

ShopTalk

Greenville Woodworkers Guild February 2023



Join us at our next Monthly Meeting on Monday, February 6, at 6:30 p.m.

Meet Lyle Wheeler from Millers Creek, NC, who specializes in handmade ladderback chairs in native hardwoods. Lyle comes from a long line of blacksmiths, woodworkers, wagon makers, and furniture makers. He has found a way to preserve craftsmanship that is more than a century old, using hand tools handed down from his great grandfather.

Lyle Wheeler Bio

Lyle Wheeler is a chair maker and blacksmith from Millers Creek, NC, who has been making chairs by hand since 1983. He specializes in handmade ladderback chairs in native Appalachian hardwoods, featuring traditional tools and styles from the late 1800's. He likes to mix up the species of wood to get contrast in the chairs he builds.

Lyle comes from a long line of blacksmiths, woodworkers, wagon makers, and furniture makers. He has found a way to preserve craftsmanship that is more than a century old. His hand tools are from the 1860's to 1890's. He believes the tools from that period were the best quality ever made, right before the Industrial Revolution in the South. Lyle still uses some of his great-grandfather's tools. His grandson is now using them, making it six generations of his family who have used the same tools!

One of Lyle's ladderback rocking chairs won First Place in the *2019 Made in NC Awards*, chosen Best Overall. He notes that there is a lot of engineering in a rocking chair that differentiates one from another. The curvature (radius) of his runners has been developed so that when you sit down, it pulls you into the chair. You don't feel like the chair wants to pitch you out of it.

Lyle sells Wheeler's Chairs at high end craft shows throughout the Southeast, builds chairs on commission, and teaches woodworking and blacksmithing at the John C. Campbell Folk School. He is a longtime member of the Southern Highland Craft Guild.

Lyle keeps a very busy schedule. Besides being our guest presenter on February 6, Lyle will be peddling his wares or teaching in North Carolina, Maryland, and Pennsylvania this year.





Joe Boyd
President



T H E P R E S I D E N T ' S C O R N E R

C. S. Lewis is one of the most well-known and prolific authors of the 20th century. Many, I am sure, have read something that Lewis has written. Perhaps one of his most famous works is the Chronicles of Narnia. The Narnia series has sold over 100 million books and has been made into at least three movies. Many people look for C. S. Lewis quotes during the start of a new year for inspiration. It is interesting to note that many of the quotes attributed to him are either misquoted or were never his quotes.

One of his most famous quotes that is used during a New Year's commentary is "There are better things ahead than any we leave behind". Context is, of course, most important when pulling a quote. Lewis was not speaking of looking ahead towards a new year or delivering words of encouragement. The quote was taken from a letter to a friend who was facing the certainty of near death. In that letter he wrote "Has the world been so kind to you that you should leave it with regret? There are better things ahead than any we leave behind". So, as we more fully understand the context of his quote, are we able to understand its meaning.

Why do I start my letter to the Guild in this way? Was C. S. Lewis a woodworker? Not that I am aware. Did he come from a family of woodworkers or was his father a member of a guild? Again, not that I am aware. I do, however, find it most impressive that Lewis gave away all the royalties from his books.

He was not interested in acquiring wealth and never really believed that his work would be of value. And this is where I connect the life of C. S. Lewis to our Guild.

I continue to be amazed at the sense of volunteerism that exists within our organization. To have such a group of people (over 900 members) and to offer so many classes and mentoring sessions and to oversee so many charitable programs is truly amazing. It is this selfless act of giving that connects the embodiment of Lewis' charity to our Guild. I am proud to be the President of the Guild because I am proud of the people of this Guild. I do believe that our best days are still ahead as we continue to give of ourselves to meet the objectives of our organization.

One final "didn't know that" about C. S. Lewis: While humans have opposable thumbs that contain two joints, Lewis' thumbs only had one joint which made many things, especially sports, very difficult. So perhaps he would not have been a famous woodworker because of this deviating factor from other humans, but his sense of generosity is certainly to be admired. And it is this commonality that causes us to believe that our best days are surely ahead.

Just What Are Those Monthly Meetings All About?



