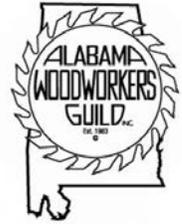




Woodworking Education Center  
10544 Hwy 17, Maylene, AL 35114

# Alabama Woodworkers Guild Guild News



[www.alabamawoodworkersguild.org](http://www.alabamawoodworkersguild.org)

Volume XXXIV Number 5

May, 2015

## Next Meeting

**The next  
scheduled  
meeting is  
May 16th**

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## President's Message

Greetings Guild Members,

It's May already and it's not too soon to start thinking about the Annual Show in November at the Hoover Library. We had a good show last year with many examples of projects of all skill levels from our members. Dwight Hostetter did a great job of coordinating the show last year and we give him many thanks for all his hard work and effort. This year I am looking for someone else to step up and get involved in the coordination of this show. I know that we have many new members that may not be aware of the Annual Show and how it works. I will be sharing the process in next months newsletter. So start getting your projects ready for the show.

Glen Huey will be at the WEC for a two day seminar on October 3rd and 4th. We are still working out the details of his presentation but, Glen says "one idea I had was to examine card tables for designs, apron and swing leg construction and inlay." There will be a more complete description to follow as the details are worked out. I will put a complete bio for Glen in an upcoming newsletter. Glen is probably best known for his contributions to Popular Woodworking magazine, his books and videos.

Ray

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## May Meeting Program

Bill Newman will present the program for the general meeting this month. He will explain some methods for achieving accuracy and repeatability with woodworking projects. He will discuss and demonstrate methods of constructing jigs to improve accuracy, safety and quality of work. Bill will discuss the use of measuring instruments such as calipers, dial gauges, dividers and other items to make woodworking tasks easier and to improve accuracy. He will demonstrate the use of bench hooks, simple guides for handsaws, shooting boards, and other basic techniques to help improve the quality of results achieved with hand tools.

Many members will be familiar with some of the items presented, but all should find some useful gems to add to their list.

## New Members

The Alabama Woodworkers Guild would like to extend a warm welcome to our new members!

Elizabeth Waites, John Gross, Jim Sweatt,  
Don Wilson

**WELCOME!**

**WEC MAY - JUNE 2015 CALENDAR**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10[19] May 1:00pm-5:00pm Michael Melinconico supervisor, 205 886 4662	11 9:00am-3:00pm Over the Hill Gang - Toys Shop is CLOSED except for Toy work	12 9:00am-3:00pm Over the Hill Gang - Toys Shop is CLOSED except for Toy work	13	14	15 9:00am-1:00pm Bob Moore...Supervisor 1:00pm-5:00pm Bob Moore...Supervisor 5:00pm-9:00pm ...no supervisor	16 9:00am-1:00pm...Mike Key 10:00am-11:30am Monthly Guild Meeting (Woodworking Education Center) 1:00pm-5:00pm...cliff Daniels, supervisor
17[20] 1:00pm-5:00pm ...no supervisor	18 9:00am-3:00pm Over the Hill Gang - Toys Shop is CLOSED except for Toy work	19 9:00am-3:00pm Over the Hill Gang - Toys Shop is CLOSED except for Toy work	20	21	22 9:00am-1:00pm Supervisor: Lynn Smith 1:00pm-5:00pm Supervisor: Lynn Smith 5:00pm-9:00pm ...no supervisor	23 9:00am-1:00pm ...no supervisor 1:00pm-5:00pm ...no supervisor
24[21] 1:00pm-5:00pm ...no supervisor	25 9:00am-3:00pm Over the Hill Gang - Toys Shop is CLOSED except for Toy work	26 9:00am-3:00pm Over the Hill Gang - Toys Shop is CLOSED except for Toy work	27	28	29 9:00am-5:00pm RHardwick supervisor	30 9:00am-1:00pm ...no supervisor 1:00pm-5:00pm ...no supervisor
31[22] 1:00pm-5:00pm ...no supervisor 1:00pm-5:00pm ...no supervisor	1 Jun 9:00am-1:00pm no supervisor 1:00pm-5:00pm no supervisor	2 9:00am-3:00pm Over the Hill Gang - Toys Shop is CLOSED except for Toy work	3 6:30pm - 7:30pm AWG Board Meeting (JR Prewitt & Associates, 2146 Highland Avenue South)	4	5 9:00am-1:00pm Ron Rowell-Supervisor 1:00pm-5:00pm Ron Rowell-Supervisor 5:00pm-9:00pm ...no supervisor	6 9:00am-1:00pm ...no supervisor 1:00pm-5:00pm ...no supervisor
7[23] 1:00pm-5:00pm ...no supervisor	8 9:00am-3:00pm Over the Hill Gang - Toys Shop is CLOSED except for Toy work	9 9:00am-3:00pm Over the Hill Gang - Toys Shop is CLOSED except for Toy work	10	11	12 9:00am-1:00pm Lynn Smith supervisor 1:00pm-5:00pm Lynn Smith supervisor 5:00pm-9:00pm ...no supervisor	13 9:00am-1:00pm ...no supervisor 1:00pm-5:00pm ...no supervisor

*The most current WEC calendar is always available on-line at: <http://freecal.brownbears.com/awg>*

2146 Highland Ave. South,  
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## May Pre-Meeting Mentoring Topic: How to use a Tracksaw

Our May Mentoring Series will feature our own John Lawson demonstrating different techniques and uses for a Tracksaw.

