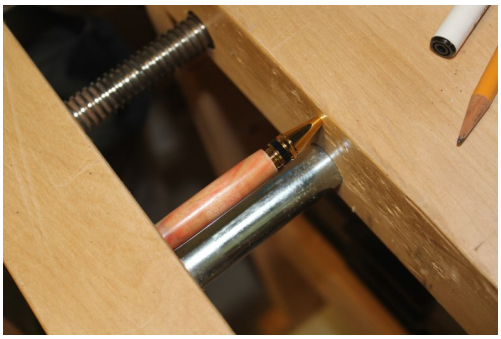
I then finish with lacquer, wiped on with nothing more than a paper towel, again with the lathe turning.

The finished parts may now be removed from the mandrel (but keep track of how they were oriented since the pencil mark is now gone).

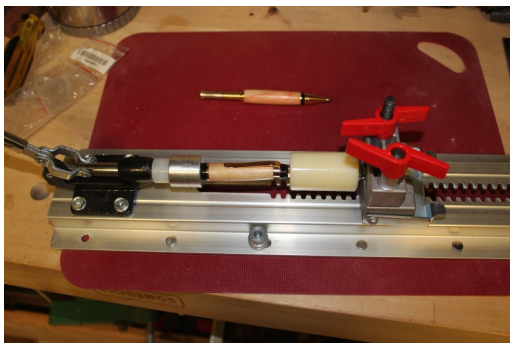
At this point you have finished wood-covered brass tubes. The rest of the kit bits will be pushed into the ends of these tubes. If the tubes were not the same length, then one tube (the longer) will be the nib end of the pen (the writing end) and the shorter tube will hold the pen clip. You need to maintain the correct order of these parts as you remove them from the mandrel. Also remember that order is needed to have continuity of grain (established with the pencil mark that is now turned away). I stack my parts in the same orientation when removing them from the man-

drel. You could also mark the inside of the ends of the tubes. Any way you decide, order at this point is very important.

Now kit contents are pushed into the brass tubing as per kit directions. Again, there are many ways to do this. When I first started constructing pens I just used the wooden jaws of my bench vice as a press.



The individual components require some vice pressure and some straightening as the vice closes, but if you take your time the pieces will slide right into position. Double check everything before you start pressing a part into position, because though bits may slide into position relatively easily they are a bear to dissemble!



Probably the best tool for assembly is a true pen vice. This specialty tool helps to keep things aligned as individual parts are pushed into the pen tubes, but, of course, this is an additional purchase.

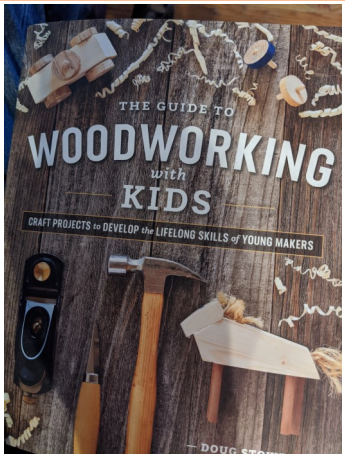
There are many different ways each of these steps can be accomplished and there are many different tools that can be used in the various steps from selection of wood to the final pressing of pen components into each pen half. Once you have constructed just one pen I can almost guaranteed you will be as hooked as I was—- and still am.

# Segmented Cuts

**New Book**: ***The Guide to Woodworking with Kids*** by Doug Stowe.

This book is an easy way for parents, grandparents, and teachers (experienced or not) to safely engage children in the creative arts.

The Guide to Woodworking with Kids is a culmination of craftsman Doug's four-decade career in woodworking and nearly twenty years of working with students K-12 in his Wisdom of the Hands woodworking class at the Clear Spring School in his hometown of Eureka Springs, Arkansas. Available through Blue Hills Press.




**Available**: Carved wood that was once part of a canopy bed. The owner will provide free of charge, but also indicates that he would be willing to pay for someone to use some as part of a bench. If interested contact Debra Peak *chieflyone@mac.com*

**Request:** We have a request from **Michaela Niles** of the **Light House Building Employment Success Training (B.E.S.T.)** program. This program provides employable skills in the field of Building Trades to those in our community who are living with barriers. A current student is very interested in pursuing a job in the field of carpentry. She is reaching out to us to see if anyone has, or knows of, an internship or apprenticeship opportunity. This student does have transportation. If

**This month's plank: Dios Unknownium**—I and several other members went home one meeting (long past) with a bit of the hewn tree that once stood in front of the church. This was inside my chunk. Unfortunately there were too many internal defects to turn a larger piece into something like a bowl, but maybe there is enough good stock for a box top. Stay tuned.

# 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 – Bruce Mitchell
1st Vice President – Open
2nd Vice President – Bob Ashby
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**

**Virtual Video Meetings UFN**

**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**

# The following vendors support AWG

**Wurth 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

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

410-349-1705 WWW.Exoticlumber.com

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

800-242-7916 WWW.Doorandcolumn.com

# The following vendors support AWG

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

212-337-8510 WWW.Brusso.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

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

815-528-4337 WWW.LakeErieToolworks.com/Pages/Club

10% Online Discount Code: **AWG10**