

ShopTalk

Greenville Woodworkers Guild



September 2023



Join us at our next Monthly Meeting on Monday, September 11, at 6:30 pm.

Meet Lee Entrekin of Dreamwind Flutes, who creates Native American style flutes. Learn about Lee's flute making process, starting out with what is basically a spindle and turning it into a fine-tuned instrument.

Lee Entrekin Bio

Lee Entrekin has been making and playing flutes for over 25 years. He first heard Geri Littlejohn playing a Woodsong Flute in 1995. He fell in love with the sound of it and soon bought one of their flutes and was immediately hooked. In 1997, he began making Native American style flutes, gradually increasing production to over 100 flutes a year to sell through galleries, at shows, and over the internet.

Lee makes his flutes one at a time, from start to finish. He starts out with what is basically a spindle and turns it into a fine-tuned beautiful instrument. He uses a variety of hand and power tools to produce the best flutes he can. Each flute he makes is unique; he doesn't use a template or pattern. He adds woodburning decorations and carvings to make his flutes even more beautiful and unique.

Lee is a member of the International Native American Flute Association, the Southern Highland Craft Guild, and the Asheville, Carolinas, and Georgia Flute Circles. He has been featured in the Woodworker's Journal. One of Lee's flutes won the flute making competition at the Musical Echoes event in Florida and he has been named a Finalist in the Made in NC Awards program.

For more information on Lee Entrekin, go to www.dreamwindflutes.com





Charlie LeGrand
President



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

Thank you for the trust you have placed in me by electing me as President of the Guild for 2023-24. I have big shoes to fill. Joe Boyd was President for three years; only one other person has served three consecutive terms as President.

Think back to the winter of 2020. Rob Barhorst was in his second year as President of the Guild when we began to hear about a strange virus which was killing people around the globe. By mid-March 2020, the Covid pandemic had effectively shut down the world. The Guild shut down completely for about two months; no shop access, no charity projects, no classes, and no monthly member meetings. In the summer of 2020, the Guild, along with the rest of the world, began to function via the magic of Zoom. We used Zoom for our monthly member meetings, supervisors' meetings, and Board meetings. When the shop reopened in the summer of 2020, there were mandatory protocols to avoid spreading the Covid virus. We had a handwashing station outside the front door under a tent, masks were mandatory, two supervisors were on duty when the shop was open (which was limited), and the supervisor took everyone's temperature upon entry.

Joe Boyd's term as President began September 1 of that year. As the pandemic eased, the Guild did not just awaken from a

slumber; under Joe's leadership, we burst through the cloud of Covid with a loud boom (and the whirl of table saws). Monthly meetings resumed in the auditorium. We celebrated our 40th anniversary in September of 2021 with a picnic, including a celebrity appearance by Roy Underhill. We have continued hosting fantastic guest speakers every month. Just in the last year we have heard from some of the biggest names in woodworking, including Michael McDunn (who is one of our five founding members), Mary May, and Tom McLaughlin. Our attendance at monthly meetings is now higher than in previous years.

In the past three years, we have completed multiple charity projects. The Christmas dinner in December 2022 was the largest ever, with 235 people in attendance. In the Fall of 2022, we created the Hartness Award for Excellence in Woodworking, with Don Waldrop being the first winner of that award. Our summer picnic in 2023 saw a crowd of 175, despite the heat. Membership is at an all-time high at 950. All of this is due to the hard work by Board members, supervisors, and especially Joe Boyd. Give Joe a big thanks the next time you see him.

There are many other people who deserve our thanks for their hard work and leadership; I will men-

tion only a few. Bill Fuller served as our Treasurer for 13 years. This is a tedious, time-consuming job, with a huge responsibility for handling and recording income, paying invoices, creating financial statements, and working on our annual non-profit filing with the IRS (and you thought he just made guitars!). John Arnold served as Executive Vice President for three years, handling many administrative tasks behind the scenes (and you thought he just made boxes!). In addition to their duties as officers, both John and Bill were doing supervisor duty, teaching classes, and mentoring others in making boxes and guitars.

And then there is Mac Bowman. Mac makes the shop work for all of us. For the last 13 years, Mac has been the Shop Manager, overseeing all of the equipment, safety protocols, and the supervisors. Mac installed the outdoor hand-washing station during Covid, and when people complained that the water was cold, Mac installed a water heater!

With all of this momentum propelling us forward, this is a good time to revisit our three-part mission:

1. Help our members become better woodworkers;
2. Elevate public knowledge of woodworking as an art; and
3. Help charitable causes through our woodworking skills.

The first two of these points are educational. We have more of our members taking classes and

teaching classes than ever before. The third point in our mission statement is charity work. Our Toy Program is humming along, and we have many Beads of Courage bowls and boxes ready to be delivered. In the last year our charity work has also included bunk beds for Ukrainian refugees, specialty chairs for the Meyer Center, stools for the Washington Center School, doll houses for A Child's Haven, cabinets for The Dream Center, and many others.

Where do you fit in this mission? Will you help educate our members? Will you help elevate public knowledge of woodworking as an art? Will you help with charity work?

