



Greenville Woodworkers Guild

Giving Through Fellowship

October 1, 2011

2011 - 2012 Officers

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Published monthly by the Greenville
Woodworkers Guild
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www.greenvillewoodworkers.com

Member:
Greenville Metropolitan Arts Council
Upstate Visual Arts Group

October 3rd

*Local Artist,
Russ Morin,
Builds
Ukuleles*



The new-old instrument has become a passion for Russ Morin over the past decade, and in May, although he loved teaching middle school, he quit his job to become a full time luthier, one who makes stringed musical instruments. The 49-year-old woodworker has never had any formal training in the art and has an aversion to power tools.

His backyard shop near downtown Greenville is a treasure trove of ukuleles. The esteemed instrument with the “happy sound” is experiencing a new-wave revival, thanks in part to both mainstream and underground musicians.

Morin’s story began from the intersection of music and woodworking. He played piano as a kid, then guitar and bass guitar in several bands while getting into woodworking at the same time. When his brother got a ukulele, Russ wanted one too, but decided to make it. He rarely buys wood. His website states, “One of the advantages of being a wood geek is that you develop the ‘wood-eye’. If there is freshly cut wood on the ground within 50 feet, I see it.”

Russ Morin admits to being obsessed with ukuleles, “I love their size, their shape, and their music is vibrant and alive. A ukulele can sound giddy, saucy, and melancholic.”

Sounds like an interesting presentation!

The President's Corner



Buzz Sprinkle

At my orientation meeting with new members before the September meeting, we discussed the benefits of membership in the Greenville Woodworkers Guild and I thought it would be good for all members to reflect on the benefits of membership in the Guild. The new members cited the following benefits: the well equipped shop, the available training on woodworking equipment and woodworking skills, mentoring and charitable project participation, lumber available at a reasonable cost and the opportunity to gain woodworking knowledge from other members. To these I would add: woodworking resources such as our library, opportunities to fellowship with other woodworkers, an auditorium which, when finished, will greatly enhance the monthly meeting presentations and woodworking seminars. All of this makes the Greenville Woodworkers Guild a special organization and provides value to all of us as members.

Furniture Restoration with Thomas Brannock



Professional woodworker, Tom Brannock, shared his many talents with slides of projects. Among those were arched-topped glass doors, a sales counter for a local business, wooden dashboards for a '73 Triumph and a Morgan, and an unusual request for chairs for a home theatre. The theatre grouping, built for a Marine, used chair backs with a Marine logo. In addition, Tom built the client a "bunker-style" desk and a TV cabinet with large wooden bullets for door handles.

Before and after pictures of restoration projects highlighted a repaired cedar chest, a mahogany end table, and a restored pre-Civil War desk. A recent photo of his real working shop of 2400 square feet included many projects just waiting for their turn. He stressed the importance of taking before and after photos of works for a portfolio.

Mr. Brannock demonstrated rocking a chair to check for loose joints. He recommends taking the chair apart, removing all dowels, and cleaning out the dowel holes. Labeling all connecting parts with masking tape during disassembly eliminates confusion later. A useful tool for cleaning out dowel holes is a Dremel rotary tool with a router-like bit. For clamping of rounded shapes, he often ties on pieces of bicycle inner tubes or ratchet strap clamps.

Drawer repairs are a common problem. Again, he disassembles the drawer by "persuading" with a hammer. He "expects to break something", but is confident that repairs are possible. He uses yellow wood glue for all repairs or hide glue on those furniture pieces originally built with it.

For paint remover, Tom uses Kuts It. After painting it on thickly, do not brush it around; it needs to film over for the softening agent to work. After scraping off the softened finish, he uses acetone to remove the residue. (Safety note: Both products are highly flammable.) Then sand as little as possible to preserve the patina.

His finish of choice is nitrocellulose lacquer. It can be easily removed like shellac, but is more durable. Aerosol cans of touch-up lacquer in various colors are items he recommends. They can be used to adjust tones of wood and to feather in a repair.

