

## A MESSAGE FROM RICK FORD, PRESIDENT 2025

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** We are actively looking for a couple of volunteers to serve on the nomination committee. Jay Bagwell has agreed to serve on the committee, so we are looking for one or two more folks to serve. This is a short commitment of about 2 months, so if you are able to help out please contact me directly.

We are also looking for someone to step into the role of education coordinator as Gary Crosson will be stepping down from this role soon. If anyone has an interest in fulfilling this role, it would be a tremendous opportunity to assist the guild in continuing our goal of woodworker education.

The Habitat for Humanity cabinet class will be kicking off in a few weeks. This is a great class for learning many aspects of woodworking, not to mention the opportunity to build a quality set of kitchen cabinets for a Habitat house. Please make sure to sign up soon!

## Upcoming Class for August 23rd, 2025

Habitat for Humanity Cabinet Build Class

August 23rd, 2025

9:00am-4:00pm

Cost \$100.00

Each year the Guild builds kitchen cabinets and bathroom vanities for a Habitat for Humanity Holiday House. This class will take you through the complete steps of building cabinets, from face frames, carcass construction, doors, dovetailed drawers, finishing, and installation in the home. You work in teams of 4-5 people and everyone gets to do every step of the project. Starting the end of August and finishing with installation mid December, the class will meet once or twice a month to complete the cabinets.

Class 1 - August 23, 2025 - Orientation and Face Frame Build

Class 2 - September 13, 2025 - Drawer Boxes

Class 3 - September 27, 2025 - Doors and Drawer Fronts

Class 4 - October 25, 2025 - Carcass Construction

Class 5 - November 8, 2025 - Spray Finish

Class 6 - November 22, 2025 - Attach Doors, Drawers, and Pulls

Class 7 - Early December - Installation of Cabinets at Holiday House

Class 8 - TBD - Holiday House Dedication

The fee for the class is \$100. You must be a member in good standing to attend.

You may pay using the PayPal button below to reserve your place in the class. Please respond via email at [education@alabamawoodworkersguild.org](mailto:education@alabamawoodworkersguild.org) with your name if you plan to take the class.

## Table of Contents

Page 1: Message & Class

Page 2: Comfort Birds

Page 3: Comfort Birds

Page 4: Hand Tool Group &  
New Members & For Sale

Page 5: Hand Tool Group

Page 6 - 8: AWG Show

Page 9: Meeting Members

Page 10: Live Calendar &  
Emails

## Monthly Meeting

**Aug 16th, 2025**

**10:00am**

**Program: Geoff  
Wymer on  
instruments for at risk  
youth**

## COMFORT BIRDS CLASS – A CREATIVE SUCCESS BY WALLY DUNCAN



On July 5th, I had the pleasure of leading my very first class on crafting comfort birds. As a woodworker and a proud member of our local guild, it was a rewarding experience to share a hands-on project that is both meaningful and therapeutic. A

brief presentation was also given during the August monthly guild meeting's "Show and Tell" segment to highlight the class and the students' work.

The class was attended by Donald R., David F., Karen C., and Chris C.—a wonderful group whose enthusiasm made the event even more enjoyable.

We began the session with a warm welcome and an introduction to the purpose of the class. I shared a bit about the significance of comfort birds, which are small, hand-carved wooden birds often gifted to those in need of comfort or healing.

Ideas on how to gift them were discussed, along with some stories about the impact such simple items can have. As this was my inaugural class, I made sure to let attendees know they'd have early access to any future classes I may offer—an inside scoop they appreciated!

We then reviewed expendable guild supplies, reminding everyone that they are a shared resource—part of the give-and-take spirit of guild membership. Safety instructions were read aloud, and everyone secured their safety gear before we got started with the hands-on portion.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: ABBY BLAIR, KENDALL MADDOX, AMBER ATKINS-MADDOX, ABBEY ABNER, WILL ABNER, DENNIS FENNIN, DAVID PHILLIPS, CONSTANTINE GIATTINA

## COMFORT BIRDS CONTINUED

To add a bit of fun to the day, I provided a variety of wood blanks and we held a roll-off using one of my dice towers to determine the picking order—corrected to dash tower as originally intended. This small element of chance brought a lot of laughs, and there were plenty of blanks to go around, so everyone left happy with their selection.

With blanks in hand, we moved on to pattern layout and the initial compound cuts using the bandsaw. Once the rough shapes were complete, we spent a significant amount of time sanding—an essential part of achieving the soft, tactile feel that makes comfort birds so special. By the end of the day, everyone had a finished bird ready for the final touches at home.

