

# Saw Dust Chronicles

January 2015

Website: <http://www.hcwg.org/>

Newsletter of the  
Howard County  
Woodworkers Guild  
Volume 25 • Issue 1



## Upcoming Monthly Meeting

**Note Change of Date:** The next HCWG meeting will be on Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at the *Florence Bain Senior Center*, Columbia, MD. The Center will still be closed for the New Years holiday on the normal first-Saturday meeting date. Members are welcome to come early to chat with friends and check out for-sale and show-and-tell items.

**January Meeting Agenda:** 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

- Greeting by President Rick Munzer.
- Introduction of guests and new members.
- Demo – Ed Fischer will do a shop safety demonstration.
- President's Notes
- Treasurer's Report
- Other Announcements
- Problems Looking for Solutions
- Show and Tell
- 50/50 Raffle All attendees may participate with 50% of the proceeds going to the Florence Bain Senior Center woodshop.
- Monthly Door Prize Drawings: Members only and they must wear their badges to be eligible to win a monthly door prize.

## Minutes of the November Meeting

- President Rick Munzer called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM
- Rick introduced visitors and new members: Buddy from Hanover was visiting to check out the Guild. Len was visiting, a beginner interested in woodworking. He was accompanied by a 4 month old visitor who did not introduce himself.
- Rick Munzer introduced guest Jim Frank for the presentation (see presentation notes, below).
- Treasurer's report by Manny Flecker: The balance of HCWG funds was \$6760.98 as of the meeting day. The balance was up slightly because of dues payments.
- Announcements (see below)
- Member Show and Tell (see below)
- 50/50 raffle and door prizes were awarded: Vivian won less than \$50 in the 50/50 and also won a cutting gauge as a door prize. Dan Turner won a scraper set, and Don Kuntz won a ruler and maker set.



## Guild Announcements

**2015 Meeting Dates:** *(All meetings the Florence Bain Senior Center, 10:00 am unless otherwise indicated.)*

January 17 ( <b>note change from usual date</b> )	April 4
February 7	May 2
March 7	June 6

**February Program: Bring your Favorite Shop Fixture or Jig!** For February's presentation, Guild members are asked to bring in your favorite homemade shop jig, fixture, or aid to show to others and say a few words about how you made it, maybe designed it, or how it helps your shop work. We would love to have at least ten members share something for a few minutes each. Please let David Hickson ([david.hickson100@gmail.com](mailto:david.hickson100@gmail.com), 240-401-8964) know if you have something to share. Those who have signed up so far: Fred Schock, Luther Williams, Tom Opitz, Stanley Harmon, Ron Clements, and David Hickson



January 2, 3, and 4, **2015 Baltimore Woodworking Show**: More than one person came up to me and mentioned that this was the best show ever. I could have easily spent two days visiting the booths. As it was, Friday, right after opening, the place filled up quickly, lines formed at the check out stands, but moved quickly, all the sessions were busy, crowds formed quickly any time someone demonstrated - and Tim, thank you for your turning demonstration and all the work to prepare - Tim wowed the crowd with his bowl turning techniques. From Zero to finish polished bowl in forty minutes! We had a great volunteer turnout. Thank you very much for taking time to man the booth, answer questions, and to promote woodworking and our Guild. See the January 10<sup>th</sup> Wood Chip email for the volunteers list. Gene

**Toby's Dinner Theatre "Mary Poppins"**, 14 December 2014, was a huge success with 33 Guild members, family and friends. Fred and Dorothy coordinated the event. They even provided me with a write-up, attendee list and photos. And, I lost the email. I apologize for the mistake to all who attended, those who were interested but couldn't, and mostly to Fred and Dorothy. I asked them to resend and will update you all accordingly.

**Website Improvements:** Gene continues to make improvements to the Guild website - check it out! For example, registered members can now use their email to log into the website. See the November 25<sup>th</sup> Wood Chip email for details, or go to <https://hcwg.org/wood-chip-25-november-2014/> .

**Guild T-Shirts:** If you ordered a t-shirt from Tim Jackson, please see him to pick up your shirt at the next meeting.

**Membership Cards:** Gene still has new membership cards for 2014-2015. If you have not seen Gene to pick yours up, please do so at the next meeting. If you have not paid your dues for the current year, please see Gene ASAP!

**HCWG Who's Who:** Check out the HCWG website. Members can see past issues of the Sawdust Chronicles, view want ads, access the membership directory, and learn about other members via the *Who's Who* section.

