

# Saw Dust Chronicles

May 2016

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

Newsletter of the  
Howard County  
Woodworkers Guild  
Volume 26 • Issue 5



## Upcoming Monthly Meeting – Saturday, May 7, 2016

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

- Greeting by President Rick Munzer.
- Introduction of Guests and New Members
- Demo/Presentation: Dave Knipfer will demonstrate boxmaking techniques
- 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 opened the meeting at 10:00 am.
- Introduction of Guests and New Members:
  - (Doc) Richard's son who lives in new mexico and does woodworking visiting today.
  - Mark who just joined today; started woodworking today.
  - Tim who did projects with dad when he was young.
  - John Catavini who just joined today and is looking forward to his wife's list of projects.
  - Mike Sikowski is a beginner who wants to make a table.
- Guild Vice President Tim Jackson has Guild hats and shirts for those who have ordered them. He can order more. Tim has some generic (no individual name) Guild-embroidered shirts if anyone is interested.
- Richard Winchester's wife has a friend who passed away, and she wants to get rid of a lot of wood in bulk. It is a large quantity of mixed hardwood in long lengths and 8/4 lengths, air-dried for many years, stickered. Contact Richard if you are interested; the wife would like to sell it as a single lot.
- The June 4<sup>th</sup> Guild meeting demonstration will be Jeff Headley. The Guild will have a master class afterwards, \$40 for two-hour session on reeding and fluting, hands-on. Limited to 8, with priority to Guild members. (Joel LeFerrier)
- Tim Jackson has some dogwood available, about 2-4" diameter, for free, in the van.
- This weekend in Philadelphia is the annual furniture exhibition on the 9th and 10th at the downtown armory. This is a major exhibition.

## Guild Announcements

**Belmont Elm Project:** (May 21, 2016) Today was a good day to be working out and under cover! Carl Hudson, George Adams, Matt Radtke, and Gene Torrey assembled at Belmont in the greenhouse where the slabs are stored. Maryland's long rainy streak continues yet again today. The good news is the temperature was very comfortable to work while wearing long sleeves, long pants and dust masks as we surface-planed and sanded the three cookie slabs cut from the Belmont Elm last July 2015.

**Thank You:** From Guild member Jim Coggins: Winnie and I are moving to Riderwood, the Erickson continuing care retirement community in Silver Spring. I want to thank all of you who have helped me with projects, have taught me to be a better woodworker, and have simply been good friends over the years. I haven't taken your assistance or friendship for granted.

**Mark Your Calendar!** President Rick Munzer has announced the following meeting dates for the coming spring:

June 4

July 2

**Help Your Guild: Coordinators Needed!** The Guild is in need of volunteers to step up for key coordinator positions: show coordinator, program coordinator, and the education coordinator. Think about how you can help give back to this all-volunteer organization. This is a great opportunity for newer members to get involved and share your skills.

**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.

**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!

**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. In addition, there are many pictures from Guild meetings and events posted – typically between 40 and 70 per meeting – maybe you are in some of them!

**Monthly Demonstrations:** As of publication date, here are the anticipated meeting demonstrations for 2016 (subject to change):

- May – Dave Knipfer – Techniques for Making My Great Looking Boxes
- June – Jeff Headley – Fluting and Reeding
- We have programs set for the rest of the year except September. Please contact Rick if you would like to demonstrate a project or technique for the Guild!

See the Guild website for up-to-date information about upcoming 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 President Rick Munzer or any of the HGWG officers to schedule a demo for the rest of the members.

**Guild 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.



*Elements of Greene and Greene style*

#### April Demonstration

Guild Member and frequent contributor Joel LaFerrier demonstrated Greene and Greene furniture history, style elements, and construction techniques.

