

ShopTalk

Greenville Woodworkers Guild



March 2023



We are thrilled to welcome back Mary May, a world-renowned traditional woodcarver. Mary will be the guest presenter at our Monthly Meeting, giving us an introduction to traditional relief carving – Tools, Techniques, Tips, and Tricks! Be sure to join us on Monday, March, 6 at 6:30 pm.

Mary May Bio

Mary May is a professional woodcarver from Charleston, SC, who has been carving for over 30 years. She started out by taking on small commissions, then growing to a world-renowned carver, creating classically carved church furniture, fireplace mantels, period furniture reproductions, antique repair, and sculptures.

Mary's education started in Minneapolis Minnesota, where she studied with master woodcarver, Konstantinos Papadakis. She then studied in Greece, England, and Malaysia, acquiring knowledge from a variety of master carvers from around the world.

Returning to the US, she was determined to make carving her life. Work started to open up when she moved to Charleston, mainly due to the historical significance of the area. She found work repairing and restoring furniture.

Mary began teaching and sharing the art of woodcarving at schools and woodworking clubs throughout the US, as well as a few courses in Germany. Because everyone could not afford or could not be available to

take such courses, she started Mary May's Online School of Traditional Woodcarving in 2012. Despite her busy schedule, she finished her first book, "Carving the Acanthus Leaf", which was published in 2017. These days, Mary's work consists of carving, teaching, working on her online videos, and working on commissions - doing exactly what she loves!

You can find out more about Mary May at www.marymaycarving.com





Joe Boyd
President



T H E P R E S I D E N T ' S C O R N E R



Over the last few years, I have received multiple questions regarding our Guild - from non-guild members, as well as other established guilds. The questions primarily fall into two categories. The first is relative to helping someone start a new guild. The typical question: Could you share your policies and procedures with us so we could begin a guild like yours? The answer to that question is two-fold. The GWG thrives not only because of policies and procedures, but upon the relationships of its members and the importance of continual educational opportunities.

And the second category of questions: What makes your organization so successful? Now that is an intriguing question to most people... but not so much for us. The success of the Greenville Woodworkers Guild has been and continues to be the fact that we are an All-Volunteer Organization (AVO).

From time to time, I receive questions from our members

about the wisdom of continuing to rely on volunteers and that things might be better if we were to hire people to do some of the Guild's activities. Initially that might sound like a good idea and one that would lessen the workload. To do so, however, would be altering the path that has taken us to our incredible success. As Henry Ford stated, "Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success". The GWG has grown because of its members working together.

Statistically, the average hourly rate of volunteering is estimated to be valued at \$23. If we were to multiply \$23 by the thousands of hours of volunteering at our Guild, it would represent hundreds of thousands of dollars. Volunteering is said to be as valuable to the volunteer as to the community or organization we serve. Additionally, the intrinsic motivation of volunteering is self-perpetuating. It sounds counterintuitive, but the more we volunteer, the more we enjoy volunteering!

The real currency we receive as volunteers is through our developing deeper friendships, networking with other volunteers, and the reward of

becoming the best version of ourselves. So, we will stay the course, continue to be an All-Volunteer Organization, and hope to enjoy many years of continued success. I thank all who systematically volunteer and keep our Guild moving forward.

In this issue, you will find that volunteers are needed for the next Shop Clean-Up on March 17 and 18. The to-do list is long and volunteers are needed to continue to keep the shop in good shape. The Tool Sale Program is also looking for volunteers. There are several opportunities - from picking up tools and equipment to helping out the day of the sale. If you find yourself a little disconnected from the Guild, I encourage you to jump in and volunteer. You will not regret it!

We Need Your Help for Shop Clean-Up 2023

Calling all Shop & Facility Users!!! Here is your chance to give a little time and sweat equity to keep YOUR GUILD in tip-top shape.

