



Greenville Woodworkers Guild

Giving Through Fellowship

November 1, 2009

2009-2010 Officers

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864- 561-7672.

Guild member Jackson Thacker will share his philosophy on residential furniture design



Jackson is a renowned and much sought after designer of new homes as well as the restoration consultant on projects from Maine to the Abacos Islands in the Bahamas. His forte is centered on the design of furniture that complements the home's interiors.

Whether it is individual pieces of furniture or built-in cabinetry, Jackson has an impressive record of designing for the best looking and utilitarian features.

Jackson will take us through various projects from conceptual sketches, through material selection and construction to the finished product.

Most woodworkers are known to tackle residential projects. And should you have one in mind, Jackson's presentation on the design process will give you the insight to take that project to a new level.

We're pleased Jackson agreed to this presentation considering his busy schedule. We think you will leave with a new appreciation of conceptual design and the means to achieve true originality.

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864-241-3849
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Member:
Greenville Metropolitan Arts Council
Upstate Visual Arts Group

The President's Corner



Wayne Comstock

This newsletter marks the premier of an expanded version offering a variety of new features.

We've invited members to submit articles on various aspects. Jean Arden's column on the need for a Youth Program is a preview of what's going to happen next year.

Chuck Graham's full page article on the GWG web-site gives an overview on one of the best of its type on the internet.

Dave Bingham researched and reports on woodworking magazines.

Letters to the Editor will give members a chance to voice their opinions on all sorts of matters pertaining to the Guild.

And I am particularly happy that Dr. Jan Davidson of the John C. Campbell Folk School has agreed to be our key entertainment at the Christmas dinner meeting.

All in all, I'm pleased with the directions we're heading as a Guild and look forward to more member involvement in the newsletter.

Jon Welch's Presentation on making Windsor Stools was professionally presented



Jon proved to be an excellent presenter of his craft and a whiz on the lathe. He presented the process of making Windsor type stools in a casual manner teaching the audience that there were many variations available to the general woodworker to accomplish the project quickly and without major tooling expenses.

His expertise on turning the seat and legs was impressive to many avid turners at the meeting. He really showed how a sharp tool could make fast and smooth work on a spindle.

Jon might be back again with another project in the future.

Upcoming Events!!

November 2nd - Jack Thacker – Prominent residential designer

November 14th – Another quality auction of tools at the Ed Center.

December 7th - Annual Christmas Dinner with Dr. Jan Davidson, special guests and the culmination of our charitable toy building project.

January 4th – Dan Hamilton – Charleston Period Furniture

April – Lyle Jamieson – Master level turning seminar (Date to be announced later)

The Importance of a Youth Program for the Greenville Woodworkers Guild.

By Jean Arden

If you were to Google “Youth Woodworking Programs/Classes” you would see dozens of websites posted by organizations such as 4-H, YMCA, Northeast Woodworkers Assoc., Spaulding Wooden Boat Center, the Marine Corp, and even Minwax. My favorite site is “YouTube – Mobile Woodworking Program for Youth” (see link below) which has a video in which the children’s actions and faces speak a thousand words. When you view it, you will immediately understand why a youth program sponsored by our guild would make the world a better place for our children and grandchildren.

Woodworking for a child is a way to express his/her creative and artistic talents and develop skills and knowledge that compliment what is learned in school. It brings generations together in a common pursuit – one that produces a bond that will last a lifetime as well as a visual reminder of time well spent.

Through woodworking, children acquire self-esteem, confidence, patience and perseverance as they envision, plan, organize, cooperate, listen, follow directions, solve problems, draw, manage time, develop communications skills, learn about wood and utilize skills learned in school.

All this and more is accomplished through the mentoring of a loved one and an organization filled with immense resources and incredible talent. What better gift can we give our children than our time, talent and skill in the pursuit of something that gives us so much pleasure and enjoyment?

My parents were not woodworkers, but I fell in love with this craft under the mentorship of a fine woodworker and college teacher. I then shared that love with my early elementary students for 32 years and with college students I mentored – one of whom made a work table/tool cart that now resides in my workshop, the visual reminder of a bond forged in woodworking.

