

# ShopTalk

Greenville Woodworkers Guild



October 2021



**John Leake & Son will be our October program.**

Y'all will enjoy a trip through Southern woodworking.  
John's program will show us how to make a southern huntboard and learn  
the difference between a huntboard and a sideboard.

## John Leake

### Biography

John and Jay Leake hand make period reproduction furniture in the styles of William and Mary, Queen Anne, Chippendale, Hepplewhite and Sheraton. Using all solid wood, each piece is made to order using the finest mahogany, cherry, walnut and maple available. Not only is the wood of the finest quality but also our hardware and brass. Customers who identify quality and craftsmanship will especially appreciate our furniture.

John Leake and son Jay build fifteen to eighteen major pieces per year in their York, South Carolina shop, each with craftsmanship featuring hand carving, dovetailing, and pinned mortise and tenon joinery.

We don't have a "line" of furniture. Pictured on our showroom page are some of our favorites. We often duplicate them but can also adapt or modify them for your needs, or build you a totally custom piece. We work on 1 piece at a time for 1 customer at a time. We welcome your inquiry, better still, a visit.

Leakes' Antiques is much more than an antique store; it is a labor-intensive furniture makers dream where 18th century master designers inspire every day. John Howard Leake, Sr. was a farmer who lived south of York, SC. Farming kept him busy, but while away doing his chores, he'd travel the countryside and do business with families who had interesting pieces of furniture and were willing to trade. Soon Leake had acquired a great many pieces, so many that he needed a separate building to store them. Purchasing three acres north of his farm, he and his son, John Howard Leake, Jr. went to work and built a building that would house their antique shop.

The doors to the shop officially opened around 1956. Leake, Sr. and his wife Zoe ran the business. Living

in the country brought a variety of antique lovers. Some came for the conversation, while others came to browse and buy. It wasn't too soon after opening the shop that the Leakes decided to move from the farm and live on the premises. By 1965, Leakes son was working full time. The shop expanded to two additional buildings, and ever since, the business prospered.

Jay Leake represents the 4th generation in our family to operate here, says John. My main goal is to help him keep it going another 30 years and into the 5th generation. As a shop teacher in the Gaston County Schools, John Leake III was passionate about his work, but after six years, he decided to leave the school system to work full time in the family business of restoring antiques and building antique replicas. Building mostly 18th century reproductions and adaptations, the Leakes also produce some 19th and 20th century pieces. We want all our pieces to be able to stand the test of time, so we use hand cut dovetails and mortise and tenon construction to put all our pieces together. Not having a line of furniture, John and Jay build tables, chairs, cupboards, bed, and other pieces in many different styles and woods. Each piece is bench made meaning one at a time.

The showroom beside the shop contains 30 or more pieces representing most of the furniture forms, styles, woods, and finishes the Leakes use. They work with solid wood, primarily black walnut, but they also work in cherry and tiger maple. If it's a piece of furniture based on an 18th century design, that part was completed 200 years ago and can hardly be improved [upon]. If it is a custom piece, we get input from the client as to their needs and ideas, make sketches, and go from there. With a philosophy based on simplicity, the Leakes use the finest materials available to create furniture based on historical accuracy in both

the joining of wood and finish. The Cellaret is their signature piece and is an 18th century inspired cabinet or sideboard used to house bottles of wine, decanters, and/or glasses.

The hardwood comes from a supplier in Pennsylvania. The wood is clean of knots and hand-picked, prepared by the dealer arriving in rough boards, and ready to use. When constructing large pieces, such as dining room tables or cabinets, boards from the same tree are used in order to keep the color consistent. The brassware comes from Connecticut and is museum quality hardware. Each piece takes about three weeks to make with two people working on it from start to finish.

We're a little different than most business. Except for sending out emails, no business is kept on computers. With only the two of us, we can keep it simple. We like it that way, says Jay. With John and Jay being so much alike, it's kind of scary, but when they disagree, John is still Jays dad. He is the boss, and is usually right 95% of the time, says Jay. We work together every day, and we hang out together too. It works out well; were lucky.

The Leake name is well established in the Piedmont. Our name comes up a lot. You can't stay in business in a small town if you don't keep your word. It boils down to one thing in the end, says Jay, all you have is your name and your word. If that's not dependable or trustworthy, what do you have?