**History:** Greene and Greene (G&G), brothers who were architects, designed furniture which was actually made by the Hall Brothers. They are famous for the Gamble house in Pasadena, CA, next to the Rose Bowl. The Robert Blacker House ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert\\_R.\\_Blacker\\_House](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_R._Blacker_House)) is another preserved G&G house in Pasadena, California. They were "complete environment" architects, like Frank Lloyd Wright, where they designed every element of the home, inside and out. The brothers grew up in Ohio and moved to SoCal for health reasons. They were able to take advantage of the presence of many wealthy people in the area as clients for their expensive designs. They

were famous for particular design elements, some of which Joel covered in his demonstration.

Joel took some pictures this week at the Michener Museum (<http://www.michenerartmuseum.org/>) in Doylestown, PA, that has some G&G items, and also items from Pennsylvania craftsmen Wharton Esherick and George Nakashima. They have a Nakashima Reading Room that has incredible furniture. Joel also went to The Center for Art in Wood on 3rd St. Philadelphia (<http://centerforartinwood.org/>). The Center has thousands of objects on display, especially turned items. Joel recommends all of these for a visit.

Joel provided a Powerpoint presentation on the history of G&G, in the context of the Arts and Crafts movement of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. They were involved in the Arts and Crafts movement

that started in England in the 1800s, as a reaction to factory-manufactured furniture. William Morris picked up on these ideas and expanded them. Another well-known name from this era is Stickley. This movement is generally considered to have started in the USA in Boston with an 1894 exhibit of 1000's of items from European artists. DeStil, Piet Mondrian are also associated with these artistic movements, as was the Vienna Succession, Gustav Klimpt, etc. which led to the Bauhaus movement.

Art Nouveau movement was part of the later Arts and Crafts era, with flowing lines and lots of inlay. Josef Hoffman demonstrated a more rectilinear, rigid style. Gustav Stickley is an early American pioneer producer from upstate NY. Elbert Hubbard and the East Aurora Roycroft colony are also part of this stylistic movement, as are Frank Lloyd Wright's early designs, prior to his Prairie style period. Limbert and Henry Ellis were also prominent contributors. Reproductions of some Roycroft and other makers still available from a NY company. Tiffany crosses the lines between Art Nouveau and Craftsman styles.



*Waterfalls on Leg*



*Routing leg indents*

G&G is known for distinct details. They were heavily influenced by Asian design. They collaborated with the Halls to fabricate the G&G designs. Unique elements include uplifts (horizontal) and waterfalls (vertical), square ebony plugs, and stained glass. Leg indents, inlay, brackets on feet, large finger joints, spline joints are also characteristic of G&G. Their style included a tremendous emphasis on detail.

The waterfalls and uplifts are a direct influence from Asian designs. Their pieces were made mostly from mahogany, but also some cherry and walnut were used. Greene and Greene would put indents at the bottom of legs; Frank Lloyd Wright would tend to put them at the top.

Dale Peart (<http://furnituremaker.com/>) and William Ng (<https://wnwoodworkingschool.com/>) are contemporary makers of G&G style furniture. They have done classes and Fine Woodworking articles.

**Waterfalls:** Joel demonstrated how to do waterfalls on legs: Joel makes a template with plywood and then uses a flush trim bit with a guide bearing to create the cloud lifts. He does this with a router table. He often removes the bulk of waste ahead of time with a bandsaw. He then sands to the final profile.

**Finger Joints:** Joel uses a handmade plywood jig to cut the fingers and then hand-sands the corners to pillow their ends.

**Ebony pegs:** The ebony pegs cover screws or pegs that hold the joint together. The ebony plug is actually quite thin, maybe  $\frac{3}{8}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick. Joel's preferred method for pillowing the plug is to chuck a square ebony rod into a cordless drill, and then round the end of the rod using a series of sandpaper sheets, with soft foam underneath the sandpaper to get the rounding effect. He uses three grits, 159, 320, and 800, followed by rouge on a rag to polish the ebony. The plug is then cut free from the rod using a backsaw and a simple grooved block to hold the rod, like a miter box.



*Pillowing the end of an ebony rod*

**Indents:** Joel uses a router template and a guide collar on a 5/16" straight bit. The jig is set up so that one end of the jig is higher off the leg than the other; this creates the ramp effect needed to create the sloped indentation. The indents are about 1/16" deep at the deep end. Joel uses the router jig to rough out the indent and then hand-sands the inside of the indent (homemade sanding stick). He uses a random orbital sander, or oscillating sander, for the bulk of the leg surfaces.

