

# ShopTalk

Greenville Woodworkers Guild



October 2023



**Join us at our next Monthly Meeting on Monday, October 2, at 6:30 pm.**

Meet Jason Lonon from Marion, NC, a blacksmith, woodworker, and maker of fine hand tools for woodworking.

## Jason Lonon Bio

For as long as Jason can remember, he has worked with his hands making things. Before he was able to use the tools in his father's small basement woodshop, he played with the sawdust and scrap wood. By the time he was a teenager, he had built a shaving horse and was carving walking sticks, spoons, and chair parts with a drawknife.

In his late teens, Jason served a three-year apprenticeship with a semi-retired master furniture maker. It was one of the most formative experiences of his life. Hugh Bowman taught him the skills of making fine furniture and what it meant to be a craftsman. Simultaneous with his apprenticeship, Jason began pursuing the art of blacksmithing.

As the years have passed, Jason has become that husband and father with his children playing in the sawdust. He is able to do what he loves: work full-time from home, live a quiet and peaceable life in rural NC, and actively participate in his children's education and training, right there at a pile of sawdust and scrap wood!

As Jason became aware of the growing need for high-quality tools for green woodworking, he shifted his focus to only toolmaking. It became apparent that he would need help if he wanted to make any volume of tools, but he really didn't want employees. His close friend since youth, Justin, began helping on Saturdays as Jason forged batches of adzes, a tool similar to an axe. Justin discovered he had a natural talent for grinding and set up his own shop to grind and finish Jason's tools.

Today they have grown into a team of six highly skilled craftsmen, independently working in the spirit of the old cottage industry to produce a line of specialty woodworking tools. Each member of the team is a self-employed craftsman of the first order, working from a shop in their own backyard, on a unified line of tools.



















**Charlie LeGrand**  
President



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

This month I want to bring you up to date on some of the business of the Guild. At its September meeting, the Board created a Long-Range Planning Committee and a Finance Committee.

The Board has an obligation to ensure the long-term health of the Guild, fiscally and physically. This requires planning for maintenance of the facilities, managing our funds responsibly, and having funds available when needed to pay for major maintenance, repairs, and replacement of the facilities and/or the major components of the facilities. And in the future, we may need major renovations or additions to our current facilities.

In 2013, Aubrey Rogers and David Aman created a 10-year plan for maintenance of the facilities. The plan projected, for example, that the roof on the main building would need to be replaced in 2026 and that the entire parking lot would need to be repaved in 2029. These are major expenditures. The Board feels it is time to review the 10-year plan, update the estimates for life expectancy of the various components of our facilities, and update the cost estimates for maintenance, repairs, and replacement of our facilities. For these reasons the Board created the Long-Range Planning Committee (the "LRPC"). The LRPC may also make recommendations to the Board for future additions or major renovations to our facilities.

How do we pay for all of this? That is where the Finance Committee comes in. The Finance Committee is charged with making recommendations to the Board for a plan to have funds available to satisfy the requirements of the capital plan generated by the LRPC. The Guild already has a reserve fund. Should we set aside part of the reserve funds for catastrophic events? How much of the reserve fund will we need to have available in specific future years? Where and how should these funds be invested? Are there any other policies we need to adopt for the continued financial health of the

Guild? These are all questions for the Finance Committee.

The Guild is blessed with a wealth of talent among our members. The Board hopes to tap into that pool of talent, knowledge, and experience, to take advantage of the specialized knowledge some of our members have in areas such as financial management, accounting, and building maintenance. The fresh perspectives we hope to get from these committees will help the Board plan for the future of our organization.

Enough business. I want to introduce to you three new board members. Kevin Curry is the new Executive Vice President. Kevin retired from a career working for Electronic Data Systems ("EDS") and ISG. Kevin managed divisions of EDS in places such as Sweden, Dallas, and Detroit. ISG was involved in negotiating IT contracts. Kevin has a BS degree from Providence College, with post graduate studies at University of Rhode Island.