John and Jay said they are just blessed that they were given the opportunity to be a part of national and international history. "We're just extremely proud and pleased to be in this little small Podunk little shop, but have made a pretty small significant piece of history for the United States and for England," John said. The Leakes hope this project will put the town of York and the even smaller town of Filbert on the map.









**Joe Boyd**  
**President**



## THE PRESIDENTS CORNER

Wow, what a wonderful day it was celebrating our 40th Anniversary! It was genuinely good for the soul to hear people talking, smiling, laughing and enjoying one of the most spectacular days at the guild! The weather was perfect, the lunch was perfect, the ice cream was most perfect and the entertainment that was provided by Roy Underhill was off the charts! If you were not there you truly missed a one-of-a-kind event.

I would like to thank the members who had a hand in pulling off this hallmark occasion at the guild. There were numerous people who stepped up, showed up and gave up a significant portion of the day to see that all elements of the event were covered. I could not begin to mention all of the members that were involved, but once again, we see that when there is a job that needs to be done, you can count on the members of the Greenville Woodworkers Guild!

I would like to give a hearty thanks to the Committee that had

been meeting and preparing for this event since February.

Susan Ingram, Co-Chairman, Butch Scott, Karen Sheldon, Sandy Rauh, Doyle Hogsed, John Arnold, Bobby Hartness, Russ Clarke, Lichia Buckland, Rosie and Jim Kilton, and Robert Tepper.

The next time you see these individuals please take a moment to thank them for their service to the guild in making our 40th Anniversary Celebration a huge success.

Additionally, I would like to make a comment about Mac Bowman, our Shop Manager. If you were to view all of the activities of our guild as circles...activities such as charitable projects, the auction committee, the grounds committee, the facilities, the monthly member meetings, equipment maintenance, shop supervision and on and on and on.... Mac Bowman would be a circle unto himself that touches and overlaps each of the other circles within the guild. If the late entertainer James Brown was the "Hardest Working Man in

Show Business", Mac Bowman is unquestionably the "Hardest Working Member in the Guild"! Mac, simply saying "Thank You" seems inadequate but your contribution to this guild is greatly appreciated and I personally want you to know how much you are loved and appreciated by our membership.

With Fall in the air, the guild facilities will become busy again as we begin making items for Christmas. Please do your part (and more) in keeping our shop clean and our equipment well cared for. Look for ways to give back to our organization and our next 40 years will be equally successful as our first.

Until we meet again at our monthly Member Meeting, October 4, at 6:30 pm, enjoy your guild!



Joe Boyd having fun with Roy Underhill.



Roy Underhill showing a young woodworker how to use a manual powered lathe.







Roy Underhill cutting the Anniversary cake with an antique axe.

Left to Right: Roy Underhill, Bob Harvey, Aubrey Rogers and Joe Boyd





Time to eat



## GUILD HISTORY

Aubrey Rogers

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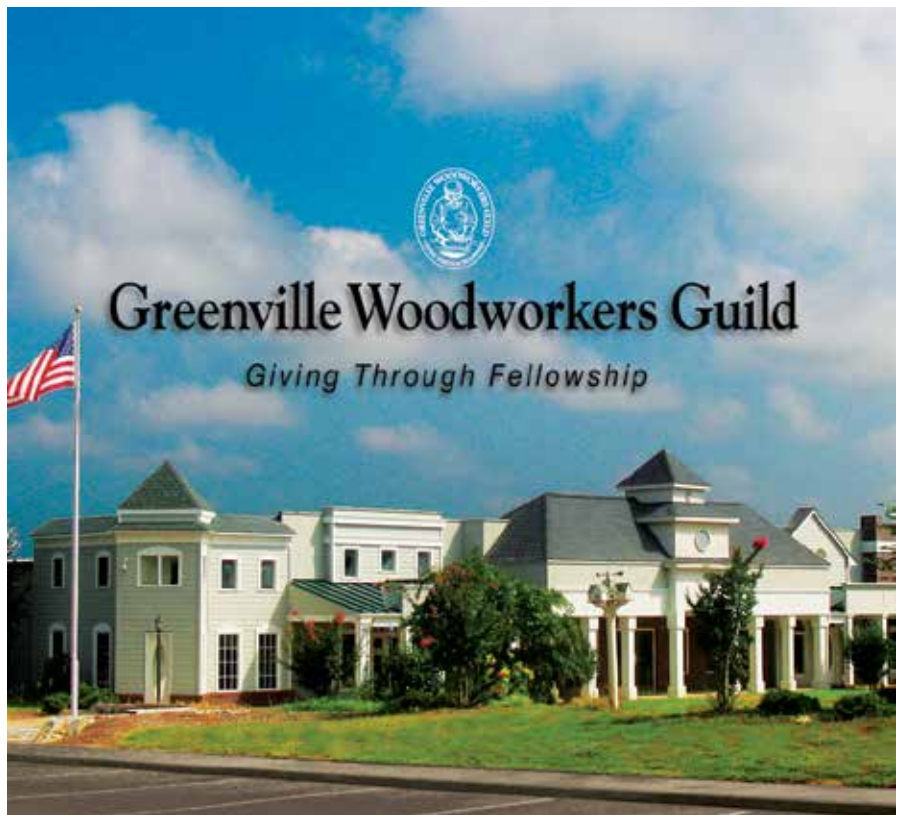
*Part 14*

