

A MESSAGE FROM RICK FORD, PRESIDENT 2025

Greetings and Happy New Year! I hope it was a joyous holiday season for everyone. I'm looking forward to serving the guild this year, and want to thank Jay Bagwell for his service and leadership as president the last couple of years. My goal is to continue the path of growth we've experienced under Jay's leadership.

With new laser technology and other equipment upgrades, I believe the year will be full of exciting opportunities for our membership. We are also working to provide better access to the building for those with physical challenges, and the hope is for that to be completed in the very near future.

### Annual Membership Fee

2024 is now in the rearview mirror and a fresh new year is on its way at the Guild! Our Annual \$150 fee payments for 2025 are due NOW. These fees are the main source of revenue for the AWG. This is a real bargain! For \$150/year you have access to:

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

Final deadline for payment is February 28th but why wait? The 2025 Fees Paid Decal will allow you to have uninterrupted access to the WEC:



Any On-Duty Shop Supervisor can accept cash or a check for your annual fee or more preferably, you may renew online at our website: [Alabama Woodworkers Guild - Join or Renew](#)

Remember also that we need to have your Badge at the WEC in order for it to be updated with your 2025 Decal.

Thank you for your continued support and participation in the Guild's activities!



### New Tool

#### **Laser Cutter**

The Guild has a new tool on the floor to use!

Meet the Omtech Laser Cutter!

### Tools for sale

**6" grinder \$10**

**12" Sears bandsaw \$50**

**Dust Blower with accessories \$75**

Last chance to buy!  
Will be sent to Thrift Store after meeting day.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR INFO ON OUR NEXT EVENTS!

## CNC/LASER UPDATE

Exciting things are happening in the CNC/Laser group. This group meets monthly prior to the general meeting from 8:30-9:30. We address CNC/laser related issues and also do a in-depth show and tell on projects. Feel free to join us every month. We also do beginner training as well as advanced training on Vcarve software on Thursday mornings once a month. Feel free to contact Henry Raymond via text at 205-602-7661 if you would like to be notified of this training.

On the CNC side the group will again look at making a bulk order of CNCs and provide help in assemble and set up for those wanting to venture off into the CNC world. Look for more information on this in January. If you have any questions before that feel free to reach out to one of the 15 that got a CNC last year.

Gary Click has also agreed to do an info training class to 3D software design that he uses. It's a free software.

On the laser side.... the board approved the purchase of a 60w CO2 laser. This is similar to the laser that has been used making several of the signs and drawer tags at the guild and also engraving the panels on the new doors being built by the hand tool group. Special thanks to Linda Simcik and Henry Raymond for the door panel work. The laser will be a great asset to guild members to use to enhance their woodworking projects as well as making your own personal name tags to attach to your items you make. Several "Intro to laser engraving" classes are being planned for January and advanced laser operation classes will begin in early February.



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## HAND TOOL WOODWORKING CLASS

Ken Blackwood will be teaching a class in hand tool woodworking beginning Friday, January 24th at 6 pm. The class will be held in the hand tool classroom. Future classes will meet from 6-9 pm on the second and fourth Fridays of each month. Classes are open to anyone interested in learning how to build things with hand tools.

The first project will be a small box (6 1/2" x 4" x 3"). Wood will be provided or you can bring your own. Bring your own tools if you have them or the Guild has a large selection of tools that we can use during class. If you are interested, email [ken.blackwood@alabamawoodworkersguild.org](mailto:ken.blackwood@alabamawoodworkersguild.org) to get on the list for any updates.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: JEANNIE BUBBETT, JON BUBBETT, EDA DESHAZO, ABDUL ELKHATIB, WENDY INGRAM, DOUGLAS INGRAM & HUNTER INGRAM

## HAND TOOL GROUP

The hand tool group is open to any and all members of the guild that are interested in Woodworking utilizing mostly hand tools. This group is devoted to sharing their knowledge in hand tool use as well as maintenance and upkeep of hand tools. The hand tool group also has made some hand planes and hand saws. The guild has a tooth cutter and setting machine if you would like to make your own saws. Help in doing mortise/tenions as well as hand cut dovetails is also available.

Over the past few years the hand tool group has taken the lead on several projects including building work benches for the guild, as well as Purple Heart recipients. They also made all the tool cabinets in the class room.

This group makes several "road trips" each year. Highland hardware in Atlanta, Atlanta exotic wood store, the Jet informational center in Nashville, Tn and a sawmill operation in North Alabama are several of the visits that we made last year.