We wrapped up the class with a discussion on finishing techniques. I shared my go-to finish for this project: wipe-on polyurethane. I was introduced to this finish by Terrence James, and while I wasn't familiar with it initially, it has since become one of my favorites due to its ease of use and smooth results.

Each participant took their piece home for the final finishing steps, and based on the smiles and feedback, a great time was had by all. I'm also proud to share that this class raised \$100 for the guild—thank you to the students for your support and participation.

Given the success and enjoyment of this session, I'm already looking forward to offering another class soon.

— Wally Duncan



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: ABBY BLAIR, KENDALL MADDOX, AMBER ATKINS-MADDOX, ABBEY ABNER, WILL ABNER, DENNIS FENNIN, DAVID PHILLIPS, CONSTANTINE GIATTINA



## 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.



Randy Hjetland has a few items for sale.

Slow speed 8" grinder, Benchtop drill press, 12" miter saw and a few other items.

Books for sale. They are \$4.00-\$5.00 each. The library is closed.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: ABBY BLAIR, KENDALL MADDOX, AMBER ATKINS-MADDOX, ABBEY ABNER, WILL ABNER, DENNIS FENNIN, DAVID PHILLIPS, CONSTANTINE GIATTINA

## 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: WALLY DUNCAN, KEN BLACKWOOD, TERRI HJETLAND & RICK FORD

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: AWG SHOW OCT 2025

**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:** Shelby Baptist Hospital - Physicians Center Conference Room

**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 location TBD

## **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 OCT 2025

## **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 OCT 2025

**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.

**Show Weekly Schedule**

Saturday Entries accepted 10 – 3  
Show hours 3 – 6

Sunday Show hours 1 – 5  
Monday Show hours 9 – 9  
Tuesday Show hours 9 – 9  
Wednesday Show hours 9 – 9  
Thursday Show hours 9 – 9

Dinner 6 – 8 You may take your entries home with you after the dinner

Friday Hours 9 – 12 All entries MUST be removed by noon.



## GETTING TO KNOW MEMBERS OF THE GUILD

### Getting to Know- Tyrone Aaron, B.O.D. Member



### Monthly Series

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

I joined in originally in 2008 or 09, I let my membership lapse and rejoined in 2022.

#### **Favorite tool/machine?**

The laser is the machine I enjoy using the most. Thanks to Henry Raymond.

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

The cedar blanket chest I built for my daughter is the item I'm most proud of.

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

I want be more comfortable using the dado saw and cutting box joints.

## IMPORTANT CONTACTS AND DATES

**Officers**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)

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:**

AWG Show - October

**Board of Directors**[tyrone.aaron@alabamawoodworkersguild.org](mailto:tyrone.aaron@alabamawoodworkersguild.org)[mitch.buchanan@alabamawoodworkersguild.org](mailto:mitch.buchanan@alabamawoodworkersguild.org)[gary.click@alabamawoodworkersguild.org](mailto:gary.click@alabamawoodworkersguild.org)[mike.key@alabamawoodworkersguild.org](mailto:mike.key@alabamawoodworkersguild.org)[julie.erwin@alabamawoodworkersguild.org](mailto:julie.erwin@alabamawoodworkersguild.org)[ken.blackwood@alabamawoodworkersguild.org](mailto:ken.blackwood@alabamawoodworkersguild.org)[albert.chieves@alabamawoodworkersguild.org](mailto:albert.chieves@alabamawoodworkersguild.org)[tom.hession@alabamawoodworkersguild.org](mailto:tom.hession@alabamawoodworkersguild.org)

# AWG Live Calendar

6pm Hand Tool Class with Ken Blackwood						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Mike Key Supervisor	3pm-6pm: Shop Closed, Luther 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-Terril Hjetland Group Lead 1p-5p Bob Baumgartner 5p-8p Henry Raymond Supervisor	9a-10a Mentor/Show/Tell 10a-12p General Membership Meeting, Guests Welcome 1p-5p George Van Kirk Supervisor 256.690.1537
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Hal Sanger Supervisor	3pm-6pm: Shop Closed, Luther 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-Terril Hjetland Group Lead 1p-5p Mike Betke Supervisor Mitch Buchanan Supervisor Hand Tool Class with Ken Blackwood	Shop closed for HH cabinet class
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
1p-5p Doug Mansfield Supervisor	3pm-6pm: Shop Closed, Luther 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	10a-2p Wood Art Group-Terril Hjetland Group Lead 5p-8p Mitch Buchanan Supervisor	9a-1p Doug Mansfield Supervisor 1p-5p Mike Betke Supervisor
31						
Mike Key Supervisor						