If you have never attended a Guild Monthly Meeting - or haven't been to one recently - you are missing out on a great evening. As soon as you open the door to the auditorium, you'll smell the fresh brewed coffee and be greeted by Buzz Sprinkle at the membership window. The fellowship, friendship, and camaraderie that follow are amazing. Members tend to come early, and it's truly a lively bunch that gathers at these meetings. You'll get a chance to meet some new members of the Guild, as well as catch up with those you already know.

Before the meeting, be sure to enjoy some of those desserts made by Teri Gaudet and Karen Sheldon. Buy your raffle tickets for the evening's drawing. If it's time to renew your membership, stop by the membership window.

If you walk up on the stage before the meeting, you'll get a close-up view of our member's latest projects. But don't get in Jim Sinclair's way while you're up there - he's taking photographs of all those projects. Look up to the top row of the stands and you'll find the Audio/Visual team busy setting up for the evening.

The first part of the meeting is very interactive and is run by Joe Boyd, our Guild President. After a few announcements (and sometimes corny... I mean comical... jokes), there is a Show and Tell segment where you'll see and hear what our members have been working on. It's fun to share in the excitement of someone who is showing their very first project. And it is

truly inspiring to admire the craftsmanship of the more experienced woodworkers. At the last meeting, we were fortunate to have Don Waldrop explain the techniques he used in making the rocking chair that won the 2022 Hartness Award.

Then there's "Stump the Chump", when Joe presents some truly weird tools or objects. The first person to identify what the object is, wins raffle tickets for the drawing. Some months, nobody can figure out what it is!

After a short break (when most members head back to the desserts), it's time for the guest presenter. It might be a nationally known woodworker, a local artisan, or a manufacturer's representative explaining how to best use their products. It's guaranteed that you will learn something new and useful. At the end of the meeting (around 8:30), the drawing is held, where a lucky member wins half of the evening's proceeds from the ticket sales.

So, take full advantage of your membership! Mark your calendars for the first Monday of each month and join us at one of the best woodworking guilds in the country! There is plenty of room in the 300-seat auditorium, so bring a guest, bring your latest project to share, or just come and get inspired for your next project. The monthly meetings truly exemplify our motto: Giving Through Fellowship.

New CNC Machines

As you may have heard, the Guild is expanding its CNC program by adding two new machines. The first machine, a CAMaster Stinger I (24" x 48") has been received and installed. The second machine, a CAMaster Stinger II (48" x 48") is due to be shipped on January 16. We are ready to install this second machine as soon as it arrives.

A team made up of Allison Yanover, Mike Yanover, Barry Jones, Buddy Turner, Thomas Newton, and David Dewease are managing the implementation. In addition, Michael Franklin has installed all of the required electrical circuits and Tom Gruenholz has assisted with compressed air and dust collection piping.

After installation and startup

of the new machines, the team mentioned above will begin recertifying members who are currently certified to use the ShopBot. Once those recertifications are completed, classes will be set up for other members who want to learn CNC Programming and Machining. Watch your email for class announcements.

Supervisor of the Year



The Guild shop is maintained by 40 to 50 Supervisors throughout the year. There are 18 scheduled shifts per week for these Supervisors, and one of them must be present whenever members are working in the shop. These individuals offer a multitude of assistance, including safety tips, cleanup, how-to advice, tool replacement, equipment certification, and tours. Together, they donate approximately 3,500 hours of their time each year.

Once a year, we take the opportunity to acknowledge the generosity of these individuals by recognizing one of them who has gone above and beyond the requirements of the post. Buddy Turner wins this award for the 2021/2022 year for his outstanding contribution to the Guild.

Please offer your congratulations to Buddy when you see him in the shop.

Mac Bowman
GWG Shop Manager

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Nominating Committee

Pursuant to GWG Policy #9, Election of Directors and Officers, please be advised that a Nominating Committee has been formed consisting of Bob Armbruster (chairman) and Paul Pimentel. Policy #9 states "The purpose of the Nominating Committee is to nominate individuals for election as officers and directors of the Guild". Any questions regarding the election of officers may be directed to Bob Armbruster.

Bob's email address: thankyou lucky@yahoo.com.

Charitable Projects – December 2022

	Members	Hours
Cabinets for Ripple of One.....	8	179
Toy Program	2	10
Beads of Courage	1	7

Mark Your Calendars for the Next Shop Clean-Up Day!

