

NEWSLETTER FOR THE

**GUILD OF
OREGON
WOODWORKERS**

**OREGON
WOOD
WORKS**

Vol. #38, Issue 4

April 2021

Portland Oregon

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NEXT GENERAL MEETING: ONLINE WITH ZOOM

The online invitation will be sent out 24 hours before the event.

TOPIC PENDING

WATCH WEBSITE & EMAIL BLAST FOR TOPIC

Tuesday, May 18, 2021

Board Meeting 5:30

Social Time begins at 6:30pm, Meeting begins 7:00pm

Meanwhile, check out the website for info and links to the 2021 Gathering of the Guilds. Always a worthwhile event to attend. Wish we could go to the event.



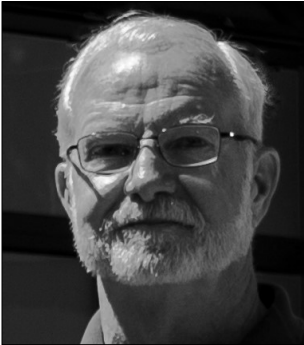
Ceramic Showcase and the Gathering of the Guilds are hosting their first virtual show together. The website will feature more than 200 exceptional artists from six Pacific Northwest guilds, the Creative Metal Arts Guild, Pacific Northwest Glass Guild, Guild of Oregon Woodworkers, Portland Bead Society, Portland Handweavers Guild, and the Oregon Potters Association.

Find your favorite artists and learn the best way to purchase from them, ranging from online shops to COVID-safe, in-person events. Treat yourself to a beautifully crafted piece, something for your home and garden, as well as great gifts for Mother's Day, weddings, birthdays, and other celebrations. Visit www.nwguildsshowcase.com and register to win one of three grand prizes, valued at \$200 each

[Click here to](#) see what our own Guild has ready for you.



NOTES FROM THE GUILD PRESIDENT



By Steven Poland

Keep your seatbelts on as we ride this pandemic rollercoaster, and Multnomah County again rises to extreme risk category, hopefully, for just a few weeks. Hopefully many of you now have had access to the vaccines and feel more confident with careful public interactions.

The Guild operation protocols are still compliant with the state requirements, so we don't anticipate any changes are needed for Open Shop, Product Build, Toy Build, and in-shop classes. We will continue to require washing hands on entry, wearing masks, and being diligent with distancing regardless of whether you are vaccinated or not, and are operating with the garage doors open.

I am grateful and inspired that our November Mike Pekovich Kumiko box classes have sold out, which shows up as a significant return to success in our Masters offer-

ings. We should also soon be rolling out some much lower cost beginner & intermediate offerings that we intend to do simultaneously in-shop and on-line with improved video production capabilities that our IT/Communications crew are perfecting. This will allow our education offerings to go out to many more members than has been possible with our limited in-shop capacity. Keep an eye on the website and weekly notices.

Lastly welcome to our dozen or so new members! Please make sure you are signed up to receive the weekly notices and newsletter within your member profile so you are kept aware of all that may be available to fulfill your interest.

Enjoy the rest of the Newsletter!

Steve Poland

A FEW IMAGES OF THE GATHERING OF GUILDS FROM PREVIOUS YEARS.



The Guild of Oregon Woodworkers is...

... a group of amateur and professional woodworkers committed to developing our craftsmanship.
Our Mission: To promote the craft of woodworking to the woodworkers of today and tomorrow.

Our Vision: A community of woodworkers that provide significant opportunities to develop, practice, enhance, and share skills.

The Guild offers many benefits for members, including:

- ◆ Monthly programs
- ◆ Monthly newsletter
- ◆ Weekly Volunteer Special Interest Groups (SIGs)
- ◆ An education program to help members develop woodworking skills through a variety of hands-on and lecture classes
- ◆ Sponsor discounts
- ◆ Woodworking shows (such as Gathering of the Guilds)
- ◆ Network of business partners.
- ◆ A woodworking shop
- ◆ A network of friends and opportunities to volunteer and make a difference in our community

What you can do for the Guild

- ◆ Volunteer your time to contribute, assist, organize, lead, teach
- ◆ Take a class
- ◆ Contribute your knowledge

For more information see the Guild website or visit the shop.