Bob Armbruster is the new Treasurer. Bob took over the unexpired term of Bill Fuller in May, and was elected as Treasurer for the 2023-24 term (beginning September 1). Bob retired from Michelin after a long career as a purchasing manager with Michelin. Bob has a BS degree from Kent State University.

Buddy Turner is the new Education Center Superintendent. Buddy has a BS degree from Presbyterian College. Buddy retired after a career in various companies including Builder-Mart, and lastly from Access Point, a telecommunications company.

Join me in welcoming these three to the Board.

Help!! I need suggestions for the "Stump the Chump" contest. If you have a tool you think would be a real "stumper" please send me a photo and a description.

Our next Member Meeting will be October 2, 2023. Please join us.



## Member Recognitions by the Board of Directors



The Bylaws of the Guild allow the Board, by resolution, to designate individual members as Life Members in recognition of their extraordinary service to the Guild. By resolution, the Board approved the naming of David Dewease as a Life Member. This is a high honor that acknowledges the enormous sense of volunteerism that David has exhibited over the years of his membership. He has been involved in several areas of the Guild, including a Board member, VP of Communications, heading up the IT Department, leading the CNC improvement project, developing our Point of Sale initiative, as well as supervising, teaching and mentoring. This makes a total of 13 Life Members and puts David among a very elite group of highly respected individuals of the Guild.



John Arnold transitioned off of the Board as his year ended August 31. The Board awarded the following Notice of Commendation to honor John's contributions to the Guild:

"Since becoming a board member in 2018, John Arnold has faithfully served this Guild with enthusiasm and dedication and as a result has helped to move this organization forward. With your participation as Executive Vice President, as a supervisor, an instructor, a mentor, and your leadership in the New Member restructuring, our Guild is a better organization as a result of your service. This Board would be remiss if we did not recognize your service and thank you for your contributions to the Guild.

And now, therefore, I, Joe Boyd, as President of the Board of Directors, do hereby commend John Arnold for his exemplary service to the Greenville Woodworkers Guild."

Please congratulate David and John when you see them around the Guild.

## The Hartness Award



Each year, the Greenville Woodworkers Guild will have one recipient of **The Hartness Award**. As two of our missional points are “to help our members become better woodworkers and to elevate public knowledge of woodworking as an art,” it is appropriate to name one individual each year who demonstrates their accomplished skills of woodworking in the completion of a project that is submitted for consideration. Submissions for this award will be juried by non-guild members.

**Who is eligible?** Any member of the guild in good standing may submit their work for consideration. The piece submitted

should have been completed within the last two calendar years.

**Submission Timeline.** Members must complete a Submission Form and upload photos by way of the Guild’s website no later than Friday, November 10. The Entries will be juried and the top three will be notified by November 15. At that time, the members will be asked to bring in their projects for review.

**Naming of the Recipient.** At the annual Christmas event, the announcement of that year’s winner and the presentation of the coveted award will be made.



## Charitable Projects – August 2023

	Members	Hours
Toy Program .....	55	672
Member Sponsored Charity Projects...5 .....	5	142
Beads of Courage .....	1	3

## Welcome New Members!

Becky Baker .....Simpsonville, SC  
Ted Bowlds.....Simpsonville, SC  
Jonathan Brown .....Greenville, SC  
Robert Carroll .....Simpsonville, SC  
Brian Cox.....Simpsonville, SC  
Will Cunningham .....Greenville, SC  
Clayton Dean.....Anderson, SC  
John Griffith.....Greenville, SC  
Mark Hagopian.....Greer, SC  
Chris Hearn .....Greenville, SC  
Jordan Kyle .....Greer, SC  
Conrad LaRosa .....Simpsonville, SC  
Dianne Mumma .....Travelers Rest, SC  
Dan Osicka .....Simpsonville, SC  
Susan Wright Podiak....Taylors, SC  
Tom Podiak.....Taylors, SC  
Ian Wilson.....Greenville, SC