Feel free to join the group on a regular bases or at anytime you need some assistance with a hand tool related project. They meet on Thursdays from around 1:00 till 5:00.



NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS: HENRY RAYMOND, KEN BLACKWOOD, WALLY DUNCAN, TERRI HJETLAND, RANDY HJETLAND, PATRICK MURPHY & RICK FORD

## UPCOMING CLASSES

**INTRODUCTION TO LASER SOFTWARE AND HARDWARE  
JANUARY 18TH 12:30- 2PM AFTER THE GENERAL MEETING**

This class will be open to anyone that is interested in what it takes to operate the laser and what can a CO2 laser do. We will cover the basic software and hardware of a laser.

There are no prerequisites for this class. It is an informative class only, however we will design and cut a small trinket as a part of the class. This class will last an estimated 2-3 hrs. This class will not certify you as an approved user of the laser.

Cost of class is \$25. Class limit will be 15 persons.

The guild should remain open to all members during these classes. We will use class room and not interfere with any normal shop operations.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS: AWG SHOW

**WHO:** For all guild members

All skill levels (Novice, Intermediate, and Advanced)

**WHAT:** A woodworking project that hasn't been entered in the show regardless of the date of completion. It can be a newly completed project or something you finished a few years ago. Any woodworking project completed in a class either at the guild or outside the guild.

**WHERE:** Hoover Public Library

**WHEN:** October 2025. We will get a specific date this summer.

- WHY:**
1. To show the public that woodworking is alive and well.
  2. To inspire current members to continue woodworking and learn new skills.
  3. Get helpful critiques from the judges to improve your skills.

- HOW:**
1. Make something to enter in the show.
  2. In October, print and complete the application that will be on the website.
  3. Bring entry and application to the Hoover Library.

## UPCOMING CLASSES

**INTERMEDIATE LASER OPERATOR CLASS**  
**January 25th 9am -2pm**

This class will be open to anyone that has used and is familiar with CAD/CAM software. A prerequisite for this class will be proving your knowledge of design software by presenting several “from scratch” designs you have completed. They must be proficient in CAD/CAM.

We will cover what a CO2 laser can and cant do as well as what materials are safe to laser. This class will discuss developing drawings in Lightburn, importing SVG type files into Lightburn, Lightburn hot keys and functions, and developing burns parameters for laser. Using layers for different “tool paths” will also be covered. We will also cover the process for set up and steps necessary to use laser. Successfully completion will be when the operator has demonstrated proper and safe operation of the laser under supervision. Those that successfully complete this class will receive the “I” Intermediate rating and will be allowed to use laser with minimum interaction from an approved laser operator. This is the first step to becoming an advanced laser operator.

**Requirements:**

You must have a laptop that meets the following:

Operating system: 64-bit Windows 7.0 or later, macOS 10.13 or later, or 64-bit Ubuntu Linux 20.04 or later  
A SSD is recommended but not required.

You must watch several YOUTUBE videos prior to class. A link will be sent to those signed up.

Cost of this class will be \$100 and will include a version of Lightburn installed on their laptop that can be used to operate laser. This is not a subscription, and can be used indefinitely.

Class will be limited to 10.

LOOKING AHEAD: FEBRUARY CLASS

**BEGINNER LASER SOFTWARE**  
**February 1st @ 9am**

This class will concentrate on the software necessary to design a project and assign burn patterns to the project to get the desired results.

AWG members get a 75% discount (your cost is \$50) on the software when taking a laser class. Those who sign up for the class will be given a link for the software and you can purchase and download software before the class. Lightburn also has a free trial that you can use for 30 days. It's a fully functional free trial however you must have Lightburn up and running at the time of class.

After you have paid for the class please contact Henry Raymond (205) 602-7661 and he will walk you through the setup of Lightburn on your computer. You will also be asked to watch several starter videos on the software, and practice using software to draw a project before the class.

**Requirements:**

You must have a laptop that meets the following requirements:

Operating system: 64-bit Windows 7.0 or later, macOS 10.13 or later, or 64-bit Ubuntu Linux 20.04 or later. An SSD is recommended but not required.

You must watch several YOUTUBE videos before class. A link will be sent to those signed up.

You must purchase a copy of Lightburn if you don't already have one and have it installed on your laptop before attending class.

This is not a subscription and can be used indefinitely.

Estimated class time will be 3-4 hrs.

Those who successfully complete this class will then be eligible to take the intermediate laser operator class. To graduate from the Beginner Level, you must be able to create a project in LightBurn that will successfully function on the Laser.

Cost of this class will be \$50 and this is in addition to the purchase of the software. Class will be limited to 10 persons.