John has been woodworking for over 30 years. He spent his career in manufacturing, mostly automotive plastics, and is a self-described "plant rat", and says "I have always enjoyed the sound a manufacturing plant makes when it is operating efficiently".

When he retired in 2001, John started woodworking more seriously and made many pieces of furniture for his family. He has attended numerous schools including the Three Month Intensive course at the Center for Furniture Craftsmanship in Camden, Maine. In 2006 he rented a shop in downtown Birmingham and operated it until his latest retirement in 2014. His son, Matt, now operates that shop under the name of Lawson Woodworking where he focuses on furniture repair as well as custom commissions.

John has taught classes for the Alabama Woodworkers Guild since 2006, and has taught the doors and drawer front part of the cabinet class for the Habitat for Humanity project for the past 4 years.

## Comfort Bucket

We appreciate your donations to the comfort bucket! The money raised there helps the Guild pay the bills at the WEC.



## Mentoring

NOTE: You must be a member of the Guild to be eligible to participate in mentoring classes.

Are you an intermediate or beginner woodworker with an itch to raise your woodworking skills a notch or two? Do you have a special project in mind, but are just a bit uneasy about getting underway? Looking for tips to save time and effort, plus get better results?

Here's what you need to do: join a Guild mentored group now. It's the way to go for all of the above with others at your skill level, and best of all, at no cost except for materials.

**Refer to Shop Schedule for schedule of mentoring sessions**

### Some examples of topics offered:

Bench Making  
Table Saw instruction  
Lathe Fundamentals  
Pen Turning  
Hand Tools - sharpening and techniques  
Furniture Building - Chairs, Table tops, Tables  
Instruction in - Router table use  
Instruction in - Jointer, Planer use  
Dovetail jig making  
Hand-cut Dovetails  
Pocket Hole Jig Instruction

**If you have questions on woodworking technique, tool usage, or buying equipment or tools, feel free to contact a Guild mentor.**



Jim Woodward  
Ed Bullock  
John Lawson

Mike Key  
Bob Moore  
Dwight Hostetter  
Bill Newman  
Brian Stauss  
Cliff Daniels  
Buzz Kelly  
Lynn Smith  
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Preston Lawley  
Jeff Hood  
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Dovetail jig  
Hand tool sharpening, table saw, joiner, planer  
Lathe, segmented turning, baskets  
Boxes, jointer  
Cabinet construction  
Scroll saw, jointer, band saw  
Finishing and stringing  
Toys  
Jointer, planer  
Draw knife, planes, hand tools, antique hand tools  
Cutting Boards  
Scroll Saw  
Cabinetry, Cad and Joinery  
Project Photography



Contact the above by email or phone as listed in the Membership Directory or email Robert McClure at [rmcc22@bellsouth.net](mailto:rmcc22@bellsouth.net)

## Bill Newman: Box Building Class

In some circles it is touted that April showers bring May flowers (no pun intended for the fact Mayflowers bring Pilgrims!). In the case of the Alabama Woodworkers Guild, April brought the much anticipated Box Building Class led by our own Bill Newman. Over 20 guild members attended the class and learned through instruction and demonstration how to create keepsake boxes for friends and family.

Bill demonstrated Box and Dovetail Joints with mitered corners, explaining both the structural and aesthetic benefits of each. The class touched on techniques for Band Saw Boxes as well. When designing projects, there is the 1:6 ratio which is considered the “Golden Mean”, the ratio of sizing found to be most appealing to most people. Regardless of the structure, a good looking box is what looks good to the builder; there is no silver bullet or magical secret to creating a great box.



Regardless of the species, when selecting wood to use in the project, it is generally best to resaw the material. This will allow for book matching panels and allow the builder to add a dimension of visual interest.

Attendees were randomly selected to practice “hands-on” techniques of construction. These were boxes the attendee would take from the class to complete in their home workshop, to bring back to the Guild for show and tell.



Every woodworker knows that to get a repeatable cut and joint nothing beats a good plan and more importantly a good jig! Box building is no exception.