For most of us the answer to all three is "Yes." Many others choose to give back through service to the Guild by helping with shop cleanup days, equipment maintenance, IT work, A/V team, and so many other tasks. Remember, we are an all-volunteer Guild, and all of this work is necessary to keep our Guild moving forward. If you are not involved already, ask yourself what you can do to help. Better yet, ask one of the Board members, supervisors, or officers how you can help the Greenville Woodworkers Guild better fulfill its mission.

Step Stools for the Washington Center School

Washington Center School is a Greenville County public school for children with disabilities. Students who deal with medical, sensory and/or orthopedic challenges are served on a specifically designed campus with 18 classrooms.

The school Principal contacted Marion DeWitt, our Vice-President of Charitable Projects, to inquire if the Guild could build five step stools so that their younger students could reach the bathroom sinks. Marion, Jim Stradling, and Bob Armbruster visited the school and came up with a plan. Once the project was approved by the Guild's Board, Jim created detailed drawings and a cut list that would allow a team of new members to handle the job from start to finish.

Jim & Bob were joined by Tony Frichtl. New members were recruited for the project to provide first-hand experience, from reading drawings through to final finish. New member volunteers were Nina DeMarie, Deborah Gibson, Peter Whiteis, David Harper, and Kristin Cox. Since none of them were yet certified on the router table, Ken Fissel volunteered to conduct a router table class for their first night of work on the project.

The team built the stools using Red Oak for the step and riser and plywood for the balance of

the stool. The team used the jointer, planer, chop saws, table saws and sleds, drill press, router table, drum sander, horizontal belt sander, disc sander, and random orbital sanders. The team also learned how to create dadoes on the router table, as well as to countersink and round over edges with the trim router. The red oak was finished with polyurethane, normally used on floors, so it would hold up to the foot wear. It was decided to use white polyurethane for the balance of the finish; John Rauschenbach instructed the team on how to use the spray booth for the finish.

Jim, Tony, and Bob installed the finished stools. They were designed so they could be fastened to the sinks, so they wouldn't tip when the children pulled themselves up to the sink.

Thanks to all of the members who worked on this project to carry out the Guild's mission!



Above
Tony Frichtl & Jim Stradling



Left
Bob Armbruster, Nina DeMarie,
Tony Frichtl, David Harper,
Jim Stradling, Peter Whiteis

Welcome New Members!

Murrill Boitnott..... Taylors, SC
Matthew Collins..... Greenville, SC
Robert Eker Fountain Inn, SC
Drew Lavan..... Anderson, SC
Greg McCurry..... Greenville, SC
Christina Pearson Simpsonville, SC
Juan Sias..... Taylors, SC
James Smith..... Mauldin, SC

Charitable Projects – July 2023

	Members	Hours
Toy Program	48	393
Washington Center School Stools	5	42
Member Sponsored Charity Projects ...	2	8

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From the Lumber Team

We now have Baltic Birch Plywood back in stock in all thicknesses! The prices are higher, mainly due to US sanctions and tariffs against Russia, who supplies the vast majority of Baltic Birch plywood.



If you ever work with Baltic Birch plywood, you will immediately notice the differences between it and domestic plywood. Here are some interesting facts:

Baltic Birch plywood is a high grade of plywood that comes from Russia and other countries (e.g., Finland, Estonia, Latvia) around the Baltic Sea, hence its name. It is manufactured for European cabinetmaking, which explains its odd sheet size of 5' x 5' and thicknesses in millimeters. Most plywood consists of a mix of plies made from hardwood and softwoods (or MDF); but Baltic Birch is made entirely from Birch wood.

Baltic Birch's core is unlike traditional plywood; the layers of inner plies are about 1mm thick solid Birch veneer, cross-banded and laminated with a strong exterior grade adhesive. This results in a void-free core with a number of advantages. A standard sheet of 3/4" plywood will have 6 - 7 plies; Baltic Birch of the same thickness will have 11 - 13 layers, resulting in stiffer plywood and less susceptibility to warping and movement due to humidity.

Other advantages of using Baltic Birch plywood....

1. Superior Screw Holding - Because the core layers are solid hardwood, rather than a softer wood, and form a void-free core, screws bite and hold.
2. Cleaner Joinery - Uniform Birch veneer layers of the core result in cleaner dadoes, rabbets, dovetails, miters, and fingers for strong great-looking joints.
3. Improved Strength and Stability - All plywood runs the risk of warping, and Baltic is not immune; however, the increased plies and cross-banded layers makes the sheets more balanced, which results in a flatter product.
4. Attractive Appearance - One of the fortunate benefits to Baltic Birch is that you can leave the edges exposed if you like the look, because the core is free from voids and is all Birch.
5. Thicker Face Veneer - The face and back veneers of Baltic Birch are remarkably thicker than the veneers on traditional cabinet-grade plywood. Sadly, it's well known that cabinet grade veneer faces are dismally thin, which makes them easy to damage and sand through. Baltic Birch also comes in various grades, the highest being AA/A (face/back), which is no longer commercially available. We do carry BB/B grade, the highest grade currently available.

Member's Projects

Artistic Wooden Boxes
by John Arnold



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