



Greenville Woodworkers Guild

Giving Through Fellowship

January 1, 2009

2008-2009 Officers

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Newsletter Chm: Buzz Sprinkle
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864-232-0701

John McAlister will discuss his experiences in building American period furniture



John McAlister got started in woodworking as a hobby in 1966. He set up a small shop in his basement and drew upon skills learned in his junior high shop class. He originally planned on making birdhouses and bookshelves but he ended up becoming sidetracked when he saw the plans for a William & Mary dressing table. His creation got him hooked on eighteenth century American furniture.

Over the next 15 years John built an extensive library of books on cabinet making, furniture making and eighteenth century furniture. While his daughter attended William & Mary, John spent a good deal of time in Williamsburg. At every opportunity he visited The Craft House, where Williamsburg reproductions were sold. Not only was this his first exposure to accurate and well made reproductions, it also allowed him to measure, sketch and photograph pieces.

In 1998, a Newport secretary he made was featured on the back cover of "Fine Woodworking" magazine. In January 2001, John was awarded the Cartouche Award by the Society of American Period Furniture Makers for "outstanding achievement" at their annual meeting in Williamsburg.

Mark this meeting on your calendars! You won't want to miss this one.

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701 Poinsett Highway
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864-241-3849
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Member:
Greenville Metropolitan Arts Council
Upstate Visual Arts Group

The President's Corner



Wayne Comstock

Recently, a local charitable foundation awarded the Guild a gift of \$15,000 to be used specifically for materials for our charitable projects. This is one of the largest donations ever received and opens a whole new dimension of giving to the many deserving charities in the Greenville area. More information on where we're going to focus our effort will be forthcoming.

If you can, please go to the Hyatt and see the Highboy on display and admire the beautiful graphics produced by one of our Guild members, Jose Perez. Outstanding!

We've been aggressively working on acquiring a piece of property on which to build a new Education Center. Without going into detail, I can just say that we are as close as we've ever been to realizing our dream of getting some strategically located land. As details become public, I'll quickly share them with all of you.

See you at the meeting !

The Christmas dinner was enjoyed by all!

The Christmas party was well attended with approximately 250 people in attendance. Use of the gymnasium at the J. Harley Bonds Center provided a roomy atmosphere. The entertainment by the Break Time Players added to the enjoyment especially when Mike George and Bobby Hartness joined in with their kazoos!

One of the highlights of the dinner was a display of over 350 toys made by Guild members. These toys were donated to the Meyer Center, A Child's Haven and the Greenville Memorial Children's Hospital. Thanks to all who participated in this effort.



Toys delivered to Meyer Center and



to the Greenville Memorial Children's Hospital

Upcoming Events!!

February – Lin Dearing, a GWG member and past President of the Pendleton Woodworkers Guild, will make presentation on box making.

March – To be announced

April – Brian Boggs, from Brian Boggs Studio in Asheville, NC will talk about his work as a chair maker.

Superintendent's Report



David Aman

It is incredible what a few dedicated members can do! Under Al Mason's leadership, more than 350 wooden toys were made this year for three different children's services organizations. Al's group met every week at the Education Center, and then made more toys at home. James Childress made over 100 trucks! Just think what we could do if just a few additional people participated. Next year, let's set our goal on 500 toys.

This marks the end of a very successful year, and a lot of people deserve our thanks. We are fortunate to have 32 of the most dedicated supervisors and some of the most skilled mentors that we could possibly have. This group puts in many hours helping members and maintaining the shop so we can all benefit. Let's give them a big THANK YOU!

We are looking for a few members that would like to become an "assistant supervisor". This is a new position, and would help out with some of the shop activities during our busy times. Please let me know if you have an interest.

aman@bellsouth.net

Work Safely!!!!

"Turn for Troops" Pen Turning a Huge Success

It's amazing what a team of good woodturners can accomplish in two days. On November 7th & 8th members of the Greenville Woodworkers Guild and staff and customers of the local Woodcraft store came together and turned ballpoint pens for our military members serving in the Middle East. This year another record was set. Thank you to all who contributed by preparing stock, turning, assembling, packaging or whatever. You who helped are a wonderful group of givers. Together you produced 433 extremely fine pens.