**Bain Shop Rules:** Only those on the shop monitor list maintained by the Bain Center will be allowed to open the shop. The shop monitor will wear a "Monitor Badge" while in the shop. **He is the boss in the shop while he is on duty! Power equipment will not be operated when only one person is in the shop!** If you don't follow the rules you will be asked to leave.

**Shop Monitors Needed:** Several shop monitors are currently needed or will be in the near future. Unless a designated monitor is present, the shop in the Bain Center cannot be opened. Contact Wayne Austin if you are interested in helping in this capacity or to obtain additional information.

**Trash and Treasures:** Do you have a piece of equipment, tool, etc which you no longer use? The table at the back of the meeting room is a place where you can offer it for sale to a member who might need or want it. Bring it in and give it a try. Sometimes there are free items!

**Basic Woodworking Course:** The shop will be opened on Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:30 PM. Although open to all, the main purpose will be to conduct some basic woodworking instructional sessions. Anyone interested in or who has ideas concerning such sessions should contact Wayne Austin.

**Monthly Demonstrations:** In the past, a HCWG member who gave a demonstration was given a dues free membership for the following year. Effective July 2013, HCWG members will be reimbursed at the same rate as outside demonstrators: \$100.00. This is for a 45-60 minute demonstration. When multiple members join

together to give in effect several mini demos, the reimbursement will be split among the individuals as agreed by the individuals concerned. This reimbursement **will not** be applicable to events such as “jig/fixture-arounds”.

Scheduling these highlights of our monthly meetings is not an easy task. An elaborate machine-based demo is not the only way to go. The assembly of a project you have underway and explaining how you got the parts to their current size and shape is okay. An explanation of how and why various joints are used, which adhesives or fasteners work best in a particular application are of interest to all members. How about what you do? Do you have an interesting or different woodworking technique? Something that you know how to do well and think other members may be interested in learning? The way you approach a certain function may be an eye opener to everyone else. There is no single right way for most of our woodworking tasks and each of us can learn something new if given the opportunity. Or, do you know someone who does woodworking who might come as a guest and do a demonstration? The giant TV screen now available is a great method for presenting slide shows although some specific formatting rules must be used. Contact Brian Graham or any of the HGWG officers to schedule a demo for the rest of the members.

## December Demonstration

Jim Frank, Bowmaker, “**Longbow Making**” [www.period-productions.com](http://www.period-productions.com)

Introduction: Jim has worked at Renaissance Fairs for 30 years. The fair in Maryland covers 9 weekends over the summer. Jim uses a coffin he built himself as a shelf unit for use at shows. This draws many interesting comments from visitors. 10 years ago the show wanted a “Robin Hood” theme, and they needed 200 longbows for the show. Jim experimented with making a longbow to see what was needed. It turned out to be pretty easy, and he has been making them ever since. “If I can do it, you can do it, because I’m a moron.” One of Jim’s heroes is Roy Underhill, including especially Roy’s books about entertaining and teaching. Roy has been a very strong inspiration for Jim in his work at the Renaissance Fair. (See *Khrushchev’s Shoe: And Other Ways to Captivate an Audience of 1 to 1,000 – Ed.*)



Materials and Methods: Jim can make a bow out of most any hardwood. Traditionally the wood was yew, but it does not grow in eastern N. America. Jim showed a list of usable woods (about 30, including most every common native hardwood). Billets out of some heartwood and some sapwood can work well. Bamboo flooring makes great 15 lb pull bows. PVC pipe makes decent bows for kids or a scout troupe.

The inside of the tree should become the inside of the bow. Jim buys a lot of scrap offcuts to obtain good bow wood. One can make a bow from a tree directly, but Jim makes his out of kiln-dried hardwood. He can make a bow in 6 hours. The belly (outside of curve) faces away, and the back faces the archer. Jim uses circles at center, ¼ and end of billet to lay out

the diamond shape for bow. He uses a drawknife (history’s bandsaw) to shape the diamond profile of the bow. Jim recommends bevel-down drawknives so one can pull back out of the wood if it starts to dig into the grain.

The shaving horse - Jim’s shaving horse is similar to a traditional horse, but he uses a rail system with a sliding bench to accommodate workers of various heights. The throat of the vise is adjustable with a peg. Jim recommends creating a padded, tilted seat to set one’s posture up for proper, comfortable shaving.