Guild Shop - 7634 SW 34th St, Portland, OR 97219

Guildoforegonwoodworkers.org



Many Guild members recognize that woodworking can be a lonely avocation. It's fun to get together with other woodworker's to swap stories, share successes and failures, and to ask questions. Come join the fun at the next MEET-UP ...

NOW ON-LINE
MONDAY, MAY 3 AT 11:30 AM
On-Line - ZOOM

In an effort to allow members to keep the comradery of our monthly lunch meetings going, we will be hosting a Zoom get together.

Since it's going to be difficult to eat lunch together in a restaurant, we thought we could go around the gathered group and briefly discuss what we may or may not have been doing in your shop. If you have any pictures of items you'd like to share, have them available on your PC or Phone (depending on what you're connecting to the meeting with), and we'll be able to share your screen.

For security reasons we do not publish the meeting information on the website. We will send out the invite by email the day before—watch for it.

For information on using Zoom, click [HERE](#)

Remember to have your favorite beverage and eats too.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our newest **29** members. We're happy to have you with us and hope you'll make a regular appearance at the monthly program (online at present), contribute articles to the newsletter, and volunteer in other ways.

Iman Al-Baqsami, Samantha Avila, Richard Bernard, Michael Blair, Murat Chakhalov, Marc Cota, Todd Dewars, Zackary Fravel, Jonathan Garcia, John Gonder, Logan Holmes, Tom Kelley, Kevin Koch, Greg Long, Ryan McConnell, Alexandra Milidrag, Lily Mishler, Mallory Moore, Nathan Myers, Nick Nikzat, Jay Ottovegio, Surjit Patel, Edward Rhodes, Joe Schafer, Troy Swodzinski, Aaron Ughoc, Mia Webster, Patricia Wheeler, Constance Wiseman

CARVING SIG

The upcoming monthly programs @ 7 :00 PM on Zoom

May 11 & 18, Finishing with Acrylics for Carvers

Jeff Harness, noted former instructor, now retired, will present two 90 minute programs focused on finishing with acrylics. To register, [click here](#).

June 8, Sharpening Carving Tools - Examples and Opinions

Sharpening is the black hole for most carvers and this program will feature a variety of examples that will hopefully stimulate questions. To register, [click here](#).

SHOP CERTIFICATION

If you are new to woodworking, we ask you to take "Getting Started-Shop Safety for Beginners: Hands On with Portable Power Tools" before taking Shop Certification classes. All members must complete "Intro to the Guild Safety" before taking Getting Started or Shop Certification classes.

[Shop Safety for Beginners: Hands On with Portable Power Tools](#) 5/4 9am Guild Shop, Jeff Hilber & Ginny Benware

[Shop Safety for Beginners: Hands On with Portable Power Tools](#) 5/11 9am Guild Shop, Jeff Hilber & Ginny Benware

[Shop Safety for Beginners: Hands On with Portable Power Tools](#) 5/18 9am Guild Shop, Jeff Hilber & Ginny Benware

[Shop Certification EDS](#) 4/27 & 4/29, 5pm Guild Shop, Dick Rohrbaugh

[Shop Certification EDS](#) 5/4 & 5/11, 1pm Guild Shop, Dennis Dolph

[Shop Certification EDS](#) 5/11 & 5/13, 5pm Guild Shop, instructor TBD

[Shop Certification EDS](#) 5/25 & 5/27, 5pm Guild Shop, instructor TBD

KUMIKO BOX WORKSHOP WITH MIKE PEKOVICH

Coming in November

Sold Out!!



We are pleased to announce the Kumiko Box workshop previously scheduled for October 2020 is now scheduled for November 2021 ... and there will be two of them!

Mike Pekovich is an author, teacher, and the Editor of Fine Woodworking. Mike has graciously worked with us to bring this popular workshop to at least the same size audience as planned in 2020 within COVID social distancing protocols at the same fee as last year.

