

ShopTalk

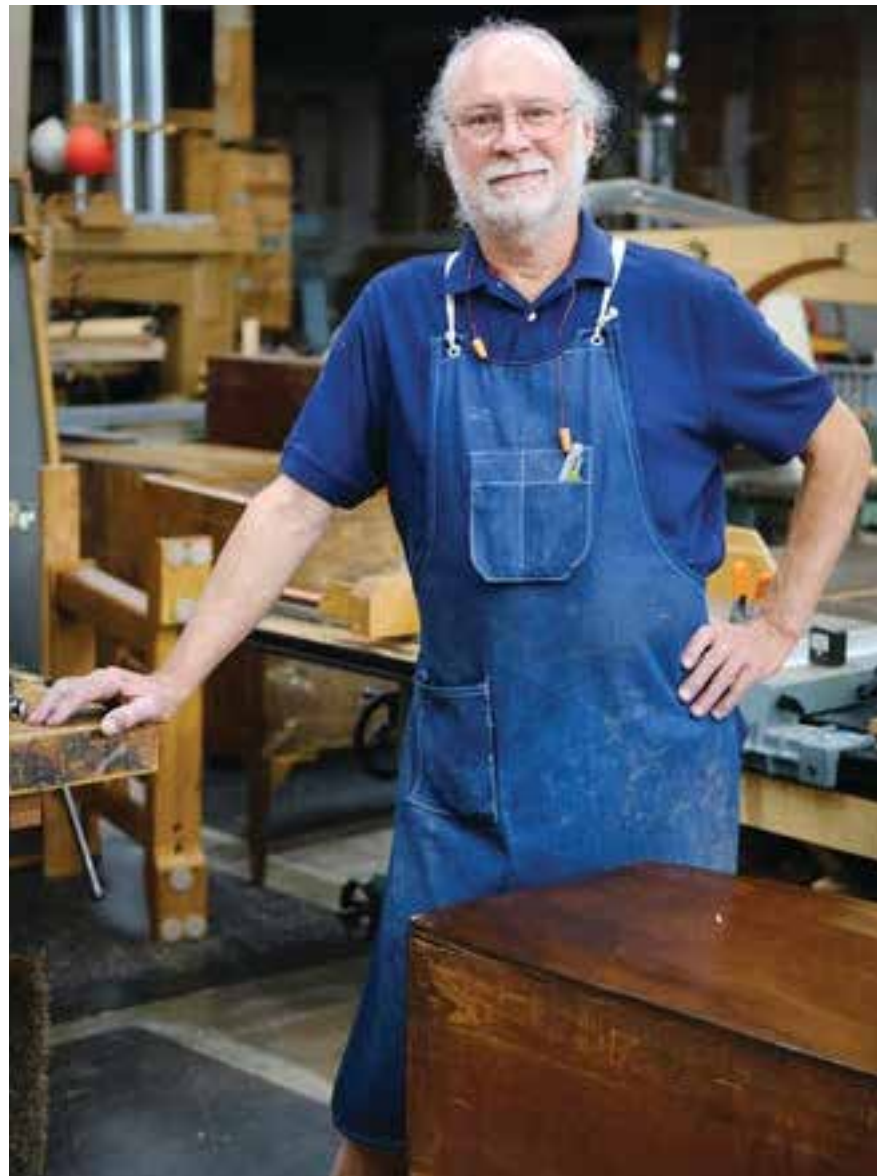
Greenville Woodworkers Guild



January 2024

**Join us at our next Monthly Meeting
on Monday, January 8, at 6:30 pm
to welcome back Michael McDunn
to our stage.**

Michael is one of the Guild's founding members and we are honored to have him share his artistry, craftsmanship, and love of finely designed furniture. Come learn about furniture building techniques and view some of his own furniture pieces.



Michael McDunn Bio

Michael McDunn started woodcarving and woodturning in a serious way in the mid 1970s. He was soon asked to build displays, framing, furniture and accessories for the Greenville County Museum of Art. While there, he continued to develop his skill and love for art and finely designed furniture.

Michael began making custom pieces for individuals and businesses and left the Museum in 1981 to fully concentrate on his own business. Innovative and unique use of wood became his specialty, as clients became aware of his ability to fill specific design needs.