Techniques were shared for creating floating panels, box and dovetail joints, even lining the box for a luxurious “nice touch”. Along with the instruction, an extensive list of reference material was provided including multiple articles in *Fine Woodworking* magazine and various books and videos from renowned woodworkers such as Doug Stowe. It was a great class and everyone attending took away ideas and plans for improving their own woodworking skills.



A special thanks to Bill for sharing his knowledge, skills and abilities in a very informative venue. Thanks also to Robert McClure and John Wilkes for their logistical support for the class.

Article: Patrick Murphy

Photos: David Holcomb, Patrick Murphy & Bruce Snead

## Beginning Boards

Everyone has to begin woodworking at one place or another. My experience and knowledge place me barely above the level of a novice woodworker. This article is dedicated to all those who were not born with sawdust in their veins and a wooden spoon in their mouth. We all have to start somewhere. To the folks who are new to woodworking and new to the guild, I want to say “howdy” and “happy sawdust “ to you. I was bitten by the Board Bug a few years ago and I love to get in my shop and create things. I am ever in appreciation to those master woodworkers who have shared their knowledge with me and encouraged me to excel and learn.

### Wood Finishing

I don't know all there is to wood finishing. No one knows it all but I have learned a couple of things that have given me some very nice results. Until I read an article on finishing, my technique was a hit-or-miss experience for me. I sprayed it out of a can or slapped it on with a brush and it turned out after it dried. Then I read an article by my first and favorite wood blogger. His name is Tom Iovino and he writes “Toms Workbench.”

I was surveying his past articles and I found an article entitled “Mixologist” where he gave us his formula for finishing that has been the basis of all my finishing techniques since that time (around Sept 2008). First, it makes sense to sand and seal any wood that is worth finishing. Whether you paint it with a pigment or leave the wood to a natural color, my theory is that all woods need to be sealed. Tom recommends mixing #2 dewaxed shellac with 50% denatured alcohol. First you want to sand the surface of the wood with progressively finer grits until you get the surface to at least



220. I have four palm sanders and I put a different grit of paper on each sander (I bought them all at the guild “used tool” sale for \$10). Sanding not only smooth's the surface but it opens the pores of the wood. I sand and then wipe on the shellac by hand. I wear rubber gloves. I leave it to dry for a few hours. The alcohol makes it dry fast. Then I sand it down to 220 grit and repeat the process. I apply 6-8 coats and it takes me a few days. The final few coats I sand further to 330/360. The wood is well sealed and will not blotch. Even cherry seals and it is the worst for blotching.



Then I like to wipe on polyurethane that has been thinned with linseed oil 10% and paint thinner 20-25%. This is Toms formula for the perfect “mixologist.” The wipe on poly sits on top of the smooth shellac and is not much absorbed. It just shines!!! I let it dry for at least 24 hours since the linseed oil tends to sit on top of the finish. I wipe off the excess. Then once the surface is dry, I sand it again to 330/360 or 400 grit and wipe the poly mix on again. I do this for 5-6 coats again. So far, my results have been very nice. An even, lustrous finish that looks deep and rich the darker the wood. If you don't want a high