Mark these dates!

Workshop #1 - November 19 and 20, 9 AM – 5 PM

Workshop #2 - November 21 and 22, 9 AM – 5 PM

These workshops are identical and are at the Guild shop. This workshop sold out in record time when first announced in 2020.

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

MARCH 2021 — *Bob Hargrave*

Roger Crooks

Each month the Guild awards one of its most prestigious awards, the Volunteer of the Month. Because the Guild is run entirely by volunteers recognizing our volunteers is essential. The Award is given to a member who, for the most part, works behind the scenes quietly and keeps the Guild operating.

We missed our announcement last month. Bob Hargrave was named the March 2021 Volunteer of the Month.

Bob is the Guild's representative for the Gathering of the Guilds show and has been doing this for the last three years. He is responsible for recruiting the participants and is the main contact person for all the Guild artists that have a booth at the show. This year the booths are virtual and the show will be online. Bob is helping a few vendors set up their ETSY site so they can sell their products. He is a board member for the GOTG, LLC which manages the show.

The Guild is pleased to present the March 2021 Volunteer of the Month award to Bob Hargrave. Thank you Bob.



That's Bob in the blue shirt working hard at GOTG 2019

GOOW HONORS GIG LEWIS

By Ed Swakon, VP Membership

No one understood the value of volunteers to the Guild more than Gig Lewis. As you know, we lost Gig to cancer last month, and his presence will be missed. Many members recounted how it was Gig who got them involved in the Guild with his gentle persuasion. He promoted the "The Bargain":

The Guild of Oregon Woodworkers has a culture that believes the best way to receive is by giving. It is an organization that is successful primarily because of the work of its volunteers. In the Guild, being a volunteer is not just desired. It is expected and greatly appreciated!

The Guild is an all-volunteer organization. The Guild owes its success to the generosity of our members, giving their time and energy. There could be no more fitting recognition of Gig's influence on the Guild than naming the Volunteer of the Month Award in his honor. At the April Board meeting, it was made official. From here forward, the Volunteer of the Month award will be named the Gig Lewis Volunteer-of-the-Month Award.

Thanks, Gig, you'll be missed but not forgotten.

THE GIG LEWIS VOLUNTEER -OF-THE-MONTH AWARD

April 2021 — *Jeff Hilber*

By Ed Swakon, VP Membership

The first recipient of the Gig Lewis Volunteer of the Month is Jeff Hilber.

Jeff retired in 2010 from a 35-year career as an Architectural Woodwork and furniture designer. Jeff's motto was, I'll make anything if I can design it. Jeff apprenticed to a Danish carpenter, built 40 custom homes as the prime contractor, installed large wooden murals, was an industrial electrician for Washington State, and worked domestically and in Japan.

Jeff originally joined the Guild in 1984, and created the 2x4 Design Challenge, and published the Guild Newsletter. After a hiatus of his Guild membership, Jeff rejoined the Guild in February 2019. Since rejoining, he has jumped in with both feet volunteering. Jeff has worked diligently to educate our new members about the Guild's safety practices and orient them to the GOOW shop.

The Guild is pleased to present the April 2021 Gig Lewis Volunteer of the Month award to Jeff Hilber.

WHITE OAK—TO FUME OR NOT TO FUME

By *Michael Molinaro*

The Midwest is home to some of the best white oak in the country, in my opinion. It is whiter than the white oak I've used here in Oregon, and it was pretty easy to find what I needed for a particular project. Regardless, I like its density, generally straight grain, and ability to take colored dyes and finishes readily.

Somewhere along the way, I was studying the joinery details of Stickley furniture, and read about the sturdy, then inexpensive, furniture they were mass producing. Made from white oak, they were trying to give the wood a richer look, and in my opinion, channel English brown oak. The literature suggests that they recalled horse barns in England, with white oak lumber stored therein, which turned to a rich brown due to the ammonia in horse urine.

The Stickley catalog describes how a finished piece would be placed in an outbuilding with buckets of ammonia to alter the appearance of the white oak. It works.



