



# Woodwords on the Brandywine

from the Delaware Woodworkers Guild

## Completion of the Paws 4 People Project



Back in July, under the stewardship of Art Ellis, volunteer Guild members embarked on a project to help the pet therapy non-profit corporation, Paws 4 People. Incidentally, Art and Chuck Skelley are former “Paws” dog owners. The project entailed the build of two exquisite display cases and credenza, a solid picnic table and benches, and two elegant ‘work’ tables. Throughout the fall, Art Ellis, Tim Sabo, Rich O’Shaughnessy, Clem Padin, Chuck Skelley, Frank Kolpak, Bill Walters, Jeff Towler, and Wayne Scholtz donated materials, labor and skills to get it done. Happy to report that the project is complete. All articles have been installed and well received by the good Paws 4 People people.

To celebrate the completion of the project, Lynne Robinson, founder and CEO of the non-profit and along with many of the Paws people, organized a breakfast celebration

for the Guild members in early February. Paws people were effusive in praise and appreciation of the Guild creations and how it impacts their daily work at the office.



Robust picnic table made from pressure-treated wood that allows the employees to grab some daily sunshine.



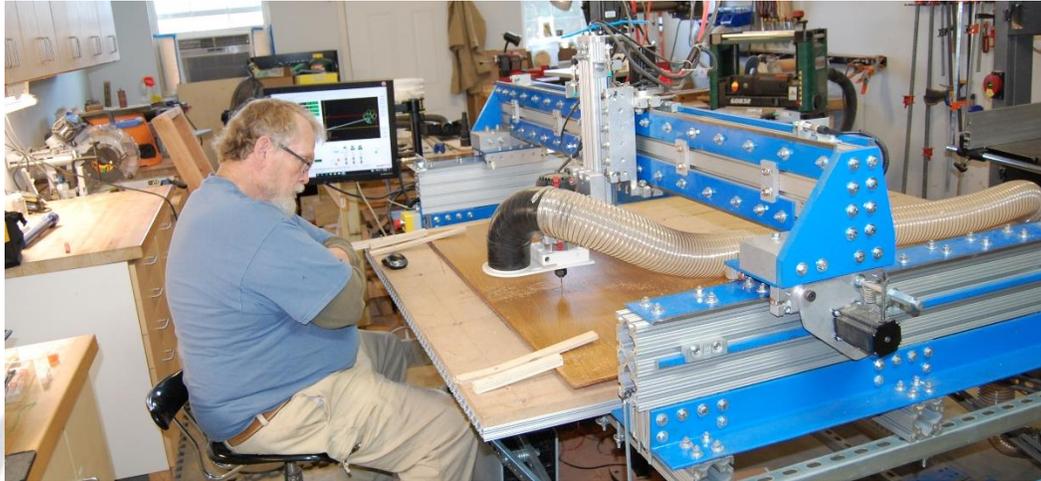
Red oak work table with Paws 4 People logo inlaid in table top (table 1 of 2).



The Paws people along with Guild project members.

### **A visit to the Art Ellis shop**

Through the course of the Paws 4 People project, we decided for the logo inlay in the Paws table to use Art's self-built CNC router machine. Clem Padin and Jeff Towler brought the table tops on a chilly Sunday afternoon to Art's shop where he had his magnificent beast ready-to-mill.



Art built his CNC from scratch, following a how-to guide from Kronos Robotics (want to build your own? [Click here](#)). It has a huge capacity, with a milling area of 50 inches square, and took Art about 10 weeks to build. He drilled every hole and tightened every bolt to the specified torque. It uses the V Carve Pro software and cost him about \$5,000 to build in total.

Art's suggestion: "Upgrade the prox switches to the non-contact type".  
What was the toughest part? "Lining up the holes for assembly."

The Paws project was the last big hurrah with Art's mill in Delaware, as he and his wife have packed up and moved to a lovely new home in New Mexico. Our connection with Art will continue of course, and we look forward to hearing what's going on in the shop at the Guild's western outpost.

## **Masters in Sharpening**

In February's meeting, Guild members Bob Levittan and Tim Sabo walked us through how they sharpen plane irons and chisels respectively.



