

ShopTalk

Greenville Woodworkers Guild



February 2024

**Join us at our next Monthly Meeting
on Monday, February 5, at 6:30 pm
to welcome back John Leake,
period furniture maker.**

“ John and his son Jay hand make period reproduction furniture in the styles of William and Mary, Queen Anne, Chippendale, Hepplewhite and Sheraton. Using all solid wood, each piece is made to order using the finest mahogany, cherry, walnut and maple available. ”





Leake's Antiques

If the success of a business is measured in terms of longevity, then Leake's Antiques is definitely successful! Hard work and sacrifice by the Leake family have kept things moving forward. Over the course of four generations, they have been supported by loyal customers, many who have made purchases from all four generations!

It began in the early 1950's when John Howard Leake Sr., (John's great-grandfather), began trading in antiques on a farm just south of York, SC. Around 1955, John Howard Leake, Jr, (John's grandfather), bought property just north of York. Together they constructed a building to house their new antique shop. This original building serves as their showroom today.

In the mid 1960's, John's grandfather joined the family business full time and soon added a second building, which is now used as their workshop. It wasn't long before a third building was added, which currently warehouses lumber.

In 1983, John was teaching shop in the Gaston County School System. When his father passed away, he decided to leave the school system to keep the family business running. Already making furniture and restoring antiques, it was a natural transition into the business. John soon realized his true love was in furniture-making and, after a few years, the antique part of the business was phased out in favor of the reproductions.

John worked mostly alone for nearly 20 years until 2004 when





his son, Jay, graduated from Appalachian State University with a degree in Furniture Manufacturing Technology. Following in the footsteps of three generations before him, he came into the business and has had no regrets. Blessed with his mother Susan's patience, Jay has become adept at inlay work and finishing, both of which have become signatures of their shop.



Today, John and Jay hand make period reproduction furniture in the styles of William and Mary, Queen Anne, Chippendale, Hepplewhite and Sheraton. Using all solid wood, each piece is made to order using the finest mahogany, cherry,

walnut and maple available. Not only is the wood of the finest quality, but the hardware and brass is as well.

They build 15 to 18 major pieces per year, each with craftsmanship featuring hand carving, dovetailing, and pinned mortise and tenon joinery. They work on one piece at a time for one customer at a time. They often duplicate some of their favorite pieces, adapting or modifying them for customers, and build custom pieces as well.

Leake's Antiques is located in York, SC, 75 miles northeast of Greenville. Their showroom, which is filled with examples of their work in different woods, is a great place to browse for ideas.

**You can contact John or Jay at:
803-684-5651**

john@leakesantiques.com
jay@leakesantiques.com



Charlie LeGrand
President



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

Exciting Things at The Guild!

Exciting things are happening at the Greenville Woodworkers Guild. New Charity projects, a new Nominating Committee, and some great speakers are lined up for 2024.

Speakers and Seminars

Don Clarke and Bobby Hartness have been working hard lining up great speakers and seminars for 2024.

At our January Monthly Meeting, we heard from Michael McDunn. Michael was one of the five founding members of the Greenville Woodworkers Guild in 1981. Michael recently retired after a 48 year career as a furniture craftsman and teacher. Michael gave an excellent presentation on building a two-drawer side table with traditional joinery. Michael explained in some detail the elements of drawer supports and function: runners, guides, and kickers. What a treat!

In February, our speaker will be John Leake. John joined the family antique business in York County, South Carolina in 1983 after teaching high school shop for eight years. John transitioned the business from antiques to building reproductions of antiques on commission. John (and now his son John IV) primarily focus on building furniture in the styles of William and Mary, Queen Anne, Chippendale, Hepplewhite, and Sheraton. John is a great presenter; he is able to demystify the esoteric world of traditional furniture construction and joinery. For more on John Leake and the furniture he makes, see his website: www.leakesantiques.com.

Mark Barr will be our speaker at the Monthly Meeting on March 4. Mark has been a professional woodworker for over 40 years. He is based in the Atlanta area and previously presented seminars at GWG on joinery, routers, and finishing. Mark will present a hands-on seminar on veneering and finishing on Saturday, Sunday, and part of Monday (March 2, 3, & 4).

Tom McLaughlin of Epic Woodworking will be our speaker at the monthly meeting on April 1 (no foolin').

Tom and his wife are making the trip from New Hampshire through the South again this spring, and we are fortunate to have Tom back with us at the Guild in April. Tom will stay an extra day and present an all-day seminar on Tuesday, April 2. For more on Tom's work and classes, see his website: www.epicwoodworking.com.