Michael's work resides in many homes and businesses in the eastern United States, as well as in Europe. He recently designed and built a dining table for the star of HGTV's Property Brothers, Jonathan Scott. His work has been featured in magazines such as Fine Woodworking, Woodcraft Magazine, Fine Woodworking Design Books, Custom Woodworking Business, and Woodshop News.

Michael has won awards for his unique furniture designs and craftsmanship, including Niche Award Finalist in 2014 & 2015, American Masters, and "Best of Show" in the 17th Master Woodworker Show. He was a co-recipient of the Silver Addy Award from the Advertising Federation of Greenville.

Besides being a founding member of the Greenville Woodworkers Guild, Michael is a member or is affiliated with the Society of American Period Furniture Makers, the American Marquetry Society, the Southern Highland Craft Guild, The Furniture Society, and the Metropolitan Arts Council.



Charlie LeGrand
President



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

RULES, RULES, RULES

Oh boy, do we have rules – lots of rules! We have rules and restrictions for every machine and every procedure. We have a rule about the height of the table saw blade. We have restrictions about the type of wood (no Southern Yellow Pine) and its condition before you put it on the miter saw or table saw (must have been jointed and planed first). We have rules about where and how you can glue up boards or projects (the “24 hour rule”). Some rules are common sense (keep fingers away from spinning blades). Other rules are general safety rules (keep sawdust off the concrete floor, sanding and routing must be done in the sanding booth). Some rules protect the manufacturer from liability, while other rules protect the machine (maximum depth of cut). Most of the rules are intended to protect you.

Most of us try earnestly to follow all the rules. Many of us come to the Guild with no experience with machinery. I, for one, had never even seen a table saw before I joined the Guild in 2016 – never heard of a jointer or planer, either. And sometimes a rule changes or evolves. Or, we acquire a new machine which has its own set of rules which are different from the rules applicable to similar machines (e.g., SawStop table saw vs Grizzly table saw).

The Guild rules are sometimes more restrictive than even general safety rules. The more restrictive rules sometimes create confusion, especially to experienced woodworkers. We sometimes hear “I have been doing this for 30 years – I know what I am doing.” Or, “I do that at home all the time!” What you do at home is your business, what you do at the Guild affects the other 949 of us. At the Guild, the rules apply to all of us equally, if for no other reason than that those of us who are inexperienced are watching, learning, and trying to follow the lead of those more experienced woodworkers.

Later in this newsletter there will be a section devoted to a shop rule. In future months, we will ask one of our instructors or supervisors to write a brief explanation of one rule or procedure. I hope that this will help all of us, even long-time members, stay abreast of the rules, especially the rules that change or evolve over time.

Two final points. First, the Guild insists that supervisors and mentors follow the rules strictly. In other words, we expect our leaders to lead by example. Second, if you ever have a question about a procedure or an operation, ask the supervisor for clarification or an explanation. It is always better to understand the reason behind a rule than to memorize a rule.

RULES FOR STAYING SAFE

Table Saw – Cross Cutting

RULE: When cross cutting on the table saw, use a sled. You may use the miter gauge for smaller boards. As with any cut on the table saw, your wood must be properly prepared with one jointed face and one perpendicular edge. The jointed face must be down on the table, and the

jointed edge must be against the fence on the sled (or the miter gauge fence). Do not use the rip fence to set the length of the board being cut; use a block clamped to the sled or the fence.

Never cross cut free-handed.

RATIONALE: If the board moves during the cut, the teeth of the blade may catch the board (instead of cutting it), causing it to rise off the table and be thrown backwards at the user.

FURTHER EXPLANATION: At the beginning of the cut, the teeth are on the downward part of their rotation, and the table provides resistance. At the top center of the rotation and further back (when the teeth and blade are rising out of the table) there is no resistance from the table. If the teeth catch the wood at the top of the rotation or further back, the board will be thrown back at the user.



Tom McLaughlin Returns!

Tom McLaughlin will be returning to Greenville in April. Tom will be our Monday night speaker at the Monthly Meeting on April 1 at 6:30 p.m. Tom will also present an all-day seminar on Tuesday, April 2. Watch upcoming newsletters for details.

For more on Tom McLaughlin, see www.epicwoodworking.com



From Your Lumber Team

Some New and Old Info for Members New and Old

All 8/4 lumber can be sold in partial boards. If you need a partial board of 4/4 lumber, please see a member of the lumber team.

We have received a shipment of 12/4 Hard Maple, perfect for turning stock or legs. This stock can be sold in partial boards; buy just what you need.