The GWG already has a highly successful adult program in existence. By providing the same organizational talent, skills and facility, the GWG can easily produce a youth program of which our guild and community can be proud, that will provide years of enjoyment to our guild members and their families and that will pass to future generations a craft in which they can engage throughout their lifetimes.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=VwEt1qUGe_U

The Christmas Dinner will be a Gala Holiday Guild Occasion

Plan now to make your reservations for the Guild’s annual Christmas Dinner to be held on December 7th at 6:00 PM in the J. Harley Bonds Career Center gymnasium. Special guest and presenter will be Dr. Jan Davidson, Director of the John C. Campbell Folk School. Visit www.folkschool.org. He’s a terrifically talented and entertaining personality.



Also this year, we will host some of the recipients of the toys that have been worked on since May and display them “en masse” for members and the press to view throughout the evening.

Don’t forget that in keeping with tradition, we will also have door prizes for the spouses made by Guild members.

Four serving lines to get you to your table sooner was one of last year’s regular requests. Count on it this year. It promises to be a great event, so purchase your tickets at the November meeting. The cost this year is \$15 per person in advance. Reservations can be made in the lobby before the meeting or during the break.

In case you can’t make the meeting, call or contact Ruth Roberson at 292-2393 or e-mail her at drobr2000@yahoo.com.

This one is going to be outstanding!

Superintendent's Report



David Aman

It may not seem like a big deal, but little things do add up, and the cost to our Guild can be significant over the course of a year. I am talking about the everyday things that all of us use around the shop, such as glue, tape, screws, sandpaper, and the list goes on. Since our primary mission at the GWG Education Center is to provide the facilities to perform our charitable activities, we try to keep these items on hand most of the time. It's primarily stocked to be used for our charitable projects. The incidental use of these items by members for their personal projects is ok, but in turn we ask for a small donation to cover the cost. We feel that some of you have grown to expect these items to always be available for your personal use, and expect the Guild to provide them.

Let's look at blue tape as an example. If we open a pack, it is gone before you can blink, and the donation box remains dry! If two inch tape is available, it is used first, even if narrow tape will do the job. As a result, we go thru scores of tape each year, costing hundreds of dollars. I am suggesting that in the future, you should pack your tool bag with glue, tape, screws, sandpaper and other items you may need, and bring them with you; or make a donation. It will help keep our shop out of the red!

Greenville Woodworkers Guild History

The Guild was founded in 1981 by five avid woodworkers. The first newsletter was published in 1983 on a quarterly basis, then monthly beginning October 1984. The following are some notes from those newsletters.

November 1984 - 25 years ago

Bob Ripley – President

- The S.C. Woodworkers Guild has invited the GWG to a seminar by Carlisle Lynch, famous for his measured drawings of famous furniture.

November 1989 - 20 years ago

Carlyle McKaughan – President

- A demonstration of upholstery will be presented by Phil Byrd. He will show furniture frame samples for design purposes.

November 1994 - 15 years ago

Andy Walker - President

- Art Taylor will join us showing his beautiful mahogany rocking horses he builds and sells through the Biltmore Estate Catalog.

November 1999 - 10 years ago

Jim Kilton - President

- The meeting was held at the Greenville Spartanburg Hardwood Center where we enjoyed a lecture on the best uses for different wood types.

November 2004 – 5 years ago

Myndert Papenhuyzen - President

- Russ Brenner from the Freud Company will do a program on the router bits, including their composition, cleaning and use. He will show how a single bit can be used for multiple profiles and when we should use the router free-hand or in a table.

Turn in your toys at the November meeting

Al Masson and James Childress who managed this year's toy program have asked for members to **Please** bring your completed toys to the next meeting.

We're in the final stages of the program and need to get a good accounting of what's been done in order to assign amounts of toys to the various charities.

If you haven't quite finished, let Al and James know at the meeting and arrange a time when you can turn them in.

Thanks!

