

The Alabama Woodworkers Guild *Guild News*

June 2022

June Membership meeting: Saturday June 18, 2022

See Important announcement on page 5

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

Be Safe Out There

You will see elsewhere in this Newsletter that the Board is discussing changing our by-laws to allow membership for folks as young as 13 (instead of the current 18). It won't be a shock that a lot of the discussions revolved around "how do we keep younger folks safe in the shop?" What the proposal currently includes is a provision for added supervision of any shop work being done by a 13-17 year-old. That added supervision could be done by any member, but it would be a one-on-one team so as to not add burden to the Shop Supervisor's job. I expect that it would usually be a parent (who would also have to be a member) but it could be any member who takes on a Mentor Role. I think that there is a serious lack of opportunity to learn woodworking in this age group and, given our mission of education, it's a role we ought to embrace. I'd welcome your comments and concerns, but I can assure you the Board has spent a lot of time thinking about those same issues. I hope to have this idea published to the membership and discussed at a general meeting soon. The general membership must then approve a change to the by-laws.

So, all of this discussion about safety just happens to be happening when I have just had the most serious accident of my woodworking career in my own shop. More on that later. I have always considered myself a "safe" woodworker, but we can obviously all do better. So, I decided to grade myself on safety and try to be honest in the process. I invite you to do the same. I came up with four general categories of safety and what things fall into that category. Blade Safety, Machine Safety, Personal Protection, and Material Handling.

"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

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President's Message continued from page 1

Blade Safety: this category involved your general practices when you are around the cutting edge of a given tool whether it is a power tool or not. Are your blades properly sharp? Are you managing the material at the blade in a way that keeps your fingers safe? Are your blades properly protected from accidental contact when not in use? I gave myself an A- in this. I think I generally do a very good job around blades, but I still get the occasional chisel cut or knife scratch when I fail to be as attentive as I ought to be, so I could improve.

Machine Safety: this category involves knowing the dangers inherent in a given machine and doing all you can possibly do to mitigate those dangers and avoid injury. Examples would be knowing what causes a table saw to kick back and how to avoid injury when it inevitably does one day. I also gave myself an A- on this one. I understand the physics of the blade/wood interface probably better than most. But I am sometimes lazy about using things like a feather board when I'm doing "just this one cut". I try to NEVER be lazy when I am teaching, but I will confess that I need to do better.

Personal Protection: this category includes not only wearing the proper protective gear when woodworking, but also eliminating hazards like loose clothing that might get caught or thinking about where you are standing (if you DO get a kickback, will it fly past you harmlessly or will it knock the wind out of you - or worse?) I give myself a C+ on this one. I do think a lot about what might go wrong so in that aspect I do well, but I am seriously lacking when it comes to wearing PPE. I think about my eyes, but seldom wear hearing protection or dust protection. I need to do better. And from what I have seen at the Guild, I am not alone.

But I saved the worst for last, **Material Handling:** let's face it, wood is heavy and how you move it around matters. I do a good job of lifting with my legs and trying to be careful to wear gloves when handling rough wood. But I tend to lean a bunch of boards against a wall without much thought. This brings me to my accident. I have started using a lot of Corian material when I build jigs. And compared to wood, it's WAY heavier. On June 1st I was re-stacking some of my supply and one sheet tipped over and landed on my foot. Yeah, it hurt. I was not wearing steel toed shoes (another PPE failure) so all that was between the 70 pound sheet and the concrete was the shoe fabric, some flesh, and soon to be crushed bone. I was lucky it was not worse. I will have surgery tomorrow where I will lose my big toenail and might lose part of my second toe, but those are more cosmetic injuries than ones that debilitate. If the impact had been 2 inches further up my foot I would be facing years of recovery. So, grade-wise I'm taking my D- and pledging to learn from my mistake. I have steel toe shoes on order which will arrive way before I am able to wear a right shoe again.

I know we all think we take safety seriously. But let's be honest with ourselves because there is nobody in the Guild that couldn't do better. Stay safe out there folks! And in the process of hopefully welcoming some new young minds into the fold, let's be the examples we'd want those young folks to follow.

Terry James

Proposed By-Law Changes

Have you ever wondered why someone has to be 18 to be a guild member? Wouldn't it be great if we could get our youth involved in woodworking and introduce them to a hobby or career that would last them a lifetime!

There was a time when our insurance required members to be at least that age. With our current insurance carrier there is no condition of age and, as such, your board has looked into lowering the age of membership to 13 in an effort to engage our youth in keeping with our purpose to "advance the art and craft of woodworking". If we can expose them to woodworking before they start driving and dating we might just have a chance.

To that end we have crafted the following proposed changes to the By-Laws for your review and feedback before this is presented to the membership as a whole for a vote.

Feedback can be submitted to our web page: <https://wp.awwg.info/contact/>

BY-LAW THREE

MEMBERSHIP

CURRENT WORDING:

ACTIVE MEMBER: Any person who meets the requirements for membership as determined by the Board is eligible to become an active member with full voting rights and other privileges. Membership is restricted to persons 18 years of age and older.

PROPOSED WORDING:

ACTIVE MEMBER: Any person who meets the requirements for membership as determined by the Board is eligible to become an active member with full voting rights and other privileges. Membership is restricted to persons **13 years of age and older. Persons under the age of 18 must be accompanied and directly supervised at all times by an active member.**

BY-LAW FOUR

DUES

CURRENT WORDING:

AMOUNT: The annual dues required for membership will be determined by the Board and approved by vote of the active members. Individual member dues will include both spouses of a household when requested. A student enrolled full time in a college of vocational school will be required to pay only 50% of the current member dues.

