

The Colonial Woodcutter

February 2010

Executive Board

Jim Francis
President

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1st Vice President

Andy Borland
2nd Vice President

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Bambi Sublett
Secretary

Membership Chairman
Harry Chavez

Hugh Houghton
Program Chairman

Ward Brockett
Historian

Our Website = TBA (soon!)

Please address all correspondence to:
The Colonial Woodcutter
Annapolis Woodworker's Guild
P.O. Box 6001
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
Editors: Carl Love & David Blois
Photographs by: Doc Bohlman

General Membership Meetings
2nd Thursday of each month 7 PM
Davidsonville United Methodist Church
819 Route 214, Davidsonville, MD
Visitors are welcome

Executive Board Meetings
4th Thursday of each month 7PM
Davidsonville United Methodist Church

Annual Membership Dues \$35

For Information on the Annapolis
Woodworkers Guild call:
301-912-3132 of 410-695-0723
Email - info@awwg.org

The President's Angle

Unfortunately, two long-serving Board members resigned their positions last month. Our by-laws require that their positions be filled with a special election within 30 days. With quick action by the Board, we have now found willing volunteers for those positions. You will be asked at the February general meeting to vote on the nominees and give the newly elected Board members your complete support and loyalty.

You may well ask what may have caused this event. I believe the single most important cause was CHANGE. Change is always difficult and not readily accepted by all. As President, my initial assessment of our Guild was that it presently did not represent the full character, talent and status it has previously held.

Basically, the Guild over a period of time had become very complacent. Let me use a metaphor to try and explain my reasoning: If you own a home and do not perform periodic maintenance, your home will slowly deteriorate. As a 15-years member, I have sought to see that former status reestablished. For guidance and general direction in making changes, I used the 2012 AWG Questionnaire survey. Basically, the survey results showed the Guild had a high percentage of members over 65 years of age, the majority considered themselves intermediate woodworkers and they preferred to work in small groups. The area captains of the toy workshops initiative was such a start. The survey also showed a need to enhance our training and to modify reasonable changes to our website. That remains an ongoing work in progress. The various additional transitions may not always be easy but remain necessary and essential.

Remember: our Guild is supervised by an Executive Board which meets once a month. Members are encouraged and welcomed to attend. Finally I salute the past officers and members for all their hard work and dedication to the Guild.

Recognition should also go to the Marshalls who have had a long and dedicated record of service to the Guild. Many may be unaware of the depth and number of tasks they performed. As a team, they spent numerous hours working to make the Guild a better organization. Their efforts will be missed.

I believe that in order to be successful in any endeavor you must first have a plan, work hard and stay in control. Hopefully as your President, I have developed a plan, showed the necessary dedication, and controlled that plan to the best of my ability.

**"Ability is what you're capable of doing
Motivation determines what you do
Attitude determines how well you do it"**

JANUARY SPEAKER:

Program Chair, Hugh Houghton introduced the guest speaker **Sholmi Abuka** and his daughter, **Kaya**. Mr. Abuka is a furniture designer and builder with heavy emphasis on the creative, artistic aspects of woodworking, rather than just the mechanical. features While he is clearly aware of the technical side of his work and clearly complies with building codes and material requirements. This was fully demonstrated with his slide show.

In this, he displayed a stairway he designed and built for a client in old town Annapolis. The stairway is all curves of mahogany and inlays of quilted maple and it all adheres to the Annapolis building codes. According to Mr. Abuka, **it is as solid as a rock**.

The arcuate curved stairway grew out of the memories the client had of the works by Antoni Gaudi, a noted early 20th century architect. Notably, Gaudi was the architect and creator of the massive, but unfinished, cathedral in Barcelona, Spain, along with his many other architectural achievements. Gaudi likewise relied heavily on the use of arc and curves. [NOTE: Your Editor had the opportunity on a business trip to see Gaudi's *still* unfinished, and very large, cathedral in Barcelona—a work that surely does emulate his client's staircase. Read more in Wikipedia.]

The stairway, as indeed with almost all of Mr. Abuka's work, is finished with (1) a coat of 50% tung oil and 50% mineral spirits, (2) followed in 24 hours with a coat of 65%/35% tung oil, and (3) by in about 12 hours with a further coat of 75% tung oil. After another 12 hours or so, a final coat of pure tung oil is wiped on and wiped off. The 50/50 split used in the first coat is to allow the mineral spirits to draw the tung oil in as deeply into the wood as is possible. The workpieces may then be sanded with 600 grit paper between coats as needed.