## From the Lumber Team

Michael McDunn is retiring and we have received a considerable amount of lumber and slabs from his shop. As you can imagine, this wood is of the highest quality furniture grade. The complete inventory of available items is on the GWG website or you can request a copy from [gwg.lumber@gmail.com](mailto:gwg.lumber@gmail.com). The inventory includes:

- Genuine Mahogany 4/4 thru 8/4.
- Wide Walnut up to 16' long, absolutely the blackest Walnut you will find!
- Lots of Cedar of Lebanon slabs. These come from a tree that Joel Poinsett brought back from Turkey and planted in Greenville very rare!
- Holly and Dogwood slabs.
- Lots of complete logs, cut into flitches.
- Lots of bookmatched lumber, sold per set.
- Huge Poplar slab 42-48" wide and 8 foot long - instant table!

There is much, much more. Be sure to take a look at the inventory, stop by the Guild, and pick up some of these quality items. This inventory will be part of the Guild's next tool sale/auction, but members can get first pick of this wood NOW.

## GWG CONTACTS

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Greene & Greene Style Cellarette with Inlay by George Wells

Turned "Birds Mouth" Vases by Dave Paul







Epoxy Resin Board, Box, Charcuterie Board by Mike Kent



Chess Board and Cheese Board by Roland Baird



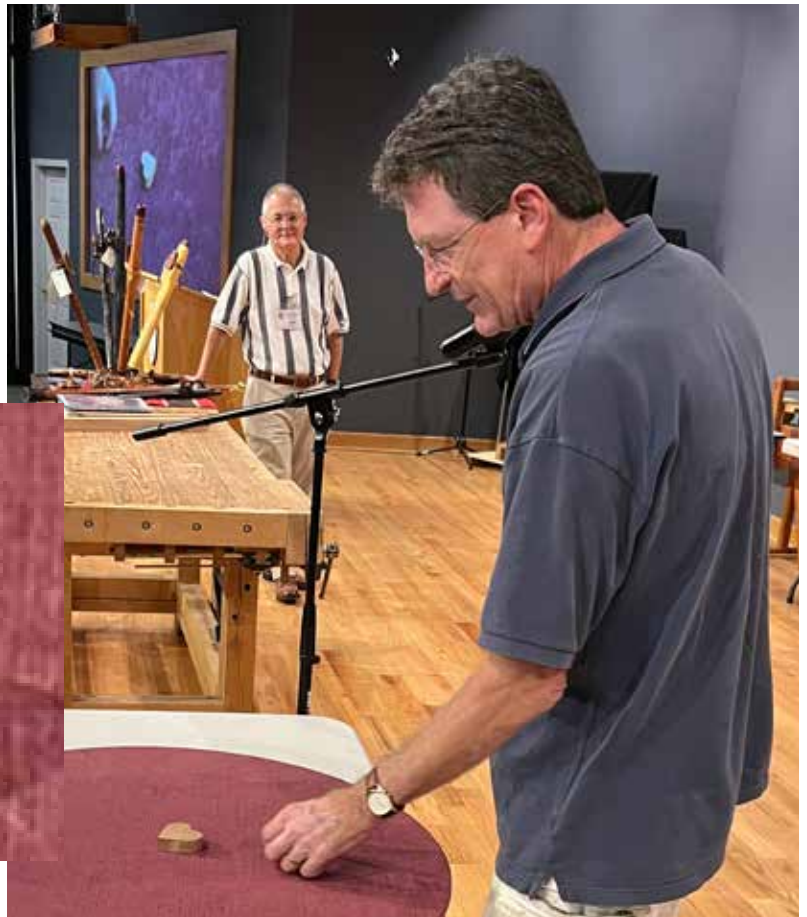


Scroll Saw Bowl  
by Patrick Dreiding



Birdhouse by Bill Schmidt

Heart Shaped Ring Box



Walnut Charcuterie Board  
by Karen Sheldon





Maloof Style Bar Chair and  
Arm Chair by David Gore



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