

# The Colonial Woodcutter

## The Newsletter of the Annapolis Woodworkers Guild

Meeting 7:00 PM May 8th, Davidsonville United Methodist Church



MAY MEETING SPEAKER  
LEWIS LASKIN

May 2025



## Contents

May 2025 President's Message .....	3
May Monthly Meeting .....	4
May Speaker .....	4
May Raffle .....	5
April Meeting .....	6
April Speaker: Carl Wick .....	7
Show and Tell .....	9
Safety Brief.....	13
April Raffle Winners .....	14
Safety First .....	15
Tip of the Month .....	16
One on One Skills Classes and Instructors.....	17
AWG Member Mentors .....	18
AWG Officers .....	19
AWG's Supporting Vendors .....	20

### *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](mailto: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.

# May 2025 President's Message

Dear fellow members,

Lately I've found myself picking up the random piece of trash when I walk the neighborhood. Same thing in a store parking lot, where I also like to return the "lost" shopping cart to the cart corral or into the store. At times I've told myself this is a real losing proposition, but it's my nature. This morning on a walk with my wife, Granddaughter and Granddog, I reflected on this as I picked up a piece of plastic. Why am I doing this??? Then it occurred to me that people might be seeing me and laughing at what a fool I am. Then, I thought maybe someone saw me and thought it was a nice thing to do and maybe they would think about doing the same thing.



This is kind of how I started my sobriety. A man I know posted on Facebook that he was 53 days sober and I thought that was pretty cool. This pushed me to the decision that had been on my mind but had done nothing about. I don't think Tim was looking for kudos, a big slap on the back, he was just throwing it out there. Same thing here, I'm doing a tiny little thing and maybe that will influence someone to follow suit. Maybe not, but it didn't cost more than the effort to bend over and pick it up, and I can certainly use a little more exercise!

Jim

# May Monthly Meeting

**Thursday, April 10th, 2024, 7:00PM**  
**Davidsonville United Methodist Church**  
**819 W Central Ave, Davidsonville, MD 21035**

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

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

## **May Speaker** **Lewis Laskin; Chair maker**

This month Guild member Lewis Laskin follows up his April show and tell appearance with a full presentation as the monthly speaker. Lewis took a week-long Windsor chair making course in 2021 and never looked back. Transitioning away from corporate life, Lewis and his wife Kathy opened a studio/gallery in Downtown Annapolis in 2024. Lewis's half of the business is making and repairing chairs using hand tools with both traditional and modern techniques. Lewis is most passionate about folk furniture, and his presentation will be on Two Ways to Make Vernacular Chairs. He

will discuss tools and processes for both green woodworking and kiln-dried wood.



## May Raffle

The May meeting raffle will feature these two fine items –



**Machinist Square Set**

**Mini Sanding Mouse**

**\$50 Woodcraft Gift Card**

# Annapolis Makerspace

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

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

**Want to learn more?**  
Visit our website at:  
[www.MakeAnnapolis.org](http://www.MakeAnnapolis.org)

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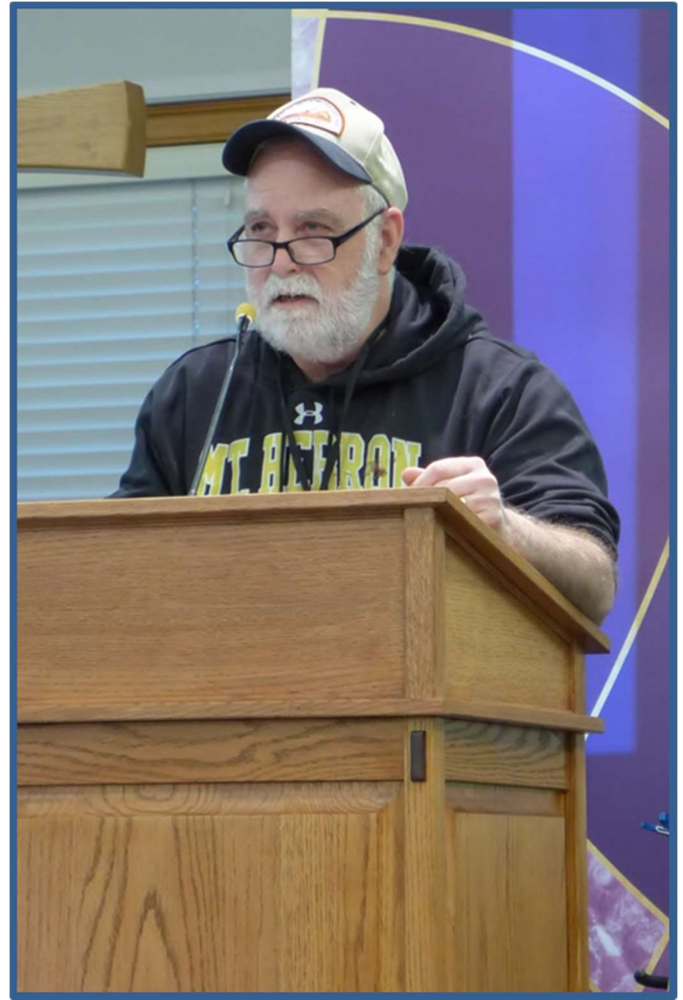
# April Meeting

