

# ShopTalk

Greenville Woodworkers Guild



January 2017



The January meeting will feature Michael Blankenship.

Michael is a completely blind wood turner. He became blind from a rare disease called AZOOR in 2003. He was a woodworker all of his life but never turned wood into bowls until he became blind.

Michael taught himself to turn wood by listening to videos.

Michael has been demonstrating for various symposiums and clubs throughout the country and Canada. He really loves demonstrating. It enables him to show his techniques and methods so that all turners, despite their disabilities, won't give up their love of turning, as well as to inspire others to start turning.

## Michael Blankenship

Michael gets his wood to turn his unique and one of a kind bowls from urban logs or trees that would have ended up in landfills. He believes in recycling logs to make useful and beautiful bowls. Each item that he turns is one of a kind. Since he is blind, each piece that he makes is unique; no two pieces look alike.

Michael belongs to two woodturning clubs to help him learn new techniques. These clubs give him an opportunity to learn from other turners and try new styles of turning. He learns ways to improve his skills. He tries new shapes and styles of bowls and other items. He is also a member of the national organization called AAW (American Association of Woodturners) and has been a featured turner for the AAW symposium in Atlanta, Georgia.

Michael has been featured in two international magazines: Woodturning Design and Woodturning magazine UK. He has also been on a PBS TV show called Illinois Stories. You can watch this show on his website: [www.turningblind.com](http://www.turningblind.com)

For his presentation to the Guild on January 9, Michael will be demonstrating a crock rim bowl, which is a style of bowl that is loved by many as gifts, and has many utility uses.



Michael is featured in 2 galleries:

-The Studio on 6th in Springfield, Ill

-Turned Treasures in Belleville, Ill

email: [michael@turningblind.com](mailto:michael@turningblind.com)

The Guild would like to extend special thanks to Jim and Rosie Kilton for hosting the Blankenships on their visit with us.



## 2016-2017 Officers

**David Aman**  
President

**Rob Barhorst**  
Executive Vice President

**Bill Fuller**  
Treasurer

**Chuck Graham**  
Secretary

**Allison Yanover**  
Vice President, Communications

**Bill Keener**  
Vice President, Educational Activities

**Russell Stall**  
Vice President, Fund Raising

**Rudd Veltman**  
Vice President Charitable Projects

**Aubrey Rogers**  
Guild Accountant

**Karl Kelly**  
Education Center Superintendent

**Dick Best**  
At Large

**John Broach**  
At Large

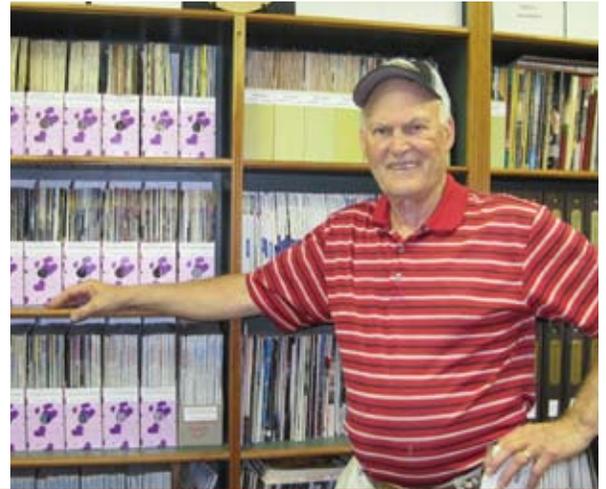
**Al Socha**  
At Large

**Bill Gay**  
Accountant Emeritus

**Greenville**  
**Woodworkers Guild**  
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## **David Aman** President



