

The Alabama Woodworkers Guild *Guild News*

March 2022

March Membership meeting: Saturday March 19, 2022

Note: This is the last meeting that we will stream via Zoom

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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

Spreading the Word

How many times have you spoken with someone about the Guild and told them where we were only to have them say something like "Oh, I've driven past that place for years; I always wondered what went on there". Our sign says Woodworking Education Center, which is a very appropriate name, given our mission, but it does not convey who we are, what we offer, or what benefits membership offers very well. That's where you come in.

If you think about it, most of our funding comes from membership dues. If we can double our membership, we can significantly increase the benefits to all members. If each member just recruited one new member this year, that doubling would happen.

I have tried to spread the word whenever anyone comments on my woodworking and I know that I have gotten a dozen folks to join just by telling them about what we are and what we offer. It's easy. What I have found is that the name tends to imply that we are a group of Master Woodworkers and that the average weekend hobbyist would be out of his/her league. We all know that's not true, but until we spread that word, we cannot expect others to assume they would not fit in.

We have started putting up a banner over our sign the week before monthly meetings that both announces the meeting and states that visitors are welcome. I know there have been a significant number of new members join as a result. We also have had a number of community outreach events like our Annual Show. Additionally, we have set up a presence helping the Boy Scouts, or at festivals like the Habitat BBQ, Montevallo's Tinglewood Festival, and this year, the Alabaster CityFest. These events are fun ways to meet new folks and spread the word about the Guild.

I would encourage every member to participate in these outreach events. But even if you just keep your eyes open for the spontaneous opportunities to talk about what we offer, you can do the Guild a lot of good. As I write this message, our membership has just topped 200. A significant number of those are husband/wife pairs, so the paid memberships are more like 160. I am very pleased that we are picking up new members at a good pace, but I honestly think we have not even begun to tap the potential member pool. I need your help to accomplish that. If you have any questions or ideas to share on how we can boost our numbers, please let me hear from you. Together I hope we can set record membership numbers this year.

Terry James

"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



Welcome New Members

John Holcombe	Dewayne
Lynn Holcombe	Atchison
John Zupanick	Connie Atchison
Jim Jackson	Rodney Collins
John Gaydon	Jim Mance

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

March Membership Meeting

Saturday, March 19, 2022

SketchUp Class: 8am

Networking : 9am

Meeting: 10am

Program: **Hand Tool Group** –Building a work bench

SketchUp Class

Jeff Branch is starting a new SketchUp project using **SketchUp Free**. The project is a simple table. Those interested in attending should bring a laptop and a mouse.



Annual Membership Fee

Annual \$100 fee payments for 2022 are now due. 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, 2022. This is the last month your 2021 Dues Paid Decal will be valid and only a 2022 Dues Paid Decal will allow you to have continued access to the WEC:

On March 1st, if you don't have a 2022 decal on your badge your shop privileges will be terminated and your badge removed from the wall. An On-Duty Shop Supervisor can accept cash or a check for your dues 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 2022 Decal.

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

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.

Usage Comparison by Program	Tue, Feb 1, 2022 - Mon, Feb 28, 2022		
	Hours	Visits	Individuals
Personal Projects	205	82	42
Luthier Group	190	50	12
Hand Tool Group	76	26	12
Wood Art Group	71	24	10
Toy Group	273	72	26
Class	95	25	20

Shop Usage Report

Doing Our Part

Our toys are going international again! Thanks to a connection through Lynn Smith, we are sending twenty-four boxes of toys to Ukraine

Hub World Wide is a non profit that collects surplus medical supplies and sends them to countries that do not have access a lot of medical supplies. HUB has been gathering baby supplies to be sent to Ukraine to help the young mothers and their children that have been displaced due to the invasion of Ukraine.

These items were loaded into a truck and transported to Chicago. From there they will be flown to Poland or Moldova and then trucked into Ukraine. The air transport is provided by Delta, who has offered to fly these items free of charge.

One of the organizers of this effort is a young woman named Christina, who was raised in an orphanage in Ukraine until the age of 15 when she was adopted by folks in the US.



Christina



Unloading

The AWG Toy Group is proud to have been able to send toys that will hopefully bring a little joy in to their lives.