Another tidbit of information is that the maple used to such grand effect in the stairs was 3/8ths inch thick but was first briefly soaked in warm water before being bent in every conceivable direction. However, he does not steam the wood nor leave it very long in hot water.

Understandably, Mr. Abuka's discussion was in the form of an elaborate slide show, but a few photos are attached at pp. 7 and 8. A very enlightening and clever presentation of Gaudi's multiple concepts, and much appreciated.

Awards!

President Jim Francis originated Awards to be given to new members who involve themselves early on in Guild activities. Each contributed to the Christmas Toy projects, serving on vari-



ous committees. Many thanks for volunteer-



your ing.



Show & Tell

Dave Blois demonstrated the usefulness of vacuum clamping. Beginning with a flat base, e.g. MDF, and perhaps 30" x 40" in., he next sawed shallow kerfs to allow air to move through the work piece. After applying a vinyl sheet cover, the system is then connected to a vacuum pump, available through Rocklers, or other suppliers.



Lee Bryton showed a jazzy cutting board made of purple heart and maple. A nice size with also a finger hold routed on the underside.



Bud Powel next showed his humungous train set, locomotive and coal tender, he made years ago. A fun piece!



Chris McDonald brought in a kitchen cupboard door he finished, with sanding up to 180 grit. This was then finished with Minwax stain, next three coats of gel varnish (General Finish's gel from Woodcrafter's).



A fine steel wool was applied between coats, and last a final rubbed down with a brown paper bag.

Sorry, Chris, you are much too bashful!

Mike Arndt, our local finishing guru, next took *Fine Woodworking* to task for messing up their advice on finishing with shellac or lacquer thinner. As Mike pointed out, if you start with alcohol, the finish that comes off will be shellac. If that's not it, then try lacquer thinner. Alcohol will not remove lacquer thinner, but lacquer thinner will.

Now if the finish won't come off, then that's a whole new bag of worms needing a lot more study.

Shop Tip:

Scrolling Tips for Beginners (by Paul Dodson)

1. Cut at a slower speed when first learning—it will be more forgiving and less stressful.
2. Learn how your blade tends to cut. Most blades tend to drift to the right. This is caused due to the burr formed on the right side of the blade when stamped out.
3. When cutting a curve, keep your eye on a point about 1/16" in front of the blade.
4. Most importantly, relax, take your time, and enjoy.

Door Prizes

These were won by - -



Paul Dodson Chris McDonald Bill Carbin -
Lowes Gift Card a slipstone Caliper
* * * * * * * * *

Future Training Items:

Paul Dodson will be offering a scroll saw class in February 23. He plans to teach pierced scroll sawing and straight line sawing. He will initially take the first five Members. This can be great opportunity for all Members. Paul's TEL No. = 410-760-5382

Follow-up on Finishing Seminar:

At a later date, there will be a follow-up on Peter Gedrys three-day seminar with other W. D. Lockwood dyes and procedures he recommended. Stay tuned!

Tool Sale:

From Jim Luck contact: 410-647-6622

1 - Rockwell model 43-122 Shaper 1/2 inch spindle with assorted spacers; 1 hp reversible motor; adjustable fence; safety ring; hardly used; Asking \$300 - negotiable
2- 10" Radial Arm Saw, Sears; lightly used, in very good condition, lower storage cabinet and table and instruction manual; offered at \$175

February Speaker:

Ed Stone will describe his work on the "Carving of the Dragon Lyre Clock", plus Bob Ashby will conduct a spray demo.

Remember: Wear Your Name Tag

The AWG Mentor Listing:

[Subject: Name/Phone/Email]

Antique Furniture Restoration;

Quinan, Johnstone; 410-956-5428

Brushed Shellac; Hand Planes

Applegate, Patrick;

410-426-8287

pappleg@jhmi.edu

Carving ~ Inlaying

Scrivens, Jay 410-544-3247

jdscrivens@verizon.net

Clock Making ~ Gilding

Stone, Ed 301-464-8079

edwstone@comcast.net

Finish repair~Furniture Repair

Arndt, Mike; 410-551-8588

MarylandWoodPro@gmail.com

wasdfames@verizon.net

Routing ~ Laminating

Houghton, Hugh 410-263-8615

hjhoughton@comcast.net

Scrollsaw

Allred, Win 301-587-3821

winallred@yahoo.com

Scrollsaw

Dodson, Paul 410-760-5382

pdwoodcrafts@verizon.net

Skills Improvement: Shaker Boxes;

Marquetry; Inlays

Luck, Jim 410-647-6622

jfl639@verizon.net

Stains~Hand rubbed oil finish

Sparks, Roy A 302-337-1016

Tooling ~ Cabinet making

Ashby, Bob 410-969-2910

Toys ~ Electrical Problems

Hirrlinger, Jack 410-798-1339

tjhirr@verizon.net

Any other Mentors?

