

Saw Dust Chronicles

May 2015

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

Newsletter of the
Howard County
Woodworkers Guild
Volume 25 • Issue 5



Upcoming Monthly Meeting – May 2, 2015

May Meeting Agenda: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

- Greeting by President Rick Munzer.
- Introduction of guests and new members.
- Demo/Presentation: Turning A Three-Legged Stool (Tim Jackson)
- 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 April Meeting

- President Rick Munzer called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.
- Rick introduced visitors and new members: Richard's family was visiting to help him bring his project for Show and Tell.
- Rick Munzer provided the program demonstration of bandsaw baskets (see notes, below)
- Treasurer's report by Manny Flecker: \$5000.10 in treasury.
- Membership Report by Gene Torrey: the Guild now has over 200 members.
- Member Show and Tell (see notes below)
- 50/50 raffle and door prizes were awarded.

Guild Announcements

Shop Hours Change: Wayne Austin has resigned his position as Guild Workshop Monitor. Effective immediately, the Workshop will not be open on Thursday evenings. Updates have been made to the [Workshop web page](#) advising of these changes. The Guild is looking for a member to step up and assume this important role. Please contact [Rick Munzer](#) if you are interested.

Service Opportunity: I am the President of the Howard County Historical Society. I spoke with some of your members about the Woodworking Guild. We are currently renovating and redesigning our museum and will need wooden display cases and boxes. We will be happy to provide all supplies needed and will be glad to work with you on the projects. Also, our Museum, which is the historic 1st Presbyterian Church in Ellicott City, is located right next to the Circuit Court House on the hill. The church has a beautiful door that has weathered with age. As a result, it is very difficult to pull the door open because "it sticks." Would it be possible to "shave" the door down a bit so that it is easier to open? We also have some furniture in our collection that might have a wobbly leg or lose arm. We would be interested in having some of these items re-glued or made more stable. If it is more convenient, we can meet with you at the Bain Center.

We will be happy to give you a tour of the museum at your convenience. We would love to work with you on some of our projects. Please contact us at your earliest convenience. Shawn Gladden is our Executive Director and he will be able to give you details on all projects. The telephone number here is 410-480-3250.

Remaining 2015 Meeting Dates: (All meetings the Florence Bain Senior Center, 10:00 am unless otherwise indicated.)
June 6 August 1

September 5 November 3 December 5

Membership Cards: We are starting our new cycle for membership renewals. See Gene Torrey to renew for 2015-2016.

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!

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.

April Demonstration

Guild President Rick Munzer demonstrated how to make the amazing "bandsawn baskets" that he has brought to Show-and-Tell in recent months.

Rick originally obtained a scroll saw to do intarsia. He found a book on scroll saw baskets that came with many different patterns and decided to give it a try. He made his first basket in 2001 from cherry. An early mistake Rick made was to adhere the pattern to the board with permanent adhesive - be sure to use a repositionable spray adhesive to attach the pattern.

Rick showed a picture of a basket he made from barn siding wood

The book Rick uses as his guide is *The New Scroll Saw Basket*, by Munroe Dutcher. This book is now out of print and hard to find. This book is a two-volume set that includes many different patterns for different baskets. Rick works with full-size patterns taken from the book.



Baskets can be made from any type of wood. Rick has used many different kinds of woods - hardwoods, softwoods, etc. He has laminated up blanks from different species and recycled cabinet doors into baskets.



When attaching the pattern, be sure to allow time for the spray adhesive to become tacky. This takes several seconds. Do not just spray and immediately attach to the wood because this will make a permanent bond. Attach the pattern as flat as possible.

Rick covers the pattern with a layer of clear packing tape on top. The packing tape serves as a lubricant for the blade and reduces burning of the wood during cuts. Rick has a 20" Hawk scroll saw with a table that tilts both directions. The tilt is important because each pattern has a specific tilt angle to match the design of the basket, typically 10-14 degrees. Rick sets the angle by first setting a 90-degree angle with a triangle, and then he sets the actual angle with a Wixey digital angle gauge. (The battery tends to drain on these gauges even when off, so Rick places paper

between the battery and one contact when he has it in storage.) Rick's blade of choice: Flying Dutchman blades sold by "Mike's Scroll saw Blades" (<https://www.mikesworkshop.com/>) Rick buys blades a gross (144) at a time. This quantity lasts Rick a couple years. He uses a #5 blade. When the blade starts to burn the wood frequently, it's a signal that the blade is ready to be replaced.

Rick uses an illuminated magnifying glass on an arm bracket to do his work. Rick enjoys working with the scroll saw because it is very difficult to cut oneself - he can keep his fingers very close to the blade with low risk. When doing the cutting, like driving a car, look further down the cut rather than right in front of the blade - "Look down the road" in order to get a smoother cut. Practice makes perfect - Rick's skill at tracking a line has improved over time. Each blade, each piece of wood will cut a bit differently so one needs to make tracking adjustments along the way.