Session #1:

Friday, March 17, 8:30 am – 3:30 pm

- Move tables out of assembly area
- Clean and organize cabinets
- Clean ducting, pipes, walls
- Vacuum carpeted areas
- Clean dust collection room
- Clean out various areas within the shop
- Clean sanding room area
- Outdoor activities: bush trimming, chipping, parking lot cleanup
- Wash front porch roof

Session #2:

Saturday, March 18, 8:30 am – 11:30 am

- Clean machines, polish machine tables
- Cleanup of various rooms
- Finish vacuuming
- Mop concrete floors
- Pack all items and return them to storage for future use
- Run magnet on parking lot
- Clean wide belt sander belts

Go to the Guild's website to register under "Class/Events List".

Please note that the shop will be closed for business all day Friday and will reopen Saturday at 1 pm.

Thank you for your help!

Mac Bowman
Shop Manager



**The Best Three-Hour
Tool Sale in Greenville**



Volunteers Needed for the Tool Sale Program

The Guild's semi-annual Tool Sales are one of our most important funding programs. The last sale raised more than \$10,000 in charitable donations. Guild members collect tools from those who wish to liquidate their shop tools and equipment. They do it all – from picking up the tools, sorting and organizing, pricing, and conducting the sales.

Like all Guild programs, the tool sales are coordinated and staffed entirely by our members. The Tool Program Team needs your help.

Specifically To:

- Increase the number of Guild volunteers to collect and prepare items for the sales.
- Increase the number of tool sellers/donors.
- Broaden the market outside of the greater Greenville area to increase the number of people who attend the sales.

Sales are held in late Spring and late Fall. If you are interested in volunteering in any aspect of the Tool Sales, please contact the team by sending an e-mail to:

toolsales@greenvillewoodworkers.com

Scott Stofan
Tool Program Manager

Charitable Projects – January 2023

	Members	Hours
Children’s Theatre Cabinets	6	177
Beads of Courage.....	3	64
Ripple of One Cabinets.....	1	6
Toy Program.....	2	6
Member Sponsored Projects.....	1	2
Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Boxes	1	1

Nominating Committee

Pursuant to GWG Policy #9, Election of Directors and Officers, please be advised that a Nominating Committee has been formed consisting of Bob Armbruster (Chairman) and Paul Pimentel. Policy #9 states “The purpose of the Nominating Committee is to nominate individuals for election as officers and directors of the Guild”.

Any questions regarding the election of officers may be directed to Bob Armbruster at: thankyou lucky@yahoo.com

South Carolina Children’s Theatre Projects

GWG members completed another project for the SC Children’s Theatre. This latest project consisted of pantry style cabinets to store communication equipment. A unique and challenging design item was the drop-down work surface seen in the pictures. Truly one of a kind!

This project was just one of several that have been completed for the Theatre, including all of the cabinets in the original build of the facility, a podium for the stage, a cabinet for stage microphones, and all of the cabinets and countertops for the sound booth.

Many thanks to the GWG team members who devoted almost 300 hours for this latest project: Jon Rauschenbach, John Miles, Mary Coleman, Dick Best, Bob Gasperik, Kevin Curry, and Marion DeWitt.



Table folds into cabinet.



Michael McDunn Presentation

A huge thank you goes out to Michael McDunn, one of the Guild's founding members, who graciously stepped in at the last minute to be our presenter at the February Monthly Meeting. Our original presenter, Lyle Wheeler, was unable to attend, and is now scheduled for our April meeting.

Michael gave a wonderful presentation on the construction of a beautiful custom-made dining table that was commissioned by Jonathan Scott from HGTV's Property Brothers.

You can view a video of Michael's entire presentation on the Guild's website. It covers everything from the initial planning stages through construction, finishing, and finally, delivery. You'll see the beautifully finished table in Jonathan's dining room. In the video, Jonathan describes the table as the piece of furniture in his home that he is most proud of. He said he's obsessed with it because every single piece was done by hand.

Thank you, Michael, for sharing your craftsmanship and artistry with your fellow members.



Welcome New Members!

