

# ShopTalk

Greenville Woodworkers Guild



October 2019



**Due to the unexpected power outage the day of our September meeting, Robb Helmkamp, who was scheduled for September will give his presentation at our October meeting.**

Robb's Topic will be about CURVES. It is a feature that he has in most of his work in varying degrees of complexity. He will talk about a few ways that he approaches putting curves in his work. From as simple as using a drawing bow, pencil, eye, bandsaw and edge sander to a more complex lamination and bending over a form in a bag or with clamps.

## BIOGRAPHY

Robb Helmkamp makes contemporary furniture, sculpture and accessories, made of various types of wood, some pieces with metal accents. Soft contours, gentle curves and subtle angles provide gentle flow and movement, creating a classic contemporary look. Helmkamp primarily uses woods native to the Carolinas including walnut, cherry, maple, oak and ash. By juxtaposing wood and metal, light and dark tones, smooth and rough textures he uses furniture as a canvas for expression.

As a military brat, Helmkamp was raised all over the country by a career U.S. Navy father and an artist mother, and grew up with constant exposure to both the arts and the military. Helmkamp's mother has been a ceramic artist most of my life and I helped out in her pottery studio and at art shows during my childhood. Conversely, he would go to military air shows and weekend naval ship tours with my father. Helmkamp's work is continually inspired and informed by both the arts and crafts and military history and design. Throughout his childhood Helmkamp was continuously making... designing and building tree forts, skate ramps and hammering together a wide range of projects.

After earning a degree in Public Relations at WVU in Morgantown, West Virginia Helmkamp began to have doubts about a career working behind a desk and began trying to figure out how to build a career out of making things with his hands. Shortly after moving to North Carolina in 2001 Helmkamp started taking woodworking classes and was soon enrolled at Haywood Community College, in Clyde, NC, as a student in their Professional Crafts: Woodworking program. While in school, at Haywood, Helmkamp started his own woodworking business, Kampstudio.

Helmkamp's goal with Kampstudio has always been to make furniture of the highest quality and to create pieces which have never seen or experienced

before. Always striving for his work to be thoroughly influenced and informed by the past, Helmkamp creates original and unique woodworking. Taking the time to finely craft each piece of furniture in his studio Helmkamp uses a mix of modern machinery and traditional hand tools. Currently Helmkamp works in a studio next to his house, in a quiet neighborhood, in North Charleston, South Carolina.

At Kampstudio Helmkamp makes furniture and accessories, including tables (of all sizes), benches, boxes, cutting boards, built-ins, one-of-a-kind pieces and many more items.

Helmkamp creates pieces for exhibitions and regularly accepts commissions and custom work requests. Most of Helmkamp's woodworking is finished with a hand rubbed oil and varnish mixture. All of Kampstudio's food accessories, including cutting boards, are finished with a food-safe beeswax based conditioner.













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**Rob Barhorst**  
*President*



## THE PRESIDENTS CORNER

October is here with all the changes it brings. The days are getting shorter, the leaves are starting to change as fall approaches. Halloween is just around the corner.

I want to thank everyone who was affected by our recent power outage for their patience and understanding. This outage was caused when a construction excavator next door severed our buried power lines. Thank goodness no one was injured and it was just a minor interruption to the shop while a temporary repair was done. The power company is working on a permanent fix by running new buried lines on our property in the near future.

The fall schedule of classes was announced and I hope you took the opportunity to enroll in a class. As new charitable projects are announced, take the initiative to volunteer to work on one of them. It is very rewarding, helps build your skills and it is fun besides. Mark your calendar for the evening of December 2, 2019. This is the date for our Annual Christmas Dinner. Specific details will be made at a later time but reserve the date for now.

As always, be considerate of your fellow members and work safe.

### **Around The Shop**

Some welcome changes are coming in the shop. We have dedicated the Laguna bandsaw just for re-sawing. It will be outfitted with a special blade just for this purpose. Only straight cuts will be permitted due to the width of the special blade. This is a welcome addition to the shop. This will now allow for accurate and thin slicing cuts for your projects. In order to use this bandsaw, you will need to sign it out with the supervisor on duty. We have also purchased another bandsaw to be added on the shop floor. Specific details and location will be determined in the coming weeks.

Be safe and enjoy the shop

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

## CHARITABLE PROJECTS / August 1 to August 31 , 2019

	Hours
Beads of Courage.....	3
Toy Workshop.....	333
Cancer Survivor Park Alliance-Benches.....	20.5
Northwest CDC.....	1.5
Total.....	358

## MENTORING CLASSES /August 1 to August 31 , 2019

	Hours
Combined total hours for adult classes.....	205.5
Youth Classes .....	64.5
Total.....	270

**Next guild meeting Monday, October 7, 2019**

Greenville Woodworkers Guild

Education Center

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For more information

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



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