

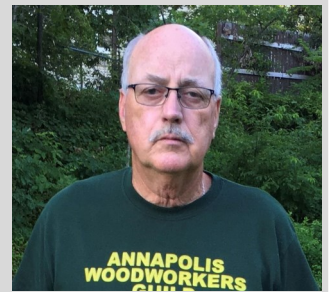
Colonial Woodcutter

Annapolis Woodworkers Guild

March 2021

Virtual "Zoom" Meeting March 11th at 7:00 pm

AWG President's Message



Hello woodworkers:

I hope everyone is doing well since the last newsletter and that with the added vaccine coming on the market we can all get our shots in the near future. Then hopefully some of the restrictions will be relaxed and we can get back to the church by either mid summer or by the end of summer to resume our meetings normally.

Be on the lookout for a letter from myself and the AWG Board that reaches out to some of our members who may have lost some interest in the Guild. The letter is meant to let everyone know that we are still alive and kicking and we are hoping anyone who has drifted away will consider rejoining the Guild again as we move forward in this Covid crisis.

I am hoping to see everyone at the March Zoom meeting to help welcome our Guest Speaker Mary May who will talk about wood carving. Please see more details in this newsletter.

Please strive to stay as safe as possible and enjoy the warming March weather.

Bruce Mitchell

Announcements

March Virtual Meeting

Thursday, March 11th

7:00 pm

Please join us for our March “virtual” meeting of the Guild. Please also consider contributing to the “show-n-tell” portion by contacting Chris Desautels at: Christopher.desautels@gmail.com or 301-332-8490.

March Speaker— Mary May



European trained woodcarver, Mary May, has been carving for over 30 years. She currently works out of her studio in Charleston, South Carolina, where she specializes in traditional, classical woodcarving. There she takes on carving commissions from furniture makers, designers, and architects as well as creates her own designs. Mary teaches woodcarving at a variety of schools throughout the US and Europe and has her own online video-based carving school—www.marymaycarving.com. She recently completed her first book, “Carving the Acanthus Leaf”, which has been published by Lost Art Press. Mary has also written articles for Popular Woodworking, Fine Woodworking, Woodcarving Illustrated, and for the Society of American Period Furniture Makers. She has also appeared as a guest several times on Roy Underhill’s PBS show *The Woodwright’s Shop*. Her desire is to help keep this beautiful and traditional art alive and vibrant.

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.

Announcements

Looking for something different? You might check out the Virtual Woodworking Show. The organization that puts on a yearly show at the Timonium Fairgrounds has gone virtual this year. The 'Show' will occur in four parts, one each weekend of March. The organizers have scheduled several virtual seminar sessions each week (like the seminars you may have attended at the Timonium show) featuring various aspects of woodworking. There is a nominal charge (\$20 each weekend) to watch that weekend's seminars in real time or later at your convenience. Your participation, of course, also helps to ensure that the real show will return in the future.

For more information see: thewoodworkingshows.com/events

AWG Shop Tour

Join us in the second of a (hopefully) continuing series of AWG member shop tours. This month Chris Desaultes shares not only a look at his shop, but also some of his philosophies about tools and woodworking methods.

Andy Borland recently suggested we talk about our respective shops in either a 'show and tell' presentation or in an article, and I thought that was a good idea. It's fun to show off the stuff we're fond of, but I also suspect that many of us probably have some ingenious solutions to problems that others would like to see. I'll go first and I invite other members to follow up with their own shop and experiences

The primary issue in my shop is size. It's a small shop. If I were into making boxes it would be fine, but as I like to make furniture it poses some challenges. Especially given that, as you'll see, I haven't made many compromises in equipment or tools. I learned long ago that cheap tools do not save money. If you buy a cheap tool there are two possible conclusions.: 1. You lose interest and the tool collects dust. 2. Your interest grows and you get tired of using a cheap tool and you replace it. Either way it's money down the drain. My path has been the 2nd one. Many of the tools in my shop are 2nd or 3rd acquisitions. But for the last several years I don't buy anything without extensive research.



AWG Shop Tour

I guess there is also a 3rd possibility: You could drop a lot of coin on expensive tools and still lose interest. I suppose that a consideration, but if you're going to stick with the art form, there's no percentage in shoddy tools.

The first picture is of the bulk of my shop and it's general layout. It occupies half of our basement and is a grand total of 15' x 20'. The most immediate solution in my shop is that most everything that's too big to pick up, sits on a cart, commercially or shop made.