[Here is one man's stimulating story - assisted by Jim Luck]

HOW I BUILT A CRAFT SHOW AND SELLING A BUSINESS

By William Norris

Woodworking (my hobby) interested me from the time I was attending Annapolis High School, and even now to the present time. At first the curriculum directed my interests, but I found I had a God-given talent. At first I built items for my family and friends. Chairs, large and small rocking horses, cradles, stools, toys, puzzles, jewelry cases. Cigar humidors were the most popular items for craft shows. After I retired from active employment in 1983, the craft shows produced many requests to custom build larger pieces of furniture. In woodworking my personal requirements emphasize good workmanship *and* quality. I have put my name on every wood item produced. Purchasing expensive hardwoods, i.e. black walnut, red oak, cherry, is itself an art.

Entering the field of selling and manufacturing was a challenge. I soon discovered that I must become a small business with all the requirements, i.e. open credit card access information, separate bank accounts, Maryland Sales Tax reporting procedures and obeying all the local, state and federal statutes. While all of the business establishment procedures were being accomplished, my inventories of completed items were growing. Looking for ways to market my wares, I came on a retail store interested in helping me. We agreed on commission and control measures. This connection began the necessary cash flow to support my new business and occupation and quickly relieved me of my over-sized inventory.

While I appreciated the opportunity given to me by the small retail store, I wanted more exposure and traffic. There were a few "juried" craft shows in the counties within driving range of my home shop. Departments of Parks & Recreation were helpful in many ways. In due course, I made my first application to enter a local juried show, and this involved a careful examination of what my selected items would be.



When I was then accepted to the show, paid the entry fee, reserved a booth, and became busy creating new pieces as well as building an inventory for the show. That first juried show was an interesting study of the designs of the show attendees. I learned from them and also adjusted my manufacturing approaches to accommodate, *above all*, for my future customers.

The expected requests for custom built furniture started almost immediately. I created a name for my business and had printed business cards for the prospects and customers of the show. Word -of-mouth is absolutely the best advertising ever conceived. Those cards taken at the shows would perhaps turn up only in the following weeks, sometimes even only years later, with a request as to whether I could to build or restore some particular item.

And—WOW!—I was indeed now in "*business*"!

In time that business became satisfactory and comfortable. Cash flow, inventory control and manufacturing dovetailed nicely with my family and other interests. And, I then had the freedom of being self employed.

I learned to listen and express interest in the customer's desires. The *proper* display of my products, both clean and orderly was a chore, but was always warmly received. Every item had a tag clearly showing the price. I learned to keep records on my customers. I could ask the customer how he or she liked the item or items purchased. I could use that record to send Christmas Calendars and notices regarding the next craft show..



*Be friendly.
Be einterested.
Be available.*

And KEEP IN TOUCH using as many non-intrusive media as are available.

Finally, enjoy your business. I have the discipline to establish all of my work schedules to maintain my balance with family and community. Without my family and full community support, I might well have quickly failed.

William R. Norris, Sr. Age 91. Phone 410-421-5709



Special Announcements: Due to recent changes, our Web site will be undergoing modification and changes. An announcement will be made once it is re-established. In the interim Guild members are reminded that dues will be regularly due. All members are urged and encouraged to supply their email site to the Membership Chair, as well as any other address changes. The Newsletter is best sent via email—same content, but in color. With new postal fees, the Guild will otherwise again sustain additional expenses.

All AWG Members are encouraged to patronize the following businesses when looking for tools, supplies or wood. Whenever requested, Members should show their membership cards for any of the above services.

Hartville Tools 800-345-2396 15%
www.hartvilletool.com

Klingspore 800-228-0000 10%
www.woodworkingshop.com

Woodline 800-472-6950 10%
www.woodline.com

Exotic Lumber (Annapolis) 10%
410-349-1705

www.exoticlumberinc.com

WorldofHardwoods (Linthicum, MD)
877-654-WOOD 10%

[www. Worldofhardwoods.com](http://www.Worldofhardwoods.com)

