

# ShopTalk

Greenville Woodworkers Guild



September 2017



Our September meeting will feature a presentation about the Guild's Youth Program by Richard Mackintosch and Wells Doty

## GREENVILLE WOODWORKERS GUILD YOUTH PROGRAM

As you may know, we have an exciting Youth Mentoring program here at the guild. We are facing some growing pains, but the mentors are taking the necessary steps to guide our young people in the right direction, with hopes of instilling the love of woodworking in them. Many have shown great promise, and one young man has gone on to serve as an apprentice in Europe.

Our presentation for this month will be an outline of this program, led by Richard Mackintosh and Wells Doty.

They will give us an in depth overview of how it is structured, its goals and accomplishments, and a look into the future course of action.

We have a wonderful group of students with the possibilites of soaring to great heights.

We may hear from some of the mentoring team on their specific field of endeavor, and some of the students themselves.

Please join us, and get a glimpse at what we believe, in large part, is the future of the Greenville Woodworkers Guild.

## 2017-2018 Officers

Ken Fissel  
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

David Aman  
At Large

John Broach  
At Large

Al Socha  
At Large

Bill Gay  
Accountant Emeritus

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**KEN FISSEL**  
President



## THE PRESIDENTS CORNER

We now have a new regime taking the reins at the guild, and I want to express my gratitude to the Governance team who is taking on the responsibility of managing the operations.

We are truly blessed with a great gift, and I feel the responsibility of being a good steward, with only the best interests of the organization in mind. I feel this can only be accomplished with strong teamwork. We are at a critical juncture of the guild's existence, and we have some big challenges ahead of us, but we, as a team, are up to the task.

One of our greatest challenges is staffing, and manpower to accomplish our goals. When you look around the shop you often see folks performing routine maintenance on machinery, mentoring students in the various classes, supervising the shop, and many other chores needed to keep us a viable organization. The guild could use your help, so please consider stepping up, and joining the team.

There are plans in effect to study shop and machine usage, member storage, workspace requirements, machinery, and a myriad of other things, in order to provide a safe and efficient workspace, to fulfill our mission statement.

We may have to make some unpopular choices, but you can rest assured, whatever course we take, will have what I feel is the best course of action for the future of the guild.

Let me say, I'm honored to lead this effort, and will do so to the best of my ability.

On a lighter note, if you've been in the shop lately, you've no doubt seen the flurry of activity.

Our project teams are doing a fantastic job, under the guidance of our VP of Charitable Projects. These folks are working hard, giving of themselves, so please give them a word of encouragement.

Thanks,  
Ken Fissel

## THE GUILD'S FINANCES

At the heart of any successful organization is a strong financial management system. It has two components, taking care of the day to day financial flow and planning for future requirements.

We are fortunate to have strong leadership with our Treasurer Bill Fuller who manages the daily cash flow, sees that the funds are deposited, provides the checks and balances in our systems to ensure safe custody, pays the bills with the help of Al Socha, records all transactions in an accounting system, and reports the results for members, tax compliance and the public. Just as important, Bill is the watchdog that makes sure we have a healthy financial position. This is a massive undertaking that requires a lot of skill and numerous hours each week.

The second component is linked with the first and it involves all who manage our operations matching their goals with the financial plan to make it happen. This vision has been a critical success factor in getting us to where we are today and hopefully where we want to be in the future. A little history. In 1997 the Guild was facing bankruptcy. The Board created a vision; "we will create a surplus this year", and from that time to now we have never failed to meet this goal. When we were provided with an opportunity to occupy the premises on Poinsett highway, the Guild had accumulated enough funds to furnish our first shop with equipment and pay for

the necessary modifications. When we were blessed with our current facility we had enough money to keep our operations going and to allocate \$100,000 to provide seed money in order to start renovations immediately. Combined with a timely and highly successful fund raising program we spent about \$360,000 to complete the great facility we have today in about eight months.

An operational planning committee, under the skilled direction of Buzz Sprinkle, has been a cornerstone to integrating operating plans with financial reality. A host of recommendations have been developed by this committee. A long term capital budget emerged from their ideas and it was updated this month. It concludes that the Guild needs to create a cash surplus from operations of \$58,000 a year to maintain our facilities for the future. In August, a group of your fellow members spent a morning brainstorming three topics: the mission, the organization and our facilities. The Board is now in the process of acting on these recommendations which were forwarded by the planning committee. Ideas requiring financing have been placed on a separate list, prioritized and we are now developing financial plans for funding.