Bob's demo was tending to a plane blade. Bob has attended classes at Rob Cosman's shop and his technique models what he was taught. Bob goes mano-a-mano with the plane blade, preferring to manually polish and skip the honing guide.

His grit progression is 300, then to 1000 grit diamond stone (two-faced), then honing on a Shapton waterstone at 16000 grit. What's nice is that the 300 grit also serves to flatten the waterstone. In his spray bottle for the stones, Bob adds a little Dawn as an added lubricant and a bit of Honerite (by Bora) to inhibit rust formation on the iron.

What's the first thing you do before polishing? "Flatten your stones."

On a plane iron, Bob's primary bevel is a little less than 30 degrees (he uses a dry grinder with a CBN wheel), and secondary bevel a little more than 30. To limit plane tracks, Bob puts a little more pressure on the edges during polishing. On the iron's backside, Bob uses David Charlesworth "ruler trick" to quickly hone the backside bevel.

At the end, Bob loaded the honed blade in his plane and was making shavings on a pine board, leaving a mirror finish.



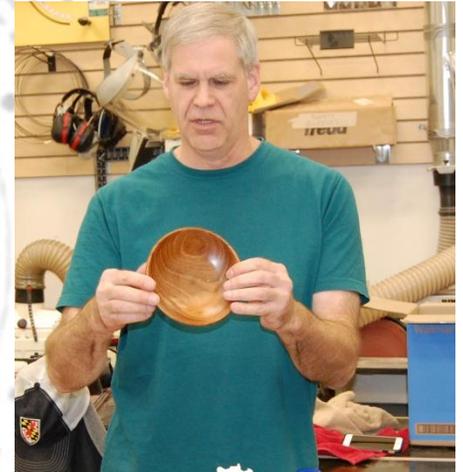
Tim Sabo is not only an accomplished woodworker, he is also a practicing etymologist and seeks opportunities to expand our dictionary history. Before setting off showing how to take an antique chisel find from dull to sharp, Tim explained where the term “Yankee” came from. (Answer: the Dutch. In Colonial times, the British in New England were referred to as “johnnies”. For the Dutch (living in New Amsterdam (a.k.a. New York), John translates to Janke, which eventually evolved to Yankee (still to be verified by Hans Francke!).

Tim took us to the beginning of chisel sharpening...starting with a good antique find with an edge that was anything but sharp. His primary bevel is at 25 degrees, with the secondary at 30. Tim uses a Worksharp as his workhorse for the lower grit (sandpaper) grinding, starting even down as low as 120 grit, then to 220, 600, and 1000. At that point, he transitions to plate glass/sandpaper or Waterstones, and using a honing guide takes it up to 3000 grit (Tim hasn't seen any real difference going above that). Note the angle guide at the lower left of picture for Tim's quick setup jig for the guide.

Within 5 minutes from start, Tim had a keen edge on that antique find.



Wayne Scholtz already getting ready for the 2020 Guild Xmas tree, and then went the jigsaw to cut a series of concentric cuts and offset stack them to create this nifty bowl!



Tim Sabo putting some scrap wood to the lathe and making a bowl...the finish is 3 parts beeswax, 1 part paraffin.



Bob Levittan walked us through his leg-tapering jig.

Tim also brought in this beautiful mahogany keepsake box with tiger-maple inlay border. The feet are turns in cocobolo. Finished with lacquer.





Jim Kirkbride candleholder creation from at the lathe.



Rich O made a trainset for his grandchildren...what a thoughtful Pop Pop!.

## **GUILD OFFICERS**

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## **NEXT MEETING IS WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15<sup>TH</sup>**

-HAVE THOUGHTS ON TOPICS?

Drop an email: [delawarewoodworkersguild@gmail.com](mailto:delawarewoodworkersguild@gmail.com)

- WE WELCOME ALL WOODWORKERS: NOVICE TO EXPERT.

- MEETINGS ARE EVERY 3<sup>RD</sup> WEDNESDAY AT WOODCRAFT IN NEW CASTLE

### **2020 Meetings**

Apr 15    May 20    June 17    July 15    Aug 19

Sept 16    Oct 21    Nov 18    Dec 16

**Delaware Woodworkers Guild:** 38 Jay Drive, New Castle, DE 19720

### **Benefactors of the Guild:**

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