White oak before and after 24 hours of fuming. 1/2" and 1/4" solids.

Stickley would also complete entire rooms with wood trim and detailing then ammonia fume the entire room. Phew.

The high tannin content in white oak is what reacts to the ammonia fumes. I have tried to fume many other woods with little success.

Stickley used 26% ammonia, which is a very strong concentration. I use 10%, as it is what I could find. So far it works fine.



So what do I do?

I fabricate the components of the piece to be fumed. Finished sanded to 320 before fuming. I use painter points to stack the pieces, and either put them in a plastic tub or fabricate a plastic tent. The painter points leave no evidence of their footprint on the wood.



Small pieces go into a tub



Many and large pieces go into a plastic tent

How much ammonia? It does not take much. More important than quantity is a big surface area. Choose a container that gives you room and cover the bottom of the container. A large tent gets two or maybe three containers, spread around. The tub only takes one container.

I wear a full respirator when working with ammonia. Even at 10% it can get pretty strong.

So how long do you fume? Well, it varies. White oak veneer changes literally in minutes. The thin veneer gets to a certain darkness and then stops changing. And there is no difference in the fuming based on placement near the ammonia source.

continued on page 7

WHITE OAK FUMING... continued from page 6*White oak plywood veneer*

Solids, I leave overnight. I have found that once the color has changed, it does not continue to darken.

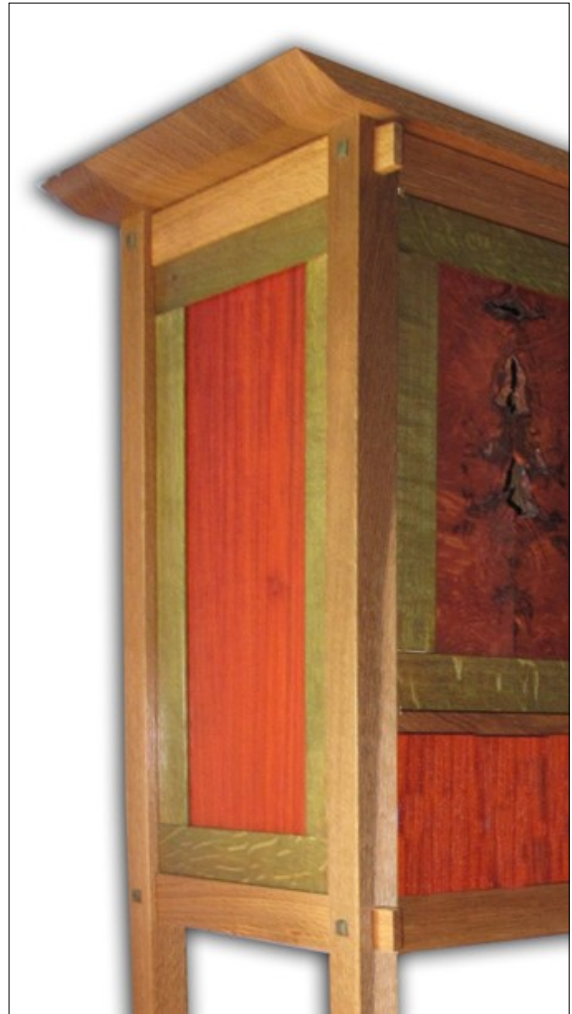
The overnight process on a solid does not penetrate the thickness completely. Here is a 1/2" solid that was fumed overnight and the color has changed maybe a 1/16" or so.

*Fuming penetration after 24 hours.*

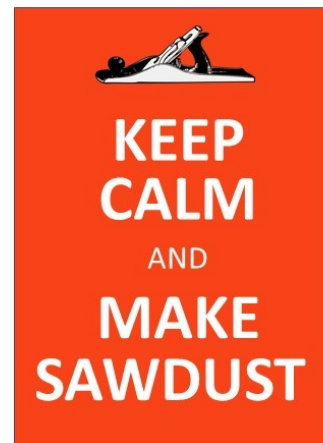
Maybe a longer fume time would penetrate more of the thickness. But for me, that does not matter.