And in May our speaker will be Mary May, a master carver from Charleston. Mary will also be conducting a three-day seminar at the Guild. For more on Mary's work and classes, see her website: www.marymaycarving.com.

Apparently, Don and Bobby decided to "go big" this year. I can't wait to see what they have in store for the rest of the year. Watch for more details on how to sign up for the upcoming seminars.

Nominating Committee

On the business side of the Guild, the Board appointed a Nominating Committee for 2024, with John Arnold as the chair. The Nominating Committee has already begun to meet. GWG Policy 9 sets out a schedule of notices to members regarding the upcoming election at our May meeting; in April we will publish a list of persons who will be nominated by the Nominating Committee for positions as officers and directors of the Guild. The Nominating Committee has a great opportunity, and responsibility, to set the course of the Guild by finding and nominating great candidates for the Board. Watch the newsletter for additional notices regarding the process and the upcoming election in May.

Charity Projects

Marion DeWitt, our Vice President for Charitable Projects, has been busy. See his article in this newsletter. Also, the Toy Program will be starting back up in April; there is another feature in this newsletter on the Toy Program. There are plenty of opportunities for more members to get involved in our charity work.

Watch your emails and the upcoming newsletters for all the opportunities here at the Guild.

Homes of Hope Cabinets

For those of you who were at the Guild during January, you probably noticed the flurry of activity to build 19 kitchen cabinets for Homes of Hope. Our volunteers worked long hours to complete building all of the carcasses, along with installing the face frames and cabinet braces. They sometimes even sacrificed a lunch break!

Homes of Hope is a 501c3 nonprofit organization that is based in Greenville, SC. Their

mission is “To open doors to economic mobility through housing, economic and workforce development.” They believe change makes change, that positive movement in one life spills over into families, communities, neighborhoods, and cities, resulting in transformation for future generations. They are the largest nonprofit developer of single family affordable housing in South Carolina.

Many thanks to all of the team members who have worked on this project so far: Jon Rauschenbach, Dick Best, Joe Herbert, Craig McKee, Scott Stofan, Larry Kolstad, Bob Gasperik, Jim Smith, John Wozniak, and Marion DeWitt.



Charitable Projects – December 2023

	Members	Hours
Beads of Courage	6	37
Meyer Center	3	10
Member Sponsored Charity Projects	3	15
Toy Program	2	5

Welcome New Members!

Judi Armbruster..... Simpsonville SC
Jessica Billings..... Duncan SC
Brittany Black Greenville SC
Ben Egelske..... Greenville SC
Barry Erickson Fountain Inn SC
Lauren Kaindl Greenville SC
Simon Lock Taylors SC
Robert McCall Landrum SC
Chris McCasland Simpsonville SC
Natasha Messinger..... Simpsonville SC
Corey Mullins..... Simpsonville SC

Garrett Pyros Anderson SC
Benjamin Raglin..... Simpsonville SC
Brian Ripley Greenville SC
Lisa Ripley Greenville SC
Carla Rosenberger Moore SC
Bradley Smith Greenville SC
Yvonne Terlosky Anderson SC
Bill Van Deren Greer SC
Apollo Wolfersberger Taylors SC
Lilith Wolfersberger..... Taylors SC
Rodney Young Orangeburg SC
Ben Zondlak Greenville SC





CHARITY FOCUS

Planes, Trains, and Automobiles

In early December 2023, the toy program delivered 1,532 toys to 15 different charities around the upstate. This was the culmination of eight months of work by 65 volunteers who logged over 3,000 hours during the year. The toy program volunteers meet every Tuesday morning from mid-April through early November. You have probably seen some of the toys in our lobby.

This year, we received a number of thank you notes from the different charities. Additionally, we received several notes from parents; we'd like to share two of them with you.

*Dear Greenville Woodworkers Guild,
Thank you for the beautiful toy that you gifted our son through the Meyer Center! He received an amazing red car; he has low vision from a stroke and red is one of the main colors he can see and respond to. Your thoughtfulness has brought us so much joy, and we wanted to make sure you knew how grateful we were to you. Thank you again for all that you do!*

Sincerely, (Parents of a Child at the Meyer Center for Special Children).

Hi!

My son attends the Meyer Center and received one of your toys - a green tractor. While he can no longer see, it made me smile so hard when I opened his backpack. Before his vision was gone, he sure loved tractors! Thank you for making Christmas special for us all!

Sincerely, (Parent)

The toy program makes planes, trains, and automobiles. They also make tug boats, classic cars, race cars, mazes, puzzles, pull toys, and yes, even green tractors! The wood is sometimes donated, sometimes scrap, some even salvaged from dumpsters at local construction sites. See the photos which accompany this article. Unfortunately, no photos exist of the dumpster-diving salvage operation by un-named persons!