The center of the shop is dominated by an industrial model Sawstop cabinet saw. I was an early adopter of Sawstop having purchased this saw 1 or 2 years after they started shipping. Back when their flagship Industrial saw was the only version they sold. How I got it is kind of a cute story. I was looking at the famous hot dog demonstration online and called my wife over to see. She watched the video and was a bit confused. "What just happened" she said. So I explained it to her and once she understood, she paused for a few seconds and then said "get one". I said, "they're kind of expensive". She said, "I don't care, get one". (She's a bit afraid of my power tools, you see). So I said, "Well actually, they're VERY expensive". She said, "I don't care, GET ONE, I'll pay half the cost", and true to her word, she did. Isn't my wife just a peach! *(Your results may vary! - Ed)*



The saw is amazing. If you've never used one you can't possibly fully appreciate it. The incredible blade brake aside, it's built to a standard rarely seen these days. The arbor alone weighs over 100 lbs., and to say it's vibration free is an understatement. You can balance a nickel on edge on the huge cast iron top and turn the saw on and the nickel DOES NOT MOVE! It comes from the factory perfectly tuned and in all these years, it's never needed a tune up.

SawStops are expensive, but the economics is a no-brainer.

Saw: \$1700 to \$4000+

Brake: \$80

Blade: \$50

vs.

Vascular Surgery: \$35,000 and up.

Caveat: That's if you're using a regular blade. If something happens with a dado set, no surgeon in the world can do anything about the hamburger you'll find at the end of your arm.

The brake has fired on me once. The saw was turned off and the blade was spinning down. So I don't know if I would have lost my thumb, but it prevented serious injury in any case. Best money, (my wife) and I ever spent. So my



AWG Shop Tour

advice is to not whine about the price. Keep your old car a couple more years if you have to and get yourself one of these.

The next piece of big iron in my shop is a Hammer A3 Jointer/Planer. The manufacturer is an Austrian company that has two brands. "Hammer" is their "consumer" brand, "Felder" is their industrial brand. This is a sweet machine. I do extensive research before all my major purchases and I can say with confidence that this is 2nd best jointer/planer machine sold in the US. The best being their Felder version. 3HP, carbide spiral cutting head (93 blades total!), 12" of Planer AND Jointer. You put a piece of hard wood through this and the surface is so good you can jump straight to 180 sandpaper. It doesn't care about squirrely grain. It'll cut most anything smooth as a baby's butt.

When you buy machines like this you have to have a plan for getting them into the shop. Both the table saw and the combo machine are 700 lbs. apiece. My plan was always rather simple. I was the head instructor of a martial arts school at the time so I would just bring 4 or 5 guys over to my house after a Saturday class and we would muscle them into place. I've also found that the wheels on Shopfox tool carts disintegrate under this sort of weight in spite of their advertised load rating. I had to replace them with higher grade wheels.

I researched for a year before buying my bandsaw and it's a classic example of what I was talking about concerning the consequences of cheap tools. This one replaced a cheap 14" that was such a pain to tune and use I never used it. The pictured bandsaw is a 20" Agazzani and is a dream to use. If you haven't heard of Agazzani, I would not be surprised. They're not sold in the US anymore and when they were, there was only one dealer, located in California. Agazzani saws are things of beauty. Built like a tank with amazing fit and finish. For some reason all the best bandsaws have always been made in Italy. Don't ask me why. Even the contemporaries, the better models from Laguna, Minimax and Rikon come from Italian foundries. Agazzani was 70 years old when the recession of 2008 did them in. They were bought out by a German company who still makes them under the Panhaus label, but alas, they're no longer sold in the US. This sucker resaws like a dream. When I first got it, I had to see just how good it was so I began resawing 8" boards paper thin. You could see light through the slices. Pretty useless, but also very impressive. I make a lot of veneer and my own shop made plywood so resawing is important. I typically resaw to 1/16" for these purposes. I use a Lenox carbide tipped 1.125 inch 2tpi blade for resawing.

Next up, my bench. I spent years working with a 3rd rate bench and paid little mind to all the advice you hear about



AWG Shop Tour

the importance of a good bench. When I finally made the leap, it was a total eye-opener. All that advice is correct. A good bench makes a big difference. The way I see it there are 3 things that make for a top flight bench. 1. It needs to be heavy, this one has 4" thick top. 2. The top needs to be flat. Not mostly flat, but really flat. 3. It needs to have good vises. Oh, and bench dogs and all of that, but there are all sorts of ways to hold work. I made the stool in the picture and as for the rubber mats, they help reduce fatigue from standing on concrete for extended periods. A little thing, but it really helps.