After fuming, the wood does not smell. The grain has not raised, so I don't need to sand anymore. I can finish and go right to assembly.

Some small pieces are finished in oil, but mostly I use the four step GF finishes.



This fumed white oak leg obviously had a different hardness in a single piece, yielding an interesting effect, nonetheless.



OPENING THE PRESENT

By Gary Weeber

On April 20 we had a wonderful presentation at our zoom Monthly Meeting by Lynn Morgan from *Sustainable Northwest Wood*. During the meeting, I mentioned that I had purchased some blue pine from Lynn the day before and planned to mill the wood the next day.

Milling done! I confess. Milling wood is one of my favorite steps in the project process for me. I really do consider it much like opening a present to see what is inside.

On April 21 I used our incredible Shop and with the help of Shop Attendant Greg Weigel got the wood milled. I have included some pictures of the wood in its rough-cut form and then the final product from the initial milling process.



As you know, blue pine is from a tree that has been invaded by a beetle. To get academic for a moment, the invasion by the mountain pine beetle results in a blue fungus. The beetle carries the fungus from tree to tree on a special structure in the beetle's mouth parts. This is its means to travel to new trees. The fungus helps the beetle by stopping the tree from producing its natural defense resin, and the beetles are hence able to mine

and lay eggs while avoiding the tree's defenses. The fungus also benefits the beetles by improving the host environment for the beetle progeny, and serves as food for the larvae and adult beetles.

What this results in is a colorful wood that includes varying areas of blue, gray, and sometimes pinkish hues in its visual presentation. The wood is kiln dried to be certain that any beetles are killed as part of the drying process.

One factor affecting the visual presentation, and sometimes the wood integrity, is the number of beetle pockets that remain. The wood I purchased has a LOT of pockets but that was fine for my purpose. I am building a sliding barn door for our laundry room entrance and so wood strength was not a particular concern. The visual effect of these pockets is stunning however and consistent with the intent to give it a rustic appearance.

By the way...just a quick reference to 'wood tension'. Some of the boards I purchased were 8/4. I purchased them twice as wide as I needed and decided to cut them half-width with the Felder bandsaw. The boards were 8



feet in length and as I approached the last 10 inches of the first board running it through the bandsaw...it exploded! Sort of. It definitely split in an irregular fashion with a pretty loud pop. So, a reminder, always bear in mind that wood can have some imbedded tension that may surprise you. This resulted in some bowed pieces that I did not expect that had to be subsequently milled out to provide lumber that was flat/straight/square.

As for that laundry bill....

So, after completing the milling process with the jointer, planer, and table saw, my future barn door is now resting in a stickered pile in a storage unit. I am hoping that there will not be significant movement over the next few days but I need to give it that opportunity before I do the final milling.

If you have not been to *Sustainable Northwest Wood* give yourself a treat. They are a Guild sponsor and provide us with contractor pricing on the lumber they sell to Guild members. They are wonderful people doing the right thing; with amazing wood at a very reasonable price. Just go, look around and let the wood inspire you.

I love the smell of sawdust in the morning.



Breaking News From The Past



By Gary Weeber

In each newsletter, we are going to bring you news from the past. In this era of being ‘in the moment’ many of us know that there are many ‘teachables’ in our past. This includes lessons we can learn from the woodworker experiences in the past. Ready to see what is behind you?

On our website, you can find newsletters for each month going back to 2007. This resource is a gold mine. From that gold mine, we will be bringing you one article from a past newsletter. We hope you enjoy it.

Newsletter: September 2016 BUYING POWER TOOLS



Roger Crooks, President

Over the last few weeks I've talked to number of people about buying new equipment (must be the Fall air). Since I just bought a new bandsaw and an thinking about a new lathe, it seemed a good topic this month.