President Jim Cowan opened the meeting introducing one new member. He announced that Steve Lund has stepped in as the new liaison with Davidson United Methodist Church filling the role of Adam Schmitt. Also, new member Tim Wilson was introduced as the new recording secretary in relief of Jim Menefee after many years of service.

Jim announced the need for a volunteer in the role of Program Committee, which finds and schedules speakers for the monthly meetings.

There were two announcements of items for sale. First, Jim has found a SawStop on Craig's List for \$2500 including several accessories. The seller is in Silver Spring, MD.

Second, some cherry burls and nine foot long 4/4 boards are available in Lothian, MD at \$4 - \$5 per board foot. If interested contact Howard Canter at 443-992-0018.



## April Speaker: Carl Wick

### Pen Making 101

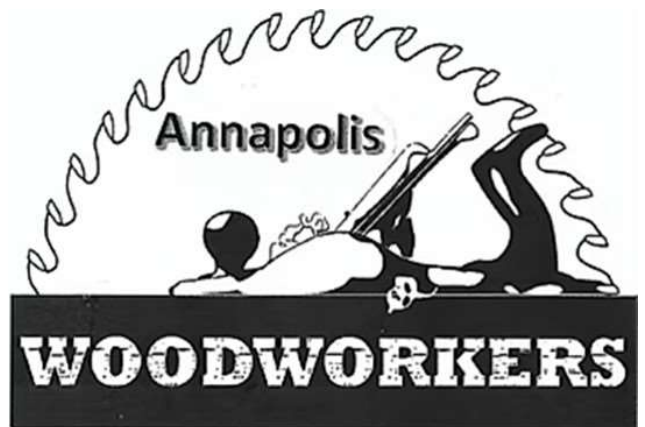
Guild member Carl Wick spoke at this month's meeting and presented "Pen Making 101" a brief tutorial on turning pens on a lathe. Carl reviewed the tools and materials needed to make pens and stepped through the process. Pen turning is the first thing he learned in the lathe class he took long ago and he has made many pens using a variety of materials.

#### Materials needed

- Pen kit: includes all hardware for one pen
- Blanks: wood or plastic blocks to turn
- Mandrel: holds the blank on the lathe
- Bushings: sets the diameter to which the blanks are turned
- Drill bit: sized to the pen tube (usually metric)
- Pen mill: trims ends of blanks to the length of the tubes
- Pen press: used to align and press the pen components into place