**Welcome New Members!
You have joined the Best Guild
in the Country!!!!**

**Edgar Baxter - Greenville
Michael Churchill - Greenville
Joas Cline - Pickens
James Fulcher - Greenville
John Haines - Flat Rock, NC
Gerard Hebert - Greenville
Allen Hendrick - Greenville
Steven Hester - Greenville
Ed Kroposki - Greenville
Mike Merritt - Travelers Rest
George Roberson - Taylors
Larry Scarborough - Cleveland
Keith Smith - Taylors
Terri Williams - Greenville**

Member Profile



Ravenel Scott

On December 1st, Ansel Ravenel Scott will celebrate his 87th birthday. Ravenel's life began in rural Hemingway, SC where he was one of seven children raised in a family of sharecroppers growing tobacco. It was during the Great Depression in the early 30's that his mother died and his father was forced to send him and one of his brothers to the Connie Maxwell home near Greenwood. He stayed there until high school graduation and moved to Greenville where he got a job at Keys Printing as a linotype operator, a skill he had learned at Connie Maxwell.

At the same time he enrolled at Furman University and took classes while working. "I made \$.25 per hour and remember five cent hotdogs at the Clock and fifty cent full meals at The Sanitary Restaurant downtown. He joined the cadet reserves with the promise that he would stay in school in case of war, but with the advent of Pearl Harbor he was called. He trained for two years as a navigator in the Army Air Corps, got married to his school sweetheart Jennie and ultimately was shipped to Italy and a B-24 squadron. He flew 35 missions over Germany, Austria, Yugoslavia, Hungary and northern Italy. He survived one harrowing mission where his badly damaged plane flew back to Italy with no instruments and didn't have enough fuel left to get off the runway after landing. Germany surrendered the day after his last mission. Back in Greenville, he continued his 20 year career with Keys Printing.

Fast forward to the late seventies. He made the acquaintance of Art Welling and a few others who

were thinking about forming a Guild. He says he was out of the room when they formed the Guild so he didn't get credit as a founding father. He was just mildly interested in woodworking because his hobby was photography, but went to a presentation by Michael McDunn at the Greenville Art Museum. "Seeing what Michael did during that program got me hooked," says Ravenel.

He joined the Guild and authored the first GWG Newsletter in 1981 and held various other offices. "I never served as President, I guess 'cause people thought I talked too much," he relates.

The primary focus of Ravenel's woodworking has been his desire to do something totally different and creative. Through the years Ravenel's projects have included scores of original toys, cabinets and lamps, one of which is in the photograph, where he designed a wooden shade with angled slats expertly mounted on a gear-like frame. Most of his works are one of a kind "creations".

Ravenel is also an inventor. Plagued with neck problems, he invented and presented at a meeting, a device which went under his chin, through a series of pulleys to a counterweight which kept upward pressure on his neck. Not patentable, but it still works for him.

Today, he's still doing a pile of woodworking. A good friend, Aubrey Rogers introduced him to Millie. Millie Wilson is a Christmas ornament maker in town who every year creates thousands of original hand painted wooden ornaments and mantel pieces for sale. In the October *Greenville Journal* there was a piece on Millie and her work and she specifically mentioned Ravenel as one of her "elves." This elf is a busy guy. This year he cut out 8000 of Millie's blanks for her cottage business. "Keeps me busy," he says.

A tour of Ravenel's home reveals a treasure of creative woodworking the likes this writer has never seen before. Ravenel has always stepped back and taken a road less or never traveled in the world of woodworking. If we could nominate him as a local treasure (were there such a thing, Mayor White) Ravenel would make the cut.

The Guild – Wired and Going Strong

By Chuck Graham



Since 2000, our Guild has had a presence on the internet. Most members are savvy enough to navigate its pages to find all the nooks and crannies. Bill Brett has been managing the site for the last several years, with mastery and dedication. He is solely responsible for maintaining every item in the site. The single point of control keeps the website simple and orderly for all users. As webmaster, Bill is also responsible for sending Guild-related e-mails to the entire group several times a month. Sending e-mail to the entire Guild is no easy task. Most mail servers limit the number of recipients by different methods, and Bill's service limits ours to 200 per sending. The means that for each e-mail you receive, Bill has sent three times to reach all the nearly 600 members.

What's found in the website? Take a look, beginning with the "Home page." As with most sites the home page contains a general overview, with links to other pages. There is a "Slideshow" of various Guild-related events, contact information, and the Guild Purpose Statement. Most importantly, there is a link to a page describing membership benefits, as well as a "How to Join" article.