The pictured Powermatic drill press replaced a piece of junk that was in my opinion a total waste of steel. This one is excellent. I was kind of bummed when a month after I bought it, Nova came out with their digitally controlled direct drive drill press, but in hindsight, I think I got lucky. I've heard that the Nova has had all sorts of problems. Other than the Nova, the Powermatic is the only drill press I know of that allows you to quickly change the chuck speed without messing around with drive belts. You can see underneath the drill press one of several piles of cutoffs, which confirms I am afflicted with that common syndrome. I don't throw out scraps. A challenging practice for someone with such a small shop.

My router table is made by Excaliber. Not a very well known brand, but it's cast iron and the green box underneath it completely encloses the router, which gives it the best dust collection performance of any router table on the market. The shop made cart used to hold all the bits and such, but I've moved most of that stuff into the cabinet at the right, along with a bunch of other miscellaneous tools. I roll this out to the center of the shop when I want to use it and attach the hose that's normally connected to the bandsaw.

The cabinet to the right is fully enclosed. Something I recommend. It's little things like this that can make a difference. I used an open shelf for a long time, but the tools never stayed clean on the shelf. Also of course, the cabinet is on wheels.

<https://www.sevilleclassics.com/ultrahd.html>. Next to it you see some clamp storage. There are also two other places in the shop where I hang clamps. You can never have too many clamps.

Next is Festool Central. I'm a big fan of Festool. Some folks think they're a bit fussy. (Fusstool?), but I think they're impeccably engineered and no one can deny their dust collection is un-paralleled, and they really stand by their stuff. I wore out my first orbital sander from years of hard use and for less than \$100 they completely rebuilt it, good as new. I



AWG Shop Tour

doubt Dewalt would do that? That's a Kapex sliding miter saw on top and the containers below hold two orbital sanders, a plunge router and a Domino. (floating tenon joinery). The Kapex is dead accurate and I haven't cut a mortise and tenon since I got the Domino. Some purists may have a problem with that but I don't care.

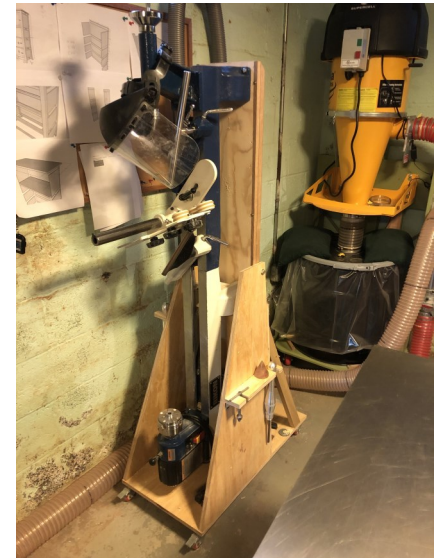
On the same cart you see my grinder for sharpening and it's strictly for sharpening, nothing else. That's because it's using CBN wheels, not conventional grinder wheels. CBN or "cubic boron nitride" wheels are superior to regular wheels in many ways, but you can only grind hardened steel on them. Soft steel will ruin them. So they are for chisels, lathe tools and planer blades only. CBN wheels do not wear out. They also cut more effectively, so you can get away with finer grits and because they're solid steel all the way through, they absorb the heat generated by grinding, pulling it away from the tool you are sharpening.

Then there's my lathe cart. Nothing special in the lathe. It's a Rikon midi lathe with an extension bed. A perfectly serviceable lathe for turning furniture parts. What I like is my innovative cart that reduces its footprint in my small shop. It rotates up and rests on my bench for use. I wrote about this in a previous newsletter, so I won't go into it here. Except to say that I built it from shop scraps and it has been so successful that I intend to do an improved, version 2.0, when the mood strikes.

Behind that you see my new dust collector, which I also just recently wrote about in the newsletter. All the hoses have quick connectors and two of them are shared across multiple machines.

Now for the cabinet holding my finer hand tools. I won't list them all, there's a bunch of really nice stuff in here. Of note is the Stanley 113 compass plane, middle shelf, on the right. Probably about 100 years old. It still works great. On the left you see a Knew Concepts Fret saw. Reviewers always rave about this thing and then complain about the price. Yes, it's expensive, but it works. Every other fret saw I've ever used is frustrating and problematic. Life is too short for frustrating tools, so if you can stomach the expense, I highly recommend this tool. That statement goes for everything you see in this picture. Back saws, planes, drawknives, spokeshaves, inlay tools. At the top right you see some tools for carving chair seats. The tools are all top-notch, but the cabinet could be improved on. Another future project.

