

# Saw Dust Chronicles

April 2015

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

Newsletter of the  
Howard County  
Woodworkers Guild  
Volume 25 • Issue 4



## Upcoming Monthly Meeting – April 4, 2015

The April meeting will return to our normal location at the Bain Center in Columbia.

### April Meeting Agenda: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

- Greeting by President Rick Munzer.
- Introduction of guests and new members.
- Demo/Presentation – Rick Munzer; Bandsaw Baskets
- 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: Only members are eligible, and they must wear their badges to be eligible, to win one of the monthly door prizes.

## Minutes of the March Meeting

- President Rick Munzer called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.
- Rick expressed thanks to Lori and Shaun for finding a meeting location for this month. The Bain Center still closed for repairs due to a major water leak.
- Rick introduced visitors and new members: Visitor Paul Russler, former member from years ago, retired after 46 years as a woodshop teacher. David Bysant, member but does not attend regularly. He is a biologist who studies different kinds of wood. Bob Yule, visitor; carves decoys from driftwood with hand knives. John DiSilva is moving to retirement home, brought some odds and ends; Mike Dorsam is visiting and considering membership.
- Rick Munzer introduced the meeting's program, Arnold Sewell, the proprietor of the local Timeline Sawmill. (See program notes, below.)
- Treasurer's report by Manny Flecker: \$5602.09 in treasury. Expenses have been low recently.
- Membership Report by Gene Torrey: We had 194 members last month, and we are around 199 or 200 as of now. Gene asked Taunton Press to add our Guild to their web list of clubs. Their website has now become the second most common referring website (behind Google itself). Gene recently refreshed the appearance of the Guild website (Thanks to Gene for all his work on the website!)
- Announcements: the annual PATINA tool show is coming up next Saturday morning in Damascus.
- Questions were asked about the Bain Center damage and any possible effect on the Guild shop. Joel provided a more detailed update: Center director says the center is reopening on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. The pictures show extensive damage from the frozen pipes, particularly near the dance studio. A large pipe coming up from the floor burst and a large quantity of water was released. This is the third time they have had pipes break in recent years. So, it looks like the 23<sup>rd</sup> would be the earliest we would be back in. There was extensive damage to floors, carpets, drywall, etc. The shop did get flooded, but no

one has been into the space to see what damage has happened in the shop itself. The tile floor in the shop may have lifted.

- Member Show and Tell (see notes below)
- 50/50 raffle and door prizes were awarded:

## Guild Announcements

Member Don Williams wants to make sure fellow woodworkers know about the upcoming exhibit of the **Henry. O. Studley tool cabinet and workbench**. The exhibit will be simultaneous with, and only about 20 miles from, the amazing [Handworks](#) hand-tool event in nearby Amana, Iowa, which will make for an amazing and memorable woodworking weekend. If you have any questions or comments, please let Don know. P.S. The Studley Tool Cabinet book goes off to the printer this week!

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

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

**Sign your work with High Quality Medallions:** I have wanted to be able to sign my work with a high quality result. A few days ago Gary Anderson, a woodworker from San Diego, contacted me through our web site offering round metal medallions engraved with any artwork submitted for a very nominal unit price of less than \$2 each, but in lots of 100. I was skeptical. He sent samples, which I will bring to the meetings and have at my Membership table for your examination. And starting at the May meeting, you will see my medallions mounted in my show-n-tell pieces. Just to check out the market, I found another who makes his as laser engraved wood disk medallions that are the same size and method of attachment. An equally viable option if you want an all-wood result. (metal) Gary Anderson / Signature Medallions / 619-303-2876 (let Gary know you sourced him through our Guild); (wood) Dan Robidoux / Handmade The American Way / 816-824-8029.



result. (metal) Gary Anderson / Signature Medallions / 619-303-2876 (let Gary know you sourced him through our Guild);

Wednesday AM Coffee Resumes: You are invited (now that the Bain Center is reopening)!

Wednesday AM is a HCWG group that meets every Wednesday at The Bain Center.

We get there at about 8:30 AM (when the doors open) and have the room till about 10. We have been meeting together like this since 1992. Our agenda is whatever we want to talk about. We BS about woodworking, stories of vacations, good things to know, problems needing solutions (we solve them all), and any thing else.

We bring our own coffee from home or McDonald's. For a donation of \$1.25 there are donuts, bagels, & cheese also.