## THE PRESIDENTS CORNER

We are at the end of another year that for some has brought sadness, for some joy, and for others anticipation of what the next year may bring. Whatever your experiences have been this past year, I hope you have good health and many blessings during 2017. Looking back at our achievements as a Guild over the previous twelve months, I am excited about what we can accomplish with just a little more effort and a few more volunteers. We had several successful seminars, a terrific bus trip, incredible Show & Tell projects, an outstanding youth program, mentoring classes on just about everything, and visits from several community groups and other Guilds. We increased our membership, and were rewarded with a number of monetary contributions. At year's end, your Guild is sound financially, experiencing continued growth, and planning for a sustainable future. Moving into the new year, we have an outstanding seminar scheduled for February, "Routing with Mark Barr". We have other great speakers and seminars being planned for, and maybe a surprise or two in the works! Of great importance will be the election of a number of officers to serve for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. This is a great opportunity for all members to step up and volunteer to serve. The

coming year also offers expanded opportunities for our charitable projects, and increased project participation from members. Don't wait to be asked,...just ask to help! The Operations Team and Board of Directors will make renewed efforts to improve communications with members, and to keep everyone aware of Guild activities, events and opportunities.

What can we accomplish during the coming year with a little more effort and a few more volunteers? We can make a great Guild even better! All of us can learn new skills and improve our craftsmanship. We can do more charitable projects that have a greater impact on our communities. We can volunteer more to help with shop and facilities operations and maintenance, and to improve on what we already have. Together, we can make 2017 a truly "Happy New Year"!

P.S.:

Don't forget our "Beads of Courage" boxes for the Children's Hospital. This is an ongoing, year round project for kids with cancer. We need 5-6 boxes each month, and after our next delivery to the hospital we will need to replenish our stock.

## Invitation to all Guild members:

You are invited to attend a terrific exhibit of works of art by a number of regional woodworkers, including our very own Michael . This is one exhibit you won't want to miss!

## Wood Works: A Regional Exhibition

Timber and the timber industry abound in the southeast. Historically, our pine trees provided naval stores (pine sap related products like turpentine) and the wood for tall masts; live oak provided severely curved timbers for hull framing. And, we continue to be an important source of wood and wood pulp. We are less well known for what wood can be when transformed with the eye of an artist and the hand of a skilled craftsman. And, that is a shame because the region is rich with talent! Happily, a sample of the quality and breadth of that talent will be on display this winter in Northeast Georgia. This inaugural invitational show will display the work of over 35 different wood artists and craftsmen including fine artists, furniture makers and wood turners at the Oconee Cultural Arts Foundation (OCAF) located in Watkinsville, GA, January 20 – February 17, 2017.

The show hosts the work of more than a dozen wood turners. Look for turned vessels that appear to be woven baskets by Harvey Meyer; and for turned wooden teapots by Michael Gibson that are as beautiful and delicate as if they were made of porcelain. See vessels made of beautiful, vibrant burls topped with delicately turned detail by Mathew Hattala. In addition to vessels expect to see fantasy pieces, platters and, for the practical minded, even turned wooden stools by Atlanta's foremost production wood turner, Nick Cook.

Perhaps the first family in woodturning is the Moulthropps of Atlanta. The patriarch, Ed Moulthrop, is credited with being "the father of modern woodturning", turning a production technique into an art form. Their work is included in the collections

of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Renwick Gallery in Washington, D.C. and the White House. And the legacy continues with son Phillip and grandson Matt. Both will be exhibiting their recent work at the show. Look for pieces that pull your eye toward the most interesting features of the wood and a dazzling, glass-like finish.

Based simply on floor space, the largest part of the show is devoted to furniture makers. And, again, the quality of the work of these southeastern makers is astounding. For example, Alf Sharp, from Tennessee, builds museum-quality, one-of-a-kind furniture, primarily in the 18th century American style. His work resides in the Hermitage (Andrew Jackson's home), the Tennessee State Museum and the Tennessee State Capital. His furniture is adorned with superb carvings and flawless veneering/marquetry.

A furniture maker with the eye and hand of a sculptor can transform wood into a functional piece of furniture that reminds of us almost anything. For example, sitting in Sabiha Mujtaba's Bharatanatyam Dancer chair clearly puts you into the lap of a colorfully clad, seated Indian dancer; and, sitting in Robert Brou's Gorilla Chair has you in the of a gorilla. The show will feature some recent work of both of these internationally known artists.