*February 1990*

Bob Ripley will present a program talking about the seminar he attended in Atlanta where Sam Maloof's topic was building rocking chairs. Sam is now 75 and still runs his shop in California where he has three years back orders for all kinds of household chairs, desks, tables and other furniture. He had no formal training in working or design so he must have been born with those abilities. It all came from within, as he himself says, "the craftsman's' hands are simply the tools of a higher power".

Last month Bill Sutton's talk and demonstration of the types and anatomy of hand planes was very thorough. A plane appears to be a simple uncomplicated tool, but on taking a closer look, Bill showed how much more intricate and exacting a plane is in order to do its job. With terms like sole, frog in throat, sharp, the plane almost might have human attributes.

Show and tell was popular. Ravenel Scott brought in an originally design mailbox. Jim Thomas



brought a hand carved long handle kitchen spoon made from green wood. Carlyle McKaughan created a plane with a one inch blade to smooth some raised panel door bevels. The plane was carefully made and had a file ground down to form the cutting blade.

# GWG ACTIVITY REPORT

## CHARITABLE PROJECTS / August 1 to August 31 , 2021

	Hours
Beads of Courage.....	5
Toy Workshop.....	8.5
Toys .....	333
Jasmine House.....	70
Childrens Theater (Soundbooth).....	17.5
Other Charitable Projects.....	22.5
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>452</b>

## MENTORING CLASSES / August 1 to August 31 , 2021

	Hours
Combined total hours for adult classes.....	497
Youth Classes .....	92
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>589</b>

## GWG NEW MEMBERS

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Gail Bamford.....	Greer, SC	Bill Osborne .....	Fountain Inn, SC
Tim Brown .....	Greenville, SC	Adam Proehl .....	Mauldin, SC
Ray Chahoud.....	Greenville, SC	Ryan Robinson.....	Anderson, SC
Patrick Dreiding .....	Greer, SC	Drew Rogers.....	Greenville, SC
Dave Duff.....	Greenville, SC	Kimberly Singleton.....	Simpsonville, SC
Bob Fray.....	Greenville, SC	Andrea Smith.....	Simpsonville, SC
Vern Nelson.....	Simpsonville, SC	Keith Wannamaker .....	Greer, SC

## WOOD YOU LIKE A TIP?

SUBMIT A  
WOODWORKING  
TIP AND WIN  
UP TO  
**\$50**

Starting last month we asked for members to share a woodworking tip for the newsletter. There will be a prize for the published tip. The member whose tip is published will receive 5 tickets for the Guild meetings monthly drawing. The average proceeds for the winner of the drawing is around \$50.00.

