

A MESSAGE FROM RICK FORD, PRESIDENT 2025

Please be aware that work at the northwest corner of the building will soon commence for the handicap parking pad. During this work, please avoid leaving your vehicle parked next to the handicap ramp if possible.



## Alabama Woodworkers Guild - Luthier Group

### “Playing it Forward”



in partnership  
with

## KING'S HOME

KING'S RANCH | HANNAH HOMES



Once again, under the mentorship of experienced luthiers from the Alabama Woodworkers Guild, 5 Shelby County middle/high school students, with nominal previous woodworking experience, had the opportunity to build their own ukuleles. Featuring walnut sides/back and tops, tenor ukuleles were built using wonderful kits from StewMac luthier suppliers. The students participated in months of lessons in preparation for this impressive project. Not only has their musical repertoire increased, but now they have their own ukulele build with which to continue their musical development-long into the future.

**Special thanks to all who donated funds to make this possible  
and the luthiers who helped mentor these guys.**



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## Monthly Meeting

**March 15th, 2025**

**10:00am**

**March Meeting**

**Speaker:**

**Greg Thrasher from  
the Wurth Wood  
Group.**

## 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. 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.



VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR INFO ON OUR NEXT EVENTS!

## HAND TOOL WOODWORKING CLASS

Ken Blackwood is teaching hand tool classes and they 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: TIM KIRCHNER, EVGENI YORDANOV, BILLY DIXON, SIS DIXON, ANDREA LOVE, MICKEY LOVE, BRIAN REED, CRAIG WANN

## 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 & RICK FORD

## 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.

### **Children's Choice Challenge**

#### A Guild Wide Challenge

Last year the Luthier group had a challenge making a child's instrument. During the show children were encouraged to pick up the various instruments and play them. Then they voted for their favorite instrument. That Luthier, Sandy Smith, received the Children's Choice Award.

The kids were excited to take part in the show and took their job, voting for their favorite instrument, seriously. Since it was a great success the show committee decided to make this an annual event. This year the challenge will be a toy challenge. It is open to all guild members regardless of experience. The Children's Choice Award will be given to the woodworker who receives the most votes. This should be a fun challenge for the kids as well as members.

## SHOW

**AWG Show Rules**

All entries must be mostly made of wood.

Exceptions: General hardware such as hinges and handles

Pen hardware

Instrument hardware

Tool hardware

Inlay – metal, stone, glass, acrylic, etc.

No motors or lights.

All entries must be 100% your work.

Categories and skill levels may be changed at the show committee's discretion.

The show committee will decide placement of each entry in the show.

**Show Entry Categories**

Skill Categories - Novice, Intermediate, Advanced

Boxes with Joinery

Furniture

Musical Instruments

Scroll Saw

Woodturning

Open Categories

Boxes – No Joinery

CNC

Pyrography

Tools and Jigs

Toys

Carving

Miscellaneous

All Challenges

## SHOW

**Award Medallions**

The show is judged each year. The judges award 1 – 10 points based on four categories – workmanship, design, finish, and difficulty – for a maximum total of 40 points. The judges give valuable critiques, both pro and cons, to help each woodworker improve their skills. First, second, and third place medallions are awarded in each skill and open category.

In addition to the medallions three other awards are given. The Judges' Choice Award is given to the member whose entry is deemed best of show by the judges. It is bestowed at the end of the judging day. The winning entry is moved to a special table where it is placed next to the award.

The second award is the People's Choice Award. During the show visitors pick up a ballot as they tour the show. They then vote for their favorite entry. Votes are counted after the show and the award is given at our next meeting.

The third award is our newest award. It is the Children's Choice Award. Children get to look and handle entries in a special challenge geared towards them. (This year it's the toy challenge) Each child gets a ballot and votes for their favorite entry in that challenge. The entry with the most votes is awarded the Children's Choice Award at our next meeting.