PROPOSED WORDING:

AMOUNT: The annual dues required for membership will be determined by the Board and approved by vote of the active members. Individual member dues will include both spouses of a household when requested. A full time student ~~in a college of vocational school~~ will be required to pay only 50% of the current member dues.

These changes will be presented at the June Membership Meeting and voted on at the July Member-



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

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.

Tinglewood Festival

September 10, 2022

The Tinglewood Festival is a free (no admission charge) one day event held in Orr Park . This Festival is a signature event for the City of Montevallo. The Festival is organized by the Montevallo Chamber of Commerce, Montevallo Main Street, and the Montevallo Arts Collaborative.

Each year the Guild is invited to participate. This is a fun **ALL WOODWORKING** event. There is food, music, lots of vendors and a chainsaw carving competition. There may also be a classic car show.

The last couple years we have had membership information & literature, a lathe and a scroll saw. This year we want to have several 15 minute demonstrations. An your help and talents are needed. We need demonstrations on Wood Turning, Scroll Saw, Musical Instrument Construction, Pyrography, Carving, and any other skill you can demonstrate.

If you are interested or have any questions you can send me an e-mail: to:

linda.simcik@alabamawoodworkersguild.org

In addition to promoting the Guild, you will have the opportunity to browse the vendors and talk to other woodworkers. You may even come up with a few new ideas!

Please sign up by July 30th so we can work out a schedule.

A sign up sheet will be on the bulletin board, or send me an email.

Shop Usage Report

Usage Comparison by Program	Sun, May 1, 2022 - Tue, May 31, 2022		
	Hours	Visits	Individuals
Personal Projects	236	84	55
Luthier Group	220	56	24
Hand Tool Group	84	31	24
Wood Art Group	56	19	17
Toy Group	154	41	25
Class	145	56	42



Before

We have an update on our “one handed artist”

Last month we highlighted Clara Cole, granddaughter of Lynn Smith. Clara was a patient in TriStar Childrens Hospital in Nashville following a playground accident. She was given one of our toys to lift her spirits and occupy her time.



After

We can see that Clara is on the mend and is happy to show off her artwork. Beautiful work, Clara!

It's so nice to see a result of our hard work and dedication. Thank you Clara and granddad Lynn Smith.



New Members

David Blalock	Pamela Pruet
Bob Selby	Stephen Moe
Becky Selby	Don Roberts
Beau Bunn	Evan Terry
Trent Carruth	

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



Dog Days of Summer



Shop not airconditioned?

Come and work in the cool and comfortable WEC

Hours: Friday 9am - 9pm;

Saturday 9am-5pm; Sunday 1pm-5pm



April Membership Meeting

Saturday, June 18, 2022

Networking: 9:00am

Meeting: 10:00am

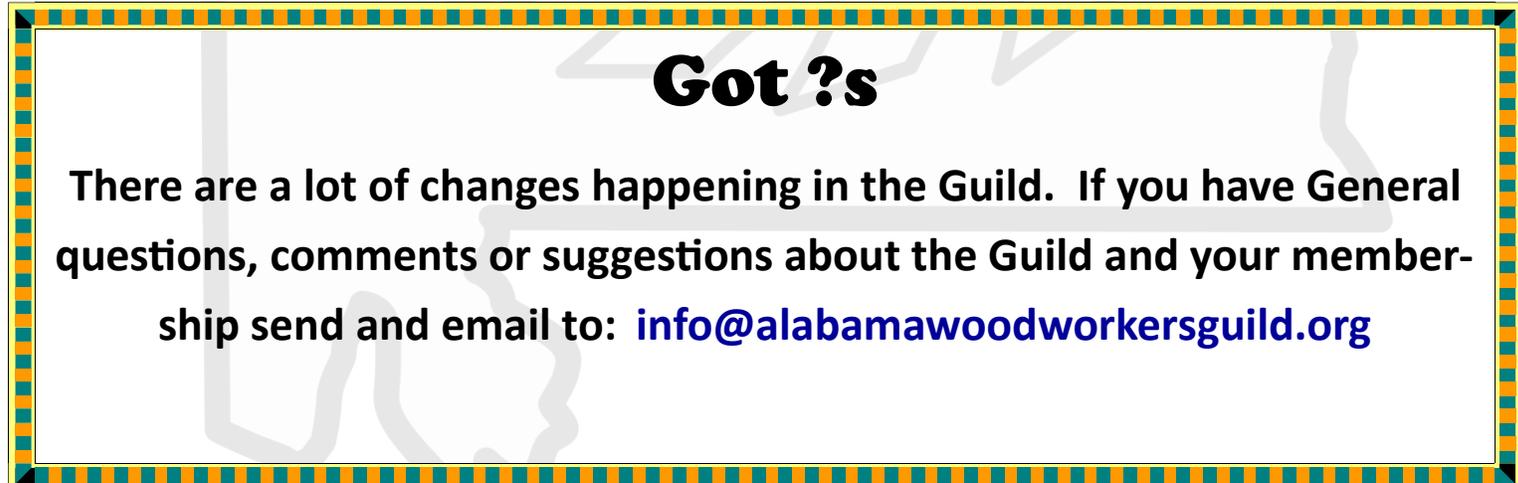
Program: Yellow Hammer Tools

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.

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





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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 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