The handles are cut with a tiny offset so they do not rub on the outside rim of the basket in use (90 degree cut). Rick drills the pins for the handle pivots next, before cutting the concentric rings for the basket. He finds it is better to do it at this stage instead of waiting until after cutting out all the rings. He finds he has fewer failures that way. Rick uses a depth stop on the bit to control the depth so he does not drill into the area of the bands, which are cut later.



The rim is cut next, with the blade set to the project angle. Once the rim is cut, the split in the rim is closed with a small amount of glue (Rick applies with a toothpick).

The “weavers” are cut next. These are the concentric rings that stack up to make the walls of the basket. As each weaver is cut free, one needs to be careful to protect the free end of the weaver ring. It is easy to snap the thin weaver at this stage. One can tape the free end down with painter's tape, but this can be an issue as one comes around to the end of the cut. The exit cut is crucial because this sets up the glue joint (scarf joint) to close the loop of the weaver as the proper size. Each weaver is cut free from the blank and glued together to make a loop.



It typically takes Rick a couple hours to complete all the scrollsaw cuts. Rick removes the paper and then usually lightly sands the top and bottom with a palm sander. There is no sanding of the faces of the weaver bands.

For assembly, Rick uses tiny plastic spring clips. The vertical stakes are cut free but need to be the right thickness in order for the basket to assemble correctly. Rick uses a drum sander to get the thickness correct. When stacking up the basket, every other layer is rotated 180 degrees to get the gaps for the verticals to alternate from one layer to the next. Once all the layers are stacked up, the vertical stakes are slid down into the pockets created by the serpentine cuts. Every other stake goes all the way to the bottom, and the others bottom out on the top of the solid bottom part. Rick slightly tapers the leading edge of the stake so that it slides into place without catching. If you try to force a stake in, the basket could shatter - this is why the proper thickness is critical.

Once the stakes are in place, Rick pulls each stake up slightly, adds a dab of glue on the stake just above each band, and then slides the stake back in place, drawing the glue down in between the weaver and the stake. Every other stake catches the rim and is glued to the rim. Once all the stakes are in place and the glue dries, the stakes are cut off flush with the top weaver.

Rick finishes the basket with polyurethane, usually, applying it with a rag and/or brush to dab the finish into all the crevasses.

Baskets can be made in any size, as long as one can handle the size and weight of the wood blank in the scroll saw.

April Show and Tell

- Fred Schock: Tea caddy
- Manny Flecker: Turned box
- Ron Farris: Tables and small box
- Richard Winchester: Floor-standing candelabra
- Daniel Turner: NW Native American totem pole carving (slides)



Safety Shavings

In 2009, Forbes Magazine compiled a list of the 10 power tools they found to be most dangerous. In determining their list, the editors looked at not only injury statistics, but also how common the tool is in typical households (a less common tool that causes more injuries is considered more dangerous). They also looked at whether the tool would typically make its way into the hands of untrained amateur operators. Here's their list:

- Power Nailers
- Chain Saws
- Table Saws
- Snow Blowers
- Circular Saws
- Riding Lawnmowers
- Power Drills
- Backhoes
- Air Compressors
- Wood Chippers

Some of these are based on circumstances the tool can cause (such as compressed air being able to propel objects, not the air compressor itself). As woodworkers, most of us are used to working around power tools and sharp blades. However, that does not make us experts with every machine, and respect for the tool is always required. Check out the article at <http://www.forbes.com/2009/12/21/most-dangerous-tools-business-healthcare-tools.html>.

Guild Classified

Exotic Lumber Inc. (Frederick), 329 East 2nd 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, dried 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.

Ted Curtis has a 2036 Oneway 2036 Lathe with 3 HP package and many turning tools, accessories, blanks, and lumber available. See the listing on the Guild Website Marketplace. (1)

I have a Norwood bandsaw mill and offer custom cutting of a variety of type of woods at ridiculously low prices. Any Guild members looking for wood are welcome to contact me at 443-904-2067, email: jeffmen515@gmail.com (Jeff Mendelsohn)

Executive Committee			
President:	Rick Munzer	(410) 489-6723	Committee Chairs:
Vice President:	Tim Jackson	(443) 223-6396	Membership - Gene Torrey (443) 535-8873
Treasurer:	Manny Flecker	(410) 997-0879	Program - Brian Graham (410) 788-6992
Secretary:	Nita Radtke	(443) 676-7805	Shop Coordinator - Wayne Austin (410) 730-0613
Webmaster:	Gene Torrey	(443) 535-8873	Education - (vacant)
			Show - Joel LaFerrierre (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.