This program is led by John Arnold, George Wells, and Rob Barhorst. If you want to practice your skills, meet some new people, have some fun, and help special children, please join in helping the toy program beginning in April. The leaders will hold a meeting the second Tuesday in April to discuss the program and outline plans for 2024. Members can even create their own toy plans.

Watch the emails and newsletters for notices about the first meeting. For more details, contact John Arnold via email at johncarnold301@gmail.com or by phone at 864-518-9747.



UPCOMING - MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- February 5** Monthly Meeting with John Leake – Period Furniture Maker
- March 2 – 4** Seminar Presented by Mark Barr - Veneering and Finishing
- March 4** Monthly Meeting with Mark Barr
- April 1** Monthly Meeting with Tom McLaughlin of Epic Woodworking - Grain Graphics
- April 2** Seminar presented by Tom McLaughlin – Art of Chair Making
- May 6** Monthly Meeting with Mary May, Master Carver from Charleston, SC
Election of Guild Officers & Directors
- May** Three Day Seminar Presented by Mary May

Look for details in future emails and newsletters!

2024 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Pursuant to GWG Policy #9, Election of Directors and Officers, please be advised that the Board of Directors of the Guild, at its January meeting, appointed a Nominating Committee consisting of John Arnold (Chairman), David Duff, John Smith, and Donna Stewart.

Policy #9 states: “The purpose of the Committee is to nominate individuals for election as officers and directors of the Guild.”

Members who are willing to serve as Guild officers and directors are encouraged to contact the Nominating Committee Chairman. Questions regarding the election of officers should be directed to the Chairman. John Arnold can be reached at johnarnold301@gmail.com.

GWG CONTACTS

Charlie LeGrand - President
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David Dewease - VP, Communications
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Marion DeWitt - VP, Charitable Projects
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Van Matthews - VP, Fundraising
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Buzz Sprinkle - Membership Chairman
mem@greenvillewoodworkers.com

Scott Stofan - Tool Sales/Auction Manager
toolsales@greenvillewoodworkers.com

Spotlight on Board Member Mac Bowman

Mac Bowman has been a Guild member since 2006 and is currently on our Board of Directors. He has been the Guild's Woodworking Shop Manager for the past ten years!

Mac was born and raised on a farm in Spokane, Washington. After high school, he attended and graduated from Washington State University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. His initial assignment was with BFGoodrich Tire, working on development of the "radial tire" in Akron, Ohio. Several years later, he transferred to Detroit, Michigan where he called on various OE accounts as an Engineering Rep for ten years. Mac returned to Akron, where he served in a group then developing "performance" radial tires. This assignment witnessed the merger of Uniroyal and BFGoodrich,

which was later fully purchased by Michelin Tire. Mac's group was moved to Greenville, SC in 1991. He remained with Michelin Tire, continuing development of a number of tire lines, until his retirement in 2011.



Mac and his wife, Gerda, reside in Greer, SC. He has a son that resides in Spokane, WA and a daughter in Copley, OH. His five grandchildren provide much

entertainment! For hobbies, Mac loves to fish for salmon, shoot sporting clays, and visit the family as often as possible.

Mac is very passionate about the Guild and his responsibilities as Shop Manager. That is why you can find him on the job almost seven days a week! While growing up on the farm, he learned how to repair equipment from his father; that is one reason we often find him busy repairing shop equipment.

Safety is paramount to Mac. As he walks through the Shop, he is always observing others and does not hesitate to offer advice on how best to safely accomplish a task, while also protecting the Guild's equipment.

If you haven't met Mac yet, please introduce yourself the next time you're at the Guild. By the way, he's the guy with the funny cap. (According to Mac, that would be a "Chapeau".)



Build a Birdhouse Contest

The 2024 Birdhouse Contest is only a few months away! 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:

Functional - Best 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 - For use 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" - Repurposed, environmentally friendly, and recycled. Green birdhouses can be functional and/or decorative.

Rules

Must be made within the last year by the person entering the contest.

No birdhouses made from kits are permitted.

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

Entry forms will be available at the April Monthly Meeting.

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

Use Your Spare Change - Bird Lovers Choice Award

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 with questions about the contest.



RULES FOR STAYING SAFE

Processing Boards Prior to Use on the Miter Saw or Table Saw

RULE: Prior to cutting a board on the table saw or the miter saw, all boards must have been jointed so that the board has at least one flat face and one edge that is straight and perpendicular to the flat face. **DO NOT USE THE MITER SAW TO BREAK DOWN ROUGH BOARDS!**

RATIONALE: If a board has a curved edge, is bowed, or is twisted, the board can move on the table saw and catch the trailing edge of the blade, sending the board up and back, possibly into the user (you!).