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

|             |            |            |          |
|-------------|------------|------------|----------|
| April 4     | May 2      | June 6     | August 1 |
| September 5 | November 3 | December 5 |          |

**Guild T-Shirts:** If you would like to order an embroidered Guild T-shirt or hat, see Tim Jackson at the next meeting to place your order. Shirt sizes available from S to 4XL.

**Membership Cards:** Gene still has a few 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.

**Shop Hours:** The Guild is seeking to assess whether there is continued need for Thursday night shop hours. If there is low demand/interest, the Guild may drop the Thursday evening hours.

**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:** May 2016 Demonstration: Gene Torrey will help members with how to get the most out of the Guild's website.

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".

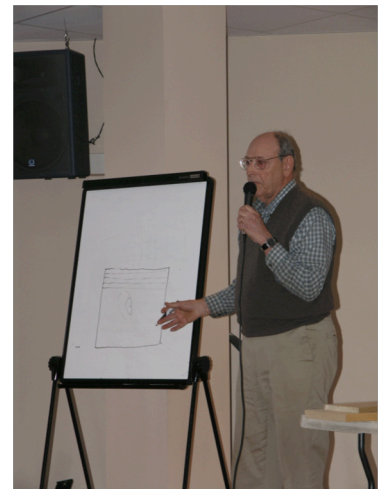
Scheduling these highlights of our monthly meetings is not an easy task. An elaborate machine-based demo is not the only way to go. The assembly of a project you have underway and explaining how you got the parts to their current size and shape is okay. An explanation of how and why various joints are 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.

### **March Demonstration**

The program featured Mr. Arnold Sewell, proprietor of the local Timberline Sawmill. Mr. Sewell is well known to many Guild members.

Mr. Sewell began a sawmill operation on his farm as a retirement activity, but it has grown into a full business. He makes lumber for woodworkers and makes boards for the local farming community: fence boards, posts, barn repairs. Does not make dimensional lumber, as used by the construction industry. Homeowners may come for a mantle or step tread lumber. Mr. Sewell appreciates the invitation to come speak to the Guild. He has heard much about the Guild over the years.

*Warped lumber, why it warps, and how to straighten it:* Generally one gets two kinds of trees: those that are straight and those that are crooked. Crooked trees develop internal tensions that lead to warping, etc. This is common at the mill, where one can see the boards warp as they are cut, and the tensions are released in the wood. An example: a customer came in with a cherry log that was curved significantly. It was a challenge to mill, and Arnold was determined to help him. With a curved log it is difficult to



know how to mill it in order to get the most usable lumber. Arnold suggested cutting into shorter 3-4' segments, and then mill these into thicker pieces. Another example: A tree that grew at an angle, where the entire trunk grows tilted. Gravity pulls unevenly on the tree, seeking to pull it down, and the tree grows to counteract this action. The upper side of the trunk is in tension, by perhaps a quarter of an inch in length. As the tree grows, each ring is added over the stretched surface and is added over the stretched layers in tension. This process traps tension into the log as it grows. A similar process happens on the lower side of the log, but in compression instead of tension. When the tree is cut and the log comes to the sawmill, Arnold inspects the log and can see, from the shape of the log and the flare at the base, that it has internal tensions.

When the log goes on the sawmill, Arnold levels the log's center and then cuts the tensioned, upper part first. Typically the top board will curve upward as it is sawn free from the log. Arnold then turns the log 180 degrees and take a slabwood slice off the other side, which will curve the opposite way. He then turns the log 90 degrees and cut off sides, and those slabs tend to bend parallel to the board's width (crook bend). Arnold then cuts the fourth side to end up with a square log, known as a "cant." He then returns the log to its original location and cuts lumber from the squared log, creating a flitch. The next cut is on the opposite side, working his way around all four sides in order to keep the remaining tension in balance. He then puts the side with the most tension on top and cuts the next board, working his way all around the log with each cut (90 degree turns after each cut). If Arnold did not do this, then the whole log would warp when logs are cut only from a tensioned side, and then subsequent cuts on the warped log would waste wood.



Arnold does quarter-saw logs, but that topic would be an entire separate lecture. Generally, he only quarter-saws oak and sycamore at his mill.

*The straight tree:* This is a tree that grows "plumb" and has a well-balanced canopy so there is not weight tension on one side or another. This kind of log is a joy to saw. The log can be cut straight down the cant, board after board. It can be cut in a number of directions to suit the customer's needs. The pith (center of tree) is usually cracked and soft. Arnold usually cuts around the pith, for example with two quarter-sawn boards from each side of the pith.