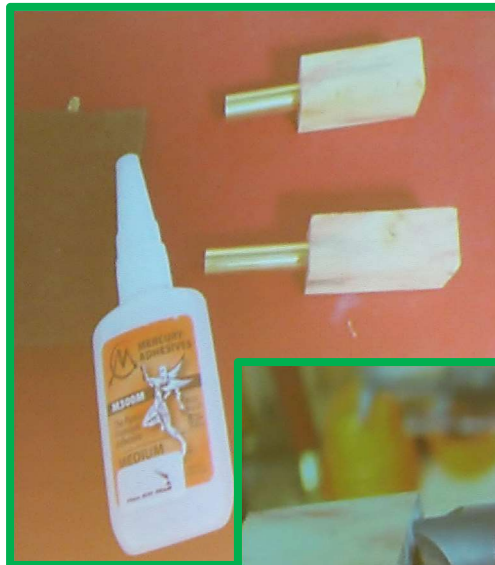


Carl with his pen press



These are some of Carl's illustrations of steps in the pen making process

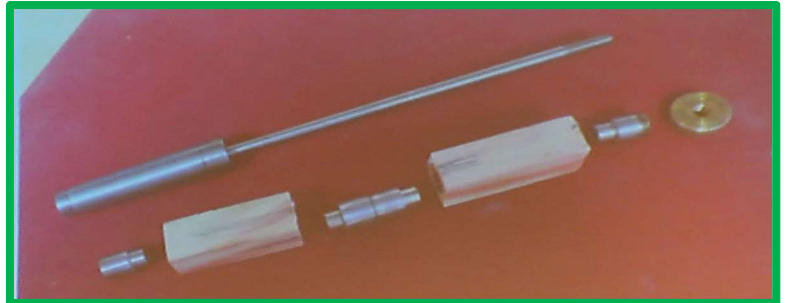
After cutting the blank in two pieces and drilling through holes the brass tubes are secured with CA glue.



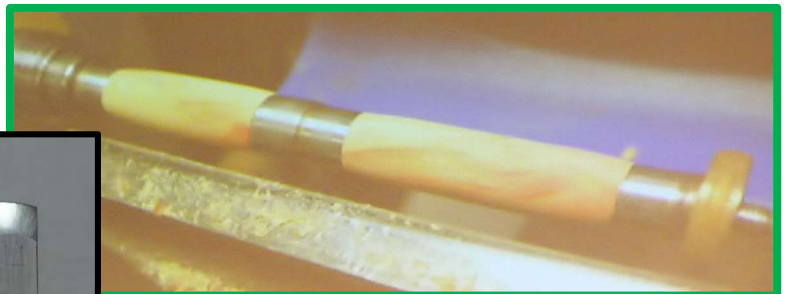
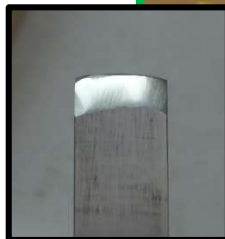
The blank and tube assembly is trimmed with the pen mill.



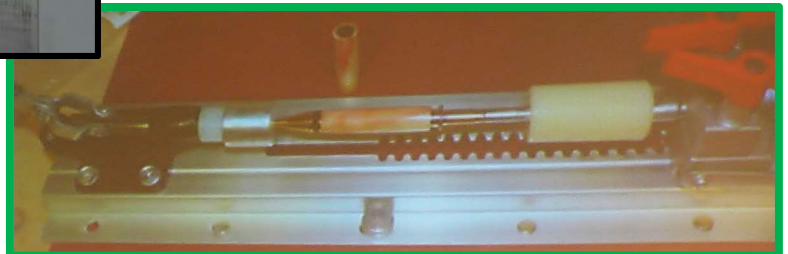
Prepared blanks and the bushings are arranged on the mandrel



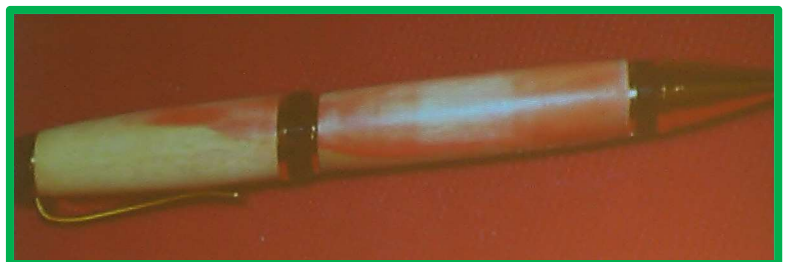
The mandrel is mounted on the lathe and the blanks are turned to shape. Carl uses a roughing gouge to round the blanks and a square end lathe chisel to achieve the final shape.



The finished tubes and the pen components are assembled on the pen press.



The finished product.





## Show and Tell

Chris Desaultels brought in this walnut book case with mahogany veneer to show the results of the UV cure finish that he used. He had talked about this “Clear Armor” brand finish at a meeting last year after trying it on sample boards, and this is his first full project. Chris considers the results to be good, and he was able to complete the finish process in one afternoon. Unfortunately, he is one of the small percentage of people who are chemically sensitive to it, so he won’t be using it again.