The first step of bowmaking is to get the long diamond shape. This creates a bendable shape. “Draw weight” is the force needed to draw the bow. This is related to thickness, length, and width of the wood. These allow one to fine tune the bow for proper draw and an even bend. Rough work is done with a drawknife, and then Jim switches to a rasp or file for final shaping. He prefers a large ferrier’s file that has a coarse side and a fine side, and they are inexpensive. He also uses a Japanese patternmaker’s file with filed, random teeth. This file has a small wooden handle on the far end (handle on both ends of file), making it easier on the hands when working.

The belly of the bow (facing away from archer) need to have a single growth ring from end to end. When making the bow, one has to chase this growth ring along the entire length of the belly. This is not necessary on the back, which is under compression. Jim also uses planemaker's floats for shaving fine layers of wood to chase the growth rings down the length of the bow.

Can glue on a "growth ring" to strengthen the bow, with snake skin, wood, fiberglass, etc. Can laminate layers of wood to create a stronger bow. Jim uses 2-part glue and uses strips of rubber inner tube as a wrapping clamp for laminations. The rubber does not stick to the glue the way other materials might.

Once shaped, thinned, then the maker shapes the profile of the bow. Traditionally bows have many cross-sectional shapes, D's, flat, semi-stack, trapezoid, etc. with the wider part towards the belly, and the narrower part towards the archer. Neolithic bows have similar profiles, but all kinds of shapes.

Tools required: Shaving horse or clamp, drawknife/bandsaw, wood rasp, scraper, and a "tiller." The tiller is a long, notched board used to bend and shape the bow. If the bend is uneven, remove wood from the side that bends less. Jim's draw length is 28" so he keeps increasing and testing the draw until he gets to the proper draw length. Can draw a pattern on the wall to gauge the proper curve and draw of the bow.



Jim uses a scraper as the final surfacing; sandpaper fills the pores and muddies the feel of the bow so Jim does not recommend finishing with sandpaper. For scrapers, Jim uses economical paint scraper blades from Home Depot mounted on his own wooden handle (like a spokeshave). He also makes his own scraper spokeshaves.

Finishes: Jim usually finishes his bows with linseed oil and beeswax, or spray polyurethane now. The bow needs to be sealed and protected against moisture. This helps keep the bow consistent in feel (fast and slow). One can scrape the bow in the field in order to fine tune the feel and accuracy of the bow.

More Bow History: Jim spoke about what was learned from the archeological recovery of the 16th century English [Mary Rose ship sinking](#) - salvagers found many items, including many longbow blanks. The blanks were found to have 150-180 lb. pull. In that day in age, an archer's fire rate was 10/minute, which is pretty impressive. Bow making was a top secret military technology, and makers were registered and a state secret. Techniques were passed down generation to generation. They were unionized. Bowmakers (bowyers) were not the same craftsmen who make arrows. Bows have to be made in daylight - can't make by candlelight. Kings would have standing archers armies that were trained and regulated.



The process of drawing a bow, being an archer, creates changes in the archer's body. They had massive shoulder muscles and bones as a result of the forces exerted on the body.

Types of Bows: Jim showed illustrations of Asian-style bows. Many were made out of bone and horn (same characteristics as fiberglass) that was cut and shaped by hand. (England made so many bows from yew that they deforested the country of yew trees.) The Japanese bow was used to shoot from horseback. Jim discussed different bows, draw techniques, etc. for horseback vs. standing archers. Japanese bows were laminated bamboo and wood.

Fletchercraft: It turns out that arrows need to be carefully made. A good arrow has to flex just the right amount for accurate shooting. "Spine" is the amount of bend in the arrow. A proper amount of spine is needed to make the arrow shoot straight - it has to flex in order to adjust for the arrow being loaded off to the side of the

bow. Arrow making involves 5 crafts: 50,000 arrows are needed by an army in the first minute of battle. Fletchers were an important craft. Jim talked briefly about different styles and purposes of arrow heads. A Bodkin point on an arrow is designed to pierce tempered breastplates. Some arrowheads have sockets, some have tangs, like chisels.

Strings: A bow's strings traditionally were silk, linen, or sinew. Now we use nylon. String height (distance between bow grip and the strung but undrawn string) is an individual setting (usually determined from fist+thumb length). A Flemish string (looped by stranding and twisting, not knotting) allows for easily changing the length of the string height; a knot would be difficult to use.