Whether you can be available for a few hours or all day, here is your chance to lend a hand to help keep your Guild in great shape. Two sessions are being planned:

**Friday, March 17,
from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm**

**Saturday, March 18,
from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm**

Please note that the shop will be closed all day on Friday, March 17 and until 1:00 pm on Saturday, March 18.

Details to follow for volunteer signup.

Cabinets for Ripple of One Charity

Final touches, including doors, were put on the cabinets built and installed for the Ripple of One charity in Easley, SC. Ripple of One supports families and young adults to move beyond the need for public assistance by providing education and mentoring for financial independence.



South Carolina Children's Theatre Project



The Guild's latest project for the Children's Theatre consists of building four large pantry style cabinets that will be used to store sound equipment.

Jon Rauschenbach, Mary Coleman, Kevin Curry, Bob Gasperik, John Miles, and Marion DeWitt are working on the project.

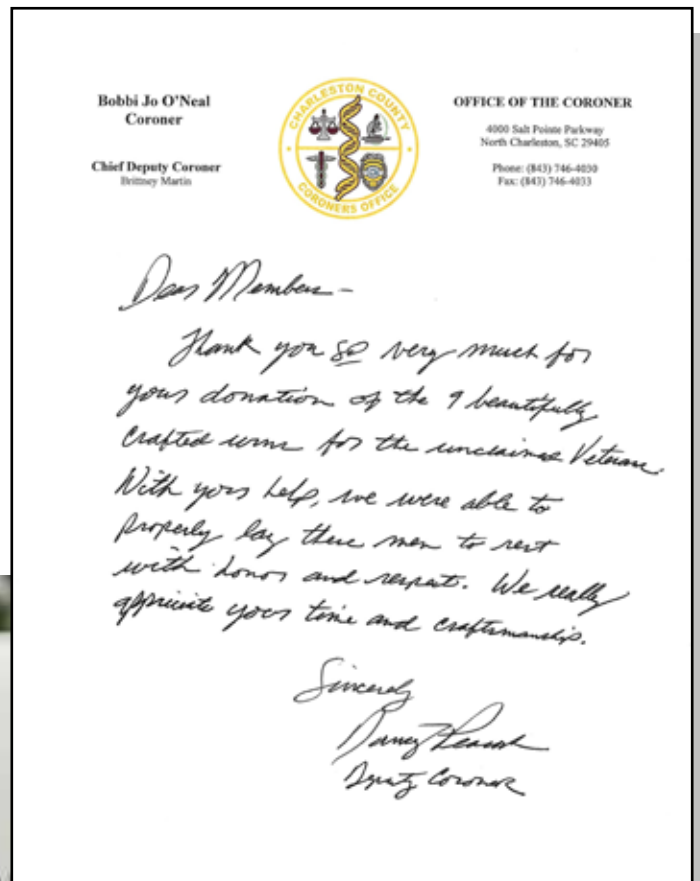
Veteran's Urns

This past December, a service was held with full military honors at Beaufort National Cemetery in South Carolina for nine unclaimed veterans of the US military. Over 400 people gathered to pay their final respects. The Beaufort National Cemetery is the final resting place for more than 19,000 veterans, spanning every major American conflict since the Civil War.

These nine American veterans, all residents of South Carolina, were each provided their final resting place with a folded American flag accompanying a wooden urn. These beautifully crafted wooden urns, which included an emblem of the service branch where each veteran served, were built by GWG members Rob Barhorst and John Arnold.

Rob and John started building the urns in 2015, and to date have built about 250 of them! Their ongoing commitment supports the Missing In America Project's purpose, which is to locate, identify, and inter the unclaimed cremated remains of American veterans. The MIA project provides honor and respect to those who have served our country by providing a final resting place for these forgotten heroes.

The following handwritten letter was received from the Charleston County Coroner's Office, thanking our members for donating the urns.