## April Door Prizes

Three door prizes were awarded to attending members at the April meeting. Less than \$50 were won in the 50/50 drawing.

## From Our Members – Woodworking Podcasts

Ever listened to a podcast? Podcasts are audio or video shows that can be listened to (or watched) via the internet for free. They can be listened to at any time, whenever convenient for you. A podcast can be downloaded to your smart phone so one can listen in the car during a commute or long trip. Podcast producers might be amateur enthusiasts or professionals, and they provide content on most any topic imaginable. There are several popular and entertaining woodworking podcasts. We can't do woodworking while driving, but we can listen to entertaining discussions of woodworking! Here is one podcast that is the favorite of the Editor. Future Sawdust Newsletters will highlight other podcasts and information about other online woodworking content.

**Wood Talk** ([www.woodtalkshow.com](http://www.woodtalkshow.com)) offers lively banter, humor, and responses to listeners' questions about woodworking. The dynamic between the three hosts is entertaining and engaging. The main host of Wood Talk is Marc Spagnolo, a.k.a. "The Wood Whisperer." Marc (Arizona) is a professional woodworker who also

produces woodworking “how to” videos. Marc is primarily a power tool woodworker, though he is knowledgeable about contemporary hand tool techniques, as well. Shannon Rogers, a Marylander, runs another online video woodworking school called “The Hand Tool School, and he also has his own podcast called “The Renaissance Woodworker.” As implied, Shannon focuses on hand tools and historical methods. Matt Cremona is a recent replacement for the original 3<sup>rd</sup> musketeer, Matt Vanderlist (hence the comments about “old Matt” vs. “new Matt”). Matt Cremona is also a furniture maker, now full-time after being laid off from an IT job. Matt’s work is eclectic and is most notable for his passion for starting with huge raw logs, and milling them with a chainsaw mill. The individual work of these three craftsmen is interesting, but the combination of the three via the weekly Wood Talk podcast makes for an informative and cheeky listen. Occasionally the humor can include some innuendo and adolescent humor, but what do you expect from three guys in their 30’s? Check it out – if you get hooked, you can go back to the beginning and listen to all 310 episodes! Wood Talk episodes can be streamed or downloaded from a number of sources, including the show website listed above and via iTunes.

**April Show and Tell Gallery**



**Safety Shavings**

*A Guild member mentioned hazards from working with certain woods at a recent Guild meeting. Below is an excerpt from a “Workplace Alberta” (Canada) safety bulletin concerning hazards from working with wood and wood dust. Much of our knowledge of wood dust risks comes from recent research. This excerpt describes risks for lungs and breathing. The full bulletin, which provides a good overview other wood dust hazards can be found at: <http://www.hpva.org/sites/default/files/Alberta%20Canada%20WD%20Profile.pdf>.*

“Respiratory system effects due to wood dust exposure include decreased lung capacity and allergic reactions in the lungs. Two types of allergic reaction can take place in the lungs: hypersensitivity pneumonitis (inflammation of the walls of the air sacs and small airways) and occupational asthma. Decreased lung capacity is caused by mechanical or chemical irritation of lung tissue by the dust. This irritation causes the airways to narrow, reducing the volume of air taken into the lungs and producing breathlessness. It usually takes a long time to see a reduction in lung capacity.

Studies showed that sawmill workers exposed to softwood dusts arising from Douglas fir, western hemlock, spruce, balsam, and alpine fir had reduced lung function (Demers et al, 1997, Hessel et al, 1995). The 1995 study looked at a group of sawmill workers in Alberta who were processing pine and spruce for at least three years. This study found that workers who smoked and were exposed to wood dust were more greatly affected than workers who did not smoke. This condition can worsen during the workweek and improve during a worker’s days off. Over the long term, some workers may develop a permanent decrease in lung function (chronic obstructive lung disease).