My first advice applies to any hobby or passion – be it golf, cycling, or wood-working. Generally, the first questions

most people ask “What do you want to do and what is your budget”. However, the better question is “Where are you in this hobby?” If you are just starting out in woodworking (beginners are a significant percentage of our membership) you really don't know if you will stick with it or more likely, know what type of woodworking you will want to focus on. Furniture-making has different tool needs than turning, carving can be anything from a chainsaw to high-speed power carving tools or just hand tools. With the Guild, you have the opportunity to try out most of these areas and tools.

My advice is to budget enough to buy a decent tool that will get the job done. If you go too cheap, the performance of the tool may turn you off on woodworking. It can be frustrating using an underpowered tool or one that is hard to setup or complicated to use. Same for hand tools, planes or chisels that are hard to use or made of steel that does not hold an edge will frustrate you no end. And then there are a minority with no budget issues and go out and buy the top of the line tools and then a year later, decide golfing is a better use of their time.

My advice is to stick with a named brand that offers a range of models from low to high. It is best to buy a lower-end model from a vendor who has a wide range of models than buy the same priced model which is the top of a vendor's line. It is important to understand that as you advance in woodworking your needs or desires will drive you to buy a more advanced model. You will eventually end up

with some high-end tools that you use all the time in your area of focus and other lower-end tools that you just use occasionally. The key here is you will not know which is which until you have more experience. Elicit advice from other Guild members through our Forum section on the website. There are a ton of reviews on-line but stick with reviews from the woodworking magazines rather than those that just display the vendor's press release. The model that they tag as “Best Value” is often the one I look at first.

My first lathe was a Rockler on sale for about \$250. I had never turned before and had no idea if I would like turning. It was good but I quickly advanced beyond its ability. I then bought a \$600 Delta. It does 75% of what I want to do today and I still have it as a backup. It was about this time I decided turning would be my focus. My current lathe is a Nova DVR at \$1,500 (used) and it does everything I want. My next (and last) lathe could be a model that is between \$4000 and \$8000 – why – just because. The same story can be said for table saws, bandsaw, hand planes, golf clubs, bikes, etc. As your skills improve, you know what you want out of a tool; accuracy is more critical, ease-of-use such as changing blades or setting up become more important, maybe more power is needed, and the availability of accessories to expand what it can do is of more interest.

The Guild shop provides a great opportunity to use good tools and understand what features are important to you. Once you know what features are “critical” and what features are “nice-to-have”, then you can look at your budget and make a knowledgeable decision of what to buy. Who knows, you may find a new table saw under the tree this year.

BOB'S KAYAK FOR SALE



Due to the passing of long-time woodworker and kayaker, this beautiful Pygmy Coho wooden kayak is for sale. This nimble kayak has graced the quiet waters of lakes and lazy rivers, as well as ocean swells and the tides and currents of Puget Sound. This agile kayak does well in windy conditions and high seas. Its sleek design makes it a very maneuverable and quick turning kayak. It does not have a rudder, but rudder kits are available. (It was built by a kayak purist ~ who needs a rudder??!!) It has two hatches for gear and makes a good kayak for overnight trips.

There are many comments and evaluations on the Pygmy website <https://www.pygmyboats.com/boats/coho-kayak-kit.html> [Coho: Voted Best Wooden Kayak](#)

Sales Price: \$850

Includes spray skirt, Grey Owl wooden paddle (detachable), and a couple smaller accessories.

I live near Hagg Lake and may consider a trial.

If you are interested, please contact Nancy Oswald at nanswa2003@yahoo.com or Cell 503-688-8306

The Amazon Smile logo, featuring the word "amazon" in black and "smile" in orange, with a curved orange arrow underneath "amazon".

Don't forget to use Amazon Smile for your Amazon purchases. Every purchase results in a donation when you select the Guild of Oregon Woodworkers as the non-profit recipient!

THE GUILD IS PROUD TO BE SPONSORED BY:

The Guild is grateful to be supported by numerous local businesses, our sponsors. Please patronize them when you can. Most offer some kind of discount to members, with some restrictions. We hope you will thank them for their support when you are at the cash register. *Click on their logos below to go directly to their website.*



CARBIDE SAW
Sales & Sharpening