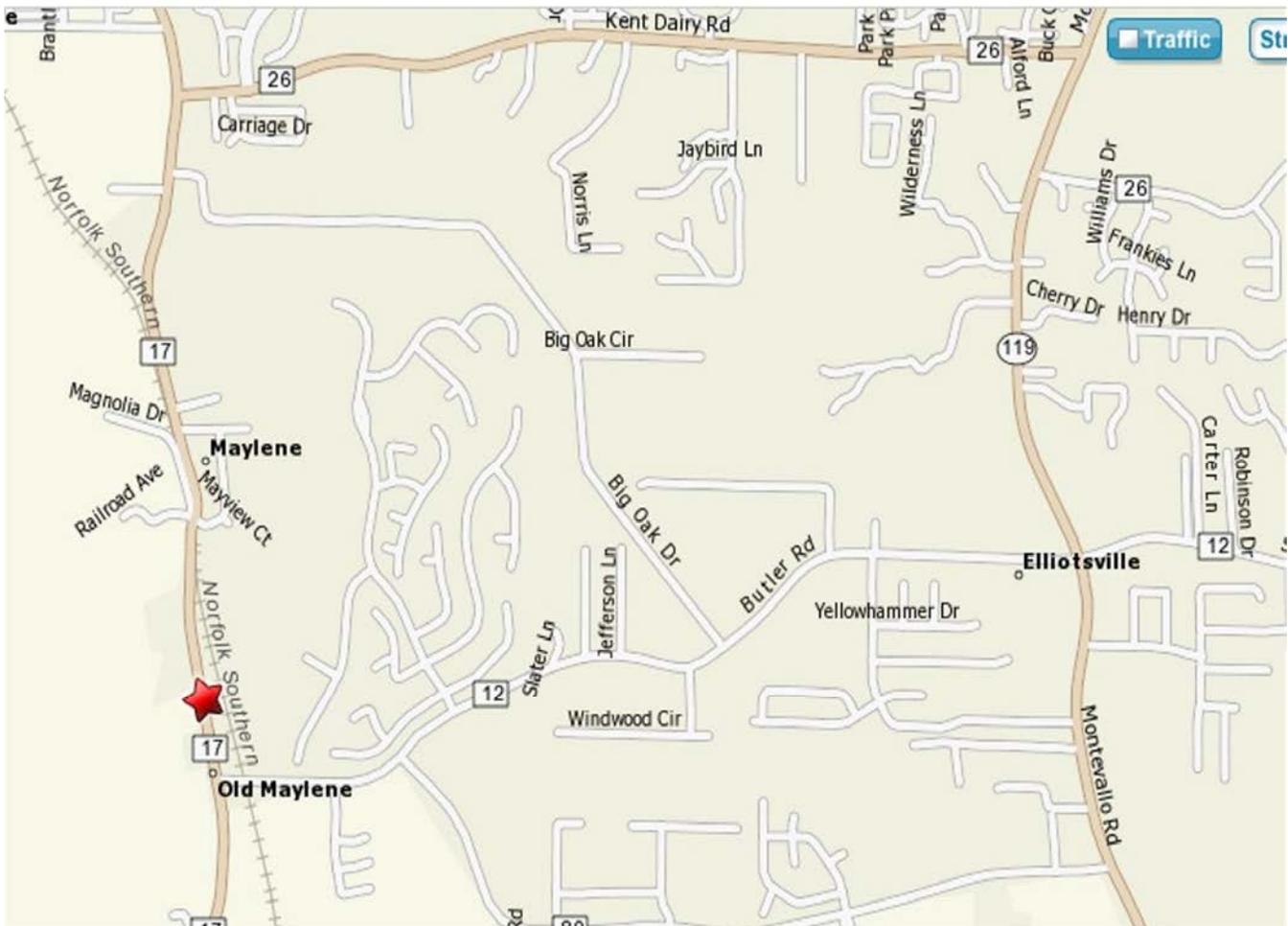
shine it works well with satin finish too. Sometimes I have to wait a day or two between coats of wipe-on poly. Particularly if its below 65 degrees. Once the finish is cured I like to wipe the surface down with a good furniture polish, oil or paste wax. It preserves that shine. Then once or twice a year I reapply the polish to preserve the work.

Like I said, I don't know everything about wood finishing but I have confidence in this method. Try it and let me know how you like it. I am Steve Stutts, member of the Alabama Woodworkers Guild. You can contact me at [Board\\_bug@yahoo.com](mailto:Board_bug@yahoo.com). This article may be freely shared with any wood working guild.

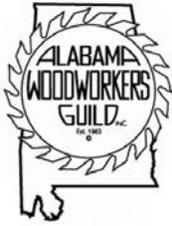
# Dutch Tool Chest Guild Build Photos (Group 2)



## Directions to the Woodworkers Education Center (WEC)



**From I-65**, take Exit 238 (Highway 31). Turn north on U.S. Highway 31, go 0.6 miles and turn left on State Highway 119 South. Go 3.0 miles south on Highway 119 and turn right on County Highway 12. Go 2.1 miles on Highway 12 until it ends at County Highway 17. Turn right on Highway 17 and the WEC is 0.3 miles on your left. There is a large WEC sign at the entrance.



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alabamawoodworkersguild  
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## About Us

Alabama Woodworkers Guild Newsletter is published monthly for its members and other interested parties. Guild meetings are held monthly on the third Saturday at 9:00 a.m. at the Woodworking Education Center, 10544 Hwy 17, Maylene, AL 35114

Information concerning the Guild may be secured by calling **Walter Barnett, Treasurer** at (205) 933-9207.



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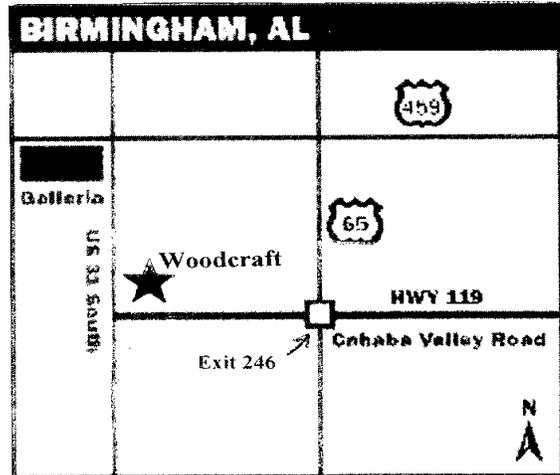
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