## BUDGET APPROVED

In its final act, the 2016/17 Board of Directors approved the budget for the next fiscal year of 2017/18. At a rare Saturday meet-

ing, the Board met in a combined meeting with the Operations Team to update the "Long Term Capital Plan" and to adopt the final version of the budget. The "Long Term Plan" is necessary to ensure that monies will be available to replace items such as air conditioning, the roof, major tools and other major expenses that will be necessary to maintain our facilities for the next 25 plus years, and to provide additional machines and facilities that will be needed. Owning our very own facilities is a great thing, but it is also costly. According to the plan that was adopted, for the next ten years we must set aside \$57,600 each year in addition to our normal budget. This will be necessary to protect, maintain and grow our facilities to meet the needs of our growing membership.

The budget adopted for 2017/18 has expenditures of \$140,400 and revenue of \$182,600. When the "set-aside" for the "Long Term Plan" is added, we have an expected budget shortfall of \$15,400. This will be a challenge for the next Board.

At the conclusion of the meeting, President David Aman thanked the current Board for their support and hard work over the last two years, and recognized Karl Kelly who is "retiring" for his long time service to the Guild. The entire Board welcomes the incoming President, Ken Fissel, and pledge our support and best wishes to him.



## WoodWorks Exhibit a big Success!

The Guild's "The Beauty of Wood" exhibit at the Metropolitan Arts Council in downtown Greenville (July 26-September 1) has been an overwhelming success! MAC officials report that they have had a continuous stream of visitors, and more that were not typical MAC patrons of any exhibit they have had. The reception held August 18 was attended by over 200 people, second only to the reception for "Open Galleries". The exhibit features work of over thirty members, ranging from rocking chairs to guitars to jewelry to a variety of

boxes and bowls. It also highlighted our charitable projects for the Meyer Center for Special Children, Beads of Courage Vessels and Veteran's Urns. Due to this success, MAC has invited us for an encore exhibit in 2018.

Thanks to Jim and Rosie Kilton, Butch and Joyce Scott, Vicki Fissel, Sandy Cochran and Billie Aman for providing the refreshments at the reception. Thanks also to Jim Sinclair and Steve Stuart for the beautiful brochure for this event.



## Job Well Done!

Karl Kelly has been a long time member of the Guild, and has been instrumental in its growth and development into what it is today. He has served as Program Chairman, two terms as Vice President, and three terms as President. As Guild President in 2003/04, he led the efforts to build our first shop on Poinsett Highway, was among the first supervisors, and has continuously served as a supervisor since then. In 2010 he

served on the building committee for our present shop, and was responsible for the structural work. He has been a mentor and instructor over several areas, and has rarely missed a Guild event, including street festivals and other activities, such as the Roper Mountain Family Festival pictured here. He was our "Auctioneer" for every tool auction ever held, in addition to helping pick up the tools and prepare for the sales. Karl was hon-

ored with the distinction of becoming a "Life Member". After serving several years as Education Center Superintendent, Karl is "retiring" at the end of this fiscal year. Please join me in extending our heartfelt thanks to Karl for his many years of dedicated service.

## CHARITABLE PROJECTS / July 4 to August 8

	Hours
Wade Hampton High School (Display Case) .....	30
Santa's Workshop (Toys) .....	253.5
Beads of Courage (Boxes).....	16
SC Veterans (Urns) .....	1.5
Ronald McDonald House (Headboards) .....	73
Greenville Rescue Mission (Piano Case) .....	1
Dream Center (Dollhouse) .....	48
Fine Arts Center (Table) .....	174.5
Metropolitan Arts Center (Display Shelves).....	53.5
Our Lady of the Rosary (Cabinet & Shelf) <i>(Time donated by volunteers - Non-Guild approved)</i> .....	7
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>658</b>

## MENTORING CLASSES / July 4 to August 8

	Hours
Combined total hours for adult classes.....	43
Youth Classes .....	346
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>389</b>

Well Charity really had a great month! It was the busiest month of the whole year surpassing last month which was the busiest up until then!  
There were 209 Charity sessions covering 657 hours!

Youth Mentors total Sessions and Hours, exceeded all previous months for the year! They totaled 73 Sessoins over 346 hours!  
Student hours were robust as well, with the fourth highest of the year!

The upcoming month of August will end the GWG 2016-2017 shop year! It seems as though I just cleared the spreadsheet to start the new year!

Hope all have had a nice summer!

**One of the Guild's primary objectives is to help charitable causes through our woodworking skills and last month our members did an outstanding job. The Guild's Mission Statement, adopted ten years ago, continues to guide the Guild's objectives today.**

- To help our members become better woodworkers.*
- To elevate the public's knowledge of woodworking as an art.*
- To help charitable causes through our woodworking skills.*

## **G I V I N G   T H R O U G H   F E L L O W S H I P**

Other projects not pictured in this newsletter are a large number of butterfly boxes (leader John Arnold).

Steve Estabrooks will soon start a project to build several American Flag cases to be presented by our client to deserving Americans.

And do not forget the ongoing projects to build Toys, Veteran Urns, and Beads of Courage boxes.

Thanks to all the volunteers who make the Guild's objective to serve our community a reality.