Other links lead to pages displaying purpose and history of the Guild, a list of officers/directors, a list of Guild Associate Members, the Suggestion Box, the Guild brochure, Education Center contact information, Update log, Breaking News about Meetings, Events, and Seminars, and the Shop Schedule, including supervisor assignments, mentoring classes, and supervisor contact info.

Since mentoring is a major function of the Guild there is a relatively new page for class registration.

Of course, the Education Center is a primary focus for many Guild members, so there is a page that includes a map to the center, a Release Form for use of the center, and relevant Safety information.

Safety is of utmost importance to the Guild, so there is a page that contains various shop safety tips and rules.

Inherent with shop safety is the need for a shop manual, and there is a page for that. The shop manual includes check out procedures for floor machines, as well as various other forms needed for shop operation.

The primary objective of the Guild is to provide woodworking services to other organizations. The Charitable Projects page shows a list of all projects, and includes pictures and dates.

Since the Guild is a legally designated charitable organization, income must rely on Fund Raising, which is explained in a page of its own.

Many guild members take advantage of the renowned Master Series. Fittingly, an entire page is devoted to a graphic chronology of past presentations.

We know that every trade, skill, and profession has its own geeks; and the woodworkers are no exception. The Shop Talk page, with its shop tips, video list, tools for sale, and list of members for hire fills the innate desire of woodworkers to talk wood.

One of the long range desires of the Guild is to own outright its own Education Center. To illustrate that desire, there is a page that shows an early proposal for a new Education Center.

The Cool Links page contains dozens of links to other websites that are of interest to woodworkers, including wood suppliers, tools sales companies, interesting tool articles, other guilds, and famous (and infamous) woodworkers.

Do you want to see pictures of Guild members making pigs of themselves? There's a page for that. Do you want to see what other members are doing, wood-wise? There's a page for that. How about photos of some members' shops? Yep, there's a page for that, as well.

The Guild's main project(s) every year is toy making. So, it is fitting that the website also contains printable plans for toys.

The monthly newsletter is an important communication tool for the Guild, and there is a page of archived publications.

Every Guild meeting includes a "Show and Tell" section, where members can show off recent work and receive the accolades of like-minded individuals. Bill Brett photographs each entry to the "Show and Tell", and places the photos in a special section on the website.

Other pages include suggestions for the website, the education center, the Guild itself, and everything Guild related; project plans, and lesson plans.

The Greenville Woodworkers Guild website: a world class place you need to visit regularly.

Letters from our readers

Some of us, as we get older, no longer have the balance we once had. The use of stairs without hand rails are avoided when ever possible. Is it possible to add rails to the stairs where the monthly Guild meetings are held? I avoid going to the stage area to view "Show and Tell" items because of this.

Thanks,
George McLeod

Editor: *George, when you want to get on stage, walk through the lobby and enter from the rear. No stairs and we look forward to your presentation.*

As transient members of GWG, we only spend a few weeks twice a year in the Greenville area with our motorhome. We are full timer RV'ers and stop to work on "honey-do" projects for our RV. We would like to thank the members that take the time to help us with our projects, and especially the supervisors who lend us their experienced insight in our projects as well as look over our shoulders making sure that we do it safely and accurately. Everyone in the guild makes us feel at home. We thank you for your southern hospitality.

Again, thank you to the members of GWG.
Sincerely,
Michael & Dawn Baldacchino

Editor: *The Baldacchino's reside in Rapid City, SD and are full fledge members of the GWG.*

For auctions, the auctioneer should do what is done at normal auctions, that is instead of saying "Sold" so quickly, he should first say, "Going once at xxx dollars, going twice at xxx dollars, sold to the man in the checkered shirt."

This allows more last-second bids, and avoids awkward moments at the close of each bidding session.

Anonymous

We have one of the best Organizations in the country. Of that I have no doubt. But for me we are deficient in one area. Juried Shows and the Design improvement that comes from that.

Many clubs hold juried shows. This, for me, is one of the best ways of obtaining unbiased, objective criticism of how to improve my work. The show also gives the public a chance to see the range of work created by our members. (If the Art Museum would not hold our display then what about the Foyer of the Peace Centre?)

To avoid "Old so and so always wins", we should have a tier system Beginners (anyone who has not won), Intermediate (Prize winners from Beginners), Advanced (winners from Intermediate) and Professional

The jurors should not be Guild members, and not all should be woodworkers. Entrants would be invited to be present at the judging so that they can learn from the judge's comments.