*Stacking:* Once the log is cut, it gets stacked for drying. Arnold stacks the tensioned boards on the bottom and lumber from straight logs on top, so

the weight of the top logs helps press the tensioned lumber straight as it dries. Arnold uses stickers of uniform thickness between layers. Stickers need to be stacked directly on top of each other in order to keep the pressure straight down on each layer so it won't introduce bends in the drying lumber. It does not seem to matter whether the boards curve up or down in the stack. This technique does not work for extremely bowed wood (say much more than 1" bow at each end in a 10' log). Once the wood dries, it is considerably straighter. However, just assume you are going to have to straighten any rough-cut board.

Arnold only stacks to about 4 ft high because this is what his tractor can lift. The top layer is exposed to the weather and will warp, allowing the next layer to warp, also. Arnold uses the slab wood (bark-covered outer boards) as the top layer – it provides the same amount of internal moisture in the stack, and it protects the next layer down from drying too fast. Arnold overlaps the edges of the slabs to provide a complete cover. Outside, wood will only come down to about 12-15% moisture content (in a non-climate-controlled space, such as a barn).

*Milling and Using Rough Lumber:* Boards will bow after they are cut in the shop. The moisture levels in the shop are different, so boards are prone to cupping, etc. The recommendation is to be careful about where you stash the lumber in the shop – the ideal is to have the same moisture exposure on both sides of the board as it equilibrates to the shop moisture level. Be careful about leaning lumber against cement walls, which tend to be



damp. Laying boards on the floor will also cause uneven drying which leads to warping or cupping. In a stack of lumber, always cover the top layer so the top board does not warp from rapid drying.

Kinked boards – boards will kink around knots and crotches. The grain can be interesting. If you want to use the wood through the kink, then it needs to be re-cut straight on the bandsaw. A small kink can be removed on the jointer, or by hand-planing.

Remember a planer does not straighten a board (without using a special jig of some kind), unless you have one straight side first. Be sure to keep the flat side down towards the bed of the planer.

When using warped or crooked boards, cut the boards to rough, approximate length first and then plane them – this creates less waste of wood than trying to plane and straighten entire long boards. Keep in mind that many boards will distort as you cut them to final width. Arnold's recommendation is to cut boards a bit wide of final width, then see if it will warp. If it does, then re-straighten one edge with a jointer and re-cut to final dimension. Another technique would be to clamp a straight board next to a crooked board, using the straight board to guide the crooked board through a tablesaw to obtain a straight edge.

Arnold has found that applewood is the most prone to warping, which is why he usually ends up with short lengths of applewood. Cherry and maple will also warp more than average. Because of this, Arnold will generally cut these woods thicker so there are usable pieces left after processing.

Arnold sometimes paints the ends of his boards to slow drying, but often not. Thicker wood, especially oak, can be prone to checking on the ends of lumber. Arnold air-dries all his lumber; woodworking customers have reported that they prefer the air-dried lumber as compared to kiln-dried lumber.

For planing cupped boards, Arnold has used thin strips to lay in the center of the cup cavity. This side goes down on the bed of the planer, allowing you to plane the outside of the cupped board flat first. This is a time-saver.

*Recap:* Stack lumber so there is even air flow on all sides. Cover or seal the top layer. Always make an effort to straighten lumber first when working with rough-cut lumber. Remember a jointer straightens, but a planer generally will not unless you use special techniques. Allow lumber to equilibrate 12 days when bringing into the shop, and cover the top layer as it rests.

## March Show and Tell



**Safety Shavings**

Veteran member Ed Fischer provides us with valuable safety reminders now and then. From Ed's "Seven Rules to Never Violate": 1. Listen to that little fella on your shoulder: When you hear that voice in the back of your head saying, "this isn't right," listen to it and rethink the operation. Rehearse an unfamiliar cut first, without any spinning steel. If you feel uncomfortable with it, jig-up to make it safer, or find another way.

**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.

**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.*

\* Mini Planer/Moulder For Sale: Shop Fox Model W1693 Mini Planer/MoulderShop, like-new, never used, paid \$1000, asking \$300. To see the shop manual – [http://cdn0.grizzly.com/manuals/g0552\\_m.pdf](http://cdn0.grizzly.com/manuals/g0552_m.pdf) please contact Rod Valenzuela via the contact information available on the Guild members-only website. (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                | - (vacant)                       |
|   |  | 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.