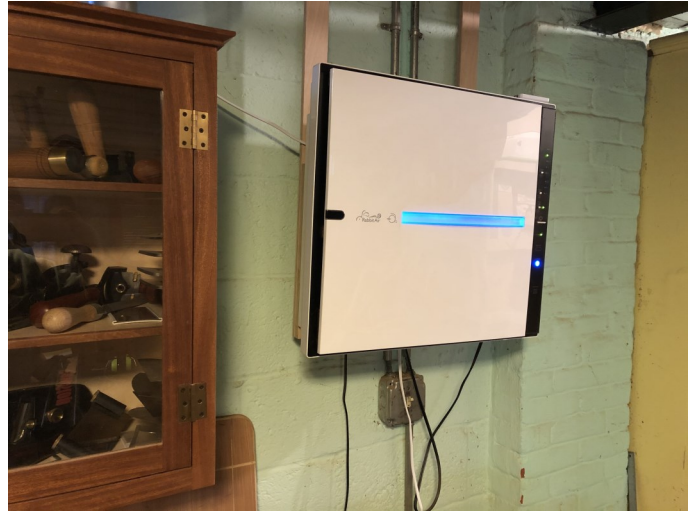
One last thing. Hanging next to the hand tools is a RabbitAir air cleaner that I read about in a FineWoodworking article. Not specifically made for wood shops, but I was sold by the case made in the article. Even the best dust collectors can't capture everything and you inevitably end up with fine dust floating in the air. This is a general pur-



AWG Shop Tour

pose high-performance HEPA air cleaner and it makes short work of that floating dust. I just leave it running (it's whisper quiet) and it can be set to shut off automatically some time after I leave the shop.

So to sum up my take-aways for my small shop: Don't chintz on the tools. Do your research. Better to wait and get something nice the first time rather than replace something shoddy. Put everything that can't be picked up on a rolling cart. When possible consolidate tools on one cart. Think out of the box. I've never seen anything like my lathe cart before, but I wouldn't have room for a lathe without it. Rubber floor mats for tired feet. Pay close attention to dust collection.



Over the last two issues Andy and Chris have done a great job showing their shop and the tools they use. Let's continue the discussion! Each of you have a different set of circumstances, techniques and tools you use—send your thoughts to your newsletter editor—cewick70@gmail.com

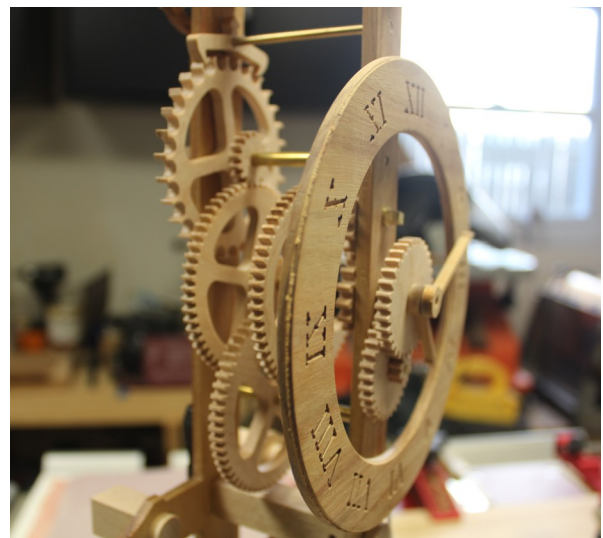


Current Projects

What have you been building in your shop recently? Jim Francis has completed his fourth “COVID project”. It’s a front door mat measuring 24 x 36 inches and is made of teak. The slats are mortise and tenoned to the side pieces. The surrounding frame is splined at all four corners. He carved the name, painted the letters, and then applied two coats of teak oil. I imagine he now gets lots of ‘hints’ from relatives!!



Have a lot of time on your hands? I did and decided to kill some and build a clock! Here is my first attempt at one of Brian Law’s wooden gear clocks. Nearly all of the wooden parts were machined on a 3-D Snapmaker in ‘CNC’ mode after redrawing all clock parts in half scale from the original (so it would fit the machine bed). The wood I used for this iteration was scrap wood from the shop, mostly maple for the gears and something long forgotten for the dial and frame. It actually ticks! I learned enough from the exercise to start designing a second clock that will I envision will use an electric mechanism instead of a weight to drive the clock. As they say: “stay tuned”. - Carl Wick



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 2020 —May 2021 Term)

President – Bruce Mitchell

1st Vice President – Bill Schneck

2nd Vice President – Bob Ashby

Secretary – Jim Menefee

Treasurer – Vince Antonioli

Tour Coordinator – Open

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 – 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! For current members 2020 dues roll over into 2021!

General Membership Meetings:

2nd Thursday of each month 7 PM

Virtual Video Meetings UFN

Executive Board Meetings:

4th 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



Brusso 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**