Welcome New Members

Ron Austin Greer, SC
Greg Ayers..... Greer, SC
Mark Bartz Greenville, SC
Dwight Blake Simpsonville, SC
Justin Campbell..... Mauldin, SC
Dwayne Cooper..... Greenville, SC
Bill De Moise Greer, SC
Tony Delgado..... Greenville, SC
Joe Feenin Wellford, SC
Deborah Gibson Greenville, SC
Alex Gilstrap Easley, SC
Anne Gossmann Simpsonville, SC
Jon Graham..... Greer, SC
Chunky Hatcher..... Simpsonville, SC
Thomas Holder Woodruff, SC
Mary Hughes Taylors, SC
Keith Lassiter..... Greenville, SC
Gregg Leonard Easley, SC
Sayle Lewis Simpsonville, SC
Robert Miller Piedmont, SC
Bob Sedler..... Seneca, SC
Caleb Sedler..... Seneca, SC
Marco Smit Greenville, SC
Patrick Sullivan Greenville, SC
Margaret Vetter..... Travelers Rest, SC
Jeffrey Watts..... Greenville, SC
Mike Wischhusen ... Greer, SC
Bob Wisnewski..... Simpsonville, SC
Rick Wylie..... Greenville, SC
Jill Zuteck Greer, SC

From Your Lumber Team

Lumber Price Update

We are finally starting to see some price decreases in both lumber and sheet goods. While it is unrealistic to think we will ever see prices like they were pre-pandemic, any decrease is a sign that things are beginning to moderate. Any decrease is better than the constant increases we have seen in the past two years!

Unfortunately, Baltic Birch is basically unavailable, and if there is any to be found, the price is ridiculous. We are taking a pass on it for the time being and are offering in its place a product called EuroBirch, as well as our regular “import” birch.

Check Out the Lumber Room!

Three Kiln dried Cherry slabs - 10/4 and 12/4, up to 24” wide and 10’ long. No need to buy a whole slab; we will cut to your specifications.

Peruvian Walnut - We have a new supply, including some wider boards and completely clear stock.

Alder - We have added Clear Superior and also Knotty Alder at a very good price of \$2.50/board foot.

Eastern White Pine - Due to several requests, we now have clear White Pine.

Curly Maple - We have restocked some very nice Curly Soft Maple, also known as Tiger Maple or Flame Maple.

Exotics - We have restocked all of our turning stock with several new species.

Jobillo - We have a small selection of this beautiful exotic.

Sapele - We have a new shipment of boards up to 25” wide and 14’ long, completely clear, in both plain sawn and quartersawn (Ribbon Sapele). Many of the boards are already cut into shorter lengths, and we will cut any of these boards to your specifications. Just ask a member of the lumber team: Jon Rauschenbach, Marion DeWitt, Will Morin, Buddy Turner, or Paul Wood.

Build A Birdhouse Contest

Spring is on its way, which means it's time to build birdhouses & enter the 2023 birdhouse contest. It's time to get creative! The contest is open to adults, as well as those under the age of 18 (youth). Prizes will be awarded in three different categories listed below:

Functional - Can best be described as a working birdhouse. It will be judged on the following criteria, in the order listed: craftsmanship, functionality for birds, ability to be mounted, easy access for cleaning, type of material used, and aesthetics.

Decorative/Whimsical - Can be used indoors or outside, and not necessarily functional. It will be judged on the following criteria, in the order listed: aesthetics, imaginative theme, texture, color, composition, and craftsmanship.

"Green" - Think repurposed, environmentally friendly, and recycled. Green birdhouses can be functional and/or decorative.

Rules

- Birdhouses must be made within the last year by the person entering the contest.
- No birdhouses made from kits are permitted.
- Birdhouses must be at least 75% made of wood.
- You can submit a maximum of three birdhouses, but only one birdhouse can be submitted for each of the three categories.
- All entries must be in good taste.



Judging

Winners of each category will be determined by the number of votes they acquire. Entry forms will be available at the April Monthly Meeting. Be sure to get your birdhouses submitted early that night to get those votes! Winners will be announced at the end of the meeting.

Bird Lovers Choice Award – Use Your Spare Change!

Those attending the April Monthly Meeting are invited to vote for their favorite birdhouses before the meeting using their spare change. Each dollar you donate is worth one vote. Your donation will be used to purchase GWG shop supplies, such as sandpaper.

Contact Rosie Gaddy at rosiegaddy@yahoo.com if you have any questions about the contest.

Member's Projects

Side Table, Box, and Cutting Board
by Bill Haley



Sam Maloof style Rocking Chair
by Don Waldrop



Turned Bowl and SpectraPly
Designs by Dan Pollock



Turned Lidded Bowl by Chuck Pressley



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