Laura Gilmore , Christina

Toy Group

Toy Group is running full tilt. I know last month I said we had plenty of boxes, since them we have used all! If you have access to these types of boxes, please donate them to the Guild.



If you bring a box just set it on the counter in the shop restroom.

Thank you for your support.



2022 Class Schedule

March 12-13 - Mike Pekovich **Canceled**

April Basic Bandsaw Class. There are a total of 4 sessions:

April 23rd 9:30am—11:30am

1:00pm—3:00pm

April 30th 9:30am—11:30am

1:00pm—3:00pm

**All Band Saw Classes
are full**

Classes are free to members. Register on WEC website

August 27—Nov 12 Habitat for Humanity Cabinet Class

See website for details

Mentorship Program

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.

Coming In April!

AWG Annual Silent Auction

Saturday, April 16, 2022

Spring is here and if you are planning to do some spring cleaning in your shop you will find some treasures that you haven't used in years. Or maybe some things you don't need any more.

We can save you a trip to the Goodwill or the landfill. Bring those unwanted items to the auction at the WEC. You can donate all or part of your proceeds to the Guild, or you can keep it all. Remember, these auctions help us fund our many programs and WEC operations. AND you may also find some good deals as well!

If you need help transporting large items (table saw, lathe, band saw, drill press, etc) contact the Guild through the website (contact us tab) and we will try to find you some help.

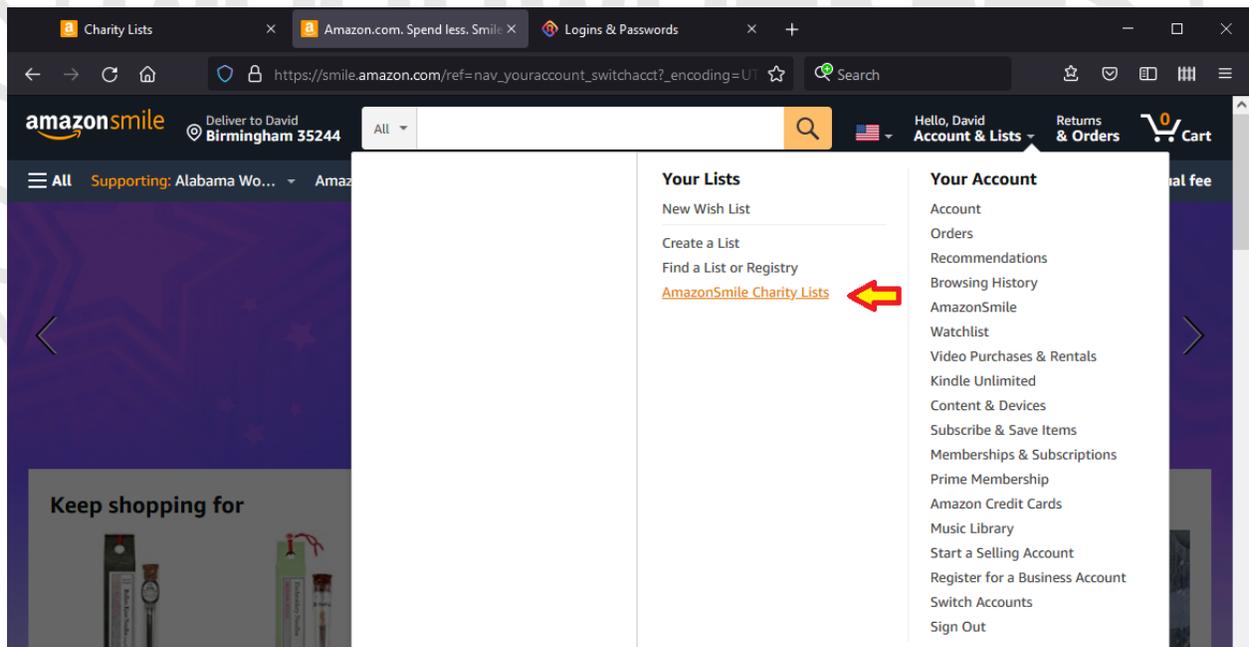
Bidding begins at 9:00am, before the general meeting.