At the miter saw, the saw is pulled out and then down before being pushed back through the board. If the board moves (because the edge is not straight or because the board is twisted or bowed), the board can move, catch a trailing edge of the blade, and be pulled up into the body of the saw and jammed against the fence. The best case scenario is that you damage the saw; the worst case scenario is you may be injured by the board being forced upwards.

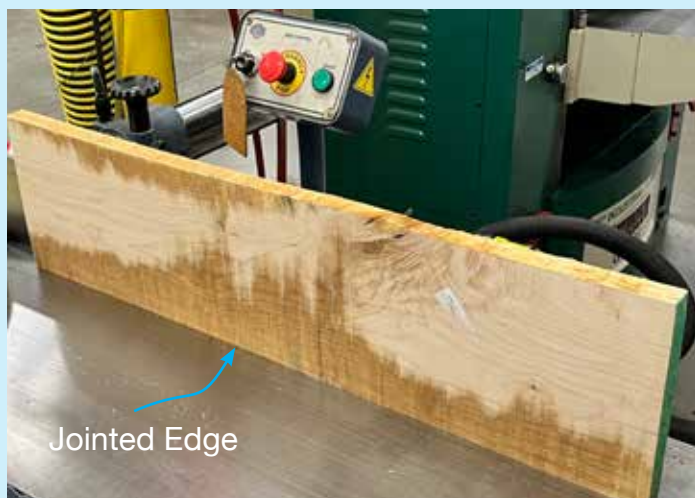
THE GUILD PROCESS: The process we follow at the Guild is as follows:

1) Start at the Radial Arm Saw to break the board down into manageable pieces. If the circumstances warrant, you could use the large bandsaw, a circular saw, or a jigsaw.

2) Joint one face.

3) Joint one edge perpendicular to the jointed face.

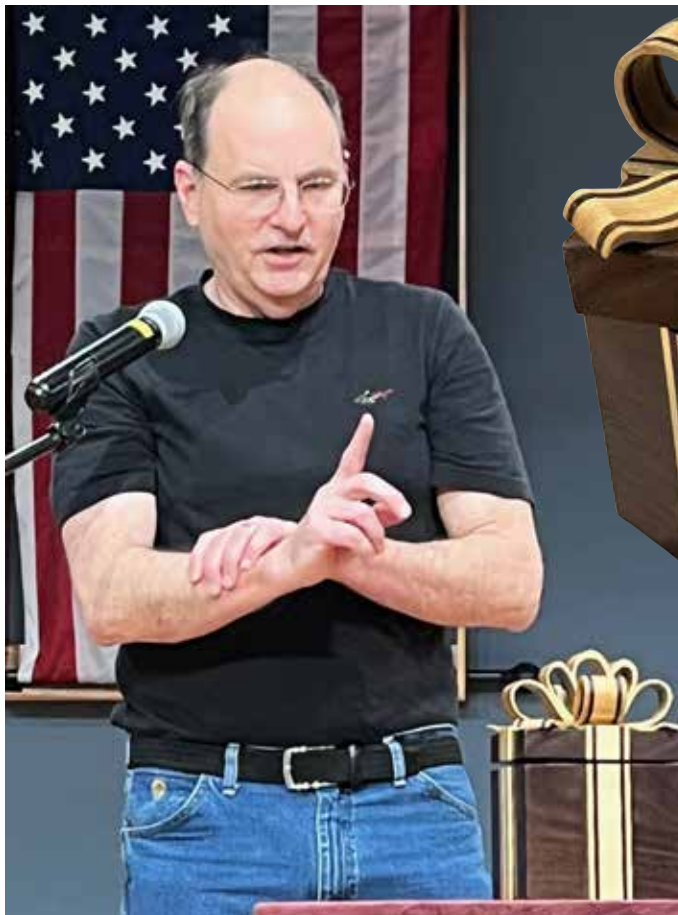
Alternatively, you could plane the opposing face immediately after jointing one face. After processing your boards as described, you can then proceed to the miter saw or table saw.



Member's Projects



Tom Auth — Stickley table
White oak



Roland Baird — Gift Box
Peruvian walnut and maple



Karen Sheldon — Walnut laptop stand, walnut and maple drunken French rolling pin, and laser leather initial tag (leather 2” x 3”)



Dan Polstra — Band saw bowl, Padauk, walnut, purpleheart and maple.