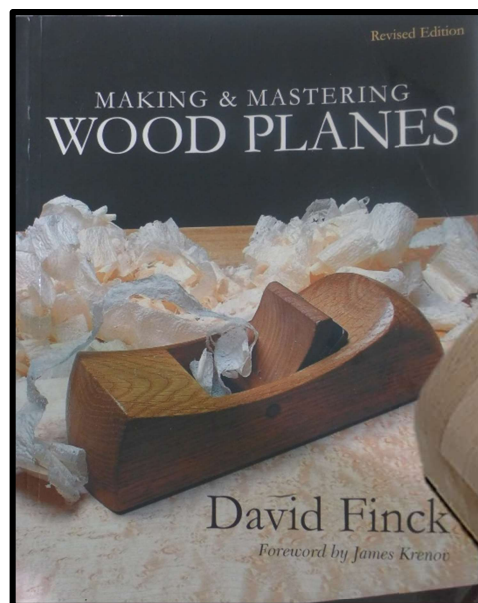


Rodger Young made this river birch ladle by request. It is from a birch branch left over from another project. The cup and handle are carved from the place where the limb and branch meet.

Harry Chavez made this multi-function oak child seat a few years ago. Copied from a design in an Annapolis shop, the seat is a high chair when used as shown in the inset, as a desk as demonstrated by Harry in the picture or as a rocking horse.



Phil Christenson returned to plane making, this time with a 3/16 inch thick Hock blade that he bought. He again used the design methods from David Finck's "Making and Mastering Wood Planes."







Mike Mantich designed these woven effect baskets for his CnC router, based on a scroll saw design by Steve Good. Each row of the “weaving” has been cut from a single piece of wood. The basket on the left is all pine with the top, bottom and pins stained. On the right, the basket is made of poplar with pine top, bottom and pins.



Bruce Saylor brought two pieces. The first was a curly maple and walnut box with a tree of life medallion and geometric inlay that he made for a wedding.

The second is a Falling Waters inspired art piece.



New member Lewis Laskin brought one of the chairs that he sells in his shop along with antiques. The design is based on chairs made in Tanzania since the late nineteenth century and the chairs are made completely using traditional tools. This chair is walnut and finished with a linseed oil and bees wax mixture.

Lewis's shop, Avocations, is at 77 West Street.



## Safety Brief

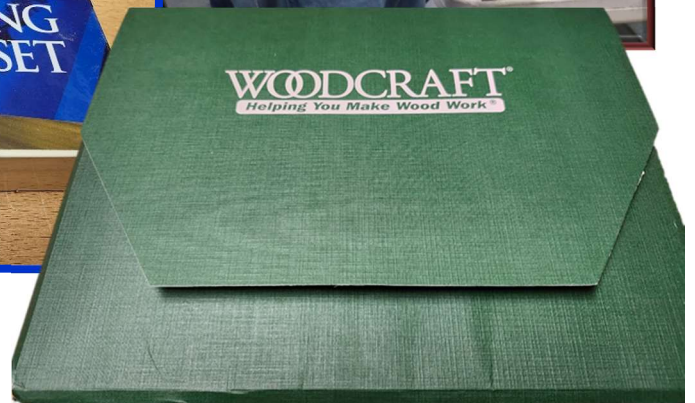
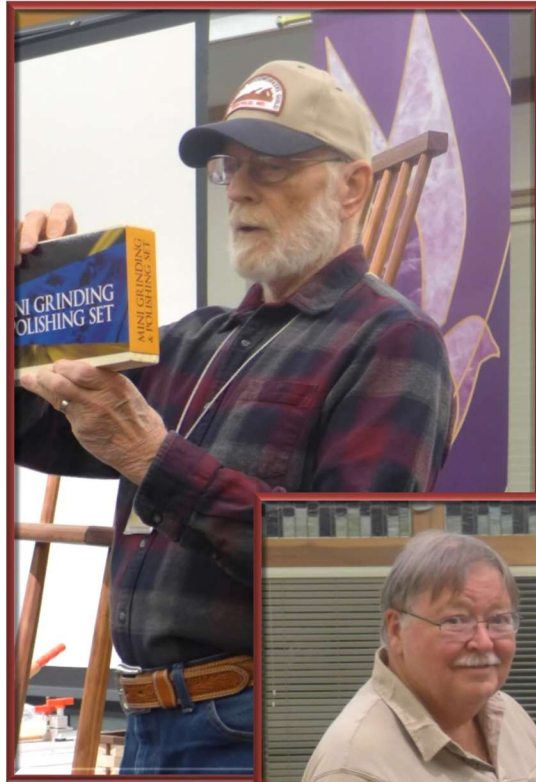
First Vice President Ann Sentinella invoked Norm Abrams' maxim "always wear safety glasses." She reminded us that we should protect our eyes – with safety glasses or a mask – whenever we are doing any operation that can cause things to fly.