Joe Ashley..... Greenville, SC
Mike Baldwin..... Taylors, SC
Alex BelokobylkaBoiling Springs, SC
Michael Clark Greenville, SC
Steven Cohen Greenville, SC
Kristen Cox Greenville, SC
Ildi Everly Greenville, SC

Brian Green Greenville, SC
James Gregory..... Easley, SC
Chrissie Gregory Easley, SC
Steve Haigler..... Anderson, SC
David Harper Easley, SC
Bill Heape..... Greer, SC
Denny Jenkins..... Greenville, SC

Matt Jillson..... Greer, SC
Brandi Koontz Greenville, SC
Randy Luffman..... Sapphire, NC
Adam McLendon Simpsonville, SC
John Samela Williamston, SC
Kathy Staples..... Greenville, SC
Bogue Wallin Greenville, SC

New CNC Machines

Almost two years ago, the Guild launched a study committee to consider expanding the CNC program. On February 13, 2023, the installation of two machines selected by the committee completed the process.

Two machines were selected from manufacturer CAMaster, the only company fabricating and assembling their products 100% in the USA. The machines chosen were the Stinger I (24"x48") and Stinger II (48"x48") with Recoil indexing lathe. Each machine is equipped with an industry leading high-speed spindle from Italian maker HSD.

Building modifications to accept the new machines included relocating existing machines, painting the former training room, installing electrical circuits, dust collection piping and compressed air supplies. A team of 14 dedicated volunteers spent many long hours completing the work. Thanks to their efforts, the machines are ready for use. Classes will be offered beginning on March 4.



Stinger I (24"x48")

Stinger II (48"x48")



Build A Birdhouse Contest

Spring is on its way, which means it's time to build birdhouses & enter the 2023 birdhouse contest. It's time to get creative! The contest is open to adults, as well as those under the age of 18 (youth). Prizes will be awarded in three different categories listed below:

Functional - Can best be described as a working birdhouse. It will be judged on the following criteria, in the order listed: craftsmanship, functionality for birds, ability to be mounted, easy access for cleaning, type of material used, and aesthetics.

Decorative/Whimsical - Can be used indoors or outside, and not necessarily functional. It will be judged on the following criteria, in the order listed: aesthetics, imaginative theme, texture, color, composition, and craftsmanship.

"Green" - Think repurposed, environmentally friendly, and recycled. Green birdhouses can be functional and/or decorative.

Rules

- Birdhouses must be made within the last year by the person entering the contest.
- No birdhouses made from kits are permitted.
- Birdhouses must be at least 75% made of wood.
- You can submit a maximum of three birdhouses, but only one birdhouse can be submitted for each of the three categories.
- All entries must be in good taste.



Judging

Winners of each category will be determined by the number of votes they acquire. Entry forms will be available at the April Monthly Meeting. Be sure to get your birdhouses submitted early that night to get those votes! Winners will be announced at the end of the meeting.

Bird Lovers Choice Award – Use Your Spare Change!

Those attending the April Monthly Meeting are invited to vote for their favorite birdhouses before the meeting using their spare change. Each dollar you donate is worth one vote. Your donation will be used to purchase GWG shop supplies, such as sandpaper.

Contact Rosie Gaddy at rosiegaddy@yahoo.com if you have any questions about the contest.

Exotic Wood Trivia From Your Lumber Team

SAPELE

This wood, from tropical Africa, has become one of our biggest sellers in the lumber room. We routinely get boards up to 24" in width, due to the fact that the tree grows three to five feet in diameter.

The heartwood is golden to dark reddish brown and tends to darken with age. The common ribbon pattern seen on some boards is because the log has been quarter sawn versus plain sawn. Sapele is also known for a wide variety of other figured grain patterns such as: pommele, quilted, mottled, wavy, beeswing, and fiddleback. The grain is interlocked, sometimes wavy, with fine uniform texture and good natural luster.

Rot resistance ranges from moderately durable to very durable in regard to decay, making it an excellent choice for exterior projects.

Price: Moderately priced for plain sawn or quarter sawn, although figured lumber can be extremely expensive, especially pommele or quilted. We are currently selling Sapele for \$6.50/board foot, which is one of the best bargains in an exotic wood.

Sapele is a commonly exported and economically imported African wood species. It is used as a substitute for Genuine Mahogany and is sometime referred to as "Sapele Mahogany". While not a true Mahogany, both Sapele and Mahogany are in the Meliaceae family, so comparisons to true Mahogany are not too far-fetched.

