



The Alabama Woodworkers Guild

Guild News

May 2022

May Membership meeting: Saturday May 21, 2022

Note: There will be a few items for auction. All proceeds go to the Guild

Guild Officers and Directors

President: Terrance James

Vice President: Jay Bagwell

Treasurer: Bob Watkins

Secretary: Laura Hession

Board of Directors

Bob Baumgartner **Rick Wilson**

Mike Kelly **Rick Ford**

Matt Sullivan **Bob Free**

Linda Simcik **Alden snow**

Mike Casey

President's Message

State of the Guild

The last couple of years have been challenging for everyone but I am very encouraged that our Guild has weathered the challenge. As the Covid pandemic hit and the Board was forced to close the shop to comply with State guidelines, we were concerned that we would lose significant membership. And since membership dues is still our primary source of revenue, we might be forced to cut expenses. But as it turned out our membership numbers did not drop significantly and as the health concerns eased, we were able to resume operations and even grow our numbers.

This will be the first year since Covid where our operations will be back to near-normal. I am very pleased that our membership numbers are still growing. As I write this message our members total 278. I'd like to take credit for a few of those numbers, but the fact is that people are hearing about us from many different sources. Specifically, our friends are Woodcraft of Birmingham and Yellowhammer Toolworks have been sending more and more potential members our way. I especially want to thank Angie Burbank at Woodcraft who has, by far, been our biggest ambassador and takes every opportunity to promote what we offer.

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"A man that works with his hands is a laborer. A man that works with his hands and his brain is a craftsman, but a man that works with his hands, his brain and his heart is an artist." - Louis Nizer

Newsletter Editor: Linda Simcik

President's Message continued from page 1

Even though scheduling Master Classes has been a challenge due to Covid concerns, that has not hurt us financially since Master Classes are, at best, a break-even proposition. But we are fortunate to have very highly skilled members in many specialty areas that have stepped up to teach classes in house. Unlike the Master Classes, the instructors are usually volunteers so our expenses are minimal, and the costs can be kept quite low. As always, if you have requests for specific topics you'd like to see taught, let me or Jay Bagwell know and we will make those happen. Keep an eye on the Education tab for new classes in the works now. Most fill up fast, so check often.

Last year, under Van Phillips' leadership, we were finally able to create and begin a long-term project to address the physical maintenance of the WEC. And this year, we have put into place a more structured WEC management team lead by Gary Click that will hopefully make WEC operations and maintenance work more smoothly. It's still in the formative state and specific assignments and responsibilities are being discussed, but I hope everyone can see things starting to get done in a more organized and professional manner.

This Guild belongs to its members. As such, the Board and the Management Team need to understand where we are doing a good job and where we need to do better. I promise you; I have a thick skin and I can take criticism. I would also like to hear examples of where we have been successful. I would love to recognize folks that go above and beyond expectations. It probably happens a lot. So, I am asking for feedback which can be sent by email to me (or any of the leadership team). My phone numbers are in the directory as well. Please share your thoughts and comments and ideas. The more input we have, the better we can focus on what your Guild wants to accomplish

Thank you.

Terrance James, President

Got ?s

There are a lot of changes happening in the Guild. If you have General questions, comments or suggestions about the Guild and your membership send and email to:

info@alabamawoodworkersguild.org

Welcome New Members

Jeanne Otts
Tommy Otts
J. Howard Casebere
Beth Coats
Chris Coats
Jeff Stewart
Brian Lawson
Chance Kerwood

Randall Porterfield
Susan Cary
Tracy Cary
David Blalock
Bob Selby
Becky Selby
Beau Bunn

If you see any new members at the WEC,
please stop and make them feel
welcome.

April Membership Meeting

Saturday, April 16, 2022

Networking :9:00am

Meeting: 10:00am

Program: CNC Demonstration by Hal Songer

Show & Tell

Have you completed a project you're especially proud of? Have you learned a new skill? If so, bring it to a monthly meeting for show & tell. We would love to see your creations and get some inspiration from fellow woodworkers.

Shop Usage Report

Usage Comparison by
Program

Fri, Apr 1, 2022 - Sat, Apr 30, 2022

	Hours	Visits	Individuals
Personal Projects	281	94	42
Luthier Group	169	47	12
Hand Tool Group	52	19	12
Wood Art Group	60	18	8
Toy Group	202	53	19
Class	112	43	27



2022 Class Schedule

Tuesday Night Fundamentals Class Every Tuesday 5pm—9pm

No cost to members

See website for details

June 25—26 Horizontal Router Class 9am—5pm

Cost: \$100

See website for details

August 27th—early December Habitat for Humanity Cabinet Class

See website for details

The education committee is considering adding another turning class, depending on interest. If you would be interested, contact Jay Bagwell or Terry James. Also you can contact them for any other suggestions for classes.

Mentorship Program INC

Our mentorship program is new and improved! Do you have a desire to connect with someone that is proficient at a skill that you would like to learn? Check out our mentorship program on the website.

On the home page click on the “Mentoring” tab. There you will find an extensive list of subjects for you to choose from. Click on the skill you want to develop and fill out the needed information. You will be paired with the person that can help you. You will be contacted by the selected mentor to get started. Some folks may meet you at the WEC while others may prefer to work in their personal shop.

Don’t hesitate! This a great way to learn a new skill and develop friendships with fellow woodworkers.



PRESENTED BY  CENTRAL STATE BANK 

alabaster CITYFEST

@ Thompson High School, Alabaster
Saturday, June 4

The Cityfest is coming up soon. Volunteers are still needed for the afternoon shifts. We are looking for individuals that want to spread the word about the AWG and/or have a skill they would like to demonstrate.

There is a sign up sheet on the kitchen bulletin board at the WEC. You may also contact Terry James if you wish to do a demonstration.



Toy Group



Toy Group has been going strong for many years producing thousands of toys. Sometimes we wonder, what happens to those toys? Well, we happened to get a first hand look at the joy our toys can bring. And we got to help one of our own. Pictured is Clara Cole, granddaughter of Lynn Smith. Recipient of one of our toys. TriStar hospital In Nashville .

Maybe grandad will send us a picture of the beautiful duck decorated by our one hand artist.



Find us on:
facebook®



& **You Tube**



About Us

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

Our monthly meetings will be conducted at the WEC for those who can attend and also virtually via Zoom on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 10:00AM. Be sure to check out the mentoring sessions that start at 9:00AM

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