Cleanly sculpted lines, the judicious use of special woods and veneers and even a bit of carving find their way into the work of many working studio furniture makers. These elements can clearly be seen in the work of Scott DeWaard's palanquin and Harold Dodson's rocking chairs. For some studio furniture makers the emphasis is strongly on the materials. Don Bundrick builds furniture directly from branches, twigs and bark. Others feature natural edge slabs or reclaimed lumber. Still others mix wood and metal as in the "industrial" furniture of Jeff Walker.

For some wood artists there need not be even a hint of functionality. Look, for example, at Leonard Piha's totem like sculptures or Reid McCalister's assemblages of discarded wood. One of Craig Nutt's most iconic pieces is a 10' flying ear of

corn designed for Atlanta's Hartsfield airport. For other artists it is the hint of functionality in otherwise non-functional objects that helps drive the enterprise. Nothing is more functional than a tool; nothing less so than a fantasy. Cameron Leidon makes fantasy tools! Tad Gloeckler's work is also truly amazing in this regard. Case goods are a prototype of functional furniture. Gloeckler builds complex case goods in which precisely built components fold up and nest into one another like a Chinese wooden puzzle; an instruction manual comes as an integral part of some of his pieces.

Wood art is alive and well in the southeast! If you have an interest, this show should be high on your list of things to do this winter.

The opening reception, free and open to the public, is on January 20, 2017, 6 PM to 8 PM in the main gallery of OCAF at 34 School Street in Watkinsville, GA. The exhibit, presented by Highland Woodworking, will continue from January 21 to February 17, Tuesday – Saturday, 10am – 4pm. For more information, [www.OCAF.com](http://www.OCAF.com).

Wood Works: A Regional Exhibition

When: January 20-February 17, 2017

Curator: Abraham Tesser

Presenting Sponsor: Highland Woodworking

Where:

34 School Street  
Watkinsville GA 30677  
(706) 769-4565,  
[info@ocaf.com](mailto:info@ocaf.com)  
[www.OCAF.com](http://www.OCAF.com)



Meet one of our newest shop supervisors, Ralph Chapman. Our corps of more than 30 supervisors are the backbone of our shop, volunteering more than 275 hours each and every month so that you can enjoy a well-equipped and safe work environment. Please introduce yourself to Ralph next time you see him and say “thanks”!.

Also, please remember that our shop is for mentoring, charitable projects, and personal use. Any kind of commercial or “for profit” work is

strictly forbidden. If you see or suspect any of this type activity, please report it immediately to the Shop Manager.

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## Officer Nominations

Robert Tepper has agreed to Chair the 2017 Nominating Committee. This committee seeks qualified members to fill various positions on the Board of Directors which will govern the Guild for the 2017/2018 fiscal year. We need people with financial experience such as a CPA, non-profit experience, proven leadership skills, I-T, A/V, facilities, or any other talent that would be useful to the operation of the Guild. If you are willing to “give back” some time and energy to the Guild, please contact Robert and offer your help. The election will take place at the May Membership meeting.



Robert Tepper : 864-915-5967

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## Birdhouse Competition

There is little time left to get started on your entries for the “Bird House” competition that will be held at the February 6 membership meeting. There will be separate divisions for adult and youth (under 18). There will be three categories in each division, “Functional”; “Decorative”; and “Whimsical/Green”. Each person may enter one birdhouse in each category for great prizes! For details and rules concerning the competition or entries, please see the fliers that are posted around the shop. So get busy now, and get those birdhouses made!! We hope to have several to place around our grounds for our feathered friends to use!



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## Membership

Our Membership Chairman, Buzz Sprinkle, reports a surge of new members just prior to Christmas. He states that several of these memberships were purchased by spouses or family members as Christmas gifts. But the biggest surge probably came from the TV program aired by WYFF on our toy program just before Christmas. This was a terrific segment that featured Rob Barhorst, John Arnold, and several other members. It was great exposure for the Guild, and a lot of friends and acquaintances have reported seeing it and becoming aware of the Guild. If you missed it, we will attempt to show it again at the January meeting.