Resources:

Tools: [www.3riversarchery.com](http://www.3riversarchery.com)  
[www.woodraft.com](http://www.woodraft.com)

Books;

The Bowyers Bible Series I-IV  
The Bow Builders book  
Bow Accessories

Videos:

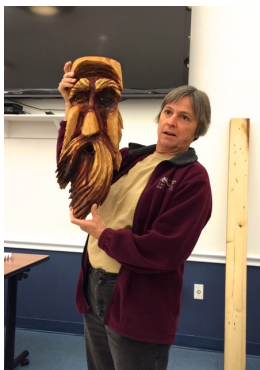
The Stickery Home School - Making a Wood Bow (hard to find)  
The longbow Series  
Hunting the Bamboo Backed Bow

## November Show and Tell

- Fred Steffens showed a lettered church sign he had carved for his church.
- Herschel displayed several pens and talked about how he gives them away gifts.
- Rick Munzer showed a new bandsawn basket made from cherry and walnut, and also a bottle stopper turned from sweetgum.
- Howard Eiserike showed an Adirondack chair sign
- Richard displayed two Nakashima-style tables.
- Tim Jackson showed a silver and brass inlaid turned box.
- (There were others whose names were not recorded...)



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## Working Wood Safely

Inspect your wood before making a cut or any other operation.

Most of us realize the damage that can be done when your saw blade, chisel, plane or other tool hits a nail or other piece of metal. Consequently, we inspect for such things to protect our tools.

Do you also inspect for such things as loose knots? What can happen if one is encountered when turning or cutting a piece of wood?

In the case of a miter saw or a radial arm saw the following scenario might take place:

Due to the motion of the blade, the knot will be kicked out to the rear of the saw and may bounce off the back of the saw and toward your body. If the bounce is toward your face hopefully you will be wearing safety glasses or a face shield!

Take the precaution of identifying potential "missile hazards" in your work piece and always wear proper eye and face guards.

*Monthly Sawdust safety tips are provided by Guild member Ed Fischer.*



### **Guild Classified**

**Exotic Lumber Inc. (Frederick)**, 329 East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Frederick, MD (Formerly in Gaithersburg) has over 110 species of lumber in stock as well as cabinet plywood, veneers, Amana router bits, pen and turning blanks. Complete millwork shop. Present your HCWG membership card at time of purchase for a 10% discount. 410-349-1705

**Exotic Lumber, Inc. (Annapolis)** has moved to Whitehall Rd, Exit 31B on US-50. This is about 2 miles from the Bay Bridge. Do not take Exit 31-A; use Exit 31-B, just past a shopping center. Turn Right off US-50 and go to the first building on the right. 301-695-1271

**Freestate Timbers**, 9572 Deereco Rd, Timonium, MD, is now offering a 10% discount when you show your membership card. 410-561-9444

**Hicksville Planing Mill** 14464 Hicksville Road, Clear Spring, MD 21722. Robert Miller 301-842-3474 Open Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri, 7:30-5:00 Sat 7:30-12:00 Closed Thurs, Sun. Inventory of domestic and tropical rough, dry woods; planing and milling services.

**Millwork Outlet**, 2200 Severn Street, Baltimore City, has surplus molding, railing, columns, and miscellaneous wood products at inexpensive prices. (near Route 95 & Washington Blvd.) 410-355-3426

**Chesapeake Promotional Products**, 1430 Progress Way, Suite 106 in Eldersburg, MD 21784. They have the HCWG logo on file that can be used on hats or shirts. Phone (410) 552-6667, email: [chesproproducts@aol.com](mailto:chesproproducts@aol.com).

**World of Hardwood**, 809 Barkwood Court, Linthicum, MD gives all HCWG members a 10% discount on purchases up to \$100 and 20% for orders over \$100. You need to present your HCWG membership card at the time of purchase. 410-636-3755

**Timberline Farm Sawmill** 13000 Old Frederick Rd, Sykesville, MD Hardwoods: Cherry, Oak, Walnut, Hickory, Elm, Poplar and others. 410-707-0158.

### **HCWG Library Items**

A list of the Guild's DVDs by title and number has been sent to all members by email, or you can check them out on the web site. If you want to check out an item, contact Bud Nuessle.