The question of whether to refinish or not is difficult to answer. A furniture piece that is no longer useful could be brought back to life, but refinishing may lower its value as a true antique. Mr. Brannock suggests obtaining appraisals from two certified furniture appraisers.



David Aman, Superintendent

With the recent startling news of an experienced wood-turner dying as a result of an accident involving a lathe, I think it is appropriate that we take an honest look at our own safety record. It needs to be better. Since January of this year we have had numerous accidents, injuries or incidents that could have led to injuries. Only two of these required medical treatment, but all of them could have resulted in serious injury. The table-saw has been the biggest contributor so far this year to our poor record. Some of the incidents include the blade being installed backwards; using improper techniques which resulted in kickbacks (one that could have caused a major injury); failure to correctly use the splitter; and generally a lack of safety awareness while using the saw. Recently we have observed the push sticks used for the table saw being severely damaged from improper use. **THIS COULD LEAD TO YOUR FINGERS BEING CUT OFF!** When ripping narrow strips of wood, a sacrificial hold-down is needed, but many of you are ripping boards with the blade too high, and pushing the push-stick directly through the blade. **DO NOT DO THIS!** I have asked the supervisors to watch closely for this problem, and anyone doing this will be asked to complete the table saw class before using the saw again. Damaged push-sticks have been replaced, along with a new, more

stable splitter, and a magnetic feather board has been added.



Wrong thing to do!!!



Correct way, with the splitter in place, the saw blade just above the board, the push stick guided by the fence, and the feather board in place.

Another safety related issue involves our lumber stacks. Some people are looking for the perfect board, and they make a mess of the stacks, leaving boards tangled up, leaning, and not securely in the bins. This may cause a board to fall on the next person, so please look all you want, but place all boards securely and neatly back into the bins, upright and against the back of the bin.

The good thing about our safety record is that there is plenty of room for improvement! The next time you come to the Education Center, even if you don't use the shop, please read our safety rules again.

Safety is a habit. If you practice safe habits each and every time, then you are less likely to have an accident or injury. Only with your help can we improve our record. And if you don't know how to do something, ask the duty supervisor. That's why he is there.

Tom Shearer is leading a safety group to help identify safety issues and develop a plan to hopefully prevent all injuries. If you have comments or solutions, please share them with Tom.

A final thought...Many people are embarrassed when an accident occurs, especially if they think it was a result of doing something "dumb" or "stupid". Please, think of it as a learning experience that the entire Guild can benefit from. That is why we require all accidents, injuries or incidents to be reported to the supervisor.

Please be safe in all that you do each and every day.

Upcoming Events !!

October 3rd – Russ Morin, maker of custom ukuleles.

October 14th – Biltmore trip.

November 5th & 6th – Tour of Shops

November 7th – Jerry Stover of Columbia doing a program on bent laminations & curvilinear details.

November 19th & 20th – Carving seminars by Mary May.

New Members as of July 10, 2011

Kevin Allison – Mauldin
Charles Barrineau – Taylors
Tim Blackwell – Greer
Doug Brister – Piedmont
Tom Brown – Six Mile
Suzanne Bugni – Greenville
Chalmers Butler – Clemson
Frank Concon – Simpsonville
Tom Crowe – Greenville
Ron Czarnecki – Simpsonville
Leroy Ehlers – Simpsonville
Don Glasser – Greer
Rusty Gray – Greenville
Mike Greci – Travelers Rest
Jerry Hall – Boiling Springs
Jim Hedrick – Piedmont
Rick Henson – Simpsonville
Mike Kuechenmeister – Greenville
Paul Lewis – Greenville
Rob Marks – Simpsonville
Tom Murdock – Simpsonville
Evan Ruff – Greenville
Wally Saitta – Greenville
Tom Santopietro – Taylors
Jarvis Smallfield – Woodruff
Bryan Smith – Greenville
Jeff Sparks – Fountain Inn
Mitch Upton – Piedmont
Mark Weigle – Simpsonville
Al Weirmeir – Greenville

WELCOME!