Thank you,
Steve Kern

Guild recognized by Greenville News

The Saturday, December 13 issue of the Greenville News gave the Greenville Woodworkers Guild a "Thumbs Up" for building and donating wooden toys to the Meyer Center, A Child's Haven, and the Greenville Memorial Children's Hospital. Publicity such as this helps reinforce our reputation in the community as a charitable organization.

Guild Need

A window mounted unit that can heat and cool is needed for use in the meeting room at the Education Center. If you would like to donate such a unit, please contact Dave Aman.

Greenville Woodworkers Guild History

The Guild was founded in 1981 by five avid woodworkers and was funded by a \$20 donation from all of them. The first newsletter was published in 1983 on a quarterly basis, then monthly beginning October 1984. The following are some notes from those newsletters.

GWG - January 1989 - 20 years ago

Bill Sutton - President

- Rip Mann will demonstrate his skills and techniques in the use of the adz to shape bowls of wood.

GWG - January 1994 - 15 years ago

Andy Walker - President

- The January meeting at S&B Woodworks will be a discussion and demonstration of the various uses of a router.

GWG - January 1999 - 10 years ago

Steve Kern - President

- Thomas Brannock gave a very informative presentation on furniture restoration.

GWG - January 2004 - 5 years ago

Karl Kelly - President

- An open house at the education center is scheduled to bring together donors, recipients of our services and Guild members.

Welcome New Members!

Jonathan Davis - Greenville
Jack Macaulay - Greenville
Greg Ellenberg - Simpsonville
Willie Callahan - Greenville
William Morris - Greenville
Bruce Bell - Greenville
Arie Kain - Greenville
Merry Kuharsky - Taylors
John Cureton III - Greenville

Aubrey Rogers completes Triptych for St. Philips Episcopal Church

St Philips, an Episcopalian church in Greenville, has existed for over 100 years but until recently had a house for a church home. The small parish built a new church with the help of members from other Episcopal churches in Greenville. Several Guild members from different churches have joined in to help including Jack McKay, George Roberts, Mike Jones and Aubrey Rogers.

Last year, Altar rails were constructed. A new Altar was completed in May 2008 followed by a baptismal font in June.

A set of architectural sketches which outlined a complete set of complimenting furnishings for the church had been created by Dan Beaman of the architectural firm of Cummings and McCrady in Charleston. Included in the architectural sketches was a drawing for the wall behind the Altar in the sanctuary known as the “Raredos”. The plan was for two angels and a cross to form a “Triptych”, an altarpiece of three panels. This was considered an important work in the completion of the church.

Aubrey once again received a phone call asking if he could build a “real big cross”, which, after a lot of study and debate eventually turned into the complete Triptych. The angels were designed by Ms. Suzanne Zoole.

The project was a real team effort. The Guild made the shop available since there was not enough room in Aubrey’s home workshop. Panels were prepared from 4/4 maple. Due to the scale of the panels required, a firm called Spectrum did the straight lining to insure tight fitting edges for gluing.

Guild members helped with the clamping and then sanding of the glued up panels and then helped to create a laser pattern of the cross. Once completed, a member even supplied a truck to deliver the eight foot wide cross to the church for installation.



The above photo shows the Triptych. The background, painted a merlot color, is 16 ft high at the peak and 23 ft across. The cross is 14 ft high and 8 ft wide, the angels are 11 ft high and 5 ft wide. Note also the Altar and altar rails which were previously completed.

Jack McKay made a beautiful paschal candle stand to complement the other furnishings.



John McAlister will talk about his life experiences in building period furniture at the January 5 meeting

NEXT GUILD MEETING:

Monday, January 5, 2009

New Member Orientation starts at 6:00 PM

General Meeting starts at 6:45 PM

J Harley Bonds Career Center

505 N. Main Street, Greer, SC 29650

Guild Information

Guild Telephone No.: (864) 241-3849

This phone is located at our Educational Center workshop located at 701 Poinsett Highway. If no one is there you can leave a voice mail message.

Website: www.greenvillewoodworkers.com

Contains information about the Guild, Educational Center schedule, links to other woodworking related websites and a capability to submit suggestions and e-mail to the Guild.

The Guild web manager is Bill Brett. Contact Bill with ideas and suggestions for the website at bill.brett@charter.net

**Greenville Woodworkers Guild
701 Poinsett Highway
Greenville, SC 29609**