## Merry Christmas!

Our Christmas dinner was a huge success! We had approximately 235 members and guests that enjoyed ham, turkey, and all the fixings. Thanks to everyone that came out to help clean the shop, set up tables and chairs, coordinate the dinner, then put everything back in place in order for the shop to open on Tuesday morning. The tables and chairs we purchased last year not only saved money, but made the set-up and break-down so much easier. Special thanks to Danny Goodson and Jim Kilton for making the table decorations, also gifts for the singers along with help from

Aubrey Rogers and Bill Lancaster on the gifts. Thanks to Sandy Cochran for coordinating everything and to Billie Aman for arrangements with the caterer. The evening was capped off with a wonderful presentation from the Greenville Chamber Singers. Their medley of Christmas music was outstanding, and certainly the highlight of the dinner. The Singers sent us a Thank-you note, which is posted on the bulletin board in the shop. It concluded with "It was a pleasure to perform for you. It gave us a beautiful, memorable ending for our singing season!" Believe me, the pleasure was ours. Thanks to everyone for making this an outstanding event.



## Congratulations Toy Makers

At our Christmas Dinner, Rob Barhorst announced that the Guild Toy Makers made and delivered 625 toys to help children throughout the area celebrate Christmas with a handmade wooden toy. We received blankets for the doll beds from many states and foreign countries. Toy making is always a fun activity that is very rewarding, especially when you help deliver the toys. If you have not been a part of this, please consider joining the effort which will crank up again this spring. Co-Chairmen John Arnold and Rob Barhorst have announced that they will lead the team again in 2017. This project has been on-going since the birth of the Guild 35 years ago! Let's go for 35 more.



Some of the many kinds of toys made in 2016.

## Charitable Projects

It took Guild members Bobby Hartness, Chris Peters, and Tony Ryan 59 hours to build a big wooden table top for Project Host. Project Host is the Greenville Soup Kitchen and more. In the past the Guild built several cabinets and office book shelves for Project Host. The Soup Kitchen prepares and serves about 125 free hot lunch meals 6 days a week in its Academy Street location. At that location is also a division that teaches cooking to entry level students. The CC Pearce Culinary School has a separate kitchen and teaches a free 12 week culinary, food safety and life skills course to between 6 and 12 students each session and then aids them in getting their first jobs. The teaching chef is considered by many to be one of the top 3 or 4 chefs in Greenville. The School has just hired a master baker to teach baking and eventually begin to sell high gourmet baking items to the Public. She needed a wooden top table upon which to prepare the dough. The table must be just over 11' long and 42" wide and is made out of 3" wide x 1 3/4" thick random length maple strips dovetailed end to end. Aubrey Rogers managed to bring in enough 8/4 maple. The table top was too heavy to bring it to Show and Tell but whoever is interested can admire it in the Host kitchen. Well done Guys!



## CHARITABLE PROJECTS / December 6 to January 1

	Hours
Beads of Courage.....	2
Santa's Workshop (Toys) .....	72
Our Lady of the Rosary (Shelves and Pedestals) <i>(Time donated by volunteers - Non-Guild approved)</i> .....	44
Thrive Bird Houses .....	3.5
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>121.5</b>

## MENTORING CLASSES / December 6 to January 1

	Hours
Combined total hours for adult classes.....	393
Youth Classes .....	187
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>580</b>

Charity pulled back a little bit from the previous month but still  
some higher than the previous month!

Mentoring pulled back quite a bit from the robust October figures! Some of it from  
the Youth program which always has great numbers and normally lead the pack, but  
most of the pullback was because of the huge Lathe mentoring classes in October  
which really ran the numbers up!

As always, there are large numbers that account for all the work that our  
supervisors and other volunteers do to support our shop and our great organization!  
KUDO's to them all!

– Jack McKay

**NEXT GUILD MEETING - MONDAY, January 9, 2017 - 6:30 p.m.**

**New member orientation begins at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room. / Social time begins at 6:15 p.m.**

Greenville Woodworkers Guild  
Education Center  
209 Holly Ridge Drive  
Greenville, SC 29607  
(864) 299-9663

For more information  
[www.greenvillewoodworkers.com](http://www.greenvillewoodworkers.com)



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