Christmas Toy Program

Join the Toy Makers on Tuesday mornings at 9:00 a.m. for a great time of fellowship and learning. Toy deliveries are being made as we continue to build toward the December 1st deadline. We are collecting dolls and bears up to 14 inches in length to include with the girls' strollers, doll beds, and snow sleighs. Help make it happen.

Plan Ahead

Now is the time to start thinking about crafted wood items for door prizes for our annual Christmas dinner. Please include these in your woodworking projects as we approach that time.

Road Trip !!



Biltmore Estate

On Friday, October 14th, we've planned an excursion to Asheville which will start in the morning at the shop of Brian Boggs in the Biltmore Village area. Brian will give us a tour of his operation and show us what makes the Boggs Collective work.

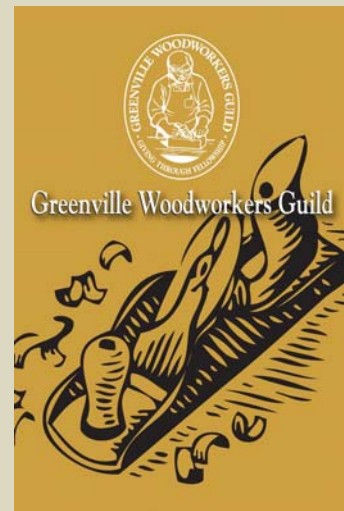
Off to lunch in the area and then travel to Biltmore for an exclusive tour of the workshops that restore and preserve items and rooms in the estate. We'll get a presentation by Biltmore's Construction Trades Manager, Bobby Wright.

Then scheduled is a walking tour of the grounds, shops and winery as we wait for the house to close to the public. Whereupon we will have a private guided tour by a docent who will selectively show us some of the most impressive examples of woodworking in the "castle."

Get up a group and car pool to Brian's by 10:30 AM. Cost as of this writing is \$48 per person plus lunch and gasoline. Buzz has been working with the Biltmore folks to make this as educational and interesting as possible.

Maps and directions will be posted on the web-site as we get closer to the date.

Members Looking Forward to the Tour of Shops



When you see this sign, you've arrived at one of eight shops selected for our first annual event highlighting special shops owned by Guild members.

Be ready to see innovative and one-of-a-kind facilities designed to be flexible enough to accommodate any size or type of project.

For just \$20 per ticket, you get to see the shops of Steve Kern, Jim Kilton, Charlie Stephan, Ron Critser, Buzz Sprinkle, Aubrey Rogers, Wayne Comstock and the jewel owned by Bobby Hartness.

Visits can be made from 10 AM to 4 PM on Saturday, November 5th and 1 PM to 4 PM on Sunday, November 6th.

Directions will be posted on the web-site and copies can be picked up at the October meeting when you buy your ticket.



The stadium seating system has been installed!

Walls have been erected on 3 sides of a platform to house rear screen projection rooms, a membership log-in area, etc.

Many volunteer hours are contributing to the tasks of renovating the auditorium. All talents are welcomed and there is much to be learned by helpers. Ductwork, lighting, sheetrock, painting, and flooring volunteers have stretched our funding as far as it will go. Here Dave Hancock and Tom Jones bend electrical conduit used for wiring.



Nine year old Owen Mullikin, son of Jami Mullekin, was applauded at the September meeting for donating \$100 he earned this past summer at a lemonade stand. He is a neighbor of Dave Guthrie, who described him as a “shop buddy”. Dave has been mentoring the child at his home in many shop skills and talks frequently of how much good the Guild does for the community. After consideration of various charities, Owen decided his \$100 would go the furthest at the Guild. Others at the meeting were so impressed that they matched his gift.

Charitable Projects

Please watch for e-mails from Rusty Hill, charitable project coordinator, about several upcoming projects so you can jump in and help some worthy organizations.