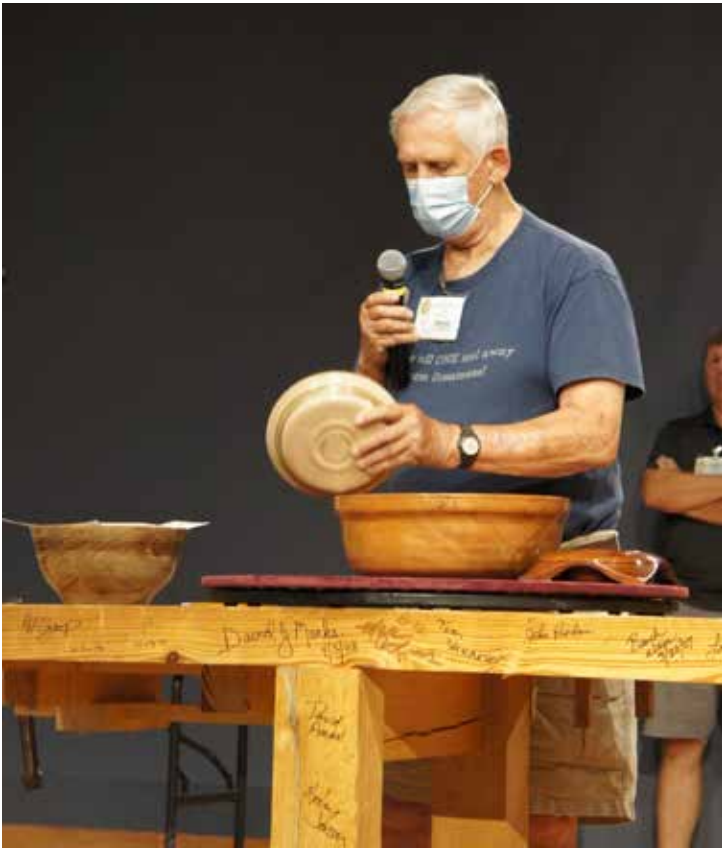
In addition to telling about your TIP we would like to see an example of your genius. Please send a photo if available.

If you win the drawing you do not have to be present at the meeting to receive the prize. We will notify you.

Send your TIP and photos to David Deweases by the 15th of each month. Include a selfie of you along with a photo of your tip, your name, and e-mail address.

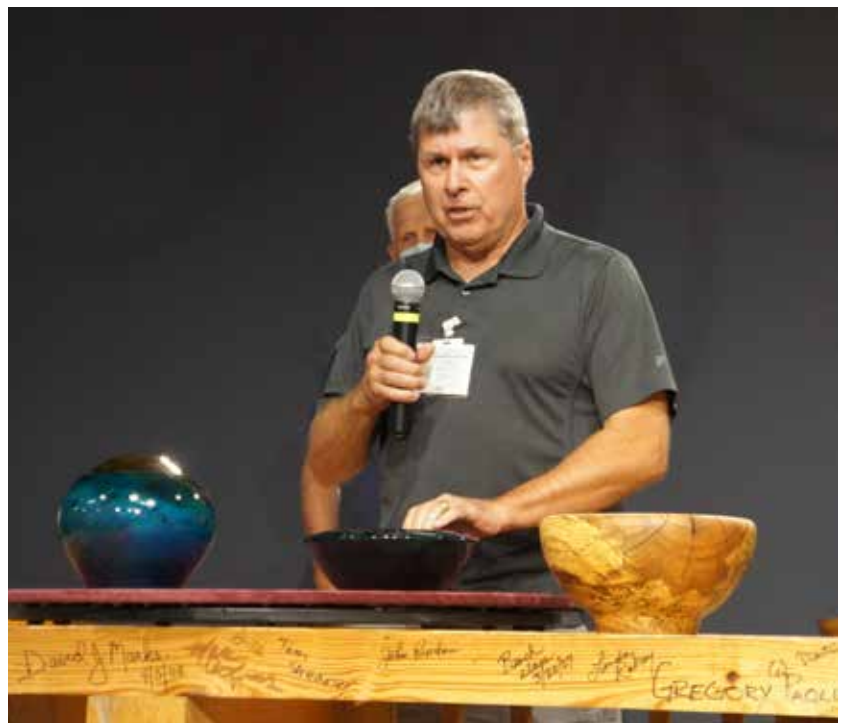
[ddewease77@gmail.com](mailto:ddewease77@gmail.com)

## MEMBER'S PROJECTS



Turnings by Jim Kilton

Turned Bowls  
by Steve Estabrooks



Turned Bowl with  
Pyrography Design  
by Dave Paul



Molly Brown Folding  
Parlor Table  
by Steve Kern

## 2020- 2021 Officers

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Joe Boyd - President

John Arnold - Executive VP

Bill Fuller - Treasurer

Chuck Graham - Secretary

David Dewease - Vice President, Communications

Van Matthews - VP of Fund Raising

Doyle Hogsed - Vice President, Educational Activities

Marion DeWit - Vice President Charitable Projects

Aaron Galloway - Guild Accountant

Dick Best - Education Center Superintendent

Mac Bowman - Shop Manager

Robert Tepper - At Large

Jon Rauschenbach - At Large

Al Socha - At Large

Bill Gay - Accountant Emeritus



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[www.greenvillewoodworkers.com](http://www.greenvillewoodworkers.com)