

# ShopTalk

Greenville Woodworkers Guild



April 2021



zoom

**Mary May  
Master  
Wood Carver  
Extraordinaire**

**The  
presentation  
will begin  
April 5,  
6:30 p.m.**

Look for an E-mail  
from the Guild with a  
Link to log in to join  
the meeting.



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Woodcarving has been my joy and passion since 1991. I never tire of discovering new shapes in wood, and I love the challenges that come along every day. I have always loved the quote from Olympic runner, Eric Liddell (Chariots of Fire), “...when I run, I feel God’s pleasure”. If I may be allowed to borrow and personalize that quote - When I carve, I feel God’s pleasure.

The beauty of woodcarving first captured my heart while traveling through the historical streets of England and Europe during my early college years. As I lovingly explored the aged carved wood of grand cathedrals, the gilded beauty of majestic palaces, and the glorious wonder of stately mansions, I instantly became lost in discovering this fascinating world of shapes.

Returning home to Minneapolis, Minnesota, I was eager to find a way to learn this captivating art. Wondering whether I may have been born several hundred years late, I thought I may have missed my chance. Is this type of woodcarving even being done anymore? Are there any teachers? I was

fortunate to find a European master carver, Konstantinos Papadakis, who taught me the traditional, old-world techniques and styles of classical, European woodcarving. After studying with Konstantinos for three years, I returned to Europe; first to Greece and then to the City and Guild’s College in London, England to learn the varied techniques from other master carvers.

As a natural progression in my woodcarving journey, I took an opportunity to try my hand at stone carving. The material is different, the tools are different, but the visualizing and shaping process was similar in many ways. Both materials required envisioning what needed to be removed to achieve the desired shape, and once that material is removed, there’s no putting it back! From the very first chip, I knew I would love stone carving as much as woodcarving.

As I settled into my new career back in the US, I was determined to make carving my life. There were quite a few lean years when I first started, but I was willing to go hungry to accomplish my goal. I began taking on small commissions at first, but eventually grew to carve classically carved church furniture, fireplace mantels, period furniture reproductions, antique repair, and sculptures. This was a time where I focused on refining my carving technique and becoming more efficient and confident in my skills. It was an inspiring and challenging time where I pushed my skills to their limit, as I never said “no” to any carving request that came to my workshop. One way or another, I was determined to discover a way to complete any request. Still to this day, if someone asks me to carve something that I have never attempted, I

say “yes” and enjoy the discovery of a new challenge.

I soon found there were others who were equally fascinated with this art and wanted to learn. I was so thrilled to know that I was not the only one who found woodcarving so captivating. I began to teach and share the art of woodcarving at schools and woodworking clubs throughout the US – and have even taught a few courses in Germany!

Taking in-person classes is an ideal way to learn woodcarving, as there is immediate feedback and interaction. I soon discovered that many people could not afford to take such courses due to financial, occupation, or family obligations. That is how I came to start Mary May’s Online School of Traditional Woodcarving in 2012. My goal is to share the wonderful art of woodcarving and to teach the skills that have enchanted me for many years.

I am so grateful for the daily love, support and encouragement of my friends and family and especially my husband, Stephen, who has been my constant cheerleader. As I look back at the various paths that brought me to where I am today, I see the hand of God in every opportunity that came my way. The Lord has given me a gift of carving and I hope to honor Him in every piece I carve.







## 2020-2021 Officers

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**Joe Boyd**  
*President*



## THE PRESIDENTS CORNER

As I write this, the first day of Spring is only days away. With much more frequency I am greeted in the morning by the welcoming sound of birds chirping. They seem to be such happy creatures as they embrace the beginning of a new day. Spring is certainly my favorite time of year as I can almost hear the earth exhale with a sense of calmness as the world comes to life in a new and fresh way. Trees budding, bulbs pushing up the earth, flowers preparing to showcase their color and the greening up of grass. What's not to love about Spring?