Sometimes charitable projects are unusual requests. The photo is of three of the office staff of the US Endowment for Forestry and Communities. The oak table, by Dave Paul, began as one piece, was halved, compressed with bolts, and epoxied around the steel post. The stools were leftovers in the building which formerly housed The Little Princess restaurant. As requested, Steve Padula recycled them by making five oak bases and bolted the old stools to them.

Jean Arden checks a project for squareness at a recent Guild Youth Class. These twice per month classes have introduced and improved many skills for beginner woodworkers. View the class schedule and contact information at our website.



One ongoing charitable project is the Guild's participation at the Greenville Children's Museum "Real Tool Time" class. This is a collaborative effort: the Guild provides the manpower of teaching and designing the projects, Tidewater Lumber donates the wood, and Woodcraft provides tools. The class is scheduled one Saturday per month and admits twenty children. Museum admission includes the free class.

*Please Support Our Fine
Guild Associate Members*

Wurth Wood Group
Jim Meyer, Gen. Mgr.
877-7328

Crawford Saw & Tool
120 Biblebrook Rd. Greer
Bill Crawford 877-5828

Richelieu Supply
Allied Casework G'ville
1140 White Horse Road
299-6165

**Tidewater Lumber &
Moulding**
596 Anderson Ridge Rd.

The Tool Shed
901 Poinsett Hwy
233-6185

Klingspor's
The Woodworking Shop
1-800-228-0000

Cormark International
Asheville, NC
Fabs Corte 828-658455

Duncan 's Hardware
1506 Augusta Road
Joe Freeman 233-6851

**Carolina Refinishing
Supplies**
Chuck Ellisor 967-7582

Woodcraft
1327 Miller Road
Greenville, SC 627-8760

Woodworker's Supply
Graham, NC 27253
1-800-645-9292

Asheville Hardware
Tom Gholson
(828) 252-8088

Woodline USA
1-800-472-6950
www.woodline.com

**Rockler Woodworking &
Hardware**
1-800-279-4441

Duron Paints
1258 Woodruff Road
(864) 234-7321

**McKinney Lumber
& Hardware**
(864)-288-6570

LUMBER PRICES EFFECTIVE 6/1/11

Baltic Birch Plywood – 60" x 60" BB/BB

| | |
|------|------|
| 1/8" | \$10 |
| 1/4" | \$16 |
| 1/2" | \$25 |
| 5/8" | \$32 |
| 3/4" | \$38 |

Other Lumber

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| 1/4" Birch Plywood | \$18 |
| 1/2" Birch Plywood | \$30 |
| 3/4" Birch Plywood (imp.) | \$40 |
| 3/4" Birch Domestic (B-2) | \$60 |
| 1/4" Prefinished (1 side) | \$24 |
| 3/4" Prefinished (2 sides) | \$48 |
| 3/4" Red Oak (shop) | \$55 |
| 3/4" White Maple | \$70 |
| 3/4" African Mahogany | \$82 |
| 3/4" Walnut | \$95 |
| 3/4" Premium Plus MDF | \$30 |
| 1/4" Melamine (Mark & Wipe) | \$10 |
| Table Saw Splitter | \$10.50 |

Miscellaneous Items: Price as marked.

Membership

Check the back of your club badge for your membership expiration date. A large number of members have expiration dates of August 31st. There is no grace period for payment, so failure to renew your dues in a timely manner will result in your door entry card being deactivated. Once that happens, in order to gain entry you will be required to pay the \$10 fee again. Please remember to bring your membership badge to monthly meetings to be scanned for an accurate attendance. If you enter with a group, be sure everyone scans their badge.

*Russ Morin Builds Ukuleles
On October 3rd.*

NEXT GUILD MEETING:

Monday, October 3rd, 2011

New Member Orientation at 6:00 PM in Board Room

Meeting starts at 6:45 PM

New Education Center

209 Holly Ridge Drive, Mauldin, SC 29662

Guild Information

Guild Telephone No.: (864) 299-9663

This phone is located at our Educational Center workshop located at 209 Holly Ridge Drive. 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
P.O Box 825
Mauldin, SC 29662**