Anonymous

I will not be able to get to the meeting for awhile, my wife is in Chemo and I feel like to need to stay with her in case she gets sick from the side effects. Obviously she is not up to the drive to the meeting or meeting attendance.

I just completed a blanket chest based on FWW Mar/Apr 1998. This choice was inspired by a blanket chest at a show and tell over a year ago. Mine is made from Beech and Walnut. The Beech came from Rockler in Atlanta and was described as "flame and curly". This is the first of six blanket chests I plan to make, one for each our grandchildren.

The tip I came up with when routing the hinge mortises on this chest. I marked them with a knife and marking gauge but when I put the router over the area to rout out the mortise I could not see the lines. I thought of putting blue masking tape so the edge of the tape came to the line. This was easy to see and I was able to easily rout to near the tape and then clean up with a chisel.

Russ Stanton



Woodworking Magazines

By Dave Bingham

When someone says to me that they're interested in woodworking but aren't sure, I suggest to them that before they make an investment in tools that they should pick up or subscribe to a couple of woodworking magazines. If you like what you read, then go ahead and jump in.

Ever wonder how many woodworking periodicals are out there to choose from? I did some on-line research and found a lot of interesting information. Understand that the survey quoted herein is from a limited readership of several woodworking blogs, so it may not represent all of us but certainly covers woodworking in general.

The survey found 26 different periodicals and ranked them as to the top five from reader votes, which were:

***Fine Woodworking
Wood Magazine
Popular Woodworking
Shop Notes
WoodSmith***

These don't all fill the same need, to wit: Fine Woodworking is generally for the advanced practitioner. Wood and Popular lean toward intermediate project plans and techniques. Shop Notes is good for jigs and plans and WoodSmith has tutorials and lower level project plans.

Our membership spans the entire spectrum of woodworking, from raw beginner to experienced furniture maker, from carving totems to turning, salvaging downed trees to making pens. Most of us began learning our skills at the knee of our fathers and continued as our skills and tool collection broadened. And before long most find a niche of preference. The point of this article is to use periodicals to find that niche before making a large investment.

Knowing what information is available in the wide range of magazines helps to narrow the potential desirable ones for each person, and you can subscribe to one or two, thus learning more about

the field and your own interests. I know a number of woodworkers who "graduated" from the lower and intermediate periodicals to those in a higher vein.

Having said that, be aware that the Ed Center library has past issues of a broad spectrum of choices. You can also go to a blog called ToolCrib.com which was my main reference for this article. It also has links and more details about many magazines and other topics as well. In my own experience, I like the hands on approach of reading a magazine for myself to determine its usefulness.

The balance of the 26 magazines surveyed are listed and ranked below. They are not necessarily inferior but simply target narrower fields and have a more limited distribution.

Woodworking Magazine – fairly new with no ads.
Woodwork Magazine – a contemporary feel.
American Woodworker
Woodworkers Journal
Fine Woodworking On Line
Woodcraft
Workbench
Cabinet Maker
Canadian Home Workshop
Router Power Woodworking
Canadian Woodworking
Woodshop News
Woodworks
Fine Homebuilding
This Old House
Edifice
Furniture and Cabinetmaking
Wooden Boat
Power Tool Woodworking
The Family Handyman
Scrollsawer

So take a few minutes and sit down at the Ed Center library, browse to your hearts content and pick the magazines that suit your interests and level of expertise.

Jackson Thacker will share his philosophy on residential furniture designs

NEXT GUILD MEETING:
Monday, November 2, 2009
New Member Orientation starts at 6:00 PM
General Meeting starts at 6:45 PM
J Harley Bonds Career Center
505 N. Main Street, Greer, SC 29650

Guild Information

Guild Telephone No.: (864) 241-3849

This phone is located at our Educational Center workshop located at 701 Poinsett Highway. If no one is there you can leave a voice mail message.

Website: www.greenvillewoodworkers.com
Contains information about the Guild, Educational Center schedule, links to other woodworking related websites and a capability to submit suggestions and e-mail to the Guild.

The Guild web manager is Bill Brett. Contact Bill with ideas and suggestions for the website at bill.brett@charter.net

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