

The Alabama Woodworkers



Guild News

September 2023



2023 Guild Officers and Directors

President: Jay Bagwell

Past President: Terrence James

Vice President: Rick Ford

Treasurer: Alden Snow

Asst. Treasurer: Steve Simcik

Secretary: Sandy Smith

Board of Directors

Rick Wilson Patrick Murphy

Mike Key Julie Erwin

Bob Free Tom Hession

Linda Simcik Ken Blackwood

Mike Casey Tuck Kornegay

President's Message

Jay Bagwell

President's message

As we are celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Alabama Woodworkers Guild, I am truly honored to be a part of this organization! The AWG recently had a booth at this year's Tinglewood Festival in Montevallo. There was a huge turnout, and we had LOTS of interest in membership. We had a large and diverse assortment of items made by guild members to showcase. Looking at our displays, it's hard not to be proud of the talent we have! I wanted to thank David Robinson, Julie Erwin and Steve Simcik for spending their weekend at the festival on behalf of the AWG.

I also wanted to thank Gary Crosson, who has volunteered to lead our Education committee. Gary has been an integral part of education at the guild for several years, teaching classes himself, and along with Bill Newman. We are excited about classes coming up in the next few months, so stay tuned!

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the Annual Show we have coming up in October. Please go ahead and put the "finishing touches" on your projects to be ready...I would love to see this year's show be bigger than ever!

"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

SPECIAL EVENT

Come celebrate the 40th year of "making sawdust with a purpose". A luncheon and open house will be held after the September meeting. Tickets on sale for \$10 each.

September Meeting

Saturday, September 16, 2023

8:30 am: CNC/Laser Group –meeting in class room

9:00-10:00 am: Meet and greet, mentorship time

10:00 am: General Meeting

This month's program: 40th Anniversary

Celebration & Luncheon

New Members

Chuck and Michelle Bullock

David Dangar

Terry Tindol

David Bryant



Childrens Hospital Christmas Tree

Each year Childrens Hospital of Alabama invites businesses and organizations to decorate a Christmas tree for display in their lobby. These trees are then offered up for auction at their annual fund raising gala.

We participated in 2021, and our tree fetched a pretty price.

We are excited to participate again after a year hiatus.

We have put out a plea for ornaments and gifts hand made by our wonderful and talented membership.

So far we have about 220 ornaments which is a good amount, but we need more. Around 300 ornaments nicely fills up a 7ft pre-lit tree. Please help us reach at least that goal. As they say, "the more the merrier". The deadline for ornaments is October 6th. The tree will also be on display at our Annual Art Show.

By the way, the Alabama Woodturners Association has had a tree for many years and usually gets top dollar! We can't let the wood turners out shine us! (No offence to any cross over members which I am one of them, I have made several for their tree as well)

Thank you for your help.



The Comfort Bucket

There's a bucket sitting on the Kitchen Island at each of our meetings. Its concept dates back to the days when the Guild met at the Homewood Senior Center. That bucket is there for you to put in a couple of bucks for the "comfort" of having a nice place to meet. Those contributions help to defray the costs of heating, air conditioning, refreshments, and paper products. There was a time when we met in a warehouse without any of these amenities and at the convenience of others. Be grateful!



almost Everything I Need To Know About Wood Turning

By Sandra McMillan

A Guild

Board Member encouraged me to apply for an AWG Scholarship for two turning classes that I wanted to take. I submitted a simple scholarship application, agreed to write an article for the Newsletter and was awarded a grant by the Board.

I am committed to using the traditional turning tools and have a goal to develop my tool techniques so that I “begin sanding with 120 grit sand paper.” Meaning I wanted my tool techniques consistent, reliable and repeatable. To meet my goals I needed:

- ◆ To be motivated to spend more time in front of my lathe.
- ◆ To enjoy the process and find pride in my products.
- ◆ To received feedback about my skills.

Since my experience at the *Black Warrior River Turning School* with *Maurice Clabaugh*, the **ABCs** of woodturning have become my daily motto.

A is for **anchor** because your tool must be resting on the tool rest for safety.

B is for **bevel** of the cutting tool riding on the wood.