We are more than happy to help you with special orders; however, keep in mind that we cannot order boards of a specific width. We buy wholesale and our suppliers will not pull wide boards or boards of a specific width under any circumstances.

Check Out Our Selection of Exotic Woods

The lumber team made a trip to West Penn and our exotic woods and turning blanks are now fully restocked. Be sure to check out our new species, Ebiara (Pink Tigerwood), and Ebony.

We also have some exotic pen blanks for \$2 - \$4 in Ebony, Olivewood, Redheart, Tulipwood, and Rosewood.

See our complete list of exotic lumber and turning stock.

| | Lumber | Turnings |
|---|--------|----------|
| Acacia | x | |
| Australian Red Coolibah | | x |
| Australian Red Gum Burl | | x |
| Black Limba | x | x |
| Bloodwood | x | x |
| Bocote | x | x |
| Bubinga | x | x |
| Canarywood | x | x |
| Cebil (Patagonia Rosewood) | x | |
| Chakte Viga | x | x |
| Chechen (Caribbean Rosewood) | x | x |
| Cocobolo | | x |
| Ebiara (NEW, Red Zebrawood) | x | |
| Ebony (NEW) | | x |
| Gombeira (Brazilian Ebony) | | x |
| Granadillo | x | x |
| Guanacaste | | x |
| Hormigo | | x |
| Jabin (Mayan Teak) | x | |
| Jobillo, aka Tigerwood or Goncalo Alves | x | |
| Katalox | x | x |
| Kou | | x |
| Leopardwood, aka Lacewood | x | x |
| Lignum Vitae | | x |
| Mango | | x |
| Monkeypod | x | x |
| Mopani | | x |
| Olivewood | | x |
| Orange Agate | | x |
| Osage Orange | | x |
| Padauk | x | x |
| Peruvian Walnut | x | |
| Pink Ivory | | x |
| Purpleheart | x | x |
| Quina | | x |
| Redheart | x | x |
| Rengas Tiger | | x |
| Rosewood, Bolivian | | x |
| Rosewood, East Indian | | x |
| Rosewood, Yucatan | | x |
| Sapele | x | x |
| Shedua | | x |
| Tamboti | | x |
| Tigre Caspi | x | |
| Tulipwood | | x |
| Wenge | x | |
| Yellowbox | | x |
| Zebrawood | x | x |

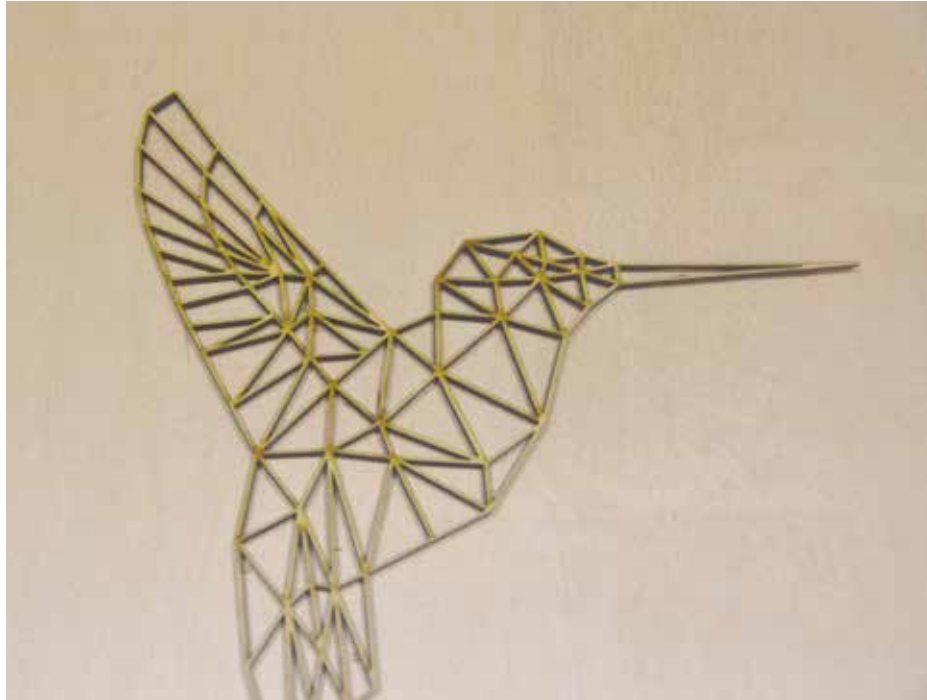
What's New in the Shop?