New projects on the horizon are to build several work desks for the Mental Health America Crisis Center. Team leader Jon Rauschenbach needs about eight assistant wood workers.

Beginning in November Bob Armbruster will lead a team to build

10 benches for the Military History Center of the Carolinas located at the downtown airport. Bob would like four volunteers for this project.

To volunteer for any of these two projects send an email to Ruud Veltman at [ruudgwg@att.net](mailto:ruudgwg@att.net).



The 1963 graduating class of Wade Hampton High School raised money to provide the school with a dignified place to store many trin-

kets and yearbooks that never had a place to be displayed. Bill Ensor, Jerry Gibbins, and Dick Dobbins are close to finishing the display

case. Other members not pictured are Matt Stucker, Mike Mills and Aubrey Rogers.

Guild members support the community with large and small projects. Dennis Defrancesco guarantees that you will not get lost when visiting the new Conestee Park. When new trails are opened Dennis will provide the directional signs. The park is not far from the Guild. It is located behind the baseball field on Mauldin Road.





The Miracle Hill Rescue Mission was in need of a cabinet to house a large keyboard that was donated recently. Jon Rauschenbach and his team took on the challenge to design and build the cabinet. Pictured are Jon, Dick Best and Stan Barrett. Not pictured is Bob Gasparic. When the Guild learned that the Rescue Mission did not have the funds to pay for the cabinet a few members came forward donating whatever was needed to get the project started. This is a true Charitable Project with a big C. Thank you guys.





Roger Cottrell and his team are building a LARGE table for the Fine Arts Center. The tabletop is 5 ft. x 10 ft. The table is pictured on its side and then in the upright position. Members assisting Roger Cottrell are Bruce Colby, Marion DeWitt, Bob Armbruster and Jim Stradling. Not pictured are John Bobier, Anne Pierce, Mark Johnson and Charles Sutter. To move the table the team needs all the help it can get. The weight of the finished table is over 500 pounds.

The Ronald McDonald House is doubling in size. Bill Bagwell and his team are preparing the headboards and night stands for the expansion. Pictured are (Top) Bill Brett, Keith Rackley and Keith Stevenson. (Bottom) Ron Critser and Bill Bagwell.





Bob Gulotty and his team are building a dollhouse for the family room at the Dream Center in Easley. Shown working is Jerry Gibbins and Charlie LeGrand. Not pictured are team leader Bob Gulotty and John Stiehler.

## SHOW & TELL

Carved Box by Dick Best



Salt boxes by Ken Fissel

Dining Room Chairs  
by Dennis DeFrancesco

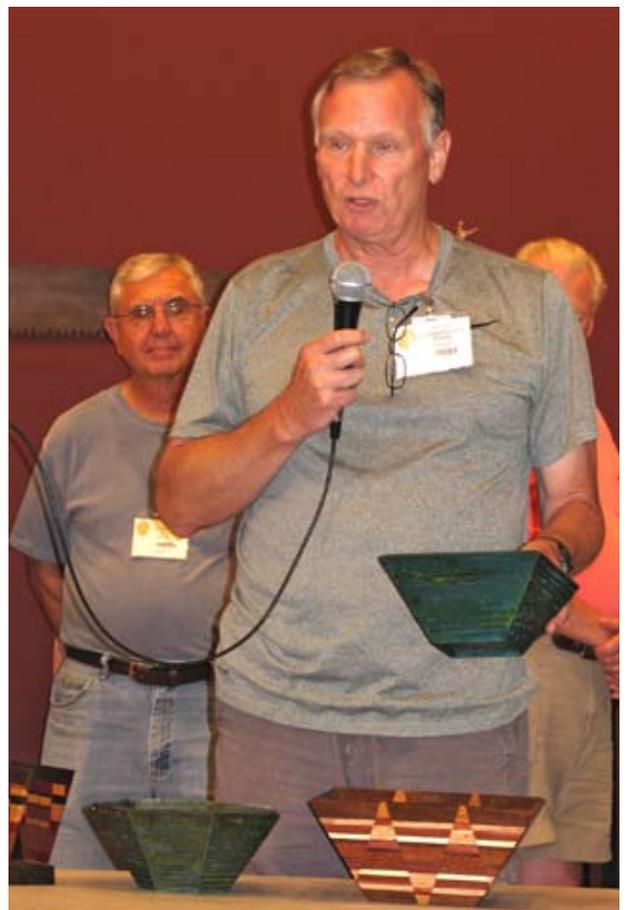


Boxes by John Arnold



Pepper Mill by Mike George

Bowls by Mark Johnson



Turnings by Wells Dorty



Low bowls by Dave Paul



Furman University boat converted to accommodate flower pots by Chris Calvin representing GWG Youth Group



**NEXT GUILD MEETING - MONDAY, September 11, 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.

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



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