C is for **cut** which is the result of lifting the handle of the tool to slice the wood with the tools sharp edge.

Now before a turning session I start with a couple of blocks of pine wood and turn them round. If I give my full attention to the **ABCs** during my warm-up, my day’s work is much more efficient and effective.

I now know the importance of approaching turning as a full body skill. When turning, you hold the tool in your hands while anchoring your arms to your side and keeping your feet planted. You move the tool across the wood by swaying your body in the direction the tool is moving. The sway is controlled, slow, smooth and exaggerated. Your stance must be wide enough with correct transfer of weight from foot to foot to match the length of the cut to be made.

The sway has to become a muscle memory action. Humans are not born with movements that function at the muscle memory level. Muscle memory is the result of repetition. Walking is a common example of a movement we make without active thought. We do not remember practicing walking as a two year old. Most of us have observed the active thought process babies use as becoming a new walker. The beginning walker stops, thinks and steps across the floor until over time the walk is relegated to muscle memory. Then comes the baby run.

Just like the **ABCs**, a novice turner needs to practice the sway. We all have heard that practice makes perfect but actually only perfect practice makes perfect. Setting a time for focus practice of my turning skills is essential to me. This would not be during the stress of an important project. I have learned that single minded focus on the technique allows me to develop a skill that I need to be efficient and effective when my turning calls for it.

Finally, I have found single minded concentration on making a cut with the turning tool is an activity that I find helpful to practice when warming up. Riding the bevel while adjusting the lift of the handle and watching the shavings range in size from thicker to tiny angel hair is a great practice activity. Cutting the wood does not require brute strength but finesse. Many times backing off on a cut is essential to success.

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4

Practicing all of the above techniques has helped me to see that feedback is right in front of my face. When my sway is limited, stopping mid sway, there is a nice little bump on the wood. When I drag the tool slightly behind me as I sway the wood screams as ripples begin to appear. If I fail stay parallel to my piece of wood I witness my cylinder becoming a taper, I can't miss that offense and try to correct. Intentionally practicing my cutting techniques has resulted in me seeing the immediate feedback on the wood and learning from that feedback.

Of course everything I have said is based on a sharp tool. My rule of thumb is if I wonder if stopping and sharpening my tool will make the cut easier, it will.

Thank you to AWG leadership who thought it important enough to set aside educational scholarships for members.

Note: I am not a candidate to teach woodturning but I am willing to discuss my article. I can share my practice routine or demonstrate what I wrote about so that you can visualize it. My email and cell phone are in the AWG Membership Directory so that you can get in touch.



Unfinished natural edge bowl completed in the first

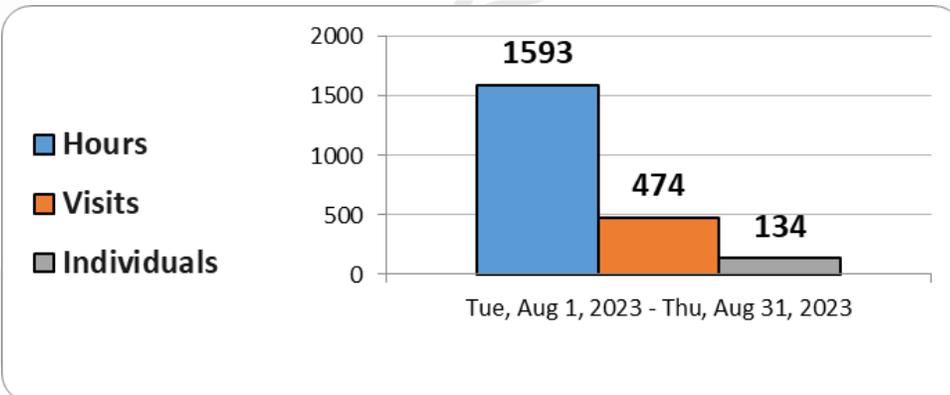


Finished walnut box (still on the lathe) made prior to the box making class

Shop Usage Report

Tue, Aug 1, 2023 - Thu, Aug 31, 2023

Usage Comparison by Program	Hours	Visits	Individuals
Personal Projects	248	81	46
Class	108	23	21
CNC/Laser/3D Printer GP	27	12	10
Hand Tool Group	132	47	19
Luthier Group	302	92	38
Toy Group	307	84	24
Wood Art Group	83	27	9