As you may have noticed, a high quality laser engraving/cutting machine has been purchased. It is located in the hand tool/bench room. The past few months have been spent installing and fine tuning the machine and training mentors for the laser training program, which will start in January.

The machine is an Epilog Laser Pro 36, which can accommodate work pieces up to 36" x 24" and up to 10" tall. It has an 80W laser tube with three different lenses for different applications. It can engrave with a resolution of up to 1200 DPI and can cut through approximately 3/8" to 1/2" hardwood, depending on the species.

Interested members should think about how they would like to use the machine to enhance and personalize their projects. CORELdraw is installed on the computer to create and engrave artwork, but any drawing program can be used to create artwork for engraving; the files can be either bitmap or vector images.

Watch for training classes, which will begin in January!



Charitable Projects – November 2023

| | Members | Hours |
|-----------------------------------|---------|-------|
| Toy Program | 13 | 112 |
| Beads of Courage | 5 | 71 |
| Children's Theatre Cabinets | 5 | 67 |

| | Members | Hours |
|------------------------------|---------|-------|
| Meyer Center | 3 | 28 |
| Homes of Hope Cabinets | 1 | 4 |
| SC Veterans Urns | 1 | 3 |

Welcome New Members!

Charles Franklin..... Pelzer SC
Lewis Gossett..... Columbia SC
Lee Gray Greenville SC
Edward Miller..... Greenville SC
Gary Rosenberger Moore SC
Emmett Sapp Travelers Rest SC
Joseph Tomasello..... Greenville SC

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Build a Birdhouse Contest

It's time to start building birdhouses for our annual birdhouse contest! The contest is open to adults, as well as those under the age of 18. 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 - 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. 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.

Entry forms will be available at the April Monthly Meeting. Winners will be announced at the end of the meeting.

[Look for more details in future newsletters!](#)

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



December Tools Sale

Thank you to all the members who were engaged in the Tool Program and those that shopped the sale, helping make this one of the most significant fundraising events of the year. This was one of the largest inventory tool sales yet. No small feat, considering that nearly 60 members volunteered their time to fetch and price over 1,500 items! Of those, 990 items were sold. In addition, there were over 600 items sold that were priced \$5 and under (over \$1,500). Total tool sales were \$40,800 (plus over \$3,000 in wood sales on Tool Sale day). From this, over \$16,000 was raised for the Guild.

A few remaining items are being marketed through social platforms. The balance of inventory was donated to Soteria Community Development Corporation in Greenville.

The Tool Team normally gets a break for six to eight weeks after the sale; however, two pickups have already been made to kick off our next tool sale. If you are interested in joining the Team, please contact Scott Stofan at (shstofangwg@gmail.com)

Thanks again to the large group of fantastic volunteers, making this program such a great success for the Guild!





**Annual Guild Christmas Dinner
at Larkin's Sawmill**









2023 Hartness Award

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we wish to congratulate George Wells as this year's recipient of the coveted Hartness Award. George's submission was a beautiful cellarette, crafted in the Greene and Greene style. As the items that were submitted were all of extraordinary craftsmanship, George was delighted to hear his name when it was called out during the annual Christmas Dinner event.

Perhaps the best way to share some background information about George, who has been a Guild member since 2013, is to use his own words that were included with his submission:

Woodworking Experience

I have been doing woodworking for about 20 years. Entirely self-taught. I learn mostly by doing. I find a picture of something I like, and say "I can build that." Many times that involves trying something I've never done before, but I jump in and give it a try. So far, it's worked for me.

Description of Submitted Item

This is my version of a cellarette, which is an 18th century cabinet used to store gin or other spirits. I built this one in the Greene and Greene style, which matches much of the other furniture I have built for my home. It is made from sapele with ebony pegs and accents. The marquetry on the top is a variety of different veneers I acquired from other Guild members. This was my first attempt to do marquetry of this detail. The finish is several coats of shellac. I am pleased with the outcome.

The Hartness Award, named in honor of Bobby Hartness, is an annual award and is the highest honor to be conveyed upon a Guild member. Now is the time to begin considering what YOU will submit for consideration for next year's Hartness Award.

Congratulations George!

Joe Boyd, on behalf of the Board of Directors



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