Hypersensitivity pneumonitis appears to be triggered when small particles penetrate deeply into the lungs where they trigger an allergic response. Particles that are known or suspected to cause this condition include moulds, bacteria, and the fine dust from some tropical hardwoods (BC Research, 1985). The initial effects can develop within hours or after several days following exposure and are often confused with flu or cold symptoms (headache, chills, sweating, nausea, breathlessness, and other fever symptoms). Tightness of the chest and breathlessness often occur and can be severe. With exposure over a long period of time, this condition can worsen, causing permanent damage to the lungs. The walls of the air sacs thicken and stiffen, making breathing difficult. Some diseases that have been classified as hypersensitivity pneumonitis include maple bark strippers’ disease, sequoiosis (from breathing redwood dust containing mould particles), wood trimmers’ disease, and wood-pulp workers’ disease. These diseases are caused by moulds growing on the wood rather than the wood dust itself. The mould spores become airborne when wood chips are moved, lumber is trimmed, and bark is stripped.

Asthma involves a narrowing of the airways which results in breathlessness. Coughing and a runny nose can also develop. One of the most studied woods with respect to wood-dust related asthma is western red cedar. It has been estimated that at least five percent of forest industry workers in British Columbia exposed to cedar dust are allergic to it (BC Research, 1985). The first symptoms of asthma due to exposure to western red cedar usually begin late at night and resemble a cold (eye and nose irritation, stuffiness, runny nose, dry cough, and tightness in the chest). Eye and nose irritation can slowly improve, leaving wheezing and coughing as the only symptoms. With prolonged exposure, wheezing and coughing happen during the day as well. In some cases, the asthma attacks can start after only a few weeks of contact with cedar dust.

Most workers who develop cedar asthma do not have a history of allergies. Workers who develop cedar asthma may not recover completely when they are no longer exposed to cedar dust. In fact, asthma attacks can be triggered by other substances. Ash, oak, mahogany, and European species of spruce and pine have also been reported to cause asthma in some workers (BC Research, 1985). Workers who are allergic to aspirin should be aware that willow and birch contain large concentrations of salicylic acid, the predecessor of aspirin. Sensitive individuals may react with only casual exposure to the woods.”

#### **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.*

Guild member Manny Flecker updated his table saw and wants to sell his old one with accessories. He is asking \$125.00. This is an older, cast steel Craftsman table saw, good condition with one extension, wing on a stand for sale. He has about 13 blades (one is carbide; the others, all Craftsman, are in good condition) and the usual accessories. The miter gauge in heavy duty as is the rip fence, which has a precision geared guide. Interested parties, please contact Manny Flecker by telephone or email (contact info available to members via Guild website). (1)

Guild Vice-President Tim Jackson is offering for sale medium to large blocks of East Indian Rosewood and Camphor, grown and harvested in Florida. He has a trailer load at his house. He requests you to contact him

directly to get any answers and to arrange to visit and make your selections. Please contact Tim by phone or email (contact info available to members via Guild website). (1)

Zen Modern / <http://kireiusa.com/kirei-board/> Kirei Board is a strong, lightweight, durable, environmentally friendly substitute for wood – great for a unique finish in furniture, cabinetry, casework, and interior design elements. Manufactured from reclaimed sorghum straw and no-added-formaldehyde adhesive, Kirei Board brings a beautiful new element to modern interior design. This product may help qualify for LEED and other green building certifications. Available Sizes: 6mm: 1’x6’ | 10mm, 20mm, 30mm: 3’x6’. Note: Kirei Board panels come unfinished. Members, please contact David Meh directly for more information (contact information on the Guild website). (2)

**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, dried woods; planing, molding, 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.

**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 Coordinator	- (vacant) Rick Munzer, acting
<b>Secretary:</b> David Hickson (240) 401-8964			Shop Coordinator	- Don Sandruck
<b>Webmaster:</b> Gene Torrey (443) 535-8873			Education Coord.	- (vacant)
			Show Coordinator	- (vacant)
			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.

