

# ShopTalk

Greenville Woodworkers Guild



July 2023



**Join us at our next Monthly Meeting on Monday, July 10, at 6:30 pm.**

Meet Garrett Long, Associate Product Manager at Techtronic Industries in Anderson, SC. Get an inside look at the company that develops some of the leading power tool brands, including RYOBI, RIDGID, and HART. Garrett and other members of the Power Tool Development Team will discuss the operations headquartered in Anderson, SC, provide a detailed look at the product development process, share some cutting-edge technologies, and give a first-hand demonstration of some of their best product offerings.

## Techtronic Industries

Did you know that one of the world's leading power tool companies is located just down I-85 in Anderson, SC? Techtronic Industries (TTI) is a world leader in power tools, accessories, hand tools, and outdoor power equipment. TTI brands like MILWAUKEE, RYOBI, and HART are recognized worldwide.

The company was founded in 1985, and since then has maintained a powerful brand portfolio, global manufacturing and product development, and a healthy financial position with record sales in 2022 of over \$13 billion and over 44,000 employees.

The team behind RYOBI, RIDGID, and HART is proud to call Upstate South Carolina home. The brand opened its Cordless Innovation Center in Anderson County in Summer 2019, and has continued to expand its operations throughout the area. On the sprawling 650-acre campus, there are teams working on every facet of bringing products to life from initial concept and design, to creating working models, to the marketing, photography, and videography before products are made available for purchase.

With over 1,200 employees, the team behind RYOBI are proud members of the community and committed to not only providing employment opportunities, but manufacturing cordless products in Anderson County like battery-powered walk-behind lawn mowers and battery-powered lithium electric lawn tractors that can be found for purchase across the country.

We are pleased to have Garrett Long and other members of TTI's Power Tool Development Team at our Monthly Meeting to give us a first-hand demonstration of some of their best products.

**Joe Boyd**  
**President**



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

Over the last three years, I have frequently written about the success of our Guild. Specifically, the overwhelming formula for our success being the byproduct of the volunteerism of our members. One of the highlights of my time as the Guild's president has been having a bird's eye view of the many unsung heroes who give of their time, assuring the Guild's activities continue to be successful.

When an individual decides to join our Guild, there ensues a cascade of events to initiate the new member's immersion into our organization. At a minimum, the IT department is involved, the membership team is involved, the accounting team is involved, and the orientation team is involved. All this flurry of activity occurs before the first machine certification takes place, and only at this point can the new members begin their quest to become certified on the equipment.

Over the last two years, we have attracted nearly 400 new members, with our membership now standing at 950. While we take great pride in the growth of the Guild, the induction of new members requires a significant amount of time from our volunteers. Unfortunately, there are incidences where new members become frustrated with our procedures related to class size and safety and decide to part ways. In fact, nearly 40% of members who joined in 2021 and over 60% who joined in 2020 have not renewed their memberships. Occasionally, this is simply a result of unmet expectations whereby the member is disillusioned by the amount of time required to be able to utilize the equipment and resources of the Guild.

As a result, in February of this year, the Board approved a motion to form a committee to address the growth of our membership and the desire to retain our members. Members who served on this committee, which was led by Bill Fuller, were Bob Armbruster, Mac Bowman, Carrie Grimard, Ansley Heard, Sandy Rauh, Bill Schmidt, Buzz Sprinkle, and Buddy Turner. The committee deemed it important for members to not just use the Guild as a workshop, but rather as a place where every member participates in carrying out our mission. Additionally, the committee wanted to ensure that individuals understood those expectations before they joined, as well as the typical timetable to becoming certified

on the major pieces of equipment. At this point, potential new members would have a chance to decide if the Guild would meet their needs prior to becoming a member and taxing the efforts of our volunteers in becoming a member.

To address these concerns, an additional step will be added to the current process of becoming a member. Effective July 1, 2023, those interested in joining the Guild will be required to attend a **Pre-Membership Meeting**. That meeting will include:

- An introduction to our Guild.
- Our expectations of new members.
- The timeframe required to gain certification on shop equipment.
- A tour of our facility.

Shortly after attending a Pre-Membership Meeting, individuals will be sent a link to the "Join Us" page on our website. For those that decide to join, the process will remain the same as in the past:

- A membership application can be filled out and payment can be made online.
- Once the application is processed, new members will be able to sign up for Shop Orientation.
- After Shop Orientation is completed and members are set up as Shop Users in our systems, they will be able to sign up for equipment certification classes.