Coupled with the excitement of anticipating Spring, ongoing steps toward the exodus of the COVID-19 pandemic gives us all an extra dose of hope as we imagine the resumption of a more normal way of life. It has long been said that the best lessons of life have come during the worst of times. Could that also be true with COVID-19? I have recently considered how COVID-19 has changed some aspects of my work with wood. Sounds strange I guess, but it is true. For me it has been the mandatory use of the face mask. As I look back over the years of woodworking I would admit that I have been somewhat careless in protecting myself from the harmful breathing of dust generated in the workshop. Since COVID-19 and the wearing of a mask at the guild, I have found that I have much less respiratory issues after a day of milling wood or sanding a project... less sinus issues, less coughing, less nasal congestion. Without question it has been because of the mask. In years past, I would "try" to be conscientious of wearing a mask but I now realize that I failed on more occasions than I would care to admit.

With all of the mess that can be generated in a workshop, few people would deny that wood dust is a major nuisance in the shop. The hazardous health effects of wood dust however is the overwhelming reason we try our best (or should try our best) to minimize our exposure to it. Did you

know that in 2002, wood dust was added to the United States federal government's list of compounds known to cause cancer in humans? Your guild goes to great lengths to mitigate the production of dust in the shop. Our dust collection systems are an integral part of this mitigation and it is the responsibility of us all to do our part in maintaining them to achieve the desired outcome of minimizing dust in the air. From a health perspective, it is the smallest particle sizes of dust, particle sizes of 10 microns and less, that are the most harmful to our health. To put the particle size in perspective, a human hair is about 100 microns thick and particle sizes smaller than 20 microns are invisible to the naked eye. So, when it comes to dust, it is what you cannot see that can harm you. And that is why the wearing of mask during woodworking (that COVID-19 regulations made mandatory at the guild) has become a life lesson that we should not forget. This may be even more important as our members work within their home shops where the dust collection system may not be as robust as our guilds.

So, there are three takeaways I would ask you to consider. First, while milling or sanding wood and regardless of any directives imposed by others in the wearing of a mask, wear your mask! Secondly, please do your part while at the guild to protect and maintain our dust collection systems. They are undoubtedly the most important first line of defense we have in mitigating dust in the shop. Check them often and if needed, empty them. Don't rely on someone else to do your "dirty work". Thirdly, when you are working in your home shop, do not let the autonomy of your personal shop lessen the protocols you use regarding dust. At a minimum, wear a mask and utilize as much cross ventilation as possible.

As Spring brings hope of better days, please utilize the change of season to evaluate how you can better protect yourself and practice the hobby of woodworking in a safer way.

## From Your Lumber Team

This month we will discuss Hardwood Plywood Specifications. The wide array of veneer, grade, core and finishing options that go into a sheet of plywood offer endless possibilities. Understanding the various grades and components used in hardwood plywood construction allow you to use this wide selection of products to your advantage.

Hardwood plywood is graded with letter grades on the face veneer, and number grades for the back, AA1 and A1 are the highest-grade stock panels available and are intended for the most visible and important components of a project. These panels can be very expensive and not stocked at the guild.

B1 & B2 panels are slightly less perfect than A1 panels for components that are less visible or for projects that do not require a perfect panel.

C2, C3, C4 plywood is how most paint grade and prefinished panels are graded. C2 panels are intended for cabinet interiors or paint grade components that allow for more defect and variation. A "C" grade panel will not have the aesthetic beauty of an A1 panel, but is perfectly suitable and more cost effective for less-visible applications. The bulk of the plywood the guild stocks is of a "C" grade with a #2, or #3 back.

D4 is a lower grade face veneer and a low-quality back that is usually only found in 1/4" thickness and used for cabinet backs or drawer bottoms.

Shop or Fall-down panels can be A-C panels that contain some sort of imperfection that prevents them from

meeting the grade they were intended. Up to 15% of a unit will be "shop" grade that developed minor factory defects during manufacturing.

The decorative face veneers are cut in certain fashions to create a certain appearance or reduce cost and waste.

- Rotary Cut veneers are the most cost effective decorative veneer, commonly used in "C" grade panels and are comprised of one continuous strip of veneer, peeled off of a log being rotated to develop the highest yield for the log.

- Plain-Sliced veneers are the most common veneer found in "A" and "B" panels for finish grade applications. Plain sliced veneers emulate the appearance of solid lumber by being cut in the same fashion as flat sawn lumber, and then seamed together.

- Rift and Quarter-sawn veneer are cut from a log in the same fashion as quarter-sawn lumber and is specified in high-end modern and contemporary products.

Every application requires a certain core specification.