Wurth Wood Group (Elkridge, MD)
800-953-6229 (bulk)

www.wurthwoodgroup.com

WoodWorkersSupply
800-321-984 15-25%

<http://pro.woodworker.com>

WiseWoodVeneer
586-825-2387 5%

www.wisewoodveneer.com

FreeStateTimbers (Timonium,MD)
410-561-9444 10% in stock

Www.freestatetimbers

Southern Saw Service
410-327-0050

www.southernsaw.com

**10% on all sharpening;
20% all new saw blades,
and router blades**

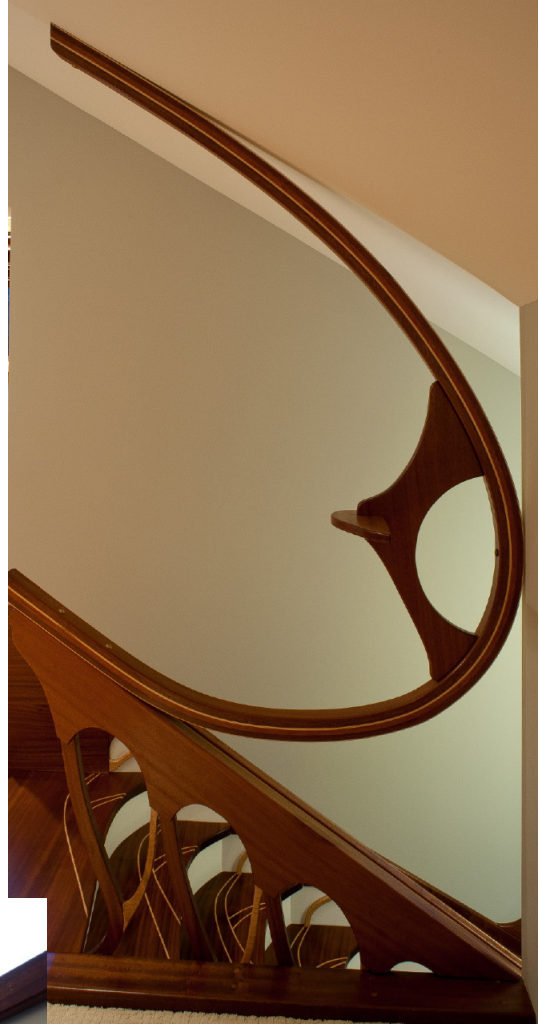
REMINDER: If AACO schools close due to weather, there will be no Guild meeting

From Mr. Abuka's slide show, these photos show

First, the massive doorway, swinging open to the stairway, and against the fireplace setting.



To the right is a portion of the arcuate banister and the foraminous fenestration against the stair treads.

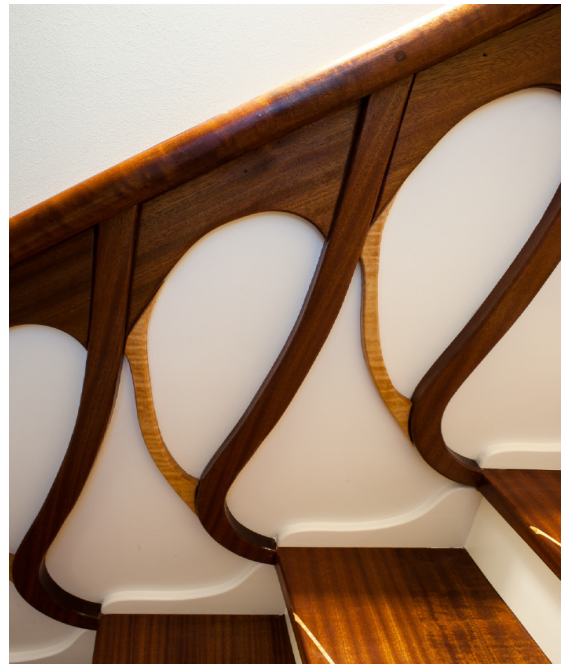


This photo at left illustrates the elevation of the stairway itself and all the work that had to be done fitting all those curves to the banister structure.



The left photo is another view of the stairway and it's curved landing, notably with inlays as well!

The photo below illustrates the details involved for the banister structure.



To the left is the bent wood supporting structure and further details of the banister composition.



FURTHER NOTE: The 2013 PATINA, (Potomac Antique Tools & Industries Association). The Dealer Sale and Auction will be held on Saturday, March 16, at the Damascus Volunteer Fire Department. The address is 10211 Lewis Drive, Dasmacus, MD 20872. Dealer sale will commence at 9:00 AM to the general public. The auction will begin around 2:00 PM. Tailgating in the parking lots begins at dawn. Yep, that's what the PAT-INA website says. For additional information and directions see www.patinatools.org.

Need a new name tag? Or, any changes to your address/email? Advise Membership Chair..

What do *you* have for Show & Tell?