This is NOT a vetting process. We are not attempting to determine if the potential member is a good fit for our organization. This is, however, an opportunity to exchange information about our Guild prior to an individual becoming a member in hopes that our attrition rate is reduced AND we continue the culture of volunteerism in meeting the Guild's charitable mission.

Thank you again to all who give of yourselves in making our Guild a success. To all our members, please consider how you might be able to help us continue our growth and continue our mission in our community.

## From Your Lumber Team

We have a small amount of Baltic Birch back in stock, in 1/2" and 5/8" thicknesses with more trickling in as we can find it. Import birch plywood prices continue to fall with prices becoming close to pre-pandemic levels, although any Baltic Birch will carry a premium price, mainly because of limited availability.

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*Wood Spotlight -  
The Worm has Turned for Ambrosia Maple  
(Reprinted from Woodshopnews.com)*

White soft maple is always in high demand and one of its offshoots, ambrosia or wormy maple, has gained some ground over recent years. Twenty-five years ago, if you had worms in your soft maple, customers would reject it, today it's one of the most popular things selling. Not a distinct species, ambrosia maple is typically derived from red maple and grows mostly in the eastern United States. The red maple tree gets attacked by the ambrosia beetle and it causes very artistic patterns and little boring holes and silver streaks when the water gets in it. Very artistic looking, it goes into a variety of projects, such as furniture, accent pieces, turning and more. It's just something unique and more on the rustic side and that seems to be the trend. It offers spectacular multi-colored pattern of gray and purple hues that is left by the fungus of the ambrosia beetle. Like most woods, demand for it comes and goes with a high demand for live edge slabs right now. It can provide a unique look for a table or vanity top. The big thing to know is that some of the places that sell it under the name ambrosia maple may charge more for it than people who sell it under the name wormy maple. Ambrosia Maple just sounds fancier...they are the same thing.

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## From Your Lumber Manager

Ambrosia maple is a steady seller at the Guild, but is sometimes hard to get and the quality and degree of coloration will vary wildly. The grade we usually carry would be 1 Common with considerable knots and defects; however, right now we have just received a delivery of "premium" ambrosia maple with beautiful coloration and streaking and very few defects or knots. This better grade is priced just a little higher at \$3.50 BF and I expect it to sell fast. Check it out before it's gone!



## Charitable Projects – May 2023

	Members	Hours
Toy Program.....	46	408
Washington Center School Stools.....	8	70
Military Museum Display Cabinet .....	1	2

## GWG CONTACTS

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## Welcome New Members

Jon Cesaro ..... Greenville, SC  
David Chambless ..... Greenville, SC  
Elijah Chiurri ..... Greenville, SC  
David Gore ..... Greer, SC  
Cody Guy ..... Woodruff, SC  
Juno Laliberte..... Greenville, SC  
Teri Laliberte ..... Greenville, SC  
Carmelo Mabry..... Greenville, SC  
Mike McGuigan ..... Simpsonville, SC  
Fred Parker..... Greer, SC  
Vitalie Slivca ..... Blacksburg, SC

The Guild's annual June picnic was one not to disappoint and we thank all who participated. We would like to especially thank Will Morin who planned, orchestrated, and went above and beyond to assure everyone had a great time at this event. The time and effort that Will gave to make the picnic a success is another example of what volunteerism looks like for our Guild!



19 Teams Played in the Cornhole Championship.



Team Boal Came in 2nd in the Competition.



Guild members discussing how much they like Bar-B-Q.



Turning Wood Tops to Give to Attendees.



Butch laughing because he knows Curly Maple is the best hardwood.



Bobby Talking about the Amazing Sparkling Mango Limeade!





Pitmaster Kerry Bowden.



Joe sharing info about his Stump the Chump.



President-elect Charlie LeGrand and wife, Terri.



Round Table Discussion - White Oak vs Red Oak.



Serving Up Sparkling Limeade Mocktails.



The President Leads the Way





Kids' Pie Eating Contest.





Winner of the Pie Eating Contest!



A free CRESCENT tablesaw blade was given to all members.  
Donated by Crescent Tool Company



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