- Veneer Cores are composed of multiple layers of softwood plies laid in opposite directions to create stability and strength. They offer the best screw holding and strength properties but will demonstrate more variation in flatness and thickness variation. The low cost and strength of veneer core make them the ideal panel for cabinet boxes. The bulk of the plywood the guild stock is veneer core.

- Engineered Cores are comprised solely of either MDF or particleboard. While strength is reduced they are the most consistent core with near perfect thickness tolerances and stability making them the ideal choice for door

and panel applications.

- Specialty Cores...there are several products with specialty cores which will not be discussed

Pre-Finished Panels

Pre-finished panels not only save time and money in cabinet construction, they eliminate the environmental impacts of finishing yourself. UV finishes are the highest-ranking finishes in terms of durability and strength, making pre-finished plywood an ideal choice for cabinet construction. The guild stocks pre-finished plywood in a variety of thickness; both one and two sided with UV finish.

REMEMBER

We have available "shorts" of all our exotic lumber and cherry, with walnut shorts coming soon. These provide options for our members who neither need nor want a long board. If you need a smaller board cut from a larger board, just ask a member of the lumber team, we will accommodate you if we can.

ALSO

All our 8/4 stock can be cut to meet your needs, just ask a member of the lumber team

Questions ????

See someone from our lumber team:

Jon Rauschenbach

Marion DeWitt

Will Morin

John Miles

Peter Rumsey

S P R I N G S P E C I A L

10% OFF

A L L T I G E R W O O D S O F T M A P L E

The lumber team has purchased a large bundle of 4/4 Tigerwood (curly) maple at a favorable price which is priced far below the normal price for curly maple.

For a limited time, members can take an additional 10% off the already great price on this bundle.

**Don't hesitate; get the best boards while they last !!!**

## GWG NEW MEMBERS

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Pat Christie..... Fountain Inn, SC  
Thomas Cohoon ..... Greenville, SC  
Mark Dunkel..... Hendersonville, NC  
Lisa Fawcett..... Greenville, SC  
John Hanna ..... Greenville, SC  
Dan Muzzone..... Greenville, SC  
David Reid..... Greenville, SC  
Jeremy Smith..... Fountain Inn, SC



**The Guild has an offering of 8/4 slabs for sale. Stop by the shop to see the display and prices near the front desk.**

**Currently our stock includes the following:**



African Padauk  
Live Edge 12/4  
82"x25"



Guatemalan Mora 8/4 Two slabs:  
1. Approximately 12"x73"  
2. Approximately 16"x50"

Guanacaste - 33" round x 2 1/2" thick.



\*photo (Above)  
Guatemalan Mora with  
mineral spirits added to  
highlight grain color

## Notification of election of officers

President Joe Boyd has appointed a Nominating Committee to provide a list of nominees to the membership. The nominees, if elected, will serve as officers for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. The finalized list of nominees will be presented in the newsletter published immediately prior to the May membership meeting, at which time voting will occur.

The nominating committee members are:

Paul Pimentel – Chair

Bob Armbruster

You are encouraged to contact either of these members to nominate yourself, or any other Guild member.

## Share photos of your woodworking projects with the Guild.

Will Morin: Social Media coordinator [wmorin@gmail.com](mailto:wmorin@gmail.com)

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We want you to share good quality photos taken with your SmartPhone of your Woodworking Projects! Share with us what you have been doing at home during the pandemic or even at the shop. The easiest way to share is to post them on the Guild's Member Facebook or Instagram Pages. Or if you prefer, you can email them to Will Morin at [wmorin@gmail.com](mailto:wmorin@gmail.com) or Text them to him.

Will Morin will collect them, post them on the social media pages if you haven't, and send them to the Newsletter editor for publication in the monthly newsletter. David Dewease will grab some for posting on the Shop Information System. We know you are

proud of your projects, let the rest of us see them too.

### SOME PRO TIPS:

Include your name, what the item is and the materials used. (i.e., John Doe, coffee table, walnut and maple) And any other comments that you think apply.

Be creative with your photos, make sure they are in focus, well lit, and that your project takes up at least 2/3's of the frame.

If you are photographing a smaller project that can be easily picked up and moved around, place it on a neutral background with good lighting

- you'll be surprised by the results!

Explore the settings on your smartphone's camera - for example, newer iPhones have a setting called "Portrait" that will blur the background surrounding the subject of your image.