Make saw dust, but don't get it in your eyes.



## April Raffle Winners

Paul Dodson conducted the monthly raffle.  
The members who won are pictured below.



**Mini Grinding and Sharpening Set Guide**  
**Joseph Zorica**

**\$50 Woodcraft Gift Card**  
**Gary Johney**



# Safety First

Ann Sentinella

Respect your table saw. It is a versatile tool in a woodworking shop, but can also be a dangerous tool. According to an article in the Woodworking Network (Feb 2020), table saws cause over 30,000 injuries each year in the United States. Kickbacks are the number 1 reason.

Kickback on a table saw is a sudden, uncontrolled ejection of the workpiece or offcut, often towards the operator. The sudden movement of the wood can cause the operator's hand to move towards the saw blade, potentially resulting in lacerations or amputations.

Some common reasons for kickback are incorrect blade height, dull blades, working with crooked stock, improper feeding techniques, using a table saw without its riving knife, and the binding of the wood against the blade or fence.

## **Suggestions on how to avoid kickback on a table saw:**

**1. Use a riving knife.** It's a piece of metal attached close to the teeth at the back of the blade preventing the workpiece from pinching the blade or touching its teeth on the back of the workpiece. Conveniently, it raises and lowers with the blade, providing support regardless of what height the blade is set at.

**2. Never make free-hand cuts.**

**3. Do not crosscut with the rip fence.** Instead, use a miter gauge or a crosscut sled.

**4. Use a push stick or push block.** It will keep your hands further away from the blade. It will also act as a kickback counter-measure because it gives you better control of the stock.

**5. Check your blade.** A dull blade is an unsafe blade. You might need to apply more pressure to the wood in order to “force” it through the blade. Forcing your stock can cause kickback (and can also strain the table saw motor).

**6. Be attentive.** You must be focused when you use a table saw. If you are tired, under the weather, distracted, or in a hurry, do not use a table saw. If a cut just doesn't feel right, don't do it. Take a step back and come up with a way to complete the cut safely. Also, do not stand directly in line with the saw blade. If a piece of wood comes flying off, you do not want to be in its path.

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

## Tip of the Month



### **Simplify Sharpening**

I've found a lot of good uses for switchable magnets (Sources, page 51) in my shop. A simple idea that I came up with recently is to use one as a handle while I'm sharpening chisels.

To flatten the back of the chisel, I affix the magnet to the top of the blade as I pass the chisel over the sharpening surface (main photo). Then I place the chisel in a honing guide and fix the magnet to the bottom of the blade as I sharpen the bevel (inset photo).

*Bryden Dow*

*West Rutland, Vermont*

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



# One on One Skills Classes and Instructors

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

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

# AWG Member Mentors

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

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

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



# **AWG Officers**

## **(June 2024 —May 2025 Term)**

President – James Cowan

1st Vice President – Ann Sentinella

2nd Vice President – Carl Wick

Secretary – Tim Wilson

Co-Treasurers – Vince Antonioli and

Rodger Young

Tour Coordinator – Rick Hodgdon and

Rodger Young

Program Committee – Brian Parker, Sue  
Springett, Bob Ashby, Art Mensch  
and Carl Wick

Newsletter Editor – Duncan Adams

Historian - Open

Endowment Coordinator – Bill Carbin

Entertainment Coordinator – Paul Dodson

Out Reach – Candy Van Iderstine

Show & Tell Coordinator – Bill Carbin

Special Projects Coordinator – Brandt Tingen

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:

**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](http://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](http://WWW.Doorandcolumn.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)





**Bruso Hardware LLC**  
67-69 Greylock Avenue  
Belleville, NJ 07109  
212-337-8510 [WWW.Brusso.com](http://WWW.Brusso.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**



**Würth 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)

**MARYLAND SELECT HARDWOODS**  
7470 Mason Springs Road, La Plata, Maryland  
301-743-2225 [Dennis.Woodruff@gmail.com](mailto:Dennis.Woodruff@gmail.com)

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