Shavings, Smoke & sound

By Steve Simcik



On Saturday September 9th the AWG participated in the Tinglewood Festival which was held in Montevallo's Orr Park. This is Alabama's premier all-woodworking art festival celebrating its fifth year of "Shavings, Smoke and Sound". There were 62 vendor booths of craftsmen selling their hand-crafted merchandise. I really enjoyed walking around and seeing the wide variety of things being sold by very talented and creative people. In addition to the



vendor booths, there was a Chainsaw Exhibition, Music Stage, Car Show, Tractors In The Trees, Food Trucks and more.

Our informational booth was headed by our President Jay Bagwell with members Julie Erwin, David Robinson, and Steve Simcik helping man the booth. We even had Mitch Buchanan, a fellow member and one of the Guild's biggest ambassador though his work at Woodcraft, stop by for a little bit to lend a hand. It was a beautiful day at the park meeting the hundreds of people who stopped by our booth to admire the various projects we had brought to show. We had brought a wide variety of projects to show those interested, the types of things they can make as members. A project of particular interest was the guitar that Jay had made. They were very impressed that he made it and had a hard time believing that they could make one. Throughout the day we had the opportunity to listen to Jay play his guitar and a couple of times he would let someone who stopped by our booth to play. This was a great opportunity to promote the Ala-



bama Woodworkers Guild, and recruit new members by telling them about our Woodworkers Education Center (WEC), the Special Interest Groups (SIGs), our Classes, our Mentorship Program, and the opportunity to work on personal projects in a fully equipped, spacious, air-conditioned shop. All for the cost of \$100 annual dues. Most seemed shocked that it is only \$100 per year.

To sum it up, being at the Tinglewood Festival was a great time promoting the AWG and I am sure we will see some new members due to our presence there.



2023 Class Schedule

Tuesday Night Fundamentals Class First and Third Tuesday of each month 5pm—9pm No cost to members A different subject every session. Check the WEC calendar for details.

Habitat for Humanity Cabinet Build Class

August 26th, 2023

9:00am-4:00pm

Cost \$100.00

To get more information or to register and pay visit our website : [https://](https://wp.awwg.info)

wp.awwg.info Click on the education tab.

Annual AWG Woodworking Show

For those that are new to the Guild, here is some basic information you need to know:

WHO: For all guild members

All skill levels (Novice, Intermediate, Advanced)

WHAT: A woodworking project that hasn't been entered in the show regardless of date of completion

Any woodworking project completed in a class either at the guild or outside the guild

WHERE: Hoover Public Library

WHEN: October 14 – October 20, 2023

WHY: To show the public that woodworking is alive and well

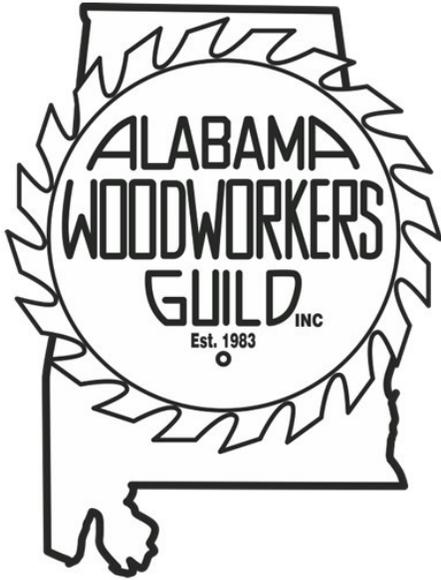
To inspire current members to continue woodworking and learn new skills

Get critiques from the judges to improve your skills

HOW: 1. Make something to enter in the show

2. In October, print and complete application that will be on the website

3. Bring entry and application to the Hoover Library on October 14



Save the date!

ANNUAL ART SHOW

October 14 - October 20 2023

Hoover Library - Lower Level

Start planning your entry ***NOW!***

It will be here sooner than you think.

The show is open to all members—no matter your skill level!

Enter EVERY year to show how your skills have improved!

More details to come...



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 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