## GUILD HISTORY

Aubrey Rogers

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*Part 8 of our history features items from the newsletter dated January 1994.*

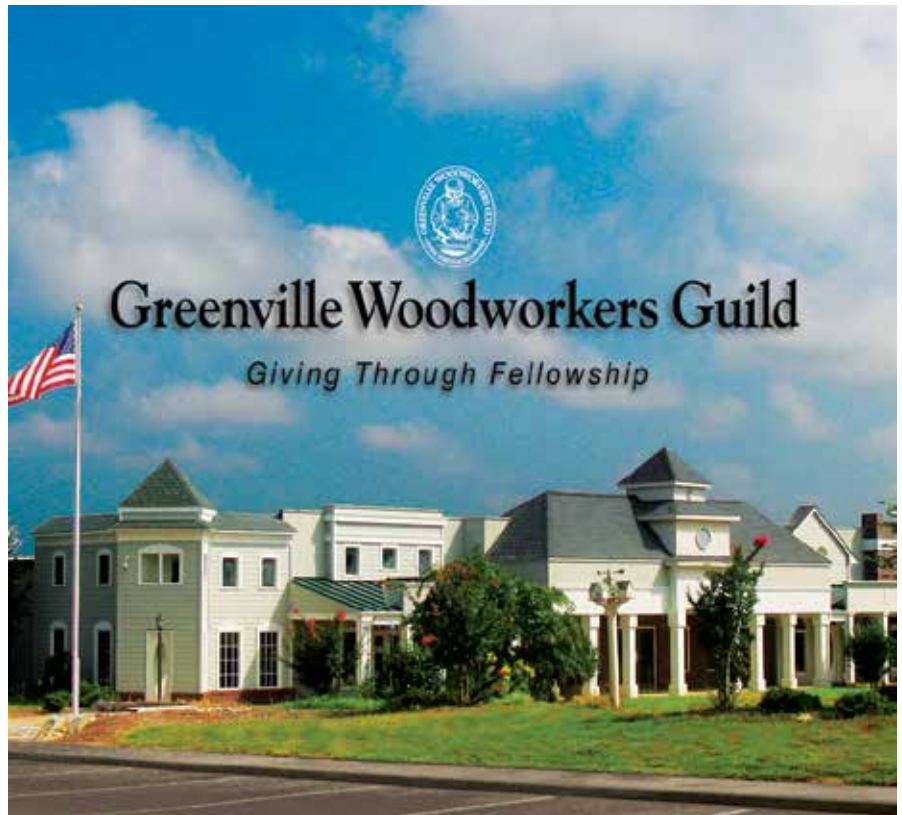
Guild officers were Andy Walker- President, Jerry Anderson – Treasurer, Charles Stephan- Programs and Ravenel Scott – Secretary/newsletter. The monthly meeting will be held at S&B Woodworking on January 10. The program will be a router demonstration by Mark Barr from Atlanta.

On the financial side the Guild had \$4292 to start the calendar year. Annual newsletter costs were the biggest expense, \$1300, more than anticipated revenue from Dues at \$1020. (The Guild had successive deficits until 1997.)

The December meeting, attended by 32 members, was held at Wayne Preston's Total Shop. The door prize, a Ryobi Sander, was given away in a drawing.

Show and tell featured: James Thomas demonstrating his woodworking and artistic skills showing us several hand-held mirrors.

Charles Stephan impressed us with Christmas ornaments he had turned using multi-colored wood and he showed a jig for turning the bottom of a bowl.



Andy Walker made available a drawing used to make a computer desk from one sheet of plywood.

Wayne Preston gave us literature and a good introduction to Bartley Gels and shared the Total Shop complete catalog.

A bus trip to the Atlanta woodworking show was set up for February.

# G W G A C T I V I T Y R E P O R T

## CHARITABLE PROJECTS / February 1 to February 28 , 2021

	Hours
Beads of Courage.....	17.5
Toy Workshop.....	11
Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (Mold Boxes) .....	51
Children's Theatre ( Phase 1 ).....	3
Other Charitable Projects.....	17
Total.....	99.5

## MENTORING CLASSES / February 1 to February 28 , 2021

	Hours
Combined total hours for adult classes.....	540
Youth Classes .....	18
Total.....	558