### **For Sale/Wanted by HCWG Members**

*Note: Ads will appear for 3 months unless cancelled sooner or an extension is requested. Number in ( ) indicates the number of times your ad has appeared.*

\* A friend of Nate Amsden's bought 34 boxes of Hillman brand wood screws years ago from a mom and pop store that went out of business. He hasn't used them and would like to sell them off. Price: \$70 for the lot. Will bring to the guild meeting. Steel round head slotted screws, 100 per box: 2 x 5/8, 3 x 1/2, 4 x 3/8, 4 x 1/2, 4 x 5/8, 4 x 3/4, 6 x 7/8, 7 x 5/8, 10 x 1 (4 boxes), 10 x 1 1/4, 10 x 1 1/2, 10 x 2, 12 x 3/4. Brass flat head Phillips screws, 100 per box: 2 x 1/4, 2 x 1/2, 3 x 3/8, 3 x 1/2, 3 x 3/4, 5 x 3/8, 6 x 1/2, 6 x 7/8, 6 x 1 1/2, 7 x 1/2, 7 x 3/4, 8 x 1/2, 8 x 3/4 (2 boxes), 9 x 3/4, 9 x 1 1/4 (2 boxes), 9 x 1 1/2. If interested, shoot Nate an email at [nate.d.amsden@gmail.com](mailto:nate.d.amsden@gmail.com). (1)

\* David Hickson is selling a **6" Grizzly G1182Z jointer** with 1 1/2 HP 120v motor for \$275. The unit is in excellent condition, no rust, limited use, and includes a segmented (spiral) carbide insert cutter head. Works

great. He will be happy to help a Guild member load or transport this item within 25 miles of Columbia. \$275. If interested contact David at david.hickson100@gmail.com or 240-401-8964. (1)

\* **Legacy Ornamental Mill** For Sale: The Guild was informed of a Legacy Ornamental mill woodworking machine with some accessories for sale for \$1795. Please contact (non member) Don Pierce at [dwpearce63@yahoo.com](mailto:dwpearce63@yahoo.com) or 301-570-2568 (2)

\* **Lathe and Duplicator** for Sale: Delta Lathe 46 – 745 \$875: Baldor variable frequency drive with Poly-V-Belt for maximum torque and speed control, Cast Iron head stock travels entire length of bed, rugged and easy to use spindle lock with 24 division indexer for ornamental work, feet can accommodate 4 x 4s which increase footprint for stability while turning large work pieces. Included with lathe: 8 piece Sorby manufactured cutters, face plate Adjustable dust-collecting hood. Vega Duplicator – \$450: Condition: Excellent! Contact Fred Schock at (410)299-1929 (2)

\* **Skilled Woodworkers Paid Opportunity:** My name is Mike Pararas. About a year ago my wife and I started a company located in Baltimore City called Words with Boards and we are looking for skilled woodworkers to help us manufacture our product on a larger scale. Specifically we are looking for people who know the scroll saw. Presently we are manufacturing all our products ourselves but are getting to the point where we need help to meet the demand. We are all about making these in the US and more importantly **LOCALLY** in the Greater Baltimore area. If someone could give me a call to talk a little more about whether this is a good option for us I'd really appreciate it. Check out our site and read about us at Words with Boards. Mike, 410-215-6717 (2)

\* Available: **Oneida Super Gorilla Dust Collection System:** excellent system for a larger shop. Offered at \$1200. U.S.-Made Baldor motor, 3 Horsepower Single Phase; Voltage: 115-230V; Amperage: 29/14.5A; 99.977% efficient @ 0.3 to 0.5 microns. If interested contact (member) Dave McCann. (3)

Executive Committee	
<b>President:</b> Rick Munzer (410) 489-6723	<b>Committee Chairs:</b>
<b>Vice President:</b> Tim Jackson (443) 223-6396	Membership - Gene Torrey (443) 535-8873
<b>Treasurer:</b> Manny Flecker (410) 997-0879	Program - Brian Graham (410) 788-6992
<b>Secretary:</b> Nita Radtke (443) 676-7805	Shop Coordinator - Wayne Austin (410) 730-0613
<b>Webmaster:</b> Gene Torrey (443) 535-8873	Education - <i>(vacant)</i>
	Show - Joel LaFerriere (301) 854-0397
	Sawdust Editor - David Hickson (240) 401-8964

Committee purposes are as follows:

*Membership* – maintains a Guild membership manual of all active members.

*Program* – coordinates programs for the monthly meetings, special programs and seminars.

*Education* – puts together information for the how-to manual and coordinates classes.

*Show* – coordinates setting up a booth at shows and fairs.

*Sawdust Editor* – assembles, writes and distributes HCWG monthly newsletter

*Shop Coordinator* – oversees overall activities in the shop, qualifies and schedules shop monitors and serves as the point of contact with the Bain Center Staff for shop related matters.

HCWG Sawdust Chronicles

Name

Street

City, State, ZIP

**FIRST CLASS**