Another Way to Give Back to the AWG

Are you looking for a way to support the Guild? Well, it just got easier. For several years the Alabama Woodworkers Guild has had an Amazon Smile account. Amazon gives the Guild ½ percent of the cost of any eligible items that you buy from the Guild's Smile.Amazon.com webpage. The price you pay is the same, but you are helping the Guild.

Now we have stepped it up a bit by adding a Charity List to our Smile account. When you log on to the Amazon Smile account and select our Guild as your Charity to support, you will have access to our Guild Charity List. By hovering your mouse over "Accounts & Lists" at the top of the page, and then clicking on "AmazonSmile Charity Lists", you will be displayed the Charity List for the Alabama Woodworkers Guild. This list contains items that Guild members use on a continual basis. From paper products to adhesives, sandpaper to coffee. Consumable items the Guild purchases every month that members use.



Anything you purchase from this list, will be sent by Amazon to a Guild member who has agreed to deliver the items to the Woodworking Education Center on a weekly basis. Plus, the Guild still gets ½ percent of the purchase price of the Charity List items too.

So next time you are ordering from Amazon, use the Charity List and order something for the Guild too. Just add it to your shopping cart and Amazon will get it to us and you will get whatever you ordered as well.

So give it a try. There is a link to Amazon Smile for the Guild on the website's home page, or you can save this one and try it now. <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/87-0736963>

Help Wanted

In our continuing effort to improve the services we to offer our members, I am asking for your help. As with most organizations, there is a small percentage of the membership that consistently steps up and unselfishly performs the work necessary to keep our WEC facility running. I offer my sincere thanks to those folks. But there are several gaps in our facility management. I have asked a small group of members to come up with recommendations as to how to better spread the load so that we can fill in our gaps and not take too much advantage of the folks already doing great work. Our team has defined the following roles we need to have covered and I am asking anyone interested in helping to contact me, or any Board member, if you would like to help. The roles we have defined are:

WEC Manager (new role). This is more of a management role. This person will oversee all aspects of running our WEC. He/she will be responsible for communicating with the other WEC personnel as well as managing the budget for WEC operations. This person will have overall responsibility for making sure all aspects of running the WEC are covered and will have the flexibility to assign responsibilities to the other WEC personnel as they deem appropriate. They will report to the Board and communicate any issues that may require Board involvement.

WEC Maintenance Manager (currently Randy Hjetland). This person is responsible for keeping the tools in our shop running as well as making physical improvements to the shop (layout, dust collection, etc.) Randy is doing a great job with this role, but I am sure he will welcome help if anyone has a desire to get more involved. If this is of interest, I recommend you reach out to Randy.

Head Supervisor (currently David Robinson). This person is responsible for coordinating and scheduling the Shop Supervisors so that we can keep the shop open. David has done great in this role. If you have an interest in helping, please contact David to express an interest. Specifically, I am hoping we can develop a better process for training our supervisors so that they have all the tools they need to do their job. I hope we can get someone to work with David and off-load that duty and make the training more consistent.

Supply Manager (not new, but not assigned). This person is our inventory control person. I would think they would be an organizer by nature and develop a process for counting, managing, and ordering supplies. If you are at the WEC on any regular basis, I think this would be an easy way to make a very important impact. This person just needs to make sure we keep reasonable level of consumable supplies (Coffee, Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, First Aid Supplies, etc.) on hand at all times.

Facility Manager (new role). This person has two main responsibilities: Grounds Maintenance (currently Bob Watkins does this) and Building Maintenance (new role). Bob has been doing great keeping our grounds tidy, but if you are inclined to give him a hand, I am sure he would be delighted to have extra hands involved. If you have experience in building maintenance, we would like to have your help. You are not expected to do all the work, but rather identify what needs attention, set priorities and budget, and oversee work done. Items like HVAC service, outside improvements and maintenance would be this person's responsibility. Although the Facility Manager role is a singular one, the overall WEC Manager may well decide to divide the tasks to multiple folks as appropriate.

Here is your chance to get involved and make an important impact. Even if you do not have the time or inclination to take on a lead role, all these positions would benefit from having a team of people involved so that we can not overburden the few folks that make it happen now. This is your Guild, and I am asking for your involvement.



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