GETTING TO KNOW MEMBERS OF THE GUILD

## **Getting to Know-**

### **Tuck Kornegay, Vice President**



## **Monthly Series**

**How long have you been a member of AWG?**

2020

**Favorite tool/machine?**

The new binding jig and router for the luthier group.

**What have you built that you are most proud of?**

A tenor ukulele for my wife's birthday.

**What is something you want to learn more about?**

Sharpening chisels and planes.



## IMPORTANT CONTACTS AND DATES

### Officers & Board of Directors

President - [rick.ford@alabamawoodworkersguild.org](mailto:rick.ford@alabamawoodworkersguild.org)

Vice President - [tuck.kornegay@alabamawoodworkersguild.org](mailto:tuck.kornegay@alabamawoodworkersguild.org)

Secretary - [hal.songer@alabamawoodworkersguild.org](mailto:hal.songer@alabamawoodworkersguild.org)

Treasurer - [alden.snow@alabamawoodworkersguild.org](mailto:alden.snow@alabamawoodworkersguild.org)

Asst. Treasurer - [grant.bail@alabamawoodworkersguild.org](mailto:grant.bail@alabamawoodworkersguild.org)

Board of Directors

[tyronne.aron@alabamawoodworkersguild.org](mailto:tyronne.aron@alabamawoodworkersguild.org)

[mitch.buchanan@alabamawoodworkersguild.org](mailto:mitch.buchanan@alabamawoodworkersguild.org)

[gary.click@alabamawoodworkersguild.org](mailto:gary.click@alabamawoodworkersguild.org)

If you would like to see a specific topic highlighted in the Newsletter, please email Melissa at [melissa.bail@alabamawoodworkersguild.org](mailto:melissa.bail@alabamawoodworkersguild.org).

### Mark your calendars:

Annual Tool Auction - April

Alabaster City Fest - June

AWG Show - October

# AWG Live Calendar

9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1p-5p Doug Mansfield Supervisor	3pm-9pm: Shop Closed, Luthier Group Only - Rick Ford supervisor	9am-2pm: Shop Closed, Toy Group Only - Doug Gillespie Group Lead		2pm-6pm: Shop Closed: Hand Tool Group Only- Henry Raymond Group Lead	9a-1p Lynn Smith Supervisor: 205.413.2747 10a-2p Wood Art Group-Terri Hjetland Group Lead 1p-5p Lynn Smith Supervisor: 205.413.2747 5p-9p David Robinson 205-478-4435 Event	9a-10a Mentor/ShowNTell 10a-12p General Membership Meeting, Guests Welcome 12p-5p Mike Key Supervisor
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
1p-5p Hal Songer Supervisor	3pm-9pm: Shop Closed, Luthier Group Only - Rick Ford supervisor	9am-2pm: Shop Closed, Toy Group Only - Doug Gillespie Group Lead		2pm-6pm: Shop Closed: Hand Tool Group Only- Henry Raymond Group Lead	9a-1p Bob Baumgartner 10a-2p Wood Art Group-Terri Hjetland Group Lead 1p-5p Bob Baumgartner 5p-9p Mitch Buchanan Supervisor	9a-1p Van Phillips Supervisor 205 529-7412 1p-5p Van Phillips Supervisor 205 529-7412
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
1p-5p Mike Betke Supervisor	3pm-9pm: Shop Closed, Luthier Group Only - Rick Ford supervisor	9am-2pm: Shop Closed, Toy Group Only - Doug Gillespie Group Lead		2pm-6pm: Shop Closed: Hand Tool Group Only- Henry Raymond Group Lead	9a-1p Alden Snow - 205-401-8070 10a-2p Wood Art Group-Terri Hjetland Group Lead 1p-5p Alden Snow - 205-401-8070 5p-9p Mitch Buchanan Supervisor Hand Tool Class with Ken Blackwood	9a-1p Bob Moore Supervisor 1p-5p Rick Ford Supervisor
30	31					
1p-5p Mike Betke Supervisor	3pm-9pm: Shop Closed, Luthier Group Only - Rick Ford supervisor					