PERUVIAN WALNUT

This wood, also called Tropical Walnut or Nogal, comes from southern Mexico and Central and South America. The tree grows two to three feet in diameter, although we seldom get boards wider than eight to ten inches from our supplier.

The heartwood tends to be darker than other Walnut species, with a dark chocolate brown color, sometimes with a purplish hue. The grain is usually straight, curl is uncommon, and it has a medium to coarse texture and good natural luster.

Rot Resistance: Only moderately durable and is susceptible to insect attacks. Not a good choice for exterior projects!

Price: Although Peruvian Walnut is typically more expensive than domestic Walnut, we have been able to get excellent pricing, probably because we are not getting the wider boards. We are selling Peruvian Walnut for \$8.00/board foot, which is on par with a lesser grade of domestic Walnut, but considerably less than the "superior" Walnut we stock. Even with the superior grade of domestic Walnut, we see considerable color and defect variations that can raise the waste factor, driving the usable board foot price even higher. This makes the Peruvian Walnut, which has a very low waste factor, even more attractive as an alternative to domestic Walnut.

Perhaps the most fitting name would be Tropical Walnut, yet the term Peruvian Walnut is commonly

used, even though most wood comes from southern Mexico and not much comes from Peru. The name "Nogal" is also used, because that is the Spanish word for "walnut".

Amendment to Guild Policy No. 7, Use of the Guild Woodworking Shop

A motion was approved by the Board of Directors to amend Policy No. 7, Use of the Guild Woodworking Shop, to include the following statement:

Members may not openly carry a concealable weapon, as defined by SC Code, while in the shop.

GWG CONTACTS

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Buzz Sprinkle - Membership Chairman
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Scott Stofan - Tool Sales/Auction Manager
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Member's Projects



Serving Trays With Leather Inserts by Karen Sheldon



Closed Segmented Bowl, Open Segmented Bowl and Walnut Salad Bowl by Van Matthews



Three Degree Splayed Legs Using Modified Maloof Joints by Bobby Hartness



Woven Charcuterie Board by Cliff Heitz



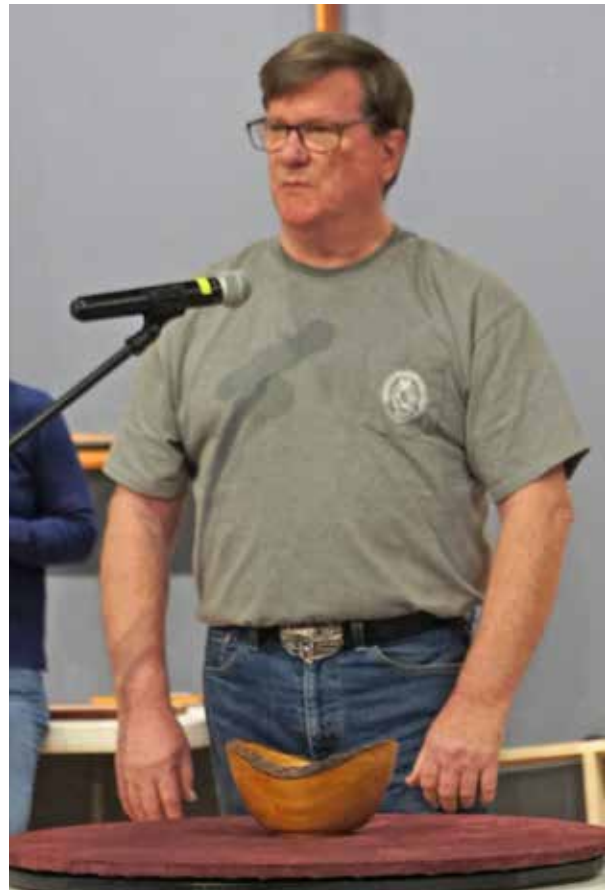
Carved Box and Bowl by Don Clark



Jewelry Chest by Dave Friedline



Live Edge Cherry Bowl by Bill Haley



Maloof Inspired Low Back Chair by Jim Sinclair





Chess Set, Table and Stools by Bryan Collins



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