



# GUILD NEWS

## Alabama Woodworkers Guild

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Randy Hjetland

Newsletter Editor: Linda Simcik

## Presidents Message

New year, new beginnings! That could be our theme for this year. I hope everyone made it through the holidays healthy and in good spirits. It certainly was different and one we won't likely forget.

If Santa brought you any cool new tools, post them on our web page for us to see so we can ooh and aah over them.

The WEC is open and still under state guidelines to remain safe. Wear your mask and come on down. It's a good time to start a project or finish one that's been hanging around forever (you know the ones).

Let us know what you're working on and a little bit about the project. Everyone likes to hear and see other woodworker's projects. We have some incredibly talented woodworkers in the guild and just seeing some of their projects inspire me to try to improve my own work. I love to see the unique projects, the traditional projects, the "one of a kind designs", and the unbelievable finishes some of you have achieved.

I guess I'm a jig junkie. I like to see jigs for table saw, router, bandsaw, glue ups, measuring, anything that makes the work more precise and repeatable.

I know many of you still don't feel safe getting out too much but please try to stay engaged via social media and a good old fashion phone call. It's good for all our health.

Stay safe,

Van Phillips

**January meeting is Saturday, January 16th**

**Zoom meeting begins @ 10am. Check your email for your invitation.**

"A man who works with his hands is a laborer; A man who works with his hands and his brain is a craftsman; but a man who works with his hands and his brain and his heart is an artist."~Louis Nizer (1902–1994)

## Habitat for Humanity Cabinet Install

Although the annual cabinet building class was not officially installing the cabinets in this year's "Home for the Holidays" house this year, some of our members did volunteer their time to do the install.

This year the Guild built cabinets for two homes instead of just one. The contractor that was set to build the second set could not fulfill that commitment. So of course, Habitat for Humanity turned to the AWG for last minute assistance. Do to the willingness to help and the efficiency and skill, we were able to do the job.



This project has been a long standing and worthwhile partnership. Also, it gives the Guild the opportunity to teach our members cabinet making skills.

If you wish to be a part of this project, keep a look out on the website under classes. The class usually begins in late August and runs every other Saturday through November.



## Online Tool Auction

The Alabama Woodworkers Guild is holding another online tool auction.



The bidding begins on Sunday, January 10 and ending on Sunday, January 24th.

Items can be viewed and bids placed on the AWG website.

The items are also on display at the Woodworking Education Center (WEC or "shop" if you will). Members can stop by during regular shop hours.

## Shop Update

Some of you may have noticed the south end of the WEC is a little chilly. That is because the heat pump on that end of the building is no longer pumping heat!

Your Board of Directors is currently reviewing bids for a replacement. The new system will be in place soon.



## 2021 Class Schedule

Below is the schedule of offered classes for 2021. If you are interested in any of these classes, check the website under the "Classes" heading. There you will find a description of the classes, and you can also register and pay here.

- **February 6** : Wood Flower Workshop w/ Angie Burbank
- **February 13 & 14**: Beginning Woodturning w/ Cliff Daniels-  
**class is full there is a wait list**
- **February 27 & 28**: Intermediate Woodturning w/ Cliff Daniels-  
**class is full there is a wait list**
- **March 6 & 7**: Tool Chest Master Class w/ Mike Pekovich-  
**\*\*Canceled by presenter\*\***
- **March 27 & 28**: Carbide Tool Woodturning w/ Angie Burbank
- **April 10,11,24,25**: Woodworking Fundamentals w/ Ray Ziegler
- **May 1 & 2**: Finishing Master Class w/ Alan Noel
- **May 8 & 9**: How to Wire Your Shop w/ Terry James & Bill Newman
- **May 29 & 30**: Bandsaw Box Workshop w/ Bill Newman
- **July 17 & 18**: Inlay Master Class w/ Janita Baker



BRRRR-

*Baby it's Cold Outside!*

E + = ABC  
Education  
x % 123

## Education Committee



We are gearing up for **2021 Master Classes** and workshops.

**Tool Chest Master Class with Mike Pekovich.** . **Note: Cancelled.** Education committee is searching for a replacement class.



**Alan Noel Wood Finishing Master Class. May 18 & 2, 2020**



**Janita Baker Inlay Wire, Alabaster & Mother of Pearl Master Class. July 17 & 18, 2021**



Master classes are funded in part by a grant from:



## Education Committee Report

It's a new year and 2021 has just started. We have a lot of exciting classes lined up for this year. People have already started to sign up for Workshops and Master Classes. Some of the classes are limited in size, check out the class schedule on the website today so you don't miss out on learning a new skill.

You can go on the AWG website and look at all the classes scheduled for this year. When you find one you like sign up and pay the fee. There is something for everyone.

Cindy Drozda presented a zoom presentation for our guild in December. The topic was fabulous finials. Cindy showed us how to turn a fantastically slim finial without it breaking. We had a great turnout and everyone had a good time. She sent the Guild the finial she turned during the demonstration. It will be in the kitchen display case soon!



### Project Christmas Tree

Each year the Childrens Hospital of Alabama hosts a fundraising Gala in December. One of highlights of this event is the Christmas Tree auction. Businesses and organizations around the area decorate a Christmas Tree which is displayed in the hospital lobby. Attendees of the gala bid on the trees to take home or back to decorate their business.

Last year, the AWG decided to participate in this activity. Guild members started in January to make ornaments for "our tree". The response was great and we made a lot of ornaments. Sadly, due to the pandemic, Childrens Hospital of Alabama cancelled all of their fundraisers, including the gala.

It is anticipated that the gala will go on this year and the trees will be lit!

We already have enough ornaments to decorate one tree. So, in the spirit of Christmas, we are going to decorate a second tree this year. That's right, **TWO** trees. Shelly, who directs the tree project told me three people came and told her they wanted our tree – sight unseen. That's marvelous! One of those people was Mr. Warren the CEO.

My hope is that we have as much enthusiasm this year and will fill a second tree.

It doesn't matter your speciality or skill level. We want as much variety as we can get.

I will hold a meeting in the guild kitchen on Saturday, January 23 at 9:30. I will go over old and new guidelines for the ornaments. Hope to see you there.

-Terri Hjetland



## Special Interest Groups (SIGS)

The Alabama Woodworkers Guild's WEC is more than just a place to use the shop for your personal projects. It is also a place where you can learn and grow as a wood worker and as an artist and craftsman. That is why we have special interest groups (SIGs). These are weekly sessions where members can learn particular skills as well as serve the community.

**Wood Art Group (WAG):** This sig was designed to get more women involved in woodworking. Most of the group are spouses of members (yes ladies your husband's membership includes you). This is a independent work session where you can connect and learn from others. Now this group is not for ladies only, We have some men participating as well. The group meets on Fridays from 10am—2pm. For more info contact Terri Hjetland.

**Luthier Group:** This is specialized group that makes stringed instruments. We have seen many of fantastic instruments come from this group. And some of the guys can even play them! This is also an independent work group where you can work at your pace and have expert guidance along the way. For more information contact Van Phillips.

**Hand Tool Group:** Another specialized group that focuses on using hand tools, You know, the good old hammer, chisel, plane, etc. Not to say they don't use a power tool every now and then! Independent work group that occasionally has group projects. They actually made the front door at the north entrance of the building. This group meets on Thursdays from 2pm—? For more information contact Van Phillips or Henry Raymond

**Toy Group:** Last but not least is the Toy Group. This group meets every week for the sole purpose of making simple wood toys that are distributed to various childrens' hospitals and charities., such as Children's of Alabama and Louisville KY , Nashville TN and Atlanta. Our toys can even be found in Africa! Locally we distribute to charities such as Greater Birmingham Ministries, Manna Ministries and others. If you This is a great way for new woodworkers to learn & gain skills. Every one does a little bit of everything! The group meets Tuesdays from 9am—noon.

Contact Linda Simcik for more info.

## AWG Monthly Meeting Programs

### We need your help!

The meeting planning committee wants to make our monthly membership meetings as interesting and informative as possible. We are constantly trying to come up with new ideas and subjects to present. But, this is the *membership* meeting and you should have a say in what you want to take away from these meetings.

Therefore we are asking for what you want to learn from the meetings. If you have any ideas or areas of interest you would like to see at the meetings let us know! Or if you have an idea, technique or story you want to share let us know. Members can be presenters too!

When we had our meetings at the guild we would have a show and tell during the pre-meeting social hour. Although we are not meeting in person, we still have a show & tell at our virtual meetings. You will be videoed with your project which will be shown during the meeting. We just ask that you be present at the meeting to answer any questions. You can also do your own video and submit it to be presented. Either way, it's nice to show like minded folks what you create.

# Toy Group

Toy Group is back in session. We hope to make this year a very productive year. We are not up to full staff yet, but we are looking forward to seeing everyone back soon.

The hospitals and charities we serve are now taking donations again. They have established new guidelines to keep everyone safe.

We will be very busy to get toys back in stock. We have received a large order from the American Village for 60 Brown Bess muskets! We usually send about 10 of these a couple times per year. The village pays us for the cost of wood, and they can sell them in their gift shop at a very reasonable price. However, they received a donation to purchase 60 muskets to use in their educational programs. It's a big job, but our team of merry toy makers can make it happen!

But muskets aren't the only toys we are producing. Cars, puzzles, trinket boxes, planes, pull toys are also rolling off the assembly line.

Since these toys are donated to our partners, we need donations of materials. We use mainly pine. If anyone has any wood they would like to donate (we will take your scraps) get in touch with Linda Simcik:

[linda.simcik@alabamawoodworkersguild.org](mailto:linda.simcik@alabamawoodworkersguild.org)

—Linda Simcik

## TOY GROUP BOXES

Do these boxes look familiar? Does your office, school, or business use printers or copiers? If so, there is a good likelihood that the paper you use gets delivered to you in boxes very similar to these.



Over the years, the Toy Group has used many different packaging boxes to deliver toys to the various hospitals and family charity partners. In that time the group has found that the boxes printer and copier paper come in provide a consistent and repeatable method for WEC storage and vehicle transport to our partners.

The Toy Group will start back crafting Toys in January and will be in need of boxes like these to store and transport the toys out to our partners. If you have access to this type of box, please drop them off at the WEC on your next visit. The Toy Group Thanks You in advance and will be very appreciative!

—Patrick Murphy



# Announcements

## Annual Membership Fee

Annual \$100 fee payments for 2021 are now being accepted. These fees are the main source of revenue for the AWG. This is a real bargain! For \$100/year you have access to:

- Well equipped shop
- Woodworking Library
- Classes & presentations from nationally known master wood-workers
- Connecting with fellow woodworkers

Deadline for payment is February 28, 2021. Your Membership Badge should have one of these Dues Paid Decals for you to have access to the WEC:



If you don't have a 2021 decal on your badge by the end of February, your shop privileges will be terminated. Thank you for your continued support and participation in the Guild's activities!

## Show & Tell

We know everyone has missed the show & tell portion of our general membership meetings. Well in this time of social distancing we have decided to bring back Show & Tell. *Yes really!* We are **Virtually** bringing back Show & Tell!

If you have an item you would like to highlight, contact Henry Raymond. He will meet you at the WEC and video your presentation. He asks that when your item is shown, you be present at the meeting (on zoom of course) to answer any questions.

## Society of American Period Furniture Makers Gulf States Chapter Tent Sale

On Fri & Sat, January 15, 16 from 10 AM to 4 PM the Gulf States Chapter will be hosting a tool sale fundraiser. The tent sale will consist of new and used tools: mechanics, wood working, power tools, welding, electrical, air tool accessories, tool boxes & bags, ladders, pry bars, hydraulic jacks, Coleman lanterns, chain saw oil, extension cords, saw blades, drill bits and the list goes on. The proceeds will be used to fund the training facility concept for the chapter. Location: 5260 Travis Rd. Mobile, AL 36619. Parking is in the front and back yards, sale will be under tents in the back of the house.

COVID Requirements: All attendees **MUST WEAR A MASK**. Please be patient, we will only allow enough people under the tents to keep 6+ foot distance. Please enter at the end that says "Entrance" we will try to maintain somewhat of a flow.

Bring CASH in SMALL BILLS and quarters.

Remember this is a **FUND RAISER** not a yard sale. Although we want to keep the prices reasonable we are collecting money for a charitable cause.

If you have anything you would like to donate to augment the sale please contact Scott Wetter at: [swetter@bellsouth.net](mailto:swetter@bellsouth.net).



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### About Us

Since 1983

We are an organization of woodcrafters with skills ranging from beginner to master craftsmen.

Due to COVID restrictions, we are currently conducting our monthly meetings virtually via Zoom on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 10:00AM.

Our members share woodworking tips, bring projects to show and tell, hear guest speakers, and see live woodworking demonstrations at every meeting. Our free library contains books on techniques, videos, and project plans.

The Guild's Woodworking Education Center is located at the site of the old Maylene School building on Hwy 17 in Maylene, AL. The WEC is open Friday -Sunday for the membership and for visitors to drop by to see what we are all about. Please, before dropping by, check the WEC Calendar on our website (<https://wp.awwg.info/calendar/>) and make sure a Supervisor is scheduled to be on-duty



### Community Involvement

In Addition to monthly meetings the Guild also has a group of dedicated woodworkers who meet at the WEC to make toys and various wooden therapeutic devices for Children's Hospital and other deserving organizations.

The guild also constructs kitchen and bathroom cabinets each year for Habitat for Humanity

Promoting the Art  
and Craft of Fine  
Woodworking

# The Annual Show

The Alabama Woodworkers Guild Annual Show is a judged show, generally held in October of each year at the Hoover Public Library. Members enter projects they have worked on all year and make



## Alabama Woodworkers Guild

10544 Highway 17

Maylene, AL 35114

**Easy to find and plenty of free parking.**

**From I-65**, take Exit 238 (Highway 31). Turn north on 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.



## ALABAMA WOODWORKERS GUILD

“Making sawdust with a purpose”

### Membership

Come check us out and become a Guild Member,

**Only \$100 a year!**

The Alabama Woodworkers Guild offers:

- Monthly meetings
- A fully equipped woodworking shop
- Mentoring for new techniques
- Teaching new and old techniques and use of tools
- Great deals on used tools
- Classes and seminars in woodworking techniques and furniture making

### Join

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (Home) \_\_\_\_\_

(Work) \_\_\_\_\_

(Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this form and a check for \$100 to:

Alabama Woodworkers Guild

Attn: Treasurer

P.O. Box 36804

Birmingham, AL